

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)					
	2015-17 Actual	2017-19 Legislatively Adopted	2017-19 Legislatively Approved *	2019-21 Current Service Level	2019-21 Governor's Budget
General Fund	31,162,078	28,408,880	29,458,285	32,776,501	33,208,714
Lottery Funds	4,852,625	5,212,514	5,326,259	5,640,031	5,640,031
Other Funds	159,519,582	191,354,898	193,825,411	194,916,970	197,595,177
Federal Funds	112,180,191	133,139,592	135,922,685	141,948,710	144,994,699
Total Funds	307,714,476	358,115,884	364,532,640	375,282,212	381,438,621
Positions	1,463	1,375	1,375	1,346	1,353
FTE	1,197.51	1,154.05	1,154.05	1,140.13	1,151.31
* Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2018.					

Program Description

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), under direction of its seven-member Commission, manages the fish and wildlife resources of the state. The agency's mission is to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habits for use and enjoyment by present and future generations."

CSL Summary and Issues

The 2019-21 current service level (CSL) total funds budget of \$375 million is a 3% increase from the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget with the General Fund portion up 11%. Increases include personal services increases, standard inflation to services and supplies, and increases to the State Government Service Charges.

Policy Issues

Oregon Conservation Strategy - The Oregon Conservation Strategy works to ensure the long-term health of Oregon's native fish and wildlife and their habitats. In order to implement the strategy, including research, monitoring, and conducting conservation actions, the Department is requesting \$1 million General Fund and three permanent full-time NRS3's to double the number of regional conservation biologists in the state. These biologists would be housed in Burns, La Grande, and Newport, to go along with the current biologists in Bend, Central Point, and Clackamas. Department also has two packages specifically related to implementing conservation programs within the Farm Bill in partnership with the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The first package includes \$142,501 Lottery Funds and \$570,000 Federal Funds to continue 3 field biologist positions in the Wildlife program and the second package is \$60,516 Lottery Funds and 242,064 Federal Funds to continue one position in the Inland Fisheries program. The NRCS does not have the capacity to implement these programs. Finally, the Department is requesting \$200,000 Federal Fund limitation for monies from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to continue funding the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program.

Cougar/Wolf/Pinniped Management - Management plans have been developed for both Cougar (2017) and Wolf (2018) populations. Oregon's wolf population has increased 53% per year over the last four years, and is projected to continue, which will increase the amount of resources required for monitoring, education, depredation investigation and prevention. ODFW is requesting \$1,175,000 General Fund and five permanent full-time positions to continue the wolf plan implementation. Pinniped populations have increased predation on salmon, steelhead and sturgeon in the Columbia River Basin. At Willamette Falls, pinniped predation is significantly increasing the extinction risk to ESA listed fish stocks. The Department has received authority under Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to lethally remove California sea lions from Willamette Falls. As part of the pinniped management effort, the Department had requested \$852,750 General Fund for resources to evaluate and manage sea lion predation in the lower Columbia and lower Willamette. However, they have taken measures through repurposing existing staff to begin addressing the pinniped issue in early 2019.

Anti-Poaching Campaign - HB 5010 (2017) included a budget note for the Department to develop a proposal for a broad anti-poaching public awareness campaign and reported to the 2018 Legislature on the details and budget for that work. ODFW is requesting funding to implement the proposal, including providing funds for five additional permanent OSP positions, two DOJ positions dedicated to assisting local jurisdictions with poaching prosecution cases, and a media campaign. Total cost of the package is \$4,292,197 General Fund.

Sage Grouse initiative - \$425,000 General Fund was added in 2017-19 to continue a Sage Grouse Coordinator position working on sage grouse conservation efforts in eastern Oregon. The Department is requesting \$194,000 Other Funds via an OWEB grant to fund a limited duration position for additional coordination for the Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team.

Leaburg Hatchery - HB 5201 (2018) authorized a one-time \$350,000 General Fund appropriation to the Department to operate the Leaburg Fish Hatchery for the second year of the 2017-19 biennium after the US Army Core of Engineers withdrew federal support for the hatchery. The Corps is instead contracting with a private entity to purchase trout and will continue to pay ODFW to produce steelhead at another ODFW facility. The state support allowed the Department to continue production of trout at the facility, but ODFW is requesting \$1,744,086 General Fund to continue operating the hatchery. Without funding, the hatchery will close.

Columbia River Fisheries Reform Strategies - SB 830 (2013) established several reforms to fisheries management on the Columbia River and setup the Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund (CRFTF) with \$500,000 General Fund to be used to provide grants to counties to establish their own programs. These county programs would make payments to commercial fishers that are economically harmed by the ban on gill net fishing. No counties had established a program and applied for funding until Clatsop County in 2018. ODFW has determined that the county's program is consistent with the statutory requirements and will transfer the money to Clatsop County when it has finished processing applications. If qualified applicants for the county program total less than the \$500,000, the remainder of the funds are transferred to the Columbia River Fisheries Enhancement Fund to be used for Columbia River fish management and reforms adopted by the Commission.

Klamath Anadromous Fish Reintroduction - As part of the anticipated removal of the four main stem dams located on the Klamath River, ODFW is committed to leading the efforts to reintroduce salmon and steelhead trout to the Upper Klamath Basin. For this effort, ODFW is requesting to continue to use funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to extend a limited duration biologist position working on developing an implementation plan for reintroduction at a cost of \$252,000 Other Funds. Additionally, the Department is requesting 6 new positions to conduct the research, monitoring, and evaluation necessary for reintroduction and to facilitate production of spring chinook at Klamath Hatchery for reintroduction. In addition to the six new positions, the package includes shifting two positions (0.43 FTE) from Federal Funds to General Funds for a total cost of \$1,275,091 General Fund. Finally, the Department is requesting \$1.35 million in M76 Lottery Funds to modify a portion of the existing Klamath Fish Hatchery to provide necessary infrastructure to support reintroduction, including construction of three raceways capable of rearing up to 250,000 chinook salmon smolts annually.

Other Significant Issues and Background

Revenues - The Department relies heavily on Other Funds revenue from hunting and fishing license and tag sales. When needed, General Fund reductions in ODFW have most often been accomplished by removing General Fund support for a program and shifting that program to another fund type, most often using Other Funds revenue from the sale of licenses and tags. These shifts increased the burden to support programs with revenues from hunters and fishers and caused severe cash flow issues. The 2015 Legislature addressed these revenue issues by providing \$11.6 million General Fund to shift some programs off license and tag revenue, and approved fee increases to be implemented in January 2016, January 2018 and January 2020. The receives Federal Funds from a variety of sources, including Pittman-Robertson funds that support the wildlife programs, which is expected to increase by about \$3 million in 2019-21 (apportionment increase is included in a POP). The Department's Measure 76 Lottery Funds are constitutionally dedicated to protecting fish and wildlife habitat.

Culvert Fish Passage - ODOT and ODFW negotiated a three-year pilot program in the 2015-17 biennium for culvert repair to allow for fish passage. A new culvert repair agreement has been negotiated by ODOT and ODFW and ODOT will provide \$4,467,300 Other Funds to resolve barriers identified in the Oregon Fish Passage Priority List. This new collaborative agreement is set-up for five-years.

OregonBuys System Implementation - OregonBuys is an electronic procurement system that ODFW has procured, along with a handful of other state agencies, that has been in the works since 2014. The 2017-19 legislatively adopted budget provided funding for this system, and the Department is requesting \$340,148 Other Funds to complete implementation in 2019-21. The Department anticipates ongoing biennial costs of the program to be about \$95,148.

Electronic Licensing System (ELS) - the online licensing system went live December 1, 2018 with the sale of 2019 licenses and tags and the Department has reported only very minor issues. The Department estimates that the new system is expected to save around \$2 million annually.

Deferred Maintenance - A 2005 Secretary of State audit estimated the Department had nearly \$100 million in deferred maintenance needs at their various facilities. To begin addressing those needs, the 2017 Legislature approved \$10 million in capital construction expenditure limitation from Article XI-Q bonds to be sold in the Spring 2019, along with \$215,000 cost of issuance expenditures. The bond proceeds will be used as the first part of a multi-biennium plan to rehabilitate the agency's capital assets across the state. The Department is requesting another \$10 million in bonding in 2019 for phase 2 of the deferred maintenance plan, along with \$135,000 cost of issuance expenditures. They are requesting an early bond sale (October 2019), and have included \$1,135,006 General Fund for debt service.

Nearshore Fishery Independent Survey - The Department is requesting the establishment of a research team to perform at-sea surveys to provide data on nearshore ground fish stock. The package includes six permanent full-time positions, survey equipment, and funds to charter a vessel to use to conduct the surveys. Total cost of the package is \$1,898,350 General Fund.

Marine Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring - ODFW is requesting General Fund to create a small field sampling team of three positions to monitor species associated with harmful algal bloom coast-wide. This program would complement related programs at the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality that monitor inland waters for freshwater blooms, by monitoring coastal waters before seafood becomes contaminated. Total cost is \$379,300 General Fund.

Restore & Enhance Water Quality - ODFW is requesting 4 permanent positions and \$714,600 General Fund to study, evaluate and prioritize in-stream needs as part of the Integrated Water Resource Strategy. An additional \$65,400 Other Funds is anticipated from Water Resources Department through implementation of HB 3315 (2015) which required ODFW to track and bill other agencies for consultation work that was previously not compensated.

Restore Western OR Stream Program - The Western Oregon Stream Program was cut in the 2015 and 2017 session. The most recent reduction eliminated two of five positions within the program. Currently the three remaining biologists in the program are in Clackamas, Tillamook and Roseburg. The Department is requesting restoration of three permanent NRS2 positions at a cost of \$537,650 General Fund.

The Governor's Budget is 1.6% overall increase over 2019-21 CSL and 12.7% above 2017-19 Leg Approved. The Governor's Budget includes the following:

- \$1.5 million for the Oregon Conservation Strategy Implementation, including two positions funded with General Fund rather than Lottery Fund as proposed in ARB
- Five positions to implement the Wolf Plan (\$702,842 GF/\$471,588 OF)
- Two positions to implement an Integrated Water Resources Strategy (\$314,717 GF)
- \$4.4 million in Other Funds from ODOT for culvert fish passage
- \$4 million for increases to the Pittman-Robertson Apportionment (\$3 million FF/\$1 million OF)
- Real Property Manager position (\$229,000 OF)

- Jordan Cove Project Gas Pipeline Liaison (\$300,000 OF)
- Klamath Anadromous Fish Reintroduction plan (\$252,000 OF)
- Habitat Assessment position for Oregon Coast (\$215,000 OF)
- Sage Grouse Coordinator position (\$194,000 OF)

The Governor's Budget does not include funding for the Anti-Poaching Campaign, Leaburg Hatchery, Marine Harmful Algal Bloom, a second round of bonding for deferred maintenance, or funding to modify the existing Klamath Fish Hatchery to support anadromous fish. As mentioned above, the Department has taken internal steps to address pinniped predation, so funding is not included. The Governor's Budget includes a decrease of \$387,456 General Fund for the Predator Control Program and elimination of four positions related to the Interagency Coordination Program. Additionally, it does not include funding to continue the implementation of the OregonBuys procurement system, as a larger state-wide implementation may be taking place through DAS.