



## **Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2829 (Conservation and Recreation Fund)**

To: House Committee on Natural Resources  
From: Central Oregon LandWatch  
Date: March 12, 2019

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Mr. Chair, members of the Committee:

On behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch, we enthusiastically urge your SUPPORT of HB 2829, which seeks to establish an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund in order to better manage and preserve our wildlife resources and ecosystems.

Central Oregon LandWatch has a mission of achieving a responsible, balanced approach to planning for and conserving Oregon's land and water resources east of the Cascades, while recognizing the needs of future generations.

HB 2829 correctly responds to a report from a 2016 task force report regarding revenue sources of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. While the far majority of species managed by ODFW are non-game, the Department's reliance on fee-based funding sources necessarily tilts its focus overwhelmingly to game species. While this disconnect reflects a political reality, it does not best serve the holistic interests of a complex and interconnected ecosystem of game species, non-game species, waterways, foliage, etc.

HB 2829 not only diversifies ODFW's revenue, but focuses on outreach and education which, we hope, will ultimately lead to a greater appreciation for the need of a more thorough approach to wildlife management as well as shorter-term benefits in the enhancement of fish and wildlife resources.

We urge your AYE vote on HB 2829!