



**OREGON  
WILD**

Protecting Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters since 1974.

[www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org)

Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
House Committee on Natural Resources

April 1, 2019

### **Oregon Wild Testimony Re: Increased penalties for poaching, HB 3035**

Oregon Wild is a state-based conservation organization with members from all across Oregon who value protecting and enhancing our state's fish and wildlife for enjoyment, recreation, and conservation benefit. Our members include anglers, hikers, wildlife photographers, bird watchers, and hunters; all who believe that a healthy ecosystem full of abundant fish, thriving native wildlife populations, and biologically diverse habitat, is critical to ensuring our natural heritage.

On behalf of Oregon Wild's nearly 20,000 members and supporters, we urge you to support HB 3035, a bill which seeks to increase penalties for the illegal killing of our state's fish and wildlife. We'd also like to express our thanks to the sponsors of the bill for introducing this important legislation.

Oregon has a poaching problem. For example, in 2015, nearly 500 deer and 200 elk were killed illegally in the state<sup>1</sup>. Of the 13 wolf mortalities in 2017<sup>2</sup>, four were caused by poachers; a major impact, considering that there were only 124 known wolves in the state that year. Also in 2017, a bald eagle was killed, its talons were removed, and then it was discarded at the mouth of Winchuck River<sup>3</sup>. While the list of illegal wildlife killing incidents is endless, these three examples illustrate that the poaching problem in Oregon is pervasive and not just limited to a select few species.

Adequately addressing this issue requires a multi-pronged approach from the state. It's imperative that we continue to increase education and awareness about the poaching problem in Oregon, invest in critical programs like TIP and other reward programs, which incentivize members of the public to turn in poachers, and finally, increase penalties as a way to deter those from participating in illegal behavior. Passage of HB 3035 would send an important and necessary signal to the public that Oregon is unwilling to tolerate poaching.

For the preservation and enhancement of all fish and wildlife species in Oregon, we urge you to support HB 3035.

Thank you,

Danielle Moser  
Wildlife Program Coordinator  
Oregon Wild

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2016/12/oregons\\_poaching\\_problem\\_sprea.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2016/12/oregons_poaching_problem_sprea.html)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/2017%20Annual%20Wolf%20Report%20180420%20FINAL.PDF>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2017/03/troopers\\_ask\\_for\\_help\\_solving.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2017/03/troopers_ask_for_help_solving.html)