



Oregon

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To: The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources



House Bill 2113

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Thank you for the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2113 with you today. The department appreciates the opportunity to provide information on the bill as introduced, and the proposed -1 amendments that create a new licensing structure for low income households.

HB 2113-1 provides a low-income license for those residents who are below 130% of the federal poverty thresholds. These low-income licenses would allow fishing and hunting privileges, and also include the Columbia basin endorsement. It also prices elk tags at a lower cost than normal resident elk tags. The new low-income license would be similar to a pioneer license, being priced at \$6.00.

The federal poverty guideline for a household of three was \$21,330, and 130% of that is \$27,729. Approximately 25.5% of Oregon households were under poverty guidelines in 2018. If we apply this to the current number of combination license holders approximately 17,652 license sales would turn into low-income license sales. There is a significant variability in the type of licenses, tags and permits purchased by current license holders. A very conservative estimate of revenue loss is around \$2.8 million per biennium. The department expects actual revenue reduction could be much greater than \$2.8 million. The \$2.8 million estimate only accounts for combination license purchases. This bill will also affect other license types, such as resident annual angler and resident hunter, as well, decreasing the department's revenue significantly.

If under HB 2113 -1, ODFW staff were required to verify a customer's income eligibility, they would need to prove that they meet the criteria for the reduced fee licenses. ODFW assumes that a license issued based on income would need to be verified annually as an individual's income fluctuates over time, which would indicate that an increase in field licensing positions would be an ongoing need. ODFW also assumes that the documentation required in the bill would include Level 3 Personally Identifiable Information (PII), (SSN, DOB, etc.). This would require an increase in staff effort to redact and file this information. ODFW's License Services Section in Salem is the holder of record for the applications and affidavits that customers turn in to the field offices. Currently, ODFW does not have a method for the acceptance and storage of PII electronic documentation. If record retainment is required a new system would be set up to support this storage.

In addition to the previously discussed license system changes, House Bill 2113 as introduced directs the department to develop and implement a program to provide technical assistance to businesses, communities, landowners and other individuals regarding non-lethal options to reduce conflict between humans and wildlife. The bill would require minimal changes to service delivery because it essentially requires the department to continue to provide technical assistance to landowners regarding non-lethal options to reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife. The department addresses wildlife damage using the Damage Policy as a guideline. The department incorporates information to address wildlife conflict on their website including “Living with Wildlife” brochures and extensive descriptions of non-lethal measures to minimize conflict.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you.

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