

Committee on House Natural Resources – First Chamber Bill Summary

Overview

As we reach the halfway point of the 80th Oregon Legislative Assembly, we reflect on the accomplishments of the House Committee on Natural Resources. Due to the hard work of committee members, staff, stakeholders and other members of the public, we were able to pass out of committee 46 bills that will protect, strengthen and enhance Oregon's natural resources. Specifically, the work of the committee can be broken down into four categories, namely watercraft safety, shore erosion and property damage, water resource protection, and fish and wildlife conservation with a reoccurring theme running throughout much of our work of public safety.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Our committee passed out important legislation to protect sensitive wildlife information such as the specific locations of tracked animals by ODFW. Additionally, we as a committee decided to better educate hunters on anti-poaching awareness while bringing the hammer down on those who knowingly break our poaching laws. We streamlined tag and permit distribution and allowed use of credit cards to buy tags. We took measures to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease. Finally, our committee authorized ODFW to operate wildlife inspection stations to prevent the spread of infections or infestations and to collect information related to wildlife management efforts.

Watercraft Use

The Committee made Oregon's waterways safer by requiring outfitters and guides to make helmets available when appropriate, increasing penalties for boating under the influence of intoxicants, requiring a boater's safety card, and strengthening our invasive species check laws. We also opened the door to allowing certain disabled people the chance to boat with an electric motor in select Oregon lakes.

Shore Erosion and Property Damage

Two significant pieces of legislation came out of our committee aimed at reducing damage to personal property and shoreline erosion. The Willamette Greenway bill allows the Marine Board to enter rulemaking to reduce wakes in certain section of the Willamette River. Also, the Towed Water Sports bill aims to further educate boaters about wakes and potential damage as well as safety on the water. Both measures should help native fish find acceptable spawning environments while also protecting the property of those who live and work along the Willamette River.

Water Resource Protection

Water Resource management will be improved due to committee work which included addressing public safety concerns by updating dam safety regulations which were nearly a century old. The committee also approved legislation to provide access to public use waterways and private land owners will now have the opportunity to voluntarily undertake stream restoration projects. Lastly, the committee passed tide gate legislation to allow for the restoration of tide gates throughout Oregon.

Public Safety

Whether it was updating our 100-year-old dam regulations, requiring helmets to be available on certain rafting trips, regulating wakes, or increasing penalties on intoxicated boaters our committee displayed steadfast support for safety and protection of the public. As Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I'm proud of the work we have accomplished so far and look forward to continuing our efforts to protect the natural resources of the great state of Oregon.

Committee on House Natural Resources – First Chamber Bills Passed

Watercraft

House Bill 2076 requires boat operators to drain water from a boat before transporting it within the state and authorizes peace officers to require someone who is transporting a boat to stop at an aquatic invasive species check station.

House Bill 2077 requires boat liveries to register and imposes a penalty for failure to register or renew registration.

House Bill 2078 A requires boat owners to have boater education card for boat operation.

House Bill 2079 suspends a person's Boating Safety Education Card for one to three years for Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants or reckless boating and reduces the fine for failing to carry properly fitting life jackets aboard a boat.

House Bill 2080 A increases boating safety certificate from \$10 to \$20, increases biennial fee for registration from \$4.50 to \$5.95 per foot, increases boat title or title transfer from \$50 to \$75, and specifies that \$5 of each registration or identification number certificate be deposited in the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund.

House Bill 2351 A authorizes OSMB to adopt special regulations to manage boat wake energy within the Willamette River Greenway.

House Bill 2352 creates a towed watersports program within the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB).

House Bill 2652 A requires outfitters and guides operating on class III or higher waters to rent, sell, or otherwise make available helmets to all passengers.

House Bill 3168 authorizes OSMB to adopt rules authorizing the operation of boats propelled by electric motors on specific lakes in Oregon.

Water Resources

House Bill 2085 A Regulates construction, modification and removal of dams for the purpose of protecting public health, safety and welfare. Updates language and policies relating Dam safety standards adopted in 1929.

House Bill 2331 A establishes that the Water Resources Commission has a specific amount of time to enforce general or special standards related to well construction activities and establish the Task Force on Oregon Well Construction Enforcement Activities.

House Bill 2377 A appropriates \$452,390 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to solicit bids and contract for implementation of the first phase of a sediment study on the lower Rogue River and appropriates \$1,000,000 to DAS for distribution to Umatilla County to reimburse water right holders for increased pumping cost of surface water used in lieu of ground water.

House Bill 2835 A requires state agencies to report restricted, closed, opened, or reopened public access to public use waterways, require the Oregon Department of Transportation to notify agencies when road projects will close public access, and consider impacts to public access when approving road project funding.

House Bill 2979 A appropriates \$250,000 for distribution to the Association of Oregon Counties for contracting an independent third-party organization to provide technical assistance and information regarding tide gates.

House Bill 3081 A appropriates \$30,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to be distributed to Klamath County to acquire and install stream gauges in the Klamath Basin.

House Bill 3132 A requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to administer a program to authorize voluntary stream restoration and habitat improvement projects by participating landowners, through construction of environmental restoration weirs.

Fish and Wildlife

House Bill 2066 eliminates the one-day angling license, reduces the one-day angling and shellfish license fee, and authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish lower license and tag fees than the statutorily established fee for certain angling activities.

House Bill 2067 removes sunset dates for the Oregon Landowner Damage Program and the Access and Habitat Program.

House Bill 2068 A increases the percentage of nonresident tags issued by drawing for hunting of black bear and cougar from a maximum of three to five percent of total tags.

House Bill 2069 removes the requirement that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission issue unallocated game mammal hunting tags on a first-come, first-served basis.

House Bill 2070 authorizes ODFW to accept payment by credit card and establishes a fee to offset costs of credit card transactions.

House Bill 2071 modifies eligibility for hunting tags for female mountain sheep to allow a person to obtain a female mountain sheep tag regardless of whether the person has previously been issued a mountain sheep tag.

House Bill 2072 authorizes ODFW to operate wildlife inspection stations, require an operator of a vehicle transporting taken wildlife or parts of taken wildlife to stop at wildlife inspection stations, and punish failure to stop at a wildlife inspection station with a Class A violation.

House Bill 2293A defines resident for the purpose of obtaining hunting license, tag, or permit as a person who has physically resided in this state for no less than six consecutive months immediately prior to application for wildlife licenses, tags, and permits.

House Bill 2294 requires that a commercial product that contains or is derived from cervid urine and that is designed for luring, attracting, or enticing cervid be derived from a herd tested for, and found free of, CWD.

House Bill 2361 A requires the Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish and prescribe fees for multiyear resident and nonresident hunting licenses, and to set the agent fee for issuance of each multiyear license at \$5.

House Bill 2378 A directs ODFW to establish and operate a fish incubation box pilot program for 10 years in historically salmon-bearing waterways in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine counties and report to the Legislative Assembly.

House Bill 2379 A authorizes Curry, Josephine, and Jackson Counties to take action against the Corps, and seek damages for economic loss incurred by the county due to the Corps' failure to conform with fish return goals set in mitigation requirements agreed to in the hatchery Final Environmental Impact Statement until January 1, 2030.

House Bill 2553 requires the ODFW to adopt rules concerning the carcasses of returning hatchery fish, and to analyze return rates and report results to the Legislative Assembly.

House Bill 2574 A appropriates funds to the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purposes of establishing a shellfish information system, an enforcement program, and an educational program.

House Bill 2747 A revises the requirements for membership on the Commission

House Bill 2829 establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund; appropriate moneys in the Fund to ODFW to be expended on activities to protect, maintain, or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon; establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee; and appropriates \$17,000,000 from the General Fund for deposit in the Fund.

House Bill 2834 A requires that ODFW, in consultation with ODOT, collect data regarding wildlife habitat areas and connectivity and develop a Wildlife Corridor and Action Plan.

House Bill 2841 A exempts specific ODFW information from disclosure and allows ODFW to refuse disclosure of information relevant to its ability to manage or protect certain fish and wildlife species or individual members or populations of species.

House Bill 3016 appropriates moneys to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for activities related to summer steelhead hatchery production for the Santiam River.

House Bill 3035 A increases the maximum penalty for wildlife law offenses committed without a culpable mental state to a Class A violation of \$2,000 and increase the maximum penalty for wildlife law offenses committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly to a Class C felony of up to five years' imprisonment, \$125,000, or both.

House Bill 3087 A requires the ODFW to establish an anti-poaching awareness program.

House Bill 3118 authorizes ODFW to appoint persons to act as agents of ODFW for the purpose of managing cougar population in accordance with a cougar management plan administered by ODFW.

Forest

House Bill 2222 A requires the Oregon Department of Forestry to annually report to the Legislative Assembly regarding the implementation and enforcement status of the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act.

House Bill 2365 appropriates \$1,700,000 from the General Fund to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to carry out an integrated pest management program to combat Sudden Oak Death and requires ODF to expend \$50,000 as a block grant to the Association of Oregon Counties to establish and operate a task force to encourage and coordinate county integrated pest management programs to combat Sudden Oak Death.

House Bill 2952 establishes the Good Neighbor Authority Agreement Project Subaccount (Subaccount), requires ODF deposit project revenue in the Subaccount, and expend Subaccount moneys supporting GNA agreement goals.

House Bill 2953 A requires ODF to report on impacts of GNA projects to the Legislative Assembly.

House Concurrent Resolution 14 changes the name of Silver Creek Heritage Grove in the Elliott State Forest to Jerry Phillips Reserve.

Other

House Bill 3378 A appropriates \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Port of Cascade Locks to fund engineering and design work necessary to add a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian lane across the Bridge of the Gods.

House Bill 3084 would prohibit a tax on the use of suitable material other than virgin material for daily cover at a disposal site.

House Bill 3309 A repeals the restriction that new essential facilities may not be built in the tsunami inundation zone, repeal the requirement that DOGAMI adopt tsunami inundation zone parameters, and change exemptions under the definition of surface mining.