



# Oregon

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**Date: May 14, 2019**

**To: The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**



**HB 2834A**

**Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs  
Dr. Rachel Wheat, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2834A with you today. House Bill 2834A would direct Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with Department of Transportation on developing a wildlife crossing action plan following an assessment on wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife use of the State's landscape.

Protecting landscape corridors and hydrological connectivity is a broadly-accepted strategy for conserving native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and ensuring ecosystem resilience (Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2016). The identification and maintenance of wildlife corridors is essential for maintaining ecological processes and helping mitigate the effects of environmental stressors, including those imposed by climate change.

In 2018, the department initiated planning and development of the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project (OCAMP). The overall project goal of OCAMP is to advance priority conservation planning aimed at understanding and mitigating barriers to wildlife movement in Oregon. The department will fill critical knowledge gaps by completing connectivity assessment and mapping for wildlife at fine resolutions across Oregon, conduct extensive outreach to encourage a diverse group of partners to utilize and implement the results from the assessment, and to make all data and results from the analyses easy to find, view, and understand. Species habitat needs and habitat linkages will be mapped for up to 60 terrestrial wildlife species across their respective ranges in the State.

OCAMP will assist in producing the information needed for HB 2834A, and ultimately influence the development of an action plan to prioritize investment in infrastructure to reduce habitat fragmentation, improve or maintain wildlife connectivity, and reduce vehicle collisions with wildlife species.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.