

Watts Remy

From: Pat Orm <pcormsbee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:20 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Support for HB 2834

Dear Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

HB 2834: Wildlife Corridor Action Plan is critical to restoring, improving, and maintaining the natural heritage of Oregon that has always been our barometer for true quality of life. Continuing our conservation legacy of protecting natural resources distinguishes our state and defines us as Oregonians.

Population growth in Oregon has generally increased over the past century with an estimated growth rate of over 8% since 2010. As our population grows so does the pressure on wildlife and their habitat. This pressure is intensified as the effects of climate change such as extreme weather events and wildfires also intensify. Reduction, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat are scientifically established as key contributions to declines of native wildlife, fish, and plant species that are the essential components of Oregon's rich biodiversity. A high degree of biodiversity is equated with resiliency, health, and defenses against such things as impacts of climate change for wildlife and humans alike. Of particular concern is the ability of flora and fauna to move unfettered across a natural mosaic of landscapes that provide the array of habitats they need to insure species persistence. Anthropocentric structures such as roadways, canals, dams, and pipelines can cause significant direct mortality, permanent barriers, or energetically costly detours to flora and fauna. In some cases such barriers can lead to population isolation that reduces genetic exchange that can threaten species persistence and diversity.

HB 2834 provides us the opportunity to investigate, define, and prioritize the issues and solutions for long term management needed to insure the dispersal of native flora and fauna across Oregon. In turn, this provides options for protection of biodiversity that flora, fauna and humans all rely on for sustainable health and well being. I support HB 2834 and ask you to insure its passage.

Sincerely,

Pat Ormsbee