



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
ELK FOUNDATION**

May 3, 2021

**Testimony Before the Joint Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources**

Subject: Support of HB 5009 – Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget

Co-Chair Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon and members of the committee:

My name is David Wiley. I live in Sublimity, Oregon. I am a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and I am speaking on behalf of The Foundation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is strongly supportive of HB 5009, the Governors proposed Fish and Wildlife Division Budget for the next biennium.

RMEF wishes to bring focus to three policy option packages (POP) within the budget which will provide enhanced benefits and services to Oregon hunters, fishers, and outdoor recreationists.

- POP 102 - Voluntary Access & Habitat Incentive Program will lead to substantial improvement in hunter access to private lands. It is Federal Funded. Improving hunting access is critical to retaining an increasing hunter participation which ultimately funds wildlife conservation and management through purchase of hunting licenses, tags and federal excises taxes on firearms and ammunition.
- POP 112 – Habitat Division Establishment. This POP will restore to the Department a Division which will bring in renewed and revitalized focus to the restoration and rehabilitation of both aquatic and terrestrial habitat needed to enhance Oregon’s native fish and wildlife populations. Having quality habitat is essential to species conservation. It is Federal Funded.
- POP 117 – Good Neighbor Authority Coordinator. This POP provides a much-enhanced capability to collaborate and cooperate with federal land management agency and in which ODFW will carry out wildlife and fisheries habitat restoration and enhancement projects on federal lands, largely federally funded, in situations where the federal agency lacks a capability to do so.

**The MISSION of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. Nationally RMEF has more than 234,000 members in more than 500 chapters. Within Oregon RMEF has more**

than 15,000 members in 23 chapters statewide. In Oregon, since 1986, RMEF and its partners have protected and enhanced 850,057 acres of habitat and opened 135,046 acres for public access; a value of \$72.1 million of which \$7,319,233 was provided by Oregon RMEF members.

Questions?

Thank you,

Dave Wiley