



May 3, 2021

Testimony Before Joint Committee on Ways and Means,
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Subject: HB 5009 – Relating to the Financial Administration of the State
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Co-Chair Senator Taylor, Co-Chair Representative Reardon, and members of the
Committee,

My name is Kevin Martin, and I live in Pendleton, Oregon. I am the President of
the Oregon Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and I am speaking
today on OR FNAWS membership's behalf.

Established in November 1998, the purpose of the Oregon Foundation for North
American Wild Sheep (OR FNAWS) is to promote and enhance populations of
indigenous wild sheep and rocky mountain goat and their habitat in Oregon and
across North America. OR FNAWS supports scientific solutions to resource
management challenges, and we heavily invest the funds we raise in disease
research, bighorn sheep transplants, habitat management, population management,
predator management, and conservation education. We are a proud partner of the
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and have been since our
establishment.

I am here today to visit about the Minam River Acquisition.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and ODFW have been working on
an exciting land acquisition opportunity in Northeast Oregon. The project will
acquire 15,573 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat and establish the Minam
River State Wildlife Area to be managed by ODFW. If approved by the Oregon
Fish and Wildlife Commission, the first phase of the acquisition will close in late
2021.

OR FNAWS strongly supports the purchase of these 15,573 acres to make the
Minam River State Wildlife area. This acquisition will link wildlife habitat from
the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) to the Minam State Recreation
Area. This acquisition will assure permanent protection of crucial habitat along a
migration corridor for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, and other wildlife and will
conserve approximately 160 miles of streams, including a significant stretch of the
Minam River.

Acquisition of this property will secure public recreational access, improve access
to adjacent National Forest (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.
Multiple recreational interests will have access to a remote, rugged, amazing
landscape.

President

Kevin Martin

Kevindmartin63@gmail.com

541-969-6744

Past President

Walter Chuck

The4chucks@aol.com

541-574-9078

1st Vice President

Tom Peterson

Tompeteron@oregonfnaws.org

2nd Vice President

Dave Geelan

David.j.geelan@boeing.com

503-949-1211

Secretary

Robert Welsh

Secretary@Oregonfnaws.org

541-963-6317

Treasurer

Zack Peterson

Zmpeteron86@gmail.com

503-706-2674

Board Members

Ray Wurdinger

Vic Coggins

Walt Van Dyke

Shane Byerly

Brent Tannock

Craig Foster

Scott Peckham

Don South

Nick Berg

Brian Hoge

Jeremy Thompson

Marcus Gores

Alan Day

Larry Jacobs

David O'Connor

Website

www.oregonfnaws.org

www.facebook.com/orfnaws

**"Putting Wild Sheep
on the Mountain"**

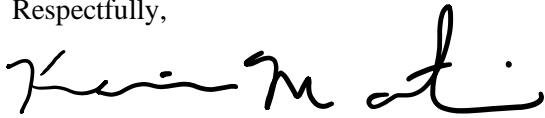
2020

Our understanding is the current Department budget does not include spending limitation for this acquisition; we request that this committee ensure that there is adequate limitation in the Department's budget to ensure that this acquisition is possible in the 21-23 biennium.

I want to thank the committee and legislators for their work on HB 5009. I look forward to the Minam River State Wildlife Area providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreation opportunities for the citizens of Oregon for many years.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for ODFW's budget and the Minam River Acquisition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a distinct "M".

Kevin Martin, President
Oregon Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

CC WSF