



Date: March 2, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair Senator Dembrow
Senator Anderson
Senator Frederick

Co-Chair Rep. Pham
Rep. Holvey
Rep. Levy
Rep. Levy
Rep. Owens

From: Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Oregon Wild, Portland Audubon, Trout Unlimited, Wild Salmon Center

RE: Please support full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA)

Dear Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Pham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that represented conservation interests under the Private Forest Accord and are signatories to the Accord, we respectfully request full funding for the Private Forest Accord as described in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Agency Request Budget (ARB).

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was the result of months of negotiations brokered by the Governor's office between 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups to broadly reform the Oregon Forest Practices Act. Despite some hard compromises, the PFA provides significant new protections for fish and stream-dwelling frogs and salamanders, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands.

Aligned with the requirements of the PFA legislation passed in 2022 (SB 1501, 1502, and HB 4005), the Department is now tasked with developing the complete application for a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to submit to the federal services. We support funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) grant - Conservation Planning Assistance that will channel federal funding to support ODF and ODFW in the development of the HCP.

We thank the Governor for including full base/CSL funding for core PFA programs and staffing and for partial funding of POP 106 Private Forest Accord Development under ODF's budget and POP 105 Private Forest Accord Data Coordination under ODFW's budget. We respectfully request full funding for the following:

- **ODF POP 106 - Private Forest Accord Development:** This includes \$10M for the SFISH program to provide grants to small forestland owners to replace or upgrade culverts and stream crossings. It also includes \$6M to stand up the Adaptive Management Program Committee (AMPC) and the Independent Research and Science Team (IRST).
- **ODFW POP 105 - Private Forest Accord Data Coordination:** Although this POP is included in ODFW's budget request, funding for this POP has direct ramifications of ODF and its ability to develop an approvable HCP. We respectfully request full funding for ODFW POP 105 including \$20M to support the ODFW PFA Mitigation Grant Fund.

Full funding for core PFA programs and staffing in addition to base/CSL funding includes \$10M for ODF SFISH, \$6M for ODF Adaptive Management and IRST, \$1.3M for ODF additional services and supplies. It also includes \$20M for ODFW Mitigation Grant Fund and \$354,000 for ODFW additional services and supplies. Some of these core programs funded through POPs are integral to finalizing a federally approvable HCP.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and our request for full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA).

Sincerely,

Joseph Vaile
Climate Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Joe Liebezeit
Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Program Manager
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