



ODFW Commission Restructure- Five River Basin Management Areas- Amendment to HB 3086
Dear Committee Members:

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our nation's hunting heritage and the conservation of wildlife. The NWTF mission is affected by the policy and rule making decisions of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) commission.

The decision-making body tasked with managing wildlife and habitat across the diverse landscape of Oregon should equally represent that diversity in its structure. Oregon has a vast array of landscapes that supports different wildlife throughout the state. Due to the variety of landscapes in Oregon, different areas have different management needs across the region. To ensure the best management practices for the state, representation must be rooted in these different sectors of the state. Therefore, the use of congressional districts is not the appropriate model of representation for wildlife and habitat management.

The NWTF strongly supports the amendment for HB 3086 for regional representation, wildlife commission model for the state of Oregon. The utilization of the five river basin management areas would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state. The five river basin management areas have statutory precedent in ORS 536.022 as the regional representation for establishing the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This model has provided equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy and would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies.

To ensure the use of best management decisions for all of Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and public at large is to accurately represent them across the state. From Oregon's coastal forests to the dry environment of eastern Oregon, all landscapes and ecosystems must be



represented for their own uniqueness. A regional representation model ensures that all of Oregon's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat needs are included in a truly diverse and equitable Commission structure

Regional representation brings more diversity to the commission. Not only are some of the fastest growing Hispanic communities located on the eastern side of the state but Tribal entities are more dispersed throughout the state than can be represented by a congressional district model.

On behalf of the NWTF, we urge you to support this regional representation for the commission within HB 3086.

Sincerely,

Chris Henry

Oregon State Chapter President, National Wild Turkey Federation