

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

### **Department of Fish and Wildlife Disaster Peak**

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To: Ways and Means Full Committee  
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

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On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Natural Resources Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Fish and Wildlife on the Disaster Peak land acquisition.

In September 2020, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased Disaster Peak Ranch and developed an interim management strategy with state and local partners for restoration and reintroduction efforts of endangered species as well as habitat improvements, while maintaining the working ranch.

In December 2021, the Department was awarded \$2.8 million from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for acquisition of the property through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The Department received approval to apply for this grant with the understanding that funds would pass through to Western Rivers, along with Ruby Pipeline mitigation funds.

In September 2022 Western Rivers provided Malheur County with a draft Memorandum of Agreement, and on April 26, 2023, Western Rivers and Malheur County signed with unanimous approval and cleared the way for distribution of funds to Western Rivers for acquisition of this property.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.