

Submitter: Kim Norris  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2980

I am writing in support of HB 2980 – Promoting Wildlife Stewardship and Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflicts Across Oregon

Climate change and habitat loss, combined with human population growth and expansion, forces people and wildlife into closer proximity and increases the risk of human-wildlife conflict. These conflicts are costly and decrease tolerance for wildlife. This dynamic erodes support for wildlife conservation generally, and leads to policies focused on short-term lethal options instead of the fundamental changes needed to address human-wildlife conflict. This is true in urban, suburban, and rural landscapes across Oregon.

The Wildlife Stewardship Program was developed by a diverse task force and is supported by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a strong coalition of over 30 state and local organizations. It would invest meaningfully in resources within ODFW to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, promote wildlife coexistence and stewardship, and engage new and diverse audiences in wildlife conservation.

The benefits of The Wildlife Stewardship Program include:

- Shifting from reactive to proactive approaches to human-wildlife conflicts.
- Providing consistent, streamlined, and standardized approaches to human-wildlife conflict.
- Expanding training, logistical, and technical support for response agencies and partners.
- Providing support for Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation network
- Maximizing the capacity of existing statewide resources.
- Improving internal agency communication and external partner coordination.

I hope you will join me and myriad others in conjunction with ODFW and support HB 2980!

Thank you for your consideration.