



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
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FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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

SUBJECT: SB 5521- ODF Budget - SUPPORT

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of SB 5521 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill.

ORTWS represents over 700 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of SB 5521 because it closely aligns with implementing our mission to promote the stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the use of sound ecological information. ORTWS strongly supports the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) mission to serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.

The budget found in SB 5521 will help ODF keep pace with increasing costs to operate and sustain core programs and employ top tier biologists tasked with managing Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats. Ensuring ODF is funded and capable of implementing its mission is critical as federal grants, staffing, and agencies directed at managing Oregon's natural resources are in decline. Please support ODF and their stewardship of Oregon's wildlife and habitat.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Conservation Committee