

Submitter: Gail Snyder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully urge you to make sure the Private Forest Accord is fully funded by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife budget (HB 5009). I am writing because I care not about my own ability to enjoy Oregon's beauty and natural resources, but for our grandchildren and great children, and just as importantly, for the innumerable species that depend on healthy forests and streams.

As you know, this landmark agreement regarding logging on private forestland was the result of years of negotiation, collaboration, and compromise between timber representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups. The agreement calls for the state to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009) for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program. The PFA Grant Program should be fully funded at \$20M. This reflects the state's commitment of \$10M annually to this grant program under the PFA authorizing legislation from 2022 (SB 1501). Importantly, this commitment is matched by a \$2.5M annual contribution from the timber industry, which increases to \$5M annually after federal approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This program invests in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

Thanks for your consideration,
Gail Snyder