

## **House Committee on Revenue**

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

### **Re: Testimony on HB 2977 (“1% for Wildlife”)**

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

For the record, my name is Tristan Henry. I am the Oregon Field Representative for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. On behalf of our 63 partner organizations and 140,000 members, including hunters, anglers, and conservationists across Oregon, I strongly urge your support for the engrossed version of House Bill 2977.

Under federal law, Oregon must maintain a comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The SWAP identifies our state’s species at greatest risk, the threats to their survival, and the science-driven strategies needed for their conservation. Despite this clear mandate, Oregon’s SWAP has remained significantly underfunded, limiting proactive management efforts that are critical to sustaining our wildlife heritage.

HB 2977-A finally brings Oregon into compliance with the federal State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program by establishing dedicated revenue for SWAP implementation. The bill closes this funding gap by increasing the statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25 %. Because this modest increase will be paid primarily by visitors who come to enjoy Oregon’s natural amenities, it is projected to generate roughly \$28 million annually. Those funds will directly support SWAP implementation and related conservation programs, benefiting wildlife, habitats, and the outdoor economy, and creating significant positive impacts for hunters, anglers, and all Oregonians.

#### **Specifically, HB 2977-A provides critical funding to:**

##### **Enhances wildlife habitat connectivity**

- Funding will improve migration corridors and other critical habitat links for big-game species and fish populations, ensuring that robust hunting and angling opportunities remain accessible.

##### **Proactively addresses emerging wildlife diseases**

- Additional resources will allow ODFW to expand early detection and rapid-response efforts for threats such as Chronic Wasting Disease and other zoonotic diseases, protecting wildlife health and safeguarding Oregon’s hunting traditions and recreation economy.

##### **Establish a comprehensive natural-resource inventory**

- Dedicated dollars will fund modern surveys, GIS mapping, and data-management systems so ODFW can make informed, timely decisions about habitat and species conservation.

#### **Support public-private partnerships**

- Funds will expand voluntary incentive programs for private landowners, rewarding habitat restoration and conflict-reduction practices that benefit wildlife and increase voluntary hunter and angler access.

#### **Provide depredation compensation**

- Creates a standing fund to reimburse producers for verified wildlife damage and to support non-lethal deterrents, preserving tolerance for wildlife on working lands.

#### **Bolster anti-poaching enforcement (new amendment)**

- Adds investigators, patrol resources, and prosecution support to deter wildlife crime, protecting the public's wildlife resource and the fair-chase ethic.

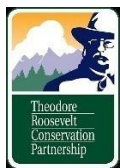
#### **Fund invasive species control and Council support (new amendment)**

- Provides stable, long-term funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council and priority eradication projects, protecting native fish, game species, and the habitats they depend on.
- Leverage federal conservation funding by dedicating state dollars, Oregon will strengthen its eligibility for State & Tribal Wildlife Grants and other matching programs, multiplying each state dollar for greater statewide impact.

As previously testified, Oregon's outdoor recreation economy contributes over \$15 billion annually to our GDP, with hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreation accounting for roughly \$1.2 billion. Investing in our wildlife and habitats through HB 2977-A protects this economic activity while preserving Oregon's rich natural heritage.

HB 2977-A is pragmatic, science-based, and economically sound. It fulfills a federal mandate, strengthens rural and urban economies alike, and secures the wildlife legacy that defines our state. On behalf of Oregon's hunting, fishing, and conservation community, I respectfully ask for your support in passing this crucial measure.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



Tristan Henry  
Oregon Field Representative  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
[theny@trcp.org](mailto:theny@trcp.org)