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"1% for Wildlife" is for all of us

Jun 12, 2025

"1% for Wildlife" is for all of us

As the manager of the Dogwood Motel, which has been serving anglers, hunters, hikers, and folks who love the outdoors for over 60 years, I fully support House Bill 2977 increasing Oregon's Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) from 1.5% to 2.5% to increase funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to the tune of \$30 million per year.

About 40% of the existing TLT funds in Oregon are collected from the Portland metropolitan area, which has spent more than half of those funds on promoting tourism and constructing tourism infrastructure. In Southern Oregon, we have funneled 70 cents of every dollar of TLT funds we collect into the "general services" slush fund of local administrations, with barely 10% going to tourism infrastructure or promotion. That said, the tourism infrastructure we rely on includes clean air and water, accessible hiking trails, and abundant fish and wildlife populations, all of which need to be maintained to continue providing value to our communities. Increasing the TLT would benefit rural communities far more than the existing tax, as ODFW helps manage and conserve at-risk fish and wildlife populations across the state.

Oregon's landscape has faced a series of challenges in recent years, including increasingly severe fire seasons, extreme temperatures, and unstable populations of fish and wildlife. The fate of Summer Steelhead in the North Umpqua is especially concerning to us, as the populations have experienced a significant decline over the past decade. Supporting the TLT increase is an investment in the health and future of Summer Steelhead and Oregon's natural landscapes, helping conserve the beauty and wonder that draws visitors from around the world. An extra 1% for Wildlife is an additional 1% for the future of our state, and well worth the investment.

KUDOS: Julie Lowe, the Environmental Education and Outreach Leader at Umpqua Watersheds

Our heartfelt gratitude to Julie Lowe, the Environmental Education and Outreach Leader at Umpqua Watersheds. Julie has been a regular guest speaker in our class for the past two academic years. She is incredible with our students, bringing hands-on, nature-based and engaging science experiments and lessons. She has introduced us to cool creatures like stick insects, an Albino Hognose snake, a legless lizard, and hairless guinea pigs ("skinny pigs")! Julie embodies what Dr. Maria Montessori described as an ideal teacher: "to regard the child's intelligence as a fertile field in which seeds may be sown, to grow under the heat of flaming imagination." Thank you, Julie, for sparking our imagination with your deep knowledge and passion for science!

Tez Stair

Glide, Idleyld Park

Lisa Shaklee

teacher at Maple Corner Montessori

Roseburg

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