

Submitter: Jennifer Davis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Legislators,

As a small scale farmer in Gales Creek, Oregon and Timber, Or forest landowner - I am keenly aware of how crucial our wildlife is to our human health. Coyotes, raptors, snakes, bears and cougars help keep rodents in check which otherwise gobble crops and eat forest seedlings. The larger predators cull sick deer which stops disease spread and overgrazing of our forest floors. Bats eat the mosquitoes and birds consume many of our crop pests and forest pests. Beavers help create large pools to halt forest fires. Native bees pollinate our food and trees. The health of our food crops and forests. Without trees, our water cycle would falter. Trees make rain through transpiration and our rainforest will vanish without them. We need the help of all wildlife to protect seedling trees, to reduce pest damage, to help nourish and regenerate our ecosystem.

Please don't delay in acting to protect our wildlife! Here is data from the WWF:

Washington, DC (October 9, 2024) -There has been a catastrophic 73% decline in the average size of monitored wildlife populations* in just 50 years (1970-2020), according to World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Living Planet Report 2024. The report warns that parts of our planet are approaching dangerous tipping points driven by the combination of nature loss and climate change which pose grave threats to humanity.

The Living Planet Index, provided by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), tracks almost 35,000 vertebrate populations of 5,495 species from 1970-2020. The steepest decline is in freshwater populations (85%), followed by terrestrial (69%) and then marine (56%).

Habitat loss and degradation and overharvesting, driven primarily by our global food system are the dominant threats to wildlife populations around the world, followed by invasive species, disease and climate change.

Significant declines in wildlife populations negatively impact the health and resilience of our environment and push nature closer to disastrous tipping points– critical thresholds resulting in substantial and potentially irreversible change. Regional tipping points, such as the decimation of North American pine forests, the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, and the mass die-off of coral reefs, have the potential to create shockwaves far beyond the immediate region, impacting food security, livelihoods, and economies.**