

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

American Bird Conservancy, which works to conserve birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, writes in strong support HB4134, a much-needed bill to fund Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) implementation, support wildlife habitat connectivity, combat invasive species, and ensure that Oregon's incredible wildlife can continue to thrive.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is particularly appreciative of the 63 birds identified as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in the SWAPⁱ being prioritized and benefitted by this legislation. These species are typically not benefitted by other conservation dollars raised in the state and, therefore, create a gap in funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife which is obligated to carry out its SWAP. While federal State Wildlife Grants (SWG) provide baseline funding for conservation program staff time, the Competitive State Wildlife Grants (C-SWG) used to implement conservation projects are shared with all other states and do not provide comprehensive or consistent funding.

HB4134 closes the funding gaps within Oregon by diverting part of these new funds to wildlife and habitat conservation. Funds raised by HB4134 will primarily come from non-Oregon residents and are not a cost-of-living increase.

Many of the SWAP species, including the Golden Eagle, California Condor, Streaked Horned Lark, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, and Western Snowy Plover are also listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, highlighting their pressing needs for conservation.ⁱⁱ ABC is a proud partner of state, federal, local, tribal, and non-governmental organizations in Oregon.

One species of particular concern for us is the Marbled Murrelet, a unique bird which requires mature old-growth forests to nest. The Murrelet's recent five-year status review confirmed its federal threatened status and found that its breeding success rate is so low that future population declines are likely.ⁱⁱⁱ

Nest predation has been found to be a limiting factor in the Murrelet's population growth. To reduce forest fragmentation which facilitates nest predation, increased protective buffers are needed around nests. Funds are also needed to support campground cleanup

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campaigns to reduce the number of ravens and jays predating Murrelet nests.^{iv} This is an essential recovery activity without an existing funding source that could be supported by this legislation.

Oregon's wildlife-watching, hunting, and fishing bring in over \$1.2 billion annually,^v making them an important driver of employment and revenue in the state. This modest increase in transient lodging tax will allow for more sustainable investment in Oregon's natural beauty. The dozens of birds listed in the SWAP, not to mention the 200+ other Species of Greatest Conservation Need, are integral to Oregon's appeal as an outdoor tourism hub.

ABC strongly supports HB4134 and urges the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,

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ⁱ https://dfw.state.or.us/SWAP-Revision/docs/ORSWAP_Species.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/ad-hoc-species-report>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://ecosphere-documents-production-public.s3.amazonaws.com/sams/public_docs/species_nonpublish/18327.pdf

^{iv} <https://abcbirds.org/news/crumb-clean-keep-wildlife-wild/>

^v Oregon Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, Factsheet-Economic Impact OR Counties-Earth Economics (2019), <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/docs/Factsheet-Economic%20Impact%20OR%20CountiesEarth%20Economics%202019.pdf>.