



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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State Land Board

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Senator Golden, Chair
Senator Nash, Vice Chair
Senator Brock Smith

Tina Kotek
Governor

From: Bill Ryan, Deputy Director of Aquatic Resource Management
Oregon Department of State Lands

Tobias Read
Secretary of State

Re: Testimony on SB 1584

Elizabeth Steiner
State Treasurer

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Senate Bill 1584. **The Department of State Lands has no position on this bill**, and we are grateful for the proponents' and committee's collaboration in past sessions. Amendment language from a prior draft of the bill in the 2025 session ([SB 511](#) first draft, amendments reflected in [SB 1204](#)) has been incorporated into this year's legislation, aiming to improve implementation for the Department.

The Department fully supports restoration of salmon habitat. We believe the state should promote such efforts and generally agree landowners should be encouraged to perform enhancement and change historical practices to improve salmon habitat. The state's current regulatory framework for removal-fill permitting (in ORS 196 and OAR 141-085) requires mitigation of impacts to ensure the important benefits provided by streams, wetlands and other waters are replaced, including habitat for fish. **The Department's previous policy analyses on this proposed legislation can be found by referencing testimony to [SB 511](#) (2025) and [HB 2206 A](#) (2023).**

As the Department continues to balance ongoing work within the existing removal-fill program, we would like to highlight some current considerations regarding **the agency resources needed to establish the new Salmon Credit program created by SB 1584:**

- **DSL would need to hire additional staff to stand up the program, and other significant resources would be required.** The Department would need to establish an entirely new program and fund for salmon credit mitigation banking. This includes:
 - Establishment of a salmon credit marketplace, tracking system, dividend program and annual payment process.
 - Establishment of the Salmon Credit Trust Fund at State Treasury.
 - Coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a programmatic general permit to authorize restoration activities under the salmon credit pilot program.

- Coordination with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) on any salmon credit projects proposed on exclusive farm use land or forestland.
- Establishing this new program would require DSL rulemaking in consultation with ODFW. The Department would convene a Rules Advisory Committee, and a professional facilitator would need to be contracted.
- **Completing the above would require significant administrative, policy, information technology, and public engagement work.**
 - **Much of the cost to the Department is going to be up front in the creation of the mitigation program** and the development of the administrative process for establishing projects, credits, dividends, tracking of credits, tracking of the fund, and other tasks necessary for implementation. **The Department would need to hire additional staff to stand up the program.**
 - SB 1584 allows DSL to establish **fees to cover costs associated with the implementation** of the program. SB 1584 requires that the program be adequately staffed to ensure “the purchase of salmon credits are processed in an expeditious manner.” Long-term inspection and monitoring would be required to ensure that the credit-generating project is successful.

In closing, I again want to emphasize the Department’s support for salmon habitat restoration, and for incentivizing landowners to perform this important work. The Department’s testimony in previous sessions articulates how using grant programs under the current mitigation program already in place and utilization of the Oregon Removal-Fill Mitigation Fund (ORS 196.640 to 196.665) may be a more cost-effective way to encourage habitat restoration on private lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Ryan
Deputy Director, Aquatic Resource Management Program