



February 3, 2026

Statement of Support for HB 4134

Western Watersheds Project supports HB 4134, which represents a thoughtful approach to addressing Oregon's long-standing wildlife conservation funding gap while minimizing impacts to working Oregon taxpayers.

Oregon's fish and wildlife is a critical public trust resource. Yet for decades, Oregon's wildlife conservation programs have been structurally underfunded, relying heavily on license revenues that no longer reflect the broad public benefits wildlife provides.

HB 4134 directly addresses this mismatch by modernizing Oregon's funding model through modestly increasing the statewide transient lodging tax and dedicating new revenues to the Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund, the bill ensures that visitors who enjoy Oregon's landscapes, wildlife, and outdoor experiences contribute to long-term stewardship.

Equally important, HB 4134 provides clear statutory direction for how funds are allocated. Dedicated support for wildlife conservation strategy implementation, habitat connectivity, invasive species control, wildlife enforcement, and conflict prevention.

The bill's emphasis on recovering wildlife before species require federal listing is especially important. Preventative conservation is far more cost-effective than emergency recovery under the Endangered Species Act.

HB 4134 also recognizes that wildlife conservation is not solely about individual species, but about functioning ecosystems. Investments in habitat connectivity, aquatic and riparian systems, and landscape-scale restoration benefit water quality, flood resilience, wildfire recovery, and climate adaptation.

I urge the Legislature to pass HB 4134 and take an important step toward securing a stable future for Oregon's wildlife, ecosystems, and communities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adam Bronstein
Oregon Director
Western Watersheds Project