

Submitter: Tamara Stephan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Tamara Stephan. I live in Bend, and grew up in La Grande, between the Blue and Wallowa mountains. I strongly urge you to support HB 4134. Please support Oregon's tourism industry, wildfire risk reduction and resilience, and Oregon's priceless environment.

Our wildlife and wild lands are economic drivers in many parts of the state. Here in Bend we're known for our outdoor recreation industry, and I see firsthand how many people travel here to enjoy our environment. Long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats is not just a good economic investment, it's important to who we are as Oregonians.

In a changing climate it's also imperative that we invest in wildfire risk reduction and resilience. With Federal funding currently difficult to rely on, we need to figure out where these resources will come from. I think HB 4134 is a good source for some of these funds.

With this bill, Oregon has a chance to protect our valuable natural spaces, our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats. Investing in wildlife conservation, habitat connectivity, and poaching reduction will pay off now for Oregonians, and will protect our priceless environmental heritage for future generations.

I ask you not to miss this opportunity: please pass HB 4134 now.

Thank you,
- Tamara Stephan
Bend Oregon