



2/4/2026

To: House Revenue Committee

From: Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

Re: Support for HB 4134-1

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue

On behalf of Oregon's watershed councils, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils ("NOWC") supports HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, or "1.25% for Wildlife".

NOWC supports the work of Oregon's community-based watershed councils throughout the state. Watershed councils are led by natural resource experts and scientists, and are guided by boards led by local community members. We work closely with state natural resource agencies, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

HB 4134-1 presents a generational funding lift for our state's natural resources. It is these very natural resources that draw visitors to our state. This includes visitors who come to our state for activities in our urban areas, but then travel to visit our precious natural resources from the Oregon coast to the waterfalls along the Columbia River and through to our high mountain desert in central Oregon and the Painted Hills of eastern Oregon.

Specifically, NOWC supports the ***funding that HB 4134-1 will make available*** for the following:

- **Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP):** a specific plan to protect and recover Oregon's threatened wildlife species and their habitats.
- **Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund:** A mechanism for engaging our visitors and local communities in conservation projects and recreation throughout Oregon.
- **ODFW's Wildlife Connectivity Program:** Funding that supports safe wildlife passage, reducing wildlife and human mortality rates along our highways, and connecting habitat that is currently fragmented.
- **Invasive Species Response:** Supporting the Oregon Invasive Species Council, addressing chronic gaps in detection and removal of harmful invasive species, particularly through the "Early Detection, Rapid Response" program.
- **Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program:** Providing resources to improve coexistence with wolves and reduce wolf conflict.
- **Wildlife Stewardship Program:** Assisting with stewardship priorities for wildlife and supporting wildlife rehabilitation facilities.
- **Oregon Conservation Corps:** Investment in Oregon's natural resource workforce development while focusing on wildfire risk reduction and community resiliency

We urge you to vote yes on HB 4134-1.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JPRiggsby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "JPR" at the top and "Riggsby" below it.

Terri Preeg Riggsby
Executive Director, NOWC