



Oregon Lakes Association
<https://www.oregonlakes.org>

5 February, 2026

Topic: Support for Oregon House Bill 4134 (1.25% for Wildlife)

Oregon Lakes Association (OLA) would like to enthusiastically join other environmental groups who have supported the proposed HB 4134. As champions of Oregon's lakes, we advocate for the ability of lakes to serve as habitat for wildlife, as well as providing clean water, recreational opportunities and scenic beauty.

We are excited at the opportunities to support aquatic (and other) wildlife that will be possible through the proposed increase in lodging tax. Lakes in general are experiencing stressful changes that challenge their ability to support healthy ecosystems and wildlife. In our ongoing activities, we have close experience with two such examples.

First, we are engaged in discussions in the Chewaucan Valley to address the near-desiccation of hypersaline Lake Abert during four of the last 15 summers, unprecedented since the 1930's. This threatens migratory waterfowl that are dependent on the rich feasts of invertebrates produced in the lake. One of these species, Wilson's phalarope, is the subject of a recent application for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Second, experts on freshwater cyanobacterial blooms are active members of OLA, and have advocated for investment in monitoring and tracking such blooms. We co-host an annual Oregon Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms Meeting on the Oregon State University campus. This is a forum for sharing information and regulations concerning HABs in Oregon, with this year's meeting scheduled for 6th April. Cyanobacterial HABs are ecological dysfunctions that can produce toxins that affect wildlife as well as people and pets, and they are unfortunately increasing worldwide, like they are here.

We also have keen interest in one specific objective of the bill, namely to fund Invasive Species awareness and response. One very dire threat to lakes and waterways is the quagga mussel, which recently made its way into the Snake River near Idaho Falls, where suppression efforts are continuing.

We look forward to the investment in wildlife made possible if this bill passes, and we encourage lawmakers to vote in support of wildlife.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Pennington".

Toni Pennington
President