



February 4, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4134, Relating to funding for natural resource matters

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 56,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club Oregon urges you to support HB 4134, a bill that would provide a steady, sustainable source of funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover Oregon's most vulnerable species and habitat and enhance biodiversity.

Habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species, and other natural and human-made impacts continue to take a toll on Oregon's birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bees. In 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife identified nearly 300 in the state at an elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of conservation concern. In 2025, dozens of additional species were added, including the Crater Lake newt, the California Condor and the North American Porcupine.

Unfortunately, current state funds available for implementing wildlife conservation programs provide only a fraction of what is needed to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and the agency tasked with overseeing critical restoration actions, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been significantly underfunded to be able to address these mounting challenges. Oregon's federal funds also don't provide any coverage for these vulnerable species as they are earmarked for big game, sport fish and species falling under the Endangered Species Act.

HB 4134, is a bold and more importantly proactive solution that will help recover at-risk species now. It provides a more efficient and cost effective path forward in protecting our critical species instead of waiting until they are on the brink of extinction. By adding 1.25% for Wildlife,

Oregon will still have one of the lowest hotel tax rates in the country – less than half that of Washington, Montana and Idaho.

The ability to effectively implement Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan is critical for the health of Oregon's diverse ecosystems and wildlife populations, clean water, food security, and outdoor recreation economy. Healthy abundant wildlife and ecosystems are also a crucial part of Oregon's already thriving tourism industry.

Outdoor recreation supports \$15.6 billion in total consumer spending, supporting 224,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon and \$9.3 billion in wages.¹ Specifically, Oregon's hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching activities have accounted for \$1.2 billion in spending and have supported over 11,000 jobs in recent years.² Additionally, these activities generated \$385 million in labor income and \$51 million in state and local taxes.³ Non-consumptive use, such as nature, wildlife, forest, and wildflower observations, accounts for \$939 million of total spending.⁴

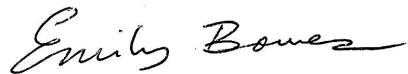
The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter urges you to vote yes on HB 4134 to support our state's unique biodiversity and continue encouraging tourism to see our state's natural charm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes

Policy Strategist

Sierra Club Oregon



¹ Earth Economics, Economic Analysis Of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon (2019),
https://issuu.com/traveloregon2019/docs/economicanalysisofoutdoorrecreationinoregon_otc-ea (Page 1)

² Oregon Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, Factsheet-Economic Impact OR Counties-Earth Economics (2019),
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/docs/Factsheet-Economic%20Impact%20OR%20Counties-Earth%20Economics%202019.pdf>.

³ Oregon Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, Factsheet-Economic Impact OR Counties-Earth Economics (2019),
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/docs/Factsheet-Economic%20Impact%20OR%20Counties-Earth%20Economics%202019.pdf>.

⁴ Earth Economics, Economic Analysis Of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon (2019),
https://issuu.com/traveloregon2019/docs/economicanalysisofoutdoorrecreationinoregon_otc-ea (Page 32).

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