

# WALLOWA RESOURCES

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**Chair Nathanson and members of the House Revenue Committee,**

My name is **Nils Christoffersen**, and I am the Executive Director of **Wallowa Resources**, a community based not for profit organization based in Wallowa Co., Oregon.

As the Executive Director, and on behalf of our 13-member Board of Directors, I am writing to urge you to fully support 1.25% for Wildlife, HB4134.

**Importantly, this bill benefits people and wildlife across all of Oregon, especially eastern Oregonians.**

Wallowa Resources is based in Enterprise, Oregon and we are now celebrating our 30th year, based in Wallowa Co. and working with communities throughout NE Oregon. Our mission is to empower rural communities to create strong economies and healthy landscapes through land stewardship, education, and job creation, which is why we support HB4134.

This bill funds ODFW's State Wildlife Action Plan, a long-term conservation strategy for all of Oregon that has previously not had any dedicated funding. **Oregon's wildlife and fisheries resources are valued & enjoyed by all Oregonians and is one of the reasons that people come to Oregon to visit, recreate and spend dollars here. This provides direct economic benefits & jobs to our communities in eastern Oregon.**

HB4134 is supported by a broad coalition of sportsmen, agricultural and conservation organizations, including the **Oregon Cattlemen's Association, the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Western Landowner's Alliance, Oregon Hunters Association and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**.

HB4134 will also dedicate funding to:

- **\$3M/biennium to reimburse ranchers for loss of livestock due to wolf depredation is hugely important to maintaining viability of ranching in eastern Oregon.**
- **\$3M/yr to Oregon Conservation Corps, a new effort to develop a workforce working with landowners to achieve defensible space and home hardening that will reduce wildfire risk to our rural Oregon communities.**
- **\$1.5M/biennium for Invasive Species/Weed control – reducing risks wildlife, fisheries & wildfire.**
- **\$3M/biennium for Anti-poaching to the Oregon State Police, addressing a persistent problem for Oregon's wildlife in eastern Oregon.**
- **\$3M/biennium to the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund- supporting the intersection of conservation for wildlife, fisheries, recreation and Oregonians.**

As you know, the funding for HB4134 will be generated by a 1.25% increase in the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT), **with over 60% of this being paid for by Non-Oregonians**.

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Economic studies (see attached) have shown that *a nominal increase in the TLT DOES NOT diminish tourism/visitation rate*. **The additional 1.25%** for a hotel stay of \$200-\$300 per night is **equivalent to a cup of coffee**. Oregon currently has and will continue to have **the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest TLT in the nation**, even with **1.25% for wildlife**. Our low TLT and along with no sales tax makes **Oregon one of the “cheapest” states to visit**.

## This is a Win-Win for Oregon!

As a long-time resident of NE Oregon, the need to pass 1.25% for Wildlife is hugely important to Wallowa Resources and our communities throughout eastern Oregon. **I ask and urge you to support HB4134 and help get this passed in the 2026 short session.**

**This bill unifies much of Oregon with direct benefits to eastern Oregon. Please vote to make this happen.**

Nils Christoffersen  
Executive Director