



February 26, 2026

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance supports HB 4134 – "1.25% for Wildlife"

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance fully supports HB 4134 as an investment into Oregon's natural legacy. HB 4134 will conserve and restore Oregon's 300+ vulnerable species and their habitats that support Oregonians livelihoods, quality of life, and recreation. HB 4134 will solve a long-standing funding gap for wildlife and habitats, and is widely supported by a diverse group of stakeholders throughout Oregon.

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance staff and board members are all long-time or life-long Oregon residents that live here precisely because of the diverse wildlife and the habitats they live in. We want to see wildlife thrive, and support HB 4134 because we believe it is one solution that will help.

Federal agencies are cutting back on wildlife science and conservation, and dismantling protections for imperiled species and their habitats. States like Oregon need to take on a greater share of the burden, but ODFW lacks the funding needed to proactively conserve non-game species and the habitats they depend on.

Wildlife is one of the state's biggest tourism assets, and HB 4134 is a reinvestment in Oregon's tourism. Outdoor recreation is a \$8 billion industry in Oregon and makes up 2.6% of the state's GDP. HB 4134 will reinvest in our natural resources, a major draw for out-of-state tourists, which helps attract more visitors.

This is not a cost-of-living increase for Oregonians as the majority (65%) of those who pay the tax are visitors from other states and countries. And it doesn't change Oregon's low tax ranking. Oregon has the third lowest state lodging tax rate out of all 50 states and raising the rate by 1.25 percentage points would not change that ranking. Even considering local lodging tax rates, Oregon's communities are still below, or significantly below, similarly situated out-of-state communities.

HB 4134 is a win-win for Oregon's iconic fish, wildlife, and habitat!

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance fully supports HB 4134 to increase the state transient lodging tax to support Oregon's wildlife!

Sincerely,
Luke Ruediger
Applegate Siskiyou Alliance, Executive Director

LUKE RUEDIGER