

Submitter: Monte Garrett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

HB 4134 is a bold and proactive funding solution that will directly help at-risk species and habitats. Currently, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) does not receive any dedicated funds from the state for the recovery and conservation of species and habitats. A small 1.25% increase in Oregon's statewide lodging tax would provide a sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats and enhance biodiversity.

If passed, this legislation would provide Oregonians a once in a generation opportunity to make huge strides in wildlife protection by:

- Providing ~\$25 million annually to protect and improve Oregon's species and habitats of greatest conservation needs
- Creating a wildlife stewardship program to educate the public on wildlife interactions, resolving wildlife conflicts, and establishing a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife
- Rehabilitation centers which serve on the front lines of human-wildlife interactions
- Bolstering anti-poaching and invasive species management across the state
- Providing needed funds into the Oregon Conservation and Recreation fund for wildlife conservation
- Supporting wildfire prevention

I strongly recommend your support for passing this much-needed legislation!