

Submitter: Wendy Scholz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has a responsibility to take action to protect nature. This bill modestly increases the state transient lodging tax. For the high desert, this would mean real, sustained investment in sagebrush steppe restoration, to protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and control invasive species.

Investing in restoration does mean we can return our high desert to its former glory, before the damage was done by global warming, misuse of public lands, and misdirected animal management, but it will give us the opportunity to protect and restore it to new sustainable healthy ecosystems, that will in turn help to protect our planet.