

## **ODFW 2009-2011 Fee Increase Fact Sheet**

The 2009 Oregon State Legislature approved an ODFW 2009-2011 budget that includes an increase in recreational and commercial fees to sustain core programs and to provide some additional hunting and fishing opportunities.

The 2009-2011 agency biennial budget is \$264 million and provides the resources and staff needed to manage and protect Oregon's fish and wildlife. The agency's budget is dependent on revenue from the sale of hunting and angling licenses and documents, as ODFW receives a very small percentage of its budget from General and Lottery funds

For a copy of the new fee schedule,

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/docs/Post\\_Legislation\\_Final\\_Fees.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/docs/Post_Legislation_Final_Fees.pdf)

### **The 2009-2011 sustains programs important for fish and wildlife**

- ODFW has worked hard to control costs over the past three biennia, but the escalating cost of doing business requires additional funding to maintain current services and to effectively manage Oregon's fish and wildlife. More than 80% of the additional revenue generated by the fee increase will be used to maintain current services.
- The additional funding will also be used to increase opportunities for hunters and anglers.

### **Fee increases help keep pace with cost of doing business**

- New recreational and commercial license fees are effective Jan 1, 2010. When the new fees go into effect, it will have been six years since the last fee increase in 2004.
- The average fee increase on licenses, tags and permits for Oregon residents is about 21%.
- Without the fee increase for the 2009-2011 biennium, the agency would have had to cut approximately \$17 million from fish and wildlife management programs in 2011-2013.
- Without the fee increase in 2009-11, a 40% increase in fees would have been needed in 2011-13 just to maintain the services hunters and anglers expect, and to rebuild budget reserves needed to maintain programs.
- Citizen advisors—hunter, anglers, conservation groups and other members of the public—were actively involved in the development of the fee increase structure.

### **A&H, R&E, and fish passage fee increases sustain important programs**

The new budget includes some surcharge changes in the Access & Habitat (A&H), Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) and Fish Passage and Screens programs.

- The Access & Habitat program's surcharge increased from \$2 to \$4. This increase will ensure additional habitat enhancement on private lands, while maintaining the current level of hunting access. The increase in the surcharge also allows the A&H program to play a key role in ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative by improving an additional 70,000 acres

of habitat annually, while maintaining or increasing support for other habitat and access projects.

- The Restoration and Enhancement program's surcharge increased from \$2 to \$4. This increase will provide funding for projects that will enhance fishing opportunities. The Restoration and Enhancement program is integral to recreational and commercial fisheries management.
- A new \$0.25 surcharge on angling licenses was made to help to fund fish passage projects.
- An increase of \$0.50 in the existing fish screening surcharge was made. Fish screens are an essential part of any system that diverts water from a public water body. Screens prevent the loss of young fish as the water is used for irrigation, municipal, hydroelectric or other beneficial purposes.

### **New juvenile fee structure encourages next generation of hunters and anglers**

- The 2009-2011 agency budget includes investments to reduce the overall cost for youth to hunt and fish and encourage youth participation. While this is projected to cost the agency about \$1 million dollars, it is an investment in the future by keeping youth involved and by helping recruit additional hunters and anglers.
- The new juvenile Sports Pac will help boost youth participation in hunting and fishing. At \$55, the juvenile Sports Pac is a significant savings for families and youth who want to participate in multiple hunting opportunities.
- Youth can now hunt turkeys and big game at a reduced price.

### **Increased enforcement of fish and wildlife laws**

- The 2009-2011 agency budget includes funding for two additional Oregon State Police fish and wildlife enforcement officers, and additional funding for commercial fishing enforcement.

### **Increased hunting opportunities**

The 2009-2011 agency budget includes additional funding for:

- The Deer Enhancement and Restoration Program improves habitat for mule deer and black tail deer on public and private lands through forage seeding, water development, juniper control, riparian fencing and shrub plantings. Mule deer and black tail deer are some of Oregon's most popular animals to hunt, an activity that contributes millions of dollars to Oregon's economy annually.
- The Green Forage Program assists landowners experiencing big game crop damage by improving forage, restoring pasture, developing water supplies, controlling noxious weeds and more.

- Game surveys will help field staff to more accurately determine herd sizes and set hunting seasons

### **Increased fishing opportunities**

The 2009-2011 agency budget includes:

- Approximately \$400,000 to provide more trout for stocking lakes, ponds, reservoirs and rivers and to support youth angling opportunities.
- Funding to maintain fish monitoring on Willamette River to balance recreational fisheries with Endangered Species Act recovery requirements for salmon and steelhead.
- Includes funding for the Sandy River hatchery to ensure continued production of spring chinook, winter and summer steelhead and coho salmon.
- Additional resources for the Marine and Shellfish program to develop and enhance recreational monitoring programs.

### **Commercial fee changes and program enhancements**

Many ODFW commercial, occupational and miscellaneous fees have not been raised in more than 15 years. Management of commercial fisheries is far more complicated and costly than in the past. The new commercial license fees will now more closely reflect the actual cost of providing services and help improve monitoring of salmon, groundfish and shellfish fisheries.

The 2009-2011 agency budget includes additional funding for:

- Commercial fishing law enforcement.
- Commercial fishery research and development to identify and evaluate innovative selective fishing gear and techniques for commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.

### **Keep native habitats healthy for people, fish, and wildlife**

The fee increase provides funding for the continued implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy which is essential to keep native habitats healthy for people, fish and wildlife and to address energy proposals, changes in land use, invasive species, climate change and other issues that significantly affect fish, wildlife and their,

### **About ODFW**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife currently has 1,148 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) that staff 25 districts and field offices, operate 34 hatchery facilities, and manage 16 wildlife areas that comprise more than 190,000 acres.