

**Portland Town Hall  
April 7, 2008**

Attendance: Forty members of the public

The crowd was not overly enthusiastic in support of a recreational fee increase, but was supportive of the commercial folks paying more. Also there was some recognition that a fee increase is needed in view of increased costs, and in support of getting "more opportunity" for their money. The group supported decreasing juvenile fees to encourage participation.

Generally, hunters wanted more opportunity, more access, more enforcement, and more predator control. Fishermen wanted more opportunity, and expressed concern about the gill-netters.

Other areas of interest/concern included non-residents, guides, lack of flexibility for use of funds, getting revenue from non-consumptive users, fish and wildlife education in the schools, and the agency's ability to survey all units for big game every year.

**Bend Town Hall  
April 8, 2008**

Attendance: Twenty-one members of the public

Questions and comments were quite varied – the areas of questions most salient were associated with hunter/fisher recruitment, what we are doing to get other funding assistance, OSP, and "what they get for more fees". Most all folks were supportive of our field staffs; some remarked that the agency was very professional and one of the best to work with.

When polled as to whether there was support for a more modest fee increase now or a greater increase later the response was nearly unanimous-go for the increase now. Very few folks – less than three – appeared to be absolutely opposed to any increase.

**La Grande Town Hall  
April 9, 2008**

Attendance: Approximately forty members of the public

The group was not excited about a fee increase. Many folks expressed concern about the increasing cost of participating in outdoor activities and declining opportunity. Specific concerns were voiced about short big game seasons, declining tag numbers and how long it took to draw tags. A number of folks expressed frustration with closure of John Day and McNary pool sturgeon fisheries.

Some felt the department should be doing some belt tightening. They noted observations of a "single biologist or enforcement officer in a big truck" and suggested that was a sign that the department was wasting money. Others suggested the department should spend less money on studies and more on hunters and fishers.

Many expressed support for more youth opportunity while a few supported additional opportunities for elders.

There was quite a bit of concern about bears, cougars and wolves. Many felt the department hadn't done everything it could to either forestall or remove the ban on using dogs to hunt bears and cougars. Many made the connection between increased predator populations in northeast Oregon and lower game populations.

Some felt the department spent too much time placating Willamette Valley constituents and associated political interests. Support for the R&E program was expressed.

**Ontario Town Hall  
April 10, 2008**

Attendance: One member of the public

The meeting was very lightly attended in spite of letters to constituents and media.

There was discussion regarding confusion with the vendors on turkey tag sales and in particular the second turkey tag. It was noted the agency should continue the mentored youth program, increase involvement of women in the outdoors, and better promote the volunteer program. Support for allowing cougar take turkey loads during turkey seasons was expressed, along with a desire for more law enforcement in Malheur County.

**Klamath Falls Town Hall  
April 14, 2008**

Attendance: Eighteen members of the public

Issues of concern for the public included not enough game, no place to fish with bait, and a comment that ODFW has no business in land-use planning issues associated with winter range. One comment addressed the "big" increase in commercial and professional fees because we waited so long to raise them. One participant suggested more frequent but more incremental increases for that group.

In the end when asked if they were faced with a fee increase if they would rather pay a modest increase this next biennium or a large increase later, most in attendance preferred a modest increase earlier. One suggested no increase without general fund contributions.

**Medford Town Hall  
April 15, 2008**

Attendance: Approximately twenty-two members of the public

The dominant theme during the comment period was related to youth opportunity. There was appreciation and support expressed for reduced prices on youth turkey tags. A recommendation was made by OHA for a youth reduced price Sports Pac that generated support from other members of the audience. Another recommendation was made for a special stamp requirement for blue-ribbon fisheries with the fly angling only area of the North Umpqua given as an example. This also generated support from other members of the audience.

Representative for both Rocky Mountain Elk and the Turkey Federation requested that the Access and Habitat surcharge be increased \$2 instead of \$1. Angling groups represented supported the proposed \$1 increase in R&E, but pointed out that they would be okay if that was upped to \$2. General concerns were expressed about reduced opportunity for both angling and hunting, and there were a few comments concerning the need to reduce predators on both fish and wildlife populations.

While only the Trout Unlimited representative recommended adoption of a specific fee increase proposal (Option C in the packet), the audience was generally supportive of a fee increase.

**Roseburg Town Hall  
April 16, 2008**

Attendance: Twenty-six members of the public

There was general support for a fee increase if people could see results such as more personnel for law enforcement and local ODFW staff, more hatchery fish for hatch boxes and the rivers, money for facility maintenance, more hunting and fishing opportunities. One person commented that the fee increase is miniscule when seen over the course of a year.

However several people did not support a fee increase at this time because of the economy and the decrease in hunting and fishing opportunities. There was support also for A&H and R&E surcharge increases, a decrease in the cost of tags for all juvenile hunting, and an increase for non-resident fees. There was not support for a two-pole rule or for increasing bobcat tags and fur takers licenses.

There was discussion on why OSP can't collect money from citations, Measure 18 and its resulting impacts on predators, dislike of catch and release fishing because of mortality (one suggestion to keep the first two fish harvested), and this summer's salmon closures.

**Salem Town Hall  
April 17, 2008**

Attendance: Approximately fifteen members of the public

Issues discussed included comparing Oregon's fees to other states, impacts of fuel costs on the budget, need for more opportunity, user fees for bird watchers and hikers, increased fees for nonresidents, and offering tax credits for donating to department programs.

Support was expressed for increased fees, keeping focused on juvenile participation, more Information and Education capacity, law enforcement and crime lab work.

A public member commented: Red flag fee not increased for 20 – 30 years. Raise at the same time. How were they set? How confident is ODFW that increase will cover cost of business?

## **Astoria Town Hall April 21, 2008**

Attendance: Eight members of the public

Items of discussion included new licenses for juveniles, donation opportunities, appreciation for Oregon's enforcement presence/efforts, and offering reduced fees for nonresidents to attract friends and family.

Support for nearshore and marine programs was expressed, along with concerns about the impacts of guides and commercial fishers on both the resources and agency's revenue stream. One participant felt the proposed controlled hunt fee increase was too steep. Folks liked the idea of a juvenile (or even family) Sports Pac.

There was general support for a modest fee increase, but little or no support for the two-pole option.

## **Newport Town Hall April 22, 2008**

Attendance: Twenty-four members of the public

One idea that was discussed was the development of tags that would be dedicated to specific programs, such as hatcheries or the Oregon Conservation Strategy. There was concern with how Marine Reserves will be funded.

There was strong support for funding OSP at current or increased level, mixed support for the two-pole license, some support for moderate fee increase, and a desire to see nonconsumptive users provide more support for department programs.

There was a suggestion that folks should pay more for a hunting license and tag once a tag is drawn, and pay less up front.

**Coos Bay Town Hall  
April 23, 2008**

Attendance: Fifty-three members of the public

One area discussed in depth was marine reserves, including availability of funds to administer the program. Concerns around license fees were primarily focused on commercial fishing and the loss of opportunity.

Other items discussed included recreational salmon regulations, hatchery production quotas (STEP program), the impact of predators on fishing, and ODFW's management of warm water fish and invasives. Also brought up were some ideas for changes in fishing and hunting tags, such as combining tags and allowing multiple weapon hunts.

The group was supportive of juvenile tag opportunities and reduced fees were uniformly popular. At one point, an individual asked the entire audience for "those opposed to the fee increase – raise your hand". About 1/3 of the crowd did, so the majority of the group were somewhat supportive of the fee increase

**Gold Beach Town Hall  
April 24, 2008**

Attendance: Seventeen members of the public

The tone of the public comment was generally supportive of ODFW but expressed some level of frustration that hunters and anglers were again being asked to foot a disproportionate part of the bill for fish and wildlife management. One participant noted that ODFW should be receiving more lottery funds for salmon restoration.

Another member suggested that the agency's fees should be indexed to the cost of living index. Support was expressed for license and tag fees provided that ODFW could demonstrate a benefit to hunters and anglers. Several comments were received regarding senior citizens. The comments expressed support for the recruitment of juveniles but stressed that without participation from the older generation we will have difficulty in recruiting children and grandchildren. Several comments expressed support for OSP to obtain and operate an offshore ocean boat.

**Beaverton Town Hall  
April 28, 2008**

Attendance: Six members of the public were in attendance.

Issues discussed included recommending the agency gain efficiencies before raising fees, designating family friendly fishing opportunities in specific water bodies, creating a payment schedule for the Sports Pac license, and establishing endowments or other opportunities for gifting money to the agency.

A public member suggested looking at shared positions/equipment to reduce costs and increase efficiency. Another participant suggested looking at reduced fees for seniors, similar to the reduction in fees for juveniles. There was support expressed for a fee increase but with that caveat that it should be well used and not all on the back of hunters and anglers.

One participant suggested putting the increase into perspective by comparing it to other activities and costs, such as golf, purchase of an SUV, lattes, or a gallon of gas.

There was general support for a fee increase; when asked the question "Does anyone support the no increase option?" the response was "No". There appeared to be agreement on raising the miscellaneous, occupational, and commercial fees as proposed, combined with a modest increase in sports licenses, while still looking for efficiencies and cost savings.