

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
 Town Hall Budget Meeting  
 April 12, 2010  
 Monarch Hotel  
 Clackamas, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Curt Melcher, Shirlene Gonzalez, John Seabourne, Liz Dreith, Charlie Corrarino, Rick Hargrave

NW Region: Chris Wheaton, Linda Lytle

North Willamette Watershed District: Jeff Boechler, Don VandeBergh, Todd Alsbury, Mark Nebeker, Tom Murtagh, Rick Swart

Ocean Salmon Columbia River Program: Tony Nigro

OSP Staff

Sgt. Allori, Lt. Heider, Lt. Dingeman, Mj. Rich Evans

Meeting started at 7:08 p.m.

Welcome - Elicker

Dave Hunt, Speaker of the House addressed the group. Focused on the spring Chinook fishery and sea lion impacts. Acknowledged hazing efforts. Meeting with Oregon's congressional delegation soon.

Staff & Public introductions

Eleven members of the public, 16 ODFW staff and four OSP staff in attendance.

Agenda

- Review of budget process (Gonzalez, p.2 of power point handout)
- Agency background (Melcher, p. 2-8 of power point handout)
- Northwest Region Review (Wheaton, p.6 of power point handout)
  - Major issues facing the NW region:
    - ✓ Managing people – staff handle interactions between fish, wildlife and people regarding damage, habitat, laws and regulations.
    - ✓ Conservation Strategy
    - ✓ Species Recovery – almost all fish species in the NW Region are on the ESA list.
  - Major programs in the NW Region:
    - ✓ 25 year angling plan
    - ✓ Enhancing angling opportunities with acclimation sites, broodstock collection, increased youth angling opportunities and access enhancement (i.e. St. Louis Ponds).
    - ✓ Wild Coho fisheries (Tahkenitch & Siltcoos lakes, Tualatin and coastal rivers)
    - ✓ Conservation strategy implementation

- Habitat crew specifically involved in habitat development with private and public landowners
- OSP involvement with invasive and prohibited species (animal and plant)
- Removing snapping turtles
- Pet store compliance

✓ Predation

- Marine mammal predation in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers
- Avian Predation on juvenile fish
  - Implementing hazing program on the coast
  - Migratory treaty council process
- Oregon State Police overview (Lt. Dingeman p. 8)
- 2009-11 Budget (Elicker p. 8-11). Thanked everyone for their support during fee increase process. (No questions from the group)
- 2011-13 Budget (Gonzalez p. 12-14)

Q & A:

Q: If only 6% of budget is General Fund (GF) and Lottery Fund (LF), where do we make cuts?

A: Showed slide of GF and LF percentages (p. 14).

Q: Wallop Breaux Act Funds (SFR). What are they, how do we get them?

A: Each state gets a percentage based on the amount of fishing documents sold.

Pittman Robertson Act funds are based on the amount of hunting documents sold.

Q: Is the \$2.5 billion gap based on current service level.

A: Yes

Q: How do you come up with current service level budget?

A: Take out one-time programs, put in 2.4% inflation factor, projected additional increases for things such as PERS costs and inflation on fish food.

Q: Are we at a point of diminishing returns for tag sales? Are they too expensive?

A: Non resident participation is down, but revenues are up. Resident participation is up and revenues are up. (Showed slide for 2010 License Sales through Feb 28). Sales of resident adult hunting licenses are down, which is attributed to new juvenile hunting license and juvenile sportpac.

Comment: Focus on increased participation. More opportunity to fish for salmon and steelhead (Nov. – Dec.). More marketing and outreach to elevate these fisheries. Glad that ODFW pursued Mitchell Act \$\$ (i.e. Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery). ODFW has been brilliant regarding

the broodstock program. Don't want focus to be on picking away at the budget. Look how to create more economic opportunities and build bridges with the conservation community.

Comment: Shellfish Toxins (Oceanographer from OSU provided written comments). ODFW currently funds a ½ time employee in Astoria. Would like to see policy option package to add additional 1.25 FTE resubmitted. Protecting the shellfish fishery is worth millions of dollars to coastal communities and industries.

Comment: Poaching increases during hard times. Would like ODFW to hold the line on enforcement and keep OSP in the field.

A: Will be a challenge to keep OSP whole. Do not expect to be able to add more OSP.

Q: Does ODFW try to equally share GF/LF program cuts? Is there a process for prioritizing cuts?

A: Core programs drive priorities.

Q: If ODFW backfills GF/LF supported programs with sports fees, can ODFW still maintain sport fee funded programs?

A: In some instances (where fits statutes), there can be option to move GF/LF programs to sport fees. Could take out of ending balance. Hope that when GF/LF is restored that can move programs back to GF/LF and off sports fees.

Q: Can volunteering help out ODFW?

A: Yes. ODFW has volunteers working every where we can. Will look at possibilities to have volunteers do more. More discussion to come. NW Region has a tremendous volunteer program.

Q: Have you challenged field and administrative staff to find solutions to budget dilemma and get creative or see what works for other states during tough times?

A: Can challenge staff to look at efficiencies. Ask, can we do other functions instead? Can we get by on doing less without it being felt in fishing and hunting opportunities? For example, ODFW is utilizing technology to cut down on travel time and expenses. ODFW Commission is holding three less meetings this year.

Comment: Be cognizant of rural county issues (i.e. predation, county funding for wildlife services)

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 13, 2010  
La Grande Fire Station  
La Grande, Oregon



**ODFW Staff**

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert  
NE Region: Craig Ely, Tracy Wyllie  
Grande Ronde Watershed District: Bruce Eddy, Mary Hoverson, Jon Paustian  
John Day Watershed District: Kevin Blakely  
La Grande Fish Research: Rich Carmichael, Debra Eddy

Commissioner Bobbie Levy

**OSP Staff**

Lt. Heider, Lt. Dingeman, Lt. Randy Scorby, Sgt. Christopher Hawkins

Meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

Welcome - Elicker

Craig Ely provided an overview of the agenda and reminded everyone of the ways they can comment on the budget.

**Staff & Public introductions**

Nine members of the public, ten ODFW staff and four OSP staff in attendance.

**Agenda**

- Review of budget process (Colbert, p.2 of power point handout)
- Agency background (Ely, p. 2-8 of power point handout)
- Oregon State Police overview (Lt. Dingeman p. 8)
- 2009-11 Budget (Elicker p. 8-11). Thanked everyone for their support during fee increase process. Discussed the objectives from 2009-11 during the discussion of the fee increase.
- 2011-13 Budget (Colbert p. 12-14)

**Feedback and Q&A**

**Question:**

How cast in stone is no new sources of revenue?

**Answer:**

State level: The state is not anticipating major new state revenue sources and state fund reserves have been utilized. If a small agency like Water Resources takes cuts, they don't have services available to the public. We are preparing the budget for the current Governor; the new Governor may have different priorities and reshape our budget.

**Question:**

I have been reading about how many dollars have been spent on wildlife viewing and non-consumptive users that don't contribute to ODFW funding, is ODFW trying to find a way to generate revenue from these users? Saddling consumptive users with these fees is not fair.

**Answer:**

Yes, this has been looked at because the non-consumptives want to contribute. There is a group of organizations and individuals currently looking at a tax on bird seed to help generate revenue for this purpose. If this were to pass, there could be up to 20 million in new revenue. Not sure about all of the details of how this tax would work yet. That group is stilling working on the concept.

ODFW has also been looking at ways to generate revenues such as access fees to wildlife areas. Sauvie Island currently has a fee and the other 15 wildlife areas will have fees as well. Hunters and fishers will not have a charge; they will have an extra tag to display in their windshield automatically when they buy a license. The concept is that non-consumptive users could voluntarily buy a \$50 conservation stamp or could pay a \$25 fee for access to all wildlife areas annually.

**Question:**

Thank you for coming to NE Oregon. \$20 million in revenue on the bird seed is cool. I wonder what the landowner contribution to this is with conifer forests, etc. Can one of you briefly speak about the Pittman-Robertson? With the new administration in the White House there has been a big change in the purchase of firearms and ammunition. Hit on the Pittman-Robertson, where are these dollars coming from and where are they going?

**Answer:**

Pittman-Robertson is a tax on arms and ammunition that ODFW uses for habitat, damage, green forage, DEER and the A & H program. Nationwide, there has been a jump in arms and ammunition sales over the last year or so. ODFW is looking at a \$5 million increase this year. These funds have fluctuated over the years and ODFW has never used these funds for anything other than one time projects because you can't count on the exact amount of money that will be available. We are trying to invest these funds back into landowner assistance programs which Jon Paustian manages. From your statements, I see that you are strongly in support of landowner assistance programs that ODFW offers.

**Question:**

Commercial outfitter that has been receiving a lot of calls on the non-resident fee increases. Is this correct that fee increases go through legislature every 6 years?

**Answer:**

We laid out a schedule that was not as steep an increase as you see now. When the Legislators saw that southern Oregon has a lot of non-resident California hunters, they said that they do not want to see them come to Oregon to hunt and raised the non-resident fees. We are hearing every day that we will not have as many non-residents hunting in Oregon. We have heard from a lot of non-residents that they are not happy with the fee increase. We were not looking at such a large increase and at some point it was taken out of our hands. If you want to pursue reducing the fee, groups affected by this fee such as the Guides and Packers could talk to their Legislators and ask for a fee reduction.

**Question/Comment:**

Within 2 years the non-residents will decrease in license and tag sells. ODFW's revenue will be dramatically less after the current non-residents burn their points (9, 10, 11 points) and then they will be out of here. We will see a dramatic decrease in revenue.

**Answer:**

Legislators have been hearing from constituents that they want non-residents out. Oregon relies less on non-residents because there is a 5% cap on C.H. applications for non-residents. We are the lowest percentage in the West for non-resident hunts. States like Montana and Colorado cater to non-residents and we don't in Oregon.

**Question/Comment:**

I am in very popular hunt units like Wenaha, Imnaha, Mt. Emily quite often and I did not see one OSP employee checking hunters during archery or rifle seasons. I did have one ODFW employee check me while hunting. I have a hard time with this because there was a comment on-line that I was the one who brought all of the OSP to the Walla Walla unit. These hunters should be happy about OSP's presence because they keep illegal activities in check. Since these are quality hunt units, OSP's presence should be higher. Additionally, is the TIP program still in existence?

**Answer:**

There are only 117 sworn Fish and Wildlife Troopers spread across Oregon. This low number may help to explain why you have not been checked by OSP while out hunting this past season.

Guides and Packers have a significant presence in Legislature. You should consider joining the Guides and Packers.

The TIP program is paid by private funds and fines and is administered by OHA.

**Question/Comment:**

The NE Oregon Guide Association says don't waste your time going to ODFW meetings.

**Answer:**

Roy offered to speak at the next meeting of the NE Oregon Guide Association to help build a relationship. Craig said that we used to have meetings a couple of times a year and would like to meet again with the NE Oregon Guide Association.

**Question:**

General fund: Is ODFW getting cut a certain percentage? Is it all general fund cuts or are there other funds being cut too?

**Answer:**

The budget scenario is developed to show what we are going to cut in the general fund at 5%, 10% and 25%. A 25% cut is significant; small agencies like Water Resources are going to have to cut a lot of its services. With a 25% cut ODFW may have to cut one or two hatcheries. Hopefully 25% is the worst case scenario for the general fund cut. When you get to the bigger cuts, and you look at agencies such as DHS, OED, education, public safety, this could result in significant impacts.

**Question:**

What are lottery funds used for in ODFW?

**Answer:**

Lottery funds fund fish screening and passage programs.

**Question:**

Please briefly explain to the group the process that your budget goes through to be approved so that they get a better understanding of how this process works.

**Answer:**

ODFW will submit the budget with the 5%, 10% and 25% general fund cut scenarios using the feedback received from the 10 Town Hall Meetings, the External Budget Advisory Committee and the final budget proposal will be forwarded to the ODFW Commission. The budget will be submitted to the Governor's Office by September 1, 2010, a new Governor will come into office shortly thereafter, who could potentially tell ODFW that something different should be cut. The budget will then be given to Legislature, who will ultimately tell ODFW what they want to see cut and then we will have to act within their directive.

**Question:**

I have property in Medical Springs and have been battling with BLM on weed issues. My neighbor and partner will not do anything about these weeds. Jon Paustian has been out to our property to help with this issue. We winter 200 mule deer, we are trying to get sage hens on the property and we do a lot for the wildlife. This is expensive and we do not get any money back from the wildlife. It sounds like you have been doing a great job with landowners. Jon P. has had good ideas for helping with sage hens, however, when I think about fencing off part of my property I have to see what benefit that it gives to me. We need to get rid of medusa head and build fence to help get the sage hen numbers up. I am concerned because this burden will fall on the landowners.

**Answer:**

There is new NRCS Farm Bill money; you could be a candidate for this funding. There is approximately \$1 million for Oregon. Jon Paustian is aware of all of these programs that can help with landowner services. It is hard for the landowners to know what to do without having an employee like Jon P. who can assist with finding resources.

**Question/Comment:**

Jon Paustian has been getting me to be very proactive and has been good to work with.

**Question:**

Does ODFW get any revenue from wind tower money? What do wind towers do for sage hens? Are they kicking in any funds for fish & wildlife?



**Answer:**

They are paying our staff to review siting applications; otherwise, there is no money that comes into ODFW.

**Question:**

What if 10 years from now they discover that the wind towers affect the wildlife negatively?

**Answer:**

We are working through the ODFW mitigation policy and currently working with Horizon to determine mitigation to sage hens, deer and elk populations. Our submittal to the Energy Siting Council will be strong recommendations on what the siting will be.

**Answer/Comment:**

With all of the new energy coming into Oregon there has been talk about creating funding for species protection. That did not get much traction last Legislative session. Some of the developers on the wind power side like this idea and they want more work and services out of us. In the future ODFW can receive funding from the wind power developers for species protection that will bring more revenue into the department and less burden to the hunters and fishers. Once the facility is built and mitigation is done, there will be no money coming to ODFW.

**Question:**

There are a lot of antelope in Catherine Creek, is there anyway that ODFW can capture money from this? I am willing to have youth, veterans, disabled, a Governor's Tag; get after it this could be a new revenue source. Also, we are finding a lot of sage hens dying of old age out there.

**Answer:**

Talk to Bruce Eddy after the meeting. We are proposing 2011 Big Game hunts for 2011 soon.

**Question/Comment:**

Peggy had a heads up that ODFW may have significant budget cuts. The landowner assistance programs are very important to us and the coordinators that go along with them for the terrestrial and non-terrestrial are very important as well.

**Answer/Comment:**

Thank you for taking the time to come to the meeting tonight and comment.

**Question/Comment:**

I am on the Board for State Forestry and some of those guys are getting up there in age. Who is going to come up in ranks within ODFW? That was a concern that we had several years ago. Who is the next Craig Ely? Do you have some up and coming people like Jon Paustian that you are exploring aggressively?

**Answer:**

Workforce enhancement is a big priority for ODFW. My priority is that we select up and coming folks and we get them some training. Of course, we have the problem of the

federal government poaching our employees and this makes me so mad. I understand because they pay more than state government. A long discussion about staff development is important for the future of the agency. In government succession planning is huge; we spend a lot of time and money on this issue. I am never going to replace Craig, but I will find someone with good tools and skills. When landowners like you work with Jon, you help us grow experienced staff.

**Question/Comment:**

You get good prospects in the future by identifying these employees.

**Answer:**

We do have a leadership development program and 3 employees that are currently in the program. We did poach Debbie Colbert from Water Resources. It is great to hire somebody and watch their career grow.

**Question:**

Statewide across the board if every agency took a 13% cut, this would fix the budget shortfall that is projected. Does it look like the Governor will make you cut 25%?

**Answer:**

Some agencies are going to reach deeper than 13% and fund other agencies so that the other agencies do not take as deep of cuts. After the Town Hall and External Budget Advisory Committee meetings, we will submit our final budget to our Commission, then the Governor's Office, a new Governor will come into office, that may change priorities, and then Legislature will make the final decisions on state budgets.

**Question/Comment:**

Are there any reserves that can help cover these cuts to the ODFW budget?

**Answer:**

The fee increase that ODFW received for 09-11 was meant to keep the agency static for the next 6 years without asking for an additional fee increase. ODFW planned to not discuss new revenue sources until 15-17. However, if Legislature wants cuts, we will have to dig into reserves and do it now. This could require ODFW to come back in 4 years and say that we had to spend down the reserve and now we will need to ask for a fee increase. Since we have to listen to what Legislature wants, we are constantly talking to Legislators about our 6 year plan. Discussing what ODFW would lose if we did this verses other alternatives.

**Question/Comment:**

I do appreciate ODFW and hope that all of these services stay intact. If we lose these things, ODFW loses support.

**Answer:**

When we say that we toured the state the number one thing that we heard was keep our landowner services because it is a higher priority in Northeast Region. This reinforces to us that we are right on in these services that ODFW offers.

**Question/Comment:** Jon Paustian's program is by far the best that I have seen in the last 20 years.

**Bobbie Levy's Comment:**

Write your Commissions, email, phone us with your concerns or suggestions. The more that you encourage people to contact us we can share this information with ODFW. This makes a big difference and can help Roy with his job.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 14, 2010  
Central Oregon Community College – Boyle Education Center  
Bend, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Debbie Colbert  
NW Region: Chris Wheaton (filling in for Roy Elicker)  
High Desert Region: Alan Dale, Amy Stuart, Bob Hooton, Steven George,  
Brett Hodgson, Nancy Doran, Amy Baker

Deschutes County Commissioner – Alan Unger

OSP Staff

Lt Randy Scorby, Lt Andy Heider, Sgt David Pond

Meeting started at 7:00 pm

Staff and Public Introductions

Six members of the public, nine ODFW staff and three OSP staff in attendance

Agenda

- Review of budget process (Colbert) – timeline (PowerPoint slide 3)
- Agency background information
  - Fish Programs
    - ✓ Mitigation for habitat lost or supplementation recovery of listed fish populations
    - ✓ Heavy focus on research assessment, habitat issues (wave/wind energy)
    - ✓ Intensively used fisheries that cross states and international boundaries
  - Game Programs
    - ✓ Wildlife management areas fall under habitat program management
- High Desert Region
  - Most employees managed by regions
  - Three watersheds and two watershed managers
  - Attributes of region:
    - ✓ Diverse fisheries mgt – premier summer steelhead fishery on the Deschutes
    - ✓ All hatcheries are trout hatcheries except Round Butte

- ✓ Produces 90% of pronghorn and bighorn hunting opportunities in the state
- ✓ New initiative – implementing three of the Mule Deer Initiative units (Maury, Steens, Warner) to improve habitat, increase populations and provide better hunting

- OSP, Lt Andy Heider
  - ODFW provides 56% of current budget
  - Picked up two additional positions – Prineville and Bend, plus nine others across the state
  - Lt Heider is in charge of the Wildlife Unit
  - Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP) – big portion of division – chance for troopers to work with local bios about enforcement concerns and management issues
  - Enforcement may draft an action plan to deal with issues, evaluate process to review and make changes

Q: Does OSP fish and game only do fish and wildlife enforcement?

A: No, they do everything from DUII to wildlife violations. Much better coverage because they can cover anything

Overview of results from fee increase in last biennium – slide in PowerPoint

- Last fee increase lasted 6 years and we want this latest increase to do the same
- Moderate Investments (some highlighted points):
  - ✓ Mule Deer Initiative
  - ✓ OSP – it was important for them to be funded by hunters and anglers
  - ✓ Additional trout stocking – stocking more fish and larger fish
  - ✓ Dedicated crab fishery manager
- Agency responsiveness:
  - ✓ New position to work on cormorant predation through hazing all along the coast; looking at other options as well
  - ✓ Not able to fund wind energy, LNG and oil development positions due to cuts in general funds

Q: Since these energy agencies/companies are looking for permits, why isn't there more cost to fund positions for management written into the permit fees?

A: There is funding that comes from hydro permits, and we are hopeful that there might be a more cooperative approach in the future to fund such positions. It will be a major effort to add fees since it would have to go through legislature. It is easier and better to partner with industry and have them help.

Q: Are we asking for a legislative initiative through the governor's office regarding the energy issue and its impact to habitat, populations, resources, etc?

A: Yes we are. It is complicated and we are trying to look at other options since we have lots of demand for limited dollars.

- Budget Kickoff Meeting (Colbert)
  - Not an upbeat meeting due to shortfall (PP page 12)
  - 13% cut if distributed evenly across all agencies, programs
  - Improving economy will not help; there is little emergency money left
  - Not enthusiastic about big, new funding initiatives
  - OR was able to get a lot of stimulus \$\$ which helped fill gap; this won't be the case in the next biennium

Revenue Streams (page 11 of PP)

- RE and AH are dedicated funds

Two new fund types created by leg in 2009

- Fish passage fund
- AIS restoration (Marine Board program) – we sell documents for Marine Board since we already had POS in place

Building our 2011-13 Budget

- We have to create 5%, 10% and 25% cut lists for those programs that are funded with lottery and general funds
- Our goal is to carry license dollars forward; we hope to make it six years before expenditures catch up with revenue
- Besides nonresident sales, resident hunting is only number that is down but that might be due to shift in sales from adult licenses to youth licenses now available
- We only have a couple months of data since fee increases went into effect 1/1/10
- Across the country, people are hunting and fishing more because they have more time (unemployed) and want to bring something home to eat

Q: How are federal funds dispersed? DJ funds?

A: Complicated procedures for how money is distributed. There is an allocation formula based on how many documents are sold, where they are sold. USFWS allocates the funds and figures out how much money goes to each state.

Q: If the state reduces our budget, does that reduce amount of \$ we get from USFWS?

A: Yes, we have a required match that we have to meet. There are restrictions in legislation that preclude diversion of funding into general funds

Side note - 4% general funds divided into a variety of programs (PowerPoint slide)

Q: Do we get federal funding for hatcheries?

A: Yes,

\*Will be very challenging to manage and fund core programs without the 4% general funds we currently get

OSP Fish and Wildlife – 8% of their budget is general fund

Q: Why aren't we getting irrigators to pay for screening and passage?

A: Our program is broken into working with small landowners (surcharge on licenses) and larger projects. What we spend our lottery funds on are typically larger projects that cost large amounts of money (millions of dollars). Legislature made decisions on how to allocate. Cost share programs are in place. New construction is paid by developer. Existing projects are targeted with these cost share funds, not new projects

#### Q & A - PUBLIC INPUT/COMMENTS

- Users who spend a lot of money on licenses, AIS, two-rod licenses, etc.... want to see more enforcement. Too much poaching, not enough OSP officers (Lt Scorby said to call when you see violators)
- NW Steelheaders wants to know how it is that money will be taken away from ODFW and used for non fish and wildlife programs/projects? Wants to make sure that ODFW funds are being used for ODFW programs. Debbie commented that \$3.5 million was swept aside and \$1.5 million may have been license dollars. USFWS caught the discrepancy and wanted action. That \$1.5 million had to be paid back from the general fund during the February session.
- Comment that there is substantial increase in poaching on public lands as well as private. Two local private ponds have gone out of business because of poaching
- Governor's conference on tourism – 39% come to this area to fish; most of the people who support us are small business, it is very short sighted to cut back on activity to small business owners because this will affect revenue stream
- ODFW conducted economic evaluation with regards to OR economy and it was very substantial
- Fishing and hunting is economic engine keeping some of the small local businesses alive (lodging, meals, etc...)
- Every non-resident at sport shows he attended complained about fee increases. Increased fees are affecting numbers of non-residents coming to OR. He attended six sports shows this summer. Outfitter tags – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in nation – MT is highest.



A: Legislature sets fees.

- We need to educate our legislators about the value of increasing FW recreation opportunities. Can we craft message through local groups and take proposals to legislature? Need to reach people in the valley
- Deschutes County is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for fish and wildlife related revenue
- Central Oregon Fly Fishers (COFF) – represents 200+ family memberships – don't think about siphoning off funds for non-fish and wildlife related programs. COFF supports what ODFW has done and appreciates their work. This area is strongly dependant on outdoor recreation/tourism. Don't take funds away from ODFW.
- Salmon Trout Advisory Committee (STAC) – 53 FTE in donated services to the state. This is probably underrepresented. Volunteers are trying to fill holes made because of declining budgets. We will reach a point where the holes can't be filled this way.
- Q: What will we do to adjust budget to deal with issues at hand?  
A: The agency is still considering options so there is no final answer right now. We have tough decisions to make and are looking for public input to help.
- We need to look at whether there are areas that can be returned to native fish populations, but we still need to provide recreational fishing opportunities. We have it both ways.
  - A: there will need to be a cut list made at several levels regarding how many cuts go into our budget. Recommendations go to legislature where final decisions are made. There are not a lot of advocates for cutting anything. People who support us are who shows up to comment. Even if hatcheries don't have to cut anything, we will still take a hit in other programs
- Wants to get rid of hatcheries but understands the rationale. Is it an option to change regulations so there is more regulated catch and release to sustain populations?
  - A: Most of hatchery programs are extremely regulated. We would not have any salmon fishing on Columbia, most of trout that go to manmade lakes/reservoirs would not exist. The bulk of the hatchery fish are mitigating for what is not there anymore and we would have a lot fewer fishermen.
- Is there a way we use the Pelton/Round Butte facility to argue for additional funding? It is a \$100 million facility. This was brought up as an example to show why we need the funding and/or additional funding.
- I'm from MN. In MN, they have a committed sales tax dedicated to conservation. Have we looked at that type of option?
  - A: There is a group of 20 people/orgs that have been meeting to brainstorm new revenue ideas.
- Could there be a tax on birdseed or other ways to get funding from those folks who don't fish or hunt to support management and conservation?
  - A: There are groups in OR that are pursuing this.

- A: We are very fortunate that we only have a small portion of our budget in general funds. We want to know how the users want to spend the money and we appreciate the support. We are in pretty good shape fiscally.
- Q: Are R & E funds untouched?
  - A: They are license funds and commercial fishing revenue.
  - Q: Will R & E funds stand?
    - A: Yes, they are dedicated by statute
- Allen Unger - OWEB will sunset next year so there is a movement afoot to put that in the constitution that there will always be money there for these types of projects?
- Allen Unger – is there a way to refinance bonds at a lower rate so we can save more money over the long run?
  - A: We don't have a lot on money tied up in bonds and we don't have a lot of debt.
- I wish I could give you better feedback. I am frustrated by presentation with budget shortfall laid out and there is not a lot I can do for ODFW.
- Should we be looking at cutting hatcheries or backfilling losses from general funds (Chip posed this question)?
- We should keep doing everything we're doing, but maybe do it all a little less if we have to. Comments on both sides as to whether we should keep doing everything if it means we have to ask for another fee increase
- Would argue that 6 years is too long to wait for a fee increase
- Participant wanted to add that he has info about group trying to get lottery funding on the ballot and make it a permanent source of revenue. 2% of the money, if the ballot measure passes, would go to watersheds. He has a petition for the ballot measure if anyone wants to talk to him after the meeting.
- ODFW staff noted that the agency is not allowed to take a position on ballot measures, by law, but we can provide facts.
- Folks would like a limited opportunity to hunt or fish, but just can't afford it
- Chip – spoke about 1945 license compared to 2009, based on inflation. We are not out of line on what licenses and tags cost.
- Maybe there should be a license that allows folks to get a limited duration license (part year for example). Chris added that we already have 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 day fishing licenses.
- Q: How did we arrive at 6 years as the amount of time we can/will wait for another fee increase?
  - A: It was based on last fee increase and what we "promised" the public when we asked for the increase.
- Give predictable small increases rather than "double digit" increases.
- Think about a 4 year time period for fee increases, rather than 6 years, since we are banking money now
- Would rather have a shorter time for fee increase rather than cut programs

- Q: Marine Reserves – where is funding coming from to do analysis in this budget?  
A: We don't have appropriate people to answer. Chris replied that Ed Bowles said money will come from donations and no license dollars will be spent. Allen Unger commented that there will be a lot of loud support from commercial fisheries, crab fisheries and others on the coast for support for the marine reserves.
- Environmental analysis – Chip talked about hydro facilities and the surcharge passed on the power companies so the agencies wouldn't have to bear the expense. Wind energy is a very speculative enterprise. Is there a way to corral all the independent entities to divide the costs among these entities?
- COFF looked at economic crisis two years ago and were afraid that membership would drop. Membership has actually increased. People are staying closer to home because dollars are limited so we may be in a much stronger position than we think. We are in a strong position to advocate for ourselves. Chip – we are not in dire straits but will face some budget challenges
- A participant thanked everyone for being here. He appreciated our time.

#### COMMENTS RECORDED ON FLIP CHART

- Capture costs of energy projects.
- More OSP (poaching common).
- Make sure ODFW funds not taken away and used for other (non-ODFW) items.
- 39% visitors (tourism) from Bend Bulletin article – cutbacks are incongruent; need to increase opportunities.
- Non-resident fee increase may be hurting tourism.
- Educate legislators re: value of fish and wildlife.
- Don't siphon fish & wildlife funds to other non-fish and wildlife programs.
- 53-54 FTE donated as volunteer time (may be low estimate).
- Hatchery trout program vs. native trout policy issues/budget.
- Dilemma of hatchery programs vs. regulation; hatcheries support production for lost habitat.

- Improvements for natural production (i.e. Pelton Round Butte).
- Need for sales tax or conservation fund source (i.e. bird seed).
- LF/OWEB funds have sunset date
  - Support making it permanent, ballot measure
  - Watershed councils, etc.
- Frustrated with budget shortfalls in GF and LF; do all programs with a little less.
- Some support sooner fee increase. 6 years too long, maybe 4 years?
- Cost of fishing and hunting license, intermediate license?
- Smaller increases more frequently than bigger increases over time.
- Marine Reserves – who funds analysis? Not license \$.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 20, 2010  
OSU Extension Office  
Klamath Falls, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert  
High Desert Region: Chip Dale  
Klamath Watershed District: Roger Smith, Lanny Fujishin, Susan Moody

OSP Staff

Lt. Andy Heider, Lt. Mike Dingeman, Lt. David Gifford &  
Sgt. Randy Hand

Attendees:

Senator Whitsett  
Cheryl Hukill, Klamath County Commissioner  
Sandra & Paul Lewis  
Gordon Ohman  
Chuck Cleland  
Jack Elbert  
Jason Chapman  
Gary Nichols

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

Staff & Public introductions

Ten members of the public, Six ODFW staff and four OSP staff in attendance.

Q & A and Comments –

Comments—

**Wildlife Services Trapper –**

- Cheryl Hukill stated that Klamath County has lost revenue from lower big game hunting opportunities because of low numbers of big game due to predator numbers increasing.
  - Deer, elk, antelope, geese, etc. causing damage to landowner properties.
  - County cannot afford to lose the services of the Wildlife Services trapper.
  - Be cognizant of rural county issues (i.e. predation, county funding for wildlife services)
  - ODFW should work with Association of Oregon Counties regarding funding for Wildlife Services trappers.
  - Mule Deer numbers down because of loss of trapper time –Klamath County contribution for this next budget to \$60,000 – County share of funding the trapper has increased

➤ Senator Whitsett—

- General funds cuts—look at the Beginning Balance Carryover funds to help fund the trapper for Wildlife Services—possibly a 50% cost share with the county to keep the damage program funded
- There is a definite need to have consistent funding source for the Wildlife Service trapper program
- Senator Whitsett wants ODFW to work with the Rural Senate Caucus. Roy Elicker suggested that ODFW build on the Association of Oregon Counties process to come up with ideas to share with the Rural Senate Caucus.

Other comments by public--

- The Deer Enhancement & Restoration Program funds habitat improvement such as riparian fencing, Shrub planting, etc. There won't be a need if we don't have a Wildlife Services trapper. There will be more predators and as a result fewer numbers of wildlife that create the need for the Deer Enhancement & Restoration Program.
- Wolves increasing in numbers in Oregon will also add to the need of the services of the Wildlife Services trapper. The wolf issue is very complicated and will increase as a problem in the future. Wolves will be here in numbers within a year or two at the most. Should establish a hunting season for wolves.
- Coyotes eating antelope fawns. Predator control helped in California. Predator control can change the issue quickly.
- ODFW will lose license and tags fees with the resulting decrease in deer, elk, etc. Non-residents hunter numbers will also be down as a result of decrease in deer, elk, and etc. numbers. Wildlife Services trapping program very valuable to ODFW
- Predators--#1 problem--Wild horses need to be included in the Predator classification. Wild horses—problem—destroy habitat—are predators for habitat.
- ODFW does not address the problem and the public does not understand the predator problem. Habitat has become a lower priority now for ODFW.
- Sea Lions—used to run scared years ago.
- ODFW needs to look at and change its priorities –needs to address issue of predators.
- Oregon Hunters Association—Contributed \$2,000 to keep Wildlife Services predator control services going in 2010. The Cattlemen's Association also donated same amount. Hunters and fishermen shouldn't pay entire bill.
- August Youth Hunts: Cow elk hunt starting August 1<sup>st</sup> is too early; cow elk are still nursing their calves. This is a 2 year pilot program. ODFW needs to rethink this hunting opportunity.
- Spotted calves are seen during 1<sup>st</sup> part of September Youth Cow Elk –August—spotted calf nursing on past date of this years opening day of Youth Cow Elk—not against hunt just the timing of the Youth hunt—OHA—Bow hunters not against the hunts—need to take feedback on this issue—Jack Elbert believes that

this is too early—young girls are going to have issues when the female nursing elk is shot and the calf is calling for her mommy—calves young enough that are nursing and small enough to walk under (Gordon Ohman) Average weaning age—Elk—mid Sept.

- Bow hunting traditionally starts at the end of August—
- Elbert—cow hunt too early to be hunting cow elk or does—when adult hunting bow general starts 2 weeks later—Youth hunt too early—may open up an issue of changing dates is taken to Commission.-- Elbert understands the issue of trying to recruit youths but.....
- Late rut season for youth he has an issue with it—risk killing does in summer range that know where the winter range is
  
- Against late “rut hunts” for youth—deer in rut don’t taste good.
- Don’t kill does on summer range—they are the ones that know the way to the winter range.
- Instead of our draw system for controlled hunts go to a birthday odd/even days—years
- Senator Whitsett—update on white fronted goose hunting—
- A: Chip Dale seems to be going well first year—landowners believe that it is going well—is it effective on getting the geese off landowners land
- Senator Whitsett—landowners have noticed that the numbers of geese increase on their land after the season is over—5,000 geese – carpet the land ever since the 1<sup>st</sup> of March—maybe if they come in early they might leave early
- A: Elicker will have Ron Anglin contact Sen. Whitsett—4<sup>th</sup> year of this special goose season
- A: Lanny Fujishin stated that with Snow Geese added to the bag limit hunters are in the field longer keeping the birds off private lands longer—but not a lot of birds harvested.
- Gordon Ohman—ATV’s and guns—ODFW working with the commission addressing issue of no loaded gun on ATV’s
- A: Chip Dale stated that this is a transportation issue—ODFW is not working on it—ODFW is against unlimited use of ATV’s –but not against ATV’s-- ATV’s running before season—driving elk from public lands onto private lands---not just ATV’s pickups also—Deer not as skittish as Elk—

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.





Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 21, 2010  
Denman Wildlife Area  
Central Point, OR



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert, Larry Cooper

SW Region: Steve Denney

Rogue Watershed District: Russ Stauff, Dan Van Dyke, David Haight, Steve Niemela

OSP Staff

Sgt. Meyer, Lt. Heider, Lt. Dingeman, Lt. Gifford

Wildlife Services Staff

Cricket Peyton

Meeting started at 7:02 p.m.

Welcome - Elicker

Staff & Public introductions

Twelve members of the public, eight ODFW staff, and four OSP officers in attendance.

Agenda

- Review of budget process
- Agency background
- Oregon State Police overview
- 2009-11 Budget
- 2011-13 Budget Environment
- Questions and Comments

Q & A:

Comment: Maintain Wildlife Services (WS) funding. Once a county opts out of the WS program it is difficult to restore that funding at the federal level. The WS manager is concerned about losing funding. Four members of the public spoke about this issue, stating they felt safer with WS and specifically complimenting Cricket Peyton.

Comment: ODFW should develop a web application to record public sightings of cougars/bears and develop a system to electronically notify neighborhoods, perhaps through an email chain.

Comment: A local rancher stated there is a huge problem with cougars, coyotes and other predators, and it is important to control predator numbers.

Response: (Roy Elicker) Funding WS is important for ODFW. However, general fund will likely decrease this year, which will impact WS's overall budget. ODFW is involved in a process to develop an alternative method to fund WS if the expected reduction occurs. Partners in this effort include the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), the Cattleman's Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Department of Agriculture.

Comment: Jackson County is not participating in the AOC.

Response: (Roy Elicker) ODFW will confirm that Jackson County is not participating in the AOC, and ensure that Jackson County is involved in the WS alternative funding process.

Comment: Do not cut Oregon State Police.

Comment: The Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) is important and cost effective.

Comment: Local fish restoration biologists are important.

Comment: Maintaining hatcheries is important.

Comment: Funding for monitoring, especially to evaluate regulation changes, is important.

Q: Can ODFW go six years with out asking for another fee increase, given current budget problems?

A: (Roy Elicker) The director and the department are focused on living up to this commitment, but if general fund reductions are dramatic, hard choices will have to be made.

Q: Have license sales been affected by the fee increase?

A: (Roy Elicker) Resident license sales through February are tracking well with last year's numbers. However, there has been a reduction in out of state license sales, and two months is not enough time to properly evaluate any change.

Q: What percentage of license sales occurs on-line?

A: (Debbie Colbert) We will find the answer and get back to Lonnie Johnson at (541) 479-7834.

Comment: Hunting and angling is important to Oregon's economy. Surprised to hear ODFW would lose general fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 22, 2010  
SW Region Office, Roseburg, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker; Debbie Colbert; Curt Melcher; Larry Cooper; Steve Williams;  
SW Region: Steve Denney; Meghan Collins; Linda Cole  
Umpqua Watershed Office: Tim Walters; Laura Jackson;

OSP Staff: Lt. Mike Dingeman; Lt. Dave Gifford, Lt. Jeff Samuels, Lt. Andy Heider, Sgt. Dean Perske.  
Commissioners: Marla Rae; Skip Klarquist; Bobbi Levy; Bob Webber; Carter Kerns; Dan Edge.

Meeting started at 7:05 p.m.

Staff & Public introductions

17 members of the public, 10 ODFW staff and 5 OSP staff in attendance.

Welcome – Elicker

Overview of agenda. Mission Statement; Agency Principles; Agency Organization;

Review of budget process - Colbert. Process involving External Budget Advisory Committee

Denney; overview of ODFW as an agency and programs covered (Prop; NM; Marine; IJ) (Game Habitat, Diversity).

OSP overview (Lt. Dingeman) 56% of budget from ODFW license and fees;

Elicker: Appreciate support from public on the new fees.

Objectives for this biennium; Sustain core programs; Address fee disparities; Allow for moderate investments (mule deer, trout stock, OSP, crab); Target juvenile participation; Offer new opportunities; Effect agency responsiveness (avian predation, etc.).

Colbert: 2011-13 Budget Development; 2.5 billion GF/LF shortfall. No major revenue initiatives. Not as much coming from federal stimulus monies. Went over funding sources and estimated revenues. GF-expect cuts; LF-expect cuts; OF - No new fees. FF - seek new opportunities.

Q & A:

Thanks from Susan Morgan to Steve and ODFW in general for open budget process and work done for the region.

Wildlife Services: Important to Douglas County. Keeps agricultural businesses viable. Douglas County general fund helps provide these services. Making 10% per year program cuts because of federal cuts in "safety net" program. Property tax to Douglas County – all invested in sheriff's budget; only half of patrol budget, and nothing else. General fund being pushed into education, public safety, human services. Land-based agencies need to make case to maintain general fund to agriculture and livestock.

### WILDLIFE SERVICES

Q: What % of general fund to wildlife services? Deer population in danger from predators; smaller animals disappearing, need to rebound. Bottom line—need more dollars to wildlife services.

A: 120,000 of general fund per biennium; 90,000 of license dollars. Looking for more sources.

C: Good working relationship with ODFW management; want it to continue. Predation has always been bad on livestock. Coyote overabundance. Important to ranching community to eliminate predators (coyotes, etc). Losing calves and sheep.

Q/C: Wolves coming in. ODFW protecting them (A: protected by feds). Should be held liable. Get program in budget to eradicate predators.

Q/C: Never seen a coyote on his place until about 6 years ago, but 14 coyotes taken since then. Lost almost 10% of stock. Wildlife Services right on top of problem. No way to reasonably get any compensation for losses. Landowners doing enhancement projects (riparian etc); still need to deal with the predators and damage.

Q/C: State's general fund dire enough without addition to Wildlife Services, even though they do a good job. In other states you pay fee for predator control. They take deer, etc. as well as domestic animals. Look seriously at a donation of some kind on the license to backfill general fund contribution for Wildlife Services.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Q: Hatchery maintenance inventory. Has inventory been reduced? Capital improvements is only 1%.

Boat sales and invasive species; Invasive species are only going to grow as a problem. How about tax on boat sales for it?

A: With regard to hatchery maintenance, we have done some through R&E board. We do have preferred maintenance list...chipping away at it. In 2009, the legislature swept dollars from our deferred maintenance account. Some of the lost dollars were returned during the February 2010 session. Less progress than hoped for. Also received some stimulus dollars.

Q/C: How can we be sure increase in fees will offset decrease in dollars from legislature?  
Difference in inland recreational coho fisheries compared to offshore fisheries.  
59% of 61% recreational fisheries came from coastal chinook fisheries (Coos Bay) not coho.  
Use Amend 13 harvest matrix inland as well as ocean.  
Counties would be refueled economically.

Theory: ways to maintain angling opportunities; if there are fish to catch, fishermen will come, but must have a probability of catching fish, or harvesting animal, in order to purchase tags.  
Trout is largest fishing preference on west side. Cannot allow drop in trout program reduction.  
Impacts licenses, fishing opportunities, etc.

Q/C Having the opportunity is good, but the probability to catch is important. Why go fishing if can't catch/keep the fish? Same with hunting opportunity vs probability of harvesting an animal.

Q/C: Predators also eat fish, as well as mammals. Half of smolts disappearing from tidewater to ocean. Wildlife Services could expand to cormorants. Consider increasing number of smolts to send to ocean. Cormorants showing up in places never seen before (Willamette Valley).

Q: How many hatchery fish are taken by sea lions? Is the data we are gathering working towards delisting? (California sea lions)

A: Gathering info at Bonneville; observation posts. 3-4% of salmon taken. Don't have info on a statewide basis. Sea lions opportunistic...will feed on what is available at given time.  
Stellar sea lions going towards de-listing. Laborious process to get to point where animals can be delisted.

Q/C: Has permit to haze cormorants (512 from mouth to 8 miles up). Each can take 3-5 fish daily. Stumbling block is requirement to buy insurance to haze. Why can't state have insurance for "hazing" instead of individuals?

Inland fishery generates most revenue; marine (commercial) resources gets most "budget".  
Would like to have "metrics" shown on website and progress on activities. Important for managers to be held accountable. See how dollars are being spent.

A: Monthly report goes to Commission; is posted on "Commission" link.

Q/C: Benton County trapper; dealing with ranchers/farmers. That program going away.  
Rancher lost 17 sheep in 3 nights. Same problem with smolts, livestock, big game animals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Fish & Wildlife, Salem, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Ed Bowles, Rick Hargrave, Roger Fuhrman, Renee Klein,  
Shirlene Gonzalez, Jennifer Hughes  
NW Region: Chris Wheaton, Michael Heck  
South Willamette Watershed: Steve Marx, Christine Hurst, Nancy Taylor

OSP Staff

Lt. Mike Dingeman

Meeting started at 7:02pm

Welcome – Chris Wheaton

Staff and Public Introductions

Eleven members of the public, eleven ODFW staff and one OSP staff in attendance.

Purpose of town hall meeting – Chris Wheaton

Agenda

Budget Process

- Budget Schedule
  - March 17, 2010 budget kickoff meeting
  - Town Hall meetings started around the state April 3

Agency Background

- Mission Statement
- Agency Principles
- Agency Organization
  - \$262 million biennial budget
  - 1,162 FTE
  - Employees at about 90 facilities statewide
    - 40 offices
    - 33 hatcheries
    - 16 wildlife management areas

Regions – NW - Willamette Watershed District – Steve Marx

- NW - 3 Watershed Districts
  - 275 full-time employees – 125 seasonal employees

OSP – Fish & Wildlife Division – Lt. Mike Dingeman

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Fish & Wildlife, Salem, Oregon



- 3 Regions - 175 troopers – 3 administrative staff
- Enforce fish, wildlife & commercial fishing laws
- The enforcement areas include:
  - Wildlife section
  - Fisheries section
  - Aircraft unit – 3 trooper pilots
  - Special Investigations Unit
- Cooperative enforcement planning
  - Support from public

#### 2009-11 Budget Objectives

- Fee increase received
  - Sustain core programs
    - Field staff
    - Landowner services
    - OSP field presence
    - Hatcheries
  - Address fee disparities
    - Commercial fish & wildlife activities
    - Non-residents
    - Reduction for juvenile hunting & fishing activities
  - Allow for moderate investments
    - Mule deer initiative
    - Additional trout stocking
    - More OSP officers
    - Enhanced information effort
    - Columbia/Willamette Rivers monitoring & selective fishing
    - Crab fishery manager
  - Target juvenile participation
    - New \$55 juvenile sportspac
    - Reduction in costs for juvenile hunting & fishing licenses
    - Additional big game opportunities
  - Offer new opportunities
    - Expanded A&H and R&E programs
    - Additional trout stocking
    - Added 2-pole opportunities
  - Effect agency responsiveness
    - New position for avian predation
    - Due to GF limitation – no enhancements to energy and water programs



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Fish & Wildlife, Salem, Oregon



- 2011-13 Budget Environment - Shirlene
  - Budget Kickoff Messages, March 17
    - \$2.5 billion GF/LF gap
    - Economic recovery & state reserves will not address gap
    - No new statewide revenues
    - Less federal stimulus funding expected
  - Budget Overview Revenues
    - General Fund
      - ✓ Appropriated from the State General Fund
      - ✓ Comprised of general tax revenues
        - Expect cuts
    - Lottery Funds
      - ✓ Come through OWEB
      - ✓ For Oregon Plan work and fish screening program
        - Expect cuts
    - Federal Funds
      - ✓ Received as a result of federal laws or agreements
      - ✓ Includes Pittman-Robertson (firearms/ammo)
      - ✓ Includes Dingell-Johnson funds (fishing)
    - Other Funds –License
      - ✓ Hunting/fishing licenses/tags
      - ✓ Used for core fish and wildlife programs
      - ✓ Critical for working capital
    - Other Funds – Dedicated & Obligated
      - ✓ For specific uses
      - ✓ New Dedicated 2009: Fish Passage Fund
      - ✓ New Obligated 2009: Aquatic Invasive Fund

Question & Answer

Q: Are there proposed budget cuts for troopers?

A: It is unclear at this point how cuts will be taken.

Q: What is energy program? Is it damaging to wildlife areas. Why not ask companies to fund?

A: We are working with power companies for funding; we are also working to understand the effects on vegetation and wildlife.

Q: How are you paying for wolves and cougars?

A: Wolves with Cervids (license dollars), cougar (hunter dollars, some legislative support).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Fish & Wildlife, Salem, Oregon



Q: Are Feds paying any money for wolves?

Comment: 10 known wolves from Idaho

A: Small Fed contribution, primarily State, some GF.

Comment: Feds should pay more, as a hunter I don't want to pay for a predation problem.

Q: Wind turbines are damaging. Will be in Stein Mountains soon. Can funding for them come from power producers?

A: Agency is in the early stages of this discussion. There currently is no funding at this time. Local biologists are researching to determine if there what the site issues might be if wind turbines were put in place.

Comment: Counties should pay for them.

Q: What non-consumptive fee options are available?

A: There is currently a habitat stamp. In the future there may be a fee or tag for non hunters (i.e. wildlife viewing fee). There is also a conservation organization that is working to create a bird seed tax that, if passed, may direct additional funding to the agency.

Q: Was the last fee increase great enough that all programs cover their own costs? As a hunter I don't want my fees to go to cervid ranches, trapping, etc.

A: It is difficult to tell if programs cover their own costs, but some programs are small and it would be difficult for fees from that program alone to cover all the costs of the program.

Q: Where is the Recreational Shellfish fee increase money going and how is it being used?

A: This money is used to protect species. It is also used to conduct assessments and increase monitoring and enforcement.

Q: Are fees from hydro and other energy projects being captured for staff? What is ODFW's cost for reviewing permits?

A: For the Hydro program most costs are covered by license purchases. Other regulatory agencies depend on ODFW input for making decisions.

Q: What is the anticipated PERS cost increase?

A: It is expected to be 14.4% for the 11-13 biennium. This results in an increase of \$6.7 million for the entire 11-13 biennium.

Q: If fees were imposed for hunters that did not report how would that revenue affect the budget?

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 26, 2010  
Fish & Wildlife, Salem, Oregon



A: This is not a revenue source the agency wants to have. Our staff needs the harvest information to make good decisions about the animal populations. The potential for gaining revenue in this way has not been factored into the budget.

Q: Are there dedicated staff for conservation strategy from general fund?

A: There is a general fund conservation strategy position at risk.

Q: How much of the Marine general fund budget is spent on Marine Reserves?

A: There is no general fund going to Marine Reserves. All money is based on the New Carissa settlement funds.

Comment: Be kind to hatcheries when cutting the general fund budget.

Q: How many OSP staff are there for ODFW?

A: 120 OSP staff. General fund money is appropriated to OSP as troopers get involved in a range of activities. Due to the fact that some of these activities are not related to ODFW general fund dollars are used.

Comment: Individual was concerned about mission drift in Sport Fishing Program. Also concerned that this money may be used to backfill other programs.

Q: Can Policy Option Packages (POP) be used to back fill Federal cuts (algae bloom work)?

A: The agency is avoiding any POP's that would require general fund. The most energy is being dedicated to developing POP's that are funded by federal funding.

See attached written comment provided by Angelicque White.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 27, 2010  
Chetco Community Public Library  
Brookings, Oregon



ODFW Staff

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert  
SW Region: Steve Denney  
Rogue Watershed District: Russell Stauff, Todd Confer  
Marine Program: Karen Braby

OSP Staff

Lt. Gifford, Lt. Dingeman, Lt. Samuels

Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome - Denney

Staff & Public introductions - Denney

Nine members of the public, Representative Wayne Krieger, OFW Commissioner Bob Webber, 6 ODFW staff, 3 OSP staff in attendance.

Agenda – Elicker

Presentation

- Budget Development Schedule (Colbert)
- Mission Statement (Elicker)
- Agency Principles (Elicker)
- Agency Organization (Elicker)
- ODFW Budget (Denney)
  - Fish Programs
  - Wildlife Programs
  - Regions
  - Southwest Region
- OSP (Dingeman)
- 2009 – 2011 Budget Objectives (Elicker)
  - Sustain Core Programs
  - Address Fee Disparities
  - Allow for Moderate Investments
  - Target Juvenile Participation
  - Offer New Opportunities
  - Effect Agency Responsiveness
- Statewide 2011 – 2013 Budget Development (Colbert)
  - Budget Overview: Revenues
  - 2011 – 2013 Budget Development: Estimated Revenues

- Building 2011 – 2013 Budget
- 2009 – 2011 General Fund Programs (Colbert)
- 2009 – 2011 Lottery Fund Programs (Colbert)
- Closing (Denney)

Q & A:

Comment: Representative Krieger: Enforcement and hatcheries are key points for legislature. Hatcheries are critical.

Wildlife Services:

Comment: Wildlife damage in Oregon estimated at \$1,580,000 in 1997. Estimated value of agriculture has increased since then. Number of predators has also increased. In 2004 sheep and lamb damage alone was \$600,000. HB 2040 (2001) requires that State address damage. Coos County budget for Wildlife Services is \$153,000. Farmers contribute fencing, electric fences, tree protection, pasture renovation. ODFW only contributes \$4,000. Human safety and agriculture should be higher priority, ODFW budgets only 0.07% for Wildlife Services for damage and human safety, ODFW budgets 7% for enforcement. This seems to be an imbalance. ODFW, ODA, Legislature need to adequately fund professional staff at Wildlife Services. Special projects, such as snowy plover, tie staff down and limit responses to damage, more flexibility is needed in scheduling special projects. Request that ODFW fund Wildlife Services at 50 – 75% of what Coos County contributes.

Comment: Income lost to predation/damage are also tax dollars lost to the State. Adequately funding Wildlife Services will generate additional income and also revenue for the State.

Comment: Curry County pulled out of funding Wildlife Services 17 years ago. A collection of individuals, landowners, and private timber fund currently fund Wildlife Services. The funding is unsustainable and the program could be lost. Wildlife Services is needed for human safety as well as damage.

Comment: Concerned about high quantities of cougars in California that can move into Oregon. There is a need for some level of hound hunting of cougars. Limited hound hunting would increase revenue for the state and condition cougars to avoid populated areas.

Q: Is there any genetic evidence that cougars are entering Oregon from California?

A: Denney: We have no genetic data related to the movement of cougars across the border. There is evidence that cougars move both north and south over the border.

Comment: Rep. Krieger: timber damage, caused by tree peeling bears, is \$400,000 on his property alone. In Curry County there are high numbers of bears which prey heavily on elk calves and other game species. This is impacting revenue as well.

Reply: Denney: mark-recapture estimates indicate highest bear densities in Oregon are in southern Coos County and Curry County.

General comments:

Q: Rep. Krieger: How much did legislature sweep from the ending balance in the last session?

A: Colbert: About \$3.5 million in Deferred Maintenance funds, but some licensing funds were restored. Based on federal laws, Legislature cannot move state license dollars to the statewide general fund or could jeopardize federal dollars that come to Oregon for fish and wildlife programs.

Comment: Oregon South Coast Fishermen, Inc. (OSCFI) request funding for 2 EBAs to conduct Chetco creel and fall Chinook surveys. OSCFI also suggested that programs could be backstopped with STEP volunteers, that deferred maintenance should be evaluated and identified as a significant and growing liability, and that there is a need to retain professional staff.

Q: What happened to the OSP request for the ocean vessel for enforcement from 2 years ago?

A: Lt. Dingeman: Did not come through yet. OSP is still working on obtaining a vessel.

Comment: Support ODFW approach to avian predation. ODFW also needs to address mammalian predators. ODFW needs to document benefits of predator management.

Comment: There is a need for outreach on facts / reality of predators. ODFW needs to emphasize providing information on how many game animals and fish are eaten by predators. ODFW needs to counter propaganda in order to be able to manage fish and wildlife.

Comment: Applaud the ODFW for their work on fish management plans that evaluate the limiting factors for species in order to identify where problems are.

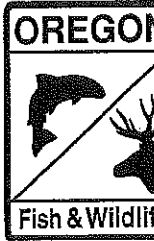
Comment: Wildlife Services provide a range of benefits that the public does not realize, such as protection of pets, domestic animals, predator control to benefit listed species, airport safety and search and rescue, disease testing. Wildlife Services is underappreciated by the public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm (Denney).





Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 28, 2010  
Guin Library  
Hatfield Marine Science Center  
Newport, Oregon



ODFW Staff

- Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Steve Williams, Debbie Colbert
- Marine Resources Program: Caren Braby, Maggie Sommer, Lynn Mattes, Gway Kirchner, Dave Fox, Donna Lamb,
- NW Region: Rick Klumpf (Tillamook office), Chris Wheaton, Doug Cottam, Tami Wagner, Dan Avery
- USDA Predator Control: 2 staff members

OSP Staff: Lt. Jeff Samuels, Sgt. Todd Thompson, Lt. Mike Dingeman  
Representative Cowen  
Previous Commissioner Bob Jacobson

Meeting started: 1906

Welcome –NWR Manager Chris Wheaton and Director Elicker

Staff & Public introductions

- Seven members of the public, 15 ODFW staff , three OSP and two USDA Predator Control staff in attendance

Agenda

- Review of budget process and schedule (Colbert)
- Agency background (Elicker)
  - Mission statement
  - Agency Principles
  - Agency Organization
- Budget (Wheaton)
- Fish Programs (Wheaton)
- Wildlife Programs (Wheaton)
- NWR overview (Wheaton)
  
- Oregon State Police overview (Lt. Dingeman)
  
- 2009-11 Budget (Elicker)
  - Fee increase—very good public support
  - Fee objectives as a result of meetings around the state, with public
    - a. Sustain core programs
      - i. Field staff

- ii. Landowner services
    - iii. OSP field presence
    - iv. hatcheries
  - b. Address fee disparity
    - i. Commercial fish and wildlife activities
    - ii. Non-residents
    - iii. Reduction for juvenile hunting and fishing activities
  - c. Allow for moderate investments
    - i. Mule deer initiative
    - ii. Additional trout stocking
    - iii. More OSP officers
    - iv. Enhanced information effort (website upgrade)
    - v. Columbia/Willamette Rivers monitoring and selective fishing
    - vi. Crab fishery manager
  - d. Target juvenile participation
    - i. New \$55 juvenile sportpac
    - ii. Reduction in costs for juvenile hunting and fishing licenses (new non-resident juvenile license too)
    - iii. Additional big game opportunities
  - e. Offer new opportunities
    - i. Expand A & H and R & E programs
    - ii. Additional trout stocking
    - iii. Added 2-pole opportunities
  - f. Effect agency responsiveness
    - i. New position for avian predation
    - ii. Due to GF (general funds) limitation—no enhancements to energy and water programs
- 2011-2013 Budget Development (Colbert)
  - March 17 budget kickoff messages
    - 2.5 billion gf/lf gap
    - Economic recovery and state reserves will not address gap
    - No new statewide revenues
    - Less federal stimulus funding expected
  - Revenues
    - General Fund
    - Lottery Funds
    - Federal Funds
  - Other funds—license
    - Hunting/fishing licenses/tags
    - Used for core fish and wildlife programs
    - Critical for working capital
  - Other funds—dedicated and obligated
    - For specific uses
    - New dedicated 2009: Fish Passage Fund
    - New obligated 2009: Aquatic Invasive Fund

- Estimated revenues—pie chart of estimated revenues
- Building our 2011-2013 budget
  - General Funds
    - Expect cuts
  - Lottery
    - Revenues down
    - Expect cuts
  - License Funds
    - No new fees
    - Make funds last
  - Federal funds
    - See opportunities

Q & A/Discussion:

Edward Johnston (E.J.)—What about subsistence fishery, no longer being talked about?

E.J.—Hatchery funds, if overabundance of fish, they currently get destroyed, why can't those fish be released into any stream or lake?

E.J.—Lottery funds were a “gift” from the people, not to be relied/depended upon for long term funding sources

E.J.—Public employees getting tax credit for their land, particularly OFWC members

Bill Lackner—Clam digging clinics, lots of participation from public, good run, giving classes, ODFW has classes scheduled as well, there is also a crabbing class this fall, and razor clam class in June

- Asking ODFW to sponsor a free kids clamming day and crabbing day
- In conjunction with the free kids fishing weekend (June 12), clamming tides are wrong and crab are soft, so that weekend doesn't work.
- ODFW staff to teach the workshops, will cut down on enforcement issues in the future, would be a boon to local economies with more families participating

Bill Lackner—Cormorants, in reservoirs, dine on small trout, swoop in and feed

- What size trout do we need to release so that the cormorants can't swoop in and eat them

Unknown member of the public-- predator control—

- Put a box on the hunting licenses if you want to donate \$1 to predator control,
- What about expand that idea to the fish side, put a box on fishing license, check if you want to donate \$1, dedicated money to predator control (seals, cormorants)?
- If the state could come up with a group rate for predator control liability insurance, state wouldn't be the insurer, a private group would be responsible for the liability insurance, make it less expensive for groups doing predator control

Unknown member of the public--What is the carryover looking like? Is it 14% every year?

- Debbie Colbert-- expenses go up, so it eats into the carryover, do not expect to have 14% in the future

E.J.—Wants to support the free crabbing/clamming day, crabbing was not illegal until a few years ago.

- Need to work on a lot of programs that benefit the public
- Until recently juveniles didn't have to pay for fishing

E.J.—Hydropower, need to be realistic in doing that for the future, hydroplant right out of Valsetz

E.J.—look at future, make it inexpensive for children down the road,

- Unions have created all their own banks,
- Limit employee benefits,
- Look at the future of how we are going to set up this country so we don't end up like England.....

E.J.—double and triple our salmon and trout production,

- Doesn't cost anymore to do,
- Use all production from hatcheries...

E.J.—Saw wild salmon in private land while hunting, mother nature needs aid and not control

Director Elicker—What time of year would free shellfish fishing be most useful?

A: End of June

Member of Public--In a position where we are going to have to do some cutting of GF,

- Want to thank you for putting together the cormorant program, want to see that prosper
- Predator control liability insurance is a real problem down on the Rogue, state wouldn't pay for the insurance but allow to form a COOP of sorts to help reduce costs

Joe R. —In order to kill fish we need to keep our hatchery program intact, some people do like to kill fish and wildlife.

Joe R. —Cape Perpetua Marine reserve group

- Very concerned about how marine reserves will be funding, don't want license dollars to fund an area that it closed to fishing.
- If we bring in outside money, need to be very careful how we do it, so we don't end up like CA.
- Don't charge fishermen to manage marine reserves.

Joe R.—Is there some issue with shellfish license money going to marine reserves? Or should that money be going to shellfish management and research?

- Director Elicker-- Currently shellfish moneys are dedicated to shellfish, not to anything with marine reserves. There is a statute that describes how the shellfish money can be used, monitoring, research and enforcement, it is very narrowly written.

- Caren Braby-- Marine reserves funding—New Carissa wreck money, some from other foundations outside of the state process.

Mike Samples—Every sport fishing organization around the Central Coast, anadromous fisheries, cumulatively we put in thousands of hours of volunteer work for ODFW every year, we are told that they want our mileage and hours; we put these together and send to ODFW, and these equate to a monetary amount that goes into the ODFW budget. Do volunteer hours really go into helping the ODFW budget? Where does that money go? Is there a % of the ODFW budget that is volunteer work each year?

- Chris Wheaton—Volunteer time doesn't turn into "cash" for the agency.
  - The value of the time is replacing money that we would have to have spent.
  - It basically is money that we are not having to spend because we have the volunteers.
  - Exception to that is if we go out for a grant, time of volunteers is counted as a match (i.e. R & E grants). If the volunteers are providing \$20K worth of time, that is money we don't have to spend. No way to transfer to a cash benefit, but it is always a savings, we are not having to buy that time, since you are doing the work for us.
- Director Elicker—There are some federal programs where there is a match requirement, ODFW has to put up a portion of what would be granted.
  - The number of volunteer hours, mileage, that is equivalent to \$\$\$\$ , if the agency did this itself.
  - Volunteer hours do equate into hard numbers that we can go to the feds, and show.
- Steve Williams—Allows us to leverage the federal dollars

E.J.—Marine reserves, some of the stuff that NOAA is doing,

- Australia marine reserves they are publicly selling them.
- Africa did a lease off their cost, and that is why they are starving.
- Where are we giving away our resources due to the IOUs?

E.J.—glad to see the Agency is listening and starting to change direction,

Meeting adjourned at 2015.



Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Town Hall Budget Meeting  
April 29, 2010  
Comfort Suites (Columbia River)  
Astoria, Oregon



**ODFW Staff**

Salem Headquarters: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert, Steve Williams

NW Region: Chris Wheaton

North Coast Watershed District: Rick Klumph, Chris Knutsen, Dave Nuzum,  
Bryan Swearingen, Kathy Pesterfield

Marine Program: Caren Braby

**OSP Staff**

Sgt. Jeff Scroup, Lt. Jeff Samuels, Lt. Mike Dingeman

No members of the public attended so the meeting was cancelled.

