

Exhibit G

Town Hall Minutes

Town Hall Minutes from May 2014

**Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 19, 2014
Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
Clackamas, Oregon**

ODFW Staff: Roy Elicker, Debbie Colbert, Curt Melcher, Larry Cooper, Jeff Boechler, Linda Lytle, Rick Swart, Chris Kern, Jessica Sall, Aaron Jenkins, Tony Nigro

Oregon State Police: Cap. Jeff Samuels, Lt. Tim Schwartz, Sgt. Chris Allori

Public Participants: ~ 68

Welcome – Cooper

Agenda Review: Cooper

Agenda:

- Staff & Public Introductions
- Ground Rules
- Review of handouts
- Oregon Hunting, Fishing & Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview

Budget Presentation Questions (Q) & Answers (A);

ODFW

Q: Regarding the 2015-17 estimated revenues, was the ending balance carryover from six years ago high then the project carryover into the 15-17 biennium?

A: Yes

Q: What was used as a way to estimate the decline in hunter/angler license sales?

A: Our economist uses historic data on resident and nonresident hunters and anglers.

Q: Current PR funds up much higher than projected. Is the estimate carried forward based on the current PR funds or a lower number?

A: Have a good sense of what we will receive next year. Do expect PR funds to level out.

Q: Can you get a break out of commercial/recreational licenses dollars?

Q: How much of expenditures lines up with revenues?

Q: What is the percentage of GF in the budget in 1989-91?

A: 12-13%

Q: What is the fall back plan if ODFW doesn't get the GF requested?

A: We will have to look at reducing programs, depending on how much GF we get.

Comment: Are Pioneer license costs going to increase for next 10 years? If going to charge for Pioneer license *when can* a person get one for free? When in a wheelchair? Don't pick on old people.

Comment: To get to a sustainable budget there is a \$8.5 million increase for the sport side and (only) a \$630k for commercial fishermen?

Q: Why can't the CFF fees go up more since they provide fish to public? Make the overseas markets pay more.

A: ODFW worked with the commercial industry to come up with a workable adjustment.

Q: Can you show resident and non-resident sales for each state?

Q: In 2010 did ODFW raise non-resident fees?

A: Yes and there was a decrease in non-residents coming to Oregon.

Comment: Washington just made it so a non-resident disabled veteran can get pay the same fee as a resident.

A: In the last legislative session passed a bill that allows active duty military to get resident fees.

Q: Can you superimpose price of licenses for other states over this and previous slide?

A: Have that info and will get it to you.

Q: Did you compare to states that are gaining in participation?

A: Will look at what the other states are doing that are gaining in participation.

OSP – Captain Jeff Samuels

Q: In the 1980's did OSP have more troopers?

A: Yes, employee costs were also less.

Q: Is trooper time doing non-ODFW duties (traffic, DUIs) separated out?

A: Yes, GF is used for non-ODFW (traffic) duties.

Q: Of the 119 troopers how many are assigned/or have ODFW duties?

A: 72

Q: If ODFW doesn't get GF for OSP troopers what happens?

A: The currently vacant 19 positions will stay vacant.

Q: If OSP gets that GF will that mean an increase in troopers?

A: Yes. The vacant positions will be filled plus one additional position funded by the Columbia Basin Endorsement (CBE).

Q: What is the cost of a trooper on the ground?

A: \$300,000 a biennium.

Q: Does PERS retirees get their money from this budget?

A: No. However PERS costs for current troopers are in this budget.

Q: If we are going to raise the fees that will reduce participation. Does the budget account for the impact on federal funding? (of a reduction in participation)

A: Computer modeling to track trend data/dropout rates.

Q: Why aren't fall turkey tags like spring turkey tags? Why are they controlled?

A: In the process of setting regulations for 2015 which includes proposals to make some areas for fall turkey non-controlled.

Q: Is the Columbia Basin Endorsement permanent?

A: Sunsets in 2021

Q: If I buy the Columbia Basin Endorsement can I have a second rod?

A: No.

Q: What is driving the dramatic level of fee increases?

A: No increases in six years which means there has been no adjustment for inflation.

Comment: Give us more opportunity to catch fish. Know that there is a gillnet season tomorrow and probably every week thru mid-July. Just want a realistic chance to get fish.

Comment: In the 1930's, 1940's hunting was uncomplicated. Make the rules/regulations simpler. More complex the rules, equals lower participation.

Comment: Want to see April fishing on the Columbia.

Comment: Want to have phone turn into a GPS so out in the woods it will tell me the hunt unit I'm in, the regulations for that area. Also use it as a tag for fishing. Be able to enter that I got a fish and it would download the information.

Response: We're working on those type of apps.

Q: Has there been a discussion to increase the percentage of non-resident tags in control hunt? Consider including in legislative packet.

A: Currently ODFW has a 5% cap which is lowest in the western states. A couple of states have a 10% cap but most have no limit. Would have to talk to the legislature because it's their rule, not ODFWs.

Q: Find it odd that the two types ODFW is going after are the Pioneer licenses and the youth.

A: The youth fees are a reduction, not an increase.

Q: Where would the \$1 million that the Pioneer licenses fees would bring be spent?

A: The revenue would go into the OF revenues.

Comment: Don't go after the seniors.

Comment: The cougar management objective (MO) is 3,000. Current population estimate is 6,000. ODFW needs to reduce predators so that the kids can see critters when hunting.

Q: How does budget proposal go towards non-game wildlife conservation?

A: Going after General Fund (GF) to cover conservation and non-game. Noted lack of GF shift could reduce program.

Q: What happens if ODFW doesn't get the GF?

A: You will see staff and program reductions.

Comment: ODFW cannot continue to balance the budget without recreational angler dollars. The message to the recreational angler is that we are secondary. This is shown by not moving the gill netters off the main stem, an overly large closure in Young's Bay and letting gillnetters in before the sport anglers. Show proof that the recreational anglers matter.

Q: I bought the Columbia Basin Endorsement and now I have to pay \$10 for an Ocean Endorsement. Where is the money for the ocean endorsement going?

A: It's going to the OF revenue to pay for programs.

Comment: If you cannot tell me where that money is going to be spent or what it's going to be spend on, get rid of the endorsement.

Comment: What are you doing about guzzler maintenance? It's 2-3 years behind. You need to address this and maintain the guzzlers.

Comment: Look at incentivizing partnerships. Give people credit for signing up new anglers.

Comment: Look at moving more funds to Wildlife Services and law enforcement. A lot of the predator problems and illegal activities that could be addressed would solve some of the budget issues.

Comment: Why is there a limit for spring bear hunts? Increase the number of tags or make general season if over management objectives.

Q: Why are hunting license sales in decline?

A: National research says people have other things to do.

Comment: Concerned with eastside and westside predation management. Want to see more opportunity, not less.

Comment: Very concerned over number of predators and limited control. Need to create more opportunity by protecting game animals thru predator control. Supports funding to Wildlife Services control efforts. This would increase hunter opportunities.

Comment: In support of non-resident fees and would like to see us give more opportunity to non-residents to get their money.

Comment: Don't see solutions to the budget issues in this presentation.

Comment: Cut coastal hatchery Coho program –reduced opportunity.

Comment: Lost the 100,000 ChS goal on the Willamette – reduced opportunity

Comment: Need to look at programs to get out of the budget problem.

Comment: Why not sell preference points to non-residents?

Comment: Need other funding streams, where is the creativity.

Q: What is the fall back plan if no GF?

A: Program reductions unless fee increase is higher.

Q: If don't get GF do you keep core and protect anglers/hunters?

A: Yes

Comment: When does the OHRC go away at a cost of \$1 million a year?

Comment: In 1994 voters decided to ban baiting and hunting with hounds. Now living with that. It's time for those people to step up and pay the bill.

Q: How much money is spent hunting bears and cougar with agents?

A: Will get info.

Comment: Commercial fee increases are not proportional to proposed recreational fee increases. For equity, need higher ad valorem. % same as recreational.

Q: Have projects been slowed/stalled with current budget issues?

A: Will look into (specific mention of Clear Creek – J. Boechler followed up)

Comment: To get juvenile hunters more involved need improvement in hunter opportunity now.

Comment: Number of tag sales is lower because of habitat and predation issues, not just from a lack of participation.

Comment: Can we develop a N. Santiam wild broodstock? Do you have the courage to do so?

Comment: ODFW is under-stating black tail fawn losses due to predation.

Q: When can public see questions from tonight's meeting answered? Where?

A: Posting materials on our website as we have them available.

Comment: Simplify rules so they are not so complex and change so often. Promote participation by making regulations simple/easy to understand.

Comment: More hatchery production and opportunities for recreational anglers since these support ODFW greater than commercial fisheries.

Comment: Need to improve deer/elk populations to keep youth involved/recruitment. Free range cattle impacting habitat.

Comment: More opportunity is key to future revenue problems.

Comment: Predation needs to be addressed.

Meeting ended at 8:44

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 20, 2014
Blue Mountains Conference Center
La Grande, Oregon

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners: Chair Bobby Levy, Holly Akenson

ODFW Staff: Roy Elicker, Nick Myatt, Adrienne Averett, Kim Sines, Nigel Seidel, Leonard Erickson, Elizabeth Moats, Roblyn Brown

Oregon State Police: Captain Samuels, Chris Hawkins, Tim Brown, Isaac Cyr

Public Participants: 38 members of the public attended the meeting

Welcome/Introduction: Director Elicker

Agenda:

- Oregon Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview
- Strategies for Building a Balanced 2015-17 Budget
- Next Steps

Public Comments/Questions (Q) & Answers (A):

Q: What portion of ODFW's budget comes from General Fund?

A: Approximately 9% of the current budget is General Fund

Q: Columbia River Endorsement, what is the total revenue expected from this fee? What are the funds being used for?

A: The endorsement helps fund the transition of non-tribal commercial gill nets out of the mainstem Columbia River into enhanced off-channel areas, freeing up additional salmon and steelhead for sport fishing. The endorsement is estimated to provide \$1 million in annual revenue.

Comment: Concerned about impacts of tribal gill net fishing on Lower Columbia River

Comment: Concerned about the cost of new ODFW Headquarters building in Salem. You may be saving money every year but the original upfront cost of renovating the building was expensive.

Q: What percentage of federal funds provided to ODFW come from the Pittman Robertson/Dingell Johnson acts?

A: Approximately 13% of ODFW's revenue comes from federal funds derived from hunters and anglers.

Q: If hunter recruitment and participation has been decreasing over the past several years, how does ODFW anticipate the fee increase will impact recruitment and participation?

A: This was taken into consideration when developing our proposed fee increases. The package was designed to minimize impacts on participation.

Comment: All state and federal money is tax payer's money; you should treat federal funds the same as state funds because it all comes from our wallets.

Comment: What do ODFW staff do? I am concerned that all you do is write reports.

Q: Why has ODFW been silent on the U.S. Forest Service-Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) Travel Management Plans and what is your position on road closures.

A: We have been very involved in the WWNF process; attending public meetings, meeting with USFS staff, participating in several county sponsored work groups, commenting on the plan, etc. We have been open with the public that we are concerned about the impacts of high road densities on elk habitat use and displacement onto private land.

Q: How much funding does ODFW provide to Wildlife Services to implement predator control and how often does ODFW use Wildlife Services?

A: Each biennium ODFW provides approximately \$100,000 in Other Fund (license dollars) for big game and furbearers (bear, cougar, beaver, wolves, etc.) and \$400,000 in General Fund for species defined in statute as predatory animals (coyote, ground squirrels, feral pigs, birds, etc.)

Comment: ODFW should support Wildlife Services more to get additional predator control since there is evidence that ODFW target areas for predator control do improve elk and deer numbers.

Comment: You should start a program that provides more opportunity for handicapped hunters by providing them landowner damage tags.

Q: Can ODFW provide the public with a list of legislators that support ODFW efforts so the public can provide written support for ODFW?

A: ODFW is not an "advocacy group"; we recommend you contact the many sport, conservation, and agricultural groups in the state for information.

Q: Why did ODFW stop stocking Catherine Creek and the Grande Ronde River?

A: Due to impacts to federally listed anadromous fish.

Comment: The complication of the hunting and fish regulations take away from outdoor opportunities. Oregon hunters and anglers are looking at out of state opportunities instead.

Comment: Do not support ODFW dissolving four regions into two. Unrealistic expectation that a Region Manager is going to be effective in that position.

Comment: ODFW should not anticipate getting general funding to supplement ODFW budget because it is supporting many other state agencies. If you get the funding, it will not be stable in the long-term.

Comment: Support simplifying the regulation and support the proposed youth hunting and fishing fee changes. You should also reduce youth stamp fees.

Comment: Support the proposed Pioneer License fee so you can take advantage of additional federal funds.

Comment: Would like to see a Sports Pack option for seniors; suggest a price of \$75.

Comment: Would like to see a breakdown of how much money/effort for the Mule Deer Initiative was put toward habitat work vs. predator removal.

Comment: The public knows predators are impacting elk and deer populations so why is ODFW putting so much money into researching predator impacts? ODFW should implement a bounty on coyotes and cougars.

Comment: You should give cougar tags away for free when you buy resident or nonresident hunting licenses.

Q: How are poachers impacting elk and deer numbers compared to predators? Referenced an article from IDFG about poaching in northern Idaho.

A: Illegal harvest can be a significant factor of deer and elk mortality; referenced the Central Oregon mule deer study which found a higher rate of adult mortality from illegal harvest than predation.

Comment: ODFW needs to balance opportunity with season structure and the needs of the animals such as longer breaks between hunting seasons.

Comment: Very concerned about displacement of elk off of public land onto private land.

Comment: Need to charge the non-hunting public that uses access areas for recreation. Make it mandatory to have a wildlife watching license to observe wildlife.

Comment: Need more focus on public education. People should know who is paying for ODFW wildlife areas and you should solicit money from all users.

Comment: ODFW needs to do a better job of advertising and promoting events and meetings.

Comment: ODFW continues to decrease the amount of funding they provide to landowners. You should be using Pittman Robertson dollars to support landowners.

Q: Does ODFW staff get supplemental funding for performing tasks outside normal operation such as energy development?

A: In some situations we do but in many situations we do not.

Comment: Concern over ODFW Wildlife Area parking permit and check-in/out requirements and the penalty for not reporting your big game harvest.

Comment: ODFW needs to provide more transparency on controlled hunt draw success. The current point summary reports do not include the 25% of tags that are allocated in a random draw.

Comment: There is more wildlife in town than in the mountains. ODFW should be trapping animals from town and bringing them into areas where the public can hunt.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 21, 2014
Central Oregon Community College
Bend, Oregon

ODFW Staff:

Roy Elicker, Chip Dale, Bob Hooton, Corey Heath, Brett Hodgson

Oregon State Police: Captain Jeff Samuels, Lieutenant Don Wagner

Public Participants: See attached sign-in sheet

Welcome: Elicker/Dale

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introduction
- Ground Rules
- Oregon Hunting, Fishing & Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview
- Strategies for Building a Balanced 2015-17 Budget
- Next Steps

Budget Presentation Questions (Q) & Answers (A):

Q: Asked Captain Samuels, if either the governor or the legislature asks why they are giving parts of the general fund to ODFW and takes it all away, what would that money represent as far as lost troopers?

A: If ODFW doesn't get the general fund money there will be 11 more positions that would go away for OSP in addition to the nine already lost.

Q. Asked Captain Samuels, is your opinion on why there are fewer licenses being sold? Is it a problem with the regulations?

A. There are a lot of things that are affecting the lack of licenses being sold, such as the culture we live in today, our inability to get youth away from their electronics and getting them involved and the complexity of the regulations.

Q. What's been the trend of the size of ODFW staff in the last ten years? Declining? Growing?

A. The full time employee count has increased, but that is mainly due to the endangered species work and the federal money that has covered those programs.

Q. Regarding the loss of employees now and in the future, what point are you too lean? When can you make the point to the legislature that there is too much loss in the agency regarding the employees?

A. We don't even want to spare one position. But according to many in the legislature, they think we have too many people "on the ground". The legislature doesn't look at what those people are doing out there, they just see that we need to reduce staff.

Comment: There has been an underfunding on the wildlife side for 30 years. ODFW needs to do more trend counts, more research on calf ratios, enforcement is a disaster, and the answer is to go to the legislature and demand that ODFW go back to the way things were done in the past because that's what worked. But ODFW doesn't have the money to do it apparently. Politics are tough. Roy and ODFW have provided no leadership to the state and obviously haven't increased the budget by trying to be "smart".

Q. Is the phone app going to be GPS so we can use the app and it will already know where we are?

A. Yes, it will use the GPS feature on your phone to show which location you're in and then provide the regulations for that specific area.

Q. Concerning regulations and the Columbia River endorsement, "Paulina endorsement" - doesn't totally understand the endorsement at all. He collects shad; does he need a Columbia endorsement?

A. No. Make sure it's obvious that you're not targeting salmon, sturgeon and steelhead.

Comment: It's up to the opinion of the arresting officer. The regulations are so difficult that people are scared of them.

Q. Directed at Captain Samuels, where does the money go from all of the fines?

A. When OSP gives a ticket, it is cited into circuit court, if found guilty, the money goes into the general fund after all of the court fees are taken out.

Q. Directed at Captain Samuels, what about the rifles taken in the field?

A. The money from the seizures of items goes to the Common school fund? Those regulations are set in statute by the legislature and they won't budge.

Comment: Has some serious "heartburn" on the thoughts of cutting people; too many people. The roles these biologists have are so valuable to the community. Applauds the effort in going

for the general fund because what ODFW and the biologist do benefit the whole state. Politics are challenging and that's understanding, but try to enroll the help of your partners: NOAA, Conservation Districts, Coalition of land trusts, others that have interests in these programs and these people and know people in the legislature. Those people can help with tapping into the general fund and show the legislature that the "bloated" staff is not a problem.

Q: Why not go after those that aren't hunters or fisherman? The wildlife area parking fees is a good start, but that's not enough.

A. The agency has tried on some of that already but for it to go anywhere, the public needs to bring up suggestions like that. For example the bird seed tax has been discussed previously but the legislature has not passed.

Comment: Supportive of the fee increases. Knows no one wants to pay more money, but really it's less than a tank of gas; our fees aren't too high. We aren't hunting and gathering for necessity we are doing this for fun.

Comment: Get rid of pioneer licenses, no reason for them, pay like everyone else does. I am supportive of youth fee/license. The Central Oregon Fly Fisherman runs a pilot program for kids and high school children and other angler education programs getting kids involved. Don't exclude kids from the activities just because they don't have a license. Maybe a STEP approved angling education program to get a license.

Q. What about increasing the nonresident fees?

A. During the last fee cycle, the revenues didn't pan out as expected due to the nonresident sales dipping significantly because of the price. The hunting side wanted the prices to increase, but it ended up causing a bigger reduction in sales. We are asking the legislature to allow us to reduce the price of the hunting licenses to bring the nonresident hunters back. Other states have done so with some success.

Comment: Agrees with keeping the biologists and other staff. The field biologists are so important and we (angling groups) put in a lot of hours working with them.

Q: What's your opinion? Is it the regulations, the fees, what?

A. In the surveys the number one reason people say they don't hunt or fish is because they don't have the time. People don't have the time anymore to spend the whole day fishing or hunting. We do have lots of people working on solutions; providing more publications on closer places to fish in surrounding areas, working on the complications with the regulations and adding more programs to get youth involved. The mentored youth program and the angler education programs are a great success. It's got a lot to do with the culture right now.

Q. Who writes the regulations?

A. Our fishing regulations are adopted by the Commission.

Comment: The trout fishing is better than it was years ago. And it is partly because of the complicated regulations. You've done very specific things to make those waters work.

Comment: For six years I have made excellent proposals to get the department more money. We obviously don't want to go to the legislature to change the stupid things we're doing. We are going to the legislature with a general fund proposal? No one will be getting any money at all. Sent in five million dollar proposals to ODFW; none of the ideas are a part of the budget. We don't want to go to the legislature with high fees that no one will pay. There's no general fund money for anyone. Get off the dime and take advantage of what the hunters will pay for quality hunts.

Q: How about new once in a lifetime tags or a new high quality, high priced hunt?

A. Not every hunter agrees.

Q. Regarding page 11 and the graphs, why does Idaho seem to be fairly level on each graph? What are they doing that's so different? We are a tourism based state, what can we do to cash in on those funds?

A. Marketing. Nonresident hunters bring in lots of money. Idaho spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on marketing to convince the out-of-state hunters to come there. We aren't allowed to spend that much on marketing. In legislature, even small marketing with OSU and Oregon games caused legislative inquiries. It didn't cost much money, but still got criticized for it.

Comment: If the quality of your hunting is declining as is your hunters and you add a huge fee, it will decrease more. People buy preference points each year waiting for big hunts. And they don't buy tags.

Q: Is there a way to figure out creative ways to tap into the cost of bird watching? Fees perhaps?

A. The closest thing we could do was the Wildlife Area parking permit fee. It's a start. And most states are in the same boat. The possible bird seed tax was brought forward by the conservation groups. There are lots of bird seeds out there. It's a big deal. But the legislature has not passed this idea. There's also the conservation stamp that you can purchase and the money goes to the conservation programs.

Q. Is the problem in sales mostly fish?

A. In looking at the budget slide, there is a lot of money and staff in fish issues and endangered species. But those species and programs need to be monitored closely, they are expensive and costs have gone up.

Comment: Allow employees to participate in premier hunting and fishing opportunities.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 22, 2014
Hallmark Inn and Resort
Newport, Oregon

ODFW Staff: Roy Elicker, Larry Cooper, John Spangler, Derek Wilson, Dave Fox, Gway Kirchner Maggie Sommer, Ethan Clemons, Scott Marion, Donna Lamb, Marty Smith, Evan Leonetti

Oregon State Police: Captain Samuels, Sergeant Thompson

Public Participants: 13 members of the public attended the meeting

Welcome/Introduction: Director Elicker

Agenda:

- Oregon Hunting, Fishing and Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview
- Strategies for Building a Sustainable 2015-17 Budget
- Next Steps

Public Comments/Questions (Q) & Answers (A):

Comment: Agency spends more time managing policy than resources. Biologists are much more interested in saving wild fish. Example - Marine reserves and lower Columbia closures. Not seeing priority for primary constituents.

Comment: Regarding program reductions, priority should be retaining field staff. Need ODFW engaged at the field level. OSP is also a priority.

Comment: Regarding program reductions, public should be privy to program priorities and cuts to help with decision making.

Q: Has there been any discussion regarding offering forever licenses?

A: There have been some discussions but the economics are difficult to evaluate.

Comment: I have been attending these meetings since Jack Donaldson was Director.

Q: How come you don't tap into revenues from guides and outfitters?

A: Administrative authority resides with the Oregon Marine Board. However seeking the concept of some funding through guides/outfitters has been discussed in the past and is not off the table.

Comment: License fees on guides have increased three times in recent years. Most serve rafters, bird watching and other activities so it's not all fishermen and hunters. A large portion of the revenues from guide fees are directed to enforcement.

Comment: Recommend considering a public conservation tax. Oregon's should be paying for actions like recovery of Oregon Chub rather than hunters and anglers only. Need to begin collecting fees from non-consumptive users (kayakers, bird watchers, etc.) who are using facilities, areas, and opportunities funded by hunters and anglers.

Response: In most cases ODFW doesn't own boat ramps. There is a new boat ramp on the Alsea that will be owned by ODFW.

Comment: Get more money from General Fund

Comment: Good support for shifts to GF. Department was weaned off GF in the 1980's.

Comment: Non-game use is going through the roof and using habitat and resources provided by hunters and anglers. Need to tap into this group as a revenue source.

Comment: ODFG was changed to ODFW, need to get money from the "W" people.

Comment: Does not support fees for pioneer licenses. Is 66 years old and has hunted since he was 12 – the free license is a reward for life long participation, now ODFW is planning a tax.

Comment: Let pioneers pay full rate.

Comment: Suggests that ODFW seek sponsorships to support pioneer licenses – would offset cost to pioneers while preserving the opportunity to obtain the PR contribution

Comment: Recommend moving free license to participants over 70 years of age.

Comment: Would pay for pioneer license but need to create something worthwhile to pay for, return on payment.

Comment: Consider poundage fee on guides by number of clients or how much they charge for clients.

Comment: Offer cut rate on pioneer licenses based on senior citizen fixed incomes

Comment: Regarding hunting fees, hunting opportunity is lacking, need to provide more. For example, took away hunts such as the Master Hunter opportunity on Salmon River estuary. Private timber companies have also proposed limiting access and implementing fees which will further reduce opportunity.

Comment: Pittman Robertson funding, ODFW received a \$7 million dollar bump in revenue and projections call for another 15-20% increase in 2015. The challenge for ODFW will be to come up with match dollars.

Response: Department agrees, match is a challenge.

Q: Is the proposed fee for non-resident bear tags a typo?

A: No, the fee is correct. Rationale is to help encourage non-resident participation and bear numbers are not an issue.

Comment: Problem bears are in the city limits. Good Master Hunter opportunity in these situations.

Q: Will the ocean endorsement be rolled into the Sports Pack? Does not support. Feels like double taxation.

A: Salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon stay with the combined harvest tag. Halibut will be included on the ocean endorsement.

Comment: Angling license fees are the best deal in town compared to the cost with golf, dinner, sporting events which all are a daily expense (opposed to year round opportunity).

Comment: Cost increases should come with additional opportunity.

Comment: Ocean endorsement – should be allowed to fish outside 30 fathom line for bottom fish. Too much ocean is closed to recreational angling but open to long line fishing. Is that fair? Recommend improving image by removing unfair rules.

Comment: Wanted to clarify long-line comment. Controlled by feds and bottom fishing is limited to inside 30 fathoms and outside 150 fathoms.

Comment: Need a new license or tag for offshore recreational crabbing.

Comment: Hunting and fishing used to be more subsistence based, consider opportunities that haven't been thought about. Look at relaxing possession limits to support vacationers or extended fishing trips over multiple days. Remove or increase bag/size limits for non-native fish (bass) – especially in areas with conservation concerns

Comment: There has been an ongoing problem with condensing of angling opportunity which reduces participation and sales. Need to spread it out over time.

Comment: Seasonality issue and fisheries (ocean) are more accessible during the summer.

Q: Asked for clarification on coastal hatchery complexing issue and if this means the hatcheries will be closed?

A: This is an efficiency measure to combine or share a manager. Not a proposed cut but ODFW cannot guarantee maintaining hatcheries if the proposed fee structure isn't approved.

Comment: ODFW is commended for the marketing strategies but you need to provide opportunity. Can't close hatcheries.

Comment: Continue critical work through the OHRC to support hatchery programs. Keep doing good research.

Comment: Hatchery fish are expensive - Alsea steelhead worth about \$100/fish. Consider implementing a sliding scale where costs increase with the number of fish harvested to help pay for what you get.

Comment (County Commissioner Terry Thompson): Commercial fisherman will have a large increase in fees from the proposed structure. Most participants don't understand the advalorem taxing mechanism – it is difficult to present and show the value of the increase. ODFW should improve the presentation to show what the tax is and how it works.

Response: Staff will adjust the presentation to help participants better understand the concepts being considered.

Comment: ODFW should shoot sea lions in front of other so they get the message.

Response: ODFW is only authorized to trap and euthanize sea lions. Other methods are not permitted.

Q: What is the hold up on kill permits for cormorants?

A: USFWS is the permitting agency. They have denied the ODFW permit request citing lack of adequate information.

Q: If ODFW doesn't get \$900K funding for sea lion/avian predation work, where will it come from?

A: Funding is generally used to support Wildlife Services. Not sure where we will find it. There is strong support by anglers for pinniped management but not the general public.

Q: Was pinniped control initiated by ODFW?

A: Recognition of system imbalance. Estimates of 16 million smolts lost due to avian predation and high numbers of sea lions in Astoria area. Also, Steller sea lions are proposed for delisting. We expect good legislative support for control of these predators but not guaranteed.

Comment: Let public know where the bottlenecks are to predator control so we can help. Ask fishermen how to do it (accomplish predator control).

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 22, 2014
Oregon Department of Forestry Conference Room
Tillamook, Oregon

(Meeting started 7:00)

ODFW Staff: Curt Melcher, Rick Klumph, Shannon Hurn, Chris Knutsen

Oregon State Police: Lt. David Anderson, Lt. Doug Shugart, Sgt. Todd Hoodenpyl

Public Participants: ~20

Welcome – Melcher

Agenda Review: Melcher

Agenda:

- Staff & Public Introductions
- Ground Rules
- Review of handouts-
- Oregon Hunting, Fishing & Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview

Budget Presentation Questions (Q) & Answers (A):

ODFW

Comment: Would be nice to see 2013-15 vs. 2015-17 costs by program pie charts for comparison.

Q: How much revenue comes from fishing license sales?

A: About \$50 million per/biennium

Q: How many OSP troops funded by ODFW?

A: 73 FTE

Q: Does Wildlife Division subsidize Fish Division?

A: No, we keep those funds separate.

Q: Good fish runs. Why is wildlife costs so small?

A: Proportionate to what wildlife management costs

OSP – Lt. David Anderson

Comment: Recommends a set amount on each license sale be dedicated to OSP.

Q: What role does local Sheriff's office play in Fish and Wildlife enforcement?

A: OSP works closely with them in some areas such as boating safety and there is a lot of communication. Most fish and wildlife issues are handled by OSP as they are the experts in that area.

Comment: Some counties are reducing Sheriff's deputies and OSP is picking up priority calls.

Q: How many troopers do you really need?

A: OSP is looking into that. Possibly using graduate student to investigate this question.

Q: What percent of proposed ODFW GF request goes to OSP?

A: Approximately 25%

Q: How will 2 additional troopers (funded with Columbia Reform Funds) meet new patrol needs in the Columbia River?

A: Funding is for two additional troopers to improve staff capacity in Columbia, but all existing troopers will share in Columbia Reform enforcement responsibility.

Q: How many will enforce Young's Bay Control Zone?

A: 1 Sgt. and 4 troops

Q: Where does revenue go from citations issued by OSP?

A: Circuit Court goes to General Fund, Justice Court goes to County

ODFW

Q: Does all your fish food come from one vendor?

A: Not necessarily, we use state procurement procedures

Q Do you have a feel from the legislature on request for additional general funds?

A: Not yet

Q: What happens if we don't get GF request?

A: Additional program reductions, fee increases, fund shifts

Comment: Asking for \$6 for Pioneer license is reasonable given ability to capture additional federal funds. Would like to see a cap on Pioneer license fee so it doesn't continue to increase.

Comment: Non-residents are applying for Pioneer license. Need better background checks.

Comment: Premiere hunting opportunities are already in place from raffles and other programs. Concerned that there is too much pressure now to be able to support additional programs.

Response: New opportunities would be in areas not utilized by existing programs.

Q: How would a daily license work in relationship to the Ocean endorsement?

A: Same as currently structured for Columbia River endorsement.

Q: What does OSP think about the Premiere Hunting opportunity?

A: Response from OSP: OSP will work through development with ODFW staff to address any concerns.

Q: Have you looked at trends in license sales on per capita basis?

A: Yes, substantially decreasing on per capita basis.

Comment: If you raise the price on licenses, make sure that there are more fish to catch.

Q: Is our general fund request considered to be a Policy Option Package?

A: Technically any new request is considered to be POP

Comment: Cervid License fees are way too low given risks and the amount of ODFW staff time needed for inspection and other related activities.

Response: This is under review. The Commission can increase this fee to \$100 cap.

Q: Does a 5-year license still get federal match annually?

A: Yes

Q: Has a yearly budget process been considered?

A: Yes, but not very workable in complex state budgeting process.

Comment: The agency has to stop rolling over to environmental groups.

Q: What does ODFW spend in legal fees?

A: Very small fraction of total budget

Comment: The budget package is very reasonable, hunters and anglers should be more supportive.

Comment: Thanks for coming to Tillamook. If you want to make additional friends you need to get rid of Young's Bay control zone.

Q: What is the primary factor contributing to revenue problem?

A: Flat sales and increasing costs

Meeting ended at 9:05

**Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 27, 2014
North Bend Public Library
North Bend, Oregon**

ODFW Staff: Roy Elicker, Larry Cooper, Caren Braby, Tim Walters, Mike Gray, Stuart Love;

OSP: Captain Samuels, Lt. Gifford, Troopers Brandon, Stinnett, and Keeler;

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner: Bob Webber

Public Participants: approx. 35; (also 6 ODFW staff on their own time);

Handouts to Participants:

- Tonight's powerpoint slides
- ODFW Key Points about 2015-17 Budget and Fee Proposal
- Proposed Fee Schedules—Recreational, Occupational, and Miscellaneous Licenses
- Proposed Commercial Fishing Fee Schedule
- Proposed New Licenses and Tags

Welcome and Introductions around the room: Elicker

Agenda and Ground Rules: Cooper

Elicker:

- ODFW Mission;
- Hunting, fishing, and conservation efforts
- explained biennial process
- strategies for building a 2015017 budget

Captain Samuels:

- Explained OSP Mission and Program;
- OSP predicted revenue and expenditures, '15-17;

Braby:

- explained Commercial revenue/expenditures into '15-17;

Elicker:

- Participation down in Western States;
- Next Steps—Commission, Governor, Legislature;

Commissioner Webber: Commission listens, reads written testimony; considers information from public very important to Commission decision making;

Comments and Questions (Q) and Answers (A):

Comment: Need to simplify regulations.

Comment: More difficult for public to hunt and fish, more and more regulations, means less participation. Need to make it easier. People get discouraged. Why should ocean fishermen get hammered with Ocean endorsement? Go after the trout and warmwater fishermen for revenue.

Comment: With fisheries, it now costs more to do less. I remember bigger quotas, longer seasons. ODFW has reduced coho fishing, reduced hybrid bass from Tenmile Lakes and striped bass program from Coos Bay, implemented Marine Reserve limitations, and now we have to pay more? Why not more Commercial fees for salmon and tuna fishermen? They need to pay their share.

Comment: The high cost of hatcheries and hatchery fish is borne by recreational fishermen. Commercial fishermen need a fee to support hatchery fish, too. More fish is better for all.

Comment: I want ODFW to be successful. In 1980, you sold more licenses per capita; you're losing participation. You need to market better and grow participation. Have experienced anglers mentor novices. Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP group doesn't support cuts to hatchery fish programs or fee increases. Ocean fishing will cost \$100 in 2020. We don't support Ocean Endorsement, use GF instead. Senior license fee will go from \$15 to \$28. This is too much increase for those on fixed income. CMP is reducing wild fish harvest opportunity. Allow ODFW staff to write citations; they are on the ground when OSP is spread too thin. Use in-stream incubators. Need to use them and call them "wild fish". Advocate for hatcheries. Put more fish out there for anglers to catch. Reduce cormorant numbers. I would pay for a cormorant license. More fish to catch will mean more licenses sold.

Comment: I don't support incremental raising of fees. Need to leave it to where the public can negotiate for fees every few years. Don't set raises for six years. Weyerhaeuser (Weyco), Plum Creek, Menasha own 40% of Coos County. Weyco closures mean they are hijacking state-owned wildlife. I propose any elk killed on Weyco property means they would have to pay \$1000 to the state for that animal. Don't allow damage hunts on private timber ground, no OSP patrols, etc. if they have these access restrictions. Plum Creek and Menasha Co. are next for access restrictions.

Comment: ODFW regulations are too complicated. Why are halibut closures on minus tides? Why do we throw yelloweye back, when they will just die? ODFW should write citations; OSP can't cover it all. Need in-stream incubator boxes to improve fish runs. This is cheaper than hatcheries and will mean cost savings and more fish for anglers. On the Umpqua, we can't keep a wild fish (steelhead). Fishermen upstream that catch and release (N. Umpqua) are catching 60 fish a day, and killing fish (hooking mortality). Let us keep one wild steelhead per day and be done. Wild steelhead population is stable in Umpqua.

Comment: Weyco \$350 fee is too much. Restricted hunting access; restricted steelhead fishing access. ODFW should not stock steelhead in South Coos River, if Weyco will restrict fishing access and charge large fee. Why should ODFW stock fish up there if Weyco gets the benefit? Not fair to those who can't pay the fee. Weyco has changed the date to apply for access permit from May 19 to June 25. It is hard to keep track of. You have to watch their website frequently for changes.

Response: ODFW will work with Weyco to see about possibilities to allow steelhead fishing.

Comment: We have a family farm with timber and cattle. We allow access to some hunters. We have a bear problem. Government trappers are most effective at taking bears (with dogs). Don't cut the program for government damage removal. Bears are stripping cambium and ruining trees. I support raising Wildlife Services' (WS) funds.

Comment: We are landowners in Coos County. We support elk and deer populations on our property. Predators kill sheep, ruin trees. ODFW must provide adequate funding for WS. Not enough funding for the program, plenty for OSP.

Comment: I concur with others. I've lost beef cows to bears, cougars, coyotes. ODFW needs to support WS. If someone kills a bear, give them a free bear tag.

Comment: I recently got enough points to draw a Beulah tag. It was inundated with people. Many without tags, some hunting in wrong units, some LOP hunters were in the general unit, off their lands. ODFW was not out patrolling during season. Need more ODFW presence in the field during hunt seasons to be eyes and ears for OSP.

Comment: I'm a Pioneer. Simplify the regulations. Utilize stakeholders that are active in the fisheries to simplify the regulations, not just staff. Provide something for the fishermen's dollar. If you build it, they will come. Provide more fish. We will pay more fees if there's something to catch. Willing to pay a few dollars for Pioneer License.

Comment: Support WS. Put WS higher on priority list for funding. WS benefit pays landowners back for the damage they suffer. I work for a private timber company, and it's not our intent to restrict access.

Response: WS went from #39 to #25 on our priority list, so it did get higher on the priority.

Comment: I'm a private landowner (LO), and we raise a lot of deer and elk, but predators are taking too many. Predator control will improve fawn survival.

Comment: Support WS. More deer and elk for hunters will mean you will sell more licenses. Predators eat our livestock and eat the income dollar and profit dollar of the LO.

Comment: As a recreational hunter, how many landowners don't allow hunting but still complain about predators? Many don't allow access. Support WS, but only if landowners allow hunting on their property.

Comment: Don't limit the open days of halibut fishing so much, because you force people to go out in bad weather.

Response: There is a limited number of halibut that Oregon can catch (by IHPC), so we have to limit days.

Q: Why can't we have lingcod and halibut on board on the same day?

A: The issue is enforcement of areas that are open to each species/species group.

Comment: I support the underpasses for mule deer on Hwy 97. Need to have one where Highway 58 hits Highway 97. There's always dead deer there. I support youth hunting/fishing proposal (\$10 fee). Wolf issue is a problem. The federal government is forcing that on Oregon. The feds should stop releasing wolves in Oregon. Wolves are outside of their range, and there will be problems. There are probably many more wolves in Oregon than we think.

Comment: One fish for halibut is not enough per day. A trip in the ocean is too much investment to go out miles for one fish.

Comment: Open up halibut for longer season and two per day. Utilize halibut tags to allow longer seasons. Don't force anglers out on bad days. Use the KISS principle: keep it simple, stupid. Halibut not worth it for the regulations imposed, and regulations are constantly changing. We should fish until quotas are filled, not three day openings.

Comment: ODFW should organize these meetings to take comment on specific topics at one time. For example, take hunting and wildlife questions and comments for a specific period of time, and then take fishing comments separately during the meeting.

Comment: Re-do the draw system for controlled hunts. Instead of preference points building each year that you don't draw, make a system where you get an additional "ticket in the barrel" for each year that you don't draw. That way, each subsequent year, your odds of drawing go up.

**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
May 28, 2014
ODFW Roseburg Office
Roseburg, Oregon**

ODFW Staff:

Roy Elicker, Larry Cooper, Tim Walters, Tod Lum, Laura Jackson, DeWaine Jackson, Meghan Dugan; commissioner Bob Webber

Oregon State Police:

Jeff Samuels, Dave Gifford, Don Frerichs, Lynn Withers

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Bob Webber

Douglas County Commissioner Susan Morgan

Local A&H Board Member Doug Bailey

Public Participants: approx. 55

Handouts to Participants:

- Tonight's power point slides
- ODFW Key Points about 2015-17 Budget and Fee Proposal
- Proposed Fee Schedules—Recreational, Occupational, and Miscellaneous Licenses
- Proposed New Licenses and Tags

Welcome and Introductions: Elicker

Agenda and Ground Rules: Cooper

Presentation:

- Oregon hunting, fishing and conservation highlights
- Budget overview
- Strategies for building a balanced 2015-17 budget
- Next steps

Budget Presentation Questions (Q), Answers (A), and Comments (C):

Q – Does the new youth license include Columbia River endorsement?

A – Yes

Q – Can you get around governor for your budget? Can we get out of letting general public vote on initiatives?

A – Oregon statutes give us direction. We work for the Governor and follow a budgeting process.

Q – Does the proposed budget include program enhancements or does it remain status quo or reduce?

A – We're not bringing forward any major enhancements. Governor's office may have enhancements they want.

Q – If legislature says no to general fund shift, how will we make up the 13M gap?

A – We may get a portion of the GF or may not get any. If we don't get it, those programs will be reduced to meet shortfall. Legislature will balance our budget one way or the other.

Comment from Douglas County Commissioner and former State Representative Susan Morgan – ODFW is expected to come in with a balanced budget and what will happen if we don't have it. Lobby groups can carry message. We have responsibility to have our voices heard.

C – A sizeable piece of Douglas County's economy is timber and livestock – predator control funding is important to us. How deal with Predator control in the budget?

A – We're asking for same amount we got from last biennium. About \$1M between Dept. of Ag and ODFW.

C – Counties in Southwestern Oregon are predominately safety net funded. With the absence of federal resolution, our ability to help bridge the gap in predator control funding is coming to end. We are working on a statewide program to establish predator control; takes time to develop it so it's critical to support these programs while we're working. Predator control dollars are very important to our economy.

C – Recreational hunting and fishing is a big part of our community. With cutbacks in jobs, tourism is increasingly important part of our economy. Small businesses (such as those in Winchester Bay) make or break depending on salmon seasons. Having a wide variety of fishing opportunities is critical to our economy and our families. I'm very happy to see the youth licenses in this budget. I also love the idea of a smartphone app; where you can fish, when and how --- making it simpler is so important.

Q – Fishing regulations come out in December and April rules are changed. Columbia River sturgeon – why can you only keep sturgeon on Wednesday through Saturday?

A – Columbia River regulations are very complex. We need to coordinate with Washington. We have guides and businesses that focus on sturgeon so we look at when most people go fishing.

Quota fishery. Two biggest fishing days Saturday and Sunday and that's probably how reasoning went – give them Sat and close Sun.

C – Complexity of regulations is why sales are down. Wants regulations more consistent.

C – Use trappers to get cougars instead of ODFW employees. I'd be disgusted with ODFW if I worked there. Days on end, do not see any animals.

C – Since 1994, deer numbers down. Predator control in eastern Oregon has increased ungulate population. In western Oregon, consider putting pilot programs to increase ungulates.

A – Will address high bear populations. Hope to encourage increased bear harvest.

C – Cat population is way out of control. If we brought houndsmen back, we can charge them more and they'd pay it to run their dogs. Not just hunters and anglers, it's everyone.

C – Kill wolves, don't study them.

A – In western Oregon wolves controlled by USFWS.

C – Extend bear seasons. Non-resident bear tag; let's extend seasons.

A – We have a lot of bear, if people want to come here and hunt then let's let them, that's why we reduced price. We want to encourage hunters. SW spring season is 4400 tags and looking at raising that. This year was good for bear harvest.

Q – Where does money for Columbia River endorsement go and what do we as sportsman get for it? Don't like not being able to keep wild salmon.

A – You're getting more fish; both wild and hatchery. Commercial fishers shifting to terminal fisheries.

Q – In eastern Oregon there's an agent program for houndsman to respond to damage. Can you put more hounds out?

A – There's the issue of lots of cougars and some who say there aren't enough. We're trying to get more hunters out in woods to hunt them. Some agents are locally available to use hounds.

Q – Understand there are 6,000 cougars in Oregon, but you want 3,000. Put more hounds out to reduce numbers.

A – Some of public want more, others want less. Initiative process in 1994 took away use of hounds. We reduced fees.

C – State game officers need to interact with people. Make regulations simpler.

C – Explore if there's more we can do. If we follow trends, the number of license buyers is going down. Reduction of young people. Need other initiatives to ensure we still have license buyers. Great website, but include something that is directed toward youth; separate state fishing record for youth; concerted effort to get younger people on advisory boards, committees, etc. All employees submit ideas on recruiting more young hunters and anglers. Use your website to ask the public for ideas.

Q-You are proposing status quo minus programs. Not much detail on what will be dropped. What are the details of proposed reductions? Surprised at proposed reduction of assistant district biologist. Need more detail on program reductions and rationale.

A – Asked for contact information to provide more detail

Q –How much will access fees at Weyerhaeuser impact resources? Approximately 4,000 elk tags in Tioga, but only 1,000 access permits. Can we lean on Weyerhaeuser for more funds?

A –We heard that at other meetings. They're private lands, and they have private land rights.

C – Move cougars from big game to predatory animals like bob cats. Won't cost you anything, would get varmints under controls. Increase Wildlife Services budget. Then we'll get those young hunters.

C – Include furbearer and trapping in the \$10 youth licenses.

Q – Is the predator control \$1M to protect public or private lands?

A – It is closer to \$450K for biennium, protects both public and private.

C – When you take the fun out of it (hunting/fishing), you quit. Need opportunity for success, and simpler regulations.

C – Like youth license.

C - Cormorants should be reclassified as invasive species.

C – There's a predator policy legislation HB 2624A coming through that gives ODFW opportunity to engage programs when conditions are met. It can be adopted by each county. Ask OHA and other groups to put pressure on legislature. Increasing predator management will help us all.

C – Absurd to think a coyote stays only on public or private land. Increasing predator management will help us all.

Q – A&H, 5,000,000 acres. What are you paying out, and is it worth it?

A – Information on contracts is available on line. If you want more information, please provide contact information.

C – Doesn't support pioneer license fee. Doesn't support fee increases.

C – Columbian white-tailed deer outcompeting black-tailed deer. ODFW has been planting them out, displacing black-tailed deer.

A – Formerly transplanted into historic range. Collars no longer functioning.

C – Run the agency like a business. If demand drops, a business does not raise prices. Understand the agency headquarters move but building looks plush.

Q – Decreasing clams in Umpqua. Were you aware of it and why is it happening?

A – Provide contact information. We will discuss with shellfish biologist and get back to you.

C – Raising fees is ok if we can fish like we did in the past. Does not like releasing wild fish.

Q – As a trapper, I release cougars out of my traps. Why can't we kill these cougars, using some of the allocated tags?

C – Have multiple tags for bears and cougars; based on population.

Q – Do you really have an accurate count on cougars?

A – We use the best information available to make our estimate.

Q – Did we meet quota on kill in north coast zone? Can we up those?

A – Yes, we're looking at that.

C – Tag sales went down because of the \$25 fee. Folks will drop out because of the cost.

C – On a nearby ranch, deer population and annual harvest has decreased dramatically. Most of it was hunt opportunity for youth. Habitat has not changed. It is the predators.

Q – If we can't kill cougars, can ODFW or houndsmen meet your quota?

A – We have some ability to do that in administrative removal zones; we can strategically id small areas and remove cougars.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Town Hall Budget Meeting
Thursday, May 29, 2014
Oregon Institute of Technology
Klamath Falls, Oregon

ODFW Staff: Roy Elicker, Chip Dale, Bob Hooton, Craig L. Foster, Mike Harrington

Oregon State Police: Captain Jeff Samuels, Sgt. Randy Hand

Public Participants: See attached sign-in sheet

Welcome: Roy Elicker/Chip Dale

Agenda:

- Welcome & Introduction
- Ground Rules
- Oregon Hunting, Fishing & Conservation Highlights
- Budget Overview
- Strategies for Building a Balanced 2015-17 Budget
- Next Steps

Budget Presentation Questions (Q) & Answers (A):

Comment: Opportunity for ODFW; there is lot of skepticism in this community as to whether ODFW really wants to listen to comments by the public, or does ODFW already have their minds set.

Elimination of Assistant District Fish Biologist position in Klamath Falls: Summation comments from about 25 to 35 people at the meeting to support saving the Assistant District Fish Biologist position:

- With the KBRA upcoming this would be the most ridiculous move; it would be a severe public relations problem. This position is important as it represents the Agency in the Klamath Watershed; the person in this position is the person on the ground.
- Actually with the increased water issued in the Klamath Basin, ODFW needs to add a position, not cut a position.
- Don't trade Cal Ripken, Jr.
- Grants being written are based on the work that this assistant position has done and helps provide important information and data.
- This position works on fish habitat and restoration throughout the county.
- The person in this position is the major support for the Red Band fishery.
- Can lose the Klamath Lake Fishery if this position is eliminated.
- Supports keeping the Assistant District Fish Biologist position in Klamath. He helped work on a habitat project, writing letters, getting grants and getting the work done. (Gave a handout of habitat project that the assistant fish biologist helped him get going.)

- John Fortune, 25 years as ODFW Biologist, concerned about the loss of the Assistant District Fish Biologist, the assistant positions are the guts of the agency
- Cannot replace Bill Tinniswood's specialized knowledge
- Cutting the position will essentially have ODFW leaving the Klamath Basin.
- The Klamath Basin is a unique fishery; the Assistant District Fish Biologist does much of the work monitoring and restoration work.
- Conservation is the key. Need money in budget for conservation of fish.
- Need position to monitor redbands, cannot rely on volunteers.
- Support of the Assistant Fish Biologist. Habitat and conservation work that he does and helps the fly-fishing clubs projects.
- Support for the District Assistant Fish Biologist position. Klamath basin has more pressing issues than possibly anywhere else in the state. We need that position.
- Proposed cuts of the Assistant District Fish Biologist positions should not be cut. These are very valuable positions. 220 filled position in the Salem Directory, hard to believe that all those positions are more important than the Assistant District Fish Biologist.
- 98% of the spawning fish in this area. Really important that conservation continues; keep the biologist to monitor.
- Not as many fish as there was 5 years ago. Need money in budget for conservation.
- People willing to donate money to pay for the assistant position.
- Resources for improving habitat for redband trout—upper basin 3rd best restoration area—fishery recovery efforts. Assistant District Fish Biologist is a vital person for doing surveys to provide input to the funders of restoration projects. Multi-million dollar funding into the basin.
- Volunteers have worked with him on Redband trout surveys. Low staff. World class fishing in the basin. Don't become top heavy – supply the staff in the field. Klamath County could be the 4th largest state.

Q: Buildings in Portland, do we still own them.

A: No they were sold.

Comment: Pioneer License residents of Oregon for 50 year. don't charge senior citizens who are on fixed incomes. ODFW can increase our sales of hunting & fishing licenses by drawing in California residents because they are in a severe drought. Reduce the non-resident licensing fees to increase the revenue with more licenses sold. Increase the catch limit or flexibility on some or all of the waters, the current limit of one fish reduces participation.

Comment: Klamath County Predator Damage Control Committee

- Don't cut the damage control position (Chuck Cleland)—significant drop in loss of cattle due to predation, since Chuck Cleland took the position. This position is invaluable to the public.
- Wildlife Services benefits wildlife and livestock
- Coyote & Cougar impacts to fawns—studies cited
- Benefit to cost ratio, population loss—Ranchers loss, big horn sheep loss on Hart Mountain due to coyotes and mountain lion predation.
- Concern about predator problems—Langell Valley—with the loss of Wildlife Services position and bird predation.

- Make cougar tags free

Comment: Concern about the loss of two Region Managers.

Comment: Concern about Administration increases and less Regional Staff.

Comment: Don't increase the mule deer tags the herds are just coming back.

Comment: Make Cormorants a game bird

Comment -- Pioneer License issue a little extreme. Someone who has lived in Oregon for 50yrs is not a Pioneer. Economy in Klamath Falls is really low, we are in a drought situation. Job losses and we want to increase fees. Hunting deer in the west....scout, spend time in the area....short season 14 days, rifle. Bow hunters have a lot longer season....Klamath Unit, Sprague Unit....hunting mule deer in this state, scouting, hunting pressure....puts you in with the crowd. Last OHA meeting biologist said the bow hunters getting longer season, not mentioned about the rifle hunters. Agrees with other person regarding keep funding for the predator control position.

Q: Our studies show that predation is increasing why cut the funding for that position. Predator control is increasing the populations of wildlife, why cut the position.

A: Fifty different programs that we took a second look at supplying funding for the Wildlife Predator Control Position. We are definitely trying to find funds. Counties are having to eliminate/cut the funding for predator control.

Comment: Klamath County now has wolves along with water and fish issues. Fish and Wildlife biologist and researcher positions "406 positions." Klamath County getting used to getting leftovers. We in Klamath County do not get the help for the problems that we have. Pitman Roberts funding for wolf problem. Funding for the Wildlife Predator control position. Don't eliminate positions, not only the Wildlife Predator Control Position but also the Assistant District Fish Biologist. Our agency appears to be growing with the FTE positions, but not in Klamath County.

Comment: Wolves in Klamath County we won't have any deer, elk.

Comment: Pioneer License/Disabled Vet---Qualifies for both licenses. Frustrating that over the years have bought licenses and tags. No wildlife. Fishing a joke. The regulations are bad.

Comment: Just bought an Idaho non-resident license—last year in Oregon he did not see Elk or Deer; saw signs of cougars instead. Cougar tags should be free.

Comment: Blue tongue epidemic in the late 80's. Wildlife Control position took several cougars off the ranches and coyotes. Deer population recovers very quickly, and ultimately causing a lot of damage. Fishing regulations need to be changed, too few fish for the effort.

Comment: Federal agencies are not helping us with the issues in the basin. We need to have ODFW here in the basin to help the people of Klamath Basin with the issues we face. Sage grouse and wildlife viewing, make them pay for that.

Comment: Pioneer not concerned about paying for the license. All the deer in Klamath County are living in the suburban area and City of Klamath Falls. Enormous problem of coyotes and cougars and need help controlling them. Slaughter of deer/elk on Hwy 97. We need to save them. We need the same protection as the Bend area on our stretch of Hwy 97. Husbands buying tags for wives, daughters, mothers and using their tags. Use the tags to get a party tag to go hunting in a specific area for hunting. Come down on a Saturday and have a 4 or 5 hour meeting instead of weeknight.

Q: \$20,000 saving on buying Fish Food?

A: We have been buying an additive for fish food; we will stop doing that.

Q: If buying multi-year license won't we be short in funds over the life of the license?

A: Generally people don't buy them every year so this would increase revenue but we will be tracking over time.

Comment: Drawing on the tags, 20 years to draw an antelope tag, Whitehorse Unit, 50 tags available 150 people put in for it, shouldn't it take less time to draw a tag. Losing fees because of the problem with issuing tags, he thinks there is a better way.

Comment: Any way that we can make the license one piece of paper for the license, endorsement, and validations. No problem with tags.