

Natural Resources Subcommittee Members
Joint Ways and Means
Legislative Fiscal Office:
900 Court St. NE, H-178 State Capitol, Salem OR 97301

Chair Finley, Commissioners, Director Melcher. For the record I am Ken McCall, Field Director for Oregon Hunters Association.

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) strongly urges the approval of Policy Option Package (POP) #128 - Lower Deschutes River Ranch Acquisition that is a part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) budget. It is our understanding that this POP will be reviewed by the Natural Resource Ways and Means Subcommittee. This POP would allow for the expenditure of \$1.29 million that comes to ODFW from the Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration fund.

Benefits associated with the land acquisition include the following:

- Helps to protect, enhance, and restore aquatic and riparian habitats to benefit native fish and wildlife and desired game species.
- Helps to protect, enhance, and manage upland habitats to benefit native wildlife and desired game species
- Provides public access for use and enjoyment of high value wildlife habitat in central Oregon to include fishing, hunting, rafting, hiking, and general wildlife viewing.
- Allows for adaptive long-term management of resources by ODFW through ongoing monitoring activities and data collection.
- Provides opportunities for interpretation and environmental education that will foster visitors' appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of the wildlife area's fish and wildlife species and their associated habitats.
- Would prevent future land uses that are incompatible with maintaining healthy bighorn sheep and mule deer populations within the Deschutes River canyon (i.e., sheep grazing, wind farming, etc.).
- Would help to augment the management efforts by ODFW on the contiguous Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area.

OHA represents over 10,000 hunters throughout Oregon. With likely increases in license fees, hunter attrition, and decline in big game species, sportsmen are asking, "What has the State done for fish and wildlife lately?" Supporting this acquisition would be a big step toward answering that question.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at (541) 479-8631.

Sincerely,

Fred Craig, OHA President

Michelle Tate

From: Clair Klock <cklock@conservationdistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 2:58 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Land Acquisition Caution

August 7, 2015

Chair Finley, Commission members and Director Melcher,

I'm Clair Klock from Klock Farm and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. I am firm supporter the land acquisition program such as the Lower Deschutes River.

A number of other Soil and Water conservation districts now hold conservation easements and own land that has written conservation goals for working farm, forest and wildlife habitat. *I do hope the board and staff of ODFW will be on guard that the acquisitions that you make are not nullified* by the actions of conservative groups that wish to privatization local, state, and federal land containing wildlife habitat that is already in public ownership . This includes national grasslands and national forest. A glaring example of this was the sale of 2 tract of the Elliott State Forest that contained old growth and mature forest. Trading of small acreages of mature forest for multiple acres of young forest in not the best for ecosystem services or wildlife diversity. I would hope the you and the other state agencies would begin a dialogue to prevent this destruction of habitat.

Thank you.

Clair

503.210.6007



To: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

RE: National Wild Turkey Federation support for Lower Deschutes River Ranch Acquisition

Date: August 7, 2015

Testimony Provided by: Mikal Moore, NWTF Regional Biologist

The Oregon Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation supports the proposed Lower Deschutes River Ranch Acquisition by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This addition to the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area will have the multiple benefits of conserving 10,000 acres of wildlife habitat while enhancing public access. The acquisition would have the effect of creating approximately 25,000 acres of contiguous public access on the west side of the Deschutes River.

This property contains important habitat that should be conserved for wildlife benefits, including a remnant stand of oak woodland, a habitat that has almost disappeared in eastern Oregon. Most of the historic oak woodlands in this watershed have been lost to agricultural conversion, and we do not want this property to risk a similar fate. This parcel contains five key Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats that would be conserved and enhanced by ODFW for the benefit of our state's wildlife.

The acquisition of this property will be a win for Oregon's outdoor public, particularly the hunters who fund wildlife conservation through excise taxes and hunting license fees. As hunter numbers decline, so does our ability to manage the increasingly marginalized wildlife of our state. Lack of access has been identified as one of the primary reasons for people giving up on hunting. Acquisitions such as the proposed Lower Deschutes River Ranch are a step in the right direction for Oregon to provide more opportunity for our hunters.

The National Wild Turkey Federation believes so strongly in the need to conserve and enhance upland wildlife habitats and preserve our hunting heritage that we have created an initiative: *Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.* You will be doing exactly that by supporting the acquisition of the Lower Deschutes River Ranch by ODFW.

National Wild Turkey Federation

P.O. Box 530 • 770 Augusta Road • Edgefield, South Carolina 29824 • Phone: (803) 637-3106 • Fax: (803) 637-0034

www.nwtf.org

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P O Box 487
Corvallis, Oregon 97339-0487
July 19, 2015

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S. E.
Salem, Oregon 978302

Subject: Support for the purchase of the Lower Deschutes River Ranch.

Dear Commissioners:

We fully support and encourage you to purchase the Lower Deschutes River Ranch.

We support the acquisition of this property because:

- **The physical characteristics of these lands provide desirable wildlife and fisheries habitat.**
- **The area and its habitats would be a significant beneficial addition to the existing Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area.**
- **Together the two properties would enhance the area for:**
 1. **Wildlife and fisheries.**
 2. **Public access.**
 3. **The management of wildlife, fisheries, habitat and the public.**

We pledge a \$2,500.00 contribution to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife towards the purchase of the Lower Deschutes River Ranch.

For the betterment of the natural resources in this area and the betterment of present and future human generations, please act favorably towards the acquisition of this property.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gail S. Woosley
Gail S. Woosley

Charles W. Woosley
Charles W. Woosley



March 4, 2015

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Andy Weibel	Walter Chuck

Website

www.oregonfnaws.org
www.facebook.com/orfnaws

"Putting Wild Sheep
on the Mountain"

At the July 20th 2014 board meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, our membership made a pledge to assist ODFW with acquiring \$50,000.00 in funds toward the purchase of the River Ranch Project on the lower Deschutes River (Limmeroth project). The River Ranch contains a tremendous amount of excellent bighorn sheep habitat on the lower west side of the Deschutes River.

At the present time the access for hunters on the lower west side of the Deschutes is limited. The acquisition of the Limmeroth property will very significantly affect the ability for hunters to access and hunt from the west side of the river. This is very important for hunters in general and bighorn sheep hunters in the lower Deschutes River canyon in specific, now and in the future.

The addition of this property to ODFW's Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area will really boost the agencies ability to protect and preserve wildlife habitat on the lower Deschutes river, in perpetuity.

Bringing noxious weeds under careful monitoring and control in a number of areas on the new property will be extremely valuable.

Your support for this most significant project would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

George Houston
President
Oregon Chapter, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

WITNESS REGISTRATION

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

August 7, 2015, ODFW 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR

EXHIBIT D

PUBLIC HEARING ON: EXHIBIT D: Lower Deschutes River Ranch Land Acquisition

NAME (Please Print)	MAILING ADDRESS (Please Print)	AFFILIATION (Please Print)	TELEPHONE (Please Print)
* Ken McCall	9170 NW Tranway ^{Covealls Dr 97330} Hillsboro OR	Oregon Hunters Association	503 602-1819
Tom Wild	22825 NW Chestnut 97122	Trent University	503 583-1102
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with LAIR KLOCK	931 NE Salzman Rd ^{Covealls Dr} Bend OR	Ruckelshaus ^{Surviv} Wildlife	503-210-6007
Mikal Moore	1021 1021 NE Bennington, Bend, OR	NWTF	541-550-7074
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Nelston Matthews	805 SW Industrialway H1, Bend OR 97202	Trust for Public Land	541-322-0153
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Gregor Houston	49714 SE GATWAY Rd, SANDY OR	OR-FALCONS	(503)-826-9109