



**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Public Correspondence  
Received as of May 12, 2020**

**From:** Y Lind <yancy.lind@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2020 2:32 PM

**To:** ODFW.Commission@state.or.us

**Subject:** 2021-23 Budget Development Comments

I am the EBAC representative from the Restoration & Enhancement Board. In that capacity, I made limited comments using the official EBAC comment form. Below are my personal comments. Of course, it seems apparent that the current budget creation process is about to be upended by the economic impact from the pandemic, but thought I would submit comments as a citizen and angler nonetheless.

I have been an EBAC member for multiple budget cycles and attended town hall meetings in Bend before that as the president or board member of Central Oregon Flyfishers. The primary theme in all these meetings has been the same: a lack of adequate funding to meet ODFW's goals due to declining hunting and fishing license sales even while the population of Oregon continues to increase. In order to make up for budget shortfalls in the past ODFW has increased license fees. A top priority this year is to not request further increases, a goal I question.

Tapping into \$4M of reserve funds will leave only 2-2.5 months of operating cash at the end of 2023, a dangerously low level. This is before any budget cuts that may come due to the economic impact of the pandemic. Also, while I understand that licenses are not cheap, they are not expensive relative to all the other costs of fishing, hunting, and related travel. More importantly, ODFW's own economists have determined that there is little or no price elasticity for license sales. In other words, keeping prices flat will not increase sales and modestly increasing fees will not decrease sales.

As you know, the real issue is not license fees, it's that a declining percentage of Oregonian's have interest in hunting and fishing for a wide variety of reasons. The proposal to reorganize the agency into three divisions, fish, wildlife, and a new habitat division, is an intriguing strategy for addressing this decline. Clearly, one way to increase participation is to increase opportunity. Improved habitat is central to this effort. It will also help to engage the majority of Oregonians who want to view wildlife but have no interest in fishing or hunting.

Stating the obvious, the big hole in this plan is lack of funding. The Habitat Division is contingent on additional funding from the legislature via a Policy Option Package. The Habitat Division seems important enough to warrant increasing fees to pay for it. After all, without habitat, we have nothing.

Thanks for the opportunity to make comments on the budget.

Yancy Lind

541-788-5514

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**From:** Billy Duke <blduke1268@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, January 11, 2020 5:22 PM

**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us

**Subject:** Fees

Your raises in fees are ridiculous. Your hurting the poor and increasing the chances that people will have to poach

just to fish. I have always been proud of our state and spoken highly of our Fish and Game. I'm so frustrated I can no longer do that.

Lee  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Dave Watson  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 5:51 PM  
**To:** ODFW Commission  
**Subject:** Fees

It has come to my attention that fees have gone up again this year due to poor hunter recruitment when in fact your climbing fees are pricing alot of Oregon hunters and families out of being able to take part in our own outdoor activities and alot of Oregon hunters are choosing to go out of state where fees, quantity and quality of game is more attractive. Until Oregon can start actually putting funding towards big game enhancement instead of bigger offices, predator enhancement and raising fees, the Oregon hunter numbers will continue to decline. I am speaking from a lifelong Oregon outdoorsman's perspective and have personally witnessed alarming activities from both O.D.F.W. employees and agency decisions helping to degregeate Oregon's quality and quantity of big game. The time has come to quit making excuses and misleading the residents of Oregon and start acting to improve the experience of sportsmen. The area that I live in has seen an over allocation of tags, little to no predator control, mismanagement of big game herds and far fetched excuses. I have witnessed the rapid decline of OUR mule deer herds in both numbers and quality. I have witnessed the decline of big horn sheep on Hart Mountain to the extent of an unhuntable population due to predators and some elk herds with not one calf in it. Most people are not going to be regulated to death and hand over more and more money to hunt a forked horn buck, they will simply go somewhere else where numbers and quality are better or quit altogether. I saw this first hand this past deer season where so many people couldn't find a single deer and packed up and went home. Please start taking care of OUR big game before it's too late or find an agency that has the personal interest to do so. ( it appears other states such as Idaho has been proactive.) Thank you for your time from a concerned and fed up Oregon resident and outdoorsman.

*Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid*

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**From:** Rich P <rjsfishin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 3, 2020 5:42 PM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Fishing license prices

What the hell is going on w/ the fishing license prices ?? I'll be fishing w/o one this year !! This sucks bigtime. Time we do something about this rippoff ! \$46 for salmon stamp, and there ain't no salmon !!

Richard 541-679-9644Winston

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**From:** Gmail <[seanmstxs@gmail.com](mailto:seanmstxs@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 18, 2019 9:00 AM

**To:** [odfw.info@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.info@state.or.us)

**Subject:** Military Hunting

Once upon a time I followed my ambition to follow my gut and serve my country and joined the US Navy. After 6 years of service numerous duty stations throughout the country and a tour of duty in the Saudi desert during the Gulf War, I finally returned home to deal with a myriad of health issues including cancer from a chemical attack during the War. With that said never at anytime during my Military career did I think I was ultimately serving a particular state, district or region of the country. It was always Country! Over the years I have spent extended periods of time throughout our great country. I find myself drawn to Oregon for hunting and all it has to offer. I felt compelled to write this letter because it's not often that something really strikes me as BS. Especially after having paid a lot of money for my 2019 hunting license and all the problems that occurred having to do with it. Well this concept of resident/ non resident, the state of OR offers discounted hunting licenses for in state disabled military residents, but nothing for out of state. I would almost guarantee if you ask any disabled service-member why did you go in the service, there reply would never be for there state. I don't understand how you can discriminate on a natural resource (discount). Based on the Internet Oregon has 14.4m + national forest acres. National Forests are largely forest and woodland areas owned collectively by the American people through the federal government, and managed by the United States Forest Service, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Can you please explain to me why all Military/ Disabled Veterans are not entitled to the same benefits (discount) as every other person resident or not in your state? This whole concept is really not well received nor substantiated!

Sean Weaver

2061 SE Talbot PL

Stuart FL, 34997  
843-697-5888

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**From:** D G SCHAFFNER  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 5:01 PM  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Angling Tag increases  
Adult Combined Angling tag: Increase, 13.58% and don't even fish for halibut or sturgeon  
Hatchery Salmon/Steelhead Harvest Card: Increase, 1579% and you continue to close hatcheries  
and  
discontinue planting some rivers  
Two Rod Validation: Increase, 14.28% and this money grab costs ODFW nothing  
As a 70 yr old gent, who has hunted and fished in Oregon since I was a boy, I find these  
increases  
difficult to accept especially with diminishing opportunity  
and resource supplement by ODFW.  
Thank you,  
Dennis G Schaffner Jr

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**From:** CHRIS PETERSON  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 2, 2020 7:30 AM  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** New fee schedule  
Obviously, there is no one on the board with strong retail experience, or you would  
know that you can realize more revenue from more people paying a smaller fee than  
fewer people paying a larger fee.  
And you've also now taken away any incentive for grandfathers to teach their  
grandsons and granddaughters how to fish. Thanks.  
Chris Peterson  
St. Helens, OR

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**From:** [jonandstacischwarz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonandstacischwarz@yahoo.com) <[jonandstacischwarz@yahoo.com](mailto:jonandstacischwarz@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:49 PM  
**To:** Odfw WebSales <[OdfwWebSales@coho2.dfw.state.or.us](mailto:OdfwWebSales@coho2.dfw.state.or.us)>  
**Subject:** Price increase every year?  
Hello, I am a citizen and would like to know why our government feels it necessary to raise the  
cost of permits

every year? It seems the price goes up, making it more difficult for families to provide fish and game for there families. I am probably not the only person concerned about this, and feel that we should have the right to hunt and fish without having to pay large amounts of money to do so. I know this email is falling on deaf ears because there is always a reason to make excuses. But it would be nice not be gouged every year. Please pass this on to the head of your dept. I would like everyone to read this.

Thank you for your time.  
Jon  
*Sent from my LG Mobile*

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From: hoaglin.1@gmail.com <hoaglin.1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 9:04 AM  
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us  
Subject: Budget

ODFW,  
As hunting and fishing license sales continue to decrease and the number of people moving here (Bend in particular) from California skyrockets. Housing cost skyrocket with California pricing being the norm in Central Oregon and new developments bulldozing once lovely scenic areas. It is beyond obvious that the desire is to sit in a well maintained manicured lawn and look at the areas we recreate and fish/ hunt. ODFW need to capitalize on this and not suffer budget loss. ODFW should impose a tax on new housing development to fund our fish and wildlife efforts. Without question. The number of us actually fishing and hunting will continue to decrease as the day use and onlookers continue to increase. Hardly ever leaving their cars or viewing parking lots. We have a severely damaged steelhead and salmon return, Deschutes River being manipulated for a whitewater surf park (what!?!?!:), and pollution from “floaters” en mass. There are hardly any fish to fish for that move through Bend. The budget does not need to effect the country residents who fly fish and recreate responsibly and purchase licenses. There should be a surge in budget reflecting the surge in Bend as a travel destination and lower cost housing market for Californians. Why is ODFW allowing so many to enjoy central Oregon as a viewpoint, a dining on the Deschutes

playground, and letting the money slip away from such a rich and powerful source/ opportunity for fish and hunting. There should be a direct increase in budget reflecting the increase of cars at our trail heads and land being developed.  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Cat Koehn <catfish@efn.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2019 9:20 AM  
**To:** odfw.commission@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Thanks for doing your job!  
All of Oregon's wildlife species are worthy of protection stop putting 90% of your budget into animals that can be killed -please Catherine Koehn  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Jasson Ray <jassonray26@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 8:58 AM  
**To:** odfw.info@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Disabled american non veteran  
I just found out that ofdw does not issue free hunting and fishing liscense for disabled American's only for disabled veterans.i have ALS lough gerhigs disease and am an avid fisher and hunter to find out that ofdw is doing this is so wrong under the americans with disabilities act all disabled americans shall be treated equally if you give somthing to one disabled person you by law have to give the same to another.there is no gray area in this law if you give a free hunting and fishing license to a disabled veteran under the protection of the ADA act iam dupposed to get the same thing.i would like ofdw to honor my rights and issue me a fishing license and a deer hunting liscense for bow hunting(archery)iam asking ofdw to do the right thing i would rather not have to go to court and deal with litigation.because it will have the same results in the end.the only other solution is for ofdw to stop at once of issuing the free hunting and fishing licenses to disabled veterans immediatly.you cant be biased and give one group of disabled Americans one thing and not give it to another that is wrong.please find a way to issue me a liscense or a discount.

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From: Adam Konovalov <awkw05@icloud.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:05 PM  
To: [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
Subject: Fees

With the price of all the new added fees and the cost of the license and tags, I sure hope your morals are in the right direction to improve the fishing hatcheries and not just putting the extra cash it into your back pockets like most government ran agencies do.  
Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Ken H  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Fees

Well Congratulations.  
You are finally pricing this old guy out of hunting and fishing here.  
I can go out of state cheaper and have a better success rate..  
65 and 50 years to get a discount. What are you guys thinking...  
70 and a discount. Lets hope we are alive at 70...

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Time is like a river.  
You cannot touch the water twice,  
because the flow that has passed will never pass again.

**Ken - 503-749-1466**  
**Haley Farm**  
**12284 Hatch Ln SE**  
**Aumsville, Oregon 97325**  
**" WE GROW GARLIC**  
**Elephant Garlic and Hatch Purple Striped Garlic**  
Retail Packaged - FOOD GRADE or Bulk Packaged for Seed Stock  
See our Web Site for all the details.  
[www.elephantgarlicworld.com](http://www.elephantgarlicworld.com).

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