

Exhibit B

**Public Correspondence Received as of
June 1, 2022**

Oregon Fish Passage Task Force

ODFW

ODFW Mailroom

May 23, 2022

MAY 25 2022

MAY 25 2022

Mr. Curt Melcher, Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Director's Office

Received

Dear Director Melcher:

Department staff informed the Fish Passage Task Force of the recent appropriation of \$8 million for fish passage and screening projects to combat the effects of drought conditions on the State's fisheries (Drought Funds). We further understand that these funds are to be spent by the end of the 2021-2023 biennium. In addition, the appropriation of \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the newly developed and approved culvert agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) adding some \$4.2 million for mitigation projects creates a huge workload for the Fish Passage and Screen program staff that has been reduced in size over the last few biennia. The Task Force is concerned about the potential for the Department to have difficulty in effectively applying the funds in a manner that responds to the legislative expectations.

During the Task Force deliberations two specific suggestions were raised to provide some form of immediate assistance. The Department could consider:

1. Working with existing position authorities in the Fish Division to put together a temporary position and directly appoint an additional staff position to assist in the development, selection, and contracting projects for the Drought Funds.
2. Working with the Legislative Fiscal Office to determine the potential for carrying the funding over as "capital construction funds" with a longer appropriation time.

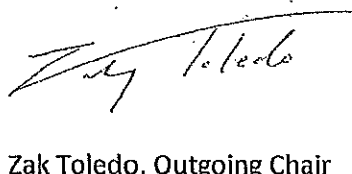
Beyond the immediate needs, The Task Force is concerned about the ability of the Department to meet its fish passage obligations in a timely manner with the current staff. Given the significant federal funding for infrastructure, there is a highly likely increase in demand for project review. The Task Force is very supportive of the Policy Option Package to replace the positions lost in the last biennium; however, we believe additional resources will be required to be responsive to the needs of Oregonians and the state's fisheries in the coming years.

The Task Force unanimously supported the suggestion to create greater capacity for the program and would welcome an opportunity to meet with the Director's Office and Fish Division leadership to discuss ways to implement our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Kenneth F. Bierly, Chair



Zak Toledo, Outgoing Chair

c. Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director
Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator



**OREGON CHAPTER
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

DATE: May 28, 2022
FROM: Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society
SUBJECT: ODFW 23-25 Biennial Budget
TO: Curtis E Melcher, Director ODFW

Dear Director Melcher,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed Budget for the 2023-2025 biennium. We are a society of professional biologists in the fields of wildlife management and science, and we work hard to include and educate those who are currently students, or in early entry positions, to assist their development in being competitive in related fields of the biological sciences.

We believe the base programs that are funded to address the management of wildlife species have been adequate over the years, but with the ever-increasing demands on our wildlife resources and their habitats, much more needs to be done. You specifically asked for input on the Policy Option Packages (POP) and our comments are summarized below:

Diversity and Inclusion

We are strong supporters of inclusion in our programs and see this POP as something the Department has needed to address for many years. If funded, we see some of our efforts dovetailing well with ODFW's through workshops and educational projects.

Habitat Protection and Restoration

These activities have always been a priority of ORTWS and we urge you to make it a priority in your final budget proposal. The positions you are requesting address critical issues that are expanding on an annual basis, such as, climate adaptation and drought planning and geographic information systems to map and prioritize habitats for planning efforts. Close coordination with federal agency land managers is critical particularly in light of the climate change effects resulting in catastrophic wildfires. As federal lands are managed to reduce fire threats, the needs of wildlife habitat and protection should be a priority in any planning effort and the proposed positions in this POP should be major participants.

Oregon Conservation Strategy

As you know, ORTWS has been actively involved in the funding and development of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) program, donating over \$10,000 to assist in obtaining matching funds from the Oregon legislature. With the expansion of funding during the most recent short session of the legislature, making the coordinator's position permanent is critical to the long-term success of OCRF. The additional biological positions requested in this POP would finally get species of greatest conservation concern the attention needed to implement projects that meet their survival needs, as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. This would be our top priority POP.

Emerging Species Issues

Considerable effort has gone into the restoration of Oregon's declining mule deer herds. Many negative impacts have been identified relative to their drop in numbers, such as road impediments, poaching and habitat loss. It is time for planning and implementation efforts to address these issues, as well as address how the Department determines hunting harvest levels to be more in concert with the biology of the animal. We strongly support the full-time mule deer coordinator position and offer our assistance in development of the next mule deer plan update. Additionally, under the Limitation / Position Reconciliation POP, Mule Deer Research and Data Management, we strongly support the request to repurpose existing, unused agency positions to accomplish mule deer research and data management needs funded with USFWS-Pittman Robertson funding and those positions associated with the West Region Wildlife Research program.

In regards to the Wildlife Coexistence Program, although a much-needed program, we would see it as a secondary priority if the Department was allowed a limited number of POPs. However, a priority for us within this POP is the package requesting \$300k to support a wildlife rehabilitation grant program. Wildlife rehabilitators have played an important role in wildlife recovery efforts and outreach and education to the general public, while getting little financial support from agency programs.

Core Agency Support

We see the upgrade of the ODFW website proposal as something necessary to inform and educate the general public in a more user-friendly manner. There are currently many unnecessary steps one must negotiate to get to the information desired. At the same time, the website has vastly improved over the years as new programs have been added or enhanced. Social media and related internet efforts have reached many constituents for those able and willing to participate in these venues. For those who must rely on other means of communication with the Department, such as print media, television or radio, there are limited direct communications from ODFW. Programs, such as *Oregon Field Guide*, have often provided some of the best "stories" of what's going on with the Department. Realizing that some in the legislature may find these forms of outreach an unnecessary added expense, we believe that adding this form of outreach may actually benefit the State and help reduce some of the animosity that has grown between the rural and urban constituencies of ODFW and propel the science of wildlife management more broadly in the public eye. The *Oregon Wildlife* magazine was a very popular outreach/education effort with all segments of Oregon's society for the Department before it was cut for budgetary reasons in the early 2000's. We recommend adopting similar actions in your core agency support POP.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment. We wish you the best of luck in the coming budgeting processes.

Sincerely,

Leland Brown
President
ORTWS Board of Directors

From: Sandra Tzintzun Hernan <stzintz2@uoregon.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 5:39 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>
Cc: Debbie Schlenoff <schlenof@uoregon.edu>
Subject: Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package

To whom it may concern,

I write this email to express my thanks for ODFW bringing forth the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package as this promotes a positive change in the future of conserving the natural beauty of Oregon. While including a promotion of outreach for the community to further educate the public on conservation issues and relaying the message of "Living with Wildlife", incorporating people rather than directly separating the both humans and wildlife, within conservation.

Which is why I strongly support the inclusion of this within the ODFW 2023/24 budget as it works more with the community and provides further outreach to help with conservation and delves into reducing human-wildlife conflict more through promoting a middle ground between the two to co-exist. Along with, the implementation of the grant programs towards supporting wildlife rehabilitation centers further helping the native species within our state and raise awareness of species within our environment promoting a positive connection between people and nature. Most importantly what this funding package provides is a new audience to present these issues to putting these conservation issues within the limelight and further on people's radar through the Living with Wildlife campaign, the inclusion of 5 co-existence wildlife biologists, and more money going to wildlife rehabilitation centers that already to outreach of their own.

As connecting and working with community is the most essential part of a successful conservation strategy as said within the Oregon Conservation Strategy, "Build connections between the diverse communities of Oregon to help support a statewide commitment to conservation of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats."

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Tzintzun Hernandez

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Bowler <scott.r.bowler@icloud.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 7:25 AM

To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Wildlife Coexistence Package! Full support for a. great idea!

Hi the ODFW Folks—

Please register my strong and enthusiastic support for the Wildlife Coexistence proposal currently being crafted. I live in Sisters, and am a recently retired science and environmental educator, now volunteering by researching, writing about, and working on natural history explorations, habitat enhancement projects, and assessments of wild and scenic river noiminees and wilderness study area certification.

I know first hand, because I see it daily, that conflicts between wildlife and our ever increasing human population are on the rise, due to our often poorly thought out and mis-managed infrastructure developments (such as, for one heinous example, the Thornburgh Resort Proposal on Kline Butte near here). Increased traffic, shrinking and fragmented habitat, poaching, behavioral disruption, invasive species and a host of other human-caused problems beset beleaguered wildlife. I believe that this program prosal is a major step in mitigation and remediation—well done for proposing it. Let's get it moving forward!

Thanks for your work.

Scott R Bowler
205 West Heising Drive
Sisters, OR 97759

From: Robert Bernstein <bobbo1946@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:33 AM

To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Wildlife Coexistence Package

Unclear to me if this still timely or has been decided.

Wife and I heartily support this funding. The Planet is shrinking and the interface of Humans and Wildlife needs to be addressed..

Robert B. Bernstein

Laura Webb

SE Portland

From: audrey bergsma <audznd@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 7:30 PM

To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: Yes for the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package

To ODFW,

Thank you for bringing forward the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package. I strongly support its inclusion in the ODFW budget. This package will help engage new audiences in conservation, promote wildlife stewardship, and reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

Yours truly,

Audrey Bergsma
Portland, OR 97239

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Received May 11, 2022 to May 25, 2022

**Subject: I Strongly Support ODFW's Wildlife Coexistence
Funding Package**

**76 individuals submitted the attached letter
(*List Attached*)**

From: Scott Kennedy <Scott.Kennedy.523408440@p2a.co>

Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 5:04 PM

To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>

Subject: I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package

Dear Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Thank you for bringing forward the Wildlife Coexistence Funding Package. I strongly support its inclusion in the ODFW budget.

This funding package will help ODFW shift toward wildlife management that's focused on human-wildlife coexistence and wildlife rehabilitation. The funding package will also help engage new audiences in conservation, promote wildlife stewardship, and either prevent human-wildlife conflicts or provide humane and effective solutions for wildlife when conflicts occur.

I support including this funding in ODFW's 2023/24 budget.

Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Scott Kennedy

6027 Sir Lancelot Ct NE

Keizer, OR 97303

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From	Subject	Received	
stéphanie rossenu	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	Wed 5/25	44 KB
Dianne Ensign	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/17/2022	44 KB
Linore Blackstone	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/17/2022	44 KB
Amy Roberts	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/14/2022	44 KB
CYNTHIA MUSCAT	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/14/2022	44 KB
James Rodell	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/13/2022	44 KB
s. cook	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/13/2022	43 KB
Nancy Weil	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/13/2022	44 KB
Linda Medeiros	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Angie Heide	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	44 KB
Valerie Snyder	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Constance Lee	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Shanti Maffey	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	44 KB
jolly hibbits	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Tom Coffee	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	44 KB
Alton Roundy	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Wendy Vanderwerf	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Allison Everitt	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
George Snipes	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	44 KB
Margo Slaughter	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Sandi Cornez	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Jacqueline Jenkins	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	45 KB
Diana Saxon	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/12/2022	44 KB
Larry Narlock	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Charlotta Ball	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Carla Hervert	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Dana Bleckinger	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Paul Daniello	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Edwin Johnson	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Mark Wheeler	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Steve Aydelott	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Charlie Graham	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Heidi Hart-Zorin	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Kristine Riccardi	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Diane Luck	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Melanie Feder	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Ann Nowicki	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB

Jay Humphrey	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Monica Gilman	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Donna Grubbs	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Sharon Bichler	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Marie Bayus	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Debra Wilson	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Gm Whiting	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Michael Renfrow	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Lee Zucker	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Dana Petre-Miller	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
David KELLEY	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Rebecca Hollenbeck	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Deborah Kreuser	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Tori Herbst	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Shandra Officer	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	46 KB
Nina French	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
SASHA Hjerpe	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Kathleen Ruiz	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Debbie Snow	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Marilyn Costamagna	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
robin anderson	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Michael Noack	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Nancy Dudley	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Zed Langston	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Nancy Fleming	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Maureen O'Neal	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Juanita Rinas	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Debra Smith	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Dr. Prince	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Joseph Breazeale	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Jovy Jergens	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Lois White	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
J BVD	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Tracy Richards	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
Sandra Joos	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Randy Harrison	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB
kim davis	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Nancy Carl	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	44 KB
Scott Kennedy	I strongly support ODFW's wildlife coexistence funding package	5/11/2022	45 KB