



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Tour:
Thursday, April 18, 2024; 8:00 AM
Terimore Motel
5105 Crab Ave. W
Tillamook, OR 97141

Meeting:
Friday April 19, 2024 – 8:00 a.m.
Port of Tillamook
Officer’s Mess Hall
6825 Officer Row
Tillamook, OR 97141

1

2 *Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the Commission.*

3

4 Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those
5 attending part or all the meeting included:

6

Mary Wahl, Chair	Davia Palmeri, Interim Director
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Vice Chair	Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director of Administration
Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner	Nick Myatt, East Region Manager
Mark Labhart, Commissioner-Virtual	Chris Kern, West Region Manager
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Commissioner	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
Kathayoon Khalil, Commissioner	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
Leslie King, Commissioner	Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
	Casey Thomas, Captain Oregon State Police
	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General
	Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General

7

8 **MEETING**

9 On Friday, April 19, 2024, at 8:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife
10 Commission (the Commission) meeting to order.

11

12 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

13

14 Field Reports – in written form only; *this report is available in the meeting materials and at*
15 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/April%202024%20Field%20R](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/April%202024%20Field%20Report.pdf)
16 [eport.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/April%202024%20Field%20Report.pdf)

17

18 **EXPENDITURE REPORT**

19

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Administration

20

21 Shannon reported the month ending February 29, 2024, ODFW’s unrestricted cash balance
22 finished at \$55.4 million and restricted cash came in at \$62.5 million, for a total of \$119.9 million
23 in custody at State Treasury. Unrestricted cash increased approximately \$5.9 million from the prior
24 month. The agency is still working on getting reimbursement for all Mitchell Act (\$6.5 million)
25 and Pacific Salmon Treaty Implementation Program (\$2.6 million) paid from unrestricted cash
26 balance in 2023.

27

1 On April 4 the agency hosted the first of two public meetings to begin receiving public input on
2 development of ODFW 2025-27 Agency Request Budget. The second public engagement meeting
3 will be held on May 16th.
4

5 Policy option packages have been provided to the Governor’s Office, and ODFW expects to
6 continue to receive direction and feedback from the Governor’s Office over the next few weeks.
7

8 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
9 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/Financial_Report.pdf

10 **ADAPTING TO CLIMATE AND OCEAN CHANGE REPORT**

11 Advancing Resiliency of Species in the Face of a Changing Climate: Blue Carbon, Habitat, and
12 Working Lands

13 Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
14 Joanna Lyle, Chum Salmon Reintroduction Project Assistant
15 Kregg Smith, ODFW Senior Policy Analyst
16
17

18 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
19 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/Climate%20Report%20-%20Blue%20Carbon.pdf
20
21

22 **ANNUAL WOLF REPORT**

23 Roblyn Brown, Wolf Coordinator
24 Derek Broman, Game Program Manager
25 Brian Wolfer, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
26

27 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
28 https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2023_Annual_Wolf_Report_4-2-24.pdf
29 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/Presentation_2023%20Commision%20Wolf%20Annual%20Report.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/Presentation_2023%20Commission%20Wolf%20Annual%20Report.pdf)
30
31

32 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

33 Davia Palmeri, interim director, requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules.
34 The five (5) temporary rules were previously adopted under the director’s emergency action
35 authority.
36

37 635-023-0101

38 Close recreational sturgeon retention in the John Day Pool

39 Adopted 4/1/2024: effective 4/1/2024 through 9/23/2024.

40 This amended rule will close the recreational white sturgeon retention fishery on the mainstem
41 Columbia River in the John Day Pool (John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam) and all
42 adjacent tributaries.
43

44 635-042-0145, 635-042-0170

45 Adds periods to Youngs Bay and expands hours in South Channel Select Area commercial
46 fisheries.

47 Adopted 4/4/2024: effective 4/5/2024 through 7/31/2024.

1 This amended rule will add three periods in the Youngs Bay Select Area commercial fishing
2 site and expand the hours in the South Channel Select Area. The additional periods/time will
3 provide commercial fishers opportunity to harvest salmon while prices remain high.
4

5 635-023-0125

6 Extend the recreational spring salmon season in the Columbia River downstream of Bonneville
7 Dam

8 Adopted 4/4/2024: effective 4/5/2024 through 6/15/2024.

9 This amended rule will extend the on-going recreational salmon fishery in the Columbia River
10 downstream of Bonneville Dam through April 9.
11

12 635-023-0125

13 Modify the recreational spring salmon season in the Columbia River downstream of
14 Bonneville Dam

15 Adopted 4/9/2024: effective 4/10/2024 through 6/15/2024.

16 This amended rule will extend the on-going recreational salmon fishery in the Columbia River
17 downstream of Bonneville Dam through April 11.
18

19 635-041-0020

20 Modify the annual closure period for Treaty subsistence fishing in the Fifteen-mile Creek
21 Sanctuary

22 Adopted 4/12/2024: effective 4/16/2024 through 6/15/2024.

23 Under permanent rule, the annual closure date for treaty subsistence fishing around the mouth
24 of Fifteen-mile Creek extends from November 16 through June 15. This amended rule allows
25 subsistence fishing in this area to resume on April 16 to allow treaty tribal members access to
26 spring Chinook.
27

28 Action:

29 Commissioner King moved to ratify the five (5) temporary rules set forth in the tan agenda.

30 Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, six (6) in
31 favor.
32

33 COMMISSION UPDATES

34

35 OTHER BUSINESS: REVISED RECRUITMENT PLAN

36 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve the Revised Recruitment Plan for the Fish and Wildlife
37 Director position dated April 19, 2024, as proposed by Interim Director Davia Palmeri.

38 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, six (6) in
39 favor.
40

41 PUBLIC FORUM

42 This part of the agenda was for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda. The Commission
43 does not act on items brought to their attention in this forum.
44

45 *2023 Annual Wolf Report*

46 *Bethany Cotton, Conservation Director; Cascadia Wildlands*

1 *Sristi Kamal, Western Environmental Law Center*
2 *Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity*
3 *Stormy Warren, Humane Society*
4 *Paul Engelmeyer*
5

6 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**
7

8 Action:

9 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve the March 15 and March 22, 2024, meeting minutes
10 with continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner King seconded the
11 motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.
12

13 **Exhibit B: OREGON GAME BIRD REGULATIONS**

14 The Commission adopted the game bird season regulations for 2024-25.

15 Brandon Reishus, Migratory Bird Program Coordinator

16 Mikal Cline, Upland Bird Program Coordinator
17

18 Presentation: Mikal presented the 2024 -25 upland gamebird regulation proposals. The
19 presentation included information on habitat and population status for upland game birds,
20 including sage grouse and proposed upland gamebirds hunting seasons, including wild and
21 beardless turkey season; and special hunts.

22 Brandon provided a presentation on the 2024-25 migratory game bird regulation proposals. The
23 presentation included information on habitat conservation and population monitoring, harvest
24 monitoring, and proposed regulation changes.
25

26 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

27 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20B_PDF%20FILES/Ex%20B%20Presentation%202024%20Game%20Bird%20Regulations_Revised%204-19-24.pdf
28
29

30 Public Testimony:

Tyler Dngannon, Oregon Hunters Association

Tristan Henry, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
31

32 Rulemaking
33

34 Action:

35 Commissioner Labhart moved to adopt staff proposals as shown Attachment 3 including the
36 changes shown in Addendum 1; amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 051, 052, 053, 054, 060 and
37 095 as proposed by staff in Attachment 4; and reduce the bag limit of harlequin ducks to the
38 harvest of one statewide. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was
39 carried four (4) in favor- Spelbrink, Labhart, Hatfield-Hyde, Wahl; two (2) opposed – King,
40 Khalil.
41

42 **Exhibit C: PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD GRANT PROGRAM PROJECT**
43 **APPROVAL**

44 The Commission approved recommendations for funding the PFA Grant Program Projects
45 from the 2023 Grant Solicitation.

1 Andy Spyrka, PFA Grant Coordinator
2 Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
3

4 Presentation: The chair and vice chair of the PFA Grant Committee provided introductory
5 remarks on the grant program, the successful first solicitation of grants, and diversity of projects
6 recommended for funding. Following these remarks, Andy provided the Commission with a
7 presentation on Private Forest Accord (PFA) Grant Program. The presentation provided
8 background information on PFA grant program and Fall 2023 grant solicitation submissions and
9 recommended projects.

10
11 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
12 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20C_PDF%20FILES/Exhibit%20C_Attachment%203_Public%20Correspondence.pdf
13
14

15 No Public Testimony

16
17 Approval

18
19 Action:

20 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde moved to approve the 25 projects recommended for funding by the
21 PFA Grant Program Mitigation Advisory Committee as described in Attachment 2. Commissioner
22 Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was carried five (5) in favor-Labhart, Spelbrink,
23 Khalil, Hatfield-Hyde, Wahl; one abstained- King.
24

25 **EXHIBIT D: OREGON CONSERVATION & RECREATION FUND PROJECT**
26 **APPROVAL**

27 The Commission approved expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation
28 Fund (OCRF) of \$495,000 for Palensky Wildlife Underpass approved at the April 2
29 meeting of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee.

30 Reva Gillman, Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund Coordinator
31 Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
32

33 Presentation: Reva provided the Commission with a presentation on Palensky Highway 30
34 Wildlife Underpass project. She provided a project summary, details on project funding, and
35 described the OCRF Committee review process.
36

37 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
38 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20D_PDF%20FILES_OCRF%20Project/Exhibit%20D_Presentation_Project%20Apporval_Palensky%20Hwy%2030%20Frog%20Crossing.pdf
39
40
41

42 No Public Testimony

43
44 Approval

45
46 Action:

1 Commissioner King moved to approve expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation
2 Fund of up to \$495,000 for the project Palensky-Hwy 30 Wildlife Underpass. Commissioner
3 Khalil seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

4
5 **EXHIBIT E: OREGON CONSERVATION & RECREATION FUND PROJECT**
6 **APPROVAL**

7 The Commission approved a total expenditure of \$20,000 from the OCRF to support
8 insurance requirements for a limited number of projects that were previously approved
9 projects.

10 Reva Gillman, Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund Coordinator
11 Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator

12
13 Presentation: Reva provided information to the Commission on an identified need for an insurance
14 contingency in the program. She described how this contingency has created a financial barrier for
15 some smaller grantees, particularly for newer organizations representing underserved and minority
16 communities. The additional funds requested will to cover these unanticipated insurance
17 requirements. ODFW removed this barrier to participation in conservation and outdoor recreation
18 and addressing an important equity issue.

19
20 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
21 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20E_PDF%20FILES/Ex](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20E_PDF%20FILES/Exhibit%20E_Presentation_OCRF%20Insurance%20Request.pdf)
22 [hibit%20E_Presentation_OCRF%20Insurance%20Request.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20E_PDF%20FILES/Exhibit%20E_Presentation_OCRF%20Insurance%20Request.pdf)

23
24 No Public Testimony

25
26 Approval

27
28 Action:

29 Commissioner Khalil moved to approve expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and
30 Recreation Fund of up to \$20,000 to support insurance requirements for a limited number of
31 projects that are awarded funding by the Commission. Commissioner King seconded the motion,
32 and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

33
34 **EXHIBIT F: REDMOND LAND ACQUISITION**

35 The Commission approved acquisition of 3.86 acres of land in Redmond, OR.

36 Nick Myatt, East Region Manager

37
38 Presentation: Nick described Central Oregon Facility needs, Redmond's DAS Industrial Land, and
39 details on the transaction of the Redmond Interagency Land Acquisition.

40
41 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
42 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf)
43 [Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf)

44
45 No Public Testimony

46
47 Approval

1 Action:
2 Commissioner King moved to approve the acquisition of the 3.86-acre DAS property in Redmond
3 and direct staff to proceed to closing pending acceptance of the appraisal report, final approval of
4 federal funding, and completion of all processes required under Oregon law for land acquisition.
5 Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

6
7 **EXHIBIT G: MINAM PHASE 3 LAND ACQUISITION**

8 The Commission approved acquisition of 1,097 acres of land in Union and Wallowa
9 Counties for addition to the Minam River Wildlife Area.
10 Nick Myatt, East Region Manager

11
12 Presentation: Nick provided the Commission with an overview of the Minam River Phase 3
13 Acquisition; including a property map, funding, and a timeline. Nick described the significant
14 conservation importance; high value recreation opportunity; how the property compliments
15 existing Wildlife Area; and that 100% of Minam River and historic trail now permanently
16 protected in his presentation.

17
18 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
19 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf)
20 [Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20F_PDF%20FILES-Redmond%20Land%20Acquisition/Exhibit%20F_Presentation_Redmond%20Acquisition.pdf)

21
22 No Public Testimony

23
24 Approval

25
26 Action:
27 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde moved to approve the acquisition of the Minam River Phase III
28 property, approximately 1,097 acres in Wallowa and Union Counties, and direct staff to proceed to
29 escrow closing upon completion of all processes required under Oregon law for land acquisition.
30 Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

31
32 **EXHIBIT H: 2024 SPORT AND COMMERCIAL PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS**

33 The Commission adopted the 2024 sport and commercial fishery regulations for Pacific
34 halibut.
35
36 Christian Heath, Pacific Halibut and Sport Groundfish Project Leader
37 Lynn Mattes, Marine Fisheries Section Leader

38
39 Presentation: Christian provided the Commission with a presentation on 2024 Pacific Halibut
40 Fishery Regulations. The presentation included information on harvest levels, 2024 Pacific Halibut
41 Catch Sharing Plan, sport season dates, and commercial opening dates.

42
43 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
44 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20H_PDF%20FILES/Ex](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20H_PDF%20FILES/Ex%20H%20Halibut%20Presentation%20Web.pdf)
45 [%20H%20Halibut%20Presentation%20Web.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20H_PDF%20FILES/Ex%20H%20Halibut%20Presentation%20Web.pdf)

46
47 No Public Testimony

1
2 Rulemaking

3
4 Action:
5 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the staff recommendations for the 2024 sport and
6 commercial Pacific halibut fisheries as shown in Attachment 3. Commissioner King seconded the
7 motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

8
9 **EXHIBIT I: 2024 OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES RULEMAKING**

10 The Commission adopted rules establishing regulations for recreational and commercial
11 salmon fishing seasons in state-managed waters of the Pacific Ocean.

12 Christine Mallette, Ocean Salmon Program Manager

13
14 Presentation: Christine’s presentation provided the Commission with information on the annual
15 PFMC process for Salmon Fisheries Management including objectives and timelines. The
16 presentation also included 2024 criteria and projected actuals of most constrained stocks, 2024
17 Ocean Commercial Seasons, and 2024 Ocean recreational seasons.

18
19 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
20 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20I_PDF%20FILES/Ex%20I%20Presentation%20Ocean%20Salmon%20Web.pdf

21
22
23 No Public Testimony

24
25 Rulemaking

26
27 Action:
28 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to amend OAR 635 Divisions 003 and 013 as proposed by staff in
29 Attachment 3. Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in
30 favor.

31
32 **EXHIBIT J: COMMERCIAL SUBTIDAL BAY CLAM HARVEST IN**
33 **TILLAMOOK BAY**

34 The Commission set new annual landing limits for the commercial bay clam dive fishery in
35 Tillamook Bay established by temporary rule into permanent rule, and housekeeping
36 change to title of related rule.

37 Mitch Vance, Shellfish Project Leader

38
39 Presentation: Mitch provided the Commission with a presentation that included information on the
40 recent history of Commercial Bay Clam Fishery, subtidal Bay Clam landing limits, intertidal Bay
41 Clam harvest, intertidal Cockle harvest restrictions, and Tillamook Bay Clam harvest.

42
43 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
44 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/04_Apr/EX%20J_PDF%20FILES/Ex%20J%20Bay%20Clams%20Presentation%20Web.pdf

45
46
47 Public Testimony:

S. Miles; permit holder
Douglas Alm, permit holder

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

Rulemaking

Action:

Commissioner Spelbrink moved adopt the amendments to OARs 635-005-0290, 635-005-0355, and 635-005-0385 as proposed by staff in Attachment 3. Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Whal adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.