

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**January 20, 1999 Hearing Room 50**

**4:30 P.M. Tapes 9 - 12**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gary George, Chair**

- **Sen. Thomas Wilde, Vice-Chair**

**Sen. Tony Corcoran**

**Sen. Joan Dukes**

**Sen. Ted Ferrioli**

**Sen. Bill Fisher**

**Sen. John Lim**

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT: Brad Harper, Administrator**

- **Kristal Hatton-Nease, Administrative Support**

**ISSUES HEARD: Informational Meeting**

**Oregonians for Food and Shelter**

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- **Terry Witt**

**Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**

**Agency Overview**

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- **Jim Greer,  
Director**
- **Implementation  
of Strategic  
Operational  
Plan**
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- **Jack Graham,  
Deputy Director**

## **Public Testimony**

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- **John Pung, Elk  
City, Oregon  
Resident**
- **Oregon  
Cattlemen's  
Association**
- **Oregon  
Sportsmen's  
Defense Fund**

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Tape 9, A</b>		
006	Chair George	Opens committee meeting at 4:33 p.m. Explains the committee will hear from Terry Witt regarding information posted on the Oregon State Fire Marshal Office's website.

**Oregonians for Food and Shelter**

009	Terry Witt	Oregonians for Food and Shelter. Submits <b>[EXHIBIT A]</b> . Explains that as of January 11, 1999 information on Hazardous Substance Information Surveys is available from the State Fire Marshal Office's website at <www.sfm.or.us>. Says he has given this information to the committee administrator. Explains the changes to the hazardous substance surveys for 1999.
043	Chair George	Asks if it is a statewide inventory.
045	Witt	Responds yes. Says there are exceptions for certain businesses that sell at the retail level. Adds that, for example, a business does not have to report inventory on the sales floor.
047	Chair George	Asks if the stores report their overall totals.
050	Witt	Responds most stores are serviced through a distribution warehouse and that warehouse would have to report all material on hand. Adds stores, like COSCO or Home Depot, where the actual retail floor is also the warehouse, the information does not have to be reported.
059	Chair	Asks if their computers would have that data.
060	Witt	Replies yes.
017	Jim Greer	Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Presents testimony and submits <b>[EXHIBITS B, C, D and E]</b> . Issues discussed:
065	Greer	Explains ODF&W functions and strategic plan.

109	Greer	Give an update on ODF&W's Strategic Plan and explains ODF&W's involvement in the salmon restoration plan.
167	Greer	Discusses ODF&W's point of sale machine and building a business plan
230		Questions and answers among committee members about switching meeting times from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. because of time conflicts with other committees. The committee resolved to continue meeting at 4:30 until it becomes necessary to meet at 5:00 p.m.
306	Greer	Describes ODF&W legislative proposals for the 1999 session. Submits <b>[EXHIBIT F]</b> . Discusses HB 2099: definition of a "Person with a Disability."
352	Sen. Fisher	Comments there is unfairness to this type of concept.
385	Greer	Agrees. Says the issue of cost will not be much of the discussion. Adds the federal government requires ODF&W to provide the same opportunities for everyone to ODF&W activities.
<b>Tape 10, A</b>		
030	Sen. Fisher	Reiterates concern for this type of legislation.
044	Greer	Continues testimony. Additional legislative concepts discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HB 2100: Hunting and Fishing License Fee Increase</li> <li>2. HB 2101: Fish Habitat Improvement Tax Credit</li> </ul>
057	Sen. Dukes	Asks what groups were represented.

064	Joe Rohlader	Assistant to the Director for Governmental Affairs, Oregon Department to Fish and Wildlife. Replies many groups took part including water users (Portland General Electric, Oregon Water Resources Congress, and the City of Coos Bay), conservationists (Oregon Trout, Trout Unlimited), and several fishing groups (Steelheaders, Association of Northwest Steelheaders).
079	Sen. Fisher	Asks if there are any farmers in the group.
083	Rohlader	Answers Pete Test of the Oregon Farm Bureau is part of the group.
088	Greer	Continues testimony on ODF&W legislative concept HB 2103: Fish Endowment Fund
109	Sen. Dukes	Asks if she votes for the increase in the hunting and fishing licenses what additional ODF&W services can she tell her constituents they will be receiving.
118	Greer	Replies replacement positions, increased fishing opportunities for youth in warm water areas, improvements in surveys, and maintenance and improvement of four hatcheries which had previously been slated for trout reduction. Adds he can provide the committee with more information on additional ODF&W services.
171	Sen. Lim	Asks how Oregon fees compare to Washington's fees.
174	Greer	Responds Oregon is on track with Washington. Adds Oregon non-resident tags are slightly higher, but just by a few dollars. Explains differences in regards to other tags.
204	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks what is the total amount of money to be made from the increase in license fees.
210	Greer	Replies approximately seven million dollars.

212	Sen. Ferrioli	Asks if there has been an analysis to determine what has caused the erosion in income from the agency.
215	Greer	Answers yes. Explains there have been changes in fishing opportunities.
241	Sen. Ferrioli	Comments on the erosion of money from the agency. Says he sees there are fewer opportunities, and beyond that, ODF&W costs are increasing. Asks if the department has attempted to survey people who have left the fishing/hunting system.
263	Greer	Responds when the department put the proposal together, they surveyed the general public and current licensees. Says there was an indication that ODF&W participants were at core levels. Says there is an overall lack of interest in hunting and fishing in Oregon.
309		Questions and answers between Director Greer and Sen. Ferrioli regarding what ODF&W is doing to add value to recreational opportunities in Oregon.
379	Sen. Fisher	Asks who would come from out of state to buy a cougar tags at such a high price.
380	Greer	Responds that's why the department is reducing the tag price.
396	Sen. Fisher	Comments it doesn't seem like there are enough incentives to get people to hunt. Adds that kids would rather play video games than hunt or fish.
<b>Tape 9, B</b>		
018	Sen. Dukes	Asks who decided how much the license fees would increase.

021	Greer	Answers the department conducted an analysis on where the equitable increase should be spent.
024	Sen. Dukes	Asks if the department reached out into all regions around Oregon.
027	Greer	Replies yes. Explains the department focused on the equitability within western states.
063		Discussion among committee members and Director Greer about opportunities offered by ODF&W. Director Greer outlines several programs, including: free fishing weekends around Oregon and a survival program for women and youth.
087	Sen. Fisher	Comments on the fee increases. Says he used to take his personal staff on a deep sea-fishing trip at the end of each session but now it is too costly.
113	Greer	Responds the department is getting back to the value added plan. Says the department is explaining to people where the opportunities are. Adds more law enforcement is needed in the field and adds that is significant part of the fee increase.
143		Questions and answers between Sen. Dukes and Director Greer about lowering the cost of popular fishing and hunting licenses. Director Greer explains that over the long term, as shown in other states, hunting and fishing are at a social maximum.
223		Discussion between committee members and Director Greer regarding the reasonable sustained population of seals. Director Greer comments the department is hoping to receive some of the Measure 66 Funds to conduct more studies on the seal population. He also discusses a possible reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Act. Mr. Rohlader said a Joint Resolution is being prepared to ask Congress to reauthorize the Marine Mammal Act in a more liberal way.
Tape 10, B		

036	Sen. Lim	Asks how many tags have been sold in the last five years. Asks if the number has decreased.
039	Greer	Responds he can get that information for the senator.
040	Chair George	Asks if the department has any information on how it has acted proactively to deal with the pinnipep problem it would be helpful to the committee also.
067	Jack Graham	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Gives an overview of ODF&W's strategic plan. Explains why it is important. Says first update occurred in March 1998. Explains highlights of the strategic plan.
143	Chair George	Asks if there is ODFW people lobbying in Washington D.C.
157	Greer	Answers that was a recommendation that came out of the strategic plan but that no, the department doesn't have any people in Washington D.C.
184		Questions and answers between Sen. Wilde and Director Greer about the proposed excise tax on outdoor equipment. Greer explains excise taxes are already placed on hunting and archery related gear. He adds that from an excise tax on camping and outdoors gear, an additional \$300 million in revenue would be split between the 50 states.
290	Sen. Wilde	Asks if there will be any potential fee increases in relation to shellfish harvesting.
297	Greer	Responds no.
306	Chair George	Asks if the department can sustain the state police patrol.



316	Greer	Replies yes, if the license fee is approved. Explains \$1.1 million of the raised \$7 million would go to the Oregon State Police for their budget. Adds there has been an additional \$2.45 million approved by the Governor's budget out of lottery money.
329	Chair George	Asks if the department could sustain the State Police budget if the department's budget is severely depleted.
332	Greer	Comments the department would have to do a balancing act between the State Police's programs and ODF &W programs and see where are the general public's priorities.
344	Sen. Fisher	Comments on off shore oil exploration previously mentioned.
<b>Tape 11, A</b>		
036	John Pung	Elk City, Oregon Resident. Submits and reads <b>[EXHIBIT G]</b> , which expresses concern regarding ODFW fishing practices. Discusses the number of fishing licenses sold in 1998.
109	Pung	Discusses the miscalculation of Bottomfish in Yaquina Bay.
154	Sen. Fisher	Asks if there is also bass in Yaquina Bay.
155	Pung	Responds no. Continues testimony on the miscalculation of bottomfish.
236	Chair George	Comments on Mr. Pung's testimony. Says he read the strategic plan and it seems vague.
247	Pung	Says several years ago there was a slaughter season on deer. Adds ODF&W

		gave out ample doe tags. States hunting in his area has gone down by 90%.
258	Chair George	Asks if he means because of the closures of roads.
260	Pung	Replies yes. Discusses Georgia Pacific (GP) closing their gates.
294	Sen. Fisher	Comments on the legal responsibility. Says he can't blame GP for closing their gates. Details a hunting trip to Klamath falls.
398	Pung	Comments closing gates for no reason is not right.
<b>Tape 12, A</b>		
011	Glen Stonebrink	Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Expresses concern over the funding for the Green Forage Program.
048	Chair George	Asks what is the total budget for the Green Forage Program.
050	Stonebrink	Says he doesn't know. Says he can get the information. Adds Director Greer has been helpful to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.
056	Chair George	Asks if the Association wants a detailed idea of how the money will be spent.
068	Stonebrink	Replies yes.
079	Sen. Wilde	Comments there will be a detailed account in the Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee.

102	Rod Harder	Executive Director, Oregon Sportsmen's Defense Fund. Submits <b>[EXHIBIT H]</b> . Explains the exhibit, a letter he sent to Strategic Planning Initiative Committee Chair, Jim Greer. Urges the legislature to fund the state police package.
166	Sen. Fisher	Comments on the increase of hunting and fishing licenses
192	Chair George	Asks how much the strategic planning initiative cost.
195	Harder	Replies that would be more appropriately answered by ODF&W.
211	Chair George	Asks if the committee could get an answer on that (from Director Green).
219	Chair George	Adjourns meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Brad Harper,  
Administrative Support Administrator

#### **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A - State Fire Marshal Offices website information, Terry Witt, 20 pp.**

**B - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Newsletter, Jack Graham, 4 pp.**

**C - ODFW Strategic Plan Update, March 1998, Jack Graham, 4 pp.**

**D - ODFW Strategic Plan Update, March 1999, Jack Graham, 5 pp.**

**E - ODFW Strategic Operational Plan, Jack Graham, 21 pp.**

**F - ODFW 1999 Agency Bills, Jack Graham, 6 pp.**

**G Ò Written testimony, John Pung, 12 pp.**

**H Ò Letter to ODF&W Director, Ron Harder, 5 pp.**