

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 21, 1999 Hearing Room 50

4:30 P.M. Tapes 13 - 16

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gary George, Chair

Sen. Thomas Wilde, Vice-Chair

Sen. Tony Corcoran

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Sen. John Lim

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Bill Fisher

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Harper, Administrator

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Administrative Support

ISSUES HEARD: Oregon State Police ñ Fish & Wildlife Division

Budget Overview

- **Capt. Lindsay Ball**
- **Oregon Sportsmenís Defense Fund**
- **Oregon Hunters Association**
- **Lincoln County Camping, Fishing, and Hunting Society**
- **Oregon Guides and Packers Association**
- **Curry Guides Association**

Road Closures

Access and Habitat Board/Presentation of 1998 Report

- **Beth Waterbury, Executive Director**

- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Oregon United Sporting Dog Association
- Lincoln County Camping, Fishing, and Hunting Society

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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
Tape 13, A		
005	Chair George	Opens informational meeting at 4:35 p.m.
<u>Oregon State Police ñ Fish & Wildlife Division Budget Overview</u>		
011	Capt. Lindsay Ball	Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Division. Submits and reads [EXHIBIT A] . Discusses the purpose and history of the Fish and Wildlife Division.
061	Ball	Explains the cost of Fish and Wildlife officers and what the Governor's budget proposes to spend on the Fish and Wildlife Division.
111	Ball	Comments on what the Fish and Wildlife Division is doing to protect Oregon's fisheries resources.
131	Ball	Explains the ODFW Fund Transfer to Oregon State Police-Fish and Wildlife Division and Fish and Wildlife Division staffing levels.
161	Sen. Corcoran	Asks if there are any positions not reflected because they are in the salmon plan.
167	Ball	Answers officers assigned to the salmon plan are included. Adds seasonal employees and cadets are not reflected in the budget.
199	Ball	Discusses the Governor's recommended budget for Fish and Wildlife Division for the 1999-2001 biennium.
247	Ball	Proposed staffing levels proposed to the Governor (Attachment A) and Budget status (Attachment B)
309	Ball	Explains the programs, clients, and services of the Fish and Wildlife Division and talks about the law enforcement summary from November 1998.

330		Questions and responses between committee members and Capt. Lindsay Ball regarding the enforcement of wildlife laws and whether the National Marine Fisheries Service is satisfied in the job Oregon ODFW officials are doing.
390	Ball	Provides additional information on what how Oregon is doing in terms of enforcing wildlife laws.
Tape 14, A		
011		Questions from Sen. Ferrioli and Sen. Dukes regarding the Governor's recommended budget and the notion that all natural resources budgets will receive some of the Measure 66 funds.
083	Sen. Dukes	Asks what Oregon is buying with the Measure 66 money.
086	Ball	Comments on fund shifting. Replies Measure 66 funds would buy 23 and 5 officers.
117	Sen. Dukes	Asks if the if legislature takes half of the Measure 66 money, what would the Fish and Wildlife Division be losing.
120	Ball	Answers 8 fish and wildlife officers.
124	Sen. Dukes	Asks if Measure 66 money is tied directly to personnel.
129	Ball	Responds yes.
130	Chair George	Says there must be priorities as to where the OSP money will go and that was one of the reasons the committee invited Capt. Ball to this meeting. Asks if \$2,450,000 is going to be the total cost of operation from the Governor's budget.
155	Ball	Responds yes.
157	Chair George	Comments the money has to come from somewhere.
170	Rod Harder	Executive Director, Oregon Sportsmen's Defense Fund. Supports the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division's budget.
188	Sen. Dukes	Comments it must be frustrating to keep buying the same people.
190	Harder	Replies yes. Continues testimony, saying the need has been demonstrated and the OSP budget should have consideration by legislature.

237	Sen. Corcoran	Reiterates OSP provides a great level of service. Says in his area of Oregon OSP Fish and Wildlife officers give quick response. Adds he has met most of the officers in his area.
266	Al Elkins	Oregon Hunters Association. Supports the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division's budget.
299	Ed Johnston	President, Lincoln County Camping, Fishing, and Hunting Society. Explains his organization's difficulty in dealing with Lincoln County OSP officers. Submits [EXHIBITS B and C] .
<u>INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILL</u>		
340	Sen. Corcoran	Expresses concern about receiving natural resources bills in the Water and Land Use Committee and land use bills in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Explains why.
354	Chair George	Clarifies LC 2439 may not be assigned to this particular committee, but that the committee needs to introduce it so it can have a bill number assigned to it.
360	Sen. Lim	Asks who is sponsoring this draft.
364	Chair George	Explains the committee will sponsor the bill if it is introduced as a committee bill.
368	Sen. Ferrioli	MOTION: Moves LC 2439 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill.
		VOTE: 6-0 EXCUSED: Fisher
390	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
Tape 13, B		
<u>Oregon State Police's Fish & Wildlife Division Budget Overview</u>		
002	Phil Donovan	Oregon Guides and Packers Association. Comments on how OSP's Fish and Wildlife Division helps to protect Oregon's natural resources. Introduces Steve Byerlin.
015	Steve Byerlin	President, Curry Guides Association. Gives credentials. Says he supports the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division's budget and explains why.

067	Chair George	Asks if he is concerned about proposed fee increases of licenses.
071	Byerlin	Responds yes. Says he would not be opposed to hardship licenses.
111	Sen. Ferrioli	Comments on the trend in wildlife management in regards to consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Adds there have been many policies that seem to discourage hunting and fishing.
159	Byerlin	Agrees. Says 30% of his business comes from internet.
<u>Road Closures</u>		
199	Beth Waterbury	Executive Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Access and Habitat Board. Submits [EXHIBITS E and F] .
245	Waterbury	Describes how the Oregon Access and Habitat Program functions and lists current board members.
302	Waterbury	Discusses the six regional advisory councils and program grantees and coordinators.
343	Chair George	Comments on the relationship between property owners and hunters.
354	Waterbury	Continues testimony on funding sources.
393	Waterbury	Discusses the Access & Habitat Program expenditures and the cooperator cost share.
Tape 14, B		
044	Waterbury	Discusses the hunter access summary: over 320,700 hunter use days provided and over 3.8 million acres of private lands open for public hunting access.
072	Waterbury	Comments on individual access and habitat projects and project distribution.
094	Chair George	Comments he hears from people that public land keep being taken away from people. Asks how Oregon is doing in regards to access of public property.
113	Waterbury	Explains there will be problems keeping up with maintaining public access.
142	Chair George	Asks if there is a record of all roads closed.

154	Waterbury	Replies that would fall back to the public agencies. Adds the information could probably be attained. Adds information on access programs. Discusses Access and Habitat Board strategies.
219	Charlie Stone	Assistant State Forester, Oregon Department of Forestry. Reads and submits [EXHIBIT G] . Discusses requirements of the Forest Practices Act.
270	Stone	Discusses Oregon's interaction with federal lands road systems and says a majority of forest road closures are occurring on these roads. Comments on the history of forest roads on state forest management by the Department of Forestry.
311	Stone	Comments on voluntary actions through the Oregon Plan for salmon and watersheds and the Oregon Plan Accomplishments 1996-7. Says Oregon and most industrial forest landowners have also volunteered to implement the Road Hazard and Risk Reduction Project on their lands.
384	Stone	Discusses the Oregon Plan road improvement work between 1996 and 1997 and the Oregon Plan for salmon and watersheds road and culvert improvements.
422	Chair George	Asks if the culvert and road closures chart would reflect the actual amount of roads not having access.
427	Stone	Replies it is the total amount of roads that a person is not able drive on. Continues testimony on the current direction for road management on state forestland. Says the Department of Forestry has undertaken a large road inventory project on state forests to identify risks to fish and water quality from roads. Adds one of the guiding principles of the Oregon Department of Forestry roads is that access systems be as efficient and cost effective as possible.
Tape 15, A		
025	Chair George	Comments it appears road closures are becoming a big issue.
044	Scott Willbrecht	Oregon Department of Forestry. Presents testimony on the department's management authority. Says the department manages approximately 4,000 miles of forest roads throughout Oregon. Adds the department has a large database of information on roads that could harm fish and water quality. Says road maintenance is expensive.
084	Chair George	Asks if such problems would have been taken care by the sale of timber.
090	Willbrecht	Answers yes.
091	Stone	Adds timber sale revenue is the sole source of funding for the Department of Forestry's road maintenance and state forest management.

099	Chair George	Says if Oregon places more constraints upon the potential to manage the forest for harvest the budget problems will only become worse.
112	Willbrecht	Says the department is at the end of the long range forest management plan. Describes the types of roads that are good candidates for closure.
136	Chair George	Comments keeping things to minimum is what makes people nervous about maintaining the access.
139	Stone	Comments he is a hunter and a citizen who likes to access the forest and tells the committee people can access the land to hunt and fish, they just need to walk in to the area.
155	Chair George	Agrees.
157	Rod Klawitter	President, Oregon United Sporting Dog Association. Reads and submits [EXHIBIT H] . Expresses concern for the unwillingness of ODF & W to carry out their charge in regards to public lands. Discusses the Mt. Hood National Forest road closures.
239	Chair George	Comments some of the roads in the Mt. Hood National Forest looks to be highly improved.
240	Klawitter	Replies most of these roads we built in the day of commercial logging operations. Adds many roads are paved roads.
276	Chair George	Comments on the road closures being in a relative position to the greatest population center (Portland) of Oregon.
345	Ed Johnston	President, Lincoln County Camping, Fishing, and Hunting Society. Submits [EXHIBIT I] . Comments on Big Creek Reservoir in Lincoln County.
382	Chair George	Asks if the roads are accessible during hunting and fishing season.
387	Johnston	Replies no.
389	Chair George	Comments the Senate Water and Land Use Committee will hear this information also.
406	Johnston	Comments he agrees with joining with private landowners for hunting. Adds public access to public lands should not be restricted.
479	Chair George	Says this sounds like it could be problem statewide.

486	Rod Harder	Responds it is.
TAPE 16, A		
023	Chair George	Comments on the discussion that has taken place at this committee meeting. Adjourns meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Brad Harper,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ Written Testimony, OSP Fish & Wildlife Division Capt. Lindsay Ball, 27 pp.

B ñ Written Testimony, Ed Johnston, 71 pp.

C ñ Pictures, Ed Johnston, OVERSIZED.

D ñ LC 2439 Draft, Staff, 1 p.

E ñ ODFW "Backgrounder" Newsletter, Beth Waterbury, 4 pp.

F ñ "Oregonís Access and Habitat Program" Brochure, Beth Waterbury, 12 pp.

G ñ Written Testimony, Charlie Stone, 6 pp.

H ñ Written Testimony, Rod Klawitter, 7 pp.

I - Pictures, Ed Johnston, OVERSIZED.