

TASK FORCE ON FUNDING FOR FISH, WILDLIFE RELATED OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION

Oregonians have a deep connection to the outdoors.

Crabbing in Yaquina Bay, fishing for wild steelhead on the Deschutes, walking along sandy beaches, birdwatching at Malheur, hunting elk in the Wallowa's or hearing a Western Meadowlark enrich our lives and our economy. It's what makes Oregon, Oregon.

What is at Stake?

More than 4-million people and 700 species of fish and wildlife make Oregon home. Balancing the needs of fish and wildlife and humans is becoming increasingly challenging. Population growth, development, drought, climate change, ocean acidification, and many other changes are putting new pressures on Oregon's fish, wildlife, and wild places. At the same time, we're becoming increasingly disconnected from the natural world. Children spend more time online than outside. Urban residents have little free time to get outdoors. This disconnection profoundly affects our health, our well-being, and the future of fish and wildlife.

New challenges facing Oregon's fish and wildlife require a new approach to conservation funding.

Today, conservation is funded primarily through fishing and hunting license sales. This traditional model, established in the 1930's, cannot support the 21st century strategies, scientific research, and investments necessary to ensure future generations can enjoy healthy populations of fish and wildlife.



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Our future

of Oregonians is working to ensure that our children and grandchildren can experience the forests, deep forests, high desert sagebrush, dramatic coastlines, and the outdoor recreation and wildlife that we enjoy today. Achieving this vision requires a fundamental shift in how we protect and management of Oregon's fish and wildlife.

task force, created by House Bill 2402, is taking this challenge head on. Representing a broad task force members are reviewing approaches in other states, identifying partnerships and to leverage current funding. Their charge—find a new way—an Oregon way—of funding management of Oregon's fish and wildlife.

Recommendations include:

Effective conservation built around Conservation Strategy and the Nearshore Strategy.

science and research to increase understanding of the natural world to make informed decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.

Healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations.

- Connecting youth, families, diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors.
- Helping all Oregonians take voluntary, proactive steps to conserve and protect fish, wildlife and habitat for future generations.
- Improving fishing and hunting and reducing license fees that currently fund most conservation efforts.
- Recognizing Oregon's diversity by encouraging all Oregonians to enjoy our rich outdoor heritage.

WAY...

into reality requires a new way to finance fish, wildlife and conservation. It cannot be achieved by relying solely on revenue generated from fishing and hunting licenses and equipment. More than 100 scenarios were evaluated on whether the revenue is sustainable, stable, and equitable. The task force recommends creating the Oregon Conservation Fund as an important work.



COHO SALMON
photo by BLM

CONSERVATION FUND—POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

Source: Legislative Revenue

INCOME TAX SURCHARGE (on returns)

on Oregon Taxable Income
filers exemption
credit, reduction in license fees, or a sunsetted
the surcharge for annual resident hunting or
holders

PROJECTED REVENUE GENERATED

2017 - 2019 revenue = \$60 million
2019 - 2021 revenue = \$92.9 million

CONTAINER SURCHARGE (on levels)

ge applied to the cost of beverages subject to the
1/17

2017 - 2019 revenue = \$60 million
2019 - 2021 revenue = \$82.4 million

HOW WOULD FUNDING BENEFIT ME AS A

Hunter or Angler?

New funding would help manage and conserve important habitat to sustain harvestable fish and wildlife. All Oregonians would share in the cost of conserving our shared natural resources, meaning reduced license fees, and improved fishing and hunting opportunities.

Outdoor Recreationists?

Hikers, campers, bikers, paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts enjoy connecting with nature and the environment. New funding would help conserve quality lands and waters that outdoor recreationists desire and fish and wildlife need to thrive.

Industry or Business Owner?

Preventing species from becoming endangered is a good investment. New funding means proactive conservation to address threats to fish and wildlife before they become threatened or endangered meaning reduced need for regulation and lower recovery costs for at-risk fish and wildlife. Additional recreational opportunities means increased tourism spending.

Taxpayer?

Addressing threats to fish and wildlife before expensive "emergency room" actions are needed saves taxpayer dollars. Proactive conservation helps avoid saddling the next generation with the cost of recovering threatened or endangered species.

Parent?

Regular contact with nature adds quality to our lives and improves physical and emotional health. Children today spend 50 hours a week using electronic media. New funding would help get youth offline and outdoors.

Wildlife Viewer?

New funding would help conserve species of fish and wildlife, provide facilities and programs, and improve quality wildlife viewing experiences.

Non-governmental Conservation Organization?

Non-governmental organizations play an important role in conserving diverse wildlife species. Grants and other help NGOs leverage their work to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Farmer, Rancher, Forester or Private Landowner?

Since most fish and wildlife are found on private land, landowners are critical conservation partners. New funding would provide incentive-based technical and financial assistance for landowners, and minimize the regulatory burden to farmers, ranchers and homeowners by reducing the need to list at risk species under the Endangered Species Act.

Researcher?

Researchers, universities and students play an important role in improving our understanding of fish and wildlife and help develop conservation management practices through research, monitoring and inventory.

Someone who cares about fish and wildlife?

Oregon is rich in natural resources. Our fish and wildlife and habitats enhance our quality of life and contribute to our economy. New funding will help Oregonians conserve fish and wildlife, provide opportunities for volunteers to help recover fish and wildlife, collect important data, and participate in wildlife management.

THE TASK FORCE...

orce on Funding for Fish, Wildlife
d Outdoor Recreation and Education
House Bill 2402 in 2015. Task force
presents the broad interest in fish and
ment and conservation in Oregon.

Tillamook County Commission

Gray Family Foundation

e Nature Conservancy

r – Oregon Hunters Association

– Center for Diversity and Environment

Neskowin Trading Company / Angler

are Fishing (retired)

Leupold & Stevens

ancher/Guide, Enterprise

– Oregon Trawl Commission

olumbia River Gorge Commission (retired)

Portland Audubon Society (retired)

– Oregon Tourism Commission

Oregon Habitat Joint Venture

Multnomah County Health Department

olumbia Sportswear

– Travel Lane County

ards, D-Eugene

sett, R-Klamath Falls

D-Beaverton

eger, R-Gold Beach

egon Fish and Wildlife Commission

egon Fish and Wildlife

on the task force can be found at:

ate.or.us/liz/2015I1/Committees/

view



OREGON SLENDER SALAMANDER

photo by Dave Huith, Flickr

Continuing the tradition...

Oregonians have a long history of conservation leadership. From the earliest days of statehood, we've tried to balance the use and the protection of our natural resources.

Thanks to the foresight, passion and commitment of previous generations, Oregon remains a place of incredible beauty and tremendous recreational opportunity. We owe it to future generations to continue that tradition. The task force vision ensures that our children and grandchildren have the same opportunities we do today.



About the Oregon Conservation/ Nearshore Strategy

More than 200 technical experts, scientists, organizations and individuals contributed to the creation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy and its marine component, the Oregon Nearshore Strategy. The Oregon Conservation Strategy is a comprehensive, science-based plan that helps government agencies, landowners, conservation groups, hunting and fishing organizations and other partners coordinate their efforts to improve fish, wildlife and habitat in Oregon's terrestrial, aquatic and nearshore ecosystems.

oregonconservationstrategy.org