

ABOUT THE TASK FORCE...

The Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education was created by House Bill 2402 in 2015. Task force membership represents the broad interest in fish and wildlife management and conservation in Oregon.

CHAIR

Mark Labhart – Tillamook County Commission

MEMBERS

Nancy Bales – Gray Family Foundation

Robb Ball – The Nature Conservancy

Paul Donheffner – Oregon Hunters Association

Queta Gonzalez – Center for Diversity and Environment

Mike Herbel – Neskowin Trading Company / Angler

Jim Martin – Pure Fishing (retired)

Rob Morrison – Leupold & Stevens

James Nash – Rancher/Guide, Enterprise

Brad Pettinger – Oregon Trawl Commission

Claire Puchy – Columbia River Gorge Commission (retired)

Meryl Redisch – Portland Audubon Society (retired)

Kenji Sugahara – Oregon Tourism Commission

Bruce Taylor – Oregon Habitat Joint Venture

Tricia Tillman – Multnomah County Health Department

Scott Welch – Columbia Sportswear

Kari Westlund – Travel Lane County

EX OFFICIO

Sen. Chris Edwards, D-Eugene

Sen. Doug Whitsett, R-Klamath Falls

Rep. Ken Helm, D-Beaverton

Rep. Wayne Krieger, R-Gold Beach

Mike Finley, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Curt Melcher, Oregon Fish and Wildlife

More information on the task force can be found at:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201511/Committees/JTFFFW/Overview>



OREGON SLENDER SALAMANDER

photo by Dave Huth, 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.

<http://www.odfw.com/conservationstrategy/index.asp>

TASK FORCE ON FUNDING FOR FISH, WILDLIFE AND 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.



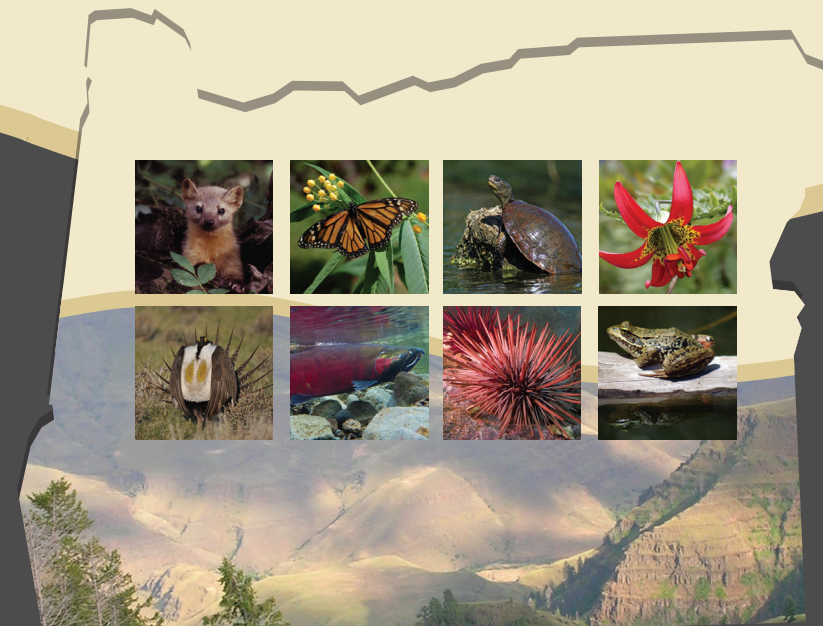
BURROWING OWL
photo by USFWS

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 disconnect 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 financing 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

Investing in our future

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

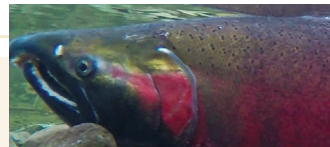
A legislative task force, created by House Bill 2402, is taking this challenge head on. Representing a broad array of interests, task force members are reviewing approaches in other states, identifying partnerships and looking for ways to leverage current funding. Their charge—find a new way—an Oregon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

Task force recommendations include:

- Proactive, effective conservation built around the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Oregon Nearshore Strategy.
- Investing in science and research to increase our understanding of the natural world to make sound, informed decisions regarding fish, wildlife and habitat.
- Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and 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.

AN OREGON WAY...

Turning this vision into reality requires a new way to finance fish, wildlife and habitat management and conservation. It cannot be achieved by relying solely on revenue generated from fishing and hunting licenses and equipment. More than 40 funding options were evaluated on whether the revenue is sustainable, stable, equitable and other criteria. The task force recommends creating the Oregon Conservation Fund to support this important work.



COHO SALMON
photo by BLM

OREGON CONSERVATION FUND—POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISMS* Source: Legislative Revenue

BEVERAGE SURCHARGE	Cost per six pack
2.19% surcharge applied at wholesale level to the cost of beverages subject to the bottle bill	Soda = 7 cents Domestic beer = 11 cents
OREGON INCOME TAX SURCHARGE	Cost at \$50,000 income
.62% surcharge on Oregon taxable income Applied on individual tax returns Low income filers exempt	Family of 4 = \$17.64/year Single, no dependents = \$20.86/year Married, joint filing, no dependents = \$18.59/year

* Projected Revenue Generated = \$86.9 million / biennium

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 important species of fish and wildlife, provide additional facilities and programs, and improve access to quality wildlife viewing experiences.

Non-governmental Conservation Organization?

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play an important role in conserving declining fish and wildlife species. Grants and other assistance will help NGOs leverage their work to benefit 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 voluntary, 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 will play an important role in improving our understanding of fish and wildlife and help develop best management practices through research, monitoring and inventory.

Someone who cares about fish and wildlife?

Oregon is rich in natural resources. Healthy fish, 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 restore and recover fish and wildlife, collect important scientific data, and participate in wildlife based recreation.