



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

December, 2016







The Mission

To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.



Conservation Funding in America



Carl Shoemaker, Chief of Oregon Fish & Game Commission helped develop national model for funding fish and wildlife management

User Pay Model

- Started in 1930's. Expanded in 1950's.
- Licenses and tag sales
- Federal excise tax on purchases of firearms, ammunition, and fishing tackle
- Very successful in funding fishing, hunting, conservation efforts and is the primary funding source

Changing Landscape = New Challenges



Secretary of State Audit



AUDIT: CASH FLOW PROBLEMS THREATEN FINANCIAL HEALTH OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCY

By [Molly Woon](#) April 09, 2015 Audits

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) faces an ongoing cash flow problem that puts the agency's financial health at risk, according to a report released in a recent audit by the Secretary of State.

Ore. Considers Fee Hikes As Hunting, Fishing Suffer Declines

by AP AP | April 29, 2014 8:15 a.m. | Updated: May 2, 2014

Fewer Oregonians are hunting and fish money to sustain wildlife management gaps, the state's wildlife agency wants t enthusiasts who remain in a proposal t

The Oregon Department of Fish and W pays for its programs, and it plans to r revenue and more frequent increases it

Fishing license hikes 'make outlaws of us'

ODFW fees to rise beginning in January 2016

Carla Castano

Published: August 4, 2015, 6:00 AM

ODFW budget creates 'sticker shock'

State fish and wildlife managers are proposing to phase in an overall 26 percent increase to hunting and angling licenses and tags over five years

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Fee increases passed for hunting, fishing, boating in Oregon



By Bill Monroe | For The Oregonian/OregonLive on July 10, 2015 at 5:45 PM, updated July 10, 2015 at 5:46 PM



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Costs of Oregon hunting, fishing licenses keep climbing

License sales drop but ODFW says price not main factor

By Dylan J. Darling • The Bulletin

Published Oct 25, 2015 at 12:03AM

Hunting and fishing license costs in Oregon are steadily going up, starting next year and continuing every other year until 2020.

An annual hunting license for an Oregon resident, which costs \$29.50 this year, will increase to \$32 next year, \$33.50 in 2018 and \$34.50 in 2020. An annual state resident fishing license, which costs \$33 this year, will cost \$38 next year, \$41 in 2018 and \$44 in 2020.

Increases in the license costs are not new, but the frequency of the price bumps and the smaller size of the increases are, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Service data. Since 2004 the cost of annual hunting and fishing licenses for residents has increased every six years, said Aaron Jenkins, economist with the agency in Salem. Gov. Kate Brown this summer signed a bill setting the gradual price increases, he said.

"We would like the fees to edge up slowly rather than have a big jump," Jenkins said. "People don't like big jumps in prices."

Survey reported at the Oregon Leadership Summit in Portland this week asked 9,000 Oregonians an open-ended question. What do you value most about Oregon?

Top ten answers:

- Outdoors
- Great Places to live
- Our beauty
- Our Mountains
- Our Forests
- Our environment
- Our Oceans
- Friendly people
- Our Water
- Our Weather

Task Force Public Opinion Survey

- High value placed on conservation of fish and wildlife and opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Availability of fish and wildlife-related recreation opportunities – 47% excellent, 34% good.
- Satisfaction with ODFW's management of fish, wildlife and habitat – 65% satisfied, 12% dissatisfied.
- Significant disconnect between public values and how ODFW is funded.
- How ODFW is perceived to be funded:
 - 53% said general state taxes, 30% licenses
- How ODFW should be funded:
 - 33% said general state taxes, 19% licenses



Responsive Management™



Alternative Funding Task Force

- HB 2402 - Alternative Funding Task Force
- Governor appointed
- 17 voting members representing:
 - Hunters and anglers
 - Conservation groups
 - Outdoor recreation businesses
 - Tourism industry
 - Outdoor education
 - Diverse communities
- 6 Ex Officio members
 - 2 Senators
 - 2 Representatives
 - ODFW Commission Chair
 - ODFW Director





Non-Voting Members

Sen. Chris Edwards	OR Legislature
Sen. Doug Whitsett	OR Legislature
Rep. Ken Helm	OR Legislature
Rep. Wayne Krieger	OR Legislature
Mike Finley	ODFW Commission Chair
Curt Melcher	ODFW Director

Voting Members

Scott Welch	Columbia Sportswear
Rob Morrison	Leupold & Stevens Corp.
Claire Puchy	Retired, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Robb Ball	The Nature Conservancy
Kenji Sugahara	OR Bicycle Racing Association
Meryl Redisch	Retired, Portland Audubon Society
Bruce Taylor	OR Habitat Joint Venture
James Nash	6 Ranch Fly Fishing
Mark Labhart	Tillamook Co. Board of Commissioners
Tricia Tillman	Multnomah Co. Health Dept.
Queta Gonzalez	Center for Diversity & Environment
Kari Westlund	Travel Lane County
Nancy Bales	Gray Family Foundation
Jim Martin	Retired, Pure Fishing Company
Brad Pettinger	Oregon Trawl Commission
Mike Herbel	Neskowin Store
Paul Donheffner	OR Hunters Association

Our Charge



1. Identify & recommend potential alternative, sustainable funding sources for ODFW.
2. Recommend any adjustments necessary to ensure that relevant program areas are funded in accordance with the intent of HB 2402.
3. Recommend opportunities to better achieve the mission through leveraging, coordinating and budgeting funds from alternative and existing sources.





The Need for Alternative, Sustainable Funding

- Balancing fish/wildlife with human needs is increasingly challenging.
- The current funding model cannot support 21st century strategies necessary to ensure healthy populations of fish and wildlife.
- Comprehensive, sustainable fish/wildlife management and conservation funding is critical to Oregon's livability, economy – now and in the future.
- Oregonians are becoming disconnected from the natural world.
- Need to engage diverse and underserved communities.

Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund (Fulfilling the Mission)



Expand Conservation Efforts



Improve Fishing and Hunting

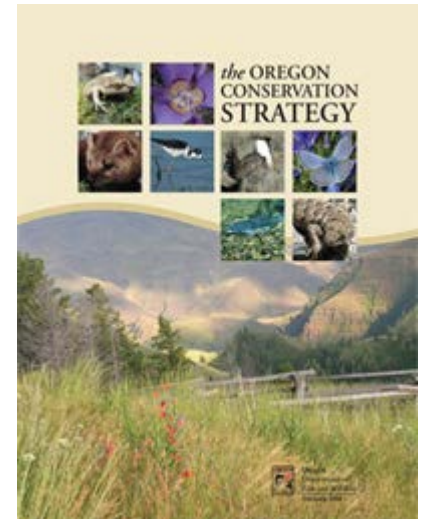


Connect Oregonians with the Outdoors

Expand Conservation Efforts

- Proactive, effective conservation built around the Oregon Conservation Strategy
- Restoration of healthy ecosystems to benefit all fish and wildlife
- Science, research, monitoring and inventory of species and habitats providing foundation for sound, science based decisions
- Strong, collaborative partnerships with landowners, agencies, industry and organizations
- Enforcement of natural resource laws

Investment - \$46.7 million / biennium



Improve Fishing and Hunting

- Reduce license fees
- Develop additional fishing locations with emphasis on increasing opportunities for urban, diverse and underserved communities.
- Improve public access for fishing and hunting
- Expand research, monitoring and management of game species, freshwater and marine fisheries
- Improve and restore habitat through collaboration, grants and partnerships
- Develop mobile friendly maps and tools
- Increase enforcement

Investment - \$21.3 million / biennium



Connect Oregonians with the Outdoors

- Expand conservation education with emphasis on urban areas and partnerships
- Develop wildlife viewing opportunities and facilities
- Develop new communication strategies to reach new, broader audiences (youth, millennials, diversity)
- More volunteers and “Citizen Scientists”
- Expand marketing and outreach to increase participation in wildlife recreation
- Increase diversity in participation and the workforce
- Partnerships - schools, NGOs and others

Investment - \$8.3 million / biennium



Funding Need

- Expand Conservation Efforts
 - \$46.7 million / biennium
- Improve Fishing and Hunting
 - \$9.3 million / biennium
- Reduce License Fees
 - \$13 million / biennium
- Connect Oregonians with the Outdoors
 - \$8.3 million / biennium
- Deferred Maintenance
 - \$9.6 million / biennium

Recommended Funding Level = \$86.9 million

- 198 additional FTE (17% increase)
- 20% increase in current budget
- Scalable

More Than 100 Options Considered

- Marijuana Tax
- Recreational Equipment Tax
- Beverage Container Surcharge
- Unredeemed Bottle Deposits
- Wildlife License Plate
- General Fund/Lottery Fund Allotments
- Income Tax Return Surcharge
- Agricultural Chemical Fee
- Wild Bird Seed Tax
- Recreational Vehicle Tag
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- Rental Car Fee
- Lodging Fee
- Donations



Evaluation: Is the Funding:

- ✓ **Sufficient** - Is it sufficient to address current and future needs?
- ✓ **Sustainable** - Does it generate continuous, dedicated funding?
- ✓ **Stable and flexible** – Will it fluctuate year to year? Can it adapt to changing circumstances?
- ✓ **Diverse and equitable** - Does it spread the cost of fish and wildlife management and conservation over a broader base?
- ✓ **Enhance diversity or engagement** - Does it affect the engagement of diverse and/or underrepresented individuals?
- ✓ **Cost effective** - Will it be easy to collect, administer and track?
- ✓ **Defensible** - Is there a connection between the funding and the need?
- ✓ **Politically feasible** - What will it take to implement this proposal?
- ✓ **Politically insulated** - Can it be diverted for other purposes?



Alternative Funding Recommendations

OREGON INCOME TAX RETURN SURCHARGE

- Applied to individual (non-corporate) tax returns.
- Exemption for low income filers.
- Rate - .62%

WHOLESALE BEVERAGE SURCHARGE

- Applied to cost of beverages subject to the Bottle Bill; not a beverage container deposit.
- Rate – 2.19%
 - 6 pack of soda = 7 cents
 - 6 pack of domestic beer = 11 cents
 - 6 pack of microbrew beer = 19 cents



Benefits for:

- ✓ **Outdoor recreationists** - *Healthy fish and wildlife populations. More recreation opportunities.*
- ✓ **Hunter/Anglers** - *All Oregonians share in cost of managing wildlife. Reduced fees and more opportunity.*
- ✓ **Conservation groups** - *Focus on conservation and grants for on the ground projects.*
- ✓ **Business/Industry** - *Proactive conservation avoids Endangered Species listings. More recreation and tourism.*
- ✓ **Private landowners** - *Technical assistance. Reduced potential for regulations needed to protect at risk species.*
- ✓ **Parents** – *Programs to get youth offline and out doors.*
- ✓ **Taxpayers** – *Cost effective. Avoid cost and disruption from ESA listings.*



We Are Not Alone

- ❑ Broad-based, dedicated funding for wildlife conservation through voter-approved ballot initiatives:
 - Missouri -- Conservation sales tax in 1976 after an eight year campaign
 - Arkansas -- Similar sales tax in 1996 after 14 years of work
- ❑ Other programs provide some funding for wildlife conservation:
 - Minnesota -- Conservation sales tax and the lottery funded conservation programs
 - Arizona and Colorado -- Lottery funded conservation programs
- ❑ Nationally, a Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources is recommending \$1.3 billion be allocated annually from federal royalties on energy and mineral development to states to prevent species from becoming endangered.
- ❑ Enactment of dedicated wildlife conservation funding will not happen overnight. Success requires:
 1. Statement of Need and a Plan
 2. Broad Coalition
 3. Bipartisan Political Support
 4. Educated Public

Summary of Funding Recommendations

- ❑ Establishment of an Oregon Wildlife Conservation Fund.
- ❑ To fully implement the Fund and ODFW's broad statutory mission, there's a funding need of approximately \$86.9 m/b.
- ❑ Over 100 funding options narrowed to 2 that are most viable:
 - Oregon Income Tax Surcharge
 - Wholesale Beverage Surcharge

Questions?

