



**Oregon Chapter
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers**
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FROM: The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

TO: The House Committee on Revenue

SUBJECT: In Support of HB3328

Chair Nathanson and committee members,

The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (ORBHA) is writing in **strong support of HB3328**. Hunters and Anglers have taken great pride in funding the North American Model of wildlife conservation and have done so since the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669–669i (1937). But we recognize that the challenges Oregon's wildlife and wild places face are tall, and exceed current investment. HB3328 creates an avenue for every Oregon citizen to invest in the natural resources that furnish our outdoor lifestyle, fuel our economy and our heritage. This funding of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, through broad-based and sustainable revenue, will allow for the implementation of recommendations from the Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education (HB2402).

Concerns over natural resource conservation funding are well established. In 2015, the Joint Interim Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education (HB2402) was convened to address this issue and develop and bolster funding Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's funding mechanisms to meet current conservation challenges, and build resilient structures to ensure our ecologies are protected for future generations. The Task Force recommended a minimum of \$86.9 million per biennium in new funds to fulfill ODFW's management mandate. The expected, dedicated funds from HB3328 are estimated to fully replace general fund allocations for ODFW, OSP Fish & Wildlife Division, as well as providing the recommended funding increases necessary for ODFW to implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy. This plan seeks to prevent further degradation to the ecologies that sustain our

populations – human and wildlife alike; It would fill data gaps that should never have been allowed to exist, restore and maintain critical habitat, assess the impacts of climate change and help build climate-resiliency into our systems, grow Oregon's recreational resources, improve hunting and fishing opportunity, and lay the footing for all Oregonians to experience the natural world as it was intended.

On behalf of the ORBHA Board and our membership, thank you for your time and consideration.

With Gratitude,

the Oregon Chapter Board of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

ORBHA Contact for HB3328:

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Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is the voice for our public lands, waters and wildlife.