

7 April 2017

Peter J. Tronquet
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TO: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Subject: House Bill 3228

Dear House Committee:

I support House Bill 3228.

The primary goal of the Oregon Wildlife Policy should be to prevent “the serious depletion of any indigenous species.” There should be no co-equal goal. Wildlife can be optimized for aesthetic and recreational use only if those goals are a subset of the overarching goal – no serious depletion.

I served as a member of public advisory committees on three Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife salmon and steelhead conservation plans: Rogue Spring Chinook, Rogue SMU Fall Chinook, and the most recently adopted, the Coastal Management Plan. In my experience, there was never a clear distinction between conservation and recreational goals. The conservation plans are designed to conserve and recover Oregon’s wild salmon and steelhead. Members of the stakeholder’s group believed there should be a co-equal goal (and to some extent so did ODFW), which was to optimize recreational use, meaning harvest and hatcheries, diminishing the long-term efficacy of the conservation plan. That confusion was unfortunate.

So I support elimination of a co-equal goal for Oregon’s wildlife policy. The only way to provide future recreational and aesthetic benefit for Oregonians, and to avoid ESA listing, is to understand that the agencies and the legislature must treat the “no serious depletion” rule as sacrosanct; recreational use goals will follow from that.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Tronquet
South Beach, OR