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Oregon State Legislature  
Oregon State Capitol  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

April 10, 2017

Sent via email to:  
LPRO Analyst: Misty Freeman  
Committee Assistant: Derrick Wheeler

**Oregon Wild Written Testimony Re: state wildlife policy, HB 3228**

Chairman Clem and Members of the Committee,

My name is Danielle Moser and I am the Wildlife Coordinator for Oregon Wild.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today on behalf of Oregon Wild's nearly 20,000 members and supporters from all across the state. We strongly support HB 3228, a bill that restates and clarifies the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's mission and goals.

Under existing statute, ODFW's work is guided by the Oregon Wildlife Policy. It states that it is the policy of Oregon that wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations.

Twenty-years ago, the Oregon Attorney General's office issued an opinion further clarifying that "the Commission's and the Department's overriding obligation is to manage and prevent the serious depletion of any indigenous species". Simply put, one cannot provide for optimum recreation or aesthetic benefits if native fish and wildlife species are in decline.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature established a task force to help develop solutions to several problems facing the agency. It was asked to evaluate potential new sources of funding, to clarify the agency's mission, and to define strategies for maximizing diversity and inclusion. Unfortunately, the task force set aside the latter two issues and focused instead primarily on funding.

Without greater clarity that new funding will be spent consistent with the ODFW's statutory mission, receiving support from conservation-minded Oregonians for new taxes, fees, or other revenue generators will be difficult.

HB 3228 helps address this problem. It will provide ODFW with clarity and focus as to its mission and responsibilities and provide the public with greater certainty that any new public money the agency receives will be spent consistently with the mission of the Oregon Wildlife Policy. For these reasons we strongly support HB 3228.

Thank you,

Danielle Moser  
Wildlife Program Coordinator, Oregon Wild