

Hi Chair Clem

As you may remember, I had the privilege of chairing the Legislative Task Force to essentially find long term funding for ODF&W. We met monthly for an entire year at the capitol. The Task Force included two Senators and two Representatives as well as reps from hunting, conservation and recreation organizations. We took our assignment very seriously and submitted recommendations to the Legislature as required. HB 4015 is our preferred Bill and it would establish the *Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund* and an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee. It would be dedicated to conservation, management, research, habitat improvements, administration, enforcement, and other activities that protect, maintain or enhance the native fish and wildlife of the state. The bill appropriates \$13 million to the fund for the biennium ending in June 2019. This funding is critical for match to the federal bill recently introduced in Congress. [Recovering America's Wildlife Act \(HR 4647 - RAWA\)](#)

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act co-sponsored by Reps. Bonamici and Schrader dedicates \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program. Funds in this program are distributed to the state fish and wildlife agencies based on a formula. Oregon would be able to access approximately **\$52 million per biennium** for implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which identified conservation actions aimed at protecting 294 of Oregon's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and habitats across the state. It requires a 25% match which HB 2015 provides to access these funds once approved by Congress. I know this is a heavy lift but if we could get the Bill passed even with a clarifying clause that the Oregon match would be available if/when the federal funded is approved.

Please support this Bill and move it to Ways and Means for action.

Best Regards,

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