

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2834

Ordered by the House April 11
Including House Amendments dated April 11

Sponsored by Representative HELM, Senator PROZANSKI, Representatives MARSH, HELT, Senator DEMBROW;
Representatives GORSEK, HOLVEY, SMITH DB, ZIKA

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in *[consultation]* **cooperation** with Department of Transportation, to develop Wildlife Corridor *[and Safe Road Crossing]* Action Plan for use by state agencies. Specifies certain content for inclusion in plan. Requires periodic plan updates. Requires State Department of Fish and Wildlife to post report of proposed plan or of proposed updates on website and deliver report to legislative *[committee]* **committees** relating to natural resources. Requires department to prepare report regarding operation of program, post report on website and deliver report to legislative *[committee]* **committees** relating to natural resources. Requires department to periodically review statutes and rules affecting wildlife corridors and to include findings in report of program operation. Requires state agencies to cooperate with department in plan development.

Requires Department of Transportation to develop program for reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where wildlife corridors intersect with proposed or existing public roads. Requires department to *[incorporate wildlife corridors into design options for road projects having potential to threaten wildlife habitat connectivity]* **create or modify infrastructure to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.** *[Requires inclusion of mitigation plan in road project environmental impact statement.]* **Requires department to biennially report on program to legislative committees relating to natural resources.**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to wildlife corridors.

3 Whereas the state of Oregon is home to a rich array of wildlife and landscapes; and

4 Whereas biodiversity and habitat connectivity play a vital role in Oregon's economy and in en-
5 suring a sustainable future for current and future generations of Oregonians; and

6 Whereas habitat loss and fragmentation are major contributors to declines in populations of
7 native fish, marine life and terrestrial wildlife; and

8 Whereas wildlife corridors serve to connect wildlife habitat areas and allow for the movement,
9 migration and dispersal of fish, wildlife and plant species; and

10 Whereas, in addition to other benefits, wildlife corridors provide ecosystem services such as
11 pollination, air and water purification, carbon sequestration and disturbance prevention; and

12 Whereas wildlife corridors increase public safety and are highly effective at reducing vehicle-
13 wildlife collisions and the costs associated with those collisions; and

14 Whereas formally designating and protecting wildlife corridors is a crucial strategy for
15 bolstering Oregon's ecosystem resiliency and for ensuring the long-term viability of wildlife popu-
16 lation and communities; now, therefore,

17 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

18 **SECTION 1. (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall collect, analyze and de-**
19 **velop the best available science and data regarding the connectivity of wildlife habitat areas.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 The State Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Department of Trans-
2 portation, shall use the data to develop a plan, to be known as the Wildlife Corridor Action
3 Plan, to preserve long-term habitat connectivity for wildlife as defined in ORS 496.004. The
4 plan shall provide guidance for all state agencies to develop benchmarks for the designation
5 and protection of wildlife corridors in Oregon.

6 (2) The Wildlife Corridor Action Plan shall, at a minimum, include:

7 (a) Identification of species of concern that are at risk from habitat fragmentation or
8 barriers to species movement.

9 (b) Identification of the known migration and dispersal corridors for species identified
10 under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

11 (c) A description of the potential effects of climate change on the movement of species
12 identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

13 (d) Identification of known and potential human-caused barriers in Oregon that nega-
14 tively affect wildlife habitat connectivity.

15 (e) A contemporary map showing existing and potential wildlife corridors and core high
16 quality habitat areas.

17 (f) A list of areas for which designation of wildlife corridors, land acquisition or other
18 agency actions are of high priority to protect wildlife movement or habitat connectivity. The
19 bases for identification of the high priority areas shall include but not be limited to a desig-
20 nation of a species by the federal government or the State Fish and Wildlife Commission as
21 an endangered species or threatened species.

22 (3) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall review and update the Wildlife Cor-
23 ridor Action Plan every five years. Prior to final adoption of the plan or of a plan update the
24 department shall:

25 (a) Post the plan or update on the department website and provide an opportunity for
26 public comment; and

27 (b) Deliver a copy of the plan or update to Senate and House interim or regular com-
28 mittees relating to natural resources.

29 (4) Prior to final adoption of a proposed update, the State Department of Fish and
30 Wildlife shall prepare a report on implementation of the update, including but not limited to
31 information concerning changes in the number of high priority wildlife corridors established
32 or planned. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall post the report on the depart-
33 ment website and deliver the report to Senate and House interim or regular committees re-
34 lating to natural resources.

35 **SECTION 2.** All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to
36 assist and advise the State Department of Fish and Wildlife in the development of the
37 Wildlife Corridor Action Plan and in the five-year reviews of the plan required under section
38 1 of this 2019 Act.

39 **SECTION 3.** The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall initiate work on the Wildlife
40 Corridor Action Plan no later than January 1, 2020, and report department findings and
41 recommendations regarding the designation and protection of wildlife corridors to interim
42 or regular Senate and House committees relating to natural resources in the manner pro-
43 vided by ORS 192.245 no later than September 15, 2022.

44 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish a program to reduce
45 wildlife-vehicle collisions in areas where wildlife corridors identified in the Wildlife Corridor

1 **Action Plan by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife intersect with proposed or existing**
2 **public roads. The program shall include, but need not be limited to, plans for creating or**
3 **modifying road infrastructure in a manner that reduces wildlife-vehicle collisions and pro-**
4 **promotes public safety. The plans may include but need not be limited to the use of wildlife**
5 **crossing structures and roadway fencing.**

6 **(2) To the extent practicable, the Department of Transportation shall coordinate with**
7 **local governments, as defined in ORS 174.116, and the tribal governments for tribes and**
8 **bands listed under ORS 172.110, to achieve the goals of the program described in this section.**

9 **SECTION 5. (1) The Department of Transportation shall establish the program required**
10 **under section 4 of this 2019 Act no later than December 31, 2023.**

11 **(2) Until the Department of Transportation establishes the program, the Department of**
12 **Transportation and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall coordinate efforts to**
13 **reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions based on the data gathered under section 1 of this 2019 Act.**
14 **The Department of Transportation shall consider the benefit of including a wildlife crossing**
15 **as part of a project if the data suggests that such a crossing could significantly reduce**
16 **wildlife-vehicle collisions.**

17 **(3) The Department of Transportation shall report biennially regarding the status of the**
18 **program required under section 4 of this 2019 Act to interim or regular Senate and House**
19 **committees relating to natural resources in the manner provided by ORS 192.245. The report**
20 **shall include, but not be limited to, information concerning the number and types of wildlife**
21 **corridor infrastructure projects established or planned and the realized or expected effect**
22 **of established or planned wildlife corridor infrastructure projects on the number of wildlife-**
23 **vehicle collisions.**

24 **SECTION 6. The Department of Transportation shall submit the first report required**
25 **under section 5 (3) of this 2019 Act no later than September 15, 2024.**

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