

## **Oregon Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Businesses Support Dedicated Funding for Oregon's Imperiled Species**

We, the undersigned businesses, support long-term, dedicated funding to prevent the decline of Oregon's most imperiled fish and wildlife, and the habitats upon which they rely. Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is our overarching plan to conserve Oregon's fish and wildlife, and their habitats, however, it is largely underfunded and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) - the state agency responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats - is unable to effectively implement our SWAP.

HB 4134 - "1.25% for Wildlife" proposes to dedicate sustainable funding for the implementation of our SWAP by raising the statewide transient lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.75% (an increase of 1.25 percentage points). This investment in our wildlife and habitat represents a wise investment in not only our present and future natural resources but also serves as a reinvestment in the reason so many visitors travel to Oregon.

Hunters, anglers, birders, hikers, campers, outdoor recreationists, and wildlife watchers have created a robust outdoor recreation economy that depends on healthy wildlife, fish populations, and landscapes. These visitors, 65% of whom are from out of state, come to Oregon to experience the great outdoors and stay at our hotels and motels, eat at our restaurants and diners, and patronize our shops and stores. And many more businesses select Oregon as a destination for their industry conference or company meeting for these same reasons - close access to everything Oregon has to offer, and the data bears this out. In 2021, an analysis commissioned by Travel Oregon, the Office of Outdoor Recreation, and ODFW found that our outdoor economy contributed \$15.6 billion in total consumer spending in 2019, equaling 6% of Oregon's economy, supporting 224,000 full and part-time jobs in Oregon, constituting 8.6% of all state employment, with \$9.3 billion in wages and other compensation. For something so crucial to Oregon's economy and way of life, careful reinvestment is required.

Oregon is fortunate to have a diverse and bountiful array of plants and animals, and habitats that support them. Unfortunately, many species face increasing challenges, putting their future at risk. In the draft 2025 SWAP, ODFW identified at least 300 at-risk species with small or declining populations and 11 native habitats needing proactive restoration. With direct and targeted interventions, we can reverse the downward spiral of decline and possible extinction of these species and their habitats. Unfortunately, current funds available for implementing the SWAP are only a small fraction of what is required to recover our state's most at-risk fish, wildlife, and habitat, and federal funding was insufficient and is now gone. This troubling environmental decline also poses a threat to Oregon's vibrant outdoor economy and the thousands of Oregonians whose livelihoods depend on it.

HB 4134 is a bold, proactive solution to directly help at-risk species. Increasing Oregon's state transient lodging tax would provide a sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity - all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. Raising the statewide TLT by 1.25% to 2.75% will empower ODFW to do its work and restore and recover Oregon's environment throughout the state. And the rise in the TLT will not change our low comparative national ranking - presently we tax our visitors at the 3rd lowest rate nationally, and after the 1.25% increase, our state ranking will remain 3rd lowest in the country.

Our businesses depend on visitors who come to Oregon for the unique natural landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities, and we, the undersigned, therefore support investing statewide transient lodging tax revenue to protect and enhance Oregon's precious natural heritage and ensure millions of visitors come to Oregon today and into the future.

6 Ranch	Dogwood Motel
Alder & Co.	Dudley's Bookshop Cafe
Alpine Vineyards	Dusty Auto Detailing
Andras Outfitters	Elsewhere Films
Andrew Kumler Photography	Eugene Gear Traders
Animosa	F&S Fisheries
Axiology	Falling Sky Brewing
Bad Ash Outdoors	Flying Coyote Farm
Barking Mad Farm Bed & Breakfast	Flying Fish Company LLC
Blossom Barn Cidery	Folklord
Bob Rees' Fishing Guide Service	Freeland Spirits
Body Image Fitness LLC	Fullerton Wines, Inc.
BOSA Food & Drink	Grapevine Outdoor, LLC
Brandtrace LLC	Great Frontier Beverages
Brandon Miller Voice Over, LLC	Jeff Remer Woodworking
Bubble Cap Consulting LLC	Kevin Larson's Guide Service
Cameron Winery	Kings Grade Construction
Chanticleer Inn	Kings Grade Housing Solutions LLC
Cornelius Matteo Photography	Kokanee Inn
Counterpart	Living Room Realty

Luckeys Woodsman

Mountain Rose Herbs

Nancy Slavin, LLC

Next Level Veggie Grill

Ninkasi Brewing Company

Oak Iris Tattoo

One Hundred Seconds

Oregon Pack Works, LLC

Peak Sports

Peerless Hotel

pFriem Family Brewers

Pine Mtn Sports

River Drifters

Ruffwear

S & C Rod Racks

Samara Group

Santiam Valley Ranch

Santiam Valley Retreat

Saturday Swimwear

Sauvie Island Natives Nursery

Sellwood Yoga

Slow Pour Coffee

Soulful PDX

Spicy's Fishing and Outdoor Excursions

Straightaway Cocktails

Sun Break Wines

Sweetvine Cafe & Bake Shop

Tacovore

The Caddis Fly Angling Shop

The Fly Fisher's Place

The Gear Fix, LLC

The Grotto, LLC

The Guide's Forecast

The Inn at Spanish Head

The Spot At Smith Rock

The Wheel Apizza Pub

Three Sisters Backcountry

Timberline Mountain Guides

Wallowa Llamas

Wildwood Chocolate

Wyld