OREGON Fish & Wildlife

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting Minutes

Tour: Thursday, June 12, 2025 -8:15 AM ODFW Pendelton Office site 1502 SW 37th St

Pendleton, OR 97801

Meeting:

Friday, June 13, 2025 - 8:00 AM

Pendelton City Hall. The Vert Auditorium 480 SW Dorion Ave, Pendleton, OR 97801

1 Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation.

2 Those attending part or all the meeting included:

3

Mary Wahl, Chair	Debbie Colbert, Director
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Vice Chair	Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer
Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner	Sarah Reif, Acting Deputy Director of Fish & Wildlife
	Programs
Mark Labhart, Commissioner	Nick Myatt, East Region Manager
Leslie King, Commissioner	Chris Kern, West Region Manager
Dallas Hall Defrees, Commissioner	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division
	Administrator
	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General
	Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General

MEETING

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On Friday, June 13, 2025, at 8:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (the Commission) meeting to order.

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CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION WELCOME REMARKS

Corinne Sams, Chair of the Umatilla Tribe Fish and Wildlife Commission

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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FIELD REPORTS – in written form only; this report is available in the meeting materials and at

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Field%20Report %20June%202025%20FINAL.pdf

18 19 20

EXPENDITURE REPORT

Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

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Ken reported that as of April 30, 2025, the department held a total cash balance of \$144.3 million, with \$47.6 million in available unrestricted funds, aligning with budget

forecasts. Expenditures for the 2023–25 biennium are tracking as expected, with 66% of

1	the budget spent to date. The 2025–27 budget bill (HB 5009) and its companion revenue
2	bills have passed out of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and are moving to the
3	House and Senate floors for final approval.
4	
5	This report is available in the meeting materials and at
6	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Commission%20
7	Financial%20Report%20June%202025.pdf
8	
9	LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
10	Shaun Clements, Deputy Director of Fish and Wildlife Programs
11	
12	This report is available in the meeting materials and at
13	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/June%20Commis
14	sion%20Legislative%20Update.pdf
15	
16	CLIMATE & OCEAN CHANGE POLICY REPORT
17	An approach to management in a changing climate: the Resist, Adapt, Direct Framework
18	Dr. Erik Beever, US Geological Survey Research Ecologist
19	
20	This report is available in the meeting materials and at
21	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Climate%20and
22	%20Ocean%20Change%20Policy%20Report Dr.%20Erik%20Beever.pdf
23	
24	UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE AND RESILIENT
25	COLUMBIA BASIN AGREEMENT
26	Tucker Jones, OSCRP Program Manager
27	
28	This report is available in the meeting materials and at
29	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/CBRI%20Exec%2
30	<u>OOrder%20brief_tj.pdf</u>
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32	COMMISSION UPDATES
33	No Commission Action: Informational Only
34	
35	OTHER BUSINESS
36	GOVERNANCE MANUAL
37	
38	Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting
39	
40	Donna reviewed the changes discussed by the commissioners at their last
41	meeting. Commissioners discussed additional changes to be made.
42	
43	Action:

1		lissioner Hail Defrees moved to adopt the Fish and Wildlife 2025 Governance
2		al incorporating the language discussed and agreed upon at the June 13, 2025,
3		ng. Commissioner Spelbrink Seconded the motion, and the motion was carried
4		mously six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, Hall
5	Defee	S
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7		formation is available in the meeting materials and
8		//www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Best%20Practice
9		Gov%20Manual%20Cover%20Memo%2005-28-25.pdf and
10		//www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Commission%20
11	Gover	nance%20Manual%20-%20For%20June%20OFWC%20Meeting.pdf
12		
13		C FORUM
14	This pa	art of the agenda was for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda.
15		
16		Oregon Bighorn Sheep and Rocky Mountain Goat Plan.
17		Kevin Martin, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation
18		https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Letter Or
19		egon%20Big%20Horn%20Sheep%20and%20Rocky%20Mt%20Goat%20Plan.pdf
20		
21		Orca Endangered Species Management Plan Development
22		Colin Reynolds, Defenders of Wildlife
23	A .l	Tourism B. Lo
24	-	Temporary Rules
25		ommission ratified the following temporary rules. The nine (9) temporary rules
26	were p	previously adopted by the director under her emergency action authority.
27	4	635,030,000
28	1.	635-039-000
29		Correct Bag Limit for Longleader Fishery
30		Adopted 4/29/2025: 4/30/2025 through 10/26/2025
31		This amended rule modifies the recreational bag limit for the longleader fishery.
32 33		Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 13, 2024.
		Commission on December 15, 2024.
34	2.	635-023-0125
35		Add Additional Days to the Recreational Spring Salmon Season Downstream and
36		Upstream of Bonneville Dam
37		Adopted 5/8/2025: 5/9/2025 through 6/15/2025
38		This amended rule adds days to the recreational spring salmon/steelhead fishery
39		downstream and upstream of Bonneville Dam. Modifications are consistent with
40		actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon
41		and Washington at a Columbia River Joint State hearing held on May 7, 2025.
42	3.	635-023-0125
43		Add Additional Days to the Recreational Spring Salmon Season Downstream and
		,

Adopted 5/21/2025: 5/22/2025 through 6/15/2025 This amended rule adds days to the recreational spring salmon/steelhead fishery downstream and upstream of Bonneville Dam. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Joint State hearing held on May 20, 2025.
Allow Sale of Warmwater Species Caught in Columbia River Treaty Indian Research Fishery Adopted 5/21/2025: 5/22/2025 through 9/7/2025 This amended rule provides state authorization of sales of yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, carp, and northern pikeminnow caught in a new Treaty Indian research fishery in several backwater areas and sloughs of the John Day Pool to reflect recent tribal action to open this fishery.
635-042-0160, 635-042-0170 Modify Select Area Commercial Fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel Adopted 5/21/2025: 5/22/2025 through 7/31/2025 These rules modify the open hours for a portion of the 2025 spring season commercial fisheries in the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area sites from May 22 through June 13. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at the Columbia River Compact hearing on 5/20/25.
635-017-0090 Modify Willamette Falls Lamprey Harvest Regulations Adopted 5/22/2025: 6/1/2025 through 7/31/2025 This amended rule modifies the harvest regulations pertaining to the Willamette Falls Pacific lamprey fishery.
Authorize Sales in Treaty Commercial Spring and Summer Fisheries Adopted 6/4/2025: 6/5/2025 through 7/31/2025 These amended rules authorize the sale of fish caught in multiple treaty fisheries: Platform and hook-and-line fisheries are open in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) from June 5 through July 31. Platform and hook-and-line fisheries are open downstream of Bonneville Dam from June 16 through July 31. Yakama Nation Zone 6 (Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River) fisheries are open from June 16 until further notice. Gillnet fisheries are open in Zone 6 (upstream of Bonneville Dam) during periods from June 16 through June 25. Modifications are consistent with actions taken by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington at a Columbia River Compact hearing on June 4, 2025.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8.	635-023-0125 Modify Regulations for the On-going Mainstem Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Fisheries Adopted 6/5/2025: 6/6/2025 through 6/15/2025 This amended rule is needed to modify regulations for the recreational salmon/steelhead fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River downstream and upstream of Bonneville Dam.
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9.	Modify Pacific Halibut All-depth Fishing Days to the Columbia River Subarea Adopted 6/6/2025: 6/9/2025 through 9/30/2025 This rule is needed to adopt in-season actions previously adopted by the federal government for the recreational Pacific halibut fishery. The Columbia River subarea has 55% of the allocation remaining, and the Central Oregon Coast subarea has greater than 80% of the allocation remaining. Poor weather conditions early in the season have resulted in low quota attainment. Adding days to the Columbia River subarea will give anglers additional opportunity to harvest the halibut allocation.
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	June 1	issioner Spelbrink moved to ratify the nine (9) temporary rules set forth on the 3, 2025, agenda. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and the motion I unanimously, six (6) in favor. Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde; Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King,
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	authoi motioi	
32 33		IT B: FISHING REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2025 OREGON COASTAL FALL OK SALMON
34 35	Coast \	mmission adopted rules establishing regulation changes for the 2025 Oregon Wild Fall Chinook Salmon in state-managed waters.
363738	Comm	ission Action: Rulemaking Hearing and Adoption of Rules Tom Stahl, Fish Division Deputy Administrator
39 40 41	Chino	orovided the Commission with a presentation on the fall 2025 regulations for wild ook salmon in coastal rivers, guided by the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and gement Plan (CMP) and, south of the Elk River, the Rogue Fall Chinook

- 1 Conservation Plan. In response to very low returns in the Umpqua Basin, where the
- 2 2024 run was the lowest since the 1980s and fell below the critical threshold, the
- 3 Commission limited Chinook harvest in the Umpqua population to 500 wild fish under a
- 4 quota system allowing 1-per-day, 1-per-season (hatchery and wild) on Tuesdays,
- 5 Thursdays, and Saturdays only. Elsewhere, bag limits are adjusted in select rivers: the
- Nehalem River's seasonal limit drops from 5 to 2, Floras Creek/New River's seasonal 6
- 7 limit increases from 1 to 2, and Hunter Creek opens with a 1-per-day, 2-per-season limit
- 8 from October through December. Additionally, a permanent low-flow season closure
- 9 was [adjusted] established on the Sixes River to protect vulnerable fish at low flows, and
- 10 the flow closure will continue until flows are adequate to support vulnerable fish.

This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at

- 11
- 12
- 13 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Ex%20B%20PDFs
- 14
- 15
- 16

- 17 **Public Testimony**

12-25.pdf

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Chris Boice	Douglas County Board of Commissioners
Jody Wilson	Douglas County - Winchester Bay
Elizabeth Elam	
Sara Potter	Salmon Harbor Tackle & For the Love of the Tug
Craig Hall	Recreational fisherman
Robert Gensorek	Sport Angler
Craig Augustynovich	
Steve Godin	Oregon Coast Anglers
David Moskowitz	Wild Fish and Wild Rivers
John Wibbens	Spot Angler Fishing Guide

%20for%20Web/Exhibit%20B%202025%20Coastal%20Fall%20Chinook%20Salmon%206-

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- 19 Action:
- 20 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to adopt the draft rules for the 2025 Oregon Coast Wild
- 21 Fall Chinook Salmon as proposed by staff in Attachment 3; with Alternative Number 2 for
- 22 Umpqua Chinook (1/1 for Chinook, closed after 500 wild Chinook are harvested, open
- 23 Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday). Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde seconded the motion,
- 24 and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink,
- 25 Khalil, King, Hall Defees

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 27 The Commission met in executive session to consider information or records that are
- 28 exempt by law from public inspection, and to consult with legal counsel concerning the
- 29 legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to
- 30 be filed as authorized by ORS 192.660 (2)(f) and (2)(h).
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1 2 3 4	EXHIBIT C: COMMERCIAL COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FISHERIES RULE AMENDMENTS The Commission adopted rule amendments to conform with federally adopted limits and management measures for Pacific sardines.
5 6 7 8	Commission Action: Rulemaking Hearing and Adoption of Rules Greg Krutzikowsky, Nearshore Policy and Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries Project Leader
9 10 11 12 13 14 15	Greg's presentation reviewed rules for the 2025–26 Pacific sardine season. Because the number of sardines in the ocean is still very low, the main sardine fishing season will stay closed. Only small amounts of sardines can be caught by boats fishing for other species. For example, they can only keep up to 20% sardines in a catch of other coastal fish, or just 2 metric tons if fishing for non-coastal species. If the total catch for the year reaches 2,100 metric tons, even tighter limits will apply. These rules follow federal guidelines and are meant to protect the sardine population, which is an important food source for other ocean animals.
17 18 19 20 21	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20C%20 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06

- 1 the importation, possession, confinement, transport, and sale of non-native wildlife in
- 2 Oregon, marking the first part of a two-step rulemaking process with final decisions
- 3 expected at the August 15, 2025, meeting. The primary objective is to better protect
- 4 Oregon's native species by categorizing non-native wildlife into four classes—Prohibited,
- 5 Controlled, Noncontrolled, and Exempt based on their potential risk. Among key changes,
- 6 the amendments propose permanently banning golden mussels, expanding prohibitions
- 7 to include all non-native abalone, mystery snails (Viviparidae), and oyster drill
- 8 (Muricidae); reclassifying sea turtles; adding new noncontrolled species like pythons,
- 9 boas, geckos, and brush-tailed bettongs; adjusting management for controlled species
- 10 including mute swans (removing male neutering requirement and adding egg-destruction
- requirements); and loosening restrictions on green crab harvest—removing prohibitions
- on returning catch to water and enabling commercial operations where previously
- 13 banned.

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This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at

16 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20D PD

F%20Files%20For%20Web/Exhibit%20D Presentation.pdf

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Public Testimony

Amanda Fox Animal Research Initiative

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EXHIBIT E: APPEALS OF PREFERENCE POINT REINSTATEMENT REQUEST DENIALS

The Commission reviewed appeals requesting to reinstatement of preference points for pronghorn antelope hunt 472A2 (Silvies Unit No. 2), and buck deer hunt 146 (Murderer's Creek), that have been denied by the department.

Commission Action: Deny

Ken Loffink, Chief Operating Officer

Commission deny the reinstatement requests

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Ken provided the Commission with information on a series of appeals for reinstating hunting preference points under OAR 635-060-0046. In 2024, the department received 754 reinstatement applications—681 approved and 73 denied—and processed over 3,000 additional point adjustments tied to wildfire-affected hunts. Two specific appeal cases were highlighted: one involving pronghorn hunters in Unit 2 (Hunt 472A2) who ended their hunt early due to poor air quality and fire activity, and another involving a deer hunter in Murderer's Creek Unit (Hunt 146) who declined to hunt citing similar concerns. In both instances, ODFW staff determined that accessible areas remained and that the circumstances did not fit the rule's definition of events beyond the hunters' control, so the appeals were denied. Based on these evaluations, staff recommended the

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This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20E PD F%20Files%20For%20Web/Exhibit%20E Presentation.pdf

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1	No Public Testimony
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3	Action:
4	Commissioner Hall Defrees moved to deny the appeal by Thomas D. Beck and Jesse T.
5	Beck for pronghorn antelope preference point reinstatement and deny the appeal by
6	Justin R. Herry for buck deer preference point reinstatement. Commissioner Spelbrink
7	seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor; Wahl, Hatfield-Hyde,
8 9	Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, Hall Defees
10	EXHIBIT F: 2026 AUCTION RAFFLE TAG ALLOCATIONS
11	The Commission approved recommendations of the Access and Habitat Board and ODFW
12	staff for 2026 auction and raffle tag allocations.
13	starrior 2020 adetion and rame tag anocations.
14	Commission Action: Approval
15	Dr. Don Whitaker, Ungulate Species Coordinator
16	Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Program Coordinator
17	,
18	Don and Travis provided the Commission with a presentation explaining how special
19	auction and raffle hunting tags for animals like bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope,
20	Rocky Mountain goats, deer, and elk generate funds for wildlife work. In 2025, one
21	special tag each for bighorn sheep, pronghorn, and goats raised money over \$652,000 for
22	sheep, \$71,710 for pronghorn, and about \$87,000 for goats: while tags for deer and elk
23	brought in nearly \$1 million for habitat and access programs.
24	
25	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
26	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20F PD
27	F%20Files%20for%20Web/Exhibit%20F Presentation.pdf
28	
29	No Public Testimony
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31	Action:
32	Commissioner Hall Defrees moved to approve the 2026 auction and raffle big game tag
33 34	allocations as proposed by staff and the A&H Board and shown in attachments 2 and 3.
35	Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the motion and the motion was carried five (5) in favor; Wahl, Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, Hall Defees; one (1) absent; Hatfield-Hyde
36	ravor, warii, Labriart, Speibrilik, Kriaili, Kirig, Hali Derees, Offe (1) absert, Hatrielu-nyue
37	EXHIBIT G: ACCESS & HABITAT PROJECT FUNDING
38	The Commission approved the Access and Habitat Board recommendations for project
39	funding.
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41	Commission Action: Approval
42	Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Program Coordinator
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1	Travis provided the Commission with a presentation sharing how the Access & Habitat
2	Program helps hunters and wildlife by recommending two new projects. One is the New
3	River Access Area, which provides hunters with access to about 3,500 acres and helps
4	reduce damage to farmland by Aleutian geese. The other is the large Jackson Cooperative
5	Travel Management Area, covering over 34,500 acres, which improves access, cuts down
6	on disturbing wildlife during winter, and supports better road management across
7	different landowners. These projects were proposed by staff to be approved by the
8	Commission to improve hunting opportunities and wildlife habitat in Oregon.
9	
10	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
11	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20G PD
12	F%20Files%20for%20Web%20Posting/Exhibit%20G Presentation AH.pdf
13	
14	No Public Testimony
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16	Action:
17	Commissioner Spelbrink moved to approve the two projects recommended for funding
18	by the Access & Habitat Board. Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion
19	was carried five (5) in favor; Wahl, Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, Hall Defees; one (1)
20	absent; Hatfield-Hyde
21	
22	EXHIBIT H: OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY
23	PROJECT FUNDING
24	The Commission will be asked to approve the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund
25	(OCRF) Advisory Committee's recommendations for wildlife passage project funding.
26	Commission Action: Approval
27	Reva Gillman, OCRF Coordinator
28	
29	Reva provided the Commission with a presentation on project proposals for \$574,500
30	from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund to support two wildlife connectivity
31	projects. One project plans to add a wildlife shield over an Interstate 5 underpass near
32	the Mt. Ashland exit to help animals cross the highway safely. The other will restore
33	aquatic passage in Cackler Marsh at Baskett Slough, improving the stream and wetland
34	habitat so fish, turtles, and beavers can move more freely. Both locations are designated
35	Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, and the projects aim to help wildlife in response to
36	climate change, while also creating educational and public use opportunities.
37	
38	This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at
39	https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20H PD
40	F%20FIles%20for%20Web/Exhibit%20H Presentation.pdf
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42	No Public Testimony
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44	Action:

1 Commissioner Labhart moved to approve expenditure from the Oregon Conservation 2 and Recreation Fund of up to \$574,500 for two projects: "Adaptive Plan to Improve 3 Wildlife Passage Under I-5" and "Cackler Marsh Aquatic Passage Restoration." 4 . Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion carried four (4) in favor; 5 Hatfield-Hyde, Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, Hall Defees. one (1) absent- Hatfield-6 Hyde; one (1) reclused - Wahl 7 8 9 EXHIBIT I: R&E PROJECT APPROVAL 10 The Commission will be asked to approve the Recreation & Enhancement (R&E) Board 11 recommendations for Cycle 25-1 Projects and the 2025-27 R&E Administration and 12 Operations Budget. 13 14 Commission Action: Approval 15 Martin Olson, R&E/STEP Coordinator 16 17 Martin provided the Commission with a presentation on final approval to seven projects 18 recommended by the Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Board as part of the 2025–27 19 biennium Cycle 1. These include a major restoration of the Klamath Hatchery building 20 office, shop, and hatch house, which was destroyed by fire. The seven recommended 21 projects also include ODFW administration and operations support, covering 22 grant-management systems, STEP (Salmon & Trout Enhancement Program) education 23 materials and fish food, mini-grants through STAC, and emergency grant funding to keep 24 the R&E program running smoothly. 25 26 This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/25/06 June/Exhibit%20I %20 27 28 PDF's%20for%20Web/Ex%20I%20Presentation%20Restoration%20and%20Enhancement 29 %20Project%20Approval.pdf 30 31 No Public Testimony 32 33 Action: 34 Commissioner King moved to approve the projects recommended by the Restoration and 35 Enhancement Board as set forth in Attachment 2. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the 36 motion and the motion was carried five (5) in favor; Wahl, Labhart, Spelbrink, Khalil, King, 37 Hall Defees; one (1) absent; Hatfield-Hyde 38

Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

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