

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - 2027-29 Proposed Policy Option Packages

Number	Policy Option Package Title	Division	Package Type	Fund Type: Funding Source	Policy Package Total	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds (new program)	Federal Funds	# of Pos.	FTE	Position Type
101	Recovering Oregon's Wildlife	Wildlife, Habitat, Fish, Admin	New	OF: TLT	\$57,053,654			\$57,053,654		84	81.50	PF
102	Wildlife Stewardship	Wildlife	New	OF: TLT	\$1,411,283			\$1,411,283		4	4.00	PF
103	Wildlife Connectivity	Wildlife	New	OF: TLT	\$3,400,000			\$3,400,000		0	0.00	-
104	Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund	Habitat	New	OF: TLT	\$3,400,000			\$3,400,000		0	0.00	-
105	Recreational Shellfish Surveys and Public Outreach	Fish	New	OF: Ded. License (Shellfish)	\$891,808			\$891,808		3	3.00	PF
106	Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative Outreach and Implementation	Fish	New	OF: Private	\$500,000			\$500,000		0	0.00	-
107	Hood Ecoregion Steelhead Monitoring	Fish	New	OF: HRWG and COP Contracts	\$628,632			\$628,632		6	3.17	PF
108	Springfield Fish Sorter	Fish	Continuation	OF: EWEB and FF: USACE	\$238,283			\$159,843	\$78,440	1	1.00	PF
109	Invasive Species Prevention and Detection Outreach	Wildlife	Continuation	OF: OSMB AIS Prevention and FF:USACE	\$49,494				\$49,494	(1)	0.17	PF
110	Seasonal Sauvie Island WLA Parking	Wildlife	New	OF: Sauvie Island Beaches Parking	\$321,116			\$321,116		2	0.58	PF
111	Hatchery Resiliency Infrastructure	Capital Construction	New	OF: General Obligation Bond	\$30,855,494			\$30,855,494		3	3.00	PF
112	Debt Service Hatchery Resiliency Infrastructure	Debt Service	New	General Fund	\$2,814,883	\$2,491,732		\$323,151				
113	Deschutes and Rogue Watershed Offices	Capital Construction	New	OF-General Obligation Bonds	\$11,000,000			\$11,000,000		0	0.00	-
114	Debt Service Deschutes and Rogue Watershed Offices	Debt Service	New	General Fund	\$1,022,915	\$872,915		\$150,000				
115	Klamath Hatchery Capacity	Fish	New	OF: Yurok Tribe	\$5,445,700			\$5,445,700		0	0.00	-
116	Fish Passage Infrastructure Lottery Bonds	Fish	Continuation	OF: Lottery Revenue Bonds	\$9,000,000			\$9,000,000		0	0.00	-
117	Investing in Sustainable Hatchery Capacity for the Umpqua Basin	Fish	New	OF: Insurance and FF: FEMA	\$71,190,000			\$18,000,000	\$53,190,000	3	3.00	PF
118	Capital Construction Non-Bond Eligible Costs	Admin	New	OF- License	\$100,000			\$100,000		0	0.00	-
	TOTALS				\$199,323,262	\$3,364,647	\$0	\$142,640,681	\$53,317,934	105	99.42	

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

101 Recovering Oregon's Wildlife

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Oregon has seen a rise in the number of native species identified as needing conservation attention over the past two decades. Today, hundreds of species fall into the State Wildlife Action Plan's (SWAP) categories of greatest conservation or information need, and those lists continue to grow as new science highlights emerging risks. The SWAP is Oregon's central tool for identifying which species are most at risk and for providing a clear, statewide roadmap for their recovery. It outlines where the greatest pressures exist, which habitats are most important, and what actions will make the biggest difference on the ground.

The consequences of losing Oregon's native species extend well beyond ecology. When species become at risk, the state often must devote significant time and resources to meet federal recovery and planning requirements—work that can be far more costly than early, proactive conservation. Investing now helps Oregon avoid those future costs, while preserving flexibility for communities, landowners, and local economies. There are also deep cultural stakes. Many species central to Tribal traditions, food systems, and ceremonial practices are the same species experiencing the steepest declines. Protecting them honors Tribal sovereignty and keeps cultural knowledge and connections strong for future generations. Oregon's economy also depends on healthy wildlife and natural landscapes. People travel here to hike, fish, birdwatch, and experience Oregon's outdoor identity—spending money in local businesses, rural communities, and gateway towns. When wildlife declines, those opportunities diminish along with the economic activity they generate.

Taken together, the growing number of at-risk species, the cultural importance of Oregon's wildlife, and the economic value of healthy ecosystems make clear the need for a coordinated, statewide effort to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan. This package provides the framework to do exactly that—protecting what Oregonians care about while setting the stage for long-term ecological and economic resilience.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

During the 2026 session, the Oregon legislature passed HB 4134, increasing the state's transient lodging tax rate by 1.25%, with 0.90% to be continuously appropriated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purposes of implementing the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The

estimated revenue through June 30, 2029 is \$60 million. This package proposes a comprehensive investment in statewide capacity to implement the SWAP by expanding staffing, ensuring strategic planning and coordination, and supporting on-the-ground conservation through collaboration. These investments are organized using a framework of “Know – Plan – Do” to ensure Oregon has the scientific foundation, strategic prioritization, and implementation capacity needed to conserve Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats.

Know – Build the Scientific Foundation

To build agency capacity to address critical data gaps and strengthen Oregon’s ability to monitor wildlife populations and habitat conditions, this package establishes the following:

- 26 Wildlife Diversity Biologists (6 FTE NRS-3 and 20 FTE NRS-2) and five supervisor positions (5 FTE NRPSS-2) to fill remaining statewide coverage gaps and support year-round monitoring of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- 3 Seasonal Positions (2.0 FTE BSA) to address critical data gaps and strengthen monitoring for nongame native fish.
- 5 Biologist and Seasonal Biologist positions (1 FTE NRS3, 1 FTE NRS1, and 1.5 FTE BSA) to investigate, identify, and address limiting factors to white sturgeon, a long lived, late maturing species that has been having recruitment and productivity issues for the past 15 years that raise serious concerns about the future of this iconic species.

These positions create stable, statewide monitoring coverage across watershed districts and ecoregions, ensuring the agency can consistently evaluate species status, habitat conditions, limiting factors, and emerging risks in alignment with SWAP goals.

Additionally, to quickly address priority information gaps and accelerate high-value SWAP actions, this package provides \$1.88 million in one-time funding that will be used to fund external contracts, partnerships, and agreements to support targeted data-gap projects for high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need. These partner-driven projects ensure that critical information needed to conserve at-risk species is collected rapidly—years sooner than agency capacity alone could deliver—and allow SWAP implementation to begin immediately across Oregon’s landscapes.

Last, a third-party contract would be used to design a recommended statewide structure for wildlife monitoring, research, evaluation, and data management to support Oregon’s SWAP implementation. This investment establishes the foundational architecture needed for long-term monitoring, consistent data storage, and modern analytical capacity. By engaging external expertise, ODFW can ensure a rigorous, scalable framework that supports future decision-making, improves statewide coordination, and positions the agency to meet conservation and reporting expectations efficiently and effectively.

Plan – Strengthen Strategic Coordination and Conservation Design

To translate improved knowledge into effective conservation action, this package establishes the following:

- 3 Statewide specialists to serve as agency experts for SWAP birds, herpetofauna, and mammals/bats by reclassing one existing NRS-3 position to an NRS-4 and by creating two new NRS-4 positions (2 FTE) as well as fund shift and reclass of an existing NRS-4 to provide supervision of the Wildlife Diversity Program that leads statewide SWAP implementation. These positions will design monitoring protocols and conservation plans, coordinate statewide data collection and reporting, guide district wildlife diversity biologists, and support ODFW participation in Federal ESA and

Oregon ESA processes. They will also provide clear, consistent scientific guidance to habitat biologists to ensure habitat protection and restoration effectively supports species needs.

- Fund shifts and modifies 0.75 FTE of an existing NRS-4 to develop and coordinate implementation of ODFW's Beaver Action Plan to develop and coordinate implementation of ODFW's Beaver Action Plan. This position ensures statewide consistency in approaches that support hydrologic resilience, habitat complexity, and climate-adaptation goals that support SWAP species.
- 2 GIS Positions (1 FTE ISS-6 and 1 FTE ISS-4) to provide dedicated geospatial support for SWAP implementation. These positions will map species habitats, analyze connectivity, develop spatial decision tools, and track conservation outcomes statewide.
- 1 Archaeologist (1 FTE NRS-4) to support habitat restoration projects for SWAP species by conducting required cultural-resource reviews, accelerating permitting, and ensuring projects proceed efficiently and lawfully across landscapes with historic and cultural sensitivities.

These positions provide essential strategic, analytical, and technical support for designing, coordinating, and delivering species conservation actions statewide.

Additionally, to quickly advance priority SWAP actions, this package includes \$400K in one-time investments to support two high-value planning efforts: Columbian sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction and kit fox conservation planning.

Do – Deliver On-the-Ground Conservation Outcomes Across Ecoregions

To translate stronger scientific knowledge and strategic planning into tangible improvements for wildlife and habitats, this package invests in the field-based capacity necessary to implement restoration and management actions across Oregon's landscapes. These positions ensure that SWAP priorities move from planning to action by reducing limiting factors, improving habitat conditions, and increasing long-term ecological resilience.

- 16 Habitat Biologists (5 FTE NRS-3 and 11 FTE NRS-2) and Five Supervisor Positions (5 FTE NRPSS-2) to protect and restore SWAP habitats across all ecoregions. These positions provide consistent, year-round presence in districts, enabling the agency to deliver restoration projects, address habitat threats, and coordinate effectively with landowners, Tribes, local governments, and federal partners.
- 7 Working Lands for Wildlife Biologists (1 FTE NRS-3 and 6 FTE NRS-2) to sustain and strengthen Oregon's network of specialists who help private landowners implement wildlife-compatible practices. These positions increase access to federal cost-share programs, support voluntary conservation, and maintain continuity for producers who rely on trusted technical advisors. Their work is critical to conserving at-risk species on working agricultural and rangeland landscapes.
- 1 Public Lands Good Neighbor Biologist (1 FTE) dedicated to planning, coordinating, and implementing habitat restoration on public lands. This position expands ODFW's capacity to increase the pace and scale of restoration through the Good Neighbor Authority framework and strengthens partnerships with federal land management agencies.
- 1 OSP Enforcement Position (1 FTE) to support compliance, protect restored habitats, and ensure conservation investments on public and private lands are safeguarded.
- 1 Communications Position (1 FTE PAS-2) to coordinate outreach, share conservation outcomes, develop materials that support landowner engagement, and maintain transparency around SWAP implementation statewide.

These positions collectively create the infrastructure needed to deliver measurable conservation gains across ecoregions, reduce threats to Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and strengthen climate and landscape resilience through coordinated, science-based action.

Additionally, to quickly advance priority SWAP actions, this package includes \$3.3M in one-time investments for immediate on-the-ground project implementation. These funds accelerate high-value restoration and management actions that address urgent habitat needs and benefit multiple species simultaneously. Examples include:

- Habitat restoration demonstration projects in the Portland Metro area (\$760K)
- Implementation of Pacific Fisher reintroduction in Southwest Oregon (\$1.7M)
- Habitat restoration for Burrowing Owl in Umatilla (\$200K)
- Invasive species control in Northwest Oregon to benefit the Northwestern Pond Turtle (\$400K)
- Habitat restoration demonstration project for beaver (\$200K)

These targeted investments ensure that conservation impact begins immediately while long-term staffing capacity is being developed.

Landscape-Scale Investments Across Oregon's Nine Ecoregions

In addition to statewide capacity, this package proposes targeted investments to advance landscape-scale conservation in each of Oregon's nine ecoregions.

All Ecoregions: Each ecoregion receives \$1.5M in S&S funds to support high-priority projects that advance SWAP goals through data collection, planning, and habitat restoration. Funding is available for either ODFW-led or partner-driven efforts, ensuring local needs are met with flexible, community-aligned solutions.

Nearshore Ecoregion: Investments in the nearshore will support healthy kelp and rocky ecosystems, the backbone of Oregon's nearshore environment. The package includes a total of \$1.73 million for an NRS-3 (1 FTE), NRS-2 (1 FTE), and two BSA positions (2 FTE) to expand coastwide monitoring; an NRS-3 position (1 FTE) to lead science- and community-informed sea otter reintroduction scoping as well as implementation of the states Southern Resident Orca Recovery Plan; and one-time project funds for social-science-based outreach, surveys, and sunflower sea star translocation and education.

Eastern Ecoregions: Targeted investments (\$4.5 million) strengthen rangeland resilience for species such as Sagebrush Sparrow, Desert Horned Lizard, Brewer's Sparrow, Washington Ground Squirrel, American Pika, and Greater Sage-grouse. Efforts include developing an action plan, landscape-scale invasive grass control, native seed supply for restoration and post-fire recovery, virtual fencing to increase habitat connectivity, and enhanced rangeland monitoring and science partnerships.

Klamath Ecoregion: Targeted investments (\$1.7 million) support rare species recovery and reintroduction as landscape-scale restoration progresses. This includes Mazama newt culture and translocation, Klamath sucker culture, Spring Chinook reintroduction, and habitat restoration for rare bull trout

populations. The package also establishes an NRS-2 position (1 FTE) to expand fish-screen maintenance capacity and leverage federal screening investments.

Administrative Support

To ensure effective implementation of the SWAP and meet the administrative needs associated with expanded staffing and contracting, this package establishes the following positions: an HRA-2 (1 FTE) and HRA-3 (1 FTE) to support human-resources functions; an Acct-1 (1 FTE) to provide essential fiscal processing capacity; and a PCS-3 (1 FTE) and PCS-2 (1 FTE) to manage contracting and procurement associated with statewide SWAP actions.

In addition, the package establishes a BOM-1 (1 FTE) and two PA-2 positions (2 FTE) to provide critical administrative and budget support for the Habitat Division and field programs as they scale to meet new conservation demands.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

The proposed investments directly advance the agency's mission to protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife, and their habitats by strengthening implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) through the Know – Plan – Do framework. This approach builds a durable, statewide conservation system that is scientifically grounded, strategically coordinated, and effective on the ground.

- *Know – Build and Maintain the Scientific Foundation:* These investments expand the agency's ability to gather, analyze, and communicate essential biological and ecological information across Oregon's landscapes, waters, and communities. Enhanced monitoring, habitat assessment, species evaluation, and data integration improve understanding of population trends, emerging threats, and habitat conditions, ensuring decisions are based on strong, current science that supports SWAP priorities.
- *Plan – Strengthen Coordination, Prioritization, and Strategic Action:* The investments increase capacity for statewide conservation planning, partner engagement, and program coordination. This includes developing strategies that focus resources where they can make the most difference, supporting community and partner-led conservation, and ensuring programs are aligned with SWAP goals. Improved planning capacity enables more effective prioritization, better use of agency resources, and stronger alignment across conservation partners.
- *Do – Deliver On-the-Ground Conservation Outcomes:* Enhanced implementation capacity allows the agency and its partners to carry out restoration, habitat enhancement, connectivity improvements, shellfish and estuarine monitoring, conflict reduction, public education, and community outreach.

By investing in the Know – Plan – Do framework, this package collectively ensures the agency can fulfill its mission more effectively. The approach strengthens scientific understanding, improves statewide conservation planning, and expands the ability to deliver meaningful, measurable conservation outcomes. These actions directly reduce risks to at-risk species, increase habitat resilience, support sustainable recreational opportunities, and help prevent future declines that could lead to regulatory consequences. This operational work delivers immediate and long-term benefits to Oregon's ecosystems and communities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

By building a stronger scientific foundation, improving strategic coordination, and expanding on-the-ground conservation capacity, this investment package creates a statewide system that directly supports ODFW's ability to meet its Key Performance Measures. Enhanced monitoring and research improve our ability to understand species status (KPM 4 and 5) and reduce the number of at-risk fish and wildlife, while strengthened planning and habitat work support healthier ecosystems that benefit both game (KPM 1 and 2) and nongame species. Expanded field presence increases responsiveness to landowners and communities, improves conflict resolution (KPM 3), and enhances overall customer satisfaction (KPM 7), while additional operational capacity ensures progress on priorities such as habitat restoration, species recovery, and reducing unscreened water diversions (KPM 6).

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Prior to the passage of HB 4134, there was no dedicated funding for species of greatest conservation need in Oregon. The agency, legislative task forces, and numerous partners have pursued alternative funding to address this critical need.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Without these investments, the agency will continue to lack the capacity, data, staffing, and coordination needed to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan at the scale intended. As a result, the underlying conditions affecting Species of Greatest Conservation Need would continue to deteriorate, leading to increased habitat loss, greater fragmentation, reduced resilience to climate and landscape change, and a higher likelihood of population declines or future listings. The continued gap between SWAP goals and on-the-ground action would ultimately leave Oregon's fish and wildlife more vulnerable and reduce the agency's ability to prevent long-term ecological and economic impacts across the state.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

Office and field supplies for staff listed in the table below, as well as service and supply funds for materials, contracts, agreements, and infrastructure improvements to support implementation of the state wildlife action plan.

STAFFING IMPACT

010-05: Inland Fisheries

Establish 6 positions (5.00 FTE):

Establish one permanent full-time Biological Science Assistant (1.00 FTE, C3769)

Establish two seasonal full-time Biological Science Assistant (1.00 FTE, C3769)

Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE, C8502)

Establish two permanent full-time Program Analyst 2 (2.00 FTE, X0861)

Reclass existing Natural Resource Specialist 3 (C8503) to a Natural Resource Specialist 4 (C8504): Position 1315012

010-06: Marine & Columbia River

Establish 10 positions (7.50 FTE):

Establish three permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 3 (2.00 FTE, C8503, X8503)

Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE, C8502)

Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 1 (1.00 FTE, C8501)

Establish two permanent full-time Biological Science Assistant (2.00 FTE, C3769)

Establish three seasonal full-time Biological Science Assistants (1.50 FTE, C3769)

020-03: Wildlife Conservation

Establish 28 positions (28.00 FTE):

Establish two permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 4 (2.00 FTE, C8504)

Establish six permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 3 (6.00 FTE, C8503)

Establish 20 permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (20.00 FTE, C8502)

Reclass existing Natural Resource Specialist 3 (C8503) to a Natural Resource Specialist 4 (C8504): Position 1000186

Reclass existing Natural Resource Specialist 4 (C8504) to a Natural Resource Protection and Sustainability Manager 1 (X7465): Position 1000124

040-00: Admin

Establish 9 positions (9.00 FTE):

Establish one permanent full-time Public Affairs Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE, C0865)

Establish one permanent full-time Information Systems Specialist 4 (1.00 FTE, C1484)

Establish one permanent full-time Information Systems Specialist 6 (1.00 FTE, C1486)

Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 4 (1.00 FTE, C8504)

Establish one permanent full-time Human Resource Analyst 1 (1.00 FTE, X1320)

Establish one permanent full-time Human Resource Analyst 2 (1.00 FTE, X1321)

Establish one permanent full-time Accountant 1 (1.00 FTE, C1216)

Establish one permanent full-time Procurement and Contract Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE, C0437)

Establish one permanent full-time Procurement and Contract Specialist 3 (1.00 FTE, C0438)

060-00 Habitat Division

Establish 20 positions (20.00 FTE)

Establish one permanent full-time Business Operations Manager 1 (1.00 FTE, X7085)

Establish seven permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 3 (7.00 FTE, C8503)

Establish one limited full-time Natural Resource Specialist 3 (1.00 FTE, C8503)

Establish 10 permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (10.00 FTE, C8502)

Establish one limited full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 (1.00 FTE, C8502)

Reclass existing Natural Resource Protection and Sustainability Manager 3 (Z7463) to a Natural Resource Protection and Sustainability Administrator 1 (Z7462): Position 2123015

Fund shift five existing Natural Resource Specialist 2 (C8502) from 80% FF (NRCS)/20% GF to 80% OF (TLT)/20% GF: Positions 2325001, 2325002, 2325003, 2325004 & 2325005

020-03 Wildlife Conservation and 060 Habitat Division

Establish 10 positions (10.00 FTE)

Establish 10 permanent full-time Natural Resource Protection and Sustainability Supervisor 2 (10.00 FTE, X7466), split funded (50/50) by Habitat and Wildlife Divisions

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The success of this package will be measured by how effectively it strengthens Oregon’s ability to detect risks early, coordinate strategic conservation, and deliver meaningful improvements for Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Expanded monitoring and research capacity will be reflected in more frequent and comprehensive assessments that reduce priority data gaps and establish current status information for at-risk species. Strengthened planning and coordination will be demonstrated through the development of updated conservation strategies, improved statewide consistency in data and protocols, and enhanced geospatial tools that guide conservation decisions. Increased implementation capacity will be measured by the number and scope of habitat restoration and species-recovery projects completed across ecoregions, improvements in habitat conditions where monitoring allows tracking, and greater participation by landowners in voluntary conservation programs. Together, these outcomes will show measurable progress toward reducing long-term risks to wildlife and improving ecological resilience statewide, consistent with the outcomes envisioned in SWAP implementation

REVENUE SOURCE

\$57,053,654 Other Funds (Dedicated; TLT)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

102 Wildlife Stewardship

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Oregon's communities are expanding into areas that wildlife have long depended on, increasing the frequency and complexity of human-wildlife interactions. As development pushes into natural habitats and urban growth boundaries continue to expand, conflicts are becoming more common—from everyday issues such as bats or raccoons in homes to concerns involving bears, cougars, or wolves. Responding to these situations is core department work, yet current capacity limits our ability to be consistently proactive.

Many conflicts stem from gaps in public understanding about how to prevent problems before they occur. Activities such as feeding wildlife, leaving attractants unsecured, or intervening when encountering young animals can create predictable challenges for both people and wildlife. These situations highlight the need for broader public engagement, especially in urban areas where stewardship efforts can meaningfully reduce conflict and keep wildlife behavior natural.

Increasing overlap between people and wildlife also results in more reports of injured or orphaned animals. Oregon's wildlife rehabilitators provide essential care but operate without state funding and often face strained capacity. When distressed wildlife do not receive timely and appropriate help—or when young animals are picked up unnecessarily—the chances of successful return to the wild decrease.

As wolves expand into new parts of Oregon, livestock producers are experiencing increased conflict as well. Numerous tools exist to support coexistence, yet staff capacity limits how consistently and proactively we can assist producers in implementing effective strategies.

The department provides online resources, including the "Living with Wildlife" webpage and listings of Wildlife Control Operators and licensed rehabilitators, but public demand continues to grow. Human safety remains a high priority, and effective response requires close coordination with law enforcement and thoughtful decision-making grounded in science, professional judgment, and animal welfare. To meet Oregon's rising needs, additional resources are essential. Increasing staff capacity, strengthening outreach in urban and rural communities, supporting wildlife rehabilitation, and expanding tools for coexistence will allow the department to help Oregonians steward wildlife responsibly—protecting both public safety and the state's natural heritage.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The Wildlife Stewardship Program would place three biologists in areas with significant population density or growth, where human-wildlife interactions are most common. While these positions would be based in key urban centers within the West Region, the tools, guidance, and outreach materials they develop would be designed for use across Oregon. Their work would center on strengthening outreach and engagement, supporting local governments and community groups, providing training for partner organizations, and contributing to conservation and habitat efforts within their regions. They would also provide guidance to wildlife rehabilitators on treatment standards, facility inspections, permitting, and other regulatory requirements.

This team would also develop and deliver focused "Living with Wildlife" messaging tailored to urban and suburban settings. Working with nonprofits, other agencies, and educational institutions, they would help create materials for use in classrooms, Outdoor School, after-school programs, community workshops, events, and digital platforms. Although the biologists are stationed in the West Region, these materials and messages would be adaptable and available statewide. To reach audiences unfamiliar with ODFW, the program includes funding for an advertising campaign to highlight ways to prevent conflict and where to seek assistance.

Oregon's wildlife rehabilitators—private, nonprofit, community-based organizations—play a critical role in caring for injured and orphaned wildlife, yet they rely heavily on fundraising to operate. Additional support is needed to ensure adequate care and holding space for wildlife; this package establishes a grant program to help meet that need.

The program also includes a Wolf Conflict Specialist who would work directly with communities and livestock producers as wolves expand into new areas. This specialist would connect producers with conflict-reduction tools and resources and provide on-the-ground support when issues arise.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

The agency's mission is to "protect and enhance Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment by present and future generations." The agency has an obligation to respond to human health concerns from wildlife, and partner to prevent injury, ill-treatment or unintended orphaning of wildlife.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This position is directly tied to the Agency's key performance measure number 7: "Customer Service - Percent of customers rating their overall satisfaction with the agency above average or excellent. Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent" for timeliness, accuracy, helpfulness, expertise and availability of information." These positions will directly focus efforts for addressing the wildlife conflict for the largest population centers, and focus on positive, proactive education and outreach on Living with Wildlife. The position is also tied to KMP#3: "Wildlife Damage – Number of wildlife damage complaints addressed annually." Wildlife damage occurs throughout the state, but damage to property (aka bats in attics, skunks under porches) occurs at a higher number in urban and suburban settings.

This proposal addresses ODFW Strategic Plan Goal 1 – Demonstrate effective stewardship of Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and their habitats. It also supports Objective 1.1 – Implement effective stewardship of Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and their habitats through sound science and addressing constituent needs. It furthers these goals and objectives by creating more capacity for district biologists and Wildlife Division leadership to focus on the needs of animals and habitat, in lieu of repetitively and reactively addressing human behaviors that contribute to conflicts with wildlife.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

The Agency is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

The agency could maintain the current structure of district wildlife biologist responding as they are available to urban and suburban wildlife conflict with a heavy reliance in these areas for wildlife control operations, wildlife rehabbers, non-profits, local governments and law enforcement. Also maintain the current education and outreach around Living with Wildlife through our website and phone lines without proactive, campaign efforts to inform Oregonians on how best to interact with wildlife. This was rejected due to the significant increase in wildlife conflict, anticipated growth in Oregon populations continuing, continued wolf expansion across the state, and need to adequately fund stewardship efforts and wildlife rehabilitation.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Not funding this package would negatively impact wildlife, the agency, its customers, and external stakeholders. The department would continue operating without a coordinated effort to help the public understand how to respond to injured or suspected orphaned wildlife in urban and suburban areas, and capacity to assist communities and livestock producers with wolf-related conflict would remain limited.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

- Office and Field Supplies for four NRS2 biologists
- Media/advertising campaign to provide education on appropriate measure to address wildlife conflict
- Grant program to support licensed wildlife rehabbers in the holding and treatment of injured and orphaned wildlife

STAFFING IMPACT

Establish 4 Positions (4.00 FTE)

Game Management (020-01-01-00000)

Establish three Natural Resource Specialist 2 Wildlife Stewardship Biologist positions (3.00 FTE) located in urban areas in ODFW’s West Region.

Wolf Management (020-03-06-00000)

Establish one Natural Resource Specialist 2 Wolf Conflict Specialist position (1.00 FTE) located in Klamath Falls.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

It is anticipated that there will be increased awareness and knowledge by Oregonians in urban and suburban settings on how to avoid wildlife conflict and who to contact to cooperatively address it when it occurs. Increased funding and solvency for non-profit wildlife rehabbers, and better cooperation between the department, local governments, law enforcement and stakeholder groups. Tracking of social media engagement, news media mentions, web and email campaign analytics and customer surveys will determine whether messages and distribution strategies are effective.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$ 1,411,283 – Other Fund (Dedicated; TLT)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

103 Wildlife Connectivity

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Habitat connectivity is essential for Oregon’s wildlife. Animals need the ability to move across the landscape to find food, escape threats, migrate, maintain genetic diversity, and adapt to rapidly changing climate conditions. Connected habitats are widely recognized as one of the most effective strategies to build climate resilience for wildlife.

Across Oregon, development, roads, invasive species, and climate-driven habitat changes increasingly fragment the landscape and cut off pathways that species rely on. These disruptions already affect many of the 320 Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in Oregon’s State wildlife Action Plan, which was recently approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, contributing to population declines, reduced genetic exchange, and higher mortality at roads and other barriers.

To address this, Oregon has identified Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas—key regions of the state that provide the most critical remaining movement routes for wildlife. Protecting and restoring these areas supports biodiversity, reduces wildlife-vehicle collisions, and maintains the ecological processes that sustain Oregon’s natural heritage.

The Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, established in ORS 496.272, outlines statewide goals to conserve and enhance habitat connectivity. However, current resourcing levels are not sufficient to maintain or improve connectivity at the scale needed. As pressures on wildlife increase, so does the urgency. Timely investment in habitat protection, barrier removal, and strategic mitigation—particularly in places where key corridors intersect roads and development—will help ensure wildlife can continue to move, survive, and adapt in a rapidly changing environment.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

During the 2026 legislative session, Oregon enacted HB 4134, increasing the state’s transient lodging tax and dedicating a portion of the new revenue to wildlife connectivity efforts. This policy option package directs those funds toward implementing the Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (ORS 496.272).

Funding would be structured to maximize impact across both agency efforts and collaborative work with partners. Approximately 40% of the revenue would support ODFW-led projects that strengthen habitat connectivity, including restoring and enhancing key habitats, removing barriers to wildlife movement, and advancing research on species movement and corridor needs.

The remaining 60% would be awarded to external partners through competitive grants for projects that advance statewide connectivity goals and support the work of the Wildlife Passage Advisory Group. These dollars could also serve as match for federal and philanthropic programs, many of which require a 20% or greater non-federal contribution. Leveraging state funds in this way would substantially expand the scale and reach of connectivity projects across Oregon.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

ODFW's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." This proposal furthers this mission by increasing the capacity of the Department and its partners to protect, enhance, and restore habitat connectivity for wildlife, remove barriers to wildlife movement, and better describe the movement patterns and habitat requirements of at-risk species and other wildlife, information that is critical to preventing population declines. This funding will increase ODFW's capacity to directly address threats to vulnerable wildlife species and mitigate impacts from habitat loss and fragmentation, helping ensure that the Department is successful in maintaining viable populations of native wildlife for enjoyment by future generations to come.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package will directly support Key Performance Measure 1 by contributing to healthier, more resilient wildlife populations—conditions that ultimately sustain and grow hunter participation over time. By addressing the connectivity challenges that limit wildlife movement and survival, this package strengthens ODFW's ability to confront the mounting pressures of habitat fragmentation, land-use change, climate impacts, and expanding energy development.

Implementing the Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan will help prevent and reverse population declines, support species in adapting to changing landscapes, and improve the overall health of game and non-game wildlife alike. Stronger, more stable wildlife populations translate into more robust hunting opportunities, improved success rates, and continued engagement from Oregon's hunting community. This work also aligns with and enhances the goals of game management plans, supporting sustainable recreation and long-term conservation outcomes statewide.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

No funding currently exists for implementation of the Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. Current state funding for connectivity improvements is insufficient to match additional grants or other outside funding, limiting ODFW's ability to obtain additional external resources.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If this package is not funded, ODFW and external partners will continue to lack adequate resources for implementation of the Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan. Without targeted efforts to remove barriers to wildlife movement and improve habitat connectivity throughout the state, negative impacts to species are expected, including injury and mortality, reduced fecundity, population declines, and limitations on the abilities of species to adapt to changing conditions, which could result in at-risk species being listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Listing could have significant economic and social impacts to communities throughout Oregon. Recreational opportunities may be impacted in specific wildlife management units where deer, elk, or other game animals are impeded from following historic migration routes, accessing critical stopover locations, or dispersing into new areas, or where individuals are lost to vehicle-related mortality or fence entanglement.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

This package includes services and supplies for projects implemented with the funds. Field supplies and equipment may be purchased as part of project implementation.

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The primary result will be implementation of the Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan, including Department-led work and ODCF-funded conservation projects throughout Oregon. Overall effectiveness of this policy option package will be determined by the number of Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas addressed. Ultimately, the success of this package will be determined by the conservation gains made for wildlife species, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and their habitats.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$3,400,000 Other Funds (Dedicated-TLT)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

104 Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) supports projects that protect and enhance resiliency for the species and habitats identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan. The OCRF program also creates opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation and strives to engage underserved and minority communities in Oregon.

OCRF program has a track record of providing funding to partners in a timely, effective, and equitable way, increasing climate resiliency of species and Oregon communities by:

1. Restoring healthy ecosystems to benefit Oregon's fish and wildlife and improve the health of our environment for future generations,
2. Engaging Oregonians in the science and research needed to improve our understanding of Oregon's diverse species, and
3. Connecting youth, families, diverse and underserved communities to the outdoors.

The need and demand for the OCRF grant program funds remains high. Since its establishment by Oregon legislature in 2019, the OCRF grant program has delivered more than \$10 million in conservation funding to 204 projects throughout the state, benefitting a diverse range of species, habitats, organizations, and communities. OCRF has completed nine rounds of funding, and the requests still far exceed funds available. For example, OCRF grant solicitations have been running two per year with a funding cap of \$1 million and a project cap of roughly 20-25 projects. In OCRF's latest grant solicitation, the program received proposals for more than 100 projects, requesting roughly \$5.8 million in funding.

Funding for OCRF has varied. When it was created, funding was through a public-private model of state General Funds matched by private donations. In recent years, OCRF's funding model has shifted more heavily toward state funding, although a number of individuals still donate to OCRF, primarily as an add-on to their purchase of a hunting and/or fishing license in the ODFW Electronic Licensing System. These donations have generated roughly \$600,000 to date. With the passage of HB 4314 (2026), the Legislature established dedicated funding for this program. HB 4134 increased the state transient lodging tax with a dedicated portion (0.05%) of the increased for deposit in the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, which is anticipated to generate \$3.1 million in revenue in the 2027-29 biennium.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Permanently fund the existing permanent full time NRS-3 OCRF Coordinator position to administer the grant program and ensure continuation and delivery of the grant program. Authorize spending limitation for the administration of the OCRF grant program.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal specifically supports agency priorities to promote broad participation and belonging in the outdoors, climate resiliency, and implement the State Wildlife Action Plan’s goals for conservation of Oregon’s fish, wildlife, and their habitats for present and future generations.

The Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan lays out a proactive approach to conserve and increase resiliency of declining species and habitats, which reduces the possibility of future federal or state listing per the Endangered Species Act. The goal is to avoid having any new species listed as threatened or endangered, which will greatly benefit many Oregonians, in particular Oregonians that depend on working lands to support their livelihood and Oregon’s economy.

The ODFW Strategic Plan emphasizes efforts to broaden the department’s engagement and service to communities. The OCRF has been key to these efforts by funding projects that increase equity in outdoor recreation and connect more people to nature.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package will contribute to several Key Performance Measures (KPM) including #4 and #5 monitoring and reducing the number of fish and wildlife species of concerns, and KPM #7 (maintaining or increasing customer rating of satisfaction).

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Funding of the OCRF ensures consistency with HB 4134 (2026).

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

The grant program and the coordinator position would not be funded without this allocation.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The primary result will be continued implementation of OCRF-funded conservation and recreation projects throughout Oregon. Ultimately, the success of this package will be determined by the conservation gains made for Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Key Habitats and by a measurable increase in public participation in conservation-oriented recreation and outdoor education.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$3,400,000 Other Funds (Dedicated -TLT)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

105 Recreational Shellfish Surveys and Public Outreach

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The ODFW Shellfish Program is responsible for the statewide assessment, monitoring, and management of Oregon's shellfish resources, marine invertebrate communities, and estuarine habitats. A cornerstone of this work is the Shellfish and Estuarine Habitat Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR) project (4 FTE) which conducts year round, on the ground surveys of bay clams, other estuarine shellfish, and critical habitats such as eelgrass. These periodic stock assessments provide the scientific basis for recreational harvest opportunities and commercial landing quotas, forming the backbone of sustainable shellfish management in Oregon. With over 206,000 recreational shellfish licenses sold in 2025, recreational crabbing and clamming is a significant contributor to coastal economies. Estimated total economic output exceeds \$30 million annually from recreational shellfishing alone.

However, current capacity constraints mean that SEACOR can typically resurvey a major estuary only once every ten years. Given the high level of demand from recreational and commercial harvesters, this survey interval is no longer adequate. A decade between assessments leaves managers without the timely data needed to detect population declines, shifting habitat conditions, or localized depletion. In high use estuaries, this lack of current information increases the risk of unintentional overharvest if stocks fall between survey cycles—potentially undermining fishery sustainability, public trust, and long term harvest opportunity.

Compounding this challenge, habitat characterization—especially mapping and monitoring of eelgrass—is an equally critical component of SEACOR's work. Eelgrass beds support species vital to Oregon's coastal economies and cultures, including salmonids, English sole, Dungeness crab, bay clams, rockfish, and waterfowl. These habitats are federally recognized as Essential Fish Habitat and designated as a Habitat Area of Particular Concern, and at the state level classified as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need within the Oregon Conservation Strategy. ODFW, through SEACOR, is the lead state agency performing systematic eelgrass monitoring, yet recent shifts in ocean conditions have caused rapid declines or wholesale losses of eelgrass in several estuaries—some of which have not recovered. Without increased monitoring frequency, Oregon lacks the data needed to respond effectively to these changes, meet conservation obligations, or support estuary scale planning and permitting processes

Additionally, demand for shellfish outreach and education continues to grow, driven by expanding public interest, the emergence of new issues such as invasive European green crab, and the need for clear, accessible information on safe and sustainable harvest. Outreach is currently performed on a limited basis by staff whose primary responsibilities center on monitoring and fishery management. A dedicated outreach position would enable proactive public engagement, align with the agency's Angler Education Program and Everyone Belongs Outdoors initiative, and support science communication, biotoxin awareness, school and Tribal partnerships, and community based stewardship.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Recreational shellfish licenses were required starting in 2003 and currently funds forty percent of the Shellfish Program's work. Beginning in 2026, the Recreational Shellfish fee was increased along with other recreational and commercial licenses, and it is estimated to accrue an additional \$1.4 to 2.3 million in the next two biennia. This package proposes to use a portion of these additional funds to expand the agency's existing Shellfish Program by three FTE to conduct more frequent bay clam stock assessments and estuarine habitat (i.e., eelgrass) surveys and develop and implement a strategic outreach plan for the program. This program augmentation will help the agency make more robust science-informed resource decisions on shellfish fisheries management issues, assess estuarine habitat impacts in future development and dredging projects, and provide more comprehensive and timely information about these resources to the public.

Specifically, this package proposes adding two staff positions to the SEACOR team (1.0 FTE Natural Resource Specialist 2 and 1.0 FTE Natural Resource Specialist 1) to increase the frequency of clam surveys in estuaries and develop an Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS, or drone) based program to map eelgrass regularly. The package also proposes adequate S&S to support the expanded SEACOR field work, equipment needed to develop a UAS program to map eelgrass, and to provide for contracting with outside dive teams to conduct underwater clam surveys. This package also proposes enhancing the Shellfish Program's ability to provide thorough and consistent outreach and education programs to the public, schools and Oregon's Tribes by adding one statewide staff position to the Shellfish Program, 1.0 FTE Natural Resource Specialist 3. A dedicated position to coordinate shellfish outreach and education will complement the agency's Angler Education Program and "Everyone Belongs Outdoors" campaign by developing new outreach initiatives through consistent engagement with the public, schools, and Tribes utilizing enhanced digital and social media, regulation signs, printed materials, citizen science projects, workshops, and tabling special outreach events. This dedicated outreach capacity will also play an essential role in recruiting new and returning recreational shellfishers by improving public awareness of opportunities, increasing confidence in ODFW's science-based management, and providing clear, accessible information that supports safe, sustainable, and enjoyable participation in Oregon's shellfish fisheries.

Combined, this package addresses recommendations from the recent Oregon Climate Action Commission's Natural Working Lands Proposal (NWL, 2021, in response to Executive Order 20-04), the 2015 Oregon Shellfish Task Force (created under 2015 HB 2209), and the Tillamook Bay Clam Advisory Committee (TBCAC, created under 2019 SB 1025). The proposed eelgrass mapping program will assist the state in meeting the goals and actions supporting the SWAP since native eelgrass is identified as one of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). This package will enhance recruitment and retention of recreational shellfish harvesters, conduct more frequent shellfish stock assessments, and improve estuarine habitat surveys in support of climate resilience and natural and working land priorities identified in Governor Kotek's Executive Order 25-26.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

The mission of ODFW is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations" which prioritizes both current harvest (i.e., use) and sustainability for future generations. This policy option package will improve the agency's ability to meet and balance both of those mandates by improving our understanding of bay clam and eelgrass population status, addressing key estuary

conservation issues identified in the SWAP, improving how we communicate and increasing the frequency of engagement with diverse shellfish and estuary resource users, and ensuring management decisions better reflect both conservation and fishery needs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package will enhance the agency's ability to effectively manage bay clam fisheries and their habitats and adapt to clam stock changes. Improved management of clam stocks and increasing outreach about shellfish resources is expected to improve clamming opportunities, which will contribute to KPM 2 (angling license purchases). Improved management of clam stocks and increasing outreach about shellfish resources will also contribute to KPM 7 (customer service) by improving the accuracy of the agency's data and predictions, improving the agency's expertise, improving communication with stakeholders, and allowing the agency to provide reliable data to the public and partnering agencies.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ORS 496.012, Wildlife Policy, establishes the goal of allowing for the best social, economic and recreational utilization of wildlife resources, and ORS 506.109, Food Fish Management Policy, establishes the goal of permitting optimum and equitable utilization of available food fish and preserving the economic contribution of the sports and commercial fishing industries. This request would allow ODFW to better manage Oregon's bay clam fisheries to provide optimal and sustained resource use and preserve economic contribution.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

The alternative is to continue to manage bay clam fisheries using stock assessments gathered on a 10-year interval, assessing estuarine health with limited eelgrass mapping information, and limited capacity to develop and implement shellfish outreach and education programs coastwide. This alternative was rejected because optimal management of clam fisheries and estuaries requires more up-to-date information on the status of stocks and habitat assessments. Without adequate up-to-date information, there is uncertainty in the status of stocks. This uncertainty requires resource managers to take a more conservative approach when developing harvest quotas and when providing review on development projects. This conservative approach could reduce the economic return of fisheries or developmental projects to the coastal economy. Alternatively, managing fisheries and assessing estuarine impacts with incomplete data could result in overharvest and clam stock failures or detrimental impacts to sensitive habitats due to the inability to detect population declines in a timely manner. In addition, the real-time estimates of population and habitat trends are needed to evaluate management techniques and to understand the impacts of coastal change (e.g. ocean acidification) and climate resilience on resource management approaches.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Lack of funding will result in status quo. Oregon's bay clam fisheries (both recreational and commercial) and estuarine habitats will continue to be managed with uncertainty due to the limited availability of timely stock and habitat status data and shellfish resource interested parties will have limited access to comprehensive outreach materials and information.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

General office and field equipment will be purchased for staff including computers and software, research mapping drones, outreach supplies and digital media, and field sampling equipment.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 1 position (C8501).
Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 2 position (C8502).
Establish one permanent full-time Natural Resource Specialist 3 position (C8503).

QUANTIFYING RESULTS:

Effectiveness of this package will be measured by how well it reduces uncertainty in clam stock and estuary habitat assessments and improves the Shellfish Program's ability to deliver timely, science-based management and public engagement. Key indicators include shortening estuary resurvey intervals from ten years to roughly seven to eight years, expanding the frequency and coverage of clam stock assessments, and establishing a functional UAS-based eelgrass mapping program. Success will also be reflected in more accurate, up-to-date population and habitat data used for harvest decisions and project reviews, reduced data gaps identified by SEACOR, and consistent coastwide eelgrass monitoring. The outreach program's effectiveness will be demonstrated through development of a coordinated statewide outreach strategy, improved access to clear shellfish information, and stronger engagement with Tribes, schools, communities, and recreational shellfishers. Together, these outcomes will show progress in strengthening estuary monitoring, supporting sustainable shellfish harvest, and improving public understanding of Oregon's shellfish resources.

REVENUE SOURCE:

\$891,808 Other Funds (ODFW Recreational Shellfish License).

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

106 Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative Outreach and Implementation

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The post-1800 settlement and development of the Columbia River Basin has brought significant change to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Some of these changes have brought economic growth, but they have also had negative impacts on native salmon and steelhead and the region's tribal communities. The states of Oregon and Washington have come together with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes – the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the Yakama Indian Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe, collectively the "Six Sovereigns" to put together the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI), a basin-wide roadmap for salmon and steelhead recovery that also recognizes the need to maintain the economic gains and services the system provides as well as respect for tribal sovereignty and rights.

The CBRI strives for a true win-win outcome and rejects the false premise that the region cannot have abundant, healthy salmon populations; a resilient and affordable green energy infrastructure; and a dynamic, river-based economy. The Six Sovereigns, through the CBRI, recognize that by modernizing and investing in clean energy, agriculture, and transportation as well as helping restore vital ecosystem functions and services essential for climate resilience, can help bring restore salmon, steelhead, and other native species, and bring forward Tribal people, fisheries, and local economies that have been left behind in the rush of development. The status quo will not achieve these goals and inaction is simply unacceptable. Decisive, urgent actions are necessary to recover and rebuild Columbia Basin salmon.

The leadership of the Six Sovereigns and the value of the CBRI have been recognized by regional federal delegation members, state agencies, tribal governments, and multiple non-profits. Recently, the Six Sovereigns have been awarded grants from the Hewlett Foundation (one-time grant for more than \$1 million), and the Satterberg Foundation based in Seattle, Washington has awarded an initial \$1 million with a potential to award an additional \$1 million per year over the next five years to help implement the core objectives of the CBRI. Depending on the success of these initial investments, there is a possibility for additional investments to be made available from other foundations.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The CBRI is an ambitious roadmap that acknowledges the need for significant increases in funding in the Columbia Basin for fish and wildlife restoration activities, grid modernization and energy resilience, and investing in communities and economic sectors associated with the Columbia River. To realize

these increases in investments significant coordination and outreach is going to be needed at all levels of government. At the same time, implementing actions on the ground cannot wait, actions are needed urgently. This POP grants ODFW the necessary expenditure limitation to accept private philanthropic resources and apply them to strategic coordination, outreach, education, and on-the-ground implementation actions associated with the CBRI. Funds will support collaborative work with the Six Sovereigns, inter-governmental coordination, public engagement, technical recovery planning, and early implementation tasks that advance salmon and steelhead restoration objectives. as well as implementation This POP directly supports implementation of Executive Order 24-28, Directing Coordinated and Transparent Implementation of Oregon’s Commitments to the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and the Resilient Columbia Basin Agreement.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This package directly supports the Department’s mission to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. Through improved coordination, education, and implementation of recovery tasks, and working with the Six Sovereigns, ODFW advances meaningful conservation outcomes and strengthens government-to-government relationships, consistent with Executive Order 24-28 and ODFW policy DO 100-04.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

The success of the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative Outreach and Implementation POP will be measured by the amount of additional funds leveraged by the funds taken in, the number of educational and outreach products produced, intergovernmental coordination milestones completed, implementation tasks initiated or completed, and reporting deliverables shared with other regional sovereigns and non-governmental partners.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

The Department is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and 506-513; ODFW Policy DO 100-04.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Without expenditure limitation, ODFW cannot access committed philanthropic resources, resulting in lost opportunities for early-action implementation and reduced capacity to participate fully in CBRI efforts. Alternative approaches would delay recovery progress and reduce the effectiveness of collaborative efforts with the Six Sovereigns.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If this POP is not approved, ODFW will be unable to accept pledged philanthropic support, slowing or preventing critical outreach, education, and implementation actions under the CBRI. This could undermine progress toward salmon and steelhead recovery, weaken tribal-state coordination, and reduce Oregon’s ability to contribute effectively to the Six Sovereigns’ shared commitments.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

Minimal equipment needs are anticipated. Expenditures may include outreach and educational materials, meeting support items, and small-scale field supplies as necessary to complete implementation tasks.

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Outcomes will include strengthened public understanding of the CBRI, improved intergovernmental coordination, increased overall resources for the CBRI, and completion of early implementation tasks contributing to improved salmon and steelhead recovery trajectories.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$500,000 (Other Funds – Private)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

107 Hood Ecoregion Steelhead Monitoring

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

ODFW's Inland Fish Science Program (IFSP) will lead contract-funded monitoring of ESA-listed steelhead populations in the Hood and Sandy River basins. This monitoring is necessary to collect data required for habitat conservation plans, restoration action plans, and federal recovery plans. While contracts are secured, the implementation of monitoring is currently limited by available position numbers to achieve necessary staffing.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Creating additional position numbers will allow us to fully staff and successfully implement this contract funded monitoring. For this POP we request 3.17 FTE in Seasonal Fulltime positions. That total FTE will be distributed among 5 BSA (C3769) positions and 1 NRS-1 (C8501) position.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

ODFW's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." This proposal supports the agency mission by allowing us to fully staff the monitoring necessary to evaluate progress toward steelhead population recovery.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package addresses Key Performance Measure (KPM) 2, percent of the license buying population with angling licenses and/or tags, and KPM 4, percent of fish species of concern (listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive) being monitored.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.
ODFW is authorized to cooperate with public and private agencies for fish management activities under ORS 496.164

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Current position numbers are insufficient to meet the staffing needs for these monitoring contracts. Borrowing position numbers was considered but rejected as it would impact the staff capacity of other projects.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

None – there is no funding requested in this POP, we are only requesting position numbers.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None purchased by this POP.

STAFFING IMPACT

This POP will create 6 new Seasonal positions (3.17 FTE in total).

3 BSA's at 0.67 FTE ea.

2 BSA's at 0.33 FTE ea.

1 NRS-1 at 0.5 FTE

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The monitoring supported by the positions within this policy option package is directly incorporated into the calculation of ODFW KPM 4, the percent of Oregon fish species of concern being monitored. Improved monitoring methods, abundance and distribution information, and assessment of hatchery and wild fish interactions will all contribute directly to the effective management of steelhead populations and fisheries. This is expected to enhance angler opportunities and increase angling license purchases (KPM 2). The key, quantifiable results include timely completion of data analyses, and completion and dissemination of steelhead monitoring data analysis. These measures are necessary to support conservation and fishery management efforts.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$628,632; Other Funds (Contracts with City of Portland, Hood River Watershed Group)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

108 Springfield Fish Sorter Capacity

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This package establishes a new permanent position. This was previously a Limited Duration (LD) position that was borrowed in 2025 to assist district staff with management of ESA-listed Chinook salmon and bull trout on the McKenzie River associated with hydroelectric facilities and flood control dams. This position may also help support other needs within the Upper Willamette Fish District.

This position supports ODFW's contractual obligations with the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) for trap and haul of Chinook salmon and bull trout at Trail Bridge Dam and native cutthroat trout reintroduction and brook trout removal at Carmen Dam. This position also serves as a crew lead with the Leaburg Dam Adult Fish Sorter Project funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide broodstock collection and compliance with the McKenzie Hatchery Genetic Management Plan. This work was conducted using a temporary position until a limited duration position was made available in 2025.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Create a permanent position to ensure ODFW maintains sufficient staffing to fulfil its longstanding contractual commitments to EWEB and USACE. Establishing this role permanently will promote compliance with standard hiring practices and facilitate the recruitment of highly qualified candidates.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal aligns with agency objectives to restore native salmonid populations through fish resource monitoring and management, facilitating fish passage at dams, and eliminating non-native species. Maintaining robust salmonid populations is vital for preserving recreational, commercial, cultural, and aesthetic values for current and future Oregonians, as well as for sustaining ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This proposal will be successful if this position provides adequate staffing to meet contractual requirements and fish management needs.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Duties could continue to be met by temporary appointments, but this option is not recommended due to inappropriate long-term use of temporary positions and limitations of temporary positions to a maximum 1080 hours of allowable work during a calendar year.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Due to constraints associated with temporary appointments, essential work may be unable to proceed and may be discontinued, potentially leading to a breach of contract and adverse effects on native fish populations.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

Establish 1 FTE NRS-1 position.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be generally determined by continuation of contractually required work supporting ESA-listed Chinook salmon and bull trout and other native fish species impacted by hydroelectric and flood control dams on the McKenzie River.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$159,843 Other Funds (Eugene Water and Electric Board)

\$78,440 Federal Funds (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

109 Aquatic Invasive Species Detection and Outreach

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Invasive species are known to have a devastating impact to wildlife, reducing biodiversity, increasing risk of extinction, and altering habitats. Each year new non-native species are documented in Oregon, causing increasing ecological, economic, and social impacts. The challenges associated with preventing and managing invasive species continue to grow and the need for coordinated outreach to engage the public in prevention practices is critical.

Impacts to aquatic systems from species like invasive freshwater mussels are severe. The imminent threat of quagga mussels in the mid-Snake River (Twin Falls, ID) and the detection of golden mussels in the Sacramento River Delta and in the California water project highlight the growing need for additional prevention and detection efforts through public engagement and outreach. Invasive freshwater mussels clog intake pipes of power plants, ruin boat motors, and are virtually impossible to eradicate. Once established in a waterbody, management costs are enormous, particularly for industrial water users and water supply agencies. They also have the potential to collapse entire food webs, reducing fish populations, and devastating fisheries. Oregon has an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (AISPP) established by the 2009 Oregon Legislature aimed at keeping Oregon's lakes, rivers, and streams free of destructive invasive species. This program includes managing watercraft inspection stations and education and outreach efforts through a mix of permanent and seasonal technical staff.

The threat of invasive species is exacerbated by a changing climate and human population expansion. Invasive species impacting Oregon's wildlife include American bullfrog, European starling, common snapping turtle, red-eared slider, and feral swine. Many of these species are human-introduced, and their expansion threatens our native wildlife populations. Non-native species such as these are known to be a leading factor in the decline or extinction of native species, and many of Oregon's most imperiled species are impacted by competition or direct predation by invasive species.

The AISPP employs 7 permanent staff including a project leader, two regional station coordinators, and four year-round inspectors. Additionally, 20 seasonal inspectors are hired for the summer boating season and positioned around the state at various inspection locations. With the nearby threat of invasive freshwater mussels and increased public interest in invasive species prevention, staff are receiving an increasing number of requests to participate in and present at outreach events around the state. Current staff are responsible for maintaining current inspection station levels, coordinating prevention efforts, performing inspections, and responding to the increasing public requests and interest in invasive species prevention efforts around the state. In response to this increased public interest, during the 2025-27 biennium a limited duration technician position was created by using months and funding previously allocated to two seasonal technician positions to help coordinate the AISPP outreach efforts.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This package proposes expanding ODFW's capacity to prevent and manage invasive species by converting the existing seasonal position to permanent full-time thus ensuring continuation of current outreach and education efforts. Establishing a permanent position in place of two summer seasonals will allow for increased outreach by allowing for continuity between seasons and the establishment of ongoing relationships with agency partners. Allocating AISPP resources in this way will allow for more effective and strategic planning and coordination.

This position would be supported with funding from US Army Corps of Engineers-WRDA.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal directly supports the agency mission of protecting Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The impacts of invasive species have direct and indirect impacts to Oregon's native fish and wildlife populations as well as their habitats. Increasing our capacity to prevent and manage invasive species is a critical priority.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package relates to KPM 1 (percent of the license buying population with hunting licenses and/or tags) and KPM 2 (percent of the license buying population with angling licenses and/or tags); if invasive species have a detrimental effect on native fish and wildlife populations, hunting and fishing opportunities will decrease. The package also relates to KPM 3 (number of wildlife damage complaints addressed annually); as habitats are impacted, wildlife populations may more frequently damage agriculture/crops. The package also relates to KPM4 (percent of fish species of concern being monitored) and KPM5 (percent of wildlife species of concern being monitored); increased capacity will allow ODFW to better monitor impacts of invasive species, including impacts on fish and wildlife species of concern.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Maintaining existing capacity was considered, but only sufficient for limited outreach and education coordination efforts related to invasive species. It is insufficient for expanded efforts and responding to the increasing public requests for education, outreach, and training related to aquatic invasive species.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Status quo outreach and education efforts related to invasive species prevention and public engagement are expected to decline due to increased workload potentially resulting in less public awareness, engagement, and support for AISPP. Aquatic invasive species could have dramatic detrimental effects to fish and wildlife populations, and potentially economic impacts to aquatic infrastructure.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

Establish 1 position (1.00 FTE) and abolish two positions (0.84 FTE)

Conservation Dedicated & Obligated (020-03-04-00000)

Establish one permanent full time Fish and Wildlife Technician Senior (C8342) position: 2729XXX

Abolish two seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician Positions (C8341) (2527054 and 2527055)

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be generally determined by increase in prevention and detection efforts for aquatic invasive species, including outreach, coordination, and watercraft inspection efforts. In addition, the effectiveness will be determined by the prevention or management of invasive species and ultimate protection of Oregon's fish and wildlife populations.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$49,494 Federal Funds (100% USACE-WRDA)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

110 Seasonal Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Parking

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA) was established in 1947 to provide habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. While the area is set aside for wildlife, people have also been enjoying its beaches for decades. Over the past decade however, summer recreation pressure has grown far beyond what the area was designed to accommodate. On hot weekends and holidays, beach visitation routinely exceeds the capacity of Reeder Road and the parking available at Walton, Collins, North Unit, and Willow Bar Beaches. Traffic studies have documented parking demand exceeding capacity by more than 80% on peak days, resulting in long backups, gridlock, and widespread double and triple parking. These conditions routinely block emergency vehicle access and create serious public safety risks, while also contributing to habitat degradation through vegetation damage, soil disturbance, waste issues, and sustained disturbance to wildlife.

To address these escalating issues, ODFW implemented a pilot program in 2025 that introduced a new beach pass, hired a professional traffic management vendor, and established a controlled checkpoint on Reeder Road. The pilot successfully reduced congestion, maintained emergency access, and improved safety for both people and wildlife. But the pilot also underscored a critical operational reality: sustainable traffic management requires dedicated personnel whose sole focus is public coordination, communication, and on-the-ground decision-making. Throughout the pilot, ODFW staff and the traffic management company had to constantly monitor parking availability, direct vehicles safely, manage the checkpoint, and maintain continuous communication to prevent gridlock. This effort required substantial time from permanent ODFW employees who had to delay regular duties or work extended hours in extreme heat conditions.

Without personnel focused exclusively on monitoring parking capacity, communicating with visitors, and maintaining safe traffic flow, SIWA cannot ensure emergency access, safeguard habitat, or maintain safe and orderly conditions during peak visitation periods.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

ODFW proposes hiring two seasonal Sauvie Island Wildlife Technical Coordinators to focus on traffic control at the checkpoint on Reeder Road and at the Willow Bar parking lot on weekends and holidays from June 15th through Labor Day. These Coordinators will manage vehicle flow through the checkpoint, monitor parking availability across all beach lots, make real-time decisions on when to stop issuing passes, coordinate directly with the

traffic management vendor and SIWA staff, prepare and maintain signage and checkpoint equipment, interact with the public—including during periods of confusion or conflict—and provide daily and end-of-season operational reports. The personnel costs and services and supplies will be funded through other-fund dollars generated by the sale of the new Sauvie Island Beaches Parking Permit.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

The new seasonal traffic management positions directly support ODFW's mission to protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats by ensuring that heavy summer visitation at Sauvie Island Beaches is managed safely and responsibly. By providing dedicated staff responsible for overseeing vehicle flow, protecting emergency vehicle access, preventing habitat damage from overflow parking and maintaining safe conditions for up to 1,000 vehicles a day, these positions will help safeguard both natural resources and public access. They also advance strategic plan goals related to effective stewardship, operational efficiency, and improved customer service by taking pressure off permanent staff, strengthening coordination with partners, and ensuring consistent on-site communication with visitors. In doing so, the positions provide the focused attention needed to run the traffic management program successfully while supporting ODFW's broader conservation and public-service objectives.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

Success of the Sauvie Island traffic management program is expected to contribute to ODFW's Customer Service Key Performance Measure (KPM 8). The 2025 pilot customer survey showed strong approval of reduced congestion and better traffic flow. Dedicated staffing is needed to ensure an orderly traffic management system and continued high customer satisfaction.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

ODFW considered using only existing staff to run the Sauvie Island traffic program, but this was rejected because permanent employees have full-time workloads and cannot take on the intensive, daily responsibility of managing up to 1,000 vehicles without compromising their core duties. The option of relying solely on a traffic management contractor was also dismissed, as key operational decisions such as when to stop issuing passes, require onsite ODFW expertise and authority.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Without this position the department will see increased burden on existing SIWA staff which will result in loss of efficiency in other areas of wildlife area management including farming and water management which is important to fall waterfowl hunting season. Requiring existing permanent staff to work weekends and holidays will likely contribute to staff burnout, and more difficulty in hiring already challenging positions. Direct impacts at the check station will likely be poor coordination with the traffic management vendor, safety issues on Reeder Road, and lower customer satisfaction results.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

Additional biennial costs include maintenance of signage and materials (\$9,000), communications and media outreach (\$12,950), and contracting with the traffic management company (\$150,000).

STAFFING IMPACT

Establish 2 Positions (0.58 FTE)

Restoration and Management (020-01-06-00000)

Establish two seasonal full-time Fish and Wildlife Technical Coordinator (C8346) positions

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be generally determined by continued safe traffic conditions on Reeder Road and in the Willow Bar parking lot during weekends and holidays from June 15 through Labor Day. ODFW will also conduct post-season customer satisfaction surveys.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$321,116 Other Funds (Sauvie Island Beaches Parking Permit).

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

111 Hatchery Resiliency Infrastructure

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

ODFW operates a statewide hatchery system consisting of 32 hatcheries, 13 of which are state-owned. These facilities form an interconnected network responsible for rearing more than 40 million salmon, steelhead, and trout annually, supporting fisheries, communities, Tribes, and local economies across Oregon.

A comprehensive, independent assessment--conducted by third-party experts in economics, infrastructure, and biology and supplemented by extensive public engagement—confirmed that Oregon’s hatchery system provides substantial social, cultural, and economic value, but is under increasing strain. The assessment documented a statewide economic impact from the 12 state-owned facilities of approximately \$55.5 million annually and the equivalent of 1,100 jobs, with benefits especially concentrated in rural and underserved communities. Hatcheries also carry deep cultural importance for Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes, many of whom depend on hatchery production for ceremonial and subsistence harvest opportunities and for reintroduction or recovery of fish populations. Hatcheries further serve as educational and tourism destinations, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Despite these benefits, the independent review highlighted a system facing intensifying operational challenges. Much of the state-owned hatchery infrastructure—some of it constructed 50 to 100 years ago—has exceeded its intended lifespan, resulting in a significant deferred maintenance backlog. Rising costs for electricity, feed, and basic operations have compounded these infrastructure issues. At the same time, climate change is already affecting hatchery function: many facilities are experiencing higher water temperatures, declining summer flows, and repeated wildfire impacts, all of which increase fish mortality risk and reduce operational reliability. Several hatcheries have experienced fire-related disruptions or damage every year since 2020.

The third-party assessment makes clear that these challenges jeopardize ODFW’s ability to sustain the critical economic, social, and cultural benefits the hatchery system provides. It concluded that the long-term viability of Oregon’s hatchery programs—whether for mitigation, conservation, or harvest—will require sustained, strategic investment to address aging infrastructure, climate vulnerability, and the rising cost and complexity of operations. Without such investment, Oregon’s hatchery system will face increasing difficulty meeting its obligations, supporting communities and Tribes, and maintaining the fisheries and cultural values that depend on it.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Building directly on the insights and priorities identified through the independent 2025 third-party assessment, ODFW proposes a focused package of strategic investments to strengthen the resilience and long-term sustainability of Oregon's hatchery system. The assessment provides detailed, facility-specific information on vulnerabilities, infrastructure needs, and climate-related risks, offering a clear roadmap for prioritizing improvements. To implement these assessment-guided upgrades, the Department is proposing \$30 million in general obligation bond funding dedicated to projects that enhance hatchery system resiliency, address critical maintenance needs, and improve water security and operational stability. These investments will be sequenced and prioritized based on the independent assessment's findings and updated information to ensure that funding directly supports the most urgent and strategically valuable infrastructure improvements.

This proposal also includes three permanent positions within the Engineering Section. The third-party review underscored the need for consistent, specialized engineering and construction management capacity to carry out infrastructure upgrades effectively. Permanent positions are necessary to attract and retain qualified professionals, provide continuity across multi-year capital projects, and ensure that construction timelines and funding requirements are met.

Together, the proposed bond funding and permanent engineering capacity represent a strategic, assessment-driven approach to ensuring that Oregon's hatchery system remains resilient, reliable, and capable of supporting the economic, cultural, and community benefits it provides statewide.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal specifically supports agency priorities to promote hatchery production resiliency to climate change and maintain current fish production. The outcome is to maintain current level or increase angling opportunities. Additionally, this proposal specifically supports agency priorities to promote opportunities and participation in hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and development of outdoor skills through the improvement of agency-owned facilities that supports these mission critical activities. This in turn will translate into revenue to support fish and wildlife management and increased revenue for retailers, motels, restaurants, retail outlets, manufacturers, guides, and businesses and industries related to fish and wildlife recreation.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

Each project will be evaluated for effectiveness in maintaining or expanding fish production over the next 30 years and in achieving gains in climate preparedness. Success will be determined by maintaining or increasing fish production level at these hatcheries. This package relates to KPM 1 (percent of the license buying population with hunting licenses and/or tags) and KPM 2 (percent of the license buying population with angling licenses and/or tags).

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

We considered reducing fish production to coincide with increasing temperatures and declining water flows, or to generate savings to support infrastructure work. The alternative was rejected due to the impact on fishing, license sales and harvest opportunity. For the positions, ODFW has considered continuing to try and hire positions as temporary or limited duration, but this approach has not worked in the past and is not a viable approach for these position types and long-term multi-biennia approach to improving hatchery sustainability and resiliency.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Failing to invest now would leave Oregon’s hatchery system increasingly unable to withstand the environmental and operational pressures already identified by the independent assessment. Without strategic upgrades and sufficient staffing to implement them, climate-driven warming waters, declining summer flows, and more frequent wildfires will continue to erode hatchery capacity. This will mean fewer fish produced, more emergency early releases, and lower post-release survival—directly reducing harvest opportunity and weakening the fisheries that thousands of Oregonians, Tribes, and visitors rely on.

The consequences extend well beyond fishing opportunity. Hatcheries generate tens of millions of dollars in economic activity each year, much of it in rural and underserved communities that depend on angling-related business. Reduced production will ripple through local economies, diminish tourism and visitation, and weaken the cultural and subsistence practices of Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes, many of whom rely on hatchery fish for ceremonial and subsistence harvest.

Inadequate staffing levels would further compound these risks. Without sustained engineering and construction management capacity, critical projects will slow or stall, allowing infrastructure vulnerabilities to worsen. Delays also jeopardize the Department’s ability to meet bond-funding timelines, limiting the effectiveness of already-authorized investments and increasing long-term costs. In short, without funding, Oregon’s hatchery system will face declining resilience, reduced public benefit, and erosion of the economic, cultural, and community values it is meant to uphold.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

As needed for project implementation.

STAFFING IMPACT

Create one full-time Facilities Engineer 3, one full-time Construction Project Manager 1, and one full-time Engineering Technician 2.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be evaluated using measurable outcomes, including improvements in fish production, fish health, water quality and supply reliability, and reductions in facility-level vulnerabilities. Progress will also be assessed based on the timely and successful completion of the projects identified through the 2025 hatchery assessment and supporting studies, which together provide a clear roadmap for addressing deferred maintenance and strengthening long-term resiliency.

REVENUE SOURCE

Capital Construction (089-89-00-00000)

\$30,855,494 Other Funds-General Obligation Bonds

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

112 Debt Service Hatchery Resiliency Infrastructure

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has a 2027-29 policy option package (POP 110) for \$30,855,494 Other Funds to implement infrastructure investments that would result in a sustainable and resilient hatchery system. These projects are requested to be financed with Article XI-Q bonds. ODFW has obtained debt service estimates from the DAS Capital Finance and Planning Section through the 2037-39 biennium for the Article XI-Q bonds with a bond sale date of May 2028.

This policy option package requests General Fund for ODFW's budget on an ongoing basis to pay the debt service costs associated with this XI-Q bond funding. The 2027-29 debt service amount is \$2,491,732 (\$905,000 in principal and \$1,586,732 in interest). Cost of bond issuance is \$323,151, which will be funded with bond proceeds.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This policy option package allows ODFW to obtain General Fund to pay for the financing that will enable it to repair or replace facility infrastructure that is essential for the successful management of Oregon's natural resources.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

ODFW's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." Restoring the facility integrity of these assets is key to the agency's responsibility to manage natural resources for use and enjoyment of the general public of Oregon. These projects all help accomplish the agency's primary mission and reduce the agency's risk and financial liability from further degradation of facilities and more expensive future repairs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package supports several key performance measures (KPMs) for the agency. This package will contribute to KPM 1 (Percent of the license buying population with hunting licenses and/or tags), KPM 2 (Percent of the license buying population with angling licenses and/or tags), KPM 3 (Number of wildlife damage complaints addressed annually), KPM 4 (Percent of fish species of concern, listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive, being

monitored), and KPM 5 (Percent of wildlife species of concern, listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive, being monitored) by restoring the agency's facility infrastructure which will contribute to the rehabilitation or replacement of the offices and support structures for staff directly involved in the management of natural resources for the State of Oregon. This package will also address KPM 7 (Percent of customers rating their overall satisfaction with the agency as above average or excellent) by improving our agency's public service areas and addressing ADA issues at the agency's facilities.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

The agency is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

For the projects identified in the hatchery resiliency package, all are informed by a third-party assessment that reviewed economic impacts, infrastructure needs, and conservation benefits of state hatchery programs. Oregon's hatchery system is a critical component for maintaining fisheries, providing conservation benefits, and supporting local and rural economies. As such, alternatives were not considered other than performing the necessary repairs to maintain facility function and employee and public safety. For projects identified for replacement, a repair alternative was qualitatively evaluated to see if it was feasible to repair the asset. In these cases, the alternative to replacement was rejected because the repair was determined to be either equal to or more expensive than replacing the asset.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If this package is not funded, the agency's capital assets will continue to deteriorate and will severely hamper the ability of the agency to meet resource management goals. Additionally critical monitoring activities of natural resources will be impeded if facilities continue to degrade, and business operations will become interrupted.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

N/A.

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The successful execution of this package is expected to improve the agency's ability to protect and manage Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.

REVENUE SOURCE

Debt Service (050-01-00-00000)

\$2,491,732 General Fund

Administrative Services Division (040-05-00-00000)

\$323,151 Other Funds: XI-Q Bond proceeds

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

113 Deschutes and Rogue Watershed Offices

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

ODFW owns and maintains many buildings which serve as office space for agency staff, and in many cases, locations for the public to access ODFW services, such as purchasing license products, submitting biological samples, or engaging with ODFW staff on questions or concerns. Many of these facilities are decades old, in need of repair or replacement, and are no longer meeting the needs of staff or our customers. This is the case for both the ODFW Deschutes Watershed District Office located in Bend, and the ODFW Rogue Watershed District Headquarters office, located in Central Point.

ODFW's Deschutes Watershed Office, located in downtown Bend, consists of a 1960's era home and storage buildings that have been refurbished into office space for staff. The facility is aging, in need of significant maintenance, no longer meets the needs of our staff or customers, and is the highest priority for replacement in ODFW's East Region. Over time, ODFW staff have adapted the space to best meet our needs, but the facility is now at a point where it either needs to be replaced or significantly upgraded. Further, due to space constraints, ODFW is currently leasing a small office space elsewhere in Bend to house several staff, which comes at significant cost to the agency. ODFW also owns and operates another office building located in Prineville that houses local district staff that is also in need of maintenance or replacement. Due to these combination of factors, and the close proximity of several ODFW owned or leased office space, the Department purchased a parcel of land centrally located in Redmond, and plans to construct a new Deschutes Watershed Office on the Redmond Parcel, that will replace the existing office(s) in Bend and Prineville and consolidate staff into one location that fully meets staff and customer service needs in the region. ODFW is currently in the design phase for the new Deschutes Watershed Office and expects to have a final design ready for construction of the new facility in the 2027-29 biennium.

ODFW's Rogue Watershed Office, located in Central Point on the Ken Denman Wildlife Area, is also in need of major repair and is no longer meeting the needs of the agency. The current office building was originally a residence and was repurposed by ODFW to house watershed district staff. The office and garage is a wood framed, ranch-style building with low pitched roof and crawl space. It appears to have originally been constructed around 1964-65. The original office was a small, square building with a detached garage to the west. The office and detached garage were later connected, and a second addition extended the office south and completed its modern footprint. This building has been a mostly functional location for many years, but due to its age and construction, is experiencing increasing maintenance and upkeep needs. Further, as a former residence, the building does not contain sufficient square footage to house the number of employees assigned to this site. Over the last few decades, local staff have adapted to these shortcomings by remodeling old garage space into offices, enclosing a breezeway to create the District Manager's office, and bringing in a rental office building which costs about \$6,000 per year to rent and operate. Additional sheds and outbuildings have been added over time to create additional storage space, sometimes with the intent to empty storage space to free up room to insert more office space. The office is also not well

suited to serving the public. As a former residence, the floor plan of the building is not set up for efficient use as office space and public service. There is limited space for the front counter where the public enters, and conference room and other spaces are very limited.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This package requests general obligation bond funding (\$11 million) to construct a new Deschutes Watershed Office in Redmond (\$10M), and design a new Rogue Watershed Office in Central Point (\$1M). For the Deschutes Watershed Office project, upon successful completion of construction of the new office, the existing watershed office in Bend and district office in Prineville will be put up for sale. Upon sale of the properties, proceeds will help address moving costs and other non-bond eligible costs, but proceeds are expected to be far smaller than what is needed for construction of the new watershed Office in Redmond.

In Central Point, the successful completion of the design of a new office will be used to create a cost estimate for construction to inform future a bonding request in the 2029-31 budget cycle. Given the needs on site, demolishing the existing structure and building a new office on the existing site is the only option for the agency. Because the agency owns the property, there is no cost to acquire land for an office building. Nor can ODFW sell this property to fund new construction or find a new location – the property has a deed restriction from the original ownership transfer that specifies that the property must be used to benefit fish and wildlife. If ODFW ceases these functions, the property might be returned at no cost to the federal government. This package will provide the funding necessary for the engineering and design of a new office on site that will fully meet ODFW and our customer’s needs.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

One of ODFW’s goals is to strategically address long-term deferred maintenance issues and improve the function and professionalism of our built environments. Construction of new buildings will remove existing and future deferred maintenance liabilities for the existing buildings, upgrade the professionalism and working functions of the district offices, and provide an opportunity to include energy efficiency measures that are not feasible with the existing buildings. The new buildings would be constructed with sufficient floor space and storage to support current operations and allow for some growth in occupancy, should that be needed in the future.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

Performance can be measured by successful construction of a new Deschutes Watershed District Office building in Redmond and the successful design of a new Rogue Watershed District Office in Central Point, as well as tracking of maintenance and upkeep costs to demonstrate reduced operating costs at these sites. Further, tracking of energy consumption reductions will demonstrate improvements in energy usage at the facilities.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

N/A.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

ODFW considered remodeling these buildings. This was rejected because it has been done at varying levels of scale several times over many decades at both the Deschutes and Rogue Watershed Office sites, and the feasibility to increase the amount of working space is very limited within the current footprints. It is likely that the most efficient approach to constructing a new building will be to consider two-story facilities; adding a second floor to the existing buildings is not feasible from an engineering standpoint. ODFW also considered leaving the buildings in their current state. This is not a desirable option because it leaves the agency with buildings that are too small to meet agency needs, are expensive to maintain, and do not present a professional and appealing footprint to the public and agency employees.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

The existing buildings would be left in their current condition and the agency would continue to attempt to address maintenance and operational issues in a piecemeal fashion that does not contribute to our long-term goals for facilities.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None.

STAFFING IMPACT

None.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Effectiveness will be quantified by comparing the new square footage of useable office, public service, and storage space to prior values; energy consumption metrics will be tracked and compared to prior values. Contractors will be required to complete work on time and within budget.

REVENUE SOURCE

Capital Construction (089-89-00-00000)

\$11,000,000 Other Funds-General Obligation Bonds

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

114 Debt Service Deschutes and Rogue Watershed Offices

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has a 2027-29 policy option package (POP 112) for \$11,000,000 Other Funds to construct a new Deschutes Watershed District Office in Redmond and perform the engineering and design of a new Rogue Watershed District Office in Central Point. These projects are requested to be financed with Article XI-Q bonds.

ODFW has obtained debt service estimates from the DAS Capital Finance and Planning Section through the 2037-39 biennium for the Article XI-Q bonds with a bond sale dates of October 2027 (Rogue Watershed Office) and May 2028 (Deschutes Watershed Office). This policy option package requests General Fund for ODFW's budget on an ongoing basis to pay the debt service costs associated with this XI-Q bond funding. The 2027-29 debt service amount is \$872,915 (\$255,000 in principal and \$617,915 in interest). Cost of bond issuance is \$150,000, which will be funded with bond proceeds.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This policy option package allows ODFW to obtain General Fund to pay for the financing that will enable it to repair or replace facility infrastructure that is essential for the successful management of Oregon's natural resources.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

ODFW's mission is "to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations." Restoring the facility integrity of these assets is key to the agency's responsibility to manage natural resources for use and enjoyment of the general public of Oregon. These projects all help accomplish the agency's primary mission and reduce the agency's risk and financial liability from further degradation of facilities and more expensive future repairs.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package supports several key performance measures (KPMs) for the agency. This package will contribute to KPM 1 (Percent of the license buying population with hunting licenses and/or tags), KPM 2 (Percent of the license buying population with angling licenses and/or tags), KPM 3 (Number of

wildlife damage complaints addressed annually), KPM 4 (Percent of fish species of concern, listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive, being monitored), and KPM 5 (Percent of wildlife species of concern, listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive, being monitored) by restoring the agency's facility infrastructure which will contribute to the rehabilitation or replacement of the offices and support structures for staff directly involved in the management of natural resources for the State of Oregon. This package will also address KPM 7 (Percent of customers rating their overall satisfaction with the agency as above average or excellent) by improving our agencies public service areas and addressing ADA issues at the agency's facilities.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

The agency is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

For the repair projects identified in the deferred maintenance package, alternatives were not considered other than performing the necessary repairs to maintain facility function and employee and public safety. For projects identified for replacement, a repair alternative was qualitatively evaluated to see if it was feasible to repair the asset. In these cases, the alternative to replacement was rejected because the repair was determined to be either equal to or more expensive than replacing the asset.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If this package is not funded, the agency's capital assets will continue to deteriorate and will severely hamper the ability of the agency to meet resource management goals. Additionally critical monitoring activities of natural resources will be impeded if facilities continue to degrade, and business operations will become interrupted.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

N/A.

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The successful execution of this package is expected to improve the agency's ability to protect and manage Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.

REVENUE SOURCE

Debt Service (050-01-00-00000)

\$872,915 General Fund

Administrative Services Division (040-05-00-00000)

\$150,000 Other Funds: XI-Q Bond proceeds

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

115 Klamath Hatchery Capacity

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This Policy Option Package (POP) requests expenditure limitation to address critical infrastructure upgrades at the Klamath Hatchery to support the production of Spring Chinook for ongoing reintroduction efforts in the upper Klamath Basin consistent with the Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin (Reintroduction Plan) adopted by ODFW and the Klamath Tribes in 2021. These upgrades will increase reliability, protect hatchery operations during summer temperatures, and expand program capacity in alignment with federal, Tribal, and state restoration commitments.

The Klamath Hatchery is not currently equipped to support the level of Spring Chinook production required for large-scale reintroduction efforts. Water temperatures routinely exceed ideal levels during summer months, reducing incubation success and smolt quality. Existing infrastructure, including outdated pumps and insufficient chilling capacity, cannot consistently meet the biological needs of Chinook rearing. Additionally, raceway conditions limit the number of juveniles that can be held, and current facilities do not provide the flexibility needed for climate resilience, emergency response, or year-round operations.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This funding will support an important improvement to the Klamath Hatchery that will enable its use as a conservation hatchery to accelerate the establishment of populations of spring run Chinook in the Upper Klamath Basin. Increased rearing capacity and improvement to water supply systems will increase efficiency while still meeting stringent discharge (NPDES) permit conditions. Combined infrastructure improvements will increase rearing capacity for spring chinook at Klamath Hatchery from current levels. Key infrastructure upgrades include the following components:

- Replacement of the upper spring pump to ensure reliable water delivery during low-flow periods.
- Expansion of chilled water system capacity to maintain optimal rearing temperatures.
- Installation of additional incubation equipment to increase juvenile production.
- Modernization of two raceways and improvement of biosecure fish rearing environments.
- Restoration of the settling pond to improve water quality, solids capture, and regulatory compliance

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

These upgrades directly support ODFW’s mission by increasing the agency’s ability to protect and enhance fish populations, restore ecological function in the Klamath Basin, and uphold Tribal trust and federal restoration commitments. The project also aligns with interagency agreements involving the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Klamath Tribes, and regional watershed groups engaged in Spring Chinook restoration.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

Performance measures that will be used to quantify success of the proposal include, the successful rearing of Spring Chinook under temperature controlled conditions, increased juvenile production capacity and improved survival upon release, and fewer system failures, particularly during high heat or low water events.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Original conceptual construction plans included four new raceways to increase rearing capacity for spring Chinook at Klamath hatchery from current levels (<10,000 pilot program) to 600,000/year. This concept was rejected because the footprint of the property would not allow for four raceways in a confined wetland area. Therefore, the selected option of 2 raceways and upgrades to infrastructure could provide the necessary rearing capacity.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If upgrades are not funded, Klamath Hatchery will continue to operate with insufficient capacity and unreliable equipment, limiting the ability to meet production goals and jeopardizing reintroduction success. Temporary responses—such as emergency water chilling or outsourcing rearing to other facilities—are costlier and operationally less reliable.

Failure to fund these upgrades will directly impact Spring Chinook reintroduction timelines and compromise collaboration with federal and Tribal partners. Production shortfalls will delay multiyear brood cycles and limit the ecological and cultural restoration benefits expected from restored Chinook runs.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Several tribes in the Klamath have recognized fishing rights, including the Yurok Tribe, The Klamath Tribes, and the Hoopa Valley Tribe. All these tribes will benefit from the successful execution of this project. In addition, the States of Oregon and California, as well as a wide variety of other interested parties are in active discussions about how to restore spring Chinook salmon populations to the Upper Klamath Basin. Reintroduction of this run of fish will benefit Tribes, States, as well as potentially benefiting local communities through fishing and tourism revenues

REVENUE SOURCE

\$5,445,700 (Other Funds-Yurok Tribe)

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

116 Fish Passage Infrastructure Lottery Bonds

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) administers the state's fish passage and fish screening statutes and corresponding administrative rules. Artificial obstructions (fish passage barriers) limit and restrict access to critical habitat essential for fish. Unscreened water diversions promote fish entrainment and mortality. Collectively there are more than 40,000 known fish passage barriers, of which 611 are statewide high priorities and over 3,500 priority unscreened water diversions in Oregon.

Providing fish passage at artificial obstructions and screening unscreened water diversion facilities is an agency priority. ODFW administers a Screens and Passage Cost-Share (Program) which encourages voluntary compliance with the state's fish passage and screening statutes through cost-share and tax credit funding incentives for landowners that choose to participate. The Program designs, installs, maintains and repairs critical passage and screening infrastructure throughout the state.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, ODFW received and is presently administering \$8.75M Lottery Revenue Bonds (LRB) to improve fish passage infrastructure. These LRB funds have leveraged additional local, state and federal funding to implement eleven high priority fish passage and screening projects in Oregon. Additional LRB funding will allow the Program to continue to contribute towards the conservation and recovery of the state's native migratory fish by funding high priority fish passage and screening projects.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

ODFW maintains a Statewide Fish Passage Priority Barrier List which identifies the highest priority fish passage artificial obstructions in Oregon. ODFW also maintains a list of priority unscreened water diversions. During the 2025-27 biennium the Department received \$8.75M LRB funding to address fish passage infrastructure. Therefore, the Department is proposing another LRB fund to allow the Department to continue to fund high priority fish passage and screening projects that will contribute towards the conservation and recovery of the state's native migratory fish.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal specifically supports agency priorities to conserve and enhance native fish populations by permanently removing or providing fish passage at priority barriers, dams in particular, and installing fish screens at unscreened water diversions throughout the State. Improvements in

fish passage at artificial obstructions allows access to previously blocked habitat which increases population productivity and access to climate resilient refugia habitat, thereby increasing survival and resiliency to climate change. Installing fish screens at unscreened priority water diversions is an ODFW Key Performance Measure (KPM #6). Installing, maintaining and repairing fish screens prevents fish from becoming entrained in water irrigation and delivery facilities which will increase population productivity, increase resilience to climate change, thereby increasing survival of the state's native fish. Additional LRB funds will provide passage at priority barriers and improve ODFW's ability to more successfully achieve KMP 6 by increasing the pace of installing fish screens and unscreened water diversions. This proposal aligns with the Governor's Executive Order (EO) 25-26 which directs agencies to take urgent action to promote the resilience of our communities and natural and working lands and waters.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

Each project funded with these resources will be evaluated for its impact to fish passage, in terms of species and life stages benefited, quantity and quality of habitat accessed, and extent of water screened (cubic feet/second) at unscreened water diversions.

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to administer the state's fish passage and screening statutes under ORS Chapters 315, 496, 498, 540, and 509 and is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

None

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

If not funded, the pace of providing fish passage at artificial obstructions barriers and screening unscreened water diversions will remain status quo.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be generally determined based on level of funding awarded to address fish passage at priority barriers and unscreened water diversions in Oregon.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$9,000,000 Other Funds-Lottery Revenue Bonds

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

117 Investing in Sustainable Hatchery Capacity for the Umpqua Basin

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Hatchery production in the Umpqua River Basin has supported local fisheries, regional economies, and Tribal harvest and cultural practices for more than a century. Rock Creek Hatchery played a central role in this production until the 2020 Archie Creek Fire severely damaged the facility and eliminated most of its operational capacity. The loss of the hatchery has affected fish production, limited public access to educational facilities, and required ODFW to shift operations to out-of-basin facilities. These reductions have had negative impacts on local communities, recreational and commercial fishing activity, and the cultural and subsistence practices of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

Findings from the Department’s independent, third-party hatchery system assessment completed in 2025 show that rebuilding Rock Creek Hatchery in its previous form would not be sustainable. The watershed now faces higher summer water temperatures, reduced flows, elevated sediments in the water, and increased wildfire risk, making the site one of the more vulnerable facilities in ODFW’s hatchery system. Reconstructing the old facility as it was would recreate the same operational risks that contributed to production losses and would not align with the assessment’s guidance for long-term resiliency.

At the same time, the region continues to depend on hatchery production for economic activity, fishing opportunity, and Tribal cultural use. Production reductions have already affected these values, and the absence of a reliable long-term production plan for the Umpqua Basin presents an ongoing risk to both community and Tribal needs. Developing a future approach for hatchery production that aligns with the findings of the assessment and supports the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians’ involvement is necessary to meet these longstanding regional needs and commitments.

This work is also tied to the government-to-government relationship between the State of Oregon and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, as established in a Memorandum of Agreement (OAR 635-800-0110). Identifying a future hatchery approach that reflects the findings of the independent assessment and honors commitments under the MOA is essential to meeting regional needs and supporting the continued involvement of the Tribe in decisions affecting basin fisheries.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This package maintains hatchery fish production in the Umpqua River Basin by restoring some facilities at Rock Creek Hatchery, developing a new facility on the South Umpqua River in collaboration with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and continuing some production at out-of-basin hatcheries. Spreading production and incorporating the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians as partners increases the resilience of hatchery production in the Umpqua River Basin by reducing the risk of disaster related interruptions to production formerly concentrated at a single, vulnerable facility and increasing production stability by leveraging partnerships, funding opportunities, traditional knowledge, and institutional knowledge among partners.

Current estimates for construction costs for Department facilities associated with the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex are about \$76 million to recover infrastructure at Rock Creek Hatchery (\$20 m), build new Department facilities on the South Umpqua River (\$34 m), and upgrade out-of-basin Department infrastructure to produce fish acclimated and released into the Umpqua River Basin (\$7 m), with an additional \$15 million held for contingency and inflationary costs.

The Department has received \$16.9 million in insurance funds for damage to Rock Creek Hatchery. The FEMA Public Assistance Program (FEMA PAP) has indicated support for the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex approach and can provide up to 90% of the construction costs beyond what is covered by insurance. So, FEMA PAP could fund 90% of the remaining \$59.1 million estimated costs, leaving a \$5.91 million funding gap for the required FEMA 10% match. Limitation is needed for insurance funds and FEMA PAP. The FEMA match amount is not included in the limitation ask, as we are exploring utilizing funding under the hatchery resiliency bonding POP for this.

Operational costs for the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex approach associated with Department production at Rock Creek Hatchery and out-of-basin facilities includes three FTE, supplies, electricity, and operational and maintenance expenses to produce Chinook salmon and trout. Total costs for fish production under this approach are estimated at \$1.9 million per biennium after Rock Creek Hatchery construction is completed. Of this, about \$50,000 is funded by mitigation grants from PacifiCorp and a portion will not be needed until after construction is completed, leaving a projected 2027-2029 funding gap of \$1.1 million. These operational costs represent ongoing needs.

Costs for production at the South Umpqua Facility for coho and winter steelhead are not part of this proposal, but are estimated to be \$910,000 per biennium which includes two FTE and other operational expenses. The Department will continue to work with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and additional partners to identify funds for these operating costs.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This package directly supports the Department's mission to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. Securing resilient hatchery production through the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex ensures fishing opportunities into the future. Furthermore, partnering with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to design, build, and co-manage hatchery

facilities in the Umpqua River Basin continues the Department's dedication to strengthening intergovernmental relations between the State of Oregon and federally listed Indian tribes (policy DO 100-04) by building on a pre-existing MOA with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to cooperatively manage natural resources in the region (OAR 635-800-0110).

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

The success of the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex proposal will be measured by several milestones culminating in the restoration or initiation of hatchery production at Rock Creek Hatchery, the new South Umpqua Facility, and out-of-basin hatcheries. These milestones include:

- FEMA PAP funding application submitted and approved
- Construction contracts finalized
- Construction initiated at Rock Creek Hatchery, the South Umpqua Facility, and out of basin hatcheries (may happen sequentially)
- Construction completed at Rock Creek Hatchery, the South Umpqua Facility, and out of basin hatcheries (may happen sequentially)

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

The Department is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and 506-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Rock Creek Hatchery had challenging environmental conditions prior to the Archie Creek Fire and those conditions were exacerbated by the fire, resulting in elevated surface water temperatures and increased sediment runoff that inhibits healthy fish production. Mitigating these conditions to achieve pre-fire levels of production at Rock Creek Hatchery would require complex filtration, chilling, and recirculation equipment and significant power expenses. As a result, the construction costs to rebuild Rock Creek Hatchery to full pre-fire function are estimated to be over 70% greater than the Resilient Umpqua River Basin Hatchery Complex approach and ongoing operational costs are estimated to be about 60% higher.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

Absent continued funding for the 2027-2029 biennium and beyond, the Department will be required to either eliminate activities at Rock Creek Hatchery or cut other programs to fund operations at Rock Creek Hatchery. Elimination of Rock Creek Hatchery programs would discontinue all Umpqua River Basin production of Chinook salmon and winter steelhead. Rainbow trout and coho salmon are partially funded by mitigation funds and partial production of these fish may possibly be moved to another facility. However, the effects of reprogramming existing Department funding remain to be determined and would likely result in substantially lower Umpqua River Basin hatchery production, due to the need to minimize cuts to other core programs; the \$16.9 million from the insurance settlement could be allocated to other purposes within the Department. Furthermore, there could be complex negative cultural, social and economic impacts by eliminating hatchery production that currently contributes to cultural connections to natural resources that are critical to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the residents of the region, as well as local economies.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

Significant equipment purchases for normal hatchery infrastructure would be associated with facilities construction.

STAFFING IMPACT

This proposal requests the addition of three new FTE positions (\$725,000) for hatchery operations at Rock Creek Hatchery: (1) Fish and Wildlife Manager, (1) Fish and Wildlife Technician Supervisor, (1) Fish and Wildlife Technician.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will be the construction and operation of more resilient and cost-effective hatchery production in the Umpqua River Basin leading to the release of, as conditions permit: spring Chinook, fall Chinook, coho, winter steelhead, and rainbow trout.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$16.9 million Other Fund - Insurance settlement (funds received, one-time limitation requested only)
\$53.19 million Federal Funds - FEMA PAP (one-time limitation requested only)
\$1.1 million (TBD) ongoing operations and maintenance

Agency Name:

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Policy Option Package Initiative:

118 Capital Construction Non Bond Eligible Costs

PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

This package provides additional funding needed to address ODFW capital construction and facility deferred maintenance costs that are ineligible for bond funding. ODFW received legislative approval to utilize general obligation bond funds to address agency capital construction and deferred maintenance needs during the 2019-21, 2021-23, 2023-25, and 2025-27 biennia. The strategic use of these funds to systematically improve the resiliency and sustainability of fish hatcheries, which contribute significantly to local and rural economies and are critical for conservation, and office infrastructure remains a high priority for the 2027-29 biennium, and ODFW is proposing the use of general obligation bond funds for critical infrastructure needs in the 2027-29 budget.

Bond funding is the primary component of funding for recent and planned capital construction projects. However, the use of bond funds is limited to portions of projects that will be capitalized such as construction, design, and infrastructure. Bond funds are ineligible to be used for non-capitalized costs such as permitting, demolition and abatement of hazardous materials (lead paint, asbestos), and other costs that are "incidental" to the larger construction related costs.

These construction related but non bond eligible costs are unavoidable for large projects, and existing budgets are being utilized to pay for these costs. This additional pressure put on existing budgets is not sustainable, and as ODFW continues to plan for an array of large bond eligible infrastructure projects to increase hatchery resiliency and the sustainability of our infrastructure, additional expenditure limitation is needed to successfully complete these priority projects.

HOW ACHIEVED

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Provide an additional \$100,000 expenditure limitation (Other Funds- License Revenue) to address non bond eligible costs associated with general obligation bond funded capital construction projects.

HOW THIS FURTHERS THE AGENCY MISSION OR GOALS:

This proposal specifically supports agency priorities to improve the resiliency of ODFW owned hatcheries that are critical to conserving and maintain Oregon’s fisheries, and to improve the sustainability of ODFW owned offices that house field staff that perform work in support of our mission and provide vital services to our customers.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSAL:

This package relates to KPM 2 (percent of license buying population in Oregon with angling licenses or tags), and KPM 7 (Customer Service).

STATUTORY REFERENCE:

ODFW is authorized to conduct fish and wildlife management activities under ORS Chapters 496-498 and ORS Chapters 503-513.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR REJECTION:

Utilizing existing budgeted funds for these construction related costs is not sustainable, especially as ODFW has strategically increased efforts to address critical capital construction needs. With a higher volume of proposed capital projects, existing funds are not sufficient to cover these costs.

IMPACT OF NOT FUNDING:

ODFW will struggle to complete capital construction projects on time and on budget. Existing resources will be stretched thin, and projects may be delayed to lack of funding to cover these needed.

EQUIPMENT TO BE PURCHASED (IF APPLICABLE):

None

STAFFING IMPACT

None

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

Overall effectiveness of this Policy Option Package will generally be determined by the successful completion of several high priority bond-funded capital construction projects without impacts to existing budgets. If successful, existing budgets can continue to be utilized for fish and wildlife management activities throughout the state.

REVENUE SOURCE

\$100,000 Other Funds (License)