



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) was created in 2019 within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) as a way for Oregonians to support a broad range of conservation and outdoor recreation efforts throughout the state. The intent of the OCRF is to increase the Department's capacity to protect and enhance the species and habitats identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP; formerly known as the Oregon Conservation Strategy) and create new opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation.

Expenditures from the OCRF are recommended to the Commission by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).

In 2025, the OCRF received \$5,000,000 in proceeds from the May 6, 2025 Lottery Revenue Bond Sale. These funds were allocated by the 2023 legislature in HB 5030 (Section 2) for the purposes of supporting wildlife mobility and habitat connectivity projects in priority connectivity areas. To date, OCRF has awarded \$1,069,500 of the Wildlife Passage Lottery Revenue Bonds to three projects.

At their July 7th, 2026 public meeting, the OCRF Advisory Committee recommended the approval of \$ 3.9 million in expenditure from the OCRF wildlife connectivity funds to support the "Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project" (see Attachment 2 for project summary).

**The Department is requesting the Commission's approval for the expenditure of \$ 3.9 million from the OCRF Lottery Revenue Bonds to fund the Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project led by Coos County Public Works (see Commission Attachment 2, 'Wildlife Passage Project Summary').**

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

All Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings are publicly noticed, open to participation, and include dedicated time for public comment. The wildlife crossing proposal was presented at the Committee's July 7, 2026 meeting and listed as an agenda item in public notices. The funding opportunity was broadly publicized through press releases, multiple OCRF email distributions, the Department's website, and outreach amplified by partner organizations.

Additionally, the public has an opportunity to provide comment prior to (in writing) or (orally) during the hearing that occurs at the Commission meeting.

## **ISSUE**

Expenditure recommendation from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for the “Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing” project request.

## **ANALYSIS**

A summary of the Advisory Committee’s process is provided below, and the project recommendation is provided in Attachment 2.

The Advisory Committee has had an open request for letters of interest for the Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Grant opportunity since November 2024, offering up to \$5 Million to eligible projects. Eligible projects include wildlife passage infrastructure capital construction or improvement projects, which must include construction or significant improvement of a wildlife crossing infrastructure (e.g., bridge, culvert, overpass, tunnel) on a roadway.

Each letter of interest was reviewed by content experts from ODFW staff. Eligible projects were invited to move forward to full application and consideration for approval by the OCRF Advisory Committee. See Attachment 3 for ODFW staff’s analysis and confirmation that the proposed project met the Wildlife Crossing Lottery Revenue Bond project criteria.

The Advisory Committee met on July 7, 2026 to hear a presentation on the Coos County Public Works project. The Advisory Committee discussed and voted to recommend the project for funding for a total expenditure of \$ 3.9 million from the OCRF (see Attachment 2)

## **OPTIONS**

1. Approve the OCRF Advisory Committee’s recommended expenditure for the Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project.
2. Reject the OCRF Advisory Committee’s recommended expenditure for the Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the OCRF Advisory Committee’s recommended expenditure for the Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project.

**DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to approve expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund of up to \$3,900,000 for the “Trans Pacific Parkway Wildlife Crossing Project.”

**Effective Date:** August 14, 2026