

July 8th
Oregon Conservation Partnership

2025 Oregon Legislative Session at a Glance

6-months: January 21st to June 28th

- 2025-2027 Agency Budgets
- 3,400 bills introduced, 20% enacted
- Revenue forecast, federal funding uncertainty

Big Issues

- Transportation package
- Wildfire suppression & mitigation funding
- Kotek's Big Three: housing, mental health/addiction, education

THE WINS

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

- H.B. 3131 "dies" in Ways and Means (\$17.3M)
- \$2 million for grants/administration in H.B. 5039 & GRB

Permanent Recreational Immunity Protections

- Gov. Kotek signs S.B. 179 in May
- Removes sunset, includes "walking, biking and running"

Private Forest Accords Investments

- \$10 million for PFA Mitigation Grant Fund
- \$4.5 million for AMPC and IRST; \$2 million for SFISH

THE WINS Cont...

Wildfire Funding: Suppression and Mitigation

- Wildfire35 WorkGroup
- H.B. 3940 will provide \$43 million/year for suppression and mitigation
- \$7 million for SB 762 Landscape Resiliency and \$13 million for Community Risk Reduction Fund

H.B. 2256: Non-legal lots

 Exempts the sale of property to nonprofit, public body or Tribe that purchases property for conservation purposes from civil or criminal liability for selling certain units of land not lawfully established

Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions

 H.B. 2978: ODOT & ODFW update to wildlife guidance standards and highway specifications, consultation to minimize impact to wildlife connectivity from transportation infrastructure.

THE LOSSES

- No additional grant funds for:
 - Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program (some funds for staffing)
 - Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

Transportation finance investment package (TRIP) fails (\$5M for wildlife crossings) ... special session?

Overall cuts to natural resources funding (~\$200M)

Salem leadership

Your Impact!

- **COLT Legislative Updates**
 - 21 weekly legislative recaps/updates
- H.B. 3131: 20 letters of testimony
- H.B. 3341: 10 letters of testimony
- S.B. 179: 8 letters of testimony

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

OACD Legislative Advocacy

OACD Bill Tracker 2025						
Reviewed Through	SB 1210 HB 3971					
Bill	Position	Description	Status (Current Location/ Next Steps/ Notes)	РОС	Assign	OACD Action
SB576	Support	ODA funding to address Japanese Beetle.	Passed by SNRW, W&M	Α	Lynn	WMSWCD/Tualatin testimony submitted. OACD testimony submitted.
<u>SB 777</u>	Support	Wolf predation compensation.	Chapter 314, 2025 laws	Α	Justin	Submitted testimony to SNRW
<u>HB2138</u>	Support	This Act allows for denser home building in cities with a focus on more medium density6 adopted. Deals with city lands inside UGB so this takes away our concern.	Passed House and Senate	J	Dean	Submitted testimony.
HB 2168	Support	Rural water systems (wells and septic); \$ to OSU Extension to establish assistance program, \$ to OWRD for water well abandonment and replacement fund, \$ to DEQ for septic system loan program.	Passed HAGLUNRW. Bill did not passed but funding for water well abandonment fund in reconcilliation bill.	S		Submitted testimony to HALUNRW
HB 2978	Support	Wildlife crossings. Updates administrative processes for ODFW and ODOT so they can do a more thourogh job of addressing wildlife crossing needs.	Chapter 42, (2025 Laws): Effective date January 1, 2026.	Α	Stan, Jan	Testimony submited to SNRW.
HB 2984	Support	Funds Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for water related work.	Passed by HAGLUNRW, W&M.	Α	Kelly	Did not submit testimony to HALUNRW. Plan to submit on Senate side.
HB 3010	Support OACD's bill	Oregon State University Pesticide Safety and Education Program (PSEP) to establish and implement bilingual pesticide education program providing Worker Protection Standards and Pesticide Handler trainings to the	Passed HAGLUNRW, W&M	Α	Kris, Jan	Should do floor letter.

The Wins for Conservation Funding

Reconciliation Bill (HB5006):

- **Juniper Removal -** \$5.265 million
- Landscape Resilience Program \$7 million
- Walla Walla River Basin \$2.5 million for strategic projects
- **Feasibility Studies -** \$1 million for water conservation & infrastructure projects feasibility studies
- Oregon Conservation Corps \$5 million
- **High Desert Partnership -** \$2.032 million

The Losses for Conservation Funding

- **Natural and Working Lands Fund (OWEB Budget)**
 - No funding in OWEB Budget
 - \$5 million was requested in Governor's Budget
 - Extensive work by Natural Climate Solutions Coalition

For other Bills we supported that did not make it:

See our Legislative Summary at <u>OACD.ORG</u>

Water Policy & Land Use

Water Policy Many Bills, many from Water Caucus

Examples of bills that passed:

- Water Right Exemption for Commercial Gardens from Domestic Wells (HB 3372)
- Groundwater Areas of Concern (SB 1154)
- Water Reuse (HB 2169)

Land Use

- Large # of Bills that would have been detrimental to conservation and protections for resource lands
- Actively opposed mostly successfully
- Will continue to be ongoing battle in legislation & rulemaking

OACD's Bill

Pesticide Training & Education in Spanish (HB3010)

- Would have funded 2 native-Spanish-speaking trainers at Oregon State
 University
- In-person Pesticide Worker Protection Training Statewide
- Large coalition Farmers & Farm Organizations to Environmental and Workers Rights Groups
- Unfortunately the bill died in Ways & Means
- OACD intends to pursue this in future sessions

Beavers!

Two Beaver Bills This Session

 H.B. 3143 - The "Beaver Bill" to establish funding to work with land owners/residents to implement non-lethal practices to prevent beaver damage (and protect beavers). This bill died.

• <u>H.B. 3932</u> - The "Beaver Water Quality Bill", which prevents beaver trapping on waterways and in watersheds categorized as impaired by the Oregon DEQ. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor on June 26.

ODFW and other Natural Resource Funds

H.B. 2977 - 1% For Wildlife - Did Not Pass

- 1% for Wildlife (to ODFW) to implement the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (aka Oregon Conservation Strategy)
- 0.25% additional to OSP, ODA, ODFW, and DOJ in specific proportions to combat poaching, invasive species, and wolf conflict, and to OCRF grant program
- Revenue source would have been an additional Transient Rental Tax; bill died in Ways & Means

Natural Resource Funds

"Tire Bill" - Did Not Pass

 H.B. 3362 would have established funding for transportation and stormwater improvements to filter 6PPD-q and to build wildlife crossings.

• There is a 6PPD-q work group that will continue to advocate for reductions in harmful runoff.

What's Next?

Continue Advocating for Funding and Programs

- Advocate Consistently and Early
 - September webinar with OrCP partners
- Relationship Building
 - Agency staff and local legislators
- Clear Communication
 - Community members and non-traditional partners (schools, health organizations, others)

Thank You!

- Oregon Conservation Partnership Is Here To Serve!
 - Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
 - Karsyn Kendrick, <u>karsyn@oregonlandtrusts.org</u>
 - Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
 - Andrea Kreiner, <u>andrea.kreiner@oacd.org</u>
 - Network of Oregon Watershed Councils
 - Terri Preeg Riggsby, ed@oregonwatersheds.org