



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

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February 29, 2012

Benjamin Duncan, Chair  
Environmental Justice Task Force

Brett Brownscombe, Natural Resources Policy Advisor  
Governor's Natural Resources Office  
State Capitol Building  
900 Court Street NE, Suite 160  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Duncan and Mr. Brownscombe,

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force. To comply with the reporting requirements of ORS 182.550 I have attached a short summary document. Also in meeting the requirements of ORS 182.545, my Deputy Director Curt Melcher will continue as our agency's citizen advocate.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or Curt Melcher at 503-947-6044.

Sincerely,

Roy Elicker  
Director



**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**February 15, 2012**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) strive to maintain an excellent working relationship with Oregon's federally recognized Indian Tribes. We meet regularly with tribal representatives as we develop policy and regulations that impact tribal members and tribal interests. We work closely with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and are members of both the Natural Resources Cluster and the Cultural Resources Cluster.

The Commission adopts Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for fish and wildlife management. The Commission meets 10-12 times annually, at least once in each congressional district. Consistent with state and federal law, all meetings are open to the public with opportunity for verbal and written testimony. The public process is further enhanced by way of regular receptions, field tours, and workshops that are open to the public. These venues provide additional opportunities for interaction with Commissioners in an informal setting.

A critical component of the formal rule making processes is public outreach. Agency staff conduct extensive outreach activities in communities across the state as rules and policies are formulated. For example, prior to setting annual big game regulations ODFW staff hold 25 meetings (one in each of the wildlife districts) to discuss species population status and develop harvest regulations. Fishing regulations are developed similarly with public meetings held around the state to gather local comments and perspectives prior to the formal Commission rulemaking.

We develop our biennial agency budget proposal based on recommendations from a 40 member External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) and gather additional public input through a series of 13 town hall meetings held around the state. The EBAC and public process helps us prioritize agency programs and focus resources in areas of most interest to affected constituents.

The Commission and ODFW continue to rely on a lengthy list of citizen based volunteer advisory boards, task forces, and committees to help develop policies, budget priorities, and regulations. Some are mandated in Oregon Revised Statute, some in OARs, and some are ad hoc.