Fish and Game Preservation Fund

Stakeholder Outreach

August 2017
Agenda

• Introductions
• Background
• Revenue Options
• Expenditure Options
• Questions/Discussion
Background

• Fish and Game Preservation Fund: Created in 1909 as a repository for fishing and hunting license fees.

• 29 Dedicated Accounts (eg. Duck Stamp, Big Game, Abalone).

• Non-Dedicated FGPF: Everything else.
Non-dedicated Fish and Game Preservation Fund

- Revenue from > 500 items go to FGPF-ND.
- General sport fishing, hunting licenses.
- Commercial fishing licenses.
- Landing fees.
- CEQA fees.
Non-dedicated Fish and Game Preservation Fund

- Program Activities:
  - Wildlife habitat/lands management (incl. federal match-PR).
  - Commercial and sport fisheries management (incl. federal match-SFRA).
  - Law enforcement.
  - CEQA review.
  - Fish and Game Commission.
Non-dedicated Fish and Game Preservation Fund

- Projected 2018-19 revenue: $83.9 million
- Projected 2018-19 expenditures: $103.1 million
- Projected Fund Balance as of 6/30/18: $17 million*

*Based on preliminary 2016-17 fiscal data; final year-end closing data not available at press time.
Causes of Structural Imbalance

- Fund shifts.
- Lifting of prior year spending restrictions (eg. vehicles, furloughs).
- Increased need for federal matching funds.
- Increased cost of doing business (eg. employee compensation).
How do other states generate fish and wildlife revenue? (In addition to license fees)

- General sales tax (Missouri, Arkansas)
- Sales tax on outdoor gear (Texas, Virginia)
- Real estate transfer tax (Florida, South Carolina)
- General obligation bonds for “improvement of existing habitats” (Nevada)
- Lottery funds (Arizona, Colorado ballot initiatives; Maine legislation created a special lottery ticket)
Oregon Task Force

• Task force created by 2015 legislation to identify sustainable sources of revenue for fish and wildlife programs.

• Survey of Oregon residents: Endangered/native species conservation higher priority than providing fishing/hunting opportunities.

• Task Force Recommendations December 2016:
  - Income tax return surcharge (0.62% surcharge with low income exemption - $42.08 for a family of four with $100K income),
  - Wholesale beverage surcharge (2.19% beverage surcharge, NOT added to container deposit charge – would add 11 cents to the price of six pack of beer)

• No action taken by Oregon Legislature in 2017.
Revenue Options

- **Outdoor gear:** Retail tax on outdoor equipment (eg. binoculars, hiking/camping gear).

- **Other Non-consumptive User Fees:** Fee on boat rentals, diving, whale watching.

- **Statewide Fees:** Vehicle/boat registration, tire fee.
Mission-Based Budgeting

- 2017 Budget Act requirement.
- Review statutory mandates.
- Identify program activities relative to the department’s mission.
- Budget transparency.
- Multi-year effort.
Questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?