

**From:** [dh.oregonwild@gmail.com](mailto:dh.oregonwild@gmail.com) on behalf of [Doug Heiken](#)  
**To:** [Public Records Task Force](#)  
**Subject:** Fix Oregon's Public Records Laws  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 2:47:18 PM

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On behalf of 15,000 members and supporters of Oregon Wild, I hereby endorse and reiterate [Rob Mannings' recommendations](#) to improve Oregon's public records laws:

\* **Eliminate the unnecessary and outlandish fees that prevent meaningful public involvement in our government.** Records are not available to the public if they cost hundreds of dollars. Public records should be *public*. They should be free. Eliminate all fee provisions for public records—the public has already paid for them to be created.

\* **Ensure the standard turnaround time for requests is measured in hours or days, not weeks or months.** Create strict statutory mechanisms and allow for citizen law suits with recoverable attorney fees to enforce this. Any successful public records lawsuit should automatically award fees to the requestor.

\* **Eliminate the inexplicable morass of exemptions** the state Legislature has allowed to grow like kudzu.

\* **Raise agencies' burden of proof for utilizing any exemption.**

Oregon has the opportunity to lead by example and ensure the Public Records Law lives up to the promise inherent in its name. Anything less will leave the state with the same broken law it has today.

Sincerely,  
/s/

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Oregon Wild's mission is to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future

generations.