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September 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Rudy Salakory, Oregon Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Presentation by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Colbert

BACKGROUND:

Presenters: Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)

Summary: Overview of Dr. Colbert's tenure at ODFW to date including challenges and status of the management of fish and wildlife in the State of Oregon.

Relevance: ODFW mission is to: Protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. The goals of ODFW and the Council's Fish & Wildlife Program overlap and are intertwined.

Background: Dr. Colbert has served Oregon for more than two decades, working with diverse groups on natural resource issues, including a time at Oregon Department of Water Resources and at ODFW where she served as Deputy Director for Administration and Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs before becoming Director in May 2024. Dr. Colbert is the first woman to ever be appointed to the permanent ODFW Director position in the agency's long history.

Dr. Colbert earned a B.S. in Biology from Randolph-Macon College in Virginia, M.S. in Oceanography from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San Jose State University, and Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Oceanography at Oregon State University. She was selected as a 2022 National Conservation Leadership Fellow.