



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We are thrilled to announce that Bob Bailey, Board President of the Elakha Alliance, is the 2021 recipient of the Conservation Policy Award from the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society. We at the Elakha Alliance are in agreement that there's no one more deserving for such an honorable award.

"I am truly surprised and honored by this award. I never thought of myself as a wildlife guy, but rather just someone trying to work on behalf of our wonderful Oregon coastal environment wherever there was need and opportunity.

I appreciate the recognition of my work over the years. It has been fun and rewarding every step of the way, notwithstanding contentious public hearings, lots of paperwork, and long, late-night drives.

As someone who grew up in the majesty of the Oregon coast, it has been a gift to work with so many knowledgeable, committed people up and down the coast. To now be able to put all my background to restore sea otters to the Oregon coast is a privilege. And fun." -- Bob Bailey

For further context, below is the official award statement that ORTWS released on March 2nd, 2021:

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce that Bob Bailey is the recipient of the 2021 Conservation Policy Award. The recipient of many enthusiastic letters of support, Bob Bailey is well-known in the marine environmental community for his thoughtful, knowledgeable, and ecumenical approach to solving problems and guiding marine policy.

As the former Director of the Coastal Management Program at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Bob played a formative role in the development of the Oregon Ocean Plan and subsequently, the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan that set standards for the rest of the nation.

As a leader on Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council, Bob was instrumental in the success of marine reserves by encouraging solutions among otherwise deeply divided constituents.

Bob played a key role in the nomination of South Slough, Coos Bay, as the first Estuarine Resource Reserve in the United States. He also guided the development of the Estuary, Shoreland, Dune, and Ocean Resources goals and helped produce the 1987 Oregon Estuary Handbook that enabled continued protection of estuary and wetland habitat through the local/state planning program.

Currently Bob serves as the President of the Board with the Elakha Alliance, a non-profit organization pursuing the reintroduction of sea otters to the Oregon coast. Recently, Bob worked closely with Senator Merkley's staff to include language into the FY21 federal budget that directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to "study the feasibility and cost of reestablishing sea otters on the Pacific Coast". This federal directive marks a significant benchmark toward sea otter population recovery range-wide.