

Tips for Giving Public Testimony

Oregon Marbled Murrelet Survival Guidelines Hearing – Friday, August 3rd 2pm
ODFW Headquarters | 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE, Salem, OR 97302

**You do not have to be an expert to testify. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission represents all Oregonians.
Your own knowledge and experience is important and valuable.**

- *Be respectful.* Do not insult or argue with members of the Commission or people giving opposing testimony. Be a considerate audience member.
- *Arrive early and sign-up.* Speakers will testify in the same order as their names appear on the sign-up sheet.
- *Draw from your own knowledge and experience.* Tell your own story. Highlight the unique reasons you care about this issue.
- *Keep it brief.* You will have 3 minutes to testify. However, the Commission may decrease the time to accommodate all speakers. Summarize your recommendation or request first, and then add explanations.
- *Don't be repetitive.* Try not to repeat points made by speakers ahead of you. If the points you wanted to make have been made, tell the Commission you agree with the testimony given and urge them to take the appropriate action.
- *Practice.* Try not to read your testimony word for word. Prepare an outline.
- *Follow the format.*
 - "Chair Finley, members of the Commission, my name is _____."
 - For the record, state your address, and if applicable, the organization or group you represent.
 - Tell your story. Begin with your request. Most important points first. Restate your request at the end.
 - Thank the Commission for their time.
- *Have fun!* Everyone understands this is intimidating. Don't worry about being perfect. We're all in it together.