

# Be Among the First to Receive an Official Oregon Gray Whale License Plate!



The Marine Mammal Institute (MMI) at Oregon State University is moving forward with plans to qualify a new **Oregon Gray Whale license plate**. To do so, the Oregon Department of Transportation requires that we receive a commitment from at least 3,000 Oregon vehicle owners who will purchase this special plate.

The special plate will cost \$40 more than regular plates initially and at renewal. The MMI will receive \$35 of every \$40 for each plate issued. These funds will support whale research, student training, and public education. Plus, the new plate will help celebrate gray whales and coastal tourism by both whales and humans!

Once endangered from whaling, the gray whale population is now fully recovered. Each year the gray population migrates south to Baja, Mexico, to breed and then back north to feeding grounds in Alaska. A few hundred gray whales spend summers feeding here in the Pacific Northwest. We have gray whales off Oregon every month of the year!

If you would like to see this new plate issued and be among the first to get one, please fill out the short "Expression of Interest" form on the back of this sheet and send it by mail to **Gray Whale License Interest, Marine Mammal Institute, Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Dr, Newport, OR 97365**, or register your interest online at <http://mmi.oregonstate.edu/whaleplate>. No money is required at this time. When 3,000 commitments are received, we will forward to you an ODOT payment request for a plate voucher.

Thank you so much for helping us celebrate the coast and whales!

*Bruce Mate  
Marine Mammal Institute  
Hatfield Marine Science Center*

*David Gomberg  
State Representative  
Central Oregon Coast*

# **Oregon Gray Whale License Plate Expression of Interest Form**

Please fill out this form and mail it to:

**Marine Mammal Institute  
Hatfield Marine Science Center  
2030 Marine Science Drive  
Newport, OR 97365**

**Or...** Register your interest online at **<http://mmi.oregonstate.edu/whaleplate>** .

***I am interested in obtaining State of Oregon gray whale license plates that promote whales, the Oregon coast, and our state's rich marine resources.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(To save on mailing costs, we would prefer to contact you by e-mail.)*

Number of vehicles I would like to license with gray whale license plate for an additional \$40 for each vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

1. This is a non-binding commitment, but we would like your interest to be serious as we initiate this process.
2. Your personal information will not be shared or used for any other purpose without your permission.
3. At the present time it appears you will be able to replace your plates without paying for a new registration cycle. So if you have plates that are good for 2–24 months, your new tags will reflect that valid registration period (and your old plates will no longer be valid).
4. We hope to have the plates available by mid-2017. When it is time to fund the new plates, we will need 3,000 firm orders. You will then pay Oregon DMV \$40 for a voucher for the future plates. Getting these commitments will dictate how soon DMV can start making the plates.
5. For further information on the plate and our progress, please visit:  
**<http://mmi.oregonstate.edu/whaleplate>**.
6. Please feel free to direct your friends interested in the whale license plate to the above website to register their expression of interest online.

*We are very excited about this project and glad you share our enthusiasm.*

*Thank you for your support!*