



Oregon

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To: The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee on Natural Resources



House Bill 2067

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2067 with you today about two long-standing, successful programs: the Oregon Landowner Damage Program and the Access and Habitat Program with sunset dates that we are requesting be removed.

The Oregon Landowner Damage Program (OLDP) was first established in 1996 as part of the Landowner Preference Program (LOP), but was separated from LOP, modified and established as a new section of ORS 496.146 (Section 9) in 2013. OLDP serves Oregon landowners who are experiencing damage to their private property from elk. The sections covering the OLDP sunset on January 2, 2020. These important sections are negotiated provisions between the Department, Oregon private landowners and stakeholders. This program is a valuable tool for addressing elk damage on private property.

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Program has been operating since 1994 and provides funding for hunters to access private lands and wildlife habitat restoration work on both private and public lands. The program also provides emergency funding for seeding of lands following wildfire. Under ORS 497.121 (Section 19), this program will sunset December 31, 2019. Since the program inception, public access has been provided on 8.9 million acres of private land, with 4.9 million acres accessible during the 2017-19 biennium. In addition, 1.2 million acres of habitat improvements were funded by the program since 1994.

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