

Watts Remy

From: Chris Colwell <vandccolwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:17 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: SB 398 Testimony

I am writing in regards of SB 398 and how I believe this bill to be a blatant disregard for the wildlife involved!

I can in no way endorse a couple points of this bill and in no way understand how any sportsman or caring Oregonian could. The clear wording allowing the killing of bull elk(males) is nothing but a very sad attempt to harvest the biggest trophy that these land owners would then sell for the highest price!! Damage or depredation tags have always been allotted for cow elk or in other words meat. To allow the killing of bulls who are doing nothing but trying to survive speaks great volumes to how you respect these great animals.

The second part of this bill that is equally disturbing to me is allowing 2 years for the tag to be filled. How can we justify allowing someone to be compensated for damage to their property by allowing them to kill an elk that may not even be involved in said damage! I cannot see how anyone could justify the reasoning behind this being included.....it just does not make sense.

The current method of compensation and hazing of these elk by the land owners allow them ample opportunity to push the elk off and/or get highly compensated by the selling of said cow tags(\$800-1200 per tag). I see no reason to make the changes that are included in SB398 except for greed! Including bulls would make this one of the most sought after tags on the market in Oregon as these bulls could easily be viewed and picked off without any hunting going on...much less having 2 years to fill the tag!! These additions to this bill make it about \$\$\$ and nothing else. No true sportsman or steward of wildlife would ever tell you these are good ideas!

I urge you to reject these additions to this bill!

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this situation.
Chris Colwell