

SB 303 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes use of landowner damage tag on adjacent property with consent of owner of adjacent property. Requires written authorization from adjacent property owner with specified information. Repeals sunset on landowner damage program.

No subsequent referral

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Property damage commonly attributed to elk includes agricultural crop and pasture reduction due to grazing; tree damage due to bark gnawing or seedling pulling; and destruction of fences, gardens, and yards.

The Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program was created by the legislature in 2003 to address damage caused by elk on private lands in Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties by implementing less restrictive landowner preference rules for qualifying landowners in the pilot study area. The program was set to sunset in 2014. In 2013, the legislature expanded the program statewide by creating the Oregon Landowner Damage Program. Currently, the program is required to limit the use of damage tags to taking antlerless elk and can only be used on property owned, leased, or rented by the landowner or by a business entity that includes the landowner as a principal partner or shareholder. The program is scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2020.

Senate Bill 303 would authorize the use of landowner damage tags on adjacent property with written authorization from the landowner and would repeal the sunset on the Oregon Landowner Damage Program.