



Oregon

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To: The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources



House Bill 2069

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Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2069 with you today. House Bill 2069 would amend ORS 497.112 (10) to allow the flexibility to specify that leftover tags are available to hunters who have not already purchased a tag for that species.

Hunters applying for controlled hunts can identify up to five hunt choices. Most hunts are filled by applicants who identified the hunt as their first choice. However, there are undersubscribed hunts, primarily elk hunts, which have tags remaining after completion of the draw. These tags are considered “unallocated” and are commonly referred to as “leftover tags”. Although there could be leftover tags for any species, the following discussion refers to elk tags as they are by far the most common.

Currently, by statute, leftover controlled hunt tags are required to be issued to hunters on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Leftover tags for most hunts are sold out in a few minutes. One result of issuing leftover tags with a simple first-come, first-served process is that some hunters successfully purchase a leftover tag as a second elk opportunity, before hunters who have not drawn a controlled hunt elk tag are able to purchase a leftover tag. The department would like the flexibility to specify that leftover tags are available only to hunters who have not drawn a controlled hunt tag.

The simple change recommended in House Bill 2069 would provide a more equitable distribution of hunting opportunity.

Thank you.

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