

**HB 2071 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Prozanski

**Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources**

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**Action Date:** 04/25/19  
**Action:** Do pass.  
**Vote:** 4-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Bentz, Dembrow, Prozanski, Roblan  
**Exc:** 1 - Olsen  
**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 4/18, 4/25

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes that a person is eligible to obtain a hunting tag for a female mountain sheep regardless of whether the person has previously taken a mountain sheep or been issued a mountain sheep tag in Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Controlled hunts for mountain (bighorn) sheep are once-in-a-lifetime except for hunters who purchase an auction tag or win a raffle
- Mountain sheep population a conservation success story; once nearly extirpated in Oregon
- Mountain sheep susceptibility to domestic sheep disease; as population climbs, sheep relocate and may contract disease
- Expectation that ewe hunts would be rare; first look for opportunities to relocate sheep

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon law limits controlled hunt tags for mountain (bighorn) sheep as "once in a lifetime" with the exception of auction and raffle tags (ORS 497.112). According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, there are currently approximately 700 Rocky Mountain bighorns and 4,200 California bighorns in the state. Washington, Nevada, Montana, and Colorado allow for harvest of female bighorn sheep to address population control and disease. Harvest of male bighorn sheep does not address population control because a single male bighorn sheep may mate with many female bighorn sheep.

House Bill 2071 would allow a person to obtain a female mountain sheep hunting tag regardless of whether the person has previously taken a mountain sheep or been issued a mountain sheep tag.