

SB 630 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

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Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes use of a landowner damage tag to take elk on adjacent property with the consent of adjacent property owner. Requires written authorization from adjacent owner with specified information, including date of expiration which may be no later than one year from the date of issuance. Replaces "landowner" with "person" in landowner damage statute.

No subsequent referral

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

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.

In 2003, the Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program was created by the legislature 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 establishing the Oregon Landowner Damage Program. Currently, the use of damage tags is restricted 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 was scheduled to sunset on January 2, 2020. In 2019, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 301 requiring the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider elk overpopulation when implementing the Oregon Landowner Damage Program and removing the sunset on the program.

Senate Bill 630 would authorize the use of landowner damage tags to take elk on adjacent property with the consent of the property owner.