

Thom Seal, pres
Arcanum Institute, Inc.
P.O. Box 545
Prairie City, OR 97869
February 11, 2021

Oregon State Senator and Representative

Oregon House Bill 2068

Dear Legislator

We have private property in the East Northside Unit 47, NE of John Day, Oregon and East of 395. We pay taxes and are directly impacted by your decisions. We were not able to attend the legislator due to Covid-19.

We enjoy hunting with friends and would like to comment on the Oregon Bill 2068 changes in the big game regulations proposed for our private property.

We have participated in the LOP process for private property owners since inception for over 30 years.

Our private land plus the private land of neighbors are impacted by the growing elk population. They damage fences and eat stacked hay. They also present a hazard to motorists at low visibility times of sunrise and sunset.

The initial LOP program allowed the tag owner to hunt **any** private land, with landowner's permission in the game unit. That changed and then changed back in 2015-2017.

Thus we request that the House Bill 2068 include language to allow anyone with a LOP tag to hunt any private property in the Game unit with landowners' permission.

Elk move around a lot, from fall to winter range, from cover to grazing. To really control the elk depredation on private property, we need to be able to hunt them where they are.

Under current regulations, we can only hunt on the property the tag is issued upon. We own two parcels a distance apart and they are not connected. Thus, I can only hunt on one and not the other. That is just wrong. We should be able to hunt on either property or my neighbor's property that have the elk eating their haystack after the snow hits.

We request the tags not be over the counter, but subject to a draw with LOP hunters having first priority for the draw.

Respectfully

Dr. Thom Seal, PE