

House Bill 3602

Sponsored by Representative OWENS (at the request of Harney County National Resource Advisory Committee)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Instructs State Department of Fish and Wildlife to designate certain areas as wildlife management units and undertake predator control in wildlife management units until certain criteria are met.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for predator control.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to predator management in drought-stricken regions; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of the wildlife laws.

SECTION 2. The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall:

(1) Designate wildlife management units consisting of lands that are identified by the National Integrated Drought Information System as experiencing moderate, severe, extreme or exceptional drought and in which:

(a) Populations of elk or mule deer are at or below 50 percent of the population objectives set forth in individual species management plans established by the department or the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.

(b) Populations of pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep or mountain goats are below 75 percent of the rolling three-year average of the populations.

(2) On or before June 30 of each year:

(a) Review and update the designations of wildlife management units.

(b) Change the designations of wildlife management units as necessary when drought conditions change.

(3) Undertake predator control in the wildlife management units until:

(a) Populations of elk or mule deer within the wildlife management units are at or above 80 percent of the population objectives set forth in individual species management plans established by the department or the commission.

(b) Populations of pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep or mountain goats within the wildlife management units are at least 90 percent of the rolling three-year average of the populations.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended for purposes related to predator control, as described in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 4. This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

