

HB 2817: Removal of Permit Entry Closure on Forestland



SUMMARY

House Bill (HB) 2817 is the vehicle to amend Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 477.535, 477.540, and 477.545 with removing permit closure of forestland, due to fire danger.

BACKGROUND

Currently, ORS 477.535(3) allows for the designation of three separate levels of forest closures: Regulated Use Closure, Permit Entry Closure, and Absolute Closure. All of which impose requirements, that in the judgement of the Forester, are necessary to prevent danger to life, forest resources, or property. When Permit Entry Closures are imposed, fire personnel are required to post signs in identified areas and the public is required to obtain a permit that is posted in their vehicle that allows access. Landowners are not required to obtain permits. Public fire restrictions imposed by the Forester through Regulated Use Closure already restrict or prohibit fire prone activities based on current fire danger. Permit closure is a redundant and unnecessary form of closure and causes confusion for the public. In cases of extreme fire danger, where the Forester feels access should be restricted, an Absolute Closure may be imposed, without increasing administrative workload for the department when such personnel are generally committed to fire prevention and suppression duties.

Public fire restrictions levied by ODF protection districts already limit or prohibit certain fire prone activities, therefore, it is not necessary to require additional permits for access in areas protected by ODF when activities are already restricted.

FISCAL/REVENUE IMPACT

There is no anticipated fiscal impact for this amendment. However, administrative savings may occur by not having to implement the permitting process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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