

Submitter: David Wall
On Behalf Of: Mr Oregon SUPPORTS SB 812
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB812

I SUPPORT [SB 812]. Is it time for a 'LOP-Lite' Legislation to provide relief to small farms and ranches?

Elk and Deer compete with domestic farm animals (Dairy cows, cattle, sheep and goats), for access to grazing lands such as grassy pastures.

*** Elk and Deer cause significant economic damage to farmers and ranchers. Elk and Deer tear down or damage fences to gain access to the grassy pastures.

*** Once in the grassy pastures, the Deer and Elk herds feast upon the grasses to wit farmers and ranchers must buy feed for their livestock (Dairy cows, cattle, sheep and goats).

*** There may be significant Veterinary costs. Deer and Elk can transmit diseases to ruminants (Dairy cows, cattle, sheep and goats).

*** The economic damages to the Rancher and Farmer's fencing, grassy pasturelands (forcing the purchase of feed for livestock), and foreseeable Veterinary costs can cause significant inflationary pressures to our economy reflected in higher food prices.

*** [SB 812] will repeal the sunset provision of the "Land Owner Preference Program (LOP) making the LOP tags permanent.

*** Since the inception of the LOP, many smaller ranches and farms have been established. Some have ruminant animal operations and some grow corn or wheat. They too suffer the same types of economic losses from Deer and Elk herd invasions as seen in the established LOP.

[SB 812] could use a few amendments such as; the [40 contiguous acres] requirement needs to be reduced to [3 acres].

A LOP-Lite would be a profitable enterprise for all concerned. Less economic interruptions to smaller farms and ranches translates into lower numbers of depredation tags to be issued.

David S. Wall

Mr. Oregon Conkurs and says, "There should be 'open-season' all year long for the taking of Deer and Elk without the hassle of 'Tags' or any additional governmental interventions."