74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session MEASURE: HB 2470-A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY CARRIER: Rep. Butler

**House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources** 

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 2 - 1

Yeas: Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Roblan

Nays: Boquist, Smith P.

Exc.: Maurer

**Prepared By:** Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes livestock district and open range laws inapplicable to bison. Provides that owner of bison are liable for damage created by trespassing animals. Prohibits allowing bison to run on property of another owner. Establishes that allowing bison to run at large or upon the property of another is a Class D violation.

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- · Confusion over the applicability of open range and livestock district laws to bison
- Recent problems with bison damage
- Whether state open range and livestock district laws are applicable to tribal lands

## EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

• Deletes proposed new definitions of "cattle" and "bison"

**BACKGROUND:** Oregon law defines livestock districts and open range and sets the procedure and requirements for establishing or changing a livestock district. Under the law, if you are in an open range area and do not want livestock owned by other people on your property, you must build adequate fences or barriers to keep livestock out. A livestock district (also known as a closed range district) is an area where livestock may not run at large: the livestock owner or manager must keep livestock on his or her own property. There is currently confusion over the applicability of state laws related to open range and livestock districts to bison. HB 2470-A clarifies that open range and livestock district laws do not apply to bison and that bison owners are liable for damage caused by trespassing animals and prohibits allowing bison to run at large or upon the property of another owner.