

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Clem, Dingfelder, Macpherson, Maurer, Smith P.
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boquist, Roblan
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends sunset to 2014 on program that provides landowner preference tags to address damage caused by elk on privately-owned land in Southern Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Additional time needed to determine if program is preventing damage caused by elk
- Differences between statewide landowner preference program and Southern Oregon pilot program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program was enacted by the 2003 Legislative Assembly to address damage caused by elk on private lands in Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry and Douglas counties. The program was designed to address land ownership patterns where small acreage properties interface with forest. The program provides landowner preference tags for hunting elk only in those areas where the animals are currently causing damage or where there is a history of damage coupled with control actions. Landowners must register to participate in the program and may obtain an unlimited number of tags, with the restriction that no more than five tags may be valid at any one time. Tags may only be used on property owned, leased or rented by the landowner complaining of elk damage or on property that includes the owner as a principal partner. The program requires the landowner to record and report the number of elk taken to the local Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist.

SB 240 extends the sunset for the Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Program from June 30, 2008 to June 30, 2014.