

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Atkinson, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bates
Prepared By:	Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends program that provides landowner preference tags to address damage caused by elk on privately owned land in southern Oregon until June 30, 2014.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Time needed to determine whether elk damage is prevented
- Damage caused by elk

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program was enacted by the 2003 Legislature to address damage caused by elk on privately owned lands in Jackson, Josephine, Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties. The program was designed to address certain land patterns in southern Oregon where small acreage properties interface with forest. The program provides landowner preference tags for hunting elk only in areas where the animals are currently causing damage or in areas with a history of elk damage coupled with control actions. Limits are imposed on the use of tags for taking antlerless elk. 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 to the local department biologist the number of elk taken.

Participants in the program have observed fewer elk in some areas and believe it is due to a stagger hunting season provided under the pilot program.

Senate Bill 240 extends the duration for the Southwest Oregon Landowner Preference Pilot Program, currently scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2008, to June 30, 2014.