

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Beyer, Gilliam, Krieger, Roblan, Schaufler, VanOrman, Wingard, Clem

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the Task Force on Geese Control (Task Force) to study issues raised by increasing number of various species of geese and make recommendations as to how to control geese population and its impacts. Requires Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate each appoint one legislator to serve on Task Force. Requires that Director of the state Fish and Wildlife Department (ODFW) appoint nine other members. Requires ODFW to provide staff support and all other agencies to assist Task Force in performing its duties by providing advice and furnishing information. Requires Task Force to report back to Legislature no later than November 1, 2010. Sunsets at beginning of the next regular biennial legislative session. Declares an emergency, takes effect upon passage

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Economic, transportation and public safety impacts of large flocks of waterfowl
- Shift in habitat from overwintering in Sacramento valley in California to the Willamette valley
- Population explosion
- Need to explore all available alternatives as limited by federal regulatory framework

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: There are eleven subspecies of Canada geese, of which seven are found in Oregon. These include the dusky, Taverner's, lesser, cackling, Vancouver, Western, and occasionally, the Aleutian. Geese are attracted to open water and can do significant damage to recreational areas like farms, golf courses, and parks. Their feces can spread disease and public health officials have been known to close beaches due to contamination from excessive droppings. Large numbers of geese at airports can create a serious threat to aviation safety. Geese can also be aggressive while nesting and raising young.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) covers all migratory birds under federal management authority. Primary regulatory authority resides with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. States have an opportunity to share information and make recommendations through a Flyway Council system.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.