

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Atkinson, Boquist, Hass, Dingfelder
Nays: 0
Exc.: Prozanski
Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes establishment of guest ranches of between four and 10 lodging units, limited in size, in exclusive farm use zones in Eastern Oregon in conjunction with ongoing livestock operations, if located on a lawfully-created parcel of at least 160 acres containing the landowner or operator's dwelling. Allows up to five additional lodging units, limited in size, for each doubling of initial 160 acres, for up to 25 total lodging units. Prohibits intensively-developed recreational activities. Permits incidental food service for guests only. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sunset of previous authority
- Existing guest ranches

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Guest ranches were allowed to be established in exclusive farm use zones beginning in 1997. Between 1998 and 2007, eleven such ranches were approved, ranging in size from 155 acres to over 10,000 acres. Four of the guest ranches have been converted to bed-and-breakfasts or are no longer in business. Numbers for 2008 and 2009 are not yet available. Laws authorizing guest ranches sunset on January 2, 2010; Senate Bill 1036 would reinstate such authority as it existed on that date.