

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 3
Yeas: Cowan, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Jenson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Boone, Esquivel, Clem
Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/13, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends sunset date for authorization of guest ranches from 2012 to 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of guest ranch program

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1997, the Oregon Legislature first authorized the establishment of guest ranches in Exclusive Farm Use zones as a way to both provide the public an opportunity for a ranch stay experience and allow ranchers to generate a supplementary means of income. This authorization has been clarified in 2001, 2005, and 2010 and is currently scheduled to sunset in 2012. House Bill 2753 would extend the authorization for guest ranches to 2018.

Between 1998 and 2007, 11 guest ranches were approved under the provisions of this law in six counties, however several of these have since been converted to bed and breakfasts or are no longer operating. Guest ranches must be on a minimum of 160 acres of actively managed ranch land that contains cattle, sheep, horses or bison. Thus far, the smallest guest ranch has been approved on a 160-acre ranch and the largest on over 10,000 acres of ranch. Excluding the smallest and largest acreages, the average approved guest ranch size is 2,206 acres. Depending on the size of the ranch, between four and 25 rooms in a lodge, bunkhouse, cottage or cabin are allowed. The combined total for approved rooms/cottages has been 65 – 88. Current law allows passive recreation activities (i.e., hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, swimming, etc.), but not intensively developed recreational facilities, such as a golf course.