

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 4 - 1 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Olsen, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: Thomsen

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/19, 5/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Defines public lands as any land owned by State of Oregon. Establishes public land open to access for hunting shall remain open for hunting unless state agency limits access for public safety, wildlife management or any other reason determined to be in public interest. Directs agencies to greatest extent possible to avoid making decisions that result in net loss of hunting access on public lands. Requires agency to notify Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) prior to restricting or closing access to land for hunting. Requires ODFW to post notice of land closure on website for 30 days to give hunters notice. Stipulates notice requirement does not apply to restrictions or closures for emergencies or fire prevention. Requires ODFW Director to annually report to Legislature on amount of land that has been opened and closed to hunting and reason for closure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of notifying people that lands are closed to public
- No net loss of hunting access is a goal, not mandatory

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Exempts public access restrictions or closures for critical wildlife management activities from requirement on state agency to notify ODFW and requirement on ODFW to post notice on its website.

BACKGROUND: The hunting and fishing community is described as being the most invested in, the most supportive of, and the most affected by, the state's wildlife management practices. It contributes to the preservation of traditional recreational hunting and fishing activities by participating in the licensing and permitting processes that fund the state's conservation efforts, and it works cooperatively with state agencies on enforcement and access issues. House 2875 B would direct state agencies to avoid making decisions that result in a net loss of access to public lands for hunting.