

House Bill 2875

Sponsored by Representative CLEM (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Specifies that public lands used for wildlife management purposes must be accessible for hunting. Requires State Fish and Wildlife Commission to avoid making management determinations that result in net loss of access to hunting on public lands used for wildlife management purposes. Directs State Fish and Wildlife Director to report to Legislative Assembly on acreage of public lands accessible for hunting.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to hunting on public lands.

2 Whereas recreational hunting is an important and traditional recreational activity for thousands
3 of Oregonians; and

4 Whereas hunters have been and continue to be among the foremost supporters of sound wildlife
5 management and conservation practices; and

6 Whereas hunters and hunting organizations provide direct assistance to wildlife managers and
7 enforcement officers; and

8 Whereas hunters contribute toward wildlife conservation, research and management through the
9 purchase of hunting licenses and tags; and

10 Whereas recreational hunting is an important and essential component of wildlife management;
11 and

12 Whereas recreational hunting is an environmentally acceptable activity that can be conducted
13 on state-managed public lands without conflicting with other uses of the same lands; now, therefore,

14 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

15 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2011 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 496.**

16 **SECTION 2. (1) Public lands used for wildlife management purposes shall be open to ac-**
17 **cess and use for hunting, except as limited by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission for**
18 **reasons of public safety or wildlife management. However, the commission is not required**
19 **to give preference to hunting over other uses of public lands used for wildlife management**
20 **purposes.**

21 **(2) In implementing the wildlife management policy specified in ORS 496.012, the com-**
22 **mission shall, to the greatest extent practicable, avoid making management determinations**
23 **that result in a net loss of access to hunting on public lands used for wildlife management**
24 **purposes.**

25 **(3) On or before January 1 of each year, the State Fish and Wildlife Director shall submit**
26 **a report to the Legislative Assembly that describes:**

27 **(a) The amount, in acres, of public lands used for wildlife management purposes that**
28 **have been closed by the commission to hunting and the reasons for each closure; and**

29 **(b) The amount, in acres, of public lands used for wildlife management purposes that**
30

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **have been opened by the commission to hunting.**

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