

From the desk of:  
Rep. Cliff Bentz



The Oregon Farm Bureau supports passage of HB 4093 which protects family ranch privacy. More specifically, this bill exempts certain sage grouse habitat improvement project reports and agreements submitted by ranchers to state agencies from public records disclosure.

As a result of a potential Greater Sage Grouse Endangered Species Act listing, private land owners would like to enter into voluntary agreements to improve sage grouse habitat, which have reporting requirements. Those agreements, habitat plans, and reports are submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts which are subject to public records disclosure. This bill will protect those private documents and proprietary information from public disclosure. It **does not** prevent the SWCD from collecting the information about ranchers' operations. It also **does not** prevent SWCD from disclosing information, in the aggregate, to State and Federal agencies. US Fish and Wildlife does not have an issue with reporting information in the aggregate.

HB 4093 is good for Oregon ranchers and sage grouse:

- This bill would more closely align Oregon's privacy laws with the federal privacy laws.
- Improved privacy protections will further encourage landowner involvement in habitat improvement projects.
- The public at large cannot justify access to the personal, proprietary, ranch information protected, home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, size of operation, etc.
- The privacy and safety concerns, as well as concerns of bio-terrorism, justify limiting public disclosure or detailed information pertaining to family ranches entering voluntary conservation agreements.

**Vote YES for HB 4093**

