

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barton, Cameron, Hicks, Krieger, Lininger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Alex Britain, Law Clerk
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes reports and agreements created for the purpose for sage grouse habitat protection exempt from public disclosure when those reports and agreements are voluntarily submitted to the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Forestry, or a soil and water conservation district.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oversight of landowners under agreements
- Incentivize landowners to enter into agreements
- Privacy of landowners subject to agreements
- Avoiding endangered species listing for sage grouse

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds language specifying that exemption to public disclosure under ORS 192.501 applies to voluntary conservation agreements and reports, which include land management plans required for voluntary stewardship agreements entered into with either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Forestry; and written voluntary agreements relating to the conservation of wild birds with a soil and water conservation district. Removes disclosure exemption for reports and agreements with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BACKGROUND: Unless exempted, public records used or retained by a public body are subject to public disclosure whenever a member of the public requests them. ORS 192.501 currently exempts certain public records from disclosure when the public or private interest in keeping those records confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Many of the exemptions under this section focus on maintaining privacy when public records contain personally identifiable information.

HB 4093-A amends ORS 192.501 so that land management plans required for voluntary stewardship agreements entered into with either the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Forestry as well as written voluntary agreements relating to the conservation of wild birds with a soil and water conservation district are subject to a public disclosure exemption.