



Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Office of the Director
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 947-6044
FAX (503) 947-6042
odfw.com



Date: March 30, 2017

**To: The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**Senate Bill 644
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss SB 644 with you today. As introduced, the bill revises land use review for mining in Oregon.

SB 644 modifies the process for certain eastern Oregon counties and allow for mining to be an outright permitted use without local review criteria. Currently, proposed mining activity is reviewed through local Conditional Use Permits, and the Department provides comments and recommendations to local government through this review to address any conflicting uses with fish or wildlife habitat resources. Many of the eastern Oregon counties listed in SB 644 include Greater Sage Grouse habitat (Baker, Harney, Lake, Malheur and Union) and are protected under state statute and rules developed through sage grouse conservation efforts and the accompanying Executive Order 15-18.

If the mining activity is no longer viewed by the local government as a development action because it is an outright permitted use, the mining activity may be exempt from the DLCD Goal 5 rules. As a result, the ODFW Greater Sage Grouse rules would not be triggered for compensatory mitigation and there could be significant implications to conservation efforts.

**CONTACTS:
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director, (503) 947-6044**