



Oregon

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April 25, 2017

**To: The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**



Senate Bill 372A

Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs

Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator

Good afternoon Chair Clem and members of the committee. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) offers the following comments on Senate Bill 372A.

Senate Bill 372A directs the Department to develop rules for issuing salvage permits for game meat of deer and elk that have been accidentally killed as a result of a vehicle collision and to make salvage permits available by January 1, 2019. The legislation would sunset January 1, 2024, and requires the Department to report to the 2023 Legislative Assembly. SB 372A also allows the driver of a motor vehicle that strikes and cripples a deer or elk to kill and salvage the animal.

Approximately 20 states allow the salvage of some big game animals such as deer for a variety of uses. Most recently, Washington began a roadkill salvage program in July 2016. The majority of states that allow salvage require a permit to be acquired within 24 hours. To reduce the likelihood of poaching, most states do not allow the killing of injured animals. Since the Washington law was enacted, there have been five poaching cases that involved the attempt to gain a lawful salvage permit. The Department would like to suggest that this bill follow the Washington rules and rules from other states that prohibit salvage of deer or elk ultimately killed by a firearm.

If enrolled, the Department will likely consider an administrative rule to require the recovery and transport of the entire carcass away from the road and road right of way to help prevent traffic problems and reduce likelihood of other wildlife being struck by vehicles while scavenging gut piles.

Finally, along the lower Columbia River, the Columbian white-tailed deer are federally protected and federal law prohibits their possession. The Department would have to create a rule prohibiting the salvage of any deer in Clatsop, Columbia and Multnomah counties. Washington also prohibits salvage of deer in their lower Columbia counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 372A.

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