



Oregon

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



House Bill 2030A
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator

House Bill 2030 would amend ORS 497.112 and eliminate the three percent limitation on nonresident, general season, fall black bear tags. The three percent limitation on nonresident tags for the controlled and limited bear hunts would remain in place in ORS 497.112.

The Department supports HB 2030A for several reasons. The Oregon Black Bear Management Plan (Plan) requires the Department manage to ensure a sustainable population of black bear continues in the state. Recent inventories indicate the current bear populations across the state are stable or growing; the 2016 estimated population in Oregon is 25,000-30,000. Therefore, a slight increase in nonresident tags during the fall season is unlikely to have a negative biological impact on bear populations and will not impact hunting opportunities for resident hunters.

Second, HB 2030 will streamline Department business processes and reduce the complexity of the bear hunting regulations. The three percent limitation required the Department to create four nonresident general season fall black bear hunting zones in Oregon to limit non-residents. However, only once in over 20 years has the three percent limit been reached in any zone. HB 2030 will allow the Department to eliminate those four zones.

Finally, HB 2030 will provide a slight revenue increase to the Department and these funds will continue to be used for black bear management in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

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