

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 301. The bill states that the Oregon Landowner Damage Program “considers elk overpopulation” but gives no definition as to what the phrase “elk overpopulation” may mean. Management of elk is based on Oregon’s Elk Management Plan; nowhere in that plan can the word “overpopulation” be found. “Elk overpopulation” is a socially constructed phrase without a scientific definition and impacts the ability of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage elk according to Oregon’s Elk Management Plan.

Steve Hagan

Northwest Director At-Large, Oregon Hunters Association