

HB 2071 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes that a person is eligible to obtain a hunting tag for a female mountain sheep regardless of whether the person has previously taken a mountain sheep or been issued a mountain sheep tag in Oregon.

No fiscal impact; no revenue impact

House Vote: Ayes, 57; Nays, 1--Sanchez; Excused, 2--Findley, Keny-Guyer

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law limits controlled hunt tags for mountain (bighorn) sheep as "once in a lifetime" with the exception of auction and raffle tags (ORS 497.112). According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, there are currently approximately 700 Rocky Mountain bighorns and 4,200 California bighorns in the state. Washington, Nevada, Montana, and Colorado allow for harvest of female bighorn sheep to address population control and disease. Harvest of male bighorn sheep does not address population control because a single male bighorn sheep may mate with many female bighorn sheep.

House Bill 2071 would allow a person to obtain a female mountain sheep hunting tag regardless of whether the person has previously taken a mountain sheep or been issued a mountain sheep tag.