

HB 2071 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Sprenger

House Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 03/21/19

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Gorsek, McKeown, Reardon, Smith DB, Sprenger

Exc: 2 - Barreto, Witt

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Kailey Kornhauser, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/5, 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies eligibility for hunting tags for female mountain sheep to allow a person to obtain a female mountain sheep tag regardless of whether the person has previously taken a mountain sheep or been issued a mountain sheep tag in Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Geographic distribution of mountain sheep
- Mountain sheep hunting season
- Disease spread to domestic sheep
- Mountain sheep habitat availability

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 modify eligibility for hunting tags for female mountain sheep to allow a person to obtain a female mountain sheep tag regardless of whether the person has previously been issued a mountain sheep tag.