



# Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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**To: The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**



### **Senate Bill 637**

**Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator  
Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Deputy Division Administrator  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 637, and has no position on the bill. Senate Bill 637 would allow a person to take pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, moose or mountain goat under a permit described in ORS 498.012 and retain game meat if the meat is offered to charitable organizations and refused. The summary statement for SB 637 indicates the intent is to allow a person to take certain “nuisance” game animals; however, the Department points out that ORS 498.012 includes take of wildlife causing damage, is a public nuisance or poses a public health risk. The definition of nuisance is much different than the definition of damage. ORS 498.012(6(c)) defines a public nuisance as “loss of or harm inflicted on gardens, ornamental plants, ornamental trees, pets, vehicles, boats, structures or other personal property”, and does not include agricultural crops.

The Department’s current practice with these permits issued under 498.012 is for staff to contact a meat processor and charitable organizations prior to issuing a permit, confirming the charitable organization can take the animals, then designating on the permit where the animal is to be delivered. SB 637 implies the person who receives a permit for one of these species determines which charity to potentially take the animal. To date the Department has not had challenges finding charitable organizations to take this meat.

The Department’s records show we have not issued a permit under ORS 498.012 for the taking of a bighorn sheep, moose, or mountain goat. For 2019, our most recent year of compiled date, 56 permits were issued for deer and 19 for elk across the entire state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information.

### **CONTACTS:**

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