

## **HB 2527 Wildlife Habitat**

In my limited experience I can say that this bill to increase monitoring of wildlife habitat plan implementation is clearly needed.

One Washington County neighbor with a reduced-tax designation has removed every bit of understory in a Doug fir forest of about 10 acres. It now looks the way he wants it to look from his home, but provides little for the deer, skunks, opossum, raccoons, coyotes and other creatures of the area. I can't imagine that reality meets the plan put in place years ago.

A West Salem friend shared the plan she'd paid for as she considered converting her 20-acre property from farm use to wildlife habitat. The plan had two sections:

- The plan she would submit saying what she would do, including the cost estimate and
- The plan for what she would actually do including a much lower cost estimate.

Clearly there needs to be more monitoring and enforcement. I don't see it in the bill, but I hope there are, elsewhere in the law, penalties for non-compliance that perhaps should be strengthened.

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