



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
HB 2875 HUNTING ON PUBLIC LANDS (O.R.S. 496.246)

House Bill 2875 (2011) is intended to encourage state agencies that have lands open to access and use by hunters to maintain this access and to avoid making determinations that result in a net loss of access to hunting on state-owned or -managed public lands. This Bill requires state agencies to report to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ('Department') of any closures or opening of access for hunting. Such reporting does not apply to restrictions or closures for emergencies, fire prevention or critical wildlife management activities.

What Does House Bill 2875 Do?

- This bill requires other state agencies to notify the Department of those lands closed to hunting or lands open to hunting during the previous calendar year, to report the amount of acreage affected and the reason(s) for such closures.
- It also requires other agencies to notify the Department of their plans to restrict or close access and use for hunting within a sufficient amount of time so the Department can post such closure or restriction on its website to inform the hunting public.

What is the current issue with Closures to Hunting on State Public Lands?

- Recreational hunting is an important and traditional recreational activity for thousands of Oregonians.
- Hunters and hunting organizations have been and continue to be among the foremost supporters of sound wildlife management and conservation practices providing direct assistance to wildlife managers and enforcement officers.
- Recreational hunting is an environmentally acceptable activity that can be conducted on state-owned public lands without conflicting with other uses of the same land.
- At issue is the concern by hunters and hunting organizations that state lands in Oregon that are currently accessible for hunting would be closed to such use in the future.

Were There any Closures or Openings of Public Lands in 2019?

- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that no lands that were open to hunting were closed and 214 acres that were purchased as part of the Klamath Wildlife Area were subsequently open to hunting during the 2019 calendar year.
- The Oregon Department of Forestry reported to the Department that no lands that were open to hunting were closed and no new lands were open to hunting during the 2019 calendar year.
- The Oregon Department of State Lands reported to the Department that no lands that were open to hunting were closed and no new lands were open to hunting during the 2019 calendar year.
- The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reported to the Department that no lands that were open to hunting were closed and no new lands were open to hunting during the 2019 calendar year.