



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

House bill 2875 was passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2011, and 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 state-managed public lands.

*What Does House Bill 2875 Do?*

- This bill requires other state agencies to notify the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) of lands closed to hunting or lands opened to hunting during the previous calendar year, and to report the amount of acreage affected and the reason(s) for closures. Reporting does not apply to restrictions or closures for emergencies, fire prevention or critical wildlife management activities.
- 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.
- The bill also requires the Department to submit an annual report on state land access changes related to hunting opportunity.

*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 and state-managed 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 2020?*

- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reported that no lands that were open to hunting were closed and no new lands were opened to hunting during the 2020 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 opened to hunting during the 2020 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 opened to hunting during the 2020 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 opened to hunting during the 2020 calendar year.