



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
HB 2835 Recreational Use of Waterways (O.R.S. 273.500)

House bill 2835 was passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2019, and is intended to encourage state agencies that have lands open to access floatable natural waterways to maintain this access and to avoid making determinations that result in a loss of access to these natural waterways.

What does house bill 2835 do?

- This bill requires a state agency to post a notice at least 30 days prior to the date of any restriction or closure of a public access site on a floatable waterway during the previous calendar year. The notice does not apply to restrictions or closures for emergencies, fire prevention, or critical wildlife management activities. The notice also does not apply to restrictions or closures adopted by the State Land Board or if the restriction or closure is for not more than 30 days.
- On or before January 1 of each year, any state agency that restricted, closed, opened or reopened access to a public access site shall submit a report to the Legislative Assembly.

What is the current issue with restrictions or closures to public access to floatable natural waterways?

- Recreational use of a floatable natural waterway is an important and traditional recreational activity for thousands of Oregonians.
- Anglers and recreational boaters depend on public access sites to gain access to waterways for their use and enjoyment.
- Many lands along Oregon's waterways are in private ownership so it is critical to maintain public access to these areas.
- The boating and angling public rely heavily on these areas to gain safe access to the waterways of Oregon.

Were there any closures or openings of public lands in 2019 and 2020?

- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife closed access to the Williamson boat ramp located in Chiloquin, Oregon
- The site was closed from 8/24/20 through 10/16/20.
- The reason for the closure was to perform construction and maintenance work at the site. The project objectives were as follows:
 - 1) Sub grant Oregon State Museum of Anthropology to conduct archaeological monitoring during ground disturbing activities related to construction of Williamson Boat Ramp.
 - 2) Sub grant construction contractor to remove old boat slide and install new boat ramp, pave parking, and install all amenities to specifications from Oregon State Marine Board/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife concept design.
 - 3) Order CXT vault toilet for delivery and installation onsite and coordinate between CXT and sub granted construction contractor to prep site so it is delivered and part of the construction to be completed by 6/30/21.
 - 4) ODFW will enter into agreement with Klamath County for maintenance of site during useful life of project by 6/30/21.

What were the expected results and benefits?

- A safer public access site was provided for boaters/anglers to access Williamson River using an improved boat ramp and upgraded vault toilet.
- The construction project restricts vehicle use to the appropriate parts of the property for boating access so that erosion and degradation of cultural resources on site is prevented in the future.