

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 4, 1999 Hearing Room 50

4:30 P.M. Tape 63

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gary George, Chair

Sen. Thomas Wilde, Vice-Chair

Sen. Tony Corcoran

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Sen. Bill Fisher

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Harper, Administrator

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUE HEARD: Oregon Department of Forestry Report on Bear Damage

SB 234 Work Session

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 63, A		
005	Chair George	Convenes meeting at 4:37 p.m. Opens informational meeting on bear damage to western Oregon trees.
<u>OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY REPORT ON TREE DAMAGE</u>		
015	Michael McWilliams	Oregon Department of Forestry. Submits [EXHIBIT A] and give informational testimony on western Oregon tree mortality. Explains the 1998 survey covered 6,433,613 acres, which is 1.5 million acres less than in 1997. States there was a

		decrease in the estimated acres with bear damage compared to 1997.
030	Dave Overhulser	Oregon Department of Forestry. Explains the size of the survey has varied since 1993. States 76% of the areas surveyed had bear damage. Adds bear damage occurs in tree stands over twelve years old. Says attachment 2 exemplifies the areas surveyed in the 1998 bear damage study.
080	Overhulser	Explains the survey is very conservative in nature in that it does not show all damage to trees. Discusses areas of most mortality and the numbers of acres of forestland with bear damage. Says the study covers a large amount of trees and says bark needle disease is the cause of some of the mortality in those areas.
118	Sen. Wilde	Asks if trees are killed when bears de-bark them.
121	Overhulser	Replies mortality occurs when a tree is over 75% de-barked.
129	Sen. Wilde	Asks if there is any natural reaction on the part of the bear to keep the tree alive.
135	McWilliams	Explains there are taste factors associated with certain types of trees. Adds some bears will not de-bark trees if the tree tastes ěbadí.
143	Overhulser	Comments on a survey conducted in the past several years in the Astoria area. Says in the area there was a 14% level of damage to trees. States some trees are only partially girdled by bears.
150	Sen. Corcoran	Asks about the reasons for the decrease in tree mortality.
157	Overhulser	Replies the two reasons are planned reductions in acres surveyed and the inability to survey one area because of weather.
163	Sen. Fisher	Asks how a bear de-barks a tree.
174	Overhulser	Replies most bear damage occurs at the ground level but adds bears will often climb trees to de-bark them.
184	Sen. Fisher	Asks if bears leave a certain amount of girdle around the tree.
196	McWilliams	Answers bears do tend to girdle about two feet up the tree. Comments on the physiology of trees.
213	Overhulser	Comments damage that occurs to trees opens the tree up to disease and wood decay that de-value the tree.

224	Chair George	Asks how many trees a bear kills per year.
227	Overhulser	Replies there is no information on that. Adds that would be more of a behavioral study rather than a study on tree damage and mortality.
230	Chair George	Asks if McWilliams has any idea of the total value of trees.
235	McWilliams	Responds he is not aware of any quantitative assessment of damage. Adds damage to trees is varies extremely.
246	Chair George	Asks if the decrease in the amount of damage was due to the decrease in acres surveyed and not because there was a decrease in bear damage.
250	McWilliama	Says the two reasons mentioned earlier are the factors of which the department is aware.
254	Chair George	Comments on a time when he was flying over a stand of trees and there was a considerable amount of damage. Asks if there is any movement to quantify habits of bears.
263	Overhulser	Says he can not answer that. Adds tree mortality can vary.
279	Sen. Ferrioli	Points out bear damage to trees is a serious issue.
294	Chair George	Closes informational meeting. Opens work session on SB 234.
<u>SB 234 WORK SESSION</u>		
300	Brad Harper	Committee Administrator. Explains the ñ2 and ñ6 amendments. [EXHIBIT B]
330	Chuck Craig	Oregon Department of Agriculture. Explains changes in the ñ2 and ñ6 amendments in relation to frozen dessert retailers.
357	Sen. Dukes	Asks if there is any retailer that will not be regulated if the amendments are adopted.
360	Craig	Replies yes. Explains there are 1,135 current licensees and the department will remove about 1000 of those licensees.
374	Sen. Fisher	Asks chair if the ñ2 and ñ6 amendments are both necessary to pass SB 234 out of committee.

376	Chair George	Clarifies the ñ2 and the ñ6 amendments are needed to pass the bill out of committee.
378	Sen. Dukes	Asks if the licensing fee is currently \$60.
380	Craig	Answers yes.
385	Sen. Wilde	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 234-2 amendments dated 02/22/99.
390		VOTE: 6-0
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
400	Sen. Wilde	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 234-6 amendments dated 03/03/99.
405		VOTE: 6-0
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
410	Sen. Wilde	MOTION: Moves SB 234 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
415		VOTE: 6-0
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. WILDE will lead discussion on the floor.
420	Chair George	Closes work session on SB 234. Adjourns meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Brad Harper,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ 1998 Western Oregon Tree Mortality Survey, Dave Overhulser, 10 pp.

B ñ SB 234, -2 and ñ6 amendments, Staff, 5 pp.