

Fee-based hunting, fishing, viewing and other private land uses

Information provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Private landowners can charge for access to property, but not for the actual taking of an animal, bird or fish. All of Oregon's fish and wildlife are the property of all Oregonians.

Private landowners can charge an access fee to any individual entering private land to hunt or fish, if the person has a valid license and tag for the specific species being sought, and if the individual is hunting or fishing the species within a legal hunting or fishing season. Private landowners also can charge an access fee to individuals entering private land for wildlife viewing and photography purposes.

Wildlife – including animals, birds and fish – must be free to move onto and off of private property as needed.

Private landowners cannot restrict the movements of wildlife across property lines. However, landowners may choose to improve habitat to increase hunting, fishing and viewing opportunities. In some cases, landowners may be asked to help facilitate passage by installing fish screens or reducing other barriers to wildlife passage.

Private landowners may raise and sell fish with a Fish Propagation License.

A Fish Propagation License allows a landowner to raise fish on his or her property for sale to the public either directly or by charging a fishing fee. This license also allows landowners to sell fish to other private landowners who may charge for fishing. The permit and the application process specify the restrictions and requirements related to fish species and types of facilities required to meet state regulations. Landowners who purchase stockfish from someone with a Fish Propagation License may transport the fish to their property for personal use.

Private landowners may raise and sell game birds or other wildlife with a Wildlife Propagation License.

A Wildlife Propagation License allows a landowner to raise game birds, particularly pheasants, or other wildlife for sale. The license specifies requirements for care of the wildlife, and for shipping and sale.

Private landowners may operate a hunting preserve.

A landowner also may obtain a permit for operating a private hunting preserve. This allows a landowner to operate a business for persons to hunt on private lands for stocked upland game birds, such as pheasants and quail, outside the regular hunting seasons. Rules pertaining to preserve permits specify the size of the acreage required, how it must be posted, type and size of bird holding facilities, marking of birds, and hunter licensing requirements.

Private landowners can apply for money to help improve fish and wildlife habitat.

The Access and Habitat Program was created by the 1993 Oregon Legislature to encourage hunter access to private land and to provide landowners with a means to obtain funding for habitat improvement, and to repair damage caused by wildlife or fire. Money for habitat improvement is available through an application process from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Access and Habitat Board.

For more information, contact:

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