

# DRAFT 1

meeting. Currently no major changes to upland game bird season structure or bag limits are proposed.

- Staff is proposing to discontinue the White River controlled fall turkey hunt beginning in 2020. This is the only controlled fall turkey hunt remaining in the state, offering just 50 tags. The same unit receives the highest hunting pressure, in terms of hunter-days, during the spring turkey season. Staff recommends this flock be managed for sustained production to improve spring turkey opportunity in the White River WMU.

## Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Updates

**Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations** are set for two year periods. The July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 Oregon Furbearer Trapping and Hunting Regulations will be adopted at the June, 2020 Commission Meeting. No proposals for changes to furbearer regulations have been developed at this time. However, concern has been expressed regarding trapping marten in coastal areas; the Department will be considering potential changes to address the issue.

## Legislative Update on Select Bills Passed During the 2019 Legislative Session

- **House Bill 2067** removed the Sunset Dates for The Access and Habitat Program and the Oregon Landowner Damage Program (OLDP). Under OLDP elk damage tags are issued to hunters of the landowner's choice. These well-established programs will continue to be reviewed by the Legislative Assembly in the future on an as needed basis.
- **House Bill 2068** increased the nonresident cap for Spring Bear controlled hunts from 3% to 5% of the tags authorized by the Commission. The original concept would have also raised the cap for pronghorn hunts but that was taken out of the Bill. The cap for controlled cougar hunts was also increase from 3% to 5% but has no immediate effect since there are no controlled cougar hunts at this time.
- **House Bill 2069** modifies the statute language that requires leftover tags be sold on first-come, first-served basis to allow the flexibility to specify in rule that leftover tags and controlled hunt tags are only available to hunters who have not already purchased a tag for deer and elk. By modifying this allowance, the result would make regulations consistent and equitable across species opportunity, and make Big Game Hunting Regulations easier to read and understand.
- **House Bill 2071** modifies the statute to create an exemption for bighorn sheep ewe hunts from the "once in a lifetime" limitation for mountain sheep hunts. Ewe hunts in Oregon would be rare and limited in number, but an important tool to maintain herd health. The department would first look at continued opportunities to relocate bighorns over implementing ewe harvest, but on an as needed basis, the Fish and Wildlife Commission could review and potentially authorize proposed ewe hunts as part of the annual big game season and tag setting process. Other western states, including Washington, Nevada, Montana, and Colorado allow for harvest of bighorn sheep ewes without a "once in a lifetime" limitation to address similar concerns.