

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Controlled Elk Bow Hunts

-----Original Message-----

From: davidbrinker7@gmail.com <davidbrinker7@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 7:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled Elk Bow Hunts

To Whom it may Concern:

I ask that you please reconsider making all of Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Controlled Hunts/Draw Only. As a nearly 68 year old outdoorsmen , and A Traditional Archery Hunter I feel that Controlled Archery Elk Drawings Does not address the problem.

Technology has crept into Archery at an alarming rate. The masses have been drawn to the efficiency of the modern compound bow. With little effort a person can be shooting a modern compound bow with accuracy Capable of killing with consistency out to 100 yards and beyond. Us "Old Guys" have seen this coming for decades and now it has arrived full force. The newest bows on the market are simply hand held arrow launching devices. Extremely efficient killing machines. What has happened to the art of getting close? Answer. Not necessary.

With the success percentages creeping up every year it is, in my opinion, time to "Flatten The Curve". All options need to be considered to do so.

I first started with my father in 1964, at that time archery was an additional opportunity to pursue game and not considered a management tool. That has clearly changed. As statistics demonstrate.

Perhaps it is time to lead instead of follow?Find a way to cut back on the harvest rate on elk by limiting time in the woods in late August and September IF YOU choose to hunt with Technology. First two weeks with any legal bow. Last two weeks Recurves and Longbows only? For those who choose to hunt with a compound bow the option would also be available to hunt the last 2 weeks with traditional equipment? If they choose.

In conclusion I feel that more thought needs to be put into this problem before limited entry hunting is introduced into the Eastern Oregon Units for bow hunting. This becomes the river of no return. As opportunities fade away they most likely will never come around again.

Thank You.
David Brinker
davidbrinker7@gmail.com
503-910-5546

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: ERIC R ERIKSEN <ericeriksen@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 5:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Limited entry hunting

I am writing to you to encourage the ODFW to step back from making the eastern oregon elk units limited entry until all options have been explored. I am a 67 year old traditional bowhunter who started in 1975. I have a very light impact on the game population but I still look forward to hunting season every year like I have for the last 45 years old. With limited entry I could be restricted from elk hunting in my waning years and I can't imagine that. It is the onslaught of technology creeping into our sport that is the problem. Years ago if someone shot something from 40 yards they were chastised for being unethical and now there are people shooting out to 100yards. Restrict the time that the "technology hunters" can be afield but I would ask that you consider not restricting the traditional hunters that have a low impact on the wildlife. We just want to be able to hunt every season, not every few years. Lots of us don't have a lot years left to enjoy the sport. Thanks for your time and I urge you to explore all options. Eric R Eriksen

Roxann B Borisch

From: bob dixon <bobincg@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 7:09 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed permit draw for Eastern Oregon Archery

I'm not in favor of the proposed permit draw system for archery hunters in eastern Oregon. I do believe there are more archery hunters than 20-25 yrs ago. Still the success rate of archery hunters is extremely low.

I would be in favor of picking your hunting method, if you're not successful on drawing a rifle tag for an area, then you're not eligible for an archery tag. I believe that would limit some hunting pressure.

The increased population of bear and cougars probably has a greater impact on calf and fawn survival than anything else. Talking to the cowboys that manage cattle on range allotments in the Malheur National Forest. They see first hand, riding the forest on horse back.

In conclusion, I believe you're using Archery hunters as a scapegoat for problems that are out of hunters control.

Thanks for listening,
Bob Dixon
Cottage Grove, Or.
bobincg@hotmail.com
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Pat Strunk <spiritlongbow@centurylink.net>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:57 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Cross bows

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

As a traditional bow hunter in Oregon, I strongly object to putting cross bows in any other hunting season. To put them in with rifle hunters would be unsafe. To include them in any archery season would be unfair. The technology of a cross bow far exceeds any bows used by present-day bow hunters. If you intend on the cross bow being used as a hunting weapon, it should be put in a season by itself. By doing so, I do not approve of changing or reducing any other user group's hunting opportunities. I think through the skill and wisdom of ODFW, this can somehow be accomplished.

John Strunk
Tillamook, Oregon
Sent from Pat's iPad!

Roxann B Borisch

From: Matt Starley <mstarleydmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2020 8:54 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled archery season Input

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to convey some objectives id like see achieved as we navigate controlling the Oregon archery seasons.

Below are objectives if like to see.

#1. Utilize traditional archery as a management tool that will have low impact on harvest rates and keep general archery opportunity available every year In eastern Oregon. How that is accomplished could look many ways.

#2. Do not make the west side of Oregon the only general archery area. It is a crowded already and making it the only general area will send more people into an already hunter dense zone.

#3. Consider making all of Oregon broke into general zones. We can cap the general zones on a first come first serve basis similar how Idaho does. This will still allow a general archery opportunity but will make people commit to a specific part of the state. This will prevent overcrowding of people jumping back and forth into different units.

#4. Consider creating an extended traditional archery season after the controlled archery seasons in eastern Oregon units.

#5. Do not allow crossbows during any archery season. They belong in rifle season.

Thank you for listening and taking these things into consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Starley DMD
www.starleyfamilydentistry.com
503-325-6662 office

Roxann B Borisch

From: Benjy Kurtz <benjaminkurtz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 9:30 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes to archery seasons

To whom it may concern..

Everyone I know opposes to this sudden change in archery season from over the counter to everything draw... You can never go back! You need to make compound hunting less time and traditional same time or longer. Limit the time the compound hunters will be in the woods and it will drop the harvests... Traditional hasn't changed much in 40yrs. Shots are still under 30yds difficulty is much greater.....

Also, predator's are a huge huge problem and if you don't get a handle on it you will lose this state which brings in thousands of dollars of out of state hunters... Which hurts all of us..

I am a concerned oregonian who has hunted archery for many years and I see our hunting going away because you all aren't Willing to fight city folks who know nothing about managing wildlife..

Thanks for listening

Ben

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Irwin <mikeirwin@fortitudeia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 12:09 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Big Game Management Regulations Eastern Oregon Archery

Dear Commission Members,

I'm a native Oregonian and am contacting you to communicate my concern and argument against the proposal for a draw system to archery hunt for deer and elk in Eastern Oregon.

First, adding complexity and additional steps does NOT improve customer service and does NOT simplify anything.

Second, adding complexity equals more time, cost, and energy for hunters. It will actually reduce the number of hunters. The recruitment, retention, and reactivation will decrease. Other states will attract more Oregon hunters as is already happening.

Please don't complicate it any further. It should be going to less complication. With that I think there would be a return of some hunters who have stopped hunting entirely and who now hunt in other states.

Please contact me if you'd like any further comments. Thank you.

All the best - Mike Irwin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Ray <bray@nheri.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery hunting

Dear Commissioners,

I firmly think that it is best to change archery hunting of elk and deer all to controlled hunts wherever it is controlled for rifle hunting. I am a conservationist, outdoorsman, hunter, and small-scale farmer.

Many years ago, it seemed appropriate to allow open/general season for archery hunters. However, technology has advanced a lot so that their shots are much longer and more accurate than many years ago. Also, the fact that archers are now harvesting 60 percent of elk bulls while 75 percent of eastern Oregon elk hunters prefer to hunt with a rifle is very disproportionate and unfair since archers have a longer season with uncontrolled hunts. I really enjoy bows and arrows, and I enjoy rifles; it was once okay for archers to be more free-ranging and have more open seasons but that day is long gone.

All archery elk and deer hunting should be controlled wherever the hunts are controlled for rifle hunting.

Would you please let me know that you received this?

Thank you.

--Brian D. Ray, Ph.D.
Salem, Oregon

Ph.D., science education, Oregon State University
M.S., zoology, Ohio University
B.S., biology, University of Puget Sound
phone (503) 364-1490.

Roxann B Borisch

From: ROD ADAMS <radams@bendbroadband.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes to General Archery Seasons

Commissioners;

Please reconsider making drastic changes during this pandemic year due to restrictions in public meetings and movements. Traditional archery requires shooting to stay in tune. Compound bows have sights, mostly shot with a trigger and have let-off technology to allow almost anyone to pick them up without much practice and use them in Hunting seasons. If overcrowding is an issue in some units, Traditional archery could have the first two weeks, due to their limited range, then Compound archers, with their extended range over traditional bows by up to four times could take the next two weeks and then rifle hunters, with even more range would come next. Traditional archers tend not to over-crowd an area, seeking solitude to enjoy the whole season as complete as can be. Keeping a General Hunting season allows much freedom to recreate and use different places depending on fires, weather, crowds and Game availability. Keeping a General Season will more than likely keep more Hunters here rather than go out-of-State for Hunting as I'm sure you realize is happening more and more. Most prefer to Hunt in-State, even with less opportunity at bringing home an animal, if we can move around to find the limited Game Animals we pursue.

Thank You for Considering my thoughts.

Rod Adams
Bend, Or.
radams@bendbroadband.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Bob McMAHAN <outlook_9317A244E16437BC@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hunting Changes...

Commissioners,

Archery ruminations...

Considering the problems of “over harvesting” you must know by now that past inactions have come home to roost. Considering that modern archery equipment is capable of taking big game animals at over 100 yards no one should really be at all surprised.

Making every east side unit a draw certainly does a great job in punishing traditional archers and destroying the romance of Oregon’s wonderful archery history. Traditional archery is imbued with the romance of a simple wooden bow, a quiver of Port Orford cedar arrows and the ability to wander about the forest at will. Occasionally a big game animal goes home to help feed the family of the lucky Bowman.

So the simple, best and most honest answer is to keep the seasons open and the same for traditional archers and change or reduce the seasons as necessary to control the “take” of modern bow hunters.

It’s well established and not debatable that traditional bow hunters have minimal impact on game populations. So why punish the men and women who were there “first”?

Most Sincerely,

Bob McMahan
Bend, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: T How <thoward1865@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 2:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed seasons

Hello,

I am an archery hunter and I've hunted with compound bows and traditional gear. The explosion of compound hunters and the simplicity of shooting them with little or no practice combined with the speed and greater shooting distance is an issue. These bows are like hunting with black powder gear. As a traditional hunter I have come to value woodsmanship and ethical hunting. I have not harvested an animal with my stick n string but I enjoy hunting so much more. Using the growing number of hunters looking to get back to a greater sense of why we are there which is not just about killing an animal is being overlooked as a management tool. We simply harvest fewer animals, take better care of the woods and pass this to our children.

With more controlled hunts and less opportunity Oregon feels like it's losing its hunting heritage to money and poor management. I ask that you use every arrow in your quiver to hit the mark and not let the hunting experience slip away.

Thank you,
Todd

Roxann B Borisch

From: Steve Doherty <stevedhrty@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed rule changes for archery seasons

I have heard there is a push to make all of eastern Oregon draw hunt only for archery season. It makes me wonder if there are any hunters actually left working at the odfw. The result of these rules will further the decline of interest in hunting in Oregon. If that is the goal, this would be a good way to do it. I would urge you not to implement this rule, however I have no confidence that the state government has any interest in listening to public comment.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: jim dean <dean1662@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 10:58 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery controlled seasons

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Jim dean. I have lived in Oregon summer nice 1986. I am totally against controlled seasons in eastern Oregon or anywhere in our state. As a traditional archery our success rate is very low and I feel this is an unnecessary step Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: B Ricks <brtreedogs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 12:15 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed changes 2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please do not take our opportunity away by making all eastern a draw.
I know there have been lots of complaints of over crowding and people not being able to find elk.
I would argue that these folks are just not in shape, spend much time or effort at it.
As I know several dedicated people that find them all the time.
I agree that mule deer need some help.
But the draw, points system is just not the way. Once you go down that road there is no going back.
Going to a 1st come 1st served quota is the way that way it is easier to adjust.
I'm not going to stay in shape all year and spend this amount of time and money if my opportunity is limited.
I will simply liquidate and move out of state and no longer contribute revenue or taxes to the state of Oregon
Thank you Bryan Ricks

Roxann B Borisch

From: HOLLIDAY LAND & LIVESTOCK . <kpholliday@ortelco.net>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 8:54 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: mark.t.kirsch@state.or.us; ryan.e.torland@state.or.us
Subject: Comments for Commission on proposed changes to archery hunts
Attachments: Holliday Archery Hunt comments.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning:

Please accept the attached comments for the ODFW Commission on the proposed changes to the archery hunts. I understand it will be a topic at the September Commission meeting.

If there are any questions I can be reached at 541 620-0147 or at kpholliday@ortelco.net.

Ken Holliday

Holliday Land & Livestock, Inc.

62394 Hwy 26
John Day, Oregon 97845
541 575-1716

August 5, 2020

OR Dept. Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

ATT: Curt Melcher
ODFW Commission Members

Dear Director Melcher and Commission Members:

I own a cattle ranch involved in production agriculture encompassing over 11,500 acres in Grant County. The ranch is comprised of 12 separate pieces of property, located in the Murderers Creek and Northside units.

For years I have been active and very vocal about the ever-rising conflicts and issues that I have observed resulting from the trend towards the expansive early season archery hunting seasons in our area. In my opinion the two biggest issues contributing to the problem are; the unlimited ability to purchase over the counter archery tags and the expanding use of ATVs during archery season. I have yet to understand what an ATV has to do with a primitive hunt held during the early season rut.

I believe that going to an archery draw system for tags would reduce not only the hunting pressure but also limit the effects of disruption and displacement of game animals by the massive use of ATVs. In the last twenty years I have observed elk being displaced with the pressure a large, uncontrolled number of archery hunters brings. Within five to seven days after the opening day of archery season you can observe large herds of elk migrating from public to private land. These herds do massive damage to the private land pastures, leaving damaged fences and little forage for the private land cattle herds. In recent years elk herds have begun to migrate onto private lands in July and August, before archery season begins. Elk are extremely adaptable.

Another issue surrounding the displacement of large elk herds is the conflict with struggling mule deer herds. My property has been winter range for large numbers of mule deer. However, now the elk herds migrate into these areas in August and September, degrade this winter range habitat which results in the mule deer leaving and not returning. The local ODFW staff have historically used my property for spring deer counts and numerous mule deer studies. This has provided me with substantial information regarding the health of local mule deer herds.

On a final note, I believe the ODFW biologists have been put in a difficult position with the current archery conditions. It puts them in a no-win situation.

I urge the Commission to make the decision to move to controlled archery hunts.

Sincerely,


Ken Holliday
Holliday Land & Livestock, Inc.

Cc: Mark Kirsch
Ryan Torland

Roxann B Borisch

From: ernieglenn5 <ernieglenn5@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 8, 2020 6:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 archery elk proposal: think this through, please.... most bowhunters are building up points, and most are not going to burn them on an average unit. I won't. I've bowhunted 28 yrs. now, hunted a week east 26 of them. Killed two bulls on the east s...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Hart,Paul W <Paul.Hart@edwardjones.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 8:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed archery changes for 2021.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ODFW,

As I have studied and actually spoken with ODFW biologists about the proposed archery changes, I do not see where the benefit is for me or any other hunter who chooses archery as weapon of choice. I only see it as limiting my opportunity which is not what I or any other hunter pays ODFW for.

I understand the need to raise more money for ODFW. Why not simply raise the price of tags and leave the rest alone? I would be willing to pay more. I can't speak for anyone else in that regard. However, archery hunting is hard enough already and to have opportunities reduced will probably cause some hunters to simply not pay ODFW at all and stop hunting.

I put in for all of the hard draws yearly. I have yet to win one so I end up hunting OTC and accumulate another point. One of these days I will get my draw but then my points will go back to zero and I will have to put in for very poor controlled hunts or try and compete in the very limited OTC units left in the system. I have heard rumor that even the western part of the State will be controlled at some point.

Who comes up with these proposals? Hunters or bureaucrats? Please listen to hunters, your true constituents.

Thank you!

Paul W. Hart, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones
541-479-1486

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are right." Henry Ford

Paul Hart
Financial Advisor
Edward Jones
162 Ne Beacon Dr Ste 119
Grants Pass, OR 97526
(541) 479-1486
www.edwardjones.com

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeffrey Fitzwater <j.fitz99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:56 PM
To: Odfw WebSales; ODFW Commission
Subject: Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello ODFW,

My name is Jeff Fitzwater. I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman. I have been for most of my life. It seems like this last year has been full of many negative things going on in our state and around the world. To add to this negativity I recently heard another "what's to come" from an archery shop owner I frequently talk to. This was about YOU turning all of northeast Oregon into draw only zones. "To help herd numbers". The problem with deer and elk numbers is from PREDATION!!! And it's all over our state! From the Wilson unit, Santiam Unit and several northeast Oregon units I have hunted. It's staring you and any person who enjoys hunting elk and our now pitifully populated mule deer directly in the face!! No hiding it. Black bear and cougar populations are way out of control and have been for quite a while. Anyone with trail cameras set up can tell you that. Along with low fawn and calf survival. All of this you know though. It's your freaking job not a hobby. Manage your predators better!! "But our hunters and tag allotments are easier to control" This idea you have is like a doctor putting a bandaid on a cancer patient and expecting it to solve the problem. Come on! Sportsman pay you a lot of money every year to manage OUR wildlife. Do a better job.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ted Reiss <oregonrice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Hunting Seasons

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I understand you are considering a dramatic change to the availability of archery elk and deer hunting tags in eastern Oregon. I would like to communicate my experience archery hunting in eastern Oregon over the last ten years to provide context.

I have archery hunted elk and deer seven days on average each year. I have hunted primarily in the Upper Deschutes, Silvies, Murderer's Creek, Pine Creek, Imnaha and Keating management units during this time. I think we can agree that these are popular management units for archery hunters.

During this period of time I have encountered other archery hunters. I have always encountered archery hunters on roads or trails that can be described as travel pathways TO a hunt, not WITHIN a hunt when considering the likely habitat an archery hunter would find game to pursue. These other archery hunters have ALWAYS been courteous to my hunting intent as I have been to theirs. I have not encountered other archery hunters while actually hunting. No doubt, there are popular places that attract many archery hunters. But, I have consistently and easily found areas to hunt that I find no other archery hunters. DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS I HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER ARCHERY HUNTER WHILE HUNTING. NOT ONCE.

If you are receiving comments from other archery hunters suggesting there is a problem with overcrowding during archery season, they must be hunting within very small popular areas where most hunters find easily negotiated geography. In my opinion, and based on my experience, this is no measure of hunting quality to change well established rules.

IF YOU CHANGE THE ARCHERY HUNTING TAG AVAILABILITY IN EASTERN OREGON TO DRAW ONLY, YOU WILL BE LIMITING MY OPPORTUNITY ALONG WITH MANY OTHER HUNTERS WILLING TO WALK A LITTLE WAYS OFF THE ROAD OR HUNT IN STEEP COUNTRY. IF THE SUCCESS RATE IN ARCHERY SEASON HAS NOT INCREASED, THAT WOULD CAUSE A PROBLEM FOR BIG GAME POPULATIONS, THERE IS NO REASON TO CHANGE THE CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ARCHERY TAGS.

Please consider my experience before changing the availability of archery tags in eastern Oregon. Thank you for your service to Oregon and your time in considering my experience and opinion.

--
Edward Reiss
Archery, Centerfire, Shotgun Hunter
Eugene, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:15 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Controlled Archery Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: John Collins <JHCollins@cfpwood.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled Archery Proposal

Dear ODFW,

I do not support the proposal of making Eastern Oregon general archery a controlled tag. I do believe that if there is anything that we could do towards conservation of big game population would be predator control. I would be more than happy to pay a predator removal fee each year with my license to help fund a program. This proposal will bring less opportunities for hunters that have been hunting these spots for generations. I feel like this will increase point creep and make it almost impossible to draw good units.

Please do not make the our general archery season a controlled hunt.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

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OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313
oha@oregonhunters.org • oregonhunters.org

August 5, 2020

RE: Input on proposed controlled archery hunts for E.O. deer and elk:

Background: ODFW's staff proposal affects archery hunters with many changes and a net reduction of mobility and opportunity. We believe the effect can be tempered and improved by extending the implementation period and applying a more strategic methodology for better management in the future. Slowing down the process will yield a better outcome when considering the elements of recruitment, retention, and reactivation (3R's) for Oregon archery hunters.

As an organization, OHA believes:

- **Mule deer.** We can support making archery hunting controlled (for 2021) given the poor numbers below Management Objectives across mule deer range.
- **Rocky Mountain Elk.** We can support moving to a controlled archery structure in recognition of the Department's need to effectively manage elk populations. However, tag limits should allow for maximum opportunity unless there are significant biological and social factors.
 - **Implementation and Timing.** We recommend initiating unlimited controlled hunts (except in units where there are significant biological factors) for the first few years. During this time, the Department can collect additional scientific information and better understand the extent of overcrowding problems specific to each unit. ODFW staff would assess these issues via feedback from archery hunters in the field, and through season-end reporting.
 - **Outcome.** The results of the delayed timing would allow for further evaluation of the biological and social factors to ensure that the maximum level of opportunity is provided without compromising biological values.

In summary, we believe that Oregon archery hunters are facing a lot of major changes in very short-order. Extending the period of implementation for 2-3 years would provide for a more acceptable phase-in to east-side controlled archery hunting. It would also provide an opportunity for hunters to be more involved in the process, yielding a more positive attitude for future deer and elk management in our state. We do really appreciate this opportunity for input on an important topic for many within our membership.

Sincerely,

Jim Akenson
Senior Conservation Director

Fred Walasavage
Board Chairman

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Bourland <bourlandrobert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Nick Myatt <Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us>
Subject: The Traditional Archers of Oregon.docx

The Traditional Archers of Oregon's thoughts on the changes to the Big Game Proposals

On May 12th, 1984 Dave Doran set up an informal meeting with a group of traditional archers. The main agenda and concern was that modern technology was being applied to archery gear at an alarming rate, making archery "easier" and ultimately increasing success. That day, the Traditional Archers of Oregon was formed.

For the past 36 years, we have been trying to stop technology creep from entering bow seasons so it would not come to controlled hunts and a loss of liberal, low impact archery seasons. Well, we are here. Now that we are here, and understand the situation, these are a few of our thoughts.

Eastern Oregon Controlled Elk Proposal

- Slow down the process. We are in a pandemic and this is not a good time to make such sweeping changes to archery seasons. We do appreciate the input we have had, but we feel that such important decisions should not be made in a year with no in-person commission meetings. We feel things should be postponed.
- We feel you are missing a step between general seasons and controlled archery hunts; that step is traditional archery. Traditional archery still allows opportunity, while lowering the harvest rate and reducing overcrowding issues. Begin with the units that are having the most overcrowding/over-harvest issues. Rather than controlling the entire east side, make the first two weeks of the season a general season where compounds are allowed - just as it is now. Then, turn last two weeks of the season into traditional-only bowhunting. Try it for a couple of years and then survey the hunters and biologists in those units to see how it worked

Eastern Oregon Controlled Deer

- We understand our mule deer need help. Again, traditional archery can be that help before controlling everything.
- Losing tag portability is a very big issue for our members, as most members hunt early season, and are unsuccessful (traditional archery), and then hunt late season on the west side.

Proposed Traditional Hunts

- We support the John Day extension expanding to the whole Desolation Unit
- We support the new Santiam Unit Traditional hunt extension.

In closing, we thank Nick Myatt and ODFW for listening to our concerns and we are looking forward to working together to come up with some traditional archery seasons that will help ODFW overcome some of the management issues, while still retaining opportunity for bowhunters.

Thank You,

Bob Bourland, Field Governor

Riley Savage, President Traditional Archers of Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: John Collins <JHCollins@cfpwood.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled Archery Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Dear ODFW,

I do not support the proposal of making Eastern Oregon general archery a controlled tag. I do believe that if there is anything that we could do towards conservation of big game population would be predator control. I would be more than happy to pay a predator removal fee each year with my license to help fund a program. This proposal will bring less opportunities for hunters that have been hunting these spots for generations. I feel like this will increase point creep and make it almost impossible to draw good units.

Please do not make the our general archery season a controlled hunt.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Kirby Callis <kirbycallis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 7:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Hunting Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello, is there a way for the public to give input on the proposed changes?

I'm an avid Archery Hunter who primary hunts Elk, been spending a huge amount of time since the late 1980's at this and I am very concerned about losing opportunities to spend time in the woods doing what I'm passionate at doing. I spent countless hours working to fine tune my abilities and skills, as I get older, it is even more important for me to stay in shape and to continually shoot my bow staying proficient at this sport. Take away my ability to chase game in the woods you will be taking a big piece of what gets me up each day, what makes my quality of life better. Now do I kill animals, sometimes, it is my objective each year, but reality is I might harvest an elk every 4-5 years yet I love the chase and live for it and the meat is some of the best a person can consume.

Can ODFW explain what the objective is, is it less hunters?, more Rifle opportunities?, to increase animal numbers?, Pressure pushing animals onto private lands? It just seems Elk numbers are greater today then 20 years ago with herd numbers in most units near or above objectives. If the Private lands is the issue can't ODFW learn from our neighbors and work with land owners to open thier lands to hunters, sell more tags and use that money to open more opportunities not simply take away opportunities.

Anyway, I wish Oregon would learn how to manage Game and use the tools out there to do it.

Kirby Callis

Roxann B Borisch

From: sharpcecil46 <sharpcecil46@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Dear sirs the only thing I support on draw tags for archery is a eather or choice for hunters eather you rifle hunt or you bow hunt not both as far as deer here in eastern Oregon you need to close season till you get some kind of a Predator control

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Land Hunters <andrewt0815@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon bow hunter opportunity

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ODFW,

I love bow hunting. I appreciate my bow hunter opportunity I have in Oregon. i never want to miss a September hunt for the rest of my life. I love the experiences and memories I have every year in the woods since i started hunting in 2007. I love being able to harvest wild game and share the memories and meat with family and friends. Please do not restrict/or change current opportunities us bow hunter and and rifle hunters have.

*Thank you for keeping our hunting opportunities around for generations to come.

-Andrew Thomson

Roxann B Borisch

From: Marshall Cooley <cooleyspey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 3:15 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Changes for 2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello there,

My name is Marshall and I am a life long Oregonian and hunter/fisherman, I am concerned about the recent proposals that have been proposed.

My main concern is limiting our opportunities to Archery hunt in Oregon. I believe that this is a short sighted solution to a multifaceted problem. The long term effects of losing archery hunters and hunters is general will lead to a lost connection to OUR Public Lands and Wildlife. Who will be there to stand up for these resources in the future? The reduction of recruitment and retention will also directly negatively effect your agencies funding, which is already struggling. This will lead to increasing shortfalls in the future and fewer people willing to fight for these natural resources.

What is the reasons for this proposal? What is the problem?

Are wildlife populations in jeopardy?

If so, have predator populations been addressed? There is no question that the changes in predator hunting from Measure 18 in 1994 (No dogs or bait for bear and cougars) lead to increased predator populations. We now have a new predator to contend with as well, the Wolf. Why not create more predator hunting opportunities while also increasing your revenue?

What about private cattle grazing on public lands? I do not have a problem with cattle using our lands. I do, however, have a problem when the forests are over grazed and the riparian areas trashed. Forcing elk and deer onto private lands were they are no long accessible. Private interests are reaping the rewards of OUR public lands and leaving us and fish/wildlife to deal with the degraded landscape.

Vehicle strikes are also a major contributor to wildlife losses. How can this problem be mitigated? I know it is out of your commissions control but it should be looked at with other agencies and addressed.

Thank your for taking the time to read my concerns, I could have gone on but I believe you get my point. There are other tools at your disposal before deciding to limit archery hunting and hunting in general. Your commission works for the people and please remember this before voting something in that limits our access.

Sincerely,

Marshall Cooley
541 419 4831

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Eastern Oregon draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

-----Original Message-----

From: Shawn Vanderzanden <shawn_v@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:49 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon draw

Hello,

I'm here to voice my

Concern with your attempt to make all of eastern Oregon a draw. WHY change the way things already are? Your taking residents away from its own state who have never had to draw tags. Your going to overcrowd the west side with hunters and there's going to be much havoc across western side of the state. Fire danger is a serious issue on the western side and you think people who don't follow the rules will obey? The eastern half of the state is almost never shut down for archery season while the western part is usually always shut down. Crowding (which is already in play) will diminish avid hunters who participate in the conservation and tag numbers will drop drastically. I have hunted the western side of the state all my life. It used to be great, now it's crap. Why don't you guys fight like us to try and keep timber company land open to the public like it used to be? Sure there's deer and elk but there's also 5x the amount of people crowding these areas. State land is a joke. You see 20-30 trucks constantly driving circles in hope of an animal in which causes above average poaching numbers. Those numbers will also climb with over crowding. I think there needs to be much more conversation about the above proposal of an eastern draw. It's a terrible idea and it's terrible for a state that should be a state of interest for big game Hunting and fishing. Think! Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nicole M Stuttgen <Nicole.M.Stuttgen@state.or.us>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 8:09 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: FW: Eastern Oregon draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

---Original Message-----

From: Shawn Vanderzanden <shawn_v@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:49 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon draw

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of people crowding these areas. State land is a joke. You see 20-30 trucks constantly driving circles in hope of an animal in which causes above average poaching numbers. Those numbers will also climb with over crowding. I think there needs to be much more conversation about the above proposal of an eastern draw. It's a terrible idea and it's terrible for a state that should be a state of interest for big game Hunting and fishing. Think! Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 7:58 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Archery Elk Season proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: jlhayzlett@netscape.net
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 6:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us
Subject: Archery Elk Season proposal

Dear Commission,

Want to voice my concerns with the proposal to alter the current archery elk general tag system. Converting from rifle to archery elk was a breath of fresh air 10 years ago. Having the opportunity of explore our beautiful State while perusing elk across the State has been a blessing in my life. I rarely encounter other hunters compared to rifle hunting, which I love. The relationships with family and friends has grown through these experiences gained by the current General Archery Elk System. It pains me to think that my son and daughter would not be afforded the same opportunities I've been honored to experience. In 25 years I haven't harvested an elk which is embarrassing to admit, but I come back year after year to experience time with friends and family in Oregon's forests. I love going on day trips from my house out to the coast and taking longer trips to various places on the east-side. I ask that you maintain the current general archery season system. It isn't broken and provides great hunting opportunity and experiences for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Jason Hayzlett

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 7:57 AM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Eastern Oregon archery draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: matthew stoneberg
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:53 PM
Subject: Eastern Oregon archery draw

Oregon archers don't want a draw for eastern oregon archery hunting. We want better predatory animal control.

Roxann B Borisch

From: matthew stoneberg <matt.stoneberg13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:53 PM
Subject: Eastern Oregon archery draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Oregon archers don't want a draw for eastern oregon archery hunting. We want better predatory animal control.

Roxann B Borisch

From: jlhayzlett@netscape.net
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 6:50 PM
To: odfw.commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us <odfw.commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: Archery Elk Season proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Dear Commission,

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Sincerely,

Jason Hayzlett

Roxann B Borisch

From: J F <john.faus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed archery changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I was recently heard about the proposed changes to eastern Oregon archery. This is very upsetting to me. My family has been hunting eastern Oregon for 40 years now. It's more than hunting for us, we gather together as a family from all over the state.**I am strongly against these changes.** I will say I do like limiting the out of state hunters to lower numbers but would not say this has to happen. Thank you for your time and I hope you make the right call.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Weinhold <brian@vanguardproperties.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Season

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I DO NOT support the conversion of general archery to a draw tag. In essence, the idea of turning everything into a draw hunt, you are asking for your job to be terminated because the number of hunters and subsequent revenue WILL decrease. Every year I look forward to archery elk and deer season. If you convert our tags from general season to a draw hunt, I will no longer hunt here in Oregon because I might as well draw hunts in other states. The current trajectory of fees and draw hunts have become increasingly discouraging for most hunters and point creep has turned these tags into a nearly unattainable prize. The question becomes, why even put money toward them? My projection is that I am not likely to draw any coveted units until I'm in my late 60's or even 70's at which time, my mobility will be much decreased. There are hunts that I don't honestly stand a chance in obtaining so I don't see the reason to even try. In short, the impact on conservation efforts that our tag fees support will diminish over time. This is turning into a gentleman's sport where the common person cannot afford to hunt. With less support, each year the fees have to continue upward, which will cause an even higher attrition. I believe this will speed up the death of the sport and is a horrible idea. Again, this will aid in the extinction of your job or, at minimum, a reduction in staff.

Brian Weinhold
Owner/Principal Broker
Vanguard Realty Group
541-979-9929
brian@vanguardproperties.net

Click here for information about Oregon Real Estate Agency relationships and definitions:
http://www.oregon.gov/rea/licensing/Documents/Sample_Initial_Agency_Disclosure_Pamphlet.pdf

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Changes to bow hunting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Ken Sonner
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes to bow hunting

I am 68 years old and been hunting heppner since 1979, I have a concern about the older hunters that hunt heppner with a bow,that they will not be drawing a tag every year, that our hunting days are going to come to a end to fast,please consider something for the pioneer hunters

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ken Sonner <kensonner227@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes to bow hunting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Karlcline <Karlcline@charter.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 1:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners,
I'm a lifelong archery hunter and am very concerned about the 2021 proposals. I've read on the concerns and drivers for this and disagree. I've always been able to avoid people (if I desire), and have always hunted public ground with plenty of animals. I also feel going off your numbers in the harvest reports clearly show the archers being on the lower end of what's killing the animals.
As an archer I can't imagine sacrificing any opportunity. I feel the quickest way to turn people away is to take there opportunity, hunting every year is a priority in my life.

Thank you,
Concerned archer
Karl Cline

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ryan Rayburn <rayburn.ryan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 12:14 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Changes to Archery Hunting in Eastern Oregon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern, as an avid archery hunter in this state I would like to share my comments with you on the proposal of turning eastern Oregon Archery hunting to a draw system. I do not support this proposal. I do not believe that archery hunters are over harvesting animals in eastern Oregon. I primarily hunt the Northside unit and that archery harvest percentage has been flat for the past 8-10 years. I have 11 points for elk and hope to one day draw Mt Emily. I do not believe that would be possible if we go to a draw system. I do not think it will help with over crowding either as eastern Oregon has some units with low #'s of elk and most people will put in for the same units year after year. One thing will do for sure would be to over crowd western Oregon which I also hunt. The coast will get hammered with people who do not draw an eastern Oregon elk tag. No doubt archery has become more popular in the past 10 years, but a lot of that has to do with rifle hunters who don't draw an eastern Oregon tag picking up a bow and going bow hunting over there. I would support a choose your weapon when you are applying for tags. I believe this would cut down on pressure.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan

Roxann B Borisch

From: Matt Sprague <MSprague@pd-grp.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 10:16 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Big Game Management Regulations Eastern Oregon Archery
Attachments: ODFW COMMISSION TESTIMONY.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commission Members:

Please find attached my testimony opposition to potential eastern Oregon archery regulation changes. I hope you find this helpful in tabling these regulation changes permanently or temporarily until such time as better and more factual data can be brought to bear on the subject.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Sprague
msprague@pd-grp.com
503-332-8385

Matthew L. Sprague
9180 NW Blackcap Lane
Newberg, Oregon, 97132
msprague@pd-grp.com

July 24, 2020

ODF&W Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
Odfw.commission@state.or.us

RE: Concern Regarding Potential Change To Draw For Eastern Oregon Archery Deer And Elk.

Dear Commission Members:

I'm a lifelong resident (52 years) of the great State of Oregon. I'm writing you today regarding both the presentation to the Commission by Nick Myatt on June 12, 2020 covering the idea of altering archery hunting for deer and elk in eastern Oregon to a draw system and to express my concern regarding this potential alteration.

I was born in 1968 in Corvallis, Oregon. Before I was one year old, we moved to Lakeview, Oregon where my dad taught industrial education and coached High School Wrestling for the Honkers. When I was young, we spent most of our time outdoors. We only had 3 TV stations and 2 radio stations so that's what you did. The deer population was unbelievable. Seeing herds of hundreds of deer was not unusual. It was an epic time for a young boy to experience. When hunting season rolled around, my dad would go out opening morning and be home by 8:30 am with his standard 3 point. Every year, it was like clockwork. Every vehicle driving through town had a buck or a few bucks in the back. ODF&G, checkpoints were a normal thing and stopping at one to get checked was a positive event. The ODF&G staff were happy to see you and you were happy to have your buck checked and compared to what else had come through. Something that sadly has gone by the wayside.

Unfortunately, the year I turned of legal age to carry a gun in the woods and hunt deer came the year after the 1981 winterkill. It took me 4 years of hunting without even seeing a buck to finally connect on a forked horn. The heydays of hunting were now gone I eventually realized. The deer never recovered fully from that event and Fish & Game were still issuing "doe tags" in areas where deer numbers were hit hard and were very low. You can't recover from such an event if you do this.

Here we are today, blaming all kinds of things on low deer numbers. Whether it be winter range, winter kill, poor forage, development of properties, predators, etc. After the 1981 winterkill it wasn't an automatic change in forage that we never recovered from. You don't lose forage, in one year. You don't have development in one year that would impact deer potential, winter range does not change in one year to be unsupportive of the populations we had, predator numbers do

not change enough in one year to alter the ability of deer to reproduce in large numbers. We, as a state, have mismanaged deer since 1981 and have mismanaged predators since just before that.

If you look carefully at Oregon deer and elk populations since the abolishment of the use of dogs to manage cougar populations, the only conclusion is a direct correlation between the increase in cougar numbers and the decrease in deer and elk numbers. This cannot be ignored and as a commission, if you ignore the factual data available, well, you maybe should look a little more closely as what has been going on.

Shortly after 1981 when deer numbers continued to decline, ODF&W came up with Management Objectives. I reviewed these objectives every year. Over time, it became very apparent that Management Objectives were being altered by the department. They continued to be lowered and lowered. The appearance was that they were altering objectives to something they thought they could achieve overall rather than dealing with the problems that prevented them from meeting their original objectives. When you set a goal for something, you should do everything you can possibly do to achieve that goal. Not just reduce the goal to make it “easier to achieve”.

That's all history. Here we sit today with a grave concern facing Oregon hunters: a huge loss of opportunity. Oregon is struggling to keep its resident hunters hunting in this state as it is. Not only will a change like this hurt Oregon even more but non-resident hunters will also drop out. Tag sales will drop and likewise application fees.

RESPONSES TO NICK MYATT TESTIMONEY AT THE JUNE 12, 2020 HEARING

Nick Myatt's report to the commission clearly demonstrates that changing to an archery draw on the east side is not a good idea and the presentation (even though intended to do the opposite) provides every reason why you should not make this change as I explain below slide by slide from his presentation and testimony.

BIG GAME REVIEW GOALS (SLIDE)

- *Improve customer service through simpler big game hunting seasons and associated regulations.*

RESPONSE: Adding eastern Oregon archery deer and elk to the draw system is not a simplification of seasons and associated regulations. For example – I can go buy an over the counter tag for very specific seasons for archery. This is as simple as it gets. If you add a draw to eastern archery you have complicated both the seasons and regulations. You've added a larger draw process. Making eastern Oregon archery a draw is the exact opposite of what this goal is intended to achieve.

- *Allocate hunting opportunity fairly and consistent with hunter preferences*

RESPONSE: What is not fair about the structure of the archery over the counter system right now? Every rifle hunter has an opportunity to hunt archery if they don't draw their rifle tag. Changing to a draw actually reduces the fairness to rifle hunters more than archery hunters. Regarding consistency with hunter preferences I have two arguments. First, hunter preferences were determined by a poorly written survey and would not result in a correct understanding of actual hunter preferences and second, why would we have a social goal to make a decision vs a decision based on science. That seems to be the wrong direction for a scientific agency.

If the goal is to allocate hunting opportunity fairly and consistently with hunter preferences, the initial survey done by ODFW misleads the public by asking a simple question rather than asking for the why. Just because a hunter prefers one hunting method, does not mean they want to restrict other hunting methods. That's pretty clear on the online polling for ODFW and OHA. This is because if a rifle hunter does not draw a tag, he still has an opportunity to hunt archery. It's his choice to take advantage of this opportunity or not.

- *Review hunting season structure and allocation of hunting opportunity to promote hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation.*

RESPONSE: Changing regulations to require a draw for eastern Oregon archery does the complete opposite of this stated goal. Reduced opportunity is in direct conflict with hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation.

- *Ensure hunting seasons meet biological objectives and maintain or improve hunter opportunity.*

RESPONSE: If the intent is to address biological needs and maintain/improve opportunity, this change will do nothing for maintenance or improving opportunity. As far as biology is concerned, we fail at addressing predators in innovative ways to address unit capacity increases.

Goals Conclusion: Changing to archery draw in eastern Oregon will have the direct opposite effect of the actual goals. None of the intent of the goals are achieved with a change. Mr. Myatt explains that it can be difficult to meet all of these goals and that they can conflict with each other. However, NONE of these goals would be met regardless of conflicts.

ONLINE FORUM

The online forum was intended to garner input on potential changes to game regulations. Mr. Myatt characterizes the form as a successful outreach program with just under 10,000 unique visitors. Yet there were only 1,393 comments? ODFW has email addresses for everyone who hunts or has applied in Oregon in the recent past. Why was an email not sent out to all of those people letting them know of the forum? This would have been very easy to do and is done by a lot of other states for all kinds of different things like regulation changes, season changes, application opportunities, public information, etc. I think ODFW fails at providing public opportunity for comment by reaching so few people when you compare it to the number of applicants. This should be done all over again in a more appropriate manner. Although this is

just “one tool” for collecting input, none of the other tools have provided mass emailing to allow everyone affected to understand what is going on and to comment. ODFW is underutilizing its opportunity to generate appropriate input from a much larger pool which is should be required to do.

HUNTER SURVEY

The hunter survey as I understand it was both limited and uninformative. One question was posed regarding limiting archery hunting in eastern Oregon for deer and elk to a draw. No explanation, no follow up questions, no details. This is not an appropriate survey.

The initial survey completed by ODFW cannot be ruled out as bias because surveys notoriously have substantial issues that are commonplace.

Sadly, there's solid evidence that surveys are unreliable and give a skewed picture. The problem is so systematic that there's a whole body of scientific studies focused on what's called the hypothetical bias. The end result is that survey measurements of beliefs and preferences are often significantly biased. Dec 1, 2015. (<https://www.greenbook.org/mr/market-research-methodology/why-surveys-cannot-be-trusted/>)

“Unfortunately, a major problem in all survey research is that respondents are almost always self-selected. Not everyone who receives a survey is likely to answer it, no matter how many times they are reminded or what incentives are offered. If those who choose to respond are different in some important way from those who do not, the results may not reflect the opinions or behaviors of the entire population under study.”

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3257493/>)

Disadvantages of Surveys

1. *Inflexible Design. The survey that was used by the researcher from the very beginning, as well as the method of administering it, cannot be changed all throughout the process of data gathering.*
2. *Not Ideal for Controversial Issues. ...*
3. *Possible Inappropriateness of Questions.*

(<https://explorable.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-of-surveys>)

“Validity can also be a problem with surveys. Survey questions are standardized; thus it can be difficult to ask anything other than very general questions that a broad range of people will understand. Because of this, survey results may not be as valid as results obtained using methods of data collection that allow a researcher to more comprehensively examine whatever topic is being studied.” (https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_principles-of-sociological-inquiry-qualitative-and-quantitative-methods/s11-02-pros-and-cons-of-survey-resear.html#:~:text=Validity%20can%20also%20be%20a%20problem%20with%20surveys.&text=Because%20of%20this%2C%20survey%20results,whatever%20topic%20is%20being%20studied.)

EASTERN OREGON ARCHERY ELK SLIDES

SLIDE #1

- *Statewide general archery season established in 1979.*

RESPONSE: Its unclear if this is intended to just be informative or to make a statement about how long ago the statewide general archery season has been in place. There may be unintended bias in making this statement without qualifying it with why the information is important. It could lead someone to believe that its so old that it must not be working anymore and changes are needed even though this isn't true.

- *30-day season starting in late Aug since 1983.*

RESPONSE: A 30-day season for archery can only be seen as a positive point for not needing to restrict archery to a draw. This long season is resulting in hunter's ability to alter when they hunt to reduce "crowding" if they see it as a problem. I know most hunt the last week of the season but I know many who have switched to hunting the second to the last week. There is a choice to hunt during less crowded times. This is especially helpful during a year where the season extends into late September where both of these weeks become good weeks to hunt.

- *Created as a liberal season due to low hunter interest, limited technology and low harvest success.*

The number of archery hunters is still substantially below the number of rifle hunters. Just because there is more interest does not mean that's a bad thing and you have overwhelmed the ability of the resource to handle it. Technology, although much better today, is not sufficiently better to make a substantial difference in harvest. [Mr. Myatt reinforces the technology issue but provides no comparative numbers to allow us to understand how technology has increased success]. Was the success rate 8% in 1979 and now its 10% in 2019? This is an important statistic to understand in making an argument that hunter success is based on newer technology. Then, with that knowledge you can determine if the difference is real enough to even be a consideration for new regulations.

Harvest rates have not skyrocketed with newer bows. The reason for this is because archery hunting is not about how good a shot you are with your bow, its about how well you pattern an animal to put yourself in a position to have an opportunity. Additionally, many archers are now reaching a transition point in their archery careers and are switching over to traditional bows. Has there been any analysis of how much of this is occurring? It appears to be something the department feels is relevant if we are discussing technology.

- *Archery hunt originally designed to draw hunters away from crowded rifle seasons.*

RESPONSE: Well this is a new fact to me. I don't believe that the archery hunt itself drew hunters away from crowded rifle seasons. What has done the job is more and more restrictions on rifle hunting. By restricting rifle hunting to the degree they face today, you are going to have some converts to archery or if not a convert, at least an archer during years they don't get a tag

for rifle. To believe that the establishment of the archery hunt did this alone is not taking into account all factors.

Eastern Oregon Archery Elk SLIDE #2

- *Over the last 40 years archery hunting has become very popular.*

RESPONSE: After talking about how the archery hunt originally was designed to draw hunters away from crowded rifle seasons, Mr. Myatt starts out his comments on the first bullet of slide #2 with a “BUT”. “*But...over the last 40 years archer hunting has become very popular.*” I think the department would be elated about this fact and the additional opportunities presented by the popularity of archery hunting. More opportunity and low harvest rates. Great way to get people involved in hunting while preserving the resource due to the method’s difficulty.

- *Objective of drawing hunters away from rifle season was met >20 years ago.*

RESPONSE: Again, this is great news. The department met a longstanding objective. By meeting this objective and exceeding it, you cannot draw the conclusion that the objective to draw hunters away from rifle seasons has gone too far just because you met a goal 20 years ago. Again, there are still substantially fewer archery hunters than rifle hunters and archery harvest rates are very low. This is a great way to utilize the resource and cannot be seen as a negative result.

- *Social and political pressures have led to little opportunity for adaptive management.*

RESPONSE: When it comes to predator control, social and political pressures have led to little opportunity for adaptive management. At least in the way that ODFW defines adaptive. More creativity is needed. Hunters are adapting and getting creative to address predators. The department must adapt as well. What is really left out and why this is not a truly honest issue is that there are no social or political pressures when it comes to all of the other stated factors for declining populations such as public land management and poaching.

Eastern Elk Graph Slide #3

RESPONSE: Here we see a graph comparing rifle and archery hunters and their respective harvests from 1979 to 2019. The stated goal of the archery season was to recruit rifle hunters to archery hunters. A chart like this is completely expected and is an indicator of many things, most of it positive. The negative is that ODFW continues to reduce tag numbers for rifle hunters. But, as a result, that has caused a transition to archery hunting. Just because you make archery hunting more popular is not an indicator of trouble. Additionally, when you decrease rifle opportunities of course you will have a drop in the numbers of rifle harvest. And when those rifle hunters convert to archery, of course you have an increase in archery harvest. There is still a substantial disparity however. Archery hunters harvest half of the bulls that rifle hunters harvest.

In 1995, there were just over 82,000 total hunters and about 20,000 elk harvested. In 2019 the numbers have dropped to about 42,000 hunters and about 11,000 elk harvested. This indicates

that lost opportunities with declining tag numbers for rifle hunters is the primary influencer of harvest. The percentage remains the same for total hunters vs harvest. What is not included in this graph is how many of the archery hunters that hunted in 1995 or 2019 actually applied for a rifle tag and didn't get it so they hunted archery? Do they still prefer rifle but also will archery hunt when they don't have a rifle tag? This is important to consider later in this testimony when we talk about preferences.

Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Slide #4

- *Many benefits and challenges with current season*
- *Benefits of current general season*
 - *Quality experience for public land bull elk hunting*
 - *Significant amount of hunting opportunity*
 - *Unlimited tags so hunters are guaranteed a tag every year*
 - *Hunters can hunt their preferred unit while also accumulating preference points*
 - *Can hunt general season if unsuccessful in controlled draw*
 - *Hunt east and west in same year*
 - *No limit on non-resident hunters*

RESPONSE: Except for one benefit listed above, I don't think that the logical conclusion can be that the challenges are going to surpass the benefits to keeping the status quo. Look seriously at the benefits above. This is what Oregon hunters want across the board for all methods.

Unfortunately, we only have one opportunity left in archery hunting that offers these benefits and to take this away causes many more problems for Oregon hunters than it solves for ODFW. As I'll note the problems with the challenges below. The outlier in this list is the "No limit on non-resident hunters." This is a benefit in that my non-resident friends can hunt with me in Oregon every year however, if that affects Oregon residents from having opportunity, I reluctantly think they should be limited. Idaho has a non-resident over the counter tag limit. Why could Oregon not do this as well to curtail the "overcrowding" that some hunters are complaining about? Why punish everyone?

Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Slide #5

- *Challenges with current general season*
 - *High hunter density in most popular units*

RESPONSE: The question is...why is hunter density so high in the most popular units? That's because you can easily find elk to hunt on public land. Yes, there will be times when another hunter is in your game and when you are in another hunter's game. Maybe you actually benefit from that in that the elk are pushed your way. Maybe you make the mistake and the elk goes the other way. The bottom line is that this is part of hunting, is commonplace in rifle hunting and you keep on hunting to be successful. What's the difference if a cow elk blows it for you or a deer or coyote or hunter. All of those things happen. You have to preserver and go after the next opportunity and make it happen.

- *Elk distribution concerns – public vs private*

RESPONSE: There is a substantial focus on crowding in the blue mountains. Mr. Myatt states that there is concern that archery hunter density is pushing elk onto private land. As I said before, this may occur on the periphery of public and private land but is not what is happening on the majority of the public land. I've hunted all over the blue mountains. I can take you to elk on public land any day you ask during the season. Why? Because they are all over public land. That's why there are so many people hunting them. This Elk distribution concern is an excuse and not factual and can not be relied upon in this decision-making process.

- *Frequent hunter complaints on crowding*

RESPONSE: This challenge is a repeat of the first challenge regarding hunter density. Hunter density and complaints of crowding are not dissimilar and separate. High hunter density and frequent complaints on crowding are the same challenge. There are lots of areas for those who don't know how to hunt elk in a crowded area to find isolated locations. I do this all of the time even though I don't really care if things get a little crowded.

- *Growing inequity in opportunity and harvest in some units.*

RESPONSE: Mr. Myatt does not explain this item very clearly at all. Is this a rifle vs archery item or is this some kind of inequity in opportunity and harvest in some units for archery hunters? What is the inequity?

- *When harvest changes are necessary, we can only change controlled rifle*

RESPONSE: This simply untrue. If management is resulting in decreased numbers and altering tag numbers for rifle to compensate is needed then use that too. However, there are many areas that can be altered other than controlled rifle tags: better game management, access to private lands, better habitat management, better predator management, limiting the vast numbers of damage tags issued, etc. Not managing more effectively other factors in population control or bull rations results in placing all of the burden on the hunters. Because they are so easy to control, this makes it a poor and oversimplified approach to management.

- *No limit on non-resident hunters*

RESPONSE: This is a tough one for me. I want to continue to hunt with my out of state friends. However, if it affects my opportunity to hunt every year, then non-resident hunters need to be limited. Idaho has a program that effectively limits the number of out of state over the counter tags that can be issued. Oregon can do the same. Or at least I fail to see a reason that Oregon can't do the same. The way I look at this is that every state is hyper selfish towards their residents and because of this I have limited opportunities in other states where the residents do not. Until this changes, I would be fore limiting out of state tags rather than making Oregon residents suffer through a change to a draw for archery. How many out of state archery hunters are there in each unit? Where are these numbers? This could make the difference but it isn't even being discussed.

- *Challenges caused by managing rifle elk hunting different than archery elk hunting.*

RESPONSE: Mr. Myatt doesn't even explain this one. He treats it as a conclusion rather than a challenge needing explanation. I would think logically that changing eastern Oregon archery to a draw system would be more difficult than leaving it as the status quo. How is this even a challenge? You buy your tag over the counter and the State gets the money. No application process, no draw, etc. This seems a much simpler process than a draw process and seems to be something "thrown in" as if it's an overwhelming challenge.

Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Slide #6

- *2019 elk hunter survey on weapon preference*
 - *75% prefer rifle*
 - *21% prefer archery*

RESPONSE: I would bet that you would find this or a very similar statistic in every state for preferred hunting methods. This statistic however is misleading. It only designates a preference but does not go further in allowing us to understand that although someone may prefer rifle, they don't object and in fact actually participate in archery as well and enjoy that. They get the opportunity to hunt every year. I think this statistic is misleading. Mr. Myatt characterized this by pointing out the differences in preference vs opportunity. Two totally different subjects altogether as I note below in the "*Differences in frequency of hunting opportunity*" section.

- *3-year average Starkey, Ukiah, Heppner Units*
 - *73% branch bull hunters during archery season*
 - *55% branch bull harvest during archery season*

RESPONSE: This is a good thing for archery. I assume ODFW wants its archers to be successful in hunting branch bulls? The problem with these statistics is that Mr. Myatt is trying to characterize both types of hunting as having the same regulations and therefore it appears that archery hunters have some kind of advantage. The truth however is that there are spike only hunts as well as cow hunts in these units for rifle hunters. The numbers of tags for branch bulls is only 1/3rd of the total tags for rifle hunters. Of course, by limiting branch bull tags in these units for rifle hunters, you are going to have a disparity between harvest of branch bulls in these units between methods. These statistics are very misleading and should not be used in this type of analysis or decision-making process.

- *Differences in frequency of hunting opportunity.*
 - *Archery – guaranteed ability to hunt bull elk every year*
 - *Rifle – accumulate preference points for 4-6 years*

RESPONSE: This is another misleading statistic. At face value reading this for the 3 specific units mentioned, this would appear to be a bit unfair. This is entirely untrue. It would only be unfair for the guy who only wants to use a rifle. These statistics do not provide information on people who prefer rifle in these units but when they don't get that tag, they still archery hunt. Every rifle hunter has that opportunity. Both rifle and archery hunters can hunt these units every

year with the current opportunity to use archery equipment and many do just that. The survey and information available is so limiting as to ignore important statistics about what is happening when these rifle hunters do not draw their rifle tags. There are a lot of people who prefer rifle but still hunt with a bow in these units because they have that opportunity.

Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Slide #7

- *Objective of proposals*
 - *Reduced archery hunter density where archery hunter density is believed to be impacting elk distribution.*

RESPONSE: None of the objectives supersede the benefits to the current program. For this objective of addressing elk distribution, I find it an excuse to target a current opportunity rather than it resulting in any measurable proof that such a change would have an impact on elk distribution. One of the operative words used in this bullet item is the word “believed”. ODFW should be making regulations based on actual, unbiased statistical information.

Elk distribution has been a problem forever, even before archery hunter numbers increased. You simply cannot make a correlation that archery is redistributing elk to private lands when its been an issue for so long. Additionally, the number of rifle tags in these units would have to be assumed to be doing the same thing. Should we reduce rifle tags as well? There are just too many factors affecting herd distribution. Pressure along fringe areas can be one of them but, forage and cover are primary factors. Where this problem is occurring is where these elk are better able to find what they need on the private land. There are just too many factors to blame one group and no statistics to back it up.

I hunt all 3 of these units at times. I find elk on public land all over the place. If elk weren't on public land because they were being pressured off, then you wouldn't have so many archery hunters in these units. The observations do not match the objective.

- *Allow for tag changes for all weapon types when changes are appropriate to manage populations, bull ratio, and/or allocation of harvest*

RESPONSE: This objective is something that is not an achievable strategy for managing populations or bull ratio. The percentage of archery hunters that are successful is so low as to be impossible to make a difference by even cutting the number of tags for archery in half. For example, let's say there are 1,000 archery hunters in a unit with a 10% success ration. That's 100 animals taken. Then, to manage populations and bull ratio you cut the tags in half to 500. That would be a difference of 50 animals. It will have no impact on either population or bull ratio and not a useful management tool.

Allocation of harvest is more simply stated as “weapon preference”. Again, misleading information from problematic survey questions with no real understanding of what hunters are actually doing when they don't draw their preferred tag. Many of them still get out there and hunt.

- Achieve objectives using same management strategy for archery hunting as rifle hunting.

RESPONSE: Its been demonstrated above that using the same management strategy for two completely different hunting methods with completely different success ratios and regulations will not provide a sound management strategy for ODFW. Case in point is percentage of success and the types of tags issued to rifle hunters I noted above under the “*3-year average Starkey, Ukiah, Heppner Units*” section

In closing out his conclusions for this slide, Mr. Myatt states that “***Several decades ago, there were reasons to manage these hunting opportunities differently, we believe those reasons no longer exist.***”

This is a very troubling statement primarily for its vagueness. The use of the word “Several” is concerning. What is several decades? To me and most people, several decades is more than a couple so at a minimum, the reasons have existed for more than 30 years or since 1990? Why would it take 30 years to make such a change then? This is an excuse meant to exaggerate the actual situation.

The word “believe” is also used again. The department needs to make decisions based on factual information. You either know or you don’t know. Based upon this presentation, ODFW does not know all they need to know in order to make a decision like this.

Lastly, I’ll copy the information from one of Mr. Myatt’s own slides above that point out all of the reasons that exist today that are in complete conflict with his statement and this potential change to archery regulations.

- ***Benefits of current general season***
 - ***Quality experience for public land bull elk hunting***
 - ***Significant amount of hunting opportunity***
 - ***Unlimited tags so hunters are guaranteed a tag every year***
 - ***Hunters can hunt their preferred unit while also accumulating preference points***
 - ***Can hunt general season if unsuccessful in controlled draw***
 - ***Hunt east and west in same year***
 - ***No limit on non-resident hunters***

ALTERNATIVES

Unfortunately, I’ve learned from Sportsman’s groups that the only way that we may be able to alter a forgone conclusion is to come up with alternative solutions to the “perceived” yet unproven problem. I’m a firm believer in the fact that if its not broke, don’t fix it. I find it offensive that ODFW would have such a position as to either cram it down hunter’s throats or come up with something else. This is not meaningful or beneficial change being proposed.

If I had to choose, the only alternative that is fair to the resident hunters of the state of Oregon is to limit the number of out of state over the counter archery tags by non-residents. This can be

done statewide or even on a unit by unit basis. I imagine the out of state numbers in Starkey, Ukiah and Heppner are really high. I know they are in Starkey as it seems every third vehicle has a Washington license plate. (There are a lot of California and Idaho plates as well.) This would be the best measure to reduce hunter density and allow time for thoughtful study of the impacts of the change.

Idaho has over the counter limitations for non-resident hunters so I know Oregon can do the same. I believe this alternative also places us on more of an even playing field with other western states. I don't like what any of them are doing but, it's not going to change and if Oregon gets on board it will have a solution in place that helps them meet their objectives much better than punishing resident hunters.

OTHER CONCERNS REGARDING ARCHERY DRAW REGULATIONS IN EASTERN OREGON AND THE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM

- **LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL HUNTERS:** In Oregon, since the early 80's, opportunities for hunters have continuously been reduced. Yes, some opportunities have resulted in better hunting but overall, and by a large margin, opportunities have decreased dramatically. Especially for deer but also for elk. Do we want to remove the only guaranteed opportunity left on the east side of the mountains for hunters? I think that would be a serious disservice to hunters as a group providing substantial financial support to the agency for years and years. Right now, with the limitations on rifle tags, every rifle hunter has the opportunity to still hunt if they choose to take up archery when they don't draw their rifle tag. Remove that and even they now can only hunt once in a while. Under the current regulations, at least they have a choice.

I used to be a rifle guy. Up until 21 years ago I looked down on archery guys. After one year of elk rifle hunting on the west side, I decided to try archery even though I had misgivings about the method. I soon realized how utterly wrong and misguided I was in my thoughts and judgement of archery hunters. This is not an easy hunting method, takes more experience, knowledge and practice by far than hunting with a rifle. More on this in the "Leaning Curve" section below.

- **YOUNG AND WOMEN HUNTER OPPORTUNITY AND RECRUTMENT LOST:** Right now, the big push is hunter recruitment. We have to keep things exciting and opportunistic for all hunters but specifically in areas of growing interest. I have a 7-year-old son who sees me go archery elk hunting every year and joins me and other families on a Labor Day archery hunting adventure. They enjoy the experience every year. I don't want to tell my son and my friends don't want to tell their daughters that "we can no longer do this every year. Maybe we can do it every 2, 3, 4 years or more." How does that provide experience, opportunity and excitement for our young and/or new hunters? It's a recruitment nightmare for the agency.
- **PITTING RIFLE HUNTERS AGAINST ARCHERY HUNTERS:** Unfortunately, of the surveys I've seen regarding altering eastern Oregon to a draw archery season, the

questions are pretty simple. “Would you be interested in changing eastern Oregon Archery deer and elk hunting to draw only?” That question is always going to make a die-hard rifle hunter say yes and a die-hard archery hunter say no. How many rifle hunters are there vs archer hunters or rifle hunters who archery hunt when they don’t draw the tag? You are always going to get the response you are looking for if you are looking to reduce archery opportunity and never understand the true dynamics of the questions and responses. Yes or no doesn’t cut it for a survey.

- **OVERCROWDING:** Are some areas a little crowded when it comes to archery hunting? Of course. There is a reason for that. It’s because, there are animals on Public Land in sufficient numbers in those units to create an opportunity for a great hunt. If there weren’t public land animals, then no one would hunt these units! Some archery hunters are going to complain that “there are too many people” or “these other guys blew my hunt”. Given a choice between dealing with a little crowding or not being able to hunt every year overwhelming preference would be that the opportunity to hunt every year is most important.

I have had many hunts spoiled by other hunters. Yes, it can be upsetting. Yes you dwell on what could have been. But it happens. It could still happen with only 2 people in a 5 square mile area. Less frequently but still possible. This activity we do is called hunting. It’s not killing. There are a lot of variables that come into play including other hunters. You deal with it, move on, change strategies, change locations, and many other things to put yourself in a better position.

What's critically important to understand is that even though rifle seasons are all draw, and I do rifle hunt still on occasion, the interaction between hunters on a rifle hunt as compared to an archery hunt don't even compare. By far, you will have more interaction with other hunters on a rifle hunt than an archery hunt. More below.

- **RIFLE HUNTING IS MORE CROWDED THAN ARCHERY:** I know I touched on this earlier however, it is not even arguable that in a hunting situation, you are going to have more crowding on a rifle hunt than you are on an archery hunt. I still hunt rifle with my 77-year old father for deer. We often get the 2nd choice draw for deer in the Fossil unit while building up points for another unit. There is very limited public ground. I’ve been sitting on a stand, with other hunters two hundred yards to my right and left and then multiple hunters a few hundred yards in every direction from me. Its not even comparable. At least with archery hunting you have choices and opportunities to move, change locations, canyons, units, east side or west side. You can change your hunt to make it the experience you want it to be. You can’t do that with a rifle tag. This is your unit.... stay in it regardless of how many other hunters are in there.
- **VOCAL MINORITY:** I am a Land Use Planner by profession. I hold neighborhood meetings for almost every project we do and I attend hearings in front of hearings officers, Planning Commissions, City Councils and Hearings Officers, to name a few. I can have 30 people at a meeting and quite often people just want to know what’s going

on. Then there are always a few that will never be happy, base all of their opinions on emotional responses, and can never be satisfied no matter how you try to resolve their issue. The same thing is true in game management. As a commission, you are always faced with making a decision regarding common sense and emotional outcry. I'm hoping that based upon good and logical testimony being prepared by sportsman, sportsman groups and outdoor groups against this change, that the Commission can consider this information and come to the same logical conclusions that we have, and table this issue for more study. I'm hoping that you will hear from many more people on this matter and that a vocal majority opinion will influence the regulations and laws that are changed. I hope those in agreement with me overwhelm the typical vocal minority who may often drive these changes.

- PREFERENCE POINT ISSUE: This is a big issue for so many hunters. The majority of archery hunters have been building up points to someday hunt one of the “Big Three”. There are a lot of hunters out there who have built up a lot of points for an eventual hunt in one of these great units. What will changing to an archery draw mean to them? They now have to make a choice. Do I blow all of that effort for a chance to hunt archery every 2,3 or 4 years or do I not hunt for the next 6, 8, 10 years so that someday I can hunt one of the premium units? That is a very poor choice for the Commission to hand down to the hunting community.
- LEARNING CURVE: Let's talk archery. Archery hunting is not just hard work, practice, experience or knowledge. Most archery hunters take years to hone skills needed to be successful. Some, including a few of my hunting partners, have still never connected after 18 or 19 years of hunting. It's clear to me that an archery hunter needs 5-8 years of experience before they start to become successful. The best of them are probably an animal every 2 years. The average is more like an animal every 10 years.

The problem with going to a draw system is that if you only hunt every 2, 3, or 4 years, how are you going to build that experience to allow you to be successful? It will take a long time and what experience do you lose in the years you do not get to hunt? This is bad for archery hunters all around.

- EXPERIENCE ISSUE: What will happen when you build a population of inexperienced archery hunters through a draw system? That guy who only hunts every few years is going to lack the skill in the field to make good judgements. The result will be more wounded and lost animals. Then think about the guy who wants to hunt the premium unit. Applies for 17, 18, 19, 20 years and finally draws a tag? He lacks the experience needed and typically gained by the opportunity to hone his skills over years of archery hunting. Is this the guy you, as a commission, want to put into the woods to hunt elk with a bow? Are you fostering success for him or her? No, definitely not. Their experience will likely be a poor one as a result.
- NON-RESIDENT REVENUE LOSS: I have close friends from just across the border who come to Oregon to hunt archery. Most of them were Oregon residents for 90 percent of their lives. Now, no one will want to have them in their party, it will be extra rare for

them to draw a tag, good hunting partners end up going by the wayside and all because they moved across the river. Do we want to do what many other states are doing to non-residents? I hope we are above that even though our license and tag pricing for non-residents does not reflect our typical kindness.

Add it all up and now you are losing a lot of non-resident hunter revenue. Who will apply as a non-resident anymore unless you already have points built up for at least one guaranteed hunt? There are some states including California and Washington that the national hunting magazines say are not worth your time and money to apply. They say this about Oregon rifle hunting already. Are we now going to do this for Archery as well?

- **PUSH TO PRIVATE:** I can't get over the excuse that archery hunting is pushing the elk onto private lands. This may be the case near private edges but in my experience, this is not a real issue. Archery hunters like to hunt units with lots of elk and lots of public land. If they were pushing the elk out of public land, they wouldn't have anything to hunt and these units would not be popular. Or the experience would not be worth it. So why do they keep doing it? Because this hypothesis is mostly wrong.
- **ODFW EMPLOYEES:** I have talked to several ODFW offices on the east and west side and spoke with employees. My understanding is that ODFW employees are contacting hunters and guides, telling them they need to write to the Commission opposing this change.
- **LOST FOREVER:** Experience and history tells us very clearly that when ODFW removes an opportunity for hunting, with few exceptions, it's never returned. Ever. As hunters, we need to expect more. Taking away opportunities to hunt, for no really specific or good scientific purpose, has no business in our management toolbox.

CONCLUSION: I know this is a rough decision for the Commission to make. Based on all of the evidence above, it becomes clear that not enough critical data and information has been brought to bear on the subject. The Commission should consider tabling this issue until better data and information is gathered or presented or deny this potential regulation change altogether.

It appears as if the relationship between ODFW and hunters/fishermen is slowly eroding. We can do so much better with a team approach. The department should have this as a primary objective for the management and operations across the board. I think they will find (as has historically been demonstrated by hunters when fee increases are necessary) that there is a lot of generosity within the hunting community and we all need to work on solutions together and be very creative. It's very difficult for the hunter to be on board when the groups they belong to and they themselves donate funds to help game management, then something like this comes up. They feel as if they are wasting their time and money which further erodes the relationship.

Thank you for taking the time to review this testimony and take it under consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Sprague

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kamuela Kamu <kamuela_j@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 2:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Hunting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Sir,

I wanted to speak my two cents with regard to archery hunting in Oregon.

I have lived in Oregon since 2012, and finally got around to hunting up here in 2017, when I finally connected with a college friend that was in the area. Prior to that I had only hunted in Hawai'i where I was born and raised. I have enjoyed the outdoors and would hate to see my opportunities diminish in respect to archery hunting in the rich envirorment of Oregon that I now call home.

Due to my professional life of being in the merchant marine I am not always available to hunt a full season or a season at all. In 2018 I was unable to hunt being as I was away at sea for work, and last year I was only available to hunt opening weekend before I was called back to work. If Eastern Oregon, or any section of general Oregon goes to a draw system I feel it will have a massive negative effect on my time in the forest, and the possibility of getting an opportunity on an animal. As many archery hunters can attest, harvest and opportunity are much different things, and any shortcoming in opportunity exponentially effect the outcome.

Thank you for your time and continuing assistance with promoting and preserving hunting.

Very Respectfully,

Kamuela Johnson
(808) 753-3734
Kamuela_j@hotmail.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: charles shine <charles.shine@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 11:03 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled Bow Hunting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide my voice, concern and thoughts on Eastern Oregon archery hunting possibly going to a draw hunt.

I grew up rifle hunting and have been bowhunting 5yrs now with a majority being Eastern Oregon. This has opened up so many opportunities for not just me as a hunter but for my family to use as a vacation. Rifle season is too late in the year for us and harder to travel due to weather, etc.

In the 5yrs I have been over there I have learned a lot and one being the predators are vastly growing. When we drive through a part of our unit knowing there will be over 100 deer in an hour but with absolutely no bucks is disheartening. The remainder of those deer are very young and small which proves the predators are picking off so many deer they can't grow.

For elk we are finding pockets of elk and yes there are what seems to be plenty of elk. However on our game cameras we are seeing grouped up elk way earlier than the previous years. Followed by bears and cougars on the same cameras within hours of each other(sometimes in the same picture).

Road access can be a big issue as well and this is where I personally go back and forth. Personally I would love to see more roads closed however someone like my father wouldn't be able to access as much land as myself. Maybe a handicap, military or some other type system to get a key to certain gates could be talked about? Similar to private timber companies however more road closures would make bow hunting more traditional along with growing game numbers.

For the next generation of hunters my kids are diving into the archery lifestyle in a big way. To see them at 9yrs old and 6yrs old shooting 3d ranges, checking game cams, talking hunting, etc is what it's all about. My boys don't want to shoot a "big, loud, scary gun" and want to use a bow. To be able to take my family East for 10-14 days a year and allow them to see archery hunting live allows for the passion to grow.

If this goes to a draw tag it will deter many of us from going to Eastern Oregon, seeing amazing country and possibly hunting in general. Please hear our voices to keep it a general hunt but make changes within the general season. We need the predation managed above and beyond what's happening. The youth behind us also needs the option to choose rifle/archery and have a chance to hunt across the State.

Thank You for reading and all you do,

--
Chuck Shine
Horns2Dirt

Roxann B Borisch

From: Westfall, Ryan <ryanwestfall@financialguide.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 9:17 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery hunting opportunities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,
I'm an archery hunter that does not want our opportunities limited for hunting statewide. Archery hunters need open access to the entire state. We already choose to utilize a more "primitive" weapon for fair chase of resources and are the growing demographic of hunters.
I'm requesting that we keep archery as a statewide tag.

In addition to this, I think opening an unlimited Spring Bear tag for youth hunters would help manage bear numbers, as well as draw future hunters, and bring additional revenue in for our conservation efforts.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Ryan Westfall
Financial Advisor
Financial Services Representative
CA License # 0M42037

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Gary <gvanpat@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 7:39 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed eastern Oregon archery tags

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am opposed to doing draw tags for archery eastern Oregon deer and elk. If it's about animal numbers then do something about the out of control predators, especially the wolves. Archery success rates have always been low. If it's about too many hunters, I see lots of camps and road hunters but very few out in the woods. I'm 72 years old and don't have many seasons left in me. Don't take them away from me.

Roxann B Borisch

From: marcus hendrickson <dune_it_hard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 1:10 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Draw Tags

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Commissioners,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the proposed archery tag draw system.

As a longtime bow hunter I love and embrace the challenge of having to constantly hone my skills just to be in the SMALL percentage of hunters who are successful with a bow. I believe that by administering a draw system for all archery hunts on the east side of the state for no other reason but to evenly distribute archery hunters across the landscape is only going to lead to a loss of hunting opportunities for many.

With the proposed large decreases in the numbers of allocated archery tags it will inevitably lead to years where sportsman will have no opportunity at all to even go afield. I wait all year in anticipation for each upcoming hunting season and to think that I may not get to hunt some years due to an unfounded administrative decision that has no sound research to back it's efficacy worries me greatly.

The alleged overcrowding in certain units that this archery tag draw seeks to address will ultimately even itself out as folks grow tired of it and go to other units that are now not as crowded due to the higher numbers of hunters in other units. Allow us the people to exercise our option to choose on our own without being dictated into only picking one unit and that's it.

My two kids are still a couple years away from being able to go afield with me. But with today's electronically active society and the growing number of restrictions and road blocks being put in place that are making access to hunting and fishing more difficult it will ultimately lead to an uphill journey to get them involved in and keep them actively in love with these ways of life that I've grown up with. Not to mention the widespread "Below Management Objectives" of our big game herd populations adding another facet in trying to get youth into the sport. It's hard to convince a child that it is a great sport when you can't even show them what they're supposed to be hunting for because the predator populations have been allowed to sky rocket to insurmountable numbers. When the game populations are desimated, the fish numbers dwindle and people quit purchasing these ever increasing permits and tags who will be left to foot the bill that keeps you employed, the bird watchers?

ODFW states that their mission is:

To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Please uphold this mission statement and quit making it difficult for us outdoorsman to enjoy the heritage that has been passed down to us and that we would like to one day pass onto our children.

Thank you for taking the time,
Marcus H.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Richard Lawrence <richardlawrence012@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Game management

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a born and raised Oregonian and a avid archery hunter. I would like to whey in on the proposal to make eastern Oregon controlled hunts only. I think it is a horrible idea, as a archry hunter it is very hard to be successful as it is. If this is about the management objectives for these units I strongly believe that odfw needs to kill off a huge number of predators. There is strong evidence that this works to increase the numbers of elk and deer survival. If you look at the heppner unit when they killed cugars the elk population recovered greatly. I believe that odfw needs to do alot better job at managing wildlife with the resources they have and not take away from the hunters, the one's funding odfw

If you take away our land to hunt general season less people will buy tags including me and you will have less money for management, I think it's a all around bad idea to make eastern Oregon controlled hunt only.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Anthony j Pelroy <anthonyjpelroy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: STOP! the eastern oregon archery draw . Everyone that doesn't get a tag will crowd the cascades ! Not fair to us cascade hunters .

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Timothy Hanan <tim.hanan1980@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:30 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Hunter Opportunities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom this may concern or listen,

I have been archery hunting in the state of Oregon for 26 of the 28 years I have been able to hunt. One of those years I lived in Idaho as a youth, so I was unable to hunt the other year I rifle hunted in Oregon. I am OPPOSED to archery going to a draw on the east side for all units. From when I started bow hunting in 1992 with my own tag I have seen the deer and elk numbers decline across the state. I have hunted in many different locations throughout the state and have seen the same result.

I hate to complain and not have some suggestions of what could be done. One and the most important thing that I would suggest is predator reductions. Currently hunters are dealing with a dramatically decreasing deer and elk population and an increasing predator population. Second I would say better forest management. I realize this is not something ODFW can manage, but through the agencies there needs to be better cooperation.

I currently have 2 children that I am trying to get into hunting, but it is a huge challenge to get kids involved when success continues to get worse.

I can only hope that someone takes time to read and understand the challenge that Oregon hunters face and the words I have wrote.

Tim Hanan

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jake Tyrrell <jk_tyrrell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 4:15 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery season proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Just wanted to email and let you know I am against the proposals for archery seasons and restructuring to a draw basis for archery seasons.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: jellistormi@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 1:36 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please help a dedicated hunter with Multiple Sclerosis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing this letter in hopes that the new draw for archery hunters would not be implemented. I just started hunting last August in 2019 in hopes to keep my body and mind active to battle MSBy loosing a hunting opportunity while affect every aspect in our families life. I can utilize every part of the animals to help heal my disease. I show my children the areas my husband and myself hunt. We as locals work hard to hunt the cougars and bears in order to help the big game opportunities for others since it is behind our apartments at The ridge in lincoln city oregon. I can not travel do to my non driving capabilities or ride do vertigo. I know there are other disabled people like me who have problems with traveling to another unit nor would have the capability to go deeper in steeper terrain. Our little unit is very small and is all I can handle as a woman whom last thing in life would love nothing more than to put a tag on an elk, show the kids how to hunt and not to be afraid, Thank you for time, God Bless Chenoa N Senesac

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Bormuth <mijac1949@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 1:04 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Concerns changes to hunting regulation in the next year.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have watched ODFW and their goals for many years as a hunter and fisherman. I have heard that one goal is to recruit new hunters and fishermen to maintain and pass on what I have enjoyed for my 71+ years as an Oregon resident. The problems I see are: the increasing cost and reduced opportunities to regularly hunt and fish in Oregon. A basic concept in marketing states, "If you want to sell more then reduce cost and increase availability".

For too long I have seen the opposite in the policies of ODFW. The increase in the costs of licenses and tags exceed the normal inflation rate and the opportunity to draw tags and harvest fish and game drop off at an alarming rate. These practices are contrary to the stated goals of ODFW.

The changes contemplated for using draw opportunities for archery elk hunting in eastern Oregon in the coming year are just one more step down the same path.

At the same time predators like cougars, coyotes, bears and WOLVES are depleting game animal populations to the point that even seeing game in places that teemed with it in the past are becoming rare.

In my opinion, ODFW needs to aggressively reduce predator populations (especially cougar and wolf populations) to increase the numbers of other species.

The increasing cost and lower draw opportunities are making me consider hunting and fishing in other states that actually work to increase hunting and fishing success and quit funding the non-productive management choices I see happening in Oregon.

Michael Bormuth
Mijac1949@gmail.com
Phone: 541-430-8631

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nick Olheiser <nkolheiser@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:38 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Big Game Regulation Proposed Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning,

I am emailing today to voice my comments and rational thought on the 2021 big game proposed changes around controlled archery units east of the cascades. I hope that we as hunters and conservationists use data and common sense when making these decisions. I have looked at the statistical harvest numbers around archery hunting verses rifle hunting and I am having a hard time understanding how general tag archery hunting is what's causing the decline in mule deer and elk numbers. I have been hunting my entire life and archery hunting for the past 8 years, while I have enjoyed a fair amount of success as a archery hunter it hasn't come without a tremendous amount of hard work and even then its not always a successful year. I have hunted the Owyhee unit for mule deer during rifle and archery seasons over the years, during archery season I maybe see a handful of people hunting the area. After a few days they usually leave the area and call it quits. During a rifle season hunt in the same area it's a war zone. Camps everywhere, gun fire every morning and evening and people on every ridge/mountain that may contain deer. Similar situation in the Steens, Snake River, Paulina and multiple others. I cant remember how many times I have thought while mule deer hunting "if I only had a rifle on that last stalk I would have had him". The challenge and low success rates prove archery hunting is not causing these declines.

High controlled rifle tags, predation, highway kill and over grazing should been a leading indicator as too the low numbers. Again I have spent a lot of time in the field over the years and seen these first hand. Last November I finally had enough elk points to hunt the Snake River unit again, even at only 250 tags I couldn't find a ridge without a camp and hunters. This is a small unit and you can cover ground faster than you think. Everyday I walked past a new camp on Windy Ridge, Hass Ridge and Jacky Ridge. Couldn't believe how dense the hunting activity was.

Predation.....something we all know is hurting the numbers but fail to react. I love predators, they have their place in the ecosystem and are essential in controlled doses. Over predation is having an effect on these quota numbers. Wolves in the NE, Cougars all over the state need to have a more aggressive management plan in place to control. I wont go any further here, we all know it's a problem.

Roads....road access in some of these units needs to be controlled as well. I know they have their purpose and they are essential for access to wildfires, search and rescue and other means needing access. But during hunting season road systems should be controlled and minimized for the sake of our big game and the sack of hunting. Road hunting should be utilized for handicap only, other than that it's a lazy mans hunting technique. This goes for east of cascades and the western part of the state.

Please use data and rational for these decisions. Archery hunting for me and my family is a way of life now, something I plan and look forward to every year all year. I would hate for a rash decision to affect our life when other options could be explored that will have a larger effect on our goals. We all want the same thing, more animals of higher caliber and good success rates when in these units.

Nick Olheiser

Roxann B Borisch

From: Taylor Bars <taylor@barsproperties.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:33 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Current Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Please don't pass the current proposals for controlled bowhunting.

I spend most of my free time and extra money on bowhunting in Oregon, and the opportunity keeps getting worse.

I don't understand why Oregon doesn't manage the predators more effectively, and then try to blame other things for the declining game populations. It is pretty obvious that if a cougar eats a deer a week, and there are "estimated" at least 6,000 vs the 3,000 prior to the outlawing of hound hunting. So if we do a little math and one deer a week = 52×3000 more cougars = 156,000 more deer killed by cougars per year! So in the last ten years that is 1.56 million more deer that are dying because of so many cougars, and sadly that doesn't even include wolves or bear.

It is pretty sad to talk to old timers who won't even hunt anymore because of how little game there is compared to what it used to be.

It is pretty sad as I love the woods and the game in it, and the people that don't even care about the woods or spend time in the woods make the decisions about the special interest animals like wolves and cougars, and don't consider the ecosystem as a whole.

Regards,

Taylor

Taylor Bars

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kim Meeks <kim@schmeersheetmetal.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:14 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: New Proposed Archery Draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kim Meeks** <kim@schmeersheetmetal.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 8:11 AM
Subject: New Proposed Archery Draw
To: <odfw.comission@state.or.us>

To Director Curt Melcher and the Commission

I am a resident of Oregon and a bow hunter, i am writing to express my concern for the new draw proposal. As a bow hunter There are only so many months of September in your life, at the age of 50 there are even fewer left, please do not make Eastern Oregon all draw for bow hunting as it will limit the hunting opportunities we all have. Archery is the only growing part of hunting, we enjoy a month long season but have to get close for an opportunity at an animal, it is a challenge. We as a group do not harvest the amount of animals rifle hunters do or the amount of roadkill vehicles do. The predation in the state of oregon is off the hook high at this point in time from over population of cougar, bear and wolf. You as a commission have the opportunity to manage a resource that people want, in other wards as a store you have all the toilet paper the people want to purchase. I would like to see your predator control program increased so deer,elk,pronghorn can increase in numbers and you can sell tags for these animals. As far a the wolf is concerned this critter was never the wolf that was here and they are killers plain and simple that kill for sport. I feel very lucky to be able to hunt this state for a month every September, Please do not take this away from bow hunters. Thankyou for your time.

Cedric Meeks

--
Kim Meeks
p:503-222-4911
f:503-222-3087
kim@schmeersheetmetal.com

--
Kim Meeks
p:503-222-4911
f:503-222-3087
kim@schmeersheetmetal.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Rick <ritefish@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:12 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Concerned Bow hunter

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I was watching Wayne Endicott on the new draw tag for archery proposals and was saddened by what I heard. I have been an avid bow hunter for twenty two years and have raised three boys to love this sport not to kill not to kill animals but to look at the beauty and memories we create while we are bow hunting. I stopped rifle hunting for I felt that it was not fair to the animals, so I took up bow hunting for it was a challenge. I hunt eastern Oregon for I love the area. I have killed one bull elk with my bow out of those years, but I would not trade any of them for a chance at a trophy with a rifle. Bow hunting is extremely hard with all the prep and challenges that go along with it. I have taught my sons how to hunt ethically through bow hunting, to make eastern Oregon a draw for archery would stop a lot of young people from hunting. Archery hunters do not have the luxury of seeing an elk at a 1000 yards and shoot it, we have to plan and get the bull within 60 yards to make an ethical kill shot. I have had hundreds of bull within range but did not take a shot for I. Might have wounded it. I know a lot of bow hunters that still have not got a elk. To make us go to a draw tag system would be horrible for archers don't harvest that many elk. I hope you here my concerns for I live in Klamath falls Oregon and the area you are talking about Impacts whether or not I have to travel to western Oregon. I am an eastern Oregon resident and should be able to bow hunt my home with out having to draw a tag.

Thank you for reading
Richard Wright

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Droid

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Hudson <davehudson1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:09 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey,

Not sure if this is the right spot to send this but thank you for your time.

I've lived in between heppner unit and northside unit for years now. Lately there has been a lot of talk about turning these units to draw tags.

One of the great things about living here is I get to hunt my home units every year. It sounds like people are trying to say that the bowhunters are pushing the elk onto public more and more.

After hunting these units for years I can tell you that is not the case. I find elk every day and have been able to be a quite successful hunter and successful in helping friends kill elk.

In my experience the biggest issue with pushing elk around is when it gets over grazed by the cattle.

Now whats pushing the elk around is the number of elk packs that are around these units. You guys only have 2 packs on your list on the easter side of these units. I can definitely tell you that is false. There was wolves killing livestock in heppner unit over 10 years ago. The wolves are getting out of hand need a season opened up to keep them under control. Its going to turn into Northern Idaho where elk #'s are suffering.

I do see a lot more hunters out in the woods the last few years.

My suggestion is that odfw does there part in making sure the predation of these animals everyone loves to hunt is addressed. Please don't reply saying predation isn't an issue. You don't live here. I have seen more bears and cougars and signs of wolves than I ever have the last few years.

Second if you are going to cut hunters/tags for units in Eastern Oregon please make them into otc zones with a cap on the amount of hunters.

This will help with the issue of rifle hunters that turn into bow hunters the day after the draw.

The simplest way to deal with it and cut the amount of people and still give people a chance at the higher units because they don't have to put in for an otc unit is make people pick there weapon on the draw ticket. If they put in for rifle tags then they have to general hunt a rifle tag if they don't draw. If they put in for bow tags then they need to general hunt a bow tag.

If they put on for point savers they need to pick there weapon.

The other issue I would like to see #'s on as to why its so upside is the heppner buck tags.

The deer in this unit is cut to about a 1/3 of what they were 20 years ago and the tag #'s keep going up. There at almost 4000 tags.

In my experience the cougars is what's cutting the majority of these #s. Over the last 20 years the amount of cougars I see/run into has gone up steadily every year and never goes down or stays the same.

I know that odfw considers heppner unit the valley recreation unit and thats why you are keeping the #s so high.

I use to be able to go out and bow hunt and see a 170-180 about every 2-3 days of hunting. Those days are long gone now. If I see more than 1 in the whole season here I'm doing good now.

That to me is a very sad issue that these units have been allowed to get this bad.

Please read this and take these thought into consideration.

I understand that most of you probably are trying to fill shoes from predecessors and trying to fix previous issues is hard.

Thank you for your time

David Hudson

Roxann B Borisch

From: Paul Hart <mtnbikephart@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:42 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ODFW,

As an avid hunter, I am strongly against the proposed changes to the archery hunts. Why on earth would you reduce our opportunity when we are already hunting at primitive as possible? I have spoken to biologists at ODFW and they have yet to tell me where the benefit is to us as hunters.

It sounds like there is a management issue. We are the ones paying for management and the product delivered seems to be trending worse. The real solution to help with management would be to open up the taking of more bears, cougars and of course wolves.

I never understand government type thinking. We the people, who fund all of this and own these natural resources, seem to be the ones squeezed over and over again.

Please, think for all of us hunters for a change and do not pass the proposals that limit our opportunities.

Paul Hart

Roxann B Borisch

From: Paul Conner <scout4x4trouble@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 5:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Concerned oregon outdoorsman

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sent from my iPhone

My name is Paul Conner

Live in Salem

Hunt and fish since youth I'm 51 years old I spend every weekend in the woods (National forest- blm-state forest-private timberland)watching wildlife working trail cameras learning game movement with boot leather on the ground I'm concerned with many things that I see in the management of our states wildlife resources, I'm not saying I think that I have the answers but a lifetime Spent in our mountains has taught me to spot some basic trends

Roxann B Borisch

From: Darren Hendrickson <hendrida@eou.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:44 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: New proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ODFW commissioners, Please reconsider the new proposal of changing the archery tags to draws. In my opinion, it won't help to restore elk and deer numbers in these units. The real problem is predators. We are finally seeing the effects of changing the ability to hunt cougars and bears with dogs from the late 1990s combined with the unchecked wolf populations. I have seen areas in the Starkey and Mt. Emily unit where elk and deer vanish when we start seeing wolves. Please don't punish hunters for bad management of predators, The bears, cougars and especially wolves will decimate our elk and deer population if left unchecked. This new proposal will not only ignore the real problem, but we will continue to lose hunter, which is a huge source of revenue for our wildlife conservation here in Oregon. Thank you, Darren Hendrickson

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kurt Heath <kurt@superiorfence.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastside archery draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As a bow hunter opportunity to hunt the eastside of the state is something i look forward to every year.limiting opportunity will only make over crowding and private timberland permit sales overloaded. Point creep will make drawing tags almost impossible in popular units in NE and central oregon. I have 2 kids that i want to have the same opportunity that i have had in my hunting career And to enjoy the state of oregon to its fullest extent. Bow hunters make up a very small percentage of successful harvest dont take our opportunity to make a dollar and apease other weapon hunters. Make hunting great again control predators to hit management goals. We will not stand To make bow hunting a ponzi scheme

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jason Gerard <jdgerard4@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:34 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon Archery Eastern unit proposed changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I have been reading a lot about the new proposed changes for the 2021 season. I can't state how strongly I did agree with decision for multiple reasons.

1. Archery hunters only account for a small portion of Elk management numbers. Average success rates across Oregon are around 11% as you know.
2. I think a bigger focus on predator management would have a larger impact to improve Elk numbers. I know many hunters (conservationist) would do there part given the right tools to properly manage the predators.
3. I feel by only being able to hunt the Eastside ever 3 to 4 years it is going to have a large impact on the youth and younger generations, it is hard to build excitement and traditions when something that not all parties can participate in and maybe on ever 3 years.
4. The point system is going to be out of control with this type of change. People who have alot of points will be out in a position to either blow there points on a less desirable hunt or sit out for many years and hope they draw the hunt they have been saving up for.

I really hope you look at the impact it will have a on the people that care the most about the Big game animals in this state. Please please consider other forms of helping Big game populations other than taking away our already small chance we get.

Thanks for you time,
Jason Gerard

- Jason Gerard

Roxann B Borisch

From: Steve Brothers <popsbrothers@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery elk hunting proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Commissioners, I am very troubled about the proposed change to draw only archery tags in eastern Oregon. I don't understand the reasoning of limiting my access to hunt public land but you have increased the private cow tags. If the herd is healthy why limit my chances of drawing a tag. I have just a handful of elk seasons left and the thought of not drawing a tag in a unit that I finally am beginning to learn is unsettling. I am a nonresident hunting a unit that is very popular with out of state hunters and limiting us to 5% will probably push me into a less desirable unit for archery hunting. If this is the case I may hunt Idaho.

Concerned Elk fanatic
Steve Brothers
530-736-6007

Roxann B Borisch

From: BlyGuy <blyguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Comments on the proposed changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First of all I would like to thank you for taking the time to be a member of this commission. As far as changing eastern Oregon to draw hunts I think it's a terrible idea. This isn't based on science at all, if it was we would be looking into ways to control the predators. Bears and Cougars are decimating the Mule deer and Elk populations here on the east side. Maybe before we start trying to take away opportunities from Oregon hunters we should look at controlling these large predators. As far as the info that was gotten from the polling I have to wonder why Archery hunters weren't the ones who were polled considering it is the group who will be affected. What this poll served to do was split us hunters into separate groups. Could I as a Bowhunter come up with a hundred reasons why rifle hunters are ruining hunting for everyone. One idea would be that if you apply for a rifle tag you cannot get a over the counter bow tag, that would cut the numbers in the woods basically doing exactly what this proposal seems to be after. One thing that I do support is putting limits in eastern Oregon as far as mule deer hunting goes, something along the lines of three points on one side or better which would increase herd health and make it worth doing at all. The amount of one year old bucks I see killed in the interstate unit makes me sick, they drive around in the woods drinking beer and throwing cans out and shoot the first deer with antlers that they see. Lets see these bucks be at least two years old before they are harvested. These are the same people who don't practice and just pick up their old bow and go out, often wounding animals and ruining our reputation as hunters. I really hope we can put a pin in this and possibly revisit it in the next few years and talk to actual Bowhunters about the issues

Sincerely, Richard Lee

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jackson Bushnell <jacksoncbushnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Controlled Archery Hunt Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ODFW Commission,

I would like to express my opinion on the proposed controlled archery hunts for 2021. I strongly disagree with the proposal for making eastern Oregon archery hunts a draw next year. I believe the intentions of the project are good, which to my knowledge is improving deer and elk populations in eastern Oregon. However, I disagree with the tactics being proposed to do this. On average, archery hunters success rate for elk is around 10%, this alone clearly shows that archery hunters are not the reason numbers are going down. In his research and presentation, Nick Myatt talks about nutrition being the biggest issue, however there clearly is plenty of nutrition available for wildlife in eastern Oregon units. It is clear that the number one reason populations are going down is failed predator management. ODFW has the resources to manage predator populations in an efficient manner without the need to involve hunters and greatly disturb deer and elk populations. Oregon is on a downhill slope with its hunting opportunities and it is clear that once an opportunity is removed it will never return. It does not have to be this way, Oregon has the potential to be a great hunting state. We have the potential to generate revenue and opportunity from both resident and non resident hunters. There are reasons so many people spend tens of thousands of dollars for decades on out of state tags and there is no reason Oregon can not be one of those states as well. We have the potential to have great wildlife populations and great hunting coexist in our state. It is time to reevaluate our management strategies and ask ourselves why we are limiting opportunity for a group of hunters that are the biggest advocates and stakeholders for conservation of our wildlife and wild places. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Jackson Bushnell

Oregonian, Conversationalist, Bowhunter.

Roxann B Borisch

From: archerytodd@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Draw Input from an informed Non-Resident

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I'd like to recommend the commission does not allow ODFW to make the change from over-the-counter archery hunting in Eastern Oregon into a draw-only hunt, nor allow the change from 10% cap to 5%. As a former President of the Washington State Bowhunters who has been down this road, I can tell you that you'd quickly arrive where Washington is now if you allow this change. Limiting the opportunity of non-residents by increasing the barriers and imposing the 5% limit on the drawing will make several other states much more attractive for my time and money. If these proposals pass, Oregon will no longer be an option for non-residents. I know I budget \$2000 per year to hunt Oregon archery elk; that money will go to Idaho if this passes.

Thank you,
Todd Johnston
Clarkston, WA

Roxann B Borisch

From: Drew Butterfield <butterfieldae@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:39 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: 2021 PROPOSALS- Oppose

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tug AJ** <TugAJ@centerlinelogistics.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 17, 2020, 10:04 AM
Subject: 2021 PROPOSALS- Oppose
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us <odfw.commission@state.or.us>
Cc: butterfieldae@gmail.com <butterfieldae@gmail.com>

Dear Oregon Commissioners Board,

I wanted to reach out on the 2021 proposals brought forth by the committee. I am requesting to be heard, that I am strongly against the controlled hunts for deer and elk in Eastern Oregon for archery. I feel that there is great opportunity now in your eastern portion of the states for archery hunting. I do agree numbers may be down but there is still great hunting in that part of the state. I feel that predators numbers continue to rise and are the main concern moving forward. We need an answer to that problem not limiting our hunters. Another valid option would be to not allow hunters to apply for a controlled rifle hunt and if not successful pick up a bow and go hunt. Oregon is a great state to hunt and recreate in, and limiting opportunity should be the last thing I feel should be changed.

Highly hoping this does not pass

Thanks for your time.

Drew Butterfield

Roxann B Borisch

From: Matthew Wytcherley <m.wytcherley@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:35 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Controlled Hunts Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Matt Wytcherley and I am contacting you regarding the proposed changes to elk and mule deer archery hunting seasons on the eastern side of the state. I am new to archery hunting and I feel that having the opportunity to experience archery hunting in our state has led me to have a deeper appreciation for the outdoors and the wildlife within it. I can say that what attracted me to archery season was the opportunity to buy a general season elk tag that would allow me to hunt either side of the state. It's the opportunity and "what if" affect of knowing I could hunt Roosevelt Elk in the thick timber of the Oregon coast one week and the very next week I could be chasing Rocky Mountain Elk through the pines on the opposite side of the state. The opportunity is the driving force behind my recent switch to archery hunting.

I would ask that you consider all the young men and women like me who have grown up hunting this great state and the many that will come after us who are hopefully able to enjoy this same opportunity when your committee makes their decision on these recent proposals to change these general season hunts to controlled hunts. The opportunity to explore and hunt these various parts of Oregon without the barrier of an application is enough for me to buy a tag for the rest of my life in hopes of continually searching for a never ending appreciation for the outdoors.

V/r
Matt Wytcherley

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:32 PM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Attn: Mark Labhart—Eastern Oregon Controlled Archery

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: David Lowe
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:21 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Cc: Kirk & Tonya Fenley
Subject: Attn: Mark Labhart—Eastern Oregon Controlled Archery

Attention Mark Labhart

Mark,

We share a background in Tillamook County, since in 2017 my investment firm purchased Tillamook Country Smoker from its founders, and I happen to be CEO of this great, fast-growing Bay City-based jerky brand.

I am also the owner of Jordan Creek Ranch, a 12,000+ acre ranch in the Starkey Unit in Eastern Oregon, located at [55503 Highway 244](#). I purchased this property 11 years ago as a recreational elk hunting ranch, and we have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in wildlife management and restoration to enhance vital elk and wildlife habitat. Our most recent project is the major restoration project on the Grande Ronde River with the Confederated Tribes. Our efforts on habitat improvement have created significant economic benefit to the local economy and to ODFW each and every year. Importantly, the ranch has been described by local ODFW and Tribe biologists as an extremely vital habitat for Rocky Mountain elk and other wildlife.

I am writing about the very worrisome proposal to move Eastern Oregon archery elk hunting to a controlled hunt and the proposed further restrictions on “Non resident hunters”. I appreciate the reasons why you may want to move to controlled archery, but as a non-resident hunter and large landowner, I am deeply worried about how this change in regulation may affect me and others like me, and the value of our properties. As you may know, the LOP program for rifle elk in the Starkey Unit does not provide any rifle tags to a vast majority of landowners due to the LOP Percent limits.

Since archery elk hunting is the primary purpose of my ownership of Jordan Creek Ranch, the proposed material restriction in tag access in Eastern Oregon for landowners would severely impair the value of our elk hunting ranch assets. I respectfully ask that you do not restrict LOP tag access (or eliminate the proposal for controlled archery elk altogether), to avoid this material diminution in value to elk hunting properties such as mine. The tag allocation to provide readily available tags for all landowners through the LOP program represents a minor change to the existing proposal. I believe landowners like me play a critical role in conservation and elk habitat improvement, which benefit elk populations and elk hunting in the surrounding area. Diminishing access to our hunting privilege can have the unintended consequences of making wildlife

conservation and ranch ownership in Eastern Oregon significantly less attractive, and force me and like-minded owners to seek properties elsewhere in the West. This could have the further effect of parcel division, land sales and subsequent commercial development of critical elk habitat in Eastern Oregon. I appreciate your consideration and would be happy to further discuss this with you anytime.

Respectfully,

Dave

David Lowe
Chairman and CEO
Insignia Capital Group
Chairman and CEO Tillamook Country Smoker
415 816 6155 cell
www.insigniacap.com
www.tcsjerky.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Lowe <dlowe@insigniacap.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 2:21 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Cc: Kirk & Tonya Fenley
Subject: Attn: Mark Labhart—Eastern Oregon Controlled Archery

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Attention Mark Labhart

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Respectfully,

Dave

David Lowe
Chairman and CEO
Insignia Capital Group
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415 816 6155 cell
www.insigniacap.com
www.tcsjerky.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Controlled archery

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Kelly Ward
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled archery

Is the reason for controlled archery, because Hunters are harvesting too many. I dont believe so! One big reason I see as a big problem, There are ranchers cattle everywhere we go hunt on public land. Where I see this the food for the wildlife is virtually non existent,or full of weeds and grasses turned into non protein grasses. Why can't ranchers keep cattle on their own property. And build fencing to keep elk out of their land. With better feed the elk wouldn't need to utilize feed on private land. Hunters pay a hell of a lot of money to hunt. Quit giving what little public land available to ranchers and go spray weeds and make food better. You will have bigger, healthier herds. All species benefit.so no, I do not agree with controlled archery at all. You have other options you should consider. Is predators a problem. Then get rid of a few. Balance it out. Ranchers buy whole mountains and foothills and they still get all of the public land also. Ridiculous.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kelly Ward <kpdub33@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled archery

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 10:06 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Archery Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tyler Jennings
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:45 PM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us
Cc: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

I just want to go on record as another Oregon hunter who opposes all new deer and elk general hunting regulations. The drastic changes would negatively impact the livelihood of too many Oregon hunters who depend on general deer and elk tags. This attempted ramming of new laws down our throats reveals the serious need to at least form a work group made up of Oregon hunters to discuss and come to a consensus on any proposed changes before they are made. An even better solution, I think, would be to allow all licensed Oregon hunters to vote on any new hunting regulations themselves. Please listen to myself and all the other hunters of Oregon who have expressed their concern on this issue.

Thank you for your time.

--Tyler

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tyler Jennings <tjennings97756@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:45 PM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us
Cc: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

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Thank you for your time.

--Tyler

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Thiesfeld <dthiesfeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:42 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Matthew.T.Keenan@state.or.us; jon.a.paustian@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed changes to Archery seasons
Attachments: oregon bowhunting letter.doc

Dear agency staff,

Please find enclosed my letter to the ODFW commissioners. I'd like to request that each and every commissioner be provided a copy for their personal review.

Thank you.

David M. Thiesfeld

In 1985, a couple years after I got out of the military, I decided to move back home to Washington State. Soon after arriving, I took up bowhunting. One of my little brothers, Steven, who was attending school at the University of Washington, took time off from school and joined me for bowhunting season. We became hunting partners thereafter. Steven graduating from the University of Washington school of fisheries with a masters degree in fishery's science, and soon got a position with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. He went to work for them as a fisheries biologist in the ODFW Prineville Oregon office in the late 80's or early 90's. One day I received a call from him, and he said "David, take a couple of days and come join me while I hunt for elk. If you like what you see, next year you can buy an elk tag and hunt with me here in Oregon." That weekend found me on the back side of Lookout Mountain in the Ochoco Unit outside of Prineville. I was flabbergasted that Steven had found a spot that had so many bugling elk in it. The next year, I had saved up my money, and gladly paid the \$360 for non-resident hunting license, plus deer and elk tags. A couple of years later they raised the fee to \$400. I grumbled, but I still paid it. Somewhere along the way Steven called me back up, and informed me that the ODFW had changed the Ochoco unit to permit only for archery, and that I needed to make sure I submitted an application for the drawing in time. That first year, they had 1200 archery elk tags available. Soon after, they reduced it to 1000 tags. Between the decreasing amount of archery tags available, and the skyrocketing non-resident fees, I said screw it, and stopped hunting in Oregon. If you fast forward to 2020, you would find the that fees are now \$1200 for a non-resident, and there are only 646 tags now available for archery elk in the Ochoco unit. The ODFW has a track record of eventually escalating the "only 5% reduction" as the years go by.

Steven wound up working for the ODFW for 10 years, and then moved back to Washington State where he passed away in April 2019, one month after he had retired with 20 years of service at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But I digress. Way back when we were still hunting together in the Ochoco unit, he asked me one day if I'd like to attend one of the staff meetings that they were having at the local pizza shop. Not being one to pass up free pizza, I said yes. During that meeting, there were two things that stuck with me all these years. The first, was the discussion the biologists had about the fact that during the hunting season, all the ranchers cows were on public land grazing on the Ochoco Forest, and all the elk had started moving down to the private ranch lands during the hunting season where no hunters could get to them. The elk were eating the grasses the ranchers would need for later in the year. The biologists were concerned about the potential crop damage complaints, and more importantly, what would happen when the hunters figured out that the elk were no longer on public lands, and stopped buying the tags that fund the agency. The point I'm making here is that the issue of elk on private lands has been going on for decades, and since at least the 80's that I'm aware of. It's not some new

phenomenon that all of a sudden needs a knee jerk reaction addressing it.

The second thing that stuck with me, is the discussion of total elk and deer harvests. During the discussion, one of the biologists pointed out that the official policy is that the archer's total harvest is less than the error ratio that they factor in when they perform their annual herd counts, and that the archery harvest is therefore insignificant from a management perspective. Take a moment to let that sink in and digest. Ask yourself why now is it all of a sudden an issue here in 2020.

Steven was a great scientist, and he approached everything from a very keen analytic scientific mind. We always didn't agree on things, particularly when it came to the non-native wolve species that were introduced here, but the one thing we agreed upon was archery hunting and ethical hunting. About 15 years back, when Washington State was considering screwing up the archery season, in a similar way that Oregon has proposed, he said to me "the single greatest cause of elk mortality is lead poisoning". I looked at him quizzically, and he had to spell it out for me. For those of you who don't hunt, he was referring to the lead in a rifle bullet. I hope you can get the jest of that. He was correct. This was coming from a man that had spent 30 years combined as a distinguished scientist at the ODFW and WDFW combined. In this day and age though, I'm not so sure that wolves haven't surpassed lead though.

One year in the early 90's found Steven and me back up on Lookout mountain again. Steven had hiked up the front, and I had hiked in around the backside. I would wait in the creek drainage, and Steven would hike down and follow the creek down to where I was at. As I was sitting there watching for an elk or deer, I heard a noise from 1/2 plus mile upstream. I got ready, and waited. As the sound got closer, I realized it was another hunter. But I could tell it wasn't a bowhunter. Bowhunters do not walk the same as rifle hunters, and finally the hunter came into view. My suspicion was confirmed, it was a rifle hunter with 12 inch Danner boots that clumped with every step he took, and he was carrying a bow! As he walked right on by me, he never saw me, but I could hear him clopping along for what seemed like an eternity as he walked down the creek totally oblivious on how to bowhunt. And then I heard the same noise coming again from upstream. You guessed it. And then I heard it a third time, again. Finally Steven came down the creek drainage, and he said he was late because he seen a real nice buck, and tried to put a stalk on it. I then told him I'd seen 3 rifle hunters working their way down the creek, but they were carrying bows. I asked him "what is up with that?" He replied that Oregon allowed rifle hunters to put in for rifle elk tags, and if they didn't get drawn, they could then go out 3 days before the season, buy a bow, and an archery elk tag over the counter. Coming from Washington State, that was a shock, because there you have to pick your weapon before the season started, and if you put in for rifle tags, that's the season you were allowed to hunt. He said he knew it wasn't right that someone could put in for highly coveted rifle tag, and then go hunt archery if they weren't drawn, but it was fact of

life that we had to deal with. I wasn't happy that my hunt had been screwed up, because those hunters had screwed up my mornings hunt.

If anybody ever tells you there is no difference between rifle hunters, and archery hunters, they've been stepping in too many cow pies and the pies are filling up their pants. Aside from differences in hunting styles as I described above, they have different preferences. Most, but not all, rifle hunters do not like road closures, and will avoid hunting in road closure areas. I'm talking the general masses here.

But with bowhunters, when word gets out about a new area road closure, most of them decide the area must be great to hunt, throw on heavy packs, and inundate the area like flies on a cow pie. Literally, I'm not kidding. Steven and I saw it happen to our favorite hunting area in Washington State. It literally screwed up the quality of our hunt because it more than tripled the number of bowhunters in our area. It ruined it. On paper, it sounded like a good idea, and we really supported it, but after it was implemented and ruined our hunting area, we wound up really regretted having supported it in the first place.

I've mentioned the above, because there are fundamental differences between true bowhunters, and rifle hunters. No one size fits all management plan works.

This year will be the 35th year I've been a bowhunter. I've never hunted deer or elk with a rifle, but have spent a lot of time afield during rifle seasons. I would gather to say that I spend more time bowhunting than the average bowhunter, because I take it real serious. About three years ago, I harvested my first ever bull elk. Some bowhunters that I had met the day before helped me find and pack out my bull elk. As we were hiking into where I had shot my elk, they kept looking at each other. I knew what they were thinking, they could not believe that this old geezer had hiked way back in here, and shot a bull to boot. Since then we've become good friends, and one of them told me last year, "Dave, you are our inspiration, we hope that we are still at it like you are when we get to be as old as you." it was nice feeling to know I've had a positive impact on a younger generation of bowhunters.

So in that 35 years of bowhunting, I've taken two elk total (cow and bull), and about 6 deer. When I see stats or responses from wildlife officials stating that bowhunters are approaching rifle harvest levels, I call cow manure. I see what other bowhunters are harvesting, and it approaches nothing like what you see hanging in rifle camps.

I could be wrong, but if my memory serves me correctly, some years back I read a report that the ODFW uses two different formulas for calculating harvest levels for rifle hunters and archers. And the stated reason was that they did not believe that archers were faithfully disclosing their harvests, unlike rifle hunters. To me, that was an insult to all archers, because in essence, they are calling us all liars

by their reasoning. Don't know if that was their intention, but it is the net result. So that begs the big question: Now that we've had mandatory reporting of harvests for a few years, is the ODFW using the exact same formula for calculating annual harvest for archery and rifle, or not? If not, how does the department expect the archery community to place any credence on the ODFW harvest stats?

What the ODFW has proposed, is exactly what happened while I was living in Washington State many years ago. They made the entire east side of the state draw only for archery branched bull tags. Steven and I put in for the drawing the first year they implemented it. We held our breath, and to our surprise, we got drawn for a unit with 13 archery bull tags. We were excited and started our hunt. Much to our surprise, we found every Tom, Dick and Harry who did not get drawn, was out practicing calling in bulls - while we were hunting. So much for having a quality hunt that year. We still put in for tags the next year, but did not get drawn.

After the 7th year straight of not getting drawn for an archery branched bull tag, I'd had enough. Knowing that Eastern Oregon had over the counter archery bull tags, I talked to my employer, and in 2008 I moved my family from Washington State to La Grande Oregon. That was not the only reason for our move, but the opportunity to hunt branched bulls every year was a major factor in that decision.

So here I sit in 2020, and I'm facing the same nightmare all over again. Some of the staff at ODFW want to screw over the archery community with changes to our seasons. Their reasoning is that there are too many bowhunters now, and they can't control the harvest. They want to reduce the numbers of bowhunters by 5%, and claim the only way to do that is with limited entry. So once again we are being asked to trust the agency, when in fact there are two other ways available to reduce bowhunter numbers, and the options have not been presented publicly.

One, if they make everybody choose their weapon, rifle or bow, for both deer and elk, before submitting applications and the start of the seasons, we would see at least, a minimum of 10% decrease in the number of hunters buying archery tags. Push come to shove most hunters will pick a rifle over a bow. That isn't rocket science. Most of us bow hunters have never submitted an application for a rifle tag., and it's not morally right for the ODFW to let hunters submit a drawing application for premium rifle tags, and then go buy archery tags if they don't get drawn. It artificially creates crowding of our archery hunts, and it's flat out wrong.

Two, I've said for over 20 years now that advances in archery equipment one day would give a wildlife manager somewhere the excuse they need to push their agenda through and hinder bowhunting opportunity. If it is true that archery success has increased significantly, why did agency staff not first propose restrictions on the archery equipment that is allowed? By completely ignoring this as an option, it tells us that there is an agenda not being fully disclosed.

I've put in for point savers 8 years straight, in the hope that when retire I can get drawn for an archery tag in one of the big three bull units, and spend the entire season on the hunt and scout the area properly. If the ODFW proposal goes through, I will be unfairly penalized and made to loose all my preference points if I want to hunt anywhere in Eastern Oregon before I retire. Hunting in the traffic infested swamps of Western Oregon is not an option for those of us who live on the east side of the state. Why would I want to buy tags and licenses in Oregon, and financially support the agency, when I could go to Idaho and buy archery elk tags over the counter in a better hunting area?

I buy a hunting license and elk tag to hunt elk. I also purchase a deer, beer, and cougar tag in the extremely limited chance that I might see one while hunting elk. If the department's proposal goes through, and I don't get drawn for an elk tag, none of those ancillary tag purchases will happen, and then the net result is the ODFW will get less revenue from me. I imagine there are a few thousand other bowhunters who this also applies to.

Please, if there are legitimate concerns about archery harvest levels, implement one or both of my suggested options first taking the knee jerk reaction that the ODFW has proposed.

Sincerely,

David M. Thiesfeld
541-963-2922 home
708 South 12th Street
La Grande OR 97850

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ty McEwen <tymcewenart@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 7:55 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery deer and elk changes

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Good morning, it was recently brought to my attention that Oregon department of Fish and wildlife is considering changing the over the counter archery deer and elk tags to a draw system. I strongly urge you not to. Hunting elk and deer with my bow is my passion, it's something that myself and many others around the state wait all year to do. Putting our available tag into a lottery system will end that. It would cause anger, resentment and hardships. A lot of Oregonians feed their family's with the elk and deer they harvest every year. Most families use this event to spend quality time together, to teach their children valuable wilderness and life skills, and to pass on family traditions. If revenues is the reason, instead of making the resources more coveted, make them more abundant. Raise the price of tags and licenses , and use those funds to help wildlife to be more plentiful. Work with landowners to create more access . Thank you for your time . -Ty McEwen

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jon Sleight <sleightjm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 10:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed changes to archery seasons

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Dear commissioners,

Please take some time to read this article, it includes a lot of information on why hunters are not okay with the proposed changes to archery seasons.

<https://mtnhunter.com/articles/the-state-of-oregons-archery-season>

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Jon

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jon Sleight <sleightjm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 10:12 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Changes to Archery Season

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello,

To begin with I would like to state that I reside on the west side of the state and enjoy hunting all of Oregon. I'm a hunter who has and will continue to hunt with different tools rifle, archery, and shotgun so I do not feel I am biased to anyone side and still feel the sting of deer and elk hunters not taking concern over the ballot measure for hound hunting cougar and bears years ago when it was banned just because they didn't think it affected them.

Eastern Oregon units must stay general season for archery to avoid overcrowding on west side of Oregon, allow hunter movement to avoid wildfire prevention or active wildlife closures (this is a big issue that I believe ODFW has overlooked in their proposed season changes for archery), allow our residents on the east side of the State continued general season opportunity in the area they live in otherwise youth participation will plummet, and unfortunately unlawful hunting will likely rise. Seems like there are several viable options for ODFW to reach there objectives without going to a complete draw system right out of the gates: 1) Limit Non-resident tags (first come with limit or preference point controlled draw) 2) Limit antlerless harvest in units with elk numbers below objective numbers. 3) Antler point restrictions (no spikes or 3 point or better) if objective numbers are low. If the previous three don't prove to work after a 3-5 year time frame move to step 4) choose your weapon for the year before applying (rifle or archery). To address mule deer numbers again start by limiting Non-Resident archery tag sales (first come with limit or preference point controlled draw) 2) put antler point restrictions for both archery and rifle (3 point or better) for units with struggling numbers. If these measures don't solve the issues after a 6-9 year timeframe then look at next steps. I do not have a solution for predator control which unfortunately is somewhat out of ODFW's control since the voters banned hound hunting for cougars/ bears and they have little choice due to federal protection on what they can do with wolves except keeping feeding them deer and elk.

Additionally in recent years ODFW has taken late season archery buck hunts and made them an any weapon or muzzle loader hunts stating that this gives more hunters an opportunity. Unfortunately there are several flaws to this logic. First the majority of people will just pick a firearm as it is very frustrating to be an archery hunter in full camo stalking in for a 5-60 yard

shot just to have someone with a fire arm harvest the animal from 100-650 yards away. The second flaw is hunter SAFTEY, everyone should realize the extreme danger of encouraging a archery hunter in full camo stalking into bow range (5-60 yards) when there are multiple firearms I the woods pursuing the same game animal and taking shots from 100-650 yards away.

It took the original survey that ODFW for some reason only sent out to a select few, and I do not believe that collected data would of had time to be adequately analyzed.

Thank you for your time,
Jon Sleight

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: ryanvanarsdale819 <ryanvanarsdale819@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed changes to elk hunting in 2021

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

In my personal opinion the problem is being addressed in a way that is too aggressive. As a bowhunter who started as a rifle hunter I see both sides and understand both have compelling arguments. If I were to make a decision for the wellness of the elk herd I would remove the general spike season's they kill off bulls before they have a chance to contribute to the heard its childish and in my opinion goes against ethical harvesting those tags have already been replaced with the general cow hunt so its existence is no longer appropriate. As far as the draw or general season purchases go you should have to declare rifle or bow as in if you declare rifle for the draw you are not eligible for a general archery tag the same would go for declaring archery that would take care of the problem of unskilled individuals involving themselves in the general archery season as an alternative when they don't draw for rifle. It might seem easier to just say make it all controlled for archery but it's not fair to offer two general options for rifle or any weapon as you call it but offer archery hunters no such option. I do agree changes need to be made but your approach is flawed and favours one side.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Denver Cunningham <denver.cunningham22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:55 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Changes to Archery Seasons

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello,

I am emailing you because of some proposed changes to archery deer seasons. Those changes being turning the eastern half of the state into controlled hunts. I am going to assume this change is brought on by too many deer being harvested. In my opinion this is a horrible idea. This would bring down the moral of hunters state wide. If this were to enacted, I would be motivated to go to other states. This feeling is shared amongst my friends and family. I personally am against restricting opportunity. If there needs to be less deer harvested may I suggest point restriction. I would much prefer something only the lines of for those 18 years and older can only harvest a 3 point buck or larger. I feel this would reduce harvest to a more sustainable level (if that is what is needed), keep hunter participation, provide opportunity, keep money flowing into the Department and keeping the deer that are taken well spread out throughout the age class. I hope this email and others impact your decisions. Once again, please do not make eastern Oregon archery deer hunts controlled hunt. I personally would be happier with other conservation strategies if that's what is needed.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jake Hayes <jakeh_06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:28 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Leave east Oregon OTC alone

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

The only reason our units in Oregon that you are saying are supposedly overcrowded is because you guys chose to make the blues into a drawing for a spike bull, And it forced a lot of guys that go up archery hunting as a tradition more than just hopes of killing an animal, sure everybody wants to fill a tag but for more people it was about tradition like myself and my family that is now ruined due to the fact we cannot just go up here on the blues every year and hunt. Yes I buy over-the-counter tags and still go in another unit to hunt but for family that would just come up to have the camaraderie and set the elk camp that is no longer happening and it is sad. Not to mention it is pretty ridiculous when in for example the wall wall unit and the winner our unit in Mount Emily unit we get what is it 150 spike elk tags but between first and second season rifle hunters get over 1000 deer tags in one unit almost what is an 800 in another unit and. And with this year's new rule we get a whole 460 deer tags for archery season for the entire blue Mountains that is absolutely crazy when you're giving out almost 2000 rifle deer tags, and another thing that is pretty frustrating it's so you're going to try and block out all the eastern guys, And make it to where we have to apply for tags but yet western Oregon would still have there over the counter hunts, how is that even remotely close to fair? You are going to make it to where our draw is going to get absolutely flooded like it already is by the west side of the state guys, and if they do not draw then oh well they still get to elk and deer hunt with an otc tag, while east side guys just donated money to ODFW, by purchasing a license along with the 8\$ app fee for each tag. Now we have a useless hunting license. It just flat out is not justifiable thing to change out otc hunts in Oregon, leave them alone, as far as deer numbers I agree they are gone well the mule deer, we need a point restriction!!! 3 point or better, youths and pioneer should be able to shoot fork horn or better, quit letting grown men shoot spike bucks, this any visible antler has to go.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: D K hayden <DandKHayden@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:37 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Hunting Change to Controlled Tags

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

To Whom It May Concern,

While I understand the need to rebalance the equation of general archery hunting with controlled rifle seasons in the eastern hunts, in its current format you are going to dramatically reduce the opportunity for sportspeople to enjoy the great out of doors.

A way of reducing the harvest while maximizing the opportunities for recreation in the eastern hunts would be to restrict the general season tags to traditional only archery equipment. Traditional only hunts already are established as an unlimited controlled tag (which is in essence a general tag with additional fees) in the Trout Creek Unit. While doing this, an expansion of the already controlled archery units, or establishing a small number of any weapon controlled tags in most of the other units, would allow compound bow hunters to have ample opportunity to use modern archery equipment.

I believe that the primary goal of ODFW is to maintain a healthy game population, but a strong secondary goal should be to maximize the recreational opportunities for the sportspeople that they also serve. By making the entire eastern part of the state to controlled hunting only you would be dramatically reducing the opportunities for many of those people. Please do not implement this proposed change and explore other options that allow sportspeople to enjoy the outdoors while reducing the archery harvest.

Thank you,
Dr. Dan Hayden

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Skyler Finney <larkski.gaming@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 12:56 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Problems with proposed Archery Elk Hunt changes - meeting for 2021 season

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

To whom it may concern,

I have read through the possible outlook and proposed changes set to be discussed by the ODFW commission for 2021 Archery Elk Hunting, and I have some opinions on its tone, outlook, and outcomes of such a wide and heavy policy change.

First off I will say that at a high level the recommendations and tone of this entire outline are very and overly targeted at greatly limiting access to the sport, which in a time of hunter downturn is a horrible thing to do. As such a limiting of ability to hunt Archery, one of the most popular new forms of hunting in the industry, and one of the most accessible, would be a large crippling blow to the new hunters, now and into the future.

Second, I would like to say that the proposals for what to change are so wide and broad that it's like bringing a jackhammer to drive in a finishing nail. If there are problem areas with too much harvest, and or too much hunter density, then there are other options to fix those areas rather than couple the *entire eastern region together*, such as;

- Apply a draw to *only* units that have higher than average kill ratios, and or overly high hunter pressure, that is affecting animals, and not because some hunters complain there are too many hunters near them.
- Applying regionized draws for sectioned units rather than just a single unit. This would give the ability for hunters to draw a "zone" of units together giving them the ability to move around if needed from unit to unit. Also this should only be used for units that have higher than average kill ratios, and overly high hunter pressure that affects the herds.
- Apply a draw for non residents for typical over the counter tags, and limit the number of tags, similar to Idaho, Wyoming etc.

Thirdly I would like to address the discussion of the season length. Please leave the season as is. Limiting the season would only increase numbers during the final and first weeks greatly, and would again limit hunters to what they can do. Rifle hunting has short seasons due to the greatly increased efficacy of the weapon choice. Where most rifle hunts end, an archery hunt begins. It might take 5-10 encounters within rifle range to generate 1 bow harvest. The full month season is needed for bowhunters.

Lastly I would just like to say that as a 31 year old new hunter, within the past 2 years I greatly appreciated ODFW's policies on hunting in general, especially the amount of availability to hunt Elk in our state. Seeing policies like this has me scared of the future for huge, and overly large policies that do nothing but hurt the young guys, and only benefit the older generation. Granted, we would not be here *without* the older generation, however that does not mean that the cups should all be drunk empty by such individuals. Like myself, I have 2 Elk points, and I know I will NEVER have the ability to draw a Mt. Emily tag in my lifetime. Mathematically it's impossible. By the time i have 20-25 points, the needed points to draw the unit will likely be 35+ if not more. So leaning everything towards needing a tag is not healthy for our sport or for conservation as a whole, as we are very closely linked.

Thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further I would be happy to do so.

Thank you,

Skyler Finney
503-866-8938
Molalla, Oregon.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Sabrina Kittelson <sabrinakittelson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 11:46 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Big Game tags comments

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello,

I am a female archery hunter in Eastern Oregon and I'm quite alarmed and dismayed about the proposed new changes in 2021. It's hard enough to get a good tag for rifle hunting over here, but I've always been comforted that at least I had a nice season available for general archery. I am shocked at the survey reports and can only conclude that those survey lived mostly on the western side of the state, since the changes seem to be aimed at benefitting those hunts. If archery changes to draw only on the east side, that leaves NO GENERAL HUNTS for those of us living over here. Most of us live in areas where we can hunt close to home, and that's one of the reasons we like it over here. No one wants to have to travel to the crowded, wet, west side to hunt. I'm sure few will. These proposals would probably lead to higher poaching numbers, especially considering many eastern Oregonians rely on game meat to feed their families. It will also lead to loss of revenue for ODFW as easterners won't be buying tags they can't get.

It is alarming to see deer numbers decline. Those of us living over here have noticed it ourselves. The other thing we have also noticed is a sharp increase in predators. The inability to effectively hunt and control predator numbers, combined with the introduction of wolves, has undoubtedly had a huge impact on our deer AND elk populations. In fact, the predator numbers are so out of control that it's effecting even the cities, with increased reports of predators within city limits and popular hiking trails, threatening & injuring and even killing children and pets.

We need effective predator management hunts. The predator numbers has skyrocketed since hunting with dogs was outlawed. We need that tool brought back & the public educated about the ethicality of hunting with dogs. We need to be able to hunt bears with bait. Location bears without bait is a task few hunters are willing to tackle.

Getting our predator numbers down is what will bring the deer & elk population back. There is certainly not an over harvesting of animals by hunters. Therefore, reducing hunter numbers will do nothing to help the deer & elk populations. Please consider a different course of action, we need our general archery seasons on the east side, and we need better predator hunts.

Thank you for your time,

Sabrina Kittelson
Dufur, OR
503-949-7312

Roxann B Borisch

From: trace moorhead <tslesquire@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 9:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery Tags

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Could we please consider making rifle hunters stay rifle hunters rather than limiting my bow hunting opportunity?

By this I mean the following:

Amend the regulations so that you choose your weapon when you apply for a draw tag. If you apply for a rifle tag during the draw, you then commit to hunting during the rifle season. Those people that fail to draw a tag can purchase any one of the OTC deer or elk tags Coastal 1st or 2nd season, cascade, or eastern Oregon general spike.

Many of your "bowhunters" are just rifle hunters that failed to draw a tag, PLEASE do not punish those of us that are lifelong bowhunters

v/r
Trace SL Moorhead

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeremiah Stamey <jeremiah.stamey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 8:02 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed 2021 changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I have watched your town hall's and out of all of them there is really no mention of trying any predator control. Which is a big factor in animal numbers whether you want to believe it or not.

Yes the wolf did work in Yellowstone but there were no hunters. So there needs to be a balance, which means there needs to be a wolf season to keep numbers in check and a way to better manage cougars.

It seems like you don't care about hunter input but will continue to steamroll hunters in whatever fashion you deem appropriate. While managing to allow predator numbers to rise and provide less opportunity for quality animals for hunters.

Why not look at other states and see what problems they have had with predators and are now trying to recover from and get ahead of the ball. Rather than acting like it won't come here and that the wolf is the answer to dwindling animal numbers

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Curtis Pedro <curtis.pedro@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:34 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Archery Changes

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I would like ODFW to consider point restrictions for all deer and brow tine or larger for all archery elk. The below is written based off of current deer data from ODFW but works exactly the same for elk.

Putting in a 3 point or better rule across the state would effectively help deer populations an equal amount as if we cut 50% of the tags across the board.

How Point Restrictions will help deer/elk

A lot of people question if point restrictions will help deer numbers. I will use the desolation as an example because I recently saw someone discussing it specifically.

In 2019 that unit had 1516 hunter almost 50-50 archery and rifle. The combined success rate was 27% which is 200 bucks taken, out of those deer 53% were 2 point or smaller bucks. If there were a point restriction of 3 point or better only 94 bucks would have been taken. The total deer population est. in 2018 was 927 deer. During the 2019 season hunters removed 22% of the deer from that herd.

For 2019 Doe to fawn ratio is 100/55 with an estimated 67% winter survival rate. That's 37 fawns that will survive the winter per 100 and 50% approx. will be bucks. So 18 new bucks for 100 does. Buck to doe in 2019 is 23% or 213 bucks of which hunters killed 200. So that leaves 714 Does, let's say 20% die to predators, 144 does, we killed almost all of the bucks. That leaves 527 deer at the end of 2019 mostly Does. So figure the winter survival of fawns and your adding another 194 deer, 50/50 so 82 bucks. Looking at the numbers it's clear there is a major issue.

Now take the same scenario with a point restriction. If there were a point restriction of 3 point or better only 94 bucks would have been taken. The total deer population est. in 2018 was 927 deer. During the 2019 season hunters would have only removed 10% of the deer from that herd.

For 2019 Doe to fawn ratio is 100/55 with an estimated 67% winter survival rate. That's 37 fawns that will survive the winter per 100 and 50% approx. will be bucks. So 18 new bucks for 100 does. Buck to doe in 2019 is 23% or 213 bucks of which hunters killed 92. So that leaves 820 Deer, 714/94 let's say 20% die to predators, that's 164 deer or 148 and 12 bucks. That leaves 656 deer 578 does at the end of 2019 mostly Does. So figure the winter survival of fawns and your adding another 213 deer, 50/50 so 106 bucks.

Looking just point restriction numbers in one unit you just went from taking almost twice the bucks that were born to there being more bucks added each year than are taken.

I'm not a wildlife specialist but when your taking more than your leaving even with exceptionally good winters you will have nothing left after a while unless something changes. Another added benefit is our doe to fawn ratios go up because when there is more bucks, predators eat more males instead of only females so there's a net gain in females which have baby's which should add to the overall building of our deer herds.

Please take this into consideration when thinking about point restrictions. I have heard arguments about giant two points but in reality that is a very long term effect and predators don't care about point restrictions so a lot of those giant forked horns will die from predators anyway.

If you read this please bring this to someone's attention who can get it in front of a ODFW decision maker.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Thornton
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:17 AM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Archery Proposal

From: Troy Jazdinski
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:46 PM
To: Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

To whom it may concern at Odfw,I am 53 years old and have hunted in Oregon for over 40 years.i am not one to send emails or complain but feel I need to speak on what I've seen happening in the woods. I've sadly watched hunting slowly going away,for many years now. My fear is only the rich who have ranches with LOP tags that they sell or people that can afford expensive hunts will be the only ones able to hunts soon.I haven't been able to hunt with my friends and family on a rifle tag like we all did growing up for many years now because of the draw system for rifle. The first choice for so many is rifle hunting and with the point creep that occurs with the draw system it is rare to draw a tag there's just to many people now. So In 2004 I became a bow hunter in order to go hunting with my son and family and get to enjoy the woods. Bow hunting is not easy, and like many folks we don't do a lot of killing but we still get the experience of

being able to get into the woods. If you guys turn bow hunting into a draw in Oregon that experience will no longer be there for us and many other families.

Another big concern I have is In the 80's and 90's we never saw cougars while in the woods, now we have encounters every year by someone in our group. Since the removal of hunting with dogs, the fact is the bear and cougar populations have gotten out of control ,that along with over grazing of cattle has hurt the deer and elk populations for sure. It seems to me when any animal becomes over populated they must be managed. Odfw is our only hope to keeping these predators in check and god help us being able to still buy a bow tag over the counter, otherwise hunting will be over for my family and many others. It should not be about making every dime you can on draws it should be about families being able to get into the woods and take new hunters as well.

Sincerely,
Troy Jazdinski
Concerned Oregon Resident Hunter

From: Troy Jazdinski <tjazdinski28@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:51 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

To whom it may concern at Odfw,I am 53 years old and have hunted in Oregon for over 40 years.i am not one to send emails or complain but feel I need to speak on what I've seen happening in the woods. I've sadly watched hunting slowly going away,for many years now. My fear is only the rich who have ranches with LOP tags that they sell or people that can afford expensive hunts will be the only ones able to hunts soon.I haven't been able to hunt with my friends and family on a rifle tag like we all did growing up for many years now because of the draw system for rifle. The first choice for so many is rifle hunting and with the point creep that occurs with the draw system it is rare to draw a tag there's just to many people now. So In 2004 I became a bow hunter in order to go hunting with my son and family and get to enjoy the woods. Bow hunting is not easy,and like many folks we don't do a lot of killing but we still get the experience of being able to get into the woods. If you guys turn bow hunting into a draw in Oregon that experience will no longer be there for us and many other families. Another big concern I have is In the 80's and 90's we

never saw cougars while in the woods, now we have encounters every year by someone in our group. Since the removal of hunting with dogs, the fact is the bear and cougar populations have gotten out of control ,that along with over grazing of cattle has hurt the deer and elk populations for sure. It seems to me when any animal becomes over populated they must be managed. Odfw is our only hope to keeping these predators in check and god help us being able to still buy a bow tag over the counter, otherwise hunting will be over for my family and many others. It should not be about making every dime you can on draws it should be about families being able to get into the woods and take new hunters as well.

Sincerely,
Troy Jazdinski
Concerned Oregon Resident Hunter

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jesse Ortwein <jesseortwein@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:47 PM
To: ODFW.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Curt Melcher
Subject: Thoughts and concerns of making Easter Oregon draw only for archery.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello my name is Jesse I live in Eastern Oregon in a very small town named adel (it's east of Lakeview) I have been a avid outdoorsman for over twenty years and in that time I have been able to learn and observe how changing hunts to controlled hunts have worked. I honestly do not think you will have much luck in increasing the deer numbers by just regulating how many people can hunt it. North warner deer is a prime example 20 years ago the deer population was significantly higher than it is now and north and south Warner's are controlled hunts for rifle and archery now so that shows right there that cutting hunters is not helping much. Hart mountain used to be a hell of a tag it is now not worth anyone's time and just like the Warner's it's controlled hunt only. I live between both of these areas I have gotten to see first hand what's going on it's not the hunters that are nocking the population down it's the predators. I feel like it's time to address the real problem and go after predator control rather than cutting tags by making archery a controlled hunt. Less people hunting deer equals less predators being controlled as well since the hunters will not be out and about in that area. I have seen the bear and cougar numbers drastically increase since hound hunting got voted out on a ballot years ago. I think what you are able to do with the few houndsman that are killing cougars is fantastic but we can do better. I know selling tags is a big revenue thing but if you started giving cougar and bear tags away with a deer tag you could eventually start selling more tags because there would be more deer. So as you know cougars are hard to harvest without hounds but if we could change the rules on spotlighting cougars, I really feel like we could make a way better dent in them. I really hope you have time to go over this and think it thru. Having a general season hunt where I live is great and just limiting it to the western Oregon hunters doesn't really seam fair I don't want to have to drive four hours to hunt in a general season black tail tag area. Idaho has several general season hunts even rifle mule deer hunts in the rut and they seem to be doing way better than us. I really feel like we are going about this all wrong and we need to rethink it. Thanks for taking the time to read this and if you have any questions or concerns I would be happy to communicate with you in the future feel free to email back or call me at 15418103423

Thanks Jesse

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Cascade elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Taylor <chiefdontaylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 12:35 PM
To: odfwcommission@state.or.us
Subject: Cascade elk

I am saddened and disgusted that the agency entrusted to ensure our wildlife is properly sustained, and that my tax dollars support, has allowed our Cascade elk success rate drop below 5%! You should be ashamed and embarrassed! I understand that logging does and has impacted this resource but to place the blame, solely on that, is ludicrous! With that being said, I wholeheartedly support moving Cascade elk season to November. With the change in weather patterns, giving us hunters even the slightest bit of help would be appreciated.

Don Taylor

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Eastern Oregon Archery Proposal

From: April Anable
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:22 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us; Curt Melcher
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to let you know that I oppose the proposal to make archery in Eastern Oregon draw only. This proposal will severely limit opportunities for Oregon residents. Most folks that I know archery hunt to fill the gap between being able to draw a rifle tag. My dad and I have never killed anything with a bow, but that time together is invaluable and your proposal will eliminate those future memories. My dad likely doesn't have many years left in the woods. Please don't take that away.

Kindest regards,
April Anable

Roxann B Borisch

From: April Anable <aprilanable@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:22 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us; Curt Melcher
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to let you know that I oppose the proposal to make archery in Eastern Oregon draw only. This proposal will severely limit opportunities for Oregon residents. Most folks that I know archery hunt to fill the gap between being able to draw a rifle tag. My dad and I have never killed anything with a bow, but that time together is invaluable and your proposal will eliminate those future memories. My dad likely doesn't have many years left in the woods. Please don't take that away.

Kindest regards,
April Anable

Roxann B Borisch

From: Daniel White <danwhite4098@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Controlled Hunt Change

Hello,

I am writing this to voice my opposition toward converting Eastern Oregon archery units from over the counter (OTC) to controlled hunts (CH). Converting these units from OTC would negatively impact the hunting community in Oregon in many ways.

Conversion to CH would decrease hunter density in the affected units. However, it would most likely lead to lower overall hunter numbers. Which in turn, would reduce revenue for both the state and local communities. Oregon's rural communities rely heavily on income generated during hunting seasons. As your report from 2009 outlines, hunters spend millions of dollars in Eastern Oregon communities each year pursuing game. A reduction in tag numbers would directly negatively impact these communities during a time of considerable economic uncertainty.

Converting to CH would also reduce new hunter recruitment by lengthening the time between opportunities. If a hunter has to wait 2-5 years to draw a basic tag, many people will likely stop hunting or seek out opportunities in other states. Many residents do not have the financial means to travel out of state, so they will probably give up the sport.

I would suggest converting the Eastern Oregon units with high bowhunter density to a capped system. Idaho has recently adopted a capped policy for non-resident tags to lower hunter density. In my proposal, hunters would need to select an archery tag in a high-density unit before the controlled hunt draw. If a hunter selected this option, they would be barred from applying for any weapon controlled hunt of the selected species. Using a system such as this would solve the archery hunter density problem with minimal impact on local economies.

Thank You,

Daniel White

Springfield, OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: Clay Freels <jeepcj1964@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:35 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

I oppose the changes to next years archery season. If this goes through several others and myself will no longer by sports packs which will decrease your revenue. Why would we buy sports packs without the guarantee of getting a tag. This was poorly thought out.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brooke Smith <browningirl85@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:45 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Cc: Curt Melcher
Subject: Archery Draw Proposal

Good Afternoon,

My name is Brooke Smith and I am a primary archery hunter and I live in Prineville Oregon. I have hunted both rifle and archery and prefer archery. I am also a Hunters Ed Instructor and I teach Archery and Rifle classes at Ladies Hunting Camp. I am a board member of the Ochoco Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association and a board member of the Bend Bowmen Archery Club.

The proposal to make all East side units draw units in my opinion isn't the answer to having less hunters in the woods.

I personally think that a hunter needs to choose what weapon that they are going to use when putting in for tags. If you put in rifle tags then that is what weapon that you have chosen and if you don't draw then you can't purchase an over the counter archery tag. If you are an archery hunter you need to specify that by the May 15th deadline in order to be able to purchase an over the counter tag.

Archery should not be a fall back option for those who aren't successful in their rifle tag draws. I am not opposed to limiting the number of over the counter tags in the future if needed but I feel like my proposal would solve the problem of overcrowding by hunters during archery season.

Thank you for your time.

Thank You,

Brooke Smith
541-419-6539
Browningirl85@gmail.com

Owner Prineville Athletic Club
Creator of Rafter BT Creations
Oregon Hunters Association Board - Ochoco Chapter
USA Archery Level 2 Instructor
NRA Certified Range Safety Officer
Ladies Hunting Camp Instructor

Central Cascades Archery Prostaff
Nature's Paint Prostaff
Girls With Guns Ambassador
Black Eagle Arrows Prostaff

Roxann B Borisch

From: Harold Kottre <kottre95@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 2:13 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 changes

Hey,

I understand you guys have an impossible job and that the likelihood of this email being read is slim. I hope I'm incorrect. I will do my best to be polite because I'm sure 90% are not. I will also try and make it fast. Bullet points haha!

* first , and what I feel is the most important . Probably not a point I will communicate correctly but important none the less. You guys value biologist studies and conclusions/opinions because they are educated and spend lots of time in the field . That is GOOD! Now you guys have to try and value the opinion of someone who hunts 30 plus days a year more than someone who hunts 4 days. Lots of rifle hunters are “weekend warriors” important, but they have a narrow window to develop conclusions on management. Most archery hunters have rifle hunted as well as archery hunted . What I’m saying is it’s not fair to value the opinion of a 4 day a year rifle hunter to someone who hunts bow/rifle for 3 months straight . Not the same player, not the same game.

Second, and I could be completely wrong . I follow you guys on multiple social media platforms and I don’t feel like you advertised much of this . Again, maybe I missed it . This is very drastic changes and should be approached slowly or people are likely to feel you are just ignoring them and doing things with 0 actual input. Pretending you care and doing what you want is not acceptable . No matter what you feel is right. This HAS to be a decision come to with some consensus or people are likely to be pushed farther into the poaching category . And let’s face it , policing is nearly impossible in many of the “coveted” units. Punishments are not harsh enough alone to discourage law breaking if the system has been deemed failed or uncooperative. This is the type of sweeping rule change that could tip the scales of lots of legal hunters .

Third, bow hunting is more challenging than rifle hunting . Harvest statistics in all western states confirm this. Maybe not every single unit, but close. Shouldn’t it be fair that bow hunters have more opportunity? They certainly on average work harder. If I want to be lazy and wait to cash in 8-20 points on high quality units, I have no one to blame But myself for choosing that . They can hunt every year if they want to put in the time. They don’t , that’s why they just complain to you. As far as bow hunting pushing elk onto private in the north east . That will ALWAYS happen . People hunt the borders because that’s the easiest access .

Doesn't matter how much you restrict hunters .tell them to walk deeper into the back country. Also, if you think overcrowding in the northeast is the problem, you obviously are choosing to overlook the ENTIRE coast range . Which this will help to completely over load. There is no back country to escape to . People in every drainage. That's life. Opportunity comes at a price.

Fourth, when you claim to have 2 completely different problems (elk and deer numbers) and the solution is the same.... probably not trying real hard to look at the real problem. Again , no offence. ONE STUDY IS NOT ENOUGH!!!! blaming only high country feed as the problem is borderline insulting . The last two summers have seemed to be great for high country feed. But I am very aware of my narrow scope. If anything has ever proved the flaw of trusting one study, it's COVID 19. How many times has the information flip flopped ? Haha! It's been ridiculous. No matter your political affiliation, it takes more than one study . Period . How about some unbiased, privately funded studies? Oha will poney up. I know you're getting beat up with "predator management " emails. Although i concur, you guys are falling short on predator management, I'm not here to pound that drum. Obviously, there is multiple factors . The default can't always be to limit hunters. Then be astounded that hunters think of you unfavourably .

Five, a solution . Albeit far outside my expertise to come up with a solution . I think there is a lot of common ground between otc free for all, and unit specific draw... that's going from level 1 to 100 real fast... if something HAS to change, which I don't think it does. Let's try a more moderate approach weapon limitations, zones, caps or something already in place from other states. Lots of middle ground here that is being skipped right over without consideration . Nick also has a habit to refer to the current situation as needing changed but admitting that bow hunters haven't caused the problems. In my mind, that's not solving the problem, just using the problem as a means to an end. Claiming to not want to create two classes, he has managed to punish one group and reward another without providing any actual data. That's a reckless move without much forethought. Just because the management status has been the same for 40 years doesn't mean it's incorrect. Many states are very similarly structured. In my perfect world I would love to see a reward system for cougar, bear and coyote kills to promote predator management . Let hunters earn points by actively helping control predator populations . Or let private groups take some responsibility and step up with some decent management strategies. Idaho has with wolf predation . I believe there are creative, fair chase ways to promote predator management without the use of hounds, since that has been deemed inappropriate. Cougar taste delicious . Have meat take requirements.

In summery, I think there is a lot of room for discussion and flexibility without this swooping change. Nick needs more proof of causation not correlation . I'm disappointed with him thinking one small study and some whining hunters are cause for drastic action . He needs to step up and not pass the buck.

Thanks for your time , I really hope someone reads this. I appreciate someone just giving the effort. I would love nothing more than to be contacted directly and I hope to be more proactive in future management decisions. Thanks

Harold Kottre
503-812-9446

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: kolby maben <mabenk888@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:28 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Eastern Oregon general archery season

As a life long archer there is many disappointments in the state of Oregon and the game management. A point you guys made was over density of hunters in popular areas. So what happens if you make eastern draw only? Well the people that didn't put in for eastern because they have years worth of points built up and do not want them burnt on a easy tag will hunt the west side. Witch every year a majority of the west side is shut down with the exception of last year and most likely this year, put all these hunters that usually hunt east side in small areas. Over crowding areas leading to a extreme drop in success rates, witch are already low because of the predators decimating the prey populations and on top of that being successful with a bow is extremely challenging. The problem is over predator population. I myself have seen more and more black bear, and more and more cougars every season. We need to manage predator populations. With this ridiculous proposal, you will accomplish nothing, other than pissing off a majority of the hunting population (as you said archery is getting more and more popular) and predator populations will continue to grow because there won't be as many archery hunters in eastern Oregon harvesting predators during general season. We as archers will not stand by while you take away our hunting rights. Instead of screwing the hunters in this state, let us help you by controlling predator populations, and bring back those mule deer and elk herds.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeremy parker <jparker948@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:40 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 odfw general season proposed changes.
Attachments: ODFW Harvest data.xlsx

To whom it may concern,

Hello, I'm writing this letter in response to the current proposals to the 2021 archery general season changes that were brought to the public on June 12 2020 by Nick Myatt. I write this letter with a great amount of concern for future generations. As a lifetime resident of Eastern Oregon I am used to not getting much of a voice in Oregon politics, and decision making. Typically I refrain from writing in to hopefully have my voice heard, but this is a time that I felt it was imperative that I voice my opinion on the matter.

I want to thank Nick Myatt for his presentation as I believe he brings up a lot of valid points that have become somewhat controversial in past years. I'm going to refer to Nick's presentation multiple times throughout the beginning of this letter, but I want to make it very clear that this is not a personal attack on Nick or his research, or presentation. This letter is not meant to down play, or negate anything that was brought up within Nick's presentation, but instead it is to offer alternative options to the 2021 proposal.

Nick went over multiple different statistics in his brief presentation to the commission, and even multiple times stated that the population drops that have been seen since the 1960's in Oregon were not the fault of the hunters, yet as a commission you have decided to again lower hunter opportunity in this great state we call home. Nick was fortunate enough, I assume, to actually have access to all the data required to make his case, whereas ODFW has made it a habit to restrict the public from having the same access to population and hunter success statistics. Currently the only data that is easily accessible to the public dates back to 2014. I have gone through this data extensively, and come to some differing conclusions as to some factors on herd population loss.

To begin, I would like to touch on one of the first things that Nick mentions in his presentation. The ODFW online public forum, in my opinion, was poorly coordinated. I personally follow the ODFW Facebook page, as well as the ODFW YouTube channel, and never saw a single thing about the open online forum. There are multiple factors that could attribute to this; one is that I simply missed the announcement. However I feel that if ODFW truly wanted to hear more about what hunters wanted, there should have been more aggressive announcements made to ensure an equal representation from the hunting community. 1,393 comments from 9,820 visitors is less than 10% of the number of hunters that participated in the 2019 rifle buck hunts. Also, the follow up hunter opinion survey that was sent out to 4000 hunters as Nick mentions could also contribute a great deal of bias. Again going back to the 2019 hunter numbers, that 4000 hunter survey could easily be biased towards rifle hunters simply on the fact that there were roughly 175,000 rifle hunters in 2019 and less than 60,000 archery hunters.

When it comes to the general season archery hunting, and looking at the ODFW published harvest success rates, and population data there are multiple points I'd like to make in regards to some of Nick's comments comparing the number of rifle hunters and the number of archery hunters. As previously stated, I'm gathering all of my information from ODFW's published harvest statistics beginning in 2015, and ending in 2019. Rifle elk season alone in 2015 had 74,665 hunters participate across the state. Fast forward to 2019, and there were 67,310 hunters participating in the rifle elk seasons. Between 2015 and 2019 rifle elk season has lost roughly 7,355 hunters. In that same time frame, archery elk has gone from 30,680 hunters in 2015 to 29,394 hunters in 2019, a total loss of 1,286. Although Nick is correct, that since 1960 overall rifle hunter numbers have dropped, and archery numbers have risen, over the past 4 seasons we've seen a decline in both categories. The same can be said about hunters participating in the rifle, and archery deer seasons, however it's in the deer seasons where we see the largest decline in rifle hunters and archery hunters. For rifle deer season from 2015 to 2019 we saw a loss of 18,262 hunters, and in the same timeframe we saw a drop of 5,033 hunters in archery deer seasons. One point that I feel needs to be presented at this time is the total number of rifle deer hunters, despite the drop of nearly 20,000 hunters since 2015 is still 108,079 hunters. That's nearly four times the amount of archery deer hunters across the state.

Statewide mule deer populations cumulatively are sitting at roughly 51% of management objectives as of the 2019 population survey that ODFW published. Let that sink in. 51%. That's 176,017 of the 347,400 management objectives for the state. As of 2019

ODFW had 108,079 rifle deer hunters that averaged a staggering 24% success rate. That equates to 26,048 mule deer taken from the population. Archery deer season in 2019 had a total of 29,558 hunters and accounted for a success rate of 15% across the state, which comes out to a total of 4,607 animals taken from the herds. Rifle Doe success rates were even higher at 29% and accounted for roughly 2,768 animals across the state.

It's also worth noting that there is a decent population of white tail deer growing in Oregon, and many feel that these deer need to be managed separately in every unit. Many units that used to hold good numbers of mule deer are now being overrun with white tail deer; however they are not managed separately as many believe they should be.

There are many studies to draw from throughout the west on mule deer populations and reasons/causes for population decline. Urban development, vehicle impact, decline in logging, predation, and livestock competition and hunting all can have effects on mule deer populations. There are many things that we as hunters, and conservationists can control, and some that we cannot. I'm not writing this to complain about what we realistically have little control over, instead I'm going to present some options that many hunters believe can help rebuild our mule deer populations.

First, as it pertains to the topic of the general season archery system, keep the state OTC, but make the tags unit specific. In 2019 roughly only 437 doe were taken with a bow, however roughly 2,768 doe were taken with rifles. With the traditional low success rate of archery seasons, the system can still limit the number of tags, while also gaining the same data sets that a draw would create through mandatory reporting. In most units across the state, the buck to doe ratio objectives are between 12 and 15 with a select few units being up at 25 bucks per 100 doe. To help rebuild population management objectives need to reflect the issues we are seeing. Increase buck to doe ratios, and lower tag allocations. By moving the general season archery tags to unit specific tags, it will eliminate unit hopping, it will end the controlled hunt tag/general season tags, and force people to pick and hunt one unit. This will allow the same data sets to be gathered from the mandatory hunter reporting, while also still allowing hunters to have more options.

In units that are hurting the worst, such as Sprague unit, with a published 14% of the management objective for mule deer population, eliminate all mule deer hunting. This may not be popular, but any unit under 30% shouldn't be hunted until the game population begins to increase. Many states have implemented a minimum point requirement as well; however I would be strongly against that. Minimum point requirements statistically increase poaching, and overall have a negligible long term effect on game populations.

Another controversial topic amongst hunters is habitat loss, and encroachment. Although we as hunters have little control over urban expansion and political policy, we aren't blind to the facts. It's been well documented across the west that logging, and forest thinning has a positive impact on mule deer populations. Mule deer winter forage has been declining through the years due to a lack of forest management and habitat improvement. Something that needs to be looked into as winters have been running later into the springtime, are the effects of feeding stations, and possibly early access restrictions on shed hunting.

Predation is also a popular topic amongst the hunting community in regards to mule deer populations. Although there are very few definitive studies that have been done, partly due to modern legislation, it is a well-known fact that coyote, cougar, bobcat, and bear all have an impact on mule deer populations. Going back to the ODFW published harvest statistics the past 4 years (2015-2019) there has been an average of 24,015 bear hunters each year. With an average success rate of under 7%, that accounts for only around 1678 bear being taken each year across the state. With the snow fall in the past few years limiting access in units like Mt. Emily, the bear population has increased rapidly with zero increase in tag allocations. It shouldn't take 5+ years to draw a spring bear tag in any unit in Oregon. With the lack of access during the spring hunting season, the season should be lengthened to allow more opportunity for hunters to fill their tags while also helping with the growing predator problems.

Cougar populations in Oregon have also been allowed to increase relatively unchecked since measure 18 passed in 1994. It's been well documented that the cougar population in the state of Oregon is significantly higher than the populations in neighboring states. The following is an excerpt from the Summary of Cougar Research in Oregon:

"ODFW implemented a 3-year study in the Mt. Emily wildlife management unit in northeast Oregon to document cougar diets, kill rates, and prey selection patterns. During the study, 25 adult cougars were marked with GPS collars and monitored over a total of 7,642 days. Potential kill sites were identified through the clusters of GPS locations. Throughout field investigation of potential kill sites, researchers located 1,213 prey items killed by cougars, of which 1,158 (95%) were deer or elk. Cougars killed on average 1 ungulates/week over the course of the year, but cougars killed 1.5 times more frequently during summer when juvenile ungulates dominated diets. Female cougars with kittens killed more frequently than solitary females or male cougars. This is likely in response to increased energetic requirements of females with kittens. Diets of male cougars had roughly equal amounts of elk (52%) and deer (48%), whereas diets of females were dominated by deer (75%)."

"During a 7-year study conducted in the Wenaha and Sled Springs Wildlife Management Units in northeast Oregon, ODFW captured and radio-collared 460 elk calves. Fates (live or dead) of calves were determined from radio signals and field crews investigated mortalities as soon as possible to determine cause of death. Most calf mortality occurred during the first 16 weeks of life when calves were small and vulnerable to predation. Of elk calves that died, cougars were responsible for >70% of mortalities. Survival rates were higher in Sled Springs than Wenaha and monthly survival rates increased over time at both study areas. Early born calves had higher survival rates than later born calves. Survival of elk calves was lower during years with higher cougar densities. At mean cougar densities and birth dates, survival rates of elk calves were .36 and .26 for Sled Springs and Wenaha, respectively. Survival of elk calves was not strongly associated with nutritional conditions of cow elk and variation in cougar density explained the overwhelming amount of variation in calf survival from year to year."

"Cougars were responsible for the majority of calf mortalities and annual variation in cougar densities explained the majority of variation in calf survival."

"Heavy predation of elk calves by cougars may help explain low calf recruitment rates observed in northeast Oregon."

In the same document, it also states that:

"Due to low success rates, implementation of current hunting methods will likely be an ineffective management tool to manipulate cougar populations to meet population management objectives."

"To effectively reduce cougar populations at localized scale (e.g., a target area) intensive levels of lethal control will be required to overcome immigration from surrounding areas."

(https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/cougar/docs/Summary_of_Cougar_Research_in_Oregon_March2015.pdf)

Due to measure 18 we are unable as hunters to efficiently control the cougar population in the state of Oregon, and our mule deer populations are showing the results of that. As of 2019 in Mt Emily unit, the mule deer population is at a documented 53% of management objectives, and since 2015 has shown a steady decline in numbers, and is on course to match the remainder of the state that averages below 50% across most units.

Without the ability to effectively manage predators with current practices, something else needs to be done to increase the participation of hunters with predator management. If there was a way to incentivize predator hunting, either with cash bounties, or preference point bounties the same way poaching has been incentivizing most hunters agree that participation would increase, which could help to cull the predator populations while also creating more hunter opportunity via preference point bounty.

Elk populations across the state, according to what ODFW has published are on track with management objectives in most units. There are a few outliers with a documented low elk population, which can in many ways be attributed to predation, as well as natural causes. To say that archery hunting is having a negative effect on elk populations in Oregon is flat wrong. Archery success rates across the state are on average below 13% for elk, which accounted for only 3,571 elk being taken in 2019. With statewide management objectives being at 101% of the total statewide objective (2019), in many units I'd argue that elk tag allocations could be increased by 2-5% depending on each individual unit and its estimated elk population and management objective. Eliminating the east side general season archery elk tag would have a negligible effect on elk populations, and would overall only hurt hunter participation, and opportunity in future hunts.

I firmly believe that there is not ample evidence showing that moving all eastern Oregon general season tags to a draw would have a positive effect on game populations. I believe that there needs to be more time to actually gather data on the subject. Instead of switching to a draw for the upcoming 2021 season, I propose making the general season tags unit specific, but keep them OTC. There needs to be an added emphasis on population tracking and accuracy. In units that are below 20% management objectives the tag allocations need cut significantly until the herd can rebound.

Spring bear season needs more tags allocated, and to be lengthened to increase the number of hunters participating in helping keep our herds healthy.

Predator management needs to be incentivized, as well as celebrated. Across the state we manage all game species for healthy herd numbers and hunter opportunity. Why is it that we are not managing predators in the same manner? ODFW has documented multiple times throughout the last 20 years that predator populations are far above management objectives, but we as hunters are not allowed to effectively help with the management. ODFW since measure 18 passed in 1994 has managed all units across the state for predators instead of for game conservation as the hunters have wanted.

In conclusion, as hunters we want to take an active role in the management of the game we treasure and chase. We feel we have been limited in the management role we are allowed to take when it comes to predator management. There is no reason we can't have healthy predator populations, as well as game populations. As with every game animal, the populations can and need to be controlled, and with the added help of hunters I believe we can begin to manage predators and game animals together to achieve the management objectives that will benefit hunters and herd populations in a positive way without taking away hunter opportunity. ODFW has an accumulative 234,341 (2019 hunt data) hunters between rifle elk, deer, and archery elk, deer that if given the opportunity, freedom and incentive can become the greatest data set to aid in mule deer population resurgence as well as predator population control. Please utilize the hunting community and let us help manage Oregon's wildlife in a manner that will be mutually beneficial to the environment and the hunting community.

Thank you very much for your time and considerations,

Jeremy Parker

541-215-2954

80505 Medelez St.

Hermiston Or, 97838

Roxann B Borisch

From: Adam Bieghler <acbieghler@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 10:12 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon archery - draw proposal

Hello,

My name is Adam Bieghler and I am an Oregon native resident. I thoroughly enjoy the outdoors in many forms. From my own personal desires of being outdoors to teaching youth skills regarding the outdoors is very important to me. However, I feel we have come to a crossroad in which yet another avenue to get outdoors is being taken away. We have been hearing about limiting our opportunity to have a general season archery. This is very troubling for me as this would not only take away an opportunity for many people young and old to harvest an animal but this would take the very opportunity to create memories and skills learned for many families across the state.

I suspect this proposal is riding on the coat tails of low animal counts and potential revenue loss to ODFW. I truly feel the real issue is mis-management on so many levels. With all due respect, I see so many political driven choices made rather than using sound science to identify and confirm what remedy is needed. I believe we are feeling the affect of a deep predator issue created from a vote given to the un-educated public many years ago. From cougar, bear, coyote and others not being managed in an effective way we are losing our herd animals at a more alarming rate.

I know we surely far from perfect on so many levels however if I can only get one point across. ***Please use sound science when making this types of decisions.*** If we don't, we stand to lose more than gain. We NEED you as appointed commissioners to stand for making the right educated decisions. The state of Oregon is a great place, I am proud to call it home but we truly need to manage with the best sound science we can get to ensure we have these animals and opportunities to enjoy for now and future generations.

Thank you for your time.

Adam Bieghler
(541) 915-4180

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Donne <donne4@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 3:44 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed changes to 2021 archery elk season

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Brian Donne, I live in Corvallis OR. I've been a bowhunter for over 20 years. Over the last couple of days I've heard of some tentative changes that are being discussed. I'd like to share my opinion with your commission.

1. Hunting units Starkey, Desolation and Murders creek are being considered as draw units.
2. Splitting the general archery elk tag into two hunts western OR and eastern OR.

I regularly hunt the Starkey unit for Elk along with the Alsea and Saddle mountain units. If the catalyst to create Starkey, Desolation and Murders creek units to a draw is hunting pressure. Please consider that the displacement of hunters now unable to draw those units, who used to hunt there on a general tag, would be pushed to other units. Thus creating greater hunting pressure in those other units they now pick to hunt. This would be a domino effect maybe solving the perceived problem but creating others. Keeping most of the state a general tag allows for the better dispersion of hunters.

Being a hunter in higher pressure units like Saddle Mountain and Starkey I can acknowledge that yes some times its frustrating to bump into other hunters or have multiple trucks at a gate you want to hunt at. However I'd much prefer the freedom to pick my unit and go farther to get away from heavily hunted areas than loose my ability to hunt the units I know.

Making this draw unit change will also create this several other problems. You've have hunters banking points for one of our top three units, who regularly hunt Starkey, Desolation and Murders creek. They are now going to be in a position to either choose to give up their 7,8,9, 10-15 etc.. years of points to hunt the unit they've been hunting regularly for years or stop hunting that unit and move to a new unit to preserve their points. This may seem like an "oh well that's bad but they'll get over it." Consider a lot of the hunting parties are generational. You've got family's that have been hunting here for 10,20,30 years. In fact that's our case. Our eldest hunter has been hunting this area of Starkey for over 35 years. He's got 17 elk pref pts and now will be in a position where he has to choose between drawing Starkey and loosing all of those points or moving to a new unit. The ramifications of that choice don't just effect him. We've got 7 other hunters that would be effected by this change and our children as well. I've got an 11 yr old son and 13 year old daughter that are about ready to start elk hunting with me. If these draw unit changes are enacted we won't be able to have the hunting camp we've grown up with or be able to pass down to our kids. -If we are concerned about loosing our next generation please consider the weight of this over the perceived complaint of hunting pressure. Again I'd much prefer the flexibility to choose which units I'd like to hunt with my family that less hunting pressure.

Last part on this choice of units is to understand how long it can take and hard it is to find a good spot to hunt and then learn it well. The thought of giving up all of our knowledge in this area and having to find a new one is just heartbreaking to think of...

Regarding splitting the West side from the East I also see as a big negative. By doing this ODFW would be creating more hunting pressure. Forcing people to choose which side of the state they want to hunt for the entire season will increase hunting pressure in those areas. Allowing hunters to move more freely within the state creates less hunting pressure. For example I hunt Saddle mountain the first week of the season and then hunt Starkey the 3rd or 4th week of

the season. This allows others to hunt the same areas at different times when I am not there. If you confine me to western Oregon I'd be hunting Saddle mountain all month long. When normally I'd be in a different part of the state.

I am sure these proposed changes are coming from folks who are complaining about hunting pressure. I'd just like to say there will always be those that complain (I am sure you understand this sentiment form being on a commission) and just because someone's more vocal or persistent doesn't mean they're right or that they are the majority. People will say hunting's not what it used to be. That may be true there may be some nostalgia there. But nothing is what it used to be. I'd ask that you take those complains of over crowding with a grain of salt.

Oregon is a wonderfully unique state to hunt. Every bowhunter I know enjoys the freedom and ability to explore both east and west sides of the state. However making a bowhunter in Oregon choose between hunting Roosevelt Elk or Rocky Mountain Elk in my eyes would be a shame.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please know I would be happy to speak with any of you on this matter or any other you might have questions on.

Best Regards,

Brian Donne,
6079 NW Mountain View Drive
Corvallis OR 97330
541-207-5993

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Daniel Klobes <danielklobes@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 1:31 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: MK Gmail; Jeff Klobes
Subject: Change in regards to easter Oregon general archery elk

To, whom it may concern,

I was reading Oregon Hunter and the article was discussing possible changes to up and coming seasons in regards to archery. While I do not know the science behind mule and elk deer, I have spoken to a few biologists over the past few years and information they have provided would suggest that elk populations are increasing while mule deer populations are decreasing. If this is the case, I completely understand limited tags on the east side for mule deer. Yes, it would be a bummer, but being a west side guy, I have the opportunity to hunt late season archery for blacktail. Conserving future opportunity for mule deer would turn to be my primary concern.

My biggest complaint would be to remove general archery for elk on the east. This, from my viewpoint and experiences does not make sense and could have drastic consequences. The article in Oregon Hunter claimed it was due to the popularity of the weapon choice, then made claim that the majority would prefer to hunt with a rifle. They also stated that herds are being pushed to private lands, which has increased damage and other issues. So, from this article, my assumption is that the commission would like to eliminate pressure, but still be able to find success with numbers and conservation. I don't see how removing a general tag does this. I believe this would drastically do what you would like for the short term, but also lower hunter numbers and future hunters. I am an archery hunter, I do not rifle hunt. I do not hunt on the west side for elk, unless I have to for certain reasons(work), but my choice is east side. I have not been a successful hunter over the years, but that is not why I hunt. Making this a general season would limit my chances to hunt and I believe it would also deter other hunter and future hunters to carry on the tradition of conservation through hunting.

With saying that, I do not believe in complaining without providing a solution, even if it isn't the best one. I would propose if you believe that limiting the number of archery hunters would improve the hunting experience and the animals, I would suggest that you require people to choose for east side opportunity, prior to or by putting in for draws. What I mean by this is if someone puts in for a rifle draw and does not get it, they cannot hunt general on the east side, they could only hunt general archery on the west side. Currently, from my experience, people put in for rifle hunts on the east side and when they do not receive those draws, they then archery general. This is what causes the over populations of hunters during

archery. I believe if you made people choose, they would choose their hunting preference based on the chances and odds of keeping what they prefer to do. This would drastically help draw populations and limit archery hunters from taking opportunity away from rifle hunters and vise versa. It may turn out different and ODFW might get more archery hunters for future seasons, but at that time, changes can be made.

I am an archery hunter, I hunt every year in the Hepner unit, we hunt the same location. Our honey hole has already been cut due to change in public land access to hunting. This would be another knock in the opportunity we have had as a group. We urge you to think about rifle hunters and archery hunters a like, but please make your decision thinking of all populations of hunter, present and future.

Sincerely,
Daniel Klobes
2335 Heath St S
Salem, OR 97302

Roxann B Borisch

From: bness@frontiernet.net
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 10:54 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Bow draw

I bow hunted for 40 years until my shoulders went out now I'm a rifle hunter! This idea you have about a draw for bow because of the decline in deer and elk is just not right as you said because of the vegetation? What I see when hunting is cougar and bear as you over twenty years ago took away dogs to hunt them, it's not the vegetation and there's another way to save vegetation is to not let the cattle into our lands!! I live in cave junction Oregon and I have had cougar and bear in my yard so that's just ridiculous to think vegetation has anything to do with the lack of deer and elk! Oregon is the only state that I know of that has the toughest regulations in the United States! If you can prove me wrong send it! I am against this idea of a draw for bow as your ideas make no sense at all! How bout you bring back the dogs for hunting bear and cougar and leave the bow hunting alone and then give it at least five years then see where your at on blaming vegetation? I will go to any meetings that have anything to do with your idea of a bow hunting draw to voice my opinion on the ridiculous idea!!! Thank you for feeding this, if you do? Please reply after you read this!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Will Hook <wblhook@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:53 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Archery proposals

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take a moment to openly express my sincere disapproval for the proposed changes to the general archery season; specifically making the entire east side of the state only available through the application process we currently have.

I have hunted deer and elk on the east and west sides both with a rifle and archery tackle with general tags and after choosing to “cash in” my preference points. I do not look down my nose on those who also choose to do so but I whole heartily disagree with lumping ALL units into the draw.

I am concerned that doing this would cause one of multiple issues, or any combination therein.

A) People who have been hunting general archery seasons while building points for their “hunt of a lifetime” will be at risk of being forced to apply (and spend preference points) to hunt a unit of lower quality than their desired unit to be able to hunt on a regular basis (and as a result will have essentially wasted the time and money on applications for previous years).

B) People will have to sit aside while continuing to build points for years on end and miss out on the opportunity to hunt in the meantime.

-To this you may say, “Well, they can put in for a different hunt as a 2nd choice.” Of which my response would be: This is not practical. First, because the 2nd choice draw is still not something that can be counted on, second, look at the hunts in this state we do have that can be drawn as a “second choice.” Most already have lower than MO animal populations, lower success rate, less accessible land and/or high hunter pressure.

Assuming someone would be able to hunt on a 2nd choice tag is not a reasonable means to assure our citizens the opportunity to participate in hunting seasons.

C) Making all of the east side a draw will undoubtedly put an additional strain on deer and elk populations on the west side. I can personally attest to the increase in archery hunters who are in the woods on the west side over the last decade. This I believe is reflective of many peoples’ approach to the draw that, “If I don’t draw my rifle tag, I’ll just bow hunt...” I cannot begin to tell you the number of times I’ve heard that response from folks who choose to apply in the draw system.

-I, for one, actually prefer to archery hunt the coast for many reasons. I also appreciate the opportunity to hunt every year while still building points for a desirable unit on the east side. I am concerned that the majority of archery hunters (specifically ones that live in the valley or on the west side at least), when faced with the option of having to apply for all archery tags and potentially being restricted to one unit or hunt "General Season," will greatly increase the number of hunters in units that remain available under general season guidelines.

Bumping into other hunters in the woods is a common occurrence we all must contend with as it is, but under this scenario the situation will be compounded, leading to higher pressure and more stress on all wildlife populations simply by the additional presence of humans, it will force animals, that are already responsible for landowner/crop damage, to further concentrate on private land, hunter success rates on the west side will fall and make them more vulnerable to predators.

Additionally, should the entire state go to a draw system, I, personally, would be deeply disappointed when presented with the same conundrum: to spend my points to hunt every year or sit on the sidelines while continuing to build points.

D) Archery hunts already have a historically and significantly lower success rate across the board. If reducing the overall harvest is the intent behind this change, why are archery hunts being restricted as opposed to rifle hunts?

I would like to make it clear that I do not support any of the current proposed changes as I understand them. If changes are inevitable, I have other suggestions i would like to submit for consideration that I feel would take less opportunity from hunters while achieving ODFW's objectives.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Will Hook
ODFW ID 964787

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeff Winter <jeff.winter@swansongroup.biz>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 5:46 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: Dan Foster; Toby Mills; 'kevindaugherty5@gmail.com'; Joel Freeman (joel@gbcconstruct.com)
Subject: Proposed Archery Season Reductions

To the ODFW Commission:

I am writing you to follow up on other emails that have been sent expressing the illogic of reducing archery hunting access. Here are the reasons why this is illogical:

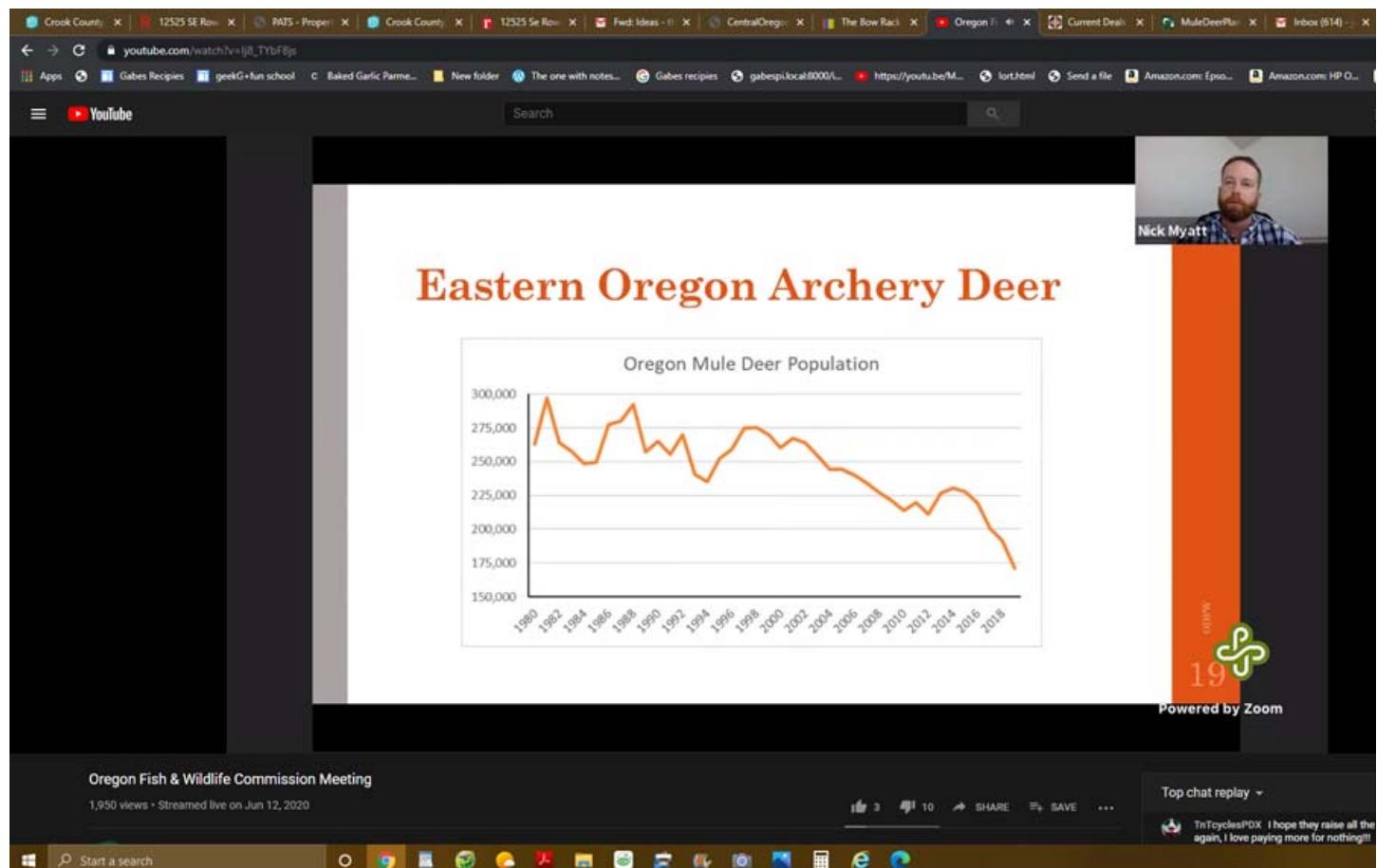
- It's clear that mule deer populations in Oregon have precipitously declined. However, data from the Mule Deer Group, that ODFW is part of shows that other states are not having the same declines like Oregon is experiencing. See below
- Archery Deer tag harvests are so insignificant to the populations of deer that its akin to restricting leprechaun drinking problems on St. Patrick's day. Yes I imagine it would be a day they would likely drink too much but if you are concerned about it you are missing the point.
- Also, Mule Deer breed from the middle of October to late December. Archery hunters, unless they have one of the two dozen special draw tags, do not hunt during this time. Archery is late August and September. Archers are not disturbing breeding Mule Deer.
- You are not addressing, from a Pareto analysis, what the root causes are to the rapid population drops:
 - Insufficient winter range. All of the states that have level mule deer populations have much more winter range. Mule Deer does that do not have sufficient winter forage also do not have high fawn survival rates.
 - Highway deaths along several, not every highway, is killing many more deer in multiples each year than archery hunters do in many consecutive years. And because of ancient travel paths, these sections of roads can be fenced and passages created under the highways.
 - Land owner preference tags and damage tag changes have taken place in other regions to address management. But in Oregon, the status quo is not questioned because the legislature acquiesces to their demands.
- So the minority of hunters, the minority is the archery community, access is proposed to be reduced. Again:
 - We take a small percentage of animals
 - We are a small percentage of hunters
 - We are not the root cause of the deer reductions
 - But we are going to have our access significantly reduced
 - That is not logical, fair, and will not contribute to an increase in mule deer population numbers in Oregon
- The following graphs are from the ODFW and the Western Association Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Mule Deer Working Group Study.
 - None of the recommendations in this study suggest this proposal as a solution
 - https://www.wafwa.org/committees/groups/mule_deer_working_group/
- Lastly, it's interesting to note that the final recommendations will be voted on in the first to second week of September. It is interesting timing given that most archery hunters will be hunting at that time and taking vacation at that time to do this. That is not exactly a just process but it is certainly convenient process particularly in this year that no one will be able to come to a public meeting. So to restate:
 - You will hold a meeting when none of the stakeholders will likely be there
 - You will hold it during a time when none of the stakeholders can be legally or physically present due to the pandemic and the governors orders

- o I would suggest the attorneys that are present at your meetings might point out that is not a particularly intelligent thing to do

Please do not vote to approve these recommendations. Rather you should help facilitate meaningful changes to improve deer populations.

Sincerely,

Jkw

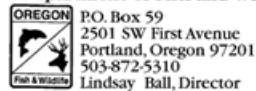


OREGON'S MULE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

February 2003



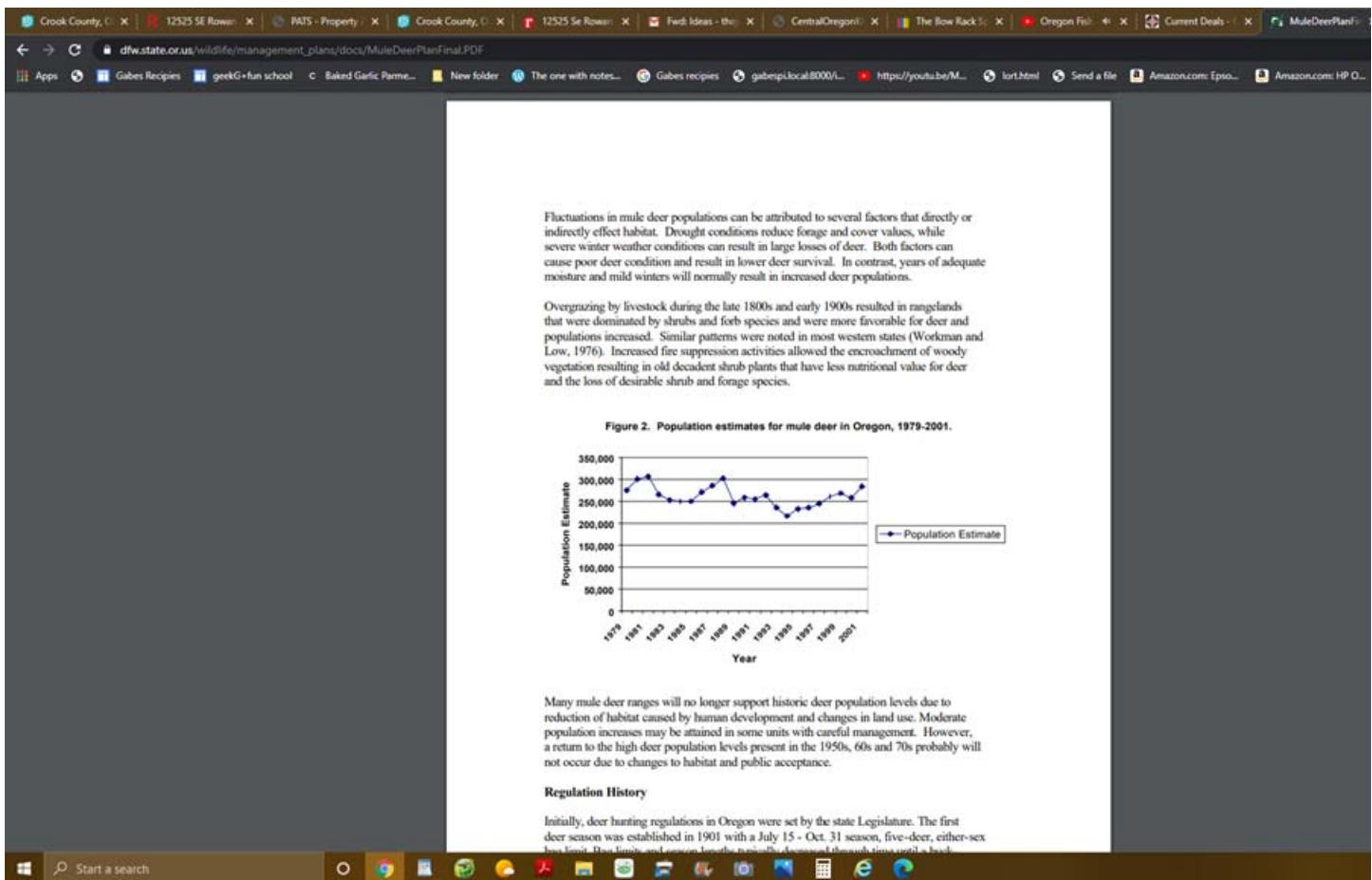
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



P.O. Box 59
2501 SW First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201
503-872-5310
Lindsay Ball, Director

OREGON'S
MULE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN
February 2003

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 59
2501 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97201



So its unclear to me about the data sources, but if its accurate then the inconsistencies in ODFW's own data should be explained. However, from another working Mule Deer Group, that ODFW is part of shows that other states are not having precipitous declines like Oregon is.

See below:

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RANGE-WIDE STATUS OF BLACK-TAILED DEER AND MULE DEER - 2018

Alberta Mule Deer 2000-2017

Year	Population Estimate (approx.)	Harvest Estimate (approx.)
2000	140,000	20,000
2001	150,000	20,000
2002	160,000	20,000
2003	170,000	20,000
2004	180,000	20,000
2005	170,000	20,000
2006	160,000	20,000
2007	150,000	20,000
2008	140,000	20,000
2009	150,000	20,000
2010	160,000	20,000
2011	170,000	20,000
2012	160,000	20,000
2013	150,000	20,000
2014	140,000	20,000
2015	150,000	20,000
2016	160,000	20,000
2017	170,000	20,000

-Justin Gilligan, Alberta Environment and Parks

Arizona

Mule deer populations reached the most recent peak in the mid-1980s. Mule deer declined through 2000 and since then have increased gradually. Total mule deer harvest reached the most recent low in 2003, with a harvest of only 4,638 (all weapon types). In 2017, 10,964 mule deer were harvested, representing a 10% increase in harvest from 2016, a 136% increase from the historic low point in 2003, but still only 63% of the 1986 peak harvest of 17,413. Population estimates indicate the statewide population continues to gradually increase. Most deer populations within the state were surveyed annually using fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter with supplemental ground surveys used as well. Mule deer were surveyed during the breeding season to estimate buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios.

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RANGE-WIDE STATUS OF BLACK-TAILED DEER AND MULE DEER - 2018

TRENDS IN PROVINCIAL ABUNDANCE OF BLACK-TAILED DEER AND MULE DEER

winter ranges. Some parts of the province experienced higher than normal snowfall and prolonged snow cover which may have influenced mule deer fawn survival in some areas but recent spring fawn carryover surveys in other areas of the province have found fawn:doe ratios of 65-75 fawns per 100 does. In addition, recent surveys have found buck:doe ratios generally above the provincial objective of 20 bucks per 100 does. Harvest of mule deer bucks is managed through general open seasons using a combination of antler point restrictions (i.e., 4-point only) and any-buck seasons in most areas, while some areas only have an antler restriction season. There are some opportunities for antlerless harvest through limited entry hunts. Increased hunter access, combined with reduced habitat quantity and quality could challenge future management objectives. A new research project has been initiated in the south-central part of the province to examine mule deer population response to landscape change.

TRENDS IN PROVINCIAL ABUNDANCE OF BLACK-TAILED DEER AND MULE DEER

Trends in provincial abundance of black-tailed deer were similar to mule deer; black-tailed deer numbers also appear to have stabilized from 2014 to 2017. Predation from wolves and cougars on black-tailed deer continues to be a concern in most areas as well as the need for effective measures to conserve high quality habitat. Black-tailed deer buck harvest has dropped by approximately half since the early 1990s. There is some opportunity for antlerless harvest which is mostly limited to agricultural areas. In general, black-tailed deer numbers are thought to be most impacted by increased predation and reduced habitat quality. Overall, in most areas of intensive forestry activity, increased road density and is assumed to result in increased predation rates on deer. Maintaining or increasing the present hunter harvest will remain challenging given the current predator densities and lack of measures available to mitigate disturbance and enhance critical seasonal ranges.

Mule deer population trends in British Columbia

Year	Population (approx.)
1994	170,000
1997	160,000
2000	140,000
2003	140,000
2008	150,000
2011	160,000
2014	140,000
2012	140,000

Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer - 2018.

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Colorado

The statewide post-hunt 2017 deer population estimate is 419,000, which is the same as post-hunt 2016 (Figure 1). Population estimates are still far below the sum of statewide population objective ranges of 493,000 - 551,000 for all 54 deer herds combined. Many western slope herds have not recovered yet from the severe winter of 2007-2008. Higher population objectives reflect Colorado Parks and Wildlife's (CPW) desire to stabilize, sustain, and increase deer herds that have experienced declines and are below population objective.

CPW uses spreadsheet models to estimate population size. These models rely on data from age and sex classification, harvest surveys, and survival monitoring. Annual population and sex ratio estimates are compared to long-term Herd Management Plan population and sex ratio objectives for each herd to establish harvest quota recommendations for the next hunting season.

Diverse habitat types and environmental conditions around the state create considerable geographic variability in population performance. Many deer herds are performing well, and population sizes and license numbers are increasing. Despite these increases, there's still reason for concern because of declines in many of the large westernmost herds in Colorado.

Year	Population Estimate
2001	~600,000
2002	~580,000
2003	~620,000
2004	~600,000
2005	~600,000
2006	~580,000
2007	~550,000
2008	~520,000
2009	~500,000
2010	~480,000
2011	~460,000
2012	~440,000
2013	~420,000
2014	~440,000
2015	~450,000
2016	~460,000
2017	419,000

Figure 1. Colorado post-hunt deer population estimates from 2001-2017.

CPW intensively monitors annual adult doe survival and winter fawn survival in five mule deer herds. We also monitor buck survival in two of these herds. These herds were selected to ecologically and geographically represent mule deer west of Interstate I-25. CPW annually monitors over 1000 radio-collared mule deer in the five intensive monitoring areas and other areas. Survival rates from these herds are used in deer population models for the rest of the herds west of Interstate I-25. Since 1997, annual adult doe survival has averaged 82.5% and over-winter fawn survival has averaged 68.1%. Since 2008, annual buck survival in two of the five monitoring areas has averaged 81.4%. Survival rates for this past winter of 2017-2018 are currently at or above average because of a very mild winter.

Start a search

wafwa.org/Documents%20and%20Settings/37/Site%20Documents/Working%20Groups/Mule%20Deer/Range-Wide%20status/2018%20black-tailed%20and%20Mule%20Deer%20status%20Update.pdf

Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer - 2018.

levels have likely decreased slightly to 280,000 mule deer. Short- and long-term objectives are to increase mule deer numbers. Post-season buck ratios exceed the statewide minimum objective of 15:100 does. Over the last several years December fawn:doe ratios have generally shown increases over the typical (mid-50s to mid-60s), and winter fawn survival have generally been high from 70% to 78%.

Mule deer harvest in Idaho has been stable to increasing since the mid-1990s following a steep decline in harvest in the early 1990s. Recent years' license and tag sales data indicate an increase in nonresident hunters in Idaho. Percent bucks with 4-point or better antlers harvested in the rifle controlled hunts have remained at or above 40% since 2010.

The next step of implementing our 2008 mule deer plan is to set population objectives by population management unit statewide. A statewide mule deer hunter attitude and opinion survey was completed in 2017. Results were similar to the 2007 survey.

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Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer - 2018.

Idaho Mule Deer Model Estimated Population, 2005-2018 (January 1st)

Year	Population Estimate
2005	~220,000
2006	~220,000
2007	~220,000
2008	~220,000
2009	~220,000
2010	~230,000
2011	~240,000
2012	~250,000
2013	~260,000
2014	~260,000
2015	~270,000
2016	~280,000
2017	~290,000
2018	~320,000

Mule deer population estimate from the Salmon River drainage south. Estimates are midpoint of Confidence Limits based on Integrated Population Model, from January 1, 2018.

-Daryl Meints, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Kansas

Mule deer populations have declined along the eastern tier of counties where mule deer occur in Kansas. A spotlight distance sampling survey was implemented to mule deer estimate density and population size. The mule deer population in the eastern part of Kansas in 2017 was

Crook X | 12525 X | PATS X | Crook X | 12525 X | Fwb Idi X | Central X | The Bo- X | Oregon X | Comm X | MuleD X | Inbox X | FOR R. X | oregon X | 2018 X | New Tab

← → C wafwa.org/Documents%20and%20Settings/37/Site%20Documents/Working%20Groups/Mule%20Deer/Range-Wide%20status/2018%20Black-tailed%20and%20Mule%20Deer%20status%20Update.pdf

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Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer - 2018.

species to be taken, the permit system generally takes hunters out of the field earlier in the season compared to a mule deer only permit system and takes pressure off mule deer while allowing approximately 17,000 people to have the potential to pursue mule deer. Hunters have taken an average of 2,569 mule deer/year during the last 10 years. In an effort to expand and increase the mule deer population, reductions in the permit quotas have been made in recent years. In 2017, no antlerless permits allowing the take of mule deer were issued. This coincided with the lowest estimated harvest of antlerless mule deer (139) since 1983 (84), and the lowest estimate of total harvest (1,917) of mule deer since 1985 (1,831).

Mule Deer Harvest and Population in Kansas 2006-2017

Year	Population (approx.)	Harvest (approx.)
2006	40,000	3,000
2007	45,000	2,800
2008	65,000	2,500
2009	45,000	2,200
2010	55,000	2,500
2011	60,000	2,800
2012	65,000	2,500
2013	55,000	2,200
2014	58,000	1,800
2015	58,000	1,500
2016	55,000	1,200
2017	55,000	1,000

Little information is available on survival or reproductive rates of mule deer in Kansas, and much has been inferred from studies conducted in other locales. In 2017, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks secured funding for a three-year study, which was initiated in February 2018, to investigate adult and fawn survival rates, reproductive rates, home range size, habitat use, harvest vulnerability, and inter-species interactions of mule deer and white-tailed deer in western Kansas. During February 15-18, 2018, 133 total deer were captured. GPS collars were attached to 120 deer total, 15 collars per each sex of each species at two study sites. Each marked doe also received a vaginal implant transmitter (VIT), was measured for body

buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios were 29: 100 and 65: 100, respectively.

Since 2001, mule deer harvest regulations across Montana have been determined by following guidelines outlined by the state's Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) plan. This plan provides harvest regulation guidelines for antlered and antlerless mule deer based on population survey, recruitment, and hunter harvest data for five population management units based on ecoregion. Working within these guidelines, biologists have reduced and more recently increased antlerless harvest opportunity as modern populations have trended down and back up, (Figure 2). Beginning with the 2016 hunting season, biologists in a portion of southwest Montana recommended a liberal antlerless harvest season outside of AHM plan guidelines, working with the hypothesis that declining populations are being influenced more by habitat limitations than hunter harvest. This effort is currently being implemented and monitored with an experimental approach that may or may not inform future AHM guidelines for southwest Montana.

Over the past year plus, an FWP mule deer working group has been reviewing the AHM plan and developing recommendations for updates. This review, along with recommended changes, is expected to be completed in 2018.

The graph shows the Montana Statewide Mule Deer Population Estimate from 2006 to 2017. The y-axis represents the population count, ranging from 0 to 450,000. The x-axis represents the years. The population starts at approximately 350,000 in 2006, remains relatively stable until 2008, then begins a downward trend, reaching a low of about 200,000 in 2012. From 2012 to 2017, the population shows a steady upward trend, ending at approximately 380,000 in 2017.

Figure 1. Montana statewide mule deer population estimate, 2006–2017.

Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer – 2018.

During winters of 2015–2018, a total of 888 GPS radio-collars have been deployed on 1,030 mule deer across their eastern Oregon distribution to refine herd range boundaries for data collection and monitoring. Survival continues to vary considerably across the landscape but has improved over the very low levels observed during winter 2016–2017.

The graph displays Oregon Mule Deer Population Statistics from 1979 to 2018. It includes three data series: Population (blue line), Buck Ratio (red line), and Fawn Ratio (green line). The left y-axis represents Population Size (0 to 350,000), and the right y-axis represents Population Ratios (0.00 to 1.00). The population shows significant fluctuations, starting around 300,000 in 1979, dropping to a low of about 200,000 in the early 1990s, and then generally increasing to nearly 350,000 by 2018. The Buck Ratio remains consistently low, between 0.05 and 0.15. The Fawn Ratio fluctuates between 0.40 and 0.60.

Trends in Oregon's mule deer population size and structure, 1979 – 2018.

-Don Whittaker, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Saskatchewan

In Saskatchewan, winter severity is a key driver of mule deer mortality, especially in prairie and farmland regions where winter forage can quickly be made unavailable by a major snow event. Generally speaking, Saskatchewan mule deer populations are currently considered stable or slightly increasing and to have recovered from a recent series of severe winters that occurred 2010–2014. Results of our long-standing, citizen-science based Co-operative Wildlife Management Survey for 2017 indicate a stable population structure (Figure 1) and improving fall recruitment (Figure 2), likely due to another mild winter in 2016–2017.

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Range-wide Status of Black-tailed Deer and Mule Deer - 2018.

Wyoming

Mule deer populations throughout Wyoming have declined since the early 1990s. It is apparent, given declining production of mule deer fawns starting in the late 1980s, populations were responding in a density-dependent fashion to decreasing habitat availability and/or quality. Over the past 30 years, fawn productivity, on average, has decreased statewide by about 11% and has been below the objective of 66 fawns:100 does 16 times. Buck:doe ratios have ranged from 27 to 39 and averaged 32:100 since 2000. Throughout Wyoming, mule deer populations have declined by an estimated 148,000 (27%) mule deer since 2000. After the 2016 hunting season, it was estimated there were 396,000 mule deer in the state. This is 28% below the statewide objective of 553,900 mule deer. Mule deer populations, while still below objective, have trended upward the past 4 years. Population estimates are derived using post-season fawn and buck classifications in concert with measured harvest and synthesized in a spreadsheet based population model. Harvest has been largely limited to bucks the past several years in response to declining deer numbers.

Year	Population
2000	550,000
2001	530,000
2002	510,000
2003	500,000
2004	490,000
2005	480,000
2006	470,000
2007	460,000
2008	450,000
2009	440,000
2010	430,000
2011	420,000
2012	410,000
2013	400,000
2014	410,000
2015	420,000
2016	363,755

-Daryl Lutz, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Yukon

There has been no formal inventory work on mule deer in Yukon and there is no inventory work scheduled for the 2018-19 fiscal period. Trends in abundance and distribution are monitored primarily through sightings and motor vehicle collision reports. Numbers and distribution have generally been on the upswing since first reports in the early 1920's. The current population estimate of 1,000 territory-wide is a guess based on observations in

Roxann B Borisch

From: Valeri Wainwright <jvriver04@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 5:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: posable change on making all Archery hunts to a draw

Hi this is John Wainwright President Of Oregon Bow Hunters.

I have been receiving lots of phone calls,E-Mails and Texts from Archers all around the state wanting to know what is going on with the Tag Draw proposal. 1- Why is ODFW wanting to take away our hunting Privilege's and Rights to Hunt with their Family's as they have done so for many years. 2- I will no longer have the opportunity to Hunt with new People in new area. I will be restricted to just one area. 3-What if there is a Fire in my area and I can not hunt there due to the Fire. 4- The one I have heard the most , I am a Tax paying Voter in the state of Oregon, why is ODFW Doing this to US. 5- ODFW is caving in to Politics. 6- ODFW decisions are being based on "I feel this is best" not Facts and Science. I have received lots of other comments that are not so nice .

Please consider that you are making Decision for 30 thousand Archers.

Thank you,

President of Oregon Bow Hunters. John Wainwright. Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Taylor <mataylor67@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 8:15 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hunter survey and the future of hunting in Oregon

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: printed, Forwarded to Wildlife

Dear Commissioners,

I recently participated in the hunting survey - hoping my voice would be heard. After listening to the report out by Nick Myatt - i am not confident the commissioners are truly representing the hunters in the best way possible.

One of the big deals from the survey was to investigate if I was willing to embrace a transition of archery hunting to a draw tag. I am extremely disappointed to the commissioners are considering this.

Nick made the comment that hunting is not leading to decline of the big game animals. He then made a few remarks about what he thought was driving the decline. While I am not a scientist or a game biologist - I found fault with his remarks. He indicated mule deer across the western states are declining and then remarked it was due to quality of nutrition - But he failed to note the impact of predation. Specifically the fawn and calf rates have fallen precipitously ever since 1994 when measure 18 was enacted. The number of cougars, bears and coyotes are significantly higher than in 1994. I want to see ODFW take a stronger role in managing the big game numbers for hunters and lower the number of predators to the levels of 1994 and give that ~5 -10 yrs and see where our Mule Deer and Elk numbers are. Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and MT are boasting strong elk and mule deer populations.

it becomes a choice for ODFW - are you in it for the hunting public or for something else? You've lost over 16K hunters - you've got to ask yourselves why? I have taken my money looked to other western states - because the herd populations are stronger, the seasons more generous.

thank you

Mike

Roxann B Borisch

From: Angel Trujillo <a.t.zero1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:39 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery tags

Hi, I'm am writing in to have my voice heard about the proposition of changing archery hunting in eastern Oregon from, over the counter to a draw tag. I am a new hunter but have associated myself with seasoned, generation informed friends as much as possible. I ask a million questions and am lucky to have people to turn to, to give me answers and information on how our eco system works. It seems to me with the new and old predators such as introduction of non native wolves and the regulated tagging of cougars that it should be considered hunters are not the problem and shouldn't be focused on to increase the deer and elk population in eastern Oregon. Hunters who pay for and enjoy hunting in Oregon shouldn't be punished for something they put a small dent in. Reducing the predator population, Which do not pay for tags or abide to hunting seasons, seems like a place to start.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. I believe most you guys are in your position to help our local game and hope you consider all aspects of what's going on.

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Bartlett <davidbartlethunterangler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:06 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't ruin General Archery for Oregon bow hunters

Don't turn the eastern units in Oregon into draw hunts I can think of 50 plus reasons to not turn it in to draw hunts. But I'll name 3 to 4 reasons. 1) is you will drive every eastern bow hunter west where there will be more pressure put on the animals in the western units and bit more hunter crowding in the units. 2) some of the eastern units are easier for beining bow hunters where the unit they are in the bag limit would one deer to one buck for deer hunting and one elk to one bull for elk hunting, so some of those beining bow hunters can work up to bit tougher areas in other units. 3) is more like an opinion there's already a few units that already have draw hunts for bow hunters for an example unit 37 (Ochoco) is a draw hunt for bow hunters already along with other units such as units 36 74 54 56 and 55 and some parts of units of 52 68 70 and 71 are portion unit draw hunts. In my opinion there's already enough draw hunt in eastern Oregon units it will be unfair if you drive more hunters west when the bag limits are already a bit harder and put more pressure on the animals in the western units. In conclusion just leave the general archery season the it has been for years don't change anything the thing that could be changed is the season opener/closers other then that again leave the general archery season the way it has been for years. Thanks for hearing out a Oregon bow hunter and his family hope you have a great day

David Bartlett

Roxann B Borisch

From: Anthony Tyree <rimrunneroutfitters@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New proposals

All parties involved,

I have been hunting in Oregon my whole life 35 Years . The outdoors keep me and my family and friends close and allow us to carry on traditions like no other activity can. This tradition will be lost if all hunting opportunities got to a draw. I was wondering if it was ever considered to make archery hunting for deer and elk similar to rifle deer and elk where you select to hunt either the east or west side along the same lines as general rifle deer and follow the particular dates and regulations for that area. This would allow people to choose an area close to home for example if they lived near Portland where they could still hunt but lower some of the pressure on the east side hunts that get swamped on the long weekends etc. I understand something needs to be done with the current state of the wildlife and hunter numbers. I just think you can still offer the opportunity that many people want while cutting back some of the pressure and helping both deer and elk numbers.

V/R

Anthony Tyree
541-324-1981

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeffery Winter on behalf of Jeffery Winter <jefferykeithwinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:47 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Fwd:

To ODFW Commission Members:

This is my second email regarding the proposed changes to archery calendar season of 2021. I have attached a number of graphs from the ODFW and from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. These graphs come from the 2016 Mule Deer Working Group Study. Here is the link.

https://www.wafwa.org/Documents%20and%20Settings/37/Site%20Documents/Working%20Groups/Mule%20Deer/Publications2/2016_Mule_Deer_and_BTD_Status_Update_Final.pdf

Nick Myatt must be working with them. Oregon's data is in the study. Couple of thoughts about the data:

- Not all of the agencies in the study are experiencing the same precipitous declines in mule deer that Oregon has been experiencing. Look at the graphs.
- The logical question is, why not? I would suggest they have addressed the following:
 - Better winter range with approved winter range habitat or feeding since low elevation winter range is often privately owned (I am not speculating, they have done this)
 - Addressing travel corridors and reducing vehicle collisions
 - Land owner preference tag reductions...look into it, many of these agencies have addressed this. Nick's proposal does not
- Nick's data presentation is suspect and cherry picked. Why do I say this:
 - Mule Deer populations, if you go back into the data were much higher in the 1950s and 1960s but those steep declines are not included. His data begins in 1979
 - Archery hunting began conveniently in 1979
 - So the precipitous decline conveniently and not linearly begins in 1979. It began much before that
 - Also not addressed was the significant increase in bear and cougar populations in the late 1990s (we can talk about the rationale for that but leaving it out makes it appear that the growth of archery hunting has led to this decline irrespective of stating that it was not a significant impact)
 - In 2019, archery hunting had an overall deer success rate of 15.5% according to the ODFW data
 - In 2019, archery hunting accounted for the death of 1,500 mule deer, roughly. Nick has the exact data
- So in light of all these facts, the one solution is to reduce archery elk and deer hunting opportunities, state wide, on a significantly immaterial section of hunters. This proposal is meant to address declining deer populations and improve hunting and increase hunting recruitment.

I have spoken to Nick before on the phone. He was very helpful and knowledgeable. None of this is meant to be derisive and disparaging. However:

- I suspect Nick believes he has no tools in his tool belt to actually address the root causes. Your job as commissioners is to provide tools for him to address the root cause of issues. Archery hunting is not the root cause of the issues. Look at the data.

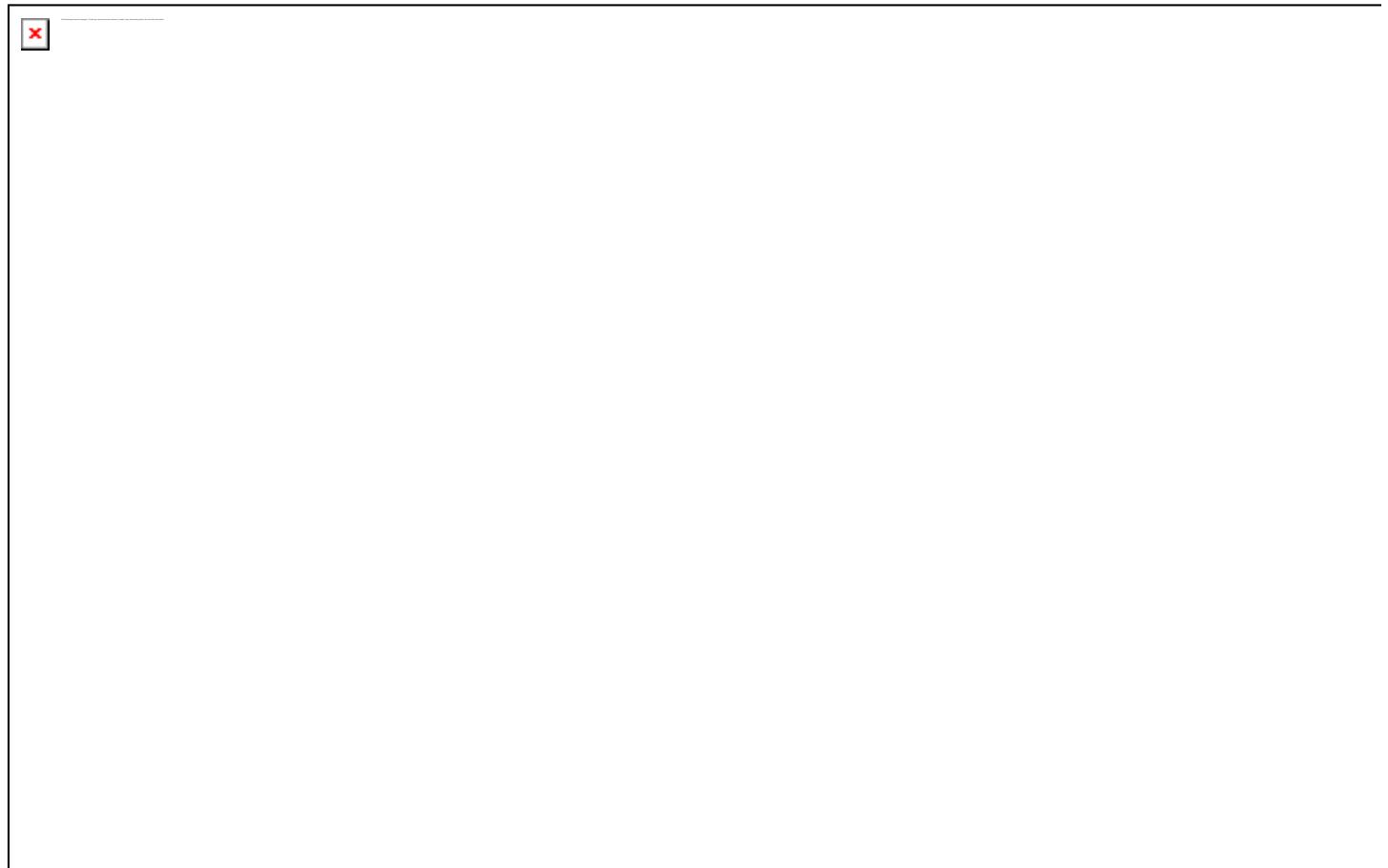
- I suspect Nick would like to recommend:
 - Improved winter habitat
 - A decrease in the giveaways of public land animals to ranchers who shoot animals that are hungry and shoot pregnant female animals that are hungry. Having fixed a lot of fence on lands owned by my uncles in Central Oregon, they would never shoot pregnant female animals. They thought it was beneath them.
 - Fencing along high traffic areas and the provision of travel corridors
- Its your job to find the financing to do the above and actually lead
- You are going to make a lot of people upset if you adopt this proposal that has no logic and rationale and science behind it

Personally, I take my two sons with me, and my daughters in the past, into the backcountry hunting, every year. They are south asians (adopted from India). We travel all over Oregon doing this. Spending money as we go. If you decide to do this, the vast majority of small communities that rely on tourism dollars will get even fewer tourism dollars. I have attached photos of us in various communities doing this. One of our favorite places to go is Paisley Oregon and eat at the restaurant (see below). Without the rationale for having a tag in your pocket, for many, going to Sisters or Paisley and other locales will become much less frequent and without rationale to justify it.

Sincerely,

Jeff Winter
541 654 2277

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/management_plans/docs/MuleDeerPlanFinal.PDF



Roxann B Borisch

From: Donovan Bresko <donovan.bresko@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us; ODFW.commission@state.or.us;
Thomas.I.Thorton@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

All,

Your new proposal will limit hunting opportunities and drive more people away from hunting in the state of Oregon. I am a lifelong resident of Oregon and have supported you for over 40 years. I purchase the sports pack every year to try to support your cause. 25 years ago I switched from rifle hunting to Archery hunting because of the lack of opportunity not being able to hunt the unit that we wanted every year. If you move forward with this proposal we will take our dollars for license and tags out of state for better opportunities.

Your phone survey is flawed. I don't know anyone who received a call. So you obviously did not reach out to the people that you are going to affect the most, the archery hunting community.

There is an old saying the "figures lie and liars figure". You can spin the numbers to say what your objective is. The truth is we have a predator problem not a nutrition problem. If you really wanted to help with wildlife you should effectively manage the predator's in the state. Just look at the results when you managed the mountain lions in the Hepner unit.

The proposal is similar to the state of Washington. just look at how there number of hunters has dropped since the implemented this program.

I don't want to just complain without coming to the table with a solution.

I would be in favor of declaring your weapon by species, when you put in for the controlled hunt draw. Then you would spread the hunters out and not have rifle hunters crossing over when they did not draw their tags. this would effectively even out the hunter numbers.

Sincerely,
Donovan Bresko
503-7937861

Roxann B Borisch

From: Justine Jones <jone1685@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:46 AM
To: ODFW.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

To whom it may concern,

I'm sending you this email as an avid hunter who has been archery hunting in Oregon for over 15 years. I have a strong passion for wildlife and preserving the population. I hope you will find this email as my way of expressing frustration in hopes that something can and will be done.

I find it weird that every other state in the west that's mule deer numbers are meeting objectives number 1 cause of deprivation is predation. Oregon claims that nutrition and habitat loss are our biggest problems and neglects the fact that predation is even a factor.

You guys need to take responsibility for the fact that our mule deer numbers are the worst we've ever seen and start managing predators so the state can have an ungulate population. If we continue to neglect this problem, we will no longer have mule deer on the landscape. Take responsibility and make changes to manage predator populations.

I do not support making general over the counter archery seasons a draw for elk. Our elk numbers are doing great. Why would we limit opportunities for elk when we are above population objectives for elk, this makes no sense to me. You can't limit opportunity for hunters and expect to keep the same traditions that Oregonians are used to. I would not be against our over the counter mule deer seasons to become a draw, which would only need to stay that way until our numbers come back. I believe once our numbers have rebounded we could then go back to draws for archery mule deer.

Thank you,

Randy Larson

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brandon Payer <payer_b@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:38 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed Elk Season Changes

ODFW Commission,

I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to limit archery hunting opportunities in Eastern Oregon. I have been archery hunting in Oregon for 10 years and have experienced the increased pressure from hunters that you discussed, however I do not believe this is a reason to limit opportunity. The harvest success rate for archery hunting is usually around 10% historically and that has not really changed.

The real change that I have noticed is the increased numbers of predators. I believe that if the state of Oregon really wants a thriving wildlife population, predator management and control need to be a priority. It sounds like the proposed changes are based on a random survey. I would prefer that these decisions are based on biology.

Sincerely,

Brandon Payer

Roxann B Borisch

From: 5412749442@mms.uscc.net
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

In regards to the proposed changes to over the counter sales of general archery tags I feel that making it a draw tag will adversely limit opportunity to a large number of hunters, including many youth hunters.

[CB]5412749442

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Neault <bneault89@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:15 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Upcoming proposed changes

Hello commissioners I would like to give a statement and hope you listen to the hunters. I've recently heard about proposed changes to eastern Oregon bow hunts becoming draw units. ODFW has said elk and deer numbers are down and this needs to be done. Yet we do not control our predators, which have a huge impact. I own a piece of property that has a ODFW contract on it and I can watch the coyotes devestate the fawns. Now we have an abundance of cougars and wolfs and no one maintains them. Most importantly is the opportunity your taking away if you make it all draw units. Opportunity for Oregonians and more importantly future Oregonians.

Here is what I support. Choose your weapon when you apply. If you do not draw you gain a preference point for that weapon. No longer a generic preference point. This lets the bow hunters be bow hunters and the rifle hunters be rifle hunters. It increases opportunity for all hunters. Less people will put in for rifle because they enjoy bow hunting and vice versa. This will also prevent people from bow hunting for 20 years then jumping into the top elk unit for a rifle tag and bumping that rifle hunter out of the way that's patiently waited for 19 years.

If we decrease our tag numbers this will decrease hunters. Out of state hunters will not purchase a hunting license in hopes to draw a tag. I might not even purchase a license in hopes to draw a tag. I'll take my money and go hunt another state. If we lose hunters in Oregon we will increase tag costs for everyone which then decreases hunters again. It's a vicious fight that we have all sat and watched.

I truly hope you read and truly hope you consider the hunters opinions and go fight for our right to hunt.

Brian Neault

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kevin Werst <krovar55@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:01 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Draw

Please don't turn all over the counter archery tags into draw units. I know there are issues with rifle hunters going East if they don't draw their first choice but make them choose their weapon prior to applying.

I started archery hunting to get away from some of the crazy competition that goes on and the shoot every bull you see attitude with many rifle party's. I am passionate about archery now, so much so that I have a 4H club and teach hunters education.

Kevin Werst

Astoria

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Josh Armstrong <josh_armstrong.catdome@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New Bow changes

Hi my name is Josh Armstrong . I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the presented changes to eastern oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith.

Thank you for your time.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Bielenberg <bielenbm42@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

Hello,

My name is Michael Bielenberg, I have been a Oregon resident and a hunter all my life. In your presentation you said that the decrease in deer population was at no fault to hunters. Therefore, I do not understand your justification for making archery hunting a draw. This proposal was to create and enhance opportunities not take it away. Oregon draw currently is not working, point creep is happening and I will probably never see myself draw a tag like the Wenaha no 2. Oregon use to be all about making more opportunities for people to enjoy hunting and fishing and the last few years there has been hardly no new opportunities but only less.

I want to request the scientific basis for why this proposal is needed. I would also like to see the last five years of stats on the hunting harvest for both archery and rifle on the east side of Oregon.

I would like to end by saying I strongly disagree with the archery proposal as it is only punishing the hunters and not fixing the root cause of the problem habitat quality in units and predator control.

-Michael Bielenberg
503-991-9099

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Slinkard <mike@hecsllc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed archery season changes

Dear commissioners,

I would like to voice my extreme disapproval of the idea of implementing a mandatory draw for eastern Oregon archery elk and deer seasons.

Limiting opportunities to those who it has been proven for years have little effect on game population is wrong minded. To say otherwise is simply not true.

Instead of limiting archery opportunities I suggest you begin effectively managing predator populations again. The hepner unit cougar management experiment should give you a good beginning blueprint to use to start to bring back our mule deer populations. Bear, coyotes and now wolves cause similar problems and also need to be managed effectively. Yes that means reducing predator populations across the board. Anything else is simply looking the other direction when it comes to our declining big game population.

Please do what Oregon needs. Leave archery season alone and work on the true problems facing Oregon's wildlife.

Sincerely

Mike Slinkard
JOHN DAY OR.

Roxann B Borisch

From: snk1544 <snk1544@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Comment on changing archery regulations

Good evening,

Hope everyone on the commission and at ODFW are doing well during these unprecedented times. I am writing you to share some of my comments and concerns with the commission regarding the proposed changes to the general archery elk and deer hunting. I have watched a meeting that was posted a few days ago, link https://youtu.be/Ij8_TYbFBjs. I have some concerns about the proposed changes and some I agree with. This is lengthy, and I apologize. I tried to be succinct but also share some important concerns, especially in the last two paragraphs of this email. I hope everyone on the commission takes the time to read this in its entirety.

I will provide a little background so you know a little about me, my experiences, and how I have come to some of my conclusions. I'm not here to just complain. I have hunted in Oregon for approximately 30 years and went hunting with my family well before that. I have primarily hunted the east side of the state with Imnaha and Heppner units being where I spent the majority of my time. I have hunted the west side too but prefer the east side of the state because anecdotally the hunting pressure was/is less and there seemed to be better numbers of wildlife. I remember when I was a kid, I was archery hunting with my dad and we would count over 100 deer in the mornings and 100 deer in the evenings. We weren't very successful back then because honestly the equipment was primitive but we always had a great time. Unfortunately, I can't say that anymore and go days without even seeing a mule deer. I hunted in Heppner with my mom for rifle elk and it was common that we would get 1-3 elk even when the state enacted draw for rifle hunting. I got two spikes the 1st couple years I hunted. We would often see large numbers of elk. My point to this is that I have seen deer and elk populations change over my life.

I would like to start my discussion with mule deer. The numbers have drastically decreased and I attribute some of this to their habitat, ie loss of bitterbrush, some human encroachment, increase in white tail deer population in mule deer habitat, but the biggest problem is predators. The worst apex predator for deer is the wolf. I routinely find wolf sign, have seen wolves, and find kills from wolves.

I have a couple questions about mule deer and wolves. Are biologists physically counting deer on a regular basis? Could I find out the counts, current and historical, and how they are counting them? I remember biologists used to use aircraft and would count them when they were on their winter grounds. These numbers used to be publicized. My parents told me about how they used to get Bitterbrush seeds with their license and then they were asked to spread them while they were hunting. We pay a lot of money to hunt and appreciate conservation. Why can't we do this again? Maybe a pack of seeds might cost \$1? Bitterbrush is one of the primary foods that help get mule deer through the winter. This could be a cheap way of helping restore mule deer habitat. The last study I read on this that was published by ODFW was so long ago. Where is the updated research?

Next I would like to discuss elk. Again anecdotally, I have seen an increase in elk numbers. For the most part their population has done very well. Elk have shown they can adapt. They started out as a plains animal and have adapted to living in riparian forests all over the state. However, predators are also a big problem for elk. Bears are known to eat calves as they are being born. Wolves also prey on the weak and young. Elk have

learned this and during archery season, herds especially bulls have become less vocal. Again, do biologists routinely count elk populations, if so how and where can I find the #'s?

Next I would like to discuss predators, especially wolves. Here is where anecdotally I think biologists are catering to. I read and hear more info being put out from ODFW about wolves than many other species. I've hunted Mt Emily unit for spring bear and helped my daughter 3 years ago when she drew an archery bull tag on the random draw. This unit has a large amount of elk and a very large amount of wolves & bears. I have seen the most wolf sign and wolves in this unit. I do know of several roads that are gated to vehicular traffic because the wolves have dens in the area. I also know that ODFW puts up cameras to monitor these roads.

My questions are about ODFW catering so much to wolves. What is the budget to monitor and protect these predators? How does that budget compare to other species? Why are biologists gating the roads to protect wolves but only put up signs for deer and elk? Why is ODFW monitoring our legal travels? Isn't this a violation of our rights? I have received this information from a very reliable source. If this is not factual, can ODFW share empirical information to prove this is not factual?

Lastly, I would like to discuss how ODFW has come to the decision to propose these changes to general archery hunting on the east side of the state. From what I watched, I did not see scientific empirical data presented to the commission on why the change is needed. I do believe that something needs to be done with mule deer but I'm not seeing it with elk. In fact, most of what I heard from this meeting was about a survey they had put out. Why are we/you relying on a making some very important decisions from a random survey? Was this survey a scientific survey? I did not see anything showing it was. Our ODFW biologists are scientists with science degrees. Shouldn't they be using scientific research and empirical data to present changes to the commission? Rather, it seems what was presented was information about what people who completed the survey wanted to share.

I urge all of you on the commission to take a close look at what is being presented. I also ask that if you did not get scientific empirical data, to not make a decision at this time and request the ODFW biologists go back and bring back the data that you need. We are talking about animal conservation first and foremost. Me as a hunter and a person, believe that conservation is very important. I also believe that hunters pay a tremendous amount of money to ODFW with the hopes that conservation is being done equally across the board. Currently, I believe that is not being done because ODFW is not sharing this information. I also believe wolf conservation is a higher priority than conservation of deer, elk, and other big game animals.

I have much more but this sums up some of the bigger concerns I have. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions?

Thank you for your time,

Shaun Davis
Oregon City, OR
971-275-5996

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Frazier <bk_frazier@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: General archery season

I have been hearing talk about creating a draw archery elk/deer hunt for each unit instead of a general western/eastern Oregon archery tag.

I am completely against this proposal. With the harvest rate being so low for archery hunters, giving them the most opportunity is vital. My family, as well as many others depend on this meat each year. Limiting my options on where I can hunt greatly reduces my percentage of harvesting an animal. Please note this is a devastating change for me and many other hunters. Oregon is very restrictive and the ability to hunt seems to be reduced each year. Please keep our traditions from being depleted even more.

Thank you for your time,
Brian Frazier

Roxann B Borisch

From: Nathan Ohta <nohta@warnerpacific.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:18 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern oregon archery draw only proposal

Please add my name to the ever growing list of hunters that feel changing eastern oregon general season archery opportunities to draw only would be an awful change. This would negatively affect hunter opportunity and experience. The resulting overcrowding on the west side would greatly impact hunts that are already experiencing loss of opportunity on private timber lands. I have many more objections to this proposal, but i'm sure you will be hearing all of them many other times so I'll keep this brief.

Changing eastern oregon archery opportunity to draw only is a bad idea.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nathan Ohta

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jacob Gibson <hounded1985@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:17 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

I want to thank you for reading my letter. I am a hunter. I don't agree with taking more opportunities from hunters. I think there has to be some science behind rule changes and not just public feelings. Since the hound band on bears and cougars the predator problem has got out of hand. Now with wolves populating the state and our ungulates already down now you want to take opportunities from the very sportsmen who are trying to help the situation and we are flipping the bill. It's like putting a piece of tape over a crack on a concrete dam. You might get the short term desired effect but I'm worried it's not going to help because we keep skirting the problem with predators. Whether it's seals and fish or bears cougars and wolves for every other living critter on dry ground. I'm really disappointed in how hunters are perceived and I'm disappointed on how little involvement we get to partake in these rules that are set. Most of us who are passionate about wildlife are working blue collared people who can't take a day off work in the middle of the week to attend a 9:30 am meeting about these type of things.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Focht Jr <b_focht83@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:09 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Season Changes

Please do not change the General archery hunting season to a draw. This ruins decades of traditions with friends and family. This also robs my children and any youth from opportunity they otherwise could have had. This will destroy hunting in Oregon for many families. If I must make changes in regards to hunting eastern Oregon I will most definitely take my family and my money to another state with guaranteed General season hunts. I pick vacation a year in advance and can't depend on a draw for a place to hunt. My family relies on the meat I harvest as my wife will not cook meat purchased from a store. Please reconsider and reevaluate your options. The best thing about living in Oregon is the hunting and fishing opportunities. Don't ruin it!

Brian Focht Jr

Roxann B Borisch

From: Buck Brooks <Buck.W.Brooks@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New archery draw

To whom it may concern,

I respectfully disagree with this movement. I believe that making each unit a draw will be a step in the wrong direction. I think we need to open up more area for rifle hunting rather than closing off general bow hunting. As a rifle hunter I think we should open up boundaries for hunting rather than closing them off. take after Idaho and create zones for rifle hunting so they can be able to move units as well. Restricting hunters is not respectable as an organization. Especially when archery hunting isn't a problem and was stated as such in the presentation. It will not only deter people from applying for units but applying all together.

Scenario - People plan all year for archery elk and deer seasons. When people schedule with others who hunt in the same office or job they stagger weeks and coordinate all year long and then put in for the vacation around end of winter beginning of spring. Then say they apply for Beulah in May. Well September rolls around and your week is coming up, and you're about to leave tomorrow except there was a fire started a day ago and it's growing, you start to head over from Salem and you're excited and start to look at the news on the fire and see the areas that are open to hunt are now not an option because the fires are not under control and then. You have no unit to hunt, you scheduled your vacation to hunt that unit, and now it's on fire and no one knows for how long. You can't go over the unit boundary and hunt a different unit because people at ODFW passed that draws are now in effect and you can't go back to the Oregon coast for a OTC tag because you applied for Beulah.

Not only is fire season a factor but there are towns like Ukiah who depend on hunting seasons for revenue. Places like Ukiah will end up run down and become non-existent.

There's management that needs to happen in other areas and not the general seasons of archery. I would love to see rifle seasons become zones instead of units. I would love to see more 3pt or better western units and go away with draws. That would be a step forward that every sportsman would like to see. You're taking away the "opportunity" that ODFW is trying to give the sportsman's. If revenue is the problem then raise resident prices, we would rather pay more for a tag than pay 20 years from now in more draws that can't be just thrown away. My children will never be able to hunt Weneha, Mt. Emily, Walla Walla, and possibly Sled Springs. Point creep is real and adding more draws will not fix the problem for the northern units.

Everyone is still going to put in for those hunts. That's just the way it is. And adding more draws only affects the next generation.

Thanks for your time for my concerns,
Buck W. Brooks

Roxann B Borisch

From: Elkhunter 247365 <elkhunter247365@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oppose new 2021 archery hunts

As a life long hunter I oppose the idea of making archery season a controlled hunt. I will list reason below.

1. This was suppose to be a simplification of regulations and recruit more hunters.
2. By looking at the graphs 1994 was the beginning of the decline of mule deer. Funny coincidence that was the year that hounds and baiting was banned.
3. Hunters are being punished and having opportunity taken away due no fault of our own.
4. Create a predator control division in the odfw instead of a habitat division. If you have no animals left there is no need for habitat enhancement.
5. It was stated in the meeting that hunters were not the problem.
6. Talking with local biologist in Pendleton he stated that the lack of post hunting season buck numbers were not adequate to breed all of the does.
7. Odfw is allowed to hire agents to control predators, why not designate an agent for each unit or region in the state. Allow this agent to take paid hunters on hunts to pursue mountain lions with hounds.
8. Many people are giving up on this state due to the anti hunting sentiment that has infiltrated the odfw.
9. I urge the commission to explore taking a strong and proactive approach to managing the out of control predator population statewide.
10. By limiting archery tags you are cutting your own throat for funding and support from hunters in this state.
11. I urge all of you to read Vic Coggins book that he wrote. It will give you great insight on what has been happening in this state for the a long time.
12. Massive predator reduction will bring elk and deer herds back period. Until this happens the predator pit death spiral will continue.

I hope you consider all of the emails that are being sent in and support giving hunters a voice.

Sincerely, Ben Rodriguez

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Thornton
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Archery proposal

Public Correspondence – Big Game

From: Mac Marshall
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us; Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this with a heavy mind while my 20 month old son play next to me. I am concerned for the wildlife in this great state we live in. Not due to over hunting by humans but predators. It's been a long time coming with our current regulations set in place. Cougar, Wolf, Bear, Bobcat and Coyote all play a huge factor in the race to not only save our Mule Deer populations but Elk too.

I've grown up hunting deer and elk in central and eastern Oregon for thirty years. The memories made on these hunt don't go forgotten. Being a father now I look forward to sharing similar adventures with my son.

Changing Oregon archery hunts to a draw will limit my ability to enjoy the great outdoors of this state. Please, please, please consider other options as archery hunting is hard enough as is. Target the problem in this state, not those that have paid thousands of dollars to enjoy it and take part in our heritage.

Thank you,
Mac Marshall

Roxann B Borisch

From: Les Nelson <Les.Nelson@esab.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 3:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Draw Hunts for Bow

Just writing this to let you know that I support a draw for eastern Oregon bow hunting. We need some form of managing tags and reporting success.

Thank you,

On the road - Sent from my iPhone
Les Nelson - Account Manager
ESAB Welding & Cutting
(541) 968-4902 cell
les.nelson@esab.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Troy Mohler <rocklin72@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery

I wanted to share my frustration with the thought about changing eastern Oregon archery to a draw zone. I have hunted the same area along with my friends and now 4 generations of family (3 generations hunt together now). The elk herds from my experience have been mostly stable if not slightly better now then in years past. I have never experienced over pressure of hunters in my 28 years of hunting the same area. It has always been mostly the same hunters over the years going and we all know one another across the different areas. I have not seen a reason which would justify a draw area.

The money lost to the small communities would be devastating. If you speak to them most of their yearly income comes from elk/deer hunting. Reducing the tags effects many aspects. Also what due diligence has been done to determine if archery hunters would more animals then rifle. If that is the argument as I have read what polls have been conducted on both rifle and archery for comparative facts? Anyone who archery hunts will tell you the elk are mostly nocturnal early in the archery season. My trail cameras over the decades have proven that. Archery hunters are not impacting the herds. I believe this would greatly impact your bottom dollar. My group consists of 10 hunters and we have spoke to the other camps who are equally as large. Over the years we spend a lot of money in tags paying the high out of state prices. We all would go to Idaho instead taking out money too. The low success rate of archery hunter Does not impact elk herds but our money impacts your state and local communities. Plz call if you have questions.

Troy Mohler
916-521-1959

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Eric Strand <eric@s2calls.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:25 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; Nick.a.Myatt@state.or.us
Subject: Archery hunting proposal

Good afternoon!

My name is Eric Strand and I'm writing this e-mail to voice my concern over the proposed changes to the Archery deer and elk hunting regulations.

I'm asking you to reconsider this proposal and look at predator management, the over harvest of cow elk and doe deer and a change to the selection of hunting weapon pre draw with a tag quota system instead of a controlled hunt draw system. By simply making hunters choose whether they want to archery or rifle hunt at the time of application you will see a drastic decrease in the number of "archery" hunters who simple buy an archery tag because they didn't draw a rifle tag.

The overall decline in deer and elk numbers in eastern Oregon is directly correlated with the increase in predator numbers and over harvest on the wintering grounds. Please don't punish bow hunters for something we didn't do.

I appreciate your time, have a great day!

--
Eric Strand
503.750.8271
eric@s2calls.com
S2 Outfitters
www.s2outfitters.com
Decoy Dancer
www.decoydancer.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Garrett Yarbrough <yarbs003@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:14 PM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us; ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Letter refering to Purposed General Archery Seasons- June 12th Commission Meeting
Attachments: ODFW Letter to Myatt & Commission 6-17-20.pdf

ODFW

Attn: Nick Myatt & ODFW Commission

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE,

Salem, OR 97302

Dear Mr. Myatt & Commission,

After viewing your recent commission meeting pertaining to general and controlled archery seasons I wanted to voice my concerns and thoughts. I have been blessed with the ability to hunt Oregon for the past 20 years. Of that 20, I have held a general archery tag every season. Those seasons have provided some of the most important challenges and successes of my life thus shaping me as a person. Challenge and success that would have been absent had the opportunity not been available. Like many other hunters, I value the resource and would like to see its health continue in perpetuity so future generations can enjoy them as I have.

Oregon's current mule deer populations are struggling. Habitat and predation being some of the largest factors. Looking at the herd management objectives (MOs) provided by ODFW it would be hard not to support some type of higher restriction on hunter harvest via going to more controlled archery opportunity and reducing rifle opportunity. With that, I also believe we need to look at increasing predator management. ODFWs' data shows a negative correlation between mule deer populations and the passing of measure 18 in 1994. It would also be beneficial to allocate more hunter generated dollars towards habitat restoration on mule deer range. There is a sharp downhill trend in the quality of mule wintering habitat. One large contributor being the loss of vital sage communities to fire then transitioning to cheat grass communities. If ODFW is going to reduce hunter opportunity, they also need to address the largest of contributing factors to Oregon's struggling mule deer herds.

Moving onto archery elk. The survey and MO data for Rocky mountain elk populations do not support a more restrictive general archery season. A very high percentage of units are at or exceeding MO. The handful of areas below MO are mostly units with controlled archery opportunities already in place. Another issue with the proposal would be increased pressure within the new proposed general archery area west of the cascades. Many Roosevelt elk herds range on private timberland where access is limited. Especially during restrictive fire seasons when archery season takes place. Where public access exists on USFS and BLM, many Roosevelt elk herds are struggling or nonexistent. The Roosevelt Elk population statistics show herd numbers around 20,000 below ODFW objective. Again, looking at ODFWs' own statistics the decision to further limit archery elk opportunity on the east side does not make sense.

When reflecting on ODFW's stated goals, I cannot see how further limiting archery elk opportunity would improve upon them. Nor does ODFW's population data support making the proposed changes. When it

comes to further limiting mule deer opportunity I believe there is justification in harvest reduction. With that, I also ask ODFW to address larger factors among struggling mule deer populations and put in methods of restoring hunter opportunity as populations rebound. Lastly, please work towards policies and methods that increase the ability of ODFW biologists to actively manage herds through habitat restoration, predator management, and hunter harvest. Let them make more timely decisions based on sound data and science so we can ensure the heritage of hunting and overall health of our wildlife. I thank you for your time.

Garrett Yarbrough

Fall Creek, OR 97438

Roxann B Borisch

From: Johnny Wayne Wherley <jwhuntingboy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:55 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New archery changes

I'm opposed to the new changes. How can one think that we have a problem with nutrition and not with predators?

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Keaton Kvanduch <kkvanduch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

I want to first start off by introducing myself, my name is Keaton Kvanduch. I have lived in Oregon my entire life and I've been hunting since I have been 14 and now I'm almost 30.

I have looked over and reviewed this new archery proposal I believe it is not good for Oregon Hunters. First off, if we go to a draw system on the east side we face one huge obstacle. Fire danger has been prevalent in Oregon almost every single year and the only people that deal with fire danger during hunting season is archery Hunters.

Most of the West side is controlled by either state land or private Timber companies. When the state or Timber Company shut down there land what are we supposed to do now, we can't go to the east side because it's draw. Also, if you go a draw an Eastside tag and there is a fire in that unit what do you do now?

In the proposal it is talked about how the mule deer populations in Oregon have been declining. There are many factors that go into this. Predators are a huge issue in Oregon, in the mid-90s we lost a huge tool to manage the Cougars. They now run rampant throughout the entire state putting a big hurt on the entire Wildlife population and calf/ fawn success. We are almost doubled if not more than doubled what the management plan entails. To add wolves to the mix is just terrible for the wildlife in Oregon. Look what happened to Idaho with population numbers and Yellowstone.I am not anti predators, but I am wanting Management on both sides just not one sided predators

They also talked about how the food is not there for the mule deer. There is plenty of food for these animals to succeed. If you reduce the cattle grazing on these public lands it will leave more feed for the elk and deer populations.

In conclusion if we take a step forward in reducing the number of predators that take a toll on our Wildlife population and reduce the number of cattle grazing on public lands, those two factors alone can have a huge impact on Oregon's wildlife and bring them back to healthy and populations.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jake Morris <jmorris140@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 12:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; thomas.l.thornton@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Proposal

Hello,

My name is Jake Morris and I've grown up hunting and have hunted Oregon the past 30 years. I and thousands of hunters save points and archery hunt every year. Your proposal of draw archery tags would force me to stop hunting in OR and focus my efforts out of state.

Why dont we manage our predators instead of the hunters? The numbers show that managing predators have a direct impact on calving survival. Why are we the only state that doesn't allow predator hunting with dogs?

Your graphs show how hunters have decline and how our mule deer numbers have declined. I think its safe to assume that # of hunters does't effect the deer populations. I would like you to show the public what # of predators vs deer and elk populations look like. Heppner is a great example of this.

Please don't take my family traditions away from me and the future generations to come.

Thanks,

--
Jake Morris

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeffery Winter <jefferykeithwinter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:16 AM
To: ODFW Commission; Kevin Daugherty; Joel Freeman
Subject: Archery General Season and Late Season Proposed Changes

To commission members:

Having served on many boards as a member and as an officer or president I want to first express my appreciation for your service. I also know that having done this, often the only voices heard are the voices of those who are discontent with the status quo or with proposed changes.

In light of this, I am having a difficult time understanding the logic of the proposed archery season changes, as I understand it, to:

1. Create a draw system for all elk and deer hunting east of the cascades during regular season
2. Create a draw system for late season black tail deer season in western oregon

Just because the comments received by the ODFW highlighted this, this does not mean this is the general consensus among archery hunters. I guarantee you, it is not. This proposal is so far out of the mainstream of thought that it cannot be overemphasized. Most earnest and dedicated archery hunters, when wanting to escape from being bothered by other hunter interaction, simply put on a backpack and march 5 - 15 miles off the road to escape it. Is your sampling in your survey largely sampling a subset of malcontents who want to shoot a deer off the county road? I would guess that having taught statistics in university, you actually do not know this, just that this was a common refrain among those who were sampled. If you wish to fix the actual root cause of the problems in Oregon archery I suggest you use actual data and root cause analysis. Here is a list of actual issues and their likely root causes:

1. Winter Range for elk and deer is almost non existent in Oregon. All the winter range is largely owned by private land holders and a large amount of this is increasingly owned by corporate farms. Potential Action Items: ODFW purchase lands or lease them in the winter and provide feed
2. Damage Tags are given out to land owners en masse. The aforementioned land owners then shoot pregnant cow elk or pregnant does. The ODFW has data on this. Hunting and conservation groups are the organizations that restored elk, deer and pronghorn populations after largely ranchers and farmers and professional hunters indiscriminately shot them to near extinction and extirpation due to competition with their livestock and fence damage.
3. Fence the death corridor and provide underground passage. Hwy 97 deaths account for multiples of deer deaths each year. Archery deer harvests each year are a fraction of what is lost just on Hwy 97, not to mention I5. Both in sections could be fenced.
4. Meaningful removal of cougars in areas where deer population improvements are needed.
5. Archery hunting, look at the survey data, take of Elk, Deer, and Pronghorn is so insignificant to the population growth of these species that it's not statistically significant. The above mentioned issues are statistically significant.
6. If you expect archery hunting to improve with these rule changes, you are wrong. It's already hard enough to shoot an animal with a primitive weapon, how is restricting this going to be an improvement? The respondents to your survey think there are "Too many people, that is why I have not punched my

tags". No, there are too few animals and you need to hunt off the road, that is why you did not punch your tags.

I punched two tags last year, one the year before, none the previous year, one the year before this, none the two years before that, then one and one the previous two years, yet my friends think I am wildly successful as an archer. Some have not punched a tag in 10 years but they still love strapping on a pack and having a bow in hand. The last five years I have never ran into someone else in the wilderness or backcountry. I however, had an unpleasant encounter with a couple of bowhunters in a drawn, heavily sought after pronghorn unit. I called the police later and reported them. That was a drawn unit. It on average takes 11 points to draw. Why? Because you can drive across the desert and even out of shape imbeciles can drive. You will still have conflict if all of the eastern half of the state is a draw tag, because you will have lazy hunters messing up archery for others and one lazy hunter in one pickup with a valid drawn tag for the unit can mess up all the other valid tag holders hunts if you stay close to the road (I in my case, had a sign, on my vehicle, "Bow Hunter at waterhole 1 mile down road, please be considerate...but they drove past it anyway"). I walked in and walked out everyday, including with the pronghorn I shot. There was only 1 waterhole down this road.

I would suggest, if you wish to make everyone's experience more memorable, then create more TMAs and if you wish to get away from the crowds, force people to walk. This rule change will not help lazy people with the tag to have a better experience if other lazy people have the same tag, they will still be driving the same roads.

Please vote against this rule change! It does not solve the root causes.

Jeffery Winter

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Shulters <oregonsmallengine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:44 AM
To: nick.a.myatt@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us; thomas.l.thorton@state.or.us
Subject: archery proposal

Please keep Oregon archery general. keeping the dedicated bunch of hunters that archers are, interested in hunting is crucial in keeping ODFW funded. Most archers are archers because of the generous season and ease of buying otc tags. If you make it a draw hunt it will only turn more hunters away from hunting. not to mention the point draw system is a failing and flawed idea. point creep is getting worse and if everyone is required to apply to hunt it will only get exponentially worse. on top of that you will be making it more expensive to hunt, hunters already pay more than their fair share of the burden when it comes to conservation. this will not help wildlife and it will not help our hunting heritage.

thanks
Mike Shulters
Medford, OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tanner Helm <tannerlhelm@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:28 AM
To: nick.a.myatt@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us; thomas.l.thornton@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Draw Proposal

After watching the zoom call and several other videos from those respected in the industry I am concerned about the state of archery hunting in Oregon.

The proposed draw poses a lot of issues.

Herd numbers would be much healthier with a few simple solutions...encourage predator hunting..whether this be a permit for hound hunts where a highly vetted group of hound hunters, with aid of a biologist could take hunters out to remove the most mature and damaging predators...or simply an encouragement for predator control, this would drastically help the herd health. A controlled hound hunt would also drive revenue.

The other thing that could make a massive difference is simply a change to bag limits. There's no reason in some of these units that numbers are struggling that a rifle or bow hunter should be taking spike bucks and bulls. Change the bag limit to 3 point or better for bucks and branched antler for bulls for both rifle and archery..this will only help improve the herd health.

Thank you for your time.

--
Tanner Helm Mobile: 949.607.9886

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ryan Hayden <haydenryant@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:25 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed eastern Oregon archery draws.

Hello, My name is Ryan Hayden. I have grown up an archery hunter here in Oregon. I am concerned about the recently proposed change from Eastern Oregon general seasons over to controlled hunts. Unlike rifle hunters, archery hunters hunt during wildfire seasons. If I have to choose a particular unit to hunt in eastern Oregon due to a draw only scenario and it is on fire during the month of September, I have no ability to move to another unit and I don't get to exercise my right to hunt.

Hunters that purchase tags provide a tremendous amount of revenue for the state of Oregon to effectively manage game. Further limiting our abilities to hunt would decrease the amount of hunters who buy tags and greatly affect our wildlife management resources. Also, I would like to see what type of impact archery and rifle hunting has on eastern Oregon deer and elk numbers compared to other factors like predation. I would find it hard to believe that hunting has even the slightest impact compared to increased predation. But, in order to say this confidently, I would need to listen to good science. These proposals should be based on good science and not public forums.

I hope that my kids will be able to have the opportunity to enjoy the privilege of hunting once they are of age. For me, it has greatly shaped who I am and how I see the importance of recreating outside. I would hate to see opportunity be diminished so they can't experience it the same way. That is why I am writing this email...to express my concern.

Hunters want to be a part of the solution with game management. I hope your decisions on these proposals keep that in mind.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan Hayden

Roxann B Borisch

From: Derek Nelson <durwood0@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us;
Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: Archery Proposal

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Derek Nelson <durwood0@yahoo.com>
Date: June 17, 2020 at 8:57:07 AM PDT
To: Nick.A.Myatt@state.or.us, Odfw.comission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Proposal

Everyone,
Let me start by introducing myself. My Name is Derek Nelson and I am a resident of Oregon. I am 38 years old and have been hunting our amazing state since I was 12. I started out rifle hunting until I was 16 then i was introduced to archery. I love the sport of hunting and all it brings to people.. archery or rifle. The proposed idea of making everything east a draw I believe isn't what we need to do. Over my years of hunting I've watched the deer, elk, turkey, and other non predatory animals dwindle, and the predator population thrive. I believe making these units draw for archery does not help the cause. We need to be focusing on predator management and limiting free range livestock. These 2 things not only hurt our wildlife by taking away supplements they kill off our future wildlife for our kids and there kids to enjoy not only in hunting but observing as well. Please don't do this and look at other options. Thank you for your time and hope all is well with what's going on in this world right now.

Thank you
Derek

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Seth Melvin <sethmelvin91@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:34 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 proposal

Here's a link to the video I was referring to. If the link doesn't work it's on the Bow Rack Instagram page

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBgNyIkIm2k/?hl=en>

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Thornton
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Cc: Nick Myatt
Subject: FW: 2021 ODFW proposal

From: Seth Melvin
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:29 PM
To: Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 ODFW proposal

I do not support reduced opportunity outlined in the proposal regarding bow hunting opportunities in the eastern side of this state. I also did not support the spring bear hunt going to a draw. I have been an Oregon resident all my life and do not feel that I have seen a return in my money invested through license and tag sales.

What I have seen is a major increase in the predator population in the last 10 years and a HUGE reduction in the ungulate population in those same areas. Oregon needs MAJOR change in predator management policies and less red tape when it comes to opportunity especially regarding predators.

Please look at the video Wayne Endicott made and posted on the Bow Rack Facebook page. Oregon hunters want more opportunity for future generations and so do I. The first step I believe is to reduce our predator populations to reasonable and sustainable levels.

I truly believe if we do not start reducing our predator populations in Oregon there will not be a sustainable level of ungulates to hunt.

My family and friends that have hunted here all their lives agree with my views on this and I know there are many ODFW employees that do as well.

When I was a child it was not uncommon for my family and others to kill several mature bucks in a season or sometimes in a day! I can tell you that I have not seen anything like that in my adult life despite being an avid hunter.

Please fight for the rights of Oregon hunters so that we may have a future in our hunting traditions.

Respectfully,
Seth Melvin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Thornton
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Archery proposal

Public Correspondence -- Big Game

-----Original Message-----

From: Hunter <huntere13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:40 PM
To: Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

I have watched your proposal on the zoom meeting and wanted to share my thoughts. I understand hunters complaints about too many hunters during archery season. I have dealt with this as well. As a hunter you either adapt to the situation or you will not be successful, so we adapt. I do not want archery hunting to be turning into a draw for deer or elk because it will not help the situation. If you do so, it will only make hunters angry. If it was to turn into a draw system, I have no idea why you wouldn't let it be good for the eastern draw unit in addition to western Oregon.

As to the deer population, it is pretty simple; we have the country and nutrition to hold way more deer, but they are simply miss managed. Our lands are over-grazed by cattle leaving little for the deer and elk. I see it year after year in areas that are wintering grounds that you (odfw) let be picked clean by the cattle all summer which leaves little for the wildlife. On top of that, for many years the cattle are not taken out by the time they are supposed to be. If odfw thinks there is not enough nutrition, then start planting.

The other major factor that odfw does very little about is our predator problems. We have way too many cats. As seen in the heppner removal, the statistics show for themselves what we could have. To make it worse, odfw brings in the wolves to make it harder on the wildlife. If you are concerned about the population take action in ways you know make a difference and that's predators.

To most of us hunters, it's common sense that more food (managed cattle grazing) and fewer predators (cougars, bears and wolves) would make the population explode. I have no idea why odfw can not figure that out.

Thanks for reading - I hope you listen.

Concerned hunter

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Seth Melvin <sethmelvin91@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 hunting season proposals

I do not support reduced opportunity outlined in the proposal regarding bow hunting opportunities in the eastern side of this state. I also did not support the spring bear hunt going to a draw. I have been an Oregon resident all my life and do not feel that I have seen a return in my money invested through license and tag sales.

What I have seen is a major increase in the predator population in the last 10 years and a HUGE reduction in the ungulate population in those same areas. Oregon needs MAJOR change in predator management policies and less red tape when it comes to opportunity especially regarding predators.

Please look at the video Wayne Endicott made and posted on the Bow Rack Facebook page. Oregon hunters want more opportunity for future generations and so do I. The first step I believe is to reduce our predator populations to reasonable and sustainable levels.

I truly believe if we do not start reducing our predator populations in Oregon there will not be a sustainable level of ungulates to hunt. With cougar numbers alone if my math is correct there are upwards of 300,000 or more ungulates being killed by cougars. This number does not include bear and coyote predation. There is no population that can sustain that kind of decimation.

My family and friends that have hunted here all their lives agree with my views on this and I know there are many ODFW employees that do as well.

When I was a child it was not uncommon for my family and others to kill several mature bucks in a season or sometimes in a day! I can tell you that I have not seen anything like that in my adult life despite being an avid hunter.

Please fight for the rights of Oregon hunters so that we may have a future in our hunting traditions.

Respectfully,
Seth Melvin

Roxann B Borisch

From: Thomas Witherspoon <gamerz16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New Eastern Oregon Draw

I am completely against the new proposal for the new draw system for archery for eastern Oregon. You are going to have a ton of unintended consequences. The pros do not outweigh the cons.

Less youth and women recruitment because tags will be more difficult to acquire. Your going to have units that have more access will get tag creep and make it hard to get tags that promote easier hunting for kids and women.

Wildfires when hunters are faced with wildfire currently they have the ability to move from one unit to another. With the new proposal if fires take over your drawn unit for the year your out of luck hunting for the year.

To address crowding in those specific units is to have them grouped and sold at zones OTC tags similar to the Idaho system for elk. You also could cut down down amount of non resident tags allowed for OTC tags.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Christopher Roberts <chriswill03039@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:43 AM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

My name is Chris Roberts and I recently heard about the proposed changes about making the eastern side of the state all draw for archery. I think this hurts hunters more than helps the number of deer and elk. I believe Oregon has done a terrible job at keeping the predators in check and an overpopulation is to blame for low numbers. I also believe this system is horrible for new hunters and youth. I would prefer to see hunts that you have to choose a weapon type or zones/units with a quota of tags sold. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Daniel Marshall <danielmarshall27@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:05 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New proposal for OR Archery seasons.

Hello,

I would like to comment on the new proposals for the 2021 archery seasons. Punishing hunters for the failure of ODFW to manage predators is not right. In fact, mule deer and elk are managed for predators instead of hunters. We need to have a reward system to encourage hunters to kill more cougars and bears for our mule deer populations to rebound.

I fully reject any proposal to make eastern Oregon archery deer and elk A draw only opportunity. Hunting parties will be split up and not able to hunt together as not everyone will be able to draw a tag. Wildfire will limit access and concentrate hunters. I want my grandchildren to have the same opportunity to hunt and harvest big game in the state of Oregon.

The cougar population in my hunting area is out of control. I have crossed paths with a cougar in the dark walking back to camp, I no longer feel safe walking in the woods without a firearm. I have seen the deer population significantly decline in the Ukiah unit, due to predation. Please stop ignoring the problem. We need better predator management in the state of Oregon. I fear more people will be attacked by cougars if we don't better manage the population.

Wolfs are also present in my hunting areas and have made it harder to elk hunt as the elk are now quieter. I want to see an opportunity to hunt wolfs in the near future.

Please listen to the cries of hunters to keep it a General season for archery elk and deer hunting in the state of Oregon. How many hunters just going to quit hunting Oregon if they are able to hunt other states with better access opportunity? I have lost so much trust in ODFW. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. If the changes do past, bow hunters will be protesting outside ODFW headquarters.

Please listen to our cries and don't screw Bow hunters because predators are mismanaged.

Thank you,

Daniel Marshall

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dylan Moore <dwademoore212@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:03 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: I WANT STATISTICS!!!!

Why is it even being considered to make archery a draw? I want success rates archery to rifle across the board. Give me all the statistics you got

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Hunter <huntere13@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:41 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery proposal

I have watched your proposal on the zoom meeting and wanted to share my thoughts. I understand hunters complaints about too many hunters during archery season. I have dealt with this as well. As a hunter you either adapt to the situation or you will not be successful, so we adapt. I do not want archery hunting to be turning into a draw for deer or elk because it will not help the situation. If you do so, it will only make hunters angry. If it was to turn into a draw system, I have no idea why you wouldn't let it be good for the eastern draw unit in addition to western Oregon.

As to the deer population, it is pretty simple; we have the country and nutrition to hold way more deer, but they are simply miss managed. Our lands are over-grazed by cattle leaving little for the deer and elk. I see it year after year in areas that are wintering grounds that you (odfw) let be picked clean by the cattle all summer which leaves little for the wildlife. On top of that, for many years the cattle are not taken out by the time they are supposed to be. If odfw thinks there is not enough nutrition, then start planting.

The other major factor that odfw does very little about is our predator problems. We have way too many cats. As seen in the heppner removal, the statistics show for themselves what we could have. To make it worse, odfw brings in the wolves to make it harder on the wildlife. If you are concerned about the population take action in ways you know make a difference and that's predators.

To most of us hunters, it's common sense that more food (managed cattle grazing) and fewer predators (cougars, bears and wolves) would make the population explode. I have no idea why odfw can not figure that out.

Thanks for reading - I hope you listen.

Concerned hunter

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Brian Bryson <bryson4146@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:25 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Bow draw proposal

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opinion on your proposal of putting archery seasons a draw on the east side. This proposal is not based on any scientific based facts, and will only be successful in 1 area, that is pushing Oregon bow hunters to other states .

I encourage you to not pass this proposal, to use scientific based decision making and listen to your own words... bow hunters were not a reason for the deer decline.

Until you can control the number 1 deprivation factor, predators! You can't control the wildlife herd correctly. Your inept ability to manage wildlife due to predator population skyrocketing, has failed to a point that you now have to resort to managing hunters to balance the decline? And you are trying to manage the lowest number of hunters, only 21% ! This doesn't make sense.

You need to revisit measure 18, show the predator increase due to the passing of measure 18, that is scientific fact based decision making and take it to the legislature. The decline in deer and elk began immediately upon its passing.

I encourage you as a lifelong Oregon resident and archery hunter to make decisions based on scientific facts and not punish us.

Your plan will do 1 thing, push hunters to other states and severally hurt your fiscal income from hunters. I will be 1 of them.

You can produce the statistics for the last 5 years for every unit, showing the difference between rifle and archery harvest rates to show why you want to move archery to a draw.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and please, make decisions based on scientific based facts.

Brian Bryson

Roxann B Borisch

From: bness@frontiernet.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:59 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Re: Thank you for your comments

Please let me know whom to send letter too! That's all I need. Thank you.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, 6:55 PM, ODFW Commission <ODFW.Commission@state.or.us> wrote:

Thank you for your comments on this issue. Your message will be forwarded to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners for review and any necessary response.

Roxann B Borisch

From: John Goforth <John@goforthinspired.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 6:22 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: _\|/_ Potentially Risky URL in Email - Click Carefully _\|/_ 2021 proposed changes for draw tags on the East side of the state.

Hi my name is John Goforth. I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the presented changes to easter oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith.

Regards,

John P. Goforth CADC II
Executive Director
Goforth Inspired LLC
www.goforthinspired.com

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Stephen Price <scprice0509@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:17 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery Draw Tags

Dear ODFW,

I am voicing my deep seated disdain for the current proposal to make eastern Oregon archery hunts draw only. I am strongly against this proposal.

I have been purchasing hunting and fishing licenses every year in the State of Oregon since I was old enough to legally do so (almost 30 years). I continually see license and tag fees increase while opportunity correspondingly decreases.

I would love to see the scientific evidence that shows that archery hunters are having any sort of significant effect on big game populations in the state. Or, any other evidence that is the basis for this proposal.

If you want to do something that will actually make a difference, concentrate on reducing the exploding predator populations that are the real threat to our big game populations. Re-opening opportunities for hound hunting for cats and figuring out a solution to the rapidly growing wolf population would be an excellent starting point.

The gross mismanagement of our fish and wildlife populations (and the corresponding decline in opportunity) has to stop. This is just another decision that will end up limiting our opportunities as hunters in the State of Oregon, but will do little to help our big game populations.

Thank you,

Stephen C. Price

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mr. Nicholas <nicholas.g.coddington@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: A hunters concern

Hi my name is Nicholas Coddington. I'm an avid hunter, conservationist, veteran, and a Nurse. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, in regards to the presented changes, to eastern oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery, to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term effect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith. I would like to be able to pass down this sport to my future generations and the generations before me passed it along. I wish the commission would take a hard look at how to better manage predators, there was great work done in the Heppner unit by ODFW. Very positive results came from that project. I also hope that the state continues to strengthen its punishments against poachers, then are not the same people as ethical hunters, and must be held accountable.

Thank you for your time and service,

Nicholas Coddington.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Zane Jacobs <zanejacobs@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:22 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery draw hunts

I am new this year for archery hunting. I usually hunt rifle season. The past years I have hunted, I see less and less deer and elk and more predator tracks. Too many cougars, bear and coyotes. Less and less animals are being harvested by hunters on public lands by archery or rifle. I think you should consider not doing archery as a draw and maybe consider the amount of predators that are out there. If archery goes to a draw I will quit hunting in this state and I'm sure 1000's of others will also. Thank you for your time, Zane Jacobs of Junction City, Oregon.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Matt Winger <mattw@withnellauto.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 4:05 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: NO DRAW FOR ARCHERY

Hi my name is Matt Winger. I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the presented changes to eastern Oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affects on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith.

Thanks,

MATT WINGER

Roxann B Borisch

From: Caleb Runyan <calebsguideservice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 3:32 PM
To: odfwcommission@state.or.us
Subject: Big game proposals 2021

Hi my name is Caleb Runyan.

I am an avid outdoorsman in the state of Oregon. I am a professional fishing guide and recreational hunter. I spend time in September as my one vacation archery hunting. I am very against your new proposed changes for 2021. These changes would be bad for Oregon and our hunters. Instead of controlling archery hunters please do some work and act on predator control. Predation is the real problem in the state of Oregon. Don't take opportunity away from us archery hunters who already have so many things working against us. Wildfires, Predation and so many other factors. If you make eastern Oregon draw. What will I do when the coast season is shut down due to fire danger? if you don't have a special permit from Weyerhaeuser you can't hunt? and even they shut down their land sometimes. When fire hits the west side I find a unit over east that is not affected and go hunt there with my time off. Please do not take more opportunity away in our state. Don't regulate things more than they already are. Please listen to our voices. Listen to the people who spend more time in the field every year and can see the issues at hand.

Lastly could you please provide me with the State of Oregon harvest statistics for Archery and Rifle elk per unit for the last 10 years?

I would love a response. I would also love to be able to comment at a hearing or a public meeting.

--

Thanks,

Caleb's Guide service

503-680-1429

calebsguideservice@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Richard Braatz <braatzrichardjp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:58 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes to archery

To all concerned,

My name is RichardJohnPaul Braatz, I have been an Oregon resident for 37 years and hearing that there is a possibility of Eastern Oregon being made a draw for archery elk and deer is very disheartening. The archery hunter success rate is very low, and while there is becoming increased pressure, it hasn't effected success rate. Changing to a draw system, in my opinion is a huge mistake. Trying to legislate opportunity of outcome and pander to those complaining about increased pressure ruins the amazing equality of opportunity we enjoy in the state of Oregon for archery. Being able to go nearly statewide and hunt elk and deer is a wonderful benefit to people that have been hunting various units for all of their lives and know the country. The only viable option I could see to limit numbers in one way or another, would be to put a "choose your weapon" stipulation in place during the tag application process. When hunters find out they didn't draw their rifle tag in late June and decide to go in mass to buy archery tags it puts inexperienced hunters in the woods with little practice before the season starts. Please take these concerns to heart and truly listen to what myself, and the thousands of other hunters will be telling you in the coming days/weeks. Making the decision to take all of eastern Oregon to a draw will not help matters. There are other things that need to be looked at before that is ever a consideration. Such as too many rifle tags being issued for bucks, especially in the Heppner unit, complete neglect of predator management (bringing back dogs for a legal method of take would greatly improve this), we need to legalize controlled take of wolves NOW and not later, there are too many and they are not being properly accounted for. There are many options for controlling wildlife numbers, limiting opportunity should be the absolute last resort, and seeing as there is no scientific evidence to support limiting archery hunters would increase herd numbers, that option shouldn't even be a remote consideration. I appreciate the work being done by ODFW to listen to those speaking, but I feel it's important to not pander to the minority while penalizing the majority.

Thank you for your time,

Garrett Fairchild

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jesse Spratt <jessespratt11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Controlled hunts.

Dear ODFW commission, I am emailing you this afternoon to voice my concerns as an Oregonian, avid bow hunter, and father of a feature hunter. I believe your decision to make our eastern units a draw hunt for archery is a mistake that will cause more trouble and difficulty later on. Please don't punish us in the archery community for your failed management of our wildlife. If you do this, it will concentrate more hunters into the few public areas we have left on the west side, and you will be taking opportunities away from thousands of Oregonian's who plan trips every years to hunt over east.

As a bow hunter we are already taking on more of a challenge to harvest an animal, and I feel taking away valuable hunting is only making it more difficult for us.

Lastly, I would like to bring up the issue of over protecting the predators in our state. Since I started hunting in the year 2000 (and spend most of my time in the mountains) I have seen to many bears to count, several cougars (which used to be rare to spot them), Bob cat, coyote, and even wolves (on the east and west side of the Cascades). Maybe, just maybe, if we could bait and or use dogs again. This wouldn't be such a problem.

So in conclusion, Please. PLEASE, do not take away general archery eat of the Cascades.

Sincerely, Jesse Spratt. A Bow hunter.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Craig <craig1945@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:45 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Curt Melcher; Nick Myatt
Subject: Big Game Regulation Review

Dear Commissioners,

I watched the video of your meeting on Friday, June 12th when Nick Myatt made his presentation regarding the big game regulation review project and was especially interested in the apparent ODFW intent to control archery hunting in central and eastern Oregon. There were some things, both said and unsaid, in Nick's presentation on which I would like to comment.

First, I was disappointed that there was no mention yet again of ODFW doing anything to establish permanent limits on landowner preference (LOP) tags for the few special late-season deer hunts where ODFW doesn't already have such limits in place. In particular, I believe that a permanent limit on LOP tags needs to be established for the late Metolius unit archery buck hunt (hunt # 139R). In 2019, there were 2,197 applicants for the 20 tags available to public hunters for that hunt while about 15 private landowners were eligible for 31 LOP tags. Although the actual numbers of both public and LOP tags might vary slightly depending on the year, the 2019 numbers are pretty typical of most past years. When it takes about 20 years (and increasing) for a public bowhunter to draw that tag, it is crazy that every eligible landowner can get two (2) or more LOP tags for the hunt every year, especially since most of the bucks "targeted" by that hunt spend a substantial majority of the year on public lands. I do understand that LOP tags for the late Metolius archery buck hunt will be limited this year because of low Mule Deer population counts in ODFW's annual survey, but such "one point in time" survey-based limits don't really address the on-going tag distribution inequity that exists in the absence of permanent LOP tag limits.

Second, with regard to the proposal to control archery hunting in central and eastern Oregon, it was interesting to hear Nick state that ODFW deliberately managed the general archery season to move hunters from rifle hunting to bowhunting when rifle hunting was controlled years ago. However, what he didn't say is that the way ODFW chose to manage bowhunting has directly caused the situation that ODFW is now trying to correct when there were other, perhaps more rational options available. Many bowhunters have long urged ODFW to adopt a "choose your weapon" approach to bowhunting where a hunter would have to choose whether to hunt with a rifle or bow before applying for a controlled rifle hunt tag. Then, in its most absolute form, if the rifle tag applicant was unsuccessful in drawing the preferred controlled rifle tag, the hunter wouldn't get a "second bite of the apple" by being able to pick up a bow and go bowhunting that same year as they now can. While an absolute "choose your weapon" approach might not be palatable even to many dedicated bowhunters, ODFW could have initiated a partial "choose your weapon" approach where the number of crossover rifle hunters taking up bowhunting after failing to draw a preferred rifle tag was managed to prevent the very problems – hunter crowding and game displacement – ODFW is now trying to "fix".

One of the concerns – there are many -- about controlling all archery hunting on a unit-by-unit basis is that archery season occurs right in the peak of fire season. There have been recent years where bowhunters intending to hunt a particular unit had to change plans when access to their preferred hunting area was closed due to wildfires in the area. With a general archery season, that occurrence is not too critical because hunting locations can be changed at will, but it becomes a serious consideration with controlled bowhunting because changing hunt areas from one unit to another would no longer be possible. With rifle hunting, especially for elk, fire danger is usually a minimal consideration for hunts scheduled in late October or November and, even though the controlled rifle deer season is in early October, I can't remember a rifle deer season closure due to fire danger even though the possibility is occasionally talked about before that season starts.

Third, I was interested in Nick's figures showing that bowhunters make up 73-percent of "branch bull hunters" in the Heppner, Starkey and Ukiah units. I wonder how he distinguishes between a hunter – with either a rifle or a bow -- who is a "branch bull hunter" and one who would be perfectly happy to harvest a spike bull. The fact is that both the archery tags and the rifle tags Nick was comparing are "any bull" tags. Nick also didn't mention that the three (3) units that he used for comparison purposes offer an unlimited number of over-the-counter second-season spike-only rifle elk tags that give rifle hunters an opportunity for both time in the field and the chance to harvest a spike bull elk when they don't draw an "any bull" tag. That makes those rifle hunters just like many of the bowhunters included in Nick's so-called archery "branch bull hunter" population who willingly harvest a spike bull if they get an opportunity.

The other thing I thought was interesting in Nick's comparison of hunter numbers and harvest success in the three (3) units mentioned in the paragraph above is that while 73-percent of "branch bull hunters" in the units are bowhunters they account for 55-percent of the actual harvest of branch bull elk. That would mean that an individual rifle hunter with a controlled rifle "any bull" tag has a substantially better chance of harvesting a branch bull than does a bowhunter. Nick and I recently exchanged E-mails on a somewhat different, but related matter, and he indicated that the elk harvest rate for bowhunters in the Starkey unit was 14-percent while it was about 30-percent for rifle hunters. While those rates may not correlate exactly with Nick's 73-percent and 55-percent numbers in his presentation, both sets of numbers certainly speak to the difference in harvest capability of rifles and bows. And, it generally takes a bowhunter nearly twice as much time in the field for that 14-percent harvest rate as it does for a rifle hunter to have the 30-percent harvest rate. The point is that while Nick used his 73-percent and 55-percent comparisons to try to point to a disparity favoring bowhunters over rifle hunters the figures actually show almost the exact opposite! And, by ignoring the spike-only rifle tags and implying that all bowhunters are "branch bull hunters", Nick is comparing the "best case" for bowhunters against the "worst case" for rifle hunters to try to make his case for controlling all archery hunting opportunity in the same manner as rifle hunting is controlled. That kind of "apples to oranges" comparison is totally unfair!!

In conclusion, although we're years down the road from when ODFW could have implemented some variation of a "choose your weapon" approach to avoid the current situation, there is no reason why a partial "choose your weapon" approach can't be implemented now instead of controlling bowhunting in the same manner that rifle hunting is now controlled. The fact is that the capabilities of the two (2) different hunting weapons are so vastly different that applying the same management system to rifle hunting and bowhunting makes little or no common sense! As an example of a different approach, a general archery season could be maintained for bowhunters who don't apply for a controlled rifle tag and the number of archery tags made available for rifle hunters who cross over to bowhunting when they fail to draw their preferred controlled rifle tags could be managed by ODFW on a unit-by-unit basis as the rifle hunter's second or subsequent hunt choice. That would give ODFW virtually the same ability to manage bowhunter numbers and harvest as they would get by controlling all bowhunting but without being so punitive toward bowhunters who have no interest in rifle hunting. As an additional consideration, preference points could be tied to the weapon type actually used in a season instead of having a general application by game species as is now the case. This might eliminate or reduce Nick's apparent concerns about the practice of "stockpiling" of rifle preference points by hunters who now cross over to bowhunting when they fail to draw their preferred controlled rifle tag.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Craig Starr

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Roxann B Borisch

From: Trevor schnelle <schnelle28@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 1:16 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: East side archery draw proposal

Please take these Considerations to heart.

My name is Trevor Schnelle, I have been an Oregon resident for 24 years and hearing that there is a possibility of Eastern Oregon being made a draw for archery elk and deer is very disheartening. The archery hunter success rate is very low, and while there is becoming increased pressure, it hasn't effected success rate. Changing to a draw system, in my opinion is a huge mistake. Trying to legislate opportunity of outcome and pander to those complaining about increased pressure ruins the amazing equality of opportunity we enjoy in the state of Oregon for archery. Being able to go nearly statewide and hunt elk and deer is a wonderful benefit to people that have been hunting various units for all of their lives and know the country. The only viable option I could see to limit numbers in one way or another, would be to put a "choose your weapon" stipulation in place during the tag application process. When hunters find out they didn't draw their rifle tag in late June and decide to go in mass to buy archery tags it puts inexperienced hunters in the woods with little practice before the season starts. Please take these concerns to heart and truly listen to what myself, and the thousands of other hunters will be telling you in the coming days/weeks. Making the decision to take all of eastern Oregon to a draw will not help matters. There are other things that need to be looked at before that is ever a consideration. Such as too many rifle tags being issued for bucks, especially in the Heppner unit, complete neglect of predator management (bringing back dogs for a legal method of take would greatly improve this), we need to legalize controlled take of wolves NOW and not later, there are too many and they are not being properly accounted for. There are many options for controlling wildlife numbers, limiting opportunity should be the absolute last resort, and seeing as there is no scientific evidence to support limiting archery hunters would increase herd numbers, that option shouldn't even be a remote consideration. I appreciate the work being done by ODFW to listen to those speaking, but I feel it's important to not pander to the minority while penalizing the majority.

Thank you for your time,

Trevor Schnelle

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Austin Dike <austin.dike26@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Changes...

Hi my name is Austin dike. I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the presented changes to easter oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Wyatt Sebright <olwyatt.sebright@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:14 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: EASTERN OREGON ELK PROPOSAL

With my finger on the pulse of my local bowhunting community and social media I am seeing a strong disagreement with the decision to put eastern Oregon into a draw for all archery tags. This will put a massive increase of pressure on western Oregon and will greatly diminish opportunity in the state.

If limiting hunter numbers in a certain unit is the goal, then let's try over the counter with a capped amount of hunters.

Thanks, Wyatt Sebright

Roxann B Borisch

From: billy ferrell <billferrell1991@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:14 PM
To: odfwcommission@state.or.us
Subject: Eastern draw tag

I have heard there is a regulation trying to be passed making all of eastern oregon a draw tag. Is this accurate?

Roxann B Borisch

From: Garrett Fairchild <fairchildgarrett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 11:22 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: 2021 Elk and Deer season changes.

To all concerned,

My name is Garrett Fairchild, I have been an Oregon resident for 5 years and hearing that there is a possibility of Eastern Oregon being made a draw for archery elk and deer is very disheartening. The archery hunter success rate is very low, and while there is becoming increased pressure, it hasn't effected success rate. Changing to a draw system, in my opinion is a huge mistake. Trying to legislate opportunity of outcome and pander to those complaining about increased pressure ruins the amazing equality of opportunity we enjoy in the state of Oregon for archery. Being able to go nearly statewide and hunt elk and deer is a wonderful benefit to people that have been hunting various units for all of their lives and know the country. The only viable option I could see to limit numbers in one way or another, would be to put a "choose your weapon" stipulation in place during the tag application process. When hunters find out they didn't draw their rifle tag in late June and decide to go in mass to buy archery tags it puts inexperienced hunters in the woods with little practice before the season starts. Please take these concerns to heart and truly listen to what myself, and the thousands of other hunters will be telling you in the coming days/weeks. Making the decision to take all of eastern Oregon to a draw will not help matters. There are other things that need to be looked at before that is ever a consideration. Such as too many rifle tags being issued for bucks, especially in the Heppner unit, complete neglect of predator management (bringing back dogs for a legal method of take would greatly improve this), we need to legalize controlled take of wolves NOW and not later, there are too many and they are not being properly accounted for. There are many options for controlling wildlife numbers, limiting opportunity should be the absolute last resort, and seeing as there is no scientific evidence to support limiting archery hunters would increase herd numbers, that option shouldn't even be a remote consideration. I appreciate the work being done by ODFW to listen to those speaking, but I feel it's important to not pander to the minority while penalizing the majority.

Thank you for your time,

Garrett Fairchild

Roxann B Borisch

From: Buzz Baze <brandonbaszler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:45 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: ARCHERY GENERAL SEASON EAST SIDE

I AM STRONGLY AGAINST MAKING EASTERN OREGON A DRAW ONLY TAG FOR ARCHERY ELK AND DEER HUNTERS!! Please do not do this!

Roxann B Borisch

From: Zach Rimer <zachjrimer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:46 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: East side archery draw

Hi my name is Zach Rimer. I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the presented changes to easter oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jordan Hinchman <jorboy1291@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Easter oregon elk tag proposal.

Hi my name is Jordan Hinchman. I'm an avid hunter and conservationist. I'm writing this E-Mail to the Oregon department of fish and wildlife commission in regards to the proposed changes to easter oregon over the counter tags for elk hunting by way of archery to a draw system. My position is NOT in favor of this change. It is a band aid over a much larger scale. As well, this idea has no bases in sound science as during the last commissioners meeting Nick Myatt reported archery hunting had no long term affect on decline in population of both deer and elk. I encourage you to make the right decision as if this passes will cause extensive damage to hunters and the wildlife you were tasked with managing in good faith. A choose your weapon rule will have a greater affect on elk population then this proposed change.

Roxann B Borisch

From: drew adams <ridgereaper613@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:22 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: No to east side archery draw

Do not make the east side archery tag a draw, Simply make it so people have to choose their weapon prior to the draw deadline. This will limit the amount of “last Minute” archery hunters. Which will then lower numbers of hunters in the woods per season, limit un-ethical archery shots and produce a better management situation for our herds. By making archery on the east side a draw, ODFW will be shorting everyone who has been building points and funding out management programs. This will also lead to a disaster on the west side of the state. Taking our hunting opportunities to a even lower point then they all ready are. I deeply hope ODFW realizes how bad this would be for our herds and our state. For once I hope ODFW does what is best for the animals and the hunters of Oregon.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeremy Wilson <silvieselkhunter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 2:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery Elk Hunting proposals for 2021

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Dear ODF&W,

I am a bow hunter mainly. Have hunted multiple units in Eastern Oregon as have many of my archery friends through the years.. I have also hunted Rifle some in the 90's and early 2000's before switching to Archery hunting only because tags were taking so long to draw. I haven't applied for a Rifle elk or Deer hunt since, only the trophy area hunts then General hunted when unsuccessful in the draw.

First of all, I have heard you guys surveyed 4000 Archery elk hunters from around the state for a 2nd opinion, yet I have not heard of one of my fellow bow hunters in my circle that got surveyed. Not surveyed, so I'm speaking up now before it's too late.

Secondly, in the hunters survey for mandatory reporting, it asks which Unit we hunted the MAJORITY of our days, how many people hunted other units? Seems you need more data or I would like to know that data for a more informed opinion. I generally Archery hunt more than one unit each fall for elk. Also, if this is a control harvest updated elk management plan, Rifle Hunters average over 20% success rates and bow hunters a little over 10%, seems like rifle hunters should be restricted more from just a management plan if we're trying to increase elk herds under current management conditions, not limit the more primitive weapon?

I am against Unit by unit controlled Archery hunting across the board. Seems there should be a way to keep opportunity with increasing quality of hunting and crowding in some units. Units like Heppner, Ukiah, Desolation, Starkey have hunter crowding issues during archery season and those may need some kind of cap or controlled hunting but why not just making a few more units controlled rather than controlled hunting across the board?

Idaho has a by zone system for their Archery elk tags, and it seems to work very well. Also, seems we should limit the NR's who buy tags at the last second and come into Oregon for OTC Archery Elk, that would help with some of the crowding issues as well, but obviously it's big revenue for the state.

Seems there should be a way to create both systems without limiting overall opportunity.

My proposals would be to make some of the higher hunter crowding, and higher elk population units draw and leave some of the other units general so both worlds can take place from a hunting aspect. Second proposal would be to divide archery hunting into zones, and make us choose zones to hunt, Western Oregon Zone, Central Oregon Zone, Northeast zone, Southeast zone, Blue Mountain zone. Similar to the Raffle/Auction tag zones. Make caps for the zones with a % of those going to Non-Residents.

Wyoming and Idaho have zones and Units, and limited quota hunts within them for any weapons or Archery only(Type 9 Wyoming Idaho type A), and it seems to work for their states. Or a General Tag for a given # of Units(50 some General units in Wyoming) Why can't it work in Oregon? I think we need to think outside the box more, and explore new ways to accomplish the things we all want to accomplish.

If this is about revenue, I think the majority of elk hunters will pay \$8 more dollars for the tag and General Archery Elk Units and not be limited rather than paying \$8 for an application to be limited and be bound to that unit.

I haven't even addressed predator management, which is a whole topic all in itself, but with predators on the rise not being managed really at all because ODF&W's hands are tied is a big problem. But don't restrict people more, you will continue to lose participation and new recruitment within the hunting community.

Thank you for reading, and I strongly encourage the commission NOT TO MAKE ALL ARCHERY ELK HUNTING DRAW BY UNIT FOR FALL OF 2021, PLEASE LEAVE SOME GENERAL HUNTING FOR A % OF US BOW HUNTERS. More restrictions aren't necessary.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wilson
Lebanon, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

From: Curtis Pedro <curtis.pedro@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: curtis.pedro@icloud.com
Subject: Proposed Archery Changes
Attachments: image0.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

ODFW,

I am writing as a concerned hunter that has lived in NE Oregon my entire life. I feel like the proposed changes are 100% about over crowding and the talk about archery hunters pushing elk onto private land is not accurate.

You just created a OTC cow tag in all of eastern Oregon where you can even buy the tag mid season and go shoot an elk so obviously elk population is not a concern.

All of the cow hunts leading up to this year is what hurt elk numbers in the fringe areas and caused huge private herds. Most of those elk live year round on private ground, historically ODFW has had large cow hunts in areas like Shaw mountain and none or very few of the land owners allow access. This means everyone is killing cows on the small partials of public access or public ground. The next year there are less elk on public and more on private, these are different elk. ODFW does a count, issue more cow tags and this has happened for the last 20 years. Now we have thousands of elk that were born on private and never leave and the easy access fringe areas above that are public have very few elk.

This phenomena has nothing to do with elk getting pushed it's all because of people making decisions that aren't in those areas seeing this happen. Huge elk herds on private land are due to miss management of the herds.

Now that the cow hunts on public ground have been eliminated it will take time but the elk numbers will come back and landowners issues will get better.

Elk numbers are still good in areas away from the private they are just harder to access due to less drivable roads. Over crowding should only be a concern if it's hurting the populations in those areas. It is not and if it was really that big of deal people would stop going to those areas and being part of the problem. It's not so people continue to go there and those who are not successful complain.

If we do end up with a draw it should be implemented state wide. With it only being applicable in eastern Oregon they will mean that those of us who grew up and still live in eastern Oregon will have to apply to hunt out or back doors which will keep us from applying for limited draw hunts that are managed for trophy quality like Mt Emily, Weneha and Walla Walla. The western side of the state will still be able to hunt at home like they do now and also apply for limited hunts as well. What this will mean is that after a few years all of the good limited hunt areas will only be hunted by western Oregon hunters not those of us who live out in eastern Oregon. Having the entire state a draw system will help tremendously with the point issue in the state and is the only fair way to change the system so everyone can have equal opportunity within the state.

What I mean by that is most of western Oregon has good deer and elk hunting, they can still apply for eastern Oregon with the current system and if they don't draw they can still hunt at home, this will mean more people applying for eastern Oregon tags which means less opportunities for eastern Oregonians. If you currently live in eastern Oregon you will be competing against western Oregon for tags to hunt here at home and if lose out in a tag you cannot still hunt without traveling all the way to the other side of the state. What that means for me personally is if I don't draw at home, I will be taken my money to another state to hunt as well as my wife and two kids who are all avid hunters and have been for years.

If you make the entire state a draw it will force everyone who want to hunt at home to make the choice to hunt at home or apply across the state for a harder to draw limited tag. By doing this a huge portion of the state will apply at home so they can hunt, nights and weekends all season. This will not only help with over crowding but will also help with point creep and keep the points required for all hunts at a minimum.

Thank you very much for your time.

Curtis Pedro
541-786-5114

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:11 AM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: 2021 Big Game Regulation Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Dan Ramming
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:39 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: 2021 Big Game Regulation Meeting

Attached is an email that I have forwarded to the ODF&W. Thank you for considering my suggestions and the reasoning behind them.

Respectfully,
Dan Ramming

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dan Ramming** <djramming@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 10, 2020, 10:14 PM
Subject: 2021 Big Game Regulation Meeting
To: <odfw.info@state.or.us>

Dear ODF&W Staff,

I am a strong pro-hunter. I have been hunting Oregon for the past 45 years. At that time if you did not harvest your elk with bow and arrow, you could hunt elk with a rifle with no special tag or draw. A season this long gave hunters more opportunities than they have today. I am speaking Eastern Oregon. Many things have changed. Technology, quantity of poaching, disease, management styles, habitat and quantity of predators to name a few.

When eastern Oregon switched to deer and elk controlled hunts for rifle tags, I was an advocate for archery controlled hunts as well. I still support this for a number of reasons. My number one reason is when a hunter does not draw their rifle tag they can pick up a bow to hunt elk and deer. Even with technology advances without extensive practice a new archer is more likely to take risky unethical shots. If archery seasons were controlled hunts there may be more experienced archers applying for these hunts. Less wounded animals with more ethical choices. Also I believe there would be less party hunting.

After 22 years as a hunter education instructor I don't believe that the, any legal weapon season, is a good idea. With archers, black powder and some rifle hunters wearing camouflage, I believe this would be a big safety issue. If you are to open this season a mandatory hunter safety orange requirement should be part of these seasons.

I believe an unlimited number of deer tags state wide in archery season is another bad idea. I have quit hunting deer because I simply believe that their numbers are so low I should not be a detriment to the low populations. For 2020 ODF&W has cut back I believe on over 3000 deer tags in eastern Oregon, why would you have unlimited tags next year. I spoke with an eastern Oregon ODF&W office and it was recommended I hunt deer elsewhere because buck numbers are so low in their district.

As for the Cascade elk season, the any legal weapon idea is bad for the reasons discussed earlier. Also if tracking bull ratios is a problem put the season back in November.

I have always thought spike only seasons is a bad idea. Yes it gives hunters a last ditch opportunity and it gives ODF&W extra financial support, but at what cost? Rebuilding herd numbers and the chance at a branch bull I believe, out weigh a camping trip for hunters and a few bucks.

Currently I hunt and fish in other states. Two reasons, better opportunities for success and I can hunt and fish out of state for costs that range from less than my resident fees to not that much more than my resident fees. Increasing opportunities and keeping the fees affordable is a big challenge.

Opportunities afield is not just time afield, but also a better chance at success afield.
Thank you for your time!

Respectfully,
Dan Ramming
OHA - Life Member
RMEF - Life Member
Oregon Hunter Education
Instructor - 22 years

Scanned
7/10/20 JS

ODFW Mailroom

June 7, 2020

ODFW
JUN 12 2020

JUN 10 2020

Received

ODF&W Director: CURT MELCHER

Director's Office

I have received lots of phone calls about a survey on Bowhunting Seasons. I have not seen this survey.

At the 2020 Portland Sportsman Show I had lots of bow hunters talk to me about how bad and over crowded areas were with bow hunters. This is an ODF&W problem when you change from Bowhunters and Rifle draws were at the same time. If Rifle hunters did not draw, they could not go Bowhunting. We need to go back to the old way to stop the over crowded bow seasons. Choose your weapon. You need to ask your game biologists what they think about it. The new bowhunters do not have honor or respect this is sad.

I was in Sled Springs in 2019 last year and there weren't any good bulls in the area. I have hunted there since 1981. The bull ratio is really low in Oregon and I think our bull ratio is around 5 to 7 bulls per 100 cows. The problem is predators: bears, cougars and wolves all over the whole state. We need to harvest more of them and I think trapping is the best way solve the problem.

Chuck "windy" Lynde Phone 541-410-8031
e-mail windylynde@yahoo.com Bow hunted 63 years



Chuck Lynde
PO Box 3469
La Pine, OR 97739

PORLTAND OR 972
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