

**Public Correspondence Received as of
September 2, 2025**

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 2:10 PM
To: BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW
Subject: FW: Aldrich LOP deer tag reduction concern

From: AJ Tweeddale <aj@scaffolderectors.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 11:38 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Cc: WOLFER Brian H * ODFW <brian.h.wolfer@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Aldrich LOP deer tag reduction concern

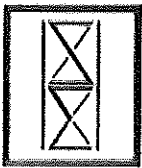
Some people who received this message don't often get email from aj@scaffolderectors.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

It has come to my attention that there are plans to limit the amount of LOP deer tags issued for properties located in Murders Creek or Aldrich unit. If this is the case, I would like to understand the reasoning as well as voice my opposition. I am a landowner in that area and provide feed and water to help the wildlife population, and to limit my hunting rights on my own property seems like government overreach and immoral if not illegal. Please let me know if what I hear is true and the reasoning behind it.

Thank you,

A.J. Tweeddale



Scaffold Erectors, Inc
5721 SE Johnson Creek Blvd. Portland, OR 97206
Direct: 503-720-0219 Main Office: 503-233-9438
Email: aj@scaffolderectors.com
www.scaffolderectors.com

HIGH IZEE RANCH

PO Box 2176 ♦ Tualatin, OR 97062 ♦ Ph# 971-224-2244 ♦ Fax # 503-682-2713

August 18, 2025

Dr. Debbie Colbert
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 7302

SUBJECT: Concern Regarding Deer Population & Predator Management

Dear Dr. Colbert:

I am writing to you as the owner of High Izee Ranch, a 14,500 acre property in Grant County that I purchased five years ago, with the goal of managing it as a recreational ranch and improving its natural resources. Since that time, we have worked diligently to restore timber, grasses, manage fire reduction, and water sources to provide habitat for elk, deer, sage grouse, and other wildlife.

In my first year here, I counted approximately 200 deer along the seven-mile stretch from Windy Ridge to the edge of Keerin. Five years later, that number has dropped to around 50. Despite significant investments in habitat restoration, including extensive juniper removal, supported by federal and state funding, installation of water tanks, fencing aspen groves and separate pastures, and managing grass growth, the deer population continues to decline. I have even hired a professional land management consultant certified by USDA and NRCS.

From my own observation and predator control specialists in the field, it is clear that unchecked predator populations, including coyotes, cougars, wolves, and bobcats, are taking a heavy toll on deer herds. Studies by ODFW indicate that over half of fawns are lost to coyote predation, with survival rates as low as 27 percent in 2023. Without action, this trend will continue until we see a collapse in game populations.

I respectfully request that ODFW consider reducing rather than expanding public tags and not limiting Landowner Preference (LOP) tags until deer numbers can rebound. It doesn't make sense to combine Silvies and Ochoco units into a larger unit and then increase tags by 200. Without meaningful predator management and thoughtful harvest limits, the long-term future of deer and other game species in this area are at serious risk.

For this reason, I urge the Department not to increase deer tag allocations by eliminating Silvies and Ochoco units. Issuing an additional 200 tags will almost certainly exacerbate the decline. Beyond harvest pressure, it will increase wounding losses, traffic, and poaching on private lands. On our ranch and surrounding ranches, we practice responsible stewardship by harvesting only 3-4 mature bucks per year, never taking young bucks, in order to support herd growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I look forward to working together toward sustainable wildlife management in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "De Pollman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Pollman
High Izee Ranch
37234 Izee Paulina
Canyon City, OR 97820
503-209-6732

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Sue Kilander <phd@cascadeaccess.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 12:03 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Cc: WOLFER Brian H * ODFW
Subject: Comments regarding new Aldrich Unit

You don't often get email from phd@cascadeaccess.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Date: August 24, 2025

I am a landowner in the current Murderer.s Creek Hunting Unit and am just now finding out about the proposed changes. Since my primary residence is not in Eastern Oregon, I did not hear about any of the meetings that took place until I received a postcard received August 30th, 2025. It would have been considerate for landowners to have received a notice so I could have attended some of the meetings and discussions that were held. I have hunted the Murderer's Creek Unit since 1965 and have seen the changes over the years from trees dying by uncontrolled bark beetles, and the fires that have ravaged the unmanaged forests when those trees could have been harvested and used while they were a valuable commodity for the state.

As for the deer and elk herd populations, I have seen them decrease greatly when the predators, namely cougars, were no longer allowed to be hunted with dogs. I have seen many predators on game cameras and seen half buried deer carcasses from cougar kills. Cougars don't just kill when they are hungry, but when they get the opportunity and since they are no longer hunted in a productive way, they have been allowed to flourish at the detriment of the deer and elk herds. For the sake of the deer and elk population, there needs to be some balance to cut down on predation. Controlled number of hunting cougars with dogs would help this stay under better control for what has gotten out of hand. There are also many bears in the area, and I have personally seen many on my property.

It would be great if people in the office could actually get out and talk to the landowners in the area and if landowners were notified so they could add input to the meetings. I would be glad to discuss any questions with you and can be reached at 503-637-6590.

Sincerely,
Art Kilander
33100 SE Sofich Ln,
Eagle Creek, Oregon 97022

(And property owner of 640 acres in the current Murder's Creek Hunting Unit, and 1120 acres in Northside Unit)

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: david brant <dcbrant100@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 5:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Cascade Rocky Mountain Goat 916A

You don't often get email from dcbrant100@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is Important](#)

Just want to give my opinion of the 916A hunt area for the Cascade Mountain Goat season. First of all I have hunted most of my life and I am not against hunting at all. Removing one goat from the area is not going to damage this population. Hunting fed my family with quality wild meat for many years.

My concern is allowing the hunt area to include the Canyon Meadows area on the NE side of Three Finger Jack. This area is a very busy place with people hiking up there all day long. Last year I was up there to photograph and observe the goats 5 times and been up there twice this year already. Most of the hikers going up there are hoping to see the goats. I have observed that approximately 70% of the hikers are women. Why so many? I don't know but I see that every time I go up there.

It is probably too late this year but I suggest this Canyon Meadow "bowl" be closed to the taking of goats. The north ridge line from the peak of Three fingers then along the PCT to the Wasco Lake junction, then follow the trail back to Jack Lake would make a very easy boundary. From the top of Three Finger go along the ridge to the east and down to Jack Lake would be the east boundary.

There needs to be some sport in hunting. I bow hunted most of my years and worked very hard at it, taking 24 deer and elk, mostly with my bow. I just came down from an overnight in the Canyon Meadows area with many photos of which I am including one of a very handsome Billy. He was right along the trail. I was able to go around him where he could see me. I sat down and two Billy's feed up very close giving me some wonderful shots. Now I would have had a very difficult time shooting this goat with my bow as it seemed very un-sportsman like.

I have already heard of hikers stating there were "hunters" scouting out the goats for this season. Yes I know there is only one tag, but taking a goat with so many, lets say, non-hunters and leaving a gut pile and people seeing the carcass being carried out....well I wouldn't want to be that hunter. It will only cause a negative public opinion backlash.

Please consider making this area off limits to the goat hunt. If it cannot be done for the 2025 hunt then it should easily could be done for the 2026 hunt if there is one.

Thank you for allowing my opinion.
David Brant



BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Ryan Courtney <rcourtney3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 6:03 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Goat tags in the Strawberry Mountains

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from rcourtney3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The sheer number of goats, not to mention the amount of high quality Billy's, warrants the strawberry mountains at least 5 tags a year. 1 or 2 is silly and honestly horrible management.

Thank you.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tayler Wells <taylergofish@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 11:48 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Petition to change return tag regulation

[You don't often get email from taylergofish@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Commissioners,

People's lives are full of constant change, both professionally and personally. Sometimes long awaited plans have to go by the wayside as conditions shift.

Many states have in the regulations that if a tag is turned in, it is made available to other hunters eager to have the opportunity. I was recently made aware of the fact that in our state, a returned tag is simply abandoned, essentially robbing other sportsmen of an opportunity they had applied for in lieu of another tag they might have been able to draw.

I am petitioning the committee to amend this, and let the next hunter in line and so forth have a chance to receive a tag once it is turned in by a hunter that can no longer participate in the hunt.

I look forward to your correspondence.


Best,

Tayler Wells
(530) 417-2818
Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Claude Mallegol <cgjfm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2025 12:23 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: lic

Categories: Wildlife, Dir Off, Licensing

 You don't often get email from cgjfm@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Why is oregon so hateful of seniors?

Most other states see 65 yr old as senior some even lower with free or greatly reduced fishing lic. pricing, but oregon and washington think they're special and have 70 as senior.

I've worked hard to make it this far only to be told I'm not quite old enough!


Takes away respect for this state!

The U.S.A. considers 65 as senior.

Claude M
67 yr old

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Bartlett <davidbartlettthunterangler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 10:53 PM
To: ODFW Info * ODFW; Wildlife Permits * ODFW; ODFW Web Sales * ODFW; ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: License and tags
Categories: Wildlife, Dir Off, Licensing

 You don't often get email from davidbartlettthunterangler@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Evening

I would like to make a proposal about bring back the old style paper licenses and tags. The 1st reason why to bring back the old style of paper tagging (leaving the e tagging for outdoors users) is that possible poachers have the opportunity to copy more of their allowed tags cause todays tags and licenses are printed out on basic copy office paper. No way to tell if the tag is originally printed from a sporting store or a copy from home. There is no reflective lamination coding on the outside to make it harder to make copies let alone the old tags and licence are more water resistant.

To add they take less space in outdoor users storage place on them, and easier to find due to the name of the tag or license on the top and in bold block letters able to stand out.

New way for the return of the old paper tags I can think of being laid are as follows

The angling harvest tags like today can be the same layout.

The big game harvest tags of today can be the same layout with the write in the management unit number with the return of the old way cutting out the notches of the month and days.

For the licenses of today can be the same layout.

To ask me more info my contact is listed

Email: davidbartlettthunterangler@gmail.com

Phone: (971) 601-4636

Thanks

David Bartlett

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Ryan Courtney <rcourtney3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 4:48 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Counting animals via airplane.

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from rcourtney3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

So I watch every year, low flying aircraft flying over vast areas doing animal counts. At this point with the technology we have, why are we still unnecessarily harassing animals to get accurate numbers. Why not utilize IR or video recording to not only get more accurate counts, but also fly much higher and prevent additional harassment. Currently we manage several areas throughout the state as harassment free winter grounds as to not add additional stressors to wintering animals. However, those exact areas are flown repeatedly at low altitude to get animals counts.

We have such better options for accurate counting now. Let's start utilizing it.

Thanks,
Ryan Courtney.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: CHET LISA SATER <csater01@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 5:24 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Proposed for Deer hunts 2026

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from csater01@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commission Members, I would like to voice my concerns on the proposed 2026 deer proposals, specifically eliminating hunt 644A3.

Please let me know the biological reason for eliminating this hunt?

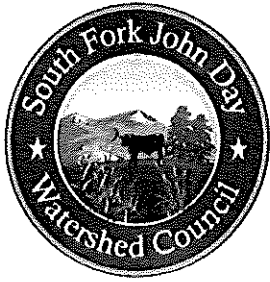
Further this hunt was proposed to be eliminated a few years ago and due to outcry from hunters it was allowed to continue. I understand this is the opportunity to harvest a buck deer under a doe series tag, however there are still other hunts that allow a one deer under the 600 doe series.

I have accumulated 26 preference points under this hunt series specifically waiting for the opportunity of this hunt. There is no other tag in this 600 hunt series that requires point even close to 20 points to draw. Quite a few years ago ODFW decided to eliminate 900 series antlerless hunts, which were west side blacktail tags. The combined the point hunters had under this 900 series to their 600 series antlerless points. The trend was very clear the majority of these hunters doubled up there antlerless deer point to apply for the 644A3 hunt, since causing the amount of preference points to draw this tag to continue to go up each year.

I believe if this hunt is eliminated I and other hunters should be given the chance to move our points to a different hunt series, I do not want to hunt doe's yet have paid the application fee for this hunt for 26 years, and now my opportunity for the hunt I was waiting is being taken away for now justifiable reason.

Thank You

Chet Sater
Hermiston Oregon



South Fork John Day Watershed Council

150 East Main Street, Suite 102

John Day, OR 97845

541-792-0435

www.southforkjohnday.com

July 23, 2025

ODFW Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

ODFW Commission:

A cooperative landowner-based organization has existed in the South Fork John Day River, to improve the watershed since the 1980's. It started as private landowners and different Government Agencies working to improve the area and has developed into the South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

The Council Board of Directors consists of 7 private landowners, listed below:

1. Jeff Maben, Board Chair, Rockpile Ranch and Timber consultant
2. Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair, Rocking 9 Ranch
3. Scott Hess, Secretary/Treasurer, Jackass Ck Ranch
4. Joanne Keerins, Keerins Ranch
5. Richard Nelson, IZ Ranch
6. Jim Dovenberg, Widows Creek Ranch
7. M.T. Anderson, High Desert Land and Cattle, & Double R Ranch

This letter is also supported by:

1. Dean Pollman, High Izee Ranch
2. Kevin Harrison, Hawksview Ranch

The mission of the Council is to maintain and enhance the health of the South Fork John Day River watershed and the long-term economic stability of the region, to foster a better understanding of the multiple resources, to represent broad and diverse geographies and interests, and to work collaboratively to carry out voluntary watershed restoration activities.

Mule deer and big game habitat have been one of the main focuses of our watershed wide efforts. The Council officially adopted the ODFW Mule Deer Initiative in 2012. The John Day Basin Partnership performed an upland prioritization process that found the South Fork John Day to be a high priority for mule deer restoration.

Hunting stands out as both a cornerstone of rural tradition and a significant economic driver. The county's abundant public and private lands, including the South Fork John Day River watershed, draw hunters from across the state and beyond, creating a ripple effect that supports businesses, landowners, and local communities. Expenditures associated—such as licensing, equipment, travel, lodging, food, and guide

services—inject vital revenue into local businesses. Hardware stores, sporting goods retailers, fuel stations, restaurants, and motels all experience seasonal boosts during hunting periods.

Private lands play a critical role in sustaining healthy mule deer populations throughout the South Fork John Day River watershed. In Grant County, landowner preference tags serve as both an incentive and a reward for habitat stewardship and conservation activities. By aligning economic interests with ecological goals, these tags encourage ongoing investment in habitat improvement, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between landowners and wildlife agencies.

Many of the habitat improvement projects undertaken by the Council rely on partnerships with private landowners, whose stewardship and willingness to collaborate have enabled large-scale restoration across diverse landscapes. These efforts include enhancing forage quality, securing migration corridors, and protecting crucial winter ranges that support mule deer during challenging seasonal transitions. By aligning the interests of private landowners with the broader conservation goals, the Council has fostered an environment where the needs of wildlife and the viability of working lands go hand in hand, ensuring that both mule deer and local communities continue to thrive.

The Council urges the ODFW Commission to maintain the level of landowner preference tags, during the revisions to the big game regulations. Not only do landowner preference tags offer direct incentives for continued stewardship, but they also serve as a bridge between conservation objectives and the economic realities of those who live and work on the land. When thoughtfully managed, the system ensures that landowners remain valued partners in restoration efforts, reinforcing the Council's mission to balance ecological health and rural vitality.

We also strongly suggest that the commission reconsider the effects that overpopulated predator numbers are having on mule deer. According to the 2024 Oregon Mule Deer Management Plan, Oregon's mule deer populations have experienced significant declines over the past several decades, and predation from cougars (for adult mule deer) and coyotes (for newborn and juvenile mule deer) have been documented as the principal source of mortality.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has implemented several changes in recent years to increase mule deer survival by reducing the numbers of predators that kill deer. Studies in Utah show that certain predator-control measures can increase mule deer populations. These measures include Reducing coyote densities in areas where mule deer are fawning and reducing cougar densities in areas where adult mule deer mortality is above 7% because of cougar predation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Stiner".

Amy Stiner

SFJDWC Executive Director

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Roth <dsroth4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 10:15 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Mule Deer LOP Tag Reduction

Categories: Field Staff, Wildlife

You don't often get email from dsroth4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear ODFW Commission,

I want to write in to voice my opposition to the potential reduction of LOP mule deer tags. These LOP tags are a huge incentive to land owners to prioritize mule deer herd health as well as an economic help to rural areas that benefit from the influx of deer hunters come hunting season.

A focus on increased predator control would be, in my opinion, a much better place to start in order to help our mule deer populations.

Thank you for all that you do,
David Roth
dsroth4@gmail.com

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tracie Memmott <tgeer@pcc.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 12:42 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Inequity in Disability Permits

Categories: Licensing, Wildlife, Fish

[You don't often get email from tgeer@pcc.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I was searching on your website to see if I could help a student get a free fishing license due to their disabilities. I was excited at first that we found the application until we discover that only physical disabilities were included. Your definition of "disability" is very skewed. There are lots of children and adults with developmental disabilities who would like to try fishing (with assistance), and not a lot of families can pay the \$45 fee (for adults) to try fishing a few times. Your application seems very discriminatory towards a large portion of the disability community. I would love to recommend that you take a look at your policies to make it more inclusive. It would mean the world to some of my students.

Thanks,
Tracie Memmott

From: Jerry Jackman <jerald.jackman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 5:05 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW; DENNEHY Michelle N * ODFW
Subject: new structure for deer/elk hunting in NE Oregon

Categories: Licensing, Field Staff

OR big game meetings include new structure for deer hunting in NE OR

I was just reading a LaGrande Observer article regarding Big Game meetings for the new hunting structure in NE Oregon.

In researching this program on the ODFW site, I observed that most hunting units are marginally increased for the number of tags (increased animal take).

My question is simply this: Given that the ODFW priority appears to be the protection of Big Game predators (wolves, cougars, and bears), how can ODFW contemplate increasing the number of hunters when your own statistics demonstrate that these predators are primarily dependent on deer and elk populations for sustaining and increasing their own prevalence? As an avid lifetime hunter, I especially resent the protection of these predators (particularly wolves) in preference to recreational hunting.

If ODFW is going to prioritize the advancement of predator populations over preserving hunting for future generations, then stop bullshitting the Protecting and enhancing Oregon's fish and wildlife, for

the use and enjoyment of present and future generations as goal and purpose of this governmental entity.

Hunters have no need to compete with predators. Personally, I am frustrated with declining hunting success and the frustration of returning to camp to find tents and supplies in shambles from foraging bears.

In fifty years of hunting the same unit we never used to see wolves and bears. Now it is routine to see wolves, bears, and even cougars during the course of hunting as a family.

Stop protecting wolves. Issue tags for wolves like you do for bears and cougars.

Encourage bear season participation. Expand the Spring bear season. In NE Oregon, bears are not out of hibernation when the spring season begins and ends,

If the ODFW position is to produce more big game offspring to feed wolves and bears, then be upfront with the objective, and stop pretending to preserve the hunting tradition.

I trust ODFW as much as I trust the U.S. Congress.

I have zero confidence that Congress works to the benefit of the average American.

Jerald R. Jackman

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Frank Smith <americanfreeflow@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 5:53 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Controlled hunt report

Categories: Licensing

[You don't often get email from americanfreeflow@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

You guys need to make it easier for us to retrieve the drawing results. Your website needs some work. It is not very user friendly at all.

Disgruntled hunter

Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 9:55 AM
To: BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW
Subject: Crossbows

From: David Eyman <eymandavid7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 8:17 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject:

TECHNOLOGY You don't often get email from eymandavid7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I just wanted to say that what excuse thier is for not allowing crossbow hunting would apply to center fire rifles I hope they will rethink this and make a class of it own

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: WOLFER Brian H * ODFW
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 10:42 AM
To: musty.smoke@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Creation of extraordinary special privilege hunting unit

Dear Ms. Nunez,

Thank you for reaching out to the Oregon Wildlife Commission regarding your concerns with the creation and management of the Ritter hunt unit. We appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective as a local landowner directly impacted by these hunts. Your email will be included with the public comment received and considered for the development of the 2026 big game hunting regulations, which are scheduled for consideration and adoption on September 12, 2025.

Regarding your questions, the Ritter hunts were first established in the mid-1990s following an extensive public input process. The Ritter hunts are consistent with the 2003 *Oregon Elk Management Plan* ("the Plan"), which guides elk population and harvest strategies across the state and was adopted through a public process.

The decision to designate Ritter as a separate subunit hunt from the larger Heppner Unit was based on several factors. At the time (mid-1990's), elk hunting strategies in the Heppner Unit were changing to address chronically low bull-to-cow ratios. This included limiting some of the bull hunting opportunity to "spike only" hunting. However, the Ritter area presented unique challenges that made it unsuitable for inclusion in that model. These included:

- A high level of elk-related agricultural damage,
- Predominantly private land ownership, and
- Input from local landowners and constituents who supported an alternative management approach.

The Plan identifies antlerless harvest as a tool to control elk populations and to address elk damage (pages 28-29). The Plan also identifies either-sex hunting as a suitable management tool for areas like Ritter. As described on page 29 of the Plan:

"Either-sex or 'any-elk' hunting has become a more widespread harvest management tool in Eastern Oregon in recent years. When there is a concern about too many hunters in an area, such as an area of predominantly private land, an either-sex bag limit allows effective control of elk populations without excessive numbers of hunters... This strategy often allows control of the elk population with a minimum of hunters while maintaining a high bull ratio."

This strategy was implemented in the Ritter area to reduce damage while preserving elk population health and maintaining hunting opportunity. Under the current hunting season strategies, in recent years the Heppner Unit has maintained elk populations and bull-to-cow ratios close to the adopted management objectives for population and bull ratio. Elk-related agricultural damage continues to be a challenge and it is a priority for our staff to work with impacted landowners to reduce damage.

While unique when compared to remainder of the Heppner unit, the use of subunit hunts and either-sex bag limits is a legal and relatively common strategy used throughout the state to manage the number and distribution of hunters to address elk-related damage and achieve management objectives.

We appreciate your concerns and understand the importance of ensuring all management decisions are made transparently and equitably.

Thank you again for your engagement with Oregon's wildlife management efforts.

Brian Wolfer
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator
(503) 947-6311

Note new email address:

brian.h.wolfer@odfw.oregon.gov

From: Vega Nunez <musty.smoke@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 11:37 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <Odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Creation of extraordinary special privilege hunting unit

You don't often get email from musty.smoke@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oregon Wildlife Commission,

I understand that this commission was instrumental in the creation of the Ritter hunt unit apart from Heppner unit. This followed the move to Ritter and creation of NWBiggame outfit by certain individuals then and still residing in the Ritter area.

I also understand, recently confirmed by local ODFW,, that Ritter has special privileges in terms of duration of seasons and special seasons.

I am writing to you now, after years of suffering this untenable, potentially illegal, situation as a landowner immediately affected by such special allowances.

Without going into detail at this time, and assuring you that I have variously contacted local ODFW representatives who have consistently pointed me your way, I urgently request your/ODFW's explanation how this special unit was created, how it is legal, which, if any, landowners were consulted, and how the Commission has mitigated issues arising from this special treatment.

I would also, preliminarily, suggest this special unit be dissolved back into the former status quo.

I request you respond materially at your earliest.

Kindly.

Vega Nunez

Ritter, Or.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Carson Ervin <carsonervin10@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 10:46 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Why dog hunting should be legal

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from carsonervin10@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi my name is Carson. I live in Oregon and these are my thoughts white dog hunting should be legal.

Since the passage of Measure 18 in 1994, Oregon has prohibited the use of dogs to hunt cougars. While the intent behind this measure was to prevent inhumane hunting practices, the ban has unintentionally made cougar management more difficult, less effective, and in some cases, more dangerous for people, pets, livestock, and wildlife. As cougar populations increase and human-wildlife conflicts rise, it's time to reconsider this policy. Legalizing dog-assisted cougar hunting under strict regulation would help manage the population responsibly, improve public safety, protect rural economies, and result in more humane and effective outcomes.

1.

Dog Hunting Is a Precise and Humane Management Tool

Cougars are elusive, solitary animals that roam large territories. Hunting them without dogs is not only difficult, it often results in poorly aimed shots or wounded animals escaping and suffering. When trained dogs are used to track and tree a cougar, hunters have the opportunity to approach calmly, identify the animal's age, sex, and condition, and make an informed decision about whether to take the animal. This method greatly reduces the risk of wounding and allows for quick, humane kills. In contrast, spot-and-

stalk methods often lead to rushed decisions, low success rates, and unnecessary suffering.

2.

Cougar Populations Are Increasing—And So Are Conflicts

Oregon's cougar population has grown dramatically since hunting with dogs was banned. While population growth is a sign of conservation success, it also leads to more encounters between cougars and people. Reports of cougars killing livestock, approaching homes, and even stalking hikers have become more common, especially in rural areas near wilderness boundaries. Without effective tools like dog-assisted hunting, the state is limited in its ability to control these populations and prevent dangerous conflicts. Legalizing dog hunting would empower trained hunters to assist in managing cougar numbers before they become a greater threat to public safety.

3.

Support for Farmers, Ranchers, and Rural Communities

Livestock losses due to cougar attacks can have serious financial impacts for farmers and ranchers. In areas where dogs cannot legally be used, it's much harder for landowners to protect their animals or remove problem predators. Allowing controlled hunting with dogs would give rural communities a legal, effective tool to reduce losses and protect their way of life. It would also reduce the need for emergency interventions by state wildlife officials, which often occur too late to prevent damage.

4.

Dog Hunting Benefits Wildlife Conservation

Some may argue that legalizing dog hunting is anti-conservation. In fact, the opposite is true. Effective predator control is part of balanced wildlife management. When cougar populations grow unchecked, they can heavily prey on deer, elk, and other wildlife. This can disrupt ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and throw natural balances out of alignment. By enabling selective, well-managed cougar harvests, Oregon can maintain healthier predator-prey relationships and ecosystems. Furthermore, hunting license fees and associated taxes contribute directly to state conservation funding.

5.

It Can Be Regulated Responsibly

Legalizing dog hunting does not mean opening the door to abuse. Many other western states, including Idaho, Utah, and Montana, allow dog hunting for cougars with success. Oregon can adopt best practices from those states, including strict permitting, training requirements for hunters and dogs, seasonal restrictions, harvest limits, and mandatory reporting. The goal is not to eliminate cougars, but to manage them responsibly, protect public interests, and preserve the health of the species and its habitat.

Conclusion

Oregon's ban on dog hunting for cougars may have been well-intentioned, but after more than two decades, the evidence is clear: it's time for a change. Cougars are increasingly threatening people, livestock, and ecosystems. Hunting them without dogs is inefficient, risky, and often less humane. Reinstating dog-assisted cougar hunting under a strict regulatory framework would restore a proven wildlife management tool that benefits everyone—hunters, conservationists, landowners, and the cougars themselves. Oregon should act now to legalize this responsible and effective practice.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Joe Kochis <joecollette@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 24, 2025 11:03 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Cougar

Categories: Wildlife

[You don't often get email from joecollette@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

You need to reduce the cougar population in the Alsea unit. The deer population is practically none Existent. Also close deer seasons until historical population Are reestablished

Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: DAMON LEHR <damonlehr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:17 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Inquiry / rant

You don't often get email from damonlehr@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Your poke in the eye \$25 dollar reporting fee for doing absolutely nothing is NOT ok.

Tell your wildlife biologists to get off their lazy butts, get into the field and stop begging others for information we pay them to collect. How much money have you collected from people who have done absolutely nothing since 2015?

I'm very upset about 4 things with ODFW, including the very high prices.

1. Wolves are a very bad idea for many many very obvious reasons.
2. Pioneer License should be free, period.
3. \$25 dollar reporting fee is in my opinion, highway robbery. Charging for doing absolutely nothing is not fair at all. Shame!
4. Basin endorsement? Hahahaha are you even serious? It's a reach, I'll give you that. Oh I know!! A squirrel fee, because hunters disturb and make squirrels talk more. OH my GOD!

Branch crunch fee?

Good Lord people.

How about a fee for a fee? Call it the fee fee?

Oh oh! I stepped on 1726 bugs this last outing 1386 were red ants. Do get a fine for not knowing the other bugs names?

When I don't have enough money, I cut things from my budget. YOU NEED TO DO THE SAME!

Please do things normally, and if you step back and look from a wide perspective how many things need to be bought to take my son fishing in our boat?

Boat gas at 5x dock prices

Ice

Boat license fee

Boat operators permit fee

Angling license for him fee

Angling license for me fee
Tags for him fee
Tags for me fee
Basin endorsement for him fee
Basin endorsement for me fee
State boat ramp parking fee
Bait for him
Bait for me
Possible invasive species fee
Boat trailer license fee
Driver's license fee
Truck license fee
Deq Fee
Insurance
Dock dump fee

(Kinda way too many fees dontcha think?)

Damon Lehr.

Grumpy!

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: robert ryan <isabobryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 11:40 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Wolf

[You don't often get email from isabobryan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Sent from my iPhone

I will not be buying a license or tags this year because of your wolf expenditures.

R A Ryan

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: jim ball <jim.d.ball325@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 8:15 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Trout Creek deer seasons

Categories: Field Staff, Wildlife

You don't often get email from jim.d.ball325@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

In 2019 I hunted the Trout creek unit for deer during the traditional bow. I killed a nice three point and saw several bigger bucks. After you changed the season dates to start later by at least a week. The deer had hard horns during this later start and were able to hide in the aspen all day and dropped our sightings to almost nothing. It's hard enough to kill an animal with a traditional bow but, when you add the later start, it's extremely difficult. The number of deer taken by bow hunters since has declined to 2 bow deer kills out of the 40 or so hunters in 2024. You have 110 tags allotted yet last year 52 people drew it. Then you have 65 tags for the rifle, 64 of which were hunted, and 45 bucks killed. Most of these bucks were four points. Why would anyone apply for a bow tag? How about moving the season start to the last full week of August for the bow hunters and reducing the tags for rifle hunters. Please look at this issue seriously unless you want people to give up on the bow hunt like my party of three has. Looking forward to seeing what you do.

Sincerely, Jim Ball.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: WHITTAKER Don * ODFW
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:09 AM
To: Cindy Rieves
Cc: WOLFER Brian H * ODFW; ODFW Commission * ODFW; BROMAN Derek J * ODFW; GILLIN Colin M * ODFW
Subject: RE: Chronic Wasting Disease

Cindy

First, given your description of deer in your area, it is more likely these animals are suffering from deer hair loss syndrome. This is caused by an exotic louse and has had some localized impacts on some of our deer populations in western Oregon.

From a CWD standpoint, ODFW shares your concerns and has been monitoring for the presence of this disease for over 25 years. As of fall-winter 2024-2025, we have not detected the disease in Oregon.

As your search for information indicates, a great deal of research has been conducted on this disease since its discovery over 50 years ago, and this research continues today. Even with this extensive effort, however, there is no cure or treatment. However, relatively recent information from effected areas elsewhere in the United States indicates the distribution and prevalence of disease can potentially be managed if detected early. Thus, ODFW is maintaining our vigilance with planned continued monitoring into the future. Additionally, the Department has developed and vetted a comprehensive CWD response plan should the disease be detected in the state. Thus, we are prepared.

I hope this addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

Don Whittaker
Ungulate Coordinator

From: ODFW Commission * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:54 AM
To: BROMAN Derek J * ODFW <Derek.J.BROMAN@odfw.oregon.gov>
Cc: WOLFER Brian H * ODFW <Brian.H.WOLFER@odfw.oregon.gov>; WHITTAKER Don * ODFW <Don.WHITTAKER@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: Chronic Wasting Disease

Forwarding
Roxie

From: Cindy Rieves <riev728@frontier.com>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 12:49 PM

To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Chronic Wasting Disease

You don't often get email from riev728@frontier.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Over the past few years, the deer in my area seem to be suffering from CWD. The animals are missing large areas of fur, shiver in the cold elements during winter, and can be seen in numerous does and fawns that live here.

I have read articles on CWD and understand that it affects all kinds of hooved animals in the cervid family. From what I can gather, it is caused by a fatal neurological illness caused by misfolded proteins called prions. It leads to severe weight loss, behavioral changes, and ultimately death, with no known treatment or vaccine available.

Jeff Pritzl, DNR State Deer Program Specialist, in Wisconsin, stated that health officials encourage people not to eat venison that tests positive for CWD. The Centers for Disease Control reports no confirmed cases of CWD being transferred to humans. I also know that Washington state is now requiring testing of harvested animals for this disease and have receptacles for animal waste/carcasses to keep the spread of the disease to a minimum by hunters. Does Oregon have any plans to do the same?

It would seem that biologists should be working towards finding out what causes the misfolded proteins. Is it from the environment being sprayed with chemicals? Since more states are recording more incidents of this disease, is there collaboration occurring between state agencies in respect to research into CWD?

I find it hard to believe that with our technology, with all of the advances made in science/biology, that we can not find a cure or at least a treatment for this horrible disease afflicting these animals.

Incidentally, I came across Southern Illinois University researchers are using video to study the social interactions between deer in hopes of understanding the spread of chronic wasting disease. This kind of research in my mind makes no real sense in that it is a known fact that deer spread the disease through their saliva, feces, and grooming one another (licking). Emphasis on the misfolded proteins at the root of the disease rather than how it is spread makes more sense in the resources being expended in my mind.

Since animals in our state are afflicted with CWD, what steps are being taken by Oregon's Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to eliminate it? Treat it? Identify infected animals? Also what are property owners supposed to do when they see that the herd of deer in their area have this? Are there any kind of mitigating steps that they can take to aide these animals? Or do they need to be destroyed?

I would appreciate any information that you can share with me that is beyond the scope of what I have mentioned here. Plus hope that CWD is given a priority status in what biologists/researchers are working on in determining cause and treatment.

Thank you,

Cindy Rieves, Coquille, Oregon

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: ODFW Web Sales * ODFW
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 11:33 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: FW: Hunt Commission complaint

Thought I would forward this to you. . . let me know if you want me to respond.

*Karen Woolbright
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pendleton District Office
541-318-7965*

From: christopher martin <bsbreed@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 9:22 AM
To: ODFW Web Sales * ODFW <odfw.websales@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Hunt Commission complaint

You don't often get email from bsbreed@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Hunt Commission,

I am Shane Martin, 63 yrs. of age and have trouble walking. I have lived and HUNTED Oregon my whole life. I had the displeasure of reading the big game book to purchase controlled hunt tags. When I read the section about TMA's I was very upset with the odfw.

You have made it EXTREMELY difficult for a person like me to hunt!! so difficult in fact that I have decided NOT to hunt in Oregon now or in the future. Please stop bowing to the will of the big corporations. odfw is supposed to help and encourage hunting in Oregon-you have failed!

I will no longer hunt in Oregon, I will no longer support the odfw, and I will bad mouth the odfw every chance I get!


The odfw has been alienating hunters for years, soon you will get your wish and NOBODY will be hunting in Oregon.

Shane Martin

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: nosler200 <nosler200@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 7:00 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Wild life mule deer management and elk population.

Categories: Wildlife

 You don't often get email from nosler200@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Eastern oregon elk and mule deer population have been going down. I've hunted for many years over on east side of the state. Threw the years i have seen less and less of elk and mule deer. But more predators in eastern Oregon. The wolf population has exploded in eastern Oregon. There are more mountain lions. Now we are seeing more of both species in western oregon. Besides having the whitetail deer pushing out mule deer in alot of units. I believe odfw needs to manage population on the wolf packs, on the mountain lions and white tail deer. Then odfw is thinking about introducing grizzly bears? The wolves and grizzly bears were erratidicated years ago for a reason. These predators are doing alot of damage to our elk and mule deer populations. Wolves are just killers. They kill to feed alot of mouths. More than once a day. Besides taking rancher live stock. Just understand that I'm pretty opened minded about having our wild life in our state. These are beautiful animals and I love seeing them. But we as citizens and odfw need to manage predators and there population just as much or more than elk and deer populations. I'm not saying not to manage elk and deer populations. I'm saying odfw needs to look at the predators a little more closely.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Pam Ezell <PK.gardener@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 7:12 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Habitat loss for mule deer

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from pk.gardener@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mule deer declining populations have nothing to do with habitat loss...!!! It is due to uncontrolled bear cougar. And wolves. You don't have to read a book to know that...

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Kerry Prulhiere <kerryprulhierecm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:31 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: "Deer Plan"

You don't often get email from kerryprulhierecm@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear ODFW,

I am curious about your recent "deer plan" initiative you have since released. Making statements such as habitat loss and climate change and blanketing that excuse for the entirety of the eastern portion of the state is just foolish. Only one of those things can be measured, seen and felt in a way that can provide accurate data, and guess what... It's not climate change. Some units may have habitat loss due to fires, sure, agreed, but other areas such as the Steens, are lush with foliage and pristine habitat for mule deer. Why won't you "biologists" and "scientists" look at the hard data that is the hard truth, like predator mismanagement and habitat competition with feral horses like on the Steens mountain range. The Steens were hit hard with the 2022 winter, why not cancel tags there for a year or two for deer? Why are you giving out tags at all in these areas? Or in the Hart mountain unit, wildfire has taken up a lot of that unit, let it level out post fire. You already have a large mountain lion problem in the Hart mountain unit, and you have almost no sheep to show for it. THATS HARD DATA THAT YOU ALREADY HAVE AND AKNOWLEDGE. Stop catering to the politicians and give them hard facts that you as biologist should have the backbone to stand by your work, research, and word from those who live within the confines of the units you mismanage. DO THE RIGHT THING! Your current plan is to appease those in office, and it stinks of a lack of backbone.

sincerely,

Your in state concerned taxpayer.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Rick Rasmor <rrasmor@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 4:07 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Elk Age Card

You don't often get email from rrasmor@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon;

My son harvested a mature (11 ½ y.o.) bull elk from the Walla Walla unit last Sept., and just received the postcard from the Wildlife Health and Population Lab informing him of the bull's age from the tooth he submitted.

Wonderful information, and quite "cool" to know. It got both of us to start wondering about the other bulls we know that were harvested during the seasons (archery & rifle). Is there any information available that we can access telling us of the range of ages, average ages, etc. of bull elk harvested in the unit; this season as well as in the past? Just a curiosity thing to put it all in to perspective; the hunt, our experiences, and the memories shared.

Thank you so much for anything you can provide!

Rick Rasmor

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jordan Zettle <jordanzttl@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 11:29 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Re: New mule deer plan

Categories: Wildlife, Field Staff

Hello,

I wanted to send another message, and ensure that my first comments were heard regarding the upcoming changes to the mule deer plan.

Overall, I want to reiterate the incredible opportunity this presents for changing the narrative on both Mule deer (the species) and Mule deer hunting in Oregon. Simply put, I think there are too many tags for most parts of the state, and I would like to see tag numbers reduced, new seasons presented, and more and better opportunity for archery and muzzleloader hunting. Oregon is a unique state - we have solid elk numbers and over the counter options for elk, we have over the counter options for blacktail deer. Let's reduce our mule deer tags, improve the quality of the hunts we put out, and work to make mule deer hunting stronger and better for future generations.

Thank you.

Jordan Zettle

On Mon, Mar 17, 2025 at 7:32 PM Jordan Zettle <jordanzttl@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I wanted to share my thoughts and ideas as the commission begins considering changes with the new mule deer plan, specifically tag allocations, opportunity, and quality of hunts.

To begin, as a lifelong hunter in Oregon, I want to stress that these changes present an incredible opportunity. Oregon is an increasingly poor state to hunt mule deer in, and I think we all know that decline has been going on for many, many years. There are many units that have had huge tag allocations, and they've been managed for opportunity instead of hunt quality. The forthcoming changes present an opportunity for the commission and the state of Oregon to change that narrative. Oregon has often been an opportunity state for mule deer, with minimal quality hunts during prime seasons. On the flip side, if we look at our elk hunting, which at this moment is really solid, has a lot of opportunity for success, and affords our residents ample opportunities to get out in the field every year, we are presented with an opportunity - we could decrease our mule deer tags and continue much of the great habitat work and aim to change mule deer hunting from a opportunity hunt to quality hunts. After all, we are fortunate - our state has many opportunities to hunt both elk and blacktail deer over the counter.

What I would be really disappointed to see is for tag allocations to stay the same going into the new plan. As an example, the Upper Deschutes (which I realize is being split in two in the new plan) has 2,465 buck tags allocated to it between archery and rifle this year, but there's an estimate of 1,125 deer

in the unit. I understand success rates and opportunity, but I don't understand how those sorts of allocations could be sustainable as we head into an uncertain future for mule deer. Maybe that's the reason for this new plan, but I really want to advocate for lowering those tag allocations and increasing the quality of hunts. I think there's a few ways to do that:

1) The way I see it, the state has no goals for whitetail deer, so I don't see why whitetail tags shouldn't increase. We could increase doe tags and it is also important to keep and bolster some of those later season hunts, like the Sled Springs (157M) or Grande Ronde (152M) muzzleloader hunts, or create other hunts of that sort. Increasing whitetail opportunity decreases hunting pressure on mule deer, and it's a unique way to offer quality opportunity to our residents.

2) I also think that there should be more muzzleloader and archery tags during prime hunting periods (for both whitetails and mule deer). These would be tags that would range from later October into middle December. To use the Upper Deschutes example, what if you took away 500 of those rifle tags and then put 300 of them into a later season archery hunt? I think that is the sort of quality hunt that is much more exciting vs. having so many tags.

3) I also think the state should really consider new ways to increase revenue, and one simple way is to look at rollover permits. I always get frustrated with Oregon because we are fairly constrained; you can't have a general season rifle deer tag and a general season archery deer tag. I understand those constraints, but what if there were rollover tags that allowed residents to apply for a lottery that allowed them to roll over their unused/unsuccessful eastern Oregon archery hunt into a general season deer rifle tag, or a late season archery blacktail tag? I look at that sort of thing and I would apply for that every year and pay whatever the fee was, because if it meant I got more days to be out then I'd do it. I think the same could be done for general season elk tags too.

I realize the challenges this new plan will present, but I am certain it presents an exciting opportunity. I recognize the tradition of deer hunting and deer camp that many families and friends have, and realize there will have to be units that are opportunity units vs. quality units. But I urge the commission and ODFW to strive for more quality hunting and to look at ways to improve both mule deer populations and mule deer hunts in our state. I would be so much more excited to hunt deer in Oregon during the latter months of the season and to see less people, even if it takes 5-10 years to get to that tag. We are a unique state - we have blacktail deer in the west half of our state and they afford a great and challenging opportunity. While I do not want to take the OTC blacktail tags for granted, they afford our residents an amazing opportunity to still get out in the woods every year.

We have so many counterpart states to look at as examples of both success and failure, and so many unique ways to innovate and generate more revenue. I hope you will consider some of these changes and am eager to see the new ideas you put forth this year.


Best,

Jordan Zettle

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: wheelerjharms <wheelerjharms@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 11:58 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Muzzleloader elk

Categories: Field Staff, Wildlife

 You don't often get email from wheelerjharms@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there commission of odfw, So I know the 2026 big game regulation proposal is coming up, I'm going to throw in something that could be totally stupid or it might just maybe make sense. Saddle mtn unit muzzleloader elk hunt, so there is 2 options do a specific area or just the whole WMA. I've took a peek at the odfw population survey and Saddle mountains Roosevelt elk Mangment objective is 7800. I see a trend over a couple years that it's growing 100 elk a year. So soon the population may go over Mangment object and this hunt could help keep it close to if not under objective. Also in a nearby WMA there is the elk damage tag So could the muzzleloader elk hunt help with that problem?

Let's say you listen and actually consider the hunt, HUNT # will be 210M in the elk muzzleloader area in the Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations book. HUNT NAME i'm not to sure its going to be based off the area or WMA. BAG LIMIT you could follow the NE Trask muzzleloader elk hunt and do 'One elk' but if I got to pick I would follow the 3 pt.+ tend for that WMA. OPEN SEASON I picked Dec 19 - Dec 27 2026. 2026 TAGS something low so not a lot of people hunting and no big impact in elk population.

A couple other reasons to think about.

- It's with a muzzleloader so it limits how easy it is, possibly more safer too.
- weather, it could be snowy it could be rainy it's December so you never know, that could even make it more funner.
- It helps the locals, the woods get pack so elk can get hard to find so December spreads out the hunting season and there is less pressure on the elk.
- It adds more muzzleloader hunts, I don't know if it's a specific reason but it seems like oregon has very few muzzleloader hunts so I would love to see more.
- It helps locals again, most of the muzzleloader elk hunts are on the east side of the cascades and so people living on the western side of the cascades wouldn't have to worry about their hunt because of the weather ruining it.
- Little random but I'm just a explorer I would love to see the befits compared to the negatives in this hunt.

Please let me know if I made any mistakes or you have any questions or concerns. If you need to reach me another way my cell is 503-748-9084. Thank you for reading/listening to my thoughts

- Wheeler Harms

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: BROMAN Derek J * ODFW
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 3:52 PM
To: randyjackman69@gmail.com
Cc: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: RE: hunts for the elderly

Hi Randy,

Thank you for your email and a lifetime of interest in Oregon's wildlife. There have been numerous discussions over the years regarding opportunities for senior hunters. As such, statutes have been modified to provide some additional preference point benefits to Pioneer License holders and Disabled Veterans over age 65. As a Pioneer License holder you are already likely aware that when a qualifying individual draws a controlled hunt tag, they do not go back to zero preference points but instead they go back to one preference point. Obviously, this doesn't help much for the hunts with very few tags, but it does increase the chance of drawing a tag in the units with more robust tag numbers.

Your proposal of dedicating a subset of tags to hunters above a certain age has also been discussed. The issue there is that based on recent data, ODFW sells 40,000-50,000 hunting licenses to people over age 65 and nearly 30,000 to people over age 70. Under your proposed scenario, someone like yourself would still have to compete for just a few tags with a technically small but still very large pool of hunters.

I acknowledge and fully understand your desire to hunt every year and to hunt the Heppner Unit for elk with a muzzleloader. Perhaps you've already considered it, but there are numerous Any Legal Weapon (ALW) hunts in that area (Fossil, Northside, Ukiah) that are usually available second-choice, meaning you could hunt them nearly every year and choose to use your muzzleloader as your weapon. Areas of the Heppner Unit are also in the General Season Antlerless Elk Damage tag (page 48 of Big Game Regulations).

I sincerely hope this helps. Please feel free to reach out if you have other questions.

Best, Derek

-

Derek JA Broman
Game Program Manager
Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
Office 503.947.6095

NOTE: New Email Address!
Derek.J.Broman@odfw.oregon.gov



<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/>

From: Randy Jackman <randyjackman69@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:33 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Fwd: hunts for the elderly

You don't often get email from randyjackman69@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

From: Randy Jackman <randyjackman69@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 20, 2025 at 12:28 PM
Subject: hunts for the elderly
To: <odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov>

Hi, My name is Randy Jackman, I have been hunting in Oregon since I was ten years old. I have a lot of friends and other Hunters that are getting old like myself luckily I am still in good health but a lot of them are not so lucky and have harder time hunting but still love to hunt and at our age with the limited tags mostly elk tags we may never get another tag like for example at the age of 74 in the Heppener Unit That I been uniting since the 60s and it takes 10 to 15 years to get a Muzzleloader tag so it is a good change I will never get another tag and thats sad as so for many other elder hunts that are still able to hunt but have a harder to get around. I was wondering what I can or need to do to try to get Hunts for the elderly pioneer hunters? For example in the Heppner Unit the Archery Hunt has 121 ONE elk tags and 1440 one bull tags and I was told that only around half of those bull tags are drawn during the first draw and the others left over tags bought mostly by rifle hunters that do not get the rifle draw. And the rifle first hunt there are 605 one bull tages, second hunt 660 one spike only tags and 33 one elk tags which is more than the 27 bull tags that Muzzleloaders get. Why can't there be a program set up for the older pioneers let's say to start at the age of 75 and see what happens and have a few of the tags for them to draw so they can still enjoy hunting while they still can and maybe they can use the tag during Archery, Rifle or Muzzleloader whatever weapon they prefer. I know other units can do the same thing. I have talked to many hunters, Archery, Rifle and Muzzleloaders and everyone that I have talked to like the idea because they will also get old and will still like to hunt. I know other people have brought this up to you before I know of an Archery club in Bend. Think about your parents and yourself when you get older would it be nice to still know you can enjoy what you have done most of your life? I think this would be nice and work for deer hunts as well. Thank you for your time. I hope someone will let me know you have looked this over and let me know what I can do if anything to help get this approved, maybe a batison or something, the hunters I talked to said they are willing to help in any way. Thank Randy Jackman. Hope to hear from you.

541/536/4271

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jordan Zettle <jordanzttl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 7:32 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: New mule deer plan

Categories: Wildlife, Field Staff

Hello,

I wanted to share my thoughts and ideas as the commission begins considering changes with the new mule deer plan, specifically tag allocations, opportunity, and quality of hunts.

To begin, as a lifelong hunter in Oregon, I want to stress that these changes present an incredible opportunity. Oregon is an increasingly poor state to hunt mule deer in, and I think we all know that decline has been going on for many, many years. There are many units that have had huge tag allocations, and they've been managed for opportunity instead of hunt quality. The forthcoming changes present an opportunity for the commission and the state of Oregon to change that narrative. Oregon has often been an opportunity state for mule deer, with minimal quality hunts during prime seasons. On the flip side, if we look at our elk hunting, which at this moment is really solid, has a lot of opportunity for success, and affords our residents ample opportunities to get out in the field every year, we are presented with an opportunity - we could decrease our mule deer tags and continue much of the great habitat work and aim to change mule deer hunting from a opportunity hunt to quality hunts. After all, we are fortunate - our state has many opportunities to hunt both elk and blacktail deer over the counter.

What I would be really disappointed to see is for tag allocations to stay the same going into the new plan. As an example, the Upper Deschutes (which I realize is being split in two in the new plan) has 2,465 buck tags allocated to it between archery and rifle this year, but there's an estimate of 1,125 deer in the unit. I understand success rates and opportunity, but I don't understand how those sorts of allocations could be sustainable as we head into an uncertain future for mule deer. Maybe that's the reason for this new plan, but I really want to advocate for lowering those tag allocations and increasing the quality of hunts. I think there's a few ways to do that:

- 1) The way I see it, the state has no goals for whitetail deer, so I don't see why whitetail tags shouldn't increase. We could increase doe tags and it is also important to keep and bolster some of those later season hunts, like the Sled Springs (157M) or Grande Ronde (152M) muzzleloader hunts, or create other hunts of that sort. Increasing whitetail opportunity decreases hunting pressure on mule deer, and it's a unique way to offer quality opportunity to our residents.
- 2) I also think that there should be more muzzleloader and archery tags during prime hunting periods (for both whitetails and mule deer). These would be tags that would range from later October into middle December. To use the Upper Deschutes example, what if you took away 500 of those rifle tags and then put 300 of them into a later season archery hunt? I think that is the sort of quality hunt that is much more exciting vs. having so many tags.
- 3) I also think the state should really consider new ways to increase revenue, and one simple way is to look at rollover permits. I always get frustrated with Oregon because we are fairly constrained; you can't have a general season rifle deer tag and a general season archery deer tag. I understand those constraints, but what if there were rollover tags that allowed residents to apply for a lottery that allowed

them to roll over their unused/unsuccessful eastern Oregon archery hunt into a general season deer rifle tag, or a late season archery blacktail tag? I look at that sort of thing and I would apply for that every year and pay whatever the fee was, because if it meant I got more days to be out then I'd do it. I think the same could be done for general season elk tags too.

I realize the challenges this new plan will present, but I am certain it presents an exciting opportunity. I recognize the tradition of deer hunting and deer camp that many families and friends have, and realize there will have to be units that are opportunity units vs. quality units. But I urge the commission and ODFW to strive for more quality hunting and to look at ways to improve both mule deer populations and mule deer hunts in our state. I would be so much more excited to hunt deer in Oregon during the latter months of the season and to see less people, even if it takes 5-10 years to get to that tag. We are a unique state - we have blacktail deer in the west half of our state and they afford a great and challenging opportunity. While I do not want to take the OTC blacktail tags for granted, they afford our residents an amazing opportunity to still get out in the woods every year.

We have so many counterpart states to look at as examples of both success and failure, and so many unique ways to innovate and generate more revenue. I hope you will consider some of these changes and am eager to see the new ideas you put forth this year.

Best,

Jordan Zettle

March 13, 2025

Steve Pederson

64101 Old Bend Redmond Hwy.

Bend, OR 97703

ODFW

Attn: Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director

Co Attn: Honorable ODFW Commissioners

Co Attn: Eastern Oregon Big game managers

Salem Headquarters Office

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE

Salem, OR 97302

Please consider the following conceptual changes to Eastern Oregon's Mule deer hunting regulations. Hopefully the bullet point format will be fast to read and easy to understand.

Subject- Mule Deer Hunting

My understanding is that Mule Deer numbers in most of Eastern Oregon are below management objective.

If true, it would be prudent to reduce mule deer harvest.

Need to balance mule deer biology with ODFW cash flow from tags and applications.

Basic Concept- Minimize centerfire rifle hunts & tags, and maximize less lethal muzzleloader hunts & tags.

This may possibly be a good time to change rule structure with next year's possible changes in Eastern Oregon Big Game Hunt Management Hunts.

My Ideas-

Need to stage hunts from most primitive to least primitive, which has not been done in recent years.

Move muzzle loader season in front of center fire rifle season, so you end up with archery season, followed by muzzle loader season, then center fire rifle seasons.

Issue lots more muzzle loader tags and seasons, and issue less center fire tags and seasons. This should create interest in the new seasons with many hunters.

Reducing center fire season tags and areas should reduce mule deer harvest and provide more hunting opportunities for the more primitive weapons. It may take a few years to fully implement, iron out the kinks, and get full hunter backing.

It will require a shift in hunter equipment, but in line muzzle loaders can be relatively inexpensive and many rifle companies already market Oregon legal muzzleloader rifles.

Looking at the present muzzle loader seasons and I find that the tags and hunt areas are over applied for now. Looks like hunter acceptance/demand has been growing faster than the opportunities presented in the past.

Effectiveness-

Muzzle loaders being more primitive and less lethal than scoped centerfire rifles, makes for a more challenging hunt and harder to harvest an animal, thus fewer mule deer will be harvested per hunter day afield.

Muzzle loaders are basically a single shot and are effective at a greatly reduced range compared to centerfire firearms, especially scoped center fire rifles, therefore the harvest should be less.

Muzzle loaders are probably 75-150 yard weapons.

Centerfire rifles with scopes are probably 200-1,000 yard weapons.

Archery are limited to 40-50 yards and have a longer hunting season.

Personally, I do not like the in line muzzle loaders but to implement this idea I agree they should be allowed.

Also, change the minimum caliber to allow for boar rider conical bullets as opposed to patched round ball guns as follows-

	Patched Round Ball Min. cal.	Conical Bullet Min. cal.
Deer, Bear, Antelope	.45 cal.	.40 cal.
Elk	.50 cal.	.45 cal.

Reasoning to change elk to 45 cal. Conical is that a 45-70 Gov. is an allowed cartage during centerfire rifle season. A 45-70 gov. is a 45 cal. conical bullet with 70 grains of black powder in a brass case. That cartridge develops no more velocity or energy than a muzzle loader would develop with the same load and many hunters would, can, and do hunt with more black powder than the 70grains. With some "in-line" rifles up to 150 grains of powder are safe in their rifles.

Keep all your other existing muzzleloader rules:

Helpful text clarification-

Incorporate the "definition" of muzzle loader into the body of the text page 20, or make a note in the text reminding applicants to be sure to refer to the definition of muzzle loaders.

- Single barrel guns that only load from the muzzle, no breach loading or partial breach loading allowed.
- No scopes except for medical reasons.
- Iron sights, ladder sights, light gathering, reflector paint etc., are all legal as per current rules.

Length of Season-

Increase the length of the muzzle loader season. One possibility is to start season on the Monday after archery season is done go through one weekend and continue through the next Friday. You could start centerfire season that Saturday. That would give almost two weeks of muzzle loader season, that increased season length, combined with new hunt areas and tag numbers, would attract many people to these hunts and would decrease the overall deer kill and maintain tag purchases and dollars coming into ODFW. Possibly having some late season hunts also would draw more hunt applications, possibly late season west side hunts available to unsuccessful Mule deer tag holders?

Thanks for your consideration,

Oregon Pioneer license holder

Steve Pederson

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Mark Oja <marko4179@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2025 6:31 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Cow hunts

You don't often get email from marko4179@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm totally disgusted with you guys for allowing cow elk to be killed this late into their pregnancy. I've hunted all my life and will never understand your actions. It's obvious with how you manage our wildlife you haven't a clue what you're doing.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Lori Chakarun <jvillechakaruns@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:07 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Changes Needed to Oregon's Fish & Wildlife Regulations

Categories: Wildlife, Fish

You don't often get email from jvillechakaruns@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This is the only email address I could find online. I would appreciate this email being forwarded to Director Colbert as well as the following staff:

Mary Wahl (chair)
Dallas Hall De Frees
Becky Hatfield-Hide
Kathayoon Khalil
Dr. Leslie King
Mark Labhart
Bob Spelbrink

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am a 74 year old Oregon Native and Pioneer Licensee. Thankfully, over the past 62 years, I have participated in some of the best hunting and fishing in our state. Sadly, increasingly, all of our Oregon game is rapidly dwindling. I believe there are simple steps that can be taken by O.D.F.W. to begin rebuilding our anadromous fish and big game populations.

HUNTING:

1. Too many eastern Oregon deer and elk tags are being issued. O.D.F.W. is not even close to meeting their objectives in any of those Game Management Units.
Solution: Cut the number of tags issued by 50%. To make up for the loss of revenue, raise the tag fees 50%. Hunters will relish the chance to finally be able to see and harvest a deer or elk.
2. Discontinue rut hunts for blacktail and mule deer.
You are killing off our limited number of breeding big bucks. Additionally, these bucks are so rutted up they are not fit to eat. Unfortunately, I can speak from experience, having killed both a late season archery blacktail and a late season muzzleloader mule deer. The meat from both animals smelled and tasted so strongly, I couldn't eat it. My dog wouldn't eat it either. I ended up donating the meat to the Big Cat Sanctuary in Cave Junction to feed to their cats! What a waste.
3. Discontinue the eastern Oregon spike elk rifle hunts.
You cannot build your herd and breeding bull population when you continually kill off most of the spikes every year. Make eastern Oregon hunt limited to a bull that is a four point or larger. These bulls have a couple of years of surviving under their belt, so they stand a better chance of surviving, and are our breeders. The percentage of cows bred in each GMU should increase. (It has worked very well for Colorado).

4. Potential lethal diseases among the deer and elk populations in Oregon have been stated by O.D.F.W. as a major concern.

Chronic Wasting Disease is on the front burner right now. It is a lethal disease and has been documented in states bordering Oregon. It's no longer a matter of if it arrives in Oregon, but rather when and how severe the outbreak will be.

It is reportedly, transmitted from animal to animal when they are in close contact with one another. So, I think it is time to go back to banning the baiting of deer and elk in Oregon. Let's get in front of this looming catastrophe. No more spreading sacks of grain, corn, salt blocks, mineral blocks, molasses blocks, or other attractants on the ground for the purpose of attracting deer and elk. Since the legislature/O.D.F.W changed the rules years ago to allow the practice, you have created a whole generation of "hunters" that do not know any other way to pursue deer and elk. Hunting over bait is not ethical.

5. Limit the number of guides allowed to accompany the lucky hunter who draws a Limited Entry, Premium, or Auctioned deer or elk tag. The current "posse" scouting/guiding is ruining the hunt experience for all the other lucky tag holders who cannot afford to pay a posse of guides to locate, sit on an animal, and await the arrival of the shooter.

6. Make big game auction tags for bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, rocky mountain goats, statewide deer, statewide elk, statewide deer and elk combo tags all once in a lifetime tags. The same person buying these tags every year is just wrong! It looks more like discrimination against everyone else who does not have deep pockets.

I'm sure the bonus money O.D.F.W. can receive from these auctions is welcomed. But you don't need to prostitute yourself to appease the rich folks.

FISHING:

1. Make treble hooks illegal for salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout fishing in rivers, streams, and embayments. They severely injure the fish and magnify the potential for death of that fish if it is required/desired to be released. A single barbless hook (or multiple barbless hooks on a lure) is the better answer for the safe escapement and survival of the fish.

2. Why are guide clients, fishing from boats, currently allowed to all continue fishing when 3/4 of the people in the boat have already tagged out? I am not allowed to continue fishing if I have caught and tagged my allowed species limit. This is a double standard and not fair. If you caught and tagged your fish, Put Your Pole Away!

3. There are too many guides on our salmon and steelhead streams.

Limit the number of guide licenses issued for each stream. A guide must hold a license to fish each stream they wish to guide on. No more carte blanche guide licenses.

4. Mandate only an Oregon resident (same qualifications for residency as for buying resident game licenses and tags) can apply for and hold an Oregon River Guide's License. Southern Oregon rivers are full of out-of-state fishing guides because their home states either have poor fish populations or their rules don't allow keeping fish caught.

Our local guides would benefit from the increased business and the money would stay in-state. The out of state guides are crowding our rivers and depleting our resources. On the Chetco River, at Social Security Bar on any given day and 90% of the trucks and boat trailers have California plates. Changing this rule will make the locals very happy.

As you can tell by now, I am an advocate for our Oregon fish and game resources as well as our resident sportsmen and women. We are the ones who have supported O.D.F.W. with our license and tag fees for years. In my case, for over six decades. I hope to live long enough to see the return of good fishing and hunting and for my kids and grandkids to have the same joy I used to experience.

Sincerely,

Greg Chakarun
(541) 324-0105
495 Morton Way
Jacksonville, OR 97530

To whom it may concern at **ODFW**; **Public Input for 2025**

Date: Feb. 13, 2025

From: Bob Fabbri

I hope 2025 is a banner year for Oregon's wildlife and I'm a non-resident however I've hunted in Oregon for mule deer over the years and still do. I've read with interest your new Mule Deer Management plan and it was an eye opener to say the least as well as alarming. Last year we drew a Snake River unit #59 mule deer tag and I've hunted that unit a lot over the years as well as Klamath in the 80's and the Imnaha unit #61 high up in the head waters of the Imnaha river, in the middle fork basin. However there's something very special about the Snake unit and the Deep Creek drainage. A close friend of mine has hunted the Deep Creek drainage for many years and we both hunted together in there in this past season. At our age we were only interested in finding a few mature, 4 plus year old quality bucks. We're both very fortunate at 72 and 83 years old to be able to still climb and hunt that rugged and unique country. We were slated for the Snake unit hunt in 2022 but the fire kept us out. While we didn't take a buck we saw a few 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 year olds with future potential in the years ahead. The challenging issue was the lack of overall deer vs the early 2000's we used to see in that region but in the years past we also would see a lot of elk and this was the 1st time in my experiences and Mike's where we didn't see an elk herd nor an elk. (however I'm aware of the 2022 fire and with this being year #2 after the fire I can assume the elk and perhaps the deer have adjusted due to new fire forage growth opportunities in that unit as Deep Creek drainage didn't burn in 2022, except for the very high upper areas near Tryon Saddle). We are still very grateful for the opportunity to hunt his magnificent country, so thank you Oregon for allowing us non-residents to hunt in your state.

Now on with my points of why I'm writing to you . I'm a Washington resident and as you are well aware we have our challenges here in Washington as you do as well. We used to hunt the Wenaha-Tucannon areas in the Blues in the 90's and up until 2019 but from 2014 onwards we noticed and experienced a serious decline in mule deer/elk populations so after the 2019 season we packed it in and haven't returned to that awesome wilderness. I've read the WDFWs "Blue Mountains Elk Herd : At-Risk Assessment from July of 2021" report with keen interest and it's truly a disheartening report for sure. The one point I'd like to share with you that in our 8 days in Deep Creek this past year we never heard a wolf howl, saw a wolf track or did we see a black bear and a cougar, so that was very good news as far as I'm concerned.

You're very aware of the predators crisis our two states are facing and the challenges they are creating on our ungulates populations, not to mention climate change and it's impacts. Your ODFW teams did a terrific job with their recent mule deer management plan and their action plans are very well defined in the report . I can only hope over the next 10 years they're successful in their efforts for a mule deer recovery.

I have a few recommendations for the ODFW hunting division and I hope you consider my feed back. First , why in the controlled hunt series (mule deer mainly) is the "one buck with visible antler" rule in place? Would you consider revising that to a "**3 point or better antler restriction**", especially after the

findings in your mule deer management plan study. ODFW did an outstanding job in years past in the Steen MTN unit #69 with a 4 point or better plan, so my question is why not consider the Snake Unit or a few other units for this **4 point designation** consideration? The Snake unit, especially in the Hells Canyon wilderness/recreation area has the gene pool in place to really produce some awesome mule deer?

Next point is climate change, this past year, 2024, while on our Snake unit hunt we never had a day with frost and the mid day temperatures hovered around 75 every day, no precipitation plus the water levels were the lowest I've witnessed in the Deep Creek drainage. Please consider revising the mule deer hunt in the far-eastern game units to **open the 2nd week of October** in the near future.

My last point of input is the wolf crisis that's been unfolding in the region. As your field teams are well aware the Washington Blue Mountains units now have "6" plus established wolf packs and the WDFW Game Commission missed a huge opportunity to "delist" the wolf classification this past year and the elk, deer and even the bighorns on the Washington side of the Blue's are in a "no win-no recovery" situation, plus add the robust cougar populations to the mix and you can understand the train wreck that has transpired. I can only hope that the ODFW can **set a wolf pack density** guidelines to halt the ungulates demise in your Northeastern GMU's and manage by wolf pack density. I've researched your wolf reports and I can't figure out just how many packs are in the Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties but what I see is very high pack numbers. (maybe as dense as 15 to 18 packs)

I commend your year long cougar season in Oregon, of which Washington should follow suit, however with the addition of wolves reaching ungulate management objectives over the next 10 years will be one hell of a challenge. Case in point, in Washington the elk management objective in the Blue Mountains game units of 5300 to 5500 animals, which won't be achieved in the next 15 years. One only has to review the WDFW's Blue Mountain elk calve tagging experiment for a few years to realize just how bad the crisis has become. *(A Herd in Crisis). I ask you to not subject the Oregon elk and mule deer to experience the same demise as their cousins across the border. As for establishing a 'controlled wolf hunting tag opportunity' consider once their delisted that a 10% harvest objective be established for the first 5 years of hunting. Establish a controlled hunt for the following game management units 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59 and monitor the impacts on a population of 120+ or more animals. I know, easier said than done, the 'antis' will be a major obstacle but one only needs to look at the Washington Blue Mountains debacle and see the future train wreck that is forth coming. The wolves are here to stay but they're also here to be managed. Wildlife management is better left in the hands of wildlife managers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to hunt in your state and thank you for listening to a 'mature' outdoorsman whose had the good fortune to be born when I was born. The *old days are long gone* as human populations are now exceeding the carrying capacity but sound science, research and wildlife management can make it happen. When it comes to mule deer and perhaps elk in the "**Quality vs Quantity**" vision may need to be the future of hunting these magnificent animals. We need to take the political agendas out of the equation, where emotions do not dictate change and let common sense prevail.

Tough times are here and hard decisions need to be made as change is inevitable. There's an old saying that; "if you continue to do what you've always done your results will continue to remain the same".

Best regards and again thank you for the jobs you're all doing with your states wildlife;

Bob Fabbri

(villafabbri@hotmail.com) (360-561-4137)

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Nathan and Claire Hobson <sixhobsons@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 9:16 AM
To: info@odfw.oregon.gov; ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Oregon Mule Deer

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from sixhobsons@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear decision makers of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife,

Thank you for your efforts in preserving the fish, wildlife, and habitat of Oregon. As I lifetime Oregonian and avid outdoorsman I have benefitted from your efforts my entire life. I have introduced all four of my children and many of my friends into the joys of the outdoors and the opportunities Oregon provides.

However, I am alarmed at the declining numbers of mule deer in our state. I know that Oregon is not alone in declining mule deer herds but the commission that sets tag numbers seems way too slow in reacting to obvious declines in mule deer numbers. I grew up in Baker county and am now 60 years old. I've walked and hunted most of the mule deer country Oregon has to offer. Though that country barely holds 50% of the deer it once did tag numbers have not decreased to reflect those changes. Perhaps saving more mule deer bucks may not save the herds but it certainly couldn't hurt. Sportsmen/hunters have always been willing to sacrifice and/or pay for what needs to be done to improve big game numbers or habitat. Please look at all options and think outside of the box on ways that Oregon can stabilize and hopefully, in time, grow our mule deer herds.

With respect,

Nathan Hobson
503-679-5190
4004 SE Licyntra Lane
Milwaukie Or 97222

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Randy Sweet <rls@ccountry.net>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2025 9:48 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Eastern Oregon controlled Elk

Categories: Wildlife

[You don't often get email from rls@ccountry.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

just a question.


The eastern oregon controlled elk tag hunts for bull elk and spike only elk are during the same time frame. Why couldn't those be split so as to not have so many people in one area at the same time. I.E the Ukiah unit. There are almost 10 days between deer and elk seasons where that could be fit in.

Thank you.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jason Hobson <jsnhbsn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 3:58 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Cc: Mike Noren; Nathan Hobson
Subject: Mule deer tags

Categories: Wildlife

 You don't often get email from jsnhbsn@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings ODFW commissioners:

I hope all is well.

First, thank you for your service to Oregon's outdoor enthusiasts and Oregon's wildlife resources. Balancing wildlife resources, opportunities, budgets, staffing, all within a complex 21st century-world is no easy task.

As a lifelong hunter and a passionate supporter of hunting and conservation, I have deep concerns regarding mule deer in Oregon. I am aware that mule deer populations are on the decline across the West with many variables that are contributing to the decline and Oregon is no exception. I'm fully aware that Oregon has plans to address the issues and hopefully we will see improvements over the next few years.

From my perspective, it seems like the one variable that we can control is the number of tags per unit. I understand, tag numbers are created based on the population surveys, harvest results, opportunities and in essence the number of bucks killed each year doesn't significantly negatively impact overall numbers of the population but it sure can't help.

With that being said, can you explain the decision-making process on why the state continues to issue similar bug tag numbers, per unit over the past 20 years while the overall deer populations have declined by almost 50%? Shouldn't the tag numbers be commiserated with the population? It's the one variable you can control.

I look forward to your response.

Yours in conservation,

Jason M. Hobson
12737 SE Weedman Ct.
Milwaukie, OR 97222
208-819-8754

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tom Dooley <tom.dooley@igic.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2025 7:20 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Please update Big Game Synopsis to include all allowable Hunting

Categories: Dir Off, Wildlife

You don't often get email from tom.dooley@igic.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

Would you please update the future Oregon Big Game Synopsis to include the hunting that is allowed by Native Americans? This would help alleviate confusion & surprise by those that are unaware (like I was in NE Oregon during archery elk season). The added information should include species, pertinent Units, harvest dates, limits, and allowable methods. There should be enough information presented for any Oregon hunter to know what to expect as they consider a particular unit/area for hunting.

Please also include the prior year's harvest success in the existing data you make available to Oregon hunters yearly.

I am not heavily involved with Fishing. If there are similar unique arrangements for Oregon fishing, these too should be posted in the Oregon Fishing Synopsis.

Thank you,


Tom Dooley
Corvallis Oregon
541-409-7430

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BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dale Santa <santadale262@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 2, 2025 9:19 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Big game hunting

Categories: Wildlife

 You don't often get email from santadale262@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

With firearm elk season changed in cascade elk hunt till November was the biggest joke for hunting. Two years now and never seen an elk. I'm done purchasing a tag to hunt Oregon for life unless change is made back to early October.

Dale Santa

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Parrey Cremeans <hunter@justforhunting.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 28, 2024 11:09 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Non Resident Hunting

Categories: Wildlife

You don't often get email from hunter@justforhunting.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commission members,

I'm writing this note as a long time nonresident hunter. I believe I first hunted Oregon in 1992 and have purchased at a minimum a license every year since. I planned ahead by accumulating points within in your application process in order to better my chances at a mature animal in one of Oregon's premium game units.

My current desire is elk. With the current system 5% of the designated tags go to nonresidents. For the unit I am applying for there are 27 tags, so 1.35 go to nonresidents. I know if the percentage is below 1.5 the tags go to 1 available and above 1.5 tags available go to 2. I do not believe there is a way to change this.

However this brings me to a change that makes since for the Oregon Department of wildlife and nonresidents. With the nonresidents draw every other year one available tag goes into the Oregon guide draw. This seems unfair to the nonresident tag allotment that the single available tag would be taken for the outfitters draw. Why not take one of the 26 tags available for the resident draw? This resident tag will likely go to a nonresident for an outfitter to guide.

The value is exponentially more with this scenario.

Not only do you gain an increase with the one nonresident draw tag. Elk for example are \$588 for nonresidents compared to \$49.50 for residents, but the likelihood of the nonresident hunter using some type of Oregon resource i.e. a guide or hotel or horse packer is high.

This may seem selfish, and it is. I have been applying for 24 years for this tag and to only have the opportunity to draw it every other year is truly not fair. A lot of the land within these units is BLM and national forest which my tax dollars go towards.

All I am asking is for your consideration of at least pulling the outfitter tag from the resident pool rather than nonresidents pool. I do believe if this were done for every nonresident draw pool, all units, you would see a substantial increase in revenue. Also creating an opportunity for nonresident hunters to enjoy the fruits of Oregon's premium hunting units.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Parrey Cremeans long time Oregon wildlife resource contributor.

Parrey Cremeans
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BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Carol May <ajcamay@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 1:20 PM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Damage elk hunt tags

Categories: Wildlife

[You don't often get email from ajcamay@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I have a suggestion for the commissioners to think about how about letting people who didn't fill their damage tags to hunt the regular cow season, since after a couple of weeks of hot weather and being chased the elk move back into the woods where can't chase them. I'm 75 yrs . and can't chase these animals like I use to.

I have another suggestion how about offering more hunts for us old farts who don't have a lot of yrs. left to hunt for deer , elk, and pronghorn, instead giving them all to the youths. I think us old farts have paid our dues, through the yrs. of not drawing tags Sent from my iPad thank you for your time ANDY MAY

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: FW: Traditional Archery Hunting

> -----Original Message-----

> From: jcoltonboyd@gmail.com <jcoltonboyd@gmail.com>

> Sent: Friday, December 13, 2024 12:32 PM

> To: ODFW Info * ODFW <Odfw.info@odfw.Oregon.gov>

> Subject: Traditional Archery Hunting

>

> [You don't often get email from jcoltonboyd@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

>

> Hi. My name is James Boyd, I grew up hunting Oregon most of my life with a compound bow. In the last few years I believe the changes made to the regulations in regards to archery hunting have really started to help our herds out. Particularly with age class. I've seen both bigger and older bulls in the Beulah unit where I hunt elk. So great job! Thanks for helping us out!

>

> Recently in my life I've really gotten into shooting traditional archery. When I look through the regulations there are a couple trad bow opportunities, but even those aren't the greatest so I thought I'd send an email with a suggestion in favor of traditional archers.

>

> First for deer. I'd love to see a new tag added to the system. It would be a traditional archery ONLY tag for deer. (This suggestion might be cool for the eastern units, but I'm thinking more the western general side) this tag would be good for any deer. With traditional archery you really can't shoot beyond 20 yards so I don't think you're going to hurt the population that much. Also I think you'd only have a couple hundred guys in the state put in for this tag. So the reality is I bet on the west side (specifically I hunt the rogue and evens creek units) you'd only see maybe 40 does harvested, if that. Really I think this would help the deer population more than hurt it. Especially if the traditional archer could not hunt with a compound. It would be a specific tag for only traditional archery. I know that you can hunt with traditional equipment with the general archery tag right now. But most big blacktail bucks (3 point or better) your best opportunities are going to be 30 yards or more at best. This makes getting a shot with traditional archery almost impossible. More or less the suggestion is to make a better opportunity for the traditional archer with the ability to harvest a doe or a buck with the traditional only tag.

>

> If I were to add an elk specific suggestion for trad bow only it would be to open elk season a week earlier for traditional archers. So they have a 5 week hunting season but can ONLY hunt with traditional equipment for the totality of the season. My deer hunting suggestion is more important to me personally, but this would be cool for elk hunters as well.

>

> To "define," traditional archery ultimately I think you guys decide. But I'd say a bow without cables and cams that has no sights attached.

>

> Thank you for your consideration! I appreciate what you guys do for us!

> Sent from my iPhone