

Landowner Preference

Formula For Setting Mule Deer Tags

January 16, 2026

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**Oregon Department
of Fish and Wildlife**





Issue 1

Mule Deer LOP

Formula



Overview of LOP Program

Created by Oregon Legislature (1981)

Purpose: Controlled hunt tags for landowners on their property

Recognizes importance of private lands

Evolved through multiple legislative and rule changes



Key Features



Tags only valid on owned property



Types of hunts:

- **Deer**
- **Elk**
- **Doe/either-sex pronghorn**



Tag numbers based on acreage



Transfer rules:

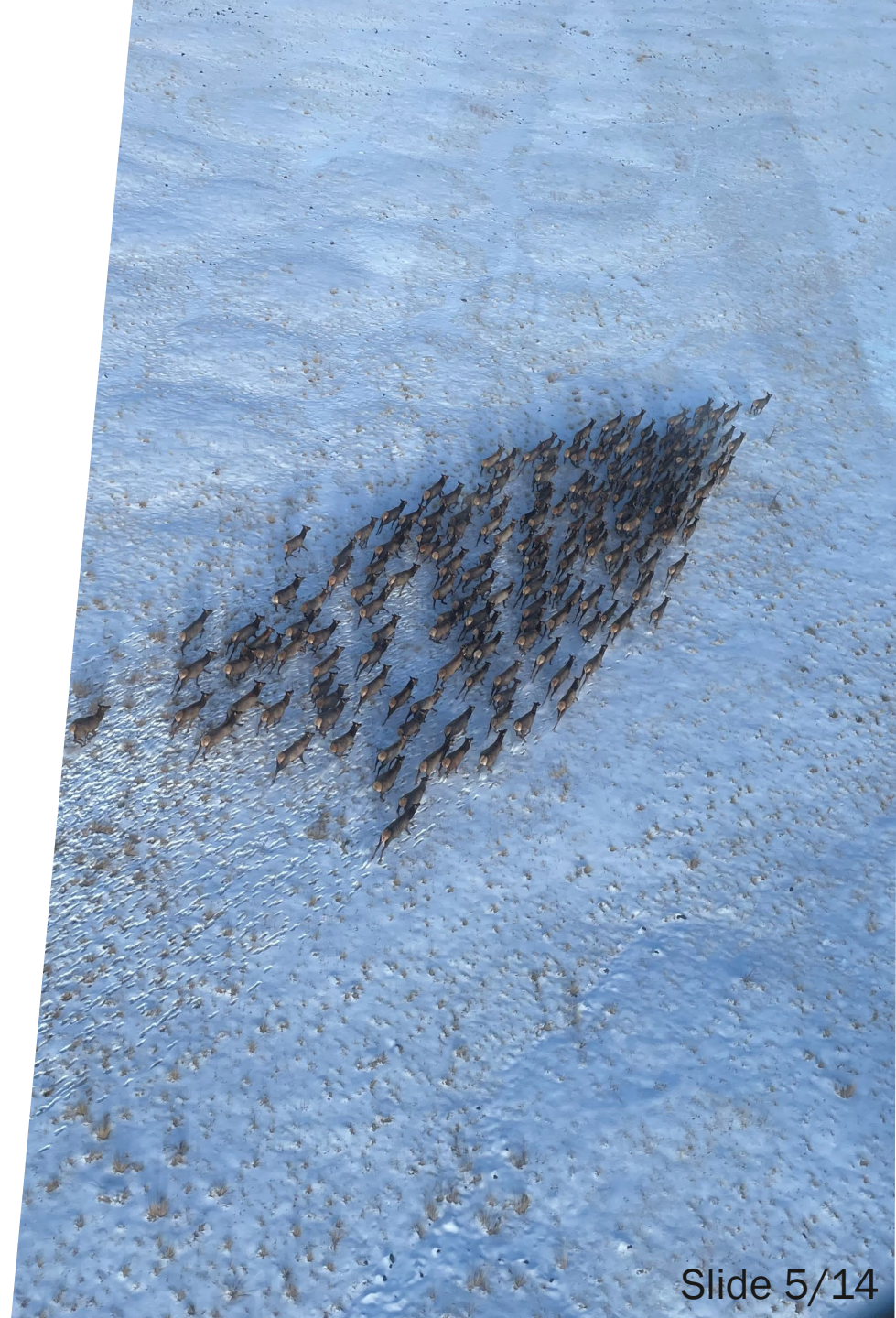
- **Antlerless tags transferable**
- **Antlered tags limited**



2013 Legislative Changes

Legislation was a compromise

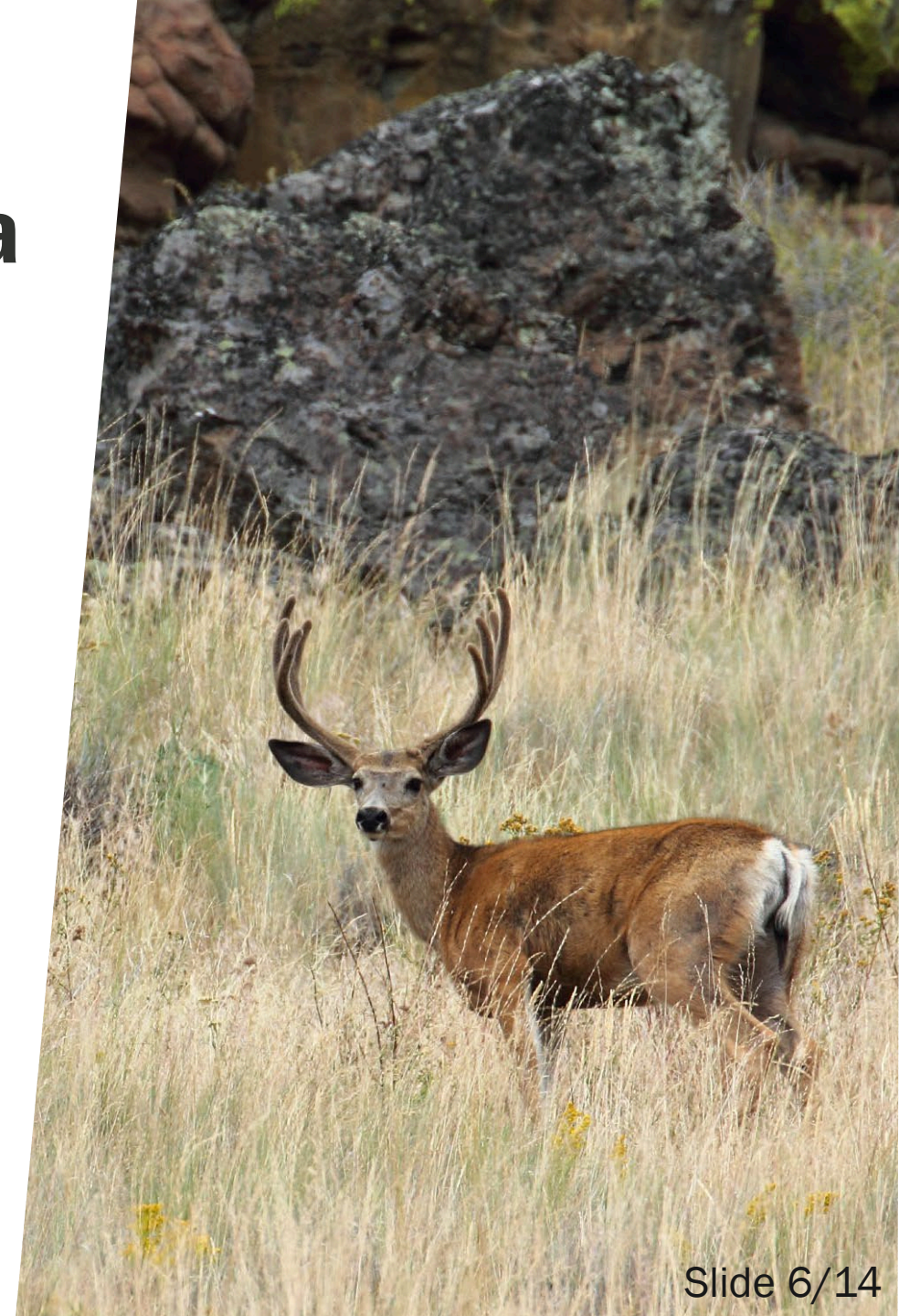
- Expanded definition of “immediate family” and tag transfer to non-family hunters
- Requirement to limit mule deer tags when populations below management goals



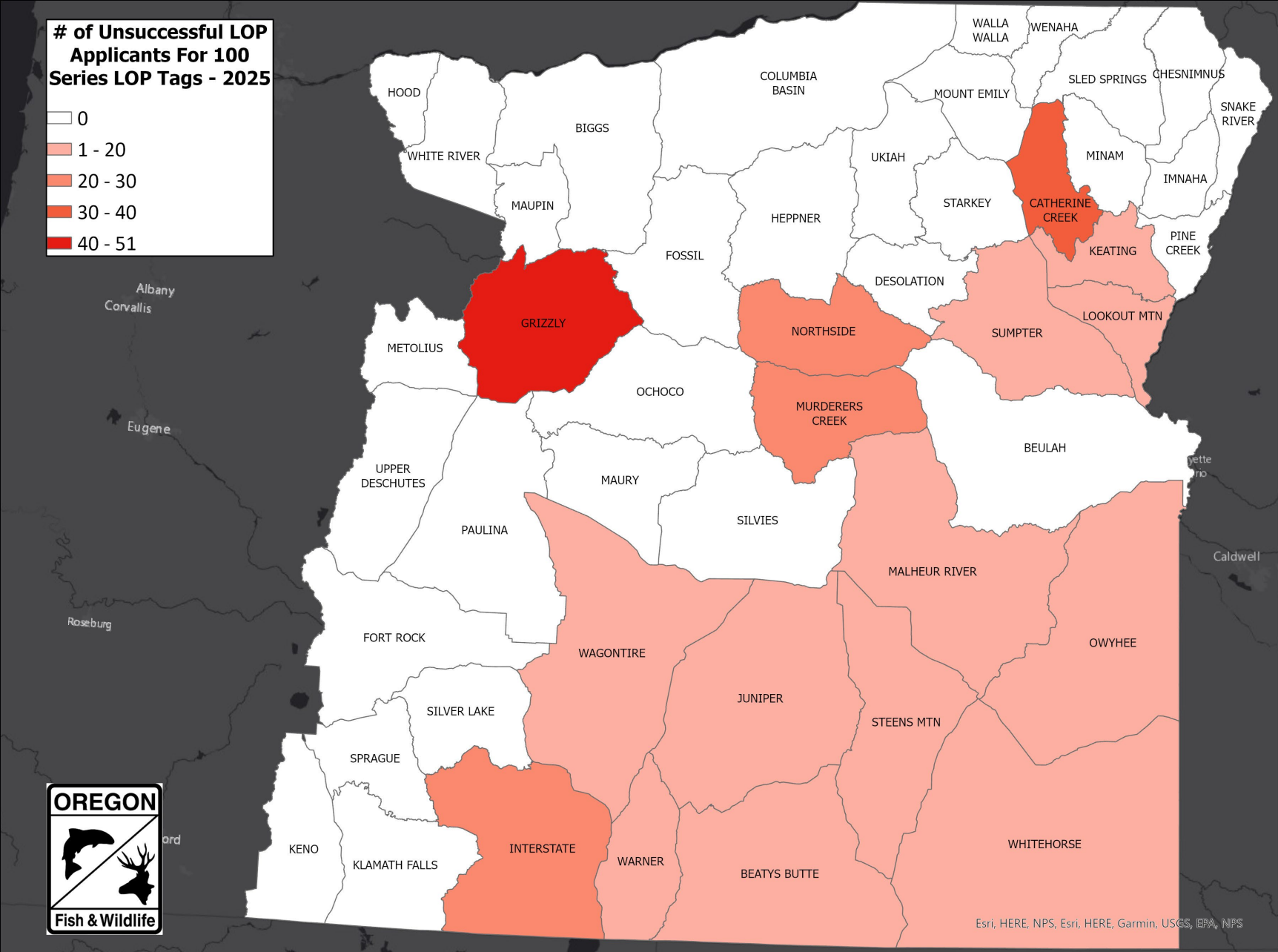
Current Mule Deer Tag Formula

Tier	Population vs MO	LOP Tag Limit
Tier 1	>80%	Per Acreage
Tier 2	60 – 79%	15% of controlled tags or 5 tags
Tier 3	<60%	10% of controlled tags or 5 tags

47 WMUs: Tier 1 (5), Tier 2 (7), Tier 3 (35)



What Did This Mean for Landowners in 2025?



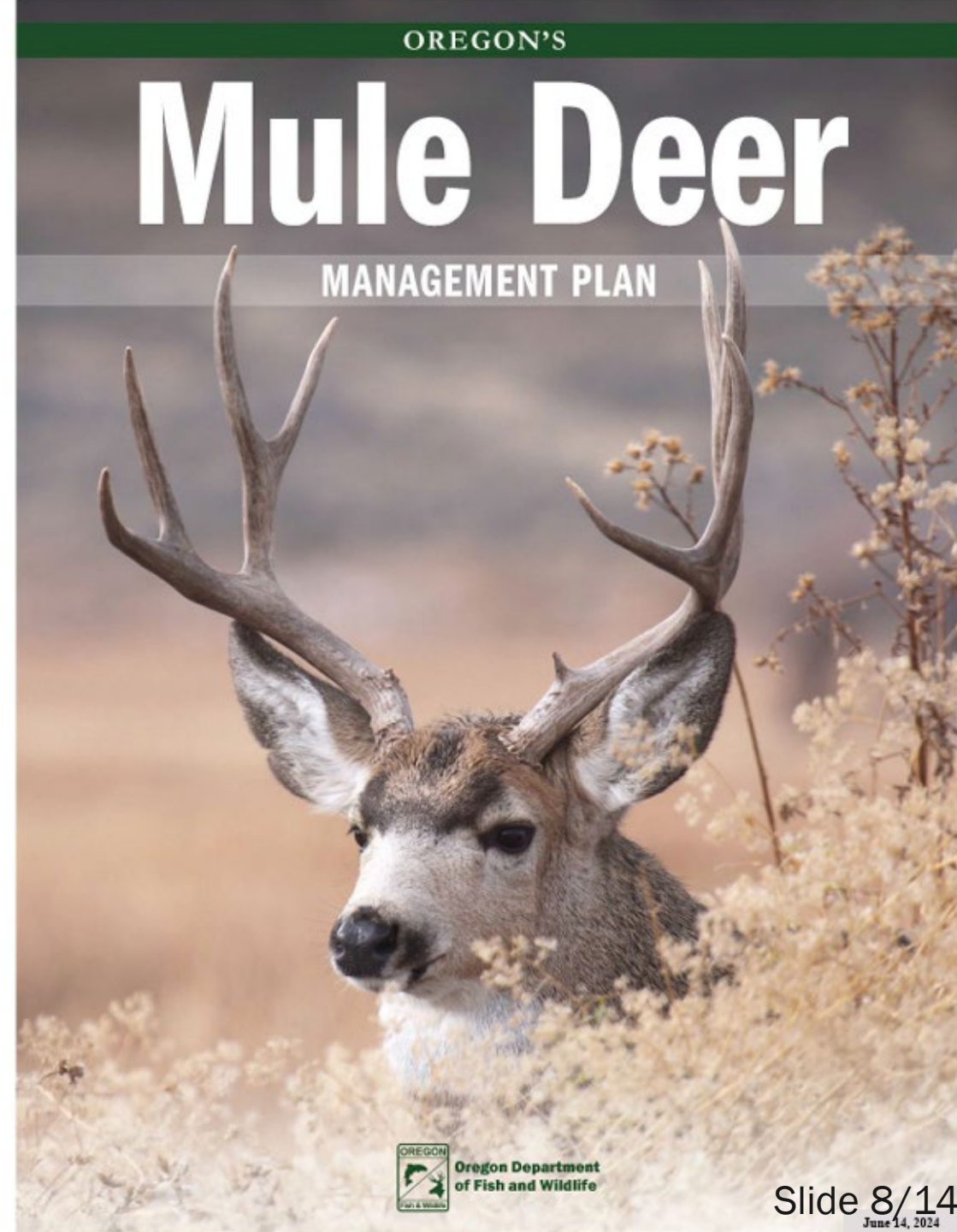
2024 Mule Deer Plan

Management at Herd Range scale

Management Objectives

- Population size and growth rate
- Expressed as concern level

Must align mule deer LOP tag formula with new plan



Goals for Revised Formula

Continue tie to Management Objective

Stability and predictability for landowners

Simplify where possible



Proposed Two-Tier Formula

Tier	Criteria	LOP Tag Limit
Tier 1	<i>Moderate</i> , or <i>Low</i> Concern OR >75% Private Land	Per Acreage
Tier 2	<i>Extreme</i> , <i>Very High</i> , or <i>High</i> Concern	15% of controlled tags or 5 tags

We anticipate the number of limited ALW LOP tags available will increase slightly under this proposal



Next Steps

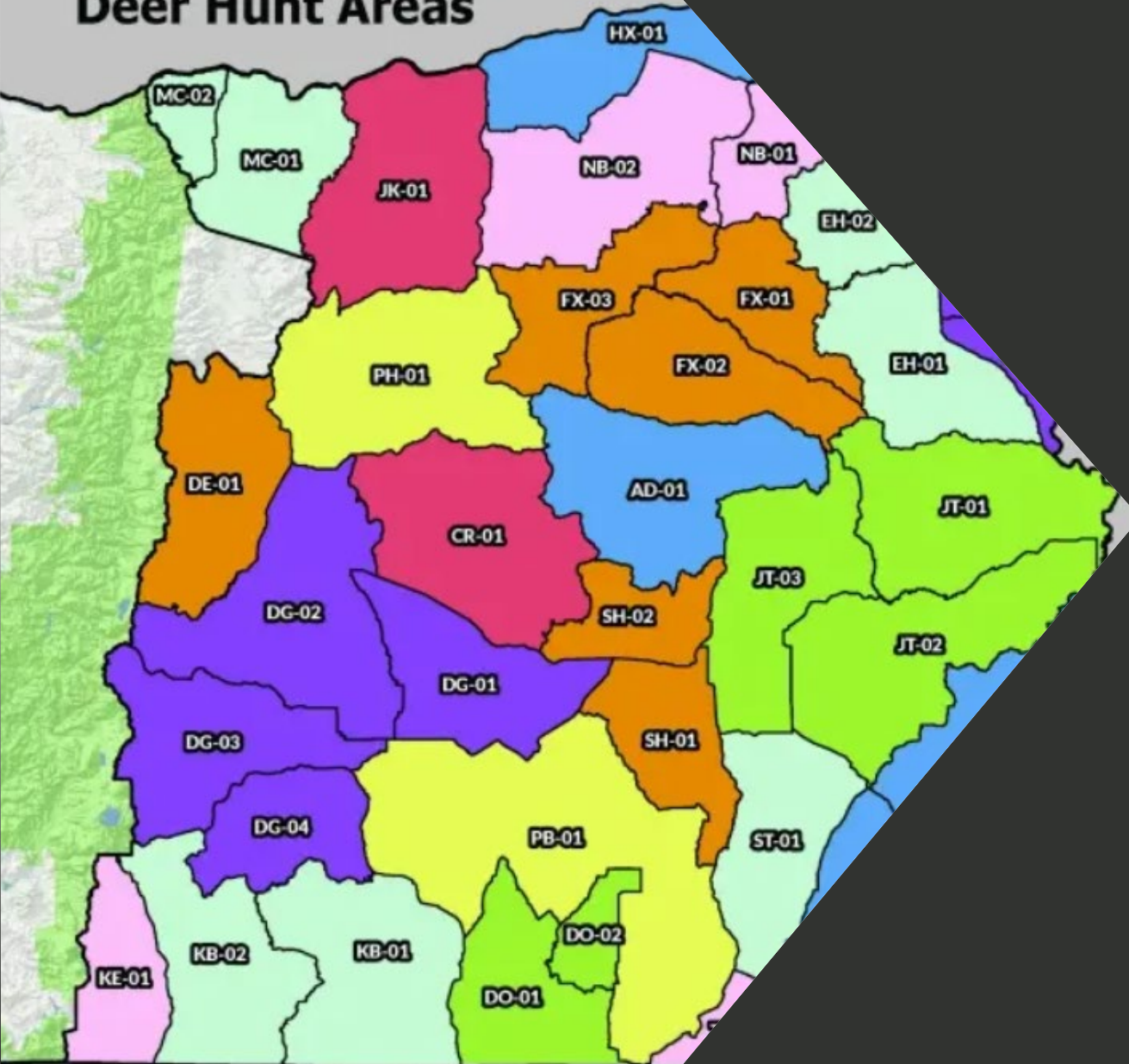
Apply formula for 2026 hunts

Notify landowners by May 1

Evaluate effects of the formula
change following 2 or 3 years of
implementation



2026 Eastern Oregon Deer Hunt Areas



Issue 2 Herd Range Name Changes

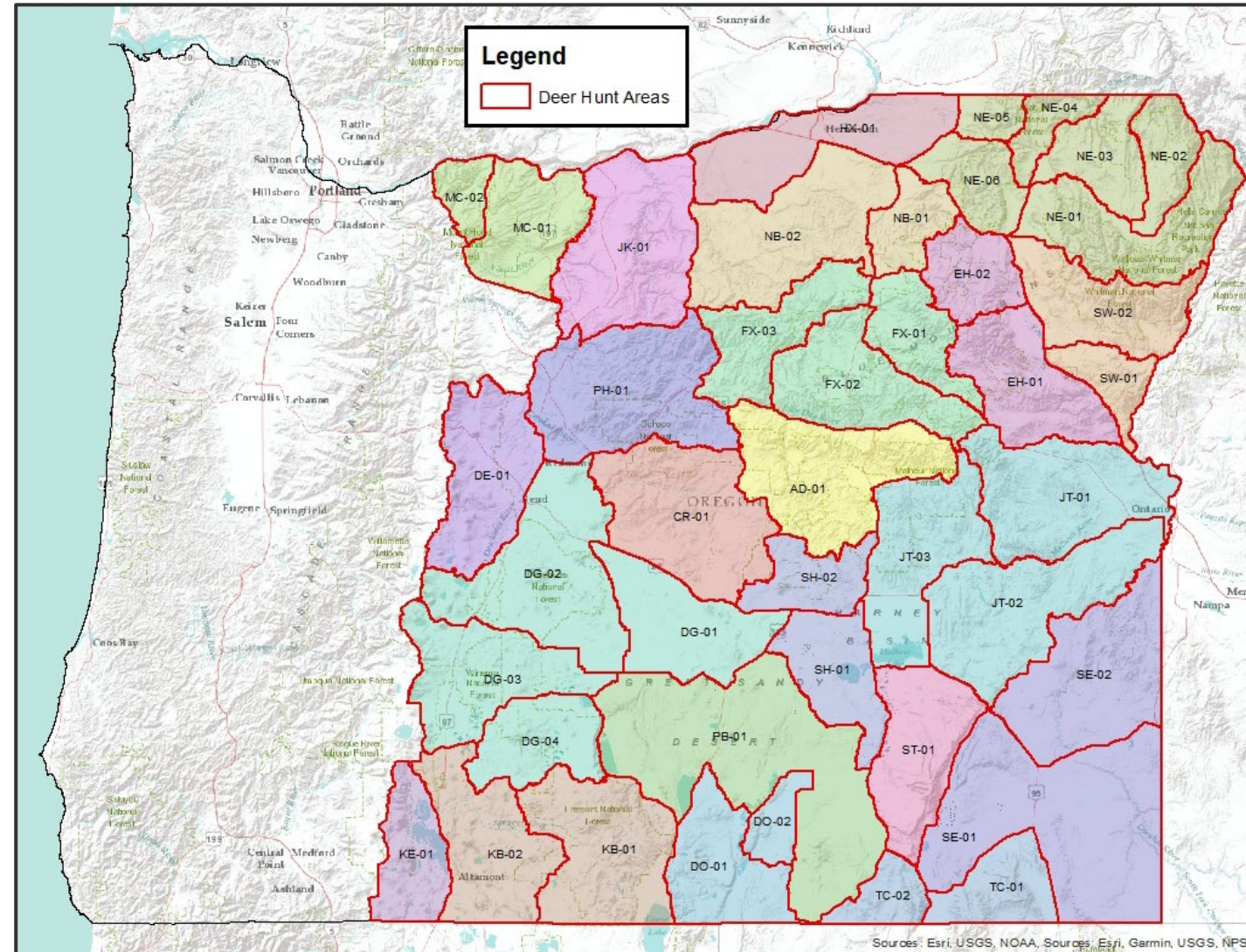


Herd Range Name Changes

Reduce confusion

Consistent with 2026 Big Game Regulations

Matches outreach material



Draft Motion

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635,
Divisions 075 and 190 as proposed by
staff

