



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Commission is being asked to approve the 2027 big game auction and raffle tag allocations.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is statutorily authorized to allocate a limited number of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, pronghorn, deer, and elk tags to be auctioned and raffled annually to benefit wildlife and habitat management, as well as expand hunting access in Oregon. Auction and raffle tags provide unique hunting opportunities with expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. The auction and raffle of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, and pronghorn tags generate dedicated funding for management and research for the respective species, while deer and elk tags generate revenue for the Access and Habitat (A&H) Program. Big game raffle entries are sold at department offices, license agents, and online beginning December 1 each year for the following year's raffle event.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

At the April 7, 2026, meeting of the A&H Board, deer and elk auction and raffle tags were discussed. There was an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment at this meeting. The public will also have the opportunity to provide input leading up to and during the June Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

2027 Auction and Raffle Tag Allocations

ANALYSIS

Several unique hunting opportunities are available in Oregon through the use of special auction and raffle tags that offer expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. As a result, the auction and raffle tags are very popular. Revenue from these special tags is dedicated to specific programs. All funds raised by the auction and raffle tags for bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain goats are dedicated for management and research of the respective species. All funds raised by auction and raffle tags for deer and elk provide funding for the Access and Habitat Program.

For 2026, the authorized auction and raffle tags consisted of:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn antelope raffle tag
- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag
- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

All auction tags are sold either at fundraising banquets or online for various sport groups each spring. Host organizations receive 10% of the sales price for the tag being sold (see Table 1 for host organization acronyms). Most of these funds are then allocated back to specific projects through grant programs managed by the sport group.

The big game raffle was held May 26, 2026, at ODFW headquarters in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel.

Table 1. Host organization acronyms used in Tables 2 through 5

Acronym	Organization Name
FNAWS	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
MDF	Mule Deer Foundation
NWTF	National Wild Turkey Federation
OBH	Oregon Bow Hunters
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OFBD	Oregon Foundation for Black-tailed Deer
OHA	Oregon Hunters Association
RMEF	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
SCI	Safari Club International
WSF	Wild Sheep Foundation

Bighorn Sheep

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag. The bighorn sheep auction and raffle tag program was the first program of its type in Oregon and was established in 1987. Since then it has been the cornerstone of funding for bighorn management and research in Oregon (Table 2). The 2026 Oregon bighorn auction tag sold for \$450,000 via a live hybrid auction on January 24, 2026 by the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF). Combined, the two tags have generated over \$4,722,000 over the last decade for bighorn sheep management and research in Oregon.

Table 2. Income from Oregon bighorn auction and raffle (2017-2026) tag sales. 2026 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income as of May 8, 2026.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2017	\$135,000	\$121,500	WSF	\$85,513	OHA
2018	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$122,444	OHA
2019	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$144,068	OHA
2020	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$107,512	ODFW
2021	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$127,364	ODFW
2022	\$345,000	\$310,500	WSF	\$214,351	OHA
2023	\$370,000	\$333,000	WSF	\$377,728	ODFW
2024	\$450,000	\$405,000	WSF	\$456,282	ODFW
2025	\$480,000	\$432,000	WSF	\$220,485	ODFW
2026*	\$450,000	\$405,000	WSF	\$193,545	ODFW
Total	\$2,970,000	\$2,673,000		\$2,049,291	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Bighorn Tags:				\$4,722,291	

Pronghorn

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one pronghorn auction tag and one pronghorn raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to pronghorn management and research (Table 3). Combined, the two tags generated over \$532,217 for pronghorn management and research in Oregon over the last ten years.

Table 3. Income from Oregon pronghorn auction and raffle tag sales (2017-2026). 2026 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income as of May 8, 2026.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2017	\$11,000	\$9,900	Tillamook OHA	\$16,963	State OHA
2018	\$16,000	\$14,400	Lake County OHA	\$19,005	State OHA
2019	\$17,500	\$15,750	N. Oregon MDF	\$18,828	State OHA
2020	\$16,000	\$14,400	National WSF	\$24,112	ODFW
2021	\$19,000	\$17,100	Ochoco NWTF	\$39,819	ODFW
2022	\$34,000	\$30,600	Rose City RMEF	\$33,318	State OHA
2023	\$26,000	\$23,400	Baker County NWTF	\$38,085	ODFW
2024	\$32,500	\$29,250	National WSF	\$60,478	ODFW
2025	\$32,500	\$29,250	National WSF	\$42,460	ODFW
2026*	\$30,000	\$27,000	Oregon WSF	\$28,099	ODFW
Total	\$234,500	\$211,050		\$321,167	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Pronghorn Tags:				\$532,217	

Rocky Mountain Goat

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to Rocky Mountain goat management and research, (Table 4). Combined, the two tags generated over \$102,000 for Rocky Mountain goat management and research in Oregon in 2026.

Table 4. Oregon Rocky Mountain goat auction and raffle tag sales (2017-2026). 2026 Raffle Tag Sales and Grand Total Income as of May 8, 2026.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2017	\$37,000	\$33,300	Oregon FNAWS	\$26,972	State OHA
2018	\$41,000	\$36,900	California WSF	\$24,291	State OHA
2019	\$52,500	\$47,250	Oregon FNAWS	\$28,468	State OHA
2020	\$40,000	\$36,000	Oregon Bowhunters	\$50,348	ODFW
2021	\$75,000	\$67,500	Oregon FNAWS	\$67,699	ODFW
2022	\$35,000	\$31,500	OR Wild Sheep	\$43,006	State OHA
2023	\$65,000	\$58,500	Union/Wallowa OHA	\$54,937	ODFW
2024	\$72,250	\$65,025	Houston Safari Club Fdn	\$94,008	ODFW
2025	\$45,000	\$40,500	OR Wild Sheep	\$46,734	ODFW
2026*	\$65,000	\$58,500	OR Wild Sheep	\$44,357	ODFW
Total	\$527,750	\$474,975		\$480,820	
Grand Total Net Income from Mountain Goat Tags:				\$955,795	

Access and Habitat, Deer and Elk Auction and Raffle Program

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue up to 10 deer and 10 elk tags by auction or raffle. The annual auction and raffle of deer and elk tags are a critical funding source for the A&H Program, accounting for a majority of the program’s revenue. Since their inception, these tags have generated over \$15 million in revenue, of which over \$9 million was generated over the last ten years (Table 5). About sixty percent of this revenue is generated by the five deer and five elk auction tags sold each year. Combined proceeds from the auction and raffle tags, A&H license surcharge, and Green Forage & Deer Enhancement Restoration funds, have been used to implement hunter access or habitat improvement projects throughout Oregon.

A&H deer and elk tags were auctioned at fundraising banquets for various sport groups this spring. The record year for auction revenue was 2026, at \$940,500 raised for the A&H program, eclipsing the previous year’s sales record of \$671,400. The in-person banquet events provide an opportunity for A&H Board members and staff to discuss the benefits of the A&H program with the public. The A&H Board will select sponsoring organizations for the 2027 auctions at their July 13, 2026, meeting.

Table 5. Access & Habitat deer and elk auction and raffle program revenue (2017-2026). 2026 Raffle Tag Sales and Grand Total Income as of May 8, 2026.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host (Number of tags)	Revenue	Host
2017	\$336,000	\$302,400	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTf	\$174,339	OHA
2018	\$422,000	\$379,800	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTf	\$198,317	OHA
2019	\$387,000	\$348,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), OBH, SCI, NWTf	\$217,811	OHA
2020	\$437,000	\$393,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), FNAWS, SCI, NWTf	\$325,391	ODFW
2021	\$569,500	\$512,550	RMEF, MDF(3), OHA(3), SCI, NWTf	\$374,126	ODFW
2022	\$643,000	\$578,700	RMEF, MDF(2), OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTf(2)	\$447,092	OHA
2023	\$698,000	\$628,200	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTf, WSF	\$459,920	ODFW
2024	\$746,000	\$671,400	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTf, WSF	\$638,629	ODFW
2025	\$1,045,000	\$940,500	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(3), NWTf(2)	\$535,712	ODFW
2026	\$841,000	\$756,900	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(3), NWTf(2)	\$350,199	ODFW
Totals	\$6,124,500	\$5,512,050		\$3,721,536	
Grand Total Net Revenue				\$9,233,586	

A&H Board and Department Recommendations

The department and the A&H Board recommended auction and raffle hunts for 2027 remain unchanged from 2026 seasons (Attachments 2 and 3). The Oregon Revised Statutes authorizing auction and raffle tags also establish annual limits on the number of tags that may be issued in this manner. The A&H Board and staff recommendations are within these established limits.

For 2027, the department recommends the Commission approve:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn antelope raffle tag
- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag

For 2027, the A&H Board recommends the Commission approve:

- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

The drawing for all raffle tags will occur in a single livecast event will be on Wednesday May 26, 2027. Sponsoring organizations for the 2027 deer and elk auction tags will be selected by the A&H Board at their July 13, 2026 meeting. Sponsoring organizations for the 2027 bighorn sheep, pronghorn and Rocky Mountain goat auction tags will be selected by department staff with approval of the Wildlife Division Administrator.

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff and A&H Board recommendations
2. Amend staff and A&H Board recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the 2027 auction and raffle big game tag allocations as proposed by staff and the A&H Board and shown in attachments 2 and 3.

Effective Date: June 26, 2026