

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
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ARCHIVES DIVISION
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED: 07/20/2026 2:53 PM

ARCHIVES DIVISION SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: 2027 Big Game Controlled Hunt Tag Numbers, Season Dates and Regulations

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 09/18/2026 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

CONTACT:

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4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:

Roxann Borisch
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 09/18/2026

TIME: 1:00 AM - 1:00 AM

OFFICER: ODFW Commission

IN-PERSON HEARING DETAILS

ADDRESS: Eastern Oregon University, 1 University Blvd, Gilbert Event Center, LaGrande, OR 97850

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER WRITTEN COMMENT TO THE AGENCY: 08/11/2026 @ 8:00 AM; LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER VERBAL COMMENT TO AGENCY: 09/18/2026 CLOSE OF HEARING.

This hearing will be conducted as a hybrid meeting, providing an opportunity to give testimony either in person or virtually. Additional information regarding participation will be posted on our website at www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/. The meeting can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW. Any changes to the meeting format (to virtual only if emergency arises) will be posted to our website as soon as possible.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

This action is necessary to set 2027 hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for game mammals.

Proposed adjustments are introduced to continue to support the goal of sustainable game mammal populations.

Amendments relating to the Elk 200 Series for General Western Oregon Coast seasons are aimed at improving bull escapement and increasing bull to cow ratios in Wildlife Management Units that are below Management Objectives. These changes may also help better distribute hunters and reduce complaints of hunter crowding.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

1. Staff report prepared for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission hearing on 9/18/2026, including the presentation and all provided materials.

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Roxann Borisch at 503-947-6314 or Roxann.B.Borisch@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE:

The Department has solicited input from representatives of underrepresented communities likely to be affected on whether the proposed rule will have a fiscal impact on the community, the extent of the fiscal impact, and whether the rules will have significant impact on underrepresented communities. <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/OARs/index.asp>

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

These regulations are not expected to result in significant economic or fiscal impacts to local governments or the public.

Fiscal and economic impacts discussed in this document pertain only to the proposed rules at the time of writing of this fiscal impact statement.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s).

A. State agencies that could be affected by these rules are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (wildlife management costs) and the Oregon State Police (enforcement costs). The amendments are not expected to impact these state agencies, as no major changes from the current levels of these agencies' operations or expenditures are anticipated in 2027 due to these proposed rules.

B. No units of local government are expected to be significantly affected by these rules. No significant changes from the current levels of any local agencies' operations or expenditures are expected as a result of the establishment of these hunting seasons and regulations.

C. The public is affected by the rules relating to the hunting seasons. Various sectors of the public economy (hunters,

suppliers of hunters, and the general economy) will experience varying impacts. The economic impact of changes in hunting rules depends primarily on the changes in hunting opportunities associated with the rule changes and related effects on direct expenditures by hunters. These effects are best measured by estimating the magnitude of changes in the number of hunter days and estimating the resulting changes in expenditures made by hunters, and the associated effects on personal income.

In general, no significant changes in hunter participation levels are anticipated in 2027 compared to 2026, assuming adverse weather and environmental conditions are not experienced between now and the 2027 seasons.

The total (direct, indirect and induced) effects on personal income in the areas surrounding the associated hunting areas and statewide are the result of the direct expenditures on goods and services made by hunters during their hunting trips. Through the "multiplier process", there is a resulting increase in economic activity and personal income in the general economy of the area and the entire state. A review of statewide hunting expenditures is presented below to provide a background on the economic impact of hunting in Oregon.

An Earth Economics study (Mackey & Cousins, 2024) estimated that an individual hunting participation day results in an average expenditure of \$111 per hunter per day (base year 2022). In inflation adjusted (May 2026) dollars, the average expenditure per hunter day in Oregon would amount to \$125.

The relationship between direct, indirect, and induced personal income from the direct trip expenditures per hunter day can be estimated based on response coefficients developed from an economic input-output model. The most recent updates to the economic contribution study, an Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon, by Earth Economics provided updated statewide figures on hunting-related expenditures. The study findings estimate Oregon's total hunter related expenditures to be \$214 million in 2022 dollars (Mackey & Cousins, 2024). In 2025 dollars this is \$234 million in expenditures. The original study (Mojica et al., 2021) found that hunting expenditures in Oregon were associated with the generated economic impact of 2,219 jobs and \$73 million in wages (\$92 million in 2025 dollars) and \$11 million in state and local taxes (\$14 million in 2025 dollars).

Total hunter expenditures are not currently estimated annually at a statewide level for Oregon. However, there are some figures available that provide additional context on hunter expenditures. According to data from the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, total hunter expenditures in Oregon were about \$239 million in 2011. In 2025 dollars, this would mean \$343 million in expenditures. The most current 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation survey now focuses on national data only and no longer provides state level expenditure estimates. However, the national level hunting expenditure data is worth citing. Survey results show that nationally for all hunting types, trip expenditures per day is \$51 and annual trip expenditure per hunter is \$857 dollars (base year 2022). While differing survey methodologies make comparison across surveys difficult, a review of past survey results does suggest that on average Oregon hunters have higher expenditures than the national figures.

The estimates above will be reasonably good measures of the impact on total personal income per hunter day to the extent that the dollars spent on the hunting trips would not have been spent on other activities or commodities in Oregon had there been no hunting seasons. The economic impacts of hunters' expenditures on durable equipment associated with hunting are not included in the estimates above. For example, durable equipment would include expenditures that individuals plan to use for a number of years, such as an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or RV. These equipment expenditures are not necessarily related to hunter use in a simple linear fashion, and hence, may not be significantly affected by marginal changes in seasons. However, there is probably a positive relationship between hunting opportunities and equipment expenditures, particularly in the long run.

The effect of changes in numbers of hunters and hunter activity on personal income in the regions and at the state level can be estimated using the personal income impact per day estimates. However, the aggregate impact depends on the magnitude of the changes in the number of hunters and hunter days. As indicated above, there are relatively minor changes expected to the number of hunters and net hunting days due to changes in game mammal regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 compared to 2026. However, depending on the weather next winter and other environmental factors affecting survival, there may be changes in the amount of controlled hunt tags available in 2027. Obviously, the magnitude of these changes cannot be predicted, but should a hard winter occur, the effects on tag availability could possibly be greater than the effects of any changes in these proposed regulations.

One area where there may be an effect on the number of hunts is specific to the number of controlled hunt elk tags available in 2027. Compared to the 1% decrease in available tags across all game mammals there is a proportionally larger 3% decrease in elk tags. Elk hunters may need to make considerations on which tags they decide to put in for, particularly if the number of tags available for a specific preferred WMU results in a change to the odds of being drawn compared to the previous year. These considerations are typical and part of the evaluation a hunter makes every year during their planning process. Given the occurrence of leftover controlled tags, it is anticipated that hunters should be able to figure out substitute hunt options if necessary.

Other proposed changes to the 200 series elk hunts include making changes to the general season for Western Coastal Bull Any Legal Weapon hunts. Proposed rules recommend either adding additional WMUs to the spike season and moving that spike hunt from the first season to the second season or keeping the spike hunt in the second season but adding those same WMUs to that spike bag limit hunt. These specific amendments are aimed at improving bull escapement and increasing bull to cow ratios in WMUs that are below Management Objectives. Changes may also help better distribute hunters and reduce complaints of hunter crowding.

The current restrictions in some of the hunting seasons for game mammals, such as limiting tag numbers and season dates, can be viewed as restricting opportunities and reducing positive economic impacts in the short run. However, conservation through adjustment of these and other game mammal hunting seasons is intended to perpetuate the resources at optimum levels over the long run. Failure to restrict harvests of game animals to allow escapement for reproduction would result in reduced hunting opportunities in the future. The proposed regulations strike a balance that will sustain game mammal population levels and maintain future benefits.

References:

BLS. (2026, July 16). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved from CPI Inflation Calculator:

https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

Mackey, E., Cousins, K., 2024. Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: 2022 Update. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA.

Mojica, J., Cousins, K., Madsen, T., 2021. Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA.

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 2022.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau. 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 2011.

(2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s);

The types of business subject to the rule are primarily those that supply goods or services to hunters. These may include taxidermy services, hunting guides, private hunting preserve operators, food and beverage stores, gasoline stations, sporting goods stores, general merchandise stores, accommodation businesses, food services and drinking places. Big

game hunting occurs in myriad locations throughout the state and thus the number of small businesses subject to the rule cannot be estimated.

(b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s);

These types of compliance costs are not anticipated.

(c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

These types of compliance costs are not anticipated.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

The Department conducted a Big Game Regulation Review Project and has pursued efforts to update the regulations to clarify regulatory language and provide fair and consistent opportunity while ensuring biological objectives are met.

In July 2026 the Department hosted four regionally focused online public meetings with an opportunity for participants to submit questions and comments. Recordings of these public meetings were available for viewing on the Department webpage.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

No, the Department utilizes several other forms of public outreach to gather input into draft rules. These rules are amended annually to administer an existing program. While interested and affected persons are generally aware of this rulemaking schedule, the Department issues a news release describing where draft proposals are posted online as well as public meeting schedules.

- 1) The Department provides information and draft proposals to, and receives comments from, interested and affected persons.
- 2) The Department hosts four regionally focused online public meetings with an opportunity for attendees to submit questions and comments.
- 3) The Department District Biologists conduct various outreach efforts at local levels.
- 4) At the Commission hearing, public correspondence and testimony is accepted into the record as part of the rulemaking process.

RULES PROPOSED:

635-045-0000, 635-060-0000, 635-065-0001, 635-065-0011, 635-065-0015, 635-065-0090, 635-065-0401, 635-065-0740, 635-065-0745, 635-065-0760, 635-065-0772, 635-066-0000, 635-066-0020, 635-067-0000, 635-068-0000, 635-069-0000, 635-070-0000, 635-071-0000, 635-072-0000, 635-073-0000, 635-075-0001, 635-075-0005, 635-075-0011, 635-075-0020, 635-075-0025

AMEND: 635-045-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-045-0000

Purpose ¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to list definitions pursuant to hunting seasons for big game and game birds.¶

(2) The documents entitled "2026-2027 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "2026~~6~~⁷ Oregon Big Game Regulations", are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license vendors and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-060-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-060-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to describe the requirements and procedures for controlled hunts pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.162.¶

(2) The documents entitled "2026-2027 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "2026~~6~~7 Oregon Big Game Regulations," are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license agents and regional, district, and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-065-0001

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0001

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish license and tag requirements, limits, areas, methods and other restrictions for hunting game mammals pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) OAR Chapter 635, Division 065 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting game mammals set out in the document entitled "~~2026~~2027 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "~~2026~~2027 Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for game mammals. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district, and headquarters offices, and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-065-0011

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0011

Mandatory Reporting Deadlines and Penalty ¶¶

All big game tag holders, except for bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat, and all turkey tag holders are required to report hunting effort and harvest.¶¶

(1) Reporting deadlines for 2024~~5~~-2025~~6~~ seasons are as follows:¶¶

(a) January 31, 2025~~6~~: For hunts ending between April 1 and December 31, 2024~~5~~.¶¶

(b) April 15, 2025~~6~~: For hunts ending between January 1 and March 31, 2025~~6~~.¶¶

(2) Any person with any deer or elk tag for hunts and seasons listed in the "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations pamphlet", issued through the Electronic Licensing System, that fails to report by deadlines established in OAR 635-065-0011(1) will not be able to obtain a license to hunt game mammals or game birds in Oregon without paying a penalty.¶¶

(a) The penalty will be assessed beginning December 1, 2025~~6~~ with purchase of a 2026~~7~~ license.¶¶

(b) The penalty fee amount is \$25.¶¶

(3) Reporting deadlines for 2025~~6~~-2026~~7~~ seasons are as follows:¶¶

(a) January 31, 2026~~7~~: For hunts ending between April 1 and December 31, 2025~~6~~.¶¶

(b) April 15, 2026~~7~~: For hunts ending between January 1 and March 31, 2026~~7~~.¶¶

(4) Any person with any deer or elk tag for hunts and seasons listed in the "2026~~7~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations pamphlet", or through the Oregon Landowner Damage Program in OAR 635-075-0011, issued through the Electronic Licensing System, that fails to report by deadlines established in OAR 635-065-0011(1~~2~~) will not be able to obtain a license to hunt game mammals or game birds in Oregon without paying a penalty. ¶¶

(a) The penalty will be assessed beginning December 1, 2026~~7~~ with purchase of a 2027~~8~~ license. ¶¶

(b) The penalty fee amount is \$25.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0015

General Tag Requirements and Limits ¶¶

- (1) Big Game Tags: Any person hunting game mammals for which a tag is required must have on their person a valid tag for the dates, area and species being hunted.¶¶
- (2) Any person 12 years of age or older may purchase game mammal tags if they possess an adult or juvenile hunting license. ¶¶
- (3) A person may obtain and possess during an annual hunting season only:¶¶
 - (a) One valid black bear general season fall tag;¶¶
 - (b) One valid black bear additional general season fall tag;¶¶
 - (c) One valid black bear spring controlled hunt tag in addition to general season bear tags issued under subsections (a) and (b) above; or¶¶
 - (d) One valid black bear "leftover" spring controlled hunt tag; ¶¶
 - (e) One valid cougar general season tag;¶¶
 - (f) One valid cougar additional general season tag;¶¶
 - (g) One valid controlled pronghorn antelope tag except as provided in OAR 635-073-0100.¶¶
- (4) Except as provided in OAR Chapter 635, Division 090, and in OAR 635-075-0010, and in OAR 635-073-0100, a person may obtain and possess only one of the following tags during an annual hunting season:¶¶
 - (a) One valid buck deer general season archery tag; or¶¶
 - (b) One valid buck deer general season western Oregon any legal weapon tag; or ¶¶
 - (c) One valid buck deer controlled hunt 100 series tag; or¶¶
 - (d) One valid buck deer "left over" controlled hunt 100 series tag; and¶¶
 - (e) In addition to one of (4)(a), or (4)(b), or (4)(c), or (4)(d) one valid antlerless deer controlled hunt 600 series tag; or¶¶
 - (f) One valid antlerless deer "left over" controlled hunt 600 series tag; and¶¶
 - (g) One valid "Take a Friend Hunting" Contest deer tag, season dates, bag limit, and hunt area are as in OAR 635-090-0150 for deer and elk auction tags;¶¶
- (5) Except as provided in OAR Chapter 635, Division 090, and OAR 635-073-0100, a person may obtain and possess only one of the following tags during an annual hunting season:¶¶
 - (a) One valid general season elk west Cascades tag; or¶¶
 - (b) One valid general season elk western Oregon Coast first season tag; or¶¶
 - (c) One valid general season elk western Oregon Coast second season tag; or¶¶
 - (d) One valid general season elk Eastern Oregon Rocky Mountain second season tag; or¶¶
 - (e) One valid elk general archery season tag; or¶¶
 - (f) One valid elk controlled hunt 200 series tag; or¶¶
 - (g) One valid General Season Antlerless Elk Damage Tag; or¶¶
 - (h) One valid elk "leftover" controlled hunt 200 series tag.¶¶
- (6) In addition to the tags described in OAR 635-065-0015 (3), (4), and (5), a person during an annual hunting season may obtain or possess only one valid "Mandatory Hunter Reporting Incentive Tag" per annual hunting season. If the Department awards a hunter such a tag through the controlled hunt draw authorized by OAR 635-060-0030(5), the following requirements will apply:¶¶
 - (a) On or before July 15, 2026~~7~~ the hunter must inform the Department which species the tag is to be issued for

(pronghorn antelope, deer, or elk) and purchase the tag. Tags not purchased by July 15 will be offered to an alternate hunter with a tag sale deadline of July 31, 2026~~7~~.¶

(b) Hunting hours, hunt dates, and hunt area for Mandatory Hunter Reporting Incentive Tags will be the same as those listed in OAR 635-090-150 (3) for deer or (4) for elk , or 635-067-0028 (2) for pronghorn. ¶

(c) Bag limit: one pronghorn antelope or one deer or one elk.¶

(d) Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees are not eligible for a Mandatory Hunter Reporting Incentive Tag.¶

(7) Except through the opportunity provided in OAR 635-067-0032 thru 635-067-0034, a person may obtain and possess only one bighorn sheep ram tag in a lifetime.¶

(8) Except through the opportunity provided in OAR 635-067-0036 and 635-067-0041, a person may obtain and possess only one Rocky Mountain goat tag in a lifetime.¶

(9) It is unlawful for any person to issue or to possess any game mammal tag which has been backdated.¶

(10) Any game mammal tag having an issue date subsequent to the last day authorized for issue of such tag as listed in "Oregon Big Game Regulations" for the current season is a void tag. Exception: ¶

(a) Members of the uniformed services returning to the state after the deadline shall be permitted to purchase general season tags for themselves at the Salem headquarters and regional offices of the Department.¶

(b) Notwithstanding the deadlines for tag purchases provided by rule and in the hunting regulation synopses, any person who qualifies to purchase a tag but fails to make the purchase by the deadline, may purchase the tag late if the person:¶

(A) Submits an attestation to the Department's Licensing Services Office certifying that the person has not yet hunted during the season for which the tag is sought; ¶

(B) The request must be received by the Department before the end of the season for the particular tag; and¶

(C) Pays the Department the fee as provided in OAR 635-010-0019 for a tag issued after the tag sale deadline in addition to the usual tag fee.¶

(D) A tag purchased for a season that has not begun may be canceled and exchanged for a tag for an ongoing season using the process outlined in 635-065-0015(10)(b)(A and B) provided the original tag is surrendered with the attestation and the fee for a tag issued after the tag sale deadline is paid to the Department.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0090

Disabled Hunter Seasons and Bag Limits ¶¶

(1) A person who possesses an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit issued by the Department is qualified for expanded bag limits as follows: Season/Tag - Bag Limit¶¶

(a) General or controlled buck deer - One deer bag limit in the following hunt areas and units: Jackknife, Helix, Indigo, McKenzie, Melrose, Santiam, Willamette.¶¶

(b) General or controlled bull elk - Legal bull or antlerless elk bag limit in the following units: Applegate, Beatys Butte, Beulah, Biggs, Catherine Creek, Chesnimnus, Columbia Basin, ~~Dixon (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Evans Creek (outside National Forest Lands within the unit),~~ East Fort Rock (that portion east of Hwy 97), Fossil, Grizzly, Hood, Imnaha, ~~Indigo (outside National Forest Lands within the unit),~~ Juniper, Keating, Lookout Mountain, Malheur River, Maupin, ~~McKenzie (outside National Forest Lands within the unit),~~ Melrose, Minam, Murderers Creek, Northside, Ochoco, Owyhee, Paulina, Pine Creek, ~~Rogue (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Santiam (outside National Forest Lands within the unit),~~ Silvies, Siuslaw, Sixes, Sled Springs, Steens Mountain, South Sumpter (that part of Unit 51 south of ~~Burnt Rvr Canyon Rd from Durkee to junction State Hwy 245 and Hwy 245 from junction Burnt Rvr Canyon Rd to Unit 51~~), the following line; beginning at the I-84 overpass of Burnt Rvr Canyon Ln; west on Burnt Rvr Canyon Ln to Bridgeport Ln; west on Bridgeport Ln to Hwy 245; west on Hwy 245 to Hwy 26, Wagontire, White River, Whitehorse, and Willamette.¶¶

(c) Controlled pronghorn antelope buck only hunts - One pronghorn bag limit in the following units: Beatys Butte, Biggs, Columbia Basin, Fort Rock, Grizzly, Juniper, Keating, Lookout Mountain, Malheur River, Maupin, Maury, Murderers Creek, Northside, Ochoco, Paulina, Silver Lake, Silvies, Steens Mountain, Sumpter, Wagontire, Warner. For hunts with bag limits other than one buck or one bull, the bag limit remains as shown in the Oregon Big Game Regulations.¶¶

(2) The Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit is valid only with a general season or controlled bull elk, buck deer, or pronghorn antelope tag for the area and time period being hunted. The permit must be carried on the person while hunting.¶¶

(3) An able-bodied companion may accompany a person with an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit and kill any animal wounded by the permit holder. The wounded animal must be killed using a legal weapon for the season and species designated on the tag. The companion must immediately validate and attach the permit holder's tag or required information described in OAR 635-065-0765 if validated electronically to the carcass of the animal. The companion is not required to possess a hunting license or tag.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-065-0401

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0401

Deadline for Purchase of General Season Tags ¶

Except as provided in OAR 635-065-0015 (10):¶

(1) No buck deer general season western Oregon any legal weapon tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, October ~~31, 2026~~.¶

(2) No buck deer general season archery tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, August ~~29~~, 2026.¶

(3) No black bear general season fall tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, October ~~31, 2026~~.¶

(4) Black bear additional general season fall tags may be purchased anytime during the bear hunting season, after a black bear general season fall tag has been purchased. An unused bear tag must be in the hunter's possession at the time they are hunting.¶

(5) No general season cougar tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, October ~~31, 2026~~.¶

(6) Additional general season cougar tags may be purchased anytime during the cougar hunting season, after a general season cougar tag has been purchased. An unused cougar tag must be in the hunter's possession at the time they are hunting.¶

(7) No general season elk eastern Oregon Rocky Mountain second season tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, November ~~7~~, 2026.¶

(8) No general season elk western Oregon Coast first season tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, November ~~14~~, 2026.¶

(9) No general season elk western Oregon Coast second season tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, November ~~21~~, 2026.¶

(10) No general season elk west Cascade tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, November ~~7~~, 2026.¶

(11) No elk general archery season tag shall be issued after 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, August ~~29~~, 2026.¶

(12) No General Season Antlerless Elk Damage Tag shall be issued after legal shooting hours end on March 31, 2026.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-065-0740

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0740

Hunting Prohibited ¶¶

It is unlawful: ¶¶

(1) To hunt with a centerfire rifle during the deer and elk seasons and dates in the Wildlife Management Units listed in Table 1 below without a used or unused deer, elk, pronghorn, antelope, bighorn sheep, or Rocky Mountain goat tag valid for the dates and area being hunted. ¶¶

Table 1. Wildlife Management Units and dates requiring a valid deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, or Rocky Mountain goat tag to hunt with a centerfire rifle. (See attached table)¶¶

(2) To hunt on any refuge closed by the state or federal government.¶¶

(3) To hunt within the corporate limits of any city or town, public park or cemetery, or on any campus or grounds of a public school, college, or university or from a public road, road right-of-way, or railroad right-of-way.¶¶

(4) Notwithstanding section (3) of this rule, controlled antlerless elk hunts are permitted within the south city limits of Seaside if the herd should become a serious problem.¶¶

(5) To hunt in any Safety Zones created and posted by the Department.¶¶

(6) To hunt protected wildlife except:¶¶

(a) By a permit or during an authorized season established by the commission.¶¶

(b) That crow, blackbirds, cowbirds, and magpies may be taken under Federal regulations for reason of depredation or health hazards as described in the Code of Federal Regulations.¶¶

(7) To pursue or assist another to pursue a cougar during an authorized cougar season unless in possession of an unused cougar tag or accompanied by the holder of an unused cougar tag which is valid for that area and time period.¶¶

(8) To engage in computer-assisted hunting (Internet hunting) or provide or operate facilities for computer-assisted hunting in Oregon. As used in this act, "computer-assisted hunting" (Internet hunting) means the use of a computer or any other device, equipment, or software to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm, bow, or any other weapon to hunt any game bird, wildlife, game mammal, or other mammal, and "facilities for computer-assisted remote hunting" means real property and improvements on the property associated with hunting, including hunting blinds, offices and rooms equipped to facilitate computer-assisted remote hunting. Nothing in subsection (8) of this section prohibits the use of computer-assisted hunting by employees or agents of county, state or federal agencies while acting in their official capacities.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

RULE ATTACHMENTS MAY NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.

NOTE: Attachments referenced are attached to this document. You may view the attachment 635-065-0740.pdf from the Attachments panel. Alternately, you may view the attachments at the following link:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewAttachment.action?ruleVrsnRsn=337787>

AMEND: 635-065-0745

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0745

Prohibited Methods ¶¶

It is unlawful:¶¶

(1) To shoot from or across a public road, road right-of-way, or railroad right-of-way, except that persons legally hunting on closed roads within department Cooperative Travel Management Areas are not violating current prohibitions on shooting from or across a public road.¶¶

(2) To hunt for or kill any wildlife for another person except as provided in ORS 498.170 for visually impaired hunters, and OAR 635-065-0090 for hunters with permanent disability permits.¶¶

(3) To hunt any game mammal with dogs, except western gray squirrel.¶¶

(4) To use an artificial light for hunting any wildlife, except raccoon, bobcat, and opossum provided the light is not cast from or attached to a motor vehicle. This includes laser sights or any other sights which project a beam to the target. This does not include battery operated sights which only light the reticle.¶¶

(5) To hunt for wildlife with any electronic device attached to, or incorporated in, the firearm or scope, except cameras that have no other function than recording images and scopes containing lighted reticles. Scopes capable of receiving information from an electronic device are also prohibited.¶¶

(6) To hunt, locate, or scout for the purpose of hunting any wildlife with infrared, including thermal, or any other "night vision" sight or equipment except trail cameras.¶¶

(7) To cast from or within 500 feet of a motor vehicle an artificial light on game mammals, predatory animals or livestock while having in possession or immediate physical presence a weapon with which the game mammals or livestock could be killed.¶¶

(8) To take any game mammals with trap or snare.¶¶

(9) To use any poisoning, immobilizing, or tranquilizing drug or chemical to hunt or kill any game mammal.¶¶

(10) To possess or use a commercial cervid attractant that contains or is derived from cervid urine.¶¶

(11) To hunt game mammals from within, or take game mammals that are within, 500 feet of the center of the mouth of any Oregon Department of Transportation wildlife crossing structure located between US Highway 20 mile posts ~~198~~ and ~~2019~~, and US Highway 97 mile posts 149 and 153.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-065-0760

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0760

Other Restrictions ¶¶

It is unlawful:¶¶

- (1) To take or hold in captivity the young of any game mammal.¶¶
- (2) To hold in captivity any wildlife of this state for which a permit is required without first securing a permit.¶¶
- (3) To release without a permit any wildlife brought from another state or country, or raised in captivity in this state.¶¶
- (4) To resist game law enforcement officers.¶¶
- (5) To refuse inspection of any license, tag or permit, and any wildlife taken, by an employee of the Department; any person authorized to enforce the wildlife laws; or a landowner or agent of the landowner on his or her land while on that property.¶¶
- (6) To refuse inspection, by an employee of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or any person authorized to enforce wildlife laws, of any gear used for the purpose of taking wildlife.¶¶
- (7) To take or attempt to take any game mammals, game birds, migratory waterfowl or any protected wildlife species of any size or sex or amount, by any method or weapon, during any time or in any area not prescribed in these rules. ¶¶
- (8) To disturb, damage, remove, alter or possess any official Department signs. ¶¶
- (9) To sell, lend, or borrow any big game tag.¶¶
- (10) It is unlawful to operate or to be transported in a motor-propelled vehicle in violation of Cooperative Travel Management Areas. "Motor-propelled vehicle" includes aircraft not landing on designated airstrips. Through cooperative agreement, motor vehicle use is limited to specific roads during the dates for the areas listed below. There are two methods of posting road access information; negative marking in which closed roads are marked by signs, gates, berms, or other similar indicators, or positive marking in which open roads are marked by round green reflectors, orange carsonite posts, or similar indicators. Unit descriptions may be found in OAR 635-080-0000 through 635-080-0077. The following closures shall be effective during the specified periods each year:¶¶
 - (a) North Coast Access Area: Three days prior to opening of general archery season through the close of all bull elk any legal weapon seasons. Applies to all gated, posted, and/or barrier closed roads within the Saddle Mountain, Scappoose, Trask and Wilson wildlife management units. Additionally, all roads are closed unless designated open in those areas designated on the North Coast Access Area Map. Cooperators require: day use only (one hour prior to sunrise until one hour after sunset) on private lands, no ATV use on private and designated state lands, no vehicle may block any road or gate.¶¶
 - (b) Upper Tualatin-Trask: Three days prior to the opening of buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of all bull elk any legal weapon seasons. That part of the Trask Unit as follows: 60 square miles in Townships 1 and 2 North and 1 South, and Ranges 5 and 6 West;¶¶
 - (c) Mid-Coast: Permanent Closure. That part of the Alsea Unit as follows: Open roads in the Siuslaw NF lands south of US Hwy 20 and north of State Hwy 126 are designated on the Siuslaw NF Motor Vehicle Use Map. However; additional roads may be posted as closed as part of the Cooperative TMA or for administrative purposes.¶¶
 - (d) Smith Ridge: Permanent Closure. That part of the McKenzie Unit as follows: 8 square miles in Townships 13 and 14 South, Ranges 6 and 7 East;¶¶

- (e) Chucksney Mountain: September 1 through November 30 annually. That part of the McKenzie Unit as follows: 6 square miles in Township 19 South, Range 5 1/2 East; ¶
- (f) Skookum Flat: Permanent Closure. That part of the McKenzie Unit as follows: 8 square miles in Townships 19 and 20 South, Range 6 East; ¶
- (g) Scott Creek: Permanent Closure. That part of the McKenzie Unit as follows: 51 square miles in Townships 14, 15, and 16 South, Ranges 6 and 7 East; ¶
- (h) Coos Bay BLM: Permanent Closure. That part of the Tioga Unit as follows: Individual posted roads on lands administered by BLM, Coos Bay District. ¶
- (i) Upper Rogue: Three days prior to the general West Cascade any legal weapon elk season through the close of the general West Cascade elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Rogue Unit as follows: High Cascades Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest; ¶
- (j) Jackson: October 15 through April 30 annually. That part of the Rogue, Dixon, and Evans Creek units as follows: 116 square miles in Townships 32, 33, 34, and 35 South, Ranges 1 and 2 West and 1 and 2 East; off-road motor vehicle travel is prohibited at all times; ¶
- (k) Pokegama: November 20 through March 31 annually. That part of the Keno Unit as follows: 97 square miles in Townships 40 and 41 South, Ranges 4, 5, and 6 East; ¶
- (l) Lower Klamath Hills: Permanent Closure. That part of the Klamath Unit as follows: 3 square miles in Township 40 South, Range 9 East; ¶
- (m) Goodlow Mountain Area Closure: December 1 through March 31 annually. That part of the Klamath Unit as follows: 17 square miles in Townships 38 and 39 South, Ranges 12 and 13 East; ¶
- (n) Sun Creek: November 1 through June 30 annually. That part of the Sprague Unit as follows: 14 square miles in Township 32 South, Ranges 6 and 7 1/2 East; ¶
- (o) Fox Butte: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of the controlled buck deer any legal weapon season. That part of the Paulina Unit as follows: 230 square miles in Townships 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 South, Ranges 14, 15, and 16 East; ¶
- (p) Timbers: Permanent Closure. That part of the Paulina Unit as follows: 25 square miles in Townships 23 and 24 South, Ranges 9 and 10 East; ¶
- (q) Rager: August 20 through November 20. That part of the Ochoco Unit as follows: 352 square miles south of U.S. Highway 26 and west of the South Fork John Day River. ¶
- (r) White River Wildlife Area: December 1 through March 31 annually. That part of the White River Unit as follows: 59 square miles along the eastern edge of the Mt. Hood National Forest in the southern half of the White River Unit; ¶
- (s) Lower Deschutes: Permanent Closure. That part of the Biggs Unit as follows: 12 square miles along lower 17 miles of Deschutes River except the county access road to Kloan; ¶
- (t) Murderers Creek-Flagtail: Three days prior to the opening of the controlled archery deer and elk seasons through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the first controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season through the close of the second Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Murderers Creek Unit as follows: 185 square miles in Townships 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 South, Ranges 26, 27, 28, and 29 East; ¶
- (u) Camp Creek: Three days prior to opening of controlled archery deer and elk season through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the first controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season through the close of the second Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Northside Unit as follows: 54 square miles in Townships 10, 11, and 12 South, Ranges 31, 32, and 33 East; ¶
- (v) Bridge Creek Wildlife Area: December 1 through April 14 annually except by permit. That part of the Ukiah Unit as follows: 20 square miles in Townships 5 and 6 south, Ranges 31 and 32 East in the Southwest corner of Ukiah Unit; ¶
- (w) Meacham: Permanent Closure. Approximately 41 square miles in Units 49, 52 and 54 in townships 1 and 2 south, township 1 north, ranges 34, 35, and 36 east; ¶
- (x) Dark Canyon: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer season through the close of the last elk season. That part of the Sumpter Unit as follows: 20 square miles in Townships 11 and 12 South, Ranges 40 and 41 East; ¶
- (y) Patrick Creek: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer season through the close of the last elk season and May 1 through June 30. That part of the Sumpter Unit as follows: 8 square miles in Townships 10 and 11 South, Ranges 35 1/2 and 36 East; ¶
- (z) Dry Beaver/Ladd Canyon: Permanent Closure. That part of the Starkey Unit as follows: 125 square miles in Townships 4, 5 and 6 South, Ranges 35, 36, 37 and 38 East; ¶
- (aa) Clear Creek: Three days prior to the opening of deer and elk archery season through the close of Rocky Mtn bull elk second season. That part of the Starkey Unit as follows: 21 square miles in Township 5 South, Ranges 37

and 38 East;¶

(bb) Trail Creek: Three days prior to the opening of Rocky Mtn bull elk first season through the close of Rocky Mtn bull elk second season. That part of the Starkey Unit as follows: 29 square miles in Townships 6 and 7 South, Ranges 35 1/2 and 36 East;¶

(cc) Indian Creek-Gorham Butte: Three days prior to the opening of deer and elk archery season through the close of Rocky Mtn bull elk second season. That part of the Starkey Unit as follows: 24 square miles in Townships 6 and 7 South, Ranges 36 and 37 East;¶

(dd) Elkhorn Wildlife Area: Permanent Closure. Those parts of the Starkey and Sumpter units as follows: 7 square miles in Township 6 South, Range 38 East;¶

(ee) Starkey Experimental Forest Enclosure: Permanent Closure. That part of the Starkey Unit as follows: 40 square miles in Townships 3 and 4 South, Range 34 East;¶

(ff) Little Catherine Creek: Permanent Closure. That part of the Catherine Creek Unit as follows: 22 square miles in Townships 3, 4 and 5 South, Ranges 40 and 41 East;¶

(gg) Wenaha Wildlife Area: Permanent Closure. That part of the Wenaha Unit as follows: 17 square miles in Townships 5 and 6 North, Ranges 42 and 43 East along eastern edge of Umatilla Forest in northeast corner of Wenaha Unit;¶

(hh) Noregaard: Permanent Closure. However, roads will be open to permit removal of camping equipment during a time period extending through two Sundays following the end of the last antlerless elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Sled Springs Unit as follows: 175 square miles in west one-third of Sled Springs Wildlife Unit;¶

(ii) Shamrock: Permanent Closure. However, roads will be open to permit removal of camping equipment during a time period extending through two Sundays following the end of the last antlerless elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Sled Springs Unit as follows: 20 square miles in Township 4 North, Range 44 East;¶

(jj) Chesnimnus: Three days prior to 1st Chesnimnus any legal weapon bull elk season through the end of the 2nd Chesnimnus any legal weapon bull elk season. That portion of the Chesnimnus Wildlife Unit within the boundaries of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest;¶

(kk) Cemetery Ridge Road: Permanent Closure. That part of the Chesnimnus Unit as follows: Cemetery Ridge Road north of the south boundary of Section 4, Township 3 North, and Range 48 East;¶

(ll) Lord Flat Trail (#1774): Three days prior to controlled archery deer and elk season through the close of all elk any legal weapon seasons. 15 miles of road in Townships 1 South and 1 and 2 North, Ranges 49 and 50 East; ¶

(mm) Grouse-Lick Creeks: Three days prior to the opening of Rocky Mtn bull elk 1st season through close of Rocky Mtn bull elk 2nd season. That part of the Imnaha Unit as follows: 100 square miles in Townships 2, 3, 4, and 5 South, Ranges 46, 47 and 48 East; ¶

(nn) Clear Lake Ridge: Three days prior to opening of controlled archery deer and elk season through December 1 annually. That part of the Imnaha Unit as follows: Five square miles in Township 2 South, Range 47 East, Sections 3 and 4 and Township 1 South, Range 47 East, Sections 28, 15, 33, 34 and 22;¶

(oo) Mehlhorn: Permanent Closure: That part of the Pine Creek and Keating Units as follows: 26 square miles in Township 6 South, Ranges 45 and 46 East;¶

(pp) Lake Fork-Dutchman: Three days prior to the opening of archery season to end of all ALW seasons and from May 1 to July 1. That part of the Pine Creek Unit as follows: 42 square miles in Townships 6 and 7 South, Ranges 46 and 47 East;¶

(qq) Okanogan-Fish: Three days prior to the opening of buck deer any legal weapon season to end of all elk any legal weapon seasons and from May 1 to July 1. That part of the Pine Creek Unit as follows: 20 square miles in Township 6 and 7 South, Ranges 46 and 47 East;¶

(rr) Summit Point: Permanent Closure: That part of the Keating Unit as follows: 14 square miles in Townships 6 and 7 South, Ranges 44 and 45 East;¶

(ss) Eagle Creek: December 1 to April 15: That part of the Keating Unit as follows: 17 square miles in Townships 7 and 8 South, Range 44 and 45 East; ¶

(tt) Conroy Cliff: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk first season through the Rocky Mountain bull elk second season. That part of the Malheur River Unit as follows: 46 square miles in Townships 16, 17, and 18 South, Ranges 32 1/2, 34, and 35 East;¶

(uu) Devine Ridge-Rattlesnake: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the first controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season through the close of the second Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Malheur River Unit as follows: 59 square miles in Townships 20 and 21 South, Ranges 31, 32, 32 1/2 East;¶

(vv) Dairy Creek: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the first controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season through the close of the second Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal

weapon season. That part of the Silvies Unit as follows: 98 square miles in Townships 19, 20, 21, and 22 South, Ranges 24, 25, and 26 East; ¶

(ww) Burnt Cabin: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season and from three days prior to the first controlled Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season through the close of the second Rocky Mountain bull elk any legal weapon season. That part of the Silvies Unit as follows: 22 square miles in Townships 18 and 19 South, Ranges 26 and 27 East; ¶

(xx) Walker Rim: Three days prior to the opening of controlled buck deer any legal weapon season through the close of the controlled buck deer any legal weapon season. That part of the Fort Rock Unit as follows: 113 square miles in Townships 24, 25, and 26 South, Ranges 8, 9, and 10 East; ¶

(yy) North Paulina: Permanent Closure. That part of the Fort Rock Unit as follows: 12 square miles in Townships 25 and 26 South; Range 8 East; ¶

(zz) Sugarpine Mountain: Permanent Closure. That part of the Fort Rock Unit as follows: 40 square miles in Township 28, Ranges 9 and 10 East; ¶

(aaa) Spring Butte: Permanent Closure. That part of the Paulina Unit as follows: 30 square miles in Township 23 South, Range 11 East; ¶

(bbb) Wildhorse Ridge/Teepee Butte: Three days prior to the opening of controlled archery deer and elk season through the close of all elk any legal weapon seasons. Posted and gated roads north of 46 roads in Chesnimnus Unit are closed; ¶

(ccc) Hells Canyon National Recreation Area: Permanent Closure. Those parts of the Chesnimnus, Imnaha, Snake River, and Pine Creek Units in Eastern Wallowa County that are closed by the National Recreation Area; ¶

(ddd) PO Saddle Road: Three days prior to opening of controlled archery deer and elk season through June 15, annually. Three miles of road in Townships 3 and 4 South, Range 48 East; ¶

(eee) Whiskey Creek: Permanent Closure. However, roads will be open to permit removal of camping equipment during a time period extending through two Sundays following the last antlerless elk season. That part of the Sled Springs unit as follows. 45 square miles in Townships 2 and 3 North, Ranges 43, 44, and 45 East; ¶

(fff) South Boundary: Permanent Closure. That part of the Ochoco Unit as follows: 47 square miles in Townships 15 and 16 South, Ranges 20, 21, and 22 East; ¶

(ggg) Green Diamond Travel Management Area: Permanent Closure. Applies to all gated, posted, or barrier-closed roads within the Rogue, Keno, Klamath Falls, Sprague, Interstate, Silver Lake, and Fort Rock Units within the land holdings of Green Diamond Resource Company; ¶

(hhh) Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area: From November 15 or December 1 (as posted at each gate) through April 15 annually. That part of the Ochoco and Maury Units as follows: 5 square miles in Township 16 South, Range 17 East; ¶

(iii) Mid Coast Access Area: Year round. All gated, posted and/or barrier closed roads within Alsea, Stott Mtn. and Trask Units. Access limited to walk in only at fire level 3. No public access at fire level 4 and during active operations. Cooperators require day use only on private lands, no ATV use, no e-bikes, no vehicles may block any road or gate, no fires, no camping. Private lands closed to the public 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise. ¶

(jjj) East Lane TMA: Opening day of General Any Legal Weapon Buck Deer season until the close of General Any Legal Weapon Elk season. Approximately 62 square miles in the McKenzie and Indigo Units comprised of properties owned by Giustina Land and Timber and Giustina Resources. Motorized vehicle access allowed on roads posted with orange carsonite posts, except closed to all access during certain Industrial Fire Protection Levels and active operations. Day use only, open one hour before sunset to one hour after sunset. No Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, no camping, no vehicle may block any road or gate and no fires allowed. ¶

(kkk) Umatilla NF: Permanent Closure: That part of the Fossil, Heppner, Ukiah, Desolation, Mt. Emily, Walla Walla, and Wenaha Units within the Umatilla National Forest. Motorized travel allowed only on open roads as designated by the Umatilla National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map. ¶

(III) Bald/Angel: April 30 through December 1. That portion of the Catherine Creek and Keating Units as follows: 59 square miles in Townships 5, 6 and 7 South, Ranges 41, 42 and 43 East; ¶

(11) In Access Areas funded by the Access and Habitat Program that are Welcome to Hunt, hunters are required to follow the area regulations printed on the map produced by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for each Access Area. Specific regulations for each Access Area can be found through the Oregon Hunting Map at: <http://www.oregonhuntingmap.com/>.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0772

Tags for ~~Terminally Ill Children~~ Children with Life-Threatening Illness and Disabled Veterans ¶¶

(1) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who has a disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a veteran whose discharge or release from active duty was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. ORS 408.225.¶¶

(2) "Organization" means a non-profit organization qualified under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) with the principal purpose of granting hunting and fishing adventures for children that have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or terminal illness by a licensed physician or; (b) providing hunting and outdoor experiences for disabled veterans. ¶¶

(3) "Qualified child" means a terminally ill child sponsored by an organization who provides to the Department supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with the prerequisites provided in this rule. ¶¶

(4) "Qualified veteran" means a disabled veteran who is sponsored by an organization and who provides to the Department supporting documentation demonstrating that the veteran is a disabled veteran. ¶¶

(5) Annually upon approval by the Director, the Department may issue no more than 35 big game tags free of charge to organizations for use by qualified children or qualified veterans. The 35 tags will be distributed across black bear, deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope with no more than 10 tags to hunt black bear, no more than 10 tags to hunt either-sex deer, no more than 10 tags to hunt either-sex elk, and no more than five tags to hunt either-sex pronghorn antelope. Additionally, one bighorn sheep tag may be made available each year to a qualified child. ¶¶

(a) From January 1-June 30 each year, 20 tags will be available to qualified veterans (six deer tags, six elk tags, five black bear tags, and three pronghorn tags) and 15 tags will be available to qualified children (four deer tags, four elk tags, two pronghorn tags, no more than five black bear tags and no more than one bighorn sheep tag.) Each organization is limited to two tags of any one species. After June 30, remaining unrequested tags, except for bighorn sheep tag, may be made available to either qualified veterans or qualified children. ¶¶

(b) Each organization is limited to five tags total for all species except black bear per year. ¶¶

(c) Each organization is limited to two tags for black bear per year. ¶¶

(d) An individual tag entitles the holder to only one black bear, or one deer, or one elk, or one pronghorn antelope, or one bighorn sheep as specified on each tag. ¶¶

(e) A qualified child may obtain only one tag pursuant to this rule in a calendar year. ¶¶

(f) A qualified disabled veteran may obtain only one tag pursuant to this rule in their lifetime. ¶¶

(g) Tags for deer, elk, bear and pronghorn issued under this rule may be used to hunt within any Oregon Wildlife Management Unit (as defined in OAR chapter 635 division 080), except specific area closures as identified in the current Oregon Big Game Regulations, Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge, or Starkey Experimental Forest enclosure. ¶¶

(h) Tags for bighorn sheep issued under this rule may be used to hunt only in a specified geographic area which is outside of any other authorized bighorn sheep hunt area or opportunity and where there are issues of access or location that are not compatible with normal season and tag opportunity. ¶¶

(i) A member or representative of the organization must accompany the tag holder during the hunt. ¶¶

(j) Board members and employees of the organizations are not eligible for tags pursuant to this rule. ¶¶

(6) A qualified child must be between 12 and 21 years of age at the time of the hunt. ¶¶

(7) A qualified child under the age of 18 must hunt in the company of an adult 21 years of age or older.¶
(8) A qualified child or qualified veteran may be either resident or non-resident and must comply with all requirements concerning:¶

(a) Minimum hunting age (ORS 497.350);¶

(b) Hunter education (ORS 497.360);¶

(c) Hunting hours (OAR 635-065-0730);¶

(d) Holding a valid Oregon hunting license, and¶

(e) Using legal weapon for hunting the species for which the tag is issued.¶

(9) For tags issued under this rule, open seasons are as follows:¶

(a) For deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope: August 1 through November 30 of the year the tag is issued.¶

(b) For spring black bear: April 1 through May 31 of the year the tag is issued.¶

(c) For fall black bear: August 1 through December 31 of the year the tag is issued.¶

(d) For bighorn sheep: August 1 through November 30 of the year the tag is issued.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, SB 1517 (2018), Or Laws 2018, ch 100, § 1-4, 497.116

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, Or Laws 2018, ch 100, § 1-4, 497.116

AMEND: 635-066-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-066-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods, and other restrictions for hunting black bear pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 066 incorporates, by reference, the requirement and tag numbers for controlled hunts for black bear hunting set out in the document entitled "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for the hunting of black bear. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at authorized license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ¶¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-066-0020

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-066-0020

Controlled Seasons ¶¶

- (1) Controlled hunt tags shall be issued by a controlled hunt drawing following the procedures established in OAR chapter 635, division 060. Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026Z are listed in the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 066 by reference.¶¶
- (2) Persons receiving a controlled black bear tag may also purchase a general season black bear tag and one Oregon Additional Bear Tag.¶¶
- (3) No person shall use dogs to hunt or pursue black bear.¶¶
- (4) No person shall use bait to attract or hunt black bear.¶¶
- (5) The skull of any bear taken must be presented to an ODFW office or designated collection site. The person who took the animal is responsible to have it presented, within 10 days of the kill, to be checked and marked. Skull must be unfrozen when presented for check-in. Check-in at ODFW offices must occur during normal business hours (8-5, Mon-Fri.). Hunters are required to check in the skull only for the purpose of inspection, tagging and removal of a tooth for aging.¶¶
- (6) When the bear skull is presented at check-in information that must be provided includes: 1) date of harvest and location of harvest including Wildlife Management Unit, and 2) complete hunter information including the issued date and time of a paper tag or the confirmation of an electronic tag; a completed "Wildlife Transfer Record Form" as found in the current year's Oregon Big Game Regulations is an alternative for providing the required information.¶¶
- (7) All land within one mile of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Lobster Creek is closed to bear hunting. Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-067-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-067-0000

Purpose and General Information

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods, and other restrictions for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 067 incorporates, by reference, the requirements and tag numbers for controlled hunts for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat set out in the document entitled "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at authorized license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.¶

(4) Controlled hunt tags shall be issued by a controlled hunt drawing following the procedures established in OAR chapter 635, division 060. Permitted weapons and ammunition are established in OAR chapter 635, division 065. Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026Z are listed in the "2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 067 by reference.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, 497.112

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, 497.112

AMEND: 635-068-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-068-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods and other restrictions for hunting western Oregon deer pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026~~7~~8 are listed in the "2026~~7~~8 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 068 by reference.¶¶

(3) OAR chapter 635, division 068 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting western Oregon deer set out in the document entitled "2026~~7~~8 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026~~7~~8 Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting western Oregon deer. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at authorized license agents and regional, district, and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(4) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-069-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-069-0000

Purpose and General Information

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods and other restrictions for hunting eastern Oregon deer pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶

(2) Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026Z are listed in the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR Chapter 635, Division 069 by reference.¶

(3) OAR Chapter 635, Division 069 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting eastern Oregon deer set out in the document entitled "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR Chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting eastern Oregon deer. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶

(4) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.138, 496.012, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.138, 496.012, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-070-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-070-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods and other restrictions for hunting Cascade and Coast elk pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026~~6~~7 are listed in the "2026~~6~~7 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR Chapter 635, Division 070 by reference.¶¶

(3) OAR chapter 635, division 070 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting western Oregon elk set out in the document entitled "2026~~6~~7 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026~~6~~7 Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR Chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting western Oregon elk. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(4) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-071-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-071-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods and other restrictions for hunting Rocky Mountain elk pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶

(2) Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026~~7~~2 are listed in the "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated in OAR Chapter 635, Division 071 by reference.¶

(3) OAR chapter 635, division 071 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting Rocky Mountain elk set out in the document entitled "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR Chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting Rocky Mountain elk. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶

(4) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-072-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-072-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, and other restrictions for hunting western gray squirrels pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 072 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting western gray squirrel set out in the document entitled "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026Z Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting western gray squirrel. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-073-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-073-0000

Purpose and General Information

- (1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas and other restrictions for bow and muzzleloader hunting, Premium Hunts, and controlled deer and elk youth hunts; pursuant to ORS Chapter 496. ¶
 - (2) Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026~~7~~2 for Premium Hunts, deer and elk bow and muzzleloader hunting and deer and elk youth hunts are listed in the "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 073 by reference. ¶
 - (3) OAR chapter 073 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for bow and muzzleloader hunting, Premium Hunts, and controlled deer and elk youth hunts set out in the document entitled "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026~~7~~2 Oregon Big Game Regulations," in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for bow and muzzleloader hunting, Premium Hunts, and controlled deer and elk youth hunts. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ¶
 - (4) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at www.odfw.com.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-075-0001

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0001

Eligibility **II**

A landowner as defined in OAR 635-045-0002 and immediate family as defined in 635-045-0002, owning 40 or more contiguous acres are eligible to receive landowner hunting preference tags for controlled 600 series deer, western Oregon buck deer, western Oregon elk, and eastern Oregon antlerless elk hunts and emergency hunts occurring on their property. To be eligible to receive landowner hunting preference tags for controlled eastern Oregon buck deer, eastern Oregon bull elk, either-sex elk hunts, and either-sex or doe/fawn pronghorn antelope hunts, occurring on their land, a landowner shall own 160 or more contiguous acres. The Department will consult county tax rolls when confirming landowner eligibility requirements. For controlled hunts see OAR divisions 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, and Emergency Hunts in division 78. Tags issued to landowners are in addition to the number of tags issued to the public and authorized in OAR divisions 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, and 78, except as described in 635-075-0020.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0005

Registration, Application and Tag Issuance Procedures and Limits for All Controlled Hunts ¶

(1) A landowner shall submit a landowner preference registration form to be eligible for a landowner preference tag. A one-time fee of \$35.00 is required at the time of registration for new program participants. A landowner can have only one registration on file with the Department. However, an individual who owns (through business entities, in the individual's own name or a combination thereof) more than one property eligible for the landowner preference program ~~may register each such property as defined in ORS 635-075-0001~~ may: 1) include each such property under a single registration or, 2) register the eligible properties owned by each business entity in a registration for that business. The registration form is an affidavit certifying ownership, number of acres owned, the county and Wildlife Management Unit or Deer Hunt Area where the property is located. This registration form registers the individual and remains valid until the individual registered no longer qualifies as a landowner as defined under OAR 635-045-0002, notifies the Department requesting the registration form be deleted, or the Department notifies the landowner that a renewal is required (generally every three years). After six years of inactivity, a new registration and fees are required. ¶

(2) In addition to having a landowner preference registration form on file with the Department, a landowner or an authorized designee identified by the landowner in writing to the Department shall provide the Department with the names of the landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), and their immediate family members to receive tags for pronghorn antelope, and the names of the landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), their immediate family members, and those persons of the landowners' choosing to receive landowner preference tags for deer and elk. Named persons provided to the Department will remain listed for receiving landowner preference tags until the landowner or their authorized designee removes them from their list or requests the Department remove them. ¶

(3) Registered landowners or their authorized designee shall provide names of tag recipients prior to the close of business the day before the hunt begins except registration forms and distribution forms must be submitted by close of business on May 15 for special seasons and mule deer hunts as described in ORS 635-075-0020 through 635-075-0022. ¶

(4) Landowners or their designee shall use the Department's electronic licensing system to maintain their list of named persons eligible to receive tags for hunting on the landowner's registered property. Landowners or their designee may submit a written request that the Department make changes to the list with a fee of \$2.00 charged per request form. ¶

(5) The landowner preference registration shall be submitted by the landowner and approved by the Department prior to issuance of any landowner preference tag, except as provided for in OAR 635-075-0007. Landowners are not required to submit proof of ownership with their registration form. Landowners shall be required to submit proof of ownership at the request of the Department or the Oregon State Police acting on behalf of the Department. ¶

(6) A landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), and immediate family and those persons of the landowners' choosing wishing to also apply for controlled hunt tags shall apply by the May 15 controlled hunt deadline. Listing a hunt choice other than a landowner preference choice is not required. ¶

(7) Everyone shall follow controlled hunt application procedures and regulations as described in OAR Division 060. ¶

(8) The number of landowner preference tags issued is based upon a landowner's acreage. Landowner Preference tags shall be allocated by the following minimum acreage requirements: (see attached table)¶¶

(9) Landowner preference tags for the hunting of deer or elk may be issued to any person of the landowner's choosing, and shall be used for the taking of antlerless animals except as described in OAR 635-075-0005(10). Season dates of the transferred landowner preference tags shall be the same dates as the original tag.¶¶

(10) Landowner preference tags for the hunting of antlered deer or elk may be issued to a person of the landowner's choosing who is not a member of the landowner's, partner's, or stockholder's immediate family as follows:¶¶

(a) A landowner who is issued only one tag may not transfer that tag.¶¶

(b) A landowner who is issued two or more tags may transfer not more than 50 percent of the tags to a person who is not an immediate family member as defined in ORS 496.146 (4). If calculation of the number of tags eligible for transfer under the provisions of this paragraph results in a fraction, the Commission shall round up the number of tags to the next whole number.¶¶

(11) A landowner who is qualified to receive landowner hunting preference tags may request two additional tags for providing public access and/or two additional tags for wildlife habitat programs. This request shall be made to the Access and Habitat Board with supporting evidence that the access is significant, and the habitat programs benefit wildlife. The board may recommend that the commission grant the request. These tags may not be applied to the options as defined in OAR 635-075-0005(8).¶¶

(12) No one shall receive both a controlled hunt tag and a landowner preference tag for the same type of hunt. Landowner hunting preference tags shall not be issued to any person successful in the controlled hunt drawing for the same type of hunt.¶¶

(13) Landowner preference tags, except as described in OAR 635-075-0007, 635-075-0010, and 635-075-0015 shall only be authorized by the headquarters office of the Department following the controlled hunt drawings.

Statutory/Other Authority: SB 247 (2015), ORS 496.012, ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146, ORS 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: SB 247 (2015), ORS 496.012, ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146, ORS 496.162

AMEND: 635-075-0011

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0011

Oregon Landowner Damage Program ¶¶

(1) This rule implements HB 2027A, through which the 2013 Legislative Assembly directed the Department to implement an Oregon Landowner Damage Program. As directed by statute, the program addresses damage caused by elk on privately owned lands in Oregon by granting damage tags to qualifying landowners.¶¶

(2) A "qualifying landowner" is:¶¶

(a) An individual, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association or other nongovernmental entity which;¶¶

(b) Owns, leases or rents land in Oregon; and¶¶

(c) Whose land:¶¶

(A) Is (at the time of application) suffering damage from elk; or¶¶

(B) Has within the past five years suffered damage from elk and the Department has taken action to alleviate that damage; or¶¶

(C) Is in an area designated as an "elk de-emphasis zone" by the Department.¶¶

(3) "Damage" has the same definition as that in the "damage statute" (ORS 498.012): harm to land, livestock or agricultural or forest crops.¶¶

(4) This damage program operates in the same manner as the landowner preference tag program in OAR 635-075-0000 through 0030, except that:¶¶

(a) Damage program tags are limited to antlerless elk;¶¶

(b) Damage tags may be used to take elk only on property owned, leased or rented by the landowner or by a business entity that includes the landowner as a principal partner or shareholder;¶¶

(c) Qualifying landowners may exchange unused general season elk tags or controlled hunt tags for damage program tags;¶¶

(d) No more than five damage program tags may be valid at any one time on a particular property;¶¶

(e) Qualifying landowners may receive damage tags regardless of the size of their property. There is no minimum acreage requirement;¶¶

(f) Qualifying landowners may register for damage program tags at any time.¶¶

(g) The validity period (the time during which damage program tags may be used on a particular property) shall be negotiated between the Department's district biologist and the qualifying landowner;¶¶

(h) Each hunter receiving a qualifying landowner ~~receiving~~ damage program tags must ~~(within 10 days of a designated hunt period)~~ report to by the local Department district biologist ~~the number of elk taken by the landowner with damage program tags~~ deadlines established in OAR 635-065-0011;¶¶

(i) Damage program tags may be obtained from, and exchanged through, Department district biologists (rather than License Agents).¶¶

(j) Only persons who have not been successful in harvesting an elk in a general or controlled hunt season are eligible to receive one damage program elk tag in a fiscal year of July through June;¶¶

(k) The landowner and those receiving a transferred elk tag must surrender any original unfilled elk tag; or sign an affidavit stating the tag has been lost, stolen, or destroyed;¶¶

(l) Department personnel shall verify that the person(s) receiving tag(s) has a valid hunting license and has not been successful in harvesting an elk during current general or controlled seasons.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112

AMEND: 635-075-0020

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0020

Landowner Hunting Preference Tags in Special Seasons ¶

(1)(a) Landowner hunting preference tags are not available for Premium Hunts (series L, M, and N) or the long duration youth elk hunts (August 15-December 31) ~~or the Melrose 223T (August 1-March 31) youth elk hunt.~~ ¶

(b) During controlled elk hunts with a bag limit of spike or better in units where the usual bag limit for bull elk is spike only, landowner hunting preference tags may be limited to five tags or 10 percent of the total controlled hunt tags whichever is greater; the bag limit for these elk tags shall be spike or better. ¶

(c) In the following hunts LOP tags will be limited to five tags or 10% of the total controlled hunt tags, whichever is greater: elk hunts; 254R1, 254Y1, 255R1, 255Y1, 256R1 and 256Y1; buck deer hunts; 112, 122, DE101R, MC101-2, MC102-2, JK101-1, FX103-1, NE106-1, and JT101R-1. ¶

(2) If landowner preference tags remain from the controlled hunts described in 635-075-0020(1)(b) after the game mammal controlled hunt drawing, the Department will issue remaining tags to qualified landowners as described in 635-075-0024.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-075-0025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026.

The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences.

Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0025

Outfitters and Guides Nonresident Tag Allocation ¶¶

(1) Eligibility: Outfitters and Guides must be registered pursuant to ORS 704 prior to making application for big game tags described herein.¶¶

(2) The Outfitters and Guides nonresident tags allocated shall be based on one half the nonresident tags drawn in the previous year from the standard first drawing determined by hunt number for series 100, 200, and 600 as described in OAR 635-060-005 and 635-068-0000 through 635-071-0000.¶¶

(a) Prior to November 1 of each year, the Department shall publish a list of tags available for allocation based on nonresident tags drawn in the annual June drawing.¶¶

(b) In the event of new hunts, no Outfitter and Guide tags will be allocated for that year for those hunts, except for unit wide hunts that are split will have tags reapportioned for the new hunts.¶¶

(c) All tags allocated shall be considered nonresident for the purposes of OAR 635-060-0030(2).¶¶

(d) The Commission may revoke or refuse to issue all or any portion of the permits based upon a commission finding of an emergency situation or for a biological need. In the event of a tag number reduction of 50% or more for the current hunt year, Outfitter and Guide tags will be reduced proportionately to the overall tag reduction. Tags will be reallocated based on the application draw number.¶¶

(e) For the purposes of these rules, "emergency situation or biological needs" is defined as a situation in which harvest mortality above a prescribed level would significantly jeopardize the department's ability to meet sex ratio or population management objectives for a wildlife management unit or subunit.¶¶

~~(f) Notwithstanding subsection 2 of this rule, due to the modification of eastern Oregon deer hunts and hunt areas following the Mule Deer Management Plan (2024), tags allocated for Outfitters and Guides in 2026 for each eastern Oregon 100 series and 600 series deer hunts shall be as shown in Table 1 (attached).~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112