

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

This is a presentation of the annual Big Game Regulation proposals. Department staff will recommend 2007 Big Game Controlled Hunt tag numbers for potential adoption as Oregon Administrative Rules. Recommendations, in concept, will be presented for 2008 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and open areas, dates and locations of cooperative travel management areas, and controlled hunts. If adopted in concept, these proposals will be returned to the Commission in OAR format for final consideration at the October 2007 meeting.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Public meetings (23) to review staff proposals were held throughout the state in May 2007 (Table 1).

### ISSUE 1

**Proposed regulations and tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2007.**

### ANALYSIS

Overall Controlled Hunt tag recommendations for 2007 are essentially unchanged from 2006 (0.13 percent lower). No change in buck deer tags is proposed. However a 5 percent decrease in antlerless tags is proposed primarily due to continuing Deer Hair Loss Syndrome and disease concerns affecting black-tailed deer in western Oregon. A 1 percent decrease in bull and either-sex elk tags and a 2 percent decrease in antlerless elk tags are proposed. A 12 percent increase in bighorn sheep tags and a 2 percent increase in pronghorn tags are proposed as both species continue to do well in many areas.

Currently, youth tag holders must hunt with an adult who cannot hunt, even if the adult has a tag for a season concurrent to the youth's tag. The department is proposing to eliminate this rule for the seven new 2007 youth hunts for deer in western Oregon that are concurrent with the Western Oregon General Buck Deer Season. These hunts are: Saddle Mountain Unit 610T, Scappoose Unit 611T, Wilson Unit 612T, Trask Unit 614T, Stott Mtn. Unit 617T, Alsea Unit 618T, and North Siuslaw 620T.

Technology exists that enables a person to view an animal, aim a remote controlled weapon, and fire the weapon, from miles away. Staff is proposing regulations to ban this type of "internet hunting".

### OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

**ISSUE 2**                      **Proposals, in concept, for 2008 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and regulations, and 2008 spring bear season dates, regulations, and tag numbers.**

**ANALYSIS**                      Staff will present, in concept, proposals for 2008 big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

Controlled Hunt proposals for 2008 include; one new Rocky Mountain goat hunt, two new hunts for California bighorn sheep hunts created by combining three existing Hart Mountain and Poker Jim hunts into a single hunt period, two new deer hunts and seven new elk hunts. Staff also recommends deletion of two controlled deer and eight controlled elk hunts. Rationales for adding new hunts and deleting others include providing additional youth hunting opportunity and increased or decreased damage situations.

- OPTIONS**
1.      Adopt staff recommendations
  2.      Amend staff recommendations

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**      Option 1.

**DRAFT MOTION**                      I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 065, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, and 073, as proposed by staff; and approve in concept the staff proposals for the 2008 general and controlled big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**                      Upon Filing