



OFIC

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Oregon Forest Industries Council

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Public Forum

March 8, 2013

Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission – March 2013 Meeting, Salem, OR

RE: 2013 OFIC Annual Deer & Elk Damage Survey Results

Chair Levy, Commissioners and Director Elicker,

OFIC has been conducting a voluntary survey for deer and elk damage in plantations since 1986. Since the survey is voluntary in nature and the respondents are not always the same or the number of acres planted in the same general vicinities the attached data should not be seen as representing traditional “trend” data. It is never-the-less interesting and does demonstrate browse damage from deer and elk remains a serious and costly detriment in complying with reforestation laws, sustainability goals and return on investment expectations of owners or shareholders. Since the survey is “voluntary” the annual results are highly dependent on the number of submissions from year to year.

The 2013 Survey Results are again being shared a month earlier than usual as the Wildlife Division suggested in 2010 that having this information earlier would provide a greater opportunity of being considered when staff set annual management objectives. After reviewing the level of damage, I’m confident you will understand forest landowner’s appreciation and reliance on the variety of tools available to address and minimize damage losses. I believe this is also of relevant information as it pertains to the Landowner Preference program and how it is used to address damage issues for our members with significant acreage and habitat.

Our members continue to see the hunting community as important partners in managing damage through recreational activities. It is unfortunate that under some conditions such as wildfire risks, safety issues with active harvest activities, meth labs, marijuana grows, illegal dumping and other bad behaviors by some, access must be restricted on occasion as a landowner’s only “Prevention” tool. OFIC has begun discussions with staff to explore options to diminish landowner fire risks and increase hunter opportunities without impacting species needs.

Summary of the attached data compared to 2012 results: (Reminder based on submissions)

- 23 Surveys – decreased by 6 (-20%)
- Number of Complaints decreased 430 (-31%)
- Number of acres decreased 25,072 (-36%)
- Number of Deer complaints decreased 59 (-15%)
- Number of Elk Complaints decreased 371 (-37%)
- Number of “Severe” acres decreased 8,430 (-48%)

Top 3 counties for Deer damage (in order): Douglas, Coos and Linn.

Top 3 counties for Elk damage (in order): Coos, Curry and Douglas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dykzeul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Dykzeul
Director, Forest Protection

Each year, a submission includes a narrative comment that either describes a situation, shows support for the Department staff and/or policies that allow some sort of damage relief, support for sharing the information with a broader audience or implores the retention to critical tools or policies. The following note came from Bill Marshall from Cascade Timber Consulting.

"A note; CTC has endured devastating elk damage on a few high elevation units. The first people to arrive on the units in spring have said the areas look like a feed lot. Multiple factors combine to cause elk to pull more than half newly planted trees from the ground. The factors are; mixed "checkerboard" ownership with USFS = lack of early seral habitat on USFS. Our clear cuts are the best restaurants in the area. Impossible winter access due to snow means hunting and harassment is not possible by regular vehicle for 4-5 months in winter. I am considering some sort of snow machine for next winter. There has been much talk locally with USFS. They are sympathetic, but have limited tools to ease the situation. Nancy Taylor is being very helpful. RMEF and OHA are supportive. I have obtained an A&H grant to "enhance forage" in the broad problem area with the hope to draw animals to greener pastures and away from new plantations."

"Have met twice with Jimmy Taylor (NWRC-OSU) on the issue."

"I believe the problem has more to do with a changing landscape and logging in a new area than the elk population increasing. We are logging the second crop in a 72 square mile area that has not seen much harvest in 30 years. There are not yet enough patches of young reprod around."

**2013 - OFIC Plantation Damage Survey (2012 Damage)
Deer and Elk**

County	Deer-Moderate	Severe	Acres	Elk-Moderate	Severe	Acres
Benton						
Clackamas	25	7	958	37	8	1,076
Clatsop	4	3	90	86	73	8,590
Columbia				18	3	735
Coos	41	1	2,723	190	1	5,860
Curry	12	0	840	48	0	3,170
Douglas	81	6	5,416	20	3	1,784
Jackson	8	1	579	2	4	263
Josephine	9	5	477			
Lane	22	5	1,434	9	4	441
Lincoln				1	0	20
Linn	11	22	1,461	13	5	2,158
Marion	3	5	417	1	5	413
Multnomah	10	0	172	17	5	379
Polk	13	7	1,100	16	0	825
Tillamook	3	2	85	4	16	935
Washington	10	0	327	14	0	307
Yamhill	8	1	540	11	6	935
Total	260	65	16,619	487	133	27,891

Acres	Deer	16,619	Complaints	Deer	325	Ave.	51.14
	Elk	27,891		Elk	620	Ave.	44.99
	Total	44,510		Total	945	Ave.	47.10

2013 Estimated Damage Values-Severe Units Only			2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Deer	51.14 ac X 65 Units = 3324 X \$340 = \$1,130,194		93	101	50	61	122
Elk	44.99 ac X 133 Units = 5983.67 X \$340 = \$2,034,447		258	182	74	76	185
Total Severe	198 Units 9,307 ac. \$3,164,641		\$5,835,449	\$5,202,427	\$1,640,557	\$1,889,097	\$4,598,124

9,307 acres "Severe"

35,206 acres "Moderate" \$\$ Not estimated \$\$

Severe Acres = 21 % of total ac. reported

20% of total - Deer

21% of total - Elk

2013 Total Complaints				2012 Total Complaints			
	Acres	Complaints		Acres	Complaints		
Deer	16,619	325 (34%)	Deer	20,500	384 (28%)		
Elk	27,891	620 (66%)	Elk	49,082	991 (72%)		
	44,510	945		69,582	1,375		

Damage Value includes seedlings, labor and tubing increased by 3% annually, 2013 amount \$340/ac.

2013 - 23 Surveys Submitted

2012 - 29 Surveys Submitted

2011 - 25 Surveys Submitted

2010 - 22 Surveys Submitted

2009 - 18 Surveys Submitted

