

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND	<p>The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has been asked by hunters with physical limitations to allow the use of crossbows for hunting game animals. At the September 30, 2010 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) Meeting the Department proposed to implement a pilot program allowing hunters with a permanent, physical impairment that prevents the person from holding or shooting a firearm or bow to use a crossbow. The Commission decision was not to allow the use of crossbows.</p> <p>However, there is continued interest, including by some pioneer hunters and hunters with disabilities, in allowing limited use of crossbows for hunting big game in Oregon. Today's briefing will include information provided by the USFWS Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator regarding allowing the use of crossbows by hunters with disabilities to assist the Commission in their continuing deliberation of the subject.</p>
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties • Answering questions from interested persons, including the news media • Annual public meetings to review staff big game hunting and management proposals • Annual big game related Commission Meetings (June and October)
ISSUE 1	Use of crossbows for hunting game animals in Oregon
ANALYSIS	The use of crossbows for hunting game animals, particularly during archery seasons, continues to receive a high level of interest from hunters and is controversial. This briefing will provide background information and the current status of development of rules to allow the limited use of crossbows for hunting game animals in Oregon.
OPTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide staff direction to develop or not develop crossbow hunting rules 2. Do not provide staff direction regarding crossbow rules development
STAFF RECOMMENDATION	Provide direction to Department concerning whether or not to proceed with development of a crossbow hunting proposal including associated rules.
DRAFT MOTION	I move to direct staff to [proceed, or, not proceed] with development of a proposal to allow crossbows to be used for hunting game animals.
EFFECTIVE DATE	Not applicable