

Exhibit I

Public Correspondence

**Public correspondence received
as of
December 26, 2013**

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Crossbows in Oregon

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve [mailto:eaglecapsdg@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, July 13, 2013 10:49 AM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: Crossbows in Oregon

Sirs:

Concerning legalizing crossbows in Oregon: No, not in archery season. This weapon is more akin to a rifle than a bow.

A telescopic sight, the ability to use a rest, and being cocked and ready all the time makes the crossbow as deadly as a rifle. This weapon would greatly increase the harvest during archery season. The end result would force draw only hunts for archers as it is now for rifles. ODFW should not be in the business of DECREASING HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES, which is what would happen due to the increased harvest.

Crossbows belong in rifle season, not archery.

Steve Gaddis
5335 Rice Creek Rd
Winston, OR 97496

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Crossbow comment
Attachments: crossbow info.doc

Importance: High

From: Don Darland [<mailto:ability@smt-net.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 5:05 PM
To: ODFW Commission; odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Crossbow comment
Importance: High

Dear commission,

Because of my limited mobility I will be unable to attend the Oct. meeting. I understand that there will be a discussion regarding the use of crossbows. Please review the attached material that I found regarding this. I currently use a "Draw-Lock" for a compound bow since I am in a wheelchair. Personally, I'm very accurate with the compound & Draw-lock. The biggest challenge for me is not the tool I use but the access to hunting. It would be more enjoyable to have greater access to game. Maybe set aside certain damage control hunts that are accessible to wheelchair/disabled archery hunters. Maybe give ranchers/farmers names of us who wish to hunt archery for special access and damage control.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Darland
503-394-2305

TITLE II DISABLED ARCHER CROSSBOW USE JUSTIFICATION

PREPARED FOR: Dan Searing, United States Department of Justice
Steve Funderburke, Deputy Chief, United States Department of the Interior
Melody Stith, US Department of the Interior, Director of the Office for Equal

Opportunity

Michael Trujillo, US Department of the Interior, Deputy Chief

PREPARED BY: Thomas H. LaQuey

Coalition for Disabled Hunter's Rights

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TITLE II DISABLED ARCHER REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION DEFINITIONS AND JUSTIFICATION TO INCLUDE THE CROSSBOW AMONG THESE ACCOMMODATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This document was written as a major argument against Oregon's denials of reasonable accommodations as requested by several individuals for use in the Oregon archery season. It substantiates the justification disabled archers have in anticipating the reasonable accommodation of the crossbow or the individual choice of the disabled archer and his/her physician of the four most reasonable bow modifications each suited in different circumstances to individual disabilities. The four separate accommodation choices should be 1. The draw lock; 2. The body brace; 3. The mouth tab; and 4. The cross**bow**. **All of these are reasonable bow modifications that, depending on the individual disability, will allow each archer their best opportunity to hunt as an equal next to able-bodied bow hunters in archery season.**

Authority

This document was written to support disability requests for reasonable accommodation to hunt archery season with a crossbow or one of three other reasonable accommodations that should be allowed depending on an individual's specific disability. It is the belief of disabled hunters that every disability is somewhat different from others and it should be up to the disabled archer and his/her physician to decide which accommodation best suits the situation.

This argument was written to be considered by the United States Department of the Interior under authority of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and Department of the Interior regulations at Title 43 Code of Federal Regulation Part 17, Subpart B, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and implementing regulations at Title 28 Code of Federal Regulation Part 35. Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities of recipients of Federal financial assistance, while Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by State and local governments whether or not they receive Federal financial assistance.¹ The Oregon Department of Fish and Game is subject to the nondiscrimination requirements of both these Federal anti-discrimination laws.

Issue

The issue is, in denying disabled hunters the opportunity to use the one bow accommodation best suited to their disability is discrimination. This action tends to screen disabled archers, who can't use the allowed devices, out of the Oregon State archery season. The ADA specifically spells out the fact that **'A public entity may not impose eligibility criteria for participation in its programs, services, or activities that either screen out or tend to screen out persons with disabilities.'**¹ This denial often forces a person who lives to hunt, to abandon his/her enjoyment of hunting and be denied the use of a State program. The ADA provides for equality of opportunity and the foundation of many of the specific requirements in the ADA regulations is the principle that individuals with disabilities must be provided an equally effective opportunity to participate in state programs. For the disabled in archery seasons this means the inclusion of four different bow modifications that each individually matches disabilities to allow this equality.

OBJECTIONS TO CROSSBOW USE

¹ The Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Technical Assistance Manual covering State and Local Government Programs and Services

State objections to crossbow use are the same in every State that still disallows crossbow use in their archery season. Don't misunderstand what we are asking for. States have a right to disallow archers who can physically use a standard long bow the use of crossbows in archery season. However, they do not have a right to disallow crossbow use if that is the one reasonable accommodation that serves to make a disabled archer an equal participant in this season. A crossbow is a bow and preventing its use screens out many disabled archers in many state archery seasons.

State objections to crossbow use are never backed up with facts and are as follows:

1. Crossbows are not bows
2. Crossbows will decimate our deer herds
3. Crossbows are the weapon of poachers
4. Crossbow use will force archery season to shorten
5. Our state policies and procedures do not permit crossbow use
6. Crossbows are not a primitive weapon
7. Crossbows are capable of shooting longer distances than longbows or compound bows
8. Our State presently provides enough accommodations for disabled hunters
9. Crossbows do not meet our hand held requirements
10. Crossbow hunters are less ethical than longbow hunters are

Facts

Because of an accident/injury causing a disability, the disabled are screened out of archery hunting season participation by States disallowing them the use of crossbows. This is blatant discrimination. The Americans With Disabilities Act under "Title II, Sub title A, is intended to protect qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs or activities of all State and local governments, and additionally extends the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability established by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended to all activities of State and local governments including those that do not receive Federal financial assistance."²

States hold the power and typically point at their "Policies and Procedures governing the use of Crossbows in Archery Season". They maintain that in their State, crossbows are disallowed in big game archery seasons, but a modified form of longbow is allowed. These policies base their misinformed views on conjecture stating crossbows are much more efficient weapons than longbows, crossbows are more powerful and farther shooting with unproved accuracy at great distances. States go on to point out they are already accommodating the disabled by allowing them to shoot rifles from their vehicles and point to a myriad of other accommodations they allow for the disabled in seasons other than their archery season. They ignore the fact these accommodations are not in question! 'One statement States have made to enforce their prohibition of the crossbow is "Crossbows are the tool of the poacher" and having crossbows around increases difficulties in Safety of citizens and violations of game laws. Michael J. Budzik, Director of the Ohio Division of Wildlife, at the request of the American Crossbow Federation, disputes this statement. He wrote a letter on December 13, 1999, addressing various crossbow-related issues. In it he wrote the following:

² Americans with Disabilities Act, Technical assistance manual.

“>From a law enforcement standpoint, violation statistics are just about equal between crossbows and vertical bows, and the total of both is an extremely small portion of the overall enforcement effort. Likewise, our statistics regarding hunter incidents (accidents) show very little difference between the two bow types. Since 1976, we have had only 21 archery-related hunting incidents; 10 caused by longbow and 11 by crossbow. Harvest data suggests that more people hunt with crossbows than with longbows in Ohio”

Ohio’s experience and data suggest anti-crossbow claims about crossbow safety and crossbows being the preferred weapon of poachers are not true.”³

State bow associations have risen up with more unfounded statements to further justify turning down the disabled, like permitting crossbows in bow season will decimate the deer population, or allowing crossbows will threaten the existence of, or at least the length of, archery-only seasons. Bow associations further state crossbow hunters are less ethical, dedicated, and proficient than conventional bow hunters or allowing crossbows will overcrowd the woods, decreasing the chances of success for the conventional bow hunter. The truth is, bow hunters feel threatened by anyone using “their” season in “their” woods and the feeling of “threat” the disabled have brought to them can only be met in one way, they are driven to deceit and lies to win the day for their selfish designs.

The disabled are constantly forced to use modified long bows in State bow seasons as our only available option. Longbow modifications often cause disabled individuals to be even more disabled in his/her pursuit to achieve equality. If it could be said that one shoe fits all disabled feet, one solution to the problem would be great and you would not hear from the disabled on this issue again. But one solution does not solve the problem and the crossbow is one option that works best for some disabled archers.

States offer us mouth tabs for our use to pull the string of a bow with our teeth while pushing the bow away from our body with our good arm. States say a body brace, where we tie the bow string to our body pushing the bow away in the same manner as with the mouth tab, leaving the bow tied to our body throughout the days hunts, is the answer. Or they suggest we use draw-lock mechanisms, where we draw a bow our disability often will not allow us to draw, in order to lock it into position and carry it around that way while hunting. Often these suggestions come down to one thing, discrimination! Using one of the few devices allowed us by able-bodied hunters often makes us more disabled in its use. The choices we are given should not be misunderstood. Depending on our individual disabilities, some of these devices are just what the Doctor ordered. In other cases the crossbow is the tool that will best set us free. This choice should be up to our disability and our doctor, not up to able-bodied hunters who have no idea what we need. Able-bodied hunters know only what they want. A crossbow is a bow!

States rely on bow associations to tell them what should be allowed in the bow season and they ignore the fact these recommendations are based on spoiled, selfish motives. These motives allow bow associations to recommend the use of mechanical triggers, holographic sighting devices, laser sights for bows, and in some states even scopes mounted on longbows. States see no problem in allowing devices if bow association members want to use them, while stating the use of crossbows would be a gross infraction of archery season intent! A crossbow is a bow, nothing more, nothing less!

States withholding crossbow use from the disabled all espouse the same reasons. One such statement they make is that their intent in the Bow season is to provide hunters with a season in which they can use a primitive weapon. (Today’s crossbows are much better than the primitive ones were, but today’s Compound bows are much better as

³ Letter written by Michael J. Budzik, Director of the Ohio Division of Wildlife dated December 13, 1999 to the American Crossbow Federation.

well, so you should be thinking apples for apples in your comparison.)

History tells us, 'Crossbows have been around for more than 2000 years. It is not known whether they were developed in Asia and imported to Europe by early explorers, or developed simultaneously on both continents. The crossbow was replaced as a military weapon by the English longbow because its shooter could draw and release up to six arrows while the crossbow was re-cocked and loaded, just once.'⁴ **This fact remains constant as history is examined. A crossbow, when compared to the longbow, is the more primitive weapon.**

Bow associations feel having the disabled fighting to be allowed to hunt as equals in bow seasons through the use of crossbows is an infringement on "their" season. Many years have gone by that these associations have been left to do as they wish in archery season. Their cries have come down to the level of "Crossbow hunters are less ethical, dedicated, and proficient than conventional bow-hunters" "Crossbow hunters are less experienced than conventional bow-hunters and will injure more deer" or "Crossbows are unsafe, and make deer hunting too easy".

Finding comparison studies that have been done on compound bows compared to crossbows is not an easy task. The best and most complete studies I have been able to find are quoted below. Once these are studied it is apparent the individuals doing these tests went out of their way to do accurate comparisons including data on compound bows and crossbows to facilitate fairness. The following chart, (Chart #1) derived from one of these studies rebuts several of the myths perpetrated by states regarding crossbow use.

Chart #1, using the velocity and energy of arrows fired at different yardage answers the statements "Crossbows are not bows; Crossbows shoot as flat as black powder rifles; Crossbows have the knock down power of a fire arm; Crossbows shoot much farther and faster than compound bows". This chart shows with definite certainty that these statements contain not a remnant of fact. Read the comparisons and you will know the crossbow is a bow.

'The chart below illustrates that crossbows and compound bows produce similar ballistic results. Crossbows did not shoot farther or faster than compound bows, as some people claim. If anything, the crossbow begins to lose velocity and energy slightly faster than the compound bow after 30 yards of flight because it shoots a lighter arrow. As Towsley pointed out in one of the most credible articles published in defense of crossbows, which appeared in the October 1996 issue of *Buckmasters 'White Tail Magazine'*, entitled "Crossbows Vs Compounds – The devils instrument or Viable Hunting Tools?" This chart was put together by Mr. Towsley using two newly purchased #150 peak draw weight crossbows and two #70 peak draw weight compound bows. He conducted this series of velocity and kinetic energy tests under controlled conditions. Arrow speeds were recorded with an Oehler 35 P chronograph and verified at the target with a shooting Crony Model F-1 chronograph. Ambient temperature was 36 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ ACF Hunters ED. Shot List

BALISTIC COMPARISON BETWEEN LONGBOWS AND CROSSBOWS

BOW	ARROW WEIGHT WITH 125 GRAIN BROADHEAD	VELOCITY & ENERGY AT THE BOW	VELOCITY & ENERGY AT 18 YARDS	VELOCITY & ENERGY AT 30 YARDS
COMPOUND # 1 # 70 PEAK WEIGHT	525.93 GRAINS	248 FOOT POUNDS 71.84 FOOT POUNDS	239 FOOT POUNDS 3.6% VELOCITY LOSS 66.73 FOOT POUNDS 7.1% ENERGY LOSS	232 FOOT POUNDS 6.5% VELOCITY LOSS 62.87 FOOT POUNDS 12.5% ENERGY LOSS
COMPOUND # 2 # 70 PEAK WEIGHT	557.68 GRAINS	205 FOOT POUNDS 52.5 FOOT POUNDS	197 FOOT POUNDS 4% VELOCITY LOSS 48.07 FOOT POUNDS 7.7% ENERGY LOSS	195 FOOT POUNDS 5% VELOCITY LOSS 47.10 FOOT POUNDS 9.5% ENERGY LOSS
CROSSBOW # 1 # 150 PEAK WEIGHT	497.88 GRAINS	228 FOOT POUNDS 57.48 FOOT POUNDS	218 FOOT POUNDS 4.4% VELOCITY LOSS 52.55 FOOT POUNDS 8.6% ENERGY LOSS	212 FOOT POUNDS 7% VELOCITY LOSS 49.70 FOOT POUNDS 13.5% ENERGY LOSS
CROSSBOW # 2 # 150 PEAK WEIGHT	473.58 GRAINS	242 FOOT POUNDS 61.70 FOOT POUNDS	230 FOOT POUNDS 5% VELOCITY LOSS 55.64 FOOT POUNDS 9.8 VELOCITY LOSS	NA (UNABLE TO PRODUCE A READING AT THIS DISTANCE.)

Keep in mind as you observe this chart, compound bows have longer limbs, approximately double the length of limbs on a crossbow, forcing pound weights to double on a crossbow to achieve equal performance.⁵

Of the studies reviewed for my statement of facts to disprove any and all objections by bow associations and States is a study displayed in *Horizontal Bow Hunter*. This study stated 'The available data from the three States that allow unrestricted use of the crossbow during archery season is similar and point to the same conclusions. In 1994, Ohio published year-by-year deer harvest data going all the way back to 1900.

Ohio first allowed crossbows in archery season in 1976. That year, the season ran from October 8 through January 22. From a total deer harvest (all weapons) of 23,431, the conventional bow harvest accounted for 1,638 while the crossbow harvest accounted for only 27. In '76, Ohio issued 138,946 hunting permits and allowed deer hunting in 68 of its 88 counties. The ratio of deer-harvested-to permits sold ratio was 1:5.9 (one deer harvested for every 5.9 permits sold).

By 1994, the season grew two weeks, running from October 1 through January 31. Compared to '76, the total deer harvest grew 725% to 170,527. The conventional bow harvest ballooned 800% to 13,107 while the crossbow harvest exploded to 16,283. Hunting permits sold were up 277% to 385,068, and all 88 counties were open for deer hunting. The deer-harvested-to-permits sold ratio improved to 1:2.8 (one deer harvested for every 2.8 permits sold).

⁵ Horizontal Bow Hunter

As you analyze the progression of statistics from 1976 to 1994, it is steady and shows no fluctuation or reversal in the trend.

Here are the same numbers in chart format:

Chart 2

THIS CHART DEMONSTRATES INCREASED LISENCE SALES, INCREASED HARVEST AND CONSISTANT HARVEST TO PERMIT RATIO, ALLOWING MORE REVENUES, NO HERD DESIMATION & LONGER SEASON DIMISSING MAJOR OBJECTIONS OF STATES AND BOW ASSOCIATIONS!

	1976	1994
SEASON DURATION	10/8 TO 1/22	10/1 TO 1/31
TOTAL HARVEST	23,431	170,527
CONVENTIONAL BOW HARVEST	1,638	13,107
CROSSBOW HARVEST	27	16,283
ELIGIBLE COUNTIES	68	88
PERMITS SOLD	138,946	385,068
HARVEST TO PERMIT RATIO	1:5.9	1:2.8

The conclusions are clear. Over the 18-year span crossbows did not decimate deer populations; archery season was not eliminated or shortened; and crossbows did nothing to diminish archers' opportunities to hunt or their chances for success. The opposite occurred. Deer populations increased; the season got longer; more counties opened for hunting; more hunters participated; and the harvest-to-permit ratio improved dramatically.'⁶

sing other information on Ohio shows even more facts that prove crossbows have been an asset to Ohio's hunting season showing no adverse effects experienced with the inclusion of crossbows. These facts have a direct bearing on statements claiming the future destruction of archery seasons and deer herd decimation as a result of crossbow inclusion, showing once again, at the very least, allowing the disabled to use crossbows in archery seasons will tend to enhance, not destroy present seasons.

'With the development of laminated fiberglass bows and the invention of the compound bow in the early 1960s, interest and development of the modern crossbow began. (Telling us that once again, the compound bow wanted for use by members of the bow associations is not a primitive weapon! And definitely not more primitive than the crossbow as they both were developed, as they exist today, in the 1960s.) By the mid-1970s, wildlife populations were abundant, while sport hunting numbers were starting to decline. At that time, the wildlife agencies of Ohio and Arkansas started short crossbow seasons to determine hunter interest and harvest data. Because of the positive statistical data gathered by these two agencies, all but a few of states and Canadian Provinces have enacted crossbow seasons.

Crossbow hunters face the same ethical responsibilities as hunters who use the vertical bow, rifle, shotgun, handgun and muzzleloader. They must be completely familiar with their hunting tool, its abilities and its limitations. They must be confident of placing the broad head in the vital area of their target for a quick, clean kill. They must also develop the ability to place themselves within a maximum distance of 40-yards from their target, which should be relaxed and unaware of their presence. As with every other hunting group, the crossbow hunter, once the shot is made, has the same responsibility of making every effort to recover, tag and utilize the animal. This is further evidence that crossbow inclusion for the disabled is a good thing for hunting. Hunters who participate in archery seasons using crossbows are held to the same standards with its hunters required to be just as good at hunting, but also just as ethical as other archery season participants.

CONCLUSION

The facts of this issue are clear. Crossbows are bows and are hand held weapons. Crossbows shoot arrows. Crossbows have similar ballistics to compound bows. Crossbows have a slightly shorter range than compound bows, because of a shorter, lighter arrow. The facts are impossible to dispute. Arrows of crossbows are propelled by string tension; in the same manner arrows from compound bows are propelled.

Crossbows have been in use by all archers in archery seasons in Ohio and several other States for many years, with crossbow inclusion for all in Ohio since 1976. Because of this fact, statistics are available to show big game seasons have not been shortened. Crossbow use by many in Ohio has not decimated deer herds. Archery season where crossbow use is abundant has lengthened. Harvest to permit ratio has improved. More counties are open for archery season. Number of permits sold has doubled, giving State revenues a boost.

All evidence points to improved hunting, longer seasons, with larger kills, and more State revenues for States in archery season where crossbows are allowed. Keep in mind, however, we are not asking to have all States opened to crossbow use by everyone. It is the choice and freewill of wildlife officials in a State to decide if they wish to allow crossbow use in archery season by able-bodied hunters. It is not up to these officials to disallow crossbow use or use of any reasonable bow accommodation by the disabled just because that use offends able-bodied hunters. The ADA sets aside provisions for reasonable accommodations and yet, the disabled are often precluded from participating in archery seasons. This is true in Oregon, because of the misinformed opinion that one or two archery bow modification are sufficient for disabled use by all disabled, but leaving out the inclusion of the crossbow tends to screen many disabled archers out. All disabled feet do not fit the same shoe, just as all disabilities do not call for the mouth tab, the body brace, or the draw-lock. The crossbow is the last reasonable accommodation as required by the ADA.

Do not discard the rights of disabled hunters to placate the wants of able-bodied hunters. Able-bodied bow hunters, through their feelings of inadequacy, feel the need to punish the disabled for their disabilities. Do not allow them to do it. You have all of the information you need to make the fair decision. That decision is to allow the disabled to use a crossbow or one of the other three reasonable bow accommodations in archery seasons when their specific disability mandates that use to allow them to hunt as equals.

This matter is now in your hands. It is time for you to search your hearts and know that doing the right thing, in the right manner, as demanded of you by the dictates of the ADA, would be to allow disabled archers to use the most reasonable accommodation mandated by their individual disability in the Oregon archery season. You have the opportunity to force the right decision to be made or withhold federal funding until Oregon understands what is the right thing to do. Thank you for attending fairly to this matter.

WORKS CITED FOR THIS PAPER, COME FROM:

ACF Hunters ED. Shot list paper

Americans With Disabilities Act Technical assistance manual

Horizontal Bow Hunter

Letter dated January 13, 2003 to Thomas H. LaQuey by Melody Stith, US Department of the Interior director of the Office For Equal Rights

Letter dated December 13, 1999 by Michael J. Budzik Director of the Ohio Division of Wildlife to the American Crossbow Association

All rights to this paper belong to the 'Coalition for Disabled Hunter's rights

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Cross Bows

From: Bob McMahan [<mailto:bmcMahon@bendcable.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 02, 2013 11:31 AM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: Cross Bows

Commissioners,

I am writing to express my extreme dismay about allowing crossbows in the archery season.

Honestly, look at a crossbow and tell me that it looks like a bow. I guess if you have any hesitation about exactly what it is, then it should have its own season or put it in with the rifle hunters. It's scoped, (or can be), pre loaded (cocked), uses a stock and trigger mechanism, and shoots a very long "bullet". It really has very little to do with archery as we know it.

Please understand the motivations of the crossbow manufactures...it's not out of compassion, but money.

Thanks for your consideration!

Warmest regards,

Bob McMahan
Bend, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: 2014 Regulation changes

From: Jason Darrah [<mailto:jason@gobarehoof.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 10:48 AM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: 2014 Regulation changes

My name is Jason Darrah and I am an Archery hunter in Central Oregon. I noticed on the list of regulation changes the committee is considering legalizing Crossbows for disabled hunters. I don't have a problem for allowing disabled hunters use a crossbow, but my concerns are that would become the foot in the door that eventually legalize the crossbow for non-disabled hunters as well. I already feel that modern archery equipment is having a negative impact on the sport I would ask that we leave Crossbows out of Oregon all together.

I think the commission should look to tighten up regulations on types of archery equipment allowed as well. I think there needs to be regulations on minimum arrow weight, as with the continued innovations being made with bow speeds people are continuing to decrease the arrow weights believing with the increase of speed they are maintaining enough KE (Kinetic Energy) to get sufficient penetration. A study done by Dr. Ed Ashby for the African game department show the KE has no effect on penetration; momentum is better factor for penetration. Many people check their arrow speed by using a chronograph at about 10ft or so which is not a good indicator as a light fast moving object will have more drag on it than a heavier slow moving object of same dimensions so by the time that arrow reaches 30 to 40 yards the Momentum a light arrow would have would be severally decreased. I believe the commission should review the white papers that are freely available which were written by Dr. Ed Ashby, if this information was good enough for the African game department I would have to believe it could have relevance for Oregon as well. I believe this could have a positive impact on the amount of game lost each year by archers using arrows that are too light.

Thanks,

Jason Darrah

[\(541\) 788-4669](tel:(541)788-4669)

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Jason Darrah

Natural Hoof Care Practitioner

(541) 788-4669

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Crossbow hunting in Oregon

From: Roger W. Sherman [mailto:xx32547@comcast.net]

Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 10:13 AM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: Crossbow hunting in Oregon

Dear ODFW Commission:

I am against using crossbows in archery season.

I urge you to demand that staff produce a viable list of alternatives such as: thorough research and review of available adaptive archery equipment, lesser weapons concepts, working with disabled hunters & the archery community, increasing education, verification of ADA requirements, all requested at the June commission meeting. If the commission agrees with staff that crossbows are the **ONLY** option, you need to give serious consideration to how staff can maintain and improve the quality of archery hunting in Oregon.

Oregon has a legacy of keeping hunting skills a part of the equation in hunting seasons. You need to consider this legacy and heritage in any decision you are making.

Best regards,

Roger Sherman

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Hunting rules

-----Original Message-----

From: randykoehne@yahoo.com [mailto:randykoehne@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 5:23 PM

To: OSP Fish And Wildlife Division

Subject: Hunting rules

There are several changes I would like to see considered for hunting.

Let us change time to buy hunting license and tags, where we can purchase them Up to the last day of that hunt. If I should want to spend just one afternoon, or two and spend the full amount, let us.

Allow oregon hunters to use crossbows for hunting. Does this arrow go so fast that it is More dangerous then some high powered rifles Thank you Randy koehne

Sent from my iPad

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Crossbow hunting

From: Dan Ramming [mailto:djramming@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 8:31 PM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: Crossbow hunting

Hello,

After giving this topic much thought I would like to stand behind the use of crossbows in rifle hunting seasons only!

The mechanical advantages that a crossbow bring to hunting should never ever allow them to be used in archery seasons. I just finished watching a show where they were using a cross bow completely outfitted with a bi-pod and scope. The advantages that this would give even a handicapped hunter would allow this person to shoot consistently and accurate at ranges up to 100 yards, and possibly more. This would take away the spirit and vision of the archery hunt.

I recently read where for the first time in history of elk hunting in Oregon, during 2012 hunting season archery hunters had a higher success ratio than rifle hunters. A large part of this success is due to more high tech archery equipment on the market being used. Adding crossbows to archery seasons would be over the top on offering a mechanical advantage.

For years the crossbow has been called the perfect poaching weapon and with the new mechanical advantages on today's crossbows this would make them even more lethal. With half or possibly more than half of the animals in Oregon each year being poached (killed illegally according to the Oregon State Game Police and ODF&W) do we really want a better poaching weapon being added to the mix?

Along with peoples ideas of the hunt changing from for the love of the hunt, to I must kill something, people are accepting and copying white tail deer tactics, which include tree stand use, the use of decoys and the worst of all in my opinion which is baiting. Whether it is sitting on an artificial water hole, a bale of hay, salt, grain or apples I find this unethical and a practice that should be made illegal. Why should we give these hunters and poachers another mechanical advantage to hunt already depleting herds of deer and elk?

I would like to thank you all for your commitment of time to the game commission and thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Best of luck with your tough decisions.

Happy trails,

Dan Ramming

Bowhunter with 46 years of experience

Life Member and past president of my local OHA Chapter

Life Member and project person RMEF

Retired Hunter Education Instructor 19 years

Member Traditional Archers of Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: 2014 Big Game Regulations

Importance: High

From: Kevin Thompson [mailto:kevin_necia@msn.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03 AM

To: ODFW Commission

Subject: 2014 Big Game Regulations

Importance: High

Dear commissioners,

I am very concerned that the ODFW proposal to enable use of crossbows by the disabled in Archery season is being pushed for the wrong reasons and without full thought of the ramifications if adopted. Here are a few of my concerns:

- Enrollment in the Disabilities Permit Program increased from about 600 in 1999 to peak at **~20,000 in 2006 and ODFW was suspicious of system abuse** and found it necessary to finally initiate some controls on this program.
- I have heard testimony from Doctors that this program will not and cannot be adequately controlled in diagnose and prescription of disability guidelines.
- Oregon has unique game management challenges in the goal of **providing quality experiences in the field**. In many game management areas, this state cannot afford increased effectiveness (range and ease of harvest). Unlike eastern and mid-western states with an overpopulation of whitetail deer and where use of crossbow is common, Oregon's deer herds are struggling to maintain management objectives and buck/doe ratios. Mule deer numbers have been on the decline due to predation and habitat issues as noted by ODFW's Mule Deer Initiative. Blacktail deer also suffer from habitat loss with the decrease in timber cutting, predation and the effects of Hair Loss Syndrome. Increased effectiveness of crossbows in archery only seasons would surely result in a loss of opportunity for all Oregon hunters.
- Technology advancement in Archery equipment has already gone too far, **the crossbow is more akin to an assault rifle**, and, the technology advancements attached to these devices are growing,
- Oregon currently provides effective vertical "Adaptive Archery Equipment" solutions.
- Disabled tags for horizontal weapons are available (rifle).
- In state after state across the U.S., opening archery season to use of crossbows by disabled hunters has been the "toe in the door" that crossbow manufacturers have used to continually expand crossbow use to additional users. In Kansas, for example, crossbows were initially only allowed in archery season for use by disabled hunters. Then, it was anyone under 15 years of age or over 55 years of age regardless of physical ability. Now, the push is to open archery season for use of crossbows by anybody. Oregon shouldn't head down that **slippery slope!**

I am an Oregonian of 49 years, raised in a hunting family and spend much time in the field hunting and volunteering, I have a good pulse on the past and present hunting experience. We are facing tremendous challenges in keeping high quality field experiences because of dwindling game in the accessible public hunt areas....The 4 week season and late season opportunities are very important in allowing a shared experience with family and friends and the field time to perhaps harvest an animal – reduction in this current format is my first fear of what we will lose if we allow the advancement of technology in archery seasons!

Please help put an end to the crossbow proposal and continue the support of the no "electronics on board" regulation that will continue to hold tremendous importance in defining our future archery field experience that we enjoy today.

Best Regards,
Kevin Thompson
Oregonian

Experience this year: 3 weeks in field, close a couple times to Bull Elk and Buck Mule deer, but did not shoot. Did have very large Cougar hunt me (30 yards away), Wolf almost ran into me (20 yards away), vocally distinguish 3 separate wolves. Elk scattered and very, very, very weary – like I have never seen.

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: CrossBow Hunting for Disabled

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Clements [<mailto:clemenr10@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 11:01 PM

To: odfw.comments@state.or.us

Subject: CrossBow Hunting for Disabled

Hello

I am 100% permanently disabled and have issues with being able to hold and draw a standard compound bow for hunting big game in Oregon. I find the time of the archery hunts better suited for me to walk and hunt big game (archery season is safer). My problem is the inability to walk long distances and draw and hold a bow on lawful game. Being able to hunt with a crossbow may help to even-out the playing field and give me a fair advantage to hunt along side able-bodied archery hunters. Please concenter this issue as a matter of fairness to myself and other disabled hunters who have the inability to participate in archery hunting in Oregon.

It is my opinion that archery hunters are up close hunters and the issues of using a crossbow is fair because of the type of hunters and their attitude concerning taking big game. Most hunters rarely have a shot over 75 yards in the rugged terrain in the Oregon forested regions so the added advantage of distance with a crossbow is hardly an advantage (in-fact if you get 50 yards in the woods I hunt your lucky).

In forested areas rifle hunters are hardly given a kill shot over 75 yards as well, so the advantage of longer shots with a cross bow has no meaning. I Think the issues is hardcore archery hunters that do not want to see themselves as missing out. Im saying it comes down to greed. It seems to me that archery hunters competitiveness has out weighed common sense. The competition for game is hardly fair if everyone which hunts with bow and arrow is allowed to use a crossbow. Like muzzle loaders everyone will upgrade to the more powerful weapon.

Leaving the hardcore arrow slingers wanting. The ideology of archery hunters is indeed attacked by able-bodied hunters competing with superior tools. Flipping that over the disabled hunter is hardily in the same class as the abled bodied archery hunter most of those guys are studs and studets which can go and go. Leaving me with a life changing disability out of the fun of the archery hunt. So please allow disabled hunters the ability to use a crossbow in Oregon for taking big game. I have personally experience unfairness in the field while trying to archery hunt when up agents able-bodied hunters and I believe crossbows will level out the hunting field for disabled hunters. I also have no way of knowing if it will help me in any way at all. I have never been given the opportunity to hunt with a crossbow but if a trial period would be allowed the question could be addressed with field data, and maybe the effects of allowing crossbows will not be as desired and need to be adjusted some where down the line. Doing nothing to address this issue will leave the question open of argument among hunters for years to come. I believe the time is now not later for disabled hunters to be given a chance to see if this idea of crossbows truly works.

Thank You in Advance

Robert Clements

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Brinker [davidbrinker7@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 4:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

There is absolutely too much technology being allowed now during Archery Seasons. There is positively no reason to consider allowing crossbows to be "recognized" as an allowable weapon excepting during firearm seasons. A line has to be drawn somewhere. Please. No Crossbows.

Most Sincerely
David Brinker

Roxann B Borisch

From: Bryce [bryce_ott@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 6:30 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Crossbow

To allow crossbows to be used in hunting anytime if game is an outrage. And a slap in the face to archers all over the great state of Oregon.

Can you really call it archery when you pull a trigger and hold a stock? Sounds a lot like a gun to me. Releases for compound bows should also be outlawed. Once again, a trigger.

It's an insult to us who work hard, getting dirty and sneaking up on animals to be within 20 yards of an animal and take a shot that is ethical. That's what it comes down to. What is ethical? 60 yard shots on an animal that can easily jump the string. Causing a non fatal strike on an animal, having it suffer and die days later.

Think about it.

Crossbows may be successful but from the elk and deer numbers were dealing with we can't afford it.

State police don't even bother showing up for poaching violations anymore, and plenty of that is going on in the struggling Scappoose unit where I hunt.

Do the right thing, and don't allow the use of such a irresponsible weapon in our beautiful, stand out state.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Gary and Eline Simantel [esgs@spiritone.com]
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 6:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: RE: permitting crossbow use during archery season

Dear Commissioners,

I do not support the proposed change in regulations to allow the use of crossbows to hunt big game during the archery season. The very nature of hunting with a bow implies a deliberate handicap, a self-imposed limitation. Here the primary goal is not harvesting an animal, but harvesting it with a particularly challenging and difficult method. If the primary intent is just bagging an animal, a high-powered rifle with a telescopic sight is the logical solution.

A crossbow is not a firearm but it has much in common with one: like a bullet, a crossbow bolt is "fired" by pulling a trigger, after aiming thru a sight. The velocity of a bolt is far greater than that of the typical arrow shot from a bow. Further, I have seen advertisements for crossbows mounted with telescopic sights! Conversely, an archer is forced to develop a broader range of skills because a killing shot requires the game to be much closer. Stalking, knowledge of wind patterns, familiarity with animal habits, are far more critical for success with a traditional bow and arrow. Frankly, the odds of success are low for the bow-hunter, yet he or she continues to pursue game with that method.

As a traditional archer, I already have strong reservations about the use of compound bows during archery season. Compound bow users openly discuss the use of sights, trigger releases, and range-finders; any reasonable person would question these fitting into the category of archery. And the use of crossbows further degrades the definition of archery.

I ask that you continue to restrict the use of crossbows to rifle season.

Gary Simantel
West Linn, Oregon

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: Crossbows

From: STEPHEN RAPALYEA [<mailto:rapalyea@wildblue.net>]

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 2:25 PM

To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Subject: Crossbows

O do not see a problem with crossbows especially if technology is limited as it is with muzzle loaders or compound bows.

I think we should have a separate, longer season for traditional equipment: longbows, recurves, flatbows;etc. -
Stephen Rapalyea,Chiloquin,OR
541-783-0800

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dave_Nancy PhelDale [pheldale@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 1:09 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Crossbows

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my **complete opposition** to the inclusion of crossbows in the Archery Hunting Season. The crossbow, while sharing a few elements with more traditional/compound bows, i.e.: 2 limbs to store energy, a string to engage the limbs, and an arrow as the projectile, has **no other commonality**, and functionally is a completely different weapon.

Archery has a long history. By nature, it is a sport that demands constant practice and physical conditioning. In the field, in hunting situations, the Traditional archer has to rely on skills and awareness that allows him/her to stalk close to their prey as shots are ethically limited to 30-35 yards depending on the terrain and the skill of the shooter. The development and inclusion of the modern compound bow for hunting use has already stretched the definition and redefined the limitations of what Archery is. Being a traditional archer, I take some issues with the compound bow and the "physical advantages" they offer such as peep sighting systems, mechanical releases, and 80% let-off for easy holding at full draw. These developments easily double the effective range over more traditional equipment. I can coexist with my Compound Archery "brothers" however. There is just enough commonality between us that I do not enter in with that debate. Crossbows, however, seriously cross the line in every way and pollute the meaning and history of what Archery is.

First of all, it would be hard not to admit that Crossbows are formidable and viable hunting weapons. The question is whether or not they should be included for use in the Archery Hunting Season. Despite the above mentioned "similarities" crossbows share with more traditional equipment (and really it pains me to even make those comparisons as they are still quite different), **Crossbows function much more like Rifles than Traditional/Compound archery tackle.**

For example:

1. They are shoulder braced like a rifle.
2. They are "cocked" like a rifle (string pulled back and locked at full draw with no resistant energy imparted to the shooter).
3. Because they are cocked, much greater draw weights (energy storage) can be achieved, greatly increasing effective range of lethality.
4. The arrow/bolt is released by a trigger like a rifle.
5. Crossbows can, and do, easily employ telescopic and more modern military style red dot sighting systems, just like a rifle.

Hunting with a bow and arrow is not an easy way to go. There are limitations inherent in the technology that make ethically harvesting any game animal a much more difficult proposition. Yet it offers a challenge and a more intimate relationship with nature that many embrace, and find more personally rewarding than just going out and killing something.

So in brief, **Crossbows share none of the limitations that Traditional equipment have.** Compound bows have already stretched the limits of the definition of archery. Proponents of the crossbow's inclusion into the archery hunting season are financially motivated and care nothing about traditional values and the intent and

parameters upon which the Archery Season was originally designed. Crossbows bring a completely unfair advantage to the hunting woods (both to the animals and the other archers).
Crossbows as a hunting weapon? Fine!
Just please include them where they belong, **in the RIFLE SEASON.**

Thank you for your consideration.

David Phelps
2228 SE Salmon St.
Portland, OR. 97214-3942

Roxann B Borisch

From: ydrupj@q.com
Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2013 1:41 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: crossbows

Dear Commission Members.

Please do not allow crossbows during archery seasons. They give an unfair advantage in that they Allow the hunter to cruise the forest with a weapon fully loaded, at full draw, with a scope, and bolt speed almost twice that of most compound bows. The scope also makes these weapons an excellent tool for poaching, as there is no report or muzzle flash. I could site other reasons, but I'm positive that these will suffice . Thank you. Joe Purdy 5721 Village View CT SE Aumsville.