

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND This is a presentation of the annual Big Game Regulation proposals. The Department will recommend 2018 big game controlled hunt tag numbers. Recommendations will also be presented for 2018 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and open areas, dates and locations of cooperative travel management areas, controlled hunts, and associated hunting regulations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Answering questions from interested persons, including the news media.
- Twenty public meetings were held throughout the state in July 2017 to review staff proposals.

ISSUE 1 Proposed tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2018.

ANALYSIS Overall, total controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2018 are proposed to decrease by 2.5% from 2017. Much of the decrease is driven by a 4.6% reduction of controlled deer tags, in response to the severe 2016-2017 winter weather.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION Option 1.

ISSUE 2 Proposals for 2018 game mammal seasons and associated hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS Staff will present proposals for 2018 big game and western gray squirrel seasons. Controlled hunt proposals for 2018 include the deletion of four hunts and addition of one new hunt. A few hunts have hunt area or season structure changes proposed. Most of the changes are to elk hunts and reflect responses to local changes in elk populations and subsequent damage conflicts from elk.

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 050, 060, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 075, and 090 as proposed by staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE Upon Filing