

Exhibit C

**Public Correspondence received as of
August 31, 2017**



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

June 27, 2016

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Michael Finley, Chair
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
Via email to: odfw.commission@state.or.us
and ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us

**Re: Comments regarding the Lead Ammunition Survey summary
results published January 27th, 2016**

Dear Chair Finley and Commissioners,

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our Oregon supporters, we offer the following comments in response to the 2014 Lead Ammunition Survey conducted by the Oregon State University's Survey Research Center and Wildlife Extension. The results of this survey demonstrate an immediate need to educate Oregon hunters about the damaging effects that lead ammunition has on the environment, wildlife, and humans, and that policy change, which is supported by the public, is desperately needed to protect wildlife and citizens of the state.

The 2014 Lead Ammunition Survey provides valuable information and evidence to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission that can inform policymaking:

- More outreach must be done to hunters about the effects that lead ammunition has on wildlife.
- More outreach must be done to hunters about the health risks to humans who consume game shot with lead ammunition.
- If a program to reduce human and wildlife exposure to lead in Oregon is initiated, the preferred policy option to the *public* would be a statewide regulation prohibiting the use of lead-based ammunition.

According to the results of the survey, only 15% (upland game birds or wild turkey) and 17% (big game) of hunters are hunting with non-lead

ammunition (Hunter Q7 and Q8). Far too many Oregon hunters are hunting with lead ammunition, despite the wealth of evidence demonstrating that lead ammunition is harmful to the environment, wildlife, and humans. To successfully and comprehensively remove lead from the environment, there needs to be universal use of non-lead ammunition. Even with small percentages of hunters using lead ammunition, the opportunity remains for wildlife to be exposed to the toxin. For example, in condor populations, if even one percent of scavenged carcasses are tainted with spent lead ammunition, there is a 30-50 percent chance of exposure per year to a single condor (Finkelstein et al. 2012).

Lead Ammunition Harms Wildlife

More outreach must be done to hunters about the effects that the use of lead ammunition has on wildlife. Both the public and hunters agree that hunters lack information about the effects of lead-based ammunition on wildlife (Hunter Q23d/Public Q7d). While the public agrees in the majority with each of the following statements, less than half of hunters do so:

- Lead ingestion is a source of mortality for birds that scavenge dead animals (Hunter Q25a/Public Q9a).
- Lead ingestion is a source of mortality for other animals that scavenge dead animals (Hunter Q25b/Public Q9b).
- Ingestion of lead can be fatal to animals (Hunter Q25c/Public Q9c).

While opinions are mixed, the evidence affirming each of these statements is clear. More than 130 species—including humans—have been documented to be exposed to or killed by ingesting lead shot, bullet fragments or prey contaminated with spent lead ammunition (Tranel and Kimmel 2009). Poisoned animals often experience long-term negative effects that make them more susceptible to predation and dangers, such as car collisions (Scheuhammer and Norris 1996). Further, a single ingested shotgun pellet or bullet fragment is sufficient to cause brain damage in birds, resulting in inhibition of critical neuromuscular, auditory and visual responses (Dieter and Hohman 1979).

Concern about Health Effects to Humans who Consume Lead Tainted Meat

Although lead is a potent neurotoxicant, for which no safe level of exposure has been identified, concern about health risks to humans who consume game harvested with lead-based ammunition is much weaker among hunters than the public (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2013; Hunter Q24d/Public Q8d). This weaker concern is confirmed by the results that most hunters have not stopped consuming game meat because of what they have learned about lead (Hunter Q21). These results are troubling, considering that individuals who consume meat from animals killed with lead ammunition are at risk for lead exposure (Pain et al. 2010). Several studies using x-ray imaging have shown that lead ammunition is highly fragmentable and nearly impossible to completely remove from meat (U.S. National Park Service 2011).

Dieter, M. P., & Finley, M. T. (1979). δ -Aminolevulinic acid dehydratase enzyme activity in blood, brain, and liver of lead-dosed ducks. *Environmental Research*, 19(1), 127-135.

Finkelstein, M. E., et al. (2012). Lead poisoning and the deceptive recovery of the critically endangered California condor. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(28), 11449-11454.

Knott, J., Gilbert, J., Green, R. E., & Hoccom, D. G. (2009). Comparison of the lethality of lead and copper bullets in deer control operations to reduce incidental lead poisoning; field trials in England and Scotland. *Conservation Evidence*, 6, 71-78.

Liebezeit, J. & Sheaffer, D. (2010). Blood lead levels in avian scavengers: a comparison of urban and rural regions in the Pacific Northwest. Audubon Society of Portland. Available at <http://audubonportland.org/files/research/lead-2014>.

Pain, D. J., et al. (2010). Potential hazard to human health from exposure to fragments of lead bullets and shot in the tissues of game animals. *PLoS One*, 5(4), e10315.

Pierce, B. L., Roster, T. A., Frisbie, M. C., Mason, C. D., & Roberson, J. A. (2015). A comparison of lead and steel shot loads for harvesting mourning doves. *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, 39(1), 103-115.

Scheuhammer, A. M., & Norris, S. L. (1996). The ecotoxicology of lead shot and lead fishing weights. *Ecotoxicology*, 5(5), 279-295.

Stauber, E., Finch, N., Talcott, P. A., & Gay, J. M. (2010). Lead poisoning of bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden (*Aquila chrysaetos*) eagles in the US inland Pacific Northwest region- An 18-year retrospective study: 1991-2008. *Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery*, 24(4), 279-287.

Thomas, V. G. (2013). Lead-free hunting rifle ammunition: product availability, price, effectiveness, and role in global wildlife conservation. *Ambio*, 42(6), 737-745.

Tranel, M. A., & Kimmel, R. O. (2009). Impacts of lead ammunition on wildlife, the environment, and human health-a literature review and implications for Minnesota. *Ingestion of lead from spent ammunition: implications for wildlife and humans. The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho, USA*.

U.S. National Park Service. (2011). Lead Bullet Risks for Humans & Wildlife. Available at <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/naturescience/leadinfo.html>.

Walter, H., & Reese, K. P. (2003). Fall diet of Chukars (*Alectoris chukar*) in eastern Oregon and discovery of ingested lead pellets. *Western North American Naturalist*, 63(3), 402-405.

Policy Reforms Leans to State-wide Prohibition on Use of Lead Ammunition

More than 60% of the public supports statewide regulation to prohibit use of lead-based ammunition (Public Q12b). More than 40% of hunters support regulations to prohibit lead-based ammunition in regions with demonstrated wildlife lead ingestion concerns (Hunter Q28a). Among hunters, this policy option is supported more than any other option, including voluntary coupon incentive programs (Hunter Q28e,f).

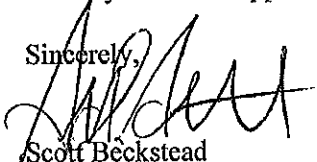
Oregon hunters are amenable to shifting away from lead ammunition to non-lead ammunition. For big game, if hunters knew non-lead ammunition performance would be similar to lead ammunition, 40% of hunters would switch (Hunter Q12c). Comparison studies have found that non-lead ammunition is similar in performance to lead ammunition (Knott et al. 2009; Thomas 2013; Pierce et al. 2014). More than 25% of hunters said they would switch to non-lead ammunition if they knew there were negative effects on Oregon's wildlife, despite the fact that there are numerous studies documenting the impact of lead ammunition on Oregon's wildlife (Hunter Q12b, 17b; Walter & Reese 2003; Liebezeit & Sheaffer 2010; Stauber et al. 2010), including top-level predators such as the cougar (Burco et al. 2012).

Conclusion

The 2014 Lead Ammunition Survey demonstrates that Oregon hunters are unaware of the true dangers associated with hunting with lead ammunition. This situation is not one that can be solved with education alone. Policy change is reasonable, appropriate, and necessary given the current situation in Oregon. The public clearly supports statewide regulation prohibiting the use of lead-based ammunition. The preponderance of the evidence related to the impacts of lead ammunition on wildlife indicate that wherever there is hunting with lead ammunition, there are concerns related to wildlife health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this informative survey.

Sincerely,



Scott Beckstead

Oregon Senior State Director and Rural Outreach Director
The Humane Society of the United States

Literature Cited

Burco, J., Myers, A. M., Schuler, K., & Gillin, C. (2012). Acute lead toxicosis via ingestion of spent ammunition in a free-ranging cougar (*Puma concolor*). *Journal of wildlife diseases*, 48(1), 216-219.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Lead Factsheet. National Biomonitoring Program. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/biomonitoring/Lead_FactSheet.html.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 12:13 PM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Hunting Preference Points--Banking

From: gdrake@epud.net [mailto:gdrake@epud.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 10:12 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hunting Preference Points--Banking

Dear ODFW Commission.

My name is Gordon Drake, age 61 years old and I have hunted since I was 12. I am an archery hunter, and currently have approximately 14 preference points applicable to elk. I recently learned that there has been discussion and possibly a proposal to the ODFW to enable hunters to "Bank" their preference points and use portions of them to apply to hunts of their choosing.

I feel this is a great idea as I have been applying for the Wheneha Unit for the last 14 years and it appears that the last few years the odds have gotten so great that I might never receive the hunt and if I do I will likely be too old to make the hunt!

Allowing the "Banking" of preference points will allow (us more elderly) hunters to apply a portion of their points (which we have paid for and own) to various hunts that have a higher odds of getting. As it currently stands I can either continue to apply for a hunts with a slim chance of ever getting, building up points, and or waste all my preference points on a hunt with better odds of getting. As you know once a hunter uses their points on a hunt their count goes back to zero.

Allowing the "Banking" of preference points would allow hunters to use a portion of their points on hunts they feel are more likely to get and possibly allow them the chance to experience several hunts....rather than to not hunt and die with their points.

I urge the commission to consider the current discussions regarding the "Banking" of points and develop a system to allow hunter more options to utilize their saved preference points.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely
Gordon Drake
81650 Lost Valley Lane
Dexter, OR 97431

541-953-0094

8-10-2016

Dear Commissioners,

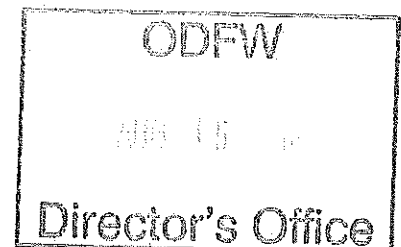
CROSSBOW Into Archery Seasons. Here are some photos of the new Crossbows and on U-tube PSE Crossbow shooting from a bench rest at two hundred yards at six inch balloons and braking. This not a bow and needs to be in rifle ranks or their own seasons.

Enclosed is a letter I wrote to Bowhunting World Magazine about Bob Robb's article on crossbows in archery season.

Crossbow shooters just want it easy to harvest big bulls and bucks. In Oregon our bull & buck ratios would drop. We are low in our buck & bull ratios. Don't you think we need to cut down on doe & cow tags?

I personally think Curt Melcher Is doing a great job as ODF&W Director.

Chuck (Windy) Lynde
541-410-8031
windylynde@yahoo.com



5-17-2016

To the Editor Jace Bauserman:

I would like to put this in Bowhunting World to the Editor.

This is regarding the article In your last Magazine vol. 65, #4 on page 104 by Bob Robb on Crossbows. Bob wanted us to e-mail him, but that only goes to him only. I think the readers need to see our side of the crossbow. I'm not against Crossbows.

I think crossbow hunters need to get their own Magazine and their own record book, like muzzleloaders, rifle and bows have done. They are not a bow, with rifle stock, scope and shooting a 6" group at 200 yards with a bench rest. In Oregon We have tested new crossbows and found them to be long shooting, like a rifle. In Oregon with only five branch antlers per 100 cows. If we allowed crossbows into bow seasons, we believe within three to five years our bull ratio would really drop. Anyone can call a bull elk to 100 yards and Crossbow hunters just want it easy and we believe that crossbow hunters should be in rifle hunting only.

Look at other states where they just wanted handicap only. Once crossbows get into archery seasons, the next year they let 65 or older to hunt with a crossbow in archery seasons. The third year they opened it up for everyone to use crossbows in archery seasons. They did not tell the truth with handicap only.

↓ OVER ↓

The number one thing is it's all about Money. Why can't Crossbow hunters hunt in Rifle areas?

May all your arrows fly true.

Chuck (Windy) Lynde. I have been a bowhunter for 63 years. Also a senior member of the Pope & Young Club.



Are Crossbows Here To Stay?

By Bob Robb

Back in January, as I walked the floor of the 2016 Archery Trade Association (ATA) Trade Show, something seemed different. There was the usual chaos, with 615 exhibitors showing off their products and services in a record 229,000 square feet of booth space. You'd need four NFL football fields, laid goal post to goal post, just to accommodate the show's booths, minus the aisles, which were always crowded with dealers, exhibitors and media members.

It wasn't until the show was almost over that I figured out what it was. During a meeting of the *Bowhunting World/Archery Business* team with ATA staff, the group's president and CEO, Jay McAninch, told us that there was more display space allocated at this year's show to crossbows and related accessories than any other single category.

Think about that. Not compound or traditional bows, not arrows, not broadheads, not optics, not ground blinds, not clothing – crossbows and crossbow accessories.

That's sort of an antithesis to the other interesting gear fact we found at this year's show, which was that the sale of recreational archery equipment is also up, with target shooting participation growing at a smart pace while the participation in bowhunting remains somewhat static. Except for crossbow hunting, which is exploding. Crossbows are a big reason why bowhunting is in a growth mode.

The number of states that allow the use of crossbows during archery-only seasons is expanding, too. As of December 2015, it was legal to use a crossbow during an archery-only season in 25 states, and during a portion of archery season in three other states. Florida allows their use in archery season on private land. Wisconsin made it legal during bow season in 2014 but will review that after three years. In the rest of the states, save one, crossbows are legal for hunters with physical impairments, over a certain age or during firearms seasons. Only Oregon bans crossbow hunting completely. What are the odds that states that have made crossbow use legal during archery-only seasons will rescind that decree?

As you might imagine, there is opposition to the use of crossbows during archery-only seasons. Some state bowhunters' associations oppose their use. In February, 2016, Joe Bell, executive director of the Pope & Young Club, wrote that the club "does not accept a crossbow as a real archery tool. For this reason, we are against them for use

in archery-only hunting seasons. Are we against the person using the crossbow? No, absolutely not. This is foolishness. We are simply against the 'tool' for use during archery-designated seasons."

Joe, a friend and respected colleague for decades, makes a strong argument. He believes that the crossbow's three big advantages over a com-



↑ Kevin Howard, president/owner of Howard Communications, put his Browning OneSixOne crossbow to work on a recent Texas hunt.

pound bow – that it is pre-cocked and, thus, you do not have to draw the bow as an animal approaches; that you do not have to use muscle power to hold it all full draw; and that you can rest the crossbow's forearm to give you a stable shooting platform – make it not a "real archery tool."

Having hunted and shot crossbows just enough to be familiar with what they can and cannot do, I respectfully disagree with the Pope & Young

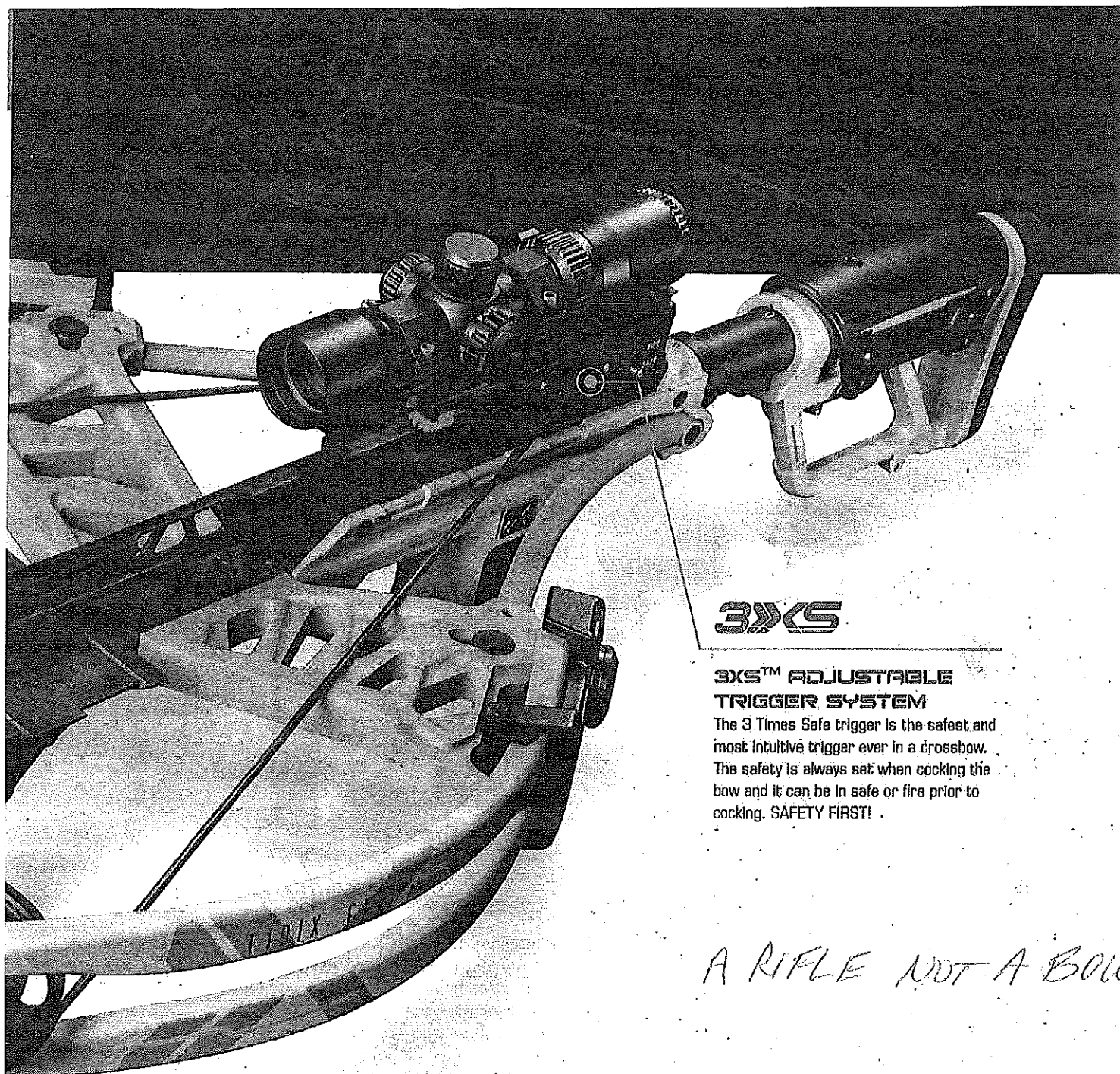
Club's stance on this issue. (Full disclosure, I am a regular member of Pope & Young.) And while more crossbow hunters mean more hunters in the field during archery season, I don't foresee a time when that will mean public lands – especially out West – are so overrun with crossbow users that the mountains will become more overcrowded than they already are. Their use on private land is a non-issue since the landowner controls access.

I am old enough to remember when old-school recurve and stickbow hunters vehemently opposed the inclusion of compound bows in archery-only seasons. While some die-hard traditional archers still feel compounds are not "real" hunting bows, the vast majority have gotten over it, and the bowhunting community is stronger for it. I am hoping the same will soon be true for crossbows. After all, a crossbow is not a traditional bow, nor is it a compound bow – it's simply a crossbow. Thus, I am also a believer that animals taken with a crossbow should not be eligible for entry into the Pope & Young Club's record book, but we should instead find a unique place to record worthy crossbow-harvested game.

What's your opinion? Drop me a note here at brob主@grandviewmedia.com and let me know. **EW**

AIR GUN SHOTS AN ARROW. NOT GOOD





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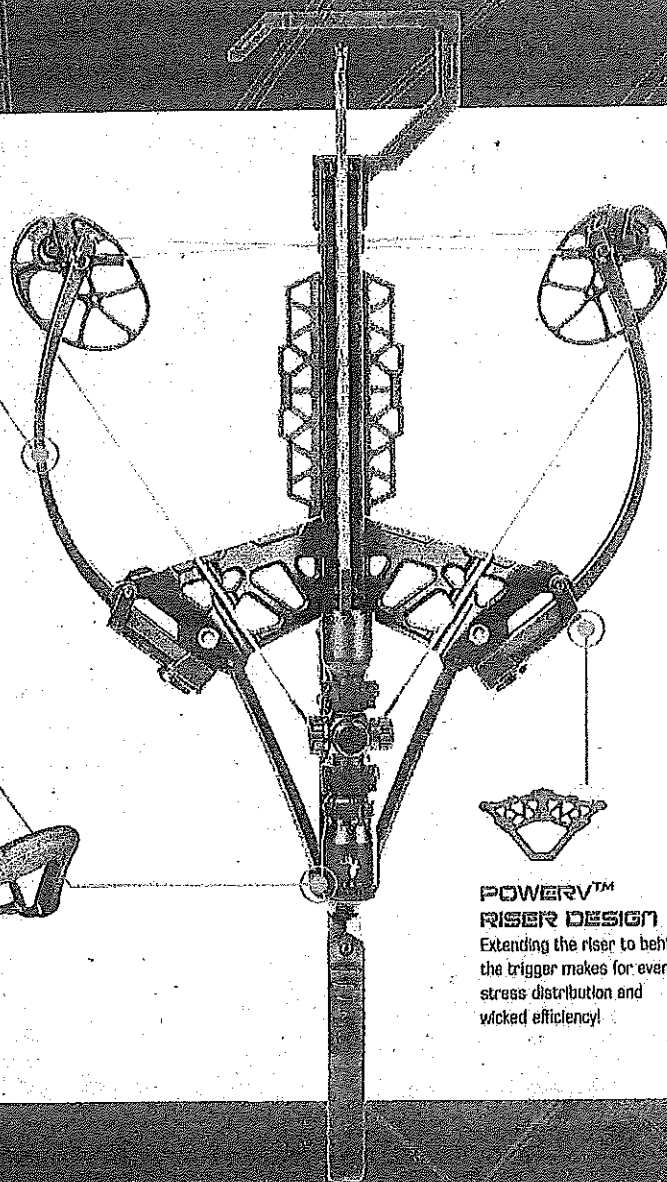
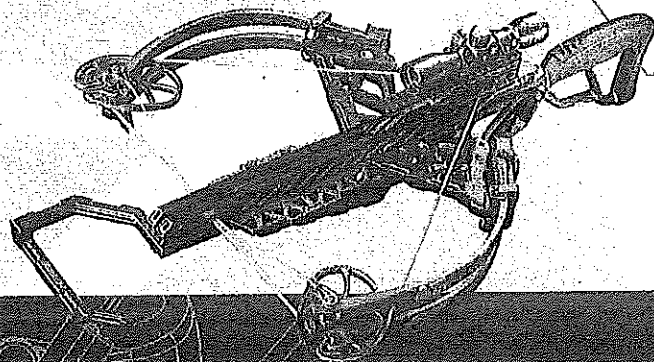
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ATA @ Draw	15.1"
Power Stroke	14"
Length	34.5"
K/E	99.3 ft-lb



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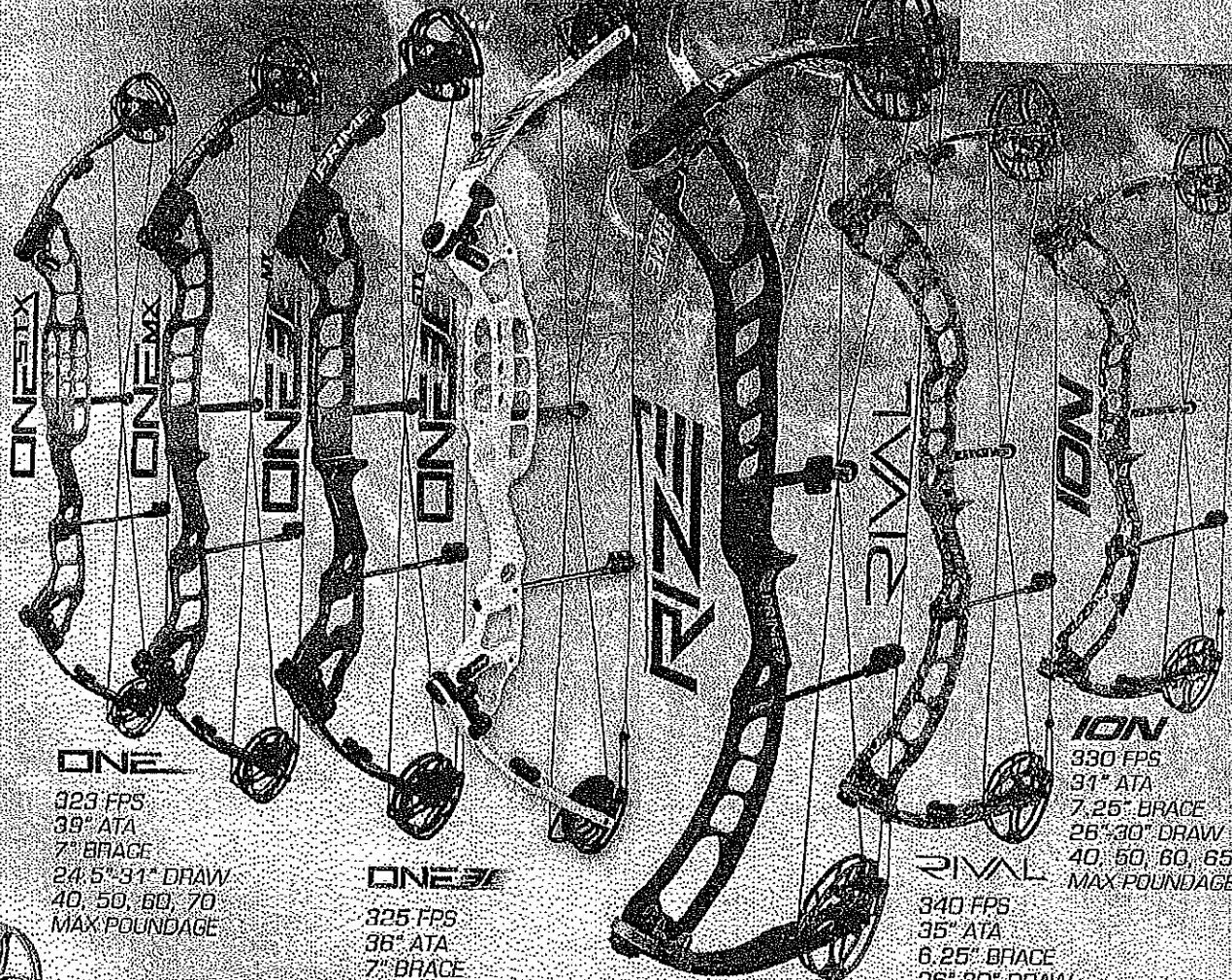
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Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: electronic calls for elk

From: T & K Fisk [<mailto:tkfisk@q.com>]

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 4:13 PM

To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Cc: tkfisk@q.com

Subject: electronic calls for elk

Hi, I recently learned that electronic calls are legal to use as an aid for hunting elk. I have used an electronic call (calf elk in distress) while hunting bears. I have called in many elk (and deer) using this call. The elk come in immediately and with "reckless abandon". The "elk calf in distress" call preys on the elks instinct to protect calves. I don't think it makes much sense to use this aid against elk. I would like to see electronic calls remain legal for predators (including bears and cougars) but not for elk and deer. Thank you for your consideration. Tom Fisk, Baker City, Oregon.

Curt Melcher,
Director

ODFW

SEP 20 2016

Director's Office

From:

Harold Schuttpetz

826 S. E Newport

Ph. # 1-541-265-8231

Dear Sir:

I am a 93 year old
who have enjoyed elk
hunting all my life.
I have a disabled permit.

I hope the Alsea
Unit bag limit will
allow cow in the ~~K017~~
2017 season.

I have many bear
hunters and archery hunters
who report lots of Elk
in this area.

The Alsea unit is one of the few units in the state that has bulls only for disabled. Replanted trees have grown up, making it hard for To count elk. Helicopters

Disabled hunters feel that with all the hunts: Youth, Controlled, Bow, N.E. Alsea, S.W. Alsea, S.E. Alsea, S.W. Private, Central Alsea, Private N.W. Alsea, & the new Premium Hunts, WOP-Alsea,

Disabled feel they would like to have a bag limit like in the past.

3

The game comm. have
done a good job of
management of elk.

All of hunts have
broken up herds and
spread elk to new areas.

Disabled feel they do
not have that much impact
on the population of elk.

In fact they think
they actually help

spread and break up
herds, particularly in ranch
areas, sending them to
new areas.

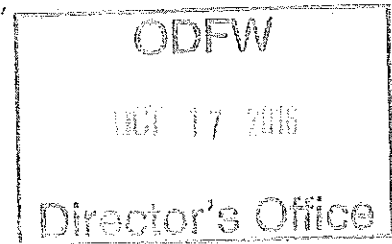
I know you have a
problem with illegal
disabled. But it should
not handicap the legals.

Sincerely, Harold Schutten

9-29-16

ODFW

DIRECTOR



DEAR SIR,

I HAVE LONG APPRECIATED THE WORK OF ODFW. I AM 62 TODAY AND SO THAT WOULD MEAN 51 YEARS AT LEAST WHEN I WROTE A PAPER ON MULE DEER IN THIRD GRADE, USING ODFW MAGAZINE AS ONE OF MY SOURCES. I HAVE LIVED IN OREGON MY ENTIRE LIFE.

I CAN APPRECIATE THE NEED TO RECRUIT YOUNG PEOPLE INTO OUR HUNTING TRADITION, AND I DO SO. I ALSO TALK TO AS MANY AS I CAN OF THE MERITS OF ETHICAL HUNTING, AND CONSERVATION. I HUSBAND 319 ACRES FOR WILDLIFE, THAT I OWN. I DON'T HUNT IT.

I WANTED TO SAY, THAT I FEEL THE MAIN REASON MORE OF OUR COUNTRYMEN & COUNTRYWOMEN OF THE WESTERN US. DON'T ENDEAVOR TO HUNT IS THAT ALL TOO OFTEN THE ONES THAT DO COME HOME WITHOUT GAME OR STORIES OF SEEING MUCH GAME.

YOU ARE THE EDUCATED ONES. YOU KNOW WHY THERE IS LITTLE ANIMAL LIFE LEFT, AND WHY THERE IS NO WAY YOU OR THE DEPARTMENT WILL STOP THE DECLINE. JUST STOP SENDING OUT HUNTER RECRUITMENT PEIOS THAT WASTE MONEY. QUIT OFFERING TOO MANY TAGS PER UNIT. STOP MANAGING WILDLIFE AS A REVENUE SOURCE. I AM WELL AWARE THAT AS MY LIFE COMES TO ITS END, SO TOO IS THE WORLD I KNEW, AND THAT WAS THE NATURAL WORLD I KNEW WITH WILDLIFE IN WIDE OPEN SPACES.

THOUGHTFULLY YOURS,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "P. Jensen".

Roxann B Borisch

From: Allen <achilds@frontier.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2016 10:03 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon Landowner Preference Tags

I have hunted the lookout mountain unit for the past 20 plus years, both rifle, when I can draw a tag, and archery.

I have observed a number of instances of private landowners hunting on the scattered BLM tracts every year in the unit and have reported those observations in the past to state police.

I personally know a number of these landowners and am dumfounded at how often some of these people rifle deer hunt the unit on both private and public lands compared to my ability to draw the tag every 3 or 4 years. I am told by these individuals that they in fact had drawn tags. The consistency of the "draws" is statistically impossible.....

Where are the records for the tags that are issued to landowners located in ODFW and how does one verify that an individual landowner actually has LOP or drawn tag?

Allen Childs
10105 Mount Fanny Avenue
La Grande, OR 97850
541.963.3174

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Hill <sneakyobrian@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2016 11:22 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Hunting

To whom this may concerns

Can you please explain to me why you sell us expensive tags with no access to areas to hunt there are gates everywhere I turn and I can not even access blm lands I have been hunting for 25 yrs and I know the blm roads and know can not be accessed,I never see you guys doing anything to manage the areas or even in the areas I hunt, After this season I am forming petitions and going to boycott the purchase of state tags and license sells and am going to take my business to Idaho and Montana next year where they welcome Hunters

Thanks David Hill

Roxann B Borisch

From: pvgdvg@embarqmail.com
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 8:54 AM
To: ODFW Comments
Subject: Re: ATV use during archery season

Thank you for getting back to me. I do appreciate any assistance I may receive in getting the escalating ATV use issue addressed.

I have now sent a copy of the e-mail to the Oregon Parks Dept.

Doug Van Gordon

From: ODFW Comments
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 8:17 AM
To: pvgdvg@embarqmail.com
Subject: RE: ATV use during archery season

Thank you Doug, we will forward this to the appropriate party. I suggest also, if you haven't already please send a copy of this to the Parks & Recreation department of Oregon, they also issue permits for ATV's so this might be of interest to them as well.

From: pvgdvg@embarqmail.com [mailto:pvgdvg@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 02, 2016 5:17 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: RE: ATV use during archery season

ODFW Staff,

I am writing this correspondence to the ODFW today because I am concerned about the ever increasing conflicts between ATV users and non-ATV users on public lands during the Oregon archery season.

During the just completed general archery season, in all of the hiking and hunting areas I managed to cover, there was not a single area that did not show recent and frequent ATV use.

Locked and gated roads, barricaded roads, game trails, logging skid roads, historic and ancient mining roads and even in a couple of cases, wilderness areas, were all scared by the tracks of off-road vehicle use.

I have reported the illegal OHV use in the North Fork John Day Wilderness to the USFS office in Ukiah and it is my understanding that a citation was issued.

I just cannot convey strongly enough the frustration and anger I feel when after hiking through miles of prime big game habitat, to come into a remote, secluded area that photographic evidence has shown to be extensively used by elk, bear and deer....only to find an ATV parked!

Unfortunately, more and more of the ATV owners are using their vehicles, during the archery season, to access prime big game habitat and for those of us who choose not to hunt off of a vehicle, our hunts are being ruined. Your research has proven that "elk use declines in areas with adjacent roads open to motorized vehicles" and I will add to that that elk use is nearly nonexistent in areas of constant ATV use.

I have archery hunted almost exclusively for over 50 years in Oregon and what I see now in the woods deeply concerns me. I prepare well, I practice with my equipment as much as possible, I scout for areas to hunt, I hunt as hard as I am able at my age and I hunt legally and ethically.

In my method of hunting, I would **NEVER** intentionally infringe on nor impair another hunter's opportunity to have an enjoyable and successful hunt. I believe that all hunters should have a fair and equal chance to pursue and, with some luck and skill, harvest the animal being hunted. Unfortunately, with the ever increasing ATV use on public lands during the archery season, that is not the case.

Time and time and time again, during the past several archery seasons, extensive (and in most cases illegal) off road vehicle use has ruined my opportunity for a quality hunt.

This year in particular, the interaction between some ATV users riding illegally and myself became dangerously close to escalating from a verbal dispute to a full blown physical confrontation with these ATV users entering my camp and making verbal threats of retaliation against my wife and me for reporting their **ILLEGAL** ATV use to the USFS.

While there may still be some responsible ATV users, the vast majority of riders I have encountered in the woods over the past 10 years (or so) evidently have the mind-set that just because the OHV they are riding **CAN** go anywhere, they are now **ALLOWED** to go anywhere.

They ride through game birthing and calving areas, through feeding and breeding areas, through escapement and concealment areas. There are no areas left (or very few) in Oregon that affords our game animals some degree of protection and in my experience, is totally counterproductive to archery hunting. It is also my opinion that our game animals are starting to congregate on private, no hunting lands for that very reason.

I have written the USFS in Ukiah, Pendleton and LaGrande asking for help in curbing the extensive and illegal ATV use in the Umatilla and Wallowa Whitman National Forests and I am writing the ODFW today to ask for your help in assisting in this mission state wide.

Please...please...please stop with the annual warning in the Oregon Big Game Regulations..."The choice is yours. Nobody likes regulations; but if irresponsible ATV use continues to cause

unacceptable impacts, then regulations will become necessary to ensure protection of public lands...."

I guess my question to the ODFW would be....what is it going to take for the ATV user/non-user impacts to become "unacceptable"? Is it going to be a shoot-out with loss of life? A physical confrontation with injuries? Verbal threats of retaliation? Mark my words, any or all of these consequences are not too far off.

It is my hope, that in conjunction with the USFS, the ODFW will establish some areas in Oregon that would be totally closed to ATV use during the archery season....similar to the "green dot" road and area closure system being used during the rifle seasons. Then, conspicuously post "It is every hunter's responsibility to know land ownership and regulations of the area he or she intends to hunt".

And then....enforce the law!

I fully understand that the ODFW is understaffed and grossly underfunded, but you all have now reached the tipping point for hunters.....and particularly archers. More and more hunters are leaving the sport because the opportunity for a quality hunt has diminished greatly and in part, because of the ever increasing ATV use. Less game...poorer quality hunt opportunities...more conflicts....higher fees to cover fewer hunter numbers...less hunters equals less revenue....equals less enforcement.....equals less quality hunting....equals less hunters and the cycle goes on and on until hunters and sportsmen (just like me) finally give up and quit a sport that we have supported and enjoyed our entire lives.

If this is what the ODFW wants, then do nothing. But, if you would like to see an increasing number of hunters, increasing numbers of game animals and some equality in hunting between ATV users and non-users, then please help me get things turned around. I am convinced that the future of hunting.....and in particular....archery hunting, hangs in the balance.

I am sending this via e-mail with the hope that it may be forwarded on to those in the ODFW who can (and will) make the attempt to protect wildlife habitat, minimize the ever increasing conflicts between ATV users and non-users, to help ensure that I can feel relatively safe in my own camp, free of intimidation and threats and that the ODFW will do everything it can to enforce the laws on illegal ATV use on our public lands.

Thank you for your time,

Doug Van Gordon
541-621-5000
PO Box 1006
Shady Cove, OR 97539

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Desolation Unit

From: Brian Rheault [<mailto:rheaultb@eaglepnt.k12.or.us>]
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2016 7:13 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Desolation Unit

To whom it may concern,

It is my earnest hope that those in a position of authority within the ODFW will take the time to read this email and honestly consider its content, please. Archery Elk hunting is my obsession and passion. I have hunted the Desolation for the last 35 years and have witnessed the demise and rebirth of this unit as a result of the regulations you (ODFW) have enacted. About 10 years ago my family stopped hunting the Desolation unit because there were no (few) elk remaining as a result of regulations that allowed for the harvesting of cows. My brother and I would literally go a week without seeing an elk. This was a week of hard hunting in more of the remote areas. In 2014 we decided to try it again and were surprised to find that the elk had returned to areas they previously inhabited - at least those areas north of hwy 20 where NEW regulations allowed for a bull only. It was amazing to note the difference in elk density where regulations called for bull only versus a hair tag. Undoubtedly, the difference was related to this regulation. This year I was severely disappointed to see that the ODFW decided to reverse the regulation within the Desolation unit and once again allow for the harvesting of a cow elk. I can report to you that the density of hunters increased dramatically this year and I witnessed the harvesting of several cows. These were cows that had many productive breeding years left and took out of the herd/unit 10 (+) potential elk. I'm sure this scenario was repeated throughout the unit. I don't understand why ODFW made this policy change? I can assure you that the unit was nowhere near capacity. Everyone tells me it's all about money? ODFW doesn't make money unless they are selling tags. I sincerely hope this is not true. I'm probably being naive but I want to believe that the ODFW is actually trying to do what is best for the wildlife. Please consider reversing this policy in the Desolation unit and return to the harvesting of bulls only. Otherwise, this unit will in short order be "desolate" of elk. Of this I am certain as I've witnessed it first hand. Please do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Thank you.

Brian

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Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: premium elk tags

From: Davies, Kirk William [<mailto:Kirk.Davies@oregonstate.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 9:59 AM

To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Subject: premium elk tags

Dear Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission,

The addition of the premium hunts is a great opportunity to increase revenue for ODFW. It also provides Oregon hunters an great hunt for those lucky enough to draw one of the these tags. My concern is that the High Desert Elk hunt has a disproportionate number of these tags. Depending on where hunters harvest their elk, up to four elk could be harvested with premium tags in the High Desert Elk unit each year. This will without a doubt greatly decrease the likelihood of trophy bulls in this unit, especially since it's a much more open unit than most elk units. In contrast, most other units can only have one elk harvested with a premium tag each year. I strongly urge the Commission to revise the premium hunts to follow the general elk hunting units and not put extra pressure on certain units.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kirk Davies
Life-long Oregon Hunter

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Pioneer license

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

From: Gary Webb [mailto:gwebb@bctonline.com]

Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 12:10 PM

To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Subject: Pioneer license

If you need money that bad why not just do away with pioneer licenses.

Also most normal folks work Monday thru Friday so how about moving 1st season from Wednesday thru Sunday to Tuesday thru Saturday. let Sunday be a travel day. Why don't you folks think??

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Cow hunters

From: Jason J [<mailto:tairygreen3@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 9:54 AM
To: ODFW Commission <ODFW.Commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: Cow hunters

Just wanted to raise a concern of mine involving uninformed cow hunters. I've been hunting the stott mountain unit since I was young and am aware that disabled cow hunts were recently removed from the unit. However, so far this year myself, my brother and my father have come across at least 5 hunters convinced they're going to kill a cow in the stott Mt unit. There are already so few elk in the unit that the cow hunts that are open there are unnecessary, however these people unknowingly killing cows in the area will only make things worse. Please do something following this season to make this type of information easier to obtain for the confused parties.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Baird <smokeybaird@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2016 10:20 AM
To: odfw.comments@state.or.us
Subject: ridiculous odfw requirements

I have just completed my "Mandatory Reporting" requirement for having hunted unsuccessfully for a controlled elk hunt.

This is another fine example of ODFW collecting useless data from hunters, who form the lifeblood of REVENUE to ODFW.

It would seem that ODFW is more concerned with generating revenue than providing wildlife management. The \$25.00 penalty fee for failing to report an unsuccessful hunt is punitive and stupid. How can this information be relevant for any wildlife management practice. Reporting a successful hunt makes sense. You already know how many tags were issued for any given unit, for any given hunt series, being unsuccessful is useless data.

This is just another example of a government agency abusing its authority.

You people (ODFW) are going to drive hunters to hunt in other states by forcing asinine reporting practices and penalties on the very people you depend on to fund your agency.

I am thoroughly disgusted with ODFW and the poor wildlife management that you provide to the citizens of Oregon.

Michael Baird
Salem, Oregon



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
RE: Traditional Archery Season
December 2, 2016

President
Jim Akenson
72531 Farmer's Lane
Enterprise, OR 97828
Phone: 1-541-398-2636
Email: micaake@yahoo.com

Vice President
Norm Johnson
1545 Decker Point Road
Reedsport, OR 97467
Phone: 1-541-271-2585
Email: norm@blacktailbows.com

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Jack Smith
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Dear Chair Finley and Members of the ODFW Commission:

I am providing support to the proposal brought before you by the Traditional Archers of Oregon (TAO) which requests consideration of a traditional archery deer hunt in the White River Big Game Management Unit. The purpose of this hunt is to hallmark the heritage of traditional archery and do so surrounding one of Oregon's most historic archery areas. When this bow-only-area was available to bowhunt deer, approximately 1960-1973, the only archery equipment available was traditional in design – being longbows and recurves. This late deer hunt was extremely popular in its day, and helped galvanize the popularity of a more challenging way to pursue big game. I know this because I hunted it as a youth bowhunter in the early 1970's!

So why do we need another traditional bow season in Oregon? At present, two others exist – Trout Creek and Canyon Creek, and both of these are early hunts in September. Regarding the need, the answer is four-fold. First, there has become a radical difference between conventional archery (modern compound + accessories) and the traditional form of hunting bows. Oregon's recent allowing of lighted nocks further increased this technological separation. Second, traditional archery has a parallel in the firearm world when comparing current-day center fire rifles with their parent form, the open sighted – exposed ignition, muzzleloader. There are numerous muzzleloader hunts available in Oregon, for both deer and elk. Third, this form of bowhunting restricts the ethical range of the archer to 30 yards or less, thus reducing opportunity and harvest levels upon the game resource. Finally, Oregon has one of the richest bowhunting heritages in our country – of which you may have witnessed through the Oregon Archery Heritage Museum which was on display for many months adjacent your Commission meeting chambers. This is another opportunity to showcase our unique bowhunting heritage in Oregon.

The national organization that I represent, the Professional Bowhunters Society, puts high value on maintaining traditional values, promoting the highest ethical standards, wise wildlife conservation, and the preservation of traditional bowhunting seasons. We share a very strong interest in the proposal developed by TAO. We fully expect to leave specific details, such as tag numbers and hunt dates to ODFW staff. However, several of our membership live and bowhunt in Oregon, and we would make ourselves fully available to give input that would help make this "heritage concept" a reality.

Sincerely,


Jim Akenson
PBS President

12/5/16

ldd

ODFW Mailroom

DEC 05 2016

Received

ODFW

Director's Office

Sir

For many years my friends and I have archery hunted together. Now because we are getting older we no longer hunt due to a lack of strength to draw a Compound Bow back.

Because of arthritis & other disabilities,

Oregon is the only State that does not allow hunting with a crossbow. How absurd!

So many of us have no hunting options any longer.

Please look at how the other 49 states manage their hunting with a crossbow.

Thank You
from all of us

Baby Boomers

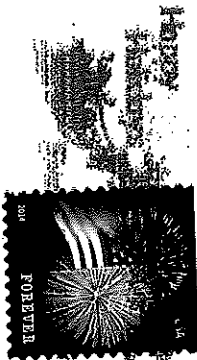
that would like
to hunt again

Amere
5300 River Rd N
97303

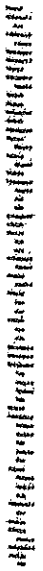
Cent Moleher, Director
4034 Farmview Rd. DR. SE
Salem OR. 97302

ODFLW

PORTLAND OR 970
02 DEC 2005 PM 2 L



37302-114234



Roxann B Borisch

From: Jason Schiele <bobcatwf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2016 8:03 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: The good old days

Your hunting in Oregon has gone to hell. Keep raising your predators and raising your tag fees. The only thing your doing is loosing your revenue and your young hunters. We hunt 2 other states and your doing something wrong!!!

Sent from my iPhone

ODFW Info

From: Robert Tally [<mailto:RTally@bluecc.edu>]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 10:32 AM
To: 'odfw.info@state.or.us' <odfw.info@state.or.us>
Cc: 'Larson, Lars' <lars.larson@alphamediausa.com>
Subject: Disabled veterans

I feel that disabled veterans that defended this country, not just this state, have more than earned a price break on out of state tags. Could we not reduce the cost for these individuals to a resident classification? Not only would you be helping them but you could possibly gain revenue from this group that would otherwise not consider hunting in Oregon as an option at out of state pricing.

Robert

Robert Tally
Information Systems Analyst
2411 NW Carden | PO Box 100
Pendleton | Oregon 97801
phone: 541-278-5830 | mobile:

Roxann B Borisch

From: keith truax <ktruax@hughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4:00 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: 2016 2nd season elk - heppner unit

Need a place to vent, don't know that it will have any impact, but will get to say what I have to say. Have been hunting the sugarbowl area of the Heppner unit off and on the past 20 – 25 years. Over this time there has been a steady decline in the amount of elk seen on public land. After the opening weekend if you want to see elk the best bet is to stop along the 53 road or highway 395 bordering the private ranches where they can usually be seen by the hundreds grazing like cattle in the fields. I don't know if this is true or not but quite some time ago I was told that if by mid week there wasn't hunting pressure on the private lands Fish and Game would fly the area to try to disperse the herds. If it is true then I think it is time to start doing it again. I know the weather this year wasn't ideal for elk hunting, but among the 20+ camps in the sugarbowl area there was one spike harvested, I believe on opening day. Very few shots heard Saturday, fewer still Sunday and nearly non existent the rest of the season. Talking to as many hunters as I came across, they saw few elk opening weekend and not much at all the rest of the season. The majority of the camps were gone by Wednesday, when I pulled out Sunday morning there were none left. We did see one cougar and two cougar kills, two branch antler bulls and a few cows and calves while spending the first 6 hours of each day hunting on foot. There were two other cougars sighted that I am aware of. I know they are out there, but this is the first time I have seen or heard of others seeing them in this area. With the pressure of the first hunting season moving elk to or towards the private land something needs to be done to ensure the elk don't just move to the private lands for the season. Personally, I don't care if I ever shoot another spike or not, I'm there for my kids to get there elk. I just really enjoy being in the woods hoping to see elk even if they are cows and calves, not so much when you are spending the amount of time we are in the field and not seeing/hearing elk.

Keith Truax

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ken H <haleysfarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 1:37 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Pioneer License

I have been an Oregon resident since 1985. I have bought Fishing and Hunting licenses since then. I am a Master Hunter and have my Concealed Carry License.

I am now retired. I make \$ 678.00 per month and find the hunt license, controlled hunt tags and fishing license, tags and everything else are getting to where I may have to quit some of it.

Why do you make it 50 years to qualify for a discount Pioneer License. That would make most Pioneers 70 years old or older. Most would not be able to hunt or fish or are dead. Why not 25 years. That would be a very reasonable requirement. Plus a combined hunt/fish combo at a reasonable cost.

Maybe its time to lower that requirement so we can keep hunting and fishing. You claim there are less people doing this. Maybe they can't afford it. You need to keep the old timers (ME) out there in the field recruiting young hunters and fishermen.

Here is what I spent in 2016

Hunt License	\$ 32.00	
Controlled hunt tag	\$ 8.00	Then did not get my tag.....
Fish License	\$ 38.00	
Angler Tag	\$ 35.00	

I quit putting in for Elk. Can't afford it.

Think about it..Gotta keep the old timers out there to keep the young ones out there.

--

Ken - 503-749-1466

Haley Farm

Aumsville, Oregon 97325

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Roxann B Borisch

Subject:

FW: Changes for 2018

From: Don and Fara [<mailto:faraquilts@charter.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 02, 2017 11:40 AM

To: ODFW <ODFW.comments@state.or.us>

Subject: Changes for 2018

Oregon Department of Fish and Game.

Commissioners. January 2, 2017

I think you should make the following changes for 2018.

1. Save money by using news print instead of the slick paper you are currently using for the synopsis. Besides that, newsprint is easier to recycle than that slick paper you are using, and you should be setting an example. It illustrates a complete lack of concern for our environment by ODFW. Shame on you.
2. Add a muzzle loader bull hunt for Powers prior to the rifle season. This would help disperse elk, and increase escapement during regular rifle season. Reduce spike tags by half.
3. For elk, go to a three point regulation in more western units. Tioga has one of the highest elk populations in the western units in spite of what I'd term to many cow hunts. That one regulation really tips the odds in the bulls favor.
4. Advise hunters that a large part of the Tioga unit are on Weyerhaeuser lands, which charges a trespass fee. I'd actually like to see Tioga split into Weyerhaeuser, and Tioga. Each a separate drawing. Limit regular Tioga hunts to about 500 hunters each, and for Weyerhaeuser 3,000.
5. Scrap the road closure green dot system on the Rogue Forest during elk season. The green dot system may have been necessary back when there were clear cuts everywhere, and cover was an issue. Now cover is not an issue. It has

to cost you quite a bit to administer that regulation, and for what? A three point regulation wouldn't cost anything, and would protect bulls more than the green dot system.

6. I like the premium hunts. Good job. That should increase funding at virtually no cost to game. I would like to see how many hunters applied to each unit listed in the synopsis, but if costs much to produce that forget it.

7. I like the regulation for muzzle loader elk hunts which prohibits shooting cows on National Forest lands. You should see an increase in the elk populations soon, and I say this as I see snow outside my window.

CONCERNS:

Deer and elk populations in Powers unit particularly are low from what I've seen. I hunted the last couple weeks of deer season in Powers, to scout for elk. Then I hunted the Powers 2 hunt. In all that time I never saw one big buck, and damn few deer, which is disappointing. I really like to see those big bucks during elk season. Gives me a lift for next season. The habitat looks ideal, but the animals just aren't there. Damn few tracks even. After this season I'm thinking why bother. Judging by the beer cans in off the track places I suspect there's quite a bit of poaching going on. I've also heard that disease may be a problem, and of course some hunters are blaming predation, but I think a predator would have a hard time making a living there. Is there something I can do to help?

You need to do more to pressure Forest Service into harvesting more trees to increase forage for deer and elk. I think that is the number one cause of deer and elk populations declining.

Don Wilson
1224 NW Ethel Court
Roseburg, Or. 97471
Ph. 541-673-3768

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jan or Paul Swaggerty <pjcs wag@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2017 9:07 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us; BLM_OR_VL_Mail@blm.gov
Subject: Some feed back

Thank you for all your hard work. Oregon is a wonderful state to live in and my family takes full advantage of our public lands for hunting deer, elk and birds. With out these public lands I doubt we would be hunting at all.

I drew a Harney Basin doe tag this year and we really needed this high quality meat but alas I did not get time to go. The question I have is why is this season so short? If the goal is to take some deer from the population, why not have the season last a month?

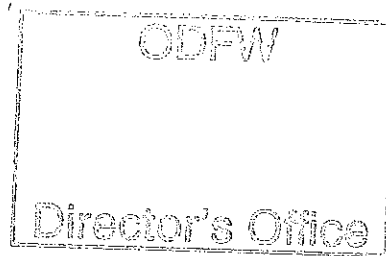
I also wonder why the control elk seasons are so short? These short seasons put all the hunters in the woods at the same time and it takes longer than a week to harvest an elk. Is the goal to sell tags? or provide a reasonable chance for tag holders to harvest that high quality meat for our tables? Please consider making the seasons longer so hunters can have a chance and not spend all their vacation time on a hunt that is over crowded typically to warm. A longer season would allow hunters to hunt Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Go back to work and hunt the next weekend too. Perhaps the elk with have moved into their area or unit by then as well.

Bird hunting is what we do for most of the fall and winter. We have dogs and spend 20 to 30 days in the field a year. Chukar, Quail and Pheasant can be found on BLM in the East. I have a hard time believing that cattle ranchers are "good stewards" of our public lands. All over our public lands cattle have destroyed the habitat and polluted our springs, and rivers. We really don't need this many cows. As a tax payer, I am done subsidizing cattle ranching. I talk to lots of ranchers and many complain about the Federal Government. They are so ungrateful to tax payers whose land they are destroying. I know some grazing is good for the range, but there are to many cows, they don't move them around and there is not enough water so they haul it to them. Ranching is just a romantic notion of a very bad past that has screwed up much of our lands in the west. I would support no more grazing on public land. It is not sustainable and a poor use of our lands. Ranching can go the way of wooden shoe making.

I hope you respond to me on those above questions, but I also know you have many things to do and you must get lots of mail. Thanks for your time.

Eat Deer not Beef,
Paul Swaggerty

DEAR MR. McLELLER,
DIRECTOR ODFW



1/8/17

I WAS ISSUED AN OREGON DISABILITY
HUNTING AND FISHING PERMIT THIS PAST OCT 2016.
I'VE BEEN HUNTING AND FISHING IN OREGON SINCE
1958, I WAS 16.

I NOTICED IN THE BIG GAME REGULATIONS, PAGE
93, DISABILITIES HUNTING AND FISHING PERMIT
INFORMATION THAT THE WILSON OR TRASK UNITS
ARE NOT LISTED FOR ELK HUNTING.

AS A DISABLED HUNTER WITH A CARDIAC CONDITION
I AM ALSO ON KIDNEY DIALYSIS 3 DAYS A WEEK
FOR 3 HOURS AT A TIME.

HUNTING EASTERN OREGON FOR DEER OR ELK
IS OUT, AND THE CLOSEST UNIT AVAILABLE IS
SIUSLAW, BUT FOR A ONE DAY TRIP ITS TOO FAR
AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTIME TO HUNT
BEFORE YOU WOULD HAVE TO HEAD BACK.

THE WILLAMETTE UNIT DOESN'T HAVE ELK?

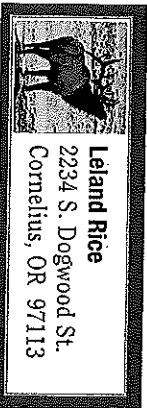
SO IM ASKING YOU AND YOUR STAFF TO
PLEASE RECONSIDER OPENING THE WILSON OR
TRASK UNITS FOR US DISABLED HUNTERS. MOST OF
US CAN ONLY HUNT ONE DAY AT A TIME. AND
OVER NIGHT IS COMPLETELY OUT.

PLEASE RECONSIDER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. SINCERELY

LELAND RICE

2234 S DOGWOOD ST CORNELIUS OR
97113



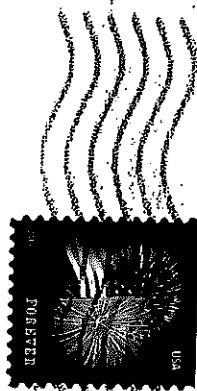
ODFW Mailroom

JAN 12 2017

Received

KURT Melcher, Director ODFW
Salem Headquarters Office
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
~~State of Oregon~~ OREGON 97302

PORTLAND OR 972
09 JAN 2017 PM 3 1



January 9, 2017

Curt Melcher, Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, Or 97302

Dear Mr. Melcher,

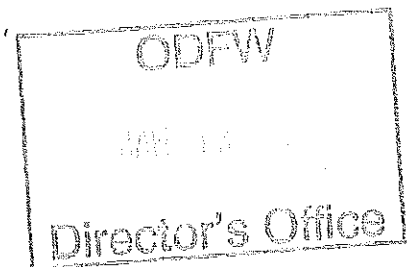
It's time Oregon address the unlimited use of ATV's (4 wheel, 2 wheel, snowmobiles) during legal hunting hours. These so called "hunters" who have no regard for prime hunting hours, road closures, or wilderness areas in their use of ATV's need to have restrictions.

Attached you will find a brief summary of how Minnesota addresses the use of ATV's to preserve some quality hunting.

What can be done to implement some action in the State of Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald Karls
24541 E bright Ave
Welches, Or 97067



ARE THERE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE DURING DEER SEASON?

To reduce disturbance during the prime deer hunting times, operation of off-highway vehicles and snowmobiles is restricted during the regular firearms deer season:

Licensed deer hunters

Licensed deer hunters must not operate an off-highway vehicle or snowmobile on public or private property in an area where their license is valid except:

- Before legal shooting hours (½ hour before sunrise)
- From 11am until 2pm.
- After legal shooting hours (½ hour after sunset).
- On property they own.
- On private property with the landowner's permission.
- Under a permit issued by a conservation officer in an emergency or other unusual situation.

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Zumwalt Cow Hunts

From: Cammie & Gabe [mailto:gcdhale@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 9, 2017 11:38 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us; odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Mike Hale <halem@eoni.com>
Subject: Zumwalt Cow Hunts

First off I would like to say I appreciate the concern for landowners and the effort to seek a balance between wildlife and livestock on private land. My family grazes cattle on the Zumwalt in the summer and fall and winters on the lower Imnaha.

What is concerning to me, especially with the winter of 2016-2017 is the fact there are seven seasons (ten including archery and the rifle bull hunts) starting in August and ending in January. That is five months of elk being pursued with barely a week in between hunting seasons. Success is fairly high as reported in 2015 averaging over 60% in the first four seasons. This doesn't include three more hunts and another 330 tags. That puts the cow elk harvest between 450-530 depending on success of the last three seasons. Don't forget the landowner depredation tags. I realize the Chesnimnus elk herd is over management objective.

This hunt is supposed to be a predominately private land hunt on the Zumwalt. Most of the elk migrate to the canyons specifically the Imnaha and its tributaries during December. So now my question is, should we be hunting elk on their winter range? There are no elk on the Zumwalt currently or at least where they can be accessed. I don't believe this was the intent of the Zumwalt hunt. Yes there has been some mild winters and elk will stay longer on top versus the canyons when this occurs. However this hasn't been the case the past few winters and we have seen many elk on the lower Imnaha road Forest Service 4260.

Not only does the seasons in December and January put a lot of pressure on the elk wintering it also brings more hunters and traffic along the lower Imnaha road from Fence Creek end of pavement to Cow Creek approximately 14 miles down river. I have never seen more traffic on the this road than the past couple winters.

The lower Imnaha road FS 4260 is a one lane very rough and winding road not designed or maintained for the amount of traffic as I have seen this past month. The road is used for local ranchers to access their cattle and ranches. These late season hunts have added another element that local ranchers have to deal with while trying to haul hay, cows or horses on this road. Combined with the winter conditions this has become very hazardous for anyone on the road including the hunters. We have had to chain up most of the month because of the conditions and the additional traffic.

Some suggestions for a solution would be to change the hunt boundary and end it at Fence Creek or eliminate all December/January Zumwalt hunts. If you could please forward to Pat Matthews here at the Enterprise office.

Thank you for your time,

Gabe Hale
Enterprise, OR
541-426-3707

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Snake River - Bighorn Sheep
Attachments: h. c. attatchment.doc

From: Jon Barker [<mailto:jonbarker7@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Holly Akenson <ODFW.Commission@state.or.us>; pat.matthews@state.or.us; Don Whittaker <Don.Whittaker@state.or.us>
Subject: Snake River - Bighorn Sheep

Commissioner Akenson, Pat and Don,

I wanted to get a discussion going and have made a few suggestions concerning the Snake River Big Horn sheep hunts. I have included a supplemental attachment for further data.

Re: Snake River sheep unit

Commissioner Akenson, Pat and Don,

I am writing to you to recommend expanding the N. Snake River's sheep hunting area to include areas upstream of its current Trail Gulch boundary that drain into the Snake River.

There are several reasons that I feel it would be a benefit to ODFW and the Bighorn Sheep herd if this Bighorn Sheep unit were expanded to include the portion of the Snake River upstream of it's current boundary.

- A. The number of rams in this area has continued to increase over the past years.
- B. Having the option to hunt rams further upstream with the same number of tags will allow those rams downstream in the unit to reach an older age.
- C. Others and myself have recently seen very large rams on the Oregon river face above Pittsburg Landing. A good ram died on the Idaho side of old age and was turned in by a jet boat captain in 2016 and a massive 205 ram was harvested in 2016 without any authorized season.
- D. Oregon is directly headed for a very similar event. The harvesting of this Idaho ram will encourage tribal hunters to visit this area on both sides of the river more frequently. Several of these Oregon rams are quite old and could easily die in one more year.

E. Because of the nature of these older rams and the recent developments in Idaho, I feel it is a good time for the Commission and ODFW to consider this prospect. Because it is time sensitive, this is an action which the Commission should consider enacting this year.

F. This is an opportunity to raise more money for Oregon's sheep program. I firmly believe taking an occasional ram from the upper canyon will not affect the health of the herd. These will overwhelmingly be old rams which will die of natural causes extremely soon if not hunted. Extremely soon.

Please see attachment below,

Jon Barker

Jon Barker

34808 Hassinger Road, Lenore, Idaho 83541

Home: (208) 836-5551 Cell: (509) 780-9599

Email: jonbarker7@gmail.com

Snake River Data:

The most recent ram harvested in Unit 13 during September 2016, scored 206 gross and 205 net B&C. This would be a new U.S. record if it were taken in an open hunt with a valid tag. Ponder that. He would be the largest ram ever known anywhere in the U.S. for the last 100 years. I think ODFW and the sheep management program would see a noticeable increase in funding if you extended this sheep boundary. Every year, for example, the Montana auction tag for sheep brings in \$300,000 to \$480,000 for wild sheep management. The recent Idaho unit 13 ram harvested is larger than any ram ever taken or picked up in Montana. The Oregon side of the river in the currently closed portion has rams considerably larger than anything else in the state. These Oregon rams are geographically extremely close to the Idaho unit 13 rams. The notoriety of this recent Unit 13 ram has spread quickly through the sheep industry and I am certain that bidders and individuals buying small numbers of raffle tickets would greatly increase their expenditures in Oregon if they knew they could go to the same region where this Idaho ram was just taken.

Economics matter. This is an opportunity to increase the funds in Oregon's Bighorn sheep program in order to assist with disease research, transplants and monitoring of the herds.

The genetics are there. This was not a one-time deal. I can anticipate there being hesitancy to add a sheep unit or create an additional tag and that is why I have introduced this as a recommendation to simply change the geographic boundary, not to open a new hunt or add a new tag or open it when there is a big ram just for the auction bidder or the raffle winner. I think this boundary extension alleviates the concerns that might arise by adding a new hunt or giving special consideration to only one tag holder. I have heard other potential concerns, which I feel that I can address.

1. It would be better to wait until this portion of the Snake River has it's own viable herd and then create a separate hunt in this unit.
 - a. If we continue to wait, additional large, older age class rams will just continue to grow even older and die in this unit or be harvested without a sanctioned tag being offered there. This really is a time sensitive issue.

- b. Occasionally taking a ram out of the upper end of the canyon will not significantly reduce the ram ratio of that herd.
- c. If there are larger, older rams in the upstream part of the unit, someone will hunt there and not in the lower part of the unit. I know some people may anticipate that everyone will go to the new part of the unit and harvest too many rams on that end of the sheep hunt. I am certain this will not happen because ram tags are a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. No one is going to continue to only take rams in the upper end while there are better, older, larger rams in the lower end and vice-versa. Offering larger, older rams without adding any additional tags will give each end of the unit time to rebound and gain some age on each animal. The tag holders themselves will balance the harvest on one end of this combined unit or the other by taking the most mature rams.
- d. I have great respect for Pat's experience and what he is trying to do with the herds. We have talked briefly about my proposal. The approach I have suggested will give hunters the opportunity to harvest these great rams with a valid tag while Pat continues to study whether additional tags are warranted. This would be a good test to see whether there really should be two units along the Snake River or just one.

My basic premise is that we have an avenue to offer older, larger rams for the tag holders that can currently hunt in the unit, while at the same time not adding a single "extra" sheep tag to the State's system and not adding an extra hunt unit that will always have to support additional tags all by itself in a smaller geographic area. I am sure there are other factors, which may be brought up by a number of people in this group I am writing to. I am eager to be educated as to what those concerns are and how they would affect the current rams along the Snake River in Oregon.

In closing, I guess I would ask persons reading this to ask themselves:

"If there are world-class rams further up Hell's Canyon, why would we continue to hunt the same number of ram tags every year out of a smaller population base downriver, when we could offer the exact same number of rams tags out of a larger pool of rams with an older population base?"

Thank you for taking the time to consider this,

Jon Barker

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: sheep addendum

From: Jon Barker [<mailto:jonbarker7@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2017 6:12 PM

To: Holly Akenson <odfw.commission@state.or.us>; pat.matthews@state.or.us; Don Whittaker <Don.Whittaker@state.or.us>

Subject: sheep addendum

Commissioner Akenson, Pat and Don,

One more point I am not sure if I expressed clearly.

If ODFW were to wait until the Snake River from the current open Boundary up to Sheep Creek or the dam (wherever Pat feels is best) then we may wait forever. If we wait for that area to have the statistical number of sheep for its own herd and hunting tags, then you have to ensure that there are enough animals to take rams out of that section of the canyon. They will be hunted every year. It has proven hard for each geographically separate herds to get up to those numbers which sustain separate hunts.

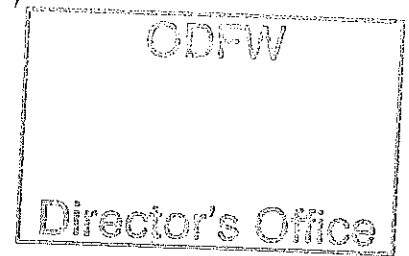
On the other hand, if it is part of a larger unit, it will be the hardest portion to get to, will take more effort to get there and not many rams will be taken. But it will give individuals the chance at times to take a very mature ram. You will not have to guarantee that there are enough rams in that portion of canyon to issue it's own separate tags each year.

I know there are numbers and biological studies to say when an individual herd can sustain it's own hunt. I am suggesting you consider just the opposite. Let's not necessarily keep trying to make more units that come and go with sheep up and downs, but spread the hunting tags over a greater area so pressure is less in any one spot. I know that current hunt boundary downriver has been changed before and I think now includes what used to be separate tags for the Chesnimus and for the Imnaha hunt. Maybe it is time to move it even further upstream.

Jon Barker

Barker River Expeditions ~ Barker Trophy Hunts
www.barkerriver.com ~ www.barkerhunts.com
34808 Hassinger Road, Lenore, Idaho 83541
208-836-5551 (home) ~ 509-780-9599 (cell)

Meriah Kindell
Cascade High School
10226 Marion Rd SE
Turner, OR 97392



1 February, 2017

Curt Melcher
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE,
Salem OR, 97302

For the attention of the Manager of Fish and Wildlife

Dear Mr. Melcher,

My name is Meriah Kindell and I am a senior at Cascade High School. I have been an avid sportsman for many years. I enjoy being outside, and I appreciate the land that us as humans are able to enjoy and experience the thrilling sport of being a hunter. One of my favorite things about hunting is the adrenalin rush you feel once you finally get the animal you have been tracking down for so long. I believe it is crucial to me that I am aware of proper safety for myself and other hunters while participating in this sport. Safety is the concerning topic I am enthused to bring to your attention in this letter.

The concern that I have is important to any hunter. Being an individual who has taken a Hunter Safety Course, I believe that every person who has the power to hold a firearm and has the intent of shooting an animal should have to take a Hunter Safety Course; regardless of their age. I am aware that once an individual turns 18 they do not have to attend the field day part of the course. You do have to show proof of a minimum of a hunter education certificate. A comparison I am making to this, is when an individual gets the privilege to start driving on public roads. Before you can actually start driving independently, you get your permit and have to drive a certain amount of time before you can actually get your license.

In comparison, an individual who wants to become a certified hunter just has to go online, read information in the education course, then has to pay a fee to get the licence. That person does not have any hands on training or experience with shooting. Once that individual receives that license and passes a background check in order to purchase a gun has the freedom to go out in the wilderness and shoot an animal. This is concerning to me because this example could in fact put my own or even your life in danger because of lack of experience. I personally believe that any person who wants to be a safe hunter needs to have a certain amount of hands on or training hours.

The Oregon Online Hunter Education Course states that if one is 18 years of age or older, they have to successfully complete the online course and print off a paper showing proof that that the

course was completed. I am shocked that that is the only requirements to be able to hunt once you are 18 and older. Another bit of information I read was that a resident or non-resident born on or after January 1, 1961 must complete a hunter education course prior to purchasing a season hunting license. However, I also read that that an individual does not have to take an online hunter education course if they wish t hunt on their own private property or hunt on a parents or guardians land.

To conclude my concerns, the safety of myself and others is the main concern I hope to portray to you. I strongly believe that for an individual to legally carry a firearm and hunt on public or private land, they need to have a certain amount of hours of experience or training. Whether it be being exposed to shooting at a target for a certain amount of hours or really learning the importance of knowing critical safety when hunting. Like I said before, an individual who wishes to drive a car on public roads is required to have a certain amount of time spent practicing the activity. Both of these activities come with huge responsibilities and can put another person's life in danger.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and hopefully you understand my concerns.

Sincerely,
Meriah Kindell

Meriah Kindell

ASCADÉ
HIGH SCHOOL

226 Marion Rd SE
Turner, OR 97392

PORTLAND
OR 970
02 FEB '17
PN-41



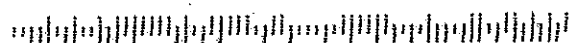
ODFW Mailroom

FEB 06 2016

Received

Curt Melcher
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE,
Salem OR, 97302

97302-114234



Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Proposal for Reduction of minimum draw weight for Archery Elk

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

From: Andy Evans [mailto:andy@kudupoint.com]

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:04 PM

To: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Cc: bentonbow@juno.com

Subject: Proposal for Reduction of minimum draw weight for Archery Elk

Commissioners,

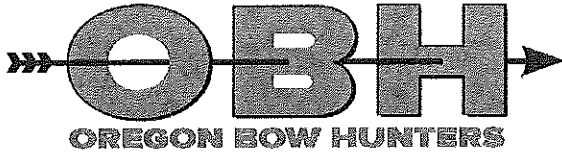
We support the proposal to reduce the draw weight restriction for elk from 50 pounds to 40 pounds, thereby making it consistent with other big game. The reasons others have offered for support of this proposal are valid; that it expands opportunities for women and youth, provides consistency with other states, and is facilitated by improved efficiency of modern equipment.

Our company, KuduPointUSA LLC, is an Oregon manufacturer of broadheads that are noted for their accuracy, extreme penetration and exceptional wound channel characteristics. Consistent performance has been proven by ourselves and numerous objective and independent studies. We invite you to research our products and other available Single-Bevel broadheads while considering this proposal.

Sincerely,
Andrew L Evans

--

Andy
KuduPointUSA LLC



March 5, 2017

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem OR 97302

RE: Restoring a Week to the Start of the Late Blacktail
Archery Season

Dear Commissioners:

Oregon Bow Hunters (OBH) respectfully requests that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission restore one (1) week at the start of the late western-Oregon archery deer hunt in several northern game management units (GMOs) where the hunt now exists.

Since the late western-Oregon archery season was first established in 1969, there have been about a week's worth of delays to the start of the late archery season following the close of the general firearms deer season to allow Blacktail a respite between hunting seasons. We certainly find no fault with that science-based delay.

However, the start of the late archery season in several northern GMUs where the hunt exists was further delayed in about 2002 in order to accommodate a then new muzzleloader season. Bowhunters had been assured by advocates of the new muzzleloader season that their season would need not cause any change to the late archery season. Even so, when the new muzzleloader season was established, ODFW staff pushed the start of the late archery season back another week based primarily on a concern that it would be unsafe for a firearms (muzzleloader) season to overlap an archery season (even though the end of the new muzzleloader season overlapped the delayed start of the late archery season). And, the delay occurred even in GMUs where no muzzleloader season was to be established and where no potential safety conflict would occur.

In the years since the start of the late western-Oregon archery season was delayed for a muzzleloader season on the supposed basis of a safety concern, ODFW has established numerous firearms hunts overlapping archery seasons. We believe that these actions clearly demonstrate that the delay of the late western-Oregon archery hunt in the northern GMUs is unnecessary, even inappropriate given ODFW's obvious record of scheduling firearms hunts overlapping archery hunts. We believe it is past time that ODFW restore a week to the start of the late western-Oregon archery hunt in the northern GMUs where the season was delayed in 2002.

Sincerely,

--S--

Craig Starr
2nd VP Bowhunting and Legislation

We fight hard so you can hunt hard!

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Thermal Imaging
Attachments: Screen Shot 2017-03-09 at 2.29.33 PM.png; Screen Shot 2017-03-09 at 2.29.01 PM.png

From: Jay Matthews [<mailto:jd.matthews@live.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 5:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Thermal Imaging

To whom it may concern-

This note is to express my concern in a new Leupold handheld thermal imaging device - the LTO tracker. Thermal imaging is a technology allows the user to detect animal heat signatures from hundreds of yards away. The LTO is currently being marketed as a tracking device for downed game but I can already see people's intent to use this technology as a tool aiding in the location of game. I commend the ODFW for proactively considering, and acting on, the use of drones while scouting and hunting, and believe that the same approach must be taken in regards to thermal imaging. It is imperative that steps be taken before this capability makes its way afield and becomes solidified as a traditional use practice.

I reiterate that this technology WILL be used as a way to locate game in a hunting scenario. While I fully support innovation that aides in a hunters ability to retrieve downed game to help ensure the safe and successful harvest of this resource, I believe it is important to collectively review the use of new technology to ensure the long term, successful coexistence of healthy game populations and fair chase hunting.

Please see some attached images and consumer interpretations of its use.

Jay Matthews
Oregon Resident
jd.matthews@live.com

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Optics Technology Regulation
Attachments: Screenshot_2017-03-09-12-25-32.jpeg

From: Nathan LeMieux [<mailto:nathan.m.lemieux@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 1:49 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Optics Technology Regulation

To whom it may concern,

This note is to express my concern with a new optics device that I believe will be abused when it comes to hunting use. Leupold has a new handheld thermal optics device, LTO - Tracker Thermal Imaging, that allows the user to detect animal heat signatures from hundreds of yards away. It is being marketed to assist in tracking wounded animals but I believe it will be used to find/locate animals as well. I am already seeing interest on social media of peoples' intent to use this device in this way. Similar to the new regulation Oregon passed to ban the use of drones for scouting and hunting purposes, I believe the state needs to get ahead of this new technology before it becomes prevalent. If you are not already looking at regulation for this and similar devices I would encourage you to do so. Please see the attached Instagram post of a local archery shop promoting this devices's use in hunting.

Thank you,

Nate LeMieux
Oregon Resident
nathan.m.lemieux@gmail.com
810-923-2113

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Adding one week to the beginning of the NW Oregon late Blacktail bow season

From: Meyer, Howard [<mailto:howard.h.meyer@oregonstate.edu>]

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 10:49 PM

To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us

Cc: Craig <craig1945@centurylink.net>; Gordon Matzke (matzkeg@gmail.com) <matzkeg@gmail.com>; David Leer <i_am_180iq@hotmail.com>; Romsos, Christopher Glenn <cromsos@coas.oregonstate.edu>; Steve Faust <faust4947@yahoo.com>

Subject: Adding one week to the beginning of the NW Oregon late Blacktail bow season

To: ODFW Commissioners

On behalf of the Benton Bowmen I wish to support the OBH (Oregon Bowhunters) proposal to add one week to the beginning of the late Blacktail bow season in NW Oregon. The OBH proposal outlines the history of changes made to the bowhunting season resulting in the loss of the week preceding the current opening of the late season. I wish to comment on the real effects to bowhunters.

Blacktail deer, especially mature bucks, are well known for their pattern of visibility (or otherwise) during the year. During summer when their antlers are in velvet, bucks spend considerable time in the open, ostensibly to avoid injury to their sensitive antlers. Their antlers mature and velvet is rubbed off right around the opening of the general archery season and bucks quickly disappear from sight into heavier vegetation. During most of the general bow season (month of September) mature bucks are very hard to find.

As the rut approaches in late October, bucks become very active in their search for estrus does and once again become visible; however, during this time bowhunting is closed. By the time the current late bow season opens in mid-November the active pursuit of does is winding down, and within a short time bucks are no longer actively roaming during daylight hours on the lookout for estrus does.

This pattern of activity has been documented countless times by use of trail cameras – plenty of daylight pics of mature bucks during late October/early November, but by the time the late bow season opens mature bucks have essentially become nocturnal, and it is rare that they are captured on camera during daylight hours.

Mature blacktail bucks are a greatly underutilized resource. Their regular appearance on trail cameras (especially at night) documents that there are lots of mature bucks around, but their incidence of harvest is very low. Without data to prove it, I strongly suspect that with the exception of cougars, no Oregon game animal has a lower harvest rate by hunters. Restoring the opening of the late bow season one week earlier – to match the date of the opener in SW Oregon – would greatly enhance the opportunity to harvest mature bucks. By no means would this make it easy – bowhunter success is notoriously low in all hunting – but would add exciting possibilities for bowhunters.

Respectfully,

Dr. Howard Meyer

Past President
Benton Bowmen
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 752-2098

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike Martell <mmartell1957@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:49 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; REP Sprenger; REP Barreto; REP Esquivel; REP Witt; SEN Girod
Subject: Fwd: Wildlife Management in Oregon
Attachments: SCAN0604.JPG; SCAN0629.JPG; SCAN0623.JPG; SCAN0626.JPG; SCAN0627.JPG; 11244581_580175498791937_267925178880709628_o.jpg; SCAN0341.JPG

Greetings ODFW Commission and Oregon State Legislators

Safe to say I'm done trying to reason logic with cougar bills that continually are killed in committee or the Senate. Sport hunters aren't interested in the options within the legislature this session without a way to retain hunting anything once a bill is passed. Below is a depiction of what was sold to an unsuspecting Oregon Legislature as part of H.B. 2971 in 2007. after this bill sunset, 87 of the 90 members of both the house and senate re-upped this nonsense under H.B. 2390 the agent bill. This was done without full disclosure to policy makers, I would assume? I don't think this would pass the smell test for one second? How ironic? While during the 2016 session, lawmakers passed H.B. 4046 making it a serious crime to kill a bear-cougar or wolf illegally in Oregon. What great timing with USDA killing the wolf in Wallowa County as reported in Ag news!

Sport hunters are sickened by repeatedly being used as the punching bag to support the elimination of sport hunting with hounds in Oregon while being replaced with this? ODFW is on the record in Opposition of a constitutional amendment to protect the right to hunt fish and trap? Are you kidding me? Sport hunters are well aware of what's been happening for many years in Oregon and will put a stop to this, one way or another! How's this for irony? In repeated testimony, it's been revealed by ODFW that houndsmen can't be trusted, only the Federal government can?

Now you know why USDA's David Williams is taking the fifth when I requested the black bear cub reports from 2009 to present! Forget Williams! This information is available through ODFW in Corvallis, just contact Richard Green and request black bear harvest reports, pick any year between 2009 and present and you will not find but a few cubs documented in these reports because they are shot and left to rot! My first report from Williams indicated from 2005-2009 there were 189 second year cubs and only five first year cubs? Think about that? Impossible since the ratio should be closer to 1 to 1. The reason ODFW and USDA does this? You the politician have no idea what they are talking about and out of sight, behind all those locked gates, is also out of mind, besides, can you imagine dead baby cubs in the back of a publically owned vehicle?

The joke is on Oregonians, the legislative branch of government and more so? The destruction of Wildlife! Here is another ironically timed bill in Salem to go after poachers in Oregon with again the majority voting yes in support of H.B. 4046, to put a stop the three SSS, shoot-shovel and shut up? I really don't care if ODFW found a legal loophole to kill the baby cubs and leave them or not! Compared to sport hunting with hounds, this is immoral, disgusting and just down right pathetic! Please don't give sport hunters nothing, we don't want anything but USDA out of hound hunting and the black bear snaring business!

Wildlife in Oregon deserves better! Please take the time to read the link below, it's in Nevada just like what USDA does all across the West and Oregon!. Now you understand why I oppose "funded predator districts". News flash folks! Sport hunters pay their own way.

Here is a classic example of what I'm talking about that just hit the newspapers and social media yesterday, catching USDA in a compromising, embarrassing situation in Wallowa County.

Quote directly from the Ag news paper "Previously, Wildlife Services did not use M-44s in what the state designated as Areas of Known Wolf Activity. After wolves were taken off the state endangered species list in 2015, it was ODFW's understanding that Wildlife Services would continue to avoid using M-44s in such areas.

"We discussed our concerns specifically regarding M-44s," ODFW spokesman Rick Hargrave said last week. "We didn't want those devices in those areas.

"We believed it was clear what our concerns were," Hargrave said.

Williams, the Wildlife Services state director, said he wants to focus on preventing another wolf death rather than "who messed up here." End of newspaper quote.....Are you kidding me? USDA got caught with it's pants down folks!

Check who found the dead wolf? I guarantee you it was a witness and not the agent or this wolf would have been shoveled and why the Oregon legislature voted for H.B. 4046 last year by a unanimous majority in Salem to keep people like us houndsmen from breaking the law while you all continue to support USDA?

Question? Why are sport hunters allowed to hunt deer and elk in Oregon or any place else in the US? Management tools for the State folks! Sport hunters with hounds that are paid for by sport hunters and not tax paying citizens, sport houndsmen happen to be the most humane and ethical hunting method compared to your alternative USDA! Snares don't walk away from Sows and baby cubs like sport hound hunters. Snares also catch many non targeted species like the two cougar caught a few years back on the Santiam 300 line above Sweet Home, why were these two cougar not released by the agent? Because they are vermin to USDA and Contractors and there were no witnesses except for the buddy who the agent thought he could trust that took the picture of the cougar in the bear snare!. I asked Mr. Anglin this question in person a few years back, his reply was astounding and I quote, "animals that are beyond saving caught in the snare can be euthanized (killed) by the agent!" Really? Then how could the ankle catch snare be called "humane" How ironic! We were condemned for selection before harvesting a bear. Please let that sink in!

Retired ODFW Administrator Ronald Anglin kept stating the obvious," without the use of hounds? Management objectives can't be reached". Do you not understand this? Look at Mr. Anglin's email explaining how the administrative cougars end up in the landfills! Williams email "Cougars are to be pursued randomly, all are to be euthanized by the agent including the females and baby kittens!" Does randomly sound like a solid management practice? More like random death in Williams own words, not mine! Mr. Rick Boatner also explaining how bears are incinerated in Corvallis, those are the surplus one's that don't make the processing plants such as Gene's meats in Mehama Oregon or Steve's meats in Lebanon in my area. What bears are being incinerated? Good question? Why is more like it!

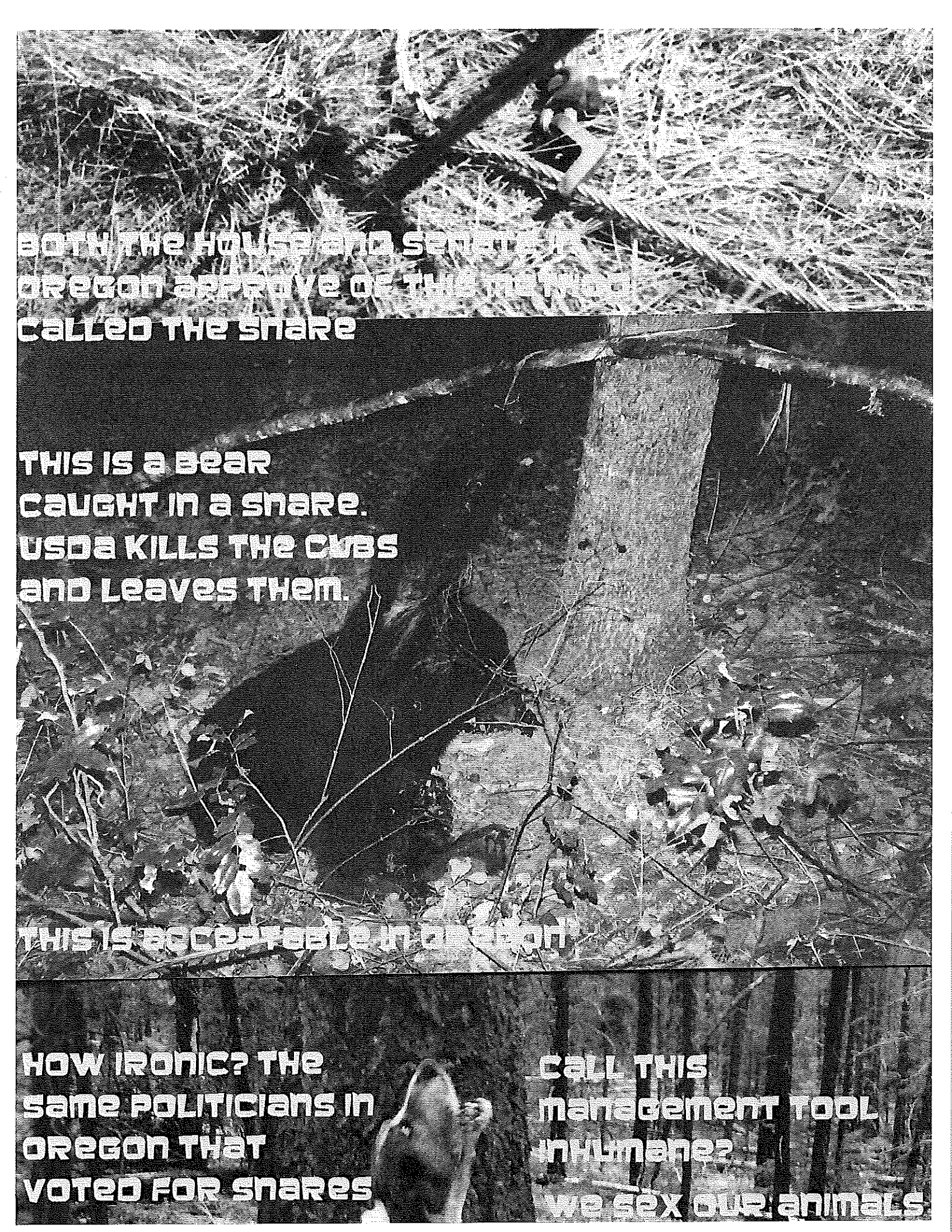
Oregon has an out of control cougar and black bear population. USDA- Contract volunteers and massive amounts of OTC tags for boot hunting has accomplished nothing other than you own what you voted for! What you all agree on? Wildlife will be managed, one way or another, it's no longer an argument opposing hounds, now is it? Mr. Ronald Anglin's quote "Management objectives can't be reached for black bears without hounds". Do something about it!

If we want to bear hunt our United States Military, Purple Heart Veterans with the use of hounds? We must do so in B.C. Canada while this is going on in Oregon? Please let this sink in! Served and sacrificed for the United States of America and being an American and must go to a foreign Country or another legal State to hound hunt while we fund the slaughter of both bear and cougar here in Oregon?

I'm open to defend my statements! Williams is playing you all for fools!

[http://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/i-team- ... /663861364](http://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/i-team-.../663861364) Another classic example of the tax payer / sport hunter funded death squad called USDA Aphis Wildlife Services.

Mike Martell
Sweet Home Or.



**BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF
OREGON APPROVE OF THIS METHOD
CALLED THE SHARE**

**THIS IS A BEAR
CAUGHT IN A SHARE.
USDA KILLS THE CUBS
AND LEAVES THEM.**

THIS IS ACCEPTABLE IN OREGON

**HOW IRONIC? THE
SAME POLITICIANS IN
OREGON THAT
VOTED FOR SHARES**

**CALL THIS
MANAGEMENT TOOL
INHUMANE?
WE SEX OUR ANIMALS**





California

NO COUGAR KILLED IN SNARES SET FOR SPRING BLACK BEARS, REPORTED! WHY DID THE LEGISLATURE PASS H.B. 4046 IN 2016? MAKING THE ILLEGAL TAKE OF A BEAR-COUGAR OR WOLF A SERIOUS CRIME AND CONTINUE TO GREEN LIGHT THIS NONSENSE? THE REPORT SHOWS AN EXAMPLE FROM CALIFORNIA, ANOTHER STATE BANNED BUT LETS USDA HOUNDS FOR BEAR AND COUGAR! MAKES NO SENSE, DOES IT?

TIME FOR SELEM POLITICIANS TO TAKE A TOUR OF ODFW IN CORVALLIS AND ASK ABOUT THEIR BEAR INCINERATION PROGRAM? ASK FOR BLACK BEAR REPORTS AND VERIFY THE CUBS ARE MISSING ON THESE REPORTS, PROVING THE CUBS ARE SHOT AND LEFT LIKE TRASH IN THE WOODS!

The killing agency: Wildlife Services' brutal methods leave a trail of animal death

Share

By Tom Knudson

tknudson@sacbee.com

By Tom Knudson The Sacramento Bee

Last modified: 2012-05-12T07:07:33Z

Published: Sunday, Apr. 29, 2012 - 12:00 am | Page 1A

Last Modified: Saturday, May. 12, 2012 - 12:07 am

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First of three parts

The day began with a drive across the desert, checking the snares he had placed in the sagebrush to catch coyotes.

Gary Strader, an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, stepped out of his truck near a ravine in Nevada and found something he hadn't intended to kill.

There, strangled in a neck snare, was one of the most majestic birds in America, a federally protected golden eagle.

"I called my supervisor and said, 'I just caught a golden eagle and it's dead,' " said Strader. "He said, 'Did anybody see it?' I said, 'Geez, I don't think so.'"

"He said, 'If you think nobody saw it, go get a shovel and bury it and don't say nothing to anybody.' "

"That bothered me," said Strader, whose job was terminated in 2009. "It wasn't right."

Strader's employer, a branch of the federal Department of Agriculture called Wildlife Services, has long specialized in killing animals that are deemed a threat to agriculture, the public and – more recently – the environment.

Since 2000, its employees have killed nearly a million coyotes, mostly in the West. They have destroyed millions of birds, from nonnative starlings to migratory shorebirds, along with a colorful menagerie of more than 300 other species, including black bears, beavers, porcupines, river otters, mountain lions and wolves.

And in most cases, they have officially revealed little or no detail about where the creatures were killed, or why. But a Bee investigation has found the agency's practices to be indiscriminate, at odds with science, inhumane and sometimes illegal.

The Bee's findings include:

- With steel traps, wire snares and poison, agency employees have accidentally killed more than 50,000 animals since 2000 that were not problems, including federally protected golden and bald eagles; more than 1,100 dogs, including family pets; and several species considered rare or imperiled by wildlife biologists.
- Since 1987, at least 18 employees and several members of the public have been exposed to cyanide when they triggered spring-loaded cartridges laced with poison meant to kill coyotes. They survived – but 10 people have died and many others have been injured in crashes during agency aerial gunning operations since 1979.
- A growing body of science has found the agency's war against predators, waged to protect livestock and big game, is altering ecosystems in ways that diminish biodiversity, degrade habitat and invite disease.

Sometimes wild animals must be destroyed – from bears that ransack mountain cabins to geese swirling over an airport runway. But because lethal control stirs strong emotions, Wildlife Services prefers to operate in the shadows.

"We pride ourselves on our ability to go in and get the job done quietly without many people knowing about it,"

2. Cougars killed on damage can be kept by the landowner to do with as they please – some keep them some don't. Cougars killed in the target areas are primarily taken to the landfill.

3. Currently we have three of our 4 target areas where we use agents. In the Warner we primarily use Agents along with some work being done by ODFW. In the Ukiah we use a combination of Agents, ODFW and WS. In the Wenaha we primarily use agents with some small assistance by WS. In the Steens we use WS. In the original target areas we did not have the authority to use agents, so could only look to use our own staff or Wildlife Services. Once we were given the authority and had agents approved for use we started looking to incorporate them into our new target areas.

Ron Anglin

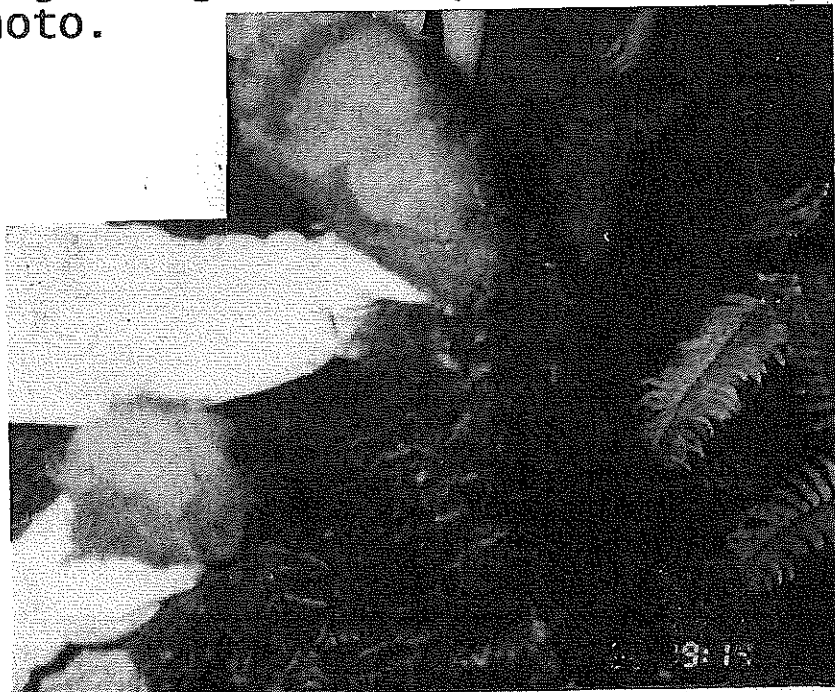
Wildlife Division Administrator

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



This is one of two cougar caught in the same SNARE SET in less than 10 days. These snares are set for spring timber damage black bears by USDA Aphis Wildlife Services and Contractors just outside of Sweet Home Oregon. Severly damaged by the snare, Both cougar were euthanized and dumped.

This picture below is that of a black bear that lost its hind foot struggling in a snare. This bear was harvested by a sport hunter and found out why the bear had a limp to its walk. The more the animal fights, The tighter the snare draws down on the ankle. left long enough will amputate the foot as seen in the photo.



GENERALLY THE BEAR IS CAUGHT BY THE FRONT FOOT MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO PULL OR FIGHT THE SNARE. GIVEN THIS BEAR WAS CAUGHT BY THE BACK FOOT? THE BEAR HAD BOTH FRONT SHOULDER TO PULL AND AMPUTATE THE BEARS HIND FOOT! HOW IS THIS MORE ETHICAL AND HUMANE THAN SELECTION BEFORE HARVESTING WILDER HOUNDS?

ALREADY MY MOTHER SHE
IF SHE WAS GETTING

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BEEN

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ADVANTAGE ONLY

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DI WHO COULD

R THEN YOU

HAVEN'T

MEAN



Your information request

From: **David.E.Williams@aphis.usda.gov**

Sent: Fri 5/07/10 1:23 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Hello Mr. [REDACTED]

I wanted to get back to you with at least some of the information you have requested from me before the week ran out. I am providing you with a response regarding the cougar information you asked for and I will work on getting you the bear information as best as I can next week.

As far as your question or comment regarding an ODFW mandate for us to harvest (kill) female cougars and kittens- This requires more than a yes or no response. Within the 2006 Oregon Cougar Plan there has been some confusion as to whether females are being specifically targeted. Female cougars are not being specifically targeted. There is a discussion in the document that indicates once a certain percentage of the administrative removal or take is comprised of females then according to ODFW's population model they would conclude that the population of cougars would be expected to be on the decline. You can contact ODFW to have them explain their population modeling and the implications of harvesting a certain percentage of females from the estimated populations of cougars in a given area. If your question is, are we required to take a female cougar and her kittens should we encounter them in our equipment or have them treed then my response is: whoever is doing the administrative removal of cougars (Wildlife Services or other ODFW agents) they are to pursue cougars randomly and should they capture a female with kittens then all of them are to be euthanized by the agent.

Regarding the funding or payment of Wildlife Services or other ODFW agents for the administrative removal of cougars- The funds being used to fund the administrative removal of cougars are sportsmen's dollars not general fund dollars. The Legislature does not authorize us a blank check. I can not speak to how much ODFW is paying for the cougar removal we are not involved with, but I will outline how we are compensated. As I said the administrative removal of cougars is paid from sportsmen's dollars that ODFW administers. Wildlife Services and ODFW establish an agreement and financial plan to conduct administrative removal of cougars in the Cougar Target Areas they request our help in. The agreements stipulate how many cougars are to be removed per ODFW's direction, what methods we can use, start and finish date of the projects, and a maximum amount of expenses Wildlife Services will be authorized to charge to ODFW. The agreements are negotiated to identify an estimated maximum cost to complete the removals in the area, but we bill for only actual expenses. We must be accountable through our billings and reporting to ODFW.

Here is the situation for this year in the 5 Cougar Target Areas being worked:

1) Ukiah Target Area- 35 cougars are to be targeted in this area, Wildlife Services is not the primary agent doing the work, most of the removal will be done by other ODFW agents. Wildlife Services is authorized to expend up to \$5,000 to assist. To date we have not administratively removed any cougars in this area.

2) Wenaha Target Area- Wildlife Services is not working this area for ODFW.

3) East Beulah Area- 12 cougars are to be targeted in this area, Wildlife Services has been requested to do the work in this area. Wildlife Services is authorized to expend up to \$28,000. To date we have administratively removed 5 cougars- comprised of 3 adult males, 2 adult females.

4) Steens Target Area- 20 cougars are to be targeted in this area, Wildlife Services has been requested to do the work in this area. Wildlife Services is authorized to expend up to \$40,000. To date we have removed 12 cougars- comprised of 2 sub adult males, 7 adult males, 3 adult females.

5) Warner Target Area- Wildlife Services is not working this area for ODFW.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Norman, Dean C CIV PSNS&IMF, Code 900 <dean.c.norman@navy.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 12:10 PM
To: 'forestryinformation@oregon.gov'; 'ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us'
Subject: (Hunt Unit) 246 East Eagle Creek just east of Medical Springs, OR

Folks,

I am a Washington resident, who hunts in both Washington and Oregon.

I would like to voice my displeasure with my last hunting experience from 2016, in Hunt Unit 246 East Eagle Creek, just east of Medical Springs, OR.

There was a previous fire last 2016 year in this area and I found more discarded plastic bottles everywhere in the woods. It did not matter where I was, there was trash everywhere, and it is obvious the firefighters just discarded these. I'm not downgrading what the firefighters did on putting out this fire, as an urgency so it will not spread, but very disappointed in what they left behind.

Maybe this is a common practice on how they are taught, but I've hunted those woods for several years, just on the edge of the Eagle Cap Wilderness, and I have a bad taste for those that cannot pack it out. As a firefighter, they could have at least burned these empty plastic bottles with a follow-up crew.

Thanks,
Dean Norman
360-731-9059

~~07/10/2016~~ April 2017

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302

To whom it may concern,

We live in Harney County and have applied for land owner tags to hunt on our private ground. Throughout the year we feed a constant supply of deer and antelope. Sometimes as many as 150 -200 head on our pivots, meadows and land on the mountain. They eat a lot of our crop throughout the spring and summer and then when we stack it for winter, they continue to come in at night and eat their fill. They damage our fences and knock down a lot of feed.

This year we have applied for landowner tags and have not received any or all of them. We feel based on the amount of deer and antelope we feed, we deserve to harvest a deer or antelope every season. Some have spoken to the ODFW people in Harney County and they have mentioned a lot of the deer population numbers are calculated from computer data over several years. We encourage the ODFW to get out and see what the land owners are doing for the deer population in Harney County.

Sincerely,

Harney County Land Owners

Rob Horne	unit 170	40002 Williams Creek Ln. Fields OR
Ross Deffenbaugh	unit 168A	50036 White Horse Ranch Ln. Fields OR
Charmaine Edwards	unit 168A	15387 Fields Drive Rd Fields, OR 97710
Dale Dennis	unit 168A	15072 Cottonwood Creek Rd Fields, OR 97710
Ernst Hefner	unit 168A	45931 White Horse Ranch Rd Fields OR
Edie Casey	unit 168A	14827 Cottonwood Rd Fields OR
Mari Casey	unit 168A	14827 Cottonwood Rd Fields OR
Pete Casey	unit 168A	14830 Cottonwood Rd Fields OR
Noami Casey	unit 168A	

CHRIS HOAGLAND

Cindy Hoagland

Anna Defenbaugh

UNIT 170

40002 WILLIAMS CREEK LN.
FIELDS OR 97710.

170 40002 Williams CR LN Fields OR

170-168A-169 15387 Field Or 97710

168A

50036 Whitchose Ranch W.
Fields, OR 97710

Chad Edwards

Lee Borey

170-168-169

168A

15387 Fields-Demo Rd
Fields, OR 9771015387 Fields-Demo Rd
Fields Oregon
P.O. Box 162
Drewsey, OR. 97904

Joe Moser

JOE MOSER

166

168A-170A

12471 FIELDS-DENIO RD
FIELDS, OR 97710

Stacey Moser

168A-170A

12471 Fields-Demo Rd
Fields, OR 97710

Luth Moser

168A-170A

12473 Fields Demo Rd.
Fields, OR 97710

M. Martin Davies

166

48647 Hwy 78
Princeton, Ore 97721
15072 Cottonwood Creek Rd.
Fields OR, 97710

Peg Hennrich

168A

April - 2017

To: Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife

You say you are cutting tags because of the harsh winter. You don't realize how many ~~coyotes~~ deer are killed by coyotes. Some thing needs to be done with the coyotes. They get a deer any time they want one.

We as land owners help keep the deer population up and would like to at least get our land owner tags.



Sincerely,

Edie Casey

14827 Cottonwood Rd

Fields OR 97710

Roxann B Borisch

From: MIKE EDSON <mbedson@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 7:00 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Tag reduction

As a hunter I am glad to see this move to reduce the tags for these areas. Short term it is not happy, but overall it will be a good thing. I kind of wish it would have extended to my area in the upper Deschutes. Thank you

Mike edson
lapine

ODFW Mailroom

APR 20 2017

Received

Dear Doug Cottam

I am writing in concern of the mule deer numbers in Baker County after the harsh winter we just had. I am a cattle rancher and land owner in Baker County. I have more than enjoyed and treasured hunting this magnificent animal for each of the past 18 years. Recently after hiking around some mule deer wintering ground in the Keating unit I came across numerous dead deer totaling a staggering 35 mule deer carcasses in a short amount of time spent in the field. I since have come across more and more carcasses from this brutal winters' toll both in the Keating unit and Lookout unit. While working this spring in mule deer country, deer sightings have been very scarce. From the death toll I have seen and scarce sightings of survivors, I feel the long brutal winter has crippled our already struggling mule deer herd

Please take in deep consideration of closing mule deer hunting this year in the Baker County area and I would strongly support not only closing it this year but also for several years to help this amazing animal to recover to healthy numbers. I strongly believe it is going to take years for the mule deer to recover in our country. Please use this brutal winter as the driving force to get the mule deer back to a stable population. Please value restoring the mule deer to a healthy population over the revenue generated from tag sales. I realize this is all a long shot but please take some action to live up to ODFW's mission of protecting and enhancing Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

Thank you so much for your time

Clay Phillips

Clay Phillips

RECEIVED



Clay Phillips
26188 Middle Bridge Loop
Baker City, OR 97814

PORTLAND OR 970

18 APR 2017 PM 6 L

Attention Doug Cottam

Roxann B Borisch

From: Steph Spencer <poppyspencer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 12:40 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

To whom it may concern:

I do not support the use of tax dollars to kill wildlife. Especially in the indiscriminate manner that has been practiced for decades by the ODFW.

Inevitably the threatened & endangered species protections, as well as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are violated by your organization, when cyanide bombs, baiting & trapping are the common means of killing. Violated by an organization that is responsible for enforcing the protections. Does that not sound contradictory to you?

According to the science, the killing of coyotes has only resulted in an increase in population for this particular animal. Major fail.

Thank you for you time-

Steph Spencer
Bend, Oregon

2017

Director's Office

To: Curt Melcher.

Is Oregon Fish & Game had any
beavers in there herd They would close
The mule deer hunting season STATE wide for
The shape of the mule deer population
is up BUT NO Fish is so damn greedy
THAT IT ~~SUCKS~~ STINKS.

The deer herds of Eastern Oregon
are and have been in the same shape
They have been in since that 60's
and 70's And they know it, but just don't
give a damn all they care about is the
money NOT the animals or the hunters.

Tell us hunters we are wrong I dare you.

Sincerely Dwe

Pissed of Hunter of

Many STATE wide

Close it for a couple of yrs. And do something
about the predators, starting with the wolves
Bears, Cougars, Coyotes.

ODFW Mailroom

APR 24 2017

Received

OREGON Department of Fish & Wildlife
Salem Headquarters Office
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. S.E.
Salem, Oregon, 97302

Attention: Curt Melcher



4/13/17

Travis Bloomer



1485 Colorado Avenue, Baker City, OR 97814

541-519-3260

Travis.bloomer@outlook.com

Dear Mr. Doug Cottam,

I am writing you in regards to the upcoming hunting season in Baker County. As I am sure you are aware we received extreme winter conditions for consecutive months in Baker County. My family owns and operates a cow/calf livestock operation in the Lookout Mountain Unit. We have drastically changed our operation over the last five years to changing our livestock calving dates to mimic nature. We no longer hay our productive irrigated fields and calve in May. We had 4,000#/ac of standing forage in the meadows heading into winter. The last four years the livestock have actually gained weight and were not fed any hay. This year for the first time our cattle could not survive without substantial hay being imported.

Our south aspects had a consistent 30" of snow cover in our lower elevations where the big game typically winter. Juniper needles and sagebrush were some of the primary browse available to the wildlife. I have been traveling across our 9,000 acre ranch trying to get fence up from the snow damage. The wildlife mortality has been tremendous. I have not noticed significant mortality on the elk however there are deer carcasses scattered across the landscape. Very few fawns are seen in the small remaining groups of deer.

I am asking you consider a season closure in the Lookout Mountain Unit for at least 1 full year. It has been our experience that when our cows eat a consumption high in juniper needles they can abort the fetus inside of them. I am also concerned that the



remaining does have a strong possibility of having that happen. In the interest of wildlife sustainability I strongly urge you to consider this option.

Regards,

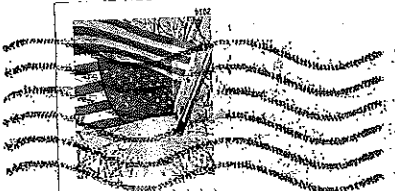
Travis M. Bloomer

Travis Bloomer – Rancher & Rangeland Management Specialist – Durkee, Or



BLOOMER
rado Ave.
OR 97814

PORTLAND OR 970
15 APR 2017 PM 11



RECEIVED
APR 17 2017
ODFW
WILDLIFE DIVISION

Doug Co Ham
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

DFW Mailroom
APR 17 2017
Received

57302-114234

Vivian Zikmund
P.O. Box 192
Durkee, OR 97905
April 15, 2017

TO: Doug Cottam

RE: Mortality Of Deer Population Lookout Mountain Unit #164

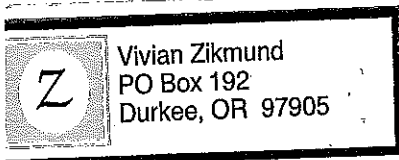
Deer populations are struggling in our Lookout Mountain Unit #164. The summer fire on Lookout, and the rough winter this year has negatively impacted our deer herds. The deer that are left has the potential to be impacted by poachers, disease, and predators.

Please considers shutting down the 2017/2018 deer season in our #164 unit. Our unit was shut down in the mid 80's when mule deer was at an all time low. Please consider this again. It was devastating this winter to look out my window and see a herd of 28 does and fawns starving.

Respectively,

Vivian Zikmund
Vivian Zikmund

Bill Zikmund



BOISE ID 837

15 APR 2017 PM 1 L

ODFW Mailroom

APR 18 2017

Received

*Doug Cottam ODFW
4034 Fairview
Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302*

RECEIVE

APR 18 2017

**ODFW
WILDLIFE DIVIS**

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: hunting opportunities for college students

From: Phil LaGesse [<mailto:dr.lagesse@nbmconline.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2017 8:40 AM

To: odfw.info@state.or.us

Subject: hunting opportunities for college students

Dear ODFW, My son is going off to college this Fall and I have been looking for some sort of big game hunting opportunity for him that he could do before school starts (Aug. 28) or on a school break. They get 4 days for Thanksgiving and a couple weeks for Christmas. I was amazed to find essentially nothing. I talked to a friend that has a son graduating from college this May who told me that his son has not been able to hunt his entire 4 years of college. This is frustrating for us and I think that this situation will dampen the likelihood that young adults will continue to hunt. It would be helpful/worthwhile if there could be some sort of big game hunts, perhaps with muzzleloader or bow during the Christmas break that are not limited to private land. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely, Phil LaGesse



Ms. Joy Russo
51965 Pine Forest Dr
La Pine, OR 97739



For every problem there is
a solution.

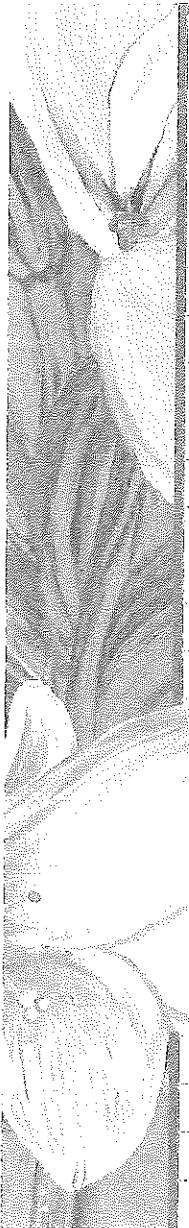
The problem is the Cugars entering
into town because they are
looking for food. Winter was hard

Fish & Wildlife - shoot them.
They killed 5 near me this year.
This is wrong. Its not a solution
Its the easy way out.

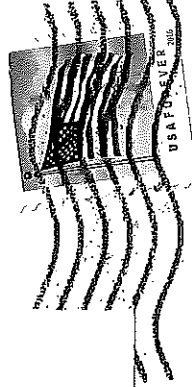
Relocate is my solution.
Fish & Wildlife. "They will
come back."

My question. Where is the
proof?

Thank you
Joy
La Pine



I see about 3-20
Deer a day its been
3 years since I've seen
a male Deer
Most up here are
white tail



06 MAY 2017 PM 2 L

Don M. Jaeger
71176 Tutuilla Creek Rd.
Pendleton OR 97801

Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview St. Bldg. 1
Salem OR 97302

Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
License Services

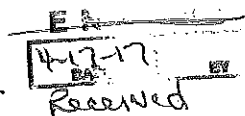
Dear sir:

It has been several years now since I qualified for, bought & paid for a pioneer hunting license. Now, it seems, you have arbitrarily stolen my lifetime hunting license. This constitutes outright theft; & I am very unhappy with you people. I do not believe that you have a right to switch the rules every time you want more money.

RECEIVED

MAY 05 2017

ODFW
WILDLIFE DIVISION



Sincerely

Otto Eyring

2244 State St.
North Bend, OR

97459

May 16, 2017



Dear Director Melcher,

A recent magazine article addresses a concern that TAO has discussed with you several months ago, requesting that ODFW modify the mandatory reporting system to indicate what type of equipment archers are using to hunt deer and elk. At that meeting, we discussed how the data from the reporting system would assist conversation techniques for both short and long term planning, allowing the agency to increase viable and high quality archery hunting experiences for those willing to take the traditional equipment challenge. As I recall, you provided feedback to the effect that ODFW would welcome significant increase in traditional archery tags knowing that there is a lower impact upon the resource (and revenue growth opportunity). Let's get it done! I know we need data to help support the decision process when adding hunt opportunities, it's high-time we add the archery equipment-use reporting and begin adding high-quality traditional archery opportunities.

In the enclosed April/May issue of Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, author Marv Cochran takes the bull by the horns after providing introduction of how archery seasons came about, where we are heading with special emphasis on reasons for concern to those of us that consider archery hunting as a passion and not just a passing fancy.

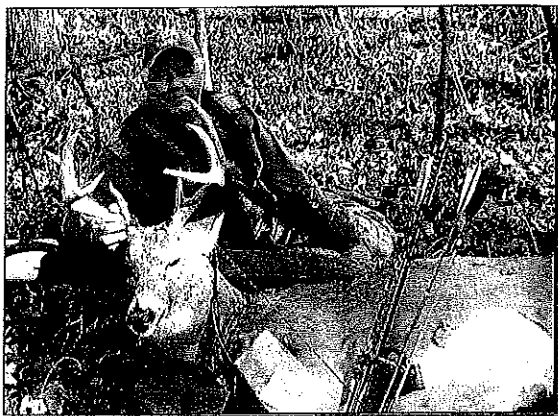
We ask that you take a moment to relax, read Mr. Cochran's article (pg. 66) and consider the merits of his suggestions which include the idea of a TRADITION ARCHERY TAG.

We appreciate your consideration and hope to bring this idea to fruition sooner, rather than later. I plan to contact you shortly to schedule a meeting in this regard.

With warmest regards,

Kevin Thompson
President,
Traditional Archers of Oregon

cc: Chair Finley, Members of the commission, Doug Cottam, TAO Board of Directors



Protect Against Identity Theft

By Marvin Cochran

Today's world presents unique challenges, one of which is to protect our identity against theft. A common ploy to gain the necessary information to steal identity is phone solicitation. A caller identifies himself as an account representative from your bank or a credit card company and explains that there is a problem with your account information. A certain number of people are gullible and cooperate, providing information about

tity as traditional bowhunters.

The bow and arrow have played a huge part in the history of mankind. More societies have been saved and destroyed because of the bow than any other weapon. England prevailed on the battlefields of Agincourt when the British army, using longbows, faced off against the crossbow-equipped French. The English had the advantage of using longbows featuring limbs with a longer power stroke when compared to the

they loaded through the muzzle and required a spark to ignite the powder and fire the gun. Beside the fact that wet powder won't ignite, the time it took to reload still gave the edge to the longbow. Eventually someone invented a better mouse trap in the form of the self-contained cartridge, which made guns dependable and faster to reload. Thus it appeared the bow and arrow would become a forgotten tool.

While advances in firearms were helpful for armies, those same advances proved exactly the opposite for wildlife. Wild game didn't fare well in the face of expanding human populations armed with more efficient firearms. It wasn't long before North America's great herds of elk, antelope, and bison had been decimated to the brink of extinction. As expanded rail lines opened, people began visiting the West. Railroads promoting ticket sales would stop trains when buffalo herds appeared near the tracks and allow passengers to get off the train and shoot a buffalo. New, more efficient, firearms eliminating much of the need for skill spelled doom for wildlife.

With our game populations severely compromised, early conservationists like Aldo Leopold took notice and luckily captured the attention of key political leaders of the day. This was the beginning of the modern conservation movement. Recognizing the harm of market hunting, conservationists began looking for answers to complex problems. One of the most fundamental questions was

discovery of Ishi, of the Yana Indian tribe, and subsequent collaboration among Art Young, Saxton Pope, and Will Compton marked the beginning of modern day bowhunting, later encouraged by the likes of Glenn St. Charles, Roy Case, and Fred Bear. Because all of this coincided perfectly with a well-timed need, interest in the bow and arrow was rekindled. For the same reason the bow had been retired and forgotten, it would be reborn and remembered. After all, Leopold reasoned that woodcraft and personal involvement would be essential concepts if people and wildlife were to maintain a healthy relationship.

Using a bow and arrow granted the outdoorsman the identity of a hunter, but a less invasive one than the identity belonging to the gun hunter. A bowhunter's identity stated that the bow's effective ranges were shorter and the required skills were greater. Bowhunters, because of their self-imposed limitations, received longer seasons with more liberal bag limits.

Wisconsin's Roy Case was one of the first bowhunters of the modern era, credited with the harvest of that state's first archery deer in 1931. A few years later, in 1934, the Badger State officially held its first archery deer season. By the 1950s, bowhunting seasons were being established in many other states. Early bowhunting proponents didn't just drop by the fish and game headquarters one day and make a suggestion. They were listened to not only

rural America. Archery hunters were revered all the way into the 1980s, when ABC's American Sportsman regularly featured the exploits of Fred Bear. People were amazed that Bear was able to harvest dangerous game with such simple equipment.

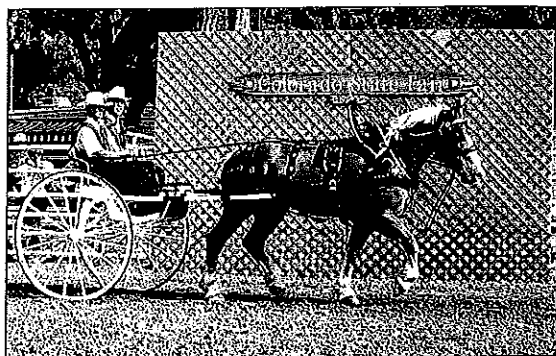
The beginning of archery's subsequent decline found me as a beginning college student in my home state of

Missouri. I was a broke kid in an archery pro shop hustling over the inventory of Black Widow and Bear Archery bows when a stranger entered and announced that he had with him an invention which would revolutionize archery. As he hefted his invention onto the shop's glass display case he asked, "Would you like to see my bow shoot an arrow?" Without hesitation, the shop owner responded,

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Modern gear advocates have much the same argument that could be made by the auto industry claiming there was no difference between a modern vehicle and a horse-drawn buggy. One can only imagine how that would fly, but the archery industry is getting by with it.

"Sure, go get it." The inventor replied by saying, "This is it." The owner's unhearsed response was immediate. "Looks to me like a kid's motorcycle." I report this experience not to cause controversy, but to illustrate the fact

that archers at the time recognized that the compound did shoot an arrow, but wasn't a bow. It was a machine that cast an arrow. Ultimately the acceptance of the compound came about because old time bow shooters allowed themselves to be pushed aside for fear of causing a rift in the shooting sports community. Old-time bow shooters were told that they needed numbers if their passion for the bow and arrow was to survive.

It is important to understand that the compound makers wanted to be part of our seasons not because we needed them but because they needed us. The reality was that bow seasons were granted because fish and game departments needed minimally invasive participants that would not deplete the resource. By allowing the compound into our seasons, we weakened our identity.

At first the compound didn't change harvest numbers significantly. It was easier to shoot than a traditional bow, but didn't improve performance that much. Over time however, compound design changed and its performance improved dramatically. Today 40 yards is considered a chip shot for a compound and 70 yards is not out of the

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question. Compound efficiency constantly improving eventually led to both reduced bag limits and shortened seasons. That didn't happen all in one day. In the West the mule deer population bubble had to burst as indeed it did. Expanding urban sprawl and more predators led to herd decline. Because harvest statistics revealed both gun and bowhunters were both killing more animals, both groups lost privilege.

Meanwhile, entrepreneurial companies applied compound technology to the crossbow. Their initial efforts to take part in our bowhunting seasons were successful in only a few states. Thirty years ago bowhunters trying to preserve their heritage were usually supported by game managers, who recognized that the crossbow had more in common with guns than bows.

Because there is more than one way to skin a cat, proponents of the crossbow began pushing for its legalization on the basis of increased opportunity for the handicapped. None of us wants to deny someone with a real physical limitation the opportunity to enjoy hunting season. Most of us still have no objection to someone with a genuine handicap using modifications that allow their participation.

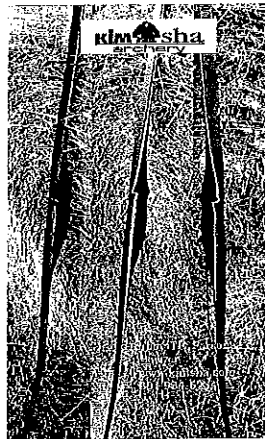
Unfortunately the crossbow lobby's push didn't stop there. Their next efforts focused on liberalizing the definition of a handicap. I broke my collarbone in a bicycle mishap. Knowing I was a bowhunter, my doctor immediately offered me a cross-gun permit. (Did I just

suppository. It's hard to argue against allowing a crossbow that shoots game at seventy yards in archery season when the compound, which is already allowed, is routinely being used at a similar distance. The only major difference between the two is vertical versus horizontal limbs.

It hurts me to say so, but it does no good to close the barn door when the animals have already escaped. Our identity and our seasons have been stolen. "Not so," you may say. "Whitetail states still have liberal seasons and bag limits, and there's plenty for everybody." Right now that statement is at least partly correct, but the other shoe has yet to drop. When the whitetail deer populations decline, so will the opportunity to hunt.

Improvements in archery equipment have come full circle, and the old-time archer can no longer claim his identity while holding hands in the "Big Tent." Fortunately there is a solution. We don't have to oppose anyone, and we don't need to disavow others in the fraternity of the shooting sports. We simply need to reclaim our identity. It won't be easy,

but it will be possible. Traditional archery is just as compelling as it has ever been. Think about the Spanish cabinet-maker who lit the Olympic torch with a flaming arrow shot from his wheelchair to open the Barcelona games in 1992. Public popularity of traditional archery also exploded when fans reacted to Kevin Costner's Robin Hood. How about the "Hunger Games"?



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Have you paid attention to the reaction of young people to the longbow since that series of movies began? Hollywood producers know that modern equipment lacks the same identity, charisma, and appeal.

The arc of the arrow is a big part of the age-old appeal of the longbow and recurve. To watch a holically fletched arrow being cranked into rotation as it makes its way across time and space is compelling for the same reasons we stare into the coals of a wood fire and pay no attention to a gas fireplace. It is time for us to start over, because our identity remains unchanged, we are still who we were.

I propose that it is time for discussion to begin for special archery seasons for traditional equipment only. There—I said it. We have reached that point in time when changes in the definition of legal archery equipment justify old time archers regaining their identity as efficient hunters who are just successful enough to be called hunters but will never threaten wildlife population numbers. Identity theft can be prevented. It is up to us to do it.

I understand that this proposal will elicit divided responses. Some of the hardcore among us will respond that it is about time. Some reasonable people who understand the fundamentals of conflict resolution and the need to get along may view this proposal as an intentionally divisive sugges-

tion. I will agree that the suggestion of a separate season will be offensive unless there is an understandable rationale.

In most states, computers and printers have greatly simplified permit systems. I remember my first Colorado early season antelope hunt. We had driven 900 miles planning to buy our over the counter licenses upon arrival. This routine purchase turned into a scavenger hunt. License vendors would only order however many licenses they thought they would sell. Most didn't believe there would be much interest, so they ordered very few or no nonresident licenses. It took a second trip to the town of Craig before we found a small gun shop that had two nonresident archery antelope tags.

Today things are different. Tags are printed at the point of sale, so there is no added cost in administration. The only thing needed is to adjust the license program to allow licensed sellers to ask what kind of tag the buyer wants. The buyer would then designate either archery or traditional archery. Traditional archery tag purchases would mean that the buyers agree to restrict themselves to traditional gear only. In return, the buyer would receive a longer season, access to areas closed to other forms of big game hunting, or both. If you hunt with a compound or a crossbow, you would simply buy an archery tag. Those of us who are conflicted can still simply buy a general archery license and hunt with whatever floats your boat. In this way you could stand together with others and offend no one in the big tent.

Some readers will ask, "So what does this accomplish?" At some point the mentality that believes there is plenty of game and no reason to be separatist or divisive will find themselves lumped into a single season with hunters using all sorts of weapons. When that happens and the herds have dwindled so will the seasons.

If bowhunting matters enough to fight for our identity, hard work now can result in continued opportunity to hunt with old-fashioned archery equipment. We know the challenge still exists, and so does the non-hunting public. Real archery is as compelling as staring into a campfire. It's also effective, respected, and has a minimal impact on the resource. It is time to rally together and preserve our identi-

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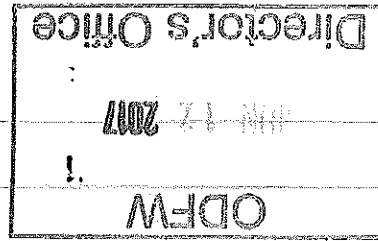
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60 Targets

Curt Melcher



Harold "Dutch" Schuttpetz

Dear Director:

My friends disabled and not disabled, encouraged me to talk to you about the return of cow elk in the pay limit of the disabled. Alex unit.

Doug Cotman discontinued the cow elk limit for disabled. He was afraid the ^{cow} elk tags would have the same effect has the blacktail (to liberal on doe tags) But elk are a hard animal.

The One game Com. has done an excellent job of management of elk. Many hunts have split the ~~herds~~ ~~and~~ sending them to new areas.

6-12-17

I own Toal Lake & part of Edna Lake - there is an increase of elk in this area, As well as Schuttpolz Lake,

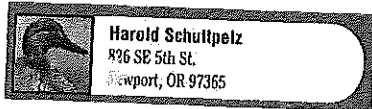
Alex unit is one of the few units that do not have cow elk for disabled.

We don't think that the count of elk on the coastal areas is as accurate as is more open areas - central - Eastern Ok.

I know that some of the disabled are not disabled, but this should not handicap the disabled.

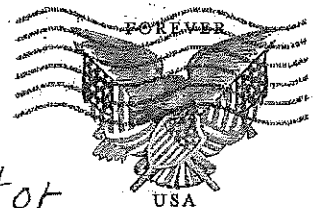
We feel the disabled do not have that much effect on the management levels of elk.

At 94 years old I hunt ranch areas - spread the elk to other areas. Yours truly,
Arnold Schuttpolz



PORTLAND OR 970

09 JUN 2017 PM 4 L



Curt Melcher, Director

4034 Fairview Ind. Dr. SE.

ODFW Mailroom

JUN 12 2017

Received

Salem, Ore

97302

97302-114234



Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: License Fees

From: ODFW Commission
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 10:44 AM
To: Thomas Thornton <Thomas.L.Thornton@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Cc: Roxann B Borisch <Roxann.B.Borisch@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: FW: License Fees

From: Jeffrey Goodman [mailto:jk_goodman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 1:38 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: License Fees

WOW! \$65.00 for a combo license this year! This will be the last year I hunt and or fish! Between the higher license fees and the landowner entrance fees (I live in Columbia County) I am being priced out of MY state resources. I have hunted Columbia County since I was 12 years old, I'm almost 46 now. Columbia County, near Vernonia is almost all gated and posted no entry without permit by Weyerhaeuser since they bought Longview Fiber. Our county has very little State or Federal land, so that leaves little places to hunt without paying a entry fee. I have been hunting Eastern Oregon the last couple of years, but I'm not going to pay \$65.00 plus application fees any longer and not have any guarantee of a hunt. I believe you should look into and implement a system to apply for hunts without buying a license. Then if individual successfully draws a tag they can choose to buy the tag and license. Thank you for your time, Jeff Goodman

Roxann B Borisch

From: Denton, Jennifer <Jennifer.Denton@ssa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2017 2:16 PM
To: 'odfw.commission@state.or.us'
Subject: Fees

Hello,

I'm not really sure if I'm in the right direction but I'd like to bring something up to ODFW. I am sure this has been proposed before, and I'm actually surprised that the answer I received was "no" but I am currently a Washington resident. I lived in Oregon all my life until recently. I am also a disabled veteran and one reason I moved to Washington was because of a job I received which was awarded to me because of my veteran status. Anyways, to the point. I have asked a few different times, 2 of which say no and 1 answer was completely different. But, the question was "Is there a discount for non-resident disabled veterans" Apparently 2-1 the answer is No. In Washington, discounts are awarded to non-resident disabled veterans if they have 30% VA disability. Idaho also has a similar law, but I believe it's 40% and Oregon has 25% for resident only. It is beyond frustrating for myself when I can't hunt or fish on family land that I have hunted 20+ years because of the steep non-resident prices.

If what I have been told is the truth, I propose Oregon comes up with a similar law as their surrounding friend states, I mean even California has a discount for those at 50%! Oregon isn't going to be losing money on this idea, but instead adding revenue. I know several disabled veterans who would love to hunt or fish in Oregon but cannot afford to pay the current prices. Most of these veterans literally live on the other side of the state line. Not only would having those extra sportsmen and women in Oregon paying for reduced fees, but they will also be contributing to the local economy.

As I do live in Washington, I am not able to come to any meetings to bring this matter up. Maybe talk to Washington State's Fish and Wildlife to see how their reduced fees for disabled veterans have helped or hurt their business?

Please consider everything I have said and if need be, forward this email to the appropriate recipient.

Jennifer

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June 15, 2017

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Division
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Salem, OR 97302

Salem, OR

RE: Northside Elk

The long season that have been in effect for many years now to kill antlerless elk on the private land in Northside have helped, but elk numbers have increased despite significant numbers of elk being killed.

The new damage tags that have been issued through the local John Day office have proven to be successful. I understand there are some people that are not happy about these tags, but I wanted you to know that I and several other land owners have seen a marked reduction in elk damage to our fields, haystacks and particularly fences.

I hope that you will continue, and maybe even expand, this program. I think it has had a positive effect on keeping the elk number from piling up on private land and is certainly helping in moving them off the private land.



MIKE KILPATRICK

gh

cc: Ryan Torland

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: hunting without draws

From: gary dikeman [<mailto:gary57chev@comcast.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 6:03 PM

To: odfw.info@state.or.us

Subject: hunting without draws

please,please, please consider changing the rules for hunters 70 years or older to be able to just purchase a lic. and tag and go hunting..

We hunters of that age group might not last until our next sucessful draw!

GARY DIKEMAN
503-667-9280
LIFETIME OREGON RESIDENT

Roxann B Borisch

From: Zack Weitzel <z.weitzel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 01, 2017 6:54 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Leftover Tags

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this is an attempt to bring light to a flaw in the leftover tag system. This morning my wife was in line at one of your vendors at roughly 8:30 a.m. She was the 2nd person in line and was there to purchase me a leftover tag for the Shaw Mt. Bow hunt. At 10, when the tags went on sale the person in front of my wife purchased tags for 5 separate people, 3 of whom received a Shaw Mt. Bow tag. By the time it was my wife's turn, all leftover tags were gone. I understand that leftover tags are first come first served, however I think people should be limited to purchasing tags for one person. I feel that this would create a system that is more fair. I am not trying to just complain, I wanted to offer a solution as well, as I feel I was deprived of an opportunity due to someone being inconsiderate and being allowed to purchase several tags. I also wanted to point out that my wife's intention was to purchase a tag for just me. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,
Zack Weitzel

Roxann B Borisch

From: smiley culver <smileyculver@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 3:23 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Just received OregonHunter.info brochure in mail.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

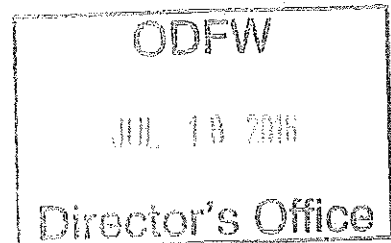
Just so you folks know I went hunting to an area in Starkey Unit I have hunted for years last year. The wolves have decimated the hunting in that area to a point I have never seen. In fact a few days before season I was scouting and jumped what I made out to be a lone medium bull elk. This animal ran for over 10 miles making half moon circle from where I jumped it and then lining out on a road. This type behavior I had never seen before. During season the wolves would pass by about every fourth night. The elk were herded up and in the low country around humans. Another behavior done by wolves. Any way you obviously do not want license and tag money from me or something would be being done on this issue rather than deny it. If you want tag and license money from me I better see something being done to control these new species brought in from Canada. ODFW has wrecked hunting in Oregon and I hope you all go broke.

Sincerely,

Reed Culver

62234 Cody Rd
Bend, Oregon 97701

Commissioners Oregon DFW
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, Oregon 97302



Commissioners:

I'm a 79 year old Marine Corps Retiree, who is no longer able to physical Hunt. I have an incurable disease that make this so. The Doctors have informed me that the odds of my being above ground this time next year are not in my favor.

Over the years I have acquired a number of points for hunts that I was not drawn for. For example, 14 points for Antelope, 5 for Elk. I feel there should be a program where I could donate my unused points to a needed disabled veteran. Of course the veteran would have to meet certain requirements. Maybe Purple Heart, combat related injury, prosthesis device, etc. I think the distribution of these unused points could be handled in various ways. Maybe even by the recommendation of the Oregon Veterans Department or local veterans officers.

I have talked with other elderly people who have similar feeling and they agree that such a program would be welcome. Believe me, none of us wish to quit hunting. I harvested my first deer at the age of 13 on top of Pine Mt. I remember it like it was yesterday. But when the time comes, it comes.

Thank you for your time and please think about what I've proposed .

Sincerely

Robert Wegener
U. S Marine Corps (Ret)

cc:
Director ODVA
700 Summer St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ron Miller <ronm5169@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2017 2:21 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Changes I would like to see.

I would like to see a change in the elk hunt regulations. I usually hunt the second season, which is a spike bull only hunt. In my opinion it would be only fair to require first season bull hunters to harvest only a three-point or bigger bull. First season hunters in most units are allowed to harvest any bull. If I have to be certain that I am shooting at a legal spike bull, then the first season hunters should also have to scrutinize their target before they pull the trigger. This idea could be used in different units each year, if needed. This would possibly increase the carryover of young bulls and second season hunters would have a better opportunity to harvest a spike bull that wasn't harvested during the first season.

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: customer survey

From: DeAnna Erickson

Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 8:43 AM

To: Douglas Juergensen <Douglas.Juergensen@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>; Kevin Blakely
<Kevin.L.Blakely@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>; Thomas Thornton <Thomas.L.Thornton@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>

Subject: customer survey

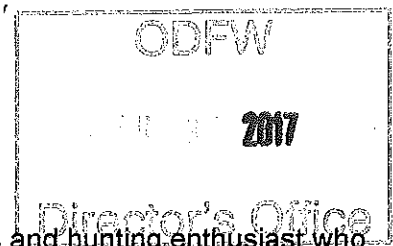
One of my measurements for outcome based management involves a customer survey. Below is a comment from one of the people who responded. I'm passing it along in case you would like to respond to him.

Now that I have your attention. Why is ODFW giving deer and elk tags to landowners? I always was told that the animals or big game animals were property of the state, therefore to a small extent mine as well. I hear many times how land owners get tags and sell or manage to charge very high prices due to the fact they have a hand full of tags. I also hear firsthand the stories about land owners claiming damaged fences, damaged crops, trespassers and so on. However that should not change the ownership of the property of Oregon. The worst part about this management practice is that the opportunity that I had with my father and brother to go on a nice hunt and have a lasting memory and bond. That opportunity is almost gone in Oregon. Therefore I feel that it is morally not right to preferentially give tags to landowners. If there is truly crop damage or some other sort of economic loss manage a way to allow the people of Oregon to hunt these animals. If the numbers of animals causing the damage need to be reduced let average Oregonians have the opportunity. IF the land owner will not allow it then let him suffer the pending loss. Your changing the dynamics of hunting and the families that enjoy hunting together are taking the loss.

I realize ODFW has many dilemmas to manage. But giving tags away is not right. I hope I get a response. Thanks for your time. curtisir@uci.net

DeAnna Erickson
ODFW ISD Deputy Administrator
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302
(503) 947-6281

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter because I am a responsible outdoors and hunting enthusiast who would like to see the hunting regulations in our state be amended to allow the expanded use of airguns as a legal weapon for taking game. Airgun technology has improved greatly and airguns are more capable than ever before. Traditionally air rifles have been available in small calibers only (.177, .22, and .25), but with the advent of pre-charged pneumatic air rifles it is not uncommon to see rifles chambered in .30, .35, .45, or even .50 caliber. These guns are capable of producing substantial muzzle energy which makes them capable of humanely taking game animals. Unfortunately current regulations allow only limited use of air guns for hunting purposes, which is why I am writing you.

Many states such as Arizona, Michigan, and Texas have already made concessions to allow the use of airguns on big game such as deer, black bear, hog and antelope, and in these states hunters have successfully taken game with their air rifles. The techniques used in airgun hunting are very similar to those used in bow hunting and as such they contribute greatly to the "fair chase" mentality. Airgunners rarely take shots from more than 50 yards away, they will typically hunt from blind or tree stands thus reducing errant shots, and due to the relatively short effective range of air rifle projectiles they run far less risk of projectiles traveling long distances and striking unintended targets. Airguns are also much quieter than standard firearms thus reducing the noise pollution of hunters who are shooting in areas that may be near livestock or dwellings.

Airgunning is one of the fastest growing shooting sports, and as such the technology related to airguns continues to grow. Airguns are capable of more than ever before and it's time for the hunting laws in our state to reflect that change to allow greater use of these tools in the field. Many sportsmen, just like me are interested in the added challenge that using an air rifle brings to hunting. Seeing these laws change is important to us. We know that your influence on lawmakers in our state can be a huge asset to hunters and sportsman and we look forward to working together to make the future of airgun hunting bright.

Respectfully,

Michael R. Gohde
Name

Michael R. Gohde
Signature

Eagle Point, OR 97524
City, State

7/27/17
Date

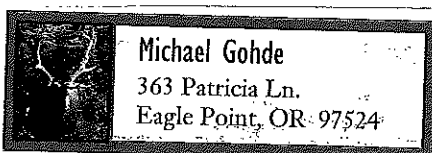
** For your consideration I have included the following links to more information about airguns and their use as it pertains to hunting.

<http://www.airgundepot.com/hunting-guide.html>
<http://www.crosman.com/get-hunting/hunting-with-airguns>
<http://www.pyramydair.com/blog/ethical-airgun-hunting/>
<http://www.airforceairguns.com/Articles.asp?ID=309>

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August 15, 2017

Mr. Curt Melcher, Director
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302



Dear Mr. Melcher,

This past weekend, I had the opportunity of a lifetime. I drew the swan lake youth antelope tag (by cashing in my mentor points) and was able to experience a hunt not many have or ever will. All three of the youth filled their tags with very respectable bucks on opening day. The hardest part was selecting a buck as there were so many and they all looked quite healthy. This is likely due to the quality feed – alfalfa and oats.

The experience was so very memorable. Both of my parents hunt and they were both with me, so it was truly a family event. We camped next to some ponds and I saw deer, coyotes, rattle snakes, bats (I even saved one from drowning), birds of all kinds, and of course, antelope. We even watched the Perseid meteor shower as there was very little light pollution. It was amazing and all because of the kindness and generosity of the families who allow youth to stay and hunt on their property year after year. They were the best kind of folks – true Oregonians.

One thing I found out was that other property owners in the area used to allow youth to hunt, but stopped in reaction to ODF&W no longer allotting them land owner preference (LOP) tags. While I don't know all the details, it seems a bit short sighted to take away all LOP tags as this seemed to start a downward spiral. I know that your department has a very fine balance to maintain. Make enough money to support the department, while protecting the habitat and maintaining adequate numbers of animals in our gorgeous state. Maybe better communication was needed supported by scientific, logical evidence? Or, just a temporary ban until numbers rebounded? Or, perhaps a compromise, such as reducing the number of tags available to the public by a particular number and then give those to the landowners as LOP tags?

I have also heard from hunter education volunteers that requirements and regulations are so strict that they no longer volunteer. I remember it took a long time for me to find a hunter's education class. As I see it, young hunters are going to be the future investors in Oregon's habitat and wildlife protection. In this day and age where there are so many extra-curricular activities to keep kids busy (not to mention the ever-constant technology), the experience I had with my family was something I would hope every kid would be able to have. It was all due to the generosity of landowners. I am writing them a thank you note right after I finish this letter.

I hope you will look into the LOP issue and perhaps find a reasonable compromise? If possible, I would like to hear back on the resolution or reasoning as well. I look forward to being a life-long hunter and fisherman. In addition, I have and will continue to volunteer and provide resources to preserve wildlife habitat. I appreciate the hard job you have and thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Bibler".

Ryan Bibler

Ryan Biber
840 James Howe Rd.
Dallas, OR 97338

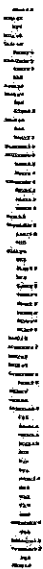
ODFW Mailroom

AUG 18 2017

Received

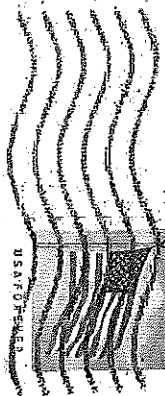
Mr. Curt Melcher, Director
Oregon Dept. of Fish + Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

97302-114234



PORTLAND OR 970

15 AUG 2017 PM 2 L



August 23, 2017

Hello,

My Name is David Bender. I was the successful bidder of one of the 2016 Statewide Elk tags, as well as a 2015 Statewide Deer tag.

I am bringing my concerns to the **Commission** in hopes to extend the Statewide seasons. These tags are auctioned at a premium dollar to improve wildlife and habitat in Oregon. I feel that to continue to increase the revenue generated by these auction tags, the successful tag holder should have the best opportunity possible to harvest a trophy animal. The number one way to increase the ability to harvest a trophy animal is to extend the seasons. The generous individuals that bid on these tags should be at a minimum the **first** ones in the woods and more importantly the **last**.

Here are some of my observations and recommendations:

- There are two best times to harvest a trophy Deer and Elk, early season before they shed their velvet when they are patternable and not as nocturnal, and late in the season when they migrate to their wintering grounds.
- Oregon currently has the earliest closing Statewide tag of **all** the western states that have a statewide tag. (see exhibit A)
- In the NE zone alone there are 26 Elk hunts, resulting in **4,141** tags allocated past November 30th!!!! (see exhibit B)
- There is little to no additional impact to the wintering grounds by the very small handful of statewide tags.
- Oregon's Statewide tags bring far less at auction than other states.
- I see no reason to not extend the seasons if the goal is for the Auction tag holders to be successful. I propose August 15th- December 31st at a minimum.

In 2015 when I had my Deer Tag, I began scouting in late spring. I was diligent throughout the summer glassing and operating trail cameras at water holes in various units across the state. I put in countless hours and days in pursuit of a trophy Mule deer. I located a buck that I had decided would be a great shooter. I patiently kept tabs on the buck and waited for September 1st to arrive. Unfortunately five days prior to September 1st was the opener of the Archery general season. Camps, hunters, and overall pressure pushed the deer out of their pattern and my big buck was gone. Incredibly frustrating to know that all my hard work was foiled because of an over the counter hunt, after spending a large sum of money for this tag.

This year with my 2016 Elk tag the weather came late and the elk were not moving into the lower grounds until the last few days of November and into December. The lack of weather as well as the additional pressure from the later hunt seasons made this very frustrating as well. Additional time would have made all the difference in the world.

In conclusion, let's try and make these tags what they should be, an opportunity to have the best chance possible to harvest a Trophy animal in Oregon. Let's put Oregon on the map as a sought after destination for hunters, and subsequently raise more money for habitat and conservation along the way.

Thank you,

David A. Bender

Exhibit A

Western State Season Closures for Statewide Tags

Arizona- August to August (12 months)

Colorado- December 31

New Mexico- January 31

Nevada- December 31

Utah- January 15

Washington- December 31

Idaho has a "Super Hunt"

Montana has a "Super Hunt"

Wyoming has a "Commissioner" tag

Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming's programs are not Statewide, they are hunt code specific or hunt dates coinciding with the hunts taking place. Subsequently they generate a **fraction** of the Statewide tag proceeds that other states do.

Exhibit B

Northeast Area Elk Hunts that extend past November 30th:

Hunt# 245D2- 121 tags
Hunt# 245D3- 66 tags
Hunt# 245E- 660 tags
Hunt# 246D- 101 tags
Hunt# 246E- 138 tags
Hunt# 247D1- 600 tags
Hunt# 247D2- 150 tags
Hunt# 248C- 66 tags
Hunt# 248E- 60 tags
Hunt# 249B- 79 tags
Hunt# 251D- 191 tags
Hunt# 252F- 10 tags
Hunt# 253A2- 210 tags
Hunt# 253C2- 165 tags
Hunt# 254A- 125 tags
Hunt# 255B- 15 tags
Hunt# 257C- 48 tags
Hunt# 258A5- 110 tags
Hunt# 258A6- 110 tags
Hunt# 258A7- 110 tags
Hunt# 259- 165 tags
Hunt# 260A- 80 tags
Hunt# 261A2- 83 tags
Hunt# 264A2- 165 tags
Hunt# 265B3- 382 tags
Hunt# 265C- 131 tags

There are 26 hunts resulting in 4,141 tags or hunt parties past November 30th impacting the winter grounds.

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Auction Tag seasons
Attachments: OHA Bender Statewide Auction Seasons Testimony 1 17.docx; Exhibit A.docx; Exhibit B.docx

From: Tony Bender [<mailto:Tony@bendermechanical.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:15 AM

To: Douglas Cottam <douglas.f.cottam@state.or.us>

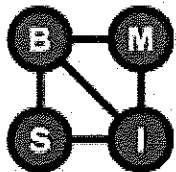
Subject: RE: Auction Tag seasons

Mr. Cottam,

I will unfortunately not be able to attend the meeting, I will be in the field trying to fill Statewide tags. I have attached the information I put together for the last meeting. The statement is brief as I shortened to allow for the 3 minutes allotted in open forum.

Please let me know what else I can do to be helpful. There have been multiple trophy Mule deer and Bull elk being harvested already this year in the States that open their seasons earlier. I have been scouting all summer and now this Saturday Archery season opens 6 days before my Statewide tags. I hope all my hard work is not once again ruined.

Thank you,



Tony Bender
President
Office-541-258-6640
Cell-541-974-1529
Fax-541-258-6653
www.bendermechanical.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2017 12:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer and elk

I am writing again, on the eve of the 2017 bow season. I will be hunting blacktail deer in Southern Oregon, out of a treestand, over a mineral block. I still believe that eliminating baiting because of concerns that the spread disease will happen is just a veiled attempt to stop this method of hunting because a few voices think it is not fair chase. Baiting has been happening for years. Why is it a concern now? The potential for facilitating the spread of disease is very low considering that only a few animals visit the bait sites. There is far more potential for disease to be spread by ODFW's own feeding programs. I am able to monitor the health of the few animals that visit my sites and in 5 years there have been no sick deer or elk. I would go so far as to say that my feeding minerals and alfalfa to the few deer I see helped them come thru a pretty rough winter.

I believe people are grasping at straws in an attempt to eliminate baiting of deer and elk. They couldn't do it under the guise of fair chase so now they are looking at others ways to try to eliminate the baiting of deer and elk.

It is too bad the Commission has to address this issue instead of concentrating on the real problems facing wildlife management ie loss of habitat, poaching, and predation.

Please leave the baiting of deer and elk as is. It is legal and is not detrimental to the herds.

Thanks,

Gerry Crowe

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeff Gent <jeff_gent@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 12:36 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hunting in this hot weather is wrong

As you know, its bow season in western Oregon now. As you also know, high temps across the region are in the nineties and lows are in the 50's, all the way to the crest of the Cascades. Forest fires are raging and major sections of prime hunting grounds are shut down.

Ignoring the ethics issue (which is of major importance), it is unlawful to allow any portion of a kill to go to waste, which is defined as unfit for human consumption. Health department rules say the raw meat left out over 40 degrees F for over two hours is no longer fit for human consumption. In weather like this the only way that it is possible to prevent waste is to get the meat on ice immediately. Do you have any idea how long it takes to process an elk? It takes hours. Do you have any idea how long it takes to pack an elk out of the woods? In the dark? How about out of some ravine or out of the wilderness? The simple answer is many hours under the best of circumstances and 12-24 is not unreasonable even with a crew of helpers that are in shape. Then there's the hours of work to get it all cut up and processed, do you expect that I have a walk in cooler to do all that work in?

It is possible to avoid waste? Of course, but only under ideal circumstances that would include something like 3-5 persons on site who are efficient butchers and have the physical fitness of a Marine and a truck full of coolers and ice that can get within a half-mile of easy walking to the kill. How many hunters do you image are out there operating under such conditions? My guess is very few. Are you going to require it? If not they you are allowing for conditions to exist under which waste is the most likely result. I do not hunt under such circumstances. I do have the physical fitness of a Marine but I hunt solo, for many good reasons and I prefer to hunt in the wilderness areas to get away from the other hunters. Or at least I would if I could, but you have effectively made it illegal for me to do so by requiring that I hunt when it is too hot to be hunting. The only predictable result of making a kill is that the majority of it will go to waste even with all the preparations I've made to avoid that. Illegal and unethical, which is worse to my mind, and so I have returned from the field and put my bow away. Absent a major change in the weather it's clear that I won't be hunting elk this year since I already bought a bow tag and you don't provide for a late elk bow season. This isn't the first year I've had this problem and I know others who also have the same struggle.

I grew up in Oregon and I remember a time when we only had a week of seriously hot weather in mid August followed by a quick decline into cooler weather so perhaps it made sense back then to structure the bow hunting seasons as they are but that weather pattern has not played out for many years. September is now reliably too hot to hunt in without wasting meat. No one will tell you, of course, how much meat they had go bad on them but it's unreasonable to expect that it will be a minor amount. I'm unwilling to waste any so I have chosen to stay home.

This isn't just about bow season for elk, by the way. I pulled a tag for the High Cascades deer rifle hunt this year, which is in a couple weeks. A deer is smaller so it takes less time to process but now we're talking about hunting in the wilderness so the expected distance to the vehicle full of ice is now farther so it's the same problem. Then there's the problem that half the hunt area or more is presently shut down for fire. That means all those hunters are being forced into a much smaller area than was available when you decided how many tags to make available. That means an increase in hunter-hunter conflict and it means that those areas left open will be over hunted. And we still have the basic problem that the meat is likely to go to waste.

September has become reliably too hot to hunt in. The time has come to restructure the bow hunting seasons.

Jeff Gent
Brownsville

Exhibit C

Baiting

**Public Correspondence received as of
August 31, 2017**

Roxann B Borisch

From: rick <richardrickp@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 10:28 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: HELP - Baiting - Deer, Elk, Cougar

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I have lived in Oregon all my life. It was understood that baiting of game animals was illegal. I was told that now its ok. Confusion. Is it OK or is there a big fine? What is the real scoop. Please Help Thanks for the help Richard Phelps

Sent from my iPad

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 3:59 PM
To: Thomas Thornton
Cc: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Hunting regulations change inquiry

From: TomRepko . [mailto:thomasarepko@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 2:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Hunting regulations change inquiry

Hello,

I have become very frustrated with the hunting practices of apparently many elk bow hunters.

This last season just ending, I walked into a designated No Motorized Vehicle area in hopes of having a great hunting experience in the Ukiah unit.

While walking many miles hunting I discovered 11 large tree stands and ground blinds that were all baited with either apples, salt blocks or a substance that appeared to be brown sugar. Several of them were occupied by hunters at that time. Every one of them had very obvious evidence of recent ATV traffic to their locations. I followed a drag trail from a kill site to a large, 4 pickup truck camp that was in the restricted area and found a whole elk hanging there.

I checked with the forest service and was told that there was no enforcement capabilities regarding the motorized vehicles.

My hope is to bring about a change in the hunting regulations to make hunting deer and elk over bait piles of any sort, be illegal. The violation of such a rule or law seems a lot more enforceable than a motorized vehicle violation. If the many hunters whom are hunting over bait piles were aware of that being illegal, I suspect the illegal ATV and other vehicular off road traffic would not have the motivation to drive deep into woodlands to carry heavy stands and equipment.

I am seeking advice and or help in bringing about such a change in the hunting regulations. I would very much wish to meet with your organization to discuss what I can/must do to bring about this regulation change. Please let me know.

Tom Repko
503 949-2209

Lisa Evans

From: Christina <huntingqt@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Bait

Please keep the freedom of choice in using bait for deer and elk.

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Lisa Evans

From: robert reardon <youngstownbrown@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep elk/deer bait LEGAL

I am writing to request you consider baiting deer and elk as legal in the future. And while you're at it , allow baiting black bears again. Not allowing dogs is fine but baiting should be fair game

Thank you

-robert__

sent from iPhone-

Lisa Evans

From: Robert <butterfieldrobert@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:37 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and Elk Baiting

My name is Robert Butterfield and I regularly hunt deer and elk in Wallowa county. Primarily in the mountains of the Imnaha unit and occasionally the Chesnimus. I'm a fifth generation farmer here and enjoy hunting the back country. I've been very successful at what I do by working harder than the next guy. I often run into elk bait, along with the trail camera and blinds / stands. I feel strongly that there is no need for this feedlot style hunting, and wish a more fair chase approach was taken in Oregon. These animals blindly approach these sites, and honestly at times it looks like a rancher out feeding his cattle. I love hunting and the challenges it brings. I would fully support a bait ban. My personal cell number is 541 263 0354 and this next season I'd be glad to personally take any member of the commission up to view sites I regularly see in use. Thanks for your time

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid

Lisa Evans

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:18 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer and Elk in Oregon

My name is Gerry Crowe. I currently live in Eugene, having been raised in the Springfield area since I was 3 years old. I am 59 years old. I have been hunting in Oregon since I was 12. I am a former hunter education instructor, teaching hundreds of students in Southern Oregon for nearly 20 years. I currently chose to bowhunt for deer and elk.

I understand that there are some individuals that are seeking to stop the baiting of deer and elk in Oregon. I am sending this email in opposition to those individuals. I support the current regulations that DO NOT prohibit the use of bait for deer and elk.

This is exactly how measure 18 started, the banning of baiting bear and the use of dogs to hunt bear and cougar. The method of hunting deer and elk over bait is being portrayed as unethical or not "fair chase" by some individuals that choose not to hunt that way. My question is what is fair chase? Is it fair to hunt with a rifle and scope that can shoot 500 yards plus? Is it fair to wear camouflage so the critters can't see you? Is it fair to use calls? Is it fair to hunt during the rut? If you believe that the only ethical way to hunt is to strip naked and run thru the woods in search of prey, be my guest! Legal hunting methods do not cause damage to the animal populations. Loss of habitat, poaching, predation, disease are the causes of declining populations. Just because you don't use or like a certain way to hunt doesn't make it wrong. Are game cameras next? Lead bullets? Firearms that hold more than one round? When will someone come along and say it's not fair to hunt anything, we don't need to hunt?

I have hunted over bait for deer and elk for about 4 years. I also spot and stalk, still hunt, call during the rut, hunt from a treestand, and many times just head out into the woods. I have hunted on stand where a group of people will make a drive. Of all the animals I have taken, none have been taken over bait. One day I hope to arrow a nice buck over bait.

I hope you will consider your decision carefully. We dont need reduced opportunities based on the opinions of a few that choose not to hunt with bait.

Sincerely,

Gerry Crowe

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Lisa Evans

From: Jacob Zins <j51042524@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:24 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: The use of bait for deer and Elk

I feel that it is the choice of the individual to use bait or not. Just like if you were to use power bait for fishing or a lure. Would you take those away from the fisherman or would you leave it in their Arsenal to help them catch a fish? I don't feel that it should be something that the state should mandate, it is something that I use as a herd helper as far as making sure they're getting the nutrients and minerals that they need and that in a harder time of the winter they have something to eat. I do this on private property, I do not do it on public land. Nor do I think it would be fair to tell private landowners what they can do on their own property when it comes to this.

Also you would make it very hard for disabled or elderly people that otherwise can't get out to hunt like Able Body people this provides a way that they can get close and see the animals and can be involved with harvesting a deer or an elk. I think feeding the heard that is in your area is a benefits. I have had up 35 bucks in a season come through not counting does, and yearlings. I am one hunter, so one buck out of 35 is not a bad percentage. I'm maintaining the deer for the future.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Lisa Evans

From: MARK HASTINGS <hastings68@wildblue.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:06 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: baiting deer and elk

Please keep the freedom of choice in using bait!

Mark Hastings

Lisa Evans

From: Rob Hubbard <blacktailridgeoutfitters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:20 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer

I believe that we should be able to bait deer and elk. The people that have the time and money and desire to pack there stuff in off the main trail power to them. Why take away only thing we can use to our advantage.

Odfw has taken away our hunting with dogs, witch has brought the population of bears and cougars higher than our deer population.

From a guides point of view, when odfw is checking more bears in then deer we have a big problem.

If you would like to talk please call me
5419514323

Cody.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Lisa Evans

From: Adam Bieghler <acbieghler@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 7:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting for deer and elk

To whom it may concern,

While I am very new to bow hunting but have been a rifle hunter for many years, I feel that allowing to bait for deer and elk gives a very minor advantage to hunters. In the Pacific Northwest we are very limited to open spaces to see and shoot. Also it gives the hunter an opportunity to get close as needed in bow hunting to have an ethical kill shot. As a hunter, the most important part of harvesting an animal is having an ethical and quick kill shot. I do not want the animal to suffer in anyway. Please keep the choice for the hunter whether they would or should bait deer and elk.

Sincerely,

Adam Bieghler

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Steve L <steveor24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 5:52 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Legal Baiting Deer Elk in Oregon

Dear ODFW,

I was notified that a small group of Hunters want to make the current regulations of baiting deer and elk illegal in Oregon. This is not needed and is an unnecessary change in regulations that will only waste money going through the motions for changing it and put more restrictions on Hunters that are already regulated enough.

Thank you for reading my input.

Sincerely,
Steve Langdon

Lisa Evans

From: Justin Drews <justin.drews@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:28 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer/elk in Oregon

Hi, my name is Justin Drews

I am an avid Oregon hunter. Today I would like to discuss the possibility of prohibiting bait in Oregon.

I, as many Oregon blacktail hunters use bait sights to study blacktail deer, as well as hunt. I find baiting to be a great way to discover deer with issues such as foot rot and/or injuries. Also I find baiting aids in selecting a good deer to harvest. (I.e.; mature deer, injured deer, and/or genetic mutations) The use of bait also aids in people, such as disabled, youth, and the elderly to enjoy the hunting opportunities Oregon has to offer.

I am an Oregon hunter hoping to have the ability to uphold the current laws of baiting,
Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
Justin S. Drews

Lisa Evans

From: Bryan <bigbryan4x4@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:56 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

I am sending this in hopes to keep baiting legal. I am also hoping you would look into legalizing mechanical broadheads as well. Thank you. Bryan Kirkpatrick

Sent from Samsung Mobile

Lisa Evans

From: Jeremy Wilson <silvieselkhunter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:06 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Use of Bait for Deer & Elk

Good afternoon to whom it may concern,

I am in favor of using bait for deer and elk for those that choose to do it. Let us each choose. There is never any guarantee in being successful, some critters learn to do it at night, or at strategic times of day. Each of us still has to take the time to learn our weapon, be proficient with it and make a shot. Let each of us CHOOSE whether to bait or not for deer and Elk. Would this make hunting in an apple orchard a crime? Non fair chase? What about an alfalfa field? This opens to many cans of worms. Just let each of us choose, I rest my case.

If individuals don't want to do it, then don't. Don't take methods away from other people. Sometimes we don't even hunt over them, we just use them for trail cameras to find out what game is in the area.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Wilson
Lebanon, Oregon

Lisa Evans

From: Joseph May <josephmay125@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:13 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: About outlawing baiting deer

I have herd that it is in thought to outlaw to bait deer in oregon. Bieng a bow hunter myself it is hard enough to fill a deer tag baiting deer. Please take bowhunters in your thoughts when making a decision like this and please continue to allow us to bait deer. Thank you for your time.

Lisa Evans

From: Brad Wheeler <btwheels@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Use of bait for Deer & Elk hunting

Dear Commission,

I want to ask you to not change any regulations concerning the use of bait for hunting of deer & elk. It is my observation that bait may help in locating game, but certainly does not translate into success when hunting season is open. Especially in western OR I consider baiting as beneficial to my scouting efforts as the main benefit.

Thanks for your consideration,
Brad Wheeler

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Doug <doughawk55@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting of deer and elk

Hi commissioners

I am Doug Hawkins I am writing this email to voice my concern about baiting deer and elk.

I personally believe that baiting of deer and elk done correctly should be allowed. Should there be some regulations on it sure like a bait site should have to be marked or tagged with hunter identification. Bait site couldn't be within 500 yards of a paved or main gravel road. Bait sites would have to be maintained as to ODFW guidelines for their bait sites. Baiting done properly can be effective for the hunter and agency a like creating more sites for ODFW biologist to collect data.

Thanks Doug Hawkins

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: nick rubeo <nickrubeo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:23 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer and Elk

Dear ODFW,

I recently read on the OOC FaceBook page that a small group of hunters are trying to make baiting deer and elk illegal. By using apples the last couple years, it has made it so I could harvest mature bucks and pass on younger animals. It would be a mistake to outlaw baiting.

Thanks for your efforts,

Nick Rubeo

Lisa Evans

From: Collison, Gary <GCollision@pccstructurals.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 1:15 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Use of bait for hunting deer and elk

Please do not place further restrictions on hunting options. Oregon hunting is down enough now that I spend every other year hunting out of state to increase my success rate.

Gary Collison
VP of Operations, Small Structurals
PCC Structurals
503-819-4296 c

This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information and must be treated as such. In addition, export or re-export of the information contained in or attached to this email may be prohibited under export control laws.

Lisa Evans

From: randall@rapidfirearms.us
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:53 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: baiting deer

If you have ever hunted western Oregon black tail , you would know that baiting is not just for one deer or even a couple , its about seeing a transformation in the animals that hit the sight. they become very active and healthy . yes it helps at times but its no different than putting up game cams and pin pointing there every move day and night . hunting in western Oregon is not a easy task for any animal , lets not make it any harder than it already is. if you think its unfair to use a bait then simply dont use any bait or attractant . as a avid hunter and someone who takes his elderly grandfather hunting if you outlaw baiting you will only take away his ability to hunt as well as many other elderly or handicapped peoples ability to hunt these animals. please consider the people who may only be able to hunt using bait or attractant. do not outlaw baiting deer.

Randall Santos | **Rapid Fire Arms LLC**
Store Manager
39110 Proctor Blvd Suite B | Sandy , OR 97055
Direct 503-482-6881 | Fax 503-961-9223
randall@rapidfirearms.us | www.rapidfirearms.us

Lisa Evans

From: William Little <williamlittle2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:32 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Don't Ban use of bait for Deer and Elk

Dear Sirs,

This is a case of "If it's not broke, don't fix it". A request by a few individuals should not cause a change by ODFW. This squeaky wheel don't need to be greased. Please don't ban the use of bait for Deer and Elk. Ranchers routinely put cows out on leased BLM land. They use salt licks routinely-That is one thing that benefits the wildlife. The commission needs more individuals with common sense.

Thank you,

William A Little, Hunter, Fisherman, Outdoorsman
Salem, OR

Lisa Evans

From: John Gregory <john.gregory3434@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:31 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Ban the use of bait

I think we need less restrictions on baiting and salt blocks and elk and deer in Oregon. If anything we need more baiting options for predators such as bears and cougars. Why chip away at our rights as hunters, if anything it's to get a better view at an animal, you have a more ethical shot when they are standing still, hunting is hard enough with our predators running wild and you guys doing nothing about it, why make it harder?

John Gregory
Operations Manager ND-OFSWEST
701-580-1043
John.gregory@allyonsite.com
Ally Onsite

Lisa Evans

From: scott geddes <sgdesigns4you@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:30 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep the freedom of choice on baiting Deer & Elk in Oregon

A small group of hunters is requesting that the ODFW commission ban the use of bait for deer and elk. Please email the commission today and tell them to keep the freedom of choice in using bait. Email: odfw.commission@state.or.us

The animals in our area all benefiting with the products we give them . Our deer herd is much healthier & we are pouring our money back into the economy. Its a win for all .

We hunt crafty Blacktail & they always have the upper hand.

I can't cover ground like I used to with my bad knees & back so please don't ban baiting.

Scott Geddes

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

Lisa Evans

From: Chris Hansen <pacificlanscape@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Use of bait for deer and elk

To whom it may concern.

This email is in regard to the uses of bait for the purpose of hunting deer and elk. I believe bait should continue to be allowed for both rifle and archery hunting. I believe changing the rule would have very little impact on the overall success rate but would effect people who have a more difficult time getting around the woods for what ever reason.

My family personally would be effected by the change. I have a father with health issues and three youth hunters hunting next year. It is almost impossible for me to spend enough time in the woods with all of my children to be successful. Having the option to sit the older boys in a ground blind or tree stand gives them the opportunities at success that walking around in the woods does not have during archery season. It also make them part of there own success as they learn patience.

In conclusion the low overall impact on the herd and the possible loss of opportunity out ways any benefit of changing the baiting rules in Oregon as it applies to deer and elk hunting.

Thank you for your consideration

Chris Hansen
503-781-5468
Pacific Landscape Services, Inc
PO BOX 1090
FAIRVIEW, OR 97024

Lisa Evans

From: Brandon Becker <brandonbckr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Bait for deer and elk.

Dear commissioners,

My name is Brandon (Hunter angler ID 1437347). I am just writing to urge you to not consider banning the use of bait for deer and elk. It unfairly affects elderly and disabled hunters and the use of bait does not give an unfair advantage to any hunter.

Thank you,

Brandon

Lisa Evans

From: Russell Collier <russellcollierpublishing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:23 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting for Oregon Deer & Elk

Dear ODFW Commission,

My name is Russell Collier. I live in Sandy, OR and I publish THE HUNTER'S DIRECTORY - a small local hunting magazine for 10,000 deer & elk hunters in the greater Portland area + THE HUNTER'S CALENDAR - a wall calendar with date information re: Controlled, Premium & General Big Game Hunting Seasons for Oregon + information re: Sportsmen Shows and Gun & Knife Shows in Oregon.

I just learned that a small group of hunters are asking you to ban the use of bait for deer & elk in Oregon. Please allow me to share my thoughts about this subject.

I am 54 years old. Because of **medical issues** (back injury, knee problems and heel problems), I am not physically able to hunt in the same way as some other hunters without these issues. Baiting is a huge plus - especially for older and physically limited hunters.

When I bait for deer & elk, I set up trail cameras to monitor the activity. I learn a great deal about local animal behavior from the trail camera video footage. Thus, I become a **better educated and knowledgeable hunter**.

When I am sitting in a ground stand or tree stand at a bait site, **I am much more aware of the surroundings and what natural elements go into providing proper habitat for wildlife**. Therefore, I become **more concerned about conserving those natural elements (resources)** that produce good wildlife habitat.

I am primarily a **blacktail deer and elk** hunter in the Santiam Unit here in Western Oregon rain forests. Baiting for these animals is truly helpful because of the **thick cover and their behavior patterns that are truly challenging**.

Using bait allows a person on a limited budget to have an opportunity to develop a good hunting strategy in a location they can afford to visit more frequently. Long distance travel for good hunting opportunities is not easily afforded by all hunters.

Baiting is certainly not a guarantee to success, nor does it give the hunter an unfair advantage. These animals are very smart and experts at survival. You can do everything "right" and still not harvest an animal. That has been my story the majority of the time.

Baiting and hunting out of a ground stand or tree stand is only one style of hunting. I do not begrudge those that spot and stalk, still hunt, etc. Not everyone is able to, or comfortable with every hunting style. We make our individual choices and go from there based on our abilities and other factors.

Please carefully consider the matter of baiting for deer & elk. I do not know the basis for an opposition to it, but I do know there are many rational, ethical and positive reasons that support the hunting practice of baiting for deer & elk.

Thank you for your time and please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Lisa Evans

From: Tanner Flory <florytanner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Regards to baiting deer

Keep the freedom of choice in using bait.

Lisa Evans

From: Jason Kohl <jkohl88@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer baiting

Please do not stop the use of bait for deer and elk not that this tactic works all the time it is a nice advantage to have and be able to use if necessary.
Jason Kohl

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Jay Korthals <jkorthals4@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 12:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer and elk

First off I am 100% against taking away our right to bait deer and elk in Oregon. It should stay our right to choose the method of hunting style we prefer. If other hunters don't prefer the method of baiting and choose not to they have the right to do so. In my opinion it gives hunters chance to target more mature animals instead of young immature animals. The time and effort that goes into baiting deer and elk is no easy task either. I also think it can help our youth and disabled vets be more successful as well. Not to mention the bait, gas to drive there, batteries for trail cams ect... actually helps out the economy as well. Please do not take this method of hunting away from us that would be a shame....thanks Jay Korthals

Lisa Evans

From: James Shannon <stackedracks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:50 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep Bait for Deer and Elk

Please do not consider ceasing to allow "bait" to be used for big game. As a hunter and conservation promoter I have seen no problems in the areas that hunters "bait" the animals are actually much more healthy and the fawns seem to have a higher rate of survival. This is purely observation but I do spend over 80 days a year afield in Oregon. I have both baited and not. It obviously attracts animals to specific sites but in my observation also has not interrupted migration, breeding, or negatively effected harvest (taking to many in units) I look forward to spending my hard earned money buying quality supplements for the wild game herds and my reward is a probably slightly higher chance at harvest. The effect of my "bait" or supplements helps the herd more than my own dinner plate. It also helps the economy as I buy the supplements, the fuel, and the trail cameras, cards, battery's within Oregon. If we aren't getting pictures of the animals then we aren't going to go out as often to check cameras. Also if ODFW was to pursue it I would bet that lots of hunters could aid in the prosecution of poachers by providing pictures of animals after the seasons end. If an animal is found poached or head is discovered on a search posting that animal on social media and asking for recent pics could produce some evidence that it was alive after the season. Thank you for your time and efforts. Please again strongly consider that the small group that wants to stop supplements and "bait" is not the group spending their own money to help wildlife and promote conservation in my opinion.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

James Shannon
541-771-2484

Lisa Evans

From: Wyatt Sebright <olwyatt.sebright@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:48 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep Bait!

We as Oregon hunters, (bowhunters specifically) have a hard enough time tagging out, due to the lack of population, and limited shooting distance. For animals like blacktail deer, and mule deer in certain areas, and at certain times of the year. It would be nearly impossible to find and kill a buck. People like my grandfather, who do not hike as well anymore, largely rely on bait so that he can still get out and archery hunt bucks every year. It is a great avenue for beginning bowhunters to go down as well.

Bait however, certainly does not guarantee success, animals largely stay nocturnal, and a huge amount of patience is required to hunt over a bait.

Thank you for your reading, and consideration!

-Wyatt Sebright,

Passionate Oregon outdoorsman

Lisa Evans

From: Jake <Jakeh_06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

We already got our 3 main units taken away as a over the counter hunt, which killed a lot of hunting for families and tradition, and time spent in camp with people you enjoy, we can not use mechanical broad heads or lighted sights, yet rifle hunters get thousands of spike tags and cow tags issued in units bow hunters do not even have a opportunity to shoot cows in, let alone even as a draw opportunity. And rifle Hunter can use lighted reticles in scopes, guns that shoot 1000+ yds, wind speed checkers, ect. We already have enough going against us as bow hunters. Give us this one.

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Troy Clinton <clinton475@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:36 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Please continue allow bait for deer & elk.

Greetings Commission,

I hope you don't take away the option for baiting deer and elk. Bait helps keep animals in a specific hunting area that I have permission to hunt. A lot of hunting area around me is closed off or is fee hunting by the forest companies. Even with bait (salt, apples, other products available for sale) there are no guarantees, but it does allow for a closer, more ethical shot as animals are traveling through those baited areas. They establish travel paths while coming to bait during pre-season activity (June-July). My trail camera pics show elk hitting salt pre-season, but come general bow elk season, they don't really care about the salt much. They do care about the baited area as home and feel comfortable in those areas. I have never shot an elk licking off a salt block, but I have been able to cow call elk into an area they were familiar with, because of the pre-season bait.

Thank you for your consideration,
Troy Clinton

Lisa Evans

From: Jake <Jakeh_06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:32 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Baiting should be left to the hunter not any state government agency to decide, 99% of baiting taking place is in private land that access is limited on anyway, and it will never be stopped regardless of a law. There is no reason to make it illegal anyway, it benefits deer and elk herds that are already being whipped out by the wolves we hunters did not ask for, and it lets hunters be selective on animals they harvest, and the most important part it gives closer shots, on relaxed animals not on alert, making for more recovered and ethically shot animals, unlike a lot that are shot because they were jumped, and are in a dead run. This is one rule that should not be changed at all.

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Adam Moore <saint-moore@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and elk baiting

I know there are a few hunters saying that we shouldn't be allowed to bait deer and elk. the fact is baiting deer and elk hasn't been deviating to their population. i would ask that you would continue to uphold the law already in place. baiting isn't illegal and it never should be. thank you for your time and consideration on this subject.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy® Note 4.

Lisa Evans

From: jglenn26@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer

ODFW,

Please continue to allow us the freedom of choice in baiting deer... Thank you Jason Glenn

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Brian Bryson <bryson4146@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 11:18 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer and Elk

Hello,

I am writing in response to the small group of hunters who are trying to eliminate the ability to Bait Deer and Elk.

I believe that this should be a choice left for the hunter to decide and more regulations by ODFW will not help Deer and Elk in Oregon.

I am for Baiting.

Thank you ,

Brian Bryson

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Gregg Whiteaker <gwhiteaker@tonkin.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:59 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Bait for deer and elk in Oregon

To whom it may concern,

As a long time bow hunter, I am writing in to ask you to consider keeping bait legal for deer and elk in Oregon. I realize that rifle hunters may not care about bait (and when I say bait, I mean salt) because they can shoot their game from 600 yards away, but as bow hunters, we need an extra edge. We also need to bring back bail for bears to cull the over population.

thank you.

GREGG WHITEAKER
GENERAL MANAGER

RON TONKIN KIA

PH. 503-258-6301

FAX 503-258-3541

Lisa Evans

From: Jason <jasdtaylor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:51 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Please keep the freedom of choice in using bait.

Please add the use of bait for bear

Thank you
Jason Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: Chris Pascua <scorpioctp74@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting concern

PLEASE READ! I'm a concerned hunter, conservationist and fund donator, this is Just another right that these extremists are trying to take away! I realize it's not a tactic for everyone to each his own, but for youth, seniors, injured vets, and blacktails hunters it is a tactic that works on occasion. Soon it will be artificial sounds, blinds, tree stands etc... we pay our fees, follow rules, and am a active conservator to oregon please don't take away another right that some people rely on. Thanks chris

Sent from my iPhone

Lisa Evans

From: B.W. <bdub31@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:30 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer and elk

Good morning. I heard there was a group of people asking ODFW to stop allowing hunters to bait deer and elk. I'm writing to say I oppose a change to the rules that would prohibit the use of bait for deer and elk.

Bob Williams

Lisa Evans

From: Bobby ridden <rodden_bobby@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 9:40 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer & Elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello
Name is Bobby Rodden
I am %100 for baiting Deer and Elk

Baiting animals is a essential tool much like a trail camera, spotting scope, binocular's and A GPS. It in fact doesn't make it any easier to harvest an animal for that matter. I'm actually sitting in my ground blind now for late archery blacktail deer over my apple pile. I have sat for over 80 hours this season in hopes of finding a mature blacktail buck. I have seen one but couldn't get a shot because it was before shooting light. I haven't seen a deer in 3 days. Yet I sit here hands and feet numb. The only warmth I've felt is packing 50 pounds of apples 2 miles up this drainage. That fact that people say baiting animals like Deer or Elk is being "lazy" or "the easy way" is nothing but far from the truth.

I lay salt out for Elk every year come July for per-season scouting and %90 of the Bulls I see in July/August are gone in the peak of the rut. Agin it doesn't make it any easier.

It dose however help keep track of things like hoof rot, dear mange or other noticeable diseases in certain areas.

On another note we have lost thousands of miles of our national forest roads due to road closures making it extremely difficult for senior citizens and disabled hunters to harvest animals who are solely dependent on hunting over bait.

So please I ask to not let our freedom of baiting be diminished here in Oregon because a handful of people say it's unethical.

I would like to be updated on this subject and if any meetings are taking place, I would like to volunteer to be a part of.

Thanks you~

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Andrew Schilling <schillingandrew@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:30 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer and elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please fight for my right to hunt fair chase fair take and protect my right to bait! See you all in March:)

Roxann B Borisch

From: Clayton Lowe <claytonlowe64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and Elk "Baiting" good for Populations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

The use of "bait" while hunting or pursuing deer and elk has a positive impact on local herds. Most often the "bait" is mineral blocks, corn, apples, and other natural feeds that help keep deer and elk populations healthy. These feeds are used not only for hunting, but also often used to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities! They are often used in conjunction with trail cameras, and help encourage animals to stop and feed.

Although often meant to attract bulls and bucks, these minerals and feeds are often consumed primarily by females and their young. Therefore, this extra nutrition helps fatten and strengthen the entire herd. This increases the survival rates for all of the herd as well as conception and birthing rates among the females.

Economically, the ability to use these feeds also helps businesses throughout our state sell more products such as feeds, minerals, trail cameras, optics for viewing wildlife, ground blinds, tree-stands, and all manner of hunting and wildlife viewing equipment including firearms, bows, etc. Money from the sales of these items not only enriches our state's economy, but a portion of it goes back to the herd through fees collected from such sales!

Furthermore, hunters pay more and more each year in license and tag fees. They do so with the hope that they will have the opportunity to fill such tags and allowed the freedoms to use the ethical hunting tools they have been allowed in the past. If these freedoms diminish, while hunting costs continue to rise, the state's income from these sales will fall.

Although I am a hunter, I am first a conservationist. I would like to point out that theses "baits" do not have the type of instant and guaranteed effect for a hunter that some may believe! They merely offer the animals one more reason to travel through a certain site, yet do not "bring them running." They are truly consumed primarily without the presence of a hunter, and offer good nutrition for herds. I feel that these feeds do nothing but positive things for our deer and elk populations, while sometimes helping us manage these populations through the taking of game in a completely ethical manner.

Speaking of ethics, it is widely accepted that a hunter should not shoot at a moving animal. Feeds in a site give the animal a good reason to calmly stop and present an ethical shot for hunters. This helps hunters make better shots, therefore wounding less game, and instead cleanly recovering their quarry.

Thank you for reading this, please continue to allow all manner of wildlife enthusiasts the opportunity to use "bait" feeds for viewing, and hunting the deer and elk of our state.

Sincerely,

Michelle Tate

From: Campbell, Bob <BCampbell@stella-jones.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:01 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: baiting/other

I just received a link to e-mail about banning use of bait for deer and elk in Oregon in support of not banning. I agree with the banning of using bait for deer and elk. I am a lifetime Oregon citizen and have hunted deer and elk since I was 12 in 1983. I have watched numbers of deer decline on both sides of the state and feel that it is mostly due to excessive doe tags issued and methods in killing (obviously there are other problems that I won't discuss in this e-mail). Taking away the ability to bait would help, but the state really needs to quit issuing so many doe tags out. Even archery late season and having the ability to kill either sex is wrong. If a hunter isn't having luck finding a buck, they just go kill a doe. Elk seem to be doing fair except in general hunting areas where most people are pushed into the same units because they can't draw a tag in preferred units. I don't want to see the whole state go to draw for archery, but it sure has the feeling it is needed to reduce the number of hunters in all units for elk. Elk and deer hunting should be about the hunt and not just putting out cameras on bait and sitting in a tree stand waiting for them to come into a pattern of eating that you place out for them. That isn't hunting and feel ashamed for those that feel they are doing such. The hunt shouldn't be running into other hunters all over the place either. If a person is handicapped, they can sit on a main trail or water in a ground blind. To all of those people that forgot, this is HUNTING and should be more enjoyable than it has been in Oregon lately. As human population grows, we need to find ways to restrict in a way that keeps nature in balance and increase the quality of hunting in our State. Some drastic measures need put in place to get this accomplished. I am sorry for rambling on other points but feel there is so much that is wrong and am only limiting it to these at this time. I hope my voice is heard and something gets done to make our state better.

Sincerely,
Robert Campbell
McFarland Cascade/Stella Jones Plant Manager
90049 Hwy 99 N
Eugene, OR 97402
541-953-5220

Michelle Tate

From: Clayton Lowe <claytonlowe64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 10:06 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and Elk "Baiting" good for Populations

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Although I am a hunter, I am first a conservationist. I would like to point out that theses "baits" do not have the type of instant and guaranteed effect for a hunter that some may believe! They merely offer the animals one more reason to travel through a certain site, yet do not "bring them running." They are truly consumed primarily without the presence of a hunter, and offer good nutrition for herds. I feel that these feeds do nothing but positive things for our deer and elk populations, while sometimes helping us manage these populations through the taking of game in a completely ethical manner.

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Thank you for reading this, please continue to allow all manner of wildlife enthusiasts the opportunity to use "bait" feeds for viewing, and hunting the deer and elk of our state.

Sincerely,

Clayton Lowe

Michelle Tate

From: Andrew Schilling <schillingandrew@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 10:30 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting deer and elk

Please fight for my right to hunt fair chase fair take and protect my right to bait! See you all in March:)

Michelle Tate

From: Bobby ridden <rodden_bobby@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:40 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Deer & Elk

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I am %100 for baiting Deer and Elk

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On another note we have lost thousands of miles of our national forest roads due to road closures making it extremely difficult for senior citizens and disabled hunters to harvest animals who are solely dependent on hunting over bait.

So please I ask to not let our freedom of baiting be diminished here in Oregon because a handful of people say it's unethical.

I would like to be updated on this subject and if any meetings are taking place, I would like to volunteer to be a part of.

Thanks you~

Sent from my iPhone

Michelle Tate

From: Josh Graham <grahampnw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep the bait

Keep the freedom of choice in using bait, use the efforts to push the punishments and investigation of poachers to stop. It is getting out of hand with how many animals get poached and left. Sickening.

Sent from my iPhone

Michelle Tate

From: Corey Kirkpatrick <corey.m.kirkpatrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 7:59 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Use of Bait

To whom it may concern,

I am a born and raised Oregonian who is a proud outdoorsman. I would like to voice my opinion on baiting deer and elk here in Oregon. I fully support baiting, it is a fair chase tactic that still requires time in the woods and scouting. If you outlaw baiting for deer and elk you may loose some of the elderly and physically challenged hunters.

I also urge you to consider opening bait back up for bear and other predators.

While I have your attention I would like to push for a reevaluation on mechanical broad heads for archers. I have encountered a loss of an animal and know people who have followed massive blood trails to a dry end with no game in sight. It is a very sad truth of the sport but I can't help but thinking with twice the cutting diameter some of those near misses of vitals would be a recovered animal.

Thank you,
Corey Kirkpatrick

Michelle Tate

From: Chris Walden <cwalden94@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 7:11 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: oregon bait ban

To the commission,

is putting out food or a salt block in the forest different than growing a food plot or using sardines on fishing lures? I do understand that baiting does increase your odds in some cases but for most cases it doesn't in fact help do to the nocturnal habits of most if not all blacktail deer and even elk, there are still a lot of hard work and studying that goes into it to be successful. Choosing the right area and studying the habitat are a lot of the key ingredients into being successful. By being able to set up a food source and cameras just allows you to see what type of animals and quantity that might be in a given area, I may not get a single day time picture until the rut. It gives you a opportunity to see weather or not your wasting your time much quicker than just setting cameras on a well used trail. This method is in fact no different then sitting on a watering whole for antelope or wallows for elk. This issue still goes back to salt blocks for cattle or salt for deer and elk. Adding additional restrictions just takes away freedoms and makes it more likely that disabled or elderly will drop out of hunting or not passed on to younger generations. I hope to see this tradition continue and keep this amazing opportunity alive.

Thanks
Chris Walden

Michelle Tate

From: Stacy Breaux <stacycbreaux@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 9:31 PM
To: Commission Odfw
Subject: The use of bait for hunting deer and elk

I am sending this email to voice my opinion and belief that it is and always should be up to the hunter to decide whether or not to use bait to attract big game.

Not all of us are ultra marathon athletes that can pack their camp into the back country on their backs, or have access to horses or private land to be able to hunt animals in a natural wilderness environment without pressure from other hunters. The rest of us need to rely on other tactics to help with opportunities to get in close and make good, ethical shots on game. Especially those of us that archery hunt.

Thank you,
Stacy Breaux (and family)

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Campbell, Bob <BCampbell@stella-jones.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 9:01 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: baiting/other

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I just received a link to e-mail about banning use of bait for deer and elk in Oregon in support of not banning. I agree with the banning of using bait for deer and elk. I am a lifetime Oregon citizen and have hunted deer and elk since I was 12 in 1983. I have watched numbers of deer decline on both sides of the state and feel that it is mostly due to excessive doe tags issued and methods in killing (obviously there are other problems that I won't discuss in this e-mail). Taking away the ability to bait would help, but the state really needs to quit issuing so many doe tags out. Even archery late season and having the ability to kill either sex is wrong. If a hunter isn't having luck finding a buck, they just go kill a doe. Elk seem to be doing fair except in general hunting areas where most people are pushed into the same units because they can't draw a tag in preferred units. I don't want to see the whole state go to draw for archery, but it sure has the feeling it is needed to reduce the number of hunters in all units for elk. Elk and deer hunting should be about the hunt and not just putting out cameras on bait and sitting in a tree stand waiting for them to come into a pattern of eating that you place out for them. That isn't hunting and feel ashamed for those that feel they are doing such. The hunt shouldn't be running into other hunters all over the place either. If a person is handicapped, they can sit on a main trail or water in a ground blind. To all of those people that forgot, this is HUNTING and should be more enjoyable than it has been in Oregon lately. As human population grows, we need to find ways to restrict in a way that keeps nature in balance and increase the quality of hunting in our State. Some drastic measures need put in place to get this accomplished. I am sorry for rambling on other points but feel there is so much that is wrong and am only limiting it to these at this time. I hope my voice is heard and something gets done to make our state better.

Sincerely,
Robert Campbell
McFarland Cascade/Stella Jones Plant Manager
90049 Hwy 99 N
Eugene, OR 97402
541-953-5220

Hunting Oregon big game over bait sites.

Over the past couple decades I have been discovering more and more baited hunting stands which violate my hunting ethic and belief in "Fair Chase". Some have been permanent (spikes driven into trees), many are ladder tree stands and many ground blinds, both made from surrounding foliage and commercially offered pop-up type. In my younger days I preferred to hunt the deep wilderness and high mountains but as with most of us, my age is slowing me down and decreasing my mobility.

This year during a week and a half hunting the North Fork John Day Wilderness area I discovered a hunting stand baited with an unidentified brown sugary substance. Later identified by a horse camp occupant as being his party's site, he also described his 4 other baited stands in the area.

To escape the concentration of people and their questionable hunting technique, I decided to move to the National Forest east of Ukiah where off-road motorized vehicle travel is restricted. While in that area I became alarmed and frustrated with the numerous baited hunting sites that all had recent major evidence of motorized vehicle traffic to them. Several had major trails cut through heavy new growth. Those locations suggest motorized vehicles had been used to carry in heavy tree stands, ground blind equipment, and bait into the remote habitat areas. Bait included apples, salt blocks, an unknown brown sugary substance, and meat Styrofoam trays and wrappers which obviously were intended for something other than deer and elk. All the stands had trail cameras, likely to identify visitation trends. While hunting I heard an ATV but was not able to catch up to it to identify the operator. Of the 6 baited sites that I discovered in the National Forest, two of the baited stands were occupied at the time I found them. If that hunting technique was illegal, those hunters could have been identified.

In 1994 Oregon Measure 18 was introduced and carried forward by non-hunting organizations and it was passed in the state. It made hunting for bears using bait, illegal. That measure was supported likely due to the outrage of many non-hunters and hunters alike.

I believe that the measure fell short of the desired intent of reestablishing the "Fair Chase" aspect of our hunting heritage. Perhaps the organizers and likely many of our voters did not realize that hunting other big game (deer and elk) over baited sites, was "not illegal" and apparently common. I hope to correct this possible oversight and make hunting all big game more ethical and more aligned with the concept of "Fair Chase" which is also greatly advocated by two of America's major hunting organizations.

From Pope and Young's web site home page: **"Simply defined, fair chase is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals in a manner which does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the animal."**

Nearly identical to Pope and Young, is this from Boone and Crockett's hunting ethics web page: "...the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals."

I encourage the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to prohibit hunting big game over bait sites. It will preemptively lessen the chances of anti-hunting groups rallying to further campaign and chip away at our hunting privileges. I also believe it will lessen the motivation for illegal motor vehicle operation in restricted areas.

Roxann B Borisch

From: j.souza <j.souza@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 3:42 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Bait

Dear Commission

I have been a supporter of wildlife management and a hunter for over 35 years. I have looked at many studies of deer baiting in states across the country. The benefits of baiting deer in the short period during hunting season has little to no adverse affect on the deer herd population, but allows hunters the opportunity to see deer they may otherwise not had the opportunity to. With an aging hunting population and the difficulty hunting blacktail deer in Oregon many hunters would not have the ability to see game as to the loss of land and road closure areas are making it harder to access good hunting areas. It is also a great way to introduce new hunters to see game and a wonderful tool for handicap hunters who cannot hike in the woods. Please leave the baiting law where it stands.

Thank You For Your Time

Sincerely
John Souza
Medford Oregon

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: James Raffensperger <james.raffy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 03, 2016 5:41 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Right to bait

I have started archery hunting 4 years ago. I am asking that ODFW does not take away the right to bait. It does not work all the time anyway. (I've used it and only gotten 1 deer in 4 years).

Thanks,
Jim Raffensperger

Roxann B Borisch

From: micah armstrong <armstrongmicah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 7:46 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oppose Deer Bait Ban

Dear Commissioners,

Throughout the last decade, I have introduced my son, other family members, and friends to hunting and we specifically hunt over apples and other forms of bait for deer. Many of these people I have introduced to hunting have relished these months out of the year that we bait, check trail cameras and hunt. It has brought new hunters to the field and increased revenue through repeated purchases of tags and licenses yearly. This is the form of hunting we have chose to adopt and have been very successful.

There is a small group of hunters that disagree with this type of hunting and it is their right to chose not to participate in this type of hunting.

My purpose of writing this letter is to urge you to oppose the bait ban for deer and other wild ungulates. The group of hunters opposing this is few in numbers compared those who do hunt over multiple forms of bait, and the opinion of a few shouldn't determine the outcome of many. Please, leave the current regulations in place. It allows people to choose how they want to hunt, whether it's over bait or other legal methods of hunting.

I fear that banning the use of bait for deer and other ungulates will decrease hunter numbers and new hunter recruitment due to lack of animal sightings and success.

Sincerely,
Micah Armstrong

Roxann B Borisch

From: mary panza <skiermary69@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 9:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oppose Deer Bait Ban

Dear Commissioners,

>>

>> My family and I hunt deer over apples. Although very labor intensive, we find much pleasure in checking our trail cameras and targeting specific animals.

>>

>> Baiting and trail cameras are a massive part of our family's recreation for months out of the year.

>>

>> I have been able to introduce several new Hunter's to our ranks by providing opportunity to either see or harvest a deer. My friends and family that saw or harvested a deer have continued to buy a license and tag, those that did not get a visual or success, have not continued to hunt.

>>

>> Please, for the sake of what has become my family's tradition, do not ban baiting deer. It would be a devastating blow to a good group of hard working, tax paying, conservation contributing folks that use their fraction of recreational time in the fall and winter months to spend time in the outdoors doing what they love to do.

>>

>> Thank you for considering my family's welfare in your decision making.

>>

>> Your friend in conservation,

>>

>> Mary Askew

Roxann B Borisch

From: Paul Askew <mcharlied93@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 5:15 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oppose Deer Bait Ban

Dear Commissioners,

My family and I hunt deer over apples. Although very labor intensive, we find much pleasure in checking our trail cameras and targeting specific animals.

Baiting and trail cameras are a massive part of our family's recreation for months out of the year.

I have been able to introduce several new Hunter's to our ranks by providing opportunity to either see or harvest a deer. My friends and family that saw or harvested a deer have continued to buy a license and tag, those that did not get a visual or success, have not continued to hunt.

Please, for the sake of what has become my family's tradition, do not ban baiting deer. It would be a devastating blow to a good group of hard working, tax paying, conservation contributing folks that use their fraction of recreational time in the fall and winter months to spend time in the outdoors doing what they love to do.

Thank you for considering my family's welfare in your decision making.

Your friend in conservation,

Paul Askew

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Adam Raymond <adam.c.raymond@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 2:20 PM
To: odfw.commission
Subject: Wildlife Baiting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

ODFW Commission,

I forgot to add something to my email on why I believe baiting should not be banned or made illegal in Oregon for hunters.

How would the law or regulation be written if a hunters was close to a salt/mineral site created by ODFW or a rancher without knowing it? How would that hunter explain this to OSP or a judge? Do all hunters and Oregon residents know that ODFW has salt/mineral sites all over the place to help capture and collar deer for their study? Do all these people know where the ODFW salt/mineral sites are located? Would this ban include food plots or other farms, gardens and natural food sources on private property? Why or why not?

Hunters buying bait and/or attractants put money into the economy and helps fund someones position/job at a business. Oregon also allows the use of bait for fishing and crapping. Would the use of bait be made illegal for people who fish and crab? Lots of things to think about before making a final decision on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Adam Raymond
North Bend, OR 97459

Roxann B Borisch

From: Adam Raymond <adam.c.raymond@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 1:17 PM
To: odfw.commission
Subject: Hunters Baiting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

ODFW Commission,

I have heard that the issue of baiting big-game and whether it should be turned from legal to illegal has come up. I hope that the Commission decides to leave baiting big-game as is LEGAL.

"Hunting has many gradations and varieties and, in the end, is a highly personal experience. There is no distinction among hunters. We should not dare to create one." Shane Mahoney

I can only see this topic being brought up from anti-hunters or hunters who do not hunt with bait so think all hunters should not hunt with bait. If we look at everything that may give a hunter a slight advantage than we or you as the Commission should ban and make illegal high powered rifles that can shoot 500+ yards, scents & attractants, antlers to rattle, calls, food plots, tree stands, blinds, range finders, trail cameras, and the list could go on.

If feeding or baiting wildlife is bad in any way then the state of Oregon needs to make it illegal for everyone and not just hunters. Why would it be fine and legal for people to feed birds or other non-game and game animals while making it illegal for hunters? We could not use the issue of disease if everyone else could across the state continue to feed wildlife. Why would it be ok to allow other hunters to use technology that allows them an advantage to hunting but ban bait?

Salt/Mineral licks attract wildlife during the spring and early summer. This is great for scouting but the activity starts to drop in July and almost nothing in August before the first hunting season even starts. The use of feed and what the animals likes changes from place to place for whatever reason so can be hard to figure out or draw in wildlife. Wildlife also tends to come in during the night when it is dark from what trail cameras have shown. So baiting is not guaranteed to allow a hunter a shooting opportunity or harvest. It does however allow some people the mental advantage and help feed big-game who's populations in Oregon are not meeting the states goals.

I have a degree from OSU in Wildlife Science and have worked for ODFW, BLM, DOD, and currently the Forest Service all in wildlife positions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Adam Raymond
North Bend, OR 97459

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michelle Tate
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 4:29 PM
To: Roxann B Borisch
Subject: FW: Wildlife Baiting

Hi Roxie- this looks like BG PC

From: Adam Raymond [mailto:adam.c.raymond@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 2:20 PM
To: odfw.commission <odfw.commission@state.or.us>
Subject: Wildlife Baiting

ODFW Commission,

I forgot to add something to my email on why I believe baiting should not be banned or made illegal in Oregon for hunters.

How would the law or regulation be written if a hunters was close to a salt/mineral site created by ODFW or a rancher without knowing it? How would that hunter explain this to OSP or a judge? Do all hunters and Oregon residents know that ODFW has salt/mineral sites all over the place to help capture and collar deer for their study? Do all these people know where the ODFW salt/mineral sites are located? Would this ban include food plots or other farms, gardens and natural food sources on private property? Why or why not?

Hunters buying bait and/or attractants put money into the economy and helps fund someones position/job at a business. Oregon also allows the use of bait for fishing and crapping. Would the use of bait be made illegal for people who fish and crab? Lots of things to think about before making a final decision on this issue. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Adam Raymond
North Bend, OR 97459

Roxann B Borisch

From: Larry D. Jones <oldcodgerldj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 6:21 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Banning baiting deer

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not ban baiting deer. I'm a native Oregonian, 74 years old and have enjoyed baiting deer for years. While baiting with apples and grain I mainly feed wildlife, because I bow hunt and shooting a deer with a bow is a real challenge. I work hard at it and baiting is a lot of work, but does, fawns, bucks, birds, squirrels, and other wildlife enjoy the feed I leave.

It gives me and my family a chance to view wildlife and harvest meat. I've had Bypass heart surgery and the low fat venison is a critical part of my diet.

It also allows me get kids charged up about hunting, because they can see wildlife and get a chance to harvest deer. Without success they loose interest and go back to their electronic devices.

Since baiting deer has little impact on deer numbers; provides more recreational hunting time afield, increases hunting opportunity and interest for youth, and allows hunters to make solid hunting decisions, because they have time to view and wait for the right angle for a quick clean kill, I urge you to vote no on the ban to bait deer.

Thank You!

Larry D. Jones

Old Codgers Rule! - Old Codger used affectionately to refer to an eccentric but amusing old man.

Larry D. Jones

931 T Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Hm. 541-747-9846 cell 541-228-6694
oldcodgerldj@gmail.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeff Price <jprice.pdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2017 12:48 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us; odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Comment: baiting_elk and deer

Dear Sirs,

I have heard that a proposal has been submitted regarding the legality of baiting large ungulate species in Oregon. I support the ban and believe that it follows many of the neighboring western states. I am a hunter in the state who also happens to have experience hunting other states - including Texas where the baiting is not only practiced but is used as a management tool; this scenario differs greatly from what I experience in Oregon.

I support a baiting ban based on the following reasons:

- Related to all methods of take, including off-season scouting or association, and in-line with other western states, baiting of elk, deer and antelope should not be allowed except by management agencies as necessary for their efforts [trapping/relocation/disease control etc].
- Baiting and the resulting concentration of game causes an increased vulnerability to animals from disease [hair loss and CWD] and predation by creating an unnatural gathering of animals and potentially limiting natural migratory/seasonal movement.
- Baiting and the resulting concentration of game causes an increased vulnerability to animals from poaching/poachers.
- Baiting, including and similar to food plot development, introduces noxious/non-native plant species in the state that become detrimental to the range and animal overall health. Food plots should be included and categorized as baiting when specifically targeting game [witness alfalfa piles in the Heppner unit on forest service land].
- Baiting of ungulates creates a poor image of hunting and hunters and minimizes the understanding of hunting as a management tool in the public eye.

In my own experience, baiting is becoming more prevalent in Oregon; once widely accepted as illegal, more people understand it is no longer that way. This is especially true on the west side of the state and other areas where hunters are concentrated due to public access limits. Numerous other states have determined that baiting creates a non-natural example that can adversely affect animals and animal health. Though I generally am adamant that we not further restrict hunting, it seems that when we create conditions that adversely affect wildlife health and management that we should step forward with an appropriate conservation response.

As always, I support a scientific method of wildlife management and expect biologists in the department to carefully weigh and understand the issues at hand; there is an opportunity to act now for the benefit of the wildlife before they become adversely affected.

Regards and thanks for all that that you do,

Jeff R Price

PS Baiting of bear and cougar has not shown to have similar affects and should the ungulate proposal include a repeal on the bear baiting statute, perhaps with limits on bait types to minimize association with humans [e.g. donuts, syrup jams etc], this would be more widely accepted and favorable.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Donald Maywald <crewof61@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 10:10 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and Elk baiting regulations

Recently the question of whether baiting should continue to be allowed for deer and elk in Oregon should continue to be legal has been brought to our attention. During the discussion at our last membership meeting the question was brought up as to what is considered legal baiting. As no one at the meeting had any knowledge of the state rules on this issue. Could you provide the actual rule as to what is considered acceptable baiting here in Oregon. This practice varies from state to state with some not allowing baiting at all and others allowing timed feeders to be placed where the game animals can come to be easily taken.

Donald Maywald
Newsletter Editor
OHA Columbia County Chapter

Roxann B Borisch

From: Rowles, Colin <crowles@columbia.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 2:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting for Deer & Elk

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I have seen that there is a proposal to outlaw the baiting of deer and elk. I do not think that this is necessary as hunters will bait an area with cameras in an attempt to see what or how many animals are in the area. It also allows for a more selective hunt if you can see different animals coming into an area. I do not believe it puts an unfair advantage to the hunter if we are able to draw animals into a specific area. Hunters are already being shut-out of more and more logging lands and to take away another aspect of hunting is just wrong.

I understand that there are trash or trespassing issues associated with baiting but those should be addressed on an individual basis and not banned entirely. We are trying to get more people to hunt and buy licenses and not keep chipping away at the tools they can use.

Thank you.

Colin Rowles | Account Service Rep II | Columbia Sportswear
office: 503.985.4729 | fax: 503.985.5729 | crowles@columbia.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike <mikeslonghorn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 10:47 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

To whom it may concern, I would just like to voice my opinion on your baiting issue. From what I have seen or encountered over the last several years of using minerals for deer and elk is that it is nothing but beneficial for not only the deer and elk but every other animal in the Forrest also. I do not believe it congbrates them anymore then a water source or another food source. As soon as fall comes around the deer and elk also for the most part no longer use the minerals anyway, they seem to only use when needed. Running cameras and getting pictures is in alot of ways funner then hunting due to the fact the whole family can be involved. It would appear that someone or some people have had some bad experiences with people and using some form of bait, as with anything there are bad apples that unfortunately make everyone look very bad. Please don't allow them to ruin something that others enjoy and is very beneficial to all of the wildlife in the forrest, Thank you.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mike <mikeslonghorn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 10:47 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

To whom it may concern, I would just like to voice my opinion on your baiting issue. From what I have seen or encountered over the last several years of using minerals for deer and elk is that it is nothing but beneficial for not only the deer and elk but every other animal in the Forrest also. I do not believe it congbrates them anymore then a water source or another food source. As soon as fall comes around the deer and elk also for the most part no longer use the minerals anyway, they seem to only use when needed. Running cameras and getting pictures is in alot of ways funner then hunting due to the fact the whole family can be involved. It would appear that someone or some people have had some bad experiences with people and using some form of bait, as with anything there are bad apples that unfortunately make everyone look very bad. Please don't allow them to ruin something that others enjoy and is very beneficial to all of the wildlife in the forrest,Thank you.

Roxann B Borisch

From: THOMAS N DEBRIE III <THOMAS.DEBRIEIII@marten.com>
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 1:41 PM
To: 'odfw.commission@state.or.us'
Subject: baiting deer and elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I believe this practice should NOT be prohibited. I for one bait, more so during preseason to get trail cam pictures of what is around and the quality of animals I will be hunting. I can also tell you that most of the animals hit the bait sites at night and not during hunting hours. I have never killed an animal over a bait sight. Furthermore from what I notice is that elk hit a site hard during late spring and early summer and then as the rut approaches they pretty much don't hit it at all. I have seen my sights pretty much get zero activity in mid-September even though the elk are still around.

There is no difference in my eyes between guy putting out some salt or apples for a bait site and a guy who hunts some private land and shooting an animal under an apple tree. Or sitting over a water hole in September. Or sitting atop a logging landing watching a clear cut which essentially is a food plot on this side of the country. I would argue that the animals being killed over bait sites is very few and that the vast majority of ETHICAL hunters put out bait as a scouting practice. Please don't take this away from me and others like me.

Tom Debie

Shop Foreman | **Marten Transport, LTD.** | 29605 SW Kinsman Rd | Wilsonville, Or 97070 - www.marten.com
office: 866-931-5508 ext. 4411 | email: tnd@marten.com

Roxann B Borisch

From: mark reed <duckhunter118@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 23, 2017 5:06 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Ban on baiting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I do not support a ban on bait for deer and elk . For the last few yrs my family has hunted over bait in the fort rock unit. I personally have had only one kill of a cow elk in the east part of the unit. 3 yrs ago . Have had a few close calls but not able too get a shot .baiting does not give u that great of a advantage. The animals still have too come by and give u a shot . I have spend many days sitting and nothing coming in.the fort rock unit last yr had only 30 elk killed during archery out of 330 hunters. U can't tell me that baiting is making that much of a affect on deer and elk. Areas like fort rock unit are dense and hard too spot elk . With sportsman not really happy with odfw with the management of wildlife and many regulations. I hope u listen too the sportsman for once. I have no argument against night vision that give u a un fair advantage. If want too see how we bait I will show u come sit in the stand with me and I will show u it just a reason for them too come by no different then water .

Roxann B Borisch

From: KATHRYN AND BOB HOVERKAMP <khoverk@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2017 9:07 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting big game

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I should be allowed.
Some areas thats the only way to get close.
Bob Hoverkamp

Sent from Samsung tablet

Roxann B Borisch

From: Kitty Carty <bvcartyverizon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 4:00 PM
To: ODFW; Representative Greg Walden
Subject: Hunting over bait review

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I am writing about my feelings about hunting over bait. I am a handicapped senior, but I still like to go hunt. I can no longer walk, due to a broken back in 2010. I know that you have changed the handicap regs to allow using an electric wheel chair, but that is totally unreasonable, unless you don't care about ruining your chair. My point is that you need to keep it legal to hunt over bait. If they take this away, then you are shutting the door on thousands of senior or handicapped people. We (my husband and I) are both bow hunters and believe me when I say that hunting over bait is not a gimmie. We spend lots of hours. I have to hunt with a ground blind, since I cannot climb a ladder to a tree stand. Please do not take this away from us!

Sent to ODFW and Greg Walden

Roxann B Borisch

From: Marcus Choi <mac.choi.89@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 7:57 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

I am pro baiting. Letting sportsmen and women place mineral for elk and deer help increase the odds for a successful hunt. This becomes even more important as more predators are putting pressure on game animals every year. If baiting goes off the table I truly hope using hounds for cougars and wolf hunting end up on the ballot in the years to follow.
Thank you.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Shawn McBeth <sharzilla32@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 6:06 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: baiting

hello there, please dont vote to ban baiting for deer and elk, as baiting has helped for us deaf hunters. we cant call animal or hear them. baiting helps us successful, and we wish bear baiting was allowed

thank you

Roxann B Borisch

From: bigstevo18 <bigstevo18@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 5:55 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Please keep current rules in place. Baiting should be legal.

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: bigstevo18 <bigstevo18@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 5:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Hello,
Recently there has been question of regarding baiting of deer and elk. I urge the commission to reconsider this. It is a effective tool that we as hunters use to help our conservation models put forth by the ODFW. Please do not take away these rights. It would just hurt the hunting population and cause decline in hunting, possibly leading to people braking a rule that was long in place prior. Thank you for your time and please keep baiting legal in Oregon.

Sincerly,
Steven J Shaffley

Sent from my U.S. Cellular® Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 9:08 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting of deer and elk

You have absolutely no data that shows that hunters using bait has any negative impact on deer and elk. You had no data to show that hunting bear over bait or hunting cougar and bear with dogs had any negative impact on their populations. With bear and cougar you said it was an issue of fair chase. With the baiting of deer and elk you are saying it's an issue of fair chase. You are not managing with sound biological data. You are managing our wildlife thru politics. Ballot box management does not work.

I have bow hunted for deer over bait for about 5 years. In that time I have not harvested a single animal. All of the deer that show up on my trail cam are healthy. There is no sign of disease. I use alfalfa pellets, the same thing ODFW uses in the White River Wildlife Area. I also use a trace mineral block. I have had no negative impact on the deer in that area. In fact the deer are healthy. If this method is so unfair, I should have a freezer full of venison. I do not. If baiting deer and elk were so unfair why aren't we seeing an increase in harvest or success rates?

This is my 48th hunting season. This may be my last hunting season. I will no longer support a group that caves in to pressure from elitist groups. I was a hunter ed instructor for almost 20 years but because ODFW decided to go political instead of doing the right thing I had to resign from something I truly loved to do.

I ask the Commission to leave the baiting of deer and elk as is. Fair chase without biological facts is nothing more than ballot box management.

Gerry Crowe

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Roxann B Borisch

From: Corey Kirkpatrick <corey.m.kirkpatrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 7:51 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting game animals

To whom it may concern,

The baiting of deer and elk is an issue that in my opinion does not need to be on your agenda.

The wolf population, predator increase and mis management of mule deer in our state are both things I feel need to be addressed before the baiting of deer and elk.

Deer are born at an almost one to one ratio. When I see 30 mule deer in one day and 2 are bucks, someone is doing something wrong. Doe management is a real thing and is something that needs to be considered.

Once again I want to make it very clear I am all for the baiting of deer, elk and bear. On top of that using dogs to tree bear and cougar should be legalized. These are laws that were passed out of emotional bias and not for scientific purposes.

Thank you for your time.

Corey Kirkpatrick

Roxann B Borisch

From: nick rubeo <nickrubeo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 5:05 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting Game Mammals

Hi Team,

It's recently come to my attention you guys are looking at banning baiting for game mammals, which would be a mistake. Over the last few years I've hunted over apples for blacktail deer. I was able to get an inventory of bucks that were in the area and hold out for a mature animal. Without the use of baiting, I'd be forced to shoot the first legal buck I would see. This would lead to more immature bucks being killed.

Make the right choice on this one,

Nick Rubeo
971.226.4091

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jared Green <jared@1sourcehandl.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 10:07 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Ban on baiting

I'm writing to implore you to not move forward with efforts to make baiting of game mammals illegal. The overall quality of Oregon big game hunting experience has declined, and moves like this will further disenfranchise Oregon hunters. Your priorities should be to make Oregon hunting experience as positive as possible, improving hunter retention and recruitment. Trail cameras over bait brings a lot of enjoyment to a large population of hunters. Removing this will further erode hunters confidence in ODFW caring about the people paying the bills.



Jared Green - CEO
One Source Home & Lawn Care Inc.
541-639-6145

Roxann B Borisch

From: Levi Skillings <mcskillz916@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 6:29 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Removal of legal baiting

I hear rumors that you are wanting to make baiting of deer and elk illegal. I think this is a total crock for multiple reasons. I have hunted both with and without baiting animals and it doesn't seem to make all that much difference.. I think a lot of the stuff you people keep messing with is ridiculous and lately has started getting out of hand!! We need people in your office who work for us sportsmans and actually do something that matters i.e. getting rid of your bad choices such as the wolves you thought were a great idea to bring here!! What is wrong with you people!!!

Roxann B Borisch

From: Sabrina Kittelson <sabrinakittelson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 8:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Keep baiting legal

Hello,

I am an avid deer hunter and even WITH bait I have to spend every waking hour possible during the season to fill my tag. We anticipate the meat every year. It is a vital that we keep baiting legal. Even with baiting only dedicated hunters fill their tag. Baiting also helps give our deer good nutrition to help their population and our deer number's are low compared to other states. It is a win for the hunters & the deer and is simply good animal husbandry. The meat harvested is done so with the most ethical existence before harvest & the most appreciation after the harvest of any other meat source Oregonians eat. Much better than cattle living in a feed lot & consumers that think meat comes from s grocery store.

Sabrina Kittelson
503-949-7312

Roxann B Borisch

From: Chris Meyer Titan Outdoors <team-titan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 1:18 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Potential baiting ban

Good afternoon,

This email is to express my opinion on the ODFW potentially making baiting for deer and elk illegal here in Oregon. I oppose this ban full heartedly. This ban will effect more than just the average hunter. I have seen baiting used to help spark the hunting interest with today's youth by helping them see more animals & be successful in their younger years of hunting. Also baiting for deer and elk is a huge way to help disabled/handicapped hunters fill their tags as well. Taking away yet ANOTHER form of hunting from today's sportsman is wrong!! Thank you for your time, I hope my email counts as a vote and I hope you have a great week.

Sincerely,
Chris Meyer

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Pete Gutbrod <gutbrodpete@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 5:50 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed deer elk bait ban

I would hope that your agency is not really going to consider this ban. I have been hunting deer here in Oregon for 35 years and have placed mineral blocks and apples etc on our property in hopes of increasing my odds of taking a buck . I have seen many deer on trail cameras using the attractants but have only harvested 1 deer over those baits. I do think the baits kept the deer close by and in the area. But to say it's unfair chase is just not true. And to say it congregates animals together does not seem true either. Not from what I see on cameras. Mostly singles and pairs use the baits at any one time . Where is any scientific data on the subject ? Is this another politically motivated move ? Bowing down to another small majority who complain? This is another NON ISSUE imho. How about you folks go work on a real issue like predation problems. You folks have already lost the support of the majority of sportsman so how about not banning baits and not putting another nail in you coffin . I urge you to not support this ban and rule change. Pete Gutbrod

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Mark L <elkchaser@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 29, 2017 5:10 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting elk and deer

Hello

I'm a avid archery hunter and I enjoy the use of bait to attract deer and elk to my game cameras that I set up. Please do not ban the use of bait for deer and elk. It's a very useful tool and with the lack of game animals that the state has why limit us hunters even more.

Thank You

Mark LaVrar

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Damian Hensley <damianhensley@woodmechanix.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 5:54 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Deer/elk bait

I am strongly against this new proposed ban on baiting for deer and elk . This would ruin a whole off season hobby of trail cam fun .Hoof rot has nothing to do with salt licks and you know it . This will do nothing but make it more difficult for Leo to do their job by creating problems where none are .

Roxann B Borisch

From: Josh Haley <hrbarnslc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 6:08 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Using Bait

I Josh Haley want to voice my concern to your up coming ban on using bait for big game animals. I support using bait and would strongly recommend not going through with this. Salem and Portland should not have the only say for the rest of Oregon. Please reconsider.

As well please show evidence that this is causing a harmful side effect to our wildlife.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jeff Mack <jantmack@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 9:50 PM
To: Commission Odfw
Subject: Baiting of big game

I am writing in regards to the proposed big game ban on "baiting" or use of minerals. I urge you to not band the use of these hunting tools. The decisions of the commission appear to always be moving in a backwards direction. Just because one person has an issue with this doesn't mean it should be banned. I personally do not hunt where bait is but that's my choice. Don't ban other people's choices.

Your time would be better spent cleaning up the waste and and disfunction of ODFW.

Jeff Mack

Roxann B Borisch

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 6:26 PM
To: ODFW.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting of deer and elk

The issue in Oregon is what's considered fair chase. There are certain individuals that believe their way to hunt is the only way to hunt. Fair chase is in the eye of the beholder. If the method a person chooses to hunt is legal and doesn't negatively impact the herds then why make it illegal? Instead of concentrating on the real problems facing wildlife management ie loss of habitat, poaching, predation, disease, the Commission is looking at ways to eliminate or reduce legal ways to hunt. It has reduced us to a pissing match between hunters as to what is fair chase. And where does it end? Is having a scope on a rifle fair chase? Is using a call fair chase? Is using a decoy fair chase? Or a treestand? Just because we choose a certain way to hunt doesn't make other ways to hunt unethical or not fair. Again, ODFW needs to address the real issues of wildlife management and the hunters need to quit pissing and moaning and find ways to help solve the real issues.

Gerry Crowe

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Roxann B Borisch

From: jthoffman1984 <jthoffman1984@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 12:23 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting/mineral issue

I'm writing tonsay that I, as a tag/license buyer, DO NOT support you taking away our right to use salt or other minerals. It is proven that these minerals have positive effects on herd health. All you will do by taking away our rights is reducing the number of hunters spending their hard earned in Oregon. Consider the adverse effects of what you do before these ridiculous things are even addressed.

Justin Hoffman

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 active, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: James Shannon <stackedracks@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 2:56 PM
To: Commission Odfw
Subject: Big Game Baiting

"Baiting" big game SHOULD remain LEGAL in Oregon. The state itself runs feeding sites for big game in the winters. This is when they are most concentrated, vulnerable, and travel the least. I would assume that this is also the highest spread of disease. My opinion is that it would be hard to regulate, not equally enforced on private land owners that bait animals vs the majority of hunters and would give the state a black eye in yet another law they can't and don't enforce well. This seems to be a political agenda item not backed up by facts. Hoof Rot and other diseases don't have large out breaks in Oregon and haven't for the last 32 years that I remember. I spend thousands of dollars a year hunting, and enjoying big game animals. The herds in areas my friends and I "bait" have experienced higher fawn rates, better growth and much higher survival in harsh winters. Please seriously consider the actual solution vs making a problem. There are much bigger issues to address than "Baiting" of big game. If there becomes a problem hunters / conservationists will be the first to help you with a solution.

James Shannon

Roxann B Borisch

From: lancelajaye777@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 3:38 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

Why would you guys consider making baiting illegal, where is the evidence of it causing diseases, they all drink out of the same water holes so what is the difference, it's already hard enough to harvest a animal with the current predator populations. Why don't you guys look at doing more for the outdoorsman and women, rather than take away from them, and start helping the deer and elk herds by getting rid of the overpopulation of predators. We have been able to bait before all these diseases where around, and I think we still should be able to. Start doing something for us for a change.

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Lyle Lewis <lylelewis@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 9:23 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

I'm a 62 year old who has been hunting for 49 years. I only recently learned baiting is legal in Oregon. While it might be a statement of the obvious, there is an alternative to using bait. It's called hunting. The perceptions of the non-hunting public are becoming increasingly important to the future of hunting. The continued use of bait will likely cast a dark cloud over a majority of those people's impressions of "hunters." For the sake of hunting in general and ethical hunters everywhere, I urge you to make the use of bait illegal.

Sincerely,
Lyle Lewis
Springfield, OR 97477

Sent from my iPad

Roxann B Borisch

From: Chris Pascua <scorpioctp74@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 2:23 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: "Baiting hearing"

To whom it concerns I'm a 32 year Oregon license and tag holder. This message is on behalf of the hearing for baiting mineral site issues. i'm only going to touch on a few specific thing, we've been baiting/minerals for willamtte unit (615) deer for 7 years. We have not seen a loss of animals due to "feeding area" disease or HLS but we have seen severe cases of fawns coming out of winter skin and bones that would not live without the proteins and fats that we feed. The spread of HLS in his area is do to lack of habitat and high numbers of deer in small parcels of land. Now onto another pro, my dad is 66 years old, he still has a burning passion to hunt, he talks about it and looks forward all year to hunting blacktails, his legs and back are failing him and with these feed/mineral areas and a blind he would not be able to hunt. These spots allow him to be more selective from what he sees on camera, and some years he passes on young deer. He's been a Oregon Oregon license/tag tax pay for 45 years and outlawing these tactics simple are not right/fair. These are needed for seniors, wounded veterans, and youth in order to participate in the outdoors. In the areas we hunt there is zero negative effect on wildlife. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Chris Pascua <blacktailjunkie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 2:35 PM
To: Commission Odfw
Subject: Baiting

Hello, straight to the point this "ban" is ridiculous it's another Right trying to be taken away from us. No dogs for bears, no feed sites for elk/deer, whats next no antelope at waterholes, no long range rifles, no bugling for elk? This is another attempt by a elitist group to take away out rights. What is fair chase? Fair chase is in the eye of the beholder, it's a moral, it's a feeling, it's not a rule or law. We use mineral and cameras to see what elk are in the area, we have seen zero negative effect on wildlife or the land and actually helps calves and lactating cows coming off a hard winter. Just like everything in life a few select people don't respect the land or wildlife, banning this will not stop them but it is will be negative to thousand that pay money for tags, gas, gear, conservation etc. to say these areas help "spread" disease is bogus, if that's the case we better do away with stock tanks, water holes, winter feeding grounds, migration routes etc all things were many animals use naturally and disease is not spread. These man made spots are no different they are not a issue. Thank you, chris

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Matt Hamilton <deltau257@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 8:33 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting big game and hunting with night vision

To whom it may concern,

Baiting big game and hunting with night vision You have asked for public comments on these two very broad topics. Concerning night vision technology, it is already illegal to use for game animals. If you are considering taking the use of night vision or other technology away from predator and non game hunting use, please don't. It is one of the few effective ways we have left to effectively hunt them. I am a Grass Seed farmer in the Mid-Willamette Valley and have many friends that are sheep farmers and many other friends that raise other livestock for a living. They rely on either friends or neighbors that are willing to help them control predators such as coyotes and much of the time this control is through hunting with technology and night vision. I don't see a reason to make another law to satisfy the anti-hunting crowd that is disconnected from our livelihoods. A great example of this is the ban on hunting cougars and bears with hounds. Obviously ODFW understands how detrimental this ban has been to our deer and elk populations since they now pride themselves with an entire page in the 2017 big game regulations on how we spent taxpayer money to control the cougar population in 2 game management units. This money was an expense that should have been revenue if we could issue tags to hound hunters. Instead the State's citizens are paying for it.

As for baiting of big game, I ask how if at all is it a problem? Please don't ban what doesn't need to be banned, baiting is a tool but does not guarantee success. As a farmer we use bait to keep deer and elk off of our crops. If it helps provide someone with meat and at the current time, legally, isn't that a good thing. It also helps to provide a sanctuary area with food once the season is over so that the game animals don't starve or become unhealthy and die of disease or malnutrition.

Please don't change our rules on baiting big game and the use of night vision or other technology. Please do consider a way to effectively control apex predators such as cougars and now wolves in Oregon. Our license and tag fees along with the excise tax on hunting gear conserves and sustains wildlife for future generations to enjoy like we do now and improve upon that.

Thank you and hopefully this wasn't a wasted comment.

Matt Hamilton

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: micah schriever <micahcs@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 10:07 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting

I run trail cameras all summer for deer and elk I also put out rock salt. It sounds like a ban in baiting will effect me. Why Are you even talking about banning baiting you have a lot bigger problems you should be dealing with instead of screwing with guys that like to get trail cam pictures of deer and elk.

Micah Schriever
micahcs@hotmail.com
(503)349-0255

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Roxann B Borisch

From: ODFW Commission
Subject: FW: Minerals.

From: Graham Armstrong [<mailto:elkfanatic@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2017 5:47 PM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us
Subject: Minerals.

I hear odfw. Is having a meeting about the use of minerals. I FIND IT RIDICULOUS that you would even consider this option. Not only does it provide animals the nutrients they need but it also ofyen presents the hunter with a clean ethical shot leaving us with less injured and wasted animals. I as a hunter am getting frustrated with the way my rights as a hunter and fishermen are being taken instead of protected. You need to do a better job.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Collison, Gary <Gary.Collison@pccstructurals.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2017 2:31 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Elimination of baiting for Deer and Elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Is this being considered? Why?

Gary Collison
VP of Operations – SSBO
13340 SE 84th
Clackamas, OR 97015
Cell: (503) 819-4296

Please note my email address has been modified to become gary.collison@pccstructurals.com. Please update my contact information.

PCC Structural, Inc.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information and must be treated as such. In addition, export or re-export of the information contained in or attached to this email may be prohibited under export control laws.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Cummings <michael.cummings@commercial-lender.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting/Mineral issue

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

Hello,

I am a native Oregonian of 28 years who has been hunting my whole life, right here in Oregon. I have only used apples as bait a few times and never had any luck shooting anything over a bait pile. In fact, my only kills are from jumping out of my car and getting really lucky that the deer stopped and turned within 100 yards.

But my story aside, there are folks who don't have the means to hike miles into the wilderness much less some people can't hike at all, but they would still love to hunt and they happen to get it done with bait. I personally have NOTHING against that.

Hunters pay the majority of conservation costs, without our license and tag dollars ODFW is nothing. Getting rid of this privilege would undoubtedly reduce tag numbers, and I know that if tag numbers went down ODFW would probably raise prices which would cause even fewer people to buy tags. Please don't make this swamp any worse. Hunting is my favorite pastime, please don't ruin it for me and the thousands of others who call this their heritage.

Kind regards from a Native Oregonian.

--

Michael Cummings
Commercial Lending Group, Inc.
704 Main Street, Suite #200
Oregon City, OR 97045
503.683.2979 – office
503.643.5364 – fax
www.commercial-lender.com



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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by **MailScanner**, and is believed to be clean.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Halemeier, Dave -FS <dhalemeier@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 10:01 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Beverlin, Steven K -FS; Nehl, Ryan - FS; Hollowell, Dustin L -FS; Reames, Clark -FS; Unthank, Amy - FS
Subject: Concern over baiting of animals and resource damage

Dear Commission;

As a land manager responsible for some of the prime hunting areas in Oregon, I have noticed an alarming rise of resource damage occurring as the result of baiting. Typically minerals are being used to spike areas and attract large game animals to the area. This has caused major concerns in areas where as a land manager I am trying to manage for T&E fish species or other sensitive resource issues. Due to our charter as a multiple use agency we are trying to manage these sensitive areas and insures all resources are conserved. Hunters utilizing baits do not ask where would be the best location or most of the time do not consider the effects of placing minerals on the landscape. They then come to us discourage in the condition they created and the loss of the habitat they hope to draw game into. This trend has increased tremendously over the past few years and most of the areas have cameras set up and are ruined by the time hunting season comes around.

Please consider banning baiting and stress ethical hunting techniques that preserve our heritage in hunting and multiple use management. Education is the key to our success for the future.

Respectfully submitted.



David Halemeier
District Ranger
Forest Service
Malheur National Forest, Blue Mountain Ranger
District

p: 541-575-3401

c: 541-306-1149

f: 541-575-3319

dhalemeier@fs.fed.us

431 Patterson Bridge Road

John Day, OR 97845

www.fs.fed.us



Caring for the land and serving people

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Roxann B Borisch

From: Michael Cummings <michael.cummings@commercial-lender.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:01 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting/Mineral issue

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Kind regards from a Native Oregonian.

--

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Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Baiting

From: Collison, Gary [<mailto:Gary.Collison@pccstructurals.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 7:30 AM
To: Thomas Thornton <thomas.l.thornton@state.or.us>
Cc: Michelle Tate <michelle.l.tate@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Baiting Question

I am opposed to banning the baiting of deer and elk. The limitation of hunting rights and opportunities in Oregon has been consistent and continuous. The elimination of the use of dogs and bait for bears and cougars has caused an explosion in the population of these predators. I hunt in the cascades and during archery elk hunting I call in predators nearly as often as elk. My trailcams, when used simply on trails reveal more predators than ungulates. I have no desire to eat a predator, so I leave them be. My peers advise I should drop them and leave them lay to support the recovery of ungulates. Perhaps they are right.

Most of my money (10:1) is spent on hunting is spent in states that manage their game populations to support hunting. This is a dramatic shift from 10 years ago, when I exclusively hunted Oregon. If you want to have a ODFW in 20 years that is supported by big game hunters, it is imperative you reverse the trend of restricting rights and failing to manage the herds in a way that encourages people to drop hundreds of dollars on licenses and tags.

For what it is worth, I do not bait. I am simply opposed to more restrictions.

Gary Collison
VP of Operations – SSBO
13340 SE 84th
Clackamas, OR 97015
Cell: (503) 819-4296

Please note my email address has been modified to become gary.collison@pccstructurals.com. Please update my contact information.

PCC Structural, Inc.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information and must be treated as such. In addition, export or re-export of the information contained in or attached to this email may be prohibited under export control laws.

Roxann B Borisch

From: Jason Peterson <jpeterson@teamcto.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 3:27 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Fwd: Banning baiting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jason Peterson <jpeterson@teamcto.org>
Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2017
Subject: Banning baiting
To: Odfw.commission@state.or.us

I am writing this email in opposition to your proposed banning of baiting for deer and elk. This is apart of our hunting heritage and is a great way of scouting for tags that you have now made once in a lifetime. Please stop trying to take away more and more of our rights as outdoorsmen. If you really care about the health of our elk herds do something that really matters and kill the wolves.

Jason Peterson
509-876-9285

Roxann B Borisch

Subject: FW: Baiting

From: Collison, Gary [<mailto:Gary.Collison@pccstructurals.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2017 7:30 AM
To: Thomas Thornton <thomas.l.thornton@state.or.us>
Cc: Michelle Tate <michelle.l.tate@state.or.us>
Subject: RE: Baiting Question

I am opposed to banning the baiting of deer and elk. The limitation of hunting rights and opportunities in Oregon has been consistent and continuous. The elimination of the use of dogs and bait for bears and cougars has caused an explosion in the population of these predators. I hunt in the cascades and during archery elk hunting I call in predators nearly as often as elk. My trailcams, when used simply on trails reveal more predators than ungulates. I have no desire to eat a predator, so I leave them be. My peers advise I should drop them and leave them lay to support the recovery of ungulates. Perhaps they are right.

Most of my money (10:1) is spent on hunting is spent in states that manage their game populations to support hunting. This is a dramatic shift from 10 years ago, when I exclusively hunted Oregon. If you want to have a ODFW in 20 years that is supported by big game hunters, it is imperative you reverse the trend of restricting rights and failing to manage the herds in a way that encourages people to drop hundreds of dollars on licenses and tags.

For what it is worth, I do not bait. I am simply opposed to more restrictions.

Gary Collison
VP of Operations – SSBO
13340 SE 84th
Clackamas, OR 97015
Cell: (503) 819-4296

Please note my email address has been modified to become gary.collison@pccstructurals.com. Please update my contact information.

PCC Structural, Inc.

This email and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information and must be treated as such. In addition, export or re-export of the information contained in or attached to this email may be prohibited under export control laws.

Roxann B Borisch

From: robin flory <rbnookpr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 2:47 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: Question about baiting elk and deer

Hi

I have noticed alot of hunting forums talking about legality of baiting elk and deer in oregon.

So i thought i would send odfw an email and find out for myself.

Although i dont think of it as an ethical way to harvest deer or elk. I would like to know so i can educate others.

Thank you for your time.

Rob

Roxann B Borisch

From: ODFW WildlifeInfo
Subject: FW: Baiting Big Game

From: Kluster Kidd [mailto:Pondo4@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 6:14 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo <odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us>
Subject: Re: Baiting Big Game

Thank you for your response.

If I may voice my opinion?

Baiting of deer and or elk can be used as a great tool to manage herd numbers. Also a hunter can be more selective of the animal to be harvested.

As you may know, spot and stalk archery is about the most difficult way to harvest wild game and the success rate is minimal at best, even from treestands over bait.

Big land owners, Special Interest Groups and the anti-hunters are the only ones that win with an all out ban. Personally, I can't afford to pay thousands of dollars for a guided hunt for one deer. Land owners with agricultural crops of alfalfa will pull even more deer and elk off of public land reducing a substantial amount of opportunity from public land hunters. Would it then become illegal for the land owners to hunt over their crops?? Or sell hunts?? Reduce the amount of LOP tags?? When does the common hard working, Blue Collar guy catch a break?

I will forever give up purchasing tags here in Oregon, including fishing licenses. Our freedoms to be free is being stripped away by fanatics, politicians and special interest groups.

Please help us keep our public lands free and OUR animals available to hunters and let us bait if WE would like or not bait if WE choose. Let us as individuals make the choice and not let anyone's voice speak for us all.

Thank you for your time

SEMPER FI
Pondo

Roxann B Borisch

From: mary shabbott <mshabbott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 3:56 PM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Our wildlife

- There needs to be a better agreement for ranchers grazing their livestock in wolf territory.
- Cattle should NOT have priority over native wildlife on public lands.
- Cattle especially cow/calf pairs should not be allowed in wolf territory, rendezvous or den sites during pupping season
- Lethal action is not acceptable when cattle are grazing in wolf territory on public lands, cattle need to be moved
- Non lethal methods are proven successful when used appropriately

There are better methods to deal with conflict situations that need to be put into place when grazing on public lands. Public land grazing must be only with agreement by the rancher before authorizing leasing on public lands that there will be no lethal action taken. Non lethal methods used by the rancher is an absolute necessity when moving into wilderness areas and wolf and predator territory. These methods are extremely successful when used appropriately.

The focus and attitude between livestock and wolves, native wildlife needs to change.
Mshabbott

Roxann B Borisch

From: Charlotte Behm <behmc@lanecc.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 10:43 AM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Subject: wolves

Please stop killing wolves. Ranchers can save more cattle by improving animal husbandry practices instead of blaming their problems on wolves.

Wolves are the sacred animal of the Kalapuya people who live here in the Willamette Valley.

Shame on you.

Charlotte Behm
Springfield OR

Roxann B Borisch

From: Scott Haugen <sthaugen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 5:10 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Deer Baiting Issue

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding the recent push by some members of the public to ban baiting for deer and elk, I'd like to make a statement.

This act seems more like a personal agenda by individuals to ban baiting and impact hunters, rather than to consider what's best for the animals. It seems the first attempt to ban this form of baiting was based on ethics, now it's come down to animal health. What scientific proof is there to solidify the argument that bait used by hunters is bad for deer and elk?

Last season I had three areas I was baiting for black-tailed deer. In these three areas I had over 30 deer routinely hitting the baits from October, through November. Not one deer was shot from these baits. As our harsh winter progressed, I continued putting out quality feed, and some of the same deer, along with new comers (bucks, does, yearling), arrived. I firmly believe it was the quality feed these deer were eating that got them through our harsh winter and freezing rain. Deer with Hair Loss Syndrome even survived the elements, thanks to the feed. I've seen deer with DHLS die in this area without feed.

Most hunters I know who bait for deer, myself included, invest in high quality attractants and feed. Such feed can actually help deer survive and get through hard times. It can also provide them with nutrients, vitamins and minerals they might not be getting, be it in spring, summer, fall or winter.

The only place I've personally seen evidence of deer getting sick from being fed, is in suburban areas, where residents feed them around their homes and where deer cannot be hunted. Here, I've seen people feed deer everything from apples seven months of the year, to giant bags of whole corn kernels, moldy bread and pastries. It's obvious by looking at many of these deer that've taken up residency among homes, that they're suffering from a poor diet.

If the health of our deer and elk herds are truly of concern, baiting by hunters should not be the focal point. The focal point should be on suburban places where people feed deer, year-round, pull them from their natural environment, and keep them there by supplying foods that do more harm than good and encourage inbreeding. Many of these deer are intentionally being fed to keep them out of the woods, so hunters can't pursue them. Hunters, when using bait, do so for a limited time throughout the year, often targeting deer as they move through an area, and the quality of what they offer is healthy.

If studies were done on how many deer/elk were killed over bait by hunters, versus how many more animal survived from the bait being

available to them, I think it would only solidify the fact that hunters are true conservationists and that baiting has only a positive impact on animal populations. There's a reason the Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young clubs allow baiting under their respective fair chase rules, and don't even address the point of baiting being detrimental to the animal's health. In other words, the point is moot, since the impacted numbers are so negligible in areas where baiting by hunters is carried out.

Please do not allow the personal agenda of a few, eliminate baiting for deer and elk by hunters. Baiting can't simply be banned because of someone's personal belief. First, evidence must be presented, and case studies carried out. The deer in suburban areas are the case study. Those animals can be studied and learned from, and the affects, seen. That's the case study, not hunters who do much more help than harm.

Sincerely,

Scott Haugen

Host: *The Hunt* (now on Netflix)

www.scotthaugen.com

Editor: *WesternWhitetail.com*

Associate Editor: *Hunt Alaska Magazine*

Columnist: *Salmon-Trout-Steelheader; American Shooting Journal; NW Sportsman; Hunt Alaska; CA Sportsman; Alaska Sporting Journal*

Roxann B Borisch

From: Wyatt Sebright <olwyatt.sebright@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:14 PM
To: ODFW.WildlifeInfo@state.or.us
Attachments: 20170820_143658.jpg

Hello ODFW. I am disappointed to see that our state of already declining opportunity is at it again to further reduce the chances of filling our tags. Those of which have rapidly INCREASING prices.

I have supported the increasing tag prices in recent years because I do realize that it takes money, and a lot of it to pay quality employees to manage quality populations of wildlife. However with instances such as the consideration of banning bait for deer and elk, it does make me want to lean toward the side of taking my money to another state such as Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Montana to name a few that still support their sportsman and manage quality game herds. We haven't quite sunken to Californian low's, but with considerations like this, we are headed in that direction. I strongly urge you to revoke your consideration of baiting game animals. I personally do use bait as a tool to hunt animals. Namely blacktail, and and Mule deer.

It is nearly a necessity to bait if a guy even wants to see a mature blacktail in some of the dense timber and brush that they inhabit. I have used bait for blacktails for the last 3 years. I have killed one buck and it was hard earned. I squeezed out an hour or 2 in between work and darkness to get out and haul hundreds of pounds of apples into my spots, two to 3 times per week in the 4 weeks leading up to Oregon's late Archery season. It was paying off, as I had a handful of good deer on camera leading up to the season. I hung my treestand nearly 35 feet up a doug fir. 2 days before the season started, the rut slowed and most of my bucks disappeared. A handful of does and fawns still routinely used the apples. On my fourth consecutive daylight to dark sit, I was able to arrow a respectable buck right at last light as he followed one of the regular does by my treestand. That buck had behind him, days of scouting to find the right area. Countless hours hauling apples 75 pounds at a time into a steep, brushy creek bottom, and finally over 40 hours in 4 days of patiently waiting in my treestand. He still wasn't even in the top 5 of my choice bucks that had showed themselves on trail camera. In 2014, and 2016 I struck out. I am one of the most passionate hunters you will find, and even still with all of the prep work, and hunting time I put in, I show a relatively low success rate, using a method that can require a huge effort and is not for the faint of heart or non-dedicated hunter.

Hunting bucks like above mentioned is one of my favorite ways to hunt blacktail deer. All of the amazing trail camera pictures. Sitting quietly above as you peer into the secret life of the blacktail deer. Watching your apples give does and fawns an always welcome boost in nutrition. Helping bucks recover from the intense rut to get through a tough winter. Not to mention all of the small game like, squirrels and birds that use the apples. The list could easily go on, but I will leave it at that. It just doesn't make sense to me that placing apples in a 10'x10' area could ever be considered to be more harmful than a naturally occurring apple tree that drops all of its fruit into the same amount of real estate, still attracting multiple deer. It really is the same concept in my eyes. Both situations are helping to support a larger number, of healthy animals.

As for mule deer.

Central Oregon boasts some of the best mule deer in the state. The only time most of them are witnessed is when these deer are on their winter range.

Occasionally though somebody with salt and a trail camera will snag a picture of one of these great bucks. The cover in central Oregon is definitely what is keeping these bucks alive through the rifle seasons. Even still, a few get jumped out of their beds and shot every year.

An archer however, really does not stand much of a chance at all to harvest a mature buck. Unless, the use of bait is allowed. Then that chance is increased slightly. The bucks nature of using the darkness as cover will usually keep them alive, but a few do slip. Allowing the lucky, and hardworking Bowhunter a chance to harvest a buck of a lifetime. These chances are what keep bowhunters spending their money in Oregon every year. Without the ability to bait, a few bucks, and many forked horns will still be taken, but largely the hope for a quality buck will be lost.

Simply put, my viewpoint is that in many cases baiting helps the health of the herd, and in many areas is the only effective method to hunting quality animals.

Thank you for your consideration. Please listen to your sportsmen.

I have attached a picture of the buck I am pursuing this archery season. Oregon still has great bucks, and others like me are very passionate in our pursuit of them!

Wyatt M Sebright



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Malheur National Forest

P.O. Box 909
431 Patterson Bridge Road
John Day, OR 97845
541-575-3000
Fax: 541-575-3001

File Code: 2230; 2610
Date: August 25, 2017

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the potential rule change regarding baiting of animals in the State of Oregon. The Malheur National Forest's (1.7 million acres) popularity for big game hunting and the change in hunter's tactics and equipment (game cameras) has created a management scenario that has lasting negative effects on resources of the State and Malheur National Forest. As a result of being a multi-use management agency our goal is to balance user needs while maintaining ecological resiliency and restoring the landscape. The current baiting policy is not allowing us to accomplish this result.

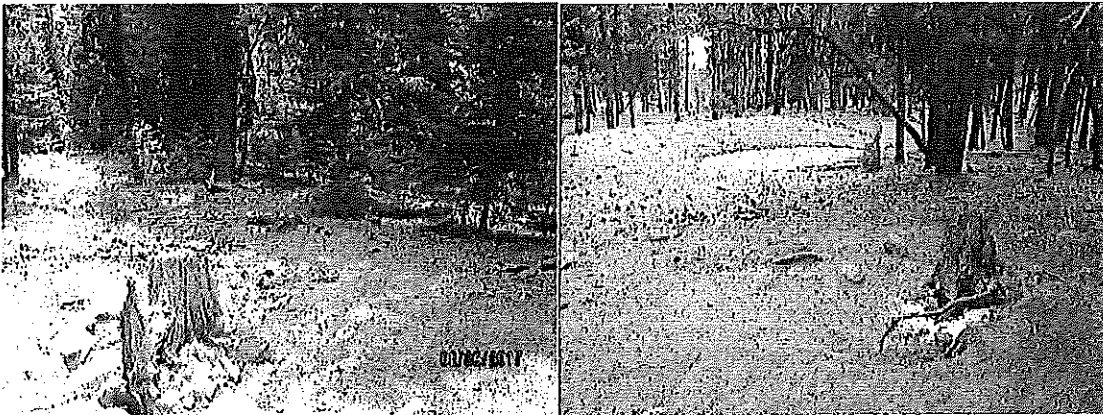
Over the past 3 to 5 years we have noted an increase in hunters placing bait (typically salt or marketed attractant) in sensitive areas associated to riparian areas or streams. We are managing these locations for riparian-dependent species (including Threatened and Endangered Fish) and the placement of bait in these areas is resulting in resource damage. This includes negative impacts to water quality, hydrology, plant communities, and wildlife dispersal in the areas baited. In addition, adherence to livestock grazing strategies dictated by Biological Opinions from federal regulatory agencies is often compromised. As neighboring states, such as Idaho, have eliminated similar baiting practices, this may be adding to the increases that we are observing.

Please consider changing the baiting regulations to allow protection of these sensitive areas. For our management, options* we would like you to consider are:

- Not allowing baiting on Federal lands.
- Stricter criteria to allow law enforcement to write citations for placement of bait in sensitive areas.
- Education directed at the detrimental resource effects of baiting.
Assistance in restoring damaged sites as the result of baiting

*These options are not mutually exclusive and a combination of them may be effective.





These are just a few of the examples of the resource damage that is occurring from the baiting practices.

Please contact me or a member of my staff should you have questions or need clarification: Dave Halemeier, District Ranger (Blue Mountain Ranger District), dhalemeier@fs.fed.us; Amy Unthank, Natural Resources Staff Officer, aunthank@fs.fed.us; or Gerald Dixon, Vegetation Management Staff Officer, gerald Dixon@fs.fed.us.

Thank you for your consideration of this important resource management topic.

Sincerely,

STEVEN K. BEVERLIN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Josh Chapman, Carol Boyd, Bruce Eddy, Doug Cottam, Ryan Torland (ryan.e.torland@state.or.us), Mark Kirsch



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

WILDLIFE • HABITAT • HUNTERS' RIGHTS

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313 • Fax (541) 772-0964
oregonhunters.org • oha@ccountry.net

August 30, 2017

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Chair Finley and Members of the ODFW Commission:

The Oregon Hunters Association is writing in opposition to any proposal that would ban baiting in hunting deer and elk.

Baiting is considered fair chase by the Boone and Crockett Club and by the Pope and Young Club. Baiting does not constitute an unfair advantage. Both the Boone and Crockett and the Pope and Young clubs consider baiting an effective game management tool and technique that agencies use to manage certain species and protect human safety and property.

Prohibition would render some usages of urine lures and other attractant scents illegal. Such a ban would be hard to enforce and would drive another wedge between law enforcement and hunters. We believe it places additional burdens on law enforcement officers.

The Oregon Hunters Association in the early 1990s stood against the then-proposed ban on bear baiting. We see any future ban on baiting deer and elk to be as damaging to our hunting tradition as the 1994 ban.

OHA stands for all Oregon hunters. Our hunting regulations have been crafted over one hundred years and are supported by science, biology and tradition. At a time when ODFW is trying to simplify regulations, the OHA is against new restrictions on ethical hunting.

Respectfully,

Fred Walasavage, Chair

Board of Directors

Roxann B Borisch

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 5:19 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting of deer and elk

Bob Webber,

I am making a last appeal to the Commission, not to ban baiting of deer and elk.

Mr. Webber, as a past Chairman of OHA, you would understand if I said that hunters can be their own worst enemies. Instead of banding together to deal with the major issues facing wildlife management ie loss of habitat, poaching, and predation, they will fight amongst themselves as to who is the most ethical. Instead of finding ways to promote hunting they express personal opinions on how they hunt and how they know better than anyone else how to manage big game animals. If we as hunters don't quit all the squabbling and infighting we may lose the very thing we love to do.

The issue of baiting deer and elk came up as an ethical or fair chase issue. This idea was dismissed as it was a legal method to hunt and was not detrimental to the herds. The issue was brought before the Commission again. This time it was said to cause the spread of disease in the herds, citing some anecdotal evidence of a number of deer that were found dead and there were 2 mineral blocks found in the area.

I'm all for regulations that are backed by biological facts. I have seen no evidence that would suggest that baiting increases the likelihood that disease will spread faster and over a wider area. I have 5 years worth of photos that show the few deer that come into my trail cams are healthy with no sign of disease. If there were to have been any sign of disease I would have reported it immediately to my local ODFW biologists. I use the same alfalfa pellets and mineral blocks that ODFW uses to feed deer and elk. It seems that my baiting of deer and elk in the areas where I hunt would be of great benefit to ODFW to monitor the health of the herds.

We cannot afford to lose another method of hunting just because it's not the way another person chooses to hunt. If it's legal and not detrimental to the herds it should be left in place and continue to be a method of hunting.

Thanks for your time!

Gerry Crowe

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

Roxann B Borisch

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 6:34 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: RE: Baiting of deer and elk

Happy Connecting. Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S® 5

----- Original message -----

From: crowemagnum <crowemagnum@aol.com>
Date: 8/30/17 5:19 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Baiting of deer and elk

Holly Akenson

I am making a last appeal to the Commission, not to ban baiting of deer and elk.

Ms Akenson, Hunters can be their own worst enemies. Instead of banding together to deal with the major issues facing wildlife management ie loss of habitat, poaching, and predation, they will fight amongst themselves as who is the most ethical. Instead of finding ways to promote hunting they express personal opinions on how they hunt and how they know better than anyone else how to manage big game animals. If we as hunters don't quit all the squabbling and infighting we may lose the very thing we love to do.

The issue of baiting deer and elk came up as an ethical or fair chase issue. This idea that baiting was not considered ethical was dismissed as it was a legal method to hunt and was not detrimental to the herds. The issue was brought before the Commission again. This time it was said to cause the spread of disease in the herds, citing some anecdotal evidence of a number of deer that were found dead and there were 2 mineral blocks found in the area.

I'm all for regulations that are backed by biological facts. I have seen no evidence that would suggest that baiting increases the likelihood that disease will spread faster and over a wider area. I have 5 years worth of photos that show the few deer that come into my trail cams are healthy with no sign of disease. If there were to have been any sign of disease I would have reported it immediately to my local ODFW biologists. I use the same alfalfa pellets and mineral blocks that ODFW uses to feed deer and elk. It seems that my baiting of deer and elk in the areas where I hunt would be of great benefit to ODFW to monitor the health of the herds. I also spoke with Scott Haugen, a local hunting personality, that happens to have a degree in Wildlife Biology. He also has a deer attractant that he has developed for blacktail deer. He has not seen evidence to support deer or elk are more susceptible to disease because of baiting. You might want to speak with him.

We cannot afford to lose another method of hunting just because it's not the way another person chooses to hunt. If it's legal and not detrimental to the herds it should be left in place and continue to be a method of hunting.

Thanks for your time!

Gerry Crowe