

September 15, 2017

Fish and Wildlife Commission
September 2017 Commission Meeting
Welches OR

Dear Chair Finley, Commissioners and Director Melcher,

My name is Craig Starr and I live at 2105 Desiree Place in Lebanon. I have hunted big game in Oregon for nearly 60 years. I appreciate the opportunity to address you this morning regarding archery big game hunting.

I strongly urge your support for the ODFW staff proposal to limit LOP tags for the late Metolius archery buck hunt and other "special-opportunity" hunts to 5 tags or 10-percent of public tags offered for a hunt, whichever is greater. Landowners who provide habitat and nourishment for big game deserve a greater opportunity than public hunters even for "special-opportunity" hunts, but the current "unlimited" LOP system for a few such hunts is completely inequitable. The ODFW staff proposal will still provide landowners with a significantly greater opportunity to have a tag than will be the case for public hunters, but the staff proposal will make the tag distribution for "special-opportunity" hunts much more equitable than currently.

Over the next year, I urge you to have your staff consider a couple of additional regulatory changes that aren't being recommended at this time:

- Reinststate the week ahead of the current beginning of the late archery Blacktail deer season in the northwest Oregon units where the hunt now occurs. This week was taken away from bowhunters years ago to make calendar room for a muzzleloader hunt and was based solely on an ODFW premise that it was unsafe to have a firearms hunt and an archery hunt running concurrently. In recent years, ODFW has created literally dozens of firearms hunts that overlap archery hunts putting to lie the premise on which the early week of the late archery hunt in northwest Oregon was taken away from bowhunters. This proposal would put the start of the late archery season in northwest Oregon on the same schedule as now exists for the late archery season in southwest Oregon units.
- Eliminate the 50-pound draw weight requirement for archery hunting for elk and apply a 40-pound minimum draw weight requirement for all Oregon big game bowhunting. While there are certainly many female bowhunters and young bowhunters who can pull 50 or more pounds, the higher draw weight requirement for hunting elk tends to discriminate against such hunters. The existing draw weight requirement for elk is largely a relic from many, many years ago and is unnecessary today. Several other western states have minimum draw weight requirements of 40 pounds or even less for all big game archery hunting.

Finally, I have a concern regarding the apparent lack of notice for ODFW's big game public meetings. I have attended some past public meetings where my wife and I were the only members of the public present. In spite of efforts to determine the 2017 meeting schedule beginning in March, I didn't find out about the meetings until they were virtually over. If ODFW wants public input on potential regulation changes, a better effort needs to be made to make the public aware when the meetings are scheduled.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Craig Starr

ODFW

The Resort at the Mountain ,Huckleberry

Baiting. Opposed. To any new regulations
John Wainwright

President of Oregon Bow Hunters.
Master Hunter, Hunter Ed. Inst. Bow Hunter Inst. and a Leave No Trace Master.

Baiting for Deer and Elk is Illegal in the state of Oregon.

- A. there is not any scientific proof that Baiting has depleted the Deer and Elk herds.
- B. Baiting provides a safe and a controlled environment for the hunter.
- C. Baiting provides the hunter with a clean shot for an Ethical kill. (Harvested Animal)

Eliminating Salt Baiting for Deer and Elk would be devastating .

- A. Youth Hunts
- B The Mentor Program.
- C. Elderly Hunters.
- D. Handicapped Hunters.
- E. Adult Male and Female Hunters.

OSP.

- A. Does not have the Man power or the Resources to Enforce any new Regulations.

Defining the Definition of a bait station.

- A. Is the salt and mineral blocks I put out for my live stock a bait station.
- B Is the corner of my alfalfa field by the trees a bait station.
- C. Is my neighbors Old Homestead with an Apple Orchard a bait station.

During all of the years I have spent out in the field, I have never seen, a salt bait station that was messy or dangerous warranting any new regulations.

As a member of Oregon Bow Hunters it is my duty to promote Archery and Hunting opportunities .

September 15, 2017

Paul Askew, Written Testimony Opposing Ban on Baiting of Deer and Elk

Baiting Deer and Elk should remain legally permissible. The Supreme Court has found that the 14th Amendments Equal Protection Clause “is essentially a direction that all persons similarly situated should be treated alike.” Considering that feeding deer and elk is legally permissible for ODFW and the general public and deer feed blocks are sold at most feed stores, there has to be a legitimate state interest that is not motivated by moral disapproval or political unpopularity.

According to ODFW press release “DON’T FEED DEER AND ELK”, well intentioned people, NOT HUNTERS, have been responsible for healthy deer herds dying. People feeding deer appears to occur year around. According to one report by Biologist Steve Niemela, deer were concentrating around an artificial food source post hunting season in southern Oregon and were dying with their bellies full of cracked corn. These were not hunters that caused this situation to occur. The same situation appears to have happened near The Dalles, Oregon where well intentioned people, NOT HUNTERS caused a disease outbreak when 4’ of snow pushed deer into urban areas. Although, the deer may have died anyway, it appears the biologists are blaming feeding deer for the die off.

If there is any truth to hunters being responsible for disease in deer and elk herds, making it illegal and potentially pushing the activity underground, only makes the problem worse. If a person continued to bait deer despite a ban and did find disease in a herd, they are not going to report it. In addition, a ban on an activity that hunter’s have been doing for a lifetime, only seeks to harm the community and divide hunters from alliance with the ODFW.

Legal regulation of baiting deer and elk is a superior alternative to banning the activity. First, Baiting deer occurs during a short period of time typically just prior to and during the hunting season and appears to be during the time frame prior to deer and elk’s systems slowing down for the purpose of digestion during the winter months. Regulating the timeline, area of distribution, and amount of feed that can be placed in a given area by hunters can benefit the wildlife and ODFW. Remember, ODFW provides feed for deer and elk on winter grounds. Legal regulation could lead to an information schematic that would provide important information to biologists for deer numbers and herd health as well as keep the activity above ground for observation of potential disease. In point, the majority of hunters employ the use of trail cameras to monitor the deer in their area, if a permit system were in place that allowed hunters to bait deer and elk; there would be a line of communication between ODFW and hunters. A ban would eliminate communication, potential partnerships, and only seeks to divide hunters and the ODFW.

Another huge benefit of baiting deer and elk is hunter recruitment. In my experience, people introduced to hunting that have opportunity are more likely to return the next year. Baiting deer and elk provides an opportunity for selective harvest and clean and humane kill shots. With the use of trail cams, baiting deer provides another element to the recreational aspect of hunting and new hunters are able to partake in the process by going afield to check cameras and be a part of the process. This process creates a comradely and a family function that has become a huge part of my lifestyle and family tradition. A ban on baiting deer would be devastating to me and my family.

Moreover, Hunter's causing disease in deer and elk herds in Oregon appears to be mythology, a false accusation, and appears that hunter's are now the escape goat for "well intentioned people's" behavior. Independent of the thousands of deer blocks that occupy "well intentioned people's" farms and back yards, another absolute is the hundreds of thousands of apple trees that occupy Oregon. If deer concentrating around food sources is the imminent cause of disease, then every deer in Oregon should have already died due to the large concentrations of deer feeding on the same apple trees day after day.

The concern of deer concentrating over bait is unfounded. Baiting occurs during hunting seasons and in a time when natural food sources are available to deer and elk. Bait is simply another food source for the animals in the area that time of year and is NOT a primary food source for the deer and elk, but merely an addition to what is already there, which in turn disperses deer and elk feeding activity altogether. Logic would dictate that baiting has the opposite affect of concentration when other natural food sources are still available, because it provides another source for animals to feed on for a few minutes a day. Simply put, the more food sources, the less concentration. In contrast, ODFW feeds deer and elk that are concentrated and provides an unnatural food source that appears to make up the wintering herds entire diet creating a situation that has potential for harsher implications than the fractional amount of hunters that disperse bait during a time when animals do not have to depend on bait as there only food source.

As a an avid hunter and wildlife advocate, the deer and elk herds health is a primary concern of mine and if there were legitimate proof that hunters fractional baiting activity were the cause of disease in our deer and elk herds, I would not be here today. I am here today, because there is no significant proof that hunters' baiting deer and elk has any negative affect on our deer and elk herds.



**Testimony Regarding the 2018 Big Game Regulations
Presented to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Scott Beckstead, Senior Oregon State Director/Rural Affairs Director
The Humane Society of the United States
September 15, 2017**

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (The HSUS) and our Oregon supporters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the 2018 big game regulations. The HSUS has raised numerous concerns with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Commission regarding the state's current management of cougars. We call on the Commission to end the use of target zones entirely, as well as reduce cougar hunting quotas in Oregon. These regulations allow for the over-exploitation of Oregon's cougars and potentially threaten the species' long-term sustainability in our state.

1. ODFW must end the use of target zones to manage cougars.

ODFW's persistent use of "target zones," the places where private houndsmen and federal agents are allowed to kill unlimited numbers of cougars, is scientifically unsupportable and inconsistent with Oregonians' values. Despite Oregon voters declaring their opposition to cruel hunting methods in our state, ODFW permits cougars to be killed with packs of trailing hounds and strangling cable neck snares.

The best available research shows that killing cougars will not reduce conflicts with people, pets or livestock and can actually have the opposite effect, increasing these conflicts. Moreover, these target zones have incredibly high price tags which should be of great concern to the agency and Oregon citizens. Between 2006 and 2014, target zone management cost more than half a million dollars. This amounts to an average cost of \$1,482, with ranges of \$461 to \$3,796 per cougar killed. As such, we once again urge the Commission to no longer allow ODFW to employ target zones and "administrative killing" to cull Oregon's cougar population.

2. ODFW must significantly reduce trophy hunting quotas of cougars.

The HSUS is very concerned with ODFW's current density estimates in cougar hunting zones B, C and E. The density estimates in these zones are at the highest ranges ever recorded. Reliable cougar density estimates average two cougars per 100 square kilometers. Yet ODFW claims cougar densities of 4.7 in Zone B, 3.7 in Zone C and 4.4 Zone E (per 100 square kilometers). ODFW estimates that approximately 4,174 cougars reside in these three zones alone, accounting for 64 percent of the state's population.

These estimates are extremely concerning and likely not factual. Yet, they inform the state's management, including unlimited killing in target zones and trophy hunting quotas for cougars. It is imperative that ODFW reduce current quotas, at least until more thorough, scientifically sound cougar population research can be conducted in Zones B, C and E. By not reducing quotas, the current level of killing may jeopardize the long-term sustainability of Oregon's cougar population.

We urge the Commission to consider our recommendations. Thank you for your consideration.

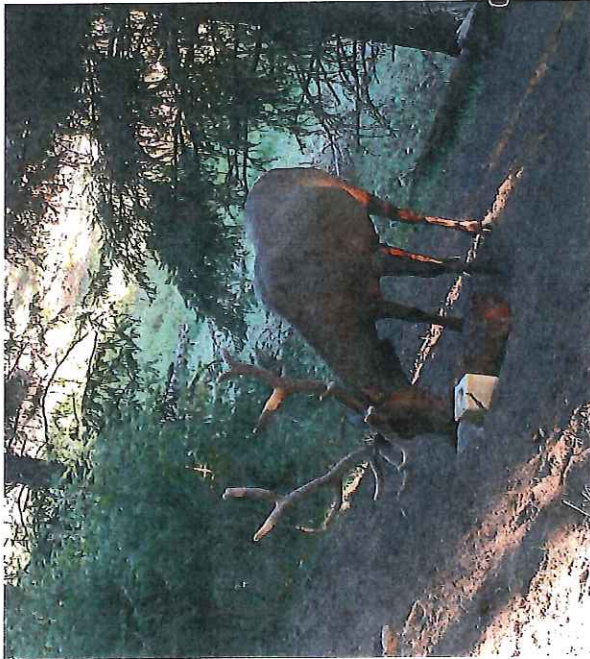


10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT DEER CANDY

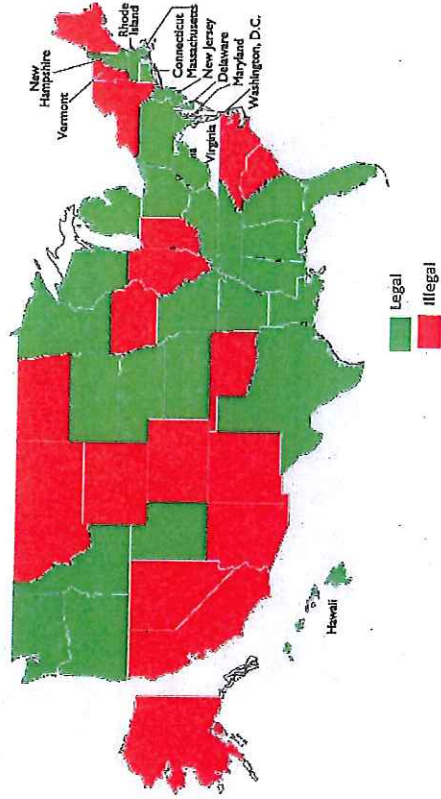


I. IS IT LEGAL

Deer Candy is Legal to use in most states. Before using Deer Candy products check your state wildlife regulations. If you are using Deer Candy products during the hunting season double check your unit area for any special regulations when using Deer Candy products. Below is a map of states that allow the use of wildlife attractants.



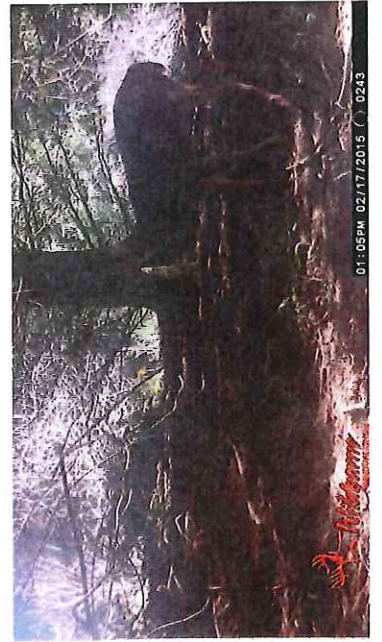
Deer Candy is made fresh with GMO -Free Whole Grains. Fortified with a proprietary blend of natural minerals, vitamins, probiotics and Redmond Rock. Deer Candy will attract deer 365 days/year. We guarantee to bring in a trophy of a lifetime.



WHAT DOES DEER CANDY DO?

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Whitcher Creek has a proprietary mineral mix which includes probiotics and Redmond rock as the foundation of our mineral mix. Deer Candy is a infused power pellet and is designed for antler growth. Bucks and Bulls require a high amount of natural salts and trace minerals for antler growth. Deer Candy is perfectly formulated to aid in the growth of antlers. Bucks and Bulls during antler growth are craving these necessary micro nutrients, which aids in the attracting factor of Deer Candy. Not only is Deer Candy great for Bucks and Bulls, but also for lactating Does and Cows. Deer Candy is fortified with the needed minerals, probiotics and micro nutrients needed for growing healthy fawns and calves. This unique design is a complete supplement for creating a healthy animal population in your area. Not only will you see trophy sized results, but with healthier animals come better disease and drought resistance in your deer or elk herd.



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LOCATION AND WHEN DO YOU START

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Where do I put Deer Candy products? We recommend placing small amounts of Deer Candy around known travel routes. After 1-2 weeks of using Deer Candy, you will be able to move the product 50-100 yards at a time. We have found that elk herds require two separate piles or feeders about 15-20+ yards apart. During field trials we discovered that the lead cow will not let any other elk eat at her pile. To ensure that other cows and bulls get a chance at Deer Candy, we started placing two piles at our field sites. Deer Candy makes it easy to work the animals the way you want. We recommend to start implementing Deer Candy into your hunting strategy immediately. This will insure that your area is well mapped with what animals are moving in and out. This will also help with overall herd health and animal development. If this is not an option for you, we recommend starting in spring to early summer. When antler growth is at a every critical for proper development. For the late season hunters, late summer to early fall is a good time to start your animals on Deer Candy.



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WEATHER

Does weather affect a Deer Candy? Deer Candy is formulated with a power pellet, which contains all the needed nutrients for antler growth and micro nutrients for healthy fawns and calves. Moisture will cause the power pellet to as we term it "explode". Through our five years of field trials we found that small amounts of moisture doesn't effect the animals. We found that they crave the salts and minerals in the pellet and will eat even "exploded" power pellets. In the event of heavy rain or snow we found the power pellet would melt away, but does result in creating a salt lick. The whole grains in the mix will sprout and grow into a food plot. Thus weather only enhances our products like no other.



PREDATION

Deer Candy does not have a problem with predation from raccoons, squirrels and birds. Through our extensive field trials, we found that predators of Deer Candy attractants were attracted to whole corn in our Whitetail and Mule Deer products. We solved this problem by using rolled corn instead which doesn't attract raccoons, squirrels and birds. Blacktail is a corn free product which does not attract predators such as raccoons, squirrels and birds.

Bears have also not shown interest in our products during field trials. During field trials, we did find that certain flavor attractants did lure in coyotes. Once the coyotes found it they would urinate on the product causing no other animal interest. Through our extensive field trials we found the correct attractants for attracting deer and elk not raccoons, squirrels, birds, bears and coyotes.



GAME CAMERAS

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Deer Candy products are specifically designed to be used with trail/game cameras. Placement of your camera is critical for getting good pictures of the wildlife in your hunting area. When patterning deer to find their habits, place cameras at intervals of 50 to 100 yards and up to 300-400 yards from attractant placement. This will aid in finding out where your deer are coming from or going to, such as bedding areas. If you're wanting to see animals at the attractant sites place your camera 10-15 yards from site for deer. Elk need 15-20 yards from camera. Place cameras no lower than 3 feet off ground. We have found that Wildgame Innovations game cameras work well consistently. We recommend using a camera that fits you and your budget.



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TREESTANDS AND BLINDS

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Deer Candy products are designed to help with a treestand or ground blind setup. We have field trialed Deer Candy for both. Just like setting up your camera. Treestands should be placed first for optimum advantage of shooting lanes and sound trees for the stand. Best placement would be 20-40 yards from known trails or travel routes. Placement of Deer Candy products should be roughly the same yardage usually 20-40 yards.

Ground blind placement should also be aware of good shooting lanes. We have found that blind placement up hill from desired shooting areas was more beneficial to shooter. Blind should also be placed 20-40 yards from attractant site.

For best results using a treestand or ground blind start using Deer Candy products early in the season. This ensures your success on the trophy of a lifetime.

GAME FEEDERS

Deer Candy products do work in most feeders. We have used the Deer Candy products in Wildgame Innovations pile driver feeders. We have had the best results with gravity feeders. We have through our field trials, developed a gravity feeder that is simple and affordable. We have found using feeders is great for preventing over feeding of product. Feeders also aids in preventing weather damage. We have found that a feeder is a wise investment for keeping costs down. Again we recommend picking a feeder that works for you and your budget.

WHOLE GRAINS & GMO FREE

Whitcher Creek believes in providing only the best in quality of Deer Candy product ingredients. Whitcher Creek uses only Whole Grains in it's wildlife attractants. In the Food Industry Whole Grains have been in demand for a healthier lifestyle and concerns over processed grains. We have listened and gone above the industry standards by providing a Whole Grain, all natural and no preservatives added. Buxton Feed Company truly makes a dynamite product.

In recent years there has also been a concern by consumers about GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms). Recent reports have indicated that GMO's such as roundup ready products have indicated health concerns. Buxton Feed Company is a leader in the feed industry for providing Whole Grain GMO free livestock feed products. Whitcher Creek has its wildlife attractants manufactured by Buxton Feed Co. This partnership guarantees that our products are safe, healthy alternative product for you to use on the wildlife you hunt.





Whitetail Feeds

Deer Candy

Thank you for your interest in our products. We hope you enjoy your sample bag. Your complementary sample bag is more for your senses. We know that they are Deer and Elk approved. So go ahead open your sample bag. First smell the fresh aroma of Deer Candy. Then visually inspect see the power-pellet and whole Grains. If you want, you can even eat it! Some customers have in the past.

Now is the time to start using Deer Candy to improve your odds this season and seasons to come.