

Disposition of Elk Taken With a Kill Permit to Address Wildlife Damage

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

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Ontario

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Presentation Overview

- **Statewide Policy**
- **Resolving Big Game Damage**
- **Staff Recommendation**



State of Oregon

Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012)

...wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion ... and to provide optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits

Coequal goals of wildlife management:

- Optimum population levels
- Develop and manage lands & waters for production and public enjoyment of wildlife
- Orderly and equitable utilization
- Public access
- Compatible with primary uses of the land
- Optimum recreational benefits
- Decisions for social, economic & recreational use



Legislative Assembly Findings on Wildlife Damage (ORS 610.055)

... appropriate measures must be taken to assist farmers, ranchers and others in resolving wildlife damage problems.

Department Wildlife Damage Policy

- Advice/Referral/Repellents
- Hazing
- Barriers/Fencing
- Habitat Programs
 - Regional Habitat Biologists
 - Green Forage
 - Access and Habitat Projects
- Harvest Management



Resolving Big Game Damage

Situation Analysis

- **Species, type of damage (site visit)**
- **Damage history at the location/area**
 - What has been tried in the past
 - Adjacent/nearby ownerships
 - Land use changes
 - Site restrictions such as city limits
- **Landowner cooperation**



Resolving Big Game Damage

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn

- **Advice:** prompt response, discuss the situation
- **Repellants:** sources, type, results can be variable
- **Hazing:** permit required, time of year, can result in fence/crop damage, neighbors
- **Barriers:** fences, vinyl netting, stack-yard panels
- **Habitat improvement programs:** redistribute animal
- **Harvest Management**



Resolving Big Game Damage

Harvest Management

Hunting Seasons:

- Used for population control or reduction
- Can be a localized area or several wildlife units

Landowner Preference Tags:

- Overlay with hunting seasons and damage control

Oregon Landowner Damage Program (elk only):

- To address an ongoing damage issue
- District field staff work with landowners to designate hunters
- Hunt area limited to that landowners property
- August 1 – March 31; District designates dates for tags
- No limit on tags other than no more than 5 at a time
- Very popular with landowner community



Resolving Big Game Damage

Harvest Management

Emergency Hunts:

- Use of hunters to take animals in damage situations
- Hunters taken off a Department list; landowner does not control who hunts their land
- August 1 – March 31; District designates dates for tags
- District designates hunt area; can combine multiple landowners

Kill permits:

- Specific tool with limited utility
- Best in situations where take of one or a few animals will solve damage
- May be best if take is necessary in area with safety concerns
- Can be issued year round, 24 hours a day



Resolving Big Game Damage

Harvest Management

Kill permits:

- Primarily issued outside of local hunting seasons
- District issues carcass tags to landowner; each tag has a listed designee
- Activity limited to the landowners own property
- Landowner or agent responsibilities:
 - Kill animals (animals can be shot at night)
 - Field dress and skin
 - Deliver carcass to designated location
 - Report results to District
 - No fees charged to landowner
- Utilized by charitable organizations, food banks, missions, etc.



Resolving Big Game Damage

Disposal of Elk taken with a Kill Permit

- New options are seasonally specific
- Entire carcass may be donated to the landowner or landowner's designee(s) (including landowner agents)
- If only one Kill Permit is issued, the carcass must be salvaged and delivered for charity, etc.
- If more than one Kill Permit is issued, the Department shall determine the distribution of the carcasses between public and charitable institutions, persons as outlined in OAR 635-002-0005 (2), and landowner or landowner's designee(s)
- Only one elk carcass per year
- No portion of any elk received pursuant to this rule may be sold, bartered, or exchanged



Staff Recommendation

Amend rules for Disposition of Wildlife Taken on Damage rules:

- to allow opportunity for landowners or designees to retain elk taken on a kill permit during specific time periods while still prioritizing delivery to charitable organizations

QUESTIONS?

