

# **Exhibit H**

## **File 7**

**Public Correspondence Received  
May 11, 2021 to May 25, 2021**

**BORISCH Roxann B \* ODFW**

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**From:** MICHAEL TREAT <treatmj68@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** ODFW.Wildlifeinfo@state.or.us  
**Subject:** 2022 Controlled Archery Elk Hunting

Commissioners,

For the protection of our wildlife resource, I'm supportive of ODFW having the tools necessary to manage our wildlife. As a member of the traditional archery user group, I support the position of the Traditional Archers of Oregon to create a Primitive Hunting Area that is restricted to Traditional Archery and Iron Sights, the creation of a Traditional Archery tag that is good for the entire eastside (except Wenaha, Walla Walla and Mt. Emily) and the continuation of creating more 5 day extensions for controlled hunts.

As a post 70 traditional hunter, I realize that my opportunities to get tags in good elk hunting units will suffer under the new proposal. I was prepared to apply for a cow tag for the Chesnimnus Unit, but to my dismay, the hunt was removed for the 2021 season. This got me to thinking that there are probably others like me that would choose a cow hunt over a "one elk" tag if it meant more opportunities to hunt in the areas that we love. Archers only harvest 11% of the cow elk in Eastern Oregon. It's not rocket science to realize that archers with "one elk" tags hunt bulls first, then may settle for a cow as the season comes to a close. Taking pressure off bull hunting seems to be at the forefront of the new proposals. Seems to me that creating recreational cow tags would help to alleviate some of this pressure and also provide some quality hunts for those willing to forego bull elk. As much as I would love to lobby for some of these hopeful cow hunts to be traditional, I believe that there are others in the archery community that would benefit from them as well.

In closing, Traditional Archery has a very low impact on the wildlife resource. I set across the desk from Director Melcher shortly after he became the director and he said he wished there were 10,000 Traditional archers in Oregon because he realized that we were a low impact user group. The only way to make that happen is to make Traditional Archery more attractive to would be archers by creating unique hunting opportunities. Thank you for what has been done so far and I look forward to seeing Traditional opportunities increase in the years to come.

Michael Treat  
Member of the Traditional Archers of Oregon

## **BORISCH Roxann B \* ODFW**

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**From:** Craig Foster <clfoster219@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 2:36 PM  
**To:** ODFW WildlifeInfo \* ODFW; Jeremy Thompson  
**Subject:** Support for limited entry archery regulations for elk hunting in eastern OR.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a group of retired wildlife biologists who spent all of their careers managing wildlife for ODFW in Oregon, we would like to express our support for the proposal to adopt limited entry regulations for archery elk hunting in eastern Oregon, and provide the following comments for the Commission's consideration.

Archery hunter numbers and harvest have grown significantly in the last 30 years. This is due to the continued restriction of rifle hunting opportunity through limited entry quotas during that period; a long general archery elk season; and advancement in archery equipment which has made it easier to shoot a bow effectively with minimal practice. As identified in the Departments proposal the increased participation in archery elk hunting has resulted in several biological and social problems.

The biological problem of not meeting bull ratios and/or population M.O.'s in the 23 management units selected for limited entry archery has been occurring for more than the 3 consecutive years identified, and these problems cannot be corrected without all elk harvest being regulated using limited entry rules.

Controlling archery hunter numbers also will help alleviate the problem of increased harassment to elk herds during late summer/early fall which coincides with significant shifts in distribution of large numbers of elk from public to private lands in many areas of eastern Oregon. In addition to our own personal experience, research in Colorado has shown that the timing of archery season can determine the timing of elk movement to private land (Conner et al. 2001) and the subsequent damage that results.

As stated in the current proposal, the additional social issues that controlled archery elk hunting will help address include:

- Reducing wounding loss, which research at Starkey Experimental Forest has shown is substantially higher during archery season than rifle seasons.
- Hunter crowding, which is severe during archery season in the units identified. For example, in the Murderer's Creek Unit data collected from 1990 through 2000, archery hunter numbers were greater than any two rifle (elk or deer) seasons combined.
- Preference Point Creep

We have two concerns with the current limited entry proposal:

Enforcing the new limited entry regulations for archery deer hunting is going to be extremely difficult in the units that remain under general season archery elk regulations. Our experience is that catching those intentionally violating game laws is extremely difficult when a general season runs concurrently with a limited entry season. We expect this issue to be substantial in the trophy deer units such as North Warner.

It is our experience with rifle seasons that adoption of limited entry regulations in only a portion of eastern Oregon units will result in all of the biological and most of the social issues identified being displaced, along with hunters, to neighboring units. Although the current proposal has been needed for years, it's adoption will

necessitate additional units needing limited entry regulations in the future. Rather than the incremental adoption of limited entry, we would recommend that the Commission place all eastern Oregon units under limited entry regulations for archery elk hunting at this time.

Sincerely,

Craig L. Foster, retired, Lake and Grant wildlife districts

George Keister, retired, Baker, Harney and Douglas wildlife districts

Ron Garner, retired, Harney and Grant wildlife districts

Vic Coggins, retired, Wallowa wildlife district

Steve Denney, retired, Lake and Douglas wildlife districts, SW Region Administrator