

2022 Archery Regulation Proposal

Jeremy Thompson- Regulation Review Team Lead
June 18, 2021 Commission Informational Briefing



Regulation Review Goals

- Improve customer service through simpler big game hunting seasons and associated regulations
- Allocate hunting opportunity fairly and consistent with hunter preferences
- Review hunting season structure and allocation of hunting opportunity to promote hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3)
- Ensure hunting seasons meet biological objectives and maintain or improve hunter opportunity

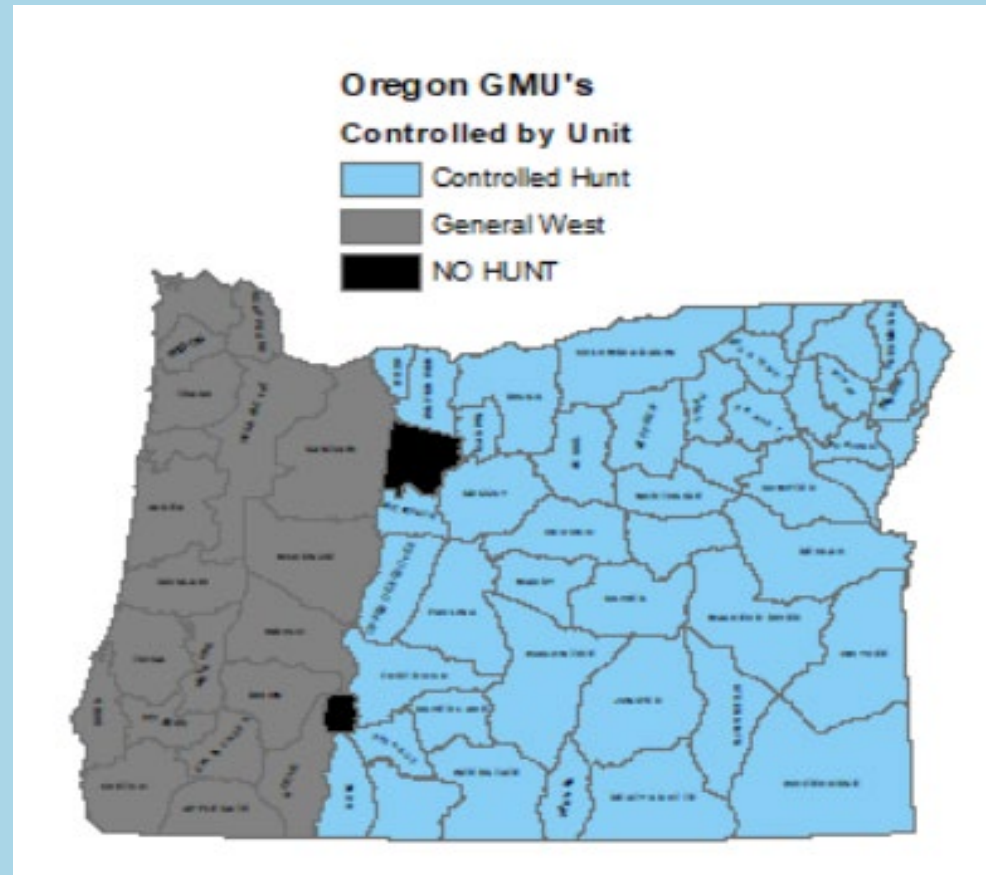


Assessing Opinions of Oregon Hunters

- Human Dimensions Work- Responsive Management
 - 2019 Oregon Deer and Elk Hunters' Attitudes Toward Big Game Management and Hunting Opportunities
 - 2020 Online Public Forum of Oregon Deer and Elk Hunters' Attitudes Toward Big Game Management and Hunting Opportunities
 - 2020 Survey Report on Participation in Deer and Elk Hunting



June 2020 Commission Meeting Informational Briefing



Goals of Regulation Team Archery Proposal Revision

- Allow for district biologists to adjust tags and provide opportunity across all user groups in order to meet elk plan objectives
- Address hunter crowding in units with high hunter densities and hunter complaints
- Address elk disturbance in areas with landowner complaints regarding elk movement in response to start of elk season
- Allow for equitable utilization of biological resource
- Create consistent regulations that are easy to understand and explain to public
- Consider impacts to continued preference point creep in eastern Oregon



Approach for 2022 Archery Proposal

- Attempt to address concerns expressed through previous year public outreach
- Illustrate biological factors associated with need for controlled hunt structure
- Increase public outreach to provide background and answer questions regarding need for change
- Look to incorporate public input in a manner that still meets the overall goals for process



Criteria for WMU Inclusion-Bull Ratio Trends

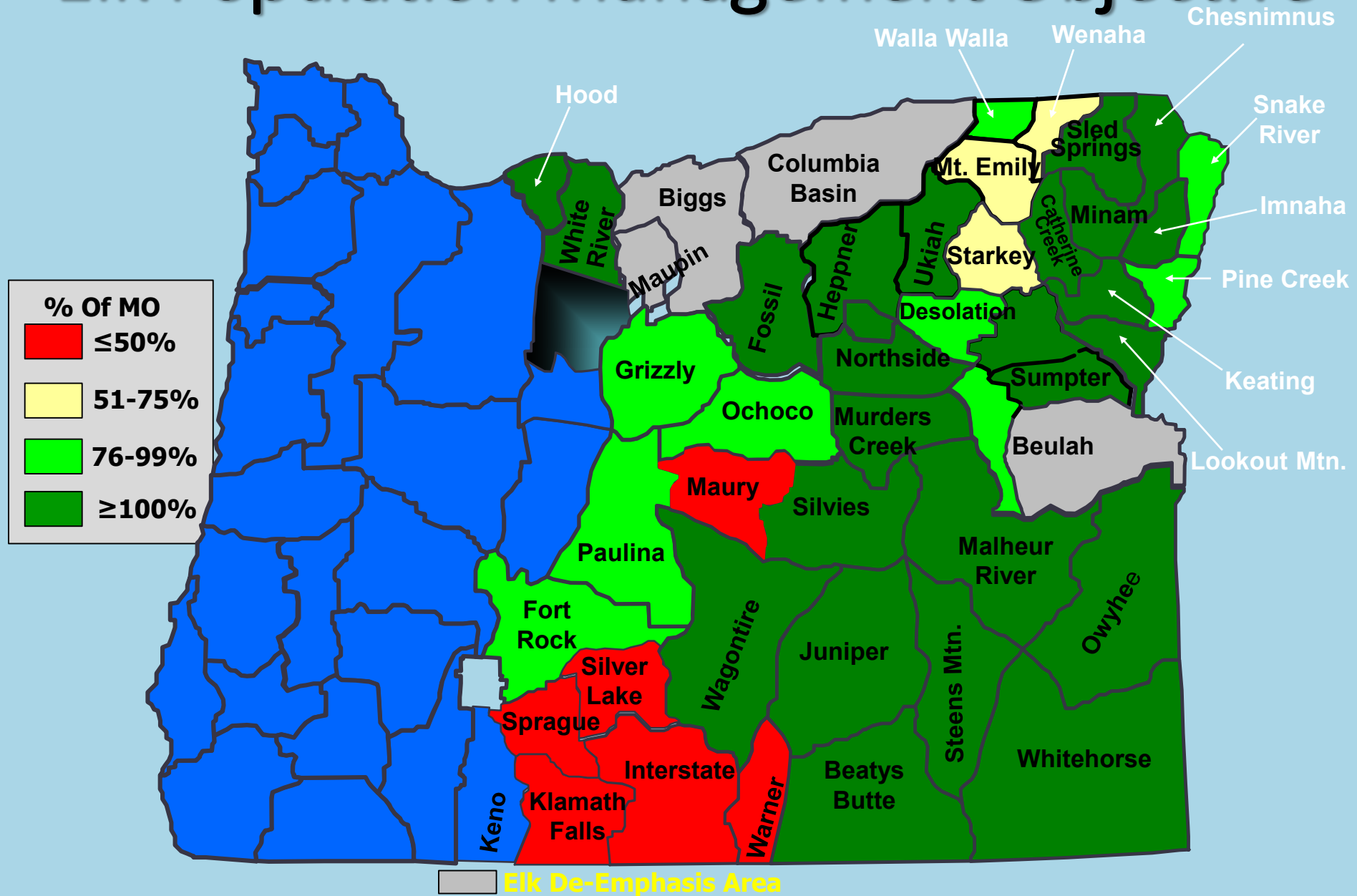
<u>Unit #</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>Bull MO</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>5 year ave. (15-19)</u>	<u>5 year ave. (17-21)</u>
46	MURDERERS CREEK	15	15	24	21	21	12	16	11	18.5	16.2
47	NORTHSIDE	10	12	12	9	7	12	7	13	10.5	9.8
48	HEPPNER	10	8	11	9	11	9	9	9	9.6	9.4
49	UKIAH	10	10	9	17	12	11	11	14	11.8	12.7
50	DESOLATION	10	10	6	7	5	6	6	9	6.7	6.5
51	SUMPTER	10	12	19	19	12	14	13	17	15.2	15.5
52	STARKEY	10	5	7	8	4	6	10	8	6.0	7.7
53	CATHERINE CREEK	10	8	5	16	16	9	28	18	10.7	19.1
59	SNAKE RIVER	15	11	10	5	8	6	8	7	7.9	6.9
60	MINAM	20	17	16	16	9	10	7	7	13.6	9.3
61	IMNAHA	15	8	7	10	11	12	9	13	9.3	10.5
62	PINE CREEK	15	10	12	7	6	9	14	10	8.8	10.0
63	KEATING	10	4	12	7	5	9	6	9	7.5	8.4
66	MALHEUR RIVER	15	25	19	25	7	12	11	13	17.5	13.1
72	SILVIES	15	16	17	17	12	18	11	6	16.0	12.5

Criteria for WMU Inclusion- Branch Bull Harvest

Unit Name	Average # of General Archers 16-19	Average # Branch Bull ALW Tags 16-19	% Branch Bull Harvest by Archers
CATHERINE CR	596	250	49%
DESOLATION	1495	873	49%
HEPPNER	1668	937	48%
IMNAHA	589	288	36%
KEATING	311	208	48%
MINAM	274	647	26%
MURDERERS CR	1020	1129	37%
NORTHSIDE	1015	1233	37%
PINE CREEK	502	279	44%
SILVIES	937	979	34%
SNAKE RIVER	281	253	23%
STARKEY	1645	443	61%
UKIAH	1502	431	57%



Elk Population Management Objective



Team Outreach to Date 2021

- Website live, two updates posted
 - Each update gets emailed to all registrants- currently 6600 people
- Roughly 550 public comments
- Five regional Zooms
 - Invites sent by district
- Five organizational meetings
 - BHA, TAO, RMEF, OHA hosted meetings
- Four Sport Group leader meetings
 - One with all leaders invited, three with organization representatives



Summary of Input Received

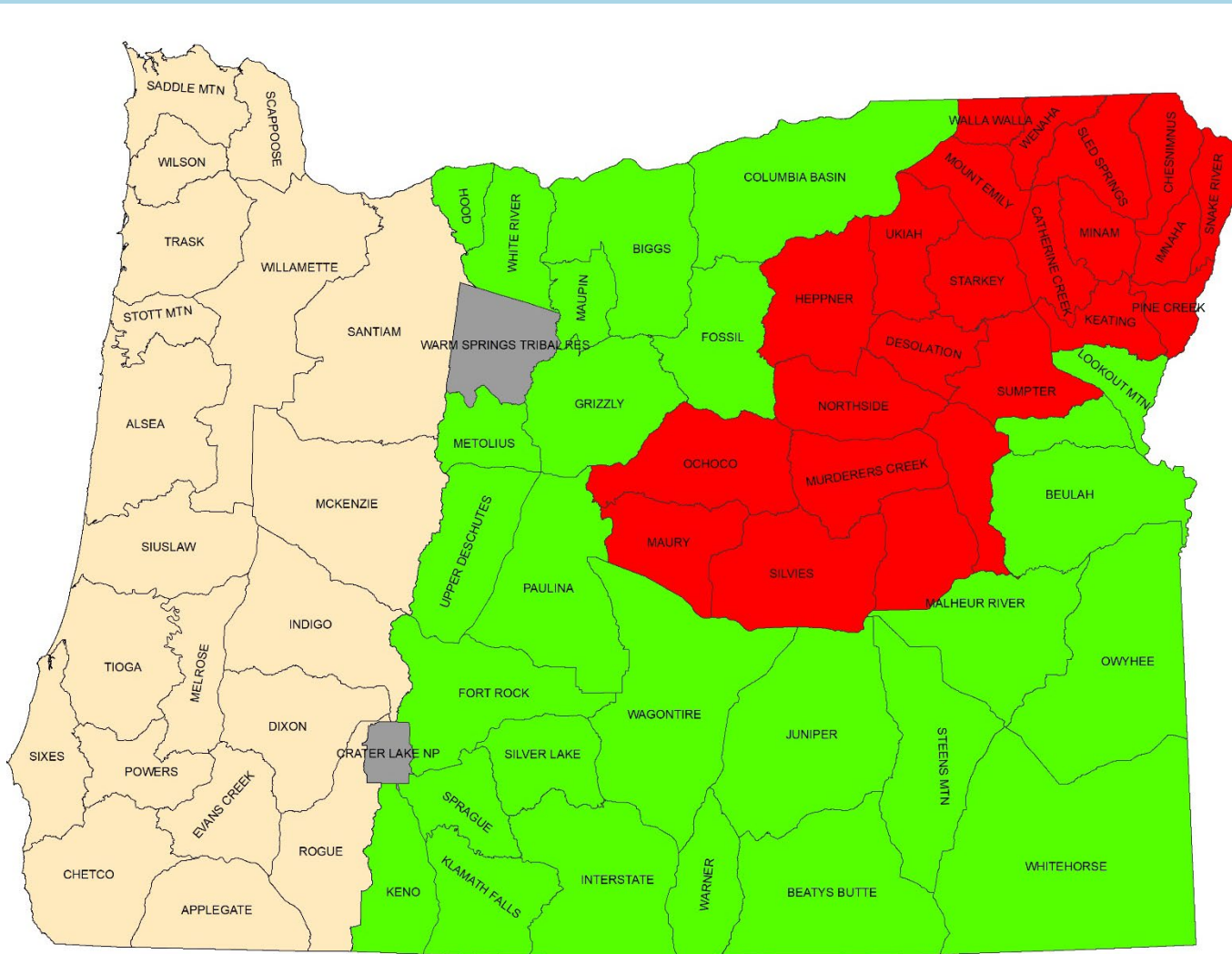
- Youth Opportunity
- Modifications to Proposed General Season
- Alternate Hunt Structure Concepts
- Loss of Flexibility in Response to Fire
- Traditional Archery Hunting Concepts

Youth Opportunity

- Consistent requests for a simplified youth tag
 - Asking for a statewide general opportunity so that kids can hunt controlled units and general season areas with family or friends
 - Bag limit consistent with archery bag limit for unit
- Would youth opportunity be general or controlled?
 - Currently have ~ 1,000 youth archers based on 2020 license sales
- What level of harvest would be management trigger
 - 8% success rate for youth archers in 2020 based on mandatory reporting data
 - 75% reported hunting
 - 80 elk killed by youth archers
- How does this overlay with current ALW opportunities?
 - 1,200 ALW antlerless elk tags, nearly 600 elk harvested in 2020

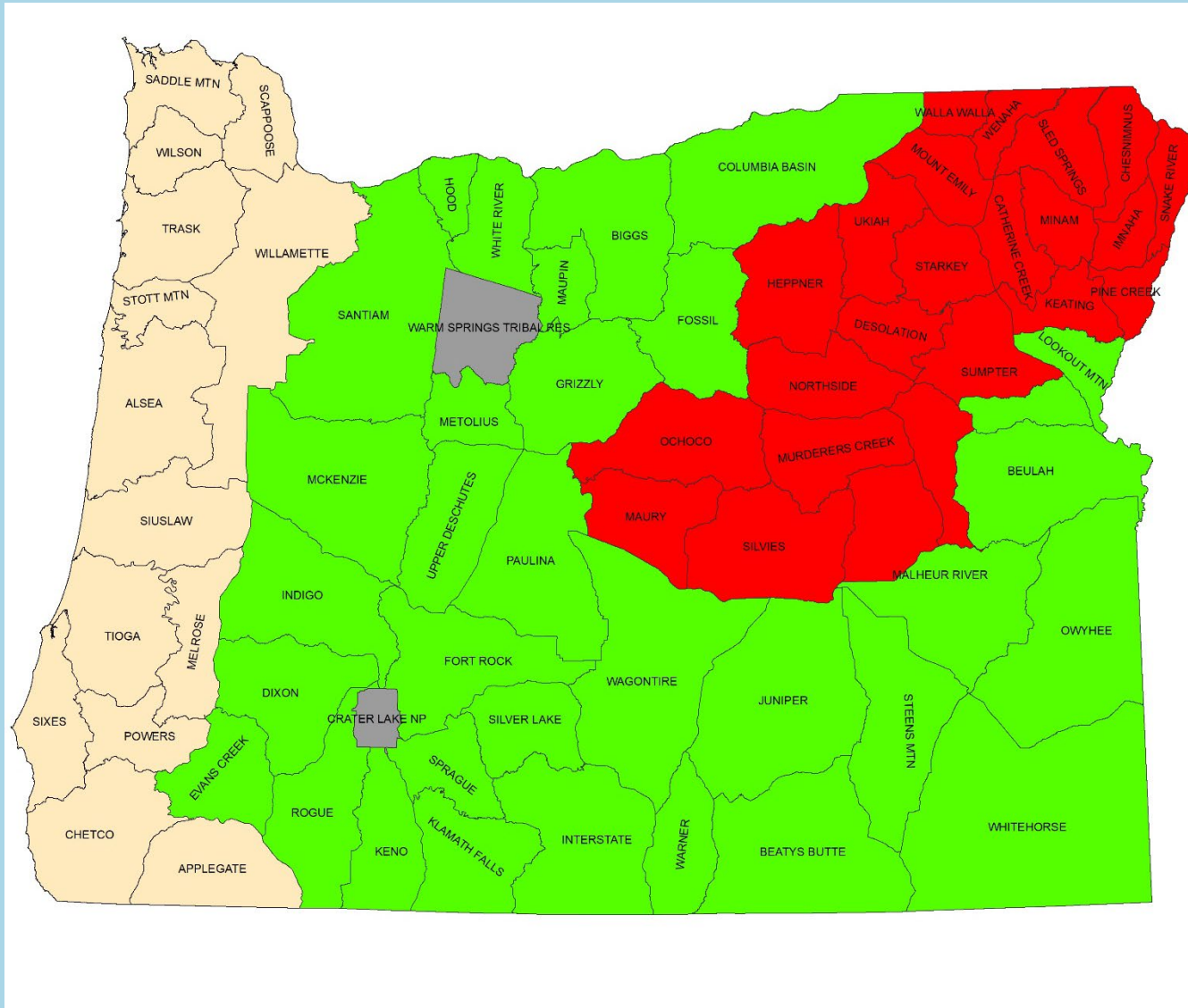


General Season Scenarios



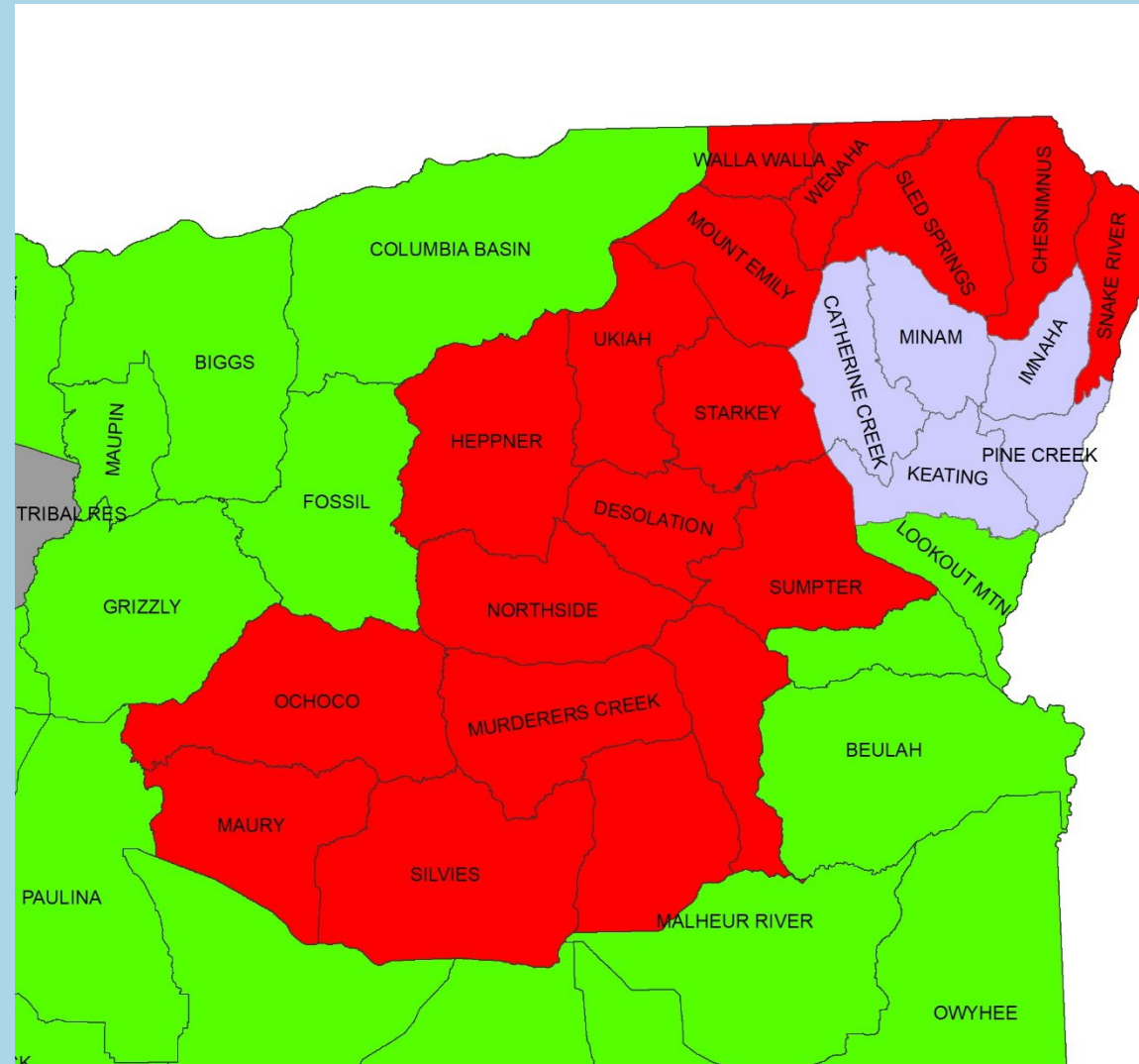
- **Three Different Options To Date:**
 - East and West separate tags
 - Split at Crest of Cascades
 - Split near I-5
 - Single general season

General Season Scenarios



- **Three Different Options To Date:**
 - East and West separate tags
 - Split at crest of Cascades
 - **Split at I-5**
 - Single general season

Potential Eagle Cap Zone



Eagle Cap Wilderness Zone



WMU	Archery Current Participation by WMU based on 3 Yr Ave General Season Data	2022 Tag Allocation by Single WMU Controlled Hunt	% Change by WMU Compared to Current Participation	Tag Allowance for Eagle Cap Zone based on Keating unit Harvest Cuts
Keating	324	265	-18%	
Pine Creek	511	450	-12%	
Imnaha	590	545	-8%	
Catherine Creek	602	600	0%	
Minam	289	315	9%	
2022 Proposed Tag Allocation	2316	2175		1894
% Reduction from Current Participation		-6%		-18%

Management Decision Points for a Zone

- How do we address shift in hunter density?
 - If hunters do not distribute according to current general season data may need greater reduction in total tag allocation
 - Elk plan dictates MO by unit
 - Harvest allocation based on hunter distribution, success and harvest target by unit
- Initial tag allocation is lower for proposed zone compared to WMU controlled hunt
 - Department would need to identify a target to trigger shift from zone to unit specific hunts
 - What level of additional tag loss?



Guidance for Developing August Staff Proposal

- Should the final proposal include a youth general season, including most controlled units?
- Should the final proposal include a single general season, or some form of split?
- Should the final proposal include a zone hunt option, accepting a loss in tag allocation to test an alternate hunt structure?

