

Exhibit H

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence Received
June 17, 2021**

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: t <tbar280@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 9:44 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Cc: Curt Melcher; Douglas Cottam; Kevin Blakely
Subject: 2022 Big Game Regulation Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

June 18, 2021

Chair Wahl, Commissioners, and Director Melcher

Regarding the 2022 Big Game Regulation Proposals

My name is Tim Barbouletos. I am a 4th generation Oregonian, a descendent of Oregon Trail pioneers. I am a retired Oregon State Police Game Officer. I have hunted with both a bow and a rifle hunter. Today I am a worn-out rarely successful rifle hunter. I no longer belong to any organized groups, as I found them too self-serving. They seem too willing to sacrifice others or manipulate facts to protect their own interests.

As hunters, we stumble around our own little piece of heaven, feeling good about ourselves and our buddies. Unconsciously or otherwise, we arrange the facts in such a way to make ourselves look “good”, and our adversaries “bad”. We justify our impacts to wildlife as honorable, righteous, and minimal. And we tend to denigrate our adversaries as being the exact opposite.

Why do we do this? Selfishness. We have our piece of the pie, and we are not about to share. So we tend to whitewash the ugliness, the dishonesty, and the unethical, if it casts us in a negative light. In essence we hide from the truth by hiding the truth.

Failing to comply with Mandatory Reporting is an example of hiding the truth. The table below illustrates the number of un-reported big game tags and associated penalties paid. While some of the non-reporting failures are simple mistakes, the sheer volume suggests people are intentionally concealing their results. They’d rather pay the \$25 penalty than reveal their success hoping to protect their hunting by showing poor success with their weapon, or in their chosen area. Failing to report skews the data, and is a dis-service to everyone.

Mandatory Hunting Tag Fee Penalty	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (through March)
# Unreported	26625	24495	21930	20723	18397	23042	7027
Revenue	\$665,625	\$612,375	\$548,250	\$518,075	\$459,925	\$576,050	\$175,675
Biennium	15 - 17	17 - 19	19 - 21				
# Unreported	48773	40887	39268		Source:		
Revenue	\$1,219,313	\$1,022,163	\$981,688		ODFW	Wildlife Div	4-13-21

ODFW is responsible for ensuring an equitable utilization of wildlife. ODFW's main method of controlling utilization is by controlling people. As it stands, archers are the only group that can freely hunt extensive areas of Oregon just by purchasing an OTC tag. ODFW currently has no ability to control archer numbers, or hunter concentration. Biologists lack any ability to regulate harvest or address population concerns.

As hunter numbers increase, archers are complaining of overcrowding. A more significant consequence than human dissatisfaction is the disturbance of rutting elk. Interrupted breeding can lead to second and third estrus conception. The consequences of that are late calving dates, and smaller calves going into winter. Small size reduces their chance at survival.

Here are two photographs illustrating differences in relative calf size. While I cannot say with any certainty what caused the smaller calf size, the differential is glaring. Breeding interruption via hunter harassment is a possible cause and has been studied in the Starkey Experimental Forest:



Another issue confronting hunters is elk movement from public to private ground. A finger has been pointed at archers as part of the cause. In turn, archers try to deflect that by claiming grazing cattle

displace the elk. While that may occur, here's a few Umatilla County images that contradict that assertion. Both elk and cows are relaxed and feeding. Note the nursing "calf" in the first image.





In making your assessments, I respectfully ask that the Commission be mindful of the following:

ODFW hired a nationally recognized and experienced contractor to survey hunter opinions. Contrast that with on-line social media surveys submitted by interest groups. Online respondents are most likely supporters of the particular interest group asking the questions. (I doubt many rifle hunters frequent a website focused on archery). Social media polls are not random. As such, they are inherently biased.

Decision makers should be wary of user-submitted statistics. It is very easy to “cherry-pick” data to support any given perspective. It is also easy to misinterpret or misrepresent data. As an example, archers commonly point to ODFW statistics showing rifle hunters kill more animals than bow hunters. Yet they commonly fail to mention the number of hunters included in the respective groups, and they fail to mention the composition of the harvest. Without adding any further detail or context, any comparisons made are misleading and invalid. Please utilize the most reliable information available – the data provided by your agency and your staff.

The decision before you will have lasting impact on the health of Oregon’s wildlife. While I support public involvement, nothing will change the fact that a large segment of the big game hunting community is essentially unregulated for general season hunting. Despite all their denials, the archers of Oregon do have a substantial impact on our big game herds. To properly manage wildlife, your managers need the ability to manage us ---- all of us.

Right now times are good for elk and elk hunting. But what happens when that changes? Having no ability to control harvest in a timely manner is both unwise and unprofessional. That’s why I ask you to place all Oregon hunters under consistent and uniform management schemes by implementing controlled archery hunting in Eastern Oregon

Respectfully,
Tim Barbouletos

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Richard Thorp <umpquah20designs@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:14 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: Put a stay and reset the 2022 archery elk proposal.

My Name is Dale Thorp and I have been hunting Oregon for all my life since I was 12 yrs. old (34 years now). The proposed archery elk draw for 2022 really needs to be reexamined and receive more input from us, the hunters and conservationists. I hope you as a commission put a pause on this decision and go back and get more input from Oregon based conservation groups. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,

Dale Thorp

6-17-21

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this as a proud life-long Oregon resident, sportsman and conservationist. I have participated in the survey and review of the proposed 2021 eastern Oregon archery elk and deer seasons. I grew up in Wallowa County and still call this wonderful place home. I have always supported the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Each year I buy my Sports-Pac to support management of the wildlife that I share this great place with. The Eagle Cap Wilderness, Hells Canyon, Wenaha, Zumwalt, Imnaha, The Divide, McGraw, The Minam to name a few. These are not just names but places in our hearts and souls. Even more so for those of us that grew up here and now raising the next generation of sportsmen and woman.

Looking at the data for Wallowa County units (Sled Springs, Chesnimus, Snake River, Imnaha, Pine Creek, Minam, Wenaha) there is more participation during rifle elk seasons than archery. Archery season success rates average 15% (2019) in these units and don't even come close to rifle success, average 35% (2019). So that should not be a criteria or case for change. When I do get an opportunity to archery hunt I don't just hunt one unit in Wallowa County but hunt 3 or 4 units during the season. Asking someone from Eastern Oregon to pick one unit is like asking someone to only pick one flavor of ice cream for the rest of their lives. Our herds of elk don't care about boundaries drawn on a map. By allowing multi-unit level hunts in the Blues and Wallowa Mountains gives people the opportunity to spread out and not have to pick only one unit. If we really are going to have controlled archery hunts in all of Eastern Oregon then we should get to choose which units we want to hunt at any time and not have to make a decision before we apply. This would be no different than the proposal states for the "multi-unit hunts in the High Desert, East Cascade and Columbia Basin."

March 10, 2021 Press Release quote "The primary elk population issue that ODFW staff used in refining the archery hunt proposal revolves around post hunting season bull ratios and the individual unit's bull ratio management objective. Units where the bull ratio (number of bulls per cows) have not met management objectives for three out of five years need a reduction in bull harvest and are being considered to go to controlled archery hunting with this draft proposal." **Please send me the post season bull ratios for the units being proposed and the management objectives for the past 5 yrs?** If concerned about bull to cow ratios then a good option would be to make the harvest an either sex or any elk. Many people would just as soon shoot the first elk they have an opportunity at with bow or rifle for that matter. Another way to ensure a few more bulls survive rifle seasons is to eliminate the general and controlled spike only seasons. These additional tags could be used to increase the controlled rifle bull tags or archery tags.

I appreciate the thought process of trying to address hunter satisfaction and balance hunter densities. A better approach maybe to try a pilot project for a few years in some units across the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Gabe Hale

Father of Current and Future Sportsman and Sportswoman.

Oregon/ Wallowa County Resident of 39 years.

Ducks Unlimited member and Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation Life Member.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: FW: Archery season proposal

From: Azura <jobugg3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:09 PM
To: michelle.l.tate@state.or.us
Subject: Archery season proposal

Michelle,

I have written a couple of emails regarding the archery season proposal and haven't heard anything back from ODFW. I wanted to be able to give a testimony in a woman's point of view and how difficult archery season is already.

To take away the ability to hunt in my back yard - Pendleton Oregon / waste all my point on a unit which I will never be able to hunt walla walla is unreasonable.

It's very sad!

You break the point system down to youth draw!

Why not female hunters?

Why can't we be in are our own draw?

It's not like the percent of female hunters are going to even break the 2% of hunters in Oregon.

Since I've been archery hunting, I have only seen 1 female archery hunter in ukiah / Starkey unit.

Also, another question is why don't we hunt in our own backyard!! If you live in Portland area / westbound, you'll be able to have a general archery tag. If you live in Pendleton area / eastbound, you'll be able to have a general archery tag. This would also help and limit of encroachment in the blue mountains.

Or even a better idea - why not have a time limit on buying an archery general elk tag?

January to April (that will show the True archery hunter) the small amount of us that truly archery hunt!

I just feel very sad inside and almost feel like ODFW has taken away my ability to feed my family and do what I have always been so passionate about.

As a single mother I have learned what I can live without and give to my children with hesitating.

However, I had never thought about living without elk meat, until now.

If there's anything I could show or explain how difficult it is as a female archery hunter please feel free to ask.

Thank you,

Azura dee Gaige

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: whit whitmore <whitwhitmore@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 1:00 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: General archery elk season

To whom it my concern,

I am writing this email in hopes that the commission will consider a reset on the proposed changes to general archery season.

I believe it is important that the commission listen to the hunting community on this issue. Hunters have a border reach and can see issues that might cause problems going forward with wildlife issues and tagging.

Thanks,

Chris Whitmore
ODFW #173617

June 17, 1921

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

Subject: Controlled Archery Elk Hunting Hunting Proposal

Chair Whal, members of the Commission, Director Melcher

My name is James Dundon and I live in Polk County Oregon I'm a lifelong Oregon resident, hunter and angler of Oregon for 67 years and regularly hunt or angle in all corners of the state. I'm a pioneer license holder and still look forward to going afield as much as possible. I have always rifle hunted, however I have many close hunting partners who bow hunt either part time or exclusively.

I'm writing today to support the ODFW Staff Proposal to make **all Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Seasons controlled hunts.**

I have participated in several virtual staff presentations and reviewed all the proposals and amendments. ODFW Staff has made a convincing case for managing all Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Seasons as controlled hunts to best manage this resource for the benefit of all hunters.

Multi-Unit Archery Zones

Suggestions to create multi-unit zones limits the ability to regulate hunter numbers and harvest to specific units. It will enable hunters to concentrate effort in areas perceived to be more productive and undoubtedly result in continued crowding in those areas. As elk population dynamics change ODFW will be forced to either modify zones or inevitably go to controlled hunts in some of those units.

Eagle Cap Wilderness Zone

The proposal to include units that comprise the The Eagle Cap Wilderness in a single zone is indicative of the issues of creating zones. Much of the area of these popular units lie outside the Wilderness Boundary and would be subject to the same access and congestion issues as non-wilderness. ODFW Staff has identified the Keating Unit as driving a reduction of tag numbers for the zone yet I know from hunting there in the past that only the extreme NE corner of that unit lies within the Wilderness resulting in possible over-harvest of that units herd while reducing hunter opportunity in the remaining three units.

Cascade Boundary Change

The "Cascade" area boundary modification, while more innocuous, begs the question of why are we creating additional "special regulations" for bow hunters when the department has recently endeavored to simplify and standardize regulations for all and grants bow hunters yet another exclusive advantage.

Hunter Equity

For the last 25+ years bow hunters (25% of licensed hunters) have enjoyed the benefit of generous bag

limits, lengthy seasons (sometimes 6X the length of rifle bull elk seasons), increased harvest of mature branch bulls due to seasons occurring in the rut and increased opportunity to hunt while still accumulating “preference points” for future hunts. Furthermore, improvements in archery equipment and techniques has drastically improved during this period resulting in an ever increasing number of archers and resulting harvest of more mature animals and at ranges beyond the reach of traditional archery equipment. Most, if not all of the objections voiced by archery advocates during virtual presentations, are restrictions that we, as rifle hunters, have been living with for over 25 years.

At the same time rifle hunters (75% of licensed hunters) have seen tag numbers and hunter opportunity decrease across the board to compensate for corresponding increases in archery harvest.

Conclusion

Since at least the 1970's, ODFW has embraced game management on a Unit basis. It only makes sense to manage a wildlife resource in such a way for a number of biological and sociological reasons. ODFW Staff has shown that to best manage the rocky mountain elk resource they need to do so on an individual game management unit basis for **all hunters!**

Thank You,

James A. Dundon

6-07-2021

To all 2021 Commissioners:

My Name is Chuck Windy Lynde and I have been a Bowhunter for 66 years and 53 years in Oregon. 1978 I worked with Director Donaldson , ODF&W= Bob Stein, Paul Ebert, Commissioners= Allan Kelly & Jack Steiwer on Bowhunting.

I agree with Director Curt Melcher on bowhunting elk draws in most eastern Oregon elk units. We are over crowed.

If bowhunters are over crowed, I do not agree with letting rifle elk hunters that do not draw be able to draw a bow elk tag from a bowhunter. This is not fair at all. We all draw bow elk tags and rifle elk tags at the same time.

I want to thank you for your time,

Charles R Lynde Jr Phone : 541-410-8031, E-Mail
windylynde@yahoo.com.



ODFW

JUN 11 2021

Director's Office