

Exhibit H

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence Received
June 3 to June 16, 2021**

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Matt Sprague <MSprague@pd-grp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 12:00 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Big Game Review Comments
Attachments: 20210616120738192.pdf

Dear Commission Members:

Attached please find my written testimony regarding the Big Game Review hearing for Friday the 18th of June, 2021.

Thanks,

Matthew L. Sprague
Newberg, Oregon

June 15, 2021

ODFW Commission Members
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

RE: Oregon Big Game Review 2021

Dear Commission Members,

I've been involved in the public portion of the Big Game Review process over the last year and have been analyzing all of the data and ideas coming from ODFW staff and management, Oregon hunters and involved sportsman's groups. I'm writing to you offering testimony in opposition to the currently suggested options that ODFW is going to be asking the Commission to review.

As a Commission member, you are being offered a very narrow scope of options to address Management Objectives for elk. What I mean by this is that the Commission is not being offered an opportunity to comprehensively manage a big game species in Oregon for all factors that impact Management Objectives. In this review, ODFW is not giving the Commission the opportunity to address predators, the current unhealthy state of habitat within public lands in Oregon, poaching and damage tags.

What the Commission is left with is, **how and where are we going to reduce hunter numbers, hunter opportunity and further impact the future of hunting in Oregon for elk.** That is not the best management approach. Management is the process of analyzing all of the factors associated with an issue and uses everything in the tool box to address it. In this current limited management situation, it's like handing someone a tool box with just a hammer inside.

STATISTICS

I've been analyzing the elk statistics provided by ODFW. The statistics appear as if the data input had problems. Counts are inconsistent from unit to unit and count numbers are indicative of very different methodologies. The statistics appear to be unreliable yet are being relied upon to make these decisions.

1. Why would some units have the same population of elk year after year with no deviation by even one elk yet there is enough detail to provide data on Bull to Cow Ratio?
2. Looking at Paulina/E. Fort Rock, Maury, High Desert and especially South Central, Bull to Cow ratios are differing year to year by hundreds of percent. In 2015 the Bull to Cow ratio is 350 in South Central then drops to 13, 6, 6, & 10 the following four years. The high desert unit lists a ratio of 33, then 139 and 23, 20 & 13 the following three years. Paulina/East Fort Rock shows 8, 9, 15, 24 and then drops back down to 4. Maury starts at 17, then 13, 29, 53 and plummets to 18.

3. How could there be counts in some units like Hood, N. Fossil and S. Fossil but no population data for bull to cow or calves?
4. How can there be no population counts in Fossil but there is population data for bull/cow and calves?
5. What's so different about the counting methods in Sumpter, Pine Creek, Keating and Lookout Mountain where estimates for population are to the nearest single digit and all other units seem to be apparently rounded to the nearest 50th or 100th digit?

The Commission is being provided with these statistics in their decision-making process. With apparent statistical errors and issues not addressed to date, it is easy to have limited confidence in the decisions being made.

POPULATIONS AND HERD COMPOSITION

There are only six units below population Management Objectives (MO's) if you take the statistics at face value. Three of these units are already in controlled archery and rifle hunts with very limited tags clearly indicating that the number of hunters is not the driving force behind populations in these units. Only one of the remaining three units is proposed to go to an archery draw. Another of the remaining three is proposed to come out of being an archery draw. It's not evident how population is a substantial concern in all but one of the units being proposed to move to an archery draw. This issue can be eliminated as a decision-making factor with the current proposal in front of the Commission.

Of the units proposed to be archery draw units based upon the 2021 Herd Composition preliminary numbers, only five of the fifteen units proposed to go to an archery draw are more than slightly below bull to cow ratio MO's. If you look at the five-year averages (years 15-19 and years 17-21) along with the 7-year average, two of those five have healthy bull to cow MO's. There are other units below but generally within one or two digits of the MO and not much of a concern. Minor actions could be taken to address the ratios as shown below under the heading Suggested Short Term Solutions.

ARCHERY VS RIFLE HARVEST

Much attention has been given to the argument over "fairness" or opportunity for rifle vs archery. I believe, I'm unbiased in this scenario as I hunt with a rifle, bow and muzzleloader to increase my opportunities to hunt each year.

Archery has been growing in popularity among Oregonians and non-residents for many reasons. One of the primary reasons for the increase in popularity is opportunity which is under attack again this year. Every rifle hunter who doesn't draw a tag can hunt archery and contribute to the archery take. Based on the survey, ODFW makes the statistics appear as if, because rifle is preferred, the hunter doesn't really want to pick up a bow and that is just not true. Although ODFW statistic indicate the percentage who hunt with a bow if they don't draw a tag are relatively low at 14%, that statistic doesn't take into account conversions where the rifle hunter chooses to just hunt with a bow instead of a

rifle. And the survey relied upon for many of the department's statements as I noted last year is a very poor way to gauge the actual facts.

The total number of archery hunters in 2020 as estimated by ODFW published statistics is 29,639 while the number of rifle hunters is estimated at 64,744 for a total of 94,383 hunters. Archery hunters make up 31.5% of hunters. According to ODFW, archery hunters harvest 35% of the branched bull harvest. It's a poor argument to make that a difference of 4.5% is somehow substantially unfair. Then take into account what happens in an archery hunt vs a rifle hunt and it's surprising that archery hunters don't have a higher branch bull percentage ratio than shown above. Archery hunters hunt during the rut when bulls are bugling and those bulls are primarily branched bulls. This allows the hunter to locate the bull however the work and luck still have to all come together. With rifle hunting, the tendency is to shoot the first legal bull because they can be harder to locate outside of the rut. Hunter behavior therefore is a driving factor behind the small differences in branch bull harvest.

Additionally, taking into account total harvest rates, archery hunters in 2020 harvested 4,003 elk and rifle hunters harvested 11,960 elk for a total of 15,963. This equates to an archery harvest of 25% of all elk and a rifle harvest of 75% of all elk. Archery hunters are not complaining that they should be allowed to harvest 31.5% of the elk because they make up that percentage of the total hunters. To take this a step further, if damage tags are included with which rifles are the primary method, the statistics lean heavily in favor of rifle hunting. By adding the estimated 7,000 damage tags to the pool for a total harvest of 22,963 elk, archery harvest percentage drops dramatically to only 17.4% of all elk taken. That is a huge disparity if archers wanted to take up that argument and request more opportunity. But they don't. They want to maintain what they have and most want Oregon to take steps to maintain opportunities and increase opportunities for rifle hunters.

The numbers are very clear that there is a very small disparity between hunting methods and branch bull harvest, nothing that isn't explained easily by how those methods play out in the field, this should be removed as a concern that, changes need to be made to make things more "fair and equitable," Its simply not the case statistically.

One of the unintended consequences of going to an archery draw is the loss of the opportunity to develop the skills needed to be successful at archery hunting. Likewise, there's an increased chance that due to the lack of skills, poor shot selection will become more normal with unfortunate results. If a person has never archery hunted, one wouldn't understand that it's not something that you can do every other year and be successful. The loss of knowledge and skills associated with this form of hunting is hard to acquire and hard to replace.

HUNTER DENSITY & HUNTER COMPLAINTS

The question here is why would we as a state treat archers differently than rifle hunters when it comes to this density and complaints? Hunter density and hunter complaints during rifle hunts far exceed that found in archery hunts. Some rifle conflict stories are

absolutely horrible and unbelievable. Conflict may be a growing issue for some in archery but still far below the number of issues that come with rifle hunting. I covered this topic last year as well. There will always be the small minority who complain about someone in “their” spot. This will never go away even if a draw were to reduce tag numbers in the units proposed. It’s just part of some people’s nature to complain rather than adapt.

Of note but relevant, ODFW stated in Zoom meetings that “*only 4,100 archer hunters have 7 or more points.*” (This is the cut off for who they think is really waiting for a hunt in the “big three”. This is wrong as all hunters have started with one point to begin this process and not all hunters are 50 years old and unlikely to draw again in their lifetime.) If “*only 4,100*” hunters aren’t a number that concerns ODFW, I can’t imagine they have logged nearly as many complaints of crowding compared to the complaints from hunters wasting their built up points (and application fees), in order to actually hunt more often in areas they have traditionally hunted. Crowding is not nearly as large of an issue as its being made to be in this review and should be eliminated as a reason to institute a draw.

ELK DISTURBANCE

This is the being term used for elk migrating to private lands at the start of archery season because of hunting pressure. I don’t agree this is a problem for the majority. I find plenty of elk each day where I hunt in the National Forest as do many of the hunters who do the same. If the elk all moved to private land, then elk harvest for archers on public lands wouldn’t be as good as it is. Statistics like these need to be considered together. Maybe it’s a fringe problem for a few and not to be totally discredited, however not as substantial as what the department seems to be suggesting. This issue needs to be solved in other ways because what is proposed will not solve them.

The majority of private land the elk move to is not agricultural lands and most of the land owners of these non-agricultural lands are happy to have the elk on their property for their own reasons, be they wildlife viewing, hunting, making money off of leases, selling tags, etc.

Finally on this issue, the reduction in tags proposed will have minimal if any impact on pressure. Removing 10% of the hunters in a unit will go unnoticed by elk and the problem will still exist at the same level it does today. The department needs to look at ways to keep elk on public land by making it more attractive than private land if this concern is ever to be solved and this won’t happen overnight. Once it does happen, private land owners will complain there is no elk, they can’t lease their land, the LOP tags are useless and they have loss of revenue.

SUGGESTED SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS

It’s evident that ODFW’s go to management solution appears to always limit hunter opportunity rather than comprehensively manage wildlife. It has been suggested by many that there are things that can be done now to bank time to address the bigger issues of damage tags, predators and habitat. Unfortunately, the ODFW missed an opportunity last

year to implement some of these tools on an interim basis to see where improvements are being made. The State was too focused on a specific plan and couldn't or wouldn't adapt and use more of the tools available.

Once we get through this process, I would hope the Commission recommends to ODFW that they begin a more comprehensive process so that plans can be implemented within 2 years that will make a difference and keep the Commission from constantly removing opportunities from Oregon hunters. My suggestions for short term include:

1. Reduce Spike Hunting in units below bull to cow ratio MO's. The department continues to bring up concerns that younger spikes don't survive winter well and most die and are not good breeders for the population. Both may be absolutely true and founded on good science. However, no one is suggesting that we eliminate all spike hunting and have a massive carryover and breeding problem that will damage our elk herds. Based on estimates of spike winter survival, let enough additional spikes carry over through the hunting season to slightly increase bull to cow ratios each year. If that number results in the small number of ten spikes surviving in a population of 1,000 elk, you can increase your MO by one and increase your branch bull numbers for the following year. These spikes aren't going to cause substantial breeding problems at that level yet will carry over to become branched bulls the following year thus addressing the breeding issue more comprehensively.

Most archers feel it would be fair to eliminate spikes as an option in units below bull to cow MO's. It also may cause archers to move out of restrictive units in favor of one currently meeting MO's and providing an opportunity to harvest an elk. Similar to what happened initially when cows were removed as an option in some units, this could decrease pressure and increase MO's.

2. Move Non-Resident Hunters to a draw for all units in Oregon. Oregon is one of only a few states, if any, that still allow unlimited over the counter archery tags for non-residents. It's unfortunate but as a result of most states being more restrictive, Oregon needs to protect its resident's opportunities.

In the "Big Game Review Team" draft presentation regarding total non-resident hunter reduction expected if non-resident went to a draw, the reduction for 2020 is listed as a reduction of 671 hunters. Based upon my review of non-resident 2016 to 2019 hunters, the reduction would actually be 748. This is a substantial number. It equates to a reduction of 2.5% of all elk archery tags. Although not a cure-all, this additional step with others suggested will stabilize and begin to address MO's while more comprehensive longer term management ramps up.

3. Predator Control/Quota Increases. Although not on the table today with the very limited management scope being presented to the Commission, this is something the Commission should direct staff to review and implement next year. The harvest objectives for cougar and bear are not being met year to year. Elk would see increases in populations if just the harvest objectives were met.

The predator issue seems to be taking a back seat in most of these discussions although it's brought up time and time again by hunters. ODFW seems to think this is not a primary factor but a secondary factor. Hunters know better in this case and observe it first-hand more often than biologists. Hunters have more boots on the ground for longer time periods. Hunters are asking the state to listen to us with a bit more consideration. Yes, habitat is a factor and a big one. The State and Federal authorities should be letting our forests burn and putting out fires in our deserts according to biologist - the opposite of what would be expected. But since we aren't doing it right, the best habitat is being localized creating dense prey populations and making it easier for predators. By default, predators are the cause of population issues and must be dealt with first while we better manage habitat to disperse populations to allow recovery and reduce predator impacts.

Things the department could do immediately is bring back their program reducing cougar populations in areas of concern. Other things that could be implemented next year would be to increase spring bear tags as well as allow spring bear LOP tags.

I believe that ODFW fears the politics involved with any form of predator management which is a sad situation to leave our wonderful biologists to deal with.

4. Hunters Choice. I don't view this as a long-term solution but for a period of maybe 2 or 3 years, make hunters choose whether they will hunt with a rifle or a bow each year. If you apply for rifle and don't get it then you can't go archery hunting. This should have a sunset clause ensuring that it is limited in duration in recognition for all to participate in helping meet MO's. It should also be flexible enough for the department to eliminate it after the first year or two to address the improbable but possible likelihood that rifle hunters will choose to hunt with archery equipment rather than apply for rifle tags.

The likely result of hunter's choice would be a reduction in archery hunters, reduction in pressure during archery season, reduction in "overcrowding" and reduction in branch bull harvest for a short time period.

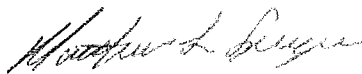
CONCLUSION

If the department were willing to make changes such as the above and others that may also be suggested of a similar nature, there is no doubt that Oregon can eliminate the constant need to strip opportunities from Oregon hunters long term. The path proposed at this time is bad for all hunters and we've been traveling it since 1980. It's time to take a turn and do things differently and do them better. There are long term solutions that need to be addressed for this to work, however minor fixes to policies we have now will give Oregon the time to implement those long-term solutions. I can provide some of those long-term solutions for the Commission at a later date.

The results of the changes currently proposed are going to surprise many in the rifle community. Based upon what has been suggested as changes to archery regulations, archery hunters holding onto five or more points will want to continue to hunt every year (or every other year) and their mindset will be on using the points they have to apply for the best rifle tag they can get with those points. There are 7,000 archers that have five or more points built up. That's 25% of all archers who will have to figure out what to do with their points when the big three units become less attractive or just unattainable. As a result, with many of them using their points for a rifle hunt for the next couple of years it may be even more difficult for a rifle hunter to draw a tag until those archers work their way through the system. This is a negative side effect that should be noted and considered.

The majority of archery hunters hope that the Commission does something surprising and not in lock step with archer's expectations that they will go to a draw. Please consider implementing other tools to address the relevant concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew L. Sprague".

Matthew L. Sprague

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: A Preston Taylor <taylorapreston@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:21 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Archery elk season changes

Hello ODFW Biologists and Managers,

I am writing to you today to discuss the changes to Oregon's archery elk seasons. I would like to offer my support for Traditional Archery Elk Seasons. I am a nonresident of Oregon, and my original interest in hunting elk in Oregon was the enticement of the Canyon Creek Traditional Zone, which was one of the only trad archery areas in the country at the time. However, without any incentive, like a specific Trad Archery tag, season, or zone, then there is no difference to me to hunt elk in Oregon or another state, and I have also hunted elk with a bow in Colorado and with a rifle in Idaho. But if there was a long season and GMU solely for Traditional Archers I would happily continue to spend my money in Oregon, as would my friends.

Oregon is steeped in a rich history of archery, back to a time when everyone hunted with wooden longbows and homemade wooden arrows. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in that history, and that Oregon recognizes and honors it with Traditional Archery seasons & tags.

Thank you for your time,
Preston Taylor

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Preston Taylor
www.trackerlongbows.com

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Steve Talley <sjtalley2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:30 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Traditional archery as a management tool

To whom it may concern,

I am not an Oregon resident but I do hunt elk in other states. Oregon has been on my bucket list for many years now and I'm concerned that it may become another lost consideration like several other states if your state places the Blue Mountain region under controlled hunt status. As someone who is passionate about the experience and getting as close as possible I've missed more opportunities to punch my tag in a single season than any 3 hunters using compound bows in the same time and I'm happy with that. Oregon has been a leader in using traditional archery as a management tool in the past so much so that it would seem logical to do so again. Either with a statewide option that is traditional archery specific or even unit specific without having to put in for points or a lottery. I would ask that you give serious consideration to using traditional archery as the best management tool for the elk population with the knowledge that our success rates are well below half that of modern archery equipment while still maintaining the monetary influx from hunters everywhere wanting to hunt a traditional archery only season. You can be sure the number of tags sold will far exceed the number of tags filled.

Kindest regards,
Steve Talley
Cedar Bluffs, Nebraska

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dustin Newer <dustinnewer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:59 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Archery Elk Proposal

Good morning fellow outdoor enthusiast and conservationist,

I am a Bowhunter from Oklahoma who pays attention to bow seasons across the US as any changes in other states could have implications on me here and other states. When I began bowhunting in the mid 1990s,

technology did not make it a given for someone shooting a bow and arrow for a minimal amount of time to be able to place accurate shots on targets out past 40-50-60 and yes up to and over 100 yards.

I think we can all agree that limiting success rates for bowhunters while still providing equal or more opportunities afield would be beneficial to both Oregon and the customer.

One way to accomplish this is by limiting the technology allowed to be used during the OTC archery season.

There is a hunt in Oklahoma that takes place every year for whitetail deer. It is a primitive only bow hunt meaning only recurves and longbows and self bows are allowed without sites or other attachments. This is a draw only controlled hunt that occurs over about 4-5 weekends. The hunt has about 290 tags per weekend. However there are over 20,000 applications for each weekend of the hunt. This hunt is called the MCAAP hunt and has taken place since the 1970s.

During the 1980s when compound bow technology began to improve, the hunt manager, Bill Starry, saw two things occur; 1. The number of mature bucks on the property began to decline and 2. The success rate for bow hunters climbed drastically.

Bill decided to work with the commander of the base (yes this hunt occurs on an active government facility) to limit the technology of the hunters while still allowing the maximum amount of opportunity to hunt. Bill accomplished this by limiting the technology of the weapon.

Oregon has a tremendous opportunity to enact some common sense bow seasons by simply limiting the weapon technology. If we can use MCAAP as an example, just as many bowhunters will participate however the success rates will be dramatically lowered by the restrictions of the weapons.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck!

Dustin Newer
Lifelong hunter
580-339-0771

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Tavis Rogers <TavisRogers@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:30 PM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Oregon Rocky Mountain Elk seasons as General Seasons

Dear sirs,

I am writing in response to the current proposal to limit the archery elk seasons in the Blue Mountain area units for Rocky Mountain elk in Oregon. I understand the issues having to do with overcrowding and over harvest due to recent significant increases in the popularity of archery hunting in the state. Limiting these twenty two units to all archery hunters will have the negative effect of moving pressure to other general units and cause the same issues to occur with the same results. Limiting those units will also reduce revenue to the ODFW by reducing the numbers of elk tags sold, particularly to nonresident hunters.

There is an option that should be considered that can provide a viable solution to these issues. Traditional archery hunting using recurves, longbows and self-bows can provide Oregon a potential solution that can serve to maintain opportunities for bowhunters while limiting over harvest. The General Seasons in these units were originally set up when "traditional" bows (recurves, longbows and self-bows) were all that there was and management of the resource took that into account.

Traditional archery, by its nature, requires a hunter to be much closer to his quarry for a good shot than modern compound bows. Traditional archers typically shoot instinctively with no sights, thus have to be in very close range of an animal to be able to make a good shot. There is also additional movement required to draw the bow and no let-off in draw weight to allow for holding the bow drawn for an extended period of time. These factors significantly impact traditional archery success versus that of modern compound bows.

There has been an explosion of new bowhunters in recent years, fueled by an ability to become proficient shooting a modern compound bow very quickly. With the mechanical and physical advantages offered by modern compound bows, people can become very proficient shooting at ranges far beyond the effective range of traditional archery. This has provided a fast track to many people to bypass a lot of the effort required to learn woodsmanship skills necessary to become proficient with a true short range weapon like a traditional bow. If these units remain General tags for traditional archery as an option, I believe you will see an increase in people wanting to learn more about how to become more proficient with traditional bows, become more proficient woodsmen, and an overall increase in the popularity of traditional archery that will have a much smaller impact on the elk population.

As a nonresident of Oregon, I would be very interested in hunting elk in Oregon with the option for a General tag that would allow either hunting Roosevelt or Rocky Mountain subspecies. As a traditional bowhunter, I need to spend more time afield and have more opportunities to be successful. Having General tags for both species would allow me and other traditional bowhunters that opportunity. If these units are limited, non-resident traditional bowhunters chances of ever hunting there are drastically reduced. Having General traditional seasons, even with limited modern compound bowhunters at the same time, would be very attractive.

Please take this into consideration in your deliberations on this issue.

Thank you,
Tavis Rogers

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Riley Savage <riley@archerypast.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:42 PM
To: ODFW Commission; ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: 2021 Oregon Archery Elk Regulations
Attachments: 2021 June Commission Letter.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached letter from the Traditional Archers of Oregon.

Riley Savage
Traditional Archers of Oregon
President



PO Box 231
Stayton, OR 97383
503-410-6571
info@tradarcheryoregon.com

Traditional Archers of Oregon

June 14, 2021

Chair Wahl, Commissioners, Director Melcher

The Traditional Archers of Oregon (TAO) would like to thank you and ODFW staff for involving us in the proposal process for updating the archery elk hunting regulations. We appreciate that Jeremy Thompson and team willingly answered our field questions and joined us on a call with our board of directors. We hope that you will appreciate our suggestions to help solve the current overcrowding and over-harvest dilemma.

We believe Traditional Archery presents an opportunity to help resolve the biological situation with eastern Oregon elk without cutting tags. The benefits of using Traditional Archery equipment throughout the season include:

- Reducing harvest levels due to the use of a "lesser weapon," having more limited range.
- Maintaining the opportunity for all to participate due to reduced harvest, which will help bull escapement and other biological factors.
- Recruiting historically underrepresented hunter groups, especially women and youth which therefore services recruitment objectives.

We commend the Department for considering these creative solutions as well as Backcountry zones to solve our current elk issues. We hope you would also monitor the effect of preference point creep and hunter distribution as these changes are implemented, to avoid unforeseen and undesirable consequences.

Sincerely,

Riley Savage
Traditional Archers of Oregon
President
Hillsboro, OR

www.tradarcheryoregon.com

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Dustin Hollowell <dustinhollowell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:57 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW; ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Archery Elk Regulation Change proposals -- comment letter in support
Attachments: ODFW_commission_letter_2021_dh.docx

Dear Commissioners Khalil, Zarnowitz, Hatfield-Hyde, Wolley, Wahl, Spelbrink and Labhart,

Please find attached my comment letter in support of the archery regulation change proposals. I also copied the text of the letter in this email for those of you who find it more efficient. I sincerely appreciate your time reading my comments, and thank you for your engagement through this process.

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and thank the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their exhaustive effort in public outreach and engagement through this process. It truly was above and beyond what I expected in current times. Not only was there ample opportunity and avenues to ask questions and have discussions with staff, the ODFW organized and provided real and valid information and data to answer questions and support their proposals. Further, based on differences in the initial proposal (2020) and the current proposal (and options) it seems the ODFW heard, considered, and proposed changes based on that public feedback. I hope that you too will recognize this effort and process, and how it helped develop the proposals and options you see now.

Secondly, I want to emphasize the data and statistics that the ODFW has referenced for rationale throughout this process. As conservationists and stewards of public resources, there is a responsibility to use science, facts and best available information to inform decisions and adaptive change. The increasing trends in archery hunters combined with incredible advances in archery hunting technology is enough to warrant change. When you consider we're still using the same season and general tag structure that's been in place since 1979 is not only surprising, it's bordering negligence to wildlife and conservation-minded hunters alike. Can you imagine not adapting the management of any other consumptive resource to growing demands, with increases in technology and information sharing for over 40-years? It's time to implement a change ensuring hunting opportunities for future generations of hunters and conservation of big game species as the focus. There has to be elk available and accessible to hunt before there can be opportunities to hunt them. With the shift in distribution and ever-increasing demands on public land and resources, the current general archery season structure is simply not sustainable.

In alignment with the responsibility to use real information and facts to inform decisions, it's been apparent through the process that certain "outdoor groups" and influential individuals have muddied the waters and misrepresented the process and need for change for many hunters through numerous social media outlets. I've witnessed the rampant and intentional spread of misinformation, emotionally driven rants and forms of bullying to promote their own selfish agendas with no relevance to the issues being addressed. I'm confident that any informed adult would have the emotional intelligence to see through these selfish and desperate attempts to avoid any change, but wanted to point out these attempts at hijacking public process for your awareness and consideration, and so that it's on record.

Lastly before I comment on the specifics based on the options presented in the agenda item summary, I want to say that I am a bowhunter. My wife and I moved to eastern Oregon specifically for the opportunity to raise our kids in a small town, outdoors with plenty of opportunity to hunt. After our first few seasons here, we realized that archery seasons here were usually no more than combat hunting with nearly every area being overcrowded. There is so little roadless and backcountry opportunity in the region that those areas are even more crowded. Eventually we got so frustrated with the

amount of people, the amount of resource damage and concerned that the animals never get a break (shed antler hunting, turkey hunting, cow and depredation elk seasons starting August 1 and continuing through March, free-for-all archery deer and elk seasons, rifle deer season, two bull seasons and then a cow elk hunt) that we've considered not hunting Oregon at all. But we have just as much right to enjoy our resources as anyone and this feels like our last hope for real change. Although I applaud the effort to move mule deer hunting to controlled only, I hope it wasn't too little too late. I hope that the needed changes in archery elk hunting structure happens now, before the issues continue to grow and become even more contentious. Kicking the proverbial can down the road is not an acceptable strategy. See following for specific comment to proposals brought to the commission.

ISSUE 1 – I fully support a controlled hunting strategy for archery elk hunting in eastern Oregon. Although limiting the controlled hunting to select WMUs as proposed would not address all of the equity concerns between rifle and archery hunters, nor would it be consistent with mule deer hunting season structures. My preference would be controlled hunting across eastern Oregon to mimic rifle hunting opportunities and be consistent with deer – unit by unit.

ISSUE 2 – Of the options proposed here, I most support the structure represented in Figure 2 with the general season opportunities split at the Cascades. This would allow maximum opportunity for hunters while providing more flexibility for the ODFW to manage population demographics. Hunters would have to choose their opportunity more specifically, but I think this would reduce pressure on the west side, Cascades and the remaining eastside general WMUs.

ISSUE 3 – Youth tags should be kept general within reason. Youth should be able to hunt controlled units with their general youth tag as well, so long as an accompanying guardian has a valid tag for that WMU. This was one of the more divisive and misleading points of contention that I saw through the process. There was a fear that families would never be able to hunt together again if archery went to a draw. Obviously, this is not true, and is a simple fix.

ISSUE 4 – I support an adaptive Eagle Cap zone concept, with an emphasis on adaptive. The zone should have clear management objectives for harvest and hunter distribution and annually monitored. Further, if the objectives are not being met then the zone should be re-examined every 3-5 years to adjust tag allocation, unit boundaries, or other strategies to ensure progress is being made towards objectives. I more specifically worry about units like Pine Creek and Keating that have much more road and motorized access than the others becoming even more crowded than they currently are.

Due to other obligations, I will not be able to attend or testify at the upcoming meeting where this proposal will be discussed. Please consider this my comment and testimony.

I very sincerely thank you for your time in reading this, and the undoubtedly countless other letters and comments received through this process. Hopefully your considerations will rely on comments and testimony relevant to the issues to be addressed and based on the information and facts being provided and not the heated and often selfish opinions. This shouldn't be a voting contest decided by who can be the most loud and angry. It is beyond time to give the ODFW the tools and flexibility to manage wildlife in a rapidly changing world.

Sincerely,
Dustin Hollowell

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: hiko ito <hikoito@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:46 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: 2022 archery elk season

This email is for the proposed changes to the 2022 elk hunting season in the Blue Mountains. Please consider the use of traditional archery as a management tool to better serve the hunting community. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Andy Ponce <addictivearchery@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:05 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Archery Elk Hunting Changes 2022

To the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission:

As a passionate conservationist, I am writing you to express my recommendations for the upcoming proposed changes to our archery elk seasons. My recommendations have been created to meet the goals that ODFW has established for the 2022 archery season.

These changes will affect my favorite thing to do in life, and that is archery hunt. I support most of the current Commission proposal with a few additional ideas.

I am always in support of preserving as much archery hunting opportunity as possible. With that being said, I also know that there is a need to reduce hunter harvest & hunter density in units with ongoing management challenges. To do this, I am in favor of utilizing a similar strategy that the State of Oregon used back in 1979.

In 1979, General archery seasons were created when archery was less popular, technology was limited, and success rates were lower. The 30-day season that was established in 1983, was created to draw some hunters away from the crowded rifle seasons.

Now our general archery seasons are crowded in many units. My recommendation is to utilize primitive hunting methods as a tool to draw other hunters away from the crowded seasons. This will maintain hunter opportunity while achieving the goals of reducing over-harvest and overcrowding. This recommendation would be just one small aspect of the overall changes.

Another change that I support is controlling nonresident tag numbers for all archery seasons. There will most likely be an increase in nonresident hunters coming to Oregon as over-the-counter opportunities continue to decline throughout the west. If we don't control nonresident tag allotments, we will be susceptible to more overcrowding issues in the future.

One last change I would like to add to the current proposal is making hunters choose their weapons. If you apply for a controlled rifle tag you must hunt a general rifle season

if you don't draw or vice versa. Making people pick their weapons will help with many of the problems we are seeing with overcrowding.

Traditional archery is currently less popular, technology is still limited, and the success rates is lower than modern archery seasons. Creating Traditional archery opportunities will reduce hunter harvest rates, and lower hunter density while sustaining opportunity. The archery hunting opportunity will be available for anyone who is willing to limit their success rate by using primitive equipment. Traditional archery historically has always had less of an impact on wildlife. This will also be allowing for equitable utilization of our state's elk resources, and the seasons could be created in a way that is consistent and easy to understand.

Top 3 recommendations for utilizing Traditional archery to meet ODFW commission goals:

#1. Pick a region of units that is currently under management objective and has lower hunter participation to create a three year pilot program assessing the popularity and impact that primitive hunting has on wildlife. In this region, there would be a cluster of units in close proximity (Keating, Minam, Imnaha, Pine Creek, and Snake river). This region would be considered an unlimited quota general Traditional archery opportunity.

#2. Pick a single unit that is currently under management objectives and/or having crowding concerns (i.e. Desolation, Starkey, Silvies, N. Malheur, etc.) and make it an unlimited general traditional archery opportunity. This also could be a pilot program that would be revisited in three years to assess participation and its effect on objectives.

#3. Create 5-day traditional archery only, extended season to all controlled, and general archery elk seasons in Oregon. If you obtain any archery elk tag in the state, you will be given 5 extra days to hunt if you choose to use traditional archery equipment.

Please Consider utilizing Traditional archery, and my other recommendations as a tool to meet your current objectives.

Sincerely,

--
Andy Ponce
www.addictivearchery.com
503 881-4963

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Scott Peckham <scott.peckham78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:39 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Comments on archery elk for June 18 meeting
Attachments: Peckham_Jun18_Meeting_ArcheryComments.pdf

Please find my comments attached.

Director Melcher and ODFW Commission,

Below are my comments related to the development of a final proposal for the eastern Oregon archery elk season for the June 18, 2021 commission meeting. As a backdrop, I've hunted OTC archery elk in Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon. I've held only one rifle bull tag ever, and that was in New Mexico. I have never hunted on a controlled or draw archery hunt in any state (despite some effort and \$ put into it). So, I like bowhunting for elk and it's been pretty much on a general tag. My day job is in wildlife and natural resource management.

Some major points that should be considered when selecting the path for a final proposal:

- 1) Nearly every western state with a general elk type opportunity is facing challenges, either with crowding, meeting MO, resident/non-resident allocations, or some combination of all of these. Idaho has capped NR tags by GMU in 2021 for deer and elk, and they are no longer portable between units for deer. Colorado has recently reduced the number of units in OTC archery status.
- 2) OTC opportunities are great when demand is relatively low and bull (and adult female) escapement is adequate. For example, Colorado can support unlimited OTC in many places because their calf:cow is typically > 40, they have an antler point restriction on all hunts (must be 4+ points), and larger amounts of public land roadless security areas to hold elk off private lands. Where I used to live in CO, we had OTC archery, 2nd, and 3rd rifle seasons. Post-hunt bull ratios were still over 25:100. But hunter crowding was extremely high.
- 3) Most of NE Oregon suffers from depressed juvenile recruitment. ODFW offers general and opportunity hunts for spike-only elk in most every unit. So out of the gate, we're already low in the bull component of the population. We need to seriously consider how this unlimited archery opportunity and subsequent disturbance is impacting breeding efficiency and pregnancy rates.

I generally support the move to controlled archery elk hunting in the east. I believe a zone of units is a satisfactory first step, but having to select an individual unit would give a more control on harvest and distribution of hunting pressure. I suggest that any zoning of controlled hunt WMUs be based more on the sound management of the elk population (i.e. supported by GPS collar and other data) rather than satisfying human desires. My main comment to ODFW in the previous round was that if controlled hunts are implemented, it must reduce hunter density where that is clearly an issue. I understand that ODFW's hunter reporting data is not a direct measure of total active hunters in each unit, however, I encourage the department to use an adaptive strategy when it comes to setting tag numbers annually. In units like Heppner, Starkey, Ukiah, it's been established that many elk are vacating preferred summer range on national forest lands for private land right about when archery season kicks off. This is an issue we need to work to reverse. Managing how hunters use the landscape, both by the number of tags issued and motorized access networks, is likely the path forward on the

public land base. Doing nothing, given the sharp increase in archery participation and in ATV/UTV use, will only make things worse for everyone, including elk.

In conclusion, I have followed these proposals closely from the initial stages and I've appropriately commented and given feedback at every opportunity. I fully support the proposals that add unit-based controlled hunting. We need to modernize ODFW's ability to manage big game and hunter opportunity now, not in five years. We need to be able to address elk management objectives, elk distribution, and hunter crowding to the greatest extent possible. The commission should consider what ODFW is proposing and weight that against what our hunting public has provided in feedback through the fair and open process. Please let the best available science and data guide the management of elk in Oregon, not the most vocal user groups with a self-serving agenda.

Sincerely,
Scott Peckham, Ph.D.
Pendleton, Oregon
608-345-1582
scott.peckham78@gmail.com

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: James Orr <str8shooterorr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:21 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Using traditional archery as a management tool

I am reaching out to you today for your consideration in using traditional archery as a sound management tool to protect our over-the-counter opportunities on Eastern Oregon archery elk hunting. As you may already know our archery seasons were originally established to have a low impact on the resource while still giving a liberal opportunity to pursue game animals. A lot has changed since then with modern day advancements with current modern archery tackle. I am also well aware that these new modern weapons are here to stay and we must manage them appropriately for the masses, but at the same time we should not ignore our traditional values and the opportunities to use the original weapons that our archery seasons were intended for. Oregon has done a great job this far with such concepts in the Trout Creek Mountains for mule deer hunting. I am well aware that in recent surveys done by the department that traditional archers Only make up for 1 to 2% of the reported active archery hunters, but I believe these surveys are skewed, because we only have 1% of the allotted tags and I know this number would grow by future incentives through opportunity given. I am not here to point fingers, but A quick look through the synopsis shows the muzzleloader community having quite a few opportunities to get a field and the difference between a muzzleloader and a modern center fire rifles is no different than comparing traditional bows to a modern day compound bows. From my personal experience there are a lot of hunters across the board that embrace hunting with multi weapons, meaning they are willing to pick up any appropriate weapon for such opportunity. Plus I would also like to add that traditional archery can be very attractive to the hunters that value time spent in the field honing their skill set without the overcrowding and pressure from the modern day hustle and bustle. So what I am asking for from the department is to seriously consider adding more traditional archery opportunities to save some of the over the counter elk hunting in eastern Oregon, because I really do believe it would be well received by a lot of different hunters, not just folks like myself that only hunt with traditional tackle. Thank you in advance, James Orr

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: James Dickson <jamesmd95@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:25 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Traditional archery season.

To whom it may concern. I understand the proposal for potential changes to the elk seasons in certain regions of the great state of Oregon. I am familiar with over crowding and over harvest unfortunately. For this very reason I dedicated myself to traditional archery.

Please. Please consider just one year as a test for a traditional archery only season. It will keep true sportsman and true public hunting opportunities available. However, the difficulty of harvesting big game with traditional gear will greatly reduce the harvest as well as the over crowding. Thank you so much for your time. -James Dickson.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Benz <benzy16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:10 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Deer/Elk season structure

Hi!

I am a new hunter, at least for Oregon big game. So take this with a grain of salt.

I'm only hunting deer because I assume that Oregon's elk and deer populations can handle the hunting pressure. I'm assuming that if I can get a tag, the elk can survive me hunting the tag.

So I'd ask that you prioritize the ecology before you focus on my east of use. I trust the ologists to figure out how to make species thrive.

That said, I'm very excited to continue hunting Oregon, and I like the opportunity of the general season hunt.

Thanks for listening to Oregonians, and working hard in a tight situation.

Sincerely,

Chris

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Edward Putnam <edtrad@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:21 PM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Eastern Oregon Archery Season Proposal

To the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission:

I hunt with a longbow. I choose this weapon fully accepting its limitations. Hunting this way diminishes my chances of harvesting an elk or deer far below that of any other weapon, but enhances a number of other values. To me, traditional archery offers the ideal combination of challenge, fair chase, and opportunity. Sure, I want to harvest an animal as much as anybody else, but for me, the quality of the hunting experience has greater value than its end result.

Hunting with a bow used to be a tradeoff. In exchange for lower rates of success, archery hunters were given a longer general season with ample opportunities to hunt throughout the state. The generous regulations encouraged more hunters to take up archery. Over the past few decades though, that tradeoff has been eroded. Innovations in the performance of compound bows have increased their popularity. Today, hunters using the new technology have been enjoying both longer seasons and higher success rates on average, an advantage not pursued by traditional bowhunters.

The innovations represent more than just a technological advance. They represent a divergence in values from what bowhunting used to be. Traditional bows and compound bows can no longer be viewed as comparable weapons, yet they still occupy the same season. That situation has become untenable as archery seasons are converted from general to controlled draw. As opportunity declines, the pressure to be successful increases. It gives an outsized advantage to one set of values, and disadvantages the other values of the hunting experience that traditional archery promotes. Hunting ought not to be an arms race. There ought to be an option for pursuing a quality hunting experience that isn't undermined by the idea that hunting success is determined only by the harvest.

It's for this reason that I ask that traditional archery weapons (longbows and recurves) be designated as a separate category as distinguished from compound bows, and that general traditional archery seasons for deer and elk be established and maintained at their pre-2020 levels.

Doing so will enable ODFW to track the statistics on traditional bows vs. compound bows, so that they can more effectively manage hunting pressure according to the impact

each group has on the resource. It will provide more options to attract new hunters based on a range of values. It will also create a new incentive to pursue traditional archery. Maintaining the status quo reduces the incentive by eliminating the opportunity side of the tradeoff.

As you deliberate the proposal to convert the remaining general archery seasons in the Blue Mountains to a controlled draw, I hope my comments have helped inform your decision making process.

Thank you.

Ed Putnam
1530 NW Saginaw Ave
Bend, Oregon 97703
541-678-3548
edtrad@yahoo.com

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Matt Starley <mstarleydmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 5:13 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Archery elk proposal

To the Oregon fish and wildlife commission,

I am writing this email asking one request.

When you guys are establishing the changes for 2022 archery elk seasons, would you please consider my one request? Would you please seriously consider using traditional archery as a management tool to create new archery hunting opportunities, while still accomplishing the objectives/goals of your commission.

Traditional archery will still allow hunters to go hunting over the counter but will have a low impact on wildlife. It's a win-win situation and a no brainer for preserving archery hunting opportunity.

Thank you for all you do and your consideration of my request!

Sincerely,

Matt Starley DMD
www.starleyfamilydentistry.com
503-325-6662 office

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: David Treat <dtreat007@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:55 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Traditional Archery

It is common knowledge that traditional Archery has a minimal impact on game animals when compared to all the other ways of hunting and harvesting animals. I would suggest that it could be very useful as a management tool to preserve our general seasons.

Sent from my iPad

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Zach <zach.plant32@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:47 AM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: Blue mountains archery seasons

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please consider using traditional bow hunting as a management tool for elk herds. I was able to hunt the north fork of the John day wilderness last season and had so many great experiences. I wasn't able to harvest an elk but definitely have some lasting memories and met a lot of great people. I would love to continue this hunt and explore new areas. Thank you for your time.

Zach Plant

Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: S Jensen <sjensen595@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:45 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Archery Hunt Restrictions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

ODFW

Archery restrictions:

Well now, isn't this a big surprise! The need to restrict archery season! Never would have guessed....

Yes, there are big reasons to restrict access, particularly reduced animal populations. However, as a traditional archer, I attribute the scourge of the mechanical bow as a significant contributor to the need/desire to restrict the archery season. The mechanical bow has 'evolved' far enough that I don't consider it 'archery' equipment. Compare the 'success' rate of the two different tackle choices, traditional and mechanical. I say the mechanical bow makes it too easy. It is a short cut to the task of hunting with archery tackle. Some might even say cheating....

Last fall, I listened to a mechanical bow shooter boast about the great animal he harvested at 93 yards. By the way, this shot was not as good a shot as his all time best shot that killed an animal at 104 yards. Great shooting, but is it 'archery'?

It is my impression that the engineering from industry has progressed far enough that it is 'too easy' to shoot a mechanical bow. With very little practice, a normal person can produce kill zone groups of shots with this equipment at thirty and forty yards and more. It is not uncommon to hear people say they need to 'get the bow out and shoot a couple of arrows before the season opens next week'. With that little practice, this equipment will harvest animals. Now this person, with this equipment, only needs to get within thirty or forty yards of an animal before they can effectively kill.

That is my competition in archery season.

I have to shoot all year to have confidence with a twenty yard shot. Twenty yards... One of my bumper sticker sayings is that "hunting, is the last 100 yards". Yes, it takes work to find the animals, and then to put on a stalk, but the real work is the last 100 yards. And the closer you get to the quarry, the harder it is!

With mechanical equipment, it is less hunting, more "buying" equipment to take the work out of the job. If you can't "hunt" (the last 100 yards, and in this case the last 40 yards) buy a machine to extend your reach... if you can't pull a real hunting weight bow, buy a machine to do the work for you... can't aim the bow, buy a machine to do the work for you.... can't reliably release the string, buy a machine to do the work for you... can't estimate the distance, buy a machine to do the work for you.... etc.

Now, please understand, when the conversation is about shooting paper, I think the mechanical bow is really something, and I admire those who shoot them well. But in the field, if we are talking about hunting, this equipment is not archery. It is kind of like archery, but the result is that it is not archery. Archery has a 5,000 year history with an effective range that isn't what the mechanical bow is... The effective range of archery is what comes from a "stick and a string".

The development of this equipment, has changed the nature of the hunt. There are some of us who prefer the challenge that is 'archery', and cherish the time in the field. And feel that the evolution of this equipment and industry are taking something that isn't there's to take! Because industry has made and sold this 'improvement' in technology, I am loosing my opportunity to pursue my passion. I want the challenge of the hunt. I don't want to buy a machine to take the work out of the job... I want the work! I want the task of learning the woodsmanship to get within twenty yards of the quarry. I want the challenge to shoot this equipment well. I think we all loose a little heart when we can buy a machine to do all of our work for us.

So, ODFW wants to change up the archery season, to generate more money, and kill fewer animals, and ease some of the busyness of hunting season.. I might suggest that you please leave the archery season as it is, for archery tackle – a stick and a string... and build a new permit system for the mechanical bows. With a range that is up to 100 yards, they belong more with the black powder guys than they do with the archery. Maybe give the mechanical bows the first week of October, on a controlled hunt, and keep the existing "archery" season for "archery" tackle... a stick and a string...

Steve Jensen

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: jon fuller <jon.fuller50@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 4:24 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: Proposed bow elk plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

> To: odfw commission,

>

> I am writing you in response to the proposed bow control elk plan ODFW and has laid out. I wanted to voice my opposition and concerns with the plan and offer alternative plans for consideration.

>

> I oppose this plan due to the limitation on hunting opportunity it puts on Oregon bow hunters. We have less hunters, less new hunters entering our great past time of hunting and I don't think limiting hunting opportunity is the way to encourage involvement of future hunters looking forward.

>

> My second concern is wildfires. When you restrict hunters to certain controlled hunt areas that time of year you are always susceptible to have wild fires in that controlled hunt area which closes it off. This in turn limits opportunity because they cant travel to another hunting area due to the controlled hunt tag. This is something you don't have to contend with as much with rifle tags because they are later in the year.

>

> I have two alternative plans to offer for consideration.

>

> 1st plan- Leave the elk hunts alone, being over the counter but make two seasons. Make a first season and a second season. Hunters could still get their over the counter tags not limiting opportunity but they would have to pick when they would be in the woods. This in turn could help spread out how many hunters are in the woods at one time and reduce the crowding issue people are complaining about.

>

> 2nd plan- If you must make controlled units why not make two region the west side and the east side. I know many of hunters who moved to the areas your wanting to make controlled hunts because they enjoy the hunting opportunities just out their back door. If these individuals don't draw a bow or rifle controlled elk tag you are forcing them to drive all the way across the state just to hunt. Some don't have the time or resources to do that but they do have the ability to do weekend hunts close to home. You are stripping hunting

opportunities from them by making the north east part of Oregon all draw. If you must have a draw I propose looking at two regions west side of the cascades and east side of the cascades.

>

> I ask you to consider these alternative plans and review others from other hunters, but ask you not to move forward with your current proposed plan as is.

>

> Respectfully,

> Jon Fuller

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Seth Tinker <seth@hoodlandsportandfitness.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:26 AM
To: ODFW WildlifelInfo * ODFW
Subject: Elk proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

It is incredibly disappointing to hear an organization, whose purpose is to manage wildlife in Oregon for the public, willfully disregard the science of management. When the research did not support the original narrative about why changes were needed, the goal posts were moved and the narrative changed. As a graduate of Oregon State University and someone who is well versed in statistics and analysis I can tell you without a doubt that your method of survey and the use of that collected data is extremely flawed. The job of ODFW is not to make hunting equitable, It is to manage the wildlife in Oregon. The reality is an overwhelmingly large portion of hunters do not harvest elk every year, in fact many never harvest elk ever, yet they continue to buy tags for the opportunity to harvest an elk. Opportunity is the key word here. They are purchasing the opportunity to harvest, they are not purchasing a kill permit, and the majority continue to pay for the opportunity every year knowing that the odds are against them. Removing opportunity is not the answer because the majority of hunters are paying for the opportunity, not the harvest.

Secondary repercussion of the proposed changes. Can you imagine what the Mt. Hood National Forest is going to look like if the proposed changes are accepted? it will be destroyed as it is the closest opportunity to the largest population base in Oregon. As someone whose property borders NFS on Mt. Hood and grew up archery hunting on Mt. Hood that is an unacceptable consequence of turning the east side into a draw. I'd also like to know what thought process was used to leave fossil as the stand alone unit in the Blues area for the general season given it has very little public land. Fossil will be decimated.

Your new narrative is equitability for rifle hunting and overcrowding. Overcrowding can be fixed easily without any change to the current seasons. If you apply for a controlled rifle tag you don't have the option to purchase a general season archery tag, you can purchase a general rifle tag. Far too many apply rifle, upon unsuccessful draw they purchase a general archery tag. I would be willing to put money on it that those are also the same individuals complaining about the archery season. Equitability is a little more intensive to solve but ultimately it should not come at the expense of successful archery hunters. Equitability of harvest rates should be addressed by improving rifle hunting opportunities, adjustment of season dates, and increasing tag numbers in units exceeding MO. ODFW has constantly thrown out their home grown statistic of 75% of hunters prefer rifle hunting. If thats true (my opinion is thats a heavily skewed figure) then figure out how to create more opportunity for that crowd without penalizing your life long archery hunters. There are so many issues that need to be addressed with this proposal and I do not have time to go into all of them but without a doubt there needs to be more research, more thought, more planing, and less forcing of a flawed plan that ultimately is not going to solve the problems its suppose to address.

Thank you for your time.

Seth Tinker
Hoodland Sport and Fitness/HSF MMA
503-313-6056
22041 SE 442
Sandy, Or. 97055

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW
Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:25 AM
To: BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW
Subject: FW: Official Testimony Regarding the Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Proposal
Attachments: June 18, 2021 ODFW Commission Letter, Oregon BHA.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Oregon Chapter <oregon@backcountryhunters.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2021 11:07 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW <ODFW.COMMISSION@odfw.oregon.gov>
Cc: Curt.Melcher@state.or.us
Subject: Official Testimony Regarding the Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Proposal

Dear Commissioners and Director Melcher,

Please find the attached testimony, for the June 18th ODFW Commission Meeting, submitted on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers on the proposed 2022 archery elk changes.

Thank you,
Ian Isaacson
OR BHA Board Co-Chair



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
OREGON

June 9, 2021

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Chair Mary Wahl
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

**Re: Official Testimony Regarding the Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Proposal: Strong Support
for the adoption of alternative concepts to ODFW's original proposal**

Dear Chair Wahl and members of the Commission,

My name is Ian Isaacson and I am the Board Co-Chair for the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (OR BHA). Our organization seeks to ensure Oregon's outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting, through education and work on behalf of wild public lands, waters and wildlife. Representing OR BHA, and our approximately 1,600 members statewide, I would like to submit the following testimony regarding the Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Proposal.

In March of this year, my fellow Co-Chair Tristan Henry and I were invited by the ODFW Archery Elk project team to represent OR BHA, to discuss potential archery elk changes for the 2022 hunting regulation cycle. The goal of these Sport Group Leader meetings was to review issues identified in the 2021 hunt development process, and discuss additional information and concepts developed since that time. I would like to thank Jeremy Thompson, and the rest of his project team at ODFW, for what has been a thorough, professional and productive process. Wildlife management decisions require extensive stakeholder outreach and input to inform important decisions such as this. OR BHA appreciates the decision last year by the commission to extend the archery regulation review an additional year to conduct further stakeholder outreach. Much has been learned during this entire outreach process and OR BHA hopes to see this level of public outreach and the model that was developed for this process continue beyond this current project into future ODFW proposals.

OR BHA members are a diverse group of hunters and anglers, but the common thread that binds us together is an abiding sense of stewardship for our natural resources; A desire that healthy fish and wildlife populations, as well as wild places, persist and even grow in Oregon. It is this value that guides OR BHA's input to Jeremy and his team throughout this entire process, and why we have continued to be heavily engaged as the proposal comes before you for review.

The stated goals of ODFW for this proposal was to achieve the following:



WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/OREGON_BHA
OREGON@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG

1. Allow for district biologists to adjust tags across all user groups in order to meet elk plan objectives
2. Provide ability to address hunter crowding in units with high hunter densities and hunter complaints
3. Provide a vehicle for biologist to address elk disturbance in areas with documented elk movement in response to start of elk season
4. Allow for equitable utilization of biological resources
5. Create consistent regulations that are easy to understand and explain to public
6. Address preference point creep in eastern Oregon

The stated goals of OR BHA for this proposal was to achieve the following:

1. Propose alternative that would still provide ODFW with the management flexibility to protect and enhance the public resource
2. Maintain backcountry hunting opportunity and experiences across the state
3. Maintain a youth, statewide, general archery tag opportunity
4. Use input from our members to help inform the development of our suggestions

After careful evaluation, the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers **strongly** encourages the Commission to consider and adopt the following concept amendments to the Initial Draft 2022 Archery Elk Proposal.

([https://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/docs/2022 Initial Archery Proposal Presentation.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/docs/2022%20Initial%20Archery%20Proposal%20Presentation.pdf))

1. Adopt the creation of the Eagle Cap Zone Concept, keeping Oregon's largest Wilderness intact.
2. Adopt either the Coast and Cascade/East General Season concept **or** the Single Statewide General Archery Elk season concept, keeping the Cascade Crest Wilderness' intact.
3. Adopt a statewide General Youth Archery Elk season that would have a tag valid in most WMUs statewide, including those that are proposed to move to controlled hunting in 2022.

Adoption of these amendments not only achieves the stated goals of ODFW and OR BHA, it will be proof that ODFW and its Commission truly value the many hours of thoughtful engagement, suggestions and creative solutions provided to them through this public process.

Sincerely,



Ian Isaacson

Board Co-Chair

Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Blake Hull Pitcher <blakehp14@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 6:38 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: New Archery Elk Proposals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I would like to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the archery elk hunt in Oregon to make many of the Eastern Oregon units draw tags. This would limit the opportunity for hunters in the state, and with our elk population above management objectives with many damage control tags being given out each year it seems counter productive to limit over the counter archery opportunities. There is also the potential of fires hitting a specific unit you have drawn and completely taking away your ability to hunt that year. If over crowding in hunting areas is a concern I believe there are much better options than going to a draw for each j it. Having an early and a late season archery hunt or an East/west split would help reduce overcrowding while still allowing opportunities each year for everyone. However, I would prefer it to stay the way it is currently.

Thanks,

Blake Hull-Pitched

Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: caleb@gopacrim.com
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 2:14 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW; INFO odfw * ODFW
Subject: Oregon elk Hunting proposed archery changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear ODFW Commission,

My Name Is Caleb Runyan. I am a lifelong Oregonian and outdoor enthusiast. I am sending this to let you know I strongly disapprove of the new proposed changes to the general archery season. This change is poorly thought out and would vastly create a loss of opportunity for hunters. ODFW should be about figuring out how to create more opportunity not taking it away. All of the statistics that are given need to be taken a more seriously. Bull to cow ratios seem to be doing great in the areas that I have hunted in during elk season and spring bear season. I know many people throughout the state that hunt all different corners of the state and our bull to cow ratios are not an issue from these people who are boots on the ground 6 months out of the year. You cannot successfully get bull to cow ratios flying a unit in a helicopter. How are we at 119% of management objective and ODFW is going to take away opportunity. I believe ODFW needs to come up with a better plan on the unit surveys that they do. Why are there so many management cow damage tags if we have bad bull to cow ratios. It does not make any sense. All this proposal would do is take opportunity away from the hunter and public when it is based off of inaccurate information and ideas.

Elk move to private ground because of a number of reasons not specifically because of archery hunters. Youth hunts and cattle grazing happen much before archery season to name a few and those elk start to move depending on the area. There is no statistic or fact that can place this all on archery hunters.

How is someone supposed to select 1 unit in eastern Oregon to hunt with how many wildfires we have been having in recent years. If you select a unit and a fire happens do you get to hunt the next unit of choice? Or you just wouldn't get to go at all? ODFW has proposed a tag refund? That is a sorry excuse for someone who waits all year to have a 1 month archery hunting season. Your essentially telling that person, sorry you don't get to archery hunt this year. Life's too short, you can't take away opportunity. Once again this would just take opportunity away instead of at least leaving it the way it is or giving us greater opportunity and coming up with a smarter plan.

Lastly I think predator management needs to be looked at way more seriously in this state than taking away hunting opportunity for Oregonians and out of state hunters. Being in the woods and speaking to many other hunters there is a large predator issue in Oregon with cougars and wolves. Why is this not being looked at?? Instead ODFW is going to take away opportunity away for my father, myself and my children. If youth hunters are the most important thing why are you taking away opportunity for me to take my kids or friends kids, my younger brother in law who are all growing up and starting to archery hunt. Please strongly consider stopping this poorly thought out proposal.

Once something is taken away we will never get it back. I understand some type of change may have to be made but this is NOT the answer. Talk to local sportsman, Archery shops, and guides and outfitters, people who spend a lifetime in the woods. Get their opinions and put them together with the people at ODFW and come up with the right plan.

I would greatly appreciate a response back.

Thanks,

Caleb Runyan

Pacific Rim Agency

Office 503-829-9727

Fax 503-829-3856

caleb@gopacrim.com



BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Curtis Mason <tdfireman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:33 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: Archery elk hunting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The proposed plan for unit selection for archery elk is a terrible idea for our state. I've lived in and hunted Oregon my entire life and I've seen a continuous trend in lost opportunity for hunting and fishing across the state. This is just another unjustified, unnecessary change to the archery elk season. There have been many other common sense proposals that seem to be overlooked or swept under the carpet. It's time for ODF&W to listen to the people who pay their salaries and start making good decisions for the sportsmen and women of our state. If the current proposal gets pushed through, there will be a lot of lost revenue for the state of Oregon due to hunters being fed up and hunting out of state. I strongly recommend that the archery elk season be left alone. You've already completely destroyed the archery deer opportunity by unit draw and a decrease in tag numbers. This makes absolutely no sense due to the fact that archery hunters make up a very small percentage of successful hunters. Don't do the same thing to the elk season! Sincerely,

Curtis Mason
541 980-2000
Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Cindy Martinich <cindy@oregonhunters.org>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:54 AM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: OHA input on controlled archery elk
Attachments: OHA input - controlled archery elk 6-7-21.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Commissioners,
Please see attached input from Oregon Hunters Association on controlled archery elk.
Thank you.

Cindy Martinich
OHA Office Manager
541-772-7313
cindy@oregonhunters.org



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313
oha@oregonhunters.org • oregonhunters.org

June 7, 2021

RE: OHA Input on Proposed Elk Archery Hunting – F&W Commission Meeting 6-18-21

Dear Chair Wahl, Commissioners, Director Melcher,

The Oregon Hunters Association commends the Commission for their decision last fall to extend the archery review efforts. The additional level of stakeholder involvement, public outreach, and data collection and analysis has proved to be well warranted and most valuable. OHA would also like to thank the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for the fine job done with the stakeholder and public outreach efforts, perhaps their best public engagement ever!

OHA is comprised of a diverse membership group representing all weapon types, personal expectations, and desired outcomes. The common thread, however, is that OHA believes in sound biologically based management decisions, maintaining viable and huntable populations, and maximizing hunter tags and opportunity. OHA acknowledges ODFW's need for additional management tools such as making changes to archery season to address declining bull ratios. However, OHA can only support such changes as long as hunter tags are being "maximized" and any changes are accompanied by a comprehensive plan that includes the use of new management tools.

Over the past several decades, Oregon has always been known for its healthy and robust elk herds. We are saddened to see declining bull elk populations in many of our most sought-after elk hunting units, often resulting in a reduction of rifle tags. Now we find ourselves having to alter and reduce tags in one of the most user-friendly archery seasons in the west that allowed for unlimited hunter participation and tag portability. Of course, whenever tags are reduced, there are secondary effects including loss of hunter days, point creep, and financial loss to local economies. Severe point creep will become a big factor in many units when considering the proposed reduction of tags (13% to 18%) from the five-year average, aside from loss of opportunity and hunter days. Consider the Desolation Unit for example, with a reduction of over 500 tags proposed, applicants will likely spill over to other similar units where tag numbers have been decreased as well. If there is any doubt about point creep, look no further than to our existing controlled hunt units.

While implementing a controlled model does allow for an additional management tool, controlled archery hunts alone will not resolve the declining bull elk ratios. Throughout this review process concerns were expressed over and over for the need to address other factors such as predation, road closures, spike hunting, antler restrictions and more accurate data collection.

The responsibility lies with the Commission to ensure ODFW actively pursues management efforts in ways other than reducing hunter tags of any type to address bull elk ratio decline. Such efforts should not only focus on units below management objectives but to better manage units proactively so we are not in a reactive mode. We cannot simply talk about the need to do more. The Commission must act now in challenging ODFW to actively engage in using effective and creative management tools and approaches.

OHA is committed to supporting continuous efforts by ODFW to address these troubled management units. OHA also hopes that the Commission and ODFW recognize the level of interest and passion that was expressed during this outreach effort. It is now up to the Commission to recognize this successful outreach and make sound decisions based on stakeholder interests and ODFW's management needs. After hearing input from Commissioners on June 18, we would fully support a final meeting of sport group stakeholders and ODFW staff to further refine the archery elk proposal that you will be voting on in August. The further exploration of concepts such as an east/west split and Eagle Cap Zone or opportunities for youth or traditional archers will prove to be most beneficial in developing a collective solution to our complex challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Walasavage", written in dark ink on a white background.

Fred Walasavage
Board Chairman

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jordan Hinchman <jorboy1291@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:29 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Proposed changes to elk tags.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello and good day to you. I'm writing this letter in order to convey my thoughts around the proposed changes to archery elk tags in eastern Oregon. To keep it short I find that this is a troublesome proposal with many short falls. I see lack of scientific evidence as to why this is even being considered let alone the logical pit falls it possesses. I would like it noted that the following are just a few of the things I find disturbing.

- 1) there appears to be pit falls in your bull to cow ratio for the given units as your collection procedure is deeply flawed. You do this observation at a time of year when most bulls drop their horns. How can you have an accurate understanding of the heard dynamics when you can tell the bulls from cows at that time of year?
- 2) Your proposal does not indicate the presence and affect oh heard population by predator animals like wolves and cougars. Any outdoorsmen/woman/they will inform you of the increased sighting and encounters in areas where elk were one plentiful.
- 3) you do not include the affects of our of state hunters on heard dynamics and tag allocations.
- 4) You have no set plans as to what will happen in case of wild fire danger as it has closed a lot of the given units on a yearly baseas.
- 5) This proposal does not show how the west side will be affected by increased hunting pressure, this could cause lack of breeding opportunities, increases stress resulting in failed conception and can affect already diminished heard population.

Some thoughts or ideas to consider.

- 1) Make Oregon a entry draw for out of staters and raise tag prices for out of state and in state to cover funds.
- 2) Make Oregon a chose your weapon state and that you must use the weapon your tag is designated for from the begining of the year. No more flip flopping the few weeks before season.
- 3) for hunter retention give youth tags every year for spring and fall bear, two a year for those under the age of 17.
- 4) Better control the cougar population in the given units to help elk herd populations. This could be done with federal funds. Or, pay local houndsmen with a set number of tags. If payment is an issue another option for payment of service could be to provide then with points like that of the poachers program. This in turn will increase local economy's and encourage next generation houndsmen to participate in the activities.

Thank you for your time.

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Jared Green <jared@1sourcehandl.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:14 AM
To: odfw.Commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposed archery elk regulations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing today out of concern about the proposed archery elk changes. In my thirty plus years of archery hunting in Oregon, I am alarmed at the dramatic drop in recruitment of young hunters. I would assume you are concerned as well, considering your department's budget depends on this recruitment. When I was a kid, archery deer was either sex in the Warner Units, as well as Interstate. Later, Silver Lake was any deer. This abundance of opportunity ignited a fire in me that burns brightly still to this day. Sadly, for kids today, they may hunt their whole lives without getting the opportunities I had those first two years of archery hunting.

I understand our mule deer populations have been decimated, and something must be done. But your proposed changes make no sense to me for elk. You are simply reducing opportunity, when this is the number one reason people give up hunting. Our elk are at or above objectives in most of the units. What purpose does reducing opportunity serve other than driving more people out of the sport? Add to this the aggravation that will occur to those whose hunts are canceled due to wildfire closures, you have a recipe for disaster with no clear rationale as to why you would risk the future of our sport and your funding.

Finally, why are we continuing to have various any sex hunts, both deer and elk, when we have a huge problem with first time hunters getting a great opportunity.? Why not allocate all antlerless tags to youth/first time hunters, guaranteeing them a high percentage success hunt, lighting the fire in them that was lit in me stalking doe after doe after doe, so many years ago? Same could be done in addressing age structure and male/female ratios with antler point restrictions for all but first time/youth hunters. Why would this not help you accomplish your objectives without sacrificing hunter recruitment? If such measures are unnecessary, great, leave it either sex for everyone. But I believe most people would rather see our youth get an any sex tag in the eastern Oregon units and experience success than draw a doe or cow tag every hand full of years.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jared Green

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Kyle Bartlett <kyle.bartlett21@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:57 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Archery Elk Proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I just wanted to take a few moments of your time to address my concerns with the proposed changes to Eastern Oregon Elk Archery. I believe there is other ways to “fix” the issues ODFW is claiming about “over crowding” and “bull/cow ratios”. I don’t believe switching to a draw system for the NE corner is the solution. Hunters struggle enough here in Oregon during archery season with wildfires and limited land access on the west side. Then you switch the east side to a draw And your looking at a loss of opportunity for hunters and that’s not the solution. I believe this is another attempt to increase revenue by gaining more application fees. I’m born and raised Oregon hunter and am very disappointed with the direction and mismanagement of ODFW. Listen to the work groups and hunters.

Thank you!
Kyle Bartlett

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Graham Armstrong <elkfanatic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:26 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Draw proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I have been a hunter my whole life, specifically a bow hunter. Ive grow up every year hunting with my family. These hunting trips not only molded me to be the man I am today. A responsible covid R.N. I am a proud hunter as much as I am a proud nurse. Both take discipline and determination which I feel I learned from hunting. I feel you are taking a ridiculous and lazy approach to this project. There are plenty of options other than putting archery to a draw. Like increasing predator management approaches. Making hunter choose between rifle or bow before applying for tags. The facts are there. Harvest numbers are not even close when it comes to rifle hunter success vs archery. You are making your odfw a mockery and you look like a money grab company. This is not the odfw I used to love and support. I have literally thought about moving to Wyoming or Idaho because of this. Im serious about my hunting and want to pass my heritage of hunting down to my daughter. And one more thing going to a draw then saying you'll give a refund when fire danger shuts down your unit is a joke and an insult. Some people only have so many years left to hunt. Thats taking away memories and life experiences. Not the American way of providing the citizens with opportunities to grow in life. Please hear are cry to stop this terrible greedy un educational decisions

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: jakob azevedo <jakeazy21@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:03 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Proposal for archery elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it concerns,

To be direct, for the future of her youth hunters and current outdoorsman that choose to seek opportunity of elk harvest via archery this is a Very poor idea. The point based archery elk draw is not backed by data that is valid. I heard the commission to listen to Hunter's and outdoor outfitters that generally speaking or more well-versed and spend much more time months each year) in these specific species categories, As opposed to one day a year (ish) heard counts. Much of the time post shed/aerial counts.

Please take the time to think through this and the detriment that it will have and the opportunities stripped if this is passed. I urge you to not make this mistake as much of the time in our system they are never reversed.

Thank you for your time, Oregon archery hunter- Jakob Azevedo Hunter ID- 2420930
Phone- 503-453-6924

Sent from my iPhone

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: budandbecky@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021 8:35 PM
To: ODFW.Wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: 2022 archery proposal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My Thoughts would be to make hunters choose between rifle or archery and make them choose between east or west side..

Sent from my iPad

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: John <jata6x6@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 6:35 PM
To: COMMISSION ODFW * ODFW
Subject: Archery eastern Oregon Elk draw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This is a terrible idea. We have damage hunts in alot of these areas. The bull to cow ratio isn't the problem. I have lived and hunted in most of these units that you proposing to shut down oportunities too. Have also seen alot of elk. Enough for multiple oportunities. I understand having people decide to either bow hunt or gun. But taking the majority of eastern oregon bow to draw isn't right. The deer could use some number increases. Especially if you KEEP TURNING OUT PREDATORS. Thats another story though.

A concerned outdoorsman John Angus

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: smocktej <smocktej@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 6:11 PM
To: ODFW WildlifeInfo * ODFW
Subject: archery elk season changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

As an avid archery hunter for the last 42 years in Oregon I have seen a drastic reduction in big game numbers, and extreme overcrowding with hunters progressively every year. It is time that Oregon hunters must choose their weapon and the unit they wish to hunt, both archery and rifle. The days of a general season are gone. All units should be drawn with no general hunts, this just causes an overflow of hunters in some already sensitive areas. By making all units a draw it lowers the overall preference point system that is stagnant. 18+ years for good hunts. Not all draw hunts need to run at the same time they can overlap to accommodate traffic on main roads, and there should not be any first and second seasons rifle hunts. Extend the season and allow bull and cow hunts at the same time. Animals are pushed in this state from August-February in some units then shed hunters are in the woods starting February, this stresses animals even more. They never get a break.

Landowner acreage should be adjusted to allow property owners to hunt their own land whether it's 20 acres or 160 that's currently allowed.

Predation is another serious matter in this state that affects overall animal populations.

Terry Smock, Baker City

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone