

Include Elk in Urban Deer Population Control Program - Senate Bill 761



Photo: Neal Maine

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
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Presentation Overview

- Urban Deer Population Control Pilot Program
- Urban Elk Issues
- Senate Bill 761 (2021)
- Proposed Administrative Rules

Urban Deer Population Control Pilot Program

- Senate Bill 373 (2017)
 - Directed development of pilot program
 - Allow cities to petition department for assistance in controlling urban deer populations
 - Department will allow take if concurrence that deer population constitutes public nuisance
 - Defined responsibilities of municipality and department
- Program effective January 1, 2019
- Department yet to be petitioned by any city
 - Several cities have completed prerequisites

Urban Elk Issues

- Fewer communities with urban elk than deer
- Challenges with urban elk may be “bigger”
 - Physically larger animals
 - Larger herds



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Urban Elk Issues

Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative

- 2019 Oregon Solutions Project focused on reducing conflicts between elk and people
- Declaration of Cooperation reached in 2021
 - Commitment to non-lethal actions
 - Consider population control through lethal take



Photo: Neal Maine

Senate Bill 761 (2021)

- Adds elk to statute regarding urban deer population control pilot program
- No other substantive program changes
- Only applies to deer and elk
- Lethal take only, not relocation
 - Meat provided to charitable organizations

Senate Bill 761 (2021)

Key Points

- Cities must:
 - Enact ban on feeding or attracting
 - Declare elk populations a public nuisance
 - Cover cost to distribute meat to food bank or charitable organization
- Department must:
 - Specify means and manner of take
 - Require salvage for human consumption
 - Determine number to be taken

Proposed Administrative Rules

- Staff is proposing to include elk in existing pilot program rules
- Manner of take
 - Euthanasia must comply with AVMA Standards
 - Use of non-lead ammunition
 - For Live Capture
 - Daily trap check required
 - Immediate euthanasia of captured target animals
 - Follow department approved capture and handling requirements
 - Prohibits use of poisons, immobilizing or tranquilizing drugs, or chemicals for take

Proposed Administrative Rules

- Take on property not owned by city requires written authorization from landowner or lawful occupant
- Requirement to immediately report take
- Salvage delivered to food bank or charitable organization
 - Processing and distribution fees at expense of city
- City may sell hides and antlers within 30 days of take to offset costs of program
 - Buyer must have hide/antler dealer permit

Questions?

