



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) is tasked with responsibly protecting and enhancing wildlife and their habitat in the state, while also providing for the orderly and equitable utilization of wildlife through regulated hunting opportunities for game species. To that end, the department develops management plans for individual species, tracks statewide harvest of game species, and monitors the status of populations around the state.

Annual hunting regulation proposals are developed based on population surveys and trends, wildlife health conditions including disease, changing habitat conditions including impacts from wildfire and drought, prior year harvest reporting and other data around survival and mortality, human-wildlife interactions, management concerns, and public input. The department annually submits big game season and regulation proposals to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for consideration and adoption.

The department will overview big game population trends and recommend 2023 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and open areas, dates and locations of cooperative travel management areas, tag numbers for big game controlled hunts, and associated hunting regulations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public outreach and opportunity for public input has been extensive. The department advised the public when draft proposals were published on the agency website in early July 2022 through a news release. The department held 17 public meetings in July and produced a video distributed via social media to provide information and gather input on draft proposals.

ISSUE 1

Proposals for 2023 game mammal seasons and associated hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS

Staff proposal summaries for the 2023 big game and western gray squirrel seasons and species specific information is included in Attachment 3. Controlled hunt proposals for 2023 contain season date and structure changes including deletion of hunts, addition of new hunts, combining hunt areas, and expanding hunt boundaries. Most of the changes are to deer, elk, and pronghorn hunts and reflect responses to local changes in both populations and animal distribution. Proposals for hunting regulation changes include wildlife inspection stations, calendar year date shifts, modification to cooperative travel management area rules, and modifications to wildlife area rules.

ISSUE 2

Proposed tag numbers for 2023 controlled big game hunts.

ANALYSIS

Overall, total controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2023 are proposed to increase by approximately 1% from 2022. Summaries for each of the big game species are provided in Attachment 3.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to adopt the staff proposals in Attachment 3 amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 060, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 075, and 90 as proposed by staff.

Effective Date: Date here or *Upon Filing*