



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is statutorily authorized to allocate bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, pronghorn, deer, and elk tags to be auctioned and raffled annually to benefit wildlife and habitat management, as well as expand hunting access in Oregon. Auction and raffle tags provide unique hunting opportunities with expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. The auction and raffle of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, and pronghorn tags generate dedicated funding for management and research for the respective species, while deer and elk tags generate revenue for the Access and Habitat (A&H) Program.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

At the April 25 meeting of the A&H Board, deer and elk auction and raffle tags were discussed. There was an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment at this meeting.

### ISSUE 1

2023 Auction and Raffle Tag Allocations

### ANALYSIS

A number of unique hunting opportunities are available in Oregon through the use of special auction and raffle tags that offer expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. As a result, the auction and raffle tags are very popular. Revenue from these special tags is dedicated to specific programs. All funds raised by the auction and raffle tags for bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain goats are dedicated for management and research of the respective species. All funds raised by auction and raffle tags for deer and elk provide funding for the Access and Habitat Program.

For 2023, the authorized auction and raffle tags consisted of:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn raffle tag

- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag
- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

All auction tags are sold at fundraising banquets for various sport groups each spring. Host organizations receive 10% of the sales price for the tag being sold. Most of these funds are then allocated back to specific projects through grant programs managed by the sport group.

### Bighorn Sheep

The Oregon bighorn sheep auction and raffle tag program was the first program of its type in Oregon and was established in 1987. Since then it has been the cornerstone of funding for bighorn management and research in Oregon (Table 1). The 2023 Oregon bighorn auction tag sold for an amazing \$370,000 via a live hybrid auction in January 2023 by the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF). The 2023 bighorn raffle tag was drawn May 26, 2023 at ODFW headquarters building in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel . At the time of writing it appears interest in purchasing bighorn sheep raffle opportunities is on par for last year but below the all-time high. Combined, the two tags have generated over \$471,000 this year for bighorn sheep management and research in Oregon.

Table 1. Income from Oregon bighorn auction (2014-2023) and raffle (2014-2023) tag sales. 2023 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income are current through 9 May 2023.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2014	\$155,000	\$139,500	WSF	\$46,754	OHA
2015	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$61,645	OHA
2016	\$95,000	\$85,500	WSF	\$30,655	OHA
2017	\$135,000	\$121,500	WSF	\$85,513	OHA
2018	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$122,444	OHA
2019	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$144,068	OHA
2020	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$107,512	ODFW
2021	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$127,364	ODFW
2022	\$345,000	\$310,500	WSF	\$214,351	OHA
2023	\$370,000	\$333,000	WSF	\$138,088	OHA
Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,800,000		\$1,078,394	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Bighorn Tags:				\$2,878,394	

## Pronghorn

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one pronghorn auction tag and one pronghorn raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to pronghorn management and research. The 2023 special auction tag was sold via a live auction on February 3, 2023 for \$26,000 by the NWTF Baker County Longbeards chapter (Table 2). The raffle tag was drawn May 26, 2023 at ODFW headquarters building in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel. Combined, the two tags generated over \$48,000 for pronghorn management and research in Oregon in 2023.

Table 2. Income from Oregon pronghorn auction and raffle tag sales (2014-2023). 2023 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income are current through 9 May 2023.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2014	\$10,000	\$9,000	RMEF Hood R.	\$9,734	State OHA
2015	\$18,000	\$16,200	Redmond OHA	\$14,185	State OHA
2016	\$14,000	\$12,600	Oregon FNAWS	\$14,500	State OHA
2017	\$11,000	\$9,900	Tillamook OHA	\$16,963	State OHA
2018	\$16,000	\$14,400	Lake County OHA	\$19,005	State OHA
2019	\$17,500	\$15,575	N. Oregon MDF	\$18,828	State OHA
2020	\$16,000	\$14,400	National WSF	\$24,112	ODFW
2021	\$19,000	\$17,100	Ochoco NWTF	\$39,819	ODFW
2022	\$34,000	\$30,600	Rose City RMEF	\$33,318	State OHA
2023	\$26,000	\$23,400	Baker County NWTF	\$22,575	ODFW
Total	\$181,500	\$163,175		\$213,039	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Pronghorn Tags:				\$376,214	

## Rocky Mountain Goat

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to Rocky Mountain goat management and research. The 2023 Rocky Mountain Goat auction tag was sold for \$65,000 at a live auction hosted by the Wallowa OHA chapter on March 11, 2023 (Table 3). The raffle tag generated over \$31,000 and was drawn May 26, 2023 at ODFW headquarters building in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel. Total funds generated from the two tags is now over \$800,000.

Table 3. Oregon Rocky Mountain goat auction and raffle tag sales (2014-2023). 2023 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income are current through 9 May 2023.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2014				\$12,920	State OHA
2015				\$18,548	State OHA
2016	\$30,000	\$27,000	State OHA	\$15,895	State OHA
2017	\$37,000	\$33,300	Oregon FNAWS	\$26,972	State OHA
2018	\$41,000	\$36,900	California WSF	\$24,291	State OHA
2019	\$52,500	\$47,250	Oregon FNAWS	\$28,468	State OHA
2020	\$40,000	\$36,000	Oregon Bowhunters	\$50,348	ODFW
2021	\$75,000	\$67,500	Oregon FNAWS	\$67,699	ODFW
2022	\$35,000	\$31,500	OR Wild Sheep	\$43,006	State OHA
2023	\$65,000	\$58,500	Union/Wallowa OHA	\$31,166	ODFW
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$375,500</b>	<b>\$337,950</b>		<b>\$319,313</b>	
<b>Grand Total Net Income from Mountain Goat Tags:</b>				<b>\$657,263</b>	

## **Access and Habitat, Deer and Elk Auction and Raffle Program**

The annual auction and raffle of deer and elk tags is a valuable funding source for the A&H Program, accounting for an ever-increasing portion of the A&H Program's revenue. Since their inception, these tags have generated over \$11 million in revenue, of which nearly \$9 million was generated over the last ten years (Table 4). Nearly two-thirds of this revenue is generated by the five deer and five elk auction tags sold each year. Combined proceeds from the auction and raffle tags, A&H license surcharge, and Green Forage & Deer Enhancement Restoration funds, have been used to implement hunter access or habitat improvement projects throughout Oregon.

Big game raffle entries are sold at department offices, license agents, and online beginning December 1 each year for the following year's raffle event. The 2023 raffle drawing took place May 26, 2023, at ODFW headquarters building in Salem and livestreamed on the department's YouTube channel.

A&H deer and elk tags were auctioned at fundraising banquets for various sport groups this spring. In 2023, the auction deer and elk tags raised \$628,200 for the A&H program, eclipsing the previous year's sales record of \$578,700. The in-person banquet events provide an opportunity for A&H Board members and staff to discuss the benefits of the A&H program with the public. The A&H Board will select sponsoring organizations for the 2024 auctions at their July 18, 2023, meeting.

### **A&H Board and Department Recommendations**

The department and the A&H Board recommend auction and raffle hunts for 2024 remain unchanged from 2023 seasons (Attachments 2 and 3). The Oregon Revised Statutes authorizing auction and raffle tags also establish annual limits on the number of tags that may be issued in this manner. The A&H Board and staff recommendations are within these established limits.

For 2024, the department recommends the Commission approve:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn raffle tag
- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag

For 2024, the A&H Board recommends the Commission approve:

- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

The drawing for all raffle tags will occur in a single livecast event in late May or early June 2024. Proposed sponsors for the 2024 auction tags will be presented to the Commission at the September 2024 meeting.

Table 4. Access & Habitat deer and elk auction and raffle program revenue (2014-2023).

Year	Auction Tags			Raffle Tags	
	Bid Price	Net	Host (Number of tags)	Revenue	Host
2014	\$257,750	\$202,275	RMEF, OHA(2), MDF(2), SCI, DU, OBH, NWTF	\$133,509	OHA
2015	\$311,000	\$279,900	RMEF(2), OHA(3), MDF(2), NWTF, FNAWS	\$133,850	OHA
2016	\$377,000	\$342,727	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$160,818	OHA
2017	\$336,000	\$302,400	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$174,339	OHA
2018	\$422,000	\$379,800	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$198,317	OHA
2019	\$387,000	\$348,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), OBH, SCI, NWTF	\$217,811	OHA
2020	\$437,000	\$393,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$325,391	ODFW
2021	\$569,500	\$512,550	RMEF, MDF(3), OHA(3), SCI, NWTF	\$374,126	ODFW
2022	\$643,000	\$578,700	RMEF, MDF(2), OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTF(2)	\$429,370	OHA
*2023	\$698,000	\$628,200	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTF, WSF	\$256,228	ODFW
Totals	\$6,375,000	\$5,711,227		\$3,238,169	
Grand Total Net Revenue from Special Deer and Elk Tags:				\$8,949,396	
*As of May 9, 2023					

**Appendix 1. Host organization acronyms used in Tables 1 through 4**

Acronym	Organization Name
CDA	California Deer Association
DU	Ducks Unlimited
FNAWS	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
MDF	Mule Deer Foundation
NRA	National Rifle Association
NWTF	National Wild Turkey Federation
OBH	Oregon Bow Hunters
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OFBD	Oregon Foundation for Black-tailed Deer
OHA	Oregon Hunters Association
RMEF	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
SCI	Safari Club International
WSF	Wild Sheep Foundation

## OPTIONS

1. Approve staff and Board recommendations
2. Amend staff and Board recommendations

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

### **DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to approve the 2024 auction and raffle big game tag allocations as proposed by staff and the A&H Board and shown in attachments 2 and 3.

**Effective Date:** June 16, 2023