

February 11, 2014



Chair Witt and members of the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources

HB 4075

Traditional Archers of Oregon (TAO) has concern about where HB 4075 will take hunting in Oregon by introducing language into law for devices which are illegal for hunting - yet O.K. for a fast growing segment of and the general population. TAO feels it is very important for House Representatives to understand the fast growing number of disability permits and the overwhelming evidence of a lack of robust governmental control on such programs is a recipe for disaster.

While there have many recent articles, one high profile example is a recent 60 MINUTES segment titled DISABILITY, USA, points out that what was envisioned back in the 1950's, as a small program now serves nearly 12 million people, is up 20% in the last six years and now has a budget of \$135 Billion!

Closer to home and hunting in Oregon, the 1999 Legislative Assembly adopted new criteria for Disabilities Permits which were implemented in 2000. Enrollment in the Persons with Disability Program (PDP) subsequently increased from about 600 in 1999 to peak at ~20k in 2006-2007 causing ODFW to revamp their disabilities permitting process. The number of individuals declined during the transition to the "Oregon Disabilities Hunting Permit but, because of unanticipated increase in harvest of antlerless deer and elk by a growing number of PDP permit holders, the damage to archers opportunity was done.

ODFW has said they were suspicious of abuse in the PDP and a recent OHA Survey of new members agreed when asked, is the PDP Program abused? Results were: Yes = 970, No = 240, Don't Know = 737. If testimony by disabled hunters on another topic recently presented to the ODFW Commission is any predictor, abuse is sure to grow.

As many of you are Oregon Congressional Sportsman's Caucus members, I know you understand our deer and elk herds are presently under some duress and ODFW has studies and programs in process to improve populations, M.O's, herd composition, etc. TAO believes HB 4075 would have unintended consequences on these programs and certainly result in enforcement problems for OSP game officers.

What we find most troubling about HB 4075 is that it allows an able-bodied companion who accompanies a person with a disability who is lawfully hunting to shoot a game animal or bird on behalf of the person with a disability.

**This is simply wrong and unethical and would not be condoned  
by ANY true sportsman regardless of their medical condition!**

I would like to leave you with the final thought that bills such as HB 4075 circumvent the rule making authority of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Why not leave management of fish, wildlife and people to the pros over at ODFW?

Rich Thompson

Newberg, OR  
President, Traditional Archers of Oregon

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HB 4075-1 rev 2/10/14

Thank you for considering the need to revise HB 4075. In addition to initial concerns about this bill include:

- Allowing sighting devices currently illegal for hunting in Oregon and where legalizing them will take our archery seasons, in what is supposed to be a primitive weapons hunting opportunity.
- The growing population of disabled (?) persons and the lack of robust oversight for well-intentioned programs designed to improve their quality of life.
- What these proposals would ultimately forebode for our wildlife resources under a worst case scenario where they become legalized across all user groups.

I would also like to call into question the following referencing amendments to HB 4075-1:

Page	Line	Comments/Questions
1	22	Can only assist in SELECTING, SIGHTING or ADVISING a visually impaired firearm hunter?
2	1, 4	No longer applies to archers?
2	7	Will a 12 year old have the experience and judgment in a "WHEN TO SHOOT" situation?
2	9	"The Person" can NOT have a visual impairment - Excellent!
2	10	Can "The Person" use "The Hunter's" weapon? Yes, the weapon with the trick gadgets!

The revised bill still incorporates the most grievous of all components where "the person" can shoot a game animal or bird on behalf of "the hunter" .....

Not shoot a wounded game animal .....

But, shoot a game animal!!

**THIS IS SIMPLY WRONG AND UNETHICAL AND WOULD NOT BE CONDONED BY ANY TRUE SPORTSMAN REGARDLESS OF THEIR MEDICAL CONDITION!**

My final thought:

HB 4075 circumvents the rule making authority of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

ODFW, along with OSP Game Enforcement officers are your boots on the ground.

Have they provided testimony?

Thank You

Rich Thompson

Newberg, Oregon

President, Traditional Archers of Oregon

October 6, 2013

## Disability, USA

*Introduction, 60 Minutes, "Disability, USA" Correspondent, Steve Kroft.*

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560\\_162-57606233/disability-usa/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57606233/disability-usa/)

There is a Senate hearing scheduled tomorrow on a subject of some importance to millions of Americans, but with the government shutdown it's not clear that the Senate Committee on Government Affairs will be able to pay for a stenographer to record the event. The hearing involves the Federal Disability Insurance Program, which could become the first government benefits program to run out of money. When it began back in the 1950s it was envisioned as a small program to assist people who were unable to work because of illness or injury.

Today, it serves nearly 12 million people -- **up 20 percent in the last six years** -- and has a budget of \$135 billion. That's more than the government spent last year on the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, and the Labor Department combined. It's been called a "secret welfare system" with its own "disability industrial complex," a system ravaged by waste and fraud. A lot of people want to know what's going on.

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### House Investigators: Social Security Disability Judges Approving Many Claims That Were Previously Rejected

June 25, 2013 - 3:35 AM

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social Security is approving disability benefits at strikingly high rates for people whose claims were rejected by field offices or state agencies, according to House investigators. Compounding the situation, the agency often fails to do required follow-up reviews months or years later to make sure people are still disabled.

**Claims for benefits have increased by 25 percent since 2007**, pushing the fund that supports the disability program to the brink of insolvency, which could mean reduced benefits.

**The disability program has been swamped by benefit claims** since the recession hit a few years ago. Last year, 3.2 million people applied for Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income.


“The new criteria for Disabilities Permits adopted by the 1999 Legislative Assembly were implemented in 2000. Enrollment in the Disabilities Permit Program subsequently increased from about 600 in 1999 to peak at approximately 20,000 in 2006-07.

Table 6. Tag sales, harvest, and percent antlerless harvest for deer and elk hunters (with a bull or a buck only bag limit) with a Permanent Disabilities Permit, 2000-2012.

Year	# With Permits	Deer			Elk		
		# Tags Sold	Harvest	% Doe	# Tags Sold	Harvest	% Cow
2000	2,395	2,291	849	47	1,812	405	88
2001	4,683	3,583	1,404	47	2,920	611	84
2002	7,656	4,843	1,735	49	3,965	732	85
2003	10,898	6,215	2,328	49	5,054	955	84
2004	14,482	7,016	2,531	39	5,825	1,004	78
2005	18,252	6,455	1,939	19	4,705	659	67
2006	19,613	6,140	1,520	18	4,438	662	67
2007	14,104	6,016	1,605	16	4,253	549	70
2008	6,873	5,951	1,510	16	4,310	610	73
2009	7,105	6,253	1,564	19	4,519	641	73
2010	6,744	6,097	1,271	23	2,756	413	71
2011	7,123	6,064	1,604	20	2,651	451	69
2012	7,005	6,150	1,425	23	2,551	438	67
2013 <sup>a</sup>	5,135						

<sup>a</sup> as of April 24, 2013. Number will increase as permit holders re-register.

As disabled permit holders and harvest increased, opportunity to harvest antlerless elk was taken away from archery hunters as seen when comparing 2005 / 2006 Regs.




**GENERAL BOW**  
Tag Sale  
Deadline Date:  
Aug. 26, 2005

**GENERAL BOW**

- 3 pt. + = Bull elk
- Antlerless = Cow or doe
- Bull elk = Bull elk
- One elk = Either sex
- Spike only = Bull elk with an antler

- For Controlled Elk Bow
- Refer to page 17 for
- Only traditional archery area of the M

	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
<b>WESTERN OREGON</b>	Aug. 27 - Sep. 25	One elk
		One antlerless or one bull 3 pt. +
		One antlerless or spike only elk
		One bull elk
	Nov. 26 - Dec. 11	One antlerless elk
<b>EASTERN OREGON</b>	Aug. 27 - Sep. 25	One elk



**GENERAL BOW**  
Tag Sale  
Deadline Date:  
Aug. 25, 2006

**GENERAL BOW**

- 3 pt. + = Bull elk
- Antlerless = Cow or doe
- Bull elk = Bull elk
- One elk = Either sex
- Spike only = Bull elk with an antler

- For Controlled Elk Bow
- Refer to page 17 for
- Only traditional archery area of the M

	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
<b>WESTERN OREGON</b>	Aug. 26 - Sep. 25	One bull elk*
		One bull 3 pt. +*
		One spike only elk*
		One bull elk
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 10	One antlerless elk
<b>EASTERN OREGON</b>	Aug. 26 - Sep. 25	One bull elk*

During ODFW Commission Meetings where the agenda included crossbows for disabled persons, public testimony was taken and is a part of the public record.

Verbal testimony by disabled was virtually nonexistent and written testimony in favor of crossbows associated those meetings was "sparse". Of course, there were a few good examples but there were others along the line of these examples.

With the ever increasing numbers of persons qualifying for disability status, such testimony is the reason the hunting public remains skeptical of the ability to control who should be legitimately eligible to avail themselves to the use of additional aids for hunting.

## TESTIMONY FROM THE ENTITLEMENT OPPORTUNITIST DURING CROSSBOW DISCUSSIONS AT ODFW in 2013

**To:** [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** ODF&W crossbow rules

Dear Mr. Webber, I am a disabled hunter living in Gold Beach, OR. I have been provided an ODF&W disabled hunters permit. In my application my medical Dr. noted that because I do not have the end of my thumb nor an index finger on my dominate hand, a crossbow would be appropriate for me to use for hunting. This as opposed to a standard archery set-up.

### USE A RELEASE AID?

**To:** [odfw.info@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.info@state.or.us)  
**Subject:** Crossbows

To whom it may concern,

I have been shooting bows for a few years now. I also have nerve damage in one of my shoulders. It works but can get sore when I carry a pack and try to shoot my bow. So I thought "self , what if we look into a crossbow ?"

Then I read on the internet that Oregon won't let you use a side ways bow. Some how this is probably racist.

What the hell ?

### TRY A DIFFERENT STYLE PACK? BEGIN EXERCISE REGIMINE BEFORE HUNTING?