



## The Problem

15% of Oregon's 1.5M households are "food insecure," according to a 2014 report published by the USDA. Food insecure means that at some point during the year these families had a difficult time putting food on the table. That equates to roughly 600,000 out of the state's 4 Million population that are not getting enough to eat.

## The Solution

One way to attack the lack of food is to allow the donation of fish and game meat to charities as defined by ORS 619.095(2)(a), or the Oregon Food Bank (OFB). The opportunity to provide a quality protein source is huge: approximately 360,000 wild game birds are harvested each year and an additional 130,000 domestically raised game birds (such as pheasant and chukar) are taken from Oregon hunting preserves. Annually there are approximately 40,000 deer harvested in the state, as well as thousands of other large game animals such as elk, bear, sheep, etc.

## The Obstacles and Proposed Changes

Currently there are two administrative rules and one statute that prevent hunters from donating to the hungry in Oregon that I have found. Further research is needed to determine if there are more. Specifically:

**OAR 603-028-0845 (2)** and **ORS 619.095(2)(b)** define game meat as only antelope, Bighorn sheep, deer, elk, moose or Mountain goat. It does not include game birds, bear, etc. *I'm proposing that game meat be changed to encompass all game animals and fish that have a hunting season as determined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).*

**OAR 635-046-0045**, the "dog training rules," defines all game birds as inedible. *This would need to change to say "unless deemed edible by a qualified inspector," or some such language.*

**ORS 619.095(1)** states that game meat to be donated must be inspected by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), or ODFW, or State Police trained by ODA to meet the standards of ORS 603.045 and 619.031. *I recommend that establishments approved by The Oregon Department of Agriculture as licensed processors be added to this list provided they meet the standards of ORS 603.045 and 619.031, and to also include fish.*

Additionally the ODA has informed me that game meat may only be donated if it meets the stricter standard of inspection of ORS 603-028-0845(1)(b) which requires game killed by motor vehicles to be inspected before the body temperature falls below 101 degrees Fahrenheit. *I propose that the ODA be counseled to follow the standard established under ORS 619.095 and OAR 603-028-0845(1)(a).*

## Precedent and Success Stories

During the 2012 – 2013 hunting season, 33 states participated in the Hunters for the Hungry program and donated over 2.2 Million pounds of game meat to local charities. These donations vary by region, and by state, and are managed in different ways. One of the most successful is Virginia's Hunters for the Hungry.