



Wildlife Management and Controlled Hunts

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 2, 2019

Wildlife Management

Wildlife Biologist



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What Hollywood thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

- Wildlife Management
 - History
 - Complex
 - Collaborative approach
- Controlled Hunts
 - Review of seasons



Wildlife Management History Notes

- 1872** First game law : prohibited killing and selling of deer and elk from February to June
- 1893** First Game and Fish Administration - Hollister McGuire, State Game and Fish Protector
- 1898** Elk hunting prohibited
- 1913** Pronghorn antelope hunting prohibited
- 1933** Elk Season re-opened
- 1936** Last known Grizzly bear killed
- 1940-1950** Bighorn sheep extirpated
- 1946** Last wolf bounty paid
- 1971** Legislature delegated responsibility for 235 non-game species of wildlife to Game Commission
- 1975** Merger of Fish and Game Commissions into ODFW

Wildlife Management

- More than 850 native species of fish and wildlife
 - ✓ Approximately 550 species of wildlife
 - ✓ 80 wildlife species are hunted
 - ✓ 17 Endangered and 31 Threatened federally listed species
- 326,988 hunters
- 1.4 million wildlife viewers





Wildlife Management

“**Wildlife**” means fish, shellfish, amphibians and reptiles, feral swine as defined by State Department of Agriculture rule, wild birds as defined by commission rule and other wild mammals as defined by commission rule (ORS 496.004)

- For this discussion not speaking of fish or shellfish

Wildlife Management

- Game Animals

- Big game
- Game birds
 - Upland
 - Migratory (waterfowl)



- Furbearers

- Non-game wildlife

- Protected vs. unprotected

- Protected can also be hunted

- Predators vs. Predatory animals



Wildlife Management

- Several success stories
 - Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Rocky Mt. Goats, Cougar, Wolves, Canada Geese
 - Populations recover
 - Peregrine Falcons, American Bald Eagles, California Brown Pelicans
 - De-listed
- With success comes conflict



Wildlife Management

ODFW Wildlife Areas

- 201,381 acres
- 14 areas with dedicated staff

✓ Conservation

✓ Habitat

✓ Recreation



P.W. Schneider W.A.



Elk Viewing, Jewell W.A.



Rufous Hummingbird, Sauvie Island W.A.



Summer Lake W.A.



Greater Yellowlegs, Fern Ridge W.A.

Wildlife Management

Successful management requires many partners, involved public and informed decision makers

- OSP
- Landowners
- Land management agencies
- State agencies: DSL, OWEB, ODF, OPRD
- Tribes
- Public
- NGO's
- Stakeholders
- USFWS



Wildlife Management

VOLUNTEERS

- Two very important contributions

- ✓ Tens of thousands of hours contributed by more than 9,000 volunteers

- Constructing bird boxes with kids, assisting at youth hunts, building wildlife viewing platforms and trails, replacing guzzlers, removing invasive plants, planting native species, improving/maintaining equipment and facilities, assisting with deer census surveys, transporting and collecting biological samples, staffing hunter check stations...
- Host perform ground maintenance, farming for wildlife, greeting the public, entering data, and assisting with outreach events

- ✓ Budget enhancement as match to federal dollars

- \$35.50 - \$36.84 per hour value
- District/Watershed Projects by 1,229 volunteers (20,559 hrs) **\$729,844**
- Hatchery/Wildlife Area Hosts with 143 volunteers (40,724 hrs) **\$1,445,702**



Urban elk trapping with OHA volunteers

Wildlife Management

WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS

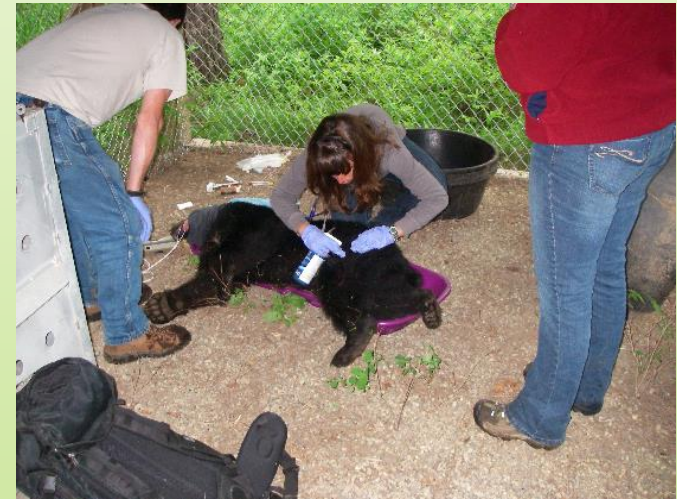
- SB 832 was passed by the 2003 Legislative Assembly to create the Task Force on Wildlife Control Activities
- In April 2006, an eleven-member Wildlife Control Operators Advisory Group was created to address the recommendation from the Task Force
- Division 435 of Oregon Administrative Rules was created in 2006 and amended in 2015
- ✓ Control furbearers, unprotected mammals (excluding moles) and western gray squirrels in incorporated city limits and associated urban development areas



Wildlife Management

WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

- Connection to the outdoors and wildlife for many public
 - ✓ 26 permitted facilities in the state
 - ✓ Birds, raptors, amphibians, reptiles, mammals
 - ✓ Triage
- Thousands of wildlife
- Several with veterinarians on staff
- Provide very difficult service
 - ✓ Prohibited species, non-native species, euthanasia, transmissible diseases, habituation



Wildlife Management

USDA – APHIS - WILDLIFE SERVICES

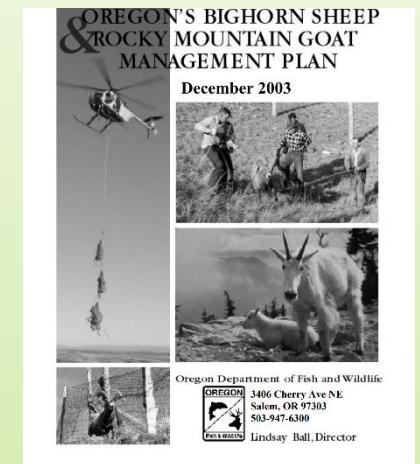
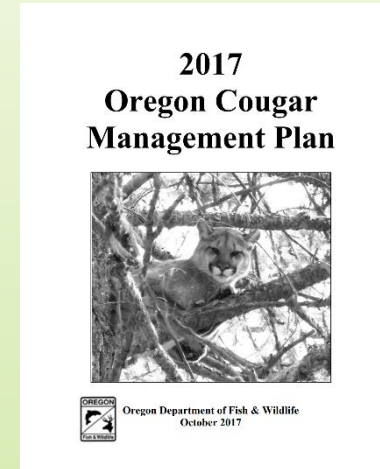
- “County trappers”
 - Conflict resolution
 - Experts in identification, capture and handling
 - Work with federally protected and T&E through the USFWS
 - Handle dangerous animals
 - Assist with disease issues such as Avian Influenza



Wildlife Management

225 FTE in ODFW Wildlife Division

- 21 Wildlife Districts with 2-3 biologists/district
- Habitat biologists and Wildlife Area staff
- 3 Conservation biologists
- 2 Veterinarians
- Wildlife Health Lab
- Species Plans
- OCS





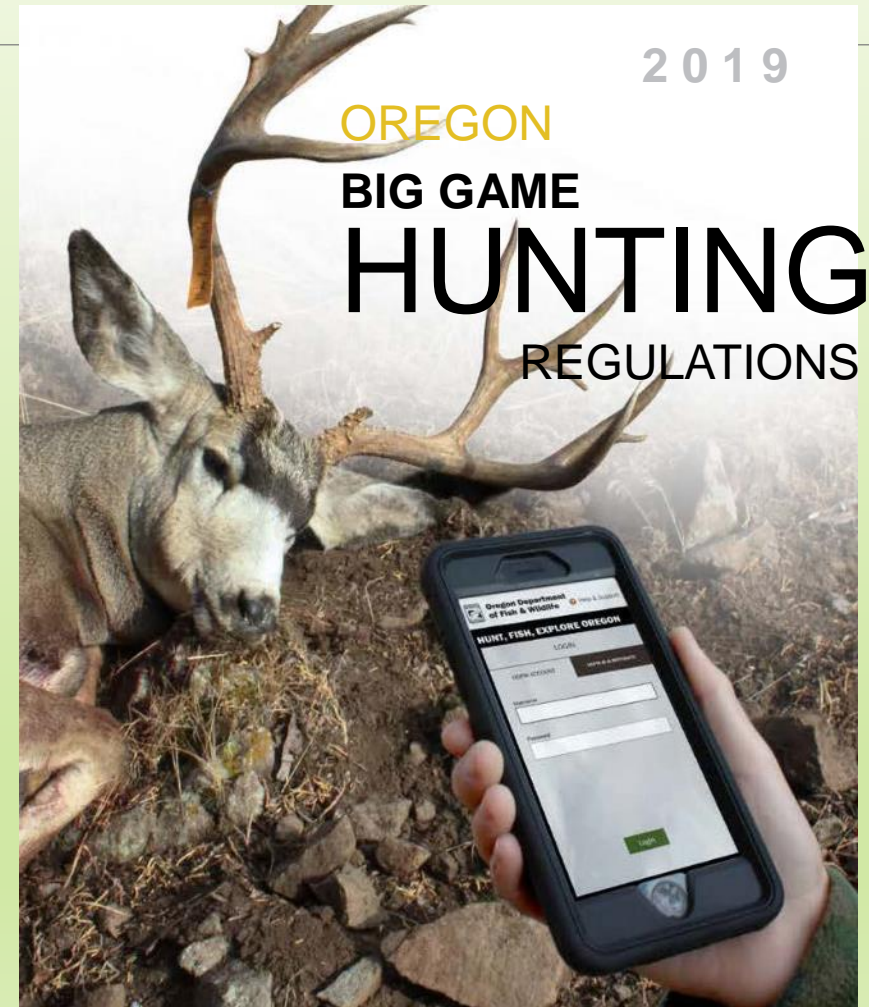
Wildlife Management

CONTROLLED HUNTS

Controlled Hunts

- Tool to manage wildlife populations
 - ✓ Recreation
 - ✓ Damage to property

- Limit Hunter Numbers
 - ✓ Reduce hunter crowding
 - ✓ Prevent over harvest
 - ✓ Distribute and focus hunter effort



Controlled Hunts

Process to Design and Maintain

- Conduct surveys of hunted wildlife
- Harvest data from previous hunting season
- District biologists recommend tag numbers, boundaries, dates
 - FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR
 - EMERGENCY CHANGES PROPOSED FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON
- Big game staff review and consult with districts
- Proposals available for public review by July
- Commission decision in September
- Extreme Winter, Cancelled Hunts, Fire Season





Controlled Hunts

Apply

- Up to 5 choices on each application

Random Draw

- Cycles through all 1st choice selections
- 75% of tags awarded by preference points
 - Most points to fewest
- 25% are then drawn totally at random

Non-residents

- Limited to 3-5% of the total available
- Once the limit is met, no more issued

Private lands will limit access for highlighted hunts. Do not apply unless you have access to a place to hunt.

ARCHERY CONTROLLED 100 SERIES HUNTS (CONTINUED)

HUNT #	HUNT NAME	BAG LIMIT	OPEN SEASON	2019 TAGS	2018 1 ST CHOICE APPLICANTS
170R1	Hart Mt No.1 Bow* (only archery deer opportunity)	One buck with visible antler	Aug. 1 - Aug. 9	17	124
170R2	Hart Mt No.2 Bow* (only archery deer opportunity)	One buck with visible antler	Aug. 10 - Aug. 18	16	58
170R3	Hart Mt No.3 Bow* (only archery deer opportunity)	One buck with visible antler	Nov. 1 - Nov. 7	5	136
174R1	N Warner Bow*	One buck with visible antler	Aug. 24 - Sept. 22	54	185
174R2	S Warner Bow*	One buck with visible antler	Aug. 24 - Sept. 22	83	23

MUZZLELOADER CONTROLLED 100 SERIES HUNTS

HUNT #	HUNT NAME	BAG LIMIT	OPEN SEASON	2019 TAGS	2018 1 ST CHOICE APPLICANTS
100M	N Muzzleloader*				
	Willamette Unit	One deer	Sept. 28 - Nov. 29	880	1,271
	Trask Unit	One deer	Nov. 2 - Nov. 15		
	McKenzie Unit & N Indigo	One deer	Nov. 9 - Nov. 20		
S Indigo*	One deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 6			
123M1	Melrose - N Sixes*	One deer	Nov. 9 - Nov. 17	182	104
123M2	N Bank Habitat*	One white-tailed buck having not less than a forked antler or one black-tailed deer	Nov. 23 - Nov. 29	3	36
127M	Chetco Unit	One buck having not less than a forked antler	Nov. 9 - Dec. 1	37	59
128M	Applegate Unit	One deer	Nov. 9 - Dec. 1	309	1,067
132M	Klamath Falls Unit	One deer	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	27	276
135M	Paulina Unit	One antlerless deer	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	5	50
139M1	Metolius No. 1	One deer	Oct. 19 - Oct. 25	32	284
139M2	Metolius No. 2	One antlerless deer	Oct. 19 - Oct. 25	21	108
141M	Hood-N White Rvr*	One deer	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	33	97
145M	Flatiron*	One buck with visible antler	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	61	65
148M	Ditch Cr*	One buck with visible antler	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	193	239
151M	Baker*	One white-tailed deer	Nov. 11 - Nov. 24	80	123
153M	Union Co*	One white-tailed deer	Nov. 11 - Nov. 24	440	487
156M	N Wenaha-E Sled Springs*	One white-tailed deer	Nov. 30 - Dec. 8	303	254
166M	N Malheur*	One buck with visible antler	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	55	98
168M	NE Whitehorse*	One buck with visible antler	Nov. 16 - Nov. 30	25	272
170M	Hart Mt*	One buck with visible antler	Sept. 28 - Oct. 9	15	156
171M	Juniper*	One buck with visible antler	Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	10	449
172M	Silvies Unit	One buck with visible antler	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	53	199
175M	Interstate Unit	One deer	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	28	124
176M	Silver Lake/E. Ft. Rock*	One deer	Oct. 12 - Oct. 20	53	272

Controlled Hunts

Preference Points

- Unsuccessful first choice
- Apply for one
- Purchase one later
- OTHER SOURCES
 - ✓ Youth
 - ✓ Mentored Youth
 - ✓ Pioneer
 - ✓ TIP



Statewide
How to check (and earn) preference points

May 9, 2018

Check your preference points.

CONTROLLED HUNT APPLICATIONS AND TAGS

What is a Controlled Hunt?

Unlike general season hunts where anyone can buy a tag over the counter, controlled hunts are limited entry hunts that require you to apply in advance for the opportunity to draw a tag in ODFW's controlled hunts drawing. Much of Oregon's deer and elk hunting is limited entry - along with all pronghorn, antelope, bighorn sheep and Rocky Mt goat hunting.

How Does the Controlled Hunt Draw Work?

For deer, elk, pronghorn and spring bear hunts (Premium Hunts excluded), most tags (75%) are awarded to those first choice applicants with the most preference points. The remaining 25% are awarded randomly amongst all first choice applicants, so everyone that applies always has a chance to draw their first choice hunt. If tags remain

after all first choice applicants have been successful, then remaining tags are distributed randomly amongst all second choice applicants, and so on through fifth choice applicants if tags remain. Preference points are not considered in selection of application choices two through five. For bighorn sheep, Rocky Mt goat, and premium hunts, there are no preference points, all tags are awarded based on a random draw. Controlled hunts are divided into hunt series based on species, and then further divided into hunt numbers based on location. Hunters can apply for one hunt number in each hunt series each year as their first choice.

Hunt Series:

- 100 - Buck Deer
- 200 - Elk
- 400 - Pronghorn Antelope
- 500 - Bighorn Sheep
- 600 - Antlerless Deer
- 700 - Spring Black Bear
- 900 - Rocky Mountain Goat
- 1 - Premium Deer
- M - Premium Elk
- N - Premium Pronghorn Antelope

Preference Points Explained

Every year you do not draw your first choice hunt you get a preference point, which increases your odds in future years. If you draw your first choice hunt, your preference points are reset to zero whether or not you actually purchase the tag. One exception to this is for Pioneer License holders, who have their points reset to one rather than zero when they are successful in drawing their first choice hunt. Preference points are tracked by your ODFW ID# and are maintained until you are successful in drawing your first choice hunt for a series.

If you cannot hunt this year, or choose to hunt in a general season, apply for a point saver to gain a preference point and increase your odds in future years. You must have a hunting license. If you do not go through the draw, you can also apply for a point saver for each hunt series July 1 through November 30. Point saver hunt numbers always end in 99 (i.e. one hunt number 199 when applying for a buck deer point saver, 299 when applying for an elk point saver, etc.). You cannot apply for other hunt choices within the same series if you apply

Leading the way for Conservation in OREGON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION
EST. 1955

HUNTING CONSERVATION

917 Conservation and hunting heritage outreach projects	\$61.8 million Combined value	798,811 Acres Protected or Enhanced	133,569 Acres opened or improved for public access
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Become a Member | Attend a Banquet
RMEF.ORG/OREGON

For more information please contact:
Dan Beraldo 541-790-9255

2019 Auction Dates
ALBANY (Elk) February 16
JOHN DAY (Deer) April 20

STATEWIDE ELK/DEER TAG

Controlled Hunts

Regulation Review

- Simplifying regulations – eliminating duplicity
- Reviewing hunting seasons including controlled hunts
- Human dimensions survey
- Large public process
- Changing social values
- Changing distributions of big game
- Changing population sizes
- This year:
 - Consolidating 107 hunts into 41 hunts
 - Expanding or simplifying 73 hunt dates
 - Expanding 61 boundaries to unit boundaries



QUESTIONS

