



PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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FILING CAPTION: 2027 Big Game Controlled Hunt Tag Numbers, Season Dates and Regulations

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RULES:

635-065-0772, 635-075-0001, 635-075-0005, 635-075-0025

AMEND: 635-065-0772

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/20/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026. The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences. Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0772

Tags for ~~Terminally Ill Children~~ Children with Life-Threatening Illness and Disabled Veterans ¶

(1) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who has a disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans

Affairs, a veteran whose discharge or release from active duty was for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or a veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. ORS 408.225.¶¶

(2) "Organization" means a non-profit organization qualified under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) with the principal purpose of granting hunting and fishing adventures for children that have been diagnosed with a life-threatening or terminal illness by a licensed physician or; (b) providing hunting and outdoor experiences for disabled veterans. ¶¶

(3) "Qualified child" means a terminally ill child sponsored by an organization who provides to the Department supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with the prerequisites provided in this rule. ¶¶

(4) "Qualified veteran" means a disabled veteran who is sponsored by an organization and who provides to the Department supporting documentation demonstrating that the veteran is a disabled veteran. ¶¶

(5) Annually upon approval by the Director, the Department may issue no more than 35 big game tags free of charge to organizations for use by qualified children or qualified veterans. The 35 tags will be distributed across black bear, deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope with no more than 10 tags to hunt black bear, no more than 10 tags to hunt either-sex deer, no more than 10 tags to hunt either-sex elk, and no more than five tags to hunt either-sex pronghorn antelope. Additionally, one bighorn sheep tag may be made available each year to a qualified child. ¶¶

(a) From January 1-June 30 each year, 20 tags will be available to qualified veterans (six deer tags, six elk tags, five black bear tags, and three pronghorn tags) and 15 tags will be available to qualified children (four deer tags, four elk tags, two pronghorn tags, no more than five black bear tags and no more than one bighorn sheep tag.) Each organization is limited to two tags of any one species. After June 30, remaining unrequested tags, except for bighorn sheep tag, may be made available to either qualified veterans or qualified children. ¶¶

(b) Each organization is limited to five tags total for all species except black bear per year. ¶¶

(c) Each organization is limited to two tags for black bear per year. ¶¶

(d) An individual tag entitles the holder to only one black bear, or one deer, or one elk, or one pronghorn antelope, or one bighorn sheep as specified on each tag. ¶¶

(e) A qualified child may obtain only one tag pursuant to this rule in a calendar year. ¶¶

(f) A qualified disabled veteran may obtain only one tag pursuant to this rule in their lifetime. ¶¶

(g) Tags for deer, elk, bear and pronghorn issued under this rule may be used to hunt within any Oregon Wildlife Management Unit (as defined in OAR chapter 635 division 080), except specific area closures as identified in the current Oregon Big Game Regulations, Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge, or Starkey Experimental Forest enclosure. ¶¶

(h) Tags for bighorn sheep issued under this rule may be used to hunt only in a specified geographic area which is outside of any other authorized bighorn sheep hunt area or opportunity and where there are issues of access or location that are not compatible with normal season and tag opportunity. ¶¶

(i) A member or representative of the organization must accompany the tag holder during the hunt. ¶¶

(j) Board members and employees of the organizations are not eligible for tags pursuant to this rule. ¶¶

(6) A qualified child must be between 12 and 21 years of age at the time of the hunt. ¶¶

(7) A qualified child under the age of 18 must hunt in the company of an adult 21 years of age or older. ¶¶

(8) A qualified child or qualified veteran may be either resident or non-resident and must comply with all requirements concerning: ¶¶

(a) Minimum hunting age (ORS 497.350); ¶¶

(b) Hunter education (ORS 497.360); ¶¶

(c) Hunting hours (OAR 635-065-0730); ¶¶

(d) Holding a valid Oregon hunting license, and ¶¶

(e) Using legal weapon for hunting the species for which the tag is issued. ¶¶

(9) For tags issued under this rule, open seasons are as follows: ¶¶

(a) For deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope: August 1 through November 30 of the year the tag is issued. ¶¶

(b) For spring black bear: April 1 through May 31 of the year the tag is issued. ¶¶

(c) For fall black bear: August 1 through December 31 of the year the tag is issued. ¶¶

(d) For bighorn sheep: August 1 through November 30 of the year the tag is issued.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, SB 1517 (2018), Or Laws 2018, ch 100, § 1-4, 497.116

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, Or Laws 2018, ch 100, § 1-4, 497.116

AMEND: 635-075-0001

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/20/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026. The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences. Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0001

Eligibility **II**

A landowner as defined in OAR 635-045-0002 and immediate family as defined in 635-045-0002, owning 40 or more contiguous acres are eligible to receive landowner hunting preference tags for controlled 600 series deer, western Oregon buck deer, western Oregon elk, and eastern Oregon antlerless elk hunts and emergency hunts occurring on their property. To be eligible to receive landowner hunting preference tags for controlled eastern Oregon buck deer, eastern Oregon bull elk, either-sex elk hunts, and either-sex or doe/fawn pronghorn antelope hunts, occurring on their land, a landowner shall own 160 or more contiguous acres. The Department will consult county tax rolls when confirming landowner eligibility requirements. For controlled hunts see OAR divisions 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, and Emergency Hunts in division 78. Tags issued to landowners are in addition to the number of tags issued to the public and authorized in OAR divisions 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, and 78, except as described in 635-075-0020.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/20/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026. The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences. Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0005

Registration, Application and Tag Issuance Procedures and Limits for All Controlled Hunts ¶

(1) A landowner shall submit a landowner preference registration form to be eligible for a landowner preference tag. A one-time fee of \$35.00 is required at the time of registration for new program participants. A landowner can have only one registration on file with the Department. However, an individual who owns (through business entities, in the individual's own name or a combination thereof) more than one property eligible for the landowner preference program ~~may register each such property as defined in ORS 635-075-0001~~ may: 1) include each such property under a single registration or, 2) register the eligible properties owned by each business entity in a registration for that business. The registration form is an affidavit certifying ownership, number of acres owned, the county and Wildlife Management Unit or Deer Hunt Area where the property is located. This registration form registers the individual and remains valid until the individual registered no longer qualifies as a landowner as defined under OAR 635-045-0002, notifies the Department requesting the registration form be deleted, or the Department notifies the landowner that a renewal is required (generally every three years). After six years of inactivity, a new registration and fees are required. ¶

(2) In addition to having a landowner preference registration form on file with the Department, a landowner or an authorized designee identified by the landowner in writing to the Department shall provide the Department with the names of the landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), and their immediate family members to receive tags for pronghorn antelope, and the names of the landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), their immediate family members, and those persons of the landowners' choosing to receive landowner preference tags for deer and elk. Named persons provided to the Department will remain listed for receiving landowner preference tags until the landowner or their authorized designee removes them from their list or requests the Department remove them. ¶

(3) Registered landowners or their authorized designee shall provide names of tag recipients prior to the close of business the day before the hunt begins except registration forms and distribution forms must be submitted by close of business on May 15 for special seasons and mule deer hunts as described in ORS 635-075-0020 through 635-075-0022. ¶

(4) Landowners or their designee shall use the Department's electronic licensing system to maintain their list of named persons eligible to receive tags for hunting on the landowner's registered property. Landowners or their designee may submit a written request that the Department make changes to the list with a fee of \$2.00 charged per request form. ¶

(5) The landowner preference registration shall be submitted by the landowner and approved by the Department prior to issuance of any landowner preference tag, except as provided for in OAR 635-075-0007. Landowners are not required to submit proof of ownership with their registration form. Landowners shall be required to submit proof of ownership at the request of the Department or the Oregon State Police acting on behalf of the Department. ¶

(6) A landowner, stockholder(s), partner(s), and immediate family and those persons of the landowners' choosing wishing to also apply for controlled hunt tags shall apply by the May 15 controlled hunt deadline. Listing a hunt choice other than a landowner preference choice is not required. ¶

(7) Everyone shall follow controlled hunt application procedures and regulations as described in OAR Division 060. ¶

(8) The number of landowner preference tags issued is based upon a landowner's acreage. Landowner Preference tags shall be allocated by the following minimum acreage requirements: (see attached table) ¶

(9) Landowner preference tags for the hunting of deer or elk may be issued to any person of the landowner's choosing, and shall be used for the taking of antlerless animals except as described in OAR 635-075-0005(10).

Season dates of the transferred landowner preference tags shall be the same dates as the original tag.¶¶

(10) Landowner preference tags for the hunting of antlered deer or elk may be issued to a person of the landowner's choosing who is not a member of the landowner's, partner's, or stockholder's immediate family as follows:¶¶

(a) A landowner who is issued only one tag may not transfer that tag.¶¶

(b) A landowner who is issued two or more tags may transfer not more than 50 percent of the tags to a person who is not an immediate family member as defined in ORS 496.146 (4). If calculation of the number of tags eligible for transfer under the provisions of this paragraph results in a fraction, the Commission shall round up the number of tags to the next whole number.¶¶

(11) A landowner who is qualified to receive landowner hunting preference tags may request two additional tags for providing public access and/or two additional tags for wildlife habitat programs. This request shall be made to the Access and Habitat Board with supporting evidence that the access is significant, and the habitat programs benefit wildlife. The board may recommend that the commission grant the request. These tags may not be applied to the options as defined in OAR 635-075-0005(8).¶¶

(12) No one shall receive both a controlled hunt tag and a landowner preference tag for the same type of hunt. Landowner hunting preference tags shall not be issued to any person successful in the controlled hunt drawing for the same type of hunt.¶¶

(13) Landowner preference tags, except as described in OAR 635-075-0007, 635-075-0010, and 635-075-0015 shall only be authorized by the headquarters office of the Department following the controlled hunt drawings.

Statutory/Other Authority: SB 247 (2015), ORS 496.012, ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146, ORS 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: SB 247 (2015), ORS 496.012, ORS 496.138, ORS 496.146, ORS 496.162

AMEND: 635-075-0025

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/20/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2027 game mammal seasons. Total proposed controlled hunt tag numbers for 2027 seasons (140,747) are a decrease of 1% from 142,862 in 2026. The proposed rules also incorporate information gathered during the Big Game Hunt Review Process, which was intended to result in consistent and simpler big game seasons with opportunity allocated fairly and consistent with hunter preferences. Amendments for 2027 seasons may include changes to the Western Oregon Coast general season hunts for elk by adding Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to the spike season and/or moving the spike season from the first season to the second season.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0025

Outfitters and Guides Nonresident Tag Allocation ¶¶

- (1) Eligibility: Outfitters and Guides must be registered pursuant to ORS 704 prior to making application for big game tags described herein.¶¶
- (2) The Outfitters and Guides nonresident tags allocated shall be based on one half the nonresident tags drawn in the previous year from the standard first drawing determined by hunt number for series 100, 200, and 600 as described in OAR 635-060-005 and 635-068-0000 through 635-071-0000.¶¶
- (a) Prior to November 1 of each year, the Department shall publish a list of tags available for allocation based on nonresident tags drawn in the annual June drawing.¶¶
- (b) In the event of new hunts, no Outfitter and Guide tags will be allocated for that year for those hunts, except for unit wide hunts that are split will have tags reapportioned for the new hunts.¶¶
- (c) All tags allocated shall be considered nonresident for the purposes of OAR 635-060-0030(2).¶¶
- (d) The Commission may revoke or refuse to issue all or any portion of the permits based upon a commission finding of an emergency situation or for a biological need. In the event of a tag number reduction of 50% or more for the current hunt year, Outfitter and Guide tags will be reduced proportionately to the overall tag reduction. Tags will be reallocated based on the application draw number.¶¶
- (e) For the purposes of these rules, "emergency situation or biological needs" is defined as a situation in which harvest mortality above a prescribed level would significantly jeopardize the department's ability to meet sex ratio or population management objectives for a wildlife management unit or subunit.¶¶
- ~~(f) Notwithstanding subsection 2 of this rule, due to the modification of eastern Oregon deer hunts and hunt areas following the Mule Deer Management Plan (2024), tags allocated for Outfitters and Guides in 2026 for each eastern Oregon 100 series and 600 series deer hunts shall be as shown in Table 1 (attached).~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112