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## PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

**DFW 107-2025**

CHAPTER 635

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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FILING CAPTION: 2026 Big Game Controlled Hunt Tag Numbers, Season Dates and Regulations

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### RULES:

635-045-0000, 635-060-0000, 635-060-0005, 635-060-0030, 635-065-0090, 635-066-0000, 635-066-0020, 635-067-0000, 635-072-0000, 635-075-0035

AMEND: 635-045-0000

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

### CHANGES TO RULE:

635-045-0000

Purpose ¶¶

- (1) The purpose of these rules is to list definitions pursuant to hunting seasons for big game and game birds.¶¶
- (2) The documents entitled "20245-20256" Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "20256 Oregon Big Game Regulations", are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license vendors and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶  
[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]  
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162  
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-060-0000

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-060-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to describe the requirements and procedures for controlled hunts pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.162.¶

(2) The documents entitled "2025-2026" Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations," are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license agents and regional, district, and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

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

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

AMEND: 635-060-0005

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-060-0005

Application Eligibility and Procedures ¶

(1)(a) An applicant for game mammal controlled hunts shall have a current adult hunting license or youth combination license. ¶

(b) Licenses are nonrefundable, whether or not an applicant is successful in the drawing. ¶

(2)(a) A valid controlled hunt application is required to participate in a controlled hunt drawing. The purchase price of the application ~~shall be a nonrefundable fee of \$6.00 per game mammal for each game mammal hunt series shall be a nonrefundable fee as listed below:~~ ¶

(A) For license years 2026 and 2027, \$8.00 per application plus a nonrefundable \$2.00 license agent fee; ¶

(B) For license years 2028 and 2029, \$9.00 per application, and plus a nonrefundable \$2.00 license agent processing fee; ¶

(C) For license years 2030 and later, \$10.00 per application plus a nonrefundable \$2.00 license agent fee. ¶

(b) Department license agents authorized to sell applications for controlled hunts shall be connected to the Department's computerized licensing system. ¶

(3) Each controlled hunt is assigned a hunt number. ~~The hunt number shall be entered on the application indicating area of choice and shall match the type of application purchased. All hunt numbers listed on an application shall have the same first digit or letter, which indicates a species or group of hunt.~~ Each application shall consist of the hunt number, or hunt numbers, indicating the applicant's hunt area of choice. Each application is hunt series specific and may only list hunt numbers for controlled hunts within one of the hunt series as listed below: ¶

(a) 100 series for controlled buck deer. ¶

(b) 200 series for controlled elk. ¶

(c) 400 series for pronghorn antelope. ¶

(d) 500 series for bighorn sheep. ¶

(e) 600 series for controlled antlerless deer. ¶

(f) 700 series for controlled black bear. ¶

(g) 900 series for controlled Rocky Mountain goat. ¶

(h) L series for Premium deer. ¶

(i) M series for Premium elk. ¶

(j) N series for Premium pronghorn antelope. ¶

(4) If successful in the drawing, party members shall receive the same hunt choice as the party leader. Party size limits are as follows: ¶

(a) 100 series hunts, no limitation. ¶

(b) 200 series hunts, no limitation. ¶

(c) 400 series hunts, no limitation. ¶

(d) 500 series hunts, no parties allowed. ¶

(e) 600 series hunts, no limitation. ¶

(f) 700 series hunts, no limitation. ¶

(g) 900 series hunts no parties allowed. ¶

(h) L series hunts no parties allowed. ¶

(i) M series hunts no parties allowed. ¶

(j) N series hunts no parties allowed. ¶

(5) Controlled Hunt applications, along with the proper fees, must be submitted online, through the Department or its agents no later than midnight of the deadline dates described in OAR 635-060-0008 (1)-(4). Applications received after the specified deadline dates may be considered disqualified as described in OAR 635-060-0018(4). ¶

(6) To apply for a controlled youth hunt for spring bear, pronghorn, deer or elk a youth must be 12-17 years old at

the time they hunt.¶

(7) The purchase price of applications for controlled game bird hunts shall be a nonrefundable fee of \$2.00 per application, and a nonrefundable \$2.00 license agent processing fee. Game bird controlled hunt application procedures are listed in the current Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations.

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

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

AMEND: 635-060-0030

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-060-0030

Issuing Tags ¶¶

(1) The Department may, except for bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat, issue tags or permits in excess of the quantity authorized by the commission to resolve documented errors made by the Department. The quantity shall not exceed an amount consistent with the management goals of the hunt.¶¶

(2) The number of controlled deer, controlled elk, and controlled spring bear tags issued to nonresident applicants shall not exceed five percent of the tags authorized for each hunt. The number of controlled pronghorn antelope tags issued to nonresident applicants shall not exceed three percent of the tags authorized for each hunt.

Exception: one nonresident tag may be issued for each hunt when the number of authorized tags is fewer than 35. This number does not affect the tags issued under the Landowner Preference Program (OAR chapter 635, division 075).¶¶

(3) Tags will not be issued to a party (residents or nonresidents) when, during the drawing process, the party size exceeds the number of remaining tags.¶¶

(4) Youths age 12-17 who are unsuccessful in the first controlled hunt drawing for 100, 200, or 600 series hunts may apply for one guaranteed "first time" tag per series, provided that:¶¶

(a) Youths are limited to only one "first time" tag per series in a lifetime.¶¶

(b) Within the 200 series, only hunts with antlerless only bag limits are available as "first time" tags.¶¶

(c) Hunts are only available as "first time" opportunities as follows: 100 series hunts must have had more than 200 tags available in the first drawing; 200 and 600 series hunts must have had more than 50 tags available in the first drawing.¶¶

(d) Applicants shall use forms available online or through the Department or its agents beginning July 1 of each year.¶¶

(e) Persons who were successful in any controlled hunt drawing for 100, 200, or 600 series hunts are never again eligible for "first time" tags in the respective hunt series.¶¶

(f) Successful "first time" applicants shall purchase tags at POS vendors by the day before the assigned season begins.¶¶

(g) Youths may not receive a "First Time" youth hunt tag in a hunt series if they applied for a point saver option in the primary big game drawing.¶¶

(5) Incentive tags for compliance with Mandatory Harvest Reporting requirements. The Fish and Wildlife Commission authorizes the Department to issue up to three hunting tags each year as incentives to encourage hunters to comply with requirements for harvest reporting. Any hunter who complies with harvest reporting requirements by the specified deadline will be automatically entered in a controlled hunt draw for one Mandatory Hunter Reporting Incentive Tag valid for the upcoming hunting season. Obtaining and using such tags is governed by OAR 635-065-0015(76).

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

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

AMEND: 635-065-0090

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-065-0090

Disabled Hunter Seasons and Bag Limits ¶

(1) A person who possesses an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit issued by the Department is qualified for expanded bag limits as follows: Season/Tag - Bag Limit-¶

(a) General or controlled buck deer - One deer ¶

~~(b) Bag limit in the following units: Biggs, Columbia Basin, Indigo, Maupin~~ hunt areas and units: Jackknife, Helix, Indigo, McKenzie, Melrose, Santiam, Willamette. ¶

(eb) General or controlled bull elk - Legal bull or antlerless elk ¶

~~(d) Bag limit in the following units: Applegate, Beatys Butte, Beulah, Biggs, Catherine Creek, Chesnimnus, Columbia Basin, Dixon (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Evans Creek (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), East Fort Rock (that portion east of Hwy 97), Fossil, Grizzly, Hood, Imnaha, Indigo (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Juniper, Keating, Lookout Mountain, Malheur River, Maupin, McKenzie (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Melrose, Minam, Murderers Creek, Northside, Ochoco, Owyhee, Paulina, Pine Creek, Rogue (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Santiam (outside National Forest Lands within the unit), Silvies, Siuslaw, Sixes, Sled Springs, Steens Mountain, South Sumpter (that part of Unit 51 south of Burnt Rvr Canyon Rd from Durkee to junction State Hwy 245 and Hwy 245 from junction Burnt Rvr Canyon Rd to Unity), Wagontire, White River, Whitehorse, and Willamette.~~ ¶

(ec) Controlled pronghorn antelope ¶

~~(f) Buck only hunts - One pronghorn ¶~~

~~(g) Bag limit in the following units: Beatys Butte, Biggs, Columbia Basin, Fort Rock, Grizzly, Juniper, Keating, Lookout Mountain, Malheur River, Maupin, Maury, Murderers Creek, Northside, Ochoco, Paulina, Silver Lake, Silvies, Steens Mountain, Sumpter, Wagontire, Warner. For hunts with bag limits other than one buck or one bull, the bag limit remains as shown in the Oregon Big Game Regulations.~~ ¶

(2) The Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit is valid only with a general season or controlled bull elk, buck deer, or pronghorn antelope tag for the area and time period being hunted. The permit must be carried on the person while hunting. ¶

(3) An able-bodied companion may accompany a person with an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit and kill any animal wounded by the permit holder. The wounded animal must be killed using a legal weapon for the season and species designated on the tag. The companion must immediately validate and attach the permit holder's tag or required information described in OAR 635-065-0765 if validated electronically to the carcass of the animal. The companion is not required to possess a hunting license or tag.

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

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

AMEND: 635-066-0000

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-066-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods, and other restrictions for hunting black bear pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 066 incorporates, by reference, the requirement and tag numbers for controlled hunts for black bear hunting set out in the document entitled "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for the hunting of black bear. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at authorized license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ¶¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com).

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

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

AMEND: 635-066-0020

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-066-0020

Controlled Seasons ¶

- (1) Controlled hunt tags shall be issued by a controlled hunt drawing following the procedures established in OAR chapter 635, division 060. Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2025~~6~~ are listed in the "~~2025~~"6 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 066 by reference.¶
- (2) Persons receiving a controlled black bear tag may also purchase a general season black bear tag and one Oregon Additional Bear Tag.¶
- (3) No person shall use dogs to hunt or pursue black bear.¶
- (4) No person shall use bait to attract or hunt black bear.¶
- (5) The skull of any bear taken must be presented to an ODFW office or designated collection site. The person who took the animal is responsible to have it presented, within 10 days of the kill, to be checked and marked. Skull must be unfrozen when presented for check-in. Check-in at ODFW offices must occur during normal business hours (8-5, Mon-Fri.). Hunters are required to check in the skull only for the purpose of inspection, tagging and removal of a tooth for aging.¶
- (6) When the bear skull is presented at check-in information that must be provided includes: 1) date of harvest and location of harvest including Wildlife Management Unit, and 2) complete hunter information including the issued date and time of a paper tag or the confirmation of an electronic tag; a completed "Wildlife Transfer Record Form" as found in the current year's Oregon Big Game Regulations is an alternative for providing the required information.¶
- (7) All land within one mile of the Rogue River between Grave Creek and Lobster Creek is closed to bear hunting.  
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162  
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-067-0000

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-067-0000

Purpose and General Information

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, methods, and other restrictions for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 067 incorporates, by reference, the requirements and tag numbers for controlled hunts for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat set out in the document entitled "20256 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "20256 Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting pronghorn antelope, cougar, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at authorized license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices and website of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com).¶

(4) Controlled hunt tags shall be issued by a controlled hunt drawing following the procedures established in OAR chapter 635, division 060. Permitted weapons and ammunition are established in OAR chapter 635, division 065. Controlled hunt tag numbers for 20256 are listed in the "20256 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 067 by reference.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, 497.112

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162, 497.112

AMEND: 635-072-0000

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-072-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas, and other restrictions for hunting western gray squirrels pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) OAR chapter 635, division 072 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for hunting western gray squirrel set out in the document entitled "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2025~~6~~ Oregon Big Game Regulations" in addition to OAR chapter 635, to determine all applicable requirements for hunting western gray squirrel. The annual Oregon Big Game Regulations are available at hunting license agents and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(3) Additional regulation information is available on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website at [www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com).¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

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

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

AMEND: 635-075-0035

NOTICE FILED DATE: 07/24/2025

RULE SUMMARY: Set hunting season regulations and controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 game mammal seasons including licensing and application requirements, and regulation changes to cooperative travel management areas. The proposed rules 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.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-075-0035

Remaining Tags ¶¶

(1) Any remaining Outfitter and Guide tags not sold on or before March 31st will become available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Department will publish a list of available tags two business days after March 31st.¶¶

(2) First-come, first-serve tags will become available for purchase starting at 8:00 AM on the third business day after March 31st and ending at 5:00 PM on April 15th. Any applications received prior to 8:00 AM on the third business day after March 31st will not be accepted.¶¶

(3) Up to five first-come, first-serve tags can be sold to outfitters and guides for unnamed clients.¶¶

(a) The non-refundable tag fee for unnamed client tags is ~~\$565.00 (plus a \$10.00 license agent fee) for deer and \$838.00 (plus a \$10.00 license agent fee) for elk~~ the same as stipulated for Guide Tag - Deer and Guide Tag - Elk in Oregon Revised Statue 497.061.¶¶

(b) The deadline to identify a hunter for tags sold with unnamed clients is one week before the hunt begins.¶¶

(4) An unlimited number of first-come, first-serve tags can be sold to an outfitter or guide when the client is identified.¶¶

(5) Any unsold Outfitter and Guide Tags remaining after 5:00 PM on April 15th will be included in the June public controlled hunt drawing.

Statutory/Other Authority: SB 247 (2015), ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 497.112