

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
TOBIAS READ
SECRETARY OF STATE

MICHAEL KAPLAN
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE



ARCHIVES DIVISION
STEPHANIE CLARK
DIRECTOR

800 SUMMER STREET NE
SALEM, OR 97310
503-373-0701

TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

DFW 4-2026

CHAPTER 635

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED

01/12/2026 9:31 AM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Amend Rules to Reduce 2026 Oregon Hunting Tags for Rocky Mountain Goats

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/12/2026 THROUGH 07/10/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 01/12/2026

CONTACT: Roxann Borisch

503-947-6314

roxann.b.borisch@odfw.oregon.gov

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE

Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:

Roxann Borisch

Rules Coordinator

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

Oregon Administrative Rules establishing tag numbers for 2026 Rocky Mountain goat hunts were adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on September 12, 2025 meeting. Tag numbers adopted at that time did not account for low number of Rocky Mountain goats observed in the Snake River Wildlife Management Unit during the most recent population surveys.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

Temporary Rules are needed to reduce tag numbers for the fall 2026 Rocky Mountain goat controlled hunts to account for low numbers of Rocky Mountain goats.

Recent staff surveys of Rocky Mountain goats in the Snake River Unit resulted in lower-than-expected numbers of goats observed furthering a trend of decreasing goat numbers observed in this area over the last decade. As Rocky Mountain goats have a high biological sensitivity to overharvest, the cumulative tags for hunts 959B1 and 959B2 were reduced from nine to four for 2024 in response to poor population data as well as complaints from hunters reporting difficulty finding animals. The total number of tags for these two hunts remained at four tags for the 2025 season. Low numbers of Rocky Mountain goats were observed in surveys despite the reduced number of tags issued in 2024 and 2025. Hunters that draw a controlled Rocky Mountain goat tag are not eligible to draw another Rocky Mountain goat tag, making this a once in a lifetime hunting opportunity.

This rule amendment will reduce the number of tags for hunt 959B1, Snake River No. 1, from one (1) resident tag and one (1) nonresident tag (two total tags) to one (1) resident tag and zero (0) nonresident tags. The number of tags for hunt 959B2, Snake River No. 2, will be reduced from two (2) resident tags to one (1) resident tag. Oregon Revised Statute 497.112 requires that the number of nonresident tags for Rocky Mountain goat be not less than 5% nor more than 10% of all Rocky Mountain goat tags issued. This rule amendment will result in the total number of Rocky Mountain goat tags issued for 2026 to decrease from 21 total tags to 19 total tags. It is necessary that the tag reduction in hunt 959B1, Snake River No. 1, apply to nonresident tag to remain compliant with the ORS 497.112 requirement that

not less than 5% nor more than 10% of all Rocky Mountain goat tags are issued to nonresidents.

Reducing controlled hunt tag numbers in hunts 959B1 and 959B2 through this rule amendment will improve the experience for participating hunters and aid in management of the species within this area. The application period for 2026 controlled hunt tags opened on December 1, 2025. Amending the rule at this time will provide an opportunity for hunters that have applied for either of these hunts to change their hunt choice prior to the May 25 deadline for controlled hunt application revisions. Failure to amend the rules would result in serious prejudice to hunters participating in these hunts because fewer animals will be available for harvest than anticipated when tag numbers were initially adopted in September 2025. Additionally, failure to amend the rules would result in serious jeopardy to the public's interest in Rocky Mountain goat hunting opportunity and management as harvest at the initially adopted tag level could lead to population declines and future tag reductions.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Roxie Borisch at 503-947-6314 or roxann.b.borisch@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

AMEND: 635-067-0000

RULE SUMMARY: Controlled hunt tag numbers for 2026 Rocky Mountain goat hunts were adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission at their September 12, 2025 meeting and printed in the "2026 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations." This amendment of OAR 635-067-0000 will reduce the tag numbers for controlled Rocky Mountain goat hunts 959B1, Snake River No.1, and 959B2, Snake River No. 2, for the 2026 hunting season.

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 "2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into Oregon Administrative Rules. Therefore, persons must consult the "2026 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.¶

(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 2026 are listed in the "2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations" and are adopted and incorporated into OAR chapter 635, division 067 by reference.¶

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of the 2026 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations, Rocky Mountain goat hunt tag numbers for the controlled hunt areas listed on page 64 are changed as follows in Table 1 (see attached table).

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

RULE ATTACHMENTS MAY NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.

**PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, COUGAR, ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT, BIGHORN
SHEEP REGULATIONS**

DIVISION 067

635-067-0000

Purpose and General Information

Table 1.

Species - Hunt Number	Hunt Name	2026 Resident Tags	2026 Nonresident Tags
Rocky Mtn Goat 959B1	Snake River No. 1	1	[±] <u>0</u>
Rocky Mtn Goat 959B2	Snake River No. 2	[±] <u>1</u>	0