

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

This is a presentation of the annual Big Game Regulation proposals. Department staff will recommend 2008 Big Game Controlled Hunt tag numbers for potential adoption as Oregon Administrative Rules. Recommendations, in concept, will be presented for 2009 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and open areas, dates and locations of cooperative travel management areas, and controlled hunts. If adopted in concept, these proposals will be returned to the Commission in OAR format for final consideration at the October 2008 meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Public meetings (21) to review staff proposals were held throughout the state in May 2008 (Table 1; Attachment 3).

ISSUE 1

Proposed regulations and tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2008.

ANALYSIS

Overall Controlled Hunt tag recommendations for 2008 are down two percent from 2007. The decrease is primarily due to a proposed four percent reduction in buck deer tags. Proposed elk tag numbers are similar to 2007. A three percent decrease in bighorn sheep tags and a six percent decrease in pronghorn tags are proposed; pronghorn fawn survival has declined in some areas.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

ISSUE 2

Proposals, in concept, for 2009 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and regulations including 2009 spring bear tag numbers.

ANALYSIS

Staff will present, in concept, proposals for 2009 big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

Beginning in Spring 2009, the department is proposing to change the SW Oregon Spring Bear Hunt #722A from a controlled hunt to a "Limited", first-come first-served season with a limit on the number of tags that will be authorized for sale. This process has been successfully used to implement the limited General Spring Turkey Season in southwest Oregon.

Controlled Hunt proposals for 2008 include; creating two new Rocky Mtn. goat hunts, West Hurricane Creek and Elkhorn #2 and a new West Deschutes River #3 hunt for California bighorn sheep. Including the weapon rotation elk hunts in southwest Oregon, proposed are four new deer hunts and 16 new elk hunts and the deletion of one deer and seven elk hunts. Rationales for adding

new hunts and deleting others include providing additional youth hunting opportunity and increased or decreased damage.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 060, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, and 073, as proposed by staff; and approve in concept the staff proposals for the 2009 general and controlled big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Filing