

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

This is a presentation of the annual Big Game Regulation proposals. Department staff will recommend 2009 big game controlled hunt tag numbers for potential adoption as Oregon Administrative Rules. Recommendations, in concept, will be presented for 2010 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 2009 meeting.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Public meetings (23) to review staff proposals were held throughout the state in May 2009 (Table 1).

### ISSUE 1

**Proposed regulations and tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2009.**

### ANALYSIS

Overall controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2009 are down three percent from 2008. The decrease is primarily due to proposed reductions of five percent in buck deer tags and four percent in bull/either sex elk tags. A six percent decrease in pronghorn tags is also proposed. Increases are proposed for bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat and 2010 Spring Bear tags.

### OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

### ISSUE 2

**Proposals, in concept, for 2010 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and regulations including 2010 spring bear tag numbers.**

### ANALYSIS

Staff will present, in concept, proposals for 2010 big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

The department is proposing to remove the Paulina and East Fort Rock (portion east of Hwy. 97) and the North Sumpter Unit from the area with an antlerless animal in the elk bag limit for archers and hunters with disabilities permits. Both areas continue to be below population management objectives.

As part of the Mule Deer Initiative local work groups have recommended changes to hunting seasons. Consistent with these recommendations, the department is proposing rifle buck tag reductions in the Murderers Creek, Maury, and North Warner units and four new controlled archery hunts in the Maury, Steens Mtn., North Warner and South Warner Units.

Controlled hunt proposals for 2010 include two new bow hunts (Paulina Unit and N Wagontire Unit) and two new muzzleloader hunts (Paulina Unit and N Wagontire Unit). There are 46 youth hunts with long seasons (August-December) and low tag numbers (~10/Unit) proposed to provide additional youth hunting opportunity in much of the state (Table 34).

**OPTIONS**

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

**DRAFT MOTION**

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 065, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 073 and 075 as proposed by staff; and approve in concept the staff proposals for the 2010 general and controlled big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon Filing