

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The Master Hunter program, administered through the department's Hunter Education Program, was established to improve hunter/landowner relations and to improve the public image of the hunter. The department has worked with private landowners to provide hunting access for Master Hunters on lands that are otherwise closed to the public. Ethical hunter behavior is critical for continuance of these hunts.

A check for wildlife violations is done before an award is made and an individual with any violation in the past five years will not be allowed to graduate and earn their Master Hunter certification. Over the past year there have been certified Master Hunter program participants that have been convicted of, or have pleaded guilty to violations of wildlife laws. This rule is needed to provide the department with the tools necessary to suspend hunters from participation in the program for a set number of years if they are convicted of violation of wildlife laws. Suspension of violators from the program is necessary to preserve the integrity of the program.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This proposed rule amendment is being considered through a permanent rulemaking process, which includes public notice, public comment period, and a hearing before the commission.

### ISSUE 1

#### **REVISE RULES PERTAINING TO THE MASTER HUNTER PROGRAM**

### ANALYSIS

This proposed revision to OAR 635-048-0080 would allow the department to suspend Master Hunters who are convicted of, or plead guilty to, a violation of the wildlife laws for a period of five years. This proposed action will provide the department with the tools necessary to maintain the integrity of the Master Hunter program.

### OPTIONS

1. Amend OAR 635-048-0080 to allow the department to suspend certified Master Hunters from the program for a period of five years if they are convicted of, or plead guilty to, a violation of the wildlife laws.
2. No action

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR 635-048-0080 as proposed by staff.

Upon filing.

EFFECTIVE DATE