

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

This is a presentation of the annual Big Game Regulation proposals. Department staff will recommend 2010 big game controlled hunt tag numbers and addition of three states to the prohibition on importation of cervid carcasses for potential adoption as Oregon Administrative Rules. Recommendations, in concept, will be presented for 2011 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 presented to the Commission in OAR format for final consideration at the October 2010 meeting. The Commission will also be briefed on the hunter orange report.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Questions from interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Public meetings (22) to review staff proposals and hunter orange issue were held throughout the state in May 2010 (Table 1).
- Hunter orange information was posted on the department's website throughout the process and comments were collected through email and written correspondence.

ISSUE 1

Proposed regulations and tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2010.

ANALYSIS

Overall, total controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2010 are increasing 164 tags (0.1%) from 2009. Proposed declines in deer, pronghorn, bighorn, and Rocky Mountain goat tags are offset by an increase in the proposed number of elk tags and no proposed tag changes for black bear seasons.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

ISSUE 2

Proposals, in concept, for 2011 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and regulations including 2011 spring bear tag numbers.

ANALYSIS

Staff will present, in concept, proposals for 2011 big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

The staff is proposing to remove the Desolation Unit from the area with an antlerless animal in the elk bag limit for archers and hunters with disabilities permits. The area continues to be below population management objectives.

Controlled hunt proposals for 2011 include deletion of 16 hunts and 22 new hunts.

- OPTIONS**
1. Adopt staff recommendations
 2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION Option 1.

ISSUE 3 **Informational briefing on the issue of whether or not the wearing of hunter orange should be made mandatory while hunting in Oregon.**

ANALYSIS Staff will present report requested by the Commission in December 2009 that reviews the issue of whether or not the wearing of hunter orange should be mandatory while hunting in Oregon.

The report includes a review of hunting-related incident statistics, effect of hunter orange on hunting incidents and hunter success, enforcement issues associated with mandatory hunter orange requirements.

The report includes a range of mandatory hunter orange options for the Commission's consideration.

OPTIONS Informational item, no action necessary.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION n/a

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 2011 general and controlled big game and western gray squirrel seasons.

EFFECTIVE DATE Upon Filing