

- 1 • On average, a cougar kills at least one ungulate per week and 1.6 times more
2 frequently during the summer for the primary prey – small young ungulates.
3 Females with kittens were killing more frequently than solitary or sub-adults.
- 4 • Cougars selected elk calves in the summer and fawn deer during the winter.
- 5 • Selective predation of cougars on juvenile ungulates appears to be a mechanism
6 which could limit population growth or slow recovery of low ungulate populations
7 when the predator to prey ratio is very high.
- 8 • Altering the demographic structure or abundance of cougar populations could
9 have important implications for ungulate populations.

10 Blakely said the results of Clark's research clarified the role of cougar predation on elk
11 and will help guide cougar and elk management in NE Oregon.

12
13 Commissioner Akenson asked if any of the reports generated from that research are
14 available on the website? Blakely said several are in the peer review process. The only
15 completed article is on detection dogs but the intent is to make all of them available on
16 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website.

17 18 Northwest Region

19 Bruce McIntosh, Acting Region Manager, said the City of Salem, Director Elicker, and
20 staff co-hosted the third anniversary celebration of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation
21 Agreement signing between Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and ODFW. The
22 program has acquired 3,000 acres of property of the 16,000 acres we plan to acquire
23 over the 15 years of the agreement. McIntosh said in 2010 staff began to reintroduce
24 chum salmon to Oregon's tributaries in the Lower Columbia River. Twenty-eight tagged
25 chum salmon have returned to Big Creek Hatchery through November 22. These adults
26 are the first returns from the initial release of chum salmon fry into Big Creek back in
27 spring 2011. Staff has worked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
28 to collect chum salmon broodstock to continue that program on our side of the river.

29 30 Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program

31 Tom Rein, Columbia River Coordination Program Manager, said in March 2013 the
32 Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (the Council) solicited Columbia Basin Fish
33 and Wildlife Program amendment recommendations. The Council will release a draft
34 program for public review in February 2014. In July 2014, the Council intends to adopt a
35 revised Program contingent. Rein highlighted ODFW's recommendations:

- 36 • Experimental evaluation of the affects of increased spill operations on survival of
37 salmon and steelhead.
- 38 • Increase spill at eight Snake and Columbia River projects or dams.
- 39 • Use Comparative Survival Study's PIT-tag monitoring to monitor smolt-to-adult
40 salmon and steelhead survival rates.
- 41 • Incorporation of sideboards or "off-ramps" to ensure hydropower system viability
42 and on-ramps for non-hydro renewable energy sources to offset impacts from
43 increased spill levels.

44 Rien said Oregon included this experimental evaluation in its comments on the 2013
45 Draft Supplemental Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System.

46 47 Information & Education

1 Roger Fuhrman, Administrator, said staff has moved information into a friendlier format
2 on the ODFW website for users of tablets or Smartphones. In 2010, about 100,000
3 visitors viewed the website using a mobile device. By 2013, more than 1.2 million visits
4 were via Smartphone or tablet. He said in 2014, ODFW staff will collect email addresses
5 requiring anybody who buys a license online to provide an email address so we have a
6 better way to contact people to provide recreational opportunity updates or regulation
7 changes, etc. Recreational shooters can find information on 100 indoor and outdoor
8 shooting ranges on the Oregon Hunting Map.

9 10 Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Division

11 Captain Jeff Samuels said in June the Commission was briefed on the Oregon State
12 Police's (OSP) use of wildlife decoys. Troopers in their Astoria office conducted a spike-
13 elk Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) on a state logging road within a controlled hunt
14 area. A vehicle stopped by the WED and the driver and a passenger shot at it. Troopers
15 made contact and found a four-point deer buck head and meat in the back of the vehicle.
16 The driver was arrested and lodged in the Clatsop County jail on six charges and the
17 passenger was cited for three charges but released.

18 19 High Desert Region

20 Director Elicker referred to Chip Dale's report on Highway 97 Wildlife Crossings. He said
21 the wildlife protection projects took several years to get in place. He said ODFW is
22 overjoyed at how successful these projects have been on deer and other small animals.
23 Elk are now moving through the underpasses. He said Chip Dale would report on this
24 issue the next time he was before the Commission. Staff is discussing other expansion
25 projects with ODOT thanks to the success of these projects.

26 27 **Habitat Conservation Stamp and Upland Game Bird Artwork Contests**

28 Andrea Hanson, Conservation Strategy Coordinator, distributed a flyer *Help Oregon's*
29 *Fish and Wildlife: Purchase a bottle of Duck Pond Conservation Cuvee Win* and said
30 staff formed a partnership with Duck Pond Cellars winery who hosted a Habitat
31 Conservation Stamp and Upland Gamebird Stamp art contest in their showroom in
32 Dundee. Duck Pond used the 2012 winning artwork (Western Meadowlark) on their
33 2012 Pinor Noir wine label which they have named "Conservation Cuvee". Duck Pond is
34 labeling 2,700 bottles with 900 on hold and will donate \$5 for each bottle sold to the
35 Habitat Conservation Stamp Fund. Hanson said 1,800 bottles are being included in Duck
36 Pond's Wine Club shipments so ODFW will be guaranteed a minimum of a \$9,000
37 donation. Hanson said Duck Pond is eager to partner with ODFW again next year.

38
39 Hanson said the combined art contest was held November 16 in the Duck Pond
40 showroom. Judges, which included Commissioner Laura Anderson, selected "The
41 Sunbathers" by Timothy Turenne from Richfield, Minnesota, that featured Western
42 Painted Turtles in a wetland. The People's Choice Award winner was also "The
43 Sunbathers" by Timothy Turenne. She read the following statement from Commissioner
44 Anderson, "I was delighted to be a part of the judging panel this year. It was challenging
45 to say the least, but I think that the winners were well selected based on the judging
46 criteria we were provided. I applaud the Department's foresight to partner with a well
47 know Oregon winery to raise awareness of ODFW's conservation programs. It's a really

1 smart move, and a great way to gain additional value for the stamp program. My
2 restaurant, Local Ocean Seafoods, is also proud to partner in awareness building by
3 offering the Duck Pond Conservation Cuvee on our wine list.”
4

5 Dave Budeau, Upland Game Bird Coordinator, said last year the Commission adopted
6 rules that changed the deadline for the Upland Game Bird art submission to align with
7 the Habitat Conservation Stamp deadline. Our hope was to raise the profile and increase
8 the public visibility of our art contests. In our first year we achieved that objective as a
9 result of Andrea’s work. This was the 25th year of our Upland Game Bird Art Contest that
10 featured Mountain Quail. He said Kip Richmond from Apex, North Carolina was the
11 winning artist. Kip also won back in 1991 with a depiction of sagegrouse. Budeau said
12 the winning artwork will be featured on the 2014-15 Upland Game Bird stamp and any
13 associated artwork products. All the revenue from our Upland Game Bird stamps or
14 validations goes to ODFW’s Upland Game Bird program.
15

16 Commissioner Wolley arrived at 8:50 am due to inclement road conditions.
17

18 **Expenditure and Budget Report**

19 Director Elicker said Deputy Director Debbie Colbert was prevented from attending due
20 to the icy roads and a snow storm in Corvallis. He and Deputy Director Curt Melcher
21 would talk at the end of the meeting about the Department’s current budget situation.
22

23 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

24 Director Roy Elicker asked the Commission to adopt the 10 temporary rules on pages 1
25 through 3 of the tan-colored agenda, primarily fisheries opening and closing.
26

27 **1. 635-019-0090**

28 **Morgan Lake in the NE Zone Closed to All Angling November 1**

29 Adopted October 8, 2013: effective November 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
30 Amended rule closes Morgan Lake, in the NE Zone near La Grande, to all angling from
31 November 1 through December 31, 2013. Closing the lake during this period will assist
32 the City of La Grande, owner and operator of the lake, to resolve issues posed by the
33 inadvertent removal of *Special Regulations* for Morgan Lake from 2013 Oregon Sport
34 Fishing Regulations.
35

36 **2. 635-041-0045 and 635-041-0075**

37 **Columbia River Mainstem and Tributary Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Fisheries** 38 **Amended**

39 Adopted October 7, 2013: effective October 9, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
40 Amended rules close the Columbia River mainstem Treaty Indian fall commercial
41 platform hook-and-line fisheries in Zone 6 and below Bonneville Dam, with the exception
42 of Yakama Nation tributary fisheries in the Klickitat River, effective at 6:00 p.m.,
43 Wednesday, October 9, 2013. Modifications are consistent with action taken October 7,
44 2013 by the Columbia River Compact agencies of the states of Oregon and Washington
45 in cooperation with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes.
46

1 **3. 635-042-0060**

2 **Late Fall Commercial Drift Gill Net Seasons for the Mainstem Columbia River**

3 Adopted October 15, 2013: effective October 16, 2013 through October 31, 2013.
4 Amended rule authorizes fishing periods for the 2013 late fall commercial salmon drift gill
5 net fishery in the Columbia River mainstem. The first fishery authorizes three 12 hour
6 night time fishing periods in Zones 1 through 3, the first fishing period beginning at
7 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2013. The second fishery authorizes four night
8 fishing periods in Zones 4 and 5, the first authorized fishing period beginning at 7 p.m.,
9 October 17, 2013. Modifications are consistent with action taken October 15, 2013 by the
10 Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington.

11
12 **4. 635-042-0060**

13 **Late Fall Commercial Drift Gill Net Seasons for the Mainstem Columbia River**

14 Adopted October 22, 2013: effective October 23, 2013 through November 1, 2013.
15 Amended rule authorizes five additional fishing periods for 2013 late fall commercial
16 salmon drift gill net fishery in Columbia River mainstem. Two additional 12-hour fishing
17 periods were authorized for Zones 1 through 3 fisheries. Three additional fishing periods
18 were authorized for mainstem fishery in Zones 4 and 5. The first additional fishing period
19 begins at 6:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 23, 2013. Modifications are consistent with
20 action taken October 22, 2013 by the Columbia River Compact agencies of the states of
21 Oregon and Washington.

22
23 **5. 635-016-0090**

24 **Modifications to Southwest Zone Sport Chinook Salmon Regulations for the**
25 **Chetco and Winchuck Rivers**

26 Adopted October 29, 2013: effective November 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
27 Amended rule restricts harvest of naturally-produced fall Chinook in the Chetco and
28 Winchuck Rivers to 1 per day, 10 per season in order to prevent overharvest of naturally-
29 produced fall Chinook. Rule modifications allow opportunity for harvest of both naturally
30 and hatchery- produced fall Chinook in the Chetco and Winchuck Rivers while ensuring
31 adequate spawning escapement.

32
33 **6. 635-023-0095**

34 **Recreational Sturgeon Fishery in The Dalles Pool Closes for Remainder of 2013**

35 Adopted October 31, 2013: effective November 12, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
36 Amended rule closes the recreational white sturgeon fishery in The Dalles Pool of the
37 Columbia River effective at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2013 due to the
38 anticipated attainment of the 2013 harvest guideline. Modifications were made
39 consistent with Joint State Action taken October 31, 2013 by Columbia River Compact
40 agencies of the states of Oregon and Washington.

41
42 **7. 635-070-0020**

43 **Amend Rules to Change Dates of the Wendling Elk Hunt #219D**

44 Adopted November 1, 2013: effective November 1, 2013 through February 15, 2014.
45 OAR Chapter 070 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for western Oregon elk
46 seasons set out in the document entitled "2013 Oregon Big Game Regulations," into

1 Oregon Administrative Rules. For the 2013 hunting season the dates for the “Wendling”
2 (219D) elk hunt were intended to include weekend days (Saturdays and Sundays) from
3 December 28-29, 2013 through February 1-2, 2014. However, the 2013 Big Game
4 Regulations mistakenly lists January 13 and 14, which are Monday and Tuesday, rather
5 than the correct dates of January 11 and 12 (Saturday and Sunday). This amendment is
6 necessary to liberalize the season dates for hunt 219D to include Saturday and Sunday,
7 January 11-12, 2014.
8

9 **8. 635-071-0010**

10 **Amend Rules to Change Dates of the Maury-Hampton Butte Hunt #236A**

11 Adopted November 5, 2013: effective November 5, 2013 through December 1, 2013.
12 OAR chapter 071 incorporates, by reference, the requirements for Central Oregon elk
13 seasons set out in the document entitled “2013 Oregon Big Game Regulations,” into
14 Oregon Administrative Rules. The following rule amendment is to correct an error in the
15 2013 Big Game Regulations: The 2013 Big Game Regulations mistakenly lists
16 November 10, 2013 as the end date for the Maury-Hampton Butte” (236A) elk hunt.
17 However, for the 2013 hunting season the dates for the “Maury-Hampton Butte” (236A)
18 elk hunt should continue through November 15, 2013. This amendment is necessary to
19 correct the season dates for hunt 236A to include the additional five days.
20

21 **9. 635-011-0104**

22 **Non-Resident Uniformed Services Personnel May Purchase Licenses, Tags and**
23 **Permits at Resident Rates**

24 Adopted November 15, 2013: effective December 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
25 Amended rule authorizes non-resident members of the uniformed services, as defined by
26 ORS 497.006, to purchase licenses, tags, or permits at Oregon resident rates with the
27 exception of controlled hunt tags. Revisions are required by House Bill 2252 (2013).
28 Affected licenses, tags and permits go on sale December 1, 2013 and these rule
29 modifications are scheduled for consideration as permanent amendments at the Oregon
30 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, December 6, 2013.
31

32 **10. 635-005-0465**

33 **Season Opening for the Ocean Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery Delayed**

34 Adopted November 25, 2013: effective December 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
35 Amended rule delays the opening of the 2013 commercial ocean Dungeness crab fishing
36 season from December 1 until December 16, 2013 in accordance with the Tri-State
37 Memorandum-Of-Understanding and Preseason Testing Protocol.
38

39 Commissioner Webber said a couple of the temporary rules deal with dates on hunts that
40 are pretty quick coming up. How do you communicate that to the tag holders? Tom
41 Thornton, Game Program Manager, said they are very small hunts and staff was able to
42 contact those folks either by phone or a mailing to let them know that the additional time
43 was made available to them.
44

45 *Action: Commissioner Webber moved to adopt the administrative temporary rules*
46 *as set out in the agenda numbered 1 through 10. Commissioner Akenson*
47 *seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously by a vote of five.*

1
2 **PUBLIC FORUM.** No member of the public signed up for Public Forum.
3

4 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

5 Chair Levy asked for edits to the draft August 2 and September 6, 2013 Commission
6 minutes. Commissioner Akenson made edits to the draft September 6 minutes:

- 7
- 8 • Page 21, line 16, change "...you have worked in the past to support hatcheries..."
to "...**have you have worked** in the past to support hatcheries..".
 - 9 • Page 21, lines 17, change "...water issues related to moving opportunity.." to
10 "...water issues related to **more** opportunity..".
 - 11 • Page 28, line 29, change "...environmental issues..." to "...environmental
12 **groups**..".
- 13

14 Vice Chair Finley and Commissioner Akenson made edits to the draft August 2 minutes:

- 15
- 16 • Page 23, line 2, change the word "insert" to "**insert**".
 - 17 • Page 10, line 18, delete the extra word "to" in "...help us to work ~~to~~ together..." to
18 read "...help us to work together..".
- 19

20 *Action: Commissioner Webber moved to approve the minutes as corrected for the*
21 *August 2, 2013 meeting and the minutes as corrected for the September 6, 2013*
22 *meeting. Vice Chair Finley seconded the motion and the motion carried*
23 *unanimously by a vote of five.*

24 The draft October 4, 2013 Commission minutes were deferred to January.
25

26 **Exhibit B: ACCESS AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

27 Matthew Keenan, Access and Habitat (A&H) Program Coordinator, during a slide
28 presentation presented two projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board at their
29 October 15, 2013 meeting in Prineville, Oregon. He said the Columbia Plateau
30 Cooperative Habitat Initiative is a long term, ongoing project to improve upland game
31 bird and mule deer habitat around Heppner, Oregon. The grant request is for additional
32 supplies, materials and seasonal help to expand the effort on the ground for direct
33 habitat improvements. The estimated impact is over 5,000 acres for the next three
34 years. Keenan said the figures on slide "Columbia Plateau Cooperative Habitat Initiative"
35 (see bottom slide, page 1) differ from Attachment 2 in the Commission's packet. They
36 have been updated to reflect the actual \$45,000 that the Board approved. He said there
37 are no access acres shown here, but this project does expand hunting access indirectly.
38

39 Keenan said the Rogue Meadows Enhancement project is a long term, ongoing project
40 that will improve elk forage on critical calving grounds. Two of the parcels would be open
41 to public hunting access and two are not but these are surrounded by public lands that
42 do. Public hunters will benefit from the fertilizer being spread in the spring. Funds will be
43 used to purchase a portion of the fertilizer. Project cooperators will provide the remainder
44 of the fertilizer, equipment, and labor to apply the fertilizer. In total, 102 acres of elk
45 meadows will be fertilized to increase forage production and protein content. He said the
46 number of access acres is 25. The total cost is \$39,420, most of which comes from

1 project cooperators. The A&H funding request is \$16,000. Keenan said one board
2 member who voted no felt the cost was too high to spend on fertilizer.

3
4 Keenan said these projects would provide 25 acres of hunting access and expand
5 opportunities beyond those direct 25 acres. It would improve more than 5,000 acres of
6 wildlife habitat. The total project cost is \$636,946 with \$575,946 in Match Funds for a
7 total A&H Funds request before the Commission today of \$61,000.

8
9 **Public Testimony:** There was no public testimony.

10
11 *Action: Vice Chair Finley moved to approve the recommendation of the Access
12 and Habitat Board for project funding as presented to the Commission on
13 December 6, 2013. Commissioner Wolley seconded the motion and the motion
14 carried unanimously by a vote of five.*

15
16 **Exhibit C: COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN**

17 Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager, during a slide presentation provided an update
18 on cougar management and research activities since the Cougar Management Plan (the
19 Plan) was adopted in 2006. Thornton highlighted the Plan's five objectives:

- 20 • Objective 1: Manage for a cougar population that is at or above the 1994 level of
21 3,000 cougars statewide. Often misinterpreted as the maximum population
22 objective as if ODFW is going to manage down to that level. The intent of these
23 objectives is not to manage for a maximum level but to manage for conflict.
- 24 • Objectives 2, 3, 4: Manage cougar population to reduce human, human
25 safety/pet, and livestock conflicts.
- 26 • Objective 5: Manage cougar populations taking into consideration the population
27 management objectives for other game species that are those species plans.

28
29 Thornton said in 1990, the population was estimated at over 2,000 animals. In 1994
30 when Ballot Measure 18 (BM 18) was passed the population was estimated at 3,000.
31 That growth occurred when dogs could be used during open seasons. The current
32 estimated population is 5,900. Up until BM 18 in 1994, cougar tags were \$54 each for
33 limited hunts. The steep increase in tags sold since 1996 is reflective of the reduction in
34 price and that cougar tags were included in Sports Pac since 2000. In 2012, almost
35 54,000 tags were sold for an increase in harvest of about 60 animals. The success rate
36 without dogs was 0.05%.

37
38 Thornton said initially there were three Target Areas (TA):

- 39 1. Jackson Unit: 24 cougars removed (2006-2009) to address human safety.
- 40 2. Beulah Unit: 34 cougars removed (2007-2010) to address livestock conflicts.
- 41 3. Heppner Unit: 53 cougars removed (2006-2009) to increase elk calf to cow ratios
42 from ~16 calves per 100 cows to 29 calves per 100 cows in 2012.

43
44 Thornton discussed the current TA:

- 45 • Ukiah Wildlife Management Unit (WMU): intended to improve elk calf recruitment.
46 Elk populations below Management Objectives (MO) since 2004. Removed 89
47 cougars.

- 1 • Wenaha WMU: intended to improve elk calf recruitment. Elk populations below
2 MO for over 15 years. Removed 52 cougars in the last four years.
- 3 • Steens Mountain Unit. Mule deer populations below 60% of MO since 2000;
4 removed 54 cougars.
- 5 • Warner WMU: Mule deer populations below 60% of MO since 1998. Removed 27
6 cougars. Most of the removal is done by volunteer agents.

7
8 Thornton said staff is looking for units where the elk calf ratio has been at least 23 calves
9 per 100 cows for three years prior to that. Staff is also looking for populations that are
10 below MO. He said staff expects to complete their review of these last four units this
11 winter and will be back before the Commission soon. The core of research has been in
12 northeast (NE) and southwest (SW) Oregon. He discussed three major studies.

13
14 *Jackson Creek Cougar Study* provided data on the biology and life history of cougar and
15 found that adult male cats (three years plus) averaged 133 pounds while adults females
16 average 82 pounds. Adult male's home range averaged 206 square miles while a
17 female cougar averaged 97 square miles. The females were more tolerant of having
18 cougars within their home range.

19
20 *NE Nutrition/Predation Study.* Thornton said mortality in SW Oregon was 39% human-
21 related and 61% was by natural cause. In NE Oregon, 75% of mortality was human-
22 related and 25% was natural caused. From January 2002 through June 2008, staff radio-
23 collared 68 cougars. Calf survival was 40% during this study area and years. Staff
24 documented 232 calf mortalities and 73% of them were due to cougar predation. Cougar
25 Density Estimates are measured in density number of cougars per 100 kilometers
26 square. When broken down by square miles per cougar you can have up to one cougar
27 per nine square miles. With four cougars per 100 square kilometers the calf survival is
28 just over 30%. If you cut that density in half the calf survival goes up to over 50%.

29
30 *Mt. Emily Cougar Predation Study.* Predation rates and prey selection were based on
31 collars put on nine male and 16 female adult cougars. Staff used those collars to search
32 3,365 clusters of GPS locations. A cluster is an area where there are multiple locations in
33 a small area indicating that the cats remain in that location. Using those clusters they
34 found 1,213 prey items documented at 1,172 kill sites. Deer were 69%, elk was 31%,
35 and 5% were non-ungulate. Thornton said of the cougar killed deer 73% were mule
36 deer, 51% were unknown, and 27% were white-tailed deer. White-tailed deer were not
37 available in the home ranges of the cougar because they are in a different habitat.
38 Thornton said cougar-killed elk calves were three-quarters of the kills and 16% were true
39 adults. Staff discovered some adult male cougars occasionally were taking branch bulls.

40
41 Thornton said the overall kill rate year round was just over 1.03 ungulates taken per
42 week per adult cougar; 50 plus animals per year per adult. The males tended to be more
43 selective for elk; the females tended to be more selective for mule deer. The females
44 with kittens had some of the highest takes of prey rate and were less selective.

45
46 Director Elicker asked Dr. Dwaine Jackson, Wildlife Research Supervisor in SW Region
47 Program, author of the work in that region to comment on his SW Region studies.

1
2 Dr. Jackson said staff recently submitted some publications to scientific journals. The
3 density estimates changed dramatically between BM 18 going into effect and afterwards:

- 4 1. Prior to BM 18 there was more mortality from hunters or human-caused mortality.
5 After BM 18 the density of animals on the study area increased dramatically
6 because there wasn't that apparent reduction in the population by hunter harvest
7 or by human-caused mortality. Staff started seeing natural mortality kick in. A lot
8 of the mortality was caused by a nodular stomach worm in the cougar population
9 that had not been documented before. Staff is completing documentation on that.
- 10 2. When young cougars would disperse from the study area it was because of the
11 adult males being resident there. Some animals moved 80-to-100 miles. Of nine
12 young individual males that were dispersing none survived the dispersal period.
13 There was a lot of mortality of juvenile males running into adult males in
14 established territories.

15
16 Commissioner Webber said the 3,000 cougar level we adopted in the Plan is the
17 minimum population? Thornton said correct, the Plan calls for staying at or above that
18 level. Commissioner Webber asked if there has ever been adoption of an upper level;
19 we would have a bracket of what we actually want. Thornton said no, we have not set
20 an upper maximum number.

21
22 Commissioner Webber said we have information here about how the density applies to
23 the ungulate survival and other conflicts. Are the numbers for the quotas of zones based
24 on densities? Thornton said the zone, the quotas and the targets are based somewhat
25 on the density. We have estimates of density for different types of habitats that plays into
26 when we look at how to determine the number of animals to target for removal in a TA.
27 Staff is completing the Mt. Emily project, so when we come back before the Commission
28 to talk in more detail about TA that will include the new information.

29
30 Commissioner Akenson said there was high mortality from parasites and disease, e.g.,
31 the nodular stomach worm. What are the diseases that were found in dead cougars? Dr.
32 Jackson said the feline panleukopenia was most common. The nodular stomach worms
33 were building to such levels within the intestines that they were burrowing through the
34 stomach lining and causing enteritis and the cats were dying from infection.

35
36 Commissioner Akenson asked how cougars get stomach worms; is that widespread. Dr.
37 Jackson said we do not know. It had not been documented prior to the work we were
38 doing. There are two subspecies of nodular stomach worm. Somehow an outbreak
39 occurred on our study area during the time that we were examining the calves.
40 Commissioner Akenson said does that appear to be density dependent? Dr. Jackson
41 said that would be his initial assumption, yes.

42
43 Commissioner Akenson said where do you see the needs on future research for
44 cougars? Dr. Jackson said the relationships of ungulates and cougar populations and
45 the interactions of those cougar populations with other resident large carnivores,
46 particularly bear and wolves in NE Oregon. He said looking also at the competing
47 predators and their impact on ungulate populations.

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Director Elicker asked Dr. Jackson to explain submitting subject studies for publication including peer review from other scientists that work on ungulates and large predators.

Dr. Jackson said it depends on the individual journal that you submit your manuscripts to. NE and SW staff submitted a manuscript to the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. The journal editor sends it out to four or five well known ungulate and/or carnivore specialists around the world that are well known for evaluation of manuscripts and previous research. They evaluate the research and whether it is scientifically sound and then make recommendations to the journal editor on whether the publication should be accepted. The editor also weighs in on the manuscript before it is published.

Public Testimony:

David Walp Springfield, Oregon	David Walp said cougars play a part in the population decrease in deer and elk on public lands. A trapper in Oregon since 1957, he said it is rare to trap a cougar. Six years ago he caught a small cougar in a bobcat trap, which he released. Two years ago he caught an emaciated female cougar in a trap outside Springfield and then two days later he encountered another cougar; both times he called a biologist who came out. Last spring he went to a smaller trap because he is seeing cougar sign on public land. He caught two cougar last spring but they were able to pull away. He believes he is catching these cougars because they are hungry. The decrease in deer and elk on public lands is causing these animals to do more foraging than they might have. Walp suggested: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. With the increase in cougar population, if he has a cougar tag he should be able to keep that cougar that he catches incidental to the other animals. You are not meeting your quotas.2. With the budgetary constraints pulling a biologist off of his every day job to take care of something like this to deal with is ridiculous. He said if we could get clear cutting back to develop forage for deer and elk, the animals would be better off and have food and the state and counties would get more money.
Al Elkins Wilsonville, Oregon	Al Elkins, Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), left the meeting but left written testimony.
Joe Ricker Salem, Oregon	Joe Ricker, OHA Board Chairman, said he represented 10,000 members. OHA continues to support the Plan and the use of best science available to manage cougars, but thinks that emotional, social, and political concerns appear to be preventing actions to protect many other species. The predation and decline of big game herds are major concerns

	<p>for the hunting community that pay for most of the wildlife management. OHA's concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODFW is using the best science available but needs to continue to develop modeling techniques to improve population estimates at a more refined level with the goal of management at the WMU level. Deer and elk herds are below MO's in most WMU, predation is a major concern. • Better refined modeling would provide better management of cougars and prey species. • TA's for management of depredation of big game animals and to address damage issues are a critical part of cougar management. Better modeling would provide for better means to address these issues. • TA's need to be expanded to address those WMU where game animals are below MO if predation is identified as a contributing factor or if the big game animals are at a level where a "predator pit" is identified. <p>Ricker said OHA supports the use of volunteer agents as a cost cutting measure. OHA has several questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the science support the population of 3,000 cougars in Oregon or is there science that supports some other number of cougars? • Should there be cougar de-emphasis areas where cougar populations will not be tolerated like there are for other game animals, e.g., major metropolitan areas. If so, should these be removed from the cougar management zones when determining population densities? • There are established MO for other big game animals. Should there be MO for cougars in each zone? • With increased numbers of cougars in Oregon, should the quotas be adjusted based on this population?
<p>George Houston Sandy, Oregon</p>	<p>George Houston, past president at Oregon Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS), said FNAWS approves of the Plan and ODFW's methodology; it is sound. FNAWS would like to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODFW continue to manage cougars in relation to elk, calf, deer, and fawn mortalities and survival. • ODFW add Big Horn Sheep interaction with cougars, like Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico who are monitoring big horn sheep and predation. • Continue to look at cougar ungulate prey-based interaction. • Spend additional added time to looking at additive

	<p>predation of wolves, bear, and cougar as it interacts with the ungulate prey base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued enhanced cougar population modeling and fine tuning that also speaks to hunter opportunity and lost hunter opportunity due to tag reduction. • FNAWS is interested in what the cougar population is doing in south central Oregon because in talking to ODFW on the ground biologists a lot of Big Horn Sheep herds are having problems with predation. Would like to see ODFW put some resource into continual monitoring and study there. They have peer reviewed documentation of cougars taking Big Horn Sheep in that particular location and tag numbers have been modified because of those challenges. He said maybe consider adding a new cougar TA in south central Oregon and in Lake and Harney Counties to be able to do something about that challenge.
<p>Dave Wiley Sublimity, Oregon</p>	<p>Dave Wiley represented the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). He said RMEF supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODFW in its cougar management plan; it is using the best science. They believe that additional research would be helpful. • The development of cougar modeling. • TA's. Like Houston and Ricker, RMEF would suggest that MO for cougars be considered in concert with MO for deer, elk, and Big Horn Sheep. In that regard, also MO for bears would be appropriate.
<p>Scott Beckstead Sutherlin, Oregon</p>	<p>Scott Beckstead, Senior Oregon Director of Humane Society of United States (HSUS), distributed written testimony and said he was an author of BM 18, and two years later the campaign director to defeat Ballot Measure 34 that would have repealed BM 18. He discussed what the voters wanted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of Oregonians are not necessarily opposed to hunting or cougar hunting. There is a strong humane ethic in Oregon, we love animals and want to protect animals. A majority do oppose hunting methods that they believe are unnecessarily cruel and unsporting. • The value choice. Voters do not want packs of radio collared dogs chasing wild predators across the landscape where they can be shot a point blank range or where bloody fights happen between these predators and dogs. He asked, is the science that ODFW is using complementing that social value choice or is it at odds with or is there any incongruity with the value choices that Oregon voters made and the science that is being used?

	<p>Beckstead said HSUS encourages the Commission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide opportunities for public comment. • Continue with ODFW to allow opportunity for scientific peer review. It is important to have the best science and information available in making the right choices for cougars and Oregon voters who support the protection of cougars from unnecessary cruelty. The report by ODFW biologists shows that the best cougar managers out there are the big dominate Tom cougars that keep the population in check. As top cougar biologists have noted, when you remove those big dominant males you create a vacuum and opportunity for cougar populations to unnaturally expand. The most unsuccessful cougars in those vacuum areas are pushed to the outer fringes of those zones into areas where they are more likely to cause problems. <p>Beckstead said HSUS's main problem is the use of volunteer houndsmen as state agents to remove entire populations or to set MO numbers from geographic zones. HSUS believes this constitutes a violation of BM 18 which was written so individual cougars causing problems by getting too close to population areas or causing problems with livestock can be removed with the use of hounds. Voters do not want the entire population of cougars subjected to this kind of practice. HSUS is opposed to the Oregon Plan because it allows for indiscriminate killing of cougars in geographic zones with the use of hounds.</p>
<p>Karen Brokken Tigard, Oregon</p>	<p>Karen Brokken, public member and resident of Oregon since 1966, said she has followed this issue and continues to vote in Oregon. Today social media keeps the public updated on this issue and she discusses this with other people who voted like she did. She said a lot of them could not be here today but they want to know how this is going. As a voter, Brokken reminded the Commission of how the state of Oregon voted. She said the hunting of problem cats it seems it is because of predation on elk populations so they could be large enough for hunters to continue hunting them. So, what constitutes a problem cat? How will hunting affect it? Will it increase the problem of problem cats? She wants to know more about hunting methods that would be used and how that will affect the cat population. Whether that will increase the problems or remove problem cats?</p>

1 Chair Levy asked Tom Thornton to address the issues in Scott Beckstead's letter.

2
3 Thornton said Beckstead stated well the core of his letter which is the opposition to the
4 use of volunteer agents for TA operations. They support the use of it for removing
5 individual animals but not for removing animals out of a selected area for a more general
6 reduction of conflicts or to meet another goal in that area.

7
8 Chair Levy asked how does staff make those decisions for a TA. Thornton said
9 consideration of a TA starts at the district level, goes through the region, and then comes
10 to the Wildlife Division. In the Plan tables lay out the level of conflicts. For the 2006 Plan,
11 it looked at what occurred in 1994: the status of cougars and levels of conflicts and used
12 that as a baseline. If conflicts increased you could consider a TA to address that and
13 reduce the conflicts down to 1994 levels. The criteria for mule deer are populations
14 below 60% of MO or declining by 20% over five years. When cougars prey on elk they
15 hit the calves very heavy. By monitoring the calf recruitment you can get a handle on
16 what predation is doing to that population. He said staff looks at the damage that is
17 occurring and the number of animals taken not by hunting. These are all thresholds that
18 indicate the population and conflicts have increased and ODFW considers stepping in
19 with a TA to address the problem in that area.

20
21 Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, said it is not the intent of ODFW
22 to take out a large number of cougars unless there is some scientific basis behind that;
23 whether elk recruitment or public safety issues. It is an adaptive management tool that
24 we utilize. Based on the work going on now, OFDW will step back, look at what kind of
25 response we had (particularly with elk and mule deer numbers) and determine whether
26 there are other units potentially that we would utilize this or not.

27
28 Chair Levy said as a producer along with others she has noticed in the last five years
29 they are having more daily interactions with cougars between the cattle and sheep. They
30 are being seen specifically in Mt. Emily area. It is a human safety issue when cats come
31 in around sheep bedded down at night and shepherders are walking around.

32
33 Vice Chair Finley said he read that House Bill (HB) 2971 (2007) allowed ODFW to
34 develop the rules necessary to appoint individuals as agents. BM 18 outlawed the
35 pursuit and hunting of cougars by dogs. Did HB 2971 provide authority for ODFW to use
36 dogs assigned to their agents? Thornton said yes, the statute did allow for the limited
37 use of dogs under conditions and did refer to agents but the modification in 2007 clarified
38 ODFW's authority to appoint agents. Staff developed protocol for how to do that. Vice
39 Chair Finley said it addressed the authority for dogs. Thornton said yes.

40
41 Director Elicker asked Deputy Director Curt Melcher to address volunteer agent training.

42
43 Deputy Director Melcher said the original BM 18 language did allow that ODFW could
44 still use hounds for agency business. The Commission adopted the Cougar Plan which
45 included language about utilizing cougar TA to manage populations where we had
46 specific issues. The bill passed in 2007 clarified ODFW's ability to use volunteer agents
47 because while the statute said we could use agents, it was not clear whether we had the

1 authority to appoint agents. Then the Commission adopted very rigorous administrative
2 rules for the criteria in terms of what it takes to become an agent.

3
4 Commissioner Akenson asked if data collection is still occurring in those TA done with
5 cougar removal to see what happens afterwards in cougar numbers and the affect on
6 ungulates. Thornton said yes. The first TA initiated in 2006 went through 2009. Staff is
7 still looking at how the cougar and ungulate populations are going to interact.

8
9 Commissioner Akenson said is it mainly the affect on the ungulate population or do you
10 actually have information on cougar density? Thornton said we monitor the cougar
11 population and take samples from all of the animals that are taken and use that to model
12 the population at the zone level. We can see there if the densities for the entire zone are
13 going up but we really don't have enough information to look at a particular TA.

14
15 Commissioner Akenson asked when the Plan will be formally updated. Will the
16 Commission get informal updates in the near future? Thornton said he has not heard an
17 exact date. Because the agency carnivore biologist was no longer with ODFW he didn't
18 envision a major plan revision until after that position is refilled.

19
20 Commissioner Akenson referred to Attachment 2 – Staff Summary, page 7, and asked if
21 the *stochastic population model* had been completed. Will you compare that to the
22 density dependent model and population? Thornton said it has not been completed. Staff
23 continues to work with the professor that is working on it for ODFW. Once completed,
24 staff will see if the trends are similar and what the actual numbers look like.

25
26 Commissioner Wolley said Beckstead mentioned the concern about the cruelty in terms
27 of interaction of dogs and cougars. Does the extensive training of the agents make any
28 difference in terms of how skilled those agents are once the dog and cougar interaction
29 occurs? Thornton said in the selection for volunteer agents district staff will interact with
30 them as they go through training for firearm use, safety, and CPR. We do not train their
31 dogs but talk about the appropriate use of dogs. We look more at the experience of the
32 individual and their dogs to minimize the battles between dogs and cougars.

33
34 Dr. Jackson said the interaction of hounds and cougars depends on the habitat in which
35 you are chasing the individual cougar in and individual cougars will respond differently.
36 During the research, staff documented the response rate of what a cougar does when
37 chased by hounds. It is an extremely variable type of situation that is very difficult to
38 control. People with trained hounds have a huge amount of money invested in that
39 animal, \$5,000-to-\$15,000, so they do not want that hound to interact with a cougar.

40
41 Deputy Director Melcher said the original cougar agent bill would have sunset in January
42 2014. Last Session, we had a bill that extended the sunset for five years and allowed us
43 to continue the program. When you have hounds with a high dollar value it is in no one's
44 interest, particularly the owner, to have an interaction with cougars.

45
46 Chair Levy referred to Attachment 2 – Staff Summary, page 12, Table 6 – Expenditures
47 and said you're paying other hunters to do the hunting and not paying volunteer agents

1 to go out and do this. Can you change this? The cost is pretty exorbitant. Thornton said
2 for the initial three TA it cost \$328,000 to take 111 cats, almost \$3,000 per cougar. For
3 the current TA we spent about \$139,000 to take 218 cats or about \$650 per cat. We are
4 very aware of the cost so using volunteer agents can help reduce that cost.

5
6 Deputy Director Melcher added that ODFW is more efficient in adding cougar TA and
7 has lowered the costs. Under current law the model is still one where we don't have the
8 ability to let people pay us to go do this work because they would no longer be our agent
9 but our customer. Short of changing the current statute if we are implementing cougar
10 TA we have to either hire agents or at least reimburse volunteer agents for their activities
11 as opposed to members of the hunting public paying us.

12
13 Chair Levy said can we change that? Our budget gets tighter every year. Deputy Director
14 Melcher said each legislative session proposed bills would have in some form allowed to
15 some degree private hunting with hounds for cougars. We continue to look at any
16 legislation proposed and to talk with the Governor's Office about any alternatives.

17
18 Vice Chair Finley noted RMEF and OHA's comments and said most of these are directed
19 at lost opportunity for legal and healthy hunting by individuals. Director Elicker discussed
20 wildlife underpasses and overpasses. This has been slow to be adopted in the United
21 States. He put them in as Superintendent of Everglades National Park to protect the
22 Florida panthers and they really, really work. He noticed in the High Desert Region's
23 Field Report an 84% deer/vehicle collision reduction on Highway 97. He said this is just
24 wasted wildlife that could be legally hunted or perform other wildlife values and be visible
25 under the statute for non-consumptive wildlife management. In a 2005 study there was
26 1.5 million traffic accidents with wildlife collisions; a \$1.1 billion cost. We should find
27 every opportunity when we are looking at Oregon or federal highway funds to get these
28 things adjusted or adapted so we don't have this waste in Oregon. We're talking about a
29 mortality sink from the hunting community here and there is a way to offset both that and
30 the eco-system – just cut out the waste.

31
32 **Exhibit D: 2014 COMMERCIAL GROUND FISH, RECREATIONAL GROUND FISH,
33 AND FISH DEALER RECORDS, AND REPORTS REGULATIONS**

34 Brett Rodomsky, Nearshore Resources Assistant Project Leader with Marine Resources
35 Program, presented four issues.

36
37 *Issue 1 – State Commercial Nearshore Logbook Report.* Rodomsky said 52 black and
38 blue rockfish permits were issued in 2012; 50 of those permitted vessels made landings.
39 There were 70 black and blue rockfish permits with a Nearshore endorsement issued
40 and 69 of those vessels made landings. He said 51 vessels from the Open Access
41 fishery (no permit) made landings of Nearshore species in 2012. Staff successfully
42 managed the fishery by staying within landing caps for all species and species groups.

43
44 *Issue 2 – State Commercial and Recreational Groundfish Regulations.* Rodomsky said
45 two caps are annually set for the Commercial Nearshore Fishery: 1) harvest caps for all
46 mortality including discards; and 2) landing caps only for landings and no discards. Staff
47 recommends no changes to annual caps for the commercial fishery. Action must be

1 taken to either apply the 2013 specifications to 2014, or remove the annual condition for
2 setting specifications that insure that the commercial fisheries are reviewed by the
3 Commission on a regular basis. This may increase the staff and Commission workload
4 unnecessarily. Staff recommends removing the annual condition for setting harvest
5 specifications for the commercial fishery. This would result in all current regulations
6 applying to the fishery going forward unless changed by future Commission action. Staff
7 will continue to conduct public outreach annually and will bring recommendations for
8 changes to the Commission as they arise.

9
10 Bi-monthly vessel limits are set annually and apply to commercial vessels with permits.
11 Staff recommends retaining the current bi-monthly limits across the board for these
12 species to provide the same opportunity while staying within landing caps, and
13 recommends removing the annual setting of management measures for the commercial
14 fishery. This would result in all current regulations applying to the fishery going forward
15 unless changed by future Commission action.

16
17 Rodomsky said the recreational cabezon fishery closed early 2008 through 2012. For
18 2013 staff extended the fishery through temporary rule. Staff recommends a July 1
19 through December 31 cabezon season while retaining the one fish sub-bag limit, and
20 removing the annual condition for setting management measures to eliminate
21 unnecessary work load for staff and the Commission. This would result in all current
22 regulations applying to the fishery going forward unless changed by future Commission
23 action. Harvest caps and landing caps for the recreational fishery are also set annually.
24 Staff proposes no change to harvest caps or landing caps.

25
26 *Issue 3 – Federal Permit Number Requirement on Limited Entry Fixed Gear Fishery Fish*
27 *Receiving Tickets.* There is no state rule requiring vessel operators in the limited entry
28 fixed gear sablefish fishery to provide federal permit numbers to preparers of fish tickets
29 to associate landings with specific permits. He said this impedes the accounting of
30 landings against fishery allocations which leads to uncertainty in recordkeeping while
31 limiting the enforceability of individual fishing quotas. Staff recommends adopting this
32 rule requiring vessel operators to provide federal permit numbers to preparers of fish
33 tickets to be recorded on fishery receiving tickets for landings made in this fishery.

34
35 *Issue 4 - Other Regulation Changes.* Add eco-system component species to the
36 definition of highly migratory species to provide consistency in Oregon Administrative
37 Rules species identified in federal fishery management plans. Update address and
38 references and correcting redundant language for consistency with existing statutes.

39
40 **Public Testimony:** There was no public testimony.

41
42 Commissioner Akenson said how do this year's cabezon harvest numbers compare to
43 past years with regard to the season change? Rodomsky said as of September 2013
44 the numbers indicate that cabezon landings are at 61% of the landing cap which is why
45 we extended the fishery past September 30 to December 31.

1 Commissioner Akenson asked why the Commission should remove the annual update.
2 If staff proposes a change would it come to the Commission or would staff make those
3 regulation changes on their own? Rodomsky said to save time for both the staff and the
4 Commission. We will still conduct annual public outreach when considering changes and
5 would not make any changes unless they came before the Commission.
6

7 Commissioner Akenson asked if federal regulations for groundfish were updated
8 annually or were they longer term. Rodomsky said federal specifics are set on a bi-
9 annual cycle by Pacific Fishery Management Council. The current biennium is 2013-
10 2014. Commissioner Akenson said if there are new federal specifications, would the
11 Commission still hear those if not on an annual cycle? Gway Kirchner, Marine
12 Resources Program Assistant Manager, said when we take concurrent action we would
13 come before you and reference those with the federal changes. Commissioner Akenson
14 said instead of annually can we do it every other year unless there are additional
15 changes proposed on those off years? Kirchner said you could. We still have to come
16 before the Commission every year with a logbook report that is required by statute.
17

18 Commissioner Akenson referred to *Attachment 3 – Draft OARs*, page 8, line 307 about
19 requiring a late fee if a completed permit is not submitted by January 1 of the permit year
20 sought. She said on line 310 it should say “*If the owner of a vessel with a permit does*
21 *not timely submit a **complete** renewal application...*”, add the word “**complete**”.
22

23 Kirchner said the language staff provided to the rule matches verbatim that which is in
24 statute. Legal Counsel Steve Sanders said so even if a person does not submit any
25 application at all we are still obligated to notify them for this fishery. Commissioner
26 Akenson said but what if they submit an incomplete application? Legal Counsel Sanders
27 replied we would still be obligated to notify them and give them the opportunity to
28 complete an application within the extra time by payment of the extra fee.
29

30 Commissioner Webber referred to OAR 635-006-0210 Fish Receiving Ticket – All Fish in
31 *Attachment 3 – Draft OARs*, page 11, subsection “(e) *For groundfish harvested in the*
32 *limited entry fixed gear fishery, the federal limited entry fixed gear permit number*
33 *associated with the landing or portion of landing, which shall be provided by the vessel*
34 *operator to the preparer of the ticket.*” He said if that federal permit number is not on the
35 ticket the fish buyer can still issue a ticket without it? Are they not able to buy the fish if
36 they cannot issue the ticket?
37

38 Kirchner said they would still issue the ticket. Staff receives tickets that have missing
39 areas and we are able to ask for that information. If that was not on the ticket it would
40 become a violation that could be assessed against the vessel operator. OSP Lieutenant
41 David Anderson said that is correct. The vessel operator is responsible for signing the
42 fish ticket and for the accuracy on the ticket related to what was on the vessel. The
43 permits are required on the vessel so the vessel operator should be aware of what
44 permits are assigned to that vessel. If the permit number is not there and that information
45 is forwarded to OSP we would follow up on why that information was not on the ticket.
46

1 Commissioner Wolley asked if the draft motion in the packet encapsulates everything
2 that staff wanted the Commission to cover. Legal Counsel Sanders said yes, we have
3 made all the corrections and additions now.

4
5 *Action: Commissioner Wolley moved to approve the recommended commercial*
6 *groundfish, recreational groundfish, and fish ticket regulations as proposed by*
7 *staff in Attachment 3, and the housekeeping changes in Divisions 004, 006, and*
8 *039 as shown in Attachment 3. Commissioner Webber seconded the motion and*
9 *the motion carried unanimously by a vote of five.*

10
11 **Exhibit E: NON-RESIDENT UNIFORMED SERVICES PERSONNEL ANGLING**
12 **LICENSES**

13 Michael Gauvin, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager, said House Bill 2252 passed
14 by the 2013 Oregon Legislature allows non-resident members of the uniformed services
15 to purchase licenses, tags, and permits at Oregon resident rates. This was adopted by
16 temporary rule in November 2013 so ODFW could begin sales on December 1, 2013.
17 Implementation of HB 2252 is not anticipated to affect hunting of fishing opportunities for
18 Oregon residents. He said HB 2252 is a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by our
19 uniformed services personnel. Gauvin said staff recommends adopting the non-resident
20 uniformed services regulations as proposed in the OARs shown in *Revised Attachment 3*
21 *– Amendment to Rules*, and to adopt the proposed changes to the 2014 sport fishing
22 regulations as shown in *Attachment 4 – 2014 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations*.

23
24 **Public Testimony:** There was no public testimony.

25
26 *Action: Commissioner Wolley moved to adopt the recommended Non-Resident*
27 *Uniformed Services regulations as proposed by staff in Revised Attachment 3,*
28 *and changes for the 2014 angling regulations as shown in Attachment 4 allowing*
29 *for non-resident members of the uniformed services to purchase licenses, tags,*
30 *and permits at resident rates, except for the purpose of purchasing controlled hunt*
31 *tags. Commissioner Akenson seconded the motion and the motion carried*
32 *unanimously by a vote of five.*

33
34 **Expenditure and Budget Report**

35 Director Elicker referred to Deputy Director Debbie Colbert's Financial Report and said
36 Department wide, expenditures are within budgeted projections. The 2013-15 biennium
37 is the final biennium under the six year fee increase that was effective January 2010.
38 Fee adjustments follow a predictable pattern of front loaded "surplus" revenue that is
39 overtaken by inflating expenditures during the life of the fee adjustment. He said since
40 this is the final biennium of the six year period, working capital will reach the lowest
41 levels. The working capital that ODFW keeps each biennium is \$13 million with an
42 absolute minimum being \$10 million. Our monthly payroll is \$7 to \$8 million. Director
43 Elicker said when we first put the fee increase in place the first few years the agency was
44 in good shape because we had extra revenue as a cushion. Toward the end of the six
45 year cycle it is more challenging to make the monthly payroll. Working capital is going to
46 be less than originally planned since the Legislature fund shifted a number of programs
47 from General Fund to license revenues during the last several biennia. Staff is planning a

1 six year cycle matching the existing expenditures versus revenues. During that time we
2 have had new unexpected and unplanned for expenditures.

3
4 Director Elicker said about half of our funds comes from contracting with federal
5 agencies such as NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corp of
6 Engineers, and BPA. We work under contract and essentially “float” these expenses for
7 eight to nine months before we get reimbursed. When we are flush, fronting \$8 to \$10
8 million for a federal agency in a 12 month span is not a problem, but now that we are not
9 flush it is a challenge. He said we contacted NOAA Fisheries yesterday to say we cannot
10 float a huge, nine month expenditure for Mitchell Act expenditures and asked them to
11 pay in much more timely way.

12
13 Deputy Director Curt Melcher said staff reports monthly to the Commission on revenues,
14 projected expenditures, and the projected ending balance. Because of large receivables
15 with federal agencies, being in the last two years of the current fee cycle, and the cyclical
16 license revenues (see page 2) even though we project it looks good long term we still
17 have short term cash flow issues. Making payroll each month is \$7 to \$8 million plus
18 there are other bills to operate ODFW’s programs. As a result, we are:

- 19 • Asking federal agencies to be more timely in their payments on grants and
20 contracts.
- 21 • Taking management actions internally:
 - 22 ➤ Next week announcing a hiring freeze to help manage these short term cash
23 flows.
 - 24 ➤ Suspend all non-essential expenditures not mission critical for next 18 months.
 - 25 ➤ Asking staff to not travel except for essential business.

26
27 Chair Levy said we are legislatively required to meet in each congressional district once
28 a year. Can we curb the Commission’s travel? Can we do that for a short term period or
29 have it fixed legislatively and then utilize “GoTo Meeting” conference calling?

30
31 Director Elicker said the Director’s Office looked at the Commission’s 2014 meeting
32 calendar. We are scheduled to meet nine times, so if we could take one or two meetings
33 and do a conference call instead that would be a significant savings. The Commission’s
34 budget is not a huge expenditure but for all our staff and constituents we are looking
35 everywhere to keep our costs down. He promised to follow up with Chair Levy and then
36 have a full discussion with the Commission at their January meeting.

37
38 Deputy Director Melcher noted a few staff did not attend the meeting today; some due to
39 the weather. He said we would ask the Commission to approve for the short term having
40 the region Field Reports delivered in writing and not have our region managers drive six
41 hours each way to deliver a 10-minute report.

42
43 Chair Levy said that was an expense we could have cut from the budget a long time ago.

44
45 Deputy Director Melcher said on the 2014 schedule we do have a meeting in Enterprise
46 and a meeting in Medford jointly planned with the California Fish and Game

1 Commission. We will look at deleting other road meetings that cost the agency more
2 than meeting at our own building.

3
4 Director Elicker said he had the pleasure of sitting next to Mike Sutton, President of the
5 California Fish and Game Commission on Wednesday. Sutton sits on the Wild Salmon
6 Center Board and Wednesday he attended an event where Governor Kitzhaber spoke to
7 wild salmon advocates in Portland. Mr. Sutton said he and the California Commission
8 are very excited to meet with this Commission next year in October.

9
10 **ADJOURN**

11 Chair Levy said the next Commission's meeting is Friday, January 10, 2014 in Salem.
12 She will not be at that meeting and asked Vice Chair Finley to chair that meeting.

13
14 Commissioner Wolley said a few months ago Captain Jeff Samuels extended an
15 invitation to Commissioners for a ride along. He rode along with OSP Trooper
16 Schoenberg with the Clackamas Unit and was very impressed. After receiving a tip, they
17 uncovered an illegal bear camp with an illegal platform and bait. Commissioner Wolley
18 said our wildlife troopers are community relations masters. He was extremely impressed
19 with Trooper Schoenberg in the way he interacted with the public and his friendly
20 manner. He was non-confrontational regardless of the suspected illegal activity and
21 when approaching people on the road. Commissioner Wolley thanked Captain Jeff
22 Samuels for the offer and recommended that the other Commissioners do a ride along if
23 they have the opportunity.

24
25 Chair Levy adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.