



March 6, 2015

Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission – March 2015 Meeting, Salem, OR

RE: 2015 OFIC Voluntary Annual Deer & Elk Damage Survey Results

Chair Finley, Commissioners and Director Melcher,

OFIC has been conducting a voluntary survey of its members for deer and elk damage in plantations since 1986. Since the survey is voluntary in nature, and the respondents are not always the same or the number of acres planted in the same general vicinities, the attached data should not be seen as representing traditional “trend” data. It is never-the-less interesting and does demonstrate browse damage from deer and elk remains a serious and often costly detriment in complying with reforestation laws, sustainability goals and return on investment expectations of owners or shareholders of forestland.

The 2015 Survey Results are again being shared a month earlier than usual as the Wildlife Division suggested in 2010 that having this information earlier would provide a greater opportunity of being considered when staff set annual management objectives (MO’s). After reviewing the level of damage, I’m confident you will understand forest landowner’s appreciation and reliance on the variety of tools available to address and minimize damage losses. I believe this is also of relevant information as it pertains to the Landowner Preference Program and how it is used to address damage issues for our members with significant acreage and habitat.

Our members continue to see the hunting community as important partners in managing damage through recreational activities. It is unfortunate that under some conditions such as wildfire risks, safety issues with active harvest activities, meth labs, marijuana grows, illegal dumping and other bad behaviors by some, access must be restricted on occasion as a landowner’s only “Prevention” tool. OFIC continues to work with ODFW and Department of Forestry staff to communicate both fire danger and access restrictions in seasonal public information messages from both agencies.

Summary of the attached data compared to 2014 results: (Reminder, based only on voluntary submissions for the two years through 3/2/2015),

- 31 Surveys – 6 more than 2014 (+19%)
- Number of Complaints increased 360 to 1,515 (+31%)
- Number of acres increased 17,314 to 74,251 (+30%)
- Number of Deer complaints increased 220 to 579 (+61%)
- Number of Elk Complaints increased 140 to 936 (+18%)

- Number of “Severe” acres increased 6,294 to 17,067 acres (+58%)
- Number of “Moderate” acres increased 11,022 to 57,186 acres (+24%)

Estimated damage (financial loss at establishment, not at final rotation) is only calculated to reflect additional investments where “Severe” damage occurred. The costs include: seedlings, labor and prevention method costs, (usually tubing) to keep the damage from reoccurring. Damage estimates for “Severe” units is estimated at \$6,161,187 on 17,067 acres.

There is no financial estimate of the loss on the additional 57,186 acres in the “Moderate” category, but at a conservative 25% of Severe estimates it would add an additional \$5.16 million in initial establishment damage.

Top 3 counties for Deer damage, 2015 (in order): Lane, Douglas, and Jackson
2014 (in order): Lane, Douglas, and Clackamas
2013 (in order): Douglas, Coos, and Linn)

Top 3 counties for Elk damage, 2015 (in order): Lincoln, Coos, and Clatsop
2014 (in order): Coos, Lincoln, and Curry
2013 (in order): Coos, Curry, and Douglas

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with the Commission and the Department staff. Our members appreciate the Department consideration of this information in the applicable forums to help reduce damage and increase hunter opportunities. We do encourage our members who submit information to share with their local wildlife biologist.

Sincerely,



Mike Dykzeul
Director, Forest Protection

Cc: OFIC Animal Damage Committee
OFIC Forest Management Policy Committee

2015 - OFIC Plantation Damage Survey (2014 Damage)

Deer and Elk

County	Deer-Moderate	Severe	Acres	Elk-Moderate	Severe	Acres
Benton	6	10	658	0	1	45
Clackamas	49	13	2,355	39	4	1,581
Clatsop	7	9	1,106	69	31	5,081
Columbia	7	7	957	17	7	1,437
Coos	20	0	1,140	185	2	5,640
Curry	11	0	840	84	0	4,370
Douglas	58	7	3,087	24	11	1,652
Hood River	36	5	1,398	15	5	546
Jackson	26	17	3,044	15	5	1,790
Josephine	9	19	898	0	0	0
Lane	78	18	3,918	58	24	3,040
Lincoln	17	17	2,384	117	50	11,314
Linn	34	4	1,944	19	5	1,434
Marion	0	0	0	29	2	731
Multnomah	4	0	214	13	0	320
Polk	18	17	1,999	7	10	1,165
Tillamook	0	0	0	26	15	2,545
Umatilla	0	0	0	2	1	135
Union	0	0	0	0	7	235
Washington	15	10	1,046	13	6	1,752
Yamhill	27	4	1,550	13	5	900
Total	422	157	28,538	745	191	45,713

Acres	Deer	28,538	Complaints	Deer	579	Ave.	49.29
	Elk	45,713		Elk	936	Ave.	48.84
	Total	74,251		Total	1,515	Ave.	49.01

2015 Estimated Damage Values-Severe Units Only		2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Deer	49.29 ac X 157 Units = 7,739 ac. X \$361 = \$ 2,793,779	60	65	93	101	50	61
Elk	48.84 ac X 191 Units = 9,328 ac. X \$361 = \$ 3,367,408	159	133	258	182	74	76
Total Severe	348 Units 17,067 ac. \$6,161,187	\$3,770,550	\$3,164,641	\$5,835,449	\$5,202,427	\$1,640,557	\$1,889,097

17,067 acres "Severe"

57,186 acres "Moderate" **\$\$ Not estimated \$\$** (but at 25% of Severe cost would be an additional \$5.16 million)

Severe Acres = 23 % of total ac. reported 38 % of total - Deer 62 % of total - Elk

2015 Total Complaints			2014 Total Complaints		
	Acres	Complaints		Acres	Complaints
Deer	28,538	579 (38%)	Deer	18,359	359 (31%)
Elk	45,713	936 (62%)	Elk	38,578	796 (69%)
	74,251	1,515		56,937	1,155

Damage Value includes seedlings, labor and tubing increased by 3% annually, 2014 amount \$350/ac.

2015 - 31 Surveys Submitted

- 2014 - 25 Surveys Submitted
- 2013 - 23 Surveys Submitted
- 2012 - 29 Surveys Submitted
- 2011 - 25 Surveys Submitted
- 2010 - 22 Surveys Submitted
- 2009 - 18 Surveys Submitted