

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

At their June 5, 2015 meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) set tag numbers for 2015 big game seasons and approved, in principle, 2016 big game seasons. The Commission directed staff to prepare a proposal to allow lighted arrow nocks to be used when hunting game mammals for consideration at the October 9 Commission Meeting.

Staff will provide a draft copy of the publication, "2016 Oregon Big Game Regulations," which, if adopted, will become Oregon Administrative Rules by reference.

Contained within this packet are 2016 Oregon big game and western gray squirrel season dates, bag limits, and open areas; dates and location of cooperative travel management areas; statewide youth hunting opportunities; and other miscellaneous regulations.

In addition, the packet contains highlights from the June 2015 Commission meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Communication with local sports groups and other interested parties.
- Questions from other interested persons, including news media, were answered.
- Correspondence, both mail and email.
- Twenty-four public meetings to review staff proposals were held throughout the state during May. These proposals were presented in concept at the June Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

2016 Big Game and Western Gray Squirrel Hunting Regulations

ANALYSIS

Staff will propose formal adoption of the 2016 Big Game Regulations and associated Oregon Administrative Rules. The Commission adopted these proposals, in principle, at their June 2015 meeting except for regulations involving lighted arrow nocks.

Proposals include:

- Season dates and bag limits
- Changes to bag limits and hunt areas
- Deleted hunts and addition of new hunts
- Tag numbers and dates for 2016 spring bear hunts
- 2016 cougar quotas

Staff proposals also include changes or additions to recommendations made in June including:

- The use of lighted arrow nocks
- Further restricting the use of drones

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff proposals for 2016 big game seasons.
2. Amend staff proposals.
3. Reject staff proposals.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 010, 045, 060, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 075, and to adopt the document entitled "2016 Oregon Big Game Regulations" as proposed by staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon Filing