

1 *Department expenditures are within budget projections and available revenue. The*
2 *department met with Secretary of State (SOS) Audit Division in preparation for the*
3 *second phase of the SOS Performance Audit which will look at strategic issues. The*
4 *Audit Division is currently developing a plan for the framework portion of this phase and*
5 *anticipates completing the audit by the end of Summer 2015.*
6

7 **Legislative Update**

8 *Staff: Brett Brownscombe, Interim Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife*
9

10 *Provided a high level legislative report of current legislation including the fee bill, capital*
11 *construction sub-committee, and how things are progressing. There has been a very*
12 *large and engaged response from the public that cares about what the agency does and*
13 *what the commission is doing. Policy bills; HB2452 had moved forward; HB2042 relates*
14 *to a task force that would be established which will essentially be on how to develop a*
15 *long-term funding source. We are working on final amendments for that HB.*
16

17 **Discussion:**

18 **Commissioner Atkinson-** what is the legislature asking the department to do?
19

20 **Brett Brownscombe-** Being asked to address opportunity in correlation to a fee
21 increase and the added opportunity that is being given for that fee increase, related to
22 fishing and hunting. There were some concerns over the impacts of the proposed fee
23 increases would have a chilling effect on certain areas, like Charter fishing. We've been
24 asked to look at your fee structure and schedule and make some adjustments to that to
25 help reduce any upfront hit, or perceived hit, and help with making sure that areas being
26 affected are consistent and are not pushing people out.
27

28 **Commissioner Atkinson-** what is the perception we are chasing here?
29

30 **Brett Brownscombe-** Interest is coming from the legislature to see the Commission
31 take an active role and for this agency not to be in the same place in six years with a
32 large budget gap to fill. Also investigate ways to bring in non-consumptive users and
33 look at how much staff time is spent working on the issues at hand compared to other
34 agencies
35

36 **Commissioner Atkinson-** The idea of a task force to study long-term systematic
37 funding issues, I would like this Commission to be fully briefed on what those systematic
38 items are. That would enable us to possibly fix those issues and move forward.
39

40 **Commissioner Wolley-** Are you seeing any specific challenges moving the alternative
41 funding task force out of legislation?
42

43 **Brett Brownscombe-** No, not seeing specific challenges and is likely to move forward.
44

45 **Chair Finley -** The Commission and the department has a dual responsibility not only to
46 support fishing and hunting - trust responsibility to manage Oregon wildlife for future
47 generations, including the non-game responsibility. The legislature has provided the

1 responsibility to be a steward for upcoming generations of Oregonians and never
2 provided the funding for the non-game responsibility. The task force coming out for
3 HB2402, legislatures should understand that and address the non-game responsibility.
4 The fees should pay for the management of the taking of fish and wildlife; the trust
5 responsibility which the department has for future generations to inherit a bountiful
6 natural resource and ecosystem that is working belongs in the general fund.

7
8 **Director Melcher** - We have this very broad statutory responsibility direction that
9 relates to fish and wildlife along with very narrow statutory funding revenue. I am
10 confident that HB2402 will pass then we will start those discussions and how we
11 approach the funding piece with the statutory responsibilities that we have.

12 **Sport Fishing Regulations Streamlining**

13 *Staff: Mike Gauvin, Recreational Fisheries Program Manager*

14
15
16 *Mike Provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the streamlining process, goals, and*
17 *progress. This presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
18 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
19

20 **Sage-Grouse Update**

21 *Staff: Chip Dale, Malheur Watershed District Manager*

22
23 *Chip provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Oregon Sage-Con and Legislative*
24 *Direction.*

25 *This presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*

26 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
27

28 **Commissioner Akenson** – I've been involved with both the Land Conservation and
29 Development Commission (LCDC) and ODFW Rules Committee. The process is really
30 an outstanding way to come up with rules that work for everyone. The stakeholders
31 group has a diverse range of interest and they are working really hard on the details of
32 these rules to make sure it represents what the diverse groups of Oregon interests'
33 want for sage-grouse rules. Rest assured that the rules have been gone through in
34 great detail and we will have a really good product to look at and I'm pleased with the
35 way the system is going. It has been a very good process and the result will be that
36 Oregon won't be one of the states that will need to list the sage-grouse and the people
37 impacted by the sage-grouse will have more say.

38 **Discussion:**

39 **Commissioner Anderson**- Regarding the sage-grouse mitigation rule, whose
40 responsibility is it to analyze the business case in terms of what is too expensive for a
41 developer, etc? If it is the department's responsibility and if we have the expertise to do
42 that, how do we determine who will pay for all the consultation?
43
44

45 **Chip Dale** – For the cost benefit analysis, if it's going through a county process, the
46 county makes the final decision and that decision is based on what they have been
47 presented by the entity. If they are going into a certain habitat and the cost of

1 replacement is higher the entity will need to make the decision whether or not that is a
2 good business deal. The other side, if we don't come up with rules like this, and the US
3 Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists the sage-grouse the impact will be more related
4 to what goes on with the ranching industry because it will force the Bureau of Land
5 Management (BLM) to be much more rigorous with regards to their grazing practices
6 and regulations. If the county makes the decision to move forward with the development
7 it will be an increment against the 3% that will be allowed in that PAC.
8

9 **Commissioner Anderson** –We are setting the threshold and the counties will need to
10 work within the percentages that the department has set forth in rule. The final part of
11 that and it's a large scale project and it requires consultation from the department, is
12 there a way we will get compensated for that?
13

14 **Chip Dale** – My understanding is we're looking at getting some federal funds into the
15 budget at the district level to address that aspect. Currently we pay the staff that is
16 doing that work through licensing dollars. This would be a shift in funding to really
17 accommodate that need for a more appropriate source of funds.
18

19 **Director Melcher** –Yes, that is correct in that we are trying to secure federal funds for
20 our district staff. It depends on the project for example an energy project going through
21 the Energy Facility Sighting Council (EFSC); we do get reimbursed through EFSC for all
22 the consultation time spent on the project. If it's an energy project going through a
23 county process, we do not get currently reimbursed. It really depends on the type of
24 project and what process or entity it's being moved through.
25

26 **Commissioner Atkinson**- In your presentation some of the core areas you show are
27 more than 70% on federal ground, can the feds go over the top to make their own
28 rules?
29

30 **Chip Dale** – Through the Sage-Con process, we will be signing memorandum of
31 understanding's (MOU) with other state agencies; the BLM who is the major landowner
32 has already drafted their plan to address these issues and they are making the same
33 commitments.
34

35 **Commissioner Webber** – BLM is working hard to avoid the listing by the USFWS. We
36 are working with the BLM to create rules that the USFWS will find adequate?
37

38 **Chip Dale** – Sage-con process that was introduced over a year ago had the BLM at the
39 table, so we are all striving to come to some consensus on how to approach this whole
40 issue, not just the mitigation but all threats to the sage-grouse and the BLM is mirroring
41 that as well in their plan.
42

43 **Commissioner Atkinson** – I think that before we adopt rules, that we as a Commission
44 should write a preamble to these rules as a message to the BLM making our intent clear
45 that we are wanting to avoid the listing by adopting the rules and that we want a
46 “waiver” for lack of a better word, because I personally know how this issue is playing
47 out in Elko County, Nevada right now and we don't want Nevada's rules to apply to us.

1
2 **Commissioner Akenson** –The 4(d) rule deals with that; If the sage-grouse is listed
3 throughout the west, Oregon still could have a 4(d) designation since we have a plan
4 that has been approved by USFWS that does meet all of their needs so we can
5 continue to manage the sage-grouse through our state plan.

6
7 **Commissioner Buckmaster**- Will the length and severity of our drought conditions
8 have any impact on this plan?
9

10 **Chip Dale** – Will not have an impact on the plan; drought conditions will have an impact
11 on the birds. A lot of data is being gathered by collecting wings.
12

13 **Chair Finley** – Are the counties adopting ordinances that are adaptable to this plan?
14

15 **Chip Dale** – Land Conservation Development Commission (LCDC) develops a broader
16 base of rules that then the counties will need to go back and identify sage-grouse
17 habitat as goal five in the state land use planning. Those will come subsequent to the
18 LCDC Rules.
19

20 **Chair Finley** - Will the BLM be publishing federal rules to support this plan?
21

22 **Chip Dale** – I can't say if they have published rules; they have a drafted management
23 plan revision.
24

25 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

26 Director Melcher requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules. The 27
27 temporary rules were previously adopted by the director under his emergency action
28 authority.
29

30 **1) 635-023-0134**

31 **Snake River Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Hells Canyon Dam Opens May 32 2, 2015**

33 Adopted April 24, 2015: effective May 2, 2015 through September 30, 2015

34 This amended rule opens a spring Chinook fishery on the Snake River from Dug
35 Bar Boat Ramp upstream to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam beginning Saturday,
36 May 2, 2015 to coincide with the State of Idaho's regulations for this fishery.
37

38 **2) 635-006-0212**

39 **Commercial Sales of Dressed Salmon and Steelhead by Columbia River Treaty 40 Tribal Fishers Allowed**

41 Adopted April 27, 2015: effective May 1, 2015 through October 27, 2015

42 This amended rule allows the commercial sale of gilled and gutted Columbia River
43 salmon and steelhead caught by Treaty tribal members to wholesale fish dealers,
44 canners, and buyers. Modifications also require wholesale fish dealers, canners, and
45 buyers to report totals of fish purchased in round weights on the Fish Receiving Ticket
46 using a conversion factor of 1.17. This is a re-filing of the temporary rule filed on April 9,
47 2015. On April 24, 2015 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted
48 amendments to the permanent version of this rule. This re-filing incorporates those

1 amendments.

2
3 **3) 635-023-0125**

4 **Columbia River Recreational Season for Salmon, Steelhead and Shad Set**

5 Adopted April 30, 2015: effective May 2, 2015 through June 15, 2015

6 This amended rule allows the recreational harvest of adipose fin-clipped spring
7 Chinook salmon in the Hood River from April 15 through June 30, 2015. The Hood River
8 open area extends from the mouth to the mainstem confluence with the East Fork, and
9 the West Fork from the confluence with the mainstem upstream to the angling deadline
10 200 feet downstream of Punchbowl Falls. The daily bag limit is two adult adipose fin-
11 clipped salmon per day and five adipose fin-clipped jack salmon per day. All salmon that
12 do not have a healed clipped adipose fin must be released unharmed. All other limits
13 and restrictions remain unchanged from those listed in the **2015 Oregon Sport Fishing**
14 **Regulations** for the Hood River.

15
16 **4) 635-042-0022**

17 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for May 4, 2015**

18 Adopted April 30, 2015: effective May 4, 2015 through May 5, 2015

19 This amended rule authorizes a 14-hour non-Indian commercial spring Chinook
20 drift net fishery in the mainstem Columbia River to commence on Monday, May 4, 2015
21 from the mouth of the Columbia River upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). The
22 authorized fishing period begins at 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 4, 2015. Modifications are
23 consistent with action taken April 30, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments
24 of Fish and Wildlife in a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

25
26 **5) 635-042-0145, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180**

27 **2015 Commercial Spring Fisheries for Columbia River Select Areas Modified**

28 Adopted April 30, 2015: effective May 4, 2015 through July 30, 2015

29 These amended rules modify seasons previously set for spring commercial
30 fisheries in the Select Areas of the Columbia River. Rule revisions are consistent with
31 action taken April 30, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
32 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

33
34 **6) 635-041-0065**

35 **Columbia River Zone 6 and Tributary Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries Set**

36 Adopted May 5, 2015: effective May 5, 2015 through July 31, 2015

37 These amended rules allow sales of fish from a platform and hook-and-line fishery
38 in all of Zone 6 from 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 5 until further notice; a Yakama Nation
39 tributary fishery from 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 5 through 11:59 p.m. July 31, 2015; and a
40 gill net season in the Bonneville and The Dalles pools beginning at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday,
41 May 12 through 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2015 (3.5 days). Modifications are consistent
42 with action taken May 5, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
43 Wildlife, in cooperation with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, in a meeting of the
44 Columbia River Compact.

45
46 **7) 635-042-0022**

47 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for May 6, 2015**

48 Adopted May 5, 2015: effective May 6, 2015 through May 7, 2015

49 This amended rule authorizes a 14-hour non-Indian commercial spring Chinook
50 drift net fishery in the mainstem Columbia River to commence on Wednesday, May 6 at

1 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. Thursday, May 7, 2015 (14 hours) from the mouth of the
2 Columbia River upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). Modifications are consistent
3 with action taken May 5, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
4 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.
5

6 **8) 635-023-0125**

7 **Columbia River Recreational Season for Salmon, Steelhead and Shad Extended**

8 Adopted May 5, 2015: effective May 6, 2015 through June 15, 2015

9 This amended rule sets a season for recreational spring Chinook, steelhead and
10 shad on the Columbia River mainstem downstream of Bonneville Dam for May 9 and
11 May 16 through June 15, 2015. The rule also extends the ongoing spring Chinook
12 fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam through Sunday May 10, 2015. Modifications are
13 consistent with action taken May 5, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments
14 of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.
15

16 **9) 635-023-0095**

17 **Recreational White Sturgeon Retention Closes in The Dalles Pool of the Columbia
18 River**

19 Adopted May 11, 2015: effective May 12, 2015 through July 31, 2015

20 This amended rule closes The Dalles Pool in the Columbia River to retention of
21 white sturgeon at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 14, 2015. Current harvest estimates
22 through May 10 indicate the harvest guideline for The Dalles Pool may have been
23 exceeded. Revisions are consistent with action taken May 11, 2015 by the Oregon and
24 Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River
25 Compact.
26

27 **10) 635-042-0145**

28 **Commercial Spring Fishery Modified for the Youngs Bay Select Area**

29 Adopted May 11, 2015: effective May 12, 2015 through July 31, 2015

30 This amended rule modifies harvest regulations for a spring commercial fishery
31 previously adopted for the Youngs Bay Select Area of the Columbia River. Retention
32 and sale of non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited for a twenty-hour period
33 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2015. Modifications are consistent with the
34 action taken May 11, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
35 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.
36

37 **11) 635-042-0022**

38 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for May 12, 2015**

39 Adopted May 11, 2015: effective May 12, 2015 through May 13, 2015

40 This amended rule authorizes a 14-hour non-Indian commercial spring Chinook
41 drift net fishery in the mainstem Columbia River to commence on Wednesday, May 6 at
42 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. Thursday, May 7, 2015 (14 hours) from the mouth of the
43 Columbia River upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). Modifications are consistent
44 with action taken May 5, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
45 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.
46

47 **12) 635-021-0090**

48 **Powder River Sport Spring Chinook Fishery**

49 Adopted May 14, 2015: effective May 20, 2015 through September 1, 2015

50 This amended rule allows the sport harvest of out-planted spring Chinook salmon

1 in the Powder River from May 20 through September 1, 2015. Modifications allow
2 recreational anglers opportunity to harvest spring Chinook which have been out-planted
3 specifically for this purpose.
4

5 **13)635-019-0090**

6 **Sport Spring Chinook Fisheries on John Day River and Lookingglass Creek**

7 Adopted May 14, 2015: effective May 20, 2015 through June 30, 2015

8 This amended rule allows recreational anglers opportunity to harvest adipose fin-
9 clipped and wild adult Chinook salmon and jack Chinook salmon in the John Day River
10 beginning May 20 through June 7, 2015 that are in excess of the Department's
11 escapement goals; and harvest adipose fin-clipped adult and jack Chinook salmon in
12 Lookingglass Creek from Saturday, May 23 until further notice, but most likely not
13 beyond June 30, 2015 that are in excess of the Department's hatchery production
14 needs.
15

16 **14) 635-041-0065**

17 **Columbia River Zone 6 and Tributary Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries Set**

18 Adopted May 18, 2015: effective May 19, 2015 through July 31, 2015

19 This amended rule allows sales of fish from a platform and hook-and-line fishery in
20 all of Zone 6 until further notice; a Yakama Nation tributary fishery through 11:59 p.m.
21 July 31, 2015; and a gill net season in Zone 6 beginning at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 19
22 through 6:00 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2015 (3.5 days). Modifications are consistent with
23 action taken May 18, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
24 Wildlife, in cooperation with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, at a meeting of the
25 Columbia River Compact.
26

27 **15) 635-004-0370, 635-004-0375, 635-004-0376, 635-004-0405, 635-004-0420,**
28 **635-004-0430, 635-004-0500, 635-004-0520, 635-004-0535, 635-005-0920, 635-**
29 **012-0090 and 635-012-0100.**

30 **Purse Seine Fishery Requirements for Coastal Pelagic Species**

31 Adopted May 18, 2015: effective May 19, 2015 through July 31, 2015

32 These temporary rules place requirements on commercial directed purse seine
33 fisheries for coastal pelagic species (mackerels, anchovy, herring and market squid)
34 consistent with appropriate conservation and management requirements currently in
35 place for sardine fisheries. These requirements include logbooks, measures to minimize
36 bycatch mortality, limits on landings allowed to be processed for reduction purposes,
37 and prohibition on mackerel fishing within marine protected areas. To minimize
38 wastage, these rules allow purse seine vessels to pump catch from another purse seine
39 vessel and land this catch into Oregon.
40

41 **16) 635-017-0090**

42 **Snake River Spring Chinook Sport Fishery below Hells Canyon Dam Opens May**
43 **2, 2015**

44 Adopted May 22, 2015: effective May 27, 2015 through November 22, 2015

45 This amended rule restricts the type of angling gear allowed in a section of South
46 Santiam River: From 200 feet above Waterloo Falls to Waterloo Road bridge, angling is
47 restricted to fly angling and bobber angling only. Bobber gear must include a bobber
48 and a leader no longer than 36 inches in length. Any weight attached (except the
49 bobber) may be no more than 36 inches from the lowermost hook when suspended
50 vertically. The leader below the bobber must remain suspended in the water column

1 and not resting on the river bottom.

2
3 **17) 635-019-0090**

4 **Spring Chinook Fisheries Open in the Imnaha, Wallowa, and Lower Grande Ronde**
5 **Rivers**

6 Adopted May 22, 2015: effective June 6, 2015 through August 31, 2015

7 This amended rule allows recreational anglers opportunities to harvest adipose fin-
8 clipped adult Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook salmon, which are
9 in excess of the Department's hatchery production needs: 1) In the Imnaha and
10 Wallowa rivers beginning Saturday, June 6, 2015 until harvest guidelines are met; and
11 2) In the Grande Ronde River beginning June 13, 2015 until harvest guidelines are met.

12
13 **18) 635-041-0065**

14 **Columbia River Zone 6 Treaty Indian Commercial Gill Net Fishery Set**

15 Adopted May 26, 2015: effective May 27, 2015 through July 31, 2015

16 This amended rule allows sales of fish from a gill net season in Zone 6 beginning
17 6:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 27 through 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 30, 2015 (3.5 days).
18 Modifications are consistent with action taken May 26, 2015 by the Oregon and
19 Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Columbia River
20 Treaty Tribes, at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

21
22 **19) 635-042-0145**

23 **Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Spring Fishery Modified**

24 Adopted May 26, 2015: effective May 27, 2015 through July 31, 2015

25 This amended rule modifies harvest regulations for a spring commercial fishery
26 previously adopted for the Youngs Bay Select Area of the Columbia River. Retention
27 and sale of non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited for a seventeen (17) hour
28 period beginning at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Modifications are consistent
29 with the action taken May 26, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish
30 and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

31
32 **20) 635-042-0022**

33 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for May 27, 2015**

34 Adopted May 26, 2015: effective May 27, 2015 through May 28, 2015

35 This amended rule authorizes a 10-hour non-Indian commercial spring Chinook
36 drift net fishery in the mainstem Columbia River to commence on Wednesday, May 27
37 at 7:00 p.m. and run through 5:00 a.m. Thursday, May 28, 2015 from the mouth of the
38 Columbia River upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). Modifications are consistent
39 with action taken May 26, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish
40 and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

41
42 **21) 635-023-0125**

43 **Recreational Salmon and Steelhead Season Opens in Columbia River above**
44 **Tower Island Powerlines**

45 Adopted May 26, 2015: effective May 28, 2015 through June 15, 2015

46 This amended rule opens a recreational fishery for spring Chinook and steelhead
47 on the Columbia River mainstem from the Tower Island powerlines upstream to the
48 Oregon/Washington border beginning May 28, 2015. Further rule modifications allow
49 boat angling from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam boat deadline
50 beginning May 30, 2015. Modifications are consistent with action taken May 26, 2015 by

1 the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the
2 Columbia River Compact.

3
4 **22) 635-023-0095**

5 **Recreational White Sturgeon Retention Closes in the John Day Pool of the**
6 **Columbia River**

7 Adopted May 26, 2015: effective June 3, 2015 through July 31, 2015

8 This amended rule closes the John Day Pool in the Columbia River to retention of
9 white sturgeon at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2015. Current harvest estimates
10 through May 24 indicate white sturgeon harvest for the John Day Pool are at 77% of the
11 harvest guideline. Revisions are consistent with action taken May 26, 2015 by the
12 Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia
13 River Compact.

14
15 **23) 635-041-0065**

16 **Columbia River Zone 6 Treaty Indian Commercial Gill Net Fishery Set**

17 Adopted June 1, 2015: effective June 2, 2015 through July 31, 2015

18 This amended rule allows sales of fish from a gill net season in Zone 6 beginning
19 at 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 2 through 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2015 (3.5 days).
20 Modifications are consistent with action taken June 1, 2015 by the Oregon and
21 Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Columbia River
22 Treaty Tribes, at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

23
24 **24) 635-042-0022**

25 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for June 2, 2015**

26 Adopted June 1, 2015: effective June 2, 2015 through June 3, 2015

27 This amended rule authorizes a 10-hour non-Indian commercial spring Chinook
28 drift net fishery in the mainstem Columbia River to commence on Tuesday, June 2 at
29 7:00 p.m. and run through 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2015 from the mouth of the
30 Columbia River upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). Modifications are consistent
31 with action taken June 1, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
32 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

33
34 **25) 635-042-0145**

35 **Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Spring Fishery Modified**

36 Adopted June 1, 2015: effective June 2, 2015 through July 31, 2015

37 This amended rule modifies harvest regulations for a spring commercial fishery
38 previously adopted for the Youngs Bay Select Area of the Columbia River. Retention
39 and sale of non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited for a seventeen (17) hour
40 period beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, 2015. Modifications are consistent with
41 the action taken June 1, 2015 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and
42 Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

43
44 **26) 635-023-0125**

45 **Recreational Salmon and Steelhead Season Bag Limit Modified to Allow**
46 **Retention of Two Chinook**

47 Adopted June 1, 2015: effective June 3, 2015 through June 15, 2015

48 This amended rule modifies the daily bag limit for spring Chinook and steelhead on
49 the Columbia River mainstem from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the
50 Oregon/Washington border to allow retention of two adult adipose fin-clipped Chinook

1 per day beginning June 3, 2015. All sockeye and non adipose fin-clipped salmonids
2 must be released. Modifications are consistent with action taken June 1, 2015 by the
3 Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia
4 River Compact.

5
6 **27) 635-039-0085**

7 **Sport Pacific Halibut All-Depth Season Closes from Leadbetter Point, WA to Cape**
8 **Falcon, OR**

9 Adopted June 2, 2015: effective June 3, 2015 through September 30, 2015

10 This amended rule closes the all-depth sport fishery for Pacific halibut in the area
11 between Leadbetter Point, WA and Cape Falcon, OR at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday,
12 June 3, 2015 due to the projected attainment of the pre-season quota of 9,754 pounds.
13 This rule is consistent with regulations previously implemented by the federal
14 government and the International Pacific Halibut Commission for the 2015 Oregon sport
15 Pacific halibut fishery.

16
17 **Discussion:**

18 **Commissioner Anderson** – Temporary Rule No. 15 is on the agenda for later today;
19 how does this action of adopting it now affect our conversation later today?

20
21 **Director Melcher** – That rule was adopted on May 18 and became effective May 19.
22 Essentially you're ratifying that rule today and it will be superseded by rule making that
23 will take place later in the day.

24
25 *Action:*

26 Commissioner Webber moved to adopt the temporary rules 1- 27 as set out on the
27 agenda. Commissioner Akenson seconded the motion, and the motion carried
28 unanimously.

29
30 **PUBLIC FORUM**

31 *Note: This part of the agenda is for comments on topics not scheduled elsewhere on the*
32 *agenda. The Commission is unable to take action on items brought to their attention in*
33 *this forum.*

34
35 **Public Testimony:**

Lamprey	
Reyn Leno, Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chair	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Youngs Bay Exclusion Zone	
Bob Rees, Association of the Northwest Steelheaders	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Wolf Delisting	
Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at</i>

	http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
Stephanie Taylor, Oregon Wild	Provided comments and a petition of over 15,000 signatures for the continued support of the protection of wolves. We request that the Commission holds true to your statutory mandate in weight of the public opinion when making decisions about wolves and all other protected wildlife.
Karen Olch, Eugene	Supports maintain full protection for wolves. They are nowhere near fully recovered and studies have shown that our wild landscape can support many more wolves; supports decisions made on best science.
Scott Beckstead, HSUS	Opposed to the expanded spring bear hunts, that is a practice that is when these animals are at their weakest and leaves too many bear cubs orphaned. Opposes de-listing -we also feel it is too early to delist wolves and protection should continue.
Hunter Education	
Donny Adair, African American Hunting Assn	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>

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Discussion:

Commissioner Akenson - it is not clear what the tribe is asking for. You're currently harvesting some Lamprey at the Willamette Falls but you're looking into doing something different?

Reyn Leno - the concern is when the flash boards are being put up. Low water levels are impacting the Lamprey and with the amount of the Lamprey declining we'd like to see a study conducted to determine if that is in the best interest of the Lamprey.

Director Melcher – We have a season set at Willamette falls and the vast majority of any harvest is by Native American coastal tribes. The Willamette Falls is also the Sullivan Plant; Hydro generation facility and when the flows in the Willamette get very low, typically in late June, PGE installs flash boards at the face of the falls to raise the river level and to force the water down the hydro plant. Lamprey are not traditional in the way they migrate, many of them migrate up the face of the falls literally like gripping onto the rocks, so when the flash boards are installed it leaves them stranded. It also makes the lamprey there readily available for harvest and in the past we've been asked to adjust the season dates to when the flash boards are installed. It's an issue we continue to look at for several reasons but we are looking at ways to improve the passage at the falls and to make sure we are protecting the species.

Commissioner Akenson - When the Columbia River allocations area was originally set, it was to ensure that the whole plan would be equitable and fair to both Sports and Commercial fisherman. Meaning, if there is going to be a give-and-take what would that look like?

1 **Bob Rees** – We'd be willing to look at that, but if you look at the Chinook harvest
2 numbers coming out of lower Columbia including the safe area fisheries, the
3 commercial fleet is harvesting more than the sport fishermen. In essence it's not
4 equitable as it stands.

5
6 **Commissioner Wolley**- would your group be willing to work with us on outreach and
7 recruitment?
8

9 **Donny Adair**- yes definitely. We have people now who want to attend but they don't
10 have the resources to get to the locations.
11

12 **Commissioner Atkinson**- Outside hunter education classes, give us some advice on
13 how to reach out to the African American community?
14

15 **Donny Adair**- Develop a policy, other organization like yourselves have done based on
16 inclusiveness; plan to reach out to focus groups; questions to ask who are our
17 demographic. Do the same that you did for youth and women and then you came out
18 with classes to increase participation. It's important to reach out to people and to
19 provide them equity.
20

21 **Director Melcher**- there have been changes made to the hunter education program,
22 the department now hires staff for hunter education, vs using only volunteers. This
23 provides the department with more flexibility. Suggested that Donny work with Rick
24 Hargrave, acting Information and Education Administrator.
25

26 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

27 *Approve February 13, 2015 Commission Minutes*

28 *Commissioners provided edits*

29 *Action: Differed*
30

31 **Exhibit B: 2015 BIG GAME REGULATIONS**

32 *The Commission will be asked to approve the 2015 controlled hunt tag numbers and*
33 *concepts for 2016 Big Game Regulations.*

34 *Staff: Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager*

35 *Don Whittaker, Ungulate Coordinator*

36 *Public Testimony*

37 *Action: Rulemaking*
38

39 *Tom Thornton and Don Whitaker provided a PowerPoint presentation of the annual Big*
40 *Game Regulations proposals including recommendations in concept for the 2016 big*
41 *game and gray squirrel, season dates, open areas, dates and locations of travel*
42 *management areas, controlled hunts, and associated hunting regulations. This*
43 *presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
44 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
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47

1 **Public Testimony:**

Fred Craig, OHA	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Kelly Forney, OHA	The highly territorial nature of cougars makes them a unique challenge to manage effectively. The adult cougars that occupy an area actively defend their territory and force their offspring to seek new habitat and this result is population saturation in wild and rural areas. The current management strategies of lengthy hunting seasons and Wildlife Services damage control has not kept up with the population growth of the cougar, estimated at 6200 animals throughout the state. We urge the Commission to adopt the proposed cougar target areas with the starting date of January 1, 2016.
Ty Stubblefield, OHA	Requesting that lighted nocks be considered for the 2016 regulations, for reasons as being a tool to recover game and arrows. Both arrow recovery and impact are critical in archery hunting.
Dave Seida, West Linn	Deferred time to Ted Netter. Consider making a change with the lighted nocks.
Ted W Netter, Terrebonne	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Dave Wiley, Sublimity	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Guy Kitchen, Sandy	Agree with Ted. The herds are concentrated in November and December and that's when most of the damage occurs.
Cassy Brooks, Culver	In my purchase of new land in the Metolius Unit, I found out that Land Owner Preference (LOP) was no longer unlimited. There is a large numbers of deer in this unit, one of the best in the state. I bought 666 acres to hunt on with my family and now because of a rule change I stand a 10% chance of getting a tag. I asked staff prior to my purchase and was told it was not on the Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) controlled buck deer hunts, but the numbers are there in that unit.
Mike Slinkard, John Day	Support the use of lighted nocks and it is the responsibility of an archer to know where the shot has gone and the consequences of what that shot has done on the animal.
Robert Zavodsky, Portland	Oppose the 2016 elk hunt changes in the Chesnimnus Unit. By the time we get to the elk hunt, the elk are moving to private ground. It doesn't make any sense to put a second rifle elk hunt in the unit when there will not be elk.
Laura Barbieri	Oppose the changes in the Chesnimnus Unit. The animals in that

	unit are being pushed off onto public land and not accessible to those hunters who have hunted that unit for generations.
Randy Zapp	Oppose the changes in the Chesnimnus Unit. This change is not the answer; the elk will move off of public land onto the private due to in part the general hunters and pressure hunters. The weather is another condition along with predators. The answer is to work with private land owners to allow hunting to keep steady pressure on the elk and to move them off of the private land onto public lands.
Jim Bergeron, Astoria	In the last 10 years the bow hunters have taken half to a third of as many cows as they do bulls. Archer's success rate is around 15%; rifle success rate is around 30% around that same time frame. The statistics show that disabled hunters and land owners took more elk, mostly cows than the cows taken by archers. The numbers of elk are very different in various parts of the Saddle Mountain unit. Elk are scarce in the higher forest areas which are gated but are numerous in the low land farming areas. Over a third of the county is gated timber country. The gates are open to the rifle hunters, but closed for archers. I maintain that no change is needed to eliminate cows as the bull hunters will properly chase all of the cows down into the areas that are near to over-populations. Also, archers are not allowed in the damage hunts.
Wayne Endicott, Vice President of Oregon Bow Hunters	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Carl Swartz, President Oregon Bow Hunters	Youth Elk Hunts are a great opportunity for the youth involved and have a great ability to harvest. 50 of the 51 hunts start in August and run through five months in duration. It's far too early for the calves since they are born in June they are still dependent on their mothers. We ask the Commission to give the calves one more month to be weaned by having a start date of September 1 st for the youth elk hunts.
John Stone, Lebanon	Supports lighted nocks.
Craig Starr, Vice President, Oregon Bow Hunters	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Mike Treat, Field Governor, Traditional Archers of Oregon	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp</i>
Harold McCarven, Wapiti Bowmen	Archery hunter; supports lighted nocks; important part is recovery of the animal.
William McKechnie, Oregon Bow Hunters	Supports lighted nocks. A lightednock is only an advantage after you release the arrow in to see where it went.
Mike Morris, Bend	Provided written testimony. <i>This written testimony is available in the meeting materials and at</i>

	http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
Amanda Rich, The Nature Conservancy	We manage over 30,000 acres; the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve and we manage that land to achieve specific conservation goals within an active working agricultural landscape. Elk management in this area is complex and dynamic. We allow significant amount of hunter access. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with all of our relationships that we take very seriously.
Larry Soa, OUSDA	Supports the target areas for cougar management that is being proposed today.
Vernon Kennedy, Burns Paiute Tribe	Supports more hunting days open for the elk and deer season; four day hunt is not long enough to feed your family.

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Discussion:

Commissioner Wolley – How did you conduct the MDI survey?

Ted Netter – We’re a pretty tight knit community I found out about the limited landowner tag, we all got together and had a discussion. I put out the survey to about eight more landowners but we’re in the middle of harvest so that is the reason I got only back the ones you have today.

Commissioner Atkinson- Thank you for the survey, it was really well done. We have private, state, forest, and federal lands; we manage our state lands in as such a way as to protect against forest fires and elk like to have clearing. The overgrown brush on BLM forest service; we have animals moving from not maintained forests on to our state ground and eventually on your ground. We are left as a minority real estate holder in our own state in trying to manage it. Does that story make sense in this case where you got animals coming from very thick federal forests onto private land?

Ted Netter – I think you are spot on for most places. Our particular issue is we deal with migratory herds. They seek a winter area and we just happen to have the food which is high dollar agricultural crops.

Dave Seida – As a landowner we don’t like looking at the herds as a nuisance but when you can’t secure tags to help the situation then it becomes a nuisance. Just don’t forget about us.

Chair Finley – To Mr. Brooks and Mr. Kitchen in regards to the Metolius Unit, I understand the issue with young trees but what other damages are being done; do they get into hay?

Guy Kitchen – They cut the juniper down to make winter range for deer; the deer go past the mule deer habitat on to private land.

Casey Brooks- Yes, they will get into stored hay. We all want the same thing, but everyone should work together to do what is needed for the mule deer but I don’t understand why it has to come from the landowners.

1
2 **Chair Finley** – When talking about longer hunt days, which unit are you talking about?

3
4 **Vernon Kennedy** – The units in the Tillamook and Polk County.

5
6 **Discussion:**

7 **Commissioner Atkinson** – Regarding the lower bridge comments; what can be done?

8
9 **Tom Thornton** – The proposal is based on Oregon Administrative Rule's (OAR);
10 allocated the way they are because of the number of hunters on the ground.

11
12 **Don Whittaker**- There are other issues going on in the Metolius Unit; it has been under
13 the management objective for a number of years, limitation on LOP tags is another
14 method to help the mule deer recover and help turn them around.

15
16 **Commissioner Webber**- For the premier hunts; everyone can sign up for a premier
17 hunt but they are limited to one unit, is that correct?

18
19 **Tom Thornton** - Each unit would be a controlled hunt, everyone will have the same
20 chance, meaning the applicant is competing with only the applicants who picked the
21 same unit, unlike the raffle where odds can be increased by the amount you pay.

22
23 **Commissioner Buckmaster** - 200 series youth elk hunt; can this be delayed?

24
25 **Tom Thornton** - this change could be done, the 2016 seasons dates have already
26 been adopted. We've heard about this for several years, we did a custom survey with
27 the youth that have participated in the hunt. First three years one fourth was taken in
28 August on private land in damage situation. These youth hunts are a small portion of the
29 tags that are valid in that unit in August.

30
31 **Don Whittaker** – The youth elk hunt tag 950 tags- there are 100 hunts in addition to the
32 youth hunts, 12,000 tags. It's a great recruiting tool. Ninety-five percent of the youth
33 hunters are returning.

34
35 **Tom Thornton** – The direct answer to your question is yes, we could remove the month
36 of August on those hunts. The question I would have is we have another 12,000 tags
37 valid at that time would you want us to remove those tags as well that are for damage
38 purposes?

39
40 **Commissioner Buckmaster** – Excellent question; the contention that was made by the
41 Oregon Bow Hunters (OBH) was that the calves are still with cows at that time and the
42 death of the cow would be the death of the calf, is it true or not?

43
44 **Don Whittaker** – Not all the cows are going to have calves. This is an educational
45 opportunity for the youth hunters. If it is a late born calf it could be an issue.

46

1 **Tom Thornton-** The youth hunters are required to have an adult with them and while
2 they may be inexperienced, the adult with them is not. There is no doubt that some of
3 the calves may die, but a lot of the cows don't have calves with them at that time.
4

5 **Commissioner Buckmaster** – Do you see a problem with the lighted neck issue?
6

7 **Tom Thornton** –No, that really is a social issue when the department proposed it five
8 years ago, for us it would be a simple change in rule.
9

10 **Commissioner Webber** – In the Wenaha unit the numbers of tags have been
11 increasing over the years, is there reason or plan for doing that?
12

13 **Don Whittaker** – Yes, the elk populations are improving. Part of that is in response to
14 some management changes we implemented six years ago.
15

16 **Pat Matthews** – The bull tags is a very coveted tag by whoever draws it. It's important
17 to maintain the quality of hunt there. We've been under harvesting the bulls in that
18 population and I'd like to provide more hunting opportunities because there is a lot of
19 interest in that unit.
20

21 **Commissioner Webber** – In looking at your map, you have the Wenaha, 50-70% of the
22 management objective (MO) it just seems illogical to me at that level doubling the bull
23 tags for a very special premium situation.
24

25 **Don Whittaker** – Except for conflict; there is very minimal antlerless harvest in that unit.
26 We still maintain a conservative antlerless harvest for conflict but we're taking
27 advantage of the response we see in the bull ratios.
28

29 **Commissioner Webber-** We've heard much about the Chesnimnus and the private
30 versus public land in that area, is there anything that can be done?
31

32 **Pat Matthews** - There has been a buildup of elk on private land, it's more of elk
33 numbers dwindling on public lands over the last 15 years and increase on private land
34 just through higher recruitment of calves. The landowners are very concerned about
35 cattle grazing and the number of elk that are on their lands, and we have been working
36 with some of the landowners in the past five years to see about moving them off the
37 private land through hunter pressure or just bringing elk numbers down to an acceptable
38 level. We've tried hazing and the majority of them, that's where they were born and
39 raised and I think we will need to just bring elk numbers down.
40

41 **Tom Thornton-** Would like to add for the Chesnimnus, we are splitting the bull season
42 into 1st and 2nd season and the intention is not to add tags, while it may appear to look
43 that way but we split those hunts.
44

45 **Commissioner Wolley** - Large predator management for the taking of a cougar in a
46 non-hunter harvest situation; what are the criteria in terms of taking a cougar in a non-
47 hunter harvest situation?

1
2 **Don Whittaker** – For cougars and bears as well, there are two statutes that enable
3 landowner or the public to act in management of conflict, both in damage to property or
4 human safety. No permit is required to take predators that are causing damage or in
5 human safety, but should they kill an animal they are required to bring the carcass to us
6 for the mandatory check in. However, for human safety the animal cannot be kept by
7 the person who killed it, but for damage it can.

8
9 **Commissioner Wolley** – Can the animal be pursued and killed off of their property?

10
11 **Don Whittaker** – They can pursue or they can call us and we would either refer to
12 Wildlife Services or a volunteer agent and let take care of it but generally speaking they
13 must conduct that pursuit on their property for damage. On human safety, if the
14 individual encounters a bear or cougar and has the capability to take the animal down
15 they can do so on or off their property.

16
17 **Commissioner Akenson** –On the Wenaha unit, maintaining the older class of bulls in
18 that unit is what makes it a premium hunt, is there a way of tracking the age of bulls
19 coming out of the Wenaha?

20
21 **Pat Matthews** – There are two ways that I use to follow the age structure of the bulls.
22 Looking at the harvest in both the rifle and archery season and our harvester will let us
23 know what number of points the animal has. I look at just the six pointers and above
24 and we've maintained at 70% of the harvest in six point bulls. The other method is our
25 annual elk surveys on classifying bulls, over the past 10 years the average of mature
26 bulls is in the 60% range. A mature bull is between five and 12 years old.

27
28 **Commissioner Akenson** - For the Zumwalt and Chesnimnus area- In Zumwalt #1 in
29 2014 there were 74 rifle antlerless hunters. In 2015 there were 106 for an August 29th to
30 September 30th hunt. Zumwalt #2 which was originally set in November but now the
31 proposed for 2016 that hunt is September 10th through September 25th which would
32 overlap the archery season and that's when 237 additional hunters will be on the
33 Zumwalt rifle hunting while 350 bow hunters will be hunting that entire unit. How much is
34 that going to influence the quality and distribution of hunters?

35
36 **Tom Thornton** – There is very little archery hunting that occurs on the Zumwalt prairie
37 because it's such open ground that archers have a hard time getting close to the elk. I
38 don't see having any conflict with have a rifle season during an archery seasons. Also it
39 is on private land and land owners can control who they let on their land.

40
41 **Tom Thornton** - Some of the increase is due to damage; damage tags are not
42 represented in the table.

43
44 **Commissioner Akenson** - Why split the season?

45
46 **Pat Matthews** –The Chesnimnus unit is a very crowded unit and in my opinion in
47 splitting the one bull seasons into two seasons and dividing the tags will make for a

1 better ethical as well as esthetic opportunity for those hunters who hunt those seasons
2 make it less crowded.

3
4 **Commissioner Akenson** – What is the proportion of the hunters that hunt the
5 Zumwalt?

6
7 **Tom Thornton** – I'm not certain that we have that type of information to know that, but
8 certainly the interests of bull hunters to hunt those private lands is there because that is
9 where the bulk of bulls are. I do know that every piece of private land out there has
10 hunters on it but it's by invite only.

11
12 **Commissioner Akenson** – With hunter reporting and sending out emails as reminders
13 to those who have completed their reporting is there a link on the email to make it
14 simple?

15
16 **Tom Thornton** – The reminder emails have several links; includes a link that takes
17 them right to the reporting site and includes their hunter ID#. We try and make it as
18 efficient as we can.

19
20 **Commissioner Akenson** – On the premium hunt concept, where did it come from and
21 why we didn't hear anything from the public?

22
23 **Tom Thornton** – In various forms the concept has been out there throughout the
24 External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC) process, by way of the license review
25 groups, hunter surveys, meetings that were held. People showed interest in the
26 concept.

27
28 **Commissioner Akenson** – Would you consider having some tags that are more
29 expensive than others? For example elk tags in a premium hunt or a hunt in the cougar
30 target area.

31
32 **Tom Thornton** - That is something that can be considered but I haven't thought about it
33 in terms of cougar target areas or anything similar.

34
35 **Commissioner Akenson** – Can you give more detail about the premium hunt concept.
36 If someone gets that one, can they rifle hunt in a bow season?

37
38 **Tom Thornton** – Yes, they can hunt with any weapon, in any season.

39
40 **Commissioner Akenson** – The purpose you stated for this particular hunt was to use
41 this in average units; what does that mean and what units would or wouldn't be included
42 in average units?

43
44 **Tom Thornton** – The concept would cover virtually every unit, but I won't say all 67,
45 there may be a reason not to have them in some. For example the elk hunting in
46 Chesnimnus is different than in Wenaha or the Sledge Springs. There would be a tag

1 also in those units that are not the premium hunts. We haven't finalized the list but we
2 suspect all units will be involved.

3
4 **Commissioner Akenson-** Is the cost of doing cougar control part of the decision on
5 how many of these units we want as target areas and where is that source of funding is
6 coming from for those actions?

7
8 **Tom Thornton** – Funding will be part of the conversation. In South Central there are
9 some hunter associations that have stepped up and offer money to do this work in these
10 areas. Other money will be license dollars.

11
12 **Commissioner Akenson-** On the graph, the Steens deer population that was an
13 ongoing decline isn't that one of the areas that already had the cougar target area in the
14 Mule Deer Initiative (MDI)?

15
16 **Tom Thornton** – That is correct. The Steens area did have cougars removed during a
17 three to four year period. We got into some I know he meant dry or mild winters that
18 didn't put snow on the ground to track cats' in and made it much more difficult to pursue;
19 they weren't able to achieve their goals. We are considering opportunities to follow that
20 up with some additional removals. We have been receiving comments of improving
21 buck numbers, there may be going on there we can't quite measure. We're hearing
22 some positive comments.

23
24 **Commissioner Akenson** – When did the cougar control end?

25
26 **Tom Thornton**– I believe it ended at the end of 2013.

27
28 **Commissioner Akenson** – The volunteer Agents, are they strictly houndsman?

29
30 **Tom Thornton-** Generally they are, I'm not aware of any that are not. The volunteer
31 agents are selected specifically to use dogs. There are other methods for removal. We
32 have used staff and Wildlife Services for removals.

33
34 **Commissioner Akenson** - New disease issue with one population of California
35 Bighorns, can you explain?

36
37 **Don Whittaker** – We have identified Mycobacterium ovipneumonia in the Rattlesnake
38 Tenmile herd of California Bighorn sheep in the Whitehorse unit and we are currently in
39 the process developing a project to look more thoroughly at the issue.

40
41 **Pat Matthew** – Clarify the question regarding Zumwalt #2 hunt; table shows 230 tags
42 for 2015 this fall and its dates are November through December, next year 2016
43 Zumwalt #2 will not have that many tags and it will be in September, rather than in
44 November. In essence the Zumwalt #2 hunt, tags and season dates, change from 2015
45 to 2016.

46

1 **Chair Finley** – In the Chesnimnus Unit; is it a combination of both heard growth on the
2 more protected private land and some movement of the elk because of hunting
3 pressure on public lands, how would you define it?
4

5 **Pat Matthew** – It's a population growth on private land and there is and always has
6 been an interchange between the private and public land and I think you understand it
7 correctly.
8

9 **Chair Finley** – We raised the fee on the non-reporting was it a success or not, did the
10 fee change behavior?
11

12 **Tom Thornton** - Yes. Before the fee, at best we would get 50 to 60% with reminders
13 and now we are up over 80%.
14

15 **Chair Finley** – On the issue of taking cougars and black bears in the spring. Is there a
16 requirement to bring in tissue to show that it wasn't a lactating animal? If not, wouldn't it
17 make sense to have a requirement?
18

19 **Don Whittaker** – The check-in requirement is to bring in the head within 10 days of;
20 female cougar reproductive tract check-in is not a requirement Often they will bring in
21 the head and hide; we the will have the opportunity to check, but it is only required to
22 bring in the head so we can collect the tooth and they provide the tag information. Yes,
23 it is a piece of information that would be helpful.
24

25 **Chair Finley** - On the Southwest Oregon bear hunt, I understand there is some issue
26 where you like to focus the hunters more and that was the purpose of the 450 permit
27 bump last year. Is there a way to accomplish this without having another issue of
28 additional number of permits?
29

30 **Tom Thornton** – The proposal last October, was slightly misrepresented earlier today,
31 it was not for an area that didn't already have spring bear hunts. The southwest limited
32 hunt covers 11 units; there are two or three units at the north end that get a fair amount
33 of pressure, we do not necessarily want to increase the efforts in those units. There are
34 other units that get concentration build up of animals. These areas are not as attractive
35 to hunters, so the concept was that if we included only those units in a separate hunt we
36 could add hunters that would target these areas.
37

38 **Commissioner Webber** – It's not an additional geographic area, it's a concentration
39 within an existing unit that was already proposed.
40

41 **Tom Thornton** – that is correct, last year that area was already being hunted but we
42 were proposing a second hunt so we could dictate where those hunters went and not to
43 hit those units in the north.
44

45 **Director Melcher** – There are two key pieces; setting the tag numbers for 2016, and
46 some regulatory housekeeping changes, setting tag numbers for 2015 so we can run
47 the draw. The second piece is longer term by setting the stage for October on a number

1 of issues. I want to go over a couple of those. Before that, I would like to address the
2 Metolius issue that was discussed today. Look at the tag table which is the deer tag
3 number of LOP 100 series Mule Deer tags available in the 2015 season. The standard
4 buck hunt Metolius #139, there are 400 tags that go to the general public in the regular
5 draw. Under the rules adopted last fall, 10% of those tag numbers are set aside for
6 LOP. In 2014 there were 14 landowners that received those tags. For these general
7 tags, they were undersubscribed last year. Testimony from Mr. Netter and others, the
8 reason they were undersubscribed is the deer are not there during the regular season
9 they come down in the late season when they head toward winter range. The other
10 Metolius hunts, #139MI, #139M2, #139R1, and #139R2; these are late season hunts
11 that have different weapon restrictions. We issue very few tags in the general draw 20
12 to 40, when you apply the allocation formula from the rule you adopted last fall, it leaves
13 a very small number of tags for landowners. At least in one of those cases, #139R1 last
14 year there were 33 individuals in the draw for that tag and there is only 5 tags that will
15 be available this year.

16
17 **Don Whittaker** – In those later hunts, #139M1 and #139R1 those are any deer hunts
18 where the #139M2 and #139R2 are antlerless only.

19
20 **Director Melcher** – This is the crux of the issue and this is something that has to be
21 done today, because we are setting the tag numbers for the draw next week. Without
22 some time for discussion with staff and DOJ to know what the flexibility is there to
23 change those numbers. I can't tell you that right now.

24
25 The premium hunt concept has been discussed over the last year; it's one of the
26 revenue pieces we were proposing. We did not take legislative action so it's not part of
27 our fee bill or budget; we are not counting on that revenue. We did not develop our
28 budget with any expected revenue associated with the premium hunt concept. We
29 polled for it, and it was fairly well supported. If the Commission tells us to take time to
30 consider other alternatives, it would only mean another year before implementation.

31
32 On the youth elk hunt, it's been in place for four years or so and we have had the
33 discussion about starting in August. It was really the attempt to have hunts to start
34 before school. For many of the urban school districts in this state it's difficult for parents
35 to get kids out of school for hunts. This program has been successful and it will continue
36 to be successful even if we change the start date.

37
38 Chesnimnus- we have a population that is well above management objectives albeit
39 most of them are on private land. We have a lot of conflict as it relates to private land
40 owners. We have a new Land Owner Preference program that essentially allows land
41 owners to get unlimited tags if they are having damage. What we are proposing here is
42 an effort to bring the population down and under the wildlife statute we are trying to
43 manage these populations with respect to all the historic uses of the lands, including
44 giving opportunities to the average hunter.

45

1 Lighted nocks – There is some question in statute in prohibition in the use of artificial
2 light to take game animals. We want to look at that statute. We are not changing this for
3 2015 but we will want to look at that further.

4
5 **Discussion:**

6 **Commissioner Webber** - does not support increased tags in the Wenaha, keep at 35;
7 compromise with an increase to 40.

8
9 **Commissioner Akenson** – had a concern about that originally but I feel that they are
10 monitoring to ensure the quality of the hunt that we’re expecting and if that quality drops
11 down, they would back off. Right now that is the hunt and it’s important that it stays
12 super top quality.

13
14 **Commissioner Anderson** – Support staff recommendation, not that I would oppose a
15 change.

16
17 **Commissioner Wolley** – Agrees with Commissioner Webber.

18
19 *Action:*

20 Commissioner Webber moved to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 045, 065, 067,
21 068, 069, 070, 071, 073, 075 and 078 as proposed by staff; including the proposal on
22 Supplemental Attachment 3; and to approve in concept the staff proposals for 2016
23 general and controlled big game and western gray squirrel seasons; except that the
24 tags for both 256Y1 and 256R1 in the Wenaha for any bull would be 40 instead of the
25 proposed 45. Commissioner Buckmaster seconded the motion and the motion was
26 carried unanimously.

27
28 **Exhibit C: 2016 ACCESS AND HABITAT AUCTION AND RAFFLE TAG**
29 **ALLOCATIONS**

30 *The Commission were asked to approve recommendations of the Access and Habitat*
31 *Board and ODFW staff for 2016 auction and raffle tag allocations.*

32 *Staff: Don Whittaker, Ungulate Coordinator*

33 *Roblyn Brown, Acting Access & Habitat Coordinator*

34 *Public Testimony*

35 *Action: Approval*

36
37 *Don and Roblyn provided a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation is available in*
38 *the meeting materials and at*

39 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp

40
41 **Public Testimony:**

Alan Day, Oregon Chapter of Foundation of North American Wild Sheep	Always in support of the programs. For the last two years, there has been no representative sent by the department to the Wild Sheep Show in Reno; there is a need to have a biologist present.
	Last year when each tag was sold the fee associated with

	<p>the tag was the departments 10% but there was an additional 5% buyer premium fee, that's a total of 15%.</p> <p>The application fee is to low, people are getting tags that are not interested leaving, and this is leaving others who want them out.</p>
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Discussion:

Commissioner Webber – Do we get our 90% when they are sold at Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS)?

Don Whittaker – That is correct. The buyer pays the host organization; they take out their 10% and write us a check for the 90%. The 5% buyers fee that Dale mentioned, 2 years ago the Wild Sheep Foundation in Reno with very little publication had this additional buyer’s premier fee. I was called by several buyers but I assured them that the fee was not from the department.

Chair Finley – Dale mentioned that the application fee is too low. Can you comment on that?

Don Whittaker – I believe Dale is referring to just the Controlled Bighorn sheep tag. All that is required is a hunting license and an application series fee that is \$8.00. For 2015, as of the 27th of May there were 21,800 applications, that just under \$175,000 in fees for just applications alone.

Director Melcher- Our approach for the application fees are to cover costs of the application and the processing but was not intended to generate revenue. Although we do require they buy a hunting license. However in 2009 the fee was increased from \$4 to \$8.

Action:

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the 2016 auction and raffle big game tag allocations as proposed by staff. Commissioner Wolley seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Exhibit D: ACCESS AND HABITAT PROJECT FUNDING

The Commission will be asked to approve the Access and Habitat Board recommendations for project funding.

Staff: Roblyn Brown, Acting Access & Habitat Coordinator

Public Testimony

Action: Approval

Roblyn provided a PowerPoint presentation- this presentation is available in the meeting materials and at

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp

Public Testimony:

Alan Day , Oregon Chapter of Foundation North American Wild sheep	I'm concerned about the amount of money that is being spent in the North Coast Travel Management Area (TMA) because of the uncertainty of the Weyerhaeuser situation. There is quite a bit of state ground in that area, it seems it would be law enforcement.
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Discussion:

Chair Finley – Please clarify for Mr. Day the philosophy behind private land owners allowing access on the land and how the habitat is either protected that supplants or supports additional access.

Roblyn Brown – I may struggle a little bit with how the Access and Habitat program helps out with habitat on private lands and timber companies, certainly they're in more control with that. With this particular project that we're discussing the North Coast Area, it's more a matter of getting permission to have hunters on that property and by therefore doing that having hunting pressure on there does help with some of their damage issues.

Chair Finley – I want Mr. Day to understand that the troopers are there providing support for vandalism and the others things that are listed in the program.

Director Melcher – Those issues ultimately lead to the closure of access to these areas. By the Access and Habitat Board supporting enforcement on these private and timber lands is also securing the hunting access.

Commissioner Buckmaster- On the North Coast Travel Management Area private timber lands, who are the timber companies?

Roblyn Brown – I believe there are 12. I think you might be referring to the Weyerhaeuser land and they are taking land out of public access and they are charging a fee for leasing or for trespass lease. They have pulled 200,000 acres out of the North Coast Travel Management Area. With over a million acres, it's still valid to retain the five troopers that patrol.

Commissioner Atkinson - are we receiving any soil and land conservation federal funds?

Roblyn Brown – Not for this program. This program is funded with \$4 from every hunting license and some green forage money. We have applied for Open Field's money which is a grant from the federal government.

Commissioner Wolley – North Coast Access Area, how do we know this program is successful? We have retired troopers, who do they report to and how are they documenting their activities?

Director Melcher – While they are retired troopers they simply not on their own program. They get hired back under the state's provision as a temporary employee to

1 do this work on contract. They are in state police uniforms, in state police pickups and in
2 contact with their sergeant.

3
4 *Action:*

5 Commissioner Webber moved to approve the recommendations of the Access and
6 Habitat Board for project funding. Commissioner Akenson seconded the motion and the
7 motion was carried unanimously.

8
9 **Exhibit E: ODFW FISH PASSAGE MITIGATION BANKING PILOT PROJECT**

10 *The Commission received an informational briefing on the process involved in the*
11 *development and implementation plan for Oregon's first Fish Passage Mitigation*
12 *Banking Pilot Project.*

13 *Staff: Dave Stewart, ODFW-ODOT Fish Passage Liaison*

14 *Greg Apke, Statewide Fish Passage Program Leader*

15 *Public Testimony*

16 *Action: Informational*

17
18 *Staff Presentation: this presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
19 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp

20
21 **Public Testimony:**

Nicole Maness, Willamette Partnership	Supports the Fish Passage Mitigation Banking Pilot project. There is a high degree of interest that we are seeing from other agencies across the state. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Department of State Lands (DSL), US Army Corp and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are all closely tracking the fact that ODFW is on the leading edge of using mitigation banking in their program delivery. They are looking forward to seeing the results of the pilot program should it go forward.
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22
23 **Discussion:**

24 **Commissioner Atkinson** - I'm involved in the salmon super highway, what is your
25 advice on how the Commission should view the success of that program?

26
27 **Greg Apke** – I am also in that program, this effort has been led by all the players when
28 it comes to fish passage. This is a whole new way of looking at it from estuary to
29 headwall. This program is looking to bringing in new money that doesn't exist in the
30 state and looks at whole watershed restorations.

31
32 **Commissioner Wolley** – Could you clarify the sequence and timeline?

33
34 **Greg Apke** – There has been no forgone decisions prior to this Commission's approval
35 in August. For the purpose of testing the new habitat calculator, we know it's going to
36 take years to fine tune it. The purpose is to try it out, grow with it, recognize mistakes
37 and adaptively manage it. The scope of what will be in front of you in August, is
38 approximately 12 ODOT waiver sights, particularly small sites, and then investing those

1 pooled resources into this statewide high priority fish passage barrier on the north coast.
2 We will have no more than 12 waiver sites; each waiver site independently will have no
3 more than a half mile habitat. That's a total of six miles that will be waived, i.e. passes
4 will not be provided at those highway facilities, in exchange for approximately 20 miles
5 of habitat above this location. Upon approval of this agenda item in August which is
6 what we will seek from this Commission that would basically turn this pilot project on.
7 We would then move forward into the implementation phase which would be issuing site
8 specific waivers for those 12 sites as ODOT is ready. Then starting the engineering and
9 come to terms with the final solutions at this location. Over the course of the next three
10 years ODOT starts waiving those 12 sites.

11
12 **Director Melcher** – Down the road under the terms of the waiver there will still be at
13 some point in the future trigger events that will bring those previously waived passage
14 sites back into the discussion. We will continue to address the highest priorities and
15 these culverts will have trigger events because they will need to be replaced.

16
17 **Exhibit F: REGULATIONS FOR 2015 COASTAL COHO FISHERIES**
18 *The Commission was asked to adopt regulations for harvest of wild coho in specific*
19 *coastal rivers.*

20 *Staff: Chris Kern, Fish Division Deputy Administrator*
21 *Public Testimony*

22 *Action: Rulemaking*

23 *Staff Presentation: this presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
24 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp

25
26 **Public Testimony:**

Joe Rohleder, Waldport	This is a complicated issue; staff has done a great job providing us some opportunity to traget coho. In the past there have been problems with hooking mortality. I'm concerned that the fish are going to get stalled in top of the green water and we are going to see some severe hooking mortality.
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27
28 **Discussion:**

29 **Commissioner Anderson** – Is this an all barbless hook fishery?

30
31 **Chris Kern** – No, in the coastal rivers once they are outside the ocean fishing zone it is
32 not barbless. The ocean fishery is.

33
34 **Commissioner Anderson** – Given Mr. Rohleder's concerns about hooking mortality,
35 would that be something to look in to?

36
37 **Chris Kern** – It might be. I'd have a hard time giving you any sense of what it might do
38 in terms of effectiveness in terms of changing mortality. Something to be considered but
39 a lot of this issues depends on what the rainfall does in terms of what Mr. Rohleder had
40 brought up.

41

1 **Commissioner Akenson-** Does Oregon have to go back to NMFS or the Pacific
2 Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to have the Oregon regulations approved or is
3 that process already taken care of by the process that we've done?
4

5 **Chris Kern** – Yes and no. As part of the PFMC process we already put in a “place
6 holder” for a certain level of fishing in many locations. That’s already been approved
7 and that amount of fishing could occur under National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration’s (NOAA) authority. We still need to send them a report but based on our
9 past interaction that would be a nearly an automatic approval.
10

11 *Action:*

12 Commissioner Wolley I move to adopt the 2015 regulations for wild coho in inland
13 fisheries as proposed by staff and as reflected in draft OAR’s shown in Attachment 3.
14 Commissioner Buckmaster seconded the motion and the motion was carried
15 unanimously.
16

17 **Exhibit G: 2015-16 COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FISHERIES**

18 *The Commission was asked to adopt regulations and harvest specifications for coastal
19 pelagic species fisheries for the July 2015 - June 2016 period.*

20 *Staff: Caren Braby, Marine Resources Program Manager*

21 *Public Testimony*

22 *Action: Rulemaking*

23 *Staff Presentation: this presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
24 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
25

26 **Public Testimony: None**
27

28 **Discussion:**

29 **Commissioner Wolley-** What caused the 2007 population crash in stock biomass and
30 how is Oregon doing versus other west coast states?
31

32 **Caren Braby** – There isn’t any clear reason for the 2007 crash. We know that sardine
33 has been variable in a massive way for the past 50 to 100 years but we haven’t figured
34 out why; possibly temperature changes, ocean conditions etc. This is a very mobile
35 stock and its range is very far. It’s truly a west coast stock, it is not an Oregon stock or a
36 California stock, it’s the same stock. It’s all in this decline and this data is from west
37 coast surveys that have documented that as well as west coast plantings.
38

39 **Commissioner Akenson-** You mentioned the need to potentially extend the existing
40 sardine conservation management measures to other species because of that switch in
41 effort to other species are those other species as threatened as the sardines?
42

43 **Caren Braby-** We know less about the other species populations than we do about
44 sardines.
45

46 **Commissioner Akenson** - What would you do to extend the existing conservation to
47 other species?

1
2 **Caren Braby**- A bycatch reduction device, log book, and other fisheries logistic things
3 will help reduce mortality.
4

5 **Commissioner Akenson**- What happens to the commercial fishery when the catch limit
6 is reached and isn't that an overall catch limit not by fisherman or boat?
7

8 **Caren Braby**- The ratcheting down of the definition of incidental- after 1500 metric tons
9 are obtained it decreases to 30% when 4,000 is reached it decreases again, and
10 between 30% versus 5% that's a big difference and it's not possible to have a fishery on
11 these species.
12

13 **Commissioner Akenson** – The fish tickets are used to monitor the catch, how do you
14 monitor the stock status?
15

16 **Caren Barby** - Stock is monitored through large off-shore vessel surveys by National
17 Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
18

19 *Action:*

20 Commissioner Anderson moved to adopt the staff recommendations for 2015-2016
21 Coastal Pelagic Species fisheries as proposed in Attachment 3. Commissioner Akenson
22 seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.
23

24 **Exhibit H: RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT APPROVALS**

25 *The Commission was asked to approve the R&E Board's recommendations for project*
26 *funding from the May 29, 2015 R&E Board Meeting.*

27 *Staff: Kevin Herkamp, STEP and R&E Program Coordinator*

28 *Public Testimony*

29 *Action: Approval*

30 *Staff Presentation: this presentation is available in the meeting materials and at*
31 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/15/06_june/index.asp
32

33 **Public Testimony: None**
34

35 **Discussion: None**
36

37 *Action:*

38 Commissioner Akenson moved to approve the recommendations of the Fish
39 Restoration and Enhancement Board. Commissioner Webber seconded the motion and
40 the motion was carried unanimously.
41

42 **OTHER BUSINESS**

43
44 July Commission meeting-

45
46 July 27- at 10 am

47 Commissioner Atkinson- not available but will possibly call into the meeting.

1
2 Wolf delisting - options prior to rule-making may be able to give an analysis in August.
3
4 The Commission instructed staff to consider both delisting options the entire state and a
5 portion of the state; to do an analysis; staff to bring back options and still maintain the
6 option to reject.
7
8 Chair Michael Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

DRAFT