

Exhibit E

**Public Correspondence received as of
May 26, 2016**

Pat Matthews

From: Todd Nash <toddpnash@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 3:07 PM
To: pat.matthews@state.or.us; nick.a.myatt@state.or.us; ronald.e.anglin@state.or.us;
bruce.r.eddy@state.or.us
Cc: James Nash
Subject: Imnaha elk management objective

The Imnaha elk numbers increasing, to a point three times the management objective levels have caused harm to range lands that I run cattle on. The majority of these elk spend winter, and early spring on both private, and public lands, occupied later by cattle.

I have been quite active in getting people out on the ground to see damage done by elk, as well as accommodating hunters, to help them be successful. At a recent meeting here in Enterprise, instead of addressing the over abundance of elk, it was proposed to simply bring management numbers up to where they are now. This was a move from 800 to 2000 head. The lack of respect in this case shocked me. I was told by Nick Myatt that they would be proposing an increase in the MO, but 2 1/2 times the current level. It is my understanding that an increase to 1200 was submitted by those representing the Stockgrowers, 1 1/2 times the current MO, I also support such action.

I'm the largest leaser in this highly impacted area, and have been on this same piece of ground for 22 years. The impacts of elk, are too great for current numbers, and proposed numbers. This is one more plea to manage our elk herd in a manner respectful of the land base, and people that depend on it resources.

Todd Nash

Sent from my iPad



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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February 16, 2016

Recommendations on Elk Management Objectives

Wallowa District:

The following recommendations are included with those presented by the District Biologists when we met on 1/26/16, plus a brief explanation on why the current recommendation differed from that given during the stakeholders meeting, or differs from the District recommendations.

WENAHA: Proposed Pop MO: District – 4250 OHA – 4250

WENAHA: Bull/100 Cows: District – 15 OHA – 20

Justification: Should attempt to get back to bull/cow ratios of 2005-2010 levels. This is the state's most highly coveted large bull unit.

SLED SPRINGS: Proposed Pop MO: District – 2750 OHA – 2750

SLED SPRINGS: Proposed Bull/100 Cows: District – 10 OHA – 10

CHESNIMNUS: Proposed Pop MO: District – 3,500 OHA – 4,500

Justification: Population numbers from 2010 to present average over 5,000. Our recommended number still allows for a drop of 500, and hopefully that will reduce agricultural issues if accomplished.

CHESNIMNUS: Proposed Bull/100 Cows: District – 10 OHA – 15

Justification: Bull ratios over the past 10 years have averaged 15, this would be good to maintain, primarily for both hunter satisfaction.

SNAKE RIVER: Proposed Pop MO: District – 4,500 OHA – 4,800

Justification: Need to consider a buffer given the likelihood for this Unit to experience increased predation pressure from an expanding wolf population.

SNAKE RIVER: Proposed Bull/100 Cows: District – 15 OHA – 15

MINAM: Proposed Pop MO: District – 2,000 OHA – 2,250



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Justification: Increase is based on pop estimate graph provided – 2010 to 2015, and provide a population cushion factor when considering increased wolf predation looking ahead.

MINAM: Proposed Bull/100 Cows: District – 20 OHA – 20

IMNAHA: Proposed Pop MO: District – 2,000 OHA – 2,200

Justification: Since 2008, the population estimate has averaged 2,200 and currently it is on a downward trend. This is a critical elk herd in the NE Region. The Imnaha elk herd provides a lot of high quality recreation on public lands from hunting – including designated Wilderness land with a rich backcountry hunting heritage.

IMNAHA: Proposed Bull/100 Cows: District – 15 OHA – 15

Submitted by:

Jim Akenson
Invited participant &
Conservation Director, OHA



February 18, 2016

Pat Matthews
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
65495 Alder Slope Road
Enterprise, OR 97828

Regarding: Management Objective Review for Elk & Mule Deer

Mr. Matthews:

Please accept these comments from Hells Canyon Preservation Council (HCPC) regarding the review of elk & mule deer Management Objectives (MO). HCPC is a non-profit conservation organization based in La Grande, OR with approximately 1,000 members. HCPC's mission is to connect, protect and restore the wild lands, waters, native species and habitats of the Greater Hells Canyon Region from the Seven Devils Mountains in Idaho to the Blue Mountains in Oregon and Washington. Our vision is a region of wild lands and waters where both native species and human communities thrive.

I thoroughly reviewed the power point presentation from the January 26 meeting of the MO review committee. I appreciate the information provided about the Management Objective review process and the deer and elk population trends for the individual wildlife management units. Mr. Matthews and I also discussed these points in more depth on the phone on February 12. I then followed up by researching additional related information.

I would also add that I am familiar with the country that lies within each of these wildlife units and have been out on the ground in each of them numerous times. I feel very fortunate to be able to get out and enjoy these magnificent landscapes. I also very much appreciate the wildlife that rely on the habitats that are found there.

I would like to offer the following comments on behalf of HCPC:

- We support the proposals to increase the elk population MO in the Snake River and Imnaha Units and to add a 20% cap to the current population MO for Zumwalt private lands in the Chesnimnus.
- We support the committee's recommendation to increase the bull to cow ration from 15 to 20 in the Wenaha and Snake River units.

We believe that these proposals are supported by the habitat quality, the current elk populations, the unit sizes and their percentage of public ownership, the known wolf pack levels, the popularity of these wildlife units with hunters, and the ability of ODFW to manage complaints and concerns from the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important wildlife management issue.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelly
Restoration Director
Hells Canyon Preservation Council
PO Box 2768
La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-3950 x. 24
brian@hellscanyon.org



Nez Perce

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

February 22, 2016

Pat Matthews
Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Wallowa Wildlife District
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
65495 Alder Slope Rd.
Enterprise, OR 97828

Re: ODFW Elk Management Objectives Review 2015-16.

Dear Pat:

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) appreciates the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) reaching out to it regarding ODFW's efforts to manage elk populations in eastern Oregon.

Since time immemorial, the Tribe has occupied and utilized the lands, waters, and animals of north-central Idaho, southeastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, and areas of Montana for subsistence, ceremonial, commercial, and religious purposes. In 1855, the United States negotiated a treaty with the Tribe. Treaty of June 9, 1855, with the Nez Perce, 12 Stat. 957 (1859). In Article 3 of this treaty, the Tribe explicitly reserved to itself certain rights, including the right to hunt on open and unclaimed lands. Consequently, the Tribe possesses treaty hunting rights within the area of concern and welcomes the opportunity to engage with ODFW regarding the path forward.

The Tribe has substantial wildlife management expertise and understands that ODFW faces numerous challenges in managing wildlife, including elk. As land and resource managers, the Tribe believes that developing more precise habitat objectives for wildlife and managing all public land in eastern Oregon as habitat for wildlife are key to achieving population objectives. Consequently, meeting elk population objectives will require the involvement of other land management agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service. It is only through working with agencies like the U.S. Forest Service that ODFW will be able to effectively address how travel management and livestock grazing can hinder elk population management in the region.


The current ODFW proposal is to review elk management objectives every 10 years. The Tribe believes that these objectives need to be reviewed at least every 3 years to meet elk population

objectives. This is because landscape disturbances may radically alter habitats within a 10-year period necessitating the need to adjust elk populations within that period.

As for the proposed elk management objectives, the Tribe agrees with the targeted population increase in the Wenaha Unit, but would like to better understand the reasons for the current low population number. The Tribe would recommend that the bull ratio be increased to 20; this is the Tribe's position on the remaining units within the other hunt areas as well. The remaining management units (Sled Springs, Chesnimnus, Snake River, Minam, and Innaha) may be well suited to an increase in the proposed management objective numbers to match the previous five-year population average, as elk numbers have responded positively in these areas previously.

The Tribe hopes its comments help you as you continue to develop future elk management objectives and welcomes ongoing dialogue.

Sincerely,


Anthony D. Johnson
Chairman



File Code: 2600
Date: March 10, 2016

Pat Matthews
Wallowa District Biologist
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
65495 East Alder Slope Road
Enterprise, OR 97828

Dear Pat;

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the deer and elk management objective (MO) review process. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) is committed to balancing the needs of healthy deer and elk populations with our domestic livestock grazing program, forest restoration activities, and other multiple use objectives.

We have reviewed the materials provided by your department on deer and elk population trends and rationale for proposed changes to MO's, and others' input to this review process. Your recommendations for no changes to mule deer population MO's is understandable given the emphasis to address downward trends in many areas through your department's Mule Deer Initiative.

Elk population MO's in the Minam and Sled Springs wildlife management units (WMU) appear to be practical for your agency to maintain through hunting, commensurate with available habitat, and compatible with other land uses. We are supportive of your recommendations to retain these MO's at current levels.

Your proposal to increase the elk population MO's in the Snake River WMU from 3,800 to 4,500 and in the Imnaha WMU from 800 to 2,000 are well reasoned considering the amount of public lands in these WMU's, the high public interest in elk hunting and viewing, and the presence of wolf packs in these areas.

The WWNF has been involved in the issue of elk distribution in the Chesnimnus WMU for the past several years. We are supportive of your proposal to establish a goal of no more than 20% of the elk population MO for the Zumwalt Prairie. We look forward to continuing to work with your department and other stakeholders in trying to improve the seasonal distribution of elk in this area so that Tribal treaty rights can be exercised, the public and can have access to elk for viewing and hunting, and private land damage can be reduced to an acceptable level.

Sincerely,



THOMAS MONTOYA
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mark Penninger



Roxann B Borisch

From: Ryan Helfrich <hunterharry@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 9:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Oregon elk management

I am emailing in great concern of Oregon's elk population. To begin with, management objectives of eastern Oregon elk population are extremely low. Somehow, the total statistics for 2015 show elk population on the eastside are right at or above total MO. However, total success rates are under 20%. If elk are so plentiful why don't success rates show that? Secondly, I would like to point out Oregon's trophy units. Mt Emily unit shows MO at 5700 elk and estimates show elk populations at 3100. That is 2600 below MO! Yet a thousand spoke only tags are issued, and worse yet they run in the middle of the big bull hunt. Same goes for wenaha and walla walla. These units are way below MO yet a heck of a lot of spike tags are issued. Also, ochoco is 500 below MO yet hundreds of antlerless tags are issued each year. Antlerless tags need to be issued when elk are at or above MO not when they are way below.

Over to western Oregon there are units like the saddle mountain, Alsea, trask, santiam, and scappoose that are almost 50% below MO. Why issue a load of cow tags in these units that are below MO by a huge margin? Cow and spike tags need to be eliminated or elk will dwindle like the 2015 stats show. I have waited twenty years to hunt one of the "big 3" but now elk population are dropping tremendously a large part due to the issuing of WAY too many tags. Lastly, how is it the northside unit has a management objective of 2000 elk yet there are 2200 antlerless tags issued? That is blasphemy.

I'm fully aware ODFW is way underfunded and as a result defy biologist request and issue way too many tags, and over harvest the public's natural resources. My suggestion is with the special tags coming out in 2016, raise the price of the application fee for those tags. Say raise it to \$10 or \$15. That will be a highly successful pure revenue source. With a new big revenue source, I would hope all cow tags in units below MO would stop and spike hunt be severely decreased or eliminated. Oregon has some of the best elk habitat in the U.S. yet some of the worst populations. We need to conserve the cow elk not shoot them. I want my kids to be able to enjoy elk hunting in Oregon, but with the way they are managed now, they will never get to. I hope in coming years with the new special tag program there will be changes to help hunters and so manage elk population in an effective manner.

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Ryan Helfrich <hunterharry@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 7:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: West Beulah elk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 3:30 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Forwarded to Wildlife

I am very concerned about current elk populations in the west Beulah unit. According to the new elk plan, the management objective for this unit is 1300 elk. The last population estimate was 400 elk. There is over triple the amount of elk tags issued than there is elk population. I would like to know the mindset behind issuing triple the amount of elk tag than elk when populations are 900 below management objectives?

Is there any reason to this?

The elk are the public's resource and the misuse and exploitation of a public's resource leads to lawsuits. Please reconsider the tag allotment for this unit for elk.

Sent from my iPhone