

2016 and 2017 Big Game Tag Numbers and 2017 Hunting Regulations

**Oregon
Fish and Wildlife Commission**

**June 9, 2016
Salem, Oregon**

June Meeting Overview

- **New Regulations Process**
- **Program Updates**
 - **Mentored Youth**
- **General Regulations, Proposals for 2017**
- **Big Game Species Specific Proposals**
 - **2016 and 2017 tag numbers to be adopted today**
 - **2017 Big Game Regulations**

Regulation Development Process

June 2016 (Today)

- Adopt tag numbers for 2016 and 2017 controlled hunts
- Adopt 2017 Big Game Regulations

November - March, 2017, Districts conduct surveys

April 1, Deadline for canceling hunt or tag reductions

May 15, District proposal deadline

June 12-16, Division meets with Biologists

- Discuss 2018 seasons, tag numbers, and regulations

July 1-15, public outreach/meetings

September, Commission Adopts 2018 Regulations

November, 2018 Regulations printed and delivered

Mentored Youth Update

Tables are Reported Data

# Mentors by the # of years they mentored youth 2011-2015		
# Years Mentored	# of Mentors	% of Mentors
1	8,681	66%
2	2,663	20%
3	1,170	9%
4	414	3%
5	155	1%
Total Mentors	13,083	

# of Mentored Tags per Mentor 2011-2015	
% of Mentors	# of Tags
74%	1
19%	2
5%	3
2%	4
<1%	≥5
Total Tags	26,845

Mentored Youth Update (cont.)

Tables are Reported Data

Year	Species	# Mentored Tags	# Youth	Animals Harvested	Avg. Days Mentored	% Hunters who Mentored Youth
2012	Buck Deer	2,908	3,471	461	4	2.4%
2013	Buck Deer	3,062	3,619	532	4	2.5%
2014	Buck Deer	3,098	3,867	574	4	2.5%
2015	Buck Deer	2,928	3,639	546	4	2.3%
2012	Elk	1,169	1,526	80	3	1.3%
2013	Elk	1,170	1,531	62	3	1.3%
2014	Elk	1,241	1,601	79	3	1.4%
2015	Elk	1,285	1,626	99	3	1.4%

Mentored Youth Update (cont.)

Tables are Reported Data

Average Annual Mentored Youth Harvest, 2012-2015					
Species	# Mentored Tags	# Youth	Animals Harvested (% Success)	Avg. Days	% Hunters who Mentored Youth
Buck Deer	2,999	3,649	528 (14%)	4	2.5%
Antlerless Deer	375	438	124 (28%)	3	4.3%
Elk	1,216	1,571	80 (5%)	3	1.4%
Pronghorn	45	56	18 (33%)	2.5	2.2%
Bear	466	592	13 (2%)	5.5	2.3%
Cougar	187	237	0	6	2.0%
Turkey	415	499	105 (21%)	3	3.4%
ALL SPECIES	5,702	7,042	869 (12%)	4	2.2%

Premium Hunts

Background: Topic during fee increase discussions

Premium Hunt Features:

- **Three new hunt series (deer, elk, pronghorn)**
- **Tag available in most units**
- **Additional tag**
- **No Preference Points involved**
- **Standard application and tag fee allows any hunter to apply**

Premium Hunt Applications (through May 27, 2016):

- **Deer – 28,020, Elk – 28,989, Pronghorn – 12,180**
- **Total applications – 69,189**
- **Total gross revenue - \$553,512 (includes agent fee)**

2017 Regulation Proposals

Define Edible Portions for Waste Regulations:

- Increased interest in “gutless” field dressing
- Requested by OSP, create a common understanding of the regulations
- Assist with enforcement of waste regulations
- Provide clarity for hunters
- Opinions of “edible portions” varies
- Proposed definition would establish minimum portions of meat to be recovered

Define Edible Portion

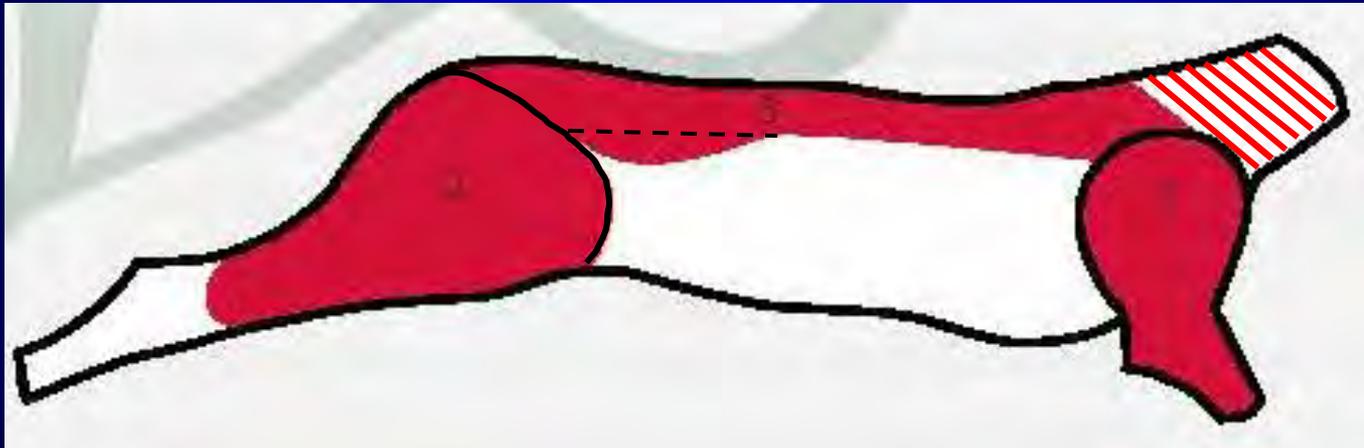
Currently “No Person Shall: Waste any game mammals or parts thereof, except that meat of cougar need not be salvaged.”

Consistent with some other western states: “Edible Portion” includes the meat from the front quarters, hindquarters, the loins (back-strap), and tenderloins

Based on comments from the public, biologists, and OSP, proposing to add, “for elk, it also includes the meat of the neck”

Define Edible Portion (cont.)

Proposal: No Person Shall: Waste any edible portion of any game mammal, except that meat of cougar need not be salvaged. At a minimum, “edible portion” means the meat of the front quarters as far down as the knees (the distal joint of the radius-ulna), meat of the hindquarters as far down as the hocks (the distal joint of the tibia-fibula), and the meat along the backbone including the loins (back-strap), and tenderloins, for elk, it also includes the meat of the neck.



Sale of Taxidermy

Sale of Game Mammal Taxidermy Mounts:

- Currently, individuals can only sell taxidermy mounts “one-time”, as part of an estate
- Concepts to expand the opportunity to sell taxidermy mounts
- Concerns include:
 - Increased workload on Department field staff to mark and record mounts being sold
 - Increased interest in large specimens
- Steps to mitigate concerns:
 - Implement a fee for marking and documenting mounts
 - Individual can only sell mounts of animals they personally harvested, or acquired as a decedents survivor or successor

Sale of Taxidermy (cont.)

Initial Proposal in Commission Packet:

- **In addition to mounts acquired from a decedent, allow sales by residents 65 years of age or older that legally harvested the animal**
- **Implement a registration permit:**
 - **\$25.00 fee covers up to five taxidermy mounts**
 - **Additional \$5.00 for each additional mount**
- **Documentation**
 - (a) **An Oregon death certificate for the decedent**
 - (b) **Validated tag or affidavit stating the animal was legally harvested before January 1, 2017**
 - (c) **For animals taken on or after January 1, 2017, a properly validated tag to document legal harvest**

Revised Proposal for Sale of Taxidermy

635-200-0120

Taxidermy Mounts

- A game mammal taxidermy mount may be sold provided the seller first obtains a taxidermy sale registration permit
- Same “new” registration permit fee:
 - \$25.00 fee covers up to five taxidermy mounts
 - Additional \$5.00 for each additional mount
- Documentation
 - (a) Validated tag or affidavit stating the animal was legally harvested before January 1, 2017
 - (b) For animals taken on or after January 1, 2017, a properly validated tag to document legal harvest by seller or decedent

Revised Proposal for Sale of Taxidermy (cont.)

635-200-0120

Taxidermy Mounts

- (1) A taxidermy mount of a legally acquired game mammal may be sold to any person, provided that **the seller first obtains a taxidermy sale registration permit** from the department.
- (2) A taxidermy sale registration permit requires a **\$25.00** non-refundable permit administration fee which covers processing of up to five taxidermy mounts, and a processing fee of an additional \$5.00 for each additional mounted game mammal.
- (3) To obtain a permit, the seller must provide the department with:
 - (a) For mounts of game mammals harvested before January 1, 2017, a properly validated tag issued to the seller or a decedent, or an affidavit by the seller stating that (to the best of the seller's knowledge) **the game mammal was legally harvested by the seller or a decedent and describing how the seller legally acquired the mount**; and
 - (b) For mounts of game mammals harvested on or after January 1, 2017, a properly validated tag issued to the seller or a decedent to document legal harvest of the game mammal.
- (4) Upon compliance with the requirements of subsection (2) and (3), the department shall register the mount and affix a permanent identification number.

Controlled Hunt Application Changes

Adopt Controlled Hunt Application Change Fee:

- Hunters can change controlled hunt choices up to June 1st, ~ two weeks after the application deadline, May 15th
- Currently, no charge for changes
- Legislative approval to charge an administrative fee for making changes to controlled hunt applications
- Changes are made manually, often very time consuming
- Proposed fee structure:
 - No charge for the first change for each controlled hunt series
 - \$25 fee for subsequent changes to the same hunt series

2017, New Winter Closures

Primary purpose, provide natural and supplemental forage for elk, deer (and bighorn sheep at Wenaha) and minimize damage to adjacent private crops

- **Consistent with other Wildlife Areas that winter big game, and/or have winter feeding programs**

Wenaha Wildlife Area:

- **NE OR, Wallowa County**
- **Open to the public April 1 through December 31**
- **Year-round access at designated camping areas, and along the Wenaha River and Grande Ronde River**

2017, New Winter Closures (cont.)

White River Wildlife Area:

- North Central OR, Wasco County
- Winter closure of north ½ of the WA (~ 14,500 acres)
- All WA lands north of Forest Road 27 (Map attached as Appendix 1).
- Open to the public April 1-November 30
 - December 1, gates close into proposed closure area

Area Regulations

Junction City Pond Area, open for public use, restrictions include:

- No hunting or trapping
- Only archery (recurve, long, or compound bows) are allowed, and only within archery park
- No open fires, area closed from 10 pm to 4 am
- No dog training, all dogs on a leash.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area: Previously open only for two youth deer hunts, the Department is proposing to allow additional big game hunting on the WA east of Foothill Road:

All land north and east of Foothill Road are open to big game hunting Wed., Sat., Sun. and federal holidays August 1 through January 31. The use of centerfire rifles and handguns is prohibited. A free daily access permit is required.

Species Specific

Population Overview/Monitoring

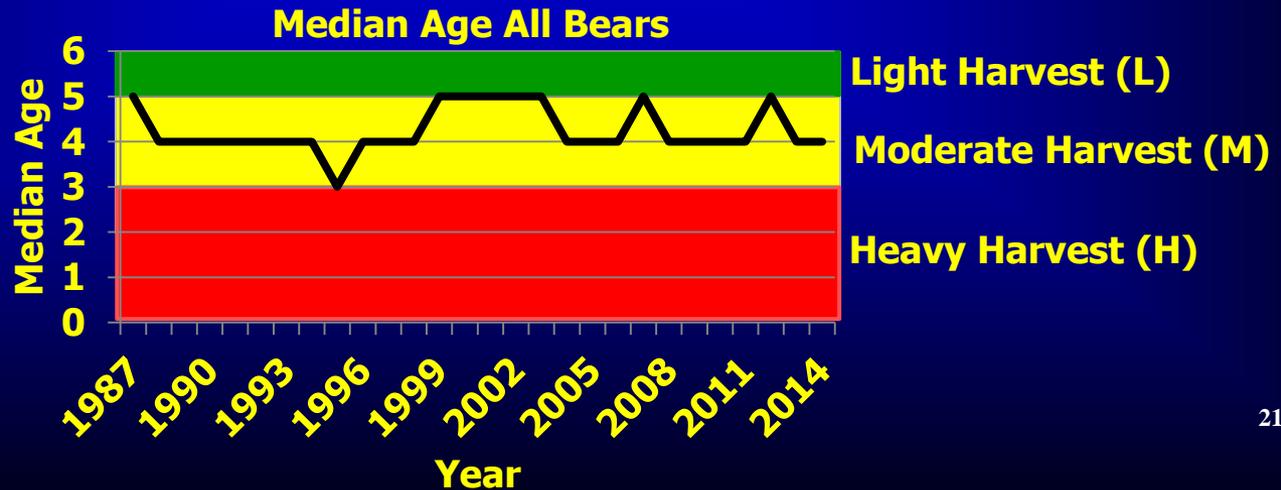
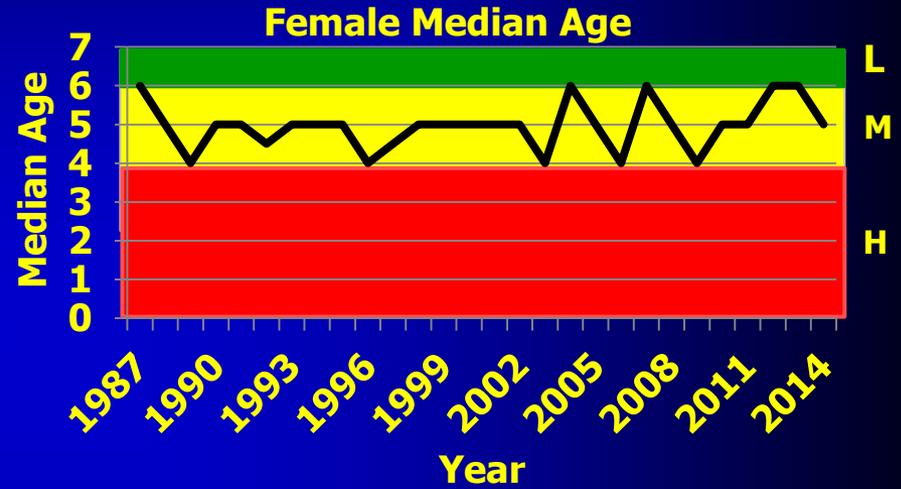
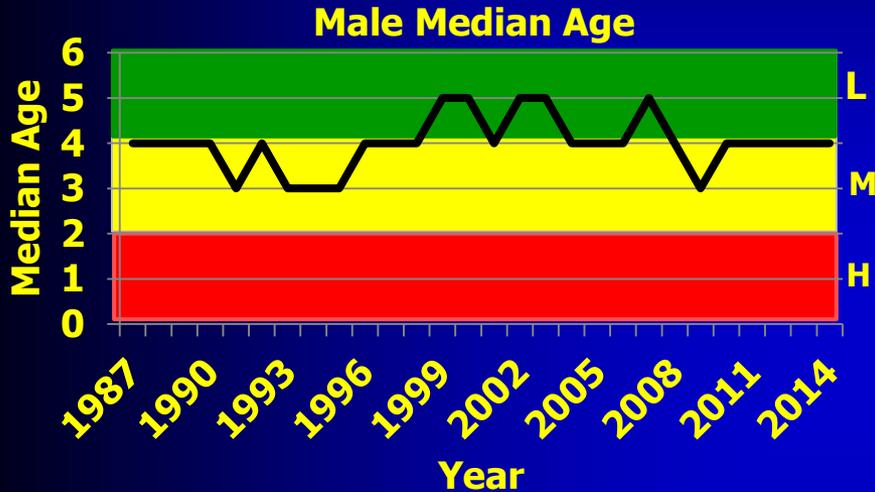
2016 and 2017 Tag Number Proposals

2017 Season Regulations

Bear and Cougar

Bear Population Monitoring

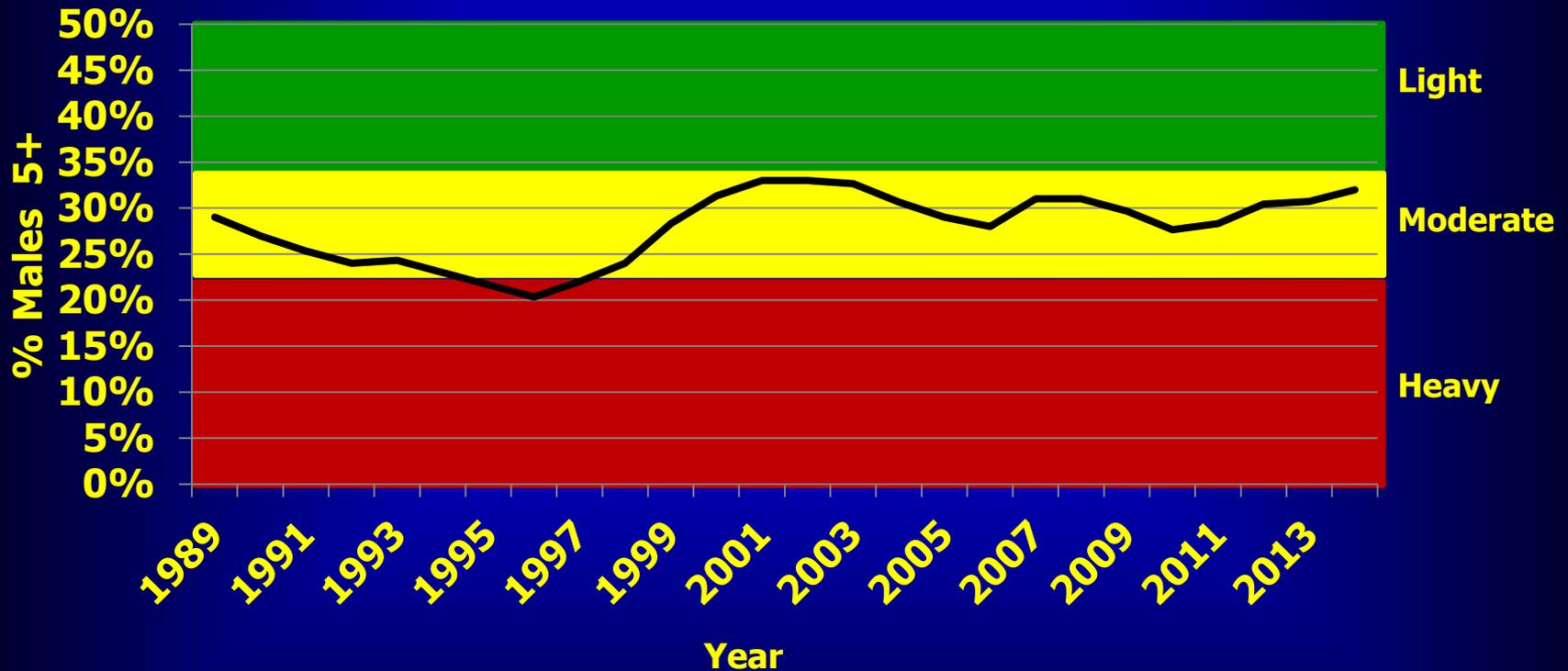
Harvest sustainable if median age of males ≥ 2 years, females ≥ 4 years, and all bears ≥ 3 years



Bear Population Monitoring Cont.

Sex-age criteria to assess harvest level of black bears in Oregon.
Criteria based on 3-year running averages

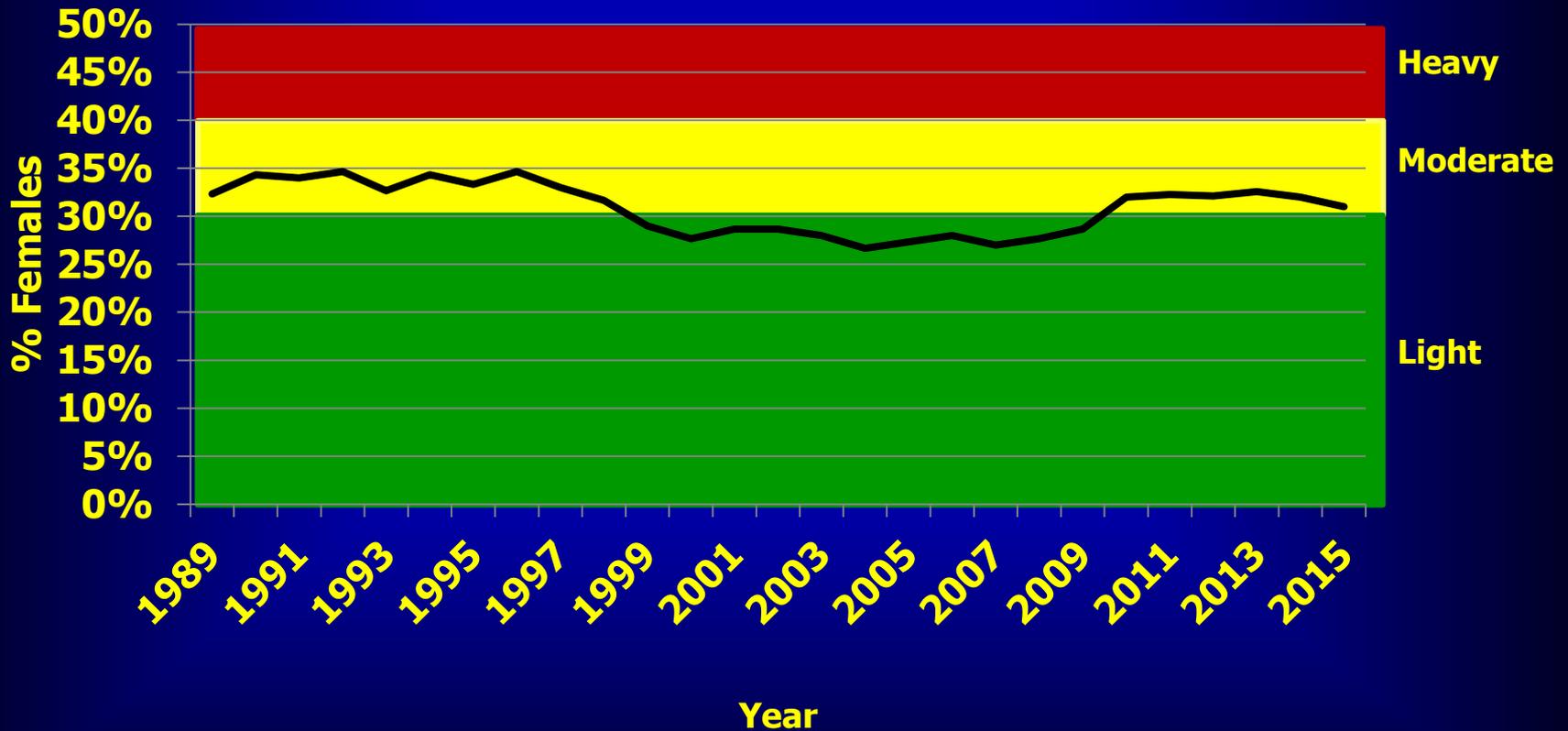
Criteria	Light	Moderate	Heavy
% Males ≥ 5 yr old	>35%	25–35%	<25%



Bear Population Monitoring Cont.

Sex-age criteria to assess harvest level of black bears in Oregon.
Criteria based on 3-year running averages

Criteria	Light	Moderate	Heavy
% Females	<30%	30–40%	>40%



Spring Bear, 2017 Season Proposals



4,675 Total Controlled Tags



SW Oregon Limited

- 4,400 Tags
- First Come – First Served
- Tag Sales Dec 1, 2016 – Mar 31, 2017



Continue to Protect Cubs & Sows with Cubs



Continue Mandatory Check-in

- 532 Checked Bears in Spring 2015

General Bear, 2017 Season Proposals

No Change to General Season Dates

- Aug 1 – Dec 31 Western Oregon
- Aug 1 – Nov 30 Eastern Oregon

Tag Sale Deadline September 29

Maintain Season Structure

- 2 Bear Tag Opportunity
- Protect Cubs & Sows with Cubs

Continue Mandatory Check-in

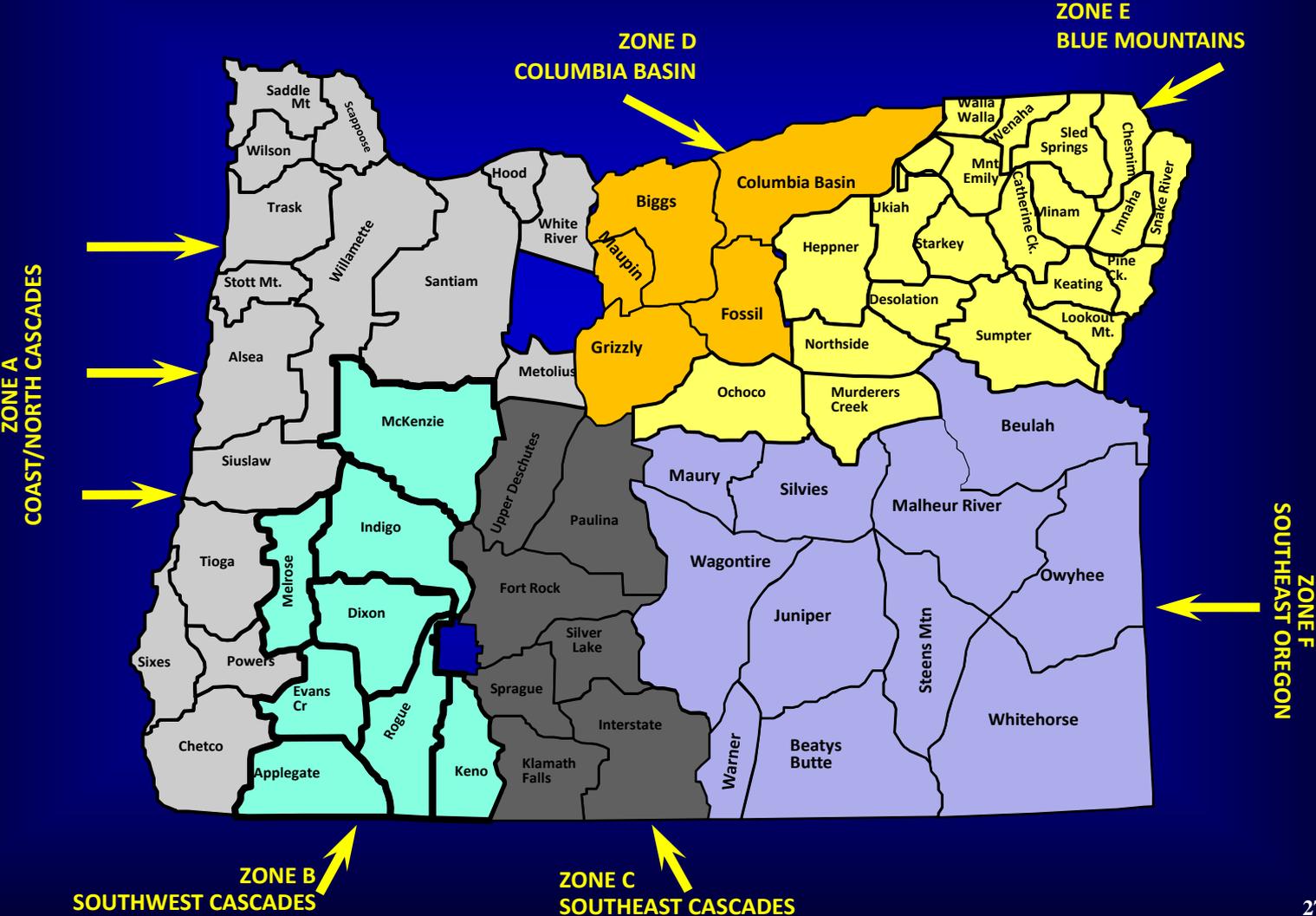
- 833 Checked Bears in Fall 2015

General Bear, 2017 Season Concepts

-  **Nonresident Bear Tags Limited to 1,200 until 2016 General Season Big Game Surveys are Completed**
-  **Creates buffer allowing purchase of tags without exceeding 3% tag limit**

General Season Nonresident Tags		
Unit	2016	2017
Northwest	272	207*
Southwest & SW Additional Nonresident	356	271*
Cascades & Cascade Additional Nonresident	479	365*
Eastern	468	357*
	1,575	1,200*

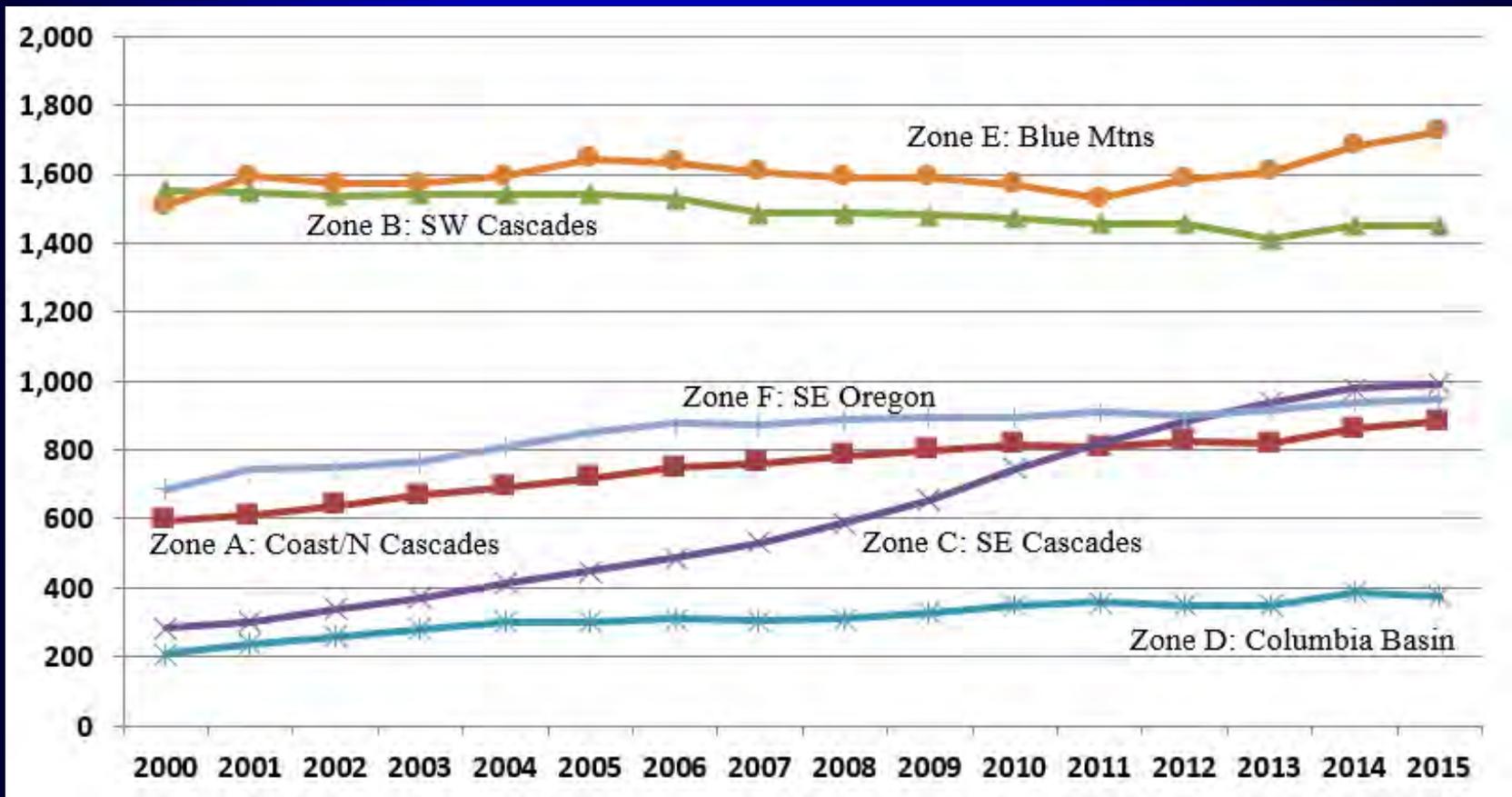
Cougar Population Management Zones



Cougar Population Monitoring

Objective 1: Manage for a cougar population at or above 1994 level of approximately 3,000 cougars statewide

Statewide Population Estimate of 6,372 in 2015



Cougar Population Monitoring (cont.)

Zone quotas include all known cougar mortalities

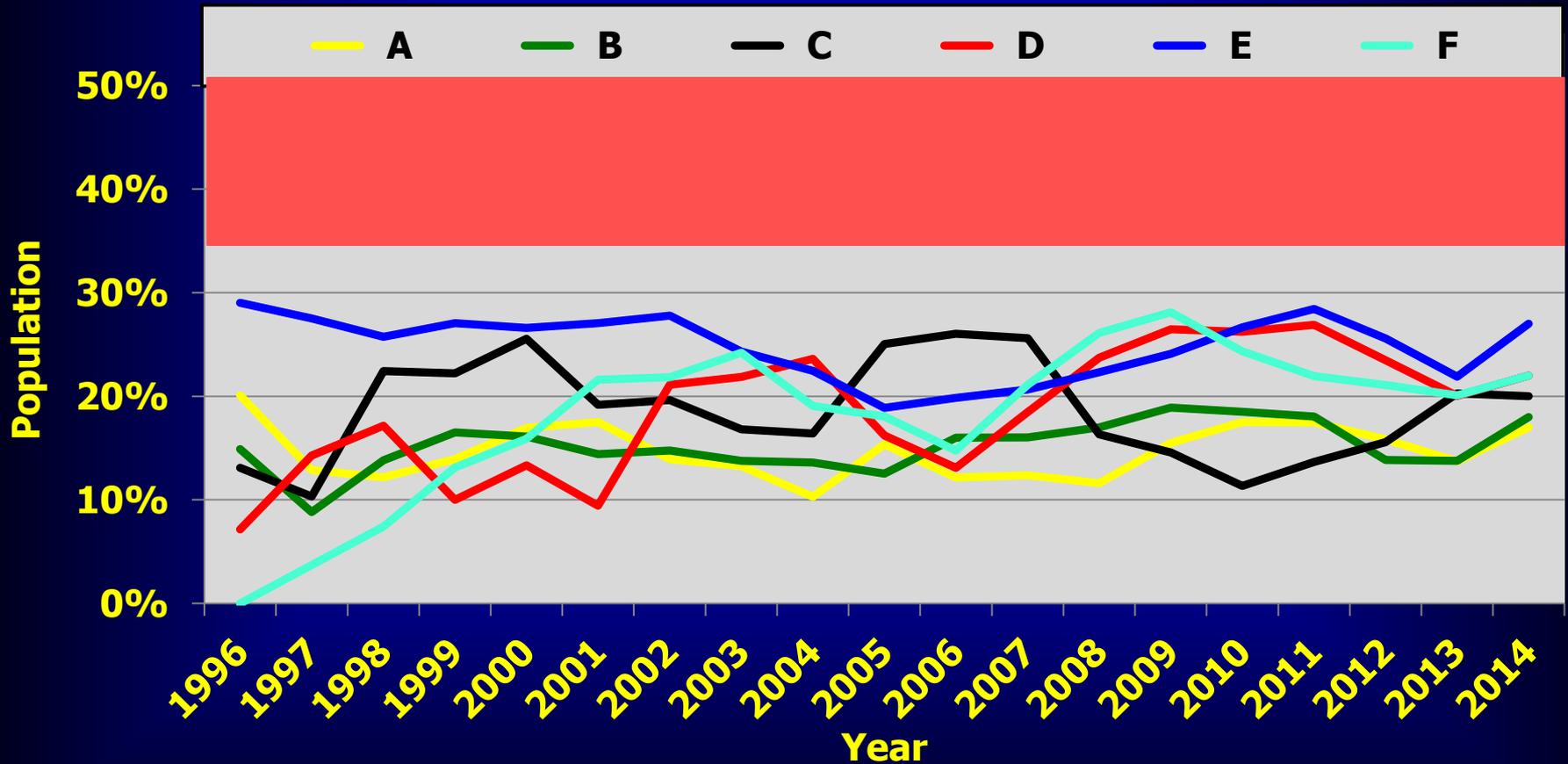
When quotas are met, all harvest ceases for rest of calendar year, removals due to damage and conflict are still permitted

Zone	Zone Quota	Total Mortality							Zone Quota		
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2015	2016*
A Coast/N Casc.	<i>120</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>73</i>
B SW Cascades	<i>165</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>66</i>
C SE Cascades	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>12</i>
D Col. Basin	<i>62</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>15</i>
E Blue Mtns.	<i>245</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>40</i>
F SE Oregon	<i>120</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>10</i>
Total	<i>777</i>	<i>492</i>	<i>473</i>	<i>482</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>531</i>	<i>383</i>	<i>970</i>	<i>427</i>	<i>216</i>

***Numbers as of June 03, 2016**

Cougar Population Monitoring (cont.)

- Three-year average proportion adult (3+ year old) females in the total mortality $\leq 25\text{-}35\%$



Cougar Target Areas

4 Target Areas Initiated in 2016

Target Area	Purpose	Annual Objective	Administrative Removals 2016
East Umpqua	Reduce livestock depredation	30	30
Interstate	Improve mule deer populations	50	8
Steens	Improve mule deer & BHS populations	10	0
Warner	Improve mule deer populations	5	3

Numbers as of June 03, 2016

Cougar, 2017 Season Proposals

Year-Round Season

2 Cougar Tag Opportunity

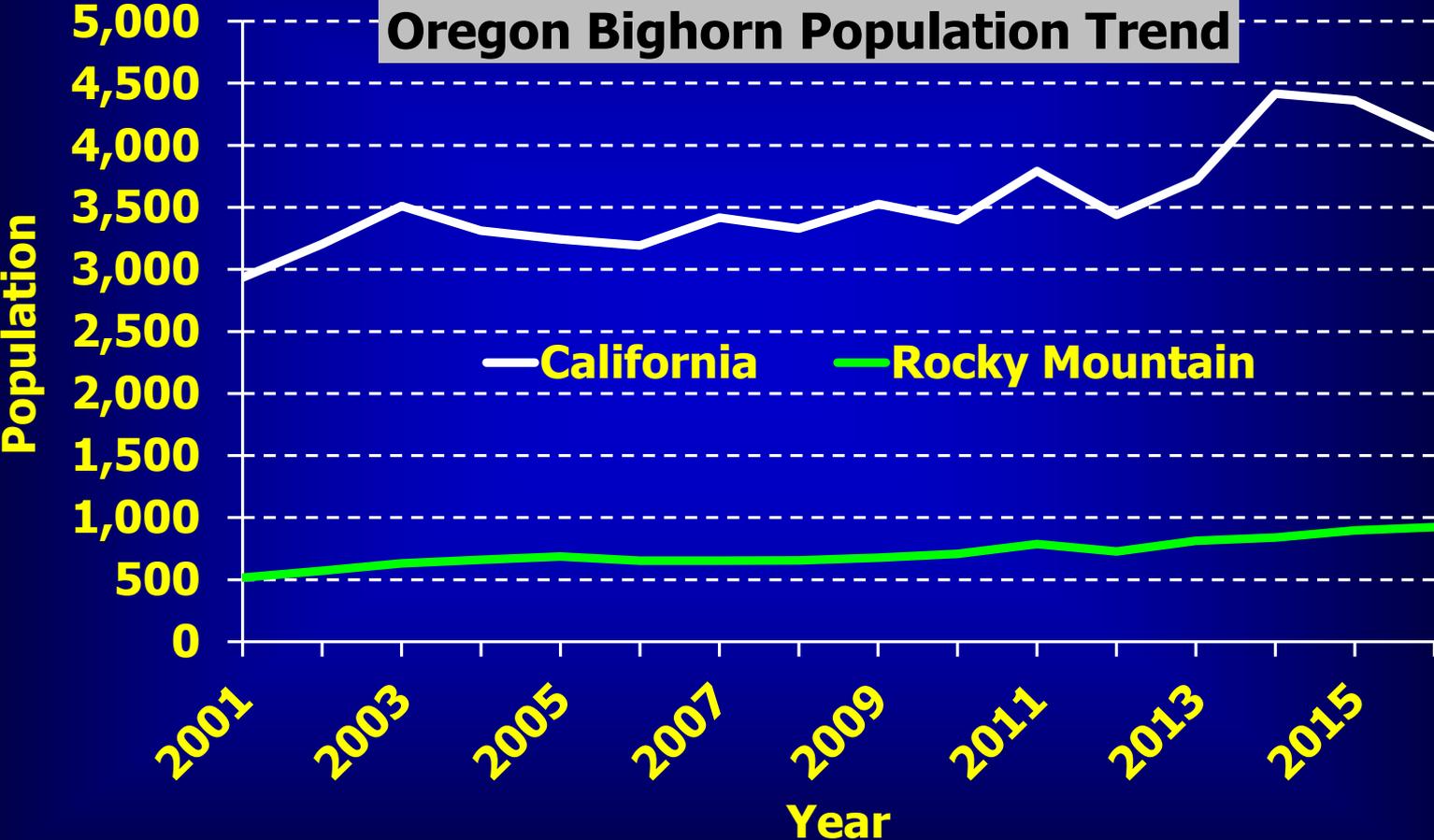
- September 29 Tag Sale Deadline for General Tag
- No Deadline for Additional Cougar Tag
 - Must purchase first tag by deadline

Mandatory Check-in

Protect Kittens & Females with Kittens

Ungulates

Bighorn Sheep Population Monitoring



Bighorn Sheep Tag & Season Proposals

 **7 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Tags in 2016**

 **78 California Bighorn Tags in 2016**

 **7% Non-Resident**

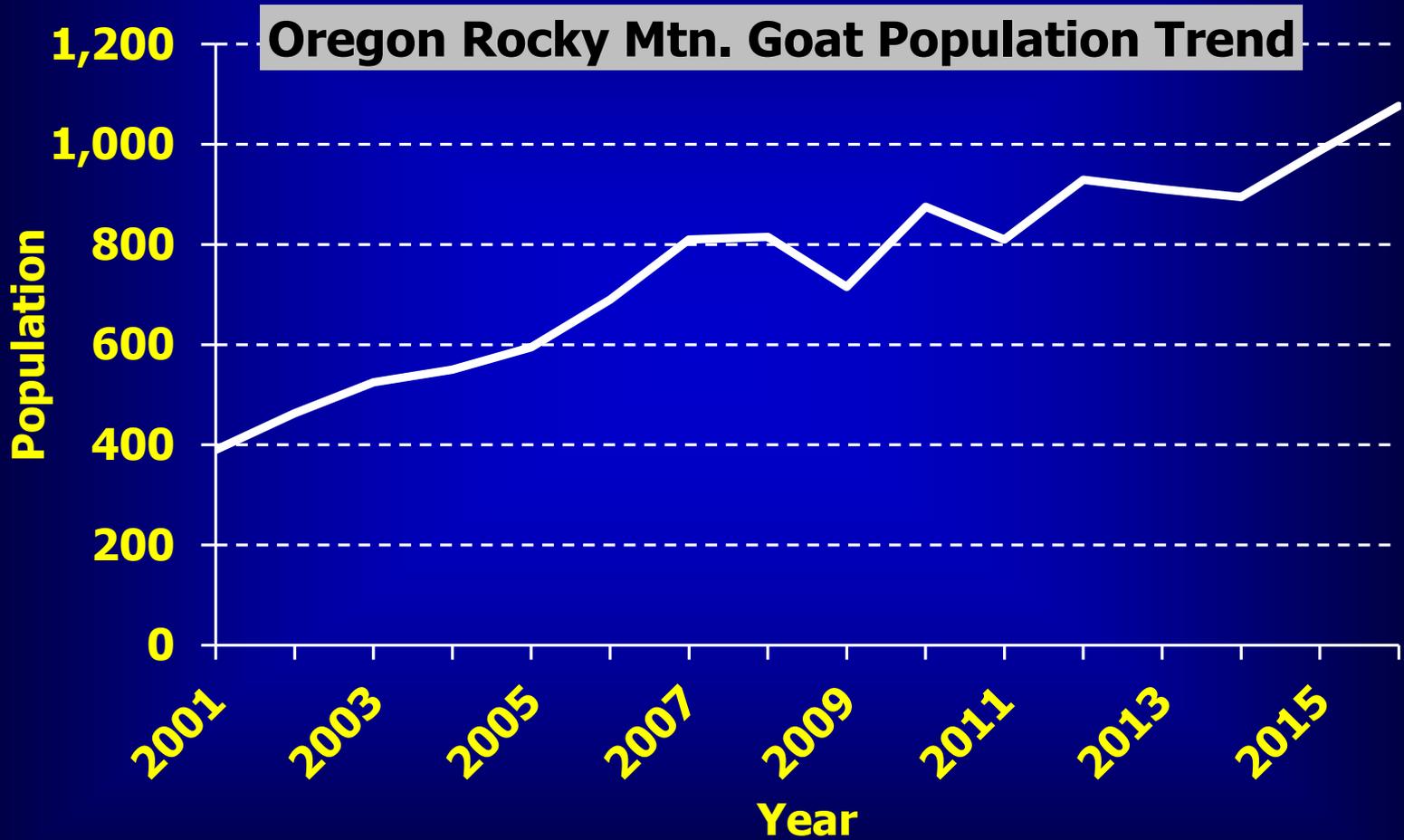
 **1 Day calendar shift for most 2017 hunts**

 **7 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Tags in 2017**

 **78 California Bighorn Tags in 2017**

 **7% Non-Resident**

Rocky Mtn. Goat Population Monitoring



Rocky Mtn. Goat Restoration

 **Goat Capture Late July**

 **~ 6 to WA**

New Release

Protocol Development

 **~ 15 to Three Fingered Jack**

Augment Pioneering

Herd



Rocky Mtn. Goat Tag & Season Proposals



22 Tags for 2016

- 2 Nonresident (9%)
- Elkhorn #2, Hat Point #1



1 Day calendar shift in 2017



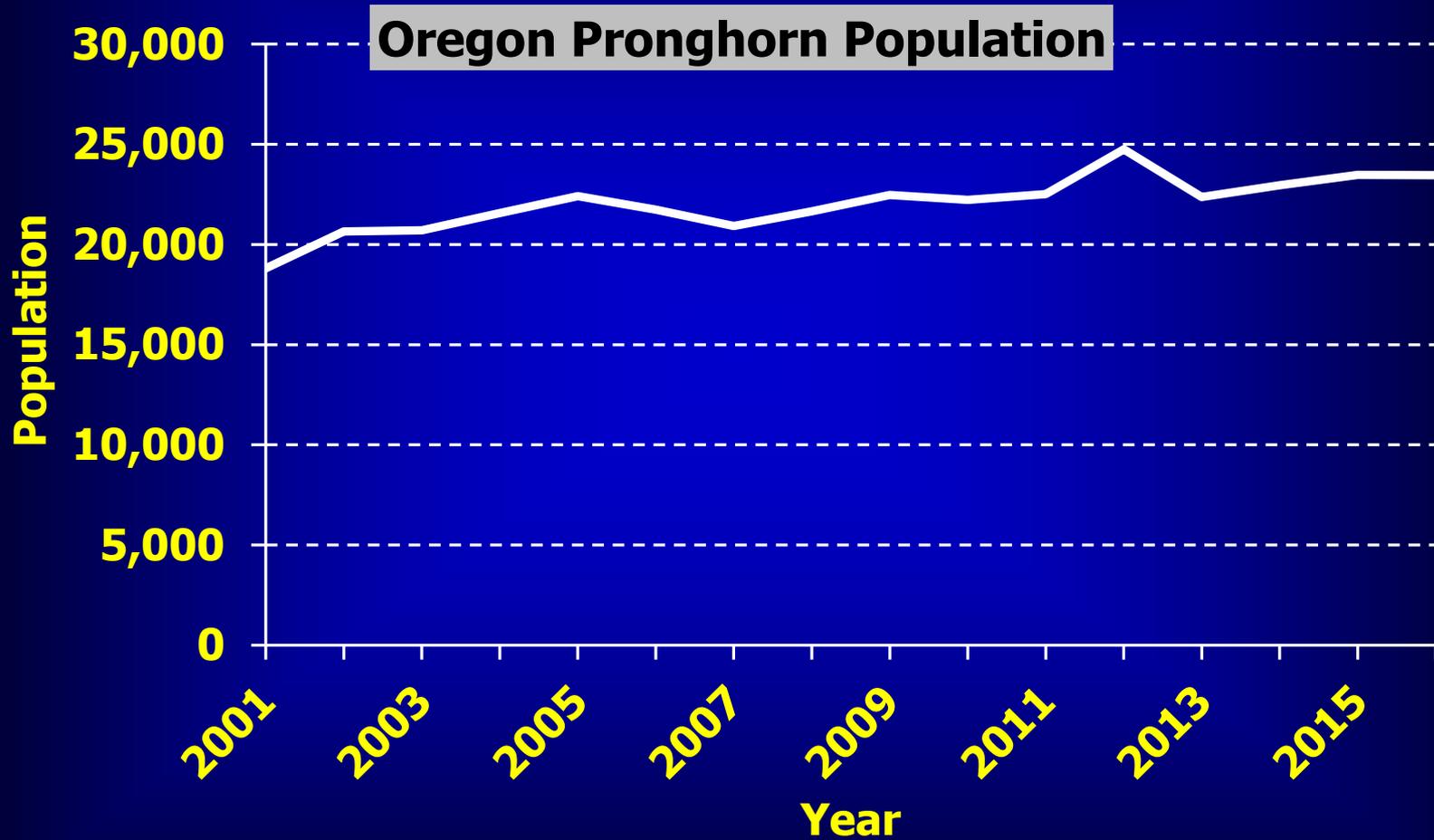
New Hunt: Cusick Mountain



23 Tags in 2017

- 2 Nonresident (9%)

Pronghorn Population Monitoring



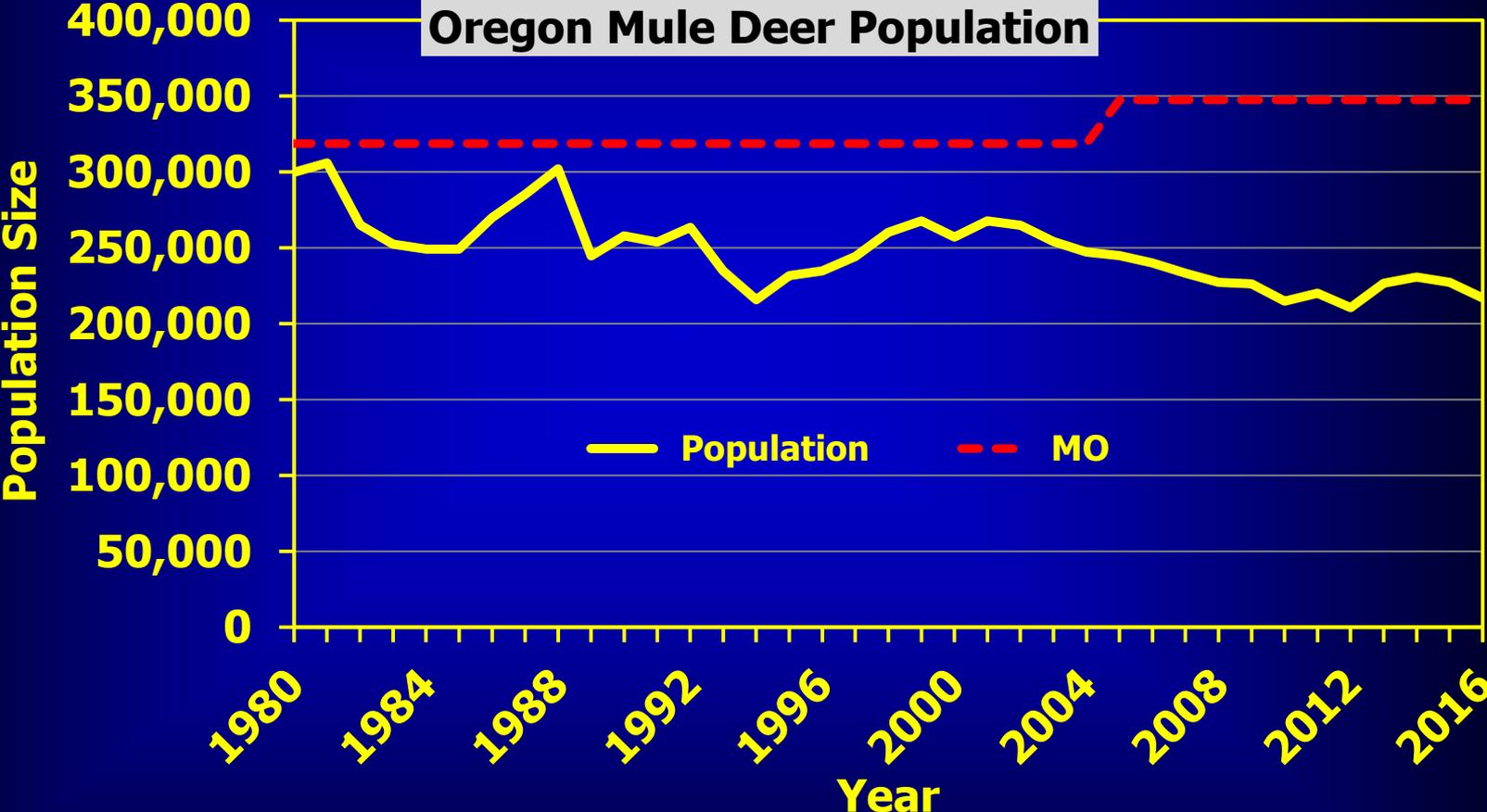
Controlled Pronghorn Tag Proposals

Hunt Type	2015 Tags	2016 Tags	% Change	2017 Tags	% Change
Buck/Either Sex	1,510	1,498	-1%	1,515	1%
Bow/Muzzleloader	765	758	-1%	758	0%
Doe	176	165	-6%	165	0%
Youth	40	42	5%	42	0%
Premium		27		27	0%
Total Pronghorn	2,491	2,492	-0.6%	2,509	1%

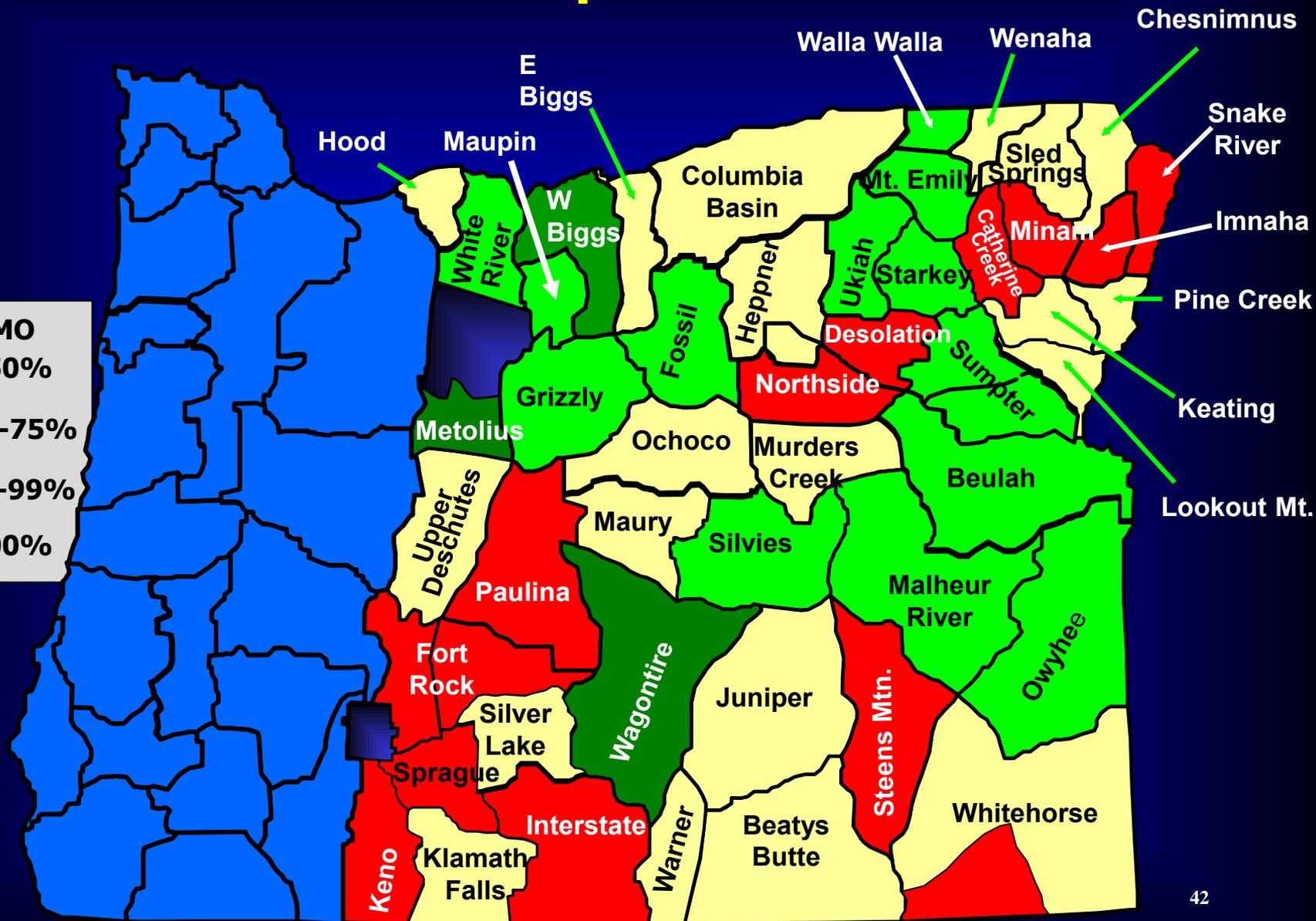


1 Day calendar shift for 2017

Mule Deer Population Monitoring



Mule Deer Population Status



Limited LOP Mule Deer Tags

House Bill 2027 authorized the Commission to limit LOP mule deer tags in units below the population Management Objective (MO)

- **Units below MO, five tags or 10 percent of the tags authorized by the Commission, whichever is greater**
- **Formula used for other deer and elk hunts with limited LOP tags, branch bull hunts where most tags are spike, late buck hunts**
 - **24 of 91 buck hunts issued all available tags in 2015**
- **Concerns from landowners and realtors, not assured of tags**

Limited LOP Mule Deer Tags (cont.)

Department will re-evaluate limitations on mule deer buck LOP tags fall – winter 2016

- After LOP deer tags are issued and completion of MO review
- Landowner and hunter involvement in review process
- Consider potential changes
- January – February 2017 Commission Meeting

Controlled Deer Tag Proposals

Hunt Type	2015 Tags	2016 Tags	% Change	2017 Tags	% Change
Buck	58,694	58,022	-1%	57,890	0%
Bow/Muzzleloader	4,472	4,435	-1%	4,435	0%
Antlerless (600)	8,599	8,428	-2%	8,478	1%
Youth	1,265	1,232	-3%	1,262	2%
Premium		67		67	0%
Total Deer	73,030	72,184	-1%	72,132	-0.1%

2017 Hunt Changes

-  1 Day calendar shift for 2017
-  1 New Late Whitetail Hunt for 2017
-  2 New Doe Hunts
-  1 New Youth Hunt

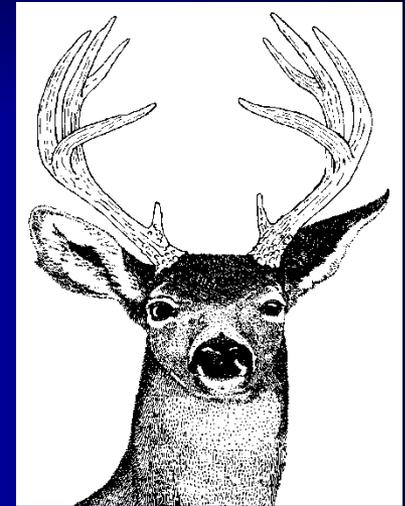
Black-tailed Deer Plan Implementation

Fecal DNA Collection

- 20,255 samples collected since 2013

Average black-tailed deer density by land ownership strata in Oregon.

<u>Land Ownership</u>	<u>Density (# / mi²)</u>
Federal	9.8
Large Mixed	13.1
Large Private	26.3
Small-Med Private	22.1
State	18.1

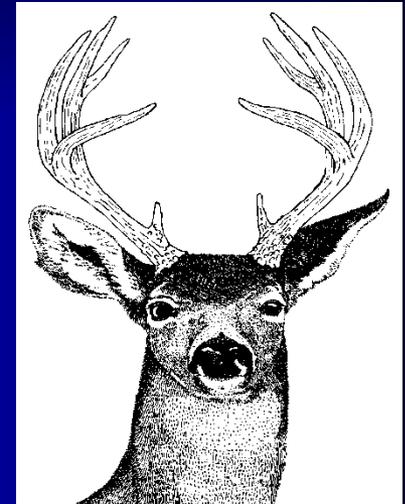


Black-tailed Deer Plan Implementation

Radio-collaring Black-tailed Deer

- 308 Deer Collared

WMU	Ave. Annual Survival	Ave. Home Range (mi²)
Trask	87%	0.5
Alsea	80%	0.3
Indigo	79%	0.4
Dixon	85%	3.4

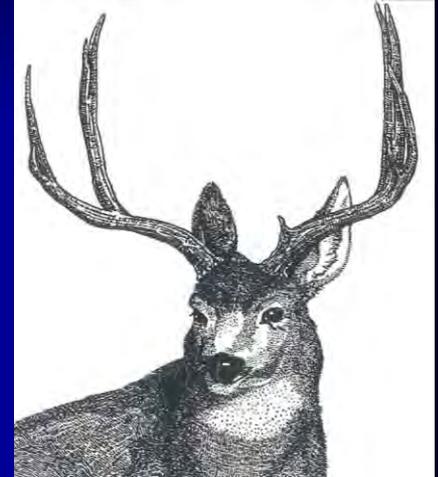
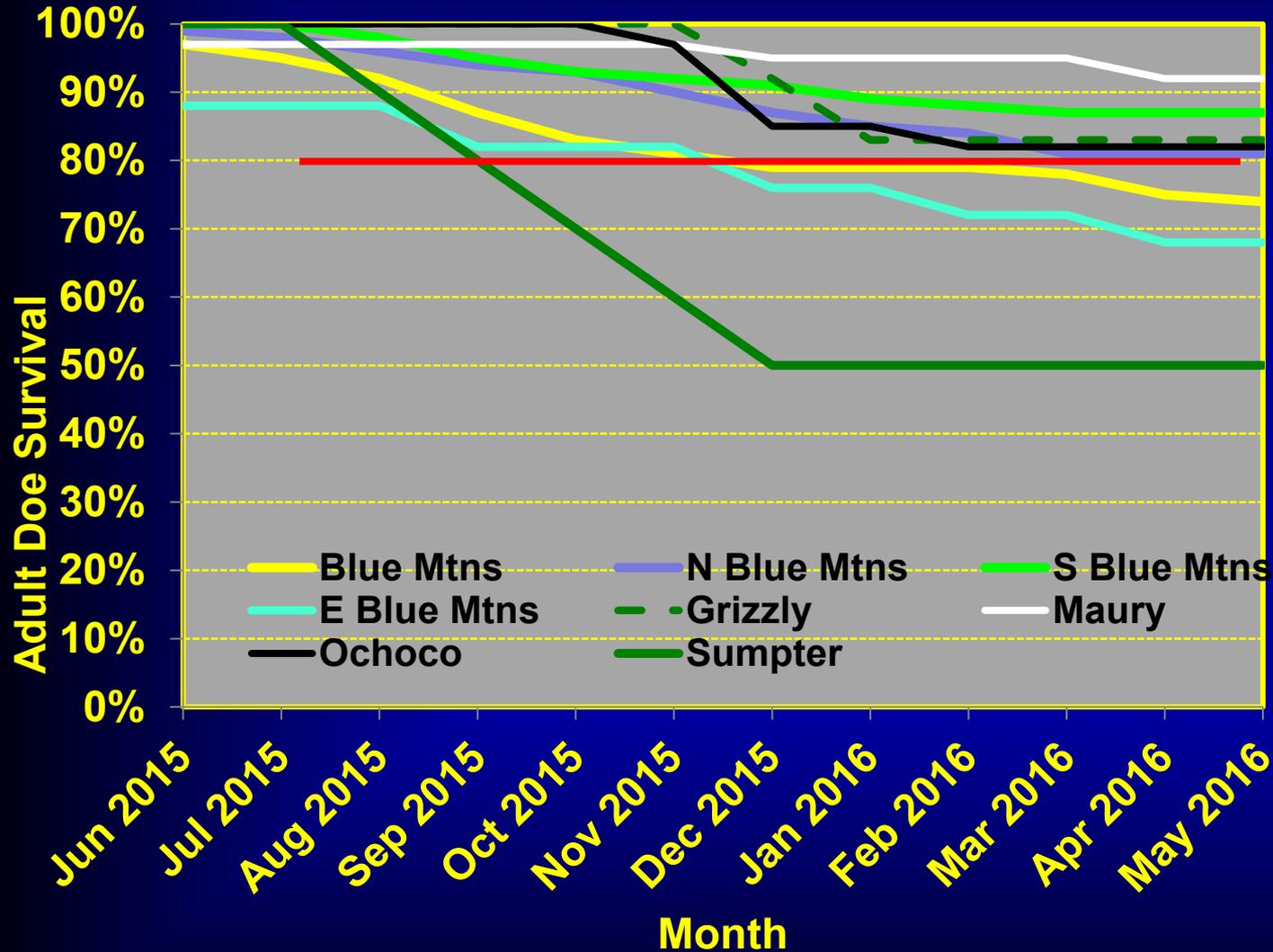


Mule Deer Population Monitoring

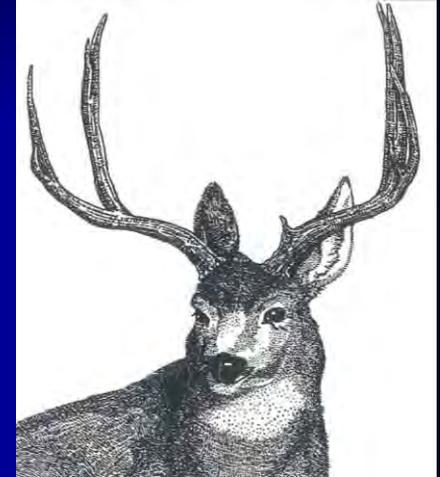
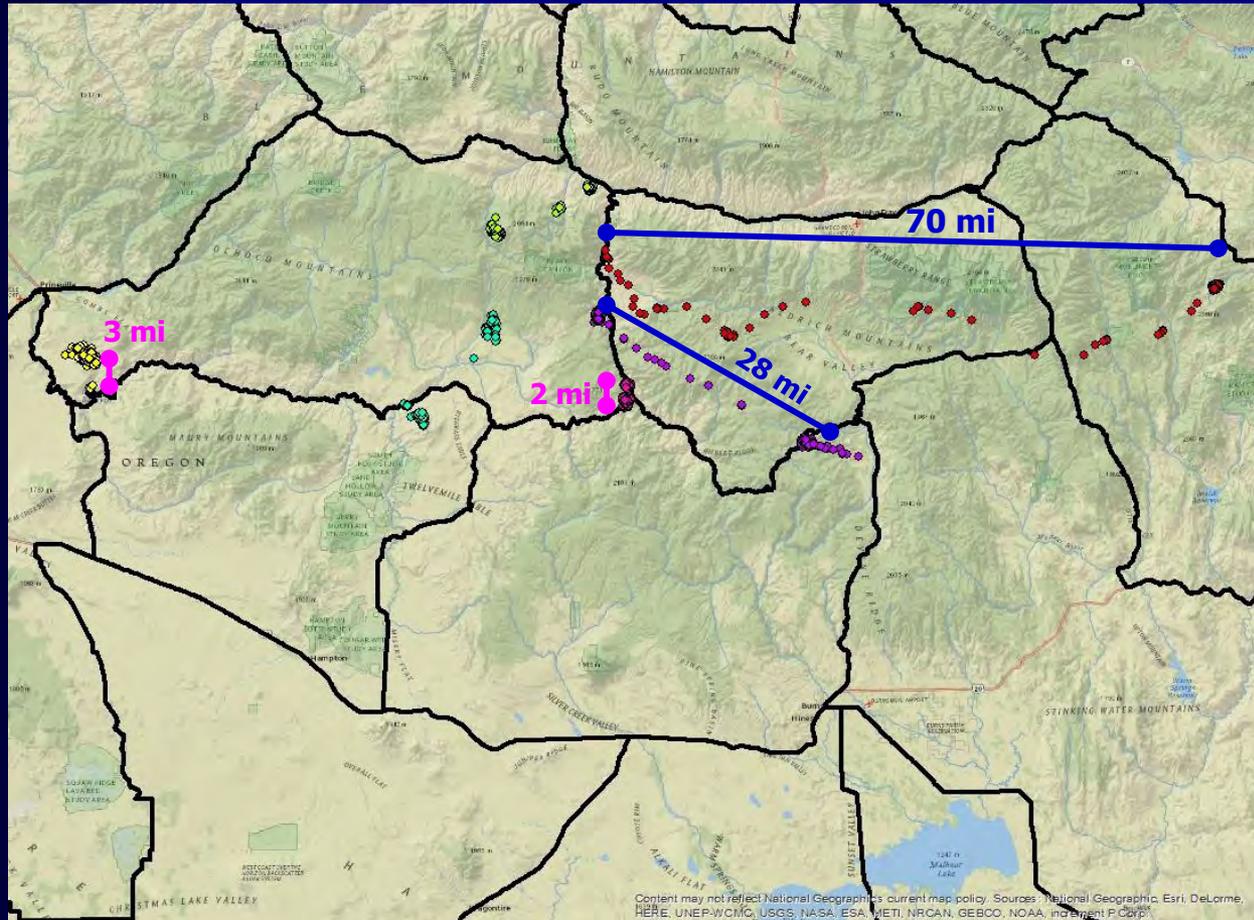
- **658 GPS radio collars**
 - Delineate herd ranges**
 - Estimate annual adult female survival**
- **New estimation methods**
- **Improved modelling process**



Mule Deer Population Monitoring (cont.)

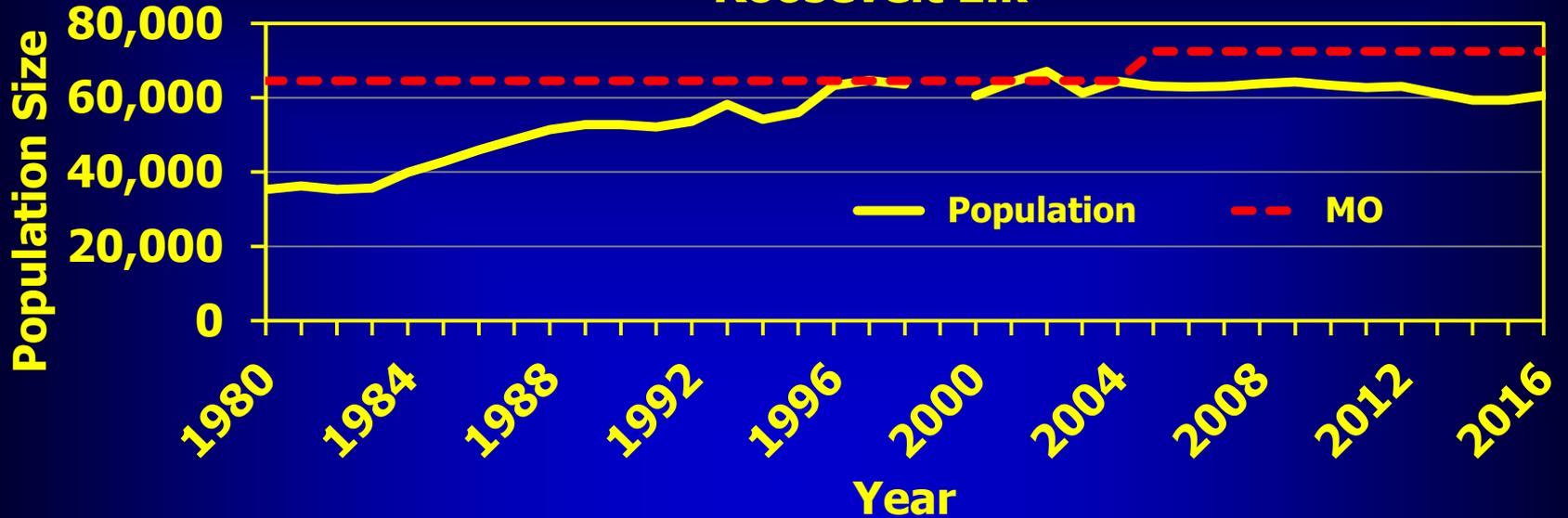


Mule Deer Population Monitoring (cont.)

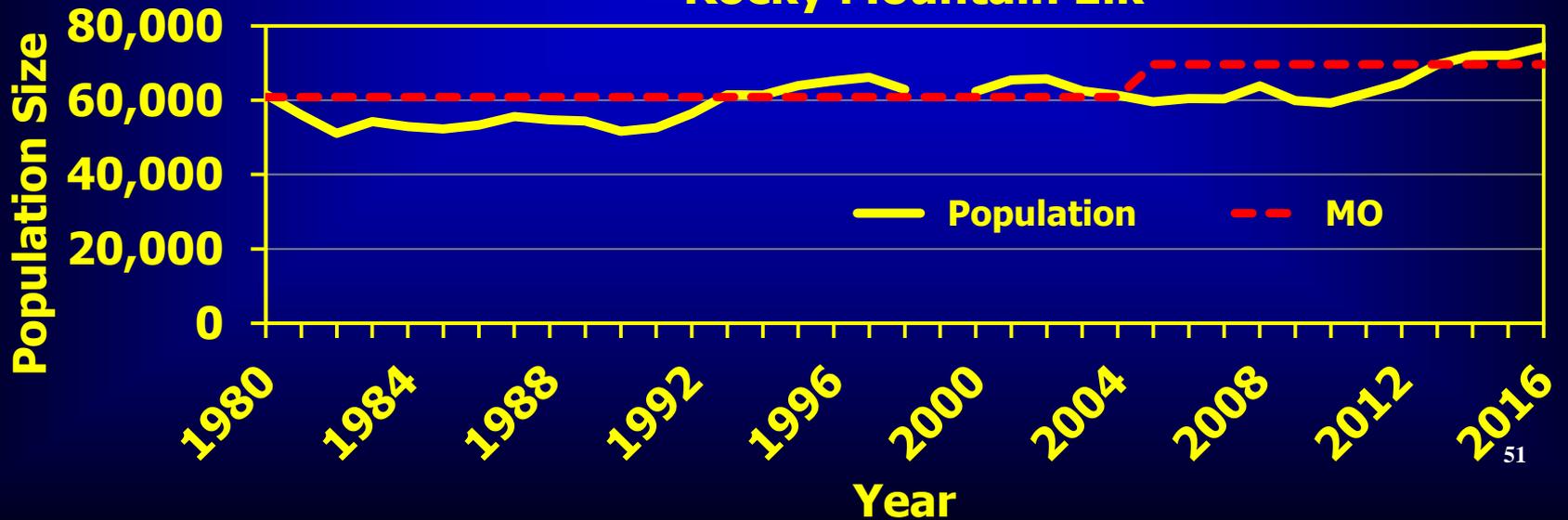


Elk Population Status

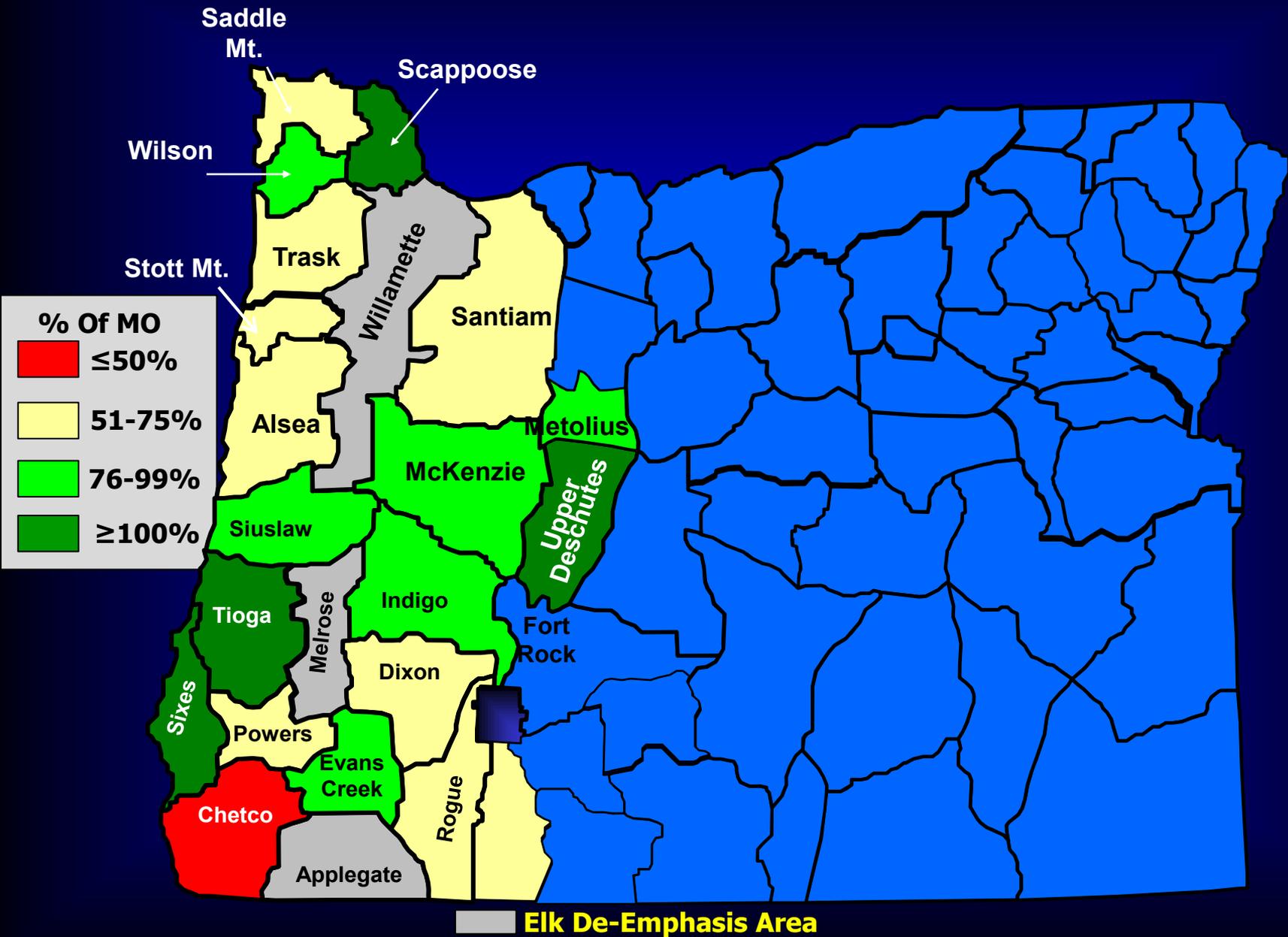
Roosevelt Elk



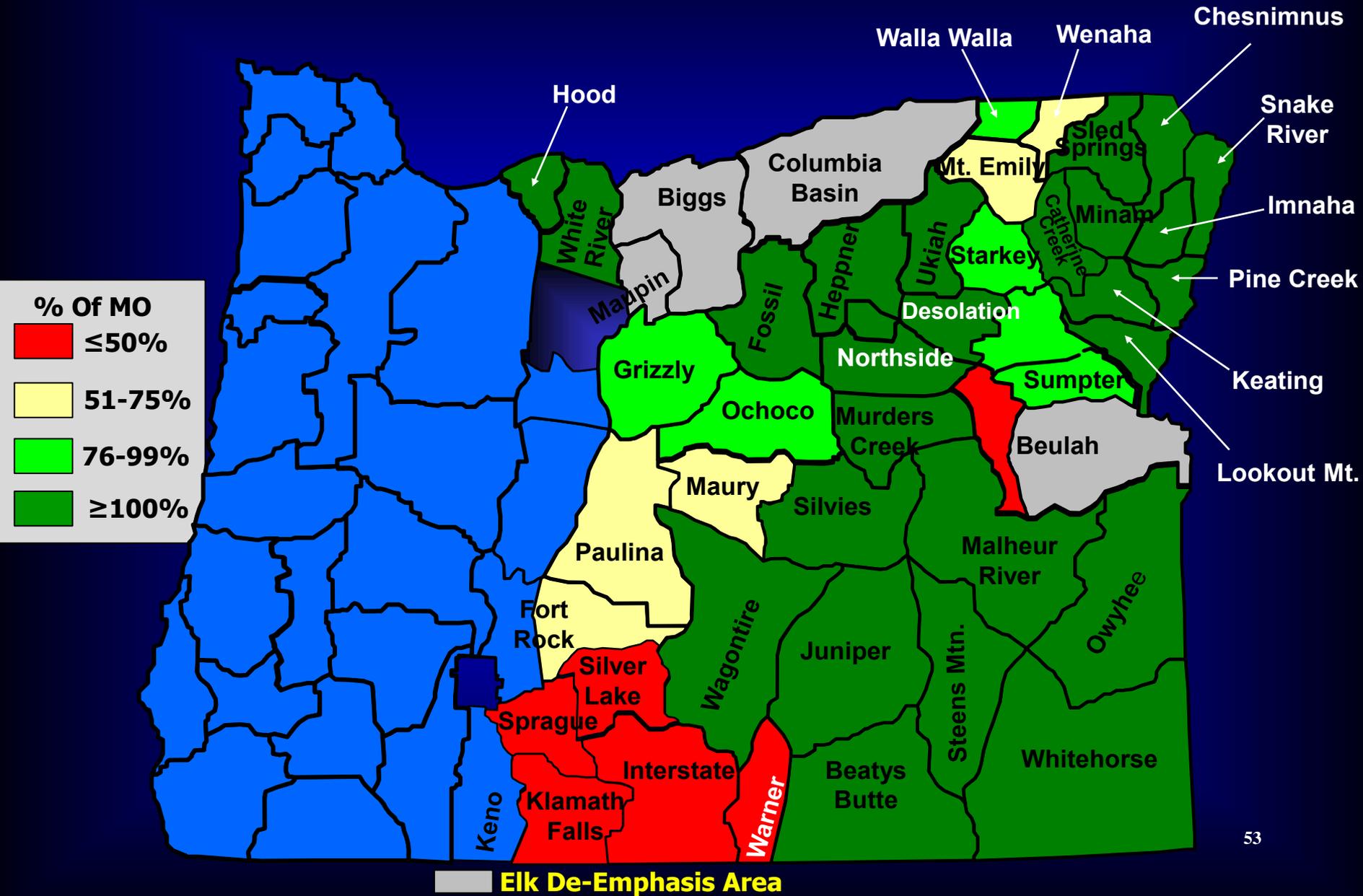
Rocky Mountain Elk



Roosevelt Elk Population MOs



Rocky Mtn. Elk Population MOs



Controlled Elk Tag Proposals

Hunt Type	2015 Tags	2016 Tags	% Change	2017 Tags	% Change
Bull / Either Sex	37,107	36,126	-3%	36,137	0%
Bow/Muzzleloader	9,026	9,224	2%	9,466	3%
Antlerless	14,084	14,289	1%	14,289	0%
Youth	1,209	1,118	-8%	1,196	7%
Premium		64		64	0%
Total Deer	61,426	60,821	-1%	61,152	1%

2017 Hunt Changes

- **1 Day calendar shift for 2017**
- **Columbia Basin Expanded Season**
 - Extend Season: Oct. 25 – Dec. 31**
 - Any Elk Oct. 25 – Nov. 30**
 - Antlerless Dec. 1 – Dec. 31**
- **Delete 3 NW Cow Hunts**
- **Add 6 New NW Cow Hunts**
- **Replace 1 Cow Hunt in South Central**
- **Two new Cow Hunts in NE**
- **Three New Controlled Bow Hunts**

2017 Western Gray Squirrel Seasons

1 Day Calendar shifts proposed for 2017

- **Western and South-central Oregon**
Aug 26 – Nov 8
5/day, 15 in Possession
- **Hood & White River Units**
Sep 9 – Oct 15
3/day, 6 in Possession
- **Portion of Rogue Unit**
Jan 1 – Dec 31
No Bag/Possession Limit

Questions?



