

Exhibit D

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence received as of
June 8, 2016**

Roxann B Borisch

From: Steve Jensen <stein5488@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2016 2:44 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: FW: Gerber Muzzleloader Antelope Hunt 475M

I have attached an email I sent to your department last September. This email was never addressed or acknowledged by anyone there. I have had much correspondence with the Fish and Game department in the past and always received a reply. I guess that is not the case any longer. I have several letters from the past director Randy Fisher regarding the preference point system which I helped the department design over several years and much back and forth of how best to put the program together. Obviously back in the day my input was valued. Mr. Fisher asked for my thoughts and asked me to submit how I thought it should be designed. His last letter to me was to thank me and to tell me my design with but a few exceptions would be implemented. I mention this only to demonstrate my interest in making big game hunting in Oregon better. With regard to my last email to you, I understand the people deciding how to best structure each hunt, number of tags, dates, etc. can't know everything they need to know about every hunt and area of this state. My input was simply to share with you my experience in one particular unit which I know well and have known well for many many years. Hopefully you will find that information important.

My last email as you can see was my thoughts and observations on one of the Antelope hunts and my experience with it over the years. It is being mismanaged to the detriment of the animals and sportsman alike. I see with the new regulations for this years hunt that nothing has changed. I would please ask that someone read the attached email and comment on it.

Thank you for your time.

--- On Tue, 9/15/15, Steve Jensen <stein5488@yahoo.com> wrote:

> From: Steve Jensen <stein5488@yahoo.com>
> Subject: FW: Gerber Muzzleloader Antelope Hunt 475M
> To: stein5488@yahoo.com
> Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 1:55 PM

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>
>
>

> ----Forwarded message----
> From: stein5488@yahoo.com
> To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
> Sent: Tue, Sep 15, 2015 12:20 PM PDT
> Subject: Gerber Muzzleloader Antelope Hunt 475M

>
>

> Dear Big Game Commission,

>

> I have been a long time hunter in the Gerber Antelope Unit and have

> drawn tags 3 times now. In addition to my hunts, I have been on seven
> other hunts in different years than the years I drew with various
> family members and friends who have drawn tags for that hunt. These
> hunts have taken place over the past 20 some years. I hunt primarily
> with a muzzleloader for other big game as well here in Oregon.
>
> Looking at the posted success rates in this unit, my hunting partners
> and I have taken 8 bucks in the 10 hunts I have been part of.
> Obviously these numbers are very high compared to the overall success
> rate and I mention this to suggest we take hunting there seriously.
> Our success rate is 4X the average. During the first few hunts back in
> the 90s we were able to take 2 record book bucks which are entered in
> the Longhunters record book. Finding good bucks to hunt was not easy
> but we were always able to do so. The last 10 or so years finding a
> quality buck to hunt is almost impossible and we have filled our tags
> on small bucks late in the season. My brother drew a tag for this
> season and although we saw at least 20 different bucks from all parts
> of the hunting unit, only one of those bucks carried horns longer than
> 12 inches. That buck stayed on private property just outside of the
> town of Bly. My brother took a 9 inch buck later during that hunt.
>
> Looking at the three hunts offered in that unit and the various
> success rates for each of those hunts I have come to the conclusion
> after many years hunting there that most of the good bucks are taken
> by the time the third and last hunt in the unit rolls around. The
> highest success rate is with the Youth Hunt (60 to 70%) and where I
> believe most of the good bucks are taken since it is done with a
> center fire rifle. In talking with the guy working at the gas station
> in Bly this year he said he saw four good bucks taken by youth hunters
> this year in that area alone. A friend of mine had both of his sons
> draw that tag two years ago and both his sons took bucks over 15
> inches. While I am a strong advocate of youth hunts and am of the
> youth hunt in the Gerber unit as both of my sons drew tags as well, I
> am not a fan of the line up of hunts you arrange each and every year.
> Archers always go first, youth second and us muzzleloaders bring up
> the rear each and every year. By the time the muzzleloader hunt
> starts the small number of Antelope in this unit have been pressured
> since the start of the month. From your success numbers posted from
> previous years anywhere from 25 to 35 bucks have been removed from the
> population by the time the muzzleloader hunt starts. Based on my
> experience hunting in this unit before the youth hunt started and
> after, the youth hunt is the main reason the muzzleloader hunt has
> gone down hill so dramatically with regard to quality animals to hunt.
> I love to see a youth hunter kill a great buck but they don't need to
> take 95% of them.
>
> Again, I'm not suggesting removing any of the hunts currently offered
> but there is no reason what so ever that the line up of hunts needs to
> be the same each and every year. With the few bucks taken during the
> muzzleloader hunt it would make sense to offer the youth hunt after
> the 475M hunt as there would still be good bucks for the youth to

> hunt. There is no good reason why archers are allowed to hunt first
> each year as well. I'm not opposed to rotating the hunts either so
> each group of hunters is allowed to go first every third year but this
> line up is not fair to those of us hunting with a muzzleloader. A
> youth hunt at the end of August would still allow the kids to hunt
> before school starts.

>
> From my hunts in that unit over the past 20 plus years I would also
> like to mention that the numbers of animals is down however the number
> of tags offered has gone up. I believe youth hunt tags have gone from
> 15 when my kids applied to over 30 now. 10 additional tags are now
> offered in total for youth and muzzleloaders since two years ago.
> (2013) 220 tags given to archers is way too many for the number of
> animals in that unit. An Archer can hunt that unit every year! Why not
> reduce it down to 50 tags, reduce the pressure on the herd and an
> Archer can still hunt that unit every 4th year. It takes 6 years for a
> muzzleloader hunter to draw that tag. I drew this tag last year and
> saw one buck over 10 inches. This year as I said on my brothers hunt,
> one buck over 10 inches. In the 90s we would see at least
> 10 bucks 14 inches or better. I started hunting that unit when talking
> to a game biologist in the early 90s that said three of the four
> biggest bucks that he knew of in the state were in that unit. I
> haven't seen a buck over 15 inches in at least 10 years.

>
> Let's turn this unit around by reducing the number of tags and bring
> up the quality of animals. Let's also give each hunting group a fair
> chance at what animals are there.
> Having one group go last each year after many good bucks have been
> taken out of the herd and pressured for weeks is not a fair
> organization of hunting opportunities.

>
> Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

>
> Sincerely

>
> Steve Jensen 541-621-9227
> 28315 Spruce Ave.
> Klamath Falls, Or 97601

>
>

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tammy Clark <tamcla@fireserve.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 12:47 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Question?

To who it may concern:

I have a question. If I shoot a buck, but I only have a doe tag, can I claim that the buck wasn't really a buck?

I mean ... maybe he'd always wanted to be a doe, but with no choice of his own he was born with the physical attributes of a male. And yet ... on the inside he'd always known he was truly a female.

I'm just wondering if the game warden will buy it, because society and the Supreme Court do?

Please reply,

**Paul Clark
Klamath Falls, OR**

ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: guycolby88 <guycolby88@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2016 6:07 PM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and elk population

On the elk population when you sold tags for 3 point Bulls or bigger there was abundance of elk.
But there is more money in selling cow tags and we know tags equals revenue and if you can't figure it out I will be happy to send you a calculator.

Oregon department of failure and waste.

Just my opinion

GUY COLBY

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Nancy E Grace 2061 SNOESTRING RD. RIDGEL OR. 97469

Oregon Fish and Wildlife: 4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE.
SALEM OR. 97302

Dec 23
2015

DEPT. HEADS PRINTING Oregon REGULATIONS BOOKLET

The Oregon State Revised Statutes Numbers,
Are NOT PRINTED WITHIN THE
REGULATIONS BOOKS,

AND ARE NOT EASILY QUOTED WHEN
A WILD LIFE OFFENCE IS OCCURRING
AND A REPORT NEEDS TO BE WRITTEN.

PLEASE MAKE THE O.R.S. CHAPTER & PARAGRAPHS
WORDINGS ARE A PART OF
PUBLIC'S ACCESS
TO HUNTING & FISHING
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE STATE.

Thank you,

AN INTERESTED PARTY
IN KEEPING THE WILDLIFE
GENETIC POOL SAFE.

Send to: Thomas Thornton
ODFW
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302
Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

2016-17 Hunting Regulation Proposals

We invite you to comment on issues related to the 2016 and 17 Hunting Regulation Proposals in Oregon. ODFW will review all the comments and incorporate them into the hunting regulations process.

NAME: Jason Maggard
ADDRESS: 94161 Larkspur Lane
Coquille, OR 97423

PHONE: 541-396-2029

EMAIL: _____

Comments must be received by **June 7, 2016**. The proposed hunting seasons for big game are important to the citizens of Oregon and your input is a valuable part of this process. This is your opportunity to make your views known.

Comments:

There needs to be a way to eliminate the point
Creep.
Points should be used when you draw a second
choice?

I have been a Taxidermist for over 25 year
i have customers every year Tell me they are
not applying for tags in Oregon because they
have no chance of drawing these hunters are
usually older hunters. These hunters bring
me animals from a hunt that took 15 years to
draw a tag and at 65 to 70 years old they are
telling me why waste the money I talk to

them a year or two later they are not even
buying hunting licenses in Oregon any more.

They either quit hunting all together or
are going out of state.

Jason Maggard

ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: Chad Clark <chad@trusted1.com>
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2016 5:06 PM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: ODFW's goals for deer and elk populations

Hello,

I am native to Springfield and have tried to hunt with my family all my life in different types of outdoor activities (Rifle/now Bow).

Seeing my success rates to put food in the freezer for my family fall over my lifetime due to predation of Elk and Deer have meant less opportunity for my family, and Oregon to benefit from conservation and perpetuation of hunting to my children.

I ask that you make Oregon a place for much higher success rates by increasing elk and deer population immediately. Make Oregon a place where people come from all around to not only camp/hike/mountain bike, but a place of wonder like it used to be for those of us that are passionate and those who are not And have an abundance available for all who come to find these magnificent creatures.

Best regards,

Chad Clark, MBA/CEO Trusted Technology

541-701-9513

<http://www.trusted1.com>

chad@trusted1.com

[@trustedtechn](#)

 www.linkedin.com/in/cclark/ 



ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: Brandon Ayres <arrowayres@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2016 8:24 AM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: White river unit 41.

Hello,

I was informed that at a district meeting held recently which I was unable to attend, that a discussion was had about turning our two general season any bull rifle hunts to a draw. I was very excited to hear this and about the possibility of actually managing our elk population. I'm finding no evidence of this taking place so I'm guessing nothing will change with the current management plan of elk eradication? We have tried for years to help provide a place where the elk could escape the constant hunting pressure in our unit. Doing this only drew attention to our private land because of the lack of elk in other hunt-able areas. I witness this attention year after year, some hunters will go to extreme pushing and breaking rules to try and harvest even a young bull. We manage the hunting on 20,000+ acres in this unit and feel that the reason the so called MO is achieved is because of our management on this 20,000 acres. Our elk population in unit 41 is no where near healthy. Will we ever see a limit on the harvest of bull elk in unit 41? Will we always have cow hunts that run until the end of February? Is there is no plan to help address the issues of low bull to cow ratios? If the plan is to continue as we have, our plan as a property manager will be to change our current hunting practice of a very limited harvest to follow the current ODFW plan of eradication. Our bull harvest will be quadrupled and as much as we don't want to we will start harvesting cows until the end of February. Several other large landowners in our area feel the same as we do and would like to see a change to benefit the elk. Thank you for taking the time to read this, I do not expect a response but only hope for action on behalf of the struggling elk heard.

Thanks,
Brandon Ayres

ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: garrett@crosspointnw.net
Sent: Sunday, June 05, 2016 4:04 PM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Deer & Elk Populations

Dear ODFW

First off, I appreciate all that you guys do. However, there are several issues with our state and the big game populations.

1. Why do we have a second season rifle spike elk hunt? All that does is remove future bull elk from population & create more wear and tear to their habitat with hunters in the woods.

Solution: if there has to be a 2nd Hunt make it a 3 point or better. This way you still get the revenue and maybe make it a draw tag?

Maybe only do it ever few years and alternate units? The bottom line is we need to manage and conserve our elk population. With proper regulations we (ODFW, RMEF, OHA & MDF) can help bring the populations back up. This will attract more out of state hunters as well. The sooner we take action on this the quicker we will see progress and results. Wait too long and we won't have a elk season and ODFW will loose out on millions of dollars in tag fees...

2. Wolves. So many people think that the wolf was in Oregon to begin with and love them. The wolves are causing more damage than good to our wild life. It's not like we are Yellowstone and want people to enjoy them. I would bet that 99% of Wolf lovers have never seen one outside of a national park. We need to take action with removing them from our state. Have a tag like we do cougars etc. This would benefit hunters, ranchers/farmers and ODFW's revenue. The the monies earned from tags we could afford all the litigation and resistance from the wolf loving groups...

3. Mule Deer, there is getting to less and less deer in the state. We need to cut tag numbers for a few years and maybe charge more for them. This includes western Oregon as well.

We have to be conservationists before anything else right now or our future hunters won't have anything to hunt. ODFW will not have the long term revenue to keep it moving forward and Oregon hunting will become just a memory...

Garrett Smith
Crosspoint NW IT Dept.
503.594.2800 ext 101
503.997.3249 cell

ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: Hagen Nissen <hagennissen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2016 9:14 AM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and elk suggestions

Without having mandatory reporting for decades you just can't manage the numbers because you don't have any numbers to go off of! Here's some very quick, easy, and no cost suggestions. Eliminate all spike only hunts for elk, your killing next years bigger bull. DOE ONLY on doe tags not antlerless, again your killing next years legal (forked horn) buck. 3 point or better on all bull and buck hunts. I'd like to see 4 point or better for 3 years then go down to 3 point or better. Bring back dog hunting for cats, no brainer. And I hate to say it but no general rifle tags. Western deer needs to be a draw. Bow hunting can still be general. Just my 2 cents!

Hagen Nissen

Send to: Thomas Thornton
ODFW
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302
Thomas.L.Thornton@state.or.us

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET
2016-17 Hunting Regulation Proposals

We invite you to comment on issues related to the 2016 and 17 Hunting Regulation Proposals in Oregon. ODFW will review all the comments and incorporate them into the hunting regulations process.

NAME: Lance Mouse
ADDRESS: P o B 464
Bandon, OR, 97411
PHONE: 541.390.5431
EMAIL: _____

Comments must be received by **June 7, 2016**. The proposed hunting seasons for big game are important to the citizens of Oregon and your input is a valuable part of this process. This is your opportunity to make your views known.

Comments:

Mtn. Lion & Bears need to
be thinned out. Too much
predation of big game species.
The balance of nature is way
out of whack. Bring back the
numbers & quality of big game
& you'll sell more licenses.
Then you can do more ~~work~~
restoration work on hatcheries,
spend more on whatever.


William Smith Properties, Inc.

15 S.W. Colorado Avenue, Suite 1
Bend, Oregon 97702
Phone: (541) 382-8691
Fax: (541) 388-5414

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6-8-2016

TO: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners

FROM:  Matt Smith, Vice President
William Smith Properties, Inc.
Derby Smith Partners, LLC (Cherry Creek Ranch)
GI Ranch Corporation

CC: Ron Anglin, Tom Thornton, Greg Jackal

SUBJECT: Mule Deer Limited Landowner Preference Tags

I am writing to comment on the current system of allocation for Mule Deer Landowner Preference tags. In short, the current system is a poor one for many reasons on which I will elaborate, resulting in intense Landowner dissatisfaction. The request is that you please give consideration to fixing the myriad problems of this system before extending it for two more years. If that isn't possible, then the request would be that you allow us to help create a path forward for correcting the problems during the next two years. The current system is unworkable in the long term.

I am confident that virtually every private Landowner, particularly those of any size, will agree with what I have to say below.

Some of the problems with the system are that:

- It results in **Inequitable Distribution of Landowner Tags** among Landowners.
- It results in **Inequitable Distribution of Tags Relative to Public/Private Land Mass.**
- It does not account for **Landowner Contribution to Wildlife** habitat and welfare and the public hunting opportunities created by private Landowners.
- It has **Negative Impacts to Property Value.**
- **Landowners were Poorly Represented** during the creation of this system.

- It results in intense **Landowner Dissatisfaction, and is harmful to ODFW/Landowner/Public Relations.**
- It is **Based on Management Objectives** that are at best unattainable, and at worst unrealistic.

By way of introduction and qualification, our company manages two large ranches and several smaller properties totaling approximately 225,000 acres of deeded lands and about the same amount of leased public lands. Our lands fall in Grizzly, Ochoco, Maury, Silvies, Wagontire, Paulina, and Upper Deschutes units. I have served on the committee for the Maury Mule Deer Initiative, and am active with our regional ODFW Wildlife Biologists. Last, I love Mule Deer and would dearly love to see them flourish while being managed for the sake of the resource that they truly are.

Now to elaborate on the points above:

Inequitable Distribution of Landowner Tags: The current system does not adequately account for factors such as acreage or habitat, and does not give adequate assurance of securing even one tag to Landowners regardless of size or contribution. For example, one of my investors who owns the greater part of 100,000+ acres would like to know if he can secure himself a tag to hunt on his land in the Silvies unit. Under this system the only odds I can give him are those which he would face in the general drawing. Certainly he has a better chance of drawing in the Landowner pool, but only if I can play the system and list his name multiple times on my Landowner Preference Tag Distribution form to take advantage of the multiple chances that offers (and how would I even know to do that without intense study of the system?). Even then it is possible that he could come up blank while a Landowner representing 160 acres of sagebrush elsewhere in the unit gets a tag.

Inequitable Distribution of Tags Relative to Public/Private Land Mass: The current system does not take into account the public/private makeup of the particular units it regulates. For example, the Grizzly unit is in the neighborhood of 70% private and is issued around 1350 tags. Under the current formula that means that 135 tags would be available to the ownership of 70% of the unit. Conversely, the Ochoco unit is about 80% public, resulting in more Landowner tags than can be given out. This has the potential to impact property value and invites people to 'work the system' in ways that can't be effectively managed.

Landowner Contribution to Wildlife: This is completely ignored under this system. It is an absolute certainty that private Landowners are the single biggest contributor to Mule Deer habitat and welfare in the State of Oregon. The activities of these landowners provide habitat, sustenance and sanctuary that are absolutely essential to populating our Mule Deer herds at huntable levels. The very existence of these private operations creates more hunter opportunity on adjacent public lands than can be created any other way. Landowners need to be recognized for that and it wouldn't hurt to incentivize them to keep doing it. That incentive comes by way of some assurance that they can secure a number of tags proportionate to their contribution. Example: We have managed the South GI Ranch for going on 30 years now. There used to be no crop harvest beyond the subirrigated meadows. There were also virtually no deer or elk. Now, there are 9 pivots in operation

and these are occupied on a daily basis by literally hundreds of deer and elk. They are also surrounded on three sides by public lands that are utilized by hundreds of hunters each year. This is not an isolated example for us or other Landowners in Eastern Oregon. It is with certainty that attracting wildlife has benefits to the Landowner, but it also creates liabilities and comes with sacrifice. Trespass and poaching are issues we deal with constantly. We haven't bothered to put a pencil to the dollar value of hay not harvested, but that number is significant. Again, the incentive we have to help wildlife is that its very presence creates value that is recognized in either viewing or harvest. If the opportunity to harvest is inequitably limited as under this system, Landowner incentive to do the right thing with respect to our Mule Deer is greatly diminished. Accordingly Mule Deer and hunter opportunity suffer as well.

Negative Impacts to Property Value: As mentioned above, wildlife creates value. The value is recognized through either viewing or harvest. The recognition of this value through the sale of a hunting opportunity on private property is small compared to the investment incentive created by the ability to hunt one's own property. The inability to secure an opportunity to hunt on one's own property with any predictability has certain and detrimental effect on property values in Eastern Oregon. In presenting this concept to ODFW staff, several have been surprised and offered explanations that wildlife is property of the State and therefore shouldn't be considered in private valuations. I appreciate this concept, but the fact is that the ability to secure big game permits through property ownership and habitat enhancements thereon is not unique to Oregon, it is the law of the land throughout the Western United States and beyond, and it has value. Hunting opportunity is a primary impetus for many investors to even own property in the first place and it incentivizes investors to improve habitat, and do the right thing for Mule Deer. The current system of Mule Deer tag allocation in Oregon is one that to some degree is a detriment to Landowner investment in private property and enhancements thereon. The health and size of our Mule Deer herd is directly impacted as a result.

Landowners were Poorly Represented: During the initial process to establish this system Landowners were 'represented' by the Farm Bureau and the Cattleman's Association. These two associations are wonderful for the service they provide, but are necessarily limited in their scope and unable to address many of the issues at stake. Additionally, the ODFW Commission itself is limited in this regard. In fact presently there is only one Commissioner from a district that Mule Deer even inhabit. This leaves the majority of the geographic land mass of our state – the area specifically impacted by this system of Mule Deer Landowner Tag Allocation – virtually unrepresented.

Landowner Dissatisfaction, and is harmful to ODFW/Landowner/Public Relations: The system currently in place is quite harmful in this regard. Almost every landowner I have spoken with regarding this issue has been left feeling disenfranchised by this system. Most of them are not aware that it is the result of HB 2027B, a legislative action. They are just plain mad at ODFW and its representatives in the field. The result is a spirit of non-cooperation that in the end is detrimental to Mule Deer and hunter opportunity.

Based on Management Objectives: This is perhaps the most discouraging aspect of the current system. The fact that the formula is applied specifically in units that are below management objective leaves us feeling hopeless for a remedy. This means that it applies

to every single unit in Eastern Oregon, with no sight of change in the future. None of these units have been close to meeting MO's for longer than I can remember, and the prognosis is not good. MO's provide a weak foundation for a system such as this.

So what do we do?

We acknowledge the problems and roll up our sleeves and come up with something better.

Simple identification of the issues with the current system can help identify solutions. I could theorize for days about solutions, and it could be that is exactly what needs to happen, with the proper authorization from this Commission, with all interests represented properly. The program MUST be revised to recognize Landowner contributions and distribute tags accordingly. It could be expanded to incentivize habitat enhancement and the creation of hunter opportunities.

ODFW is to be commended for the job it has done in its representation of the myriad interest groups it is charged with representing. Among the government agencies we work with, the staff and service at ODFW are head and shoulders above the crowd. It has long been my sincere opinion that we, Landowners specifically, do not pay enough for the service provided (maybe a fee hike for the Landowner tags is part of the solution☺).

Out of a sincere love for our Mule Deer herds and a desire to see them managed purely for the benefit of the resource they truly are, I would ask that you please help us revise the system of allocation for Landowner tags as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Roxann B Borisch

From: James Ward <61elkchaser@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2016 7:26 AM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Ladd Marsh Elk Management
Attachments: elk - 50.JPG; elk - 55.JPG

Dear Commission,

I'm wanting to respond to the ODFW's interest in controlling elk on Ladd Marsh. I've been an adjacent landowner to the wildlife area for 40 years. As a professional wildlife photographer, elk hunter and one who has been very active as a volunteer for this area for all those years, there is quite simply no one that comes even close to observing these animals as much as I - all year-around.

Firstly, i must confess that i was a bit disturbed at the ODFW's recent proposal. Many of my relatives, friends and I, that have properties adjacent to the wildlife area, and a stake in its management, didn't hear of this recent change in elk management until we read it in the newspaper last night. Putting hunters just over our fences and pushing the animals all around our neighborhoods is something we should have been notified of - in time to provide some input anyway.

So - the sure way to keep the Ladd Marsh elk off private land and from crossing the dangerous highways in the area is artificial feeding. But, we know that is expensive and labor intensive. In truth, there is about as many animals that visit Ladd Marsh than the Elkhorn and Wenaha feeding stations. I'm not suggesting that as a fix.

Watching the elk on almost a daily basis, all year, has shown me many things. The elk come off the neighboring private lands for mostly two reasons - escape from hunters and food. Putting hunters on the wildlife area will simply push them to more damage on neighboring private land. Also - I-84 and highway 203 dissect Ladd Marsh. It's very common to see upwards of 300 head right next to the freeway fences - especially during the hunting seasons. Elk do cross these highways and get hit, but it is surprisingly few - considering the potential. But, one hunter in the wrong spot can easily, and will, push a whole herd right across the freeway and into on-coming traffic.

Will hunting these animals with muzzleloader and bow have any effect on elk numbers? The management area is comprised of open fields and marsh. As a muzzleloader and archery hunter myself, I'm quite sure that very few, if any, animals will be removed from the herds.

Food - at 6,000 acres, the elk that come to the management area to feed don't put a dent in the available forage. But, they mostly come off looking for alfalfa and grains. They'll go right past the native meadows searching for these foods. Alfalfa is a magnet and could be a useful tool in keeping these animals on the wildlife area and off neighboring private land. Unfortunately, there isn't enough of it on the area.

Right next to my fence line is the only alfalfa on the management area west of I-84. Up to 200 head come off the neighboring private land to feed on this almost year-around. See photo. These animals really don't cause much problem except for a broken fence on occasion. Towards LaGrande a bit, though, the animals seeking private crops on the west side of the LMWMA do cause damage. Better forage on the management area wouldn't solve the problem, but it would draw some of these problem animals and would be a better alternative to putting hunters on the marsh and pushing them off altogether.

In truth, it would seem better to work with the elk instead of against them. The LMWMA once had a plan to plant about 50 acres of coniferous trees on the west side. This would give the animals a better reason to stay on that portion of the management area. More alfalfa would help and the area has many acres to do this without affecting the native meadows.

I applaud the Ladd Marsh people for seeking ways to help alleviate elk problems on the management area, but I really think they are going in the wrong direction. Most certainly, nothing will work 100% - elk are wild and hard to work with. They have too many temptations.

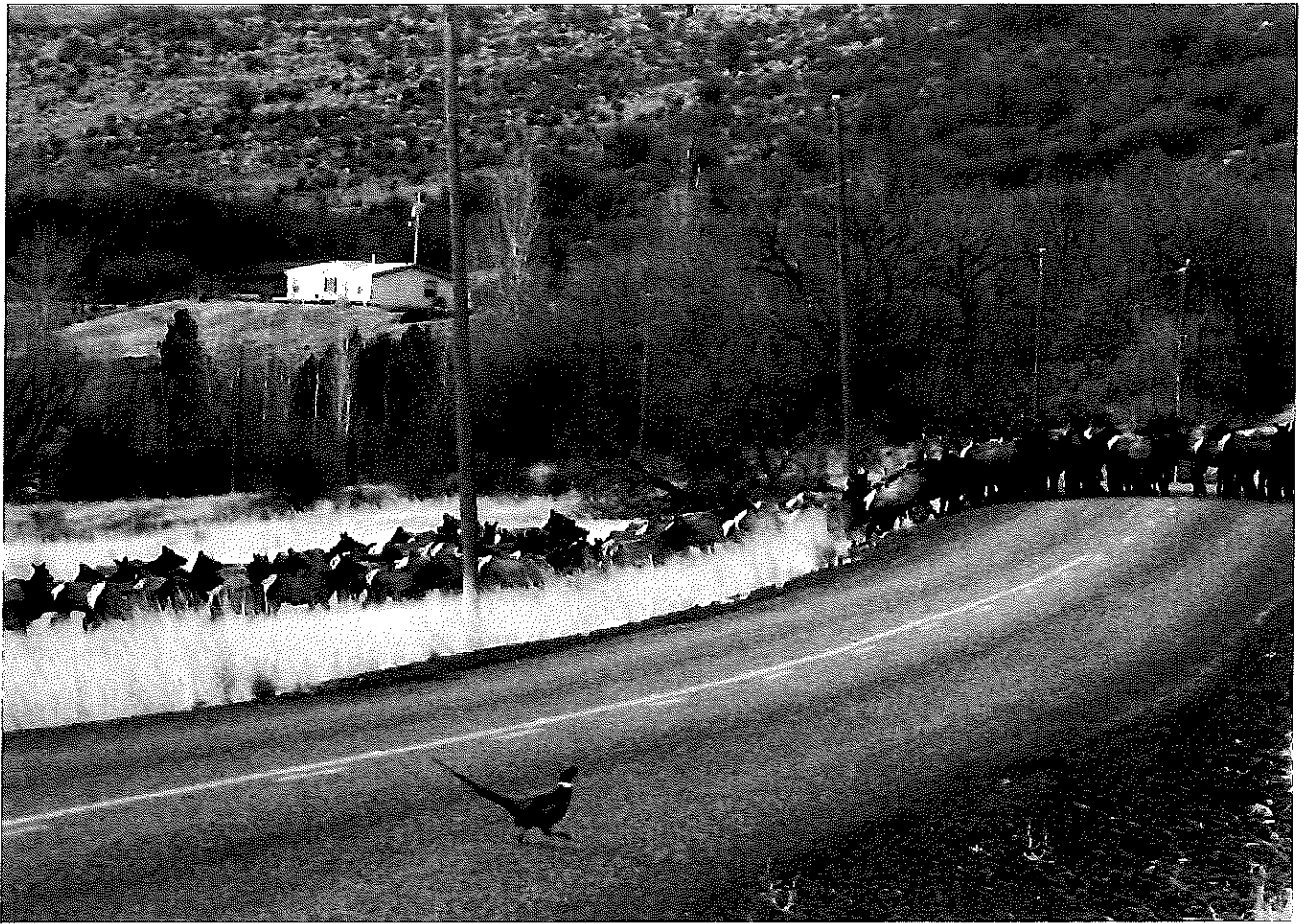
The current proposal will certainly force the animals off the management area and increase their time on private land. It will greatly increase the danger to passing motorists.

I simply hope you will consider my suggestions - perhaps some elements of it anyway. Thank you very much for your substantial contribution to our wildlife and hunting.

- James Ward
57923 Foothill Road
LaGrande, Oregon 97850
541-963-6977.

P.S. - Right now, those elk lured to Ladd Marsh provide excellent hunting on the west side. Seemingly hard to believe, those elk come off the hill right past hunters almost every day - allowing ample harvest and recreation. They seek the sanctuary and forage on the marsh at night and return to the upper forest every morning. Putting hunters on this sanctuary will keep them from coming down and actually reduce their harvest. It's exactly the same reason the ODFW doesn't allow bird hunting on the refuge portions of the marsh..





ODFW WildlifeInfo

From: taylor gregory <engp378@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 12:03 PM
To: odfw.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us
Subject: Deer and elk MO review for 2016

Hello my name is Taylor Gregory I live in cove oregon, right in the middle of unit 53 (cathern creek). The changes I would like to see in that unit would be as follows. For buck deer I would like to see a 3 point minimum for rifle and archery seasons. I believe that would increase the maturity/age of the deer being harvested. The only exception to that change might be for youth hunters under the age of 16. The next change I would like to see for unit 53 (cathern creek) would be to eliminate the harvest of cow elk during the archery season and to also lower the amount of late season rifle cow elk tags. Thank you for your time and reading my opinions. If you have any additional questions feel free to contact me @ 541 910 7001 Taylor Gregory

