

Exhibit B

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence Received as of
March 16, 2017**



Wapiti Bowmen

P.O. Box 393
Lebanon, Oregon 97355

March 6, 2017

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem OR 97302

RE: LOP Limits

Dear Commissioners:

Wapiti Bowmen, the local archery club based in Lebanon, Oregon, has heard that landowner preference (LOP) tags for the late Metolius archery buck hunt have outnumbered the tags offered to public hunters by as much as fifty percent (50%) or more in most recent years. This hunt is an iconic hunt for many Oregon bowhunters and can take fifteen (15) or more years for a public hunter to draw while a relative few landowners have reportedly received multiple tags for the hunt year after year.

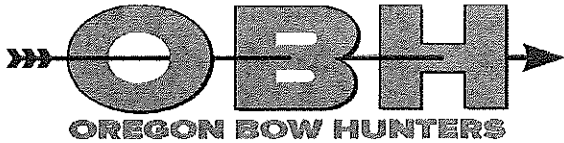
While we appreciate that private landowners provide important habitat and nourishment for many of Oregon's game animals, we believe that the overwhelming imbalance between tags available for public hunters and landowners for the late Metolius archery buck hunt and, perhaps, other hunts established to provide a special, but very limited hunting opportunity is totally unacceptable. It is our understanding that the LOP program was established after general season hunts were phased out in favor of controlled hunts in central and eastern Oregon and landowners who had commonly hunted locally were sometimes no longer able to do so, even on their own land. While we have relatively little objection to the LOP program with respect to the general controlled hunts, we believe the limitations for LOP tags for the special opportunity hunts should be severely restricted just as are the public tags.

Wapiti Bowmen urges the Commission to establish limits on LOP tags for the special opportunity hunts that are commensurate with the limits on public tags.

Sincerely,

--S--

Don Smith, President
Wapiti Bowmen



March 5, 2017

RE: LOP Review Comments

Chair Finley and Commissioners:

Oregon Bow Hunters (OBH) appreciates the opportunity we had to participate in the recent interim review of the Landowner Preference (LOP) program. This review followed extensive discussions on the LOP program that occurred in 2013 and was something of a mid-term review to evaluate the impacts of an ODFW formula for limiting LOP tags in game management units (GMUs) where Mule Deer populations fall below management objectives (MOs). The recent review considered information based on actual experience under the formula from two (2) seasons following the 2013 discussions.

OBH believes it is important to recognize the important role private lands provide for the welfare of game animals and to remember that the LOP program was initiated as a result of the change from a general open season to controlled hunts in central and eastern Oregon GMUs. Because of that change, farmers and ranchers who had previously been able to hunt close to home sometimes found that they could no longer do so, even on their own property. The LOP program was established to try to allow farmers and ranchers the ability to hunt on their own property during today's equivalent of the old general open season.

In general, OBH does not object to the recommendations of the review committee or ODFW staff if they are applied to the general hunt(s) in a GMU. The recommendations appropriately address a few instances involving specific GMUs where the current ODFW formula is clearly overly restrictive and have virtually no impact in GMUs where strict LOP tag limits are certainly appropriate to aid in recovery of Mule Deer populations that have fallen well below MOs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of OBH.

Sincerely,

Craig Starr
Oregon Bow Hunters

We fight hard so you can hunt hard!

61535 S. Highway 97, Suite 5-307 Bend OR 97702 / www.oregonbowhunters.com

Roxann B Borisch

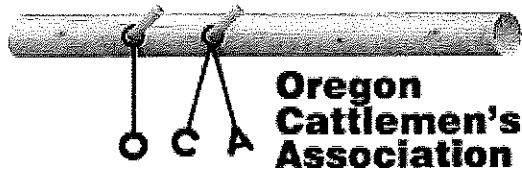
Subject: FW: LOP Mule Deer Tag Allocation Proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: J&DSermeus [mailto:sermeus@frontier.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 9:02 AM
To: ODFW Commission <ODFW.Commission@coho2.dfw.state.or.us>
Subject: LOP Mule Deer Tag Allocation Proposal

I am a Landowner in Harney County and am in strong agreement with the proposal to change the present Mule Deer Tag Allocation system. In the Silvies Unit, Landowners have lost almost 40 percent of our eligible tags while the public has lost a fraction of this amount. We work very hard to create and promote wildlife on our ranch all year long and having the opportunity to hunt our land each fall is a nice reward.

John & Debi Sermeus
LOP Registration Number 30561



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
March 13, 2017

Dear Chair Finley and Members of the Commission:

The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) and Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) submit this letter in support of the ODFW staff's recommended changes to the LOP mule deer tag allocation formula. Importantly, the proposed formula is the product of a collaborative process among stakeholders, is necessary to reflect the contributions of landowners, and upholds the Department's conservation-minded ethos.

Critically, the staff's recommendation before the Commission is the result of a collaborative stakeholder process. Representatives from OCA, OFB, and the Oregon Hunters Association, as well as individual hunters & landowners, were among the workgroup members that reached a consensus in support of the proposed three-tiered formula. This formula is reflective of a process where there was "give and take" and compromise among all stakeholders on the workgroup. Further, the workgroup discussions were moderated by ODFW staff who provided reliable management data so that the workgroup could make an informed decision.

Next, we believe changes to the formula are necessary to reflect both the contributions and costs borne by farmers and ranchers in dealing with deer and elk herds. Specifically, the contributions to prime deer and elk habitat that the landowner provides and the economic losses farmers and ranchers suffer in feeding vulnerable deer and elk. After all this is the basic underlying rationale for the LOP tag program: to provide non-monetary compensation to the landowner for benefits provided to wildlife. For this reason, we strongly reject the idea that LOP tags are an "entitlement" in any form.

Lastly, the new formula would have a *de minimis* impact on the mule deer population. In 2015 ODFW reported that just under 50,000 controlled tags for 100 series mule deer buck hunts were issued to the general public. In comparison, the number of LOP tags issued for mule deer buck hunts was just 2,425. If the Commission adopts the staff's proposed formula changes, an estimated 600 additional LOP tags could be issued next season under recent MO numbers. Given that the historical harvest rate for LOP tags averages under 50%, these changes would foreseeably result in less than 300 deer harvested under current population statistics. However, this increase would only be foreseeable if the population numbers warranted it. That's because, and as we would expect and encourage, ODFW would likely take actions to limit the amount of tag opportunities if populations were to decline dramatically in the future. In addition, it's worth reiterating that the recommendation was vetted by ODFW staff during the second workgroup session in Bend with science-based conservation in mind.

Roxann B Borisch

From: BALTZ526@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 5:51 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: LOP tags

Please do not change the current LOP limits. I as a person in the drawing pool Feel the last change (The Commission also chose to limit LOP mule deer buck tags to 5 or 10% of authorized tag level, whichever was greater, in WMUs where the population was below MO. This limited draw for LOP mule deer tags began in **2015** for the fall hunting seasons.) Is the fair distribution of tags. Richard W Baltz OHA life Member 16219 Pinedrop In Lapine Oregon 97739.

Roxann B Borisch

From: David Wiley <davewiley@wvi.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:02 PM
To: odfw.commission@state.or.us
Subject: Exhibit B: LIMITED LANDOWNER PREFERENCE MULE DEER TAG ALLOCATION,

Chairman Finley and members of the Commission;

I am representing myself only.

The purpose of this communication is to ask that you not approve ODFW staff's proposal to reallocate buck mule tags between the landowner preference class and the regular controlled hunt.

Mule deer populations are in decline in Oregon and throughout their range. ODFW's Mule Deer Management Plan and supplemental Mule Deer Initiative are targeted on restoring mule deer.

The number of buck mule deer tags is finite and the allocation of them between landowners and the regular hunters must be carefully considered. If, as proposed, more tags are allocated to landowners, then the number of tags for the regular controlled (public) hunt opportunities must be reduced. Remember that LOP tags are guaranteed to the landowner, therefore coming off the top of available tag allocation, and the regular hunter must participate in drawing from the remainder to receive a tag. How will the two classes of hunters respond and what effect will it have?

The allocation of mule deer tags was addressed in 2013 and adjustments were made. I represented Oregon Hunters Association in those stakeholder proceedings. In the proceedings damage hunt tags were separated from LOP buck tags, and there was much discussion regarding the equitable allocation of buck mule deer tags between LOP and regular controlled hunt. The current allocation rules were a result of those proceedings and were deemed equitable at the time. How has the situation changed to justify a reallocation of tags between landowners and regular controlled (public) tag opportunity?

In reviewing the documents for this agenda item, the only public correspondence on this issue opposes the proposed increase in LOP tags, and that correspondence is from Oregon Hunters Association who was a participant in the Department's stakeholder meetings on this issue.

While there is apparent dissatisfaction expressed by some with the current LOP tag allocation rules, the focus of the Commission should be on increasing the opportunities for all hunter groups by sound resource management. Now is not the time to liberalize the allocation to any group.

After review, I suggest ODFW staff's report to the Commission is incomplete and not compelling because:

1. It does not clearly define the problem
2. It does not state criteria for selection and analysis of alternatives to resolve the problem
3. It does not disclose the alternatives analyzed and rejected and why rejected.
4. It does not state why the proposed action is the best alternative.
5. It does not disclose the impact of the proposed reallocation of mule deer hunting opportunity, i.e. tag numbers, between landowners and the regular controlled hunt (the public).

The Commission is being asked by the Department to approve an allocation change in mule deer buck tags without being able to assess impacts, and it should not do so at this time.

Respectfully,

Dave Wiley
430 NW Hartmann Ave.
Sublimity, OR 97385

Roxann B Borisch

From: Dan Hamrick <oryotebuster@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:45 PM
To: ODFW Commission
Subject: Lop tags

Hi.

I was just informed about a few changes that may have potential to change the way l.o.p tags are given. I cannot attend the meeting to voice my concerns, hence writing this letter in place. Our herds in Oregon especially mule deer cannot be anywhere near management objectives in at least any unit I live near around Lakeview Oregon.

I guess at what point do we start managing herd health and stop managing a check book and opportunity? 1500-2000 tags in interstate and silver lake units for mule deer is crazy!! Then allowing virtually unlimited LOP tags would nuts and irresponsible in my opinion.

It's time odfw steps up and starts leaning towards a future with quality hunts for sportsmen like our neighbor states. Limiting tag numbers to a better level can only help produce quality hunting for those in the field.

Our archery seasons in the eastern side units are crazy!! With unlimited amount of hunters in the field!

Thanks for your time
Dan Hamrick

Sent from my iPhone

Roxann B Borisch

From: Tyler Alexander <Tyler@oregonfb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:30 AM
To: ODFW Commission
Cc: Jerome Rosa
Subject: Comments on LOP MULE DEER TAG ALLOCATION 3/17/17
Attachments: OFB OCA LOP Letter.pdf

To whom it may concern:

Please see attached letter regarding Friday's Exhibit B Agenda Item, submitted on behalf of the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Thank you,
Tyler

Tyler Alexander
Oregon Farm Bureau
Government Affairs Associate
O: 503.399.1701
C: 541.324.9394