

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

One of the most common complaints Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff receives from hunters is that Oregon's Big Game Hunting Regulations are hard to understand and have become too complicated. It has been several decades since the Department has completed a comprehensive review of the Big Game Hunting Regulations to make sure all regulations are still relevant and necessary. In 2017, the Department started a process to simplify Oregon's big game hunting regulations.

The "Big Game Regulation Simplification" project has been divided into three phases. Phase 1 was an editorial review of the Big Game Hunting Regulations document focused on improving the delivery and organization of information. Phase 2 is focused on identifying opportunities to eliminate, simplify or combine relevant Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) or Oregon Revised Statutes (ORSs). Phase 3 will focus on identifying opportunities to simplify Oregon's big game hunting seasons.

Over the last year, a team of ODFW and OSP staff has been developing concepts for Phase 2 of this process. Phase 2 focused on a review of license requirements, general hunting regulations, weapon restrictions, youth programs, area closures, etc. All regulations were reviewed by asking the following questions:

- 1) Is the regulation still relevant and necessary?
- 2) Does the regulation serve a purpose?
- 3) Is the regulations biologically justified?
- 4) Can the regulation language be simplified or combined with another regulation?
- 5) How does the regulation affect hunter recruitment and satisfaction?

The outcome of this review is the attached table of concepts (Attachment 2) for changes to, or elimination of, current regulations. Also included in the table are two legislative concepts that identify opportunities for simplification that would require changes to statute.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Department staff presented the attached concepts to Oregon Sport Group Leaders April 24, 2018. The concepts will be available online and provided at the 18 annual public big game regulations meetings held throughout the state during July. The Department has also shared information with the public via social media, newspaper articles, and an article in the June issue of Oregon Hunters Association magazine. The public has been encouraged to submit written and/or oral testimony to the Commission. Public comments received to date are included in this informational packet.

ISSUE 1

BIG GAME REGULATIONS SIMPLIFICATION PHASE 2 CONCEPTS

ANALYSIS

The attached table (Attachment 2) summarizes concepts identified by the Department for changes to Oregon’s Big Game Hunting Regulations. Proposed changes to OAR will be presented to the Commission in September 2018 for consideration as part of the 2019 Big Game Season and Regulation staff recommendations.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DRAFT MOTION

N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE

N/A