

SUPPLEMENTAL
PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

Received:
June 7, 2019

June 4, 2019

Re: Keeping the Canyon Creek Traditional Archery Hunt

Dear Chair Finley, Commissioners, and Director Melcher,

I am writing to voice my opposition for the proposal to eliminate the traditional only hunt in the Canyon Creek archery area. While I understand the desire to simplify the hunting regulations and seasons, I see no benefit to be gained by discontinuing this hunt, which takes place during the first week of the general archery season. There are no additional tags required, no permits to be applied for and no complicated regulations to follow. I oversee the R3 initiative in another state and can certainly appreciate the intent of what you are trying to accomplish, but I see no valid reason and nothing significant to be gained by getting rid of the Canyon Creek traditional only archery area. Do you think there will be a sudden influx of archery hunters who are dying to hunt during this season, which occupies 4% of the of Murderer's Creek unit? I highly doubt this. In my opinion, there will be no perceivable benefit to eliminating this hunt, as far as an increase in license or tag sales and a subsequent increase in revenue, which is the bottom line. I know arguments can be made for and against this proposal, but I am adamantly opposed.

This is an historically significant hunt, in a very historically significant area. The department's statement that the "historical significance can continue to be celebrated without creating regulatory complexity and reducing opportunity for other archery hunters" is infuriating. How do you celebrate and maintain that historical significance by allowing high-tech equipment to be used in area that has been traditional only since 1936 (with the exception of a few years when this hunt was previously eliminated)? Oregon should be embracing and celebrating the history of this area for all its worth. What regulatory complexity exists to allow traditional only equipment in this small portion of the unit? I fail to see what exactly will be simplified by ending this hunt.

You state that other traditional only hunts are being explored in other areas of the state. Why trade an existing hunt that holds deep tradition for a token traditional hunt in another area? Won't any new hunts have rules and regulations? It seems they would potentially be more complicated than what currently exists at Canyon Creek.

My late husband, Dave Doran, was a dyed in the wool traditional bowhunter. He hunted the Canyon Creek archery area religiously every year that he was able, during that first week of the season. I hunted and backpacked with him through that area on several occasions as well. He shared the history and beauty of that area with me – the arrow tree at Fawn Springs, Joaquin Miller trailhead and the history of King Williams Ranch arrow collection. How can you maintain the integrity of that history and tradition by getting rid of that hunt? That's like saying you would be able to taste the unique sweetness and flavor of an Oregon strawberry when you've mixed it up with a bunch of store-bought berries.

The Canyon Creek hunt was halted once and then reinstated with the help and support of Craig Foster (retired ODFW biologist), as well as many other folks. It seems that the current generation of staff holds no appreciation or respect for Oregon's deep archery tradition. Back in the late 1990s, a proposal was made to reinstate the Canyon Creek hunt in order to improve the quality of archery deer hunting in eastern Oregon, as well as improve the survival rate of larger mule deer bucks and offer opportunities for wildlife viewing. With the recent history of fire and other causes of habitat loss or degradation, it seems that the reasons for reinstating the hunt back in the late 1990s would hold true today as well.

The Canyon Creek area was established in 1936 and it was the only archery area west of the Mississippi River. An example of the area's rich history was the tradition of hunters who visited the area to leave an autographed arrow at the Williams Ranch. A display, which holds these arrows, is currently housed in the lobby of the ODFW office in Salem. How can you diminish the value and tradition of that history and display by allowing modern archery equipment into the Canyon Creek area? My late husband would definitely be pointing his finger, and his words, and saying shame on you ODFW.

Archery hunters all over the nation knew of the Canyon Creek area and when rifle shots were heard there in 1990, for the first time since 1936, it was a sad, sad day. The Canyon Creek area is under threat once again and while rifle shots are not the imminent threat, modern archery equipment is. Do you honestly think that license and tag sales will increase because you allow all bowhunters to access this area during the first week of the season? If there were biological significance, perhaps I could understand, but to couch it under the R3 goal of recruiting more hunters, reactivating lapsed hunters or retaining existing hunters is just not authentic. You are hiding your true intentions which are that it's just more convenient for you to eliminate this hunt.

In 1986, a story appeared in *The Oregon Bowhunter*, the magazine of the Oregon Bowhunters. The story was written by Truman Carter and in this story, he wrote with great passion and respect for the Canyon Creek archery area and the tradition and history it carried with it. He reminisced about his first visit to the area in 1956 and how he met and became friends with the Williams family. Truman hunted all over the Canyon Creek area. He took his sons there and hunted with them. He spoke of the large deer herds of the 1960s and all the other hunters he met while exploring Brookling Creek, Fawn Springs and Cole Camp.

I would ask whether those who want to end this hunt have explored these areas? Have you stood at Fawn Springs and looked at where the old arrow tree stood? Can you tell where it fell and burned up in the last forest fire? Have you seen the new arrow tree that has been established? Have you studied the arrow collection and tried to absorb even a fraction of the history and stories those arrows hold? ODFW's reasoning to end the Canyon Creek hunt is based on practicality, but this matter is one of tradition, history and culture. It symbolizes ethics, challenge and dedication by those who participate. ODFW should desire these qualities in all hunters and should be proud of the longstanding tradition that is held within the boundaries of the Canyon Creek area.

As Truman said in his article, *Ghosts of Canyon Creek*: "Why do I keep going back to Canyon Creek? I have often asked myself this question. After many years of analysis I finally realized that it was the wild beauty of this rugged land that lures me back and the haunting memories of past experiences. Sure, there is always the hope of arrowing a big buck or bull of which I have some real trophies. Regardless.....I shall each year give vent to my primitive instincts and continue to pack into the more remote areas of Canyon Creek. There I shall explore and revisit the lonely crags and peaks and the walled canyons until I too become a ghost of Canyon Creek."

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and express my dismay with ODFW's proposal.

Sincerely,

Nancy Doran

Nancy Doran



PO Box 231
Stayton, OR 97383
503-410-6571
info@tradarcheryoregon.com

Traditional Archers of Oregon

June 6, 2019

Trout Creek Traditional Archery Season

Dear Chair Finley, Commission Members, Director Melcher,

The Traditional Archers of Oregon (TAO) would first like to applaud ODFW for its introduction, and the success, of the Trout Creek traditional archery hunt in Southeast Oregon. Over the years there have been many bowhunters that make the annual pilgrimage to the desert to hunt mule deer and every year we are able to introduce new hunters to the heritage of traditional archery through the availability of this opportunity.

With that being said TAO would like to see the opportunity broadened by changing the hunt to a general traditional season instead of a controlled hunt of 300 tags. When the hunt started it was made an unlimited controlled hunt so the department could track the number of hunters taking advantage of this opportunity. Since that time, ODFW has introduced mandatory reporting which accomplishes the same goal. The concern TAO has with limiting the tags and making it a controlled hunt is the recruitment of new hunters. As shown in the survey that ODFW just contracted, hunters want more general seasons. This is one of the big benefits of traditional archery - the limited range and low success rates allow for more general opportunity. The ability to hunt the same area also helps with the re-activation and retention of younger hunters who are able to plan the hunt year after year.

Another issue we see with the restricting the opportunity of this hunt is the limited availability to the non-resident hunters. Several hunters travel from out of state to hunt this area each year. The low non-resident caps that exist in Oregon would severely limit their opportunity.

The Traditional Archers of Oregon appreciate Nick and his team's work on this Big Game Review Process. We believe that making the Trout Creeks a traditional archery only general season would simplify the regulations even more than the current proposal of the limiting the hunt to 300 tags.

Sincerely,

Bob Bourland
Field Governor
Damascus, OR

www.tradarcheryoregon.com



PO Box 231
Stayton, OR 97383
503-410-6571
info@tradarchery.com

Traditional Archers of Oregon

Traditional Archery Growth

Dear Chair Finley, Commission Members, Director Melcher,

The Traditional Archers of Oregon would first like to thank Nick Myatt and his team for proposing new traditional archery opportunities in the form of The North Fork John Day extension hunt and the deer and elk west side opportunities to be determined. These hunts will surely be a success from both hunter and management perspectives. While we are encouraged by the tip-of-the-hat recognition these hunts provide to traditional archers, we do feel the current number of proposed hunts falls short, given the current rise in popularity of traditional bowhunting. For examples of growth in traditional archery hunting, I would like to point you to five different examples:

The Switch to Traditional: From Compound to Stick and String

Luke Griffiths, 36 year old writer for gohunt.com

"The experience I had on this hunt and the sense of accomplishment that came with it is unmatched in all my years of hunting and I know that I will be chasing that rush as often as possible in the years to come. If anyone reading this has any interest in shooting a traditional bow I would encourage you to pick one up and start shooting!"

Remi's Take on Traditional Archery

Remi Warren, Meateater.com

"Although I had taken plenty of animals with a gun and compound bow, it took me a few years of hunting with a recurve before killing a deer with it. My first deer with a traditional bow was a huge 4x4 mule deer. After the shot I was shaking like it was my first hunt all over again."

You can get behind the Rebirth of Traditional Archery

Staff Writer at Wideopenspaces.com

"There's a wave of momentum flowing through the outdoors, and it's not tech-driven or new fangled (if you can believe it). It's traditional archery."

"The more people who pick up a traditional bow and discover their appeal, the more we'll preserve the foundation of archery as we know it."

FILSON

Take a look at the Filson.com. Click on their hunting page and the first thing you see is a man in his late thirties drawing back a longbow with a quiver full of wood arrows, and of course, sporting a Filson vest and hat. This traditional bowhunter's name is Hunter Rung. He is featured in an eight-second film on their Hunting landing page with a link to watch a full-length version of the ad on the Filson YouTube channel. Filson chooses to represent its hunting products through the lens of a young traditional bowhunter, should we take note?

Social Media Trends

Becoming an insta-famous hunter is the hopes of many young hunters. Two of the more successful bowhunting figures on the social media scene, Donnie Vincent (93k Instagram followers) and Aron

Snyder (67k Instagram followers) are publicizing their switch from compound archery to traditional archery and it is catching the attention of many young bowhunters; some will surely follow suite.

In summary, we would like to see the current resurgence in traditional archery better reflected by the proposed regulation changes. Traditional archery hunts have the potential to decrease point creep in all controlled archery hunts, provide additional hunting opportunity at the lowest cost to wildlife populations, and most importantly, recruit and retain new hunters. But this can only happen if ODFW provides the opportunity. Frankly, longbow and recurves are cool with the green revolution and non-hunters, as well as the army of young men & women looking for a reason or means to take up hunting. It's simple, they see it as fair chase at its best. We hope Oregon chooses to pioneer the way into modern hunting regulation by providing more traditional archery opportunities.

Thank you for your time and Consideration,

Carson Brown
Secretary
Stayton, OR



PO Box 231
Stayton, OR 97383
503-410-6571
info@tradarcheryoregon.com

Traditional Archers of Oregon

June 6, 2019

Canyon Creek Traditional Archery Season

Dear Chair Finley, Commission Members, Director Melcher,

Oregon has a unique bowhunting heritage which is exemplified through the Traditional Archers of Oregon's (TAO) "Oregon Archery Heritage Museum" currently displayed at ODFW Headquarters. Oregon led western states by creating the Canyon Creek Archery Area in 1935. From 1931 - 1991, this area was closed to all firearms hunting. For many years, the area provided an extended opportunity into mid-October to archery hunters. Rather than ignoring the history of this special place, TAO is proposing a broadened opportunity in which the Canyon Creek Archery Area becomes a general archery opportunity for traditional equipment for the entire archery season.

- First and foremost, our reasoning is to hallmark the historical significance of Oregon archery hunting for future generations of archers willing to take the traditional challenge.
- Archery hunting equipment has experienced a technological revolution where acceptable accuracy is more than double the distance of traditional archers, who still operate at 30 yards or less. Time honored skills of getting close, judging distance, knowing when to draw and tuning your own tackle have been lost to exotic sights, range finders, bows with 80% let-off, all of which require a trained mechanic to prepare it for hunting. Conversely, traditionalists make some or all of their equipment and basically operate in a manner typical of the bowhunter from the 1930's.
- Since the first week of the Canyon Creek season is currently restricted to traditional equipment only, lengthening it would fit with the project goals of the Big Game Hunting Review currently in process. This simplification would help recruit new archers to the sport.
- Over the past decade both our traditional bow seasons have been heavily influenced by wildfires. Canyon Creek burned-over three years ago, preceded by the Holloway/Trout Creek fire in 2012. The first week of bow season is typically very hot and dry, so expanding the traditional only season would provide a more realistic opportunity as weather moderates.
- Finally, 8 decades ago, Oregon Legislature and Game Commission, recognized the challenges and difficulty of the archers pursuit and provided a special opportunity for adventurous bowmen. We would like to pass this on so others can enjoy the archery hunts we have.

For traditional bowhunters, Oregon is the envy of many states across our nation. Unlike almost all states, we have a wide range of species to hunt over a varied landscape. Oregon has recognized this uniqueness with a very limited number of traditional equipment opportunities. We would like to see that increased in a logical manner that both protects the game resource and highlights our bowhunting heritage for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Riley Savage
President
Hillsboro, OR