

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

One of the most common complaints Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff hear from hunters is that Oregon's big game hunting seasons and associated regulations are hard to understand and have become too complicated. The Department has never attempted a complete review of all big game hunting seasons; most controlled hunts and hunting season structures were put in place decades ago.

In Fall 2018, the Department initiated the multi-year Big Game Hunting Review that is a comprehensive review of all big game hunting seasons in Oregon. The goals of the review are to:

- 1) Improve customer service through more consistent and simpler big game hunting seasons, bag limits, boundaries and associated regulations
- 2) Allocate hunting opportunity fairly and consistent with hunter preferences
- 3) Review hunting season structure and allocation of hunting opportunity to promote hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3), and
- 4) Ensure hunting seasons meet biological objectives and maintain or improve overall hunter opportunity.

Over the last six months, a Hunt Review Team (ODFW and OSP) has been working with field staff to develop initial proposals for changes to big game hunting seasons. Attachments 2 and 3 provide a summary and detailed listing of all draft proposed changes.

These proposals are the first step in the Big Game Hunting Review. Staff will continue work on developing additional proposals over the next year.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Staff introduced the Big Game Hunting Review project goals and process to Oregon Sport Group Leaders on March 7, 2019 and the public via Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Director's Report items on January 18 and March 15, 2019. This exhibit provides the initial public release of these draft proposed changes. In addition to the Commission packet, staff has sent the proposals to Oregon's Sport Group Leaders and conducted public outreach via social media. The proposals will be included in 18 public meetings held throughout the state during our annual big game regulation meetings, as well as a scheduled Sport Group Leader's meeting in July. The Department will continue to share information with the public via Department website, social media, newspaper articles and an article in the 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 Attachment 4.

ISSUE 1**PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE DRAFT PROPOSED CHANGES TO BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS****ANALYSIS**

The attached written summary (Attachment 2) and table (Attachment 3) provide details on draft proposed changes to big game hunting seasons. Final proposals will be incorporated as part of the 2020 Big Game Season and Regulation recommendations for consideration at the September 13, 2019 Commission meeting.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DRAFT MOTION

N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE

N/A