

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Burns Paiute Tribe is a federally recognized tribe of Northern Paiute Indians in Harney County. There are currently just over 400 enrolled tribal members. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopted rules to provide the opportunity for ceremonial harvest of specific big game animals at the December 2018 meeting. The Draft Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) adopted at that meeting contained an error, which was corrected by temporary rule and ratified by Commission action at the January 2019 Commission meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Members of the public have had the opportunity to review the proposed rule change on the Department's website and provide comments. Interested parties may also provide public comment during the Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

WHETHER TO AMEND THE START DATE FOR THE BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE TO TAKE PRONGHORN FOR CEREMONIAL AND CULTURAL PURPOSES.

ANALYSIS

The Department presentation to the Commission at the December 2018 meeting and discussions with the Burns Paiute Tribe outlined a season start date of January 1st each year for all authorized species. The OARs, which were adopted by Commission action, however, incorrectly referenced a start date of August 1 for pronghorn. A temporary rule was used to modify OAR 635-043-0150(3)(e) to correct the annual start date for the pronghorn season.

The Department has other administrative rules that provide ceremonial tag opportunities for tribal members of federally recognized tribes in Oregon. The harvest of these limited numbers of additional animals is not likely to have a discernable effect on big game populations in the region. Harvest would not occur during periods when other hunting seasons for the species are authorized in the area.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the OARs to amend the start date for ceremonial harvest of pronghorn by enrolled members of the Burns Paiute Tribe.
2. Modify the staff proposal.
3. No action.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635-043-0150 as proposed by staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Filing