

# Big Game Hunting Review

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June 2019

# Big Game Hunting Review

- Project goals
- Hunter survey
- Summary of proposals from our review
- Specific proposals
- Public outreach
- Next steps

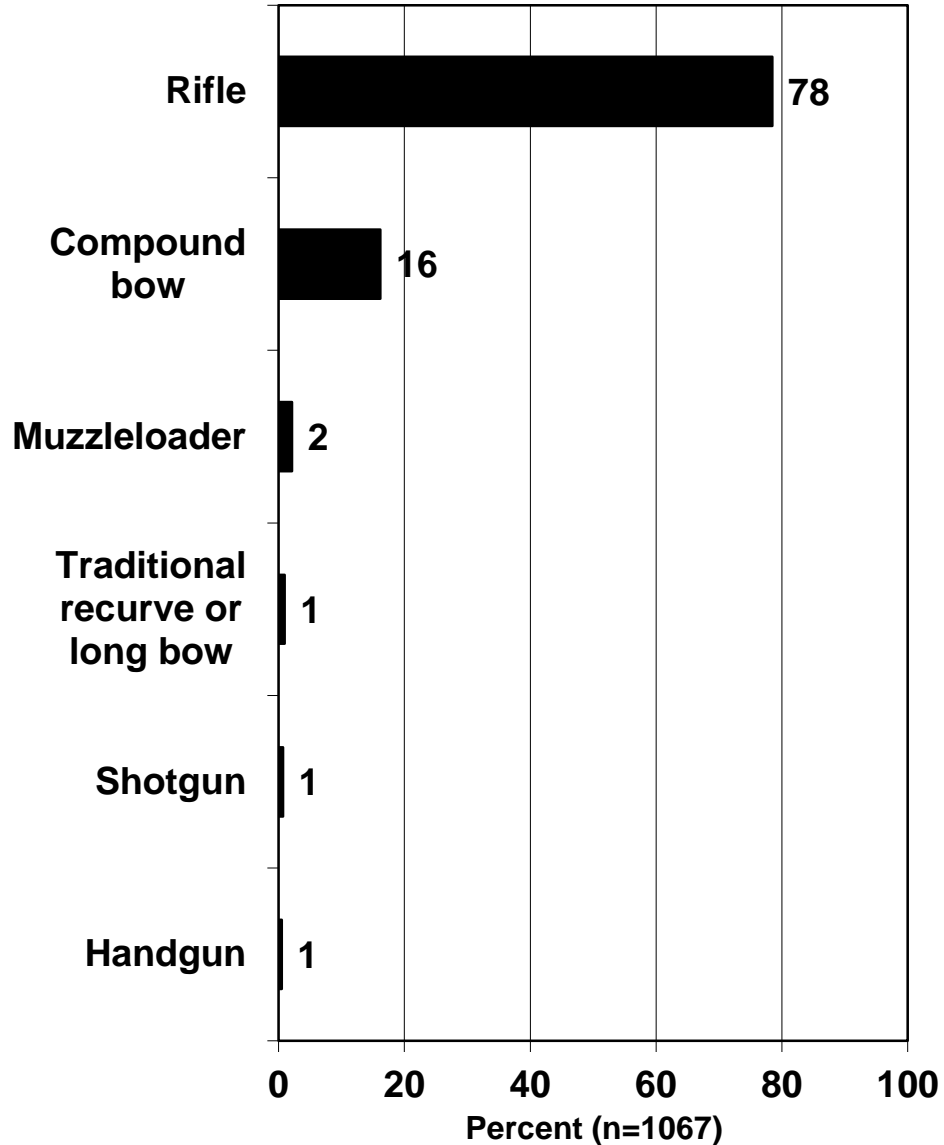
# Project Goals

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

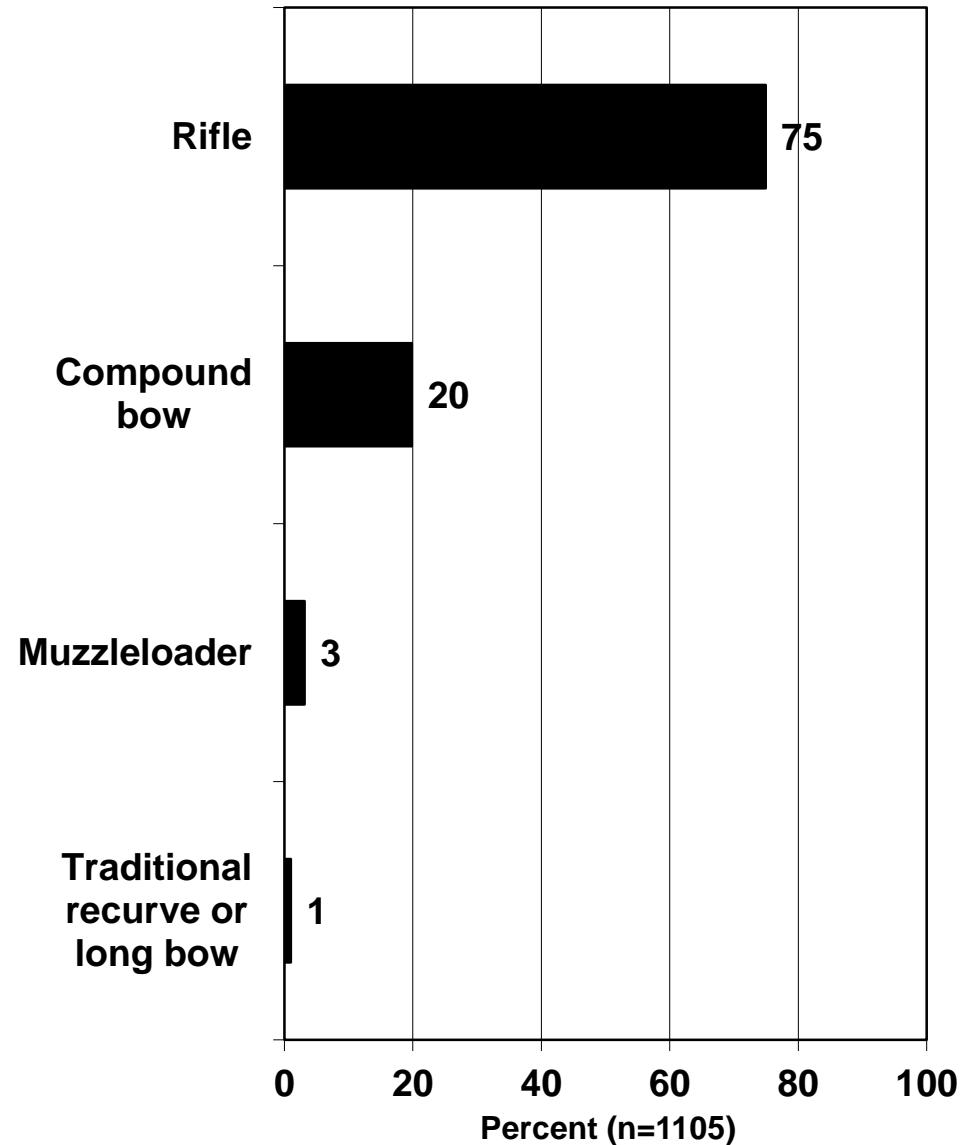
# Hunter Survey

- What do Oregon hunters want?
- 2,000 (1,000 deer hunters, 1,000 elk)
- Presentation of results in September 2019
- Summary report available next week
- Primary results used in proposals
  - Opportunity to hunt every year
  - Hunt for meat and to spend time outdoors with friends and family
  - Harvesting a trophy animal is not very important
  - Finding time to go hunting is a constraint
  - Weapon preferences

**Q122. Of all weapons allowed, which one weapon would you most prefer to use to hunt deer in Oregon?  
(Deer survey)**



**Q122. Of all weapons allowed, which one weapon would you most prefer to use to hunt elk in Oregon?  
(Elk survey)**



# Proposal Summary

- 127 existing hunts consolidated into 49 hunts
- 91 dates expanded, made simpler or consistent with other hunts
- 85 hunt areas expanded to the entire unit or hunt boundaries made simpler
- 57 bag limits made simpler or consistent with other hunts
- Nine new controlled hunt opportunities
- Overall hunting opportunity maintained or improved

# Western Oregon Deer Bag Limits

- **Currently**
  - “One buck having not less than forked antler”
  - “One antlerless or spike deer”
- **Bag limit for >60 years**
- **No biological basis for bag limit**
- **Potential negative impact on population**
- **Enforcement concerns with hunters  
differentiating spikes from forked antler bucks**

# Western Oregon Deer Bag Limits

- **Proposed**
  - “One buck with visible antler”
  - “One antlerless deer”
- **Statewide consistency**
- **Biologically justified**
- **Less enforcement concern**
- **Increase harvest opportunity**



# Consistency and Equitability

- **Department's intent for annual opportunity:**
  - One buck or either sex deer tag
  - One antlerless deer tag
  - One elk tag
- **Review identified several areas of inconsistency**
  - 100 Series – Buck Deer
  - 600 Series – Antlerless Deer

# Consistency and Equitability

- **100 Series proposals**
  - Eliminate four “antlerless deer” hunts
- **600 Series proposals**
  - Move three “one deer” bag limit hunts to 100 series
  - Hunts take many points to draw
  - Provide hunters one year notice before implementing change in 2021
  - Significant expansion of area and increase tags in two hunts

# General Season Elk Damage Tag

- Elk population increases on private, agricultural land
- Project objective – reduce elk population on private land, shift elk to public land
- Currently primarily utilize controlled hunts and Landowner Damage Program Tags
- Despite tools, private land elk populations continue to increase

# General Season Elk Damage Tag

- **Controlled hunt constraints**
  - May 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline
  - Hunters must know up to 10 months in advance they have private land access and elk are present
  - Tags are limited, while populations warrant unlimited tags

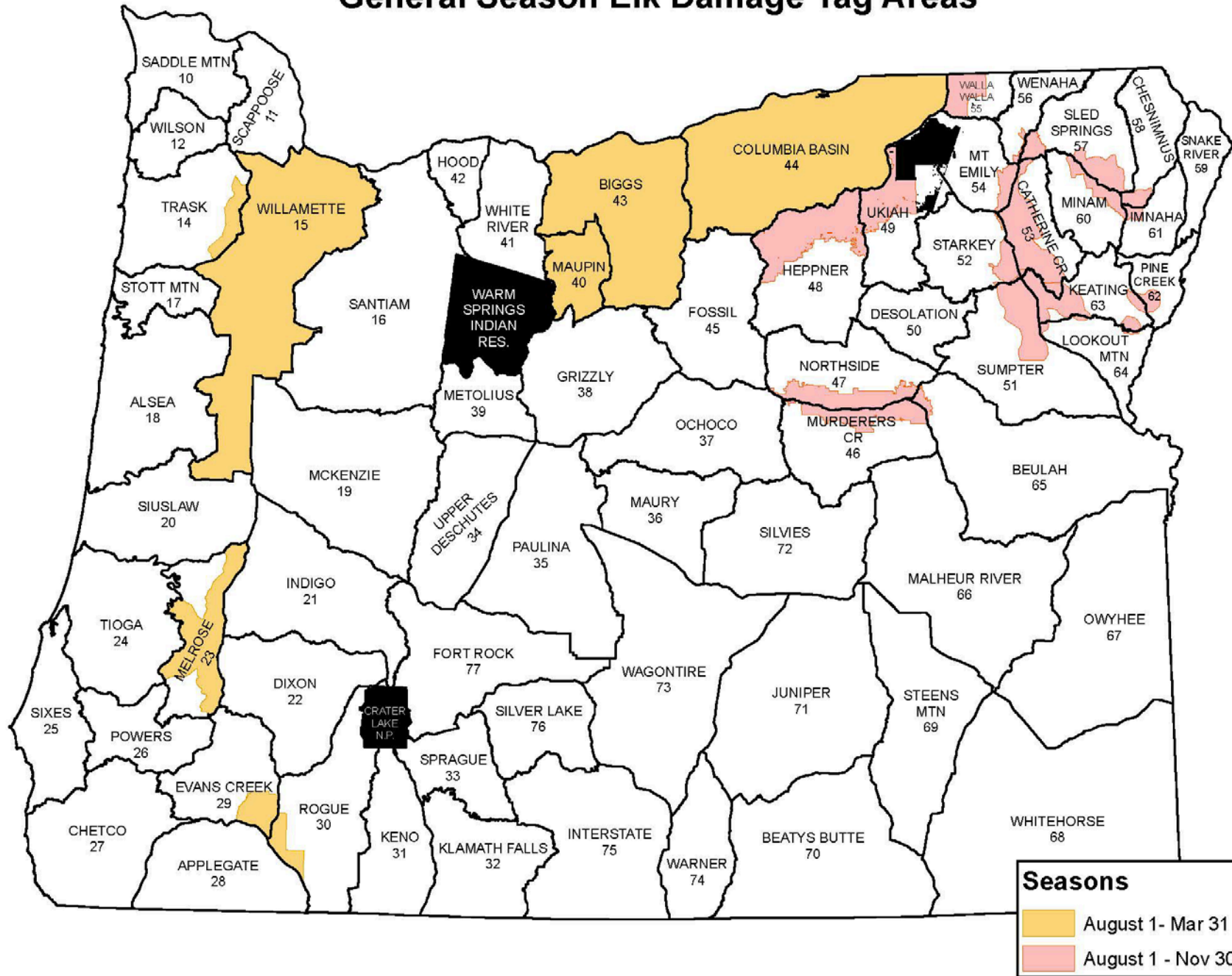
# General Season Elk Damage Tag

- **Landowner Damage Program tag constraints**
  - Over 4,000 issued annually
  - Only valid on single property
  - Can only be issued when staff present at office
  - Time intensive for landowners and staff
  - Often issued when existing controlled hunts already taking place
  - Most tags are being issued as an exchange and utilized as a second elk hunting opportunity

# General Season Elk Damage Tag

- **Proposal**
  - Pilot period for 2020
  - Establish a new, over-the-counter antlerless elk tag
  - Valid in chronic elk damage areas identified/mapped annually
  - Replace Landowner Damage Program tags during designated areas and times
  - No tag sale deadline

# General Season Elk Damage Tag Areas



# Traditional Archery Hunting

- **Expand traditional archery hunting opportunity**
  - Maintain one deer hunt and propose new elk hunt in Eastern Oregon for 2020
  - Commit to proposing one new deer hunt and one new elk hunt in Western Oregon for 2021
- **Address complexity of existing hunts**



# Traditional Archery Hunting

- **Proposed changes:**
  - Set number of tags for Trout Creek deer
  - New elk hunt in North Fork John Day Wilderness
  - Simplify general archery season by making Murderer's Creek Unit open to all archery equipment for entire season

# Public Outreach

- **January:** Information to sport groups and public
- **Late-May:** Proposals to sport groups and public
- **June:** Commission information and public testimony
- **July:** Public meetings around the state
- **August:** Department final proposals
- **September:** Commission review and adoption

# Continuing Review

- Continue identifying opportunities to consolidate controlled hunts and make boundaries simpler
- Timing and duration of primary general seasons
- Western Oregon late season deer and elk hunts
- Archery deer and elk seasons
- Allocation of hunting opportunity
- Hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation

# Questions?

