

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Current Oregon Revised Statute 496.146 (17) includes direction for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider giving additional preference points in controlled hunt permit system to persons who have been issued a resident annual pioneer license (change was made during 2009 session). A Pioneer license (\$6 annual cost) is a resident combination hunt/fish license along with a discounted cost for elk tag; eligibility requirements include being at least 65 years of age and a resident of Oregon for at least 50 years.

During the 2019 legislative session, passage of Senate Bill 593 expanded this opportunity to include annual resident disabled veteran license holders. A Disabled Veteran license (free) is also a resident combination hunt/fish license along with a discounted cost for elk tag. Resident disabled veteran combination licenses are given to those who provide written proof of record by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces that shows the person to be at least 25 percent disabled; there is no eligibility requirement for age or number of years in Oregon to qualify for a resident disabled veteran combination license.

The average number of Pioneer license holders for the past three years is 57,300; average number of Disabled Veteran licenses issued is 16,800.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

An interested constituent contacted Department staff beginning in 2018 to discuss his circumstance of being a disabled veteran since serving in Vietnam but when he reached qualifying age/residency as a Pioneer he did not want to give up his disabled veteran license status to have the opportunity for a preference point reset. Because of the statutory overlay of the issue, it was suggested to contact a legislator with the background information provided by staff.

Passage of SB 593 included a several step public involvement process to move the bill through the legislature. Department staff shared draft rules to implement the statute changes with legislative sponsors for comments and concerns. Interested parties may also provide comments on the proposed rules at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

How to implement statute changes from SB 593 into Department rules for Modified Preference Point System.

ANALYSIS

The 2019 Oregon Legislative Assembly directed the Commission to consider giving persons who have been issued a resident disabled veteran hunting license additional preference points in Oregon's controlled hunt permit system. Legislative discussion by the bill proponents included clear intention that the process and criteria for additional preference point consideration would be the same as for Pioneer License holders (starting

at age 65) but would not be additive to the reset point for qualifying as a pioneer. Therefore, successful controlled hunt applicants would have one preference point when they next apply for a tag in that hunt number series.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to adopt OAR Chapter 635, Division 060 as proposed by staff.
EFFECTIVE DATE	08/02/2019