



Public Forum  
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## Traditional Archers of Oregon

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Traditional Archery Opportunity in Oregon

Dear Chair Finley, Commission Members, Director Melcher,

Thank you for allowing us the time to reiterate our proposals in the 2020 big game regulation process. We hope that the commission and the big game simplification committee has seen the importance of our proposals. By now, our local public meetings along with the public comment period has begun and there has been an overwhelming response to our traditional hunt proposals. We feel like this is a bigger sign of not just the growing popularity of traditional archery, but the growing concern around the technology that has crept into our hunting seasons in the last 25 years. We live in a time of trail cameras that send pictures instantly to our smartphones, rangefinders built into binoculars, gun scopes, and even bow sites, blue tooth arrow nocks, google earth, thermal imaging equipment, personal drones, bows that shoot 100 yards and rifles that shoot 1000. A growing number of hunters and conservationists recognize that is imperative to restrict ourselves and our use of technology in hunting if we want to maintain hunting opportunity. It might be a good time to point out that overcrowded general seasons are another form of loss of hunting opportunity. Oregon Archery seasons were greatly expanded in the 80s in an effort to ease hunter crowding in rifle season. It worked...possibly, it worked too well.

The Traditional Archers of Oregon feel that expanding to more of these traditional archery seasons is a very simple way to take a step in the right direction; to continue the great opportunity of having long archery seasons without having a big impact on the game we hunt. If you look at the general season success rates in Idaho's Elk Management Plan, the archery success rates have increased from around 3% in 1982 to nearly 18% in 2012, which is comparable to the general season rifle success rate. This is not what our primitive archery seasons were designed for. We know from talking to biologists around the state of Oregon that the modern bows are having a similar impact here.

So please consider the expansion of our Canyon Creek Traditional Hunt to the entire general archery season, rather than eliminating it. Our strong archery hunting heritage should be highlighted, where it can be used as a recruiting tool to attract new hunters that are attracted to the challenge and high ethic of traditional bowhunting. We are excited about the new North Fork John Day wilderness proposal; however, at 50 tags, we feel that this misses the point of traditional bowhunting. There is a lot more opportunity that could be provided, given the low success rate of traditional archery equipment. For the same reason, we feel the Trout Creek Traditional Hunt should be made a general season traditional hunt.

Thank you for your time,

Carson Brown

Secretary - Traditional Archers of Oregon

Stayton, OR

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