



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) annually submits Big Game Regulation proposals to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for consideration and adoption. The Department will recommend 2021 big game and western gray squirrel season dates and open areas, dates and locations of cooperative travel management areas, tag numbers for big game controlled hunts, and associated hunting regulations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public outreach, information and opportunity for input has been extensive. This included opinion surveys of randomly selected hunters, an online public forum, informational videos shared on social media, opportunity to submit input via an online form, regular communication with Oregon's sport groups, news releases, magazine and newspaper articles, individual contacts and local outreach conducted throughout the state by 21 wildlife districts.

ISSUE 1

Proposed tag numbers for controlled big game hunts for 2021.

ANALYSIS

Overall, total controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2021 are proposed to increase by approximately 8% from 2020. Summaries for each of the big game species is provided in Attachment 3. Most of the increase is caused by the proposal to move archery deer hunting in Eastern Oregon from a general season with unlimited tags, to controlled hunting.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

ISSUE 2

Proposals for 2021 game mammal seasons and associated hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS

Staff will present proposals for 2021 big game and western gray squirrel seasons. Controlled hunt proposals for 2021 contain season date and structure changes including deletion of hunts, addition of new hunts, combining hunt areas, and expanding hunt boundaries. Many of the changes are to deer and elk hunts and reflect responses to local changes in populations and changes designed to implement controlled archery deer hunts in eastern Oregon. Most proposals for regulation changes are the result of the Big Game Regulation Review Project.

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 060, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 075, and 078 as proposed by staff.

Effective Date: Upon Filing