

# **2022 Big Game Regulations and Tag Numbers**

**Oregon**

**Fish and Wildlife Commission**

**September 17, 2021**

# Presentation Overview

- **Big Game Regulation Review Project update**
- **Process for Big Game Regulation development**
- **2022 Regulations proposals**
  - **General regulations**
  - **Species specific: season dates, tag numbers**

# Big Game Regulation Review

- Department initiated project to review Big Game Regulations in 2017; multiple phases that started with “simplification”.
- Currently in phase 3, review of hunting seasons
  - Spread over multiple years
  - This year focused on E. Oregon archery elk
  - Next year plan to focus on W. Oregon late seasons

# **Process for Adoption of Hunting Seasons**

- **Fall to Spring: Biological data collection**
- **March to June: Internal data analysis**
- **July: Public outreach**
- **September: Commission adoption**
- **October: Finalize edits to following year regulations**
- **December: Begin selling licenses and tags**

# **Proposed 2022 Big Game Hunting Regulations, Seasons and Controlled Hunt Tags**

# Section Overview

- **Area and General Hunting Regulations**
- **Species Specific**
  - **Western Gray Squirrel**
  - **Bear/Cougar**
  - **Bighorn Sheep/Mountain Goat**
  - **Pronghorn**
  - **Deer**
  - **Elk**

# Area Rules

- **Modify St. Louis Ponds timing of use restrictions**
  - **Area is closed to public use at night to provide security for hosts and to reduce vandalism**
  - **Automatic gate cannot be programmed for sunrise/sunset**
  - **Establishing winter/summer closure hours provides year-round day use vehicle access and is easily understandable**

# Area Rules

- **Prohibit domestic sheep and goats at select Wildlife Areas (Little Sheep, Lower Deschutes, Riverside, Phillip W. Schneider, Wenaha)**
  - **Reduce disease exposure for bighorn sheep herds**
- **Remove requirement for parking permit at Wenaha Wildlife Area**
  - **Remote location creates challenge**



# Cooperative Travel Management Areas (TMAs)

- **Umatilla National Forest TMA**
  - Agreement to adopt Motor Vehicle Use Map as a TMA
- **Continuation of Mid-Coast and East Lane TMAs**

# Legislative Changes

- **HB 3163 amended the residency requirements under wildlife statutes for purposes of applying for a license, tag, or permit.**
  - **Clarified that “resident” requires physically residing in the state for not less than 6 consecutive months**
  - **Does not include a person who claims residency in another state or merely owns property in Oregon**

# 2022 Western Gray Squirrel Seasons

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- ❧ **No change for 2022**
- ❧ **North-Central Oregon** (Hood, White River, Metolius, Upper Deschutes, and Paulina Units)  
**September 15 – October 31**  
**3/day, 6 in Possession**
- ❧ **Remainder of the State**  
**September 1 – November 15**  
**5/day, 15 in Possession**
- ❧ **Portion of Rogue Unit**  
**January 1 – December 31**  
**No Bag/Possession Limit**

# Bear and Cougar



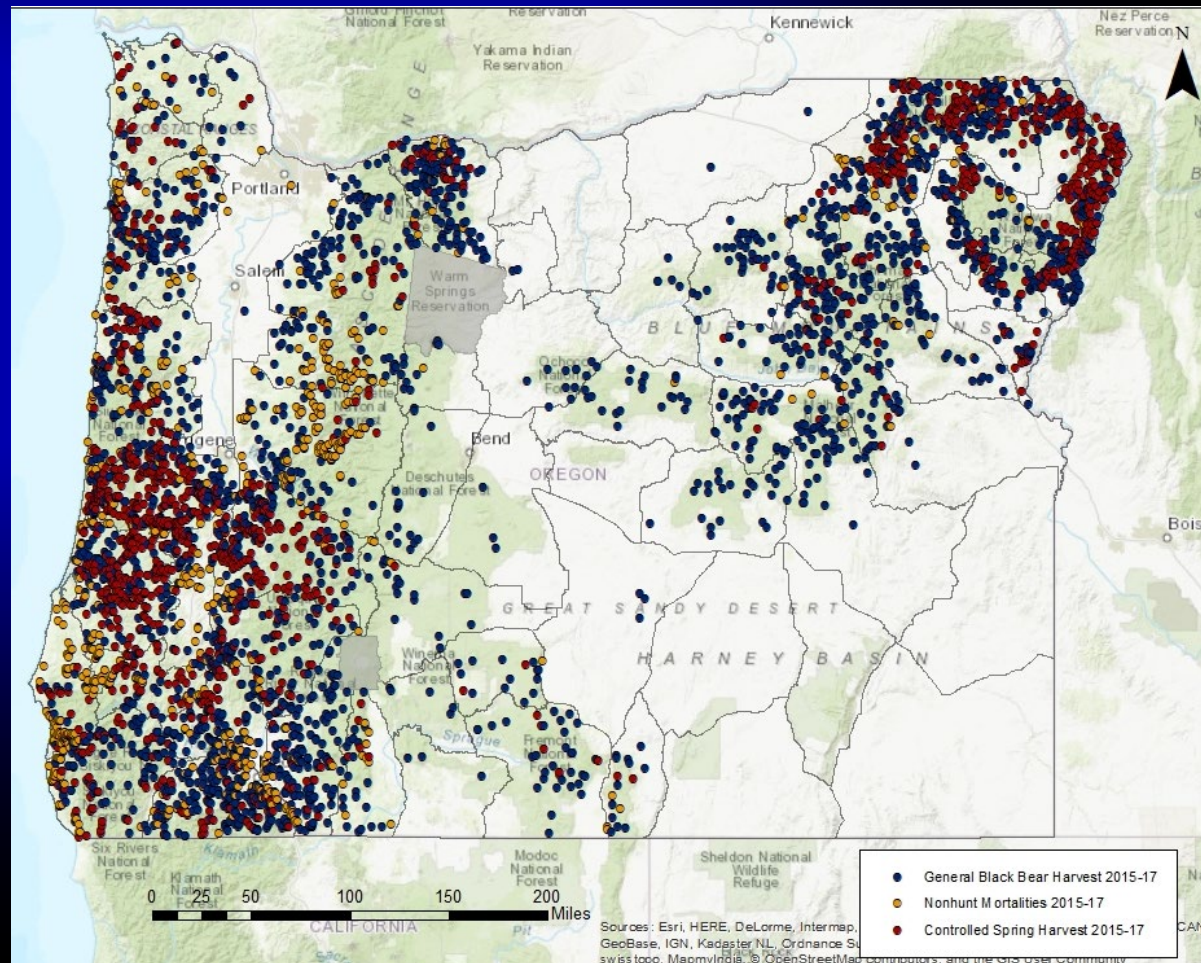
# Bear Population Monitoring

 **Black Bear Management Plan**

 **Check-in for all bear mortalities**

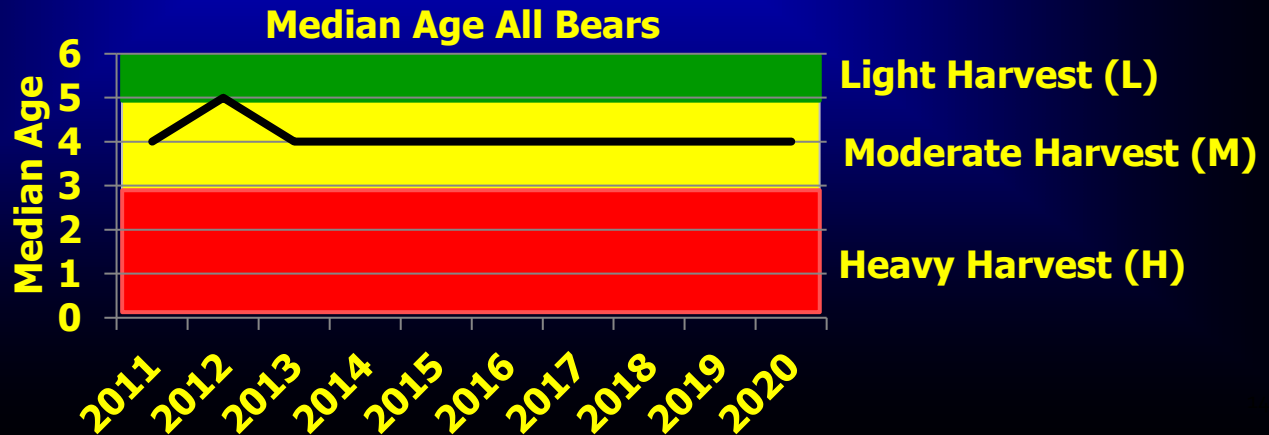
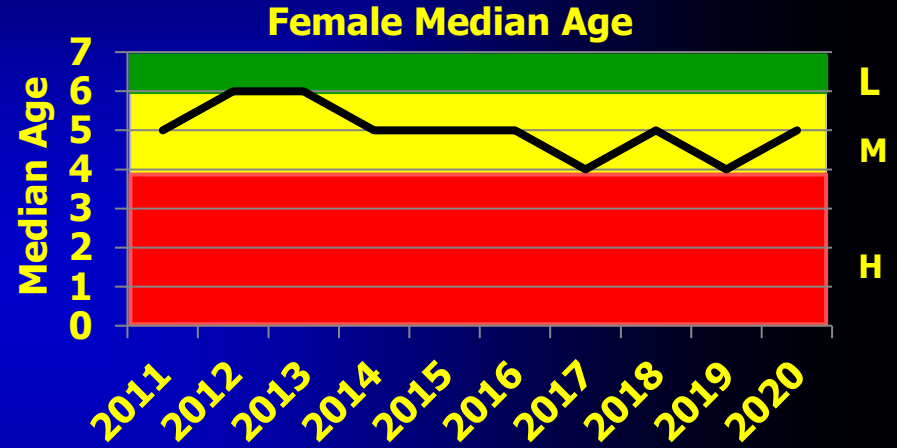
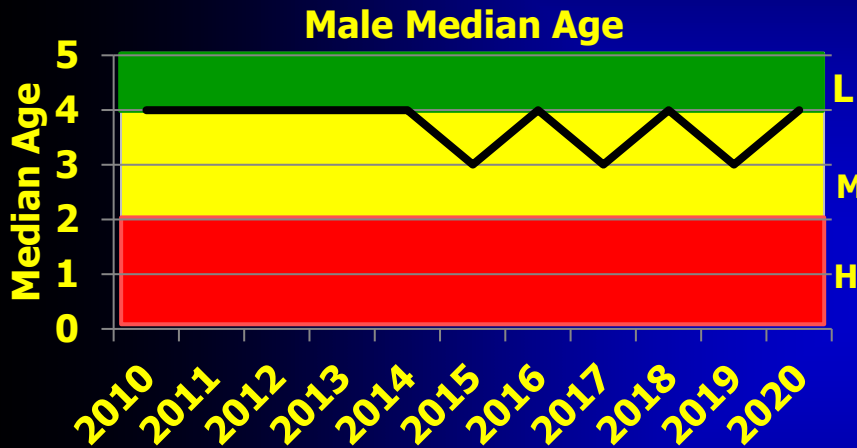
 **Mandatory harvest reporting**

 **New model being developed**



# Bear Population Monitoring

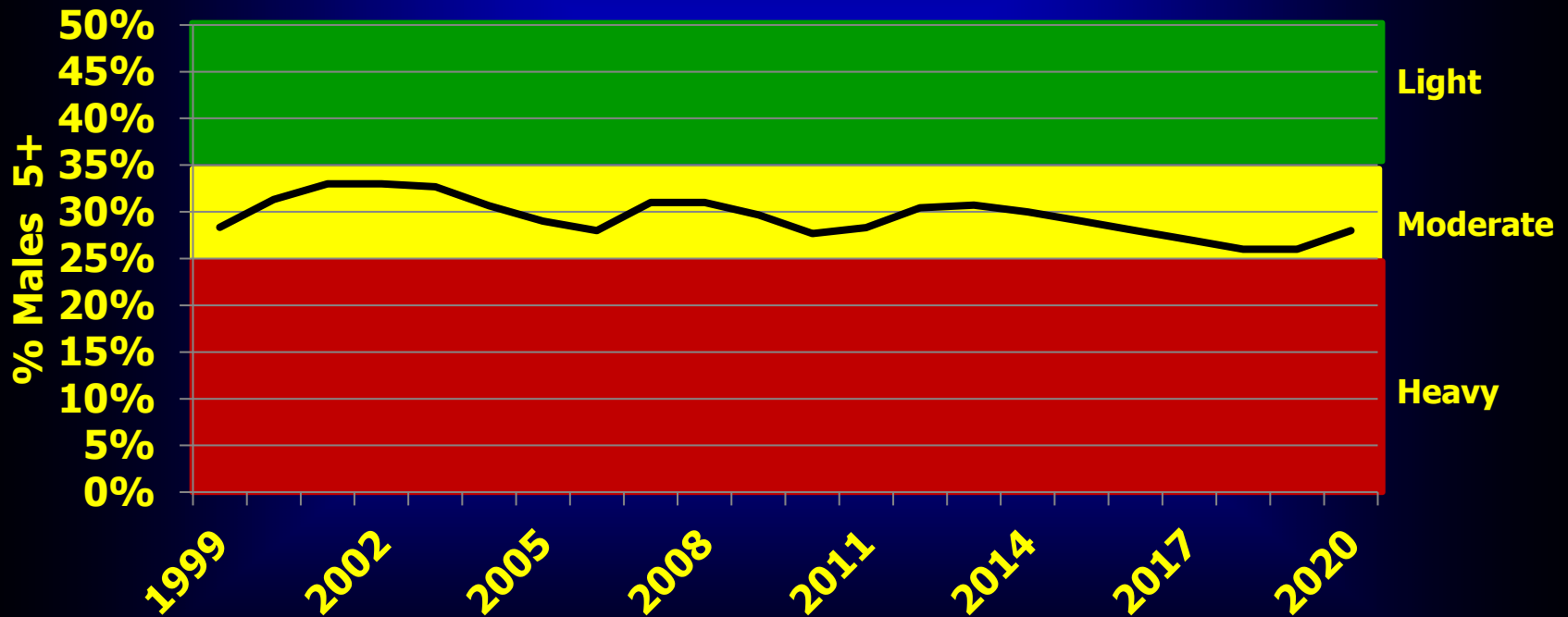
- 🐻 Harvest sustainable if median age of males  $\geq 2$  years, females  $\geq 4$  years, and all bears  $\geq 3$  years
- 🐻 No indication of unsustainable harvest



# Bear Population Monitoring

**Sex-age criteria to assess take level of black bears in Oregon. Criteria based on 3-year running averages of all mortalities.**

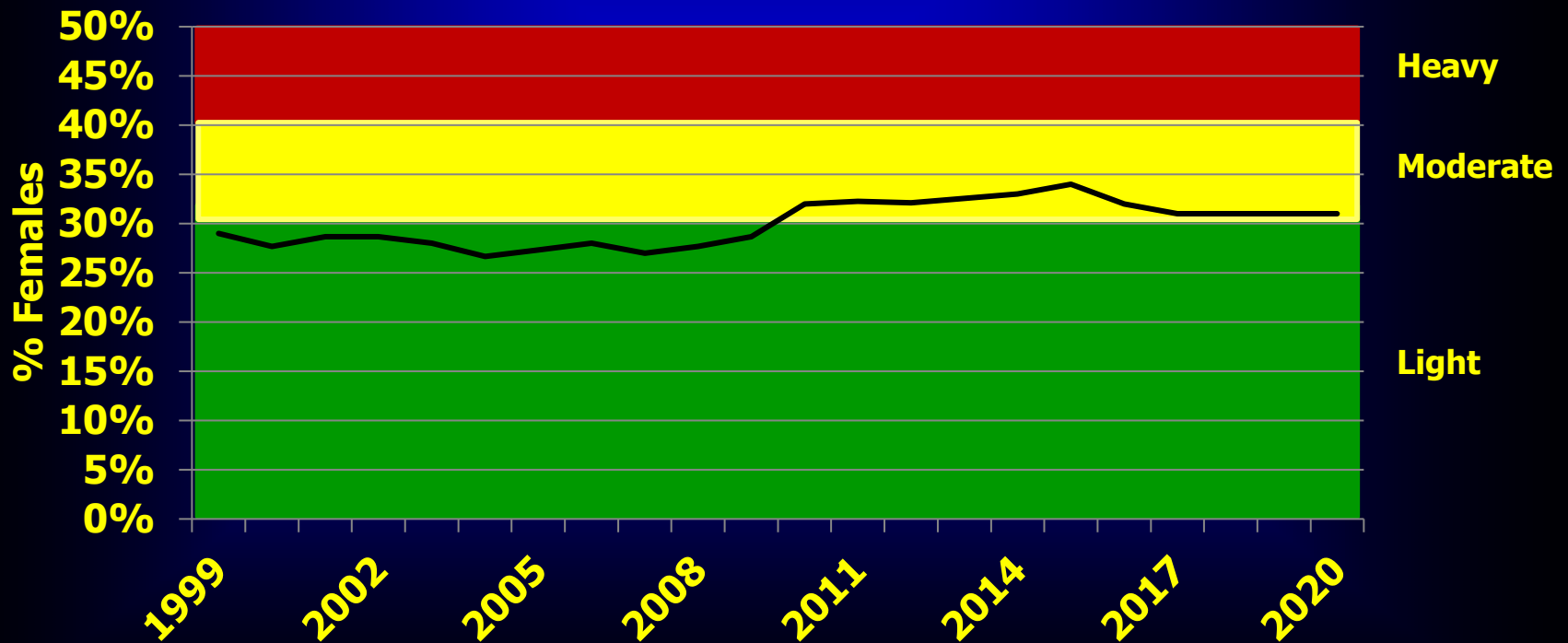
Criteria	Light	Moderate	Heavy
% Males $\geq$ 5 yr old	>35%	25–35%	<25%



# Bear Population Monitoring

Sex-age criteria to assess take level of black bears in Oregon.  
Criteria based on 3-year running averages of all mortalities.





Criteria	Light	Moderate	Heavy
% Females	<30%	30–40%	>40%









# Spring Bear, 2022 Season Proposals

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-  **Maintain dates: April 1 to May 31 statewide**
-  **10,462 controlled hunt tags across 18 hunts**
  - **One hunt with tag increase (731A South Central)**
  - **New youth hunt (754T Mt Emily-Walla Walla)**
-  **Continue to protect cubs & sows with cubs**
-  **Continue mandatory check-in**

# General Bear, 2022 Season Proposals

-  **Maintain dates: Aug 1 to Dec 31 statewide**
-  **Maintain season structure**
  - **2 bear tag opportunity, statewide additional tag**
-  **Continue to protect cubs & sows with cubs**
-  **Continue mandatory check-in**

Fall General Season			
Year	Estimated Harvest	Check-Ins	Check-In Rate
2016	1,003	825	82%
2017	1,134	943	83%
2018	1,103	935	85%
2019	1,484	1,145	77%
2020	1,608	1,018	63%

# Cougar Monitoring and Zones



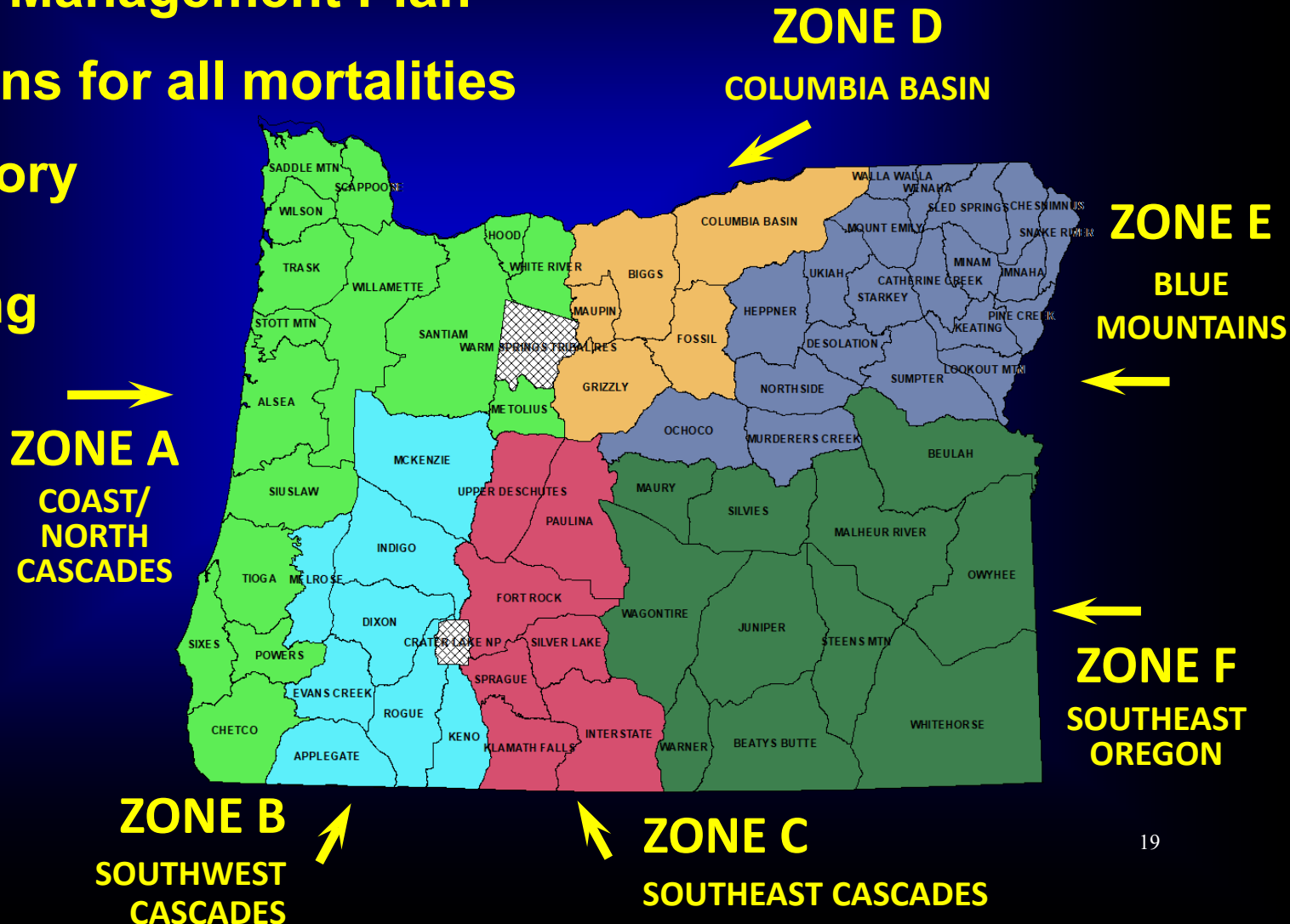
**Cougar Management Plan**



**Check-ins for all mortalities**



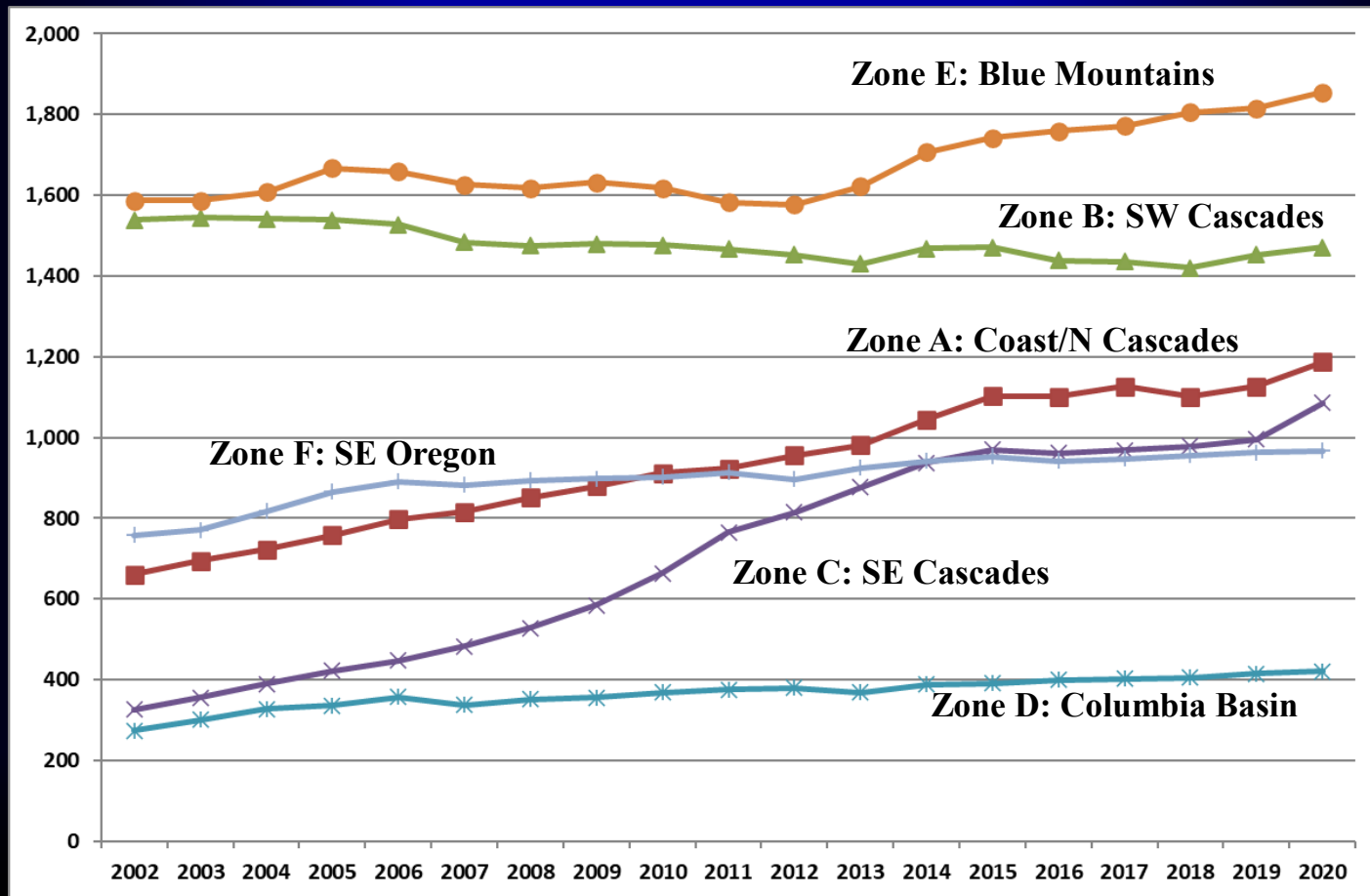
**Mandatory harvest reporting**



# Cougar Population Monitoring

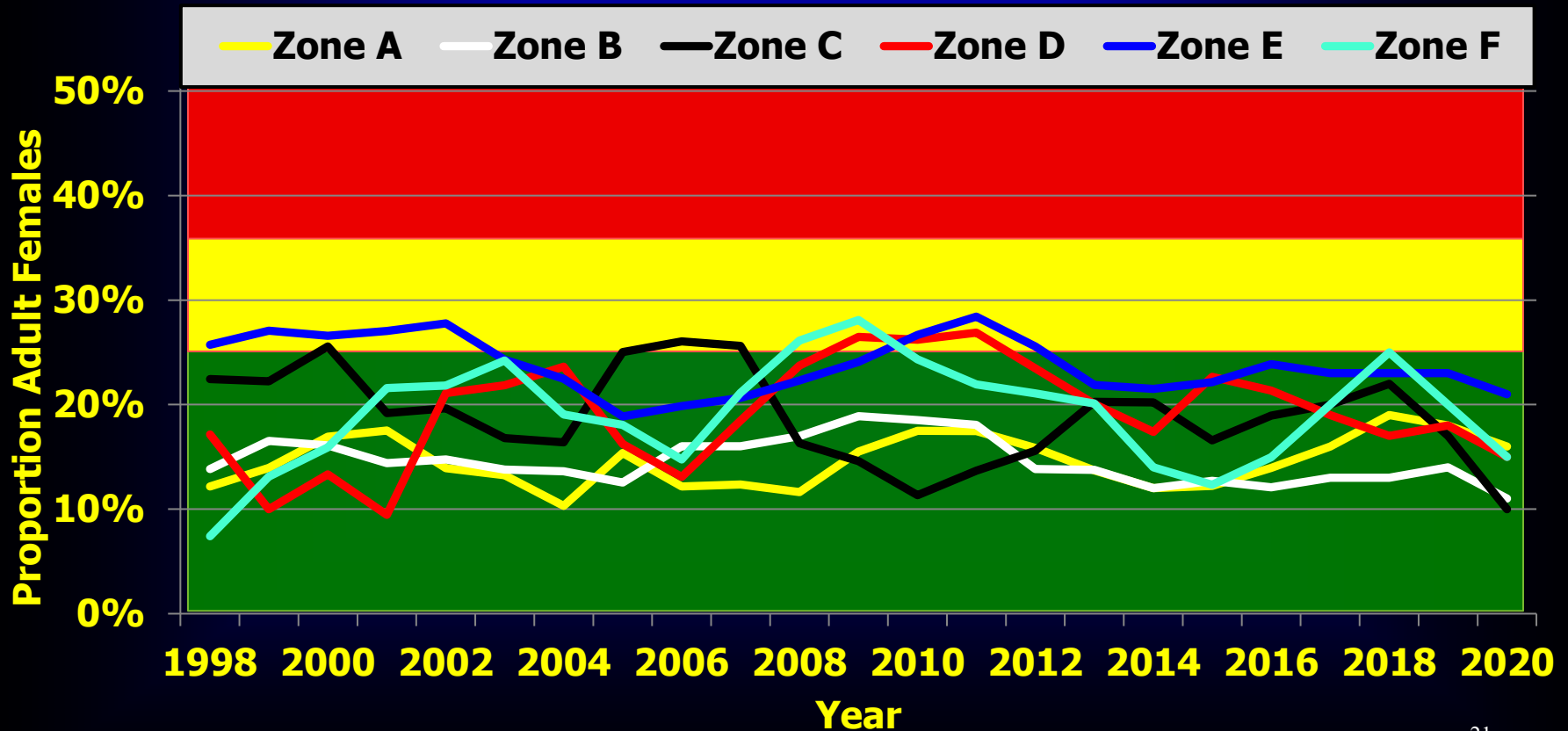
**Plan Objective 1: ODFW will manage for a stable cougar population that are to not to fall below 3,000 cougars statewide**

**Statewide Population Estimate (all age classes) of 6,987 in 2020**



# Cougar Population Monitoring

- 🐾 Three-year average proportion adult (3+ year old) females in the total mortality  $\leq 25-35\%$
- 🐾 No Cougar Zones exceed 35%



# Cougar Population Monitoring






**Zone quotas (*i.e. mortality caps*) include all known cougar mortalities across all ages**

**Harvest closes when cap met but removals for damage and conflict are still permitted, and all forms of mortality are still counted**

Zone	Quota (Cap)	Total Mortality					
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
A Coast/North Cascades	180	117	177	157	193	160	136
B SW Cascades	200	98	131	140	156	111	96
C SE Cascades	80	25	42	43	40	23	20
D Col. Basin	100	41	27	38	39	30	24
E Blue Mts.	270	106	114	142	117	125	102
F SE Oregon	140	42	55	51	45	42	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>424</b>

# Cougar 2022 Season Proposals

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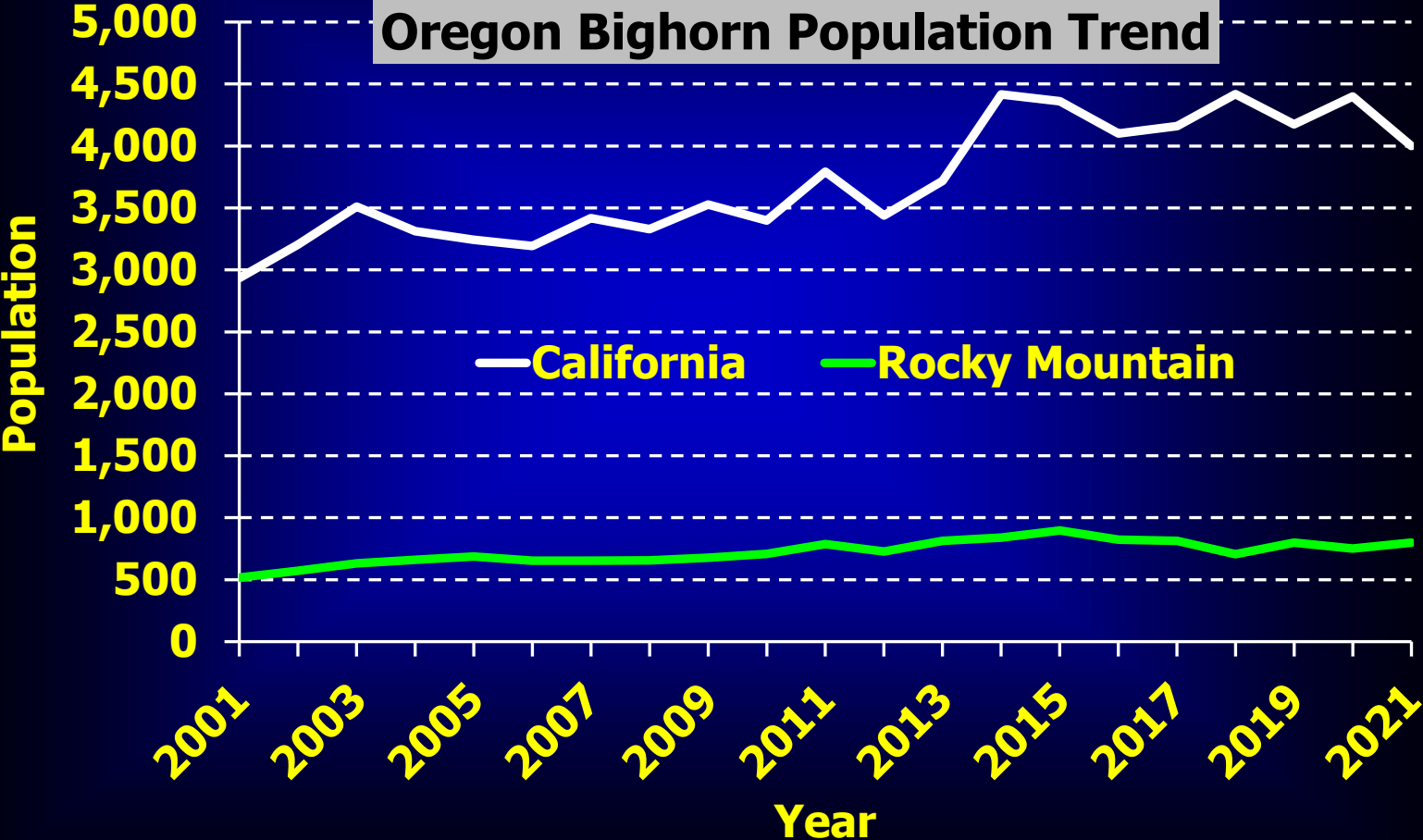
-  **Maintain year-round season**
-  **Maintain season structure**
  - **Two cougar tag opportunity**
  - **Statewide additional cougar tag**
-  **No changes to Zone Quotas**
-  **Continue mandatory check-in**
-  **Continue to protect kittens & females with kittens**

# Ungulates





# Bighorn Sheep Population Monitoring



# Bighorn Sheep Population Management

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## Captures last winter

Disease sampling focus

15 McClellan Mountain

10 Riverside

20 Hart Mountain NAR







## Captures planned this winter

Aggressive disease testing in impacted herds

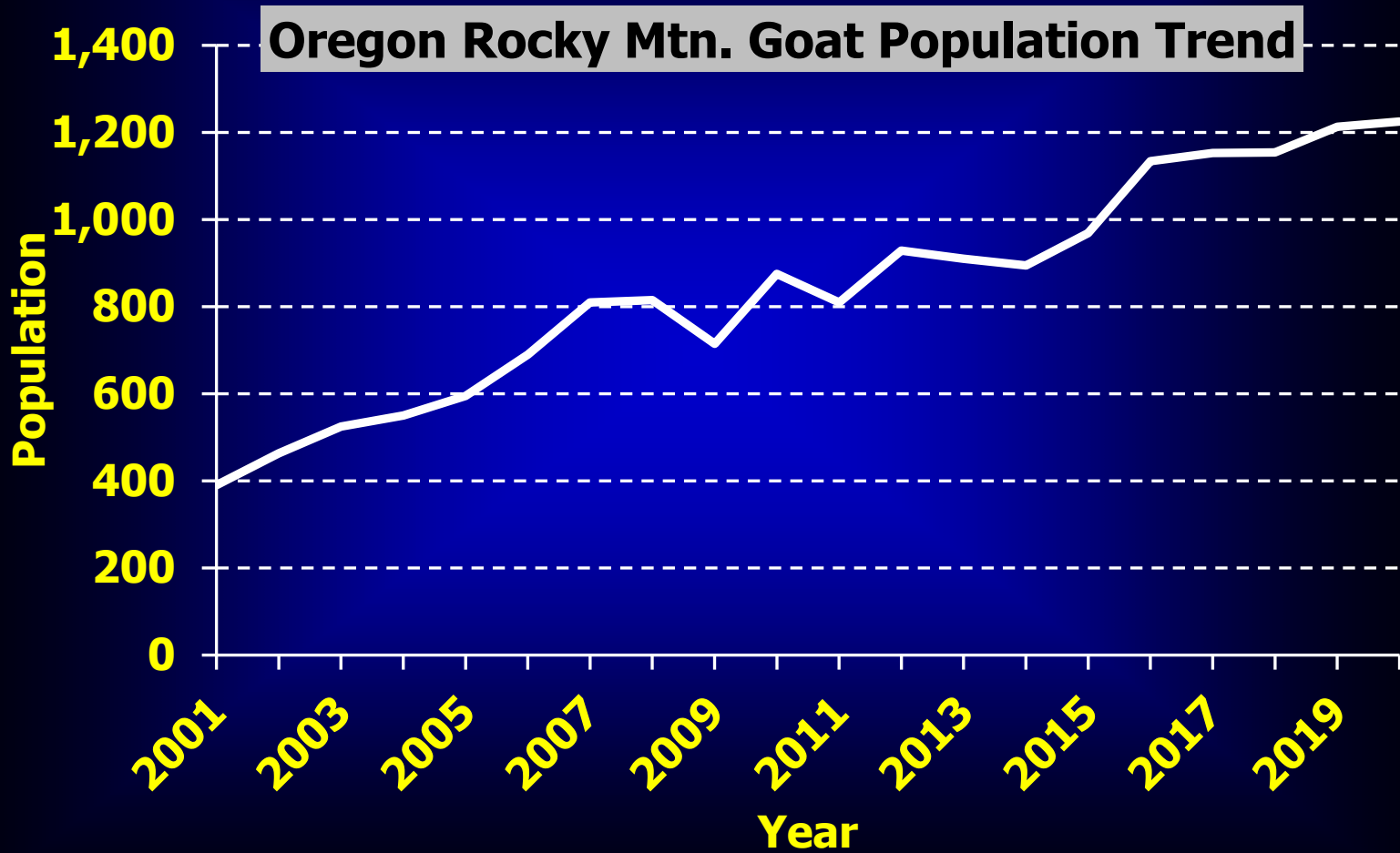
- Rattlesnake-Tenmile
- Lookout Mountain
- Burnt River

# **Bighorn Sheep Tag & Season Proposals**

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-  Delete one California ram hunt**
-  One new Rocky Mountain Bighorn ram hunt**
-  Six Rocky Mountain Bighorn ram tags in 2022**
-  68 California Bighorn ram tags in 2022**
-  12 California Bighorn ewe tags in 2022**
-  Five ram, one ewe nonresident tags (7%)**

# Rocky Mtn. Goat Population Monitoring



# Rocky Mtn. Goat Tag & Season Proposals

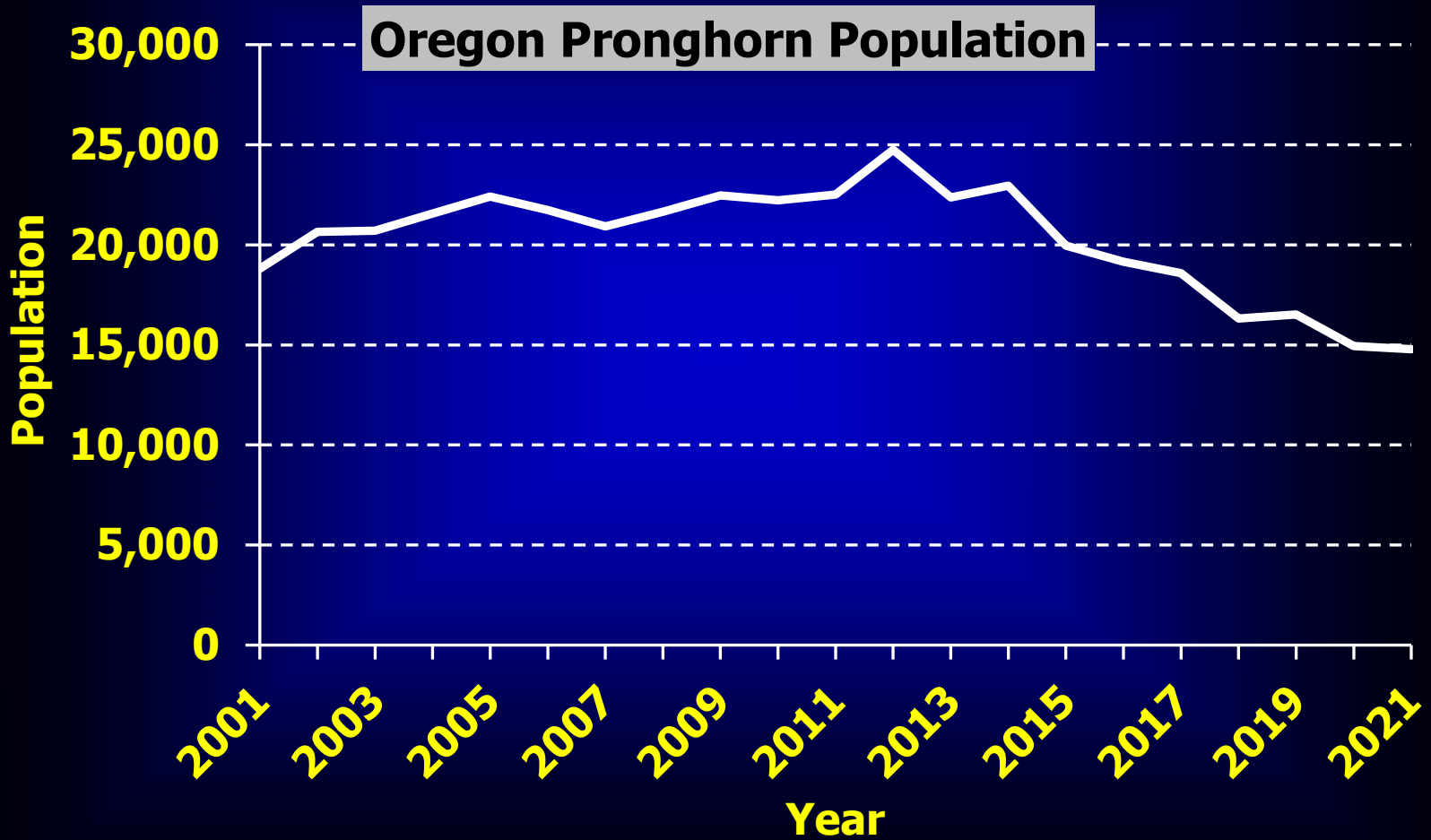
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 **No season changes for 2022**

 **29 tags in 2022**

 **Two nonresident tags (7%)**

# Pronghorn Population Monitoring

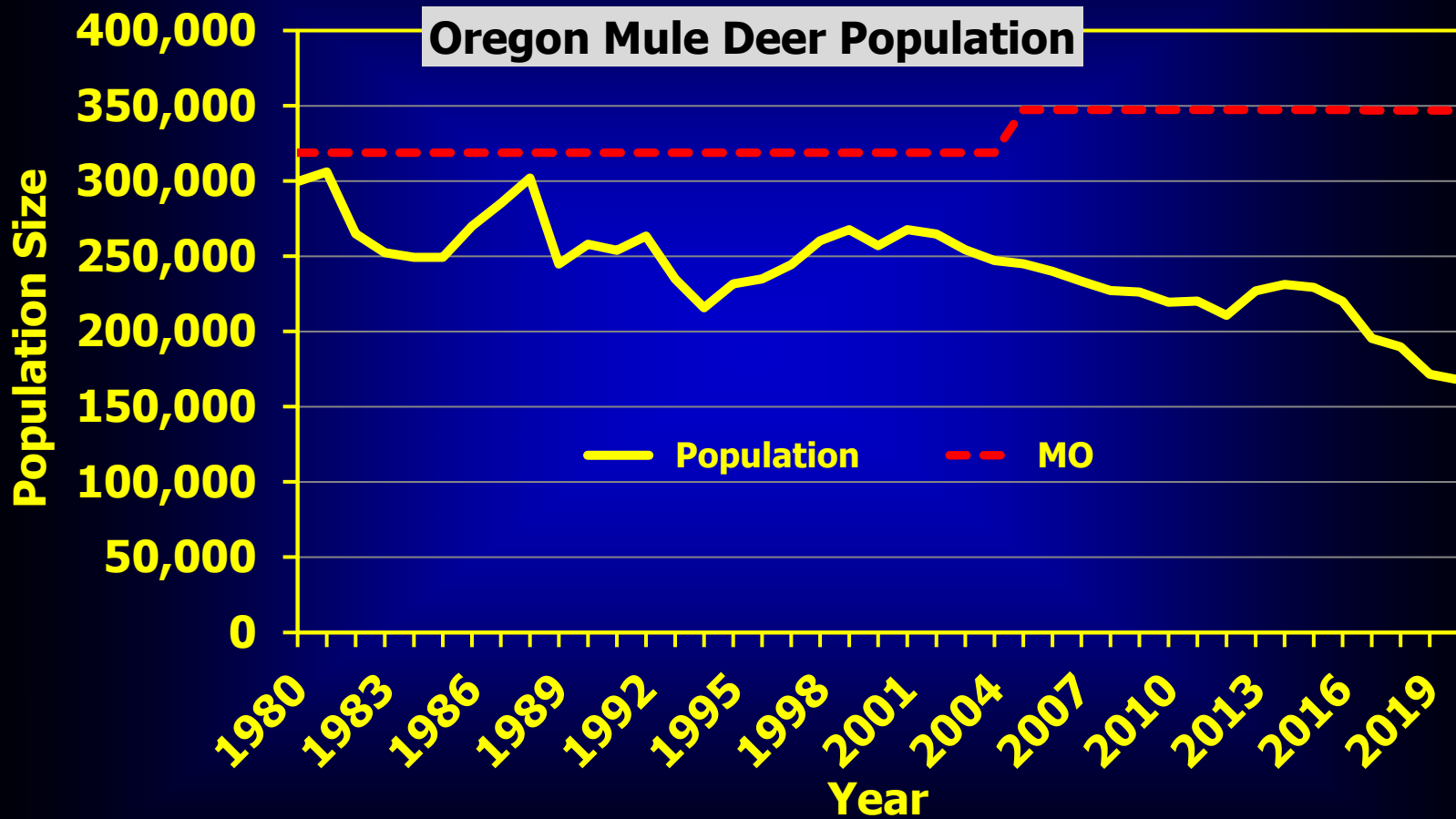


# Controlled Pronghorn Tag Proposals

## No season changes for 2022

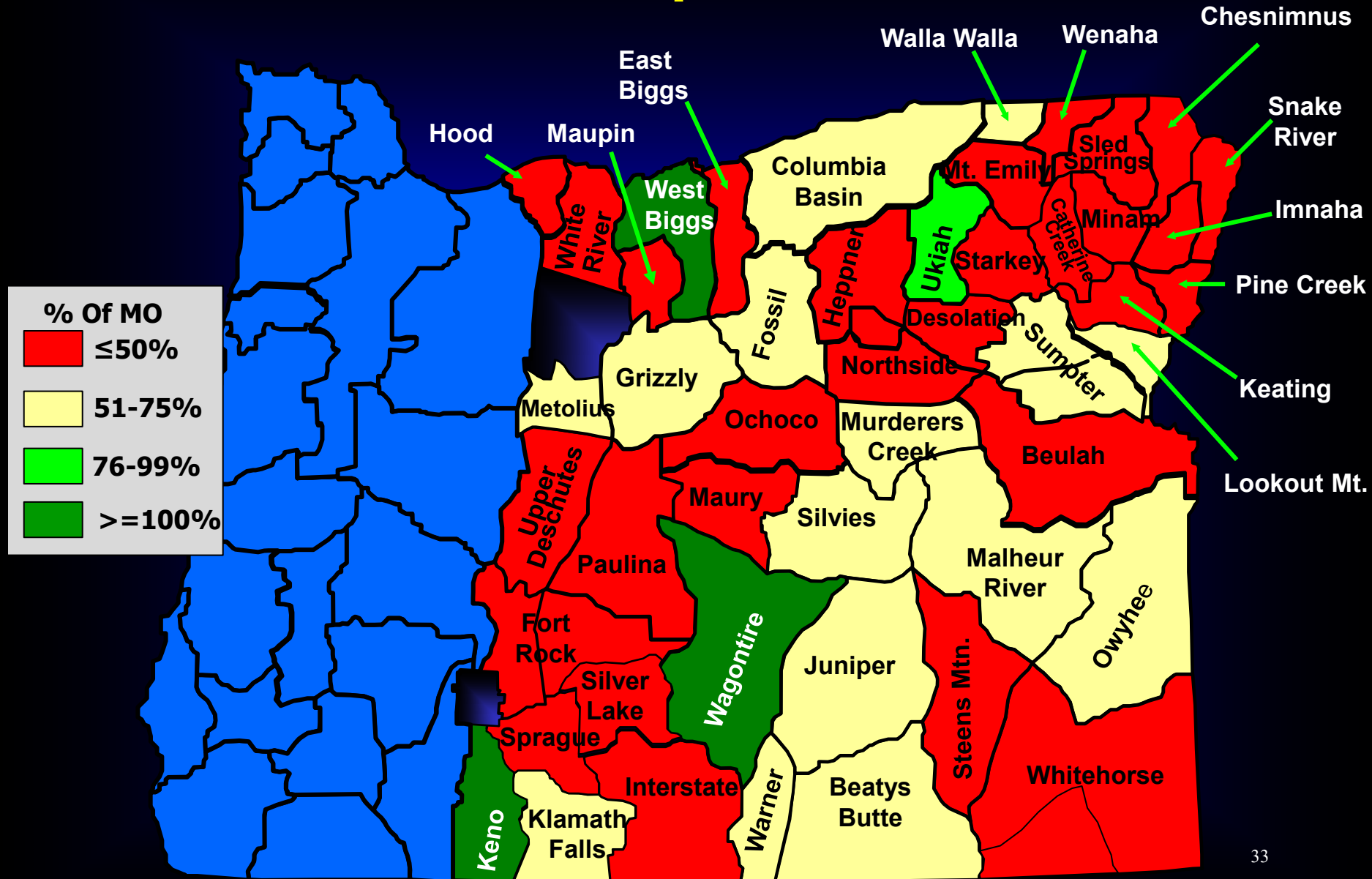
<u>Hunt Type</u>	<u>2021 Tags</u>	<u>2022 Tags</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Any Legal Weapon	1,422	1,400	-2%
Muzzleloader	160	127	-21%
Bow	483	451	-7%
Youth	40	35	-13%
Premium	27	27	0%
<b>Total Pronghorn</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>2,040</b>	

# Mule Deer Population Monitoring





# Mule Deer Population Status







# General Deer Season Proposals

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<b>Season</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>	<b>2022 Season</b>
<b>Western General Deer</b>	<b>Buck w/ Visible Antler</b>	<b>Oct. 1 – Nov. 4</b>
<b>Western General Bow</b>	<b>Buck w/ Visible Antler</b>	<b>Aug. 27 – Sept. 25</b>
<b>NW Late Deer Bow</b>	<b>Buck w/ Visible Antler</b>	<b>Nov. 19 – Dec. 11</b>
<b>SW Late Deer Bow</b>	<b>Buck w/ Visible Antler</b>	<b>Nov. 12 – Dec. 4</b>

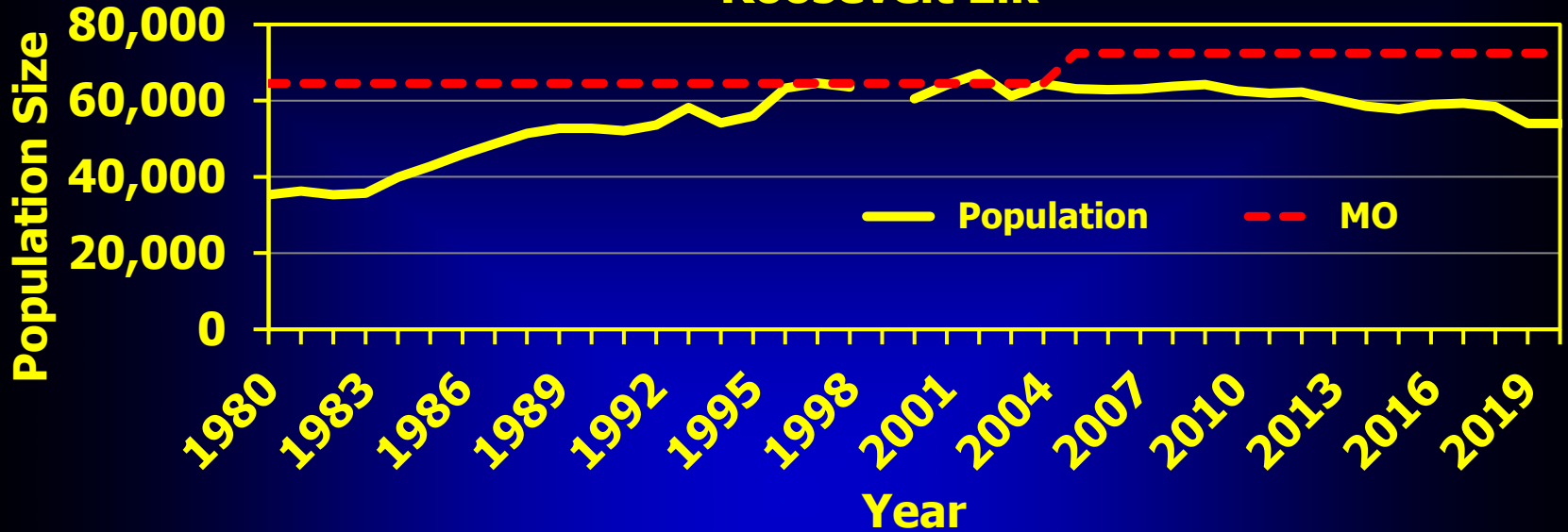
# Controlled Deer Season & Tag Proposals

-  One day calendar shift for 2022
-  Delete Hart Mountain #2 Bow Hunt (170R2)
-  5 new youth buck hunts
-  No hunt changes for 600 series Antlerless Deer

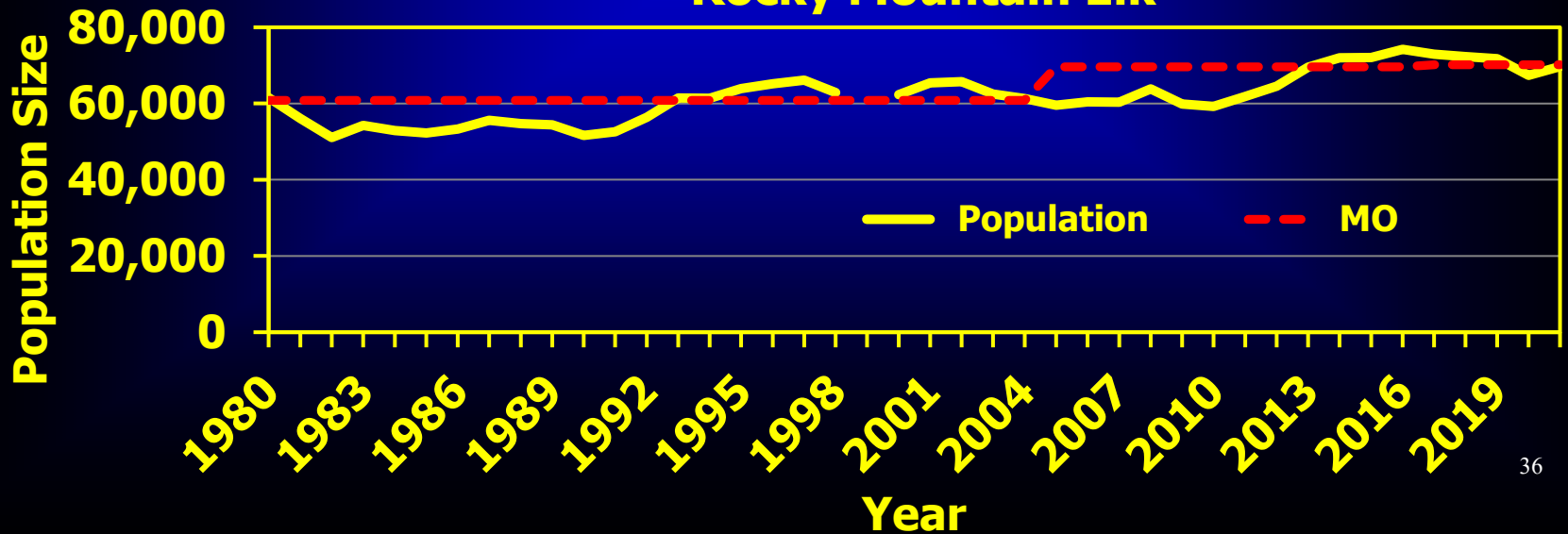
Hunt Type	2021 Tags	2022 Tags	% Change
Buck	43,413	42,968	-1%
Bow/Muzzleloader	18,590	18,578	<-1%
Antlerless (600)	7,530	8,040	+7%
Youth	1,270	1,461	+15%
Premium	67	67	0%
<b>Total Deer</b>	<b>70,870</b>	<b>71,114</b>	<b>&lt;+1%</b>

# Elk Population Status

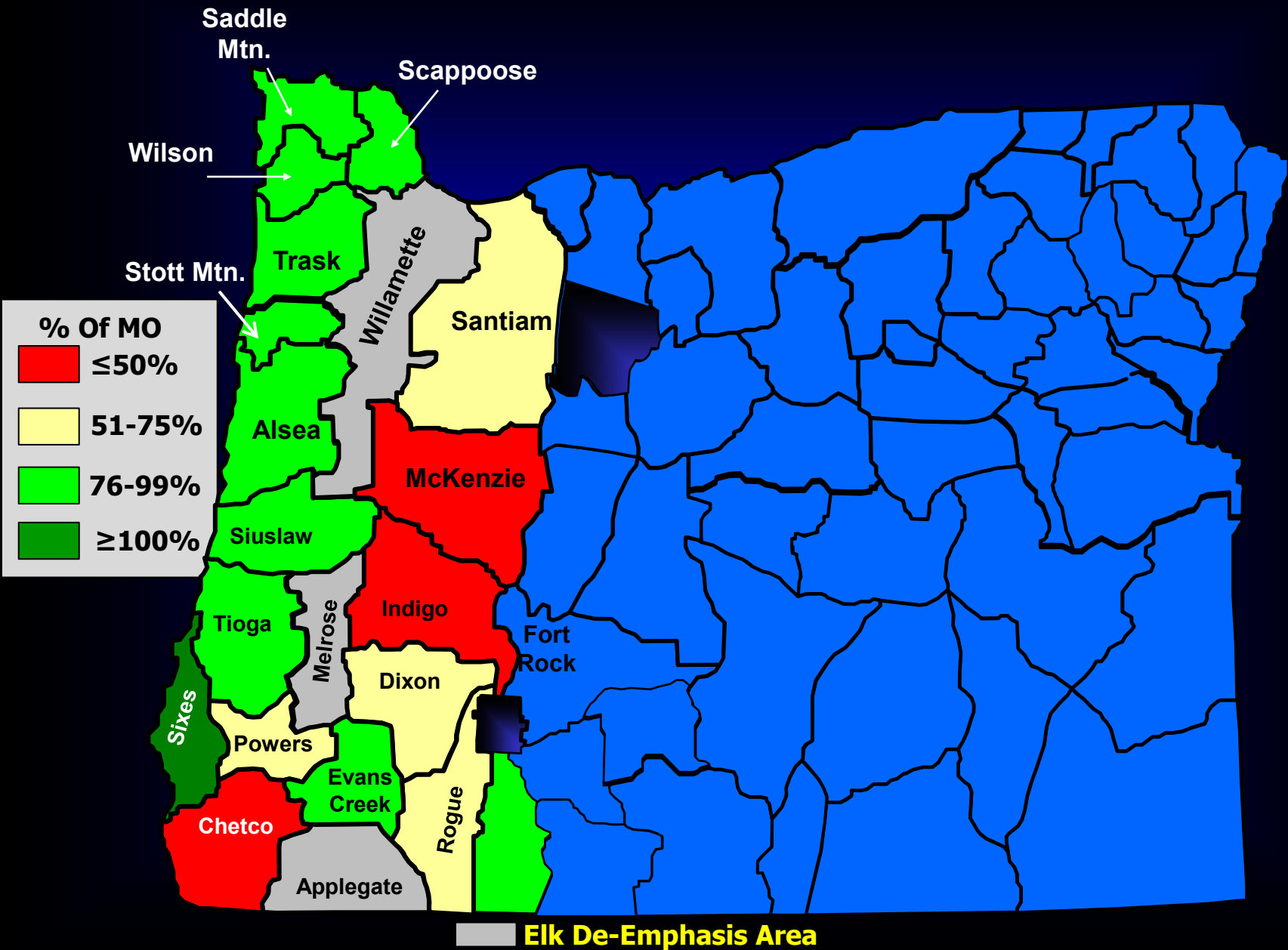
## Roosevelt Elk



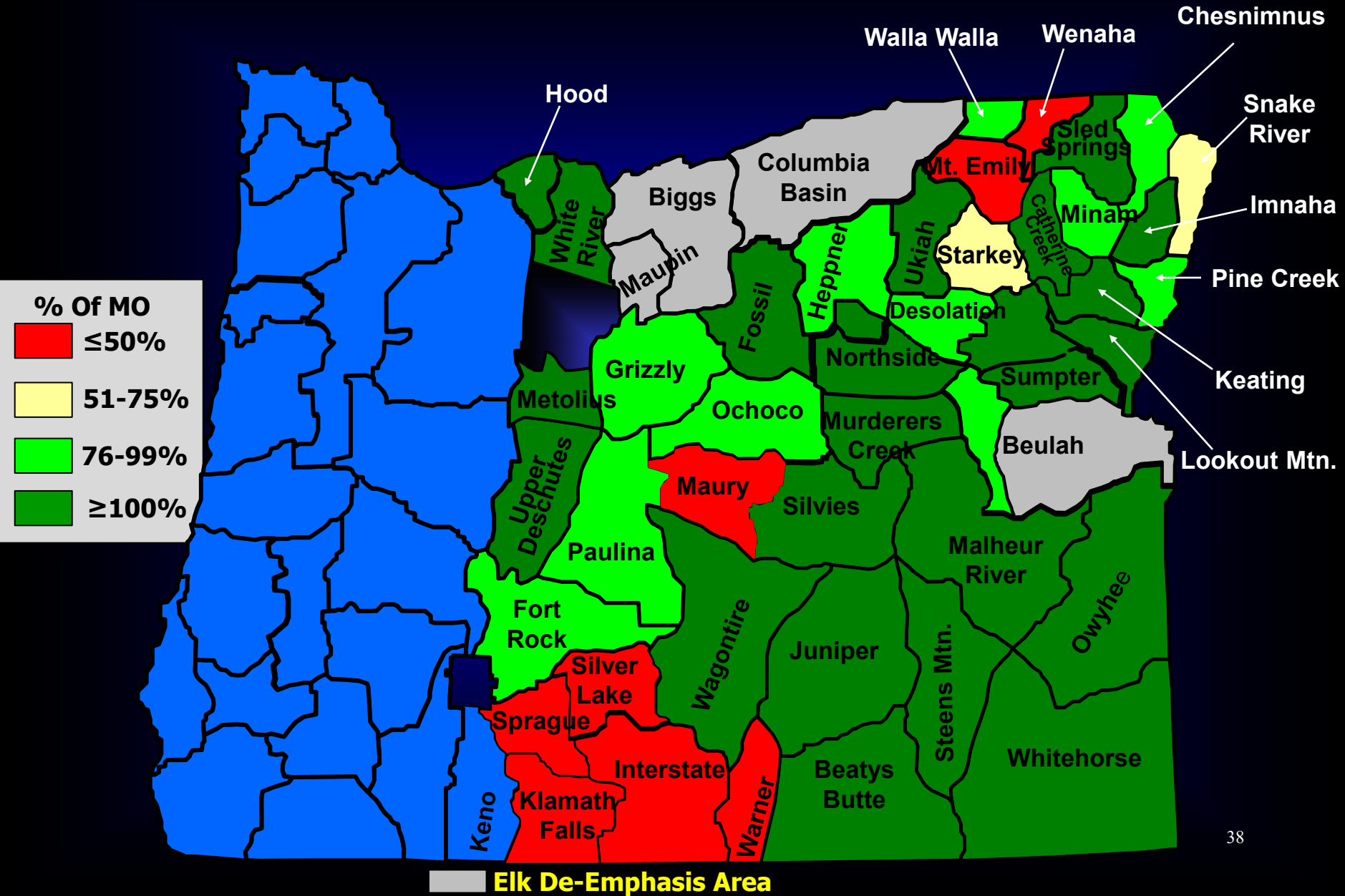
## Rocky Mountain Elk



# Roosevelt Elk Population MOs



# Rocky Mtn. Elk Population MOs



# General Elk Season Proposals

Season	Bag Limit	2022 Season
Coast 1 <sup>st</sup> Season	One Bull	Nov. 12–15
Coast 2 <sup>nd</sup> Season	One Bull One Spike Bull (Units 12, 14, 20)	Nov. 19–25
West Cascade	One Bull	Nov. 5–11
Rocky Mtn. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Season	One Spike Bull	Nov. 5–13
General Season Elk Damage Tag	Antlerless Elk	W Oregon & De-emphasis Areas, Aug. 1 – Mar. 31; E Oregon outside De-emphasis Areas Aug. 1 – Nov. 30
General Bow	Legal Bull	Aug. 27–Sept. 25

# Controlled Elk Season Proposals

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- 🦌 One day calendar shift for 2022
- 🦌 16 new controlled bow hunts (August 2021)
- 🦌 Delete 2 antlerless hunts (216C, 255B)
  - GSAED meeting needs
- 🦌 Changes in Starkey Experimental Forest
- 🦌 Two new Zumwalt Prairie hunts

## Late changes (Addendum 1):

- 🦌 Delete 252D Peach Creek (11 Tags)
- 🦌 Remove LOP limitation on Starkey Bull (252A1)



# Controlled Elk Tag Proposals

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<b>Hunt Type</b>	<b>2021 Tags</b>	<b>2022 Tags</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Any Legal Weapon</b>	<b>47,764</b>	<b>45,663</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	<b>1,958</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Bow</b>	<b>5,639</b>	<b>16,775</b>	<b>197%</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Premium</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Elk</b>	<b>56,794</b>	<b>65,801</b>	<b>16%</b>

# Long Duration Youth Elk Hunts

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- 🦌 **Designed in 2010 for recruitment and flexibility**
  - **Open before school starts, includes holidays**
  - **Longer than sports seasons**
  - **Allows hunting during other seasons (families)**
- 🦌 **Very successful hunts**
  - **Average 825 youth hunters per year**
  - **Average 49% success rate**
  - **Very high satisfaction and desire to participate again**
  - **Consistent participation across hunt period**

# Long Duration Youth Elk Hunts

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## August cow harvest and calf survival

- 🦌 **Most calves born around June 1<sup>st</sup>**
- 🦌 **Newborn survival normally low during first few months**
- 🦌 **Not reliant on milk after 2 months (Aug 1)**
- 🦌 **By August most cows and calves form herds, calf survival increases dramatically**
- 🦌 **Relatively few calves potentially affected**



Questions?