



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is statutorily authorized to allocate bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, pronghorn, deer, and elk tags to be auctioned and raffled annually to benefit wildlife and habitat management, as well as expand hunting access in Oregon. Auction and raffle tags provide unique hunting opportunities with expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. The auction and raffle of bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain goat, and pronghorn tags generate dedicated funding for management and research for the respective species, while deer and elk tags generate revenue for the Access and Habitat (A&H) Program. Big game raffle entries are sold at department offices, license agents, and online beginning December 1 each year for the following year's raffle event.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

At the April 9, 2024, meeting of the A&H Board, deer and elk auction and raffle tags were discussed. There was an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment at this meeting.

The public will also have the opportunity to provide input leading up to and during the June Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

2025 Auction and Raffle Tag Allocations

ANALYSIS

Several unique hunting opportunities are available in Oregon through the use of special auction and raffle tags that offer expanded hunt areas and extended season dates. As a result, the auction and raffle tags are very popular. Revenue from these special tags is dedicated to specific programs. All funds raised by the auction and raffle tags for bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and Rocky Mountain goats are dedicated for management and research of the respective species.

All funds raised by auction and raffle tags for deer and elk provide funding for the Access and Habitat Program.

For 2024, the authorized auction and raffle tags consisted of:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn antelope raffle tag
- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag
- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

All auction tags are sold either at fundraising banquets or online for various sport groups each spring. Host organizations receive 10% of the sales price for the tag being sold (see Table 1 for host organization acronyms). Most of these funds are then allocated back to specific projects through grant programs managed by the sport group.

Table 1. Host organization acronyms used in Tables 2 through 5

Acronym	Organization Name
CDA	California Deer Association
DU	Ducks Unlimited
FNAWS	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
MDF	Mule Deer Foundation
NRA	National Rifle Association
NWTF	National Wild Turkey Federation
OBH	Oregon Bow Hunters
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OFBD	Oregon Foundation for Black-tailed Deer
OHA	Oregon Hunters Association
RMEF	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
SCI	Safari Club International
WSF	Wild Sheep Foundation

Bighorn Sheep

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag. The bighorn sheep auction and raffle tag program was the first program of its type in Oregon and was established in 1987. Since then, it has been the cornerstone of funding for bighorn management and research in Oregon (Table 2). The 2024 Oregon bighorn auction tag sold for a record \$450,000 via a live hybrid auction on January 20, 2024 by the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF). The 2024 bighorn raffle tag was drawn May 28, 2024 at ODFW headquarters in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel.

Table 2. Income from Oregon bighorn auction and raffle (2015-2024) tag sales. 2024 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2015	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$61,645	OHA
2016	\$95,000	\$85,500	WSF	\$30,655	OHA
2017	\$135,000	\$121,500	WSF	\$85,513	OHA
2018	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$122,444	OHA
2019	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$144,068	OHA
2020	\$160,000	\$144,000	WSF	\$107,512	ODFW
2021	\$210,000	\$189,000	WSF	\$127,364	ODFW
2022	\$345,000	\$310,500	WSF	\$214,351	OHA
2023	\$370,000	\$333,000	WSF	\$377,728	OHA
2024	\$450,000	\$405,000	WSF	\$456,282	OHA
Total	\$2,295,000	\$2,065,500		\$1,727,562	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Bighorn Tags:				\$3,793,062	

Combined, the two tags have generated over \$861,282 this year for bighorn sheep management and research in Oregon.

Pronghorn

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one pronghorn auction tag and one pronghorn raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to pronghorn management and research. The 2024 special auction tag was sold via a hybrid live auction on January 20, 2024, for \$32,500 by the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF), (Table 3). The raffle tag was drawn May 28, 2024, at ODFW headquarters in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel. Combined, the two tags generated over \$89,728 for pronghorn management and research in Oregon in 2024.

Table 3. Income from Oregon pronghorn auction and raffle tag sales (2015-2024). 2024 Raffle tag Sales and Grand Total Income.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2015	\$18,000	\$16,200	Redmond OHA	\$14,185	State OHA
2016	\$14,000	\$12,600	Oregon FNAWS	\$14,500	State OHA
2017	\$11,000	\$9,900	Tillamook OHA	\$16,963	State OHA
2018	\$16,000	\$14,400	Lake County OHA	\$19,005	State OHA
2019	\$17,500	\$15,575	N. Oregon MDF	\$18,828	State OHA
2020	\$16,000	\$14,400	National WSF	\$24,112	ODFW
2021	\$19,000	\$17,100	Ochoco NWTF	\$39,819	ODFW
2022	\$34,000	\$30,600	Rose City RMEF	\$33,318	State OHA
2023	\$26,000	\$23,400	Baker County NWTF	\$38,085	ODFW
2024	\$32,500	\$29,250	National WSF	\$60,478	ODFW
Total	\$204,000	\$183,425		\$279,293	
Grand Total Net Income from Special Pronghorn Tags:				\$462,718	

Rocky Mountain Goat

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue one Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag. Funding generated from these tags is dedicated to Rocky Mountain goat management and research. The 2024 Rocky Mountain Goat auction tag was sold for \$72,250 at a live auction hosted by the Houston Safari Club Foundation on January 20, 2024 (Table 4). The raffle tag generated over \$94,000 and was drawn May 28, 2024, at ODFW headquarters in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel. Combined, the two tags generated over \$159,033 for Rocky Mountain goat management and research in Oregon in 2024.

Table 4. Oregon Rocky Mountain goat auction and raffle tag sales (2015-2024). 2024 Raffle Tag Sales and Grand Total Income.

Year	Auction Tag			Raffle Tag	
	Bid Price	Net	Host	Sales	Host
2015				\$18,548	State OHA
2016	\$30,000	\$27,000	State OHA	\$15,895	State OHA
2017	\$37,000	\$33,300	Oregon FNAWS	\$26,972	State OHA
2018	\$41,000	\$36,900	California WSF	\$24,291	State OHA
2019	\$52,500	\$47,250	Oregon FNAWS	\$28,468	State OHA
2020	\$40,000	\$36,000	Oregon Bowhunters	\$50,348	ODFW
2021	\$75,000	\$67,500	Oregon FNAWS	\$67,699	ODFW
2022	\$35,000	\$31,500	OR Wild Sheep	\$43,006	State OHA
2023	\$65,000	\$58,500	Union/Wallowa OHA	\$54,937	ODFW
*2024	\$72,250	\$65,025	Houston Safari Club Fdn	\$94,008	ODFW
Total	\$447,750	\$402,975		\$437,092	
Grand Total Net Income from Mountain Goat Tags:				\$840,067	

Access and Habitat, Deer and Elk Auction and Raffle Program

The Commission is statutorily authorized to annually issue up to 10 deer and 10 elk tags by auction or raffle. The annual auction and raffle of deer and elk tags are a valuable funding source for the A&H Program, accounting for an ever-increasing portion of the A&H Program’s revenue. Since their inception, these tags have generated over \$12 million in revenue, of which over \$7 million was generated over the last ten years (Table 5). Nearly two-thirds of this revenue is generated by the five deer and five elk auction tags sold each year. Combined proceeds from the auction and raffle tags, A&H license surcharge, and Green Forage & Deer Enhancement Restoration funds, have been used to implement hunter access or habitat improvement projects throughout Oregon.

The 2024 raffle drawing took place May 28, 2024, at ODFW headquarters in Salem and livestreamed on the department’s YouTube channel.

A&H deer and elk tags were auctioned at fundraising banquets for various sport groups this spring. In 2024, the auction deer and elk tags raised \$671,400 for the A&H program, eclipsing

the previous year’s sales record of \$628,200. The in-person banquet events provide an opportunity for A&H Board members and staff to discuss the benefits of the A&H program with the public. The A&H Board will select sponsoring organizations for the 2025 auctions at their July 15, 2024, meeting.

Table 5. Access & Habitat deer and elk auction and raffle program revenue (2015-2024).

Year	Auction Tags			Raffle Tags	
	Bid Price	Net	Host (Number of tags)	Revenue	Host
2015	\$311,000	\$279,900	RMEF(2), OHA(3), MDF(2), NWTF, FNAWS	\$133,850	OHA
2016	\$377,000	\$342,727	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$160,818	OHA
2017	\$336,000	\$302,400	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$174,339	OHA
2018	\$422,000	\$379,800	RMEF(2),MDF(2), OHA(2),FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$198,317	OHA
2019	\$387,000	\$348,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), OBH, SCI, NWTF	\$217,811	OHA
2020	\$437,000	\$393,300	RMEF(2),MDF, OHA(3), FNAWS, SCI, NWTF	\$325,391	ODFW
2021	\$569,500	\$512,550	RMEF, MDF(3), OHA(3), SCI, NWTF	\$374,126	ODFW
2022	\$643,000	\$578,700	RMEF, MDF(2), OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTF(2)	\$447,092	OHA
2023	\$698,000	\$628,200	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTF, WSF	\$459,920	ODFW
*2024	\$746,000	\$671,400	RMEF(2), MDF, OBH, OHA(2), SCI, NWTF, WSF	\$638,629	ODFW
Totals	\$4,926,500	\$4,437,277		\$3,130,293	
Grand Total Net Revenue from Special Deer and Elk Tags:				\$7,567,570	

A&H Board and Department Recommendations

The department and the A&H Board recommended auction and raffle hunts for 2025 remain unchanged from 2024 seasons (Attachments 2 and 3). The Oregon Revised Statutes authorizing auction and raffle tags also establish annual limits on the number of tags that may be issued in this manner. The A&H Board and staff recommendations are within these established limits.

For 2025, the department recommends the Commission approve:

- One bighorn sheep auction tag and one bighorn sheep raffle tag
- One pronghorn antelope auction tag and one pronghorn antelope raffle tag
- One Rocky Mountain goat auction tag and one Rocky Mountain goat raffle tag

For 2025, the A&H Board recommends the Commission approve:

- Five deer auction tags and five deer raffle tags
- Five elk auction tags and five elk raffle tags

The drawing for all raffle tags will occur in a single live cast event in late May or early June 2025. Sponsoring organizations for the 2025 deer and elk auction tags will be selected by the A&H Board at their July 15, 2024 meeting. Sponsoring organizations for the 2025 bighorn sheep, pronghorn and Rocky Mountain goat auction tags will be selected by staff with approval of the Wildlife Division Administrator.

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff and A&H Board recommendations
2. Amend staff and A&H Board recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the 2025 auction and raffle big game tag allocations as proposed by staff and the A&H Board and shown in attachments 2 and 3.

Effective Date: June 14, 2024