



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) annually submits big game season and regulation proposals to the Commission for consideration and adoption. The department will overview big game population trends and recommend 2025 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 and opportunity for public input has been extensive. The department advised the public when draft proposals were published on the agency website in early July 2024 through a news release and has been accepting and reviewing public comment. The department held four regionally-focused web-based meetings and one in-person public meeting to provide information and solicit input on draft proposals.

ISSUE 1

Proposed 2025 game mammal seasons and associated hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS

A summary of staff proposals for the 2025 big game and western gray squirrel seasons and species-specific information is included in Attachment 3. Controlled hunt proposals for 2025 contain season date and structure changes including deletion of hunts, addition of new hunts, combining hunt areas, and expanding hunt boundaries. Most of the changes are to deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat hunts and reflect responses to local changes in both populations and animal distribution. Proposals for hunting regulation changes include calendar year date shifts and modification to cooperative travel management area rules.

ISSUE 2

Proposed tag numbers for 2025 controlled big game hunts.

ANALYSIS

Overall, total controlled hunt tag recommendations for 2025 are proposed to decrease by less than 1% from 2024. A summary for each of the big game species is provided in Attachment 3.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Amend staff recommendations

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Option 1

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to adopt the staff proposals in Attachment 3 and amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 002, 008, 045, 060, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 075, and 078 as proposed by staff.

Effective Date: *Upon Filing*