Archery Review Committee – NE Region Presentation

January 25, 2014

1. How to manage general season archery elk hunts with increasing hunter numbers

2. How to manage archery deer hunts in premier elk hunting WMUs
Methods

1. Hunter statistics
   a) Telephone Surveys
   b) Mandatory Reporting

2. Population Statistics
   a) Spring Aerial Surveys
Archery Elk Season Issues

1. Increasing archer numbers are affecting elk population dynamics

2. Increasing archer numbers are displacing elk onto private lands

3. The current link between MO and bag limits hampers our ability to manage harvest in general seasons

4. Archers are concerned about overcrowding

5. Rifle hunters are concerned about equity
Antlerless Harvest Allowed in General Archery Season
1. Antlerless elk in archery bag limit
2. Similar bag limits for rifle and archery
3. Consistent harvest reporting by phone survey
4. Represent both sides of the region
Elk Questions to Address

1. Have elk populations or bull ratios been adversely affected by increases in archery harvest?

2. Will changing from any elk to bull only bag limits reduce archer numbers?

3. Have improvements in archery equipment increased archer success rates?

4. Does bag limit affect which WMUs archers hunt in?
MURDERERS CREEK – Antlerless Allowed
MURDERERS CREEK – Antlerless Allowed

- Population Estimate
- Bulls: 100 Cows
- Hunters
- Bull Harvest

WEAPON
- Bow
- Rifle
NORTHSIDE - Antlerless Allowed

### Population Estimate

- **Value Range**: 0 to 4000

### Bulls: 100 Cows

- **Value Range**: 0 to 25

### Hunters

- **WEAPON**:
  - **BOW**
  - **RIFLE**
- **Value Range**: 0 to 800

### Antlerless Harvest

- **WEAPON**:
  - **BOW**
  - **RIFLE**
- **Value Range**: 0 to 800
NORTHSIDE - Antlerless Allowed

- Population Estimate
- Bulls: 100 Cows
- Hunters
- Bull Harvest

WEAPON
- Bow
- Rifle

YEAR
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010

YEAR
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010

YEAR
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010

YEAR
- 1980
- 1985
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1. **Problem:**
   Poachers have used the general archery deer tags as a way to hunt elk w/o drawing the controlled elk tag in premier bull elk WMUs.

2. **Solution:**
   General archery deer tags only valid when also in possession of the controlled elk tag.

3. **Secondary Problem:**
   Many legitimate archers can not hunt deer in premier WMUs

4. **Suggested Solution:**
   Add new late season controlled archery deer season
Wildlife Management Units where Archery Deer Hunting is Tied to Controlled Elk Tags
1. How have new regulations affected deer hunting opportunity?

2. Do we have deer available in the affected WMUs?

3. Would access limit the feasibility of a late season archery deer hunt?

4. Is there room in the hunt schedules, or would they overlap other existing hunts?
MT. EMILY – General Season Archer Numbers

Reduced archery opportunities - About 300
WALLA WALLA – General Season Archer Numbers

Reduced archery opportunities - About 100
WENAHA – General Season Archer Numbers

Reduced archery opportunities - About 200
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MT. EMILY -

Mule Deer population data
Harvest of both Mule and White-tailed Deer

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Harvest of both Mule and White-tailed Deer

Mule Deer population data

.data

0 5 10 15 20 25 30
YEAR
BUCKS: 100 DOES

0 2000 4000 6000 8000
YEAR
POPULATION ESTIMATE

0 200 400 600 800
YEAR
BUCK HARVEST
WEAPON
BOW
RIFLE

0 500 1000 1500 2000
YEAR
HUNTERS
WEAPON
BOW
RIFLE

34
WALLA WALLA - Mule Deer population data
Harvest of both Mule and White-tailed Deer

- Population Estimate: Trends showing a decline from 1980 to 1995, followed by an increase until 2010.
- Buck Harvest: Bow and Rifle harvest showing fluctuations over the years.
- Hunters: Trends indicating a decrease in the number of hunters.
- Does: Number of does remaining relatively stable over the years.

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YEAR
BUCKS : 100 DOES

YEAR
POPULATION ESTIMATE

YEAR
BUCK HARVEST
WEAPON
BOW
RIFLE

YEAR
HUNTERS
WEAPON
BOW
RIFLE

Harvest of both Mule and White-tailed Deer
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## Physical Access to Deer Winter Range?

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wenaha</td>
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Hunt Schedules

Mt. Emily

Archery

Deer

1st Elk

2nd Elk

Deer

Doe

Cow Elk

Walla Walla

Archery

Deer

1st Elk

2nd Elk

Doe

Deer

Deer

Wenaha

Archery

Deer

1st Elk

2nd Elk

MZ Deer

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan
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