

APPENDIX

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LIST OF PEOPLE AND GROUPS RECEIVING INVITATIONS

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Todd	Bastian	Oregon Regional Director	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	768 Mule Deer Street NW	Salem	OR	97304
Ken	Hand	President	Oregon Hunters Association	4716 Driftwood Drive	Klamath Falls	OR	97603
Rod	Harder	Executive Director	Oregon Sportsmen's Defense Fund	1498 Marion Street NE, Suite A	Salem	OR	97301
Dawn	Olson	Division President	Izaak Walton League	15056 Quall Road NE	Silverton	OR	97381
Dennis	Oliphant	President	Oregon Guides and Packers Association	531 SW 13 th Street	Bend	OR	97702
Ron	Knapp		Mule Deer Foundation	706 F & F Grade Rd	Sedro-Woolley	WA	98284
Lon	Stenberg		Oregon Muzzleloaders	64737 Jan Drive	Bend	OR	97708
Rich	Thompson	President	Traditional Archers of Oregon	20080 SW Jaquith Road	Newberg	OR	97132
Dave	Eshbaugh	Director	Audubon Society of Portland	5151 NW Cornell Road	Portland	OR	97210
Sharon	Harmon	Executive Director	Oregon Humane Society	PO Box 11364	Portland	OR	97211
David	Kennedy	President	Oregon Chapter, The Wildlife Society	2828 SW Corbett Avenue	Portland	OR	97201
Regna	Merritt	Executive Director	Oregon Natural Resources Council	5825 N Greeley	Portland	OR	97217
Sara	Vickerman	Northwest Regional Director	Defenders of Wildlife	1637 Laurel St.	Lake Oswego	OR	97034
Tom	Hulett		Oregon State Police	3620 Gateway St.	Springfield	OR	97477
Randy	Scorby		Oregon State Police	P.O. Box 986	Baker City	OR	97814
Bruce	Carne		Oregon State Police				
Steve	Ross		Oregon State Police	4500 Rogue Valley Highway, Ste. A	Central Point	OR	97502
Glen	Stonebrink	President	Oregon Cattlemen's Association	3415 Commercial St SE, Ste E	Salem	OR	97302
Richard	Kosesan		Sheep Growers' Association	1270 Chemeketa St NE	Salem	OR	97301

First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Company	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Cliff	Adams	Natural Resource Manager	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	9615 Grand Ronde Road	Grand Ronde	OR	97347
Frank	Simmons	F&W Coordinator	Confederated Tribes of Siletz	P.O. Box 549	Siletz	OR	97380
Isiah	Ursprung		Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	1245 Fulton Avenue	Coos Bay	OR	97420
Richard	Tekube		Coquille Indian Tribe	3050 Tremont , P.O. Box 783	North Bend	OR	97459
Carl	Scheeler		Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	P.O. Box 638	Pendleton	OR	97801
Terry	Luther		Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation	P.O. Box C	Warm Springs	OR	97761
Jess	Weenick		Burns Paiute Tribe	HC-71 100 Pa' Si' Go' Street	Burns	OR	97720
Rick	Ward		Klamath Tribes	P.O. Box 436	Chiloquin	OR	97624
Roy	Woo		Oregon Department of Forestry	2600 State St	Salem	OR	97310
Harv	Forsgren	Regional Forester	U.S. Forest Service	333 SW 1 st Ave.	Portland	OR	97208
George	Buckner	OSO Wildlife Biologist	Bureau of Land Management	P.O. Box 2965	Portland	OR	97208
Pete	Test		Oregon Farm Bureau	3415 Commercial St SE, Ste. 117	Salem	OR	97302
Tim	Wigley	President	Oregon Forest Industries Council	1201 Court Street NE Suite 300	Salem	OR	97301
John	Poppino		Small Woodlot Owner's Association	5005 SE Ina Ave.	Milwaukie	OR	97267

MULE DEER COMMITTEE

Agency Members

Bob Krein, ODFW-Heppner, NRS 3
Ron Garner, ODFW-Hines, NRS 3
Pat Matthews, ODFW-Enterprise, NRS 2
Meg Eden, ODFW-Prineville, NRS 2
Mary Jo Hedrick, ODFW-Summer Lake, NRS 2
Mark Vargas, ODFW-Central Point, NRS 3
Herman Biederbeck, ODFW-Tillamook, NRS 3
Lt. Randy Scorby, OSP-Baker City

External Members

Bob Bastian
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Klamath Falls

Don Schaller
Oregon Hunters Association
Portland

Ryan Branstetter
Confederated Tribes – Umatilla
Pendleton

Les Helgeson
Traditional Archers
Beaver

Jon Weck
Oregon Small Woodlands Assoc.
Eugene

Ty Stubblefield
Oregon Bow Hunters
Roseburg

Martin Andre
Landowner
Arock

Ken Holliday
Oregon Farm Bureau
John Day

Jim Workman
Oregon Guides and Packers Association
Joseph

Rick Ward
Klamath Tribe
Chiloquin

Terry Luther
Confederated Tribes – Warm Springs
Warm Springs

Jan Hanf
Bureau of Land Management
Prineville

Denny Haener
Landowner
The Dalles

Rich Thurman
US Forest Service
Dufur

Public Comments

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Access	Develop reward system for private landowners that allow public access.	Portland
Written	Access	Increase the amount A&H provides for access payments and encourage A&H to direct more funding to projects that provide hunter access.	Powell Butte
Public	Access	Reduced access to private lands concentrates hunters on public lands. Create a website that lists private landowners allowing public access.	Portland
Public	Access	Updated land ownership maps needed.	Redmond
Public	Access	Support consolidating public and private lands and improving access. Make public aware of planned land acquisitions and how it effects access.	Redmond
Public	Access	If area is signed "hunting by permission only," require a way to contact the landowner (phone number, name and address) be on the sign.	La Grande
Public	Access	Landowners who do not allow hunting should not be able to make damage claims.	La Grande

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Access	Improve access for hunters, increase funding for purchasing access.	Redmond
Public	Archery	Concerns with harassment by archery hunters.	Corvallis
Public	Archery	Hunters need to choose their weapon for all deer and elk hunting	Pendleton
Public	Archery	The influx of rifle hunters to archery hunting when controlled rifle hunting started in early 90's, so archers have already taken "their" hit in opportunity by having more crowded hunting conditions and less opportunity as compared to earlier.	Pendleton
Public	Archery	Choose your weapon, preventing or limiting unsuccessful rifle hunters from switching over to archery at the last minute to gain a hunting opportunity.	Pendleton
Public	Archery	Implement archery proficiency program.	Klamath Falls
Public	Archery	Hunters should "choose your weapon."	Hines
Public	Archery	Limit the amount of out-of-state archery hunters in eastern Oregon	Roseburg

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Archery	Archery hunting should not take the brunt of increases in restrictive hunting regulations.	Portland
Written	Archery	Make hunters "choose your weapon" by purchasing archery tags by the deadline for applying for rifle tags.	Baker City
Public	Archery	Choose your weapon before application deadline. Bow or Rifle.	Klamath Falls
Public	Archery	Bowhunters should have to pass a proficiency test.	N. Bend
Public	Archery	Eastside bowhunting should be a controlled hunt draw for individual hunt units (no tag quotas) (similar to rifle season)	N. Bend
Public	Archery	Move archery season back at least three weeks; no antlerless kill for the first three weeks of archery season.	NS
Written	Archery	Make hunters choose their weapons. Rifle hunters who don't draw their tags buy archery tags and try to hunt with bows. They're not skilled bow hunters and risk wounding and losing animals. Proficiency testing might ensure humane kills.	Bend
Public	Archery	Many archers appear to be "opportunists" who were unable to obtain a rifle tag and are not proficient with archery equipment.	La Grande

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Archery	Require the purchase of archery tags prior to the controlled hunt deadline. This could possibly eliminate the need for controlled archery tags.	Medford
Public	Archery	Want regulation which forces hunters to chose between archery and rifle (eliminate unsuccessful rifle hunters which then go to archery).	Redmond
Written	Archery	To keep hunting opportunities for all groups, keep bowhunting first season the same. Second season make it a hunt only in areas where agriculture or forestry damage is occurring. This can be a draw hunt or just a general season within these guidelines.	NS
Public	Archery	Archery season needs to be a controlled hunt and archers should have to pass a proficiency test.	Burns
Public	Archery	Choose your weapon (archery or rifle) before the controlled hunt drawing.	Burns
Public	Cervid ranching	Do not allow any new game farm animals to be brought into Oregon.	La Grande
Public	Cervid ranching	Do away with elk ranches. We need to stop any chances of chronic wasting disease coming into Oregon. Let's keep what we have.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Do your job and ban elk and mule-deer farms. This will eliminate chronic wasting disease and any other disease. If we don't ban this we will have a big problem in years to come.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Cervid ranching	The risks of game ranches and health management are too serious and jeopardize the general population of hunters and ranchers throughout the region.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Game ranching should be completely banned.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Cervid ranching is so subject to an imminent plague that we must abolish this practice before it's too late.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Eliminate all game ranching all together before any more disease carrying animals escape, spreading illness to our wild animals.	Redmond
Written	Cervid ranching	Game farming should not be allowed in Oregon. They will destroy some of our natural resources, such as elk, deer and antelope with diseases like chronic wasting disease and TB.	NS
Public	Cervid ranching	No game farming.	NS
Public	Cervid ranching	ODFW should ban cervid ranching in Oregon. We don't need to risk our game and hunting rights by allowing out of area game in and contaminating our herds.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Cervid ranching	Cervid ranching should be abolished all together before chronic wasting disease is spread statewide.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Need to eliminate cervid ranches - the potential for disease is too great.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Recommend a permanent and total ban on cervid ranching in Oregon.	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Banning all cervid ranching: it needs to be extinguished. All these diseases they carry scare me to death that the wild animals will catch this and then what happens to my hunting?	Redmond
Public	Cervid ranching	Get rid of elk farming, period.	Redmond
Public	Disease	Need info on safe consumption of deer and elk meat.	Corvallis
Public	Disease	Concern over adenovirus disease impacts.	N. Bend
Public	Disease	Chronic wasting disease collection techniques are needed. Road-killed deer could be used as possible sample sources. Coordinate with ODOT to get samples. Acquire federal funding for CWD testing program.	Portland

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Disease	Concern with diseases & ability to research	Corvallis
Written	Disease	If disease is the reason for population decline, and we can treat it, then do so. If it's not treatable, let nature take its course.	Bend
Public	Enforcement	Mandatory penalties for wildlife violations.	N. Bend
Public	Enforcement	Poachers a concern, stiffer fines and penalties needed. Judges vary in their support/application.	Redmond
Public	Enforcement	Concern over illegal bowhunting (night hunting).	N. Bend
Public	Enforcement	Increase OSP enforcement.	Portland
Public	Enforcement	Need more efforts, tougher laws on poachers.	Redmond
Public	Enforcement	Penalties should be made great enough to be a deterrent to committing crimes.	Hines

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Enforcement	Need to monitor issue of hunting with the aid of a motorized paraglider.	Burns
Public	Enforcement	Law enforcement has been degraded during last 10 years in much of eastern Oregon; situation worsened by ODFW not training and directing its employees to participate in enforcement during peak times. Many judges are weak on penalties leading violators to believe there are no serious consequences when caught.	NS
Public	Enforcement	Increase tag price by one dollar, and dedicate this increase to OSP enforcement.	Pendleton
Public	Enforcement	Nothing is being done with the rules in place now, so why have them.	Burns
Public	Enforcement	Enforcement needs to be increased during big-game seasons.	Tillamook
Written	Enforcement	Don't support placing microchips in shed antlers on private lands to deter trespass horn hunters. These are theft and trespassing issues and ODFW should not be involved	Powell Butte
Written	Enforcement	Support seizing vehicles of anyone who violates road closures with civil forfeiture as part of the penalty. ATV dealers have suggested that current laws are unenforceable.	John Day
Public	Enforcement	All regulations are a waste of time without adequate law enforcement.	Burns

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Enforcement	Increase fines and penalties for game violations.	Pendleton
Public	Enforcement	Increase penalties for wildlife crimes: fines are too low to be a deterrent. People who violate LOP rules should be removed from the program for a few years.	Hines
Written	Enforcement	ODFW needs to be more vocal with the Legislature in the area of law enforcement conducted by OSP; violators don't fear reprisal. Need more law enforcement and personnel to enforce the law.	John Day
Public	Enforcement	Poachers may be more common than thought, regulations are turning legal hunters into poachers	Corvallis
Public	Enforcement	Enforcement on McDermit Indian Reservation – concern about deer population due to lack of enforcement. A lot of out-of-state hunters don't all have tags.	Roseburg
Public	Enforcement	Increase OSP officers and expand Cadet program. Consider deputizing ODFW personnel. Find ways for ODFW to be more effective in deterring wildlife offenses, possibly by ODFW issuing written warnings.	Pendleton
Public	Enforcement	Plans do not address problems of illegal harvests, enforcement and citations, nor is there a plan of action to implement better control and enforcement.	Klamath Falls
Public	Enforcement	Tougher penalties for wildlife violations.	N. Bend

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Enforcement	Increase law enforcement.	Klamath Falls
Public	Fee hunting	Fifty percent of access fees should be paid to ODFW.	La Grande
Public	Fee hunting	When landowner claims damage, the hunter should not have to pay a fee to the landowner to hunt.	La Grande
Public	Fee hunting	Concern with landowners being able to charge a "Trespass fee" to hunt game.	N. Bend
Public	Habitat	Remove cattle at least two weeks before seasons start on public lands. (specifically the White Horse Unit)	Roseburg
Public	Habitat	What is the reason for decreased body size of deer?	Klamath Falls
Public	Habitat	Competition between deer and elk for forage? Impacts to mule deer?	Klamath Falls
Public	Habitat	Improve stream cover conditions.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Habitat	Poor condition of forage	Klamath Falls
Public	Habitat	Future timber sales/management are reducing cover and forage i.e. removing brush and understory.	Klamath Falls
Public	Habitat	Lack of timber harvest is causing a decline in deer habitat especially on public land.	Klamath Falls
Public	Habitat	We need better wildlife management coordination with other land management agencies.	Roseburg
Public	Habitat	Eliminate sagebrush to improve grass growth.	Redmond
Public	Habitat	BLM appears to be managing land for livestock and not deer (particularly in SE WMU's).	N. Bend
Public	Habitat	Need more road closures to protect habitat.	La Grande
Public	Habitat	Is there definite competition between elk and deer for forage, and is it being addressed?	Klamath Falls

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Habitat	Get off the dime and do something for critical winter range. A) Predator control B) Significant habitat improvement	Burns
Public	Habitat	Habitat improvements are not maintained especially water developments; ODFW water developments are being used as ambush points during archery season. Regulations are needed to prescribe fair distances for hunters.	NS
Public	Habitat	Field staff needs to work with landowners on landowner road management	Corvallis
Public	Habitat	Collaborate or partner with other groups to purchase or support purchase of winter range and other limiting habitats.	Portland
Public	Habitat	Cover-to-forage ratios continue to be set out of balance with more crested wheat seeding by BLM following wildfire.	NS
Public	Habitat	Work with federal and state land managers to promote habitat management techniques that benefit wildlife.	Portland
Public	Habitat	Increase gated roads to provide more roadless areas with an emphasis on winter feed, breeding and fawning areas. Increase habitat protection.	NS
Public	Habitat	Manage juniper to improve habitat	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Habitat	Maintain habitat improvement programs. Guzzlers specifically mentioned.	Redmond
Public	Habitat	Increase efforts to improve winter range condition, in coordination and cooperation with all land management agencies.	Hines
Public	Habitat	Mtn. Mahogany "hedging" and die out - elk competition - change management objectives, in coordination and cooperation with all land management agencies.	Hines
Written	Habitat	Just wait and nature will take care of areas that have been logged.	Coos Bay
Written	Habitat	Winter range needs to be protected, period.	Bend
Written	Habitat	No longer support multiple uses of USFS and BLM lands because of damage by cattle; support drastically reduced grazing permits in order to protect fish and wildlife habitat.	John Day
Written	Harassment	Support restricting horn hunting on deer winter ranges.	Powell Butte
Public	Harassment	Harassment – Assessing harassment’s effect on recruitment may not be a good way to spend limited ODFW dollars.	Portland

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Harassment	Don't spend ODFW dollars to mark or tag shed antlers.	Portland
Public	Harassment	Proposed timing of the general season rifle hunt plus delaying it seem appropriate. There's less fire danger, also cooler weather for better care of meat. It would separate the hunt further from elk rut and from the earlier archery season, providing longer period of 'no hunter disturbance,' thereby reducing stress on the game population.	Stayton
Public	Harassment	Combine deer and elk seasons to reduce overall length of harassment. Other states use this technique.	Portland
Public	Harassment	Stop all sales of shed antlers.	Portland
Public	Harassment	ODFW should require permit to hunt horns, and have a season; require it for shed antlers. Would then be able to trace hunters and reduce trespass problems. Season should be after deer and elk have left the winter ranges to reduce harassment to wintering wildlife and reduce resource damage.	Silver Lake
Written	Harassment	Consideration should be given to having one short to medium-long tag mule deer and eastern elk rifle season running concurrently. To reduce stress so that animals enter winter in better health, eliminate all late season mule deer and elk hunts.	Hermiston
Public	Harassment	No shed antler hunting until after April 1.	Portland
Public	Harassment	Opening buck season one week later has great value: ODFW data indicate the last week of Sept., first week of Oct., is the peak of the elk rut. Why bother them? Higher reproduction percentages could occur. The delay could provide better hunting conditions - less fire danger and cooler weather for improved care of meat.	Stayton

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Harassment	Stop chukar season by Dec. 15 in the Lookout Mt. Unit so that elk can leave the Durkee area to winter on the Snake River. This would allow wintering deer to utilize the forage that the elk are now eating.	Durkee
Written	Hunter management	Some animal rights' groups are buying hunting tags but not using them in order to block out hunters. How about a cut-off date to pick up tags: if not claimed, resell these tags for 1 or 2 days after hunting session opens.	Eugene
Public	Hunter management	Reduce tag numbers and access. Shut down unit if M.O. not met. (Ochoco/Grizzly/Maury)	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Increase hunting opportunity for Harney County residents.	Burns
Written	Hunter management	Phone surveys do not provide accurate data because many hunters do not respond, or give false information for fear of fewer hunting privileges or higher prices for tags.	Bend
Written	Hunter management	Extend time between black powder/archery and regular hunting.	Eugene
Public	Hunter management	Reduce hunting and hunter pressure by increasing tag fees.	Portland
Public	Hunter management	Allocate 80 to 90 percent of the mule deer tags in Harney County to Harney County residents.	Burns

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Hunter management	Increase youth hunts and success.	Redmond
Written	Hunter management	Start a program to give one tag for every two hunters, or two for every three hunters; make out-of-state hunters hunt with an Oregonian. Sell fewer out-of-state tags and increase the price.	Bend
Public	Hunter management	Redundant phone interviews (multiple calls about same hunt)	Corvallis
Public	Hunter management	Feeling that all deer hunting in the state should be controlled, not just for mule deer.	N. Bend
Public	Hunter management	Manage a few units for trophy opportunity.	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Limit out-of-state hunters on all seasons, not just controlled hunts. Limits on a "per unit" basis. Limit to apply to rifle and archery hunters. See what Idaho has done on this issue.	Medford
Public	Hunter management	Maintain/increase youth hunting opportunities.	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Designate a disabled hunter hunt. Guaranteed tag, designated area, willing to pay higher fee.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Hunter management	If you apply for eastern Oregon tags, you shouldn't be allowed to hunt the western side.	Eugene
Public	Hunter management	Need an opportunity for western Oregon hunters, hunting in eastern Oregon, to trade an unused eastern Oregon tag for a western tag.	Hines
Public	Hunter management	Split season for mule deer	Corvallis
Public	Hunter management	Putting out too many tags causes over-hunting the population. There are not that many deer in the woods.	Redmond
Written	Hunter management	Requiring hunter education for all hunters seems like too costly a proposition.	Powell Butte
Public	Hunter management	To increase harvest data accuracy, initiate harvest report card system (mandatory) , next years tag is dependent upon completion of card from previous year (i.e. no tag for one year, Alaska does this).	Pendleton
Public	Hunter management	Does mule deer rifle hunting affect mule deer rut?	Pendleton
Public	Hunter management	Notification method on seasons and tag numbers	Corvallis

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Hunter management	Implement mandatory tag return to obtain better harvest data w/ incentive i.e. raffles.	Klamath Falls
Public	Hunter management	Implement a disincentive to those who don't turn in tag.	Klamath Falls
Public	Hunter management	Provide for muzzleloader opportunity during certain damage hunts.	Medford
Public	Hunter management	If deer population is so low you can only allow 25 tags, then the season should be closed.	Burns
Written	Hunter management	Older hunters should not have to go through the draw. One or two years' wait to garner points may be more than the older hunter has. Perhaps give the older hunter more points because of his/her age.	Eugene
Public	Hunter management	Rifle hunters should have to pass a proficiency test.	Burns
Public	Hunter management	Limit non-resident hunters to 5 percent in general season hunts.	Burns
Written	Hunter management	Hunter numbers are dropping because of a system that erodes expectations of a chance to hunt or harvest a buck. With the loss of veteran hunters, younger hunters are without a natural introduction to hunting. Suggest providing for harvest of 40-50,000 bucks each year and setting this up in each unit. One key to this is improved	Newport

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Hunter management	Make some hunts “premium” tags. (Steens, Trout Creek, Juniper) Increase the price of the tags to increase the chances of those who really want the hunt.	Roseburg
Public	Hunter management	Premium tags for NE Oregon	Roseburg
Public	Hunter management	Disability tag should be just for what the specific hunt is.	Roseburg
Public	Hunter management	Allow Pioneer License holders to pick their unit for deer/elk tags. Or give them an additional preference point.	Roseburg
Written	Hunter management	Extend or move hunting seasons back into fall.	Eugene
Public	Hunter management	Support 3 pt or better regulation.	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Implement a 3 pt. or better bag limit	Klamath Falls
Public	Hunter management	Support mandatory check-in to report harvest for all deer hunters and use of hunter report cards. If hunter fails to report, then he/she doesn't hunt the following year.	Silver Lake

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Hunter management	As a landowner, the only hunters who will be allowed on my property for deer season this year are youth. I've allowed hunting by permission only for years and have had it with hunters who do not observe the rule. Hunter safety education isn't needed - hunter etiquette is.	Milton-Freewater
Public	Hunter management	Harvest information is critical to get. Suggested using postcards, internet, etc. Follow example of other states (New Mexico, Idaho, Montana). Make reporting mandatory to get a tag for the following year.	Redmond
Written	Hunter management	Limit the number of nonresident tags sold to 3-5 percent of the TOTAL number of tags sold, both over the counter and limited entry.	Baker City
Written	Hunter management	Telephone hunter surveys after the season can provide the data needed; don't punish hunters by refusing them licenses if they failed to respond the previous year.	Newport
Written	Hunter management	Preserve opportunity to hold two mule-deer tags. State should modify tag numbers and continue to work with landowners through the A&H program to improve both access and habitat, which in turn should yield a positive approach to building herd numbers.	Pendleton
Public	Hunter management	Further reduce rifle buck tags to increase escapement (Ochoco, Grizzly, Maury units)	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	ODFW should require a varmint permit in addition to a hunting license to hunt ground squirrels, yellow-belly marmots and coyotes for example. Fees should cover program costs.	Silver Lake
Public	Hunter management	Master hunter program should be required for all rifle and bow hunters.	La Grande

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Hunter management	District biologist to determine if one-deer archery bag limit is consistent with antlerless rifle season objectives (i.e., are we trying to reduce populations to MO, and will archery effort target appropriate herd). Could add check-off box to hunt sheet where biologist requests an archery one-deer bag limit (or not).	Klamath Falls
Written	Hunter management	If antlerless rifle tags for the unit total 150 or more an archery one-deer bag limit can be automatically triggered. If rifle tags are less than 150, the district biologist has discretion to offer an archery one-deer bag limit or not (depending on unit objectives and herds affected).	Klamath Falls
Written	Hunter management	Don't tie antlerless archery opportunity to rifle opportunity at all. District biologist would determine opportunities independently. Appropriate because in many units archery harvest takes place on summering deer while rifle harvest takes place on wintering deer and objectives for affected herds may be quite different.	Klamath Falls
Public	Hunter management	Mandatory reporting system for harvest success. Penalty would be No Tag for the next year. Make the reporting easy for the public (electronically, website, etc.).	Portland
Written	Hunter management	Keep general rifle season the same as it is now except: when general rifle season closes for elk in the Cascade units, then close hunting for the week in all units. This would give the animals a chance to rest. The second part of this plan would be when rifle season opens again it would be a new second season for rifle (old timey) hunt.	NS
Written	Hunter management	When general rifle season reopens make it a new second season for rifle (old timey) hunt as follows: when a person buys a W. Oregon deer tag they would have to buy a first or second season tag; equal hunting time would be for both seasons; restrict firearms to those made before the turn of the 20th century. (See respondent's e-mail for details.)	NS
Public	Hunter management	Non-resident landowners should be able to pay resident fees.	Silver Lake
Written	Hunter management	Don't need an enforced hunter education class.	Newport

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Hunter management	Restrict out of area hunters, show preference for "locals".	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Enact regulation antler be longer than the ears.	Redmond
Public	Hunter management	Simplify synopsis (regulations).	La Grande
Public	Hunter management	There should be more incentives to encourage people to become master hunters.	La Grande
Public	Hunter management	An improved WMU statistic booklet could be marketed and pay for itself since many hunters are willing to pay for data.	NS
Public	Hunter management	Educate hunters to respect private lands; this could increase hunter access.	La Grande
Public	Hunter management	Develop late season during or after rut. Maury unit suggested and to try it for 4 years.	Redmond
Written	LOP	Need to have some method to put a limit on the number of LOP tags that can be issued on special low tag number hunts. One option would be a maximum percentage; another option would be the number of LOP tags would be no greater than the public tags. LOP tags for certain NE elk hunts are already limited.	Klamath Falls

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	LOP	Should have the ability to limit landowner preference tags for management purposes, i.e., Trout Creek Mountains has equal numbers of public and LOP tags.	Burns
Public	LOP	LOP program should be tied to damage and be tied to more public access. Concerned that fee hunting is increasing, public access is decreasing due to LOP tag availability.	La Grande
Public	LOP	LOP tags are not currently equitable in relation to acreage size, the acreage/allowable LOP tags scale is not equitable (i.e. 2 to 3 tags is an increase of 1, 040 acres, whereas 9 to 10 tags is an increase of 64,000 acres)	Pendleton
Written	LOP	To solve LOP program abuses: increase min. acreage to 640 acres for 2 tags and incrementally thereafter; make penalties stiffer for violators; provide more personnel for enforcement; re-think present program and how landowners are compensated. Maybe another program would better accommodate the general public.	Hines
Public	LOP	LOP is the most abused regulation. Even if the land doesn't have any wildlife, the owner of 160 acres is entitled to 2 tags and can hunt any place in the unit plus sell the tags for big money. These abuses need to be corrected.	Hines
Public	LOP	Don't want to fill out tag distribution forms every year; only need to reregister if there is a change.	Silver Lake
Public	LOP	LOP tags should be good unit-wide for mule deer controlled season and elk first and second controlled seasons only.	Silver Lake

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	LOP	Don't mess with LOP unless you are going to revise the whole thing.	Burns
Public	LOP	LOP tags should be tiered to the number of animals on the landowner's property.	Burns
Written	LOP	Landowners with less than 40 acres should be allowed to get LOP deer tags if the need can be documented; currently they don't draw deer tags yet have severe damage problems.	John Day
Public	LOP	Should be a ceiling for LOP tags for very limited special hunts i.e. muzzleloader buck hunt in the Klamath Falls Unit.	Klamath Falls
Public	LOP	LOP abuse/misuse continues to rob general hunting public of opportunity; eastern Oregon realtors use LOP as selling point for smaller acreages of little agricultural value. LOP limits management ability in some units because LOP tags outnumber controlled hunt tags. ODFW top staff seem indifferent to the abuse issue.	NS
Written	LOP	Exercise caution if reimbursing landowners with tickets/passes; there's too much room for abuse.	Bend
Public	Non-harvest losses	Improve strategies to address migration along highway corridors i.e. using overpasses and underpasses.	Klamath Falls
Public	Non-harvest losses	Coordinate mortality (road kill) and census counts between all land management agencies - group effort to collect census information.	La Grande

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Population	Manage white-tailed deer separately; develop a white-tailed deer plan.	La Grande
Public	Population	Management objectives should be set locally instead of by a central agency far removed from local concerns.	Redmond
Public	Population	Manage more units for trophy opportunities - higher buck ratios.	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Management decisions should be made at the local level; local biologists know more than those at the state level. It would give local hunters more access to the decision-making process.	Redmond
Public	Population	Change post-season buck ratios to 20 bucks/100 does in all units.	Burns
Public	Population	Need to identify Management Objectives for end of the winter fawn/doe and calf/cow ratios.	Burns
Public	Population	Reduce doe tags to increase population numbers	Pendleton
Public	Population	Keep numbers locally done, not state-counted. Make sure that we have local people count local animals instead of the state counting everything.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Population	Adjust Mos according to habitat (lower Mos)	Corvallis
Public	Population	Trade sheep for large bucks with other states.	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Stop doe hunts (2 comments received)	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Bring in "large bucks" from other states to improve genetics.	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Stop harvest of spike bucks, rifle and archery, leave more mature bucks.	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Stop doe hunts (2 comments received)	Klamath Falls
Public	Population	Management objectives for each region must be set by local people, informed of their local needs, not by people unfamiliar with regional needs.	Redmond
Written	Population	To increase elk hunting opportunities, have a 10-day mule deer season, 10-day elk season, 10-day white-tail season and no hunting by any method during rut of elk.	Milton-Freewater

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Population	Local people should have more input on how game units are managed instead of all done out of Portland or some head office.	NS
Public	Population	Allow deer numbers to rise to the levels of the 1980s. There are not enough deer at this time.	Durkee
Written	Population	Should stop doe and cow hunting for a couple of years (except in needed damage areas) and allow predator hunting of wolves/cats. More does, more bucks; more cows, more bulls.	Coos Bay
Public	Population	Decrease number of tags issued in the Ochoco unit. With deer numbers decreasing, there are too many hunters during rifle season. It would be OK to draw a tag every 2-3 years if it allowed less hunter competition.	NS
Public	Population	Need a study/strategy/plan for white-tail deer	Grande Ronde
Public	Population	Let local jurisdiction manage animal objective levels rather than someone from out of the area looking at reports that are not very accurate.	Redmond
Public	Population	Three-tier minimum buck-doe ratio is well-respected. Keep the system and optimize recruitment and maintain ratios; don't sacrifice 25/100 trophy units.	NS
Public	Population	Refine population models by requiring hunter report cards; question whether use of more than one universal method is productive or counterproductive.	NS

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Population	Set management objectives locally. Local people know better what is going on.	Redmond
Public	Population	Support 7,400 mule deer plan; do not want any doe hunts in the Lookout Mt. Unit until the deer population is higher. Also support raising elk numbers a little in the unit. As bowhunters for 20 years in this unit, have noticed deer population seems to be way down.	Huntington
Public	Population	Differentiate between public and private lands, develop counts which separate one from the other.	Redmond
Public	Population	Question accuracy of current population estimates. Ochoco, Grizzly, and Maury specifically mentioned.	Redmond
Public	Population	Question why mule deer are declining.	Redmond
Public	Population	Increase buck ratios and size (i.e. antler points) of bucks, specifically mentioned Ochoco, Maury, and Grizzly units.	Redmond
Public	Population	Management objectives should be set locally. Local people know our needs better than does Salem.	Redmond
Public	Population	Let local people set management objectives in their own areas; not all of the state is in need of the same things.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Population	Improve deer counting methods, fund use of helicopters.	Redmond
Written	Population	Stop killing spikes, which are the most robust of the fawns, have the best chance of enduring the winter, providing better bucks the next fall and may be an important part of providing diversity in the overall mix.	Newport
Public	Population	Slowly increase buck ratios in units below management objective.	Burns
Public	Population	Eliminate the doe hunts in Fort Rock and Silver Lake – shooting too many deer that could be coming from other units	Roseburg
Public	Population	Increase management objective for fawns/100 adults in the Malheur River, Beatty's Butte and Juniper units to 35, like adjacent units.	Hines
Written	Population	Does ODFW even realize they have white-tail deer? One reason for fewer mule deer is because there are more white-tail deer than mule deer in much of NE Oregon. Why not make two seasons: mule deer and white-tail.	Milton-Freewater
Public	Population	Concerned about fawn deer and calf elk that are lost because mothers are killed before they are able to care for themselves.	NS
Public	Population management	Take advantage of controlling those things we can. Can't control the weather or fires. Can control tag numbers, harvest and predators.	Burns

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Predation	Predator management needs to be implemented to increase buck to doe ratios and deer population numbers.	Burns
Public	Predation	Cougars kill a lot of our deer.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Make a plan for controlling predator numbers (other than hunters). Count the number of predators and come up with a plan to control them.	Redmond
Public	Predation	There should be equal or greater emphasis on controlling predators instead of allowing them to grow in numbers and take more game thereby leaving fewer for hunters to take.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Improvements need to be made with the predator program. A lot of these predators need to be removed; more control is needed.	Redmond
Public	Predation	The reasoning for limiting hunting tags will surely prove the need for predator control.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Effect of cougars on populations	Corvallis
Public	Predation	ODFW should continue to not support the establishment of wolves in Oregon.	Burns

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Predation	Concerns with impact cougars have on deer populations. Control their numbers. Recommend they be treated like coyotes	Redmond
Public	Predation	Recommend dogs be allowed to hunt cougars.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Need to gain control of overpopulated predators before there isn't anything to hunt.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Need to get better control of cougar and bear before nothing is left to hunt.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Support studies to figure out impacts.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Wolves major predation concern - don't allow in Oregon.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Need to get more control over bear and cougar.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Predator control needs to be looked at closer. Humans are considered predators and are managed well, i.e., draw system, road closures, etc, but there are not aggressive plans to eliminate cats, bears, coyotes, etc.	Redmond

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Predation	The natural predator population is too high, i.e., cougar and bear. They are taking too many animals.	Redmond
Public	Predation	Allow cougar and bear hunting to continue after deer/elk tag is filled. Or allow cougar hunting in all areas during the cougar season.	Klamath Falls
Public	Predation	In trophy management units, assess if cougars are limiting buck ratios due to higher mortality on bucks.	Klamath Falls
Public	Predation	Increase predator control.	NS
Written	Predation	ODFW is determined to control the amount of hunters and classes hunters as predators. They should make a concentrated effort to control natural predators like coyotes, bears, cougar and possibly wolves.	NS
Public	Predation	Reduce cougar predation on deer.	Hines
Public	Predation	Major concern over ODFW's control of cougar populations; numerous comments received. (None specified in report.)	Klamath Falls
Written	Predation	Be sensible about cougars. The no-dog rule is resulting in cats not fearing humans. Encounters are too frequent and increasingly dangerous.	Eugene

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Predation	Reduction of predators (i.e. cougars and coyotes) statewide as needed.	Portland
Public	Predation	Reduction of predators (cougars) as needed but don't target coyotes.	Portland
Written	Predation	Elk, mule deer and black-tailed deer are being eaten by too many cougars, bears and coyotes. Predators should be hunted with hounds and/or bait. The public needs to be informed about the predator problem.	NS
Written	Predation	When predator control was highest (1955-69), hunters harvested higher numbers of bucks and does. ODFW should set management objectives to hold cougar, coyote and bear numbers in check and adopt policies, program and efforts in each unit to contain predator numbers as needed.	Newport
Public	Predation	ODFW continues to avoid the predator issue re fawn survival. Will management of predators be initiated if newest study affirms findings of past research?	NS
Written	Predation	Predators are becoming more of a problem in Oregon. In central Oregon deer populations are declining and cougar populations are increasing. Measure 5 has allowed the public and the Legislature rather than ODFW to manage predators.	Bend
Public	Predation	Coordinate between mule deer and elk plan on how cougar and bear are managed.	La Grande
Public	Predation	Predator control needs to be increased.	Medford

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Predation	Determine predation effect on mule deer populations and fawn recruitment to reduce illegal harvest and other losses of mule deer.	Powell Butte
Public	Predation	Eliminate cougar quotas in NE, SE, and Central Oregon.	Portland
Public	Predation	Education process for the public regarding bear and cougar predation problems and concerns. What would it look like if hunters did not remove harvestable surplus. Does the public know this, or are they aware of it.	Pendleton
Public	Predation	Unlimited spring bear opportunity to control bear predation and population numbers.	Pendleton
Public	Predation	More liberal opportunities for harvesting/recreating for bear and cougar, thus helping in controlling the predation on deer and elk.	Pendleton
Public	Predation	The introduction of wolves into Oregon would be additive to the problems of predation we are currently experiencing. Introduction is not advisable.	Pendleton
Written	Predation	Identify the effects of predation on mule deer populations and develop a predator management policy. Manage populations of all big game species and predators to achieve a balance.	Powell Butte
Public	Predation	To use valid/unused deer or elk tag on cougar or bear.	Pendleton

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Predation	ODFW needs to improve its predator control program - predator numbers should be reduced; we need more predator control.	Redmond
Written	Social	Oregon needs sound management and it's not happening. ODFW should manage wildlife and not let its hands be tied by the Legislature or try to accommodate all sides. Make the rules and the public will abide by them.	Bend
Public	Social	Use biology - not politics	Corvallis
Public	Social	Continued hiring practices at ODFW put social programs before resource needs, severely hindering implementation of needed management and habitat development; hiring inexperienced managers leads to lost opportunities for habitat improvements and failure to achieve program goals.	NS
Public	Social	Will there be field staff and money to implement new deer and elk management plans?	NS
Public	Social	Need more Public Working Group members who are solely interested in the health, restoration and preservation of habitat.	Klamath Falls
Public	Social	Draft plans are strongly biased and weighted toward government and government agencies, such as Forest Service, ODFW, BLM, state patrol, tribal reps, landowners, hunters and archers.	Klamath Falls
Public	Social	Concerned with the lack of representation by groups or individuals solely concerned with habitat and wildlife (i.e. ONRC, Audubon, TNC, etc) on the working group.	Klamath Falls

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Social	ODFW did not provide sufficient advance public notice of meeting to allow time to comment.	Joseph
Written	Social	Consider recognizing economic advantage from hunting by transferring revenues from richer metro districts to depressed rural areas.	Newport
Public	Social	Concerned that there was no representation by individual hunters on the working group, only sport groups.	Klamath Falls
Public	Social	Numerous comments received regarding tribal harvest	Klamath Falls
Public	Social	Make non-hunting public aware of contributions made by hunters and anglers to wildlife management.	Pendleton
Public	Social	Make sure that qualified biologists are the managers (don't let greed and hysteria rule).	Hines
Public	Social	ODFW needs to do a better job of developing budget needs for necessary programs and educating hunters and customers about budget needs.	Portland
Written	Travel	ATV users shouldn't be blamed for causing problems. Many older hunters need ATVs to help retrieve game. Some rules might be helpful, such as specific hours ATVs can be used, i.e., from 10:30 to 1:00 and after legal sunset, to limit hunter conflict and game harassment.	Damascus

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Travel	Should continue ATV use on public lands with better coordination between ATV clubs and planning agencies and ODFW.	La Grande
Written	Travel	Further ATV restrictions would be detrimental to hunting. ATVs are today's horses: many hunters use them to travel to and from hunting areas and for game retrieval. Should utilize established ATV and loaded weapons guidelines instead.	Oregon City
Public	Travel	Need more enforcement and regulation of offroad vehicles harassing, abusing and displacing wildlife.	Klamath Falls
Written	Travel	Oppose more travel management areas. Older hunters rely on ATVs to navigate terrain and transport game out. Stiffer vehicle use laws are not needed; increased enforcement of existing laws is needed.	Newport
Written	Travel	ATV use is getting out of hand. Rules to control ATV use on trails, roadless areas and areas of road travel closure must be adopted and enforced.	Bend
Public	Travel	ATV & Motorcycle harassment / Enforcement issues	Corvallis
Public	Travel	Get tougher on technology: don't expand use of ATVs before, during or after seasons because of their negative effects.	NS
Public	Travel	Restrict ATV usage with guidelines for retrieving game during certain hours (i.e., 2-6 p.m.) and prohibit road hunting and trail usage.	NS

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Written	Travel	Leave roads open during hunting season. Assess bigger fines for littering or damage. Require special permits for ATV use; limit how many can be issued each season in each area.	Bend
Written	Travel	Don't close forests to ATVs or Off-Highway Motorcycles. Consider issues of timing, i.e., calving, hunting, fire seasons, for travel management. Many ATV clubs voluntarily restrict rides during these times. A (Green Dot) trail system is a manageable tool for eliminating cross-country travel if needed and in resolving game issues.	Joseph
Written	Travel	Approve of extending travel management areas to include the archery season.	Powell Butte
Written	Travel	Disabled hunters should be allowed to use ATVs for a special season hunt for mule deer in one unit they can apply for.	NS
Public	Travel	Work with federal land management agencies to deal with ATV access problems.	Portland
Public	Travel	Restrict use of ATV's during hunting seasons and on winter ranges.	Portland
Written	Travel	Allow aged and disabled hunters use of four-wheelers on hunting roads.	Eugene
Public	Travel	Don't write ATV regulations for overland travel. Concern that this would restrict ranching interests and permit administration.	Burns

Written	Category	Comment	Location
Public	Travel	More cooperative travel management areas beginning with the start of Archery Season	Roseburg
Written	Travel	ODFW should urge land management agencies to restrict ATV use to existing roads and trails unless otherwise designated.	Powell Butte
Written	Travel	Approve of restricting motor vehicle and/or ATV use in mule deer winter ranges.	Powell Butte
Written	Travel	Don't further restrict ATV use. Hunters, especially disabled or senior hunters, rely on ATVs to access areas and retrieve game. We don't need additional laws and rules; existing laws/rules are enough. The Tread Lightly program is a successful tool for teaching hunters about conscientious ATV use.	Gresham

**DISCUSSION OF ISSUES
IDENTIFIED
IN THE
1990
MULE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN**



**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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DISCUSSION OF ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN THE 1990 MULE DEER PLAN

Issue 1. Degradation and loss of mule deer habitat. (Winter range ownership patterns and land uses on public and private lands were combined with this issue.)

Strategies:

A. Inventory mule deer habitat and identify problems and opportunities for enhancement on a Management Unit (MU) basis. This process will be based on already available information and will not involve a major new field inventory effort. The goal of this process will be to identify habitat problems and opportunities by MU, and identify sites for habitat protection and enhancement activities.

Result: Standardized habitat inventories have not been developed for Wildlife Management Units (WMUs); however, wildlife biologists generally are knowledgeable of habitat conditions throughout their area of responsibility. When opportunities arise to improve habitat deficiencies, biologists use the appropriate program funding to complete habitat enhancement activities. Information and recommendations are provided to federal land managers to assist them in the development of their land management plans or activities, with the goal of improving habitat condition.

A 12-member task force, comprised of ODFW biologists initiated a process during 1991 to address this strategy. The goal of the task force was to inventory mule deer habitat, identify habitat deficiencies and then design projects to address this strategy. Recognizing limitations of manpower and funding they proposed to develop pilot projects in the Keating, Ochoco and Steens Mountain WMUs. However, due to personnel changes, other work priorities and a lack of adequate funding, the pilot projects were not completed. The success of Strategy A is contingent upon having funding available when the opportunity for habitat improvement/enhancement projects arise.

B. Habitat enhancement programs will be developed on a Management Unit basis, as needed. These programs will be focused on critical needs, as identified by the inventory process.

Result: Most habitat enhancement project activities in any MU are initiated through the Wildlife District office. Each Wildlife District biologist manages multiple units and has the responsibility for habitat development in those units. The projects focus on critical habitat needs or opportunities for mule deer and generally benefit numerous wildlife species.

Federal land managers notify ODFW of pending land management activities and biologists provide input that is used to direct management decisions that ultimately maintain, enhance or improve wildlife habitat. Habitat maintenance and/or development opportunities on private land are dependent on the willingness of a landowner to develop a project. Since 1991, a total of 683 habitat projects have been completed, treating a total of 58,379 acres in Eastern Oregon. The successful implementation of this strategy also is dependent on adequate funding.

C. In conjunction with the federal planning process, ODFW will embark on an escalated habitat monitoring effort. This new responsibility will be carried out in cooperation with federal land management agencies. Through this process, ODFW will obtain information on habitat trend and will be able to pursue a more aggressive habitat protection and enhancement programs.

Result: ODFW personnel have been able to work with federal agencies and private landowners to develop and complete habitat projects. Habitat monitoring requires a large commitment of personnel and funding and has not been a high priority of ODFW personnel. Federal land managers have the ability to track large, landscaped-based habitat changes to meet the requirements of designated land management allocations. ODFW relies on their database and any efforts by ODFW to monitor habitat on these lands would most likely be a repetition of activities.

When the Dear Enhancement and Restoration (DEAR) and Green Forage (GF) programs were initiated, habitat biologists were hired to assist with the implementation, development and monitoring of projects. However, the habitat biologist positions have steadily reduced due to budget reductions and monitoring efforts were extremely limited.

The goal of Strategy C was not addressed by ODFW but the information is available from the federal agencies. Escalated habitat monitoring on private lands is not practical or feasible. Annual monitoring is done on most Wildlife Management Areas in Oregon. The strategy as stated is not realistic and should be eliminated.

D. Based on the desires of the public, ODFW will take a more aggressive stance in protecting mule deer habitat, especially on public lands.

Result: Biologists provide recommendations/comments to public land managers and most critical deer habitat is protected through various federal plans. The plans are developed with public input and identification of critical habitat areas/types by ODFW biologists. Strategy D does not realistically address the current situation as ODFW biologists currently recognize the importance of protecting mule deer habitat on public lands.

E. ODFW will evaluate current habitat protection and enhancement programs. These programs will be modified and improved, if necessary. Effective programs will be continued.

Result: ODFW currently uses the DEAR, GF and Access and Habitat (A&H) programs to initiate and/or fund habitat protection and enhancement activities (A&H also is used to fund hunter access to private lands). All three programs were created by the Oregon Legislature; funding for the programs varies from legislatively created budgets for DEAR and GF to license surcharges for A&H. The DEAR and GF programs were started during the 1983-85 biennium and continue to be used for habitat enhancement, and to address big-game damage. The A&H program was initiated in 1996 and has been re-authorized through 2003. The programs are evaluated for effectiveness and continue to be popular with landowners and public land managers. Recent funding problems may affect the future of these programs.

F. ODFW will improve cooperative management efforts with private landowners and public agencies on key mule deer range.

Result: Using the identified habitat improvement programs available, DEAR, GF and A&H, many cooperative projects have been initiated throughout Eastern Oregon to improve deer habitat. Since 1991, Northeast Region personnel have completed 109 projects on 13,414 acres, Southeast Region personnel have completed 316 projects on 24,934 acres and Central Region personnel have completed 258 projects on 20,031 acres. ODFW biologists have been actively involved with the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and have worked cooperatively with federal personnel and private landowners to enhance habitat on several thousand acres of CRP land.

Damage assistance and the landowner preference tags have working relationships with private land managers. Overall, the objectives of Strategy F were met.

G. ODFW will work with land management agencies to speed up the federal land exchange program for key mule deer habitat, especially winter range, where this option becomes available.

Result: ODFW has no ability to speed up any federal land exchange or purchase processes. However, ODFW has supported several land exchanges/purchases that protect or enhance mule deer habitat, especially winter range. Recent land exchanges/purchases include:

1. Pine Creek Ranch, approximately 35,000 acres purchased by Warm Spring Tribe and is currently managed to enhance all wildlife and fisheries habitat values.
2. Clearwater Land Exchange, a complex land exchange process that involved approximately 45,000 acres of land adjacent to the North Fork John Day River being placed under BLM management.
3. The addition of 850 acres of land to Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and 80 acres to Wenaha WMA have provided protection for additional winter range areas.
4. BLM purchase and exchange of lands in 1996 within the Deschutes River canyon south of Maupin. The areas were identified as Criterion and 10 Mile, consisting of approximately 15,000 acres and both areas provide yearlong mule deer habitat.
5. ODFW supported the 16,000 acre Nez Perce land purchase in Joseph Creek drainage as the area is identified big-game winter range.
6. The recent acquisition of 27,000 acres of lands by the Nature Conservancy on Zumalt Prairie secures big game habitat and ODFW assisted with the completion of the project.
7. Approximately 900 acres of BLM land was recently acquired near the Rimrock Inn area, facilitated through trading of isolated BLM parcels.

ODFW should and typically does support those federal land exchanges that enhance or protect mule deer habitat.

H. ODFW will acquire key mule deer habitat (especially winter range) where other options fail and as funds are available.

Result: ODFW has an adopted land acquisition policy and the policy indicates that ODFW will only acquire land or interests in lands, including easements and leases if the purchases are consistent with the Department's strategic plan and mission. Three types of lands have been identified for acquisition: 1) significant or unique habitats, 2) sites or access to sites that provide wildlife-related recreational opportunities, and 3) administrative needs. Due to agency policy and budget restrictions, this strategy has not been addressed.

ISSUE 2. Hunter densities are too high in some units and cause overcrowding. (The issue that limited-entry buck hunting displaces hunters was combined with this issue because the strategies developed address overall hunting regulation.)

Strategies:

A. Establish controlled buck hunting in all Eastern Oregon units. Hunter numbers will be controlled on an MU basis to meet buck-ratio MOs.

Result: In 1991 all units in Eastern Oregon were placed under controlled buck hunting. Controlled hunting requires hunters to apply for and draw from a limited number of tags in each unit. While controlled hunting has displaced some hunters from units of their choice, it also has allowed improvements in post-season buck ratios and reduced the number of hunter trespass problems and hunter complaints of overcrowding. Archery buck hunting has not been controlled and similar complaints regarding overcrowding have been recorded.

B. Provide a diversity of hunting opportunities in the form of different hunter densities, weapon types, and post-season buck ratios and wilderness hunts.

All units will have a minimum post-season buck ratio MO of 12 bucks per 100 does. Each WMU will be managed for one of three different management strategies. Management Strategy 1 will provide a maximum amount of hunter recreation and all units will have a minimum buck ratio MO of 12 bucks per 100 does post-season. Management Strategy 2 will provide a better chance of bagging a buck under somewhat less crowded conditions and these units will have a minimum post-season buck ratio of 15 bucks per 100 does. Management Strategy 3 will provide hunters an opportunity to pursue more mature bucks under generally uncrowded hunting conditions and these units will have a minimum post-season buck ratio of 25 bucks per 100 does.

Result: Eighteen units are managed under Strategy 1, and 17 of the 18 units were at or above MO based on the 1999-2001, three-year average. Twenty-three units are managed under Strategy 2 requirements, and 19 of those units were at or above MO based on the 1999-2001, three-year average. Eight units are managed under Strategy 3 requirements; however, only two of the eight units with this strategy were at MO based on the 1999-2001 three-year average.

Muzzleloader hunts in Eastern Oregon have increased from one deer hunt offered in 1991 to 13 deer hunts offered in the 2002 big game synopsis. Currently there are six controlled deer-bow hunts in addition to the general archery season and 11 juvenile deer hunts offered in Eastern Oregon.

A youth 'First Time' program was initiated for hunters ages 12-17. This program guarantees resident youth a buck and/or antlerless tag if they have not previously drawn a tag from these particular hunt series.

C. Develop a point system so that people who were unsuccessful in drawing a mule deer tag will have a better chance of drawing a tag the following year.

Result: A preference point system was implemented in 1991, allowing unsuccessful mule deer tag applicants a better chance of drawing in subsequent years.

Annually, 75 percent of the tags available for each controlled hunt are allocated to applicants with the highest number of preference points. The remaining 25 percent of the tags are drawn randomly from a pool of all applicants.

D. Develop incentives to open private land to public hunting, where possible.

Result: In an effort to provide incentives to open private land to public hunting, the Access and Habitat program was established by Oregon Legislature. This program has maintained and improved public access to private lands throughout Eastern Oregon by assisting landowners with a variety of habitat improvement projects. The Heppner RHA is currently partially funded by A&H funding and allows public access to 83,400 acres of private lands. The annual A&H publication, February 2001, reports that nearly 3 million acres of land in Oregon have been opened to public access. However, private fee hunting interests are offering more economic benefits and each year several additional lands are closed to public access.

E. Examine possible incentives to attract people to black-tailed deer hunting rather than mule deer hunting.

Result: The department has not initiated specific management schemes in an attempt to attract people to black-tailed hunting. However, maintaining a 40-day general season buck hunt, and providing specific black-tailed deer muzzleloader and youth hunts do help to attract hunters to Western Oregon. However, due to recent declines in black-tailed deer populations, the long, general season may no longer be offered.

F. Develop a system to make leftover mule deer tags available to hunters.

Result: In order to make leftover mule deer tags available to hunters a second chance draw was established. In response to public complaints regarding the second chance draw, leftover tags were offered on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning in 2001.

G. Restrict hunting of deer from vehicles through increasing the number and size of travel management areas.

Result: Since 1990, the number of cooperative travel management areas has increased in some management units, while other units have dropped certain travel areas. Many of the original travel management areas are no longer operated under a cooperative agreement between ODFW and USFS or BLM. However, many of the areas are currently managed through the federal Access Travel Management program.

In 1990, ODFW cooperated in 42 travel management areas, encompassing 2,263 square miles. In 2002, ODFW was involved with 44 travel management areas encompassing 2,398 square miles. ODFW continues to promote and establish travel management areas, but lack of funding limits management and enforcement activities by department personnel. The implementation of controlled buck hunting has helped address this strategy.

H. Monitor archery hunter numbers and harvest on a MU basis and impose restrictions on archery hunting if problems develop.

Result: Information obtained during the annual telephone survey is statistically valid on a statewide basis; however, the estimated hunter numbers and harvest for the individual WMUs is highly variable and is not statistically valid. During 1989, 8,504 archers hunted mule deer and in

2000, 18,311 archers hunted mule deer, indicating a 200+ percent increase. Archery buck hunter success has decreased slightly since 1989, from 22 percent to 18 percent in 2000, while complaints by archery hunters regarding overcrowding continue to increase in most WMUs. No restrictions have been placed on archery seasons; however, some equipment restrictions have been imposed.

ISSUE 3. Post-season buck ratios are below MO in some units.

Strategies:

A. Set a minimum post-season buck ratio of 12 bucks per 100 does for all units in Eastern Oregon.

Result: A minimum post season ratio of 12 bucks per 100 does was established for all WMUs in Eastern Oregon.

B. Develop a three-tiered buck ratio MO range for Eastern Oregon MUs.

Result: The three-tiered buck ratio MO strategy was implemented as recommended. Of the 47 WMUs (with 49 sub-units), 18 are managed for a minimum buck ratio of 12; 23 are managed for a minimum buck ratio of 15; and eight are managed for a minimum buck ratio of 25.

C. Establish a policy of tag allocations to hunters on a WMU or sub-unit basis to optimize recreational opportunity while meeting buck MOs.

Result: Controlled hunting for firearm seasons in all Eastern Oregon WMUs were adopted during the 1991 season. Final tag numbers are approved by Commission action, based on recommendations by ODFW staff. Annual inventories are used to develop the recommendations.

D. The program to reach buck ratios MOs may be phased in over a three-year period, depending on herd recruitment and hunter demands.

Result: Controlled hunting for all firearm seasons in mule deer WMUs was implemented throughout Eastern Oregon by 1991. In 1990, 20 WMUs were below the biological minimum buck ratio of 12. Gradual improvements in post-season buck ratios were observed in most WMUs.

The following table illustrates the progress made toward achieving MOs over time.

Table 1. Numbers of mule deer WMUs (out of 47) with buck ratios below minimum buck escapement and WMU MOs.

Year	No. WMUs Below Biological Minimum MO	No. WMUs Below WMU MO
1990	20	23
1991	18	27
1992	10	15
1993	12	21
1994	14	25

1995	7	16
1996	9	19
1997	9	19
1998	3	12
1999	0	7
2000	4	13
2001	6	14

ISSUE 4. Access to land-locked public and private land.

Strategies:

A. ODFW will work with federal agencies to identify the extent and location of areas where access to public land is being illegally restricted.

Result: Reports of illegal restriction of public access to public lands are quickly addressed by notification of the appropriate land agency. Contrary to popular belief, there have been few instances where legal public access has been prevented. Factors contributing to this misconception are various sportsman maps that show roads that are not legally open to public use and changes in land ownership that results in the legal closing of private roads that were believed to be public roads.

B. Survey private landowners to determine what kinds of incentives would encourage them to open their lands to public hunting.

Result: To date, no such survey has been completed. However, recognizing the increased trend in lease-type hunting, it appears that monetary compensation is the preferred incentive to most landowners.

C. ODFW will work to link federal incentive programs, such as CRP, to recreational opportunity.

Result: The Farm Service Agency attempted to procure long-term easements during Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup No. 10 and received strong resistance from the landowners. Recognizing that the purpose of the CRP is to reduce erosion and provide other environmental benefits, the requirement of providing public access could potentially keep landowners from enrolling in the program. If landowners are unwilling to enroll in the programs, the effectiveness of the overall program would be restricted. While the idea has merit, it would require a change in federal law to make public access mandatory. However, one of the recognized and advertised uses of CRP land at this time is fee-hunting.

D. Examine and develop ways to maintain CRP land in wildlife habitat, after the program ends in 1994.

Result: The CRP and related federal land-incentive programs did not end in 1994 and the federal government is announcing CRP Signup No. 25. CRP was initiated in the mid-1980s and during the first 15 signups, crop production and erosion control benefits were the primary driving factor in the program. CRP has evolved to a program that is designed to improve environmental factors that directly benefit wildlife and fish species. To qualify for CRP, the producer (landowner) has to address several environmental issues during the application process. Each environmental issue

has a matrix of solutions and based on the solution selected by the landowner, an Environmental Benefit Index (EBI) number is calculated. Using the sum of all the EBI values for a given piece of land, all applicants are numerically ranked by county. CRP contracts are awarded to those landowners who have the highest EBI ranking and accordingly provide the best fish and wildlife habitat. ODFW biologists were requested to provide recommendations to Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel during the development of seeding mixes and habitat enhancement activities that were incorporated into the EBI process. It appears the CRP will continue to be funded as long as environmental benefits can be attained.

Issue 5. Insufficient knowledge exists by which to manage mule deer intensively.

Strategies:

A. ODFW will survey a statistically valid sample on a unit or hunt area basis. Harvest data will be collected with a level of precision of 10 percent error and a 95 percent confidence interval.

Result: Implementation of controlled buck hunting provided a base for obtaining statistically valid harvest estimates for each WMU. By knowing the exact number of hunters within each controlled hunt area, harvest estimates were 90 percent accurate, with less than a 10 percent margin of error. However, due to decreased funding, a decision to reduce the number of calls to hunters resulted in a survey that has an 80 percent confidence interval with a 20 percent chance of error. General seasons, such as archery seasons, do not meet this level of precision on a WMU basis.

B. Investigate and develop better census techniques for mule deer.

Result: To improve census techniques, it is generally accepted that additional data is needed. In most portions of Oregon, aerial surveys are the only way practical to obtain additional herd data. With the increase in aerial surveys, there would need to be a corresponding increase in flight budgets. Recent trends have suggested that budgets will continue to be reduced. The majority of herd composition data is checked for statistical significance and the goal is to reach 80 percent confidence interval and 20 percent margin of error. In comparison with past composition data, current counts are felt to be more accurate.

Several Districts have investigated sightability techniques to estimate deer populations within WMUs; however, due to practicality and/or funding problems the technique has only been implemented in four units. In general, better census techniques require additional funding and due to current budgets, it is unlikely that improved census techniques will be developed and/or utilized. Several western states have opted to conduct herd surveys on two to three year intervals.

C. Determine deer movement patterns more accurately. ODFW will delineate herd boundaries at a level where no more than 20 percent of the deer within the boundary move into or out of the area.

Result: There has been no progress made toward meeting this strategy. Several deer movement studies have been completed in several WMUs in Eastern Oregon, but none of the studies addressed this strategy. Studies to delineate herd boundaries were initiated in the White River, Hood, Pine Creek and Lookout Mountain WMUs. Several other studies have been proposed to address deer movements but were not implemented due to lack of funding.

D. Valid models for each mule deer herd in Oregon will be developed.

Result: POP2 or POP2 spreadsheet mule deer models have been developed for 35 of 47 WMUs and two sub-units, Trout Creek Mountains and East Biggs. In addition, sightability models have been developed for four units. The usefulness of a model for making management decisions varies with the quality of input. Combined mortality rates and recruitment rates are needed to accurately portray a population. It is important to recognize that POP2 models calculate deer populations based on winter/spring populations and this attribute can create problems in WMUs where large numbers of deer migrate into or out of the unit. Consistency in application and use of the POP2 model could be improved throughout Eastern Oregon.

ISSUE 6. Yearling recruitment is below desired levels in many areas.

Strategies:

A. ODFW will continue to monitor deer mortality attributed to disease, and take measures to reduce the effects of disease where possible.

Result: ODFW routinely collects blood samples from all mule deer captured for various research project or relocation efforts and the samples are screened for potential diseases. Blood and tissue samples are routinely collected from sick/dying deer and are sent to various laboratories for disease monitoring. The collected samples provide important baseline information regarding the overall health of various deer herds, especially when the samples are collected over a several year period. Tests for specific diseases can and will be implemented if it is determined to be necessary in an area.

The recent development and adoption of the Cervid Holding Rules was completed to help protect native ungulates within Oregon. In general, the most effective way to eliminate diseases in wild populations of deer and elk is to maintain suitable habitat and to reduce unnatural concentrations of wildlife, such as feeding.

B. Review current predator control programs to evaluate their effectiveness.

Result: Staff have reviewed numerous predator management programs. Results from these studies were effected by differences in deer and predator densities, and whether or not predation was a major factor limiting deer numbers. Other important variables in these studies were habitat, weather severity and the number of predators removed. These findings highlight the importance of developing management actions, which address the major limiting factors affecting a deer herd. Predator control programs can be successfully implemented in situations where predator-to-prey ratios are high, predation is significant and predators are vulnerable to available control methods.

Methods of predator control that are currently available are expensive. Predator control for the purpose of increasing deer populations for increased hunter success may be socially unacceptable at this time. A study is currently being initiated by the ODFW in Northeast Oregon to determine the effects of cougar predation and nutrition on mule deer and elk recruitment. Results from this study will aid in the development of future management strategies for cougar and mule deer populations.

C. ODFW will implement predator control based on past research, evaluation of current programs, available funding, effectiveness and social acceptability.

Result: Past research, conducted in Grant and Harney counties indicate that aerial gunning of coyotes from helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft is the most effective method of control. Various control methods can be used in specific situations where predation is identified as a limiting factor on a deer population. Any control program should increase herd recruitment, be cost-effective and adequate funding needs to be available.

Currently ODFW contributes \$100,000 annually to the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to assist with the control of animals that are causing agricultural damage. While completing their activities, Wildlife Services agents undoubtedly remove predators that potentially could affect adjacent deer herds.

ISSUE 7. Lack of control over nonresident hunters.

Strategy:

A. Recommend legislative action statutorily limit nonresident hunter numbers.

Result: The issue received legislative action and resulted in ORS 497.112(8): “The number of tags issued by drawing under subsection 1b (nonresident elk tag) and 1e (nonresident deer tag) of this section shall be decided by the commission, but for each class of tag so issued, the number shall not be more than five percent of all tags of that class issued for hunting in a particular area, except one nonresident tag may be issued for each hunt when the number of authorized tags is fewer than 35.”

The ruling is administered under OAR 635-060-0030(2): “The number of controlled deer and controlled elk tags issued to nonresident applicants shall not exceed five percent of the tags authorized for each hunt.” The above rulings apply only to hunts that are ‘controlled’ and do not apply to general rifle or general archery seasons.

Issue 8. Illegal harvest of mule deer.

Strategy:

A. Determine the impacts of illegal kill on deer herds and work to develop new strategies to help prevent poaching.

Result: Enforcement data obtained from Oregon State Police (OSP) indicate that the most common illegal kills during authorized seasons are:

1. Taking Another Persons Deer (Loaning/Borrowing a Deer Tag)
2. Taking Deer without a Valid Tag (No Tag/Wrong Unit)
3. Taking Deer in Violation of Criminal Trespass
4. Exceeding the Bag Limit
5. Taking Deer with Aid of Artificial Light
6. Taking Deer Prohibited Weapon (Rifle during Archery Season)

The Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) program was established in 1991 to assist in detecting and apprehending violators attempting to illegally harvest Oregon’s wildlife resources. The purpose of the WED program is to deter offenses, improve compliance, and to intercept the offender before the wildlife is killed. Deer decoys are deployed primarily in those areas where documented problems exist, are used both during authorized seasons and closed seasons, and during all hours of the day and night.

Annually, meetings of agency personnel and private citizens are conducted to implement the Coordinated Enforcement Program (CEP). The CEP process prioritizes resource issues identified by private citizens and any specific concerns identified will generate an action plan.

Action plans are developed to address identified enforcement problems and direct added enforcement effort to solve the illegal activity. Action plans develop a specific goal, time period and area, operational plan, and type of data to be collected. Goals of the various plans can range from general protection of wintering mule deer, to a specific project such as improving a buck/doe ratio. Some of the identified action plans targeting the illegal harvest of mule deer include:

1. Mule Deer Buck Protection – Coombs Canyon, George Canyon, Mudd Springs Road and Nolin Areas in the Columbia Basin Unit.
2. Illegal Take of Buck Mule Deer – China Hat/North Paulina Unit
3. Trophy Mule Deer Buck Protection – Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge
4. Illegal Take of Mule Deer Closed Season – Metolius Unit
5. Mule Deer Protection – Juniper Flat
6. Sensitive Hunt Boundary – Hood Unit
7. Silver Lake Deer Winter Range Road Closure
8. Protection of Wintering Mule Deer in South Lake County
9. Rogue and Keno Units Deer Protection Action Plan
10. Mule Deer Protection – Interstate, Sprague and Southern Fort Rock Units

Successful implementation of the above programs requires adequate staffing for OSP; however, due to budget reductions, several field enforcement positions have not been filled.

Based on information and data from annual compliance reports and action plans/evaluations, the illegal take of mule deer is continuing to have a negative impact on ODFW mule deer management objectives. From 1996 through 2000, there were 667 documented illegal mule deer kills (data on illegal mule deer kills were not documented prior to 1996). Based on current figures for damages under ORS 496.705, illegal harvest of mule deer represents a cost of \$266,800 to the state of Oregon. It is important to note that this figure does not represent all illegal kills, as there were likely several times that number that were never reported or discovered.

ISSUE 9. Mule deer losses due to road kills.

Strategies:

A. Determine the level of mortality associated with deer vehicle collisions.

Result: During the 1990s, several ODFW wildlife biologists attempted to determine the extent of deer/vehicle collisions by combining their observations with information from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel. Information regarding deer/vehicle collisions in various ODOT districts was collected and expanded by ODFW to estimate annual deer/vehicle losses. In the central Oregon ODOT district there were more than 1,000 deer/vehicle collisions. The following ODOT districts reported the following losses: Enterprise, 300; Lakeview, 360; and Grant, 800.

B. Monitor the number of road kills annually on a MU basis.

Result: The number of annual road kills was recorded only in those districts listed above and no estimate can be provided for other WMUs in Eastern Oregon.

C. Look for ways to decrease or prevent deer/vehicle accidents.

Result: A Highway Corridor/Wildlife Incident team was formed in 1994 by ODFW biologists and Oregon State Police (OSP). The team worked to develop highway improvement strategies for wildlife crossings on major transportation routes in Central Oregon. Improvement strategies included installing overpasses/underpasses, deer-proof fencing in high migration areas, modifying corridor vegetation, improving highway shoulders, installing reflectors and signs, reducing vehicle speed limits and developing median gaps. The identified strategies were incorporated into ODOT's corridor planning process. During 1996, a report was compiled by ODFW for ODOT, "The Impacts of Highways on Wildlife: A Select Review of Mitigation Options" in an effort to provide ODOT with a higher awareness of the problem. Unfortunately many of these methods were too costly to construct; however, ODOT personnel indicated an improved awareness of the importance and magnitude of deer/vehicle collisions. ODFW biologists continue to provide recommendations to ODOT on new projects by participating on ODOT's project management teams.

Additional efforts to decrease or prevent deer/vehicle collisions along Highway 97 have included a Swareflex reflector study in the Deschutes District (ODOT), and Klamath District (ODOT) posted signs at rest stops and truck stops along Highway 97 in an attempt to alert drivers to deer/vehicle collisions. However, neither effort resulted in reduced deer/vehicle collisions.