

Archery Review Committee Meeting February 15, 2014

Welcome and Introductions – *Mark Kirsch*

Brief Refresher on Last Meeting's Outcomes – *Sarah Reif*

- Additional items for parking lot
 1. Bow hunting ethics from a result of crossover (new) hunters.
 2. More complete break with PDP
- Review Tier 1 & 2 issues identified last meeting.
- Review ground rules

Presentations from staff:

Mark Vargas – SW

Marianne Brooks – NW – Committee requested additional years antlerless harvest stats for NW. Marianne will compile and send to Mark and Carol for distribution.

Mike Hansen – NE

Tom Collom – High Desert

Tom Thornton – Cougar info

Presentation: History and Background of the Tier 1 Issues – *Mark Kirsch*

Currently, because the criteria for determining units where antlerless elk harvest is allowed for archery hunters and hunters with disabilities permits is the same, it has the effect of a light switch, all on or all off. The Department is looking for suggestions on how to add archery opportunity in a 'metered" fashion, without it being all or nothing.

ODFW's proposal would provide management flexibility to control either sex (or antlerless) archery hunting and could be applied to any unit where population has fallen below MO. Mark used for an example 2014 Heppner & Ukiah where the Department is offering a controlled hunt for antlerless elk because the populations are increasing even though they are below MO and the level that would be necessary to provide a general season antlerless opportunity. Before the discussions are through we need to talk about how to handle units that are in general season now.

Considerations identified were:

- Where does this apply? When?
- How to break tie to PDP
- Impact on crowding
- Impact on animal displacement
- Keep portability (will discuss later, different proposal)
- Incentives
- When does controlled go back to general
- Will control hunts be subscribed?

Committee discussion topics included:

- The desire to break tie to PDP
- How broadly to implement a new method for determining where antlerless opportunity would be offered
- The need to provide bios with more management tools
- The Hunters birth year (odd/even) determines when they have antlerless in their bag limit
- Limit either sex bag during the season (i.e. full time bull but half the season either sex) in units where switch is already off. Could be unit or zone based.
- Do you use this only when you have a problem or all the time, statewide?

What is the group trying to address, Goals:

- Reach MOs for elk populations
- Enhanced opportunity for archers
- Management tool to control antlerless elk hunt – get away from light switch
- Would apply to any unit where necessary

Committee Selected Alternative for determining when to offer controlled antlerless elk opportunity to archers (general bull seasons still apply). The Committee approved this criteria in concept but final approval is withheld until ODFW identifies triggers/thresholds.

- When population is increasing and at XX% of MO, and calf ratios are $\geq XX/100$, antlerless tags may be offered or increased
- Antlerless tags would be decreased or eliminated when population is below XX% of MO and calf ratio is below $\leq XX/100$
- Threshold as to when to shift back to antlerless elk in the general season bag limit would be when the population is increasing and reaches XX% of MO, and calf ratios are $\geq XX/100$,

Vote (gradient of agreement) to accept proposal, Mark and Tom will provide details on criteria prior to March 8 meeting):

- 5 – Endorsement – 11 votes
- 4 – Support with reservations – 4 votes
- 3 – More discussion needed – 0 votes
- 2 – Don't like but will support – 0 votes
- 1 – Serious disagreement (minority report) – 0 votes

Three alternate Proposals were identified, discussed very briefly, but not moved forward or voted on:

- Zone management
- Allow a hunter to have an antlerless animal in their bag limit during odd or even years depending on the hunter's year of birth.
- Limit either sex bag during the season (i.e. for the full season bulls are allowed but antlerless harvest is restricted to half the season.

Issue 2 – Tied Tags: (a controlled hunt tag for one species is required to hunt the other species; for example, a controlled elk tag is required to hunt deer in a unit)

Mark gave background of tied tags. OSP (Lt Anderson) discussed enforcement issues in the premier trophy units, including investigating 25 illegally taken animals. The tags being tied together help with enforcement. LT Anderson will get the data as to what time in the season the 25 animals were taken and provide information to the Committee.

Options identified to potentially replace “Tied Tags” were:

- Controlled hunts with high or unlimited tag numbers
- Sign in and out of the unit
- Limit deer hunt to first part of the general season.(9 days/two weeks/16 days?)

Public Testimony

Royal Johnson – rifle hunter. All hunters are involved in concern for herds no matter what weapon you use. Rifle hunters have already lost a lot of opportunity. Have to draw to hunt east side. Why doesn't everyone have to draw for east side? Archers can go all over the state. Enforcement is better in controlled hunt. PDP would have to draw too. We don't know how many people hunt in each unit.

(Also stated that the fee for Controlled Hunt application by archers would help ODFW)

Data needs for March 8 meeting:

Antlerless harvest for NW region for years other than 2012

Criteria/thresholds for determining when to offer controlled antlerless elk opportunity to archers

Not included:

Craig Starr questioned “popularity of archery hunting grew” comment made in “White Paper” by Mark K. making the point that archery grew because virtually all rifle hunting in E. Oregon became controlled.