

## **Archery Review Meeting, January 25, 2014**

### **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters Office, Salem, OR**

**Attendance:** Stakeholders – Jake Jones, Matt Radinovich, Randy Haflich, Jim Akenson, Don Backman, George Johnson, Ken Holliday, Matt Blaschka, Rich Thompson, Mike Striegel, Craig Starr, Fred Walasavage, Tony Hilsendager.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) – Sarah Reif, Mark Kirsch, Carol Turner, Don Whittaker, Tom Thornton, Marianne Brooks, Tom Collom, Mark Vargas, Mike Hansen

Oregon State Police (OSP) – Lt. David Andersen, Sr. Trooper Jim Collom

### **Welcome and brief overview by Ron Anglin and Mark Kirsch**

#### **Ron Anglin - Goal:**

Work collaboratively to review archery bag limits and season structure for deer & elk.

#### **Desired outcomes:**

1. Agreement & support for potential management options.
2. A set of recommendations to advance to ODFW administration & Commission.

Some things that this committee will not be looking at:

- No discussion on technology
- No choose your weapon concept
- No mandatory Bow Hunter Education
- No statewide controlled bow hunting

Sarah Reif - What happens with recommendations from group?

Ron – It is ODFW's intention to work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify potential management options. If the ARPAC collaboratively arrives at a set of recommendations, ODFW will make sure those are available for the public's consideration at the Wildlife District public meetings held in May around the state. Ultimately, ODFW may alter or drop some of this Committee's recommendations as it prepares the 2015 hunt recommendations for the October Commission meeting. If they do so, it will be because of other biological/management considerations. However, the full set of recommendations and reports from this Committee will be made available for the Commission to review during the 2015 hunt recommendation process. The Commission looks at support and dissent when making decisions; recommendations that have support and agreement from this Committee will carry significance.

#### **Mark Kirsch - Timeline**

ARPAC committee will meet three times: (today), February 15<sup>th</sup>, and March 8<sup>th</sup>. This spring ODFW will be working to develop its 2015 hunt recommendations for the Commission.

#### **Sarah - Process**

##### **Ground Rules – discussed and agreed to by the stakeholders**

- Designated stakeholders are the only voting members

- Minutes are distributed in a timely manner (including presentations)
- Come prepared for meetings, do your homework
- Consistent participation is key
- Listen actively, Be open minded, Respect each other
- There is no penalty for any comments or questions made in a problem-solving spirit
- Try to speak from your interests, not your positions
- Respect facilitator role
- Keep side conversations to a minimum

**How are we going to make decisions together? (Handout, decision dilemmas summary chart)** The group agreed that the method of decision making depends on the situation. For important decisions, the Gradient of Agreement tool will be used. The Gradient of Agreement is a tool for measuring the level of support for a given recommendation. At important decision points, the Committee will decide whether or not they want to invoke the Gradient of Agreement. The decision will be clearly worded, and the group will register their level of support through a show of fingers, based on this scale:

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

Members agreed that a veto option is not necessary, as long as those that seriously disagree are not obligated to support the Committee's recommendation. A minority report will be developed by those who seriously disagree, and that will be advanced to the Commission alongside the Committee's recommendation.

#### **Technical Reports (presentations available)**

- Tom Thornton – Statewide seasons for past 50 years
- Don Whittaker – Statewide sales trends, hunter numbers, hunter success
- Mike Hansen – Northeast Region
- Marianne Brooks – Northwest Region
- Mark Vargas – Southwest Region
- Tom Collom – High Desert Region

#### **Identify and Prioritize Issues**

Mark – Department topics looking for ideas to address:

1. Antlerless elk harvest/opportunity general archery (currently all or nothing)
2. Tying deer & elk tags together
  - a. Replacement opportunity with last deer hunt (brought up by committee member)
3. "Portability" of controlled tag to general season (Should a controlled hunt tag also be valid for the general season?)

### **Committee Members Identified issues:**

1. Concern with crowding in some units
2. ~~False application issues (residency issues)~~ moved to parking lot
3. ~~Nonresident hunt camp displacement of resident hunters~~ moved to parking lot
4. ~~Predatory management to help deer and elk populations (more hunting opportunity) or (downgrade tag – use deer tag to fill with killing a cougar)~~ moved to parking lot
5. Elk/deer winter range conflicts – during archery season.
6. Elk displacement from public land to private land due to hunting pressure
7. Antler restrictions/bag limits

### **Prioritize issues:**

- **Tier 1 issues**
  - Antlerless elk harvest/opportunity general archery (currently all or nothing)
  - Tying deer & elk tags together
  - Portability of controlled hunt tags to general seasons
  
- **Tier 2 Issues:**
  - Elk/deer winter range conflicts- during archery season.
  - Elk displacement from public land to private land due to hunt pressure
  - Antler restrictions/bag limits
  - Crowding in some units

### **Parking Lot**

1. Acknowledgement of other factors influencing deer/elk populations
  - a. Poaching
  - b. Predation
  - c. Hunt duration
  - d. Habitat
2. False application issues (residency issues) – OSP
3. Nonresident hunt camp displacement of resident hunters – OSP
4. Predatory management to help deer and elk populations (more hunting opportunity) or (downgrade tag – use deer tag to fill with killing a cougar)

### **Data (from ODFW) requests from committee members:**

- Send powerpoint presentations from this meeting to stakeholders for their continued review
- Northwest region – account for all antlerless harvest per unit basis (units from presentations today by staff). Also Sumpter, and Desolation Units (prefer 10 year time frame)
- Provide antlerless harvest statistics for Sumpter, Desolation Units (LOP, tag revalidation harvest, etc.)
- More specific white-tailed deer numbers (Wenaha Unit)

- Number of bow hunter in Silvies, Malheur River, Northside, Murderers Creek (resident and nonresident brake down) for a period of time, such as when changes were made restricting antlerless harvest in other units. Tom – statistics are new with the increase in mandatory reporting but ODFW will see what they can do.
- Learn more about ODFW thoughts on first tier items (before next meeting) – Mark will generate a white paper
- List of units that have tied elk and deer tags and the harvest data – including MDI units
- Recent South Central study data (non-hunting mortality)
- Cow/calf ratio, recruitment rate for the units that were presented today
- Data for Cougar Target Areas

### **Public testimony**

Larry McFarland – hunts Desolation Unit. Cougars coming within 8 feet, and come into camp at night. He was told by other hunters that the state has hired someone to kill 9 cougars in the Desolation. Then found out today you don't take out any cougars, is that true – Mark, yes. Next door in the Ukiah just finished a cougar target area. Out of 60 does, saw 5 fawns. What took out all those fawns? Think we have a cat problem, really bad.

Steve Wegner – hunts Desolation and Sumpter Units for elk. Concern started in 2011 when bag limit went to antlerless only. He talked to the local DB who said trying to bring up population. Moved to other units but was really crowded. Even though can only hunt for bull experience is better. Even though not meeting MO there are still quite a few antlerless hunts and muzzleloader hunts. Feel there is a perception there is not a fair play when it comes to antlerless harvest. Seems like taking away archery tags and not rifle. He wants archery antlerless elk opportunity back. Any animal I can harvest is trophy to me. Equity issue needs to be discussed here. Not numbers but opportunity. When you reduce archery right of the bat it's not fair. Give all legal hunting means an opportunity for antlerless hunting.

Wayne Endicott – 35 year bow hunter. This is all coming from social pressure not biology. Three reviews in a short period of time give us the idea that archery is broken in this state. A hand out presented to group with three key elements.

1. Tag number equity
2. Time equity in the field
3. Freedoms to hunt multiple hunt units

Other public members that did not testify: Scott Wilson, Rocky Maley, Tim Barbouletos, Jeanne Barbouletos.