

# Outdoor Rec / Local

## The drawing for those tags ...



**THE OUTDOOR COLUMN**  
By Todd Arriola

Last month, I reeled in horror at the site of the computer screen, which revealed the results of this year's drawings, for controlled hunting opportunities: one success, out of nine total applications.

I noticed a similar pattern with numerous others, sometimes a whole family's hopes dashed, by a supposedly somewhat random formula.

This inspired me to ask, is the game rigged, or did I derail my own gravy train of game meat?

First, I should start out by saying, I appreciate that I did successfully draw a South Sumpter Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) tag, for a 200 Series antlerless elk. The season runs from October 15, through December 31, and I have no doubt, should I also be successful in harvesting an elk, the meat will also be much appreciated.

I'm a bigger fan of jerky than steaks and burgers from elk or deer, but either way, the feeling of pride and accomplishment would be the same.

Second, I should also point out, in general, I apply for tags for game animals in units which are closer to where I live,

regardless of how many applications were received during the last year, versus the number of tags issued.

This is simple economics, i.e., I don't feel like traveling a great distance, if I don't have to.

As evidence, I provide the following unsuccessful applications: 100 Series Buck Deer, Sumpter (151); 400 Series Antelope, South Sumpter (451B); 500 Series Bighorn Sheep, Burnt River Canyon (551A); 900 Series Rocky Mountain Goat, Elkhorn No. 1 (951A1—okay, I admit, I didn't have high hopes for either the sheep, or the goat); 600 Series Antlerless Deer, Sumpter Unity Agri (651A); Premium Buck Deer, Sumpter (L51); Premium Elk, Sumpter (M51); and Premium Pronghorn Antelope, Sumpter (N51). All of these locations are within a reasonable distance of where I call home.

This brings me to the subject of "preference points," a factor I didn't always take into consideration when applying for hunts.

I had applied for the 100 Series Buck Deer, for the Sumpter WMU, as my first choice (I've added a second, and a third choice for different WMUs in the past), but I didn't draw it, which means, a preference point was added to my total points for 100 Series Buck Deer for future drawings.

I didn't draw my first

choice for 400 Series Pronghorn Antelope, and so, a preference point was added also to that total, plus a preference point to the total for 600 Series Antlerless Deer, since I was also unsuccessful there.

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), each application is assigned a random, 10-digit number. Members of the public are invited to ODFW headquarters to pick a random, 10-digit start number for each hunt series (call 503-947-6108 to participate), and a computer uses those random starting numbers to select successful applications.

A far as hunting parties are concerned, the leader's 10-digit number is the only one used in the drawing.

The drawing allocates 75% of first choice available tags for a hunt to those applicants with existing preference points, and the remaining 25% are drawn from a random pool of all applicants, which, according to ODFW, ensures all applicants have a chance to draw a tag each year they apply.

Applicants are grouped by preference points, arranged by 10-digit numbers within the groups, and tags are awarded first to those applicants whose 10-digit numbers are closest to the start number.

This process continues with the applicant having the second closest number, and so on, until 75% of the available tags are awarded, or until all first choice applicants have received tags.

The rest of the applicants are rearranged by a 10-digit random number, and awarded the remaining 25% of tags.

A few things to consider, when trying to decide

on application methods: according to ODFW, a party applicant's points are determined by totaling the preference points of all members, and then calculating the average; new preference points, for next year's drawing, show up on January 1st; if there is a non-resident in your party, the entire party is put in non-resident status; and only 3% to 5% (depending on the species) of the total tags available for each hunt go to non-residents.

The point summary reports on ODFW's website, and the Oregon Tag Draw Percentages website are two resources ODFW recommends in order to determine draw odds, but I ignored that advice this year, since I opted to apply for hunts located near me, in familiar units.

If I decide to apply more of a formula to my applications the next time, and use more than familiarity and economics as a basis for applying, I'll take into consideration factors such as this year's first choice applicants, versus tags issued, for a particular hunt, and the point summary reports.

I did pay a total of \$72 for my nine applications, at \$8 each, so, it would seem I've wasted \$64, but that's how the random game goes, I guess, and I did contribute to ODFW's funding, about 40% of which comes from licenses and fees.

I think it may have been just the "luck of the draw," sans any conspiratorial connection.

Plus, I still have two cougar tags, and a possible deer bowhunting opportunity, among other potential adventures this year...

## Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Miller said that while the weather could have been better resulting in a larger turnout, vendors and business still did well.

He said motels were filled to capacity throughout the region—John Day, La Grande, and other surrounding communities, and the Truck Corral has seen a spike in business during past rallies of up to 35%.

A buffalo burger fundraiser in Halfway to pay for fireworks for next year's 4th of July celebration, relies heavily on the motorcyclists's business, Miller said.

Folkestad, whose company produces all of the materials for the rallies, jokingly made note of the weather: "They moved the rally to July (from June) to escape the rain, and it didn't work out that well."

He's heard many positive comments regarding the rally, and he said that Baker County has geographical sites already appealing to visitors, without needed enhancement. "People are never disappointed (with the region)..."

He said that May 19, 2006 marked the beginning of the first "big" rally, attracting about 4,000 motorcyclists to the area, and since that time, the organizational team has been holding the same type of event every year.

The rallies were held on Main Street, with the exception of a few years, when they were held at the Sunridge Inn.

Support then came from Historic Baker City (HBC), and the City, and the event was again moved downtown, back to Main Street, he said, where it's currently held.

"It doesn't really matter where it's held; what matters is that we have well-thought-out routes, and we've got plenty of stuff for the riders to do, besides just sitting around town ...Our focus is on motorcycling, and not on partying ..."

Each year, Folkestad said, there's ongoing effort to expand routes, in order to be able to include all types of motorcyclists. Current routes reach as far south as Owyhee Dam, as far north as Joseph, as far east as Cambridge, Idaho, and as far west as Ukiah. "It's very diverse; we send them out all over the place, and they just have a great time," Folkestad said.

The rally included music performed at six different venues, for the first time "...since I've been in Baker," Miller said. "I think people really enjoyed that. A lot of locals came out, as well."

Among these locations were the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall, Lefty's Taphouse, Barley Brown's, Lone Pine Cafe, Corner Brick Bar & Grill, and the Eagles Lodge.

The music provided at Lefty's was courtesy of the Best Western/Sunridge Inn, he said.

Jerry Peacock, Director at Baker Technical Institute (BTI), said that Baker High School (BHS) hosted around 150 motorcyclists, as part of a camping fundraiser, held on the grounds north of the High School. The accommodations included outside showers and porta-potties (campers brought their own tents, gear, and other supplies), and Peacock said, "We provide large quantities of Baker County hospitality, and they appreciate that ... It's been a good fundraiser ...We've been doing it for around six to eight years."

The money, around potentially \$4,000 raised, (still being calculated at the time of this writing) helps to support BHS's athletic programs, he said, because the general budget falls short of coverage.

He said that with a boost in business for area restaurants and motels, "These are things that are good for the community ... I've never had anything but positive interactions with these folks (the motorcyclists). They're polite, they're respectful, they're here to have fun, in a good way ... It's a good event for us."

The average age of the attendees/motorcyclists is around 52, 80% are married, 80% are college educated, and the average income is well over \$100,000, Miller said, and, "It couldn't be a better demographic," for an economic boost to the community, and for the potential of long-term residents to migrate to Baker City, as he explained that the rally makes an excellent marketing tool, in addition to other benefits.

Miller said that the planning for next year's rally is well underway, and the timing of the event is expected to remain the same, along with a large number of vendors already signing on, plus the expected reappearance of the CMA.

The VFW's breakfast on Saturday and Sunday is the biggest fundraiser for that organization of the year.

Speaking about the rally itself, Miller said, "It's the largest economic event of the year, not just for the City of Baker, but really the whole region."

## Comment on proposed changes for disabled hunters

ODFW is looking for input on potential changes for Oregon hunters with an Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit. The Commission will consider these changes at

their Sept. 2 meeting in Welches.

Permits are given to people who provide written certification of a permanent disability from a medical professional and

to veterans of the Armed Forces with at least a 65 percent service-connected disability rating. Permit holders get an expanded bag limit during certain hunting seasons. Hunters

with a disabilities permit may also shoot from a parked vehicle and get assistance from an able-bodied companion.

For more information on the program or commenting, visit <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/disability>.

## The Baker County Press

### Subscribe Today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Only**  
\$29.95/yr.

**Print (Delivery)**  
\$39.95/yr.  
Inside Baker City  
City Limits Only

**Print (Mail)**  
\$49.95/yr.  
Outside Baker City  
City Limits Only

1. Make check payable to: Black Lyon Publishing, LLC
2. Mail the check with this completed form to:  
PO Box 567, Baker City, Ore. 97814

To pay by credit card, please visit [www.TheBakerCountyPress.com](http://www.TheBakerCountyPress.com)

### Antique/Collectable Liquidation

**July 16th., 2016 at 10 A.M. MDT**

**Place:** 454 N. Oregon St. Ontario, Or. From exit 376A go west on Idaho Ave., go under the overpass and turn right (north), go 4 blocks.

**Terms:** Cash or bankable check day of sale. No merchandise removed prior to settlement. 10% buyers premium. Concessions on site.

**Auctioneers Note:** Debi and Jimmie Stovall have been collecting and selling antiques and collectables for the last 20+ years. Now it is time for a change of direction in their lives. This will be a total liquidation of over 4,000 sq. ft. of inventory to include all fixtures. At the end of the day the shop will be empty. Please bring boxes, padding, and the ability to load the display cases.

**Antiques and Collectables:**

- Homer Laughlin
- Johann Haviland
- Black Amethyst
- Cranberry
- Shawnee
- Hull; Hall
- paper items

- Prints
- Western collectables
- Tools
- Vintage clothing
- Earthenware
- Steamer trunks
- Too much more to list

*If you're looking for it, it is probably here. To view pictures and a detailed list go to our web site, [www.snakeriverauction.com](http://www.snakeriverauction.com). To arrange absentee or telephonic bidding call Roger at (541) 212-5918.*

Sale Conducted by  
**Snake River Auction LLC**  
**Box 672 \* Payette, Idaho 83661**  
**Roger K. Nakashima**