

Tribal offices are closed to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions. Tribal members who want a tag should call to have tags mailed to them beginning the first date of tag issuance – 541-444-8227 or 541-444-8232.

Type of Tag		Number Available	Season Dates	Date to Start Tag Issuance	Method of Issuance
Deer	Early Archery***	50	8/27-9/25	8/1 at 8 a.m. at Natural Resources office	First-come, first-served*
	General Rifle	375	10/1-11/4**	8/15	First-come, first-served*
	Antlerless – Adult	12	10/1-11/4	Lottery applications available 8/1; due 8/26 ; drawing 9/6; tags issued 9/7	Lottery – open to elders only
	Antlerless – Youth	8	10/1-11/6	Lottery applications available 8/1; due 8/26 ; drawing 9/6; tags issued 9/7	Lottery – open to youth ages 12-17 only
	Late Archery	50 (minus # of early season tags filled)	11/19-12/11	<i>First Distribution:</i> 10/17 at 8 a.m. at NR office <i>Second Distribution:</i> 10/31 at 8 a.m. at NR office (see Note 2 below)	First-come, first-served*
Elk	Antlerless – Youth	3	8/15-12/31	Lottery applications available 6/1; due 7/1 ; drawing 7/5; tags issued 7/6	Lottery – open to youth ages 12-17 only
	Early Archery	25	8/27-9/25	8/1 at 8 a.m. at Natural Resources office	First-come, first-served*
	1 st Season Rifle	25	11/12-11/15	Lottery applications available 8/29; due 9/23 ; drawing 10/3; tags issued 10/4	Lottery
	2 nd Season Rifle	25	11/19-11/25		
	Antlerless	15	1/1/23-3/31/23	Lottery applications available 8/29; due 9/23 ; drawing 10/3; tags issued 12/1	Lottery
	Late Archery Antlerless	56	11/26-12/11	<i>First Distribution:</i> 10/17 at 8 a.m. at NR office <i>Second Distribution:</i> 10/31 at 8 a.m. at NR office (see Note 2 below)	First-come, first-served*
Salmon	Salmon	200	11/1-12/30 (estimate)	8/15	First-come, first-served

* No early calls to “save” a tag for someone. Must call to have a tag mailed no earlier than the first day of distribution.

** Season for youth ages 12-17 is 10/1-11/6 (two additional days at end of general season)

*** **Unfilled Deer Early Bow tags must be returned to Natural Resources by 10/7.**

NOTE 1: A Tribal member can obtain only **one** elk tag in their name during the 2022-2023 hunting season (bow, bull and cow tags all count toward the one tag), except as noted below.

NOTE 2: *First Distribution:* For hunters who have not been issued an early season deer archery tag (for deer tags) or any elk tag (for elk tags).

Second Distribution: For any eligible hunter, regardless of what other tags they have received.

around with their hooks because the water was always kind of boiling like. When they threw the eels out, there would be kids there to pick them up and put them into sacks. You know, they never really counted their eels until they were to split them up.

Was there a great number of eels hooked?

Yeah, there was.

You talk about using pitch when you hooked eels in the boat. Did they take it out in the boat with them?

Yeah, they took them out after they have built a place on the boat. They would use a piece of tin or something that wouldn't burn the boat and then they would pile other things ... they wouldn't make a big fire, but just enough to have a blaze so you can see into the water. A lot of them used to use gas lanterns. After they got away from using pitch, using the modern way, gas lanterns, and when you seen a white streak going, you know it was an eel.

It was probably a lot cleaner, you didn't have to deal with the smoke.

When they come you can see them. Before they climb that riffle they would wait to give themselves a chance to rest. And generally that is where they get hooked.

How long were the poles that they used?

Oh, a lot them had real long poles because up Sam's Creek it is quite a ways down. You would feel for your eel rather than see them. When it would run good you could just throw them out one, two, three, if the eels were running good.

What did they usually make their hooks out of?

Pitch forks. Charles (husband) always used to cut up dad's (Wilberton Orton) pitchfork. His dad was pretty mad at him for cutting up his pitch forks. Then they use the great big nails too. Then they file it down.

What were the signs to you that the eels are going to run?

Well, generally it is about this time of the year, like June or July. It has to be a hot day and the eel is going to run good, you know. Since they have been plugging up the waterways, the eels can't go up to spawn. So they just don't come in any-more, it seems like. Or they are putting too much chlorine into the water. It just kills them.

Can you describe what the eels look like? Color, size and general appearance?

Night eels are dark. They are longer. The sun eels are kind of lighter color, they eat them too, but they say it doesn't taste as good as the night eel. The night eel is always longer and they come in from the ocean, but the sun eel is always in the river. The night eel come just certain times of the year. Same as fish.

What were the stream conditions in the past? When the eels were running good, was it low water or high?

Generally, in the summertime it is

never really too high, but that is why they still need to be at the top of the riffle.

You could just about see them coming?

Yeah, you can see them coming.

Did you ever see or hook eels during the day?

I never did ...

Have you ever seen where the eels spawn?

No, but they say when they do spawn they get in a ball ... just pile together ...

What color did the little ones look like?

I don't think they looked any different when they are ready to spawn. The day eel and the night eel I don't think changed in color.

How long did the eel run last?

It will run for oh, at least two to three weeks anyhow, good eeling. You can get quite a few eels. A lot of people smoked them and they canned them. My mother (Ellen Metcalf) used to salt them, like you would do fish. Did you ever eat eels?

Yeah, that was a long time ago. How many people did you see hooking eels at one time?

Oh, I don't know, but when they get a gathering they have like Indian dance, you know, people would bring whatever they could. Like I'll bring eels and you bring jerky ...

Did you know of anyone who trapped eels on the Siletz?

Oh, you mean in the eel basket? Older people used to do that. Their baskets were made so the eel can go in, but not out. Then they would go and pick up their basket the next day and sometimes they would get quite a few. It was a round basket like, and there was a round funnel. The eels would go in there and not know how to swim back out ...

Was there more than one run?

No, just that one. Generally, it is in between May and June.

What other types of animals were abundant on the Siletz?

Deer and stuff like that.

I was talking about like the river mussels and etc.?

Yeah, river mussel, they were good. They were in little black shells and they grow where there is a lot of rock. They are good to boil and if a fellow grinds them up, it would make good fritters.

Today is there people still eating them?

I don't know of anyone going out and looking for them today. There used to be a lot where (Archie) Ben's place is. We use to go dig them for her and she would put them in a pot and boil them the same as with mussels.

Do you think that the abundance of these animals have changed over a period of time? Have you seen less of them?

Yes, I think so, because you do not see them as much as you used to. And there's not much of anything now, not much deer or anything.

How were the eels prepared after they were caught?

Some would bake them, some would fry them, some would smoke them, boil