

REGULATION: Simplifying regulations complicated

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tion handbooks. “If you don’t grow up in it, you don’t know where such-and-such falls are,” he said. “If you don’t know the area like the back of our hand, you’re basically shooting in the dark.” Buckley said he takes the regulations seriously and strives to understand and follow them so he is on the right side of the law. Larry Moody of Pendleton said he has had to call ODFW for clarification on regulations. He, too, suggested better maps. Moody, like Buckley, said the description of boundaries are hard to understand when you plan your hunt.

Simplifying the regulations is complicated, Myatt said, and “a pretty heavy lift for us. And the problem wasn’t created overnight. It was many decades in the making.”

The team split work into three phases. The first was to focus on making the handbook more reader-friendly, from improving the organization to getting rid of redundancies.

“If there was something really important, we felt like we needed to say it over and over again in there,” he said. That’s going away, along with the heavy use of legalese. Some regulations used the language of the state laws. In this year’s handbook, Myatt said the team collected everything related to youth hunting and collected them in a two-page section.

The team also added more maps and tables to present information. “I feel like we got about 70 percent of the way there,” he said. “We have a lot more planned for the coming year.”

The second phase is happening now — reviewing the general hunting regs, weapon restrictions and youth programs. The team



Oregon State Police fish and wildlife trooper Ryan Sharp checks the fishing license of Kyle Barthel, left, and Jessy Morton on Thursday at Hat Rock State Park northeast of Hermiston.

came up with 32 proposals, and Myatt last week in Baker City briefed the state Fish and Wildlife Commission about those. Some of the major change are:

- Standardize the minimum draw weight for bows at 40 pounds for all big game mammals.
- Eliminate the prohibition against decoys with moving parts when big game hunting
- Simplify requirements for legal muzzleloaders and make it clear sabots or sabot bullets are unlawful.

Two other proposals would require legislative approval. The first would limit leftover tag purchases to people who previously applied for a tag but did not draw. This would allow more people an opportunity to hunt each year.

The second would streamline limits on non-resident tags, capping those at 5 percent of all deer, elk, pronghorn, and bear controlled hunt tags.

The team reworded several regulations, including prohibiting rifle hunting without a valid deer or elk tag during certain periods and the proof of sex

requirements. The team also culled regulations it deemed unnecessary or redundant.

For a full list of the proposals, visit <https://bit.ly/2spD7KJ>.

Myatt explained dropping the draw weight of a bow to 40 pounds from 50 would put Oregon in line with other states and remove a barrier to youth and smaller hunters. Besides, he said, the technology for archery equipment has advanced to where a 40-pound bow today delivers the same effect a 50-pound bow did years ago.

Delyria said he wants the state to allow mechanical broadheads for archery hunting, which deploy their blades in flight. He said there is plenty of evidence to show they make for faster kills.

Mechanical broadheads have drawn the most public comment, Myatt said, and the commission received a briefing on them. But they are not on the recommended list of changes for now. Myatt said there is no good evidence to show mechanical broadheads are more effective than traditional broadheads, particularly

on larger game such as elk. For now, he said, Oregon remains one of two states in the lower 48 that prohibits them.

The last of the three phases, Myatt said, “is where we dig into the hunts themselves.” That means they will considering scheduling, size and shape.

Wyatt said the goal of simplifying and updating the regs is to entice more people to hunt in Oregon. The project does not touch on the cost of hunting, which was the top complaint from Delyria, Buckley and Moody.

The commission considers the final proposals when it meets Sept. 14 in Bandon. (Except for legislative concepts, which would go before state lawmakers in the 2019 legislative session.) Myatt said hunters and the rest of the public can come to testify or send comments to odfw.commission@state.or.us.

Oregon State Police Sgt. Tim Brown oversees fish and game troopers based in Pendleton. He said the revisions might not make the handbook any shorter, but likely easier to read. He was pragmatic about what

Trump distances from Cohen as raided docs are analyzed

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is distancing himself from Michael Cohen amid an FBI investigation into his longtime personal lawyer’s business dealings.

“I’ve always liked Michael. I haven’t spoken to Michael in a long time,” Trump said to reporters at the White House on Friday. Asked if Cohen, long among Trump’s most trusted fixers, was still his attorney, the president said no.

“No he’s not my lawyer anymore. But I’ve always liked Michael. And I think he’s a good person,” he said.

His comments came on a day when it became clear that a review of materials

seized in raids on Cohen’s home and office in April won’t significantly slow a criminal investigation of his business dealings. The review is to determine which materials should be withheld from prosecutors because of attorney-client privilege.

Barbara Jones, a former federal judge appointed by a judge to oversee the review, reported in a court filing that “substantial progress and diligent effort” by attorneys for Cohen, Trump and the Trump Organization meant that a deadline to finish the work by Friday should be extended 10 more days.

Cohen has not been charged with a crime.

DAD: Give him a laugh

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trying to elicit a laugh or at least a response.

That’s my excuse anyway. Carrying a dumb joke in my brain all day to share with my kids seems like a reasonable use of my mental energy. If it works once, why not keep it on hand for another dull moment? And if not, maybe it will next time!

Fathers don’t expect these jokes to be carried on forever (sorry, Dad) but they do hope their words of wisdom will live on in their children. We want to pass along the best of us while leaving out the worst. We want our kids to know joy and laughter in a safe and loving environment.

And that’s how a dad joke is born. It’s sharing a little levity without the sharp edges of an adult joke, a gentle ribbing or inanity without a target

or victim. It’s a chance to laugh together, whether or not everyone is on board. And few things are more satisfying than watching a child get a joke for the first time.

Dads are also incredibly resilient to negative responses to their jokes. Performing to a silent and bored audience has ended thousands of would-be comics’ careers, but a dad can sustain years of eye rolls and exasperation for that one unexpected chuckle.

So on Father’s Day, give your dad that chuckle. Maybe even find a truly pungent pun to share with him.

And if he doesn’t laugh, it’s all right. You’ll get him next time.

Daniel Wattenburger is the managing editor of the East Oregonian. Share your favorite pun with him at dwattenburger@eastoregonian.com.

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*Offers valid through 7/1/18 at participating dealers while supplies last. All prices are SNW-SRP. Available at participating dealers while supplies last. [†]The actual listed guide bar length may vary from the effective cutting length based on which powerhead it is installed on. © 2018 STIHL SNW18-522-140810-4

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