

Fall tags reduced for some deer, elk hunts

Tag numbers for some deer and elk hunts this fall have been reduced from the numbers shown in the 2020 Big Game Regulations.

The reduction of a total of 3,953 buck tags and 287 antlerless deer tags affects deer hunts in Desolation, Fort Rock, Hood, Metolius, Mt. Emily, Northside, Paulina, Silver Lake, Sprague, Ukiah, Walla Walla, and White River Units.

A total of 670 elk tags are being reduced in Imnaha, Maury, and Zumwalt Prairie hunts (Sled Springs and Chesnimnus). See tables below for details.

The deer tag reductions are due to fewer mule deer being observed during fall surveys.

ODFW wildlife biologists believe ongoing disease outbreaks in central and eastern Oregon are the main cause of the decline.

A large outbreak of EHD was document-

ed this year, which led to a die-off of white-tailed deer in the Walla Walla, Mt. Emily and Ukiah Units and also impacted some mule deer. In addition to EHD, an uptick of cases of adenovirus hemorrhagic disease (AHD) has been observed throughout the state.

The disease is usually fatal to deer and death can occur in three to five days from the time the deer was exposed to the virus.

AHD is transmitted primarily from "nose-to-nose" contact between infected animals and usually occurs in summer through fall, particularly during drier weather that congregates deer near water.

"While not as severe as the EHD outbreak that caused a significant die-off of white-tails, we have continued to see AHD-caused mortalities of mule deer in central and south central Oregon for the last several years," said Kevin Blakely, ODFW assis-

tant wildlife division administrator. "Fewer mule deer were observed during population surveys in these units so we need to reduce tags.

"While cutting buck tags will not result in a population increase, as populations decline fewer bucks are available, so tags need to be reduced to maintain buck ratios."

Earlier this year ODFW announced hunt cancellations for white-tailed deer hunts in Walla Walla, Mt. Emily and Ukiah Units due to the outbreak of EHD.

Tag numbers for some elk hunts are also being reduced, though not due to disease.

While Rocky Mountain elk are doing well throughout eastern Oregon, antlerless elk tags are being reduced in the Imnaha and Chesnimnus units.

The elk populations in these two units are now at or close to the population MOs (management objectives) so tags are being

reduced to numbers intended to maintain populations near MO.

Elk tags are also being reduced in the Maury unit where fewer elk were in the unit the last several hunting seasons and hunter success has been very low.

The controlled hunt deadline remains May 15, 2020. Hunters who have already applied may change their hunt choices free of charge until June 1, 2020.

Hunters can adjust their application through their online account (under Recreational Portfolio/Controlled Hunts; see how-to online).

If you need assistance, contact ODFW Licensing at odfw.websales@state.or.us (503) 947-6101.

Note that fewer licensing staff are currently working due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so be patient when calling or emailing.

Wildfire Awareness Month focuses on making homes wildfire-safe

May is Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon, and federal, state and fire-fighting agencies are encouraging Oregonians to make sure their homes and property are protected from wildfire.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and Keep Oregon Green, in collaboration with Oregon forest protective associations, the Office of Emergency Management and federal wildland agencies, are taking this opportunity to promote defensible space around homes before fire strikes this summer. With many Oregonians spending more time at home because of statewide efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, residents can use the coming weeks to reduce risks and make their homes and communities safer.

"The roof is one of the most critical parts of the house when it comes to

wildfire protection," says Oregon State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. "Embers can collect and ignite on the roof, in gutters and enter unscreened openings around the house. Non-combustible roofing material is preferred. Regardless of the construction, please keep your roofs, gutters and eaves clear of all leaves, pine needles and other flammable debris."

To reduce the risk, fire officials suggest removing dead vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around homes and other structures. In most cases, trees and healthy plants do not need to be removed. However, trees should be pruned and grass kept short and green to keep fire on the ground and more manageable by fire crews. Maintain a five-foot fire-free area closest to the home using nonflammable landscaping material and fire-resistant plants.

"Defensible space is a property's first line of de-

fense against wildfire," says Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Prevention Coordinator Tom Fields. "Creating and maintaining defensible space around homes can improve your property's likelihood of surviving a wildfire. Having defensible space also makes it safer for firefighters who may have to defend someone's home."

Homeowners should also consider access issues for large fire trucks. Long driveways should be at least 12 feet wide, have 10 feet of vegetation clearance from the centerline out, and about 14 feet overhead. Large vehicle turnaround areas are critical for your safety as well as firefighter safety.

Should a fire occur near a community, Oregon Office of Emergency Management Director Andrew Phelps encourages residents to be prepared if an evacuation is necessary. "Wildfires can come without warning and

move quickly, so residents need to prepare now in case they have to leave their home," Phelps said. "Make sure to put together a 'Go Kit,' register for emergency notification systems in your community and make a plan where your family will go and how you will stay in contact if evacuated."

It is the homeowner's responsibility to protect their homes by building defensible space. For more information, visit the websites for the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Office of Emergency Management, Keep Oregon Green and the Oregon Department of Forestry, or call your nearest ODF or forest protective association office.

Additional information on preparing for wildfires can be found on the Ready.gov website.

Meals from B1

Card in the mail. Families who have experienced significant income loss may have become eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, and there is still time to apply. Apply online at <https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/FRLApp/Default> or contact your local school.

Benefits will be retroactive to March 16 for students who received free and reduced-price meals when schools closed. For newly eligible free or reduced-price meals or SNAP households, benefits will start at the beginning of the month they become eligible. Eligible families will receive the following for each child:

- \$69 for March
- \$126 in April
- \$120 in May
- \$69 in June

Additional options to strengthen food security among Oregonians, include the ability for households to:

- Use their EBT card to include online food purchases through Amazon and Walmart (delivery fees not included).
- Take advantage of the double up food bucks program, which matches every \$1 of EBT funds spent - up to \$10 - on fresh fruit and vegetables at participating local farmers markets.

DHS will continue to work with federal partners to provide greater assistance to Oregonians in need. To apply for Nutrition Assistance, visit needfood.oregon.gov or call 2-1-1.

Tax Problems: RESOLVED

There are many ways we can tackle IRS or State tax relief together:

- ✓ Tax Levies & Liens Release
- ✓ Resolve Back Taxes
- ✓ Wage Garnishment Release
- ✓ Payroll Tax Negotiation
- ✓ Stop Penalties and Interest
- ✓ Tax Preparation & Bookkeeping Services
- ✓ Tax Debt Negotiation & Settlement

Call us now for your FREE tax consultation & evaluation:
844-945-2056

Anthem offers a money-back guarantee designed to help you avoid wasting money on ineffective tax services. We will gather as much information from you as necessary and work with tax authorities to give you the best chance of reducing your tax debt. If for any reason that does not work out, and the government notifies us they refuse to reduce your overall tax liability or monthly payments by any amount, we will gladly refund you the fees you paid for our services in trying to reduce that debt. Money Back Guarantee does not apply to bookkeeping and Tax Preparation Services.

YOUR PERFECT BUNDLE

BUNDLE NOW. SAVE ALL YEAR. \$79.98/mo.

Now save \$30/mo. for a whole year on a bundle with DIRECTV and AT&T Internet.

CALL your AT&T Dealer Today! | **1-877-441-1933**

AT&T Preferred Dealer

dish **BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!** **Blazing Fast Internet!**

ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99 America's Top 120 Package
190 CHANNELS for 12 Mos. Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/15/20.

Save Now On Home Security

ADT® 24/7 Monitored Home Security

MONITORING \$27.99 PER MONTH

- 24/7 monitoring provides peace of mind
- Yard sign and window decals help deter crime
- Quickly connect to fire and emergency response
- May qualify for a homeowners insurance discount

1-888-414-3161
WE'RE AVAILABLE 24/7—CALL TODAY!

Protect Your Home

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere - even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom and Independence NOW!

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit
1-855-839-0752

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

DONATE YOUR CAR
1-844-533-9173

FREE TOWING TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually

Heritage for the Blind

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid March 16, 2020 - June 30, 2020

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

ENGLERT LeafGuard®

is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

PLUS

\$99 INSTALLATION

RECEIVE A \$25 LOWE'S GIFT CARD

WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE! **

541-213-2311

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!

- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH
- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY