

# Few major changes seen for 1978 big game season

Deer and elk harvests and the number of hunters stalking their prey in Eastern Oregon reached record numbers last year and all indications are that another healthy hunting year looms, according to Glen Ward, biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Ward said a total of 10,160 hunters bagged over 5,900 deer in his management units (Heppner and Columbia Basin) last year. Another 7,600 hunters took 1,128 elk.

"We had good winter carry-over and with the heavy forage it looks like another good year ahead," said Ward. The Game Commission

adopted a number of changes in seasons and special permit hunts, explained below.

Mule deer season will again be 12 days long, extending from September 30 through October 11. In seven units with low buck ratios or deer populations below management objectives the season will end earlier on October 6. Some 26,050 controlled unit tags for antlerless deer and 3,700 agricultural damage permits were authorized.

Deer hunters on both sides of the Cascades will have an opportunity to apply for \$5 antlerless deer tags which will be separate from, and in addition to, the general season

buck tag. Successful applicants would then be allowed two deer.

Rocky Mountain elk season has been reduced by four days and will run from November 4 through 15 for spike bulls or better. An exception is the Snake River Unit which will again have a 3-point rule. Hunting there will also require a permit the same as for the Tioga and Saddle Mountain units on the west side.

Bull hunting in the Chesnimnus Unit will be limited to 3,000 permit holders with permits issued on a first come, first served basis. The Sled Springs Unit which was under a controlled entry system last year was dropped this year and several other units under consideration for controlled entry also were not approved.

Sentiment against limited entry bull hunting was expressed by many who testified at town hall meetings. Commissioners were concerned about limited entry on a piecemeal basis because hunters displaced from units with controlled entry are forced into other units, aggravating crowding problems there.

A majority of commissioners agreed that controlled entry will eventually become necessary if hunter numbers continue to grow but felt the regulation should be applied in large scale when and if it does become essential.

An antlerless elk season will be conducted before the general bull season in four Rocky Mountain units. In a number of other units antler-

less seasons will be held after the general bull seasons as in the past. Some 10,575 permits have been authorized in all.

A five-day antelope season will begin August 19 and extend through August 23 in 21 southeast Oregon management units with 1,150 buck tags authorized. In addition, 100 antelope doe tags were set for two hunts in the Murderer's Creek Unit and 30 doe tags for the Ochoco Unit. Both are units with growing herds of antelope living predominantly on private property.

A month-long December cougar season was set with 130 permits authorized in seven areas.

Hunting for bigjorn sheep will take place in five areas with 35 tags authorized in all. Two areas, Hurricane Ridge in the Wallows and Strawberry Mountain near John Day, are new this year.

Bowhunting and muzzle loader seasons are generally similar to last year with a few changes in dates and area boundaries.

Controlled hunt regulations and application cards should be available at license vendors throughout the state by about June 19. Applicants for antelope and August or early September elk hunts should not delay getting cards turned in because the application deadline for these hunts is July 5. For deer, sheep, cougar, and other controlled elk hunts the application deadline is July 18.

A more detailed summary of 1978 big game seasons is

presented below. Some management unit names have recently been changed to avoid confusion with counties

of the same name. A list of the new unit names and their former names follows. New unit maps are being printed.

## Unit Name Changes

New Name	Old Name
Saddle Mountain	Clatsop
Stott Mountain	Polk
Indigo	Parts of McKenzie and Dixon
Hood	Hood River
White River	Wasco
Biggs	Sherman
Fossil	Wheeler
Upper Deschutes	Deschutes
Klamath Falls	Klamath
Mt. Emily	Umatilla
Sumpter	Baker

## MULE DEER SEASONS

General buck season: September 30-October 11  
Bag: Two points or better

Exceptions:

Bag: Four points or better (Beatys Butte, Steens Mountain, Whitehorse)  
Season: September 30-October 6  
(Desolation, Interstate, Keating, Klamath, Lookout Mountain, Maury, Pine Creek)

Controlled mule deer unit hunts (\$5 tag): October 14-22

Bag: One antlerless deer

Exceptions: Bag: One deer (Hood and White River)

## Northeast Region

Catherine Creek	1,000
Chesnimnus	500 (part of unit)
Columbia Basin	600
Fossil	3,000
Heppner	3,500
Keating	1,000
Lookout Mountain	750
Minam	500
Mt. Emily	750
Murderer's Creek	3,500
Northside	3,500 (also December 2 & 3)
Sled Springs	300
Sumpter	800
Ukiah	850
Wenaha	400
	20,950

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK SEASONS

General bull season: November 4-15

Bag: Spike or better

Exceptions:

Bag: Three points or better (Snake River)  
Controlled entry bull season: Chesnimnus 3,000 permits; Snake River (Free permit required that restricts hunter to this unit; no limit on permit numbers)

## Preseason Rocky Mountain elk antlerless unit hunts

October 23-November 1	Bag: One antlerless elk
Chesnimnus	300 permits
Starkey	350 permits
Ukiah	350 permits
October 14-November 1	Bag: One antlerless elk
Minam	200 permits

## Rocky Mountain elk unit hunts: November 18-26

	permits		permits
Catherine Creek	100	Northside	100
Chesnimnus	300	Pine Creek	200
Desolation	500	Sled Springs (2 hunts)	550
Fossil	50	Snake River	400
Heppner	700	Starkey	350
Imnaha	300	Sumpter (2 hunts)	800
Keating	400	Ukiah (3 hunts)	750
Lookout Mountain	75	Walla Walla	250
Minam	400	Wenaha	250
Mt. Emily	500	White River (S <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> )	100
Murderer's Creek	50	Beulah	100
		Total:	7,225

## ANTELOPE SEASONS

General season: August 19-23

Bag: Buck permit—horns longer than ears

Doe permit—horns shorter than ears

## EASTERN OREGON BOW SEASONS

Bag: One deer and one elk

August 26-September 24 Desolation, Keating, Minam, Starkey, Sumpter, Upper Deschutes, Sled Springs, and White River units; Mt. Emily and Prairie Creek areas  
August 26-October 22 Canyon Creek

## MUZZLE LOADER SEASONS

Bag: One buck two points or better

September 16-24 Indigo Unit (portion)

October 14-22 Hart Mountain (200 permits)

Bag: One deer

November 25-December 17 Patterson Mountain

Bag: One white-tailed deer

November 25-December 3 Wenaha and Flora areas

## Little League now past midseason mark

With the 1978 Willow Creek Little League season now past the midway mark, results have been tallied for midseason standings.

The Dodgers topped the season's first half of play, ending up with a perfect 9-0 record. In second place were the Braves at 5-4, followed by the Giants at 4-5, and the Indians at 0-9.

As of this Monday, during the second half of season play, the Braves lead the standings at 3-0, including a 9-8 win last Wednesday over the Dodgers. The Dodgers, who now stand

1-2 in second-half play, were also beaten by the Giants, who have logged two wins and a loss in the second half of the season. The Indians remain without a win, their most recent loss going to the Giants during a game last Thursday.

Games were canceled due to rain on Monday. The Braves are scheduled to play the Indians at lone at 6 p.m. today, with the Giants set to appear with the Braves next Monday. The Dodgers will face the Indians on Tuesday, then meet the Giants on Wednesday. All games start at 6 p.m.

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