

# Commission sets game tag dates

Controlled hunts for antelope, bighorn sheep and cougar have been set by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, and a separate deer tag for bowhunters was authorized which would require hunters to choose between deer hunting with a rifle

or with a bow, but not both. The season for pronghorn antelope will run from August 18 through August 22 with 1,215 buck tags authorized in 23 areas. That is 75 tags more than were granted last year. Two Gerber Reservoir antelope seasons for bowhunters

were also set with no limit on the number of hunters allowed to participate in each. Last year the hunt was limited to 200 bowhunters but many of those tags went unused. Thirty-seven permits were authorized for hunting bighorn sheep in five areas, two more

permits than last year. One hunt each was set for Strawberry Mountain near John Day and for the Owyhee Canyon in southeast Oregon. Two hunting periods each were set for Steens and Hart mountains in southeast Oregon and on Hurricane Divide

in the Wallows. Hunters receiving a tag to hunt bighorn sheep will be required to attend a scheduled orientation period prior to hunting. Sheep hunting in Oregon is literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and those who draw a tag may never apply again.

Cougar seasons were set for seven areas in northeastern and western Oregon, with 140 tags authorized. All seasons begin December 1, but closing dates vary with the individual areas. In most areas the season runs through the end of December.

When the deer hunter buys his tag this year it will have a box to be checked by the license agent to indicate whether the tag holder will hunt with a bow or a rifle. The hunter will make his choice.

The bow tag would be good for any of the bow seasons in the state. Those who elect to buy the bow tag will not be able to hunt with a rifle.

Hunters who purchase a rifle tag will select one for either mule deer or black-tailed deer as in past years. In addition to authorizing a separate bow tag for deer, the Commission set an August 11 opening date for the 1979 bowhunting seasons.

Closing dates, open areas, bag limits and other regulations relating to bowhunting will be set late in May along with other big game hunting regulations.

Sportsmen who testified before the Commission on the proposed deer bow tag seemed split in their preference for or against it. At its annual meeting in Bend earlier this month, the Oregon Bowhunters indicated in favor of such a tag if it was part of a package which would include a longer bow season, season open statewide, with perhaps two deer allowed in areas where rifle hunters were permitted two deer, etc. Staff biologists with the Department will offer recommendations on these seasons as well as on deer and elk hunting regulations to the Commission when it meets in Portland on May 5.

A flyer listing seasons for antelope, bighorn sheep and cougar along with instructions for applying will be available from license agents throughout the state by April 6. The deadline for applications will be April 30 and the drawing will be held May 17.

These controlled seasons were set earlier than normal this year to enable the Fish and Wildlife Department to receive and process applications for antelope, sheep and cougar before the major influx of deer and elk applications which will come later in the year, and will also allow more time to insure hunters to receive their permits well in advance of the seasons.

Controlled hunts for deer and elk, and all other big game hunting regulations will be set May 26.

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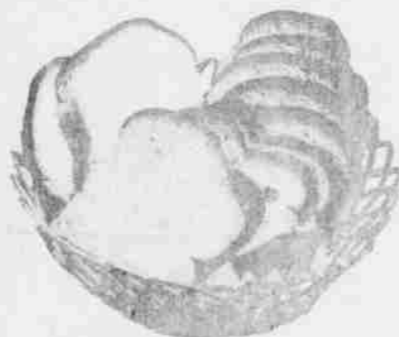
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#### Spray Program

#### Recommended

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is advising home owners, landscape operators and nurserymen with ornamental pines, and owners of Christmas tree plantations growing pines to use an infestation control program.

Bill Wheeler, supervisor of the department's nursery program, says there is no absolute guarantee the spray program brings complete immunity from the moth, but such a program is rated high as a deterrent to an infestation. He said it is important that nurserymen and others buying pine shrubs refrain from purchasing pine stock from areas infested with the moth, such as Washington State, and if they do come from an infested area be sure they are accompanied by a fumigation certificate.

Four chemicals are recommended for the spray program: Imidan, Sevin, Cygon and Diazinon. Entomologist F.P. Larson warns, however, that the spray program should not be started until the moth starts to emerge.

