

Deer, elk seasons set

The Fish and Wildlife Commission made adjustments in permit numbers and open areas to satisfy varying groups of landowners and hunters after public hearings recently. But in most particulars the commission adopted deer and elk hunting regulations for 1981 as proposed by its staff.

In addition the commission announced intent to consider limited entry for all bull elk hunting beginning in 1982. Under such a plan a maximum number of permits would be set for each management unit in the state with elk hunting. Public work sessions for discussing the concept and developing specific details will be scheduled late this summer and fall.

Deer hunters will have a 32-day general season beginning October 3 in western Oregon for bucks with forked antlers or better. This includes five days of either sex hunting in northwest Oregon, controlled hunt permits for antlerless deer in southwest Oregon, an extended Willamette Unit hunt, and a High Cascades buck hunt were all adopted.

On the east side the general season will also begin October 3 and run 12 days in all but seven management units where buck or fawn survival is lower than desired. In those units the season will run nine days. The forked horn rule has been dropped on the east side and bucks with spike antlers or better will be legal.

The Steens four-point limited entry hunt will be continued with 1,300 tags authorized and the Trout Creek Mountains area of the Whitehorse Unit will be restricted to 200 permit holders who will be able to take any buck with a spike antler or better. The commission is looking at this hunt as an experiment in providing a high quality hunt through controlling hunter numbers without imposing restrictive antler point regulations.

Controlled unit and agriculture-damage permits for deer will total 11,250 in western Oregon and 19,395 in eastern Oregon.

A split Roosevelt elk season for spike bulls or better was set with the first period November 14-17 and the second running November 21-27. Hunters will choose one period or the other when they purchase their tag.

Limited entry and a three-point regulation was dropped in Chetco and Dixon units. General season dates will apply in Saddle Mountain and Tioga units with 3,500 tags authorized in each Saddle Mountain hunt and 3,000 tags for each hunt in the Tioga Unit.

Rocky Mountain bull elk season will run October 31 through November 4 and November 7-15 for spikes or better. Chesni anus Unit will have a single bull season October 31 through November 8 for spikes or better with 2,500 tags authorized. Snake River Unit will stay with a three-point antler rule with 550 permits authorized for each of two seasons.

Antlerless elk permits in management unit or damage hunts total 2,195 in western Oregon and 16,725 in eastern Oregon.

Muzzleloader enthusiasts will have deer hunts similar to last year and, in addition, the commission authorized a muzzleloader elk hunt with 20 tags

in a portion of Tioga Unit in southwest Oregon. A rule change was also adopted which permits any muzzleloader .50 caliber or larger to be used in Oregon for elk hunting. In the past muzzleloader hunters were required to follow a rule which specified minimum foot pounds of energy. It was a difficult rule for both hunters and enforcement officers since there is a great deal of variation in the loads used in black-powder rifles and no standard ballistics tables to go by.

Down hunting seasons for deer and elk will be similar to last year with an early statewide hunt for both species and later hunts for deer or elk in specific areas. Regulations for silver gray squirrel hunting, handgun hunting for big game, and tag sale cutoff dates for big game are similar to last year. Printed regulations and controlled hunt application cards will be mailed to license agents throughout the state and should be available after mid-June.

A change in controlled hunt application procedure will begin with the 1981 deer and elk seasons. The hunter will buy his application card(s) from a nearby license agent and this will take the place of the processing fee which formerly had to be sent through the mail with the application. In another change, applicants who are successful in the drawing will be sent a permit and instructed to buy their controlled hunt tag from a local license agent rather

than sending money to the department and receiving tags by return mail.

There are other changes in procedure and hunters are urged to pick up a copy of the printed regulations and read them carefully before applying for any controlled hunts

and before purchasing deer or elk tags. Those elk hunters who plan to apply for a controlled hunt this year should not buy their elk tags

until they know whether or not they have been successful in the controlled hunt drawing.

The department will begin accepting applications for controlled hunts in which a drawing is involved after June 15, and the drawing deadline is

July 15. Applications for Steens and Trout Creek Mountain deer hunts and all limited entry bull elk hunts should not be received before August 10.

HEALTH DEPT.

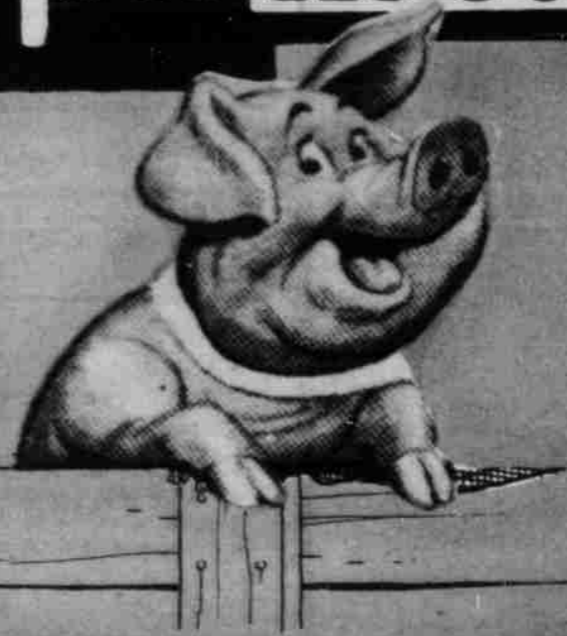
Fri., June 12. - Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Immunizations, Health Dept. Office.

Lexington, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tues., June 16 - Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Neighborhood Center, Heppner, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
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