

APRIL 4, 2018

Following the Public Hearing the regular meeting of the City Council was called to order on Wednesday April 4, 2018 at 7:45 p.m. by Mayor Matt Brown. Present were Councilor Lorain, Councilor Jesse, Councilor Smith, Mayor Brown, Councilor Cockrum, City Attorney Peter Watts, City Administrator Chad Sweet and City Treasurer Gail Como.

Mayor Brown mentioned we will add an additional 3-minute visitor section with the consensus of the Council. Council agreed.

There was no conflict of interest declared by any member of the Council.

Councilor Smith asked for an addition and Councilor Lorain asked for a revision to the March 7th council minutes. ON MOTION by Councilor Cockrum, 2nd by Councilor Smith to approve the minutes as amended for the March 7, 2018 council meeting, MOTION was approved 5-0.

Each member of Council was given a copy of reports from the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Planning Commission and City Treasurer.

Mayor Brown reported the City's' 100th birthday celebration is continuing with several events throughout the year. There will be a special edition of the Fireman's Ball with a silent auction and a champagne toast and there will be a special edition of the 4th of July parade. Mayor Brown mentioned that Senator Betsy Johnson is here tonight and he thanked her for coming.

Councilor Lorain asked the Council to accept her resignation of the Gearhart City Council Position 2 effective on April 20, 2018.

Councilor Smith went to see Congresswomen Bonamici in Astoria and they discussed elk and housing.

Councilor Cockrum reported that CERT is making final preparations for the town hall Sat. from 3 to 5 p.m. and Ms. Cockrum also went to Suzanne Bonamici's town hall and she asked for money for a new fire station on high ground.

City Administrator Chad Sweet reported that there will an informational Emergency Preparedness Town Hall on Sat. from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Fire Hall. On April 11th there will be the dune vegetation public hearing at City Hall and on April 26th there will be a budget committee meeting at City Hall.

The Gearhart City Council and the staff thanked Councilor Lorain for her years of public service and they appreciated her ability to make people laugh.

The City received several emails regarding the elk.

Mayor Brown noted that on the City's website there is a wildlife comment section that is used to gather feedback on wildlife and to document the elk. The city sent a letter to ODFW to ask what we can do to educate ourselves and our citizens and they agreed to come and speak to us. tonight.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife discussed trends of the elk population, elk-human interactions, urban elk (the elk have become tame), strategies to reduce elk damage, vegetation ideas, fencing and public safety. Herman Biederbeck, Chris Knutsen and Doug Cottam responded to Gearhart's request for information by handing out a packet of data. (see attached)

City Attorney Peter Watts questioned the definition of hazing the elk.

Senator Betsy Johnson suggested that if the city moves forward with a town hall meeting, the City of Scappoose has clickers that gives instantaneous feedback that projects on the screen, and they are willing to loan them and a technician to record them. Senator Johnson stated as the person privileged with representing the City of Gearhart she “respectfully asked to include someone from the City of Gearhart to be part of the rule promulgate”. ODFW agreed.

The Council agreed to extend the council meeting past 2 hours.

T.J. McDonald P.O. Box 2380 Gearhart would like the city to take a position on the elk herd to get to a resolution because the herd is growing and have become a public nuisance and this could become a city liability.


Fire Committee spokesman Jay Speakman advised the fire hall committee has been meeting for almost 3 years which has been about 30 meetings researching, gathering data, examining possible sites that are in proximity to the public and to the volunteer fire firefighters, and the costs for a new fire station. Mr. Speakman advised the earliest we would go to the voters is Nov. 2019.

Eric Palpren P.O. Box 2864 Gearhart suggested a visitor tax to fund the new fire hall. Mr. Palpren also would like more study on the elk and is he favor of ODWF and education.

Dee Dee Michelle, P.O. Box 2864, questioned if the fire hall were up to code at the site that it is on right now, could it sustain an earthquake and still be able to get the fire equipment out. Mr. Sweet stated it could be built to hopefully survive a seismic event. Our water treatment plant was built to meet code, however depending the size of the earthquake and tsunami we may flood here. Our goal is to have a place for people to

go after an event to get food, water and shelter and it is best to build it out of the inundation zone.

ON MOTION by Councilor Lorain, 2nd by Councilor Jesse to adjourn, MOTION was approved 5-0. Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.


Mayor Matt Brown


Chad Sweet, City Administrator

ODFW Responses to Gearhart Requests for Information

Background Info.

How many elk are there currently in Clatsop County?

About 5500.

What is the size of the elk herd that frequents the Gearhart area?

About 70-75, but it varies from about 65-80. This herd ranges from north Seaside to the north end of Surf Pines (see map).

How has the elk population in Clatsop County and the Gearhart area grown in the last 20 years? Year by year numbers/info would be great, graph would be nice if you have one.

The elk population in Clatsop County had been declining until about 2 years ago when we eased up on the hunting of antlerless elk. Now, it's starting to rebound slowly.

My understanding of the Gearhart herd is that it was generally about 20-30 animals until several years ago when about 50 more joined the herd. We are not positive where the extra 50 came from, but likely came from the north, pushed by development up there (reduction in elk damage up north).

How have elk involved traffic accidents increased in Clatsop County in the last 20 years? Year by year records of number of elk related traffic accidents and graph would be great?

I wasn't able to get records from ODOT going back 20 years, but did get the records from them for the last three years (see table). Note: these are not numbers of animals impacted, but numbers of incidences that ODOT responded to, by species.

These numbers may not be reflective of trends in elk (or deer) numbers in Clatsop County. They may be more factors of human population growth and the associated vehicle traffic.

Whose job is it within the ODFW to supervise elk population and manage the herd size in Clatsop County and the entire State of Oregon?

Management of elk herds in Oregon is largely done by geographic areas called Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). Our policy-making body, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) sets the number of elk to be managed for in each WMU.

It's my (Herman's) responsibility to manage the herd size in Clatsop County, which is largely contained within the Saddle Mtn. WMU (see map on wall).

The responsibility for managing the elk herd in the entire state lies with the ODFW's Wildlife Division.

What is the organizational structure of the ODFW? An organizational chart would be helpful. Who has the final say on any elk related management topics including supplying safety information to municipalities?

The top is the OFWC (see org chart). They set policy and hire our Director. From there, the Director has three Deputy Directors – one each for Administration, Special Programs and Operations. Operations is divided into West and East regions of the state, each with their respective Region Managers. In the West Region, the manager is Bernadette Graham-Hudson. Within each of the two regions there are several or more Watersheds – each with a Manager. On the north coast, the manager is Chris Knutsen, and he is my supervisor. I'm the District Wildlife Biologist for the North Coast Area. I have two assistants: Dave Nuzum and Paul Atwood.

That said, we also have separate Fish and Wildlife Divisions, which provide management direction to the regions and their staff. The divisions work closely with region and watershed staff to coordinate management priorities for field staff like me. Doug Cottam is the Administrator for the ODFW Wildlife Division.

As far as who has the final say on elk related management topics, ultimately it's the OFWC, especially on policy matters. However, most decisions are made at a lower level, like a watershed or region, but can go the level of Wildlife Division or the Director's Office in our HQ, if needed. Like I mentioned, sometimes there are issues with significant policy implications, and those are often addressed by our OFWC.

In the last 20 years how many incidents of trapping and relocating elk have happened in Clatsop County? Please be specific about areas and number of elk that were trapped and relocated.

In 2012 three elk were trapped, outfitted with radio collars and relocated from Jewell to Washington County for a special study.

Prior to that, between 1998 and 2008 there were eight trap/relocation efforts, resulting in a total of 196 elk moved from Clatsop County (almost all from Jewell) to California (27), Clackamas County (107) and Curry County (62). These projects were done at the time to fulfill requests by Cal. F&G, USFS – Mt. Hood NF and USFS – Siskiyou NF, respectively.

On a related note, today the trapping and relocating of elk has many challenges, including, but not limited to: lack of places to relocate, potential spread of diseases, the ineffectiveness of capturing large numbers (most of the herd), time and expense involved. In the case of Gearhart elk (that are very tame) the elk would likely find trouble again, even if relocated far into the forest (cow/calf from late July). The cost to trap, hold and test an elk in 2018 dollars is at least \$650 per animal, and that does not include any relocation costs.

Specific Information on Protecting Citizens in Gearhart

Besides the information and flyers that have already been provided to the City of Gearhart what are some other ideas that can help citizens be safe around an overpopulated herd?

First, and foremost, is adopting and enforcing a no-feeding (of wildlife) ordinance. Second, posting signs around the community in high visibility locations to educate residents and visitors alike about the risks of interacting too intimately with wildlife, especially elk. Third, having law enforcement or city employees intervene when people are not following common sense guidance when interacting with elk (e.g. approaching too close, approaching with a dog).

Other ideas include:

- Targeted social media ads (about safely coexisting with the elk) for the Gearhart area.
- Livestream from Gearhart with ODFW talking about the public safety issue.
- Produce a video with safety/coexistence tips, and make it available to local businesses and the City of Gearhart for posting on social media, websites.
- Provide information at local travel bureaus and/or chambers of commerce.
- Ads or articles in local magazines for visitors. We could possibly partner with the Oregon Coast Visitor's Association to get the word out.

ODFW Commissioner Bruce Buckmaster mentioned the other day that city ordinances prohibiting visitors and residents from feeding the elk is a good idea. While we have yet to hear of any incidents of feeding elk in Gearhart, could you provide more information on communities that have such ordinances including Warrenton and the possible impact that could have on the herd size or keeping residents safe?

Other municipalities in western Oregon that have general no-feeding of wildlife (including elk) ordinances are Astoria, Dallas, Jefferson, Detroit, Lebanon, Corvallis, Philomath, Waldport, Florence, Veneta, and Eugene (in progress), to name a few. Many others have ordinances specific only to certain species of wildlife.

Besides posting safety flyers, signs, documenting encounters, and providing educational links on our website, what are other communities in Oregon doing to help protect citizens from dangerous encounters?

The most prevalent one that I'm aware of is enacting no-feeding of wildlife ordinances. Some communities use population control (e.g. hunting or culling) to reduce nuisance or public safety risks. Other strategies that may be used include fencing and related types of barriers, guardian animals, and translocations of some species of wildlife (see handout).

ODFW Plans for the Future

Many citizens of Clatsop County and Gearhart have expressed they enjoy seeing the elk in safe numbers but some have safety concerns about the size the herds have grown recently. What are ODFW plans in Clatsop County moving forward in regards to managing overpopulation?

ODFW has a conceptual plan (see Conceptual Plan for Golf Courses) that was developed in cooperation with the two golf courses in the Gearhart area in 2016, resulting from the intent to address damage caused by elk; the plan could be used in other areas of Clatsop County, if needed. In the plan are options for reducing numbers of elk, both by lethal (e.g. hunting) and non-lethal (e.g. fencing) methods. One option not specifically mentioned in the plan, but not necessarily eliminated from consideration, is "culling" (lethal removal other than hunting). More research (currently ongoing) and public feedback is needed to vet that option.

Although ODFW has not developed a plan specifically to deal with the public safety issue regarding the elk in Gearhart, it is certainly open to creating one with the City and other stakeholders. The existing Conceptual Plan for Golf Courses could perhaps be used as a template in that process.

Are there any specific proposals the ODFW is looking to possibly implement outside of the City of Gearhart?

Any of the options from the Conceptual Plan for Golf Courses are ones that ODFW would consider, but we want public feedback (citizen input) on the options in the plan, of which some could be implemented inside and some outside the City of Gearhart. As mentioned above, "culling" is being reviewed as an option (see SB 373).

Obviously lethal ways of controlling herd population is not an option in Gearhart, are other communities or is the ODFW considering lethal options in other parts of Clatsop County and what citizen concerns are you aware of?

A council member of the City of Warrenton briefly discussed the idea of a limited controlled hunt in the city with me a few years ago. We have a controlled antlerless elk hunt (Lower Columbia) that includes the outskirts of Knappa and Svensen (unincorporated communities) for nearly 20 years. With these types of hunts, there would be (Warrenton) or are (Lower Columbia) concerns by citizens about public safety, but those could be or are addressed through careful planning of the hunts.

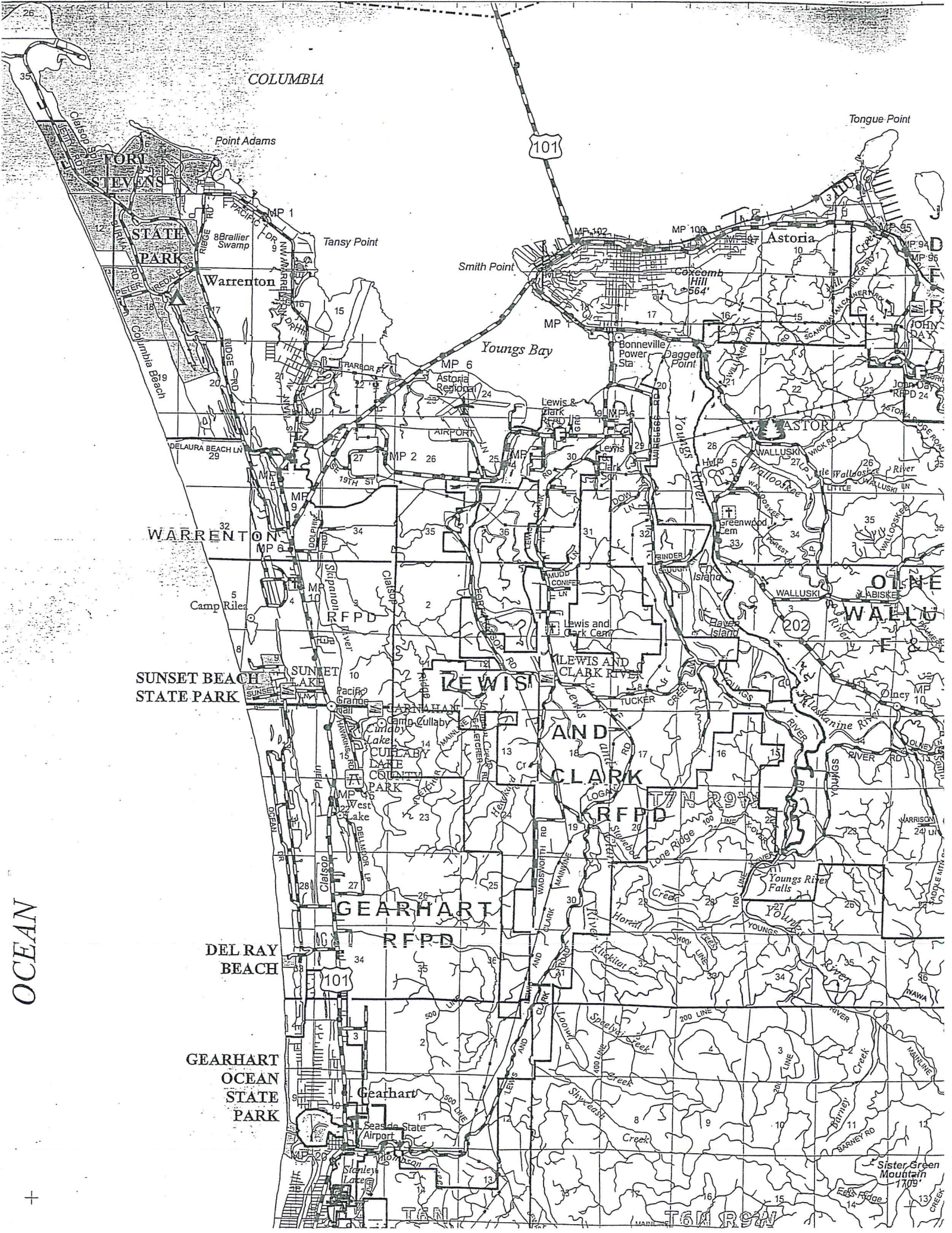
ODFW is open to the idea of hunts (or culling) in or near communities, but any proposal would require public review and support and close coordination with OSP's F & W Division.

What is your purpose and what specific information do you seek at community town hall meetings regarding the elk?

- 1) ODFW has a Conceptual Plan for Golf Courses that has not been reviewed by the affected publics. We need public review prior to implementing it, or even major parts of it. We believe this plan has merit at reducing elk damage at the golf courses and other resources in the community, and would have benefits at reducing public safety risks.
- 2) ODFW also has some specific strategies to help reduce public safety risks from elk. We want to tell the affected publics about those and learn how they view them. We are also open to ideas the public has about management of the elk.
- 3) ODFW wants to know how the community of Gearhart feels about the elk. For example: does the general community like having the elk around or not? We believe a town hall-style meeting is an appropriate venue to gather that citizen input.

Obviously citizen input in Clatsop County will help influence what actions the ODFW ultimately decides to take in regards to population management. How do you quantify citizen input and correlate the information you get at a town hall meeting to what the entire sentiment of the population of a city or entire county may be in regards to wildlife management?

ODFW believes that a town hall (or similar) type of meeting that is widely advertised within the greater community is an open, unbiased and inclusive way to gather citizen input. We plan to document public input and use it as a guide when working with the City, its businesses and residents to implement measures designed to address public safety and/or damage control issues related to elk. We will gauge public opinion to specific strategies, such as those contained in the Conceptual Plan or other similar plan. Obviously, if there appears to be substantial public opposition to a specific proposal, ODFW would work with stakeholders to resolve those concerns, if possible.



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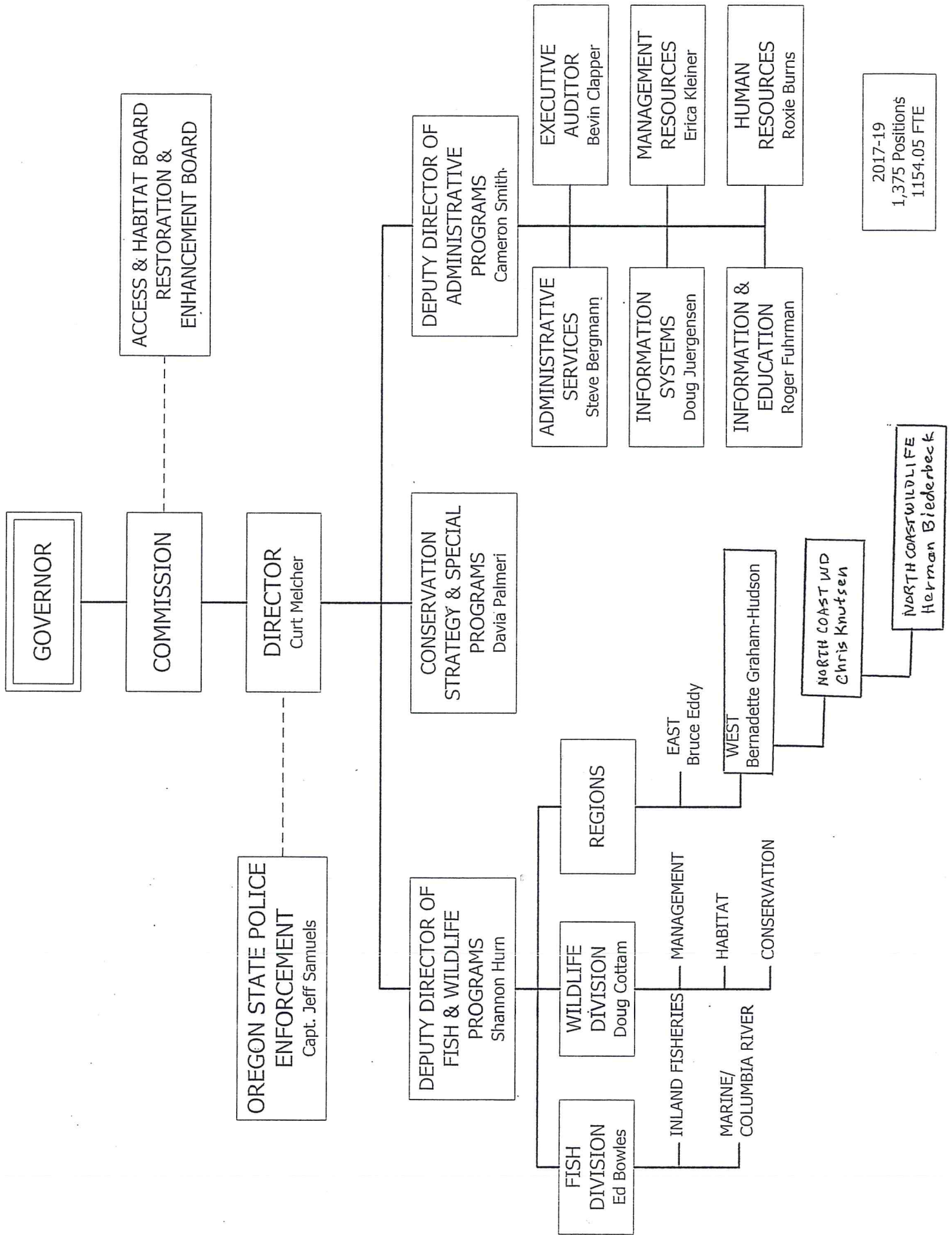
Warrenton ODOT Maintenance Station

Numbers of Incident Responses for Deer and Elk Vehicle Collisions

For Highways 26, 30 and 101 within Clatsop County

Year(s)	Deer Responses	Elk Responses
2015	84	14
2016	99	20
2017/18 [#]	84	26

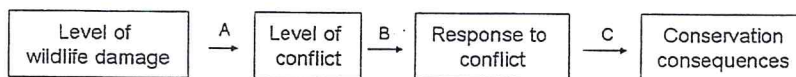
[#] combined years through March 2018



2017-19
1,375 Positions
1154.05 FTE

Table 1 Summary of technical measures used to mitigate human–wildlife conflict

Conflict mitigation approach	Techniques	Examples
Physical separation of conflicting species and resources	Fencing/enclosing resource	Livestock enclosures; placing fences, electric fences, trenches, fladry, trenches, netting or other defence structures around resource
	Repellents/deterrents and scaring devices	Visual repellents, acoustic repellents, chemical repellents (including odour and taste repellents), rubber bullets or other projectile deterrents, radio-activated guard boxes
	Fencing protected areas	Electric fencing or other fencing around boundaries of protected area
Guarding assets	Guarding and warning animals	Specialized livestock guarding dogs, other guardian animals such as donkeys and llamas, local dogs to warn of predator presence
	Human guardians	Human guarding of resources, for example staying in crop fields to scare away herbivores, herders going out with stock or staying in/around enclosures to protect from carnivores
	Physical devices on livestock	Protection collars, king collars, cyanide collars
Habitat use and modification	Habitat manipulation to reduce conflicts	Mowing vegetation around airports to reduce bird strikes, increasing heather on grouse moors to reduce grouse predation, burning vegetation to reduce cover for wild animals
Behaviour modification of conflict-causing species	Habitat zoning	Demarcate habitat into different land use zones to prioritize human or wildlife use
	Physical aversion	Electric collars on conflict-causing animals to avert them from approaching resource
	Conditioned taste aversion	Lithium chloride and other chemicals applied to resource, to cause discomfort and aversion after consumption
Behaviour modification of humans responsible for resource	Livestock management	Synchronizing breeding, more conscientious herding, guarding, enclosing stock, carcass disposal and avoidance of conflict hotspots
	Relocation of people	Local people encouraged or made to move out of wildlife areas
	Education and awareness	Reducing own risk factors, e.g. reducing driving speed to avert deer-vehicle conditions, increasing knowledge of the ecology of conflict-causing species and the best techniques for reducing conflict, use of conflict verification teams to help people correctly identify species causing conflict
Use of buffer resources	Buffer crops	Planting of buffer crops to reduce consumption of important resources
	Artificial provision of alternative food sources	Diversionsary feeding for conflict-causing species
	Maintenance of alternative food sources	Maintenance of wild prey for carnivores, maintenance of wild crops for herbivores to avoid consumption of human resources
Lethal control of conflict-causing species	Population control	Widespread killing of conflict-causing species to avoid conflict, selective culling to limit population growth
	Retaliatory killing	Killing of conflict-causing species as a response to ongoing conflict
	Problem animal control	Targeted lethal control of 'problem animals'
Non-lethal control of conflict-causing species	Sterilization	Contraception, physical sterilization of conflict-causing animals
	Removal of problem animals	Translocation, relocation, placement of wild conflict-causing animals into captivity
Reducing costs of conflict	Alleviating economic costs of conflict	Compensation schemes for wildlife losses, insurance cover for resources
	Economic incentives to maintain conflict-causing species	Direct payments for conservation of conflict-causing species
	Alternative income generation	Diversifying income sources away from pure dependence upon resource under competition
	Increasing benefits of wildlife	Increasing economic benefits of wildlife, e.g. through tourism, revenue-sharing schemes or wildlife-related employment, and/or increasing lifestyle benefits, e.g. providing recreation opportunities through activities such as wildlife viewing or hunting, or provision of meat from wildlife hunting

**Figure 2** Rational conceptualization of the human–wildlife conflict process.

Conceptual Plan to Address Elk Damage on Gearhart Golf Courses

Cooperatively Developed By: Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife, Gearhart Golf Links and Highlands Golf Club

July 11, 2016

Introduction

The presence of 70 plus elk in the Gearhart area continues to result in damage to local golf courses despite hazing efforts that have been ongoing for several years. Estimates of damage from the two golf courses within or adjacent to the city limits of Gearhart (Links and Highlands) has been reported to be about \$50,000 per year, with an emphasis on repair costs to putting greens. The extent of damage in a given year depends largely upon the travel patterns of the elk and their reaction when approached by humans. If the elk are startled on the golf course, the elk run off quickly and create the most damage.

Management Context

Gearhart is situated in Clatsop Plains on the western edge of ODFW's Saddle Mtn. Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Clatsop Plains has been subject to strong residential and commercial development pressure in the past several decades, which is likely to continue into the near future. As a result, elk continue to be displaced from their former habitats and take up residence in other areas where there is suitable forage and refuge. Elk are now a fairly common sight in all three of the incorporated cities in Clatsop Plains: Warrenton, Seaside and Gearhart.

The two golf courses are within or adjacent to the city limits of Gearhart and incorporated into residential areas. This situation restricts the use of some traditional damage control strategies utilizing firearms, including general season and controlled hunting, emergency hunts, landowner preference and elk damage tags, and kill permits.

Elk in Gearhart have largely become habituated to people and pets. In other words, "the ecology of fear" is not present in these animals except perhaps during and immediately after the controlled bull elk rifle seasons, when some are taken by hunters on larger adjacent tracts of private land.

Damage Control Strategies

This plan is based on the principles that all applicable tools or strategies to address damage on the golf courses are considered, and both parties (ODFW and the golf courses) will contribute resources to implement this plan. The potential strategies in this conceptual plan are discussed in detail below.

Outreach and Education

Direct Communication (Advice) – ODFW recommended

Residents and golf courses in the Gearhart area occasionally contact ODFW's Tillamook District Office about damage issues related to elk. Generally, the contact is about damage elk have caused to landscaping or golf courses. In each situation, ODFW wildlife staff advise the complainants about measures to avoid damage to their resources and add guidance on human safety. Although elk/human encounters occur in Gearhart, ODFW staff have not been contacted directly by the public in recent years about personal safety issues with elk.

The pros and cons of Direct Communication are below.

1. Pros:
 - A. inexpensive
 - B. can be proactive
 - C. can be a component of a long-term solution
2. Cons:
 - A. generally reactionary

Signage – ODFW recommended

Signage has been designed and distributed by ODFW in an effort to educate the residents and visitors about safe and responsible behavior around elk. ODFW first provided signs to the City of Gearhart in 2014 and more recently to the golf courses in early 2016. However, feedback from the city and golf course representatives has been minimal. Nonetheless, ODFW intends to provide signage and outreach information as needed to educate the general public, given how the elk relate to people there.

1. Pros:
 - A. inexpensive (free to public)
 - B. proactive
 - C. can be a component of a long-term solution
 - D. addresses some liability issues
2. Cons:
 - A. does not address damage to golf courses, per se

Non-Lethal Elk Control

Hazing – ODFW recommended

Hazing has been done through ODFW providing free hazing permits to the golf courses and residents incurring damage by elk, and ODFW will continue to do so into the future, if needed. A hazing permit allows the use of all legal hazing methods within or adjacent to the city limits. Examples of hazing techniques include driving elk away by human presence, spraying them with water, paintball guns, and loud noises. Hazing permits can be requested annually and valid for up to a year.

1. Pros:
 - A. hazing permit is free (to public)

- B. landowner/manager flexibility on how it's used
 - C. can be used proactively (with Virtual Fence described below)
 - D. generally not controversial
2. Cons:
- A. elk can cause serious damage to a golf course if hazing is done incorrectly
 - B. generally reactive
 - C. not viewed as a permanent solution

Herding dogs – ODFW recommended

Dog breeds, such as border collies, have been shown to be effective at moving human habituated elk off of areas such as golf courses. Unlike many breeds, herding dogs can be trained to move elk by slowly moving them in a desired direction, and have the added benefit of re-instilling “the ecology of fear” in elk that have become accustomed to dogs and humans. Professionally trained border collies can be purchased for about \$2000, are intelligent and easy to handle and friendly to humans.

1. Pros:
- A. proven effective technique
 - B. inexpensive to maintain after initial purchase
 - C. elk become more wary of people and dogs (ecology of fear)
 - D. could be used on other nuisance wildlife (e.g. deer, geese)
 - E. could be used with an invisible dog fence (if needed)
 - F. not controversial
2. Cons:
- A. dog(s) require maintenance
 - B. generally reactive
 - C. not viewed as a permanent solution

Radio-telemetry – ODFW recommended

Radio-collars are a tool that provides wildlife managers and others with information on movements and locations of wildlife, including elk. They are attached around the necks of elk after being captured, and can provide location information onboard the collar (obtained after the collar is recovered) or in real time (location information sent to a computer or mobile device). Radio collars are usually attached to female elk, as they tend to have much longer life expectancies than males.

Some radio collars can be equipped with a Virtual Fence (VF) feature that notifies people (via email or text message) when animals are approaching an area of concern. The concept here is that golf course staff could get advance warning of radio-collared elk that are approaching golf courses and prevent them (and the rest of the herd) from accessing the course.

Radio collars could be attached through darting (chemical immobilization) or trapping (and then immobilization) of elk.

Example scenario:

Radio collar up to 3 lead adult female elk in the Gearhart herd to document movement patterns.

- ODFW attaches collars to elk at their cost
- Golf courses pay for collar and associated monitoring costs
- 1. Pros:
 - A. improved understanding of herd movements throughout the year
 - B. allows identification of travel corridors to assist with fencing siting or other deterrents
 - C. possible VF option to warn golf courses of approaching elk
 - D. likely not controversial
- 2. Cons:
 - A. the technology (collar with VF) is expensive ($\$3525/\text{collar} \times 3 \text{ collars} = \$10,575$)
 - B. does not address damage unless VF option is used
 - C. can be labor intensive effort to attach radio collars
 - D. not a permanent solution

Trapping and Relocation

Typically, elk that were trapped and relocated in the past were caught using an 8 ft. high panel corral trap. After elk were captured, they were disease-tested, ear tagged, some were radio-collared, and released on an area with prior written approval from the landowner or manager. Trapping and relocation is a very labor-intensive project which includes pre-baiting of sites, and success is not guaranteed, especially if alternative foods are plentiful. Finding relocation sites is very difficult as elk are considered an economic liability on any lands that are actively managed. Disease issues can also preclude relocations because of the concern of transmitting disease (e.g. elk hoof disease) to new areas. Trapping and relocation of elk in the Gearhart area would be viewed by ODFW as a short-term strategy as other long-term measures are implemented.

Example scenario:

ODFW would trap up to five elk annually out of the Gearhart herd, and relocate them to a local non-private area (e.g. Circle Creek). Costs below include all associated activities, including personnel, marking (but not radio collars), and disease testing.

- ODFW would provide trap equipment, tagging equipment and personnel
- ODFW would determine local relocation site(s)
- Golf courses will pay for additional new equipment (e.g. trap door releases, radio collars)
- 1. Pros:
 - A. up to five elk removed annually
 - B. minor reduction in damage potential
- 2. Cons:
 - A. only works during the winter months when forage options for elk are minimal
 - B. expensive ($\$14,165/\text{year} @ 5 \text{ elk/year}$) and labor intensive
 - C. unlikely to deter remaining elk from golf courses

- D. can actually draw elk into/near golf courses if trapping done nearby
- E. potential disease issues
- F. risk to animal health (possible trapping mortality)
- G. finding a suitable location for release is challenging
- H. not a permanent solution
- I. likely controversial

Lethal Control

Hunting

This strategy could not be used at or nearby golf courses as they are within or adjacent to the city limits of Gearhart and associated with other developments. Any control work using general season, controlled or emergency (including Landowner Preference or Elk Damage) hunt tags would have to be done a considerable distance away from the golf courses.

Example scenario:

Have an expanded bag limit within the Clatsop Plains portion of the Saddle Mtn. WMU during the controlled bull elk rifle seasons (210X&Y).

- Elk Damage tags for adjacent private landowners outside the city could assist in lowering elk numbers in the area as well
 - Private landowners with larger holdings to the north of Gearhart could obtain Landowner Preference tags through the WMU-wide antlerless elk hunt 210.
1. Pros:
 - A. would likely reduce general elk numbers in the Clatsop Plains area
 2. Cons:
 - A. very controversial
 - B. strong public safety concerns
 - C. would require considerable coordination with landowners across Clatsop Plains
 - D. would likely push elk into "refuge areas" like Ft. Stevens State Park, Camp Rilea Military Reservation and the three golf courses in Clatsop Plains, worsening golf course damage issues
 - E. not a permanent solution

Exclusion

Fencing – ODFW recommended

Fencing has long been regarded by wildlife managers as the most effective long-term solution for keeping elk out of areas. It also requires the most up-front capital to implement, and some types (e.g. double fencing) of exclusion fencing are not proven. The typical vertical fence design has limitations in this situation as fencing cannot exceed 6 ft. in height (city ordinance) within the city limits, and is aesthetically undesirable. Double fencing, which uses a low profile, horizontal barrier concept, is more aesthetically pleasing, and does not pose the visual barrier that a vertical design would.

The long term goal would be to move in the direction of permanent fencing through pilot projects that evaluate different designs to determine an effective double fence design with minimal costs.

Example scenario:

Build pilot sections of double fence along key access points for elk around both golf courses to see if elk can be deterred from crossing the low profile fencing. Fencing would be the wooden pole type, similar to other fences in the area.

- ODFW does research on fence specifications
 - Both parties jointly determine where fencing would be located
 - Golf courses pay for and install fencing (ODFW could cost share as funding is available)
1. Pros:
 - A. movement towards a permanent solution (complete fencing)
 - B. minimal cost for pilot project(s)
 - C. complete fences would likely result in most elk leaving the greater Gearhart area
 - D. little controversy
 - E. minimal maintenance
 2. Cons:
 - A. complete fencing would be very expensive
 - B. would need cattle guards on roads and gates along fence line for access

Hedges – ODFW recommended

Living barriers such as hedge rows have been used to repel deer, but are largely untested on elk. They can be esthetically pleasing and natural, but it often takes a long time for the hedge to be thick and strong enough to provide a formidable barrier, and sometimes are not impenetrable. Some caution is required because many of the plants that make a good living barrier are fast growing and invasive. Hedges may be a complement in a larger plan, along with fencing, for a permanent solution.

Example scenario:

Plant hedges along boundaries of golf courses, where practical.

- ODFW does research on hedge species
 - Golf courses pay for planting and maintaining hedges
1. Pros:
 - A. if fully implemented, it would be a permanent solution
 - B. environmental friendly
 - C. little or no controversy
 2. Cons:
 - A. complete hedge rows would be expensive
 - B. high hedges would block views into and out of golf courses
 - C. would need cattle guards on roads and some gates through hedge rows for access
 - D. requires maintenance

Alternative Concepts

Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program – ODFW recommended

Audubon International has this program that golf courses can participate in to protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game

www.auduboninternational.org/acspgolf. Standards of the program can be met to allow a golf course to be a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, which can improve its stature and reputation. Golf courses moving towards the standards can decrease their maintenance costs by reducing the management intensity of their courses. A participating golf course works with Audubon to achieve certification.

1. Pros:
 - A. program cost is very inexpensive (\$275/year)
 - B. enhanced stature and reputation with the environmental community
 - C. improved wildlife habitat
 - D. improved water conservation and quality
 - E. reduced chemical use
 - F. reduced course maintenance costs
 - G. could reduce attractiveness of course to elk
2. Cons:
 - A. possible reduction in use by players desiring a highly managed course

Summary

ODFW hopes that a plan to address elk damage at the two Gearhart area golf courses can be developed from this conceptual document. ODFW also acknowledges that short-term measures may need to be implemented in concert with some pilot projects designed to develop long-term solutions. To be successful, both parties need to participate fully to implement the final damage control plan.

Public outreach to the City and its residents will also be essential to help ensure a successful implementation of a final plan. Opinions vary about the elk in Gearhart, and many people in the area have strong feelings about them. Prior to implementation, a public meeting should be held to explain the plan and answer questions.

Enrolled
Senate Bill 373

Sponsored by Senator HANSELL, Representative BARRETO; Senator STEINER HAYWARD, Representatives ESQUIVEL, POST, RESCHKE (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to urban deer population control.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "food bank or other charitable organization" has the meaning given that term in ORS 315.154.

(2) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall develop and adopt by rule a pilot program for urban deer population control that:

(a) Following the passage by a city of an ordinance, resolution or order declaring that deer populations have risen to levels that constitute a public nuisance, allows the city to petition the State Department of Fish and Wildlife for assistance in reducing deer population levels within city limits; and

(b) In cities where the department determines that deer populations do constitute a public nuisance, allows a local government body or an appropriate agent to take deer for the purpose of reducing deer population levels.

(3) To implement the pilot program under this section, the department shall consult with:

(a) The governing bodies of cities where high urban deer populations are a concern; and

(b) Food banks or other charitable organizations that serve the governing bodies described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(4) Rules for the pilot program adopted by the commission must include, but need not be limited to:

(a) Provisions for the means and manner by which deer may be taken under the pilot program, which must include a prohibition on taking deer by dart or lethal injection;

(b) Provisions for ensuring, to the extent feasible, that the edible portions of any deer taken under the pilot program are distributed, at the expense of the local government, to a local food bank or other charitable organization;

(c) A requirement that, if the hides and antlers of a deer taken under the program are not sold by the local government to persons licensed under ORS 498.019, that the antlers must be surrendered to the department; and

(d) Provisions for ensuring that the number of deer taken under the pilot program do not exceed the number necessary to be taken to reduce the deer population to a level that no longer constitutes a public nuisance.

(5) Prior to exercising any power granted by the pilot program adopted under this section, the governing body of a city shall adopt by ordinance restrictions on placing, depositing,

distributing, storing or scattering food, garbage or any other attractant so as to knowingly constitute a lure, attractant or enticement for deer.

SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall first allow a local government to engage in activities pursuant to the pilot program adopted under section 1 of this 2017 Act no later than January 1, 2019.

(2) The department shall prepare and submit a report in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 on the implementation of the urban deer population control pilot program, that may include recommendations for legislation, to the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment and natural resources during the 2027 regular session of the Legislative Assembly.

SECTION 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this 2017 Act are repealed on January 1, 2029.

Passed by Senate April 6, 2017

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2017

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Lori L. Bocker, Secretary of Senate

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2017

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Passed by House May 31, 2017

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2017

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Tina Koteck, Speaker of House

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Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State