



# Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Elk Damage on Private Land



February 2021



# State of Oregon

## Wildlife Policy (ORS 496.012)

...wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion  
... and to provide optimum recreational and aesthetic  
benefits

### Coequal goals of wildlife management:

- Optimum population levels
- Develop and manage lands & waters for production and public enjoyment of wildlife
- Orderly and equitable utilization
- Public access
- Compatible with primary uses of the land
- Optimum recreational benefits
- Decisions for social, economic & recreational use



# Legislative Assembly Findings on Wildlife Damage (ORS 610.055)

... appropriate measures must be taken to assist farmers, ranchers and others in resolving wildlife damage problems.

## Department Wildlife Damage Policy:

- Advice/Repellents
- Hazing
- Barriers/Fencing
- Habitat Programs
  - Regional Habitat Biologists
  - Green Forage
  - Access and Habitat Projects
- Harvest Management





# Harvest Management

## Hunting Seasons:

- For large scale take of elk
- Used for population control or reduction
- Can be a localized area or several wildlife units

## Landowner Preference Tags:

- Used for both recreation and deer damage control during hunting seasons

## Oregon Landowner Damage Program:

- Allows issuance of elk tags for landowner's property
- Allows landowner to pick who receives elk tag
- Can be used Aug 1 – March 31 when damage is occurring
- No limit on tags per landowner (no more than five at a time)



# Harvest Management (continued)

## Emergency Hunts:

- Use of hunters to take animals in damage situations
- Can customize dates or hunt areas
- Can combine multiple landowners
- Hunters taken off a list; landowner does not control who receives a tag

## Kill permits:

- Specific tool with limited utility
- Best in situations where take of a few animals will solve damage
- Can be used at night
- 2019 rule changes allow for landowner to also keep elk carcass



# Harvest Management (continued)

## Oregon Landowner Damage Program

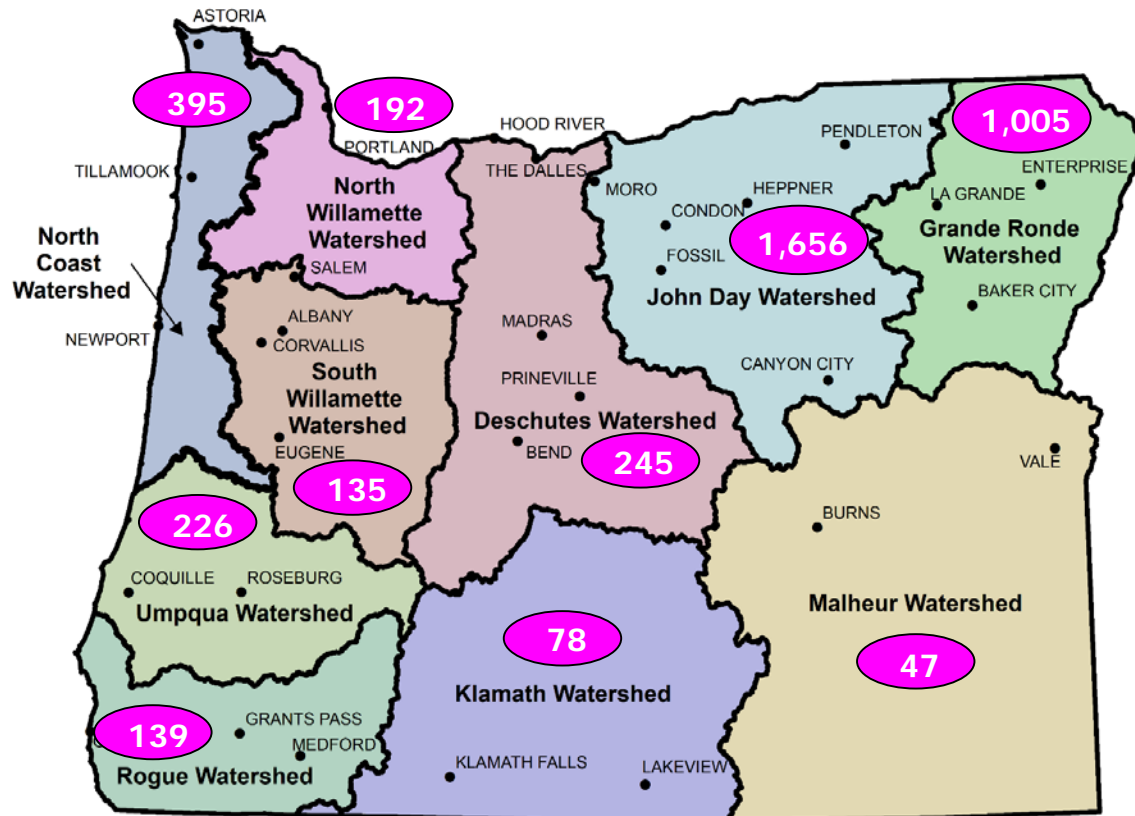
### Overview:

- Statewide average of more than 800 elk damage complaints where Landowner Damage tags are issued
- Results in more than 4,000 tags and about 2,000 antlerless elk harvested to directly address damage
- Many tags are taken as a second opportunity for a hunter and does affect subsequent opportunity for a hunter who did not get to hunt that year
- Administrative rules do not allow for any hunter to harvest more than one elk a year



# Distribution of Elk Damage Tags by ODFW Watershed

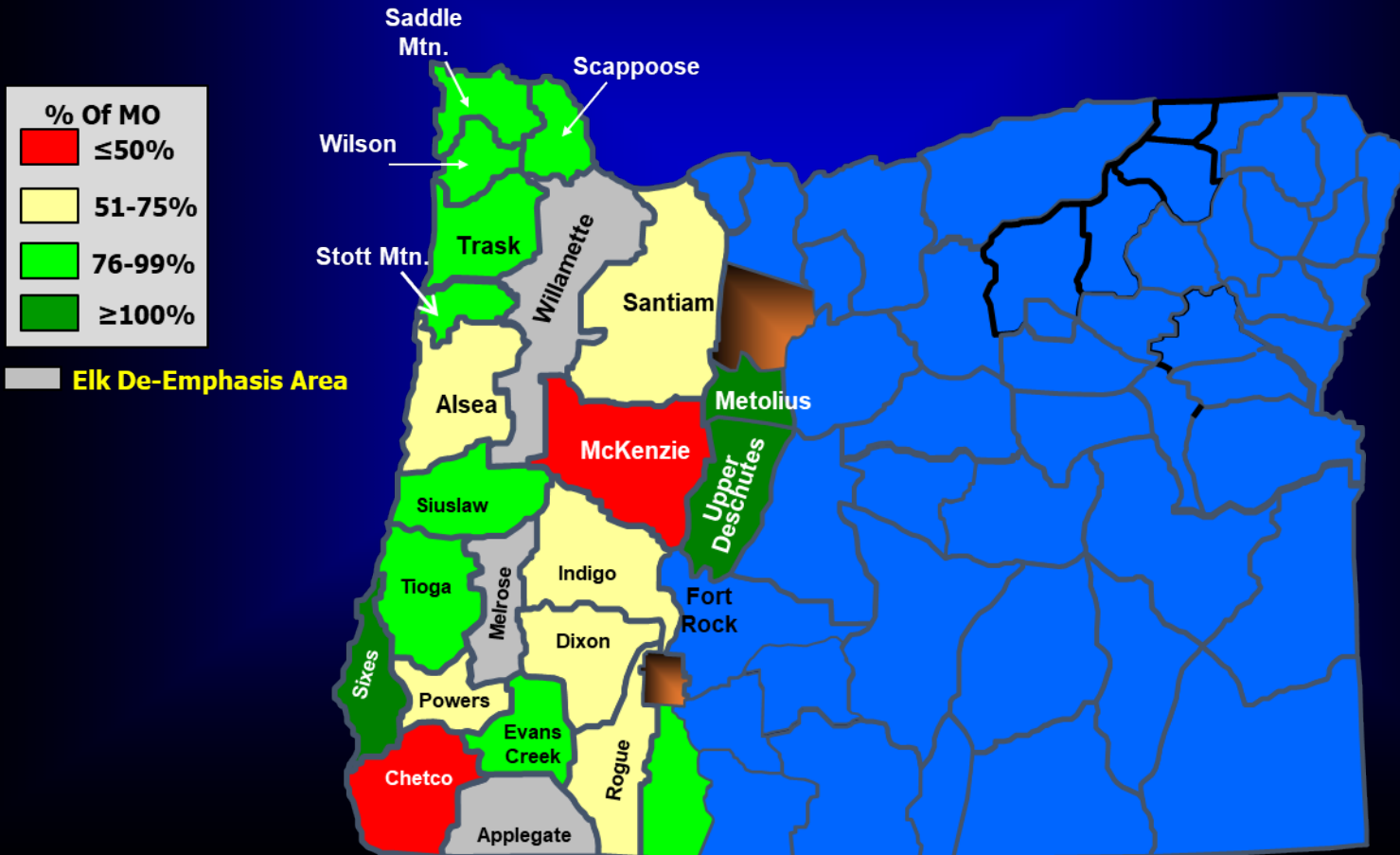
# of Elk Damage Tags Issued (2018 example year)





# Percent of Elk Population Objective by Wildlife Management Unit

## Roosevelt Elk Population MOs







# Percent of Elk Population Objective by Wildlife Management Unit

## Rocky Mtn. Elk Population MOs

