

Oregon hunters: deadline to apply for controlled hunts is May 15

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

SALEM, Ore. — Hunters, avoid the long lines and busy fax machines and get your controlled hunt application in as soon as possible. Apply by fax, mail order, at a license agent or online. The deadline to apply is May 15.

The ability to apply for controlled hunts online is new this year. Fees are the same as those paid at an ODFW licensing agent or an ODFW office—\$4.50 for a controlled hunt application. Online controlled hunt applications can be printed out instantly, so there are no shipping and handling fees. (A fee may apply if the application is purchased with other license documents.) ODFW accepts VISA and MasterCard for online payment.

Send mail order applications to ODFW Licensing, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303 and fax orders to (503) 947-6117 (or 6113). Mail orders must be postmarked by May 15 and fax orders must be received by 11:59 p.m. PT May 15.

Hunters that choose to apply at license agents are reminded to check store hours. Even stores open 24 hours may not have staff available to do license sales at odd hours. Stores have also been known to stop accepting customers because of long lines on deadline day. Get your application in ASAP to avoid this problem.

ODFW limits the number of hunters for certain big game hunts (some deer and elk hunts, all pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat hunts) for game management purposes and to enhance the hunting experience. Applications for these hunts are due by May 15 every year. A random computer drawing occurs in June and hunters are notified about results by June 20.

Specific tag proposals will be available online by early May when ODFW's annual hunting regulation meetings begin.

Avoid common controlled hunt mistakes

Hunters should carefully consult the 2009 Oregon Big Game Regulations before applying for a controlled hunt online and avoid these common mistakes:

Getting personal information wrong. Double-check your name, birth date, phone number, address, and Hunter/Angler I.D. number before applying.

Choosing the wrong hunt. Hunt numbers can change. Double-check your hunt number with current regulations so there is no risk of losing hard-won preference points. Don't rely on hunting buddies for this information.

Not including correct daytime telephone information. ODFW needs your current phone number so we can get in touch with you if there is a problem.

Getting party details wrong. Double-check party information before you apply. ODFW's new license sales system has made applying as a party easier. (Once one member applies, the system accesses that information as other party members apply.) Be careful not to exceed party size on your application—for example, for pronghorn antelope hunts the maximum party size is two.

Faxing in multiple applications. Not only does this confuse ODFW staff but your credit card could be charged multiple times, which takes time to correct.

Writing illegibly. If applying by fax or mail order, write neatly and legibly to ensure applications are processed correctly.

Waiting until the last minute to apply at license sales locations. Make sure you know the hours of the license agent you will visit. Stores have been known to stop accepting customers because of long lines on deadline day (May 15). Get your application in before the deadline to avoid this problem.

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