



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Deschutes County Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Tanya Saltzman, AICP, Senior Planner  
**DATE:** July 7, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Wildlife Inventory Update – Status Report

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Staff is providing an update to the Planning Commission concerning the mule deer wildlife inventory update project timeline. Staff last updated the Planning Commission on the project on May 26.<sup>1</sup>

### I. Wildlife Inventory Update Overview

As stated previously, the process for updating a Goal 5 wildlife inventory is prescribed by Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). Oregon counties rarely, if ever, undergo the process to update existing wildlife inventories because, unlike cities, they are not required to comply with periodic review.<sup>2</sup> By choosing to undertake a Goal 5 wildlife inventory update as directed by the Board of County Commissioners, Deschutes County is moving forward with a rarely-utilized and complex process that, while a significant effort, can hopefully provide an example of best practices for other jurisdictions as well as the County for future efforts.

As previously noted, over the last several months, staff has been constructing the draft amendments and corresponding findings to provide a starting point for the public process. These will be provided to the Planning Commission prior to the hearings process as they are finalized. A summary of general concepts was provided to the Planning Commission at its May 26 meeting.

### II. Process and Timeline

Staff has revised its proposed timeline since last checking in with the Planning Commission due to the complexity of the project as well as staff capacity. Staff is aiming for a first evidentiary hearing with the Planning Commission on September 8. As outlined in the May update, prior to the hearing,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.deschutes.org/bc-pc/page/planning-commission-14>

<sup>2</sup> Periodic Review is a term used in Oregon law to describe the periodic evaluation and revision of a local comprehensive plan. Prior to 2003, state law (ORS 197.628 – 636) called for counties to review their comprehensive plans according to a periodic schedule established by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). The Oregon Legislature eliminated periodic review requirements for counties in 2003 (SB 920).

staff will be performing related tasks including 35-day notice with DLCD, mailing of Measure 56 notices, and the development of a website/StoryMap. Most significant to the Planning Commission will be the public information sessions. Staff aims to conduct three information sessions in mid to late August: one hybrid online/in-person meeting in Bend, one in-person in Sisters, and one in-person in La Pine. These will be booked in July and notice will be shared with the public and the Planning Commission as soon as possible.

### **III. Next Steps**

Staff is providing this general overview of the timeline while many elements are still in progress. Staff will conduct a work session with the Planning Commission prior to the public hearing to provide more details and/or discussion of specific elements.

Lastly, it is important to note again that the amendments that will be provided for the public process effectively represent a starting point; the public process is designed to capture public and stakeholder input that may help further shape any proposed legislation recommended by the Planning Commission.