

Deschutes County

Wildlife Inventory Update

Public Outreach Report



Photo: Andrew Walch, ODFW



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PURPOSE

This report summarizes the public process for a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Technical Assistance (TA) grant-funded initial phase of an update to three of the County's wildlife inventories. This phase of the inventory update process encompasses the presentation and explanation of updated biological data concerning three of the County's inventories: mule deer winter range, elk winter range, and sensitive birds (golden and bald eagles). It does not propose any new land use regulations or Comprehensive Plan amendments.

This report provides an overview of the project, the consultant, and committee tasks, and a summary of the public input received concerning future potential actions on the topic. Supporting documents, such as the Interagency Working Group report summarizing proposed inventory updates, are included as appendices. Staff will engage the Planning Commission and/or Board to determine next steps in an inventory update.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The majority of the County's Goal 5 wildlife inventories, which are listed in the County Comprehensive Plan and form the basis for certain elements of the development code, were last updated in the early 1990s and no longer reflect the best available data for wildlife habitat. As the population grows and development pressure increases, it is becoming increasingly apparent that using outdated inventories can result in more conflicts between land use and wildlife protection.

For this project, funded by a Technical Assistance Grant from DLCD, the County engaged the public to gauge general interest in pursuing an update of three inventories that were selected by a team of wildlife biologists with experience in the County: mule deer winter range, elk winter range, and sensitive birds (golden and bald eagles). Based on the outreach undertaken by the county, which is described later in this report, it appears that a significant majority of participants are supportive of utilizing the proposed inventories to begin the update process to the County Comprehensive Plan and development code.

It is important to note that this presentation of new biological data is only the very first step in what will be a thorough and complex undertaking to determine what an inventory update would look like. Nevertheless, the responses to the initial outreach reveal that the importance and protection of wildlife is a widely shared value in Deschutes County, and there is conceptual support for pursuing the next steps involved in an inventory update. This community conversation represents the culmination of the data collection stage for three

proposed inventories. Further tasks beyond this grant will use input received from this public process to inform the Board of County Commissioners of potential next steps.

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

Deschutes County's Comprehensive Plan features extensive lists of "Goal 5 resources." Statewide Planning Goal 5 aims to protect a variety of resources, from historic structures to surface mines. State administrative rules govern the implementation of Goal 5 ([Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660, Division 23](#)). In order to qualify for protection, a resource must first be inventoried. Wildlife inventories rely on federal or state inventories—that's where this project comes in.

The majority of the County's Goal 5 wildlife inventories were last updated in the early 1990s and no longer reflect the best available data for wildlife habitat. According to Deschutes County's Comprehensive Plan,

"It is important to note that OAR 660-016 provided direction when the County did an extensive review of Goal 5 resources primarily in the early 1990s. In 1996 OAR 660-023 replaced OAR 660-016 for all listed resources except cultural resources. The Goal and OAR require local governments to inventory various resources and determine which items on the inventory are significant..."

Deschutes County completed Goal 5 inventories and the ESEE analysis during Periodic Review, a State process for updating comprehensive plans which lasted from 1988-2003. The County Goal 5 inventories and programs were acknowledged by the Department of Land Conservation and Development as being in compliance with Goal 5. Therefore, the acknowledged Goal 5 inventories, ESEEs and programs are retained in this Plan."

As the human population grows and with it, development pressure increases, it is important for these inventories to be based on the best available data for avoidance and minimization to wildlife and their habitats. The efforts summarized in this document are intended to function as a pilot project to take the first steps towards updating three wildlife inventories, with a goal of serving as a model for future inventory updates.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DLCD's Technical Assistance (TA) grants are competitive awards to local communities that fund projects to update a comprehensive plan, update local land use ordinances, or other planning compliance projects.

The goals of this grant project included:

- Collection of updated data on three wildlife inventories using a wildlife biologist consultant and technical experts from relevant state and federal agencies;
- Documentation and verification by technical experts of the methodology behind the data;
- Presentation of these updated inventories to the public and the Planning Commission, and later, the Board of County Commissioners for potential incorporation into a future Goal 5 wildlife inventory update.

The following subsections provide an overview of the project structure, organization, and process.

Wildlife Biologist Consultant – Mason, Bruce & Girard

In order to effectively compile new inventory data pursuant to state statute, the Community Development Department (CDD) hired a consultant with wildlife biology expertise to function as a liaison between CDD and relevant State and Federal agencies, such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to understand the technical aspects and methodology of new inventories, and to participate in community outreach to convey to the public the significance of the new inventories.

After a statewide open solicitation of qualified consultants, CDD hired Mason, Bruce & Girard, a Portland-based natural resource consulting firm, with Dr. Wendy Wentz as project manager. Dr. Wentz has worked as a wildlife biologist throughout Central and Eastern Oregon for over 20 years. Her field expertise includes wildlife surveys, habitat assessments and field research design. She has prepared numerous Wildlife Habitat Management Plans, Habitat Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans, and other wildlife-related permitting and land use code compliance documents.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

For this project, Dr. Wentz guided the TAC, comprised of representatives from the County, DLCD, ODFW, and USFWS, through the inventory selection process, facilitated the Interagency Working Group (IWG) in its data collection and synthesis, and created a summary report. In turn, representatives from the County and DLCD framed the project through the state and local land use process.

Interagency Working Group (IWG)

Once the three inventories were identified by the TAC in the fall of 2020, MB&G convened an Interagency Working Group (IWG) consisting of agency species experts. This group was tasked with reviewing existing data and developing new inventories based on the best available science and professional opinion. The IWG members included agency representatives from ODFW and USFWS; discussions were facilitated by MB&G.

The IWG representatives worked within their agencies and, where appropriate, consulted with other biologists to gather the most current data to inform the inventory updates. For example, the USFWS representative coordinated with biologists at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to gather additional information on known bald and golden eagle nests within the County.

IWG Report

The inventory process and data collected by the IWG was summarized in a report by the consultant, which is included as an appendix to this document. The report provides an overview of the inventory selection process and the methodology of the data collected and utilized by the IWG to form new recommended inventories for deer winter range, elk winter range, and sensitive birds. This report then formed the basis of the information presented during the public outreach process.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED NEW INVENTORY DATA

The County conducted a public outreach program to gauge support for pursuing Comprehensive Plan and development code updates of the three inventories addressed in this pilot project. The process for such an update is outlined in [Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 660, Division 23](#) and if undertaken, the County would initiate legislative amendment proceedings pursuant to those regulations, including a robust public process with the Deschutes County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners.

To that end, the County approached residents to:

- 1) Share the proposed new inventories based on the data collected by the IWG;
- 2) Provide opportunities to ask the IWG and County staff questions about the data, the proposed inventories, and the process for a formal update;

- 3) Given the information presented, gauge general interest in the County pursuing an inventory update process.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, public outreach opportunities were limited, and the County was unable to host any in-person meetings regarding wildlife inventory updates. However, given the success of the public outreach program for the other component of the TA Grant concerning wildfire mitigation several months earlier, the County utilized the following outreach methods:

- 1) Communications Plan. Press releases, social media, and the department's electronic newsletter to announce a project website, ArcGIS StoryMap (interactive web-based maps with text, maps, and photos) and an online survey to understand the public's support to pursue an inventory update.
- 2) Open Houses. Two virtual open houses with the Deschutes County Planning Commission on April 15 and April 29, 2021 to discuss the project purpose, proposed inventories, and options to move forward.

The following sections outline the results of those public outreach actions concerning wildlife inventory updates in Deschutes County.

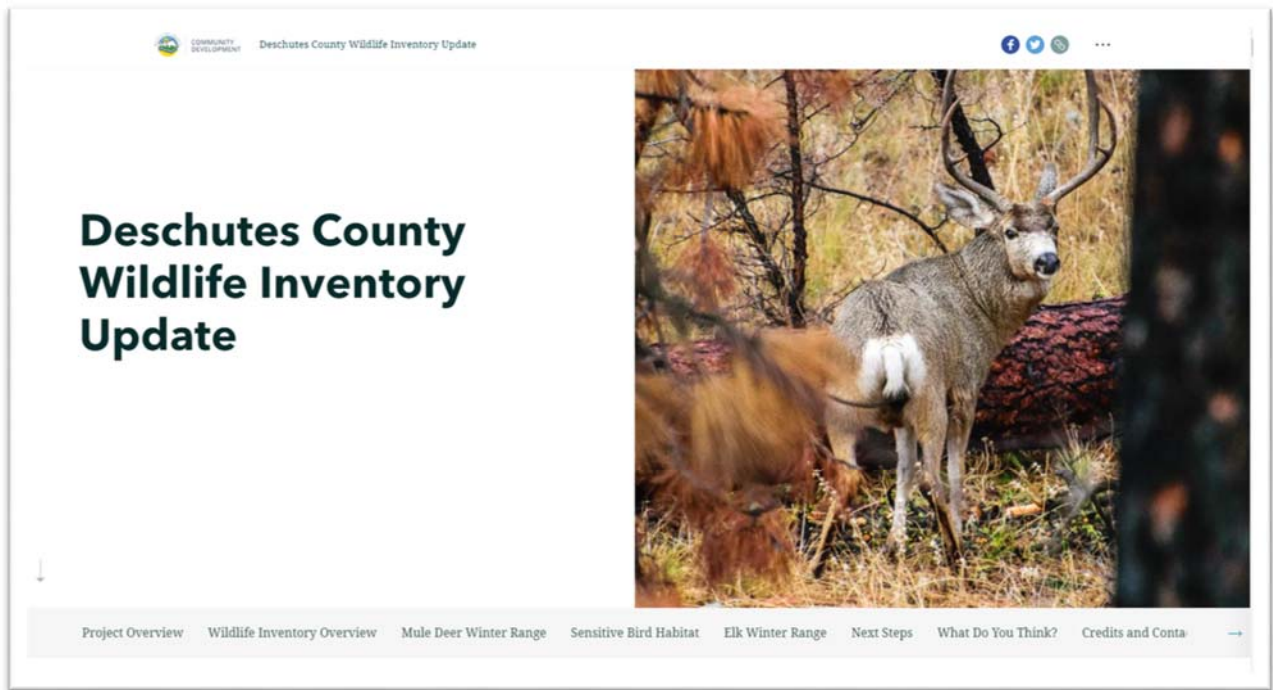
PUBLIC OUTREACH

Communications Plan and StoryMap

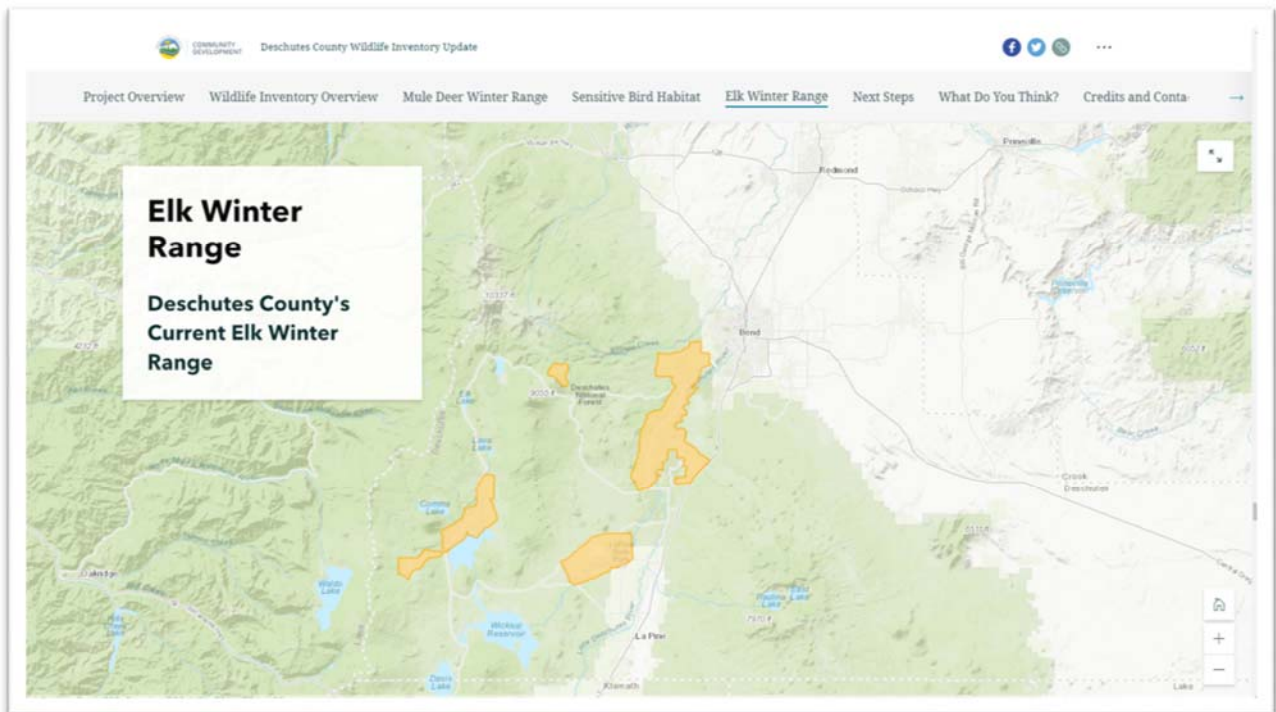
As described previously, the County's communication plan involved a number of online press releases, social media blasts prior to each virtual open house, a public-facing web page specific to the project (<https://www.deschutes.org/cd/page/wildlife-inventory-update>), and most significantly, an ArcGIS StoryMap containing an online survey.

The goal of the StoryMap was to communicate the information gathered and shared by the IWG in its report, as well as provide an overview of the project, thereby educating the reader in order to complete the survey. Screenshots of selected points in the StoryMap are provided below. The StoryMap in its entirety can be viewed via this link:

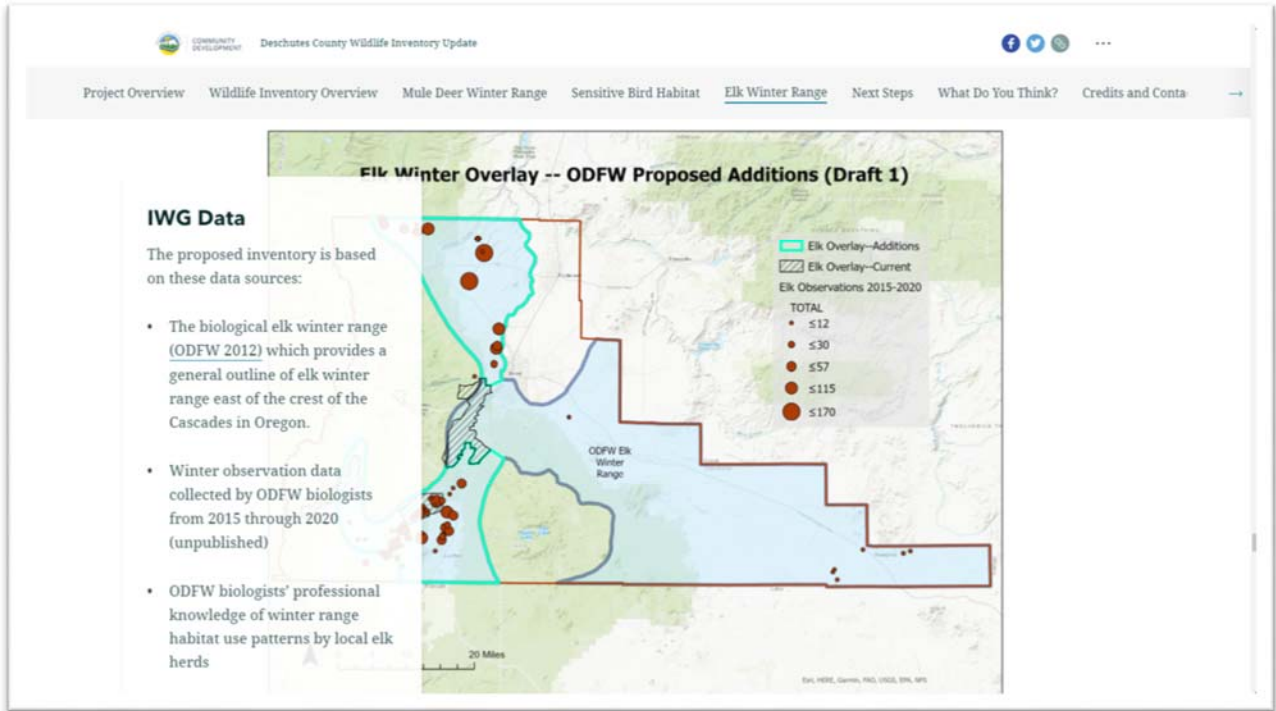
<https://www.deschutes.org/WildlifeStorymap>



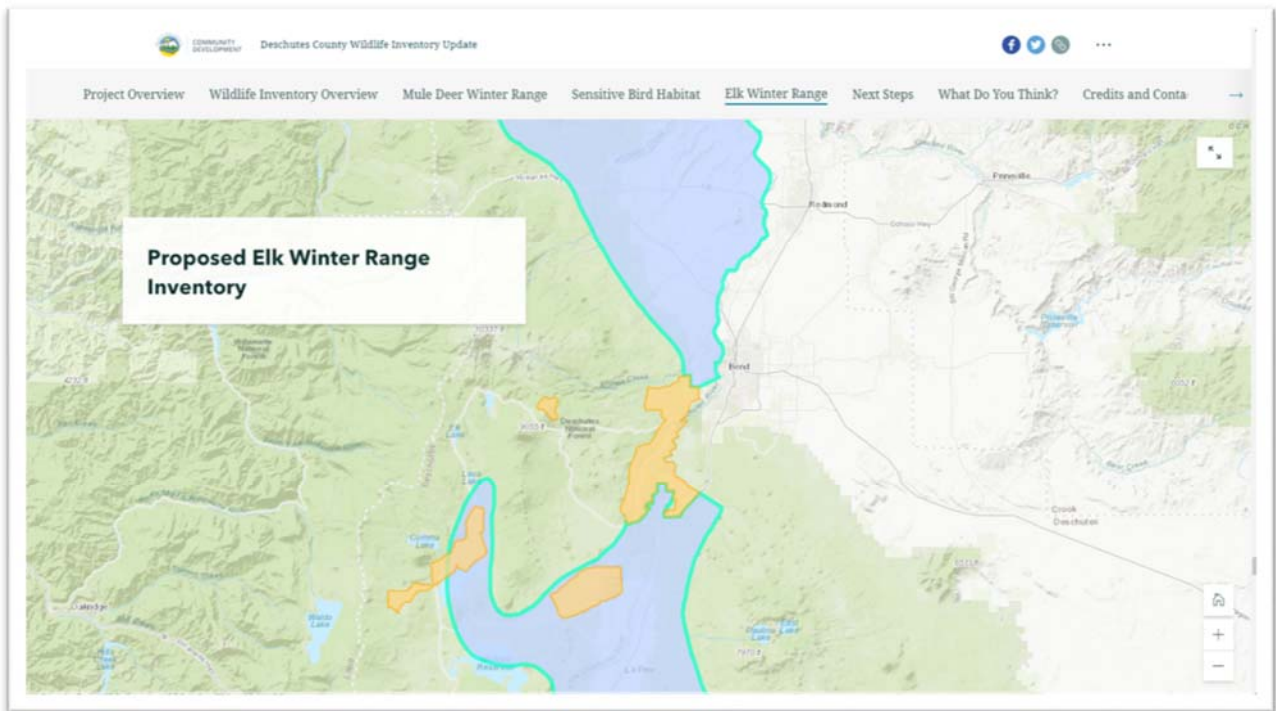
Besides providing general project information, the StoryMap features interactive maps that illustrate the County's current wildlife inventory areas compared with proposed new inventory areas for each of the three inventories. The reader can pan or zoom in on the map and explore details of specific areas for each inventory.



The StoryMap also provides snapshots of the raw data that the IWG used to develop these proposed inventories.



Maps of the proposed new inventory provide acreage summaries and other pertinent information.



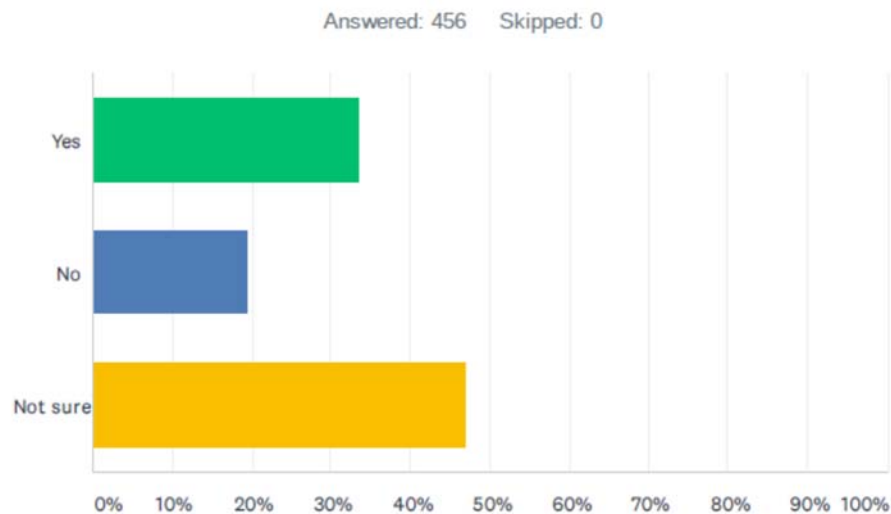
Online Survey

After proceeding through the StoryMap, the reader was led to a link to the online survey, which was available for approximately one month. The questions in the survey were intentionally broad—given that this is a relatively preliminary stage of the project rather than a specific proposal—with opportunities to provide written comments. The questions were as follows:

1. Do you live or own property in an area that falls within a wildlife inventory area, either current or proposed?
2. Do you support using these new wildlife inventories to inform the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan and development code?
3. Please share any additional comments relating to this project in the space below.

In total, the county received 456 individual responses to the online survey, with 153 of those responses coming from people living within a current or proposed wildlife inventory area. Of those 153 residents of current or proposed wildlife inventory areas, 142 of them supported using the data presented to inform the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan and development code.

Q1 Do you live or own property in an area that falls within a wildlife inventory area, either current or proposed?

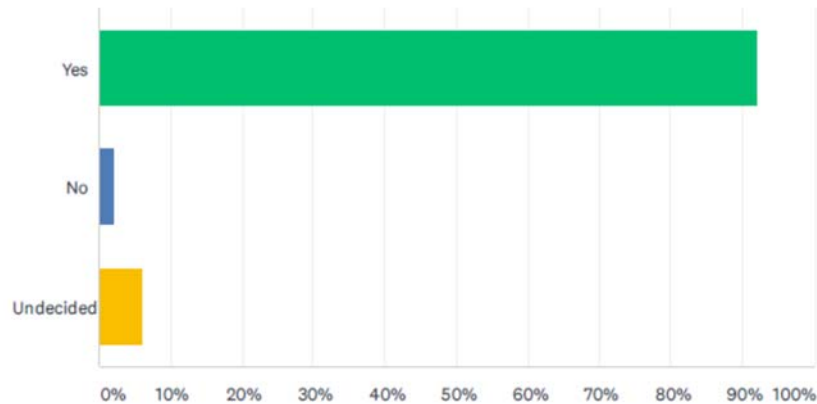


It is important to recognize the large number of people who answered “not sure” to the above question. Staff believes this might be due to a methodological shortfall. One of the primary purposes of the StoryMap was to illustrate the location of the current and proposed inventories, embedding the survey at the end so that the reader would first learn about the

project and view the maps before answering the survey. However, it came to staff's attention that some viewers may have utilized web links provided by outside advocacy organizations that, in their efforts to promote the project, bypassed the StoryMap entirely and brought viewers directly to the survey link without context or background information about where the inventories were located. While this inadvertent shortcut resulted in less-than-optimal results for Question 1, looking at the results for Question 2 indicates that the overall purpose of the survey was nevertheless communicated, and respondents overwhelmingly supported the idea of moving forward with an inventory update.

Q2 Do you support using these new wildlife inventories to inform the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan and development code?

Answered: 449 Skipped: 7



Regardless of whether respondents lived in a current or proposed wildlife inventory area—or were not sure if they do—almost 92 percent of respondents (or 413 people) supported using the proposed new inventories to inform the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan and development code. Two percent did not support pursuing updated wildlife inventories, and six percent were undecided.

Question 2 provided respondents an opportunity to provide written comments as well. The full list of comments received are provided as an appendix. Some selected highlights include:

Because supporting wildlife is supporting all life. Healthy wildlife, healthy humans. We breathe the same air, drink the same water. Environmental health is why I live in Bend.

These inventories represent the current best available science about three of the most important wildlife species in our County. In order to ensure the health and survival of these species, and the

rest of the ecosystems of which these species are a vital part, we need accurate information in order to plan for and regulate impactful human development.

I don't know enough about how the wildlife inventories would be used. If the data is thorough and actually used, then I am in favor. If the data is just gathered and not utilized, just to check a box, then I'm less excited about it. In general I believe wildlife inventories should be a guiding factor in comprehensive plans.

The plan appears to take in all eagle nests, even if they are no longer active. The plan appears to protect elk ranges, where elk never have been. We have a huge housing shortage, prices are high, and are only higher because of how expensive it is to go through land use process. These wildlife inventories are overreaching protecting areas that do not need to be protected, and will further limit development only to the rich that can afford to fight the legal battles that this will inevitably enable.

Good decisions depend upon having reliable and up-to-date information.

Too expansive and limits options for land use

The vast expansion of these areas will impose too great a cost on private property owners. The current rules seem to be working as the areas of habitat are vastly greater than inventoried in 1992 (even accounting for a less rigorous inventory process). The current WA zone rules key road requirements to 1992 -- fair for current zones but unfair for newly added properties. This will present nonproductive farm land from being used for nonfarm dwellings – sometimes the only way a farmer can qualify to live on his land (to be able to farm it to make farm income) without disqualifying the entire property from farm tax deferral.

My home sits between Tumalo Reservoir Road and Pinehurst Road in Tumalo. We frequently see a herd of 70+ elk that use the area to rest and feed during the winter and even summer months. Under the proposed new expanded wildlife plan our area would be included. Given the deer, elk and other wildlife we see in our neighborhood, enlarging the current wildlife maps seems very appropriate.

Question 3 was open-ended, and 146 people provided responses, some relating specifically to the inventory project, and others about wildlife in the County more generally. The comments appear to make it clear that Deschutes County residents care strongly about wildlife protection. All responses are provided in the appendix, but some are highlighted below.

Protecting wildlife need not be difficult. Cooperation and information is essential.

Every year I obtain a Deschutes Co. permit to place "give deer a brake" signs along Gosney and Rickard Rds. during spring and fall migration to/from winter range. Public feedback from these

signs has been good to raise awareness that vehicle collisions are a major mortality factor, and speed a factor in collisions. I'd like to think this appears to have reduced deer deaths in these areas in the last 2 years. Why aren't there more public relations and efforts to reduce collisions? Interagency partnerships, with insurance companies, road depts, ODFW, conservation nonprofits and road frontage landowners could do more to do so, including clearing ROWs for sight distance, encouraging removal of unnecessary fences, motion sensor warning lights, etc. ODFW does very little stewardship to protect deer populations other than agreeing to undercrossings. Prohibiting feeding deer in neighborhoods would be a good first step to reduce deer vulnerability to vehicles. ODOT is the only agency being proactive in funding undercrossings and fencing. Perhaps with updated migration data, problem areas can be targeted for multi-pronged programs. Meanwhile deer numbers fall...

Wildlife is the reason I live here.

This is a crucial project in light of rapid population growth in the county which has led to loss of habitat for many native species.

Adopting an updated inventory will be a great first step. Following that, giving the inventory meaningfulness by threading it through planning documents and processes will be critically important.

Failure to have recent survey data ensures poor policy decisions.

This change will devalue land. Property owners should be notified and, in all fairness, compensated for the loss of land value of land they purchased at prices based on current development expectations.

Not only do the wildlife inventories need to be updated, but Deschutes County needs a plan for updating them on a regular bases. USFWS recommended 2 mile buffers for golden eagles should be adopted so development within that area can be reviewed. Additionally, the county needs a wildlife biologist on staff.

The inventories are cursory in scope. The project aims to survey 'wildlife' but it only covers deer, elk, and eagles. If you are really concerned about conserving wildlife and habitats in the region, you need to do more comprehensive surveys. According to ODFW's own conservation strategy, Deschutes County comprises 4 different ecoregions, and these ecoregions support many species that are listed as sensitive by ODFW. And yet they only want to manage for deer, elk, and eagles. In the East Cascades ecoregion alone, there are at least 3 fish species, 4 amphibians, 3 reptiles, a dozen bird species, and 11 mammals listed as sensitive or critical (this list includes neither deer nor elk). I realize that not all of these species occur on lands managed by Deschutes County, but many do. And how will you know if you don't survey for them?

Virtual Open Houses

Due to the public gathering restrictions in place from the COVID-19 pandemic, the County was unable to host any in-person meetings regarding wildlife inventory updates. To account for these challenges, County planning staff facilitated two virtual open houses in conjunction with the Deschutes County Planning Commission, the project consultant, and representatives from the Interagency Working Group. The open house events were held on April 15, 2021¹ and April 29, 2021² and the videos—as well as Spanish translations of each open house—remain available on the project web page.

The purpose of the open houses was to give the public and the Deschutes County Planning Commission an opportunity to ask County staff and wildlife biologist experts questions concerning the project process, data collection and methodology, and potential next steps. These sessions were intended to introduce community members to the StoryMap feature and associated survey, while also allowing for more clarification and inquiry into details which may not have been captured by the other outreach features.

The open house sessions were conducted via Zoom, and each was simultaneously streamed and recorded via Facebook Live through the County's social media account. Participants were encouraged to submit written questions through either of these channels, with corresponding answers provided in real time by facilitators and presenters. During the second open house, participants could also ask questions live via video.

The open houses used the StoryMap as an outline, with staff and the wildlife biologist consultant taking the audience on a guided tour of the background and maps. The Planning Commission and the public asked questions throughout the presentation.

The full list of questions and answers during the open house meetings has been included as an appendix to this report. In addition, these documents include several answers to questions that were not answered live due to time constraints.

General Public Comments

In addition to the data gathered through survey outreach and both virtual open houses, the county received eight public comments from private citizens concerning the proposed wildlife inventory updates, not including clarifying or logistical inquiries. These comments unanimously supported the concept of proceeding with inventory updates.

A full copy of the public comments has been included as an appendix to this report.

¹ <https://deschutescountyor.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2749&Format=Agenda>

² <https://deschutescountyor.iqm2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2751&Format=Agenda>

SECTION 3: CONCLUSION

Based on the outreach undertaken by the County described above, it appears that a significant majority of participants are supportive of utilizing the proposed inventories to begin the update process to the County Comprehensive Plan and development code.

It is important to note that this presentation of new biological data is only the very first step in what will be a thorough and complex undertaking to determine what an inventory update would look like, both in terms of process—would it be a stand-alone amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, or incorporated into the larger, more holistic Comprehensive Plan update?—and in terms of specific regulations to be considered—such as the determination of conflicting uses as well as the recognition of development expectations and entitlements. Nevertheless, the responses to the initial outreach reveal that the importance and protection of wildlife is a widely shared value in Deschutes County, and there is conceptual support for pursuing the next steps involved in an inventory update.

This community conversation represents the culmination of the data collection stage. Further tasks beyond this grant will use input received from this public process to inform the Board of County Commissioners of potential next steps.

IWG Report

Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory Update

Prepared for
Deschutes County Community Development Department



Insights. Ideas. Integrity.

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Introduction

The Deschutes County Community Development Department (County) is beginning the process of updating the County's Comprehensive Plan, which formally records the community's development aspirations and goals and provides guidelines for future growth. To complete one step of this multi-step process, the County applied for and received a Technical Assistance Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The grant provides funding to begin updating up to three of the County's Statewide Planning Goal 5 (Goal 5) wildlife inventories because the existing Goal 5 wildlife inventories are dated and no longer represent the best available scientific data for the inventoried resources. The County engaged Mason, Bruce & Girard Inc. (MB&G) in 2020 to assist them with the implementation of the grant. This report presents the three updated Goal 5 wildlife inventories. Figures are presented in Appendix A. Raw data snapshots are presented in Appendix B. GIS data are delivered separately.

Process for the Update

The decision-making group for the project is the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Initially the TAC included representatives from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Land Conservation and Development Division (LCDC), the County, and MB&G. The County and MB&G kicked off the project in August of 2020 with the first meeting of the TAC. During this meeting, the group reviewed the existing Goal 5 inventories related to wildlife and selected three candidates for update. These included:

- 1) Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) Winter Range Habitat
- 2) Sensitive Bird Habitat— specifically the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) nest sites
- 3) Elk (*Cervus canadensis*) Winter Range Habitat

The TAC also identified additional inventories that would benefit from an update but did not rise to the same priority level as the three selected for this round. Those were:

- 1) Mule Deer Migration Corridors
- 2) Endangered Species Act Threatened & Endangered Species Habitat (*e.g.*, Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*))

Mule deer migration corridors were identified as important by the TAC because more recent data gathered over the past decade indicate the resource is likely significantly larger than the area that is currently protected. ODFW now also has a better understanding of how mule deer use corridors in the County. Although important, corridors were still seen by the TAC as a lower priority than updating the mule deer and elk winter ranges and the bald and golden eagle sensitive habitat areas. The TAC also decided that while Threatened & Endangered species habitats were important, species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and their habitats already receive federal protections and inventories are typically much more up-to-date than those selected for this project.

Once the three inventories were identified by the TAC, MB&G convened an Interagency Working Group (IWG) consisting of agency species experts. This group was tasked with reviewing existing data and developing new inventories based on the best available science and professional opinion. The IWG members included agency representatives from ODFW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); discussions were facilitated by MB&G. This report presents to the TAC the results of the IWG-led updates to the three selected inventories.

Results

Over the course of the project, the agency representatives developed updated versions of the three selected Goal 5 wildlife inventories. The three resulting updated datasets are described in this section, and GIS files and metadata are delivered separately. All area estimates reported herein were made using the Deschutes County-preferred coordinate system: Oregon State Plane South with Lambert Conformal Conic projection, North American Datum 1983 (international feet units).

Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat

The mule deer winter range habitat inventory was selected by the TAC for update primarily because it no longer reflects usage patterns indicated by data collected by ODFW biologists, and this habitat commonly is a source of conflict with proposed developments in the County.

Research tools available to scientists have evolved since the original wildlife-related inventories were created back in the 1990s. For example, in the case of mule deer winter range habitat, since the last inventory was developed ODFW revised study designs to alter winter range sampling to more effectively measure changes in the deer population. ODFW and their research partners also completed studies that tracked deer use of the winter range habitat by collaring some individuals with GPS location transmitters, greatly enhancing ODFW's understanding of how deer are using the winter range habitat. Finally, ODFW applied recently developed spatial modeling tools to better predict how mule deer utilize winter range habitat.

The revised mule deer winter range habitat was developed by ODFW based on the following data sources:

- The existing Deschutes County Wildlife Area Combining Zones (WA Zones) for mule deer winter range, including the Deer Winter Range, Tumalo Deer Winter Range, Metolius Deer Winter Range, Grizzly Deer Winter Range, and North Paulina Deer Winter Range
- The biological mule deer winter range (ODFW 2012) which provides a general outline of mule deer winter range east of the crest of the Cascades in Oregon. ODFW considers the winter range to be that area normally occupied by deer from December through April
- Aerial and ground survey observations of deer group sizes collected by ODFW biologists during each winter from 2015 through 2020 (unpublished)
- Mule deer resource selection function (RSF) model raster for probability of use in winter based on the "south central study" (Coe *et al.* 2018)
- Deer density polygons from two years of collar data for an area that was left out of the "south central study" (unpublished)

Figure 1 (Appendix A) depicts the updated inventory for mule deer winter range. Mule deer winter range areas currently protected by the County (the WA Zones for Mule Deer Winter Range) were included in the revision as they continue to represent key winter habitat areas for deer. The currently protected WA Zone for mule deer winter range in the County covers approximately 315,847 acres. The blue polygons indicate additional important mule deer winter range habitat areas covering approximately 188,132 acres. The revised mule deer winter range habitat as proposed would cover approximately 503,979 acres. Snapshots of the raw data informing the inventory update were provided by ODFW and are included in Appendix B. In the context of the greater mule deer winter range (ODFW 2012), these newly selected areas combined with the existing WA Zone winter range were thought to be particularly significant portions of the winter range

habitat for mule deer based on the raw data inputs depicted in Appendix B, and therefore they were identified for protection by the members of the IWG representing ODFW.

Sensitive Bird Habitat: Bald and Golden Eagle Nest Locations

Bald and golden eagle nest locations were selected by the TAC for update primarily because the datasets underlying the current sensitive bird habitat occurrences for these two species in Deschutes County are out of date, and development conflicts with known nests are increasing. USFWS participated in the IWG and provided the updated Goal 5 inventory for bald and golden eagles. The updated Goal 5 inventory dataset includes known golden and bald eagle nest sites, each buffered by a sensitive habitat area extending outward from the nest location. All known nest locations within Deschutes County as well as any buffers that extend into Deschutes County from nest locations in adjacent counties are included. Alternative nests with overlapping buffers are dissolved into single polygons to better capture potential use areas for active pairs. Golden eagle nest locations are buffered by a sensitive habitat area that extends out for a radius of 2 miles (Figure 2, Appendix A). USFWS buffered the golden eagle nest locations with the larger proposed sensitive area because this is the awareness distance used by the agency to trigger review of potential impacts of a proposed project or land use change on an active pair under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Bald eagle nests are buffered by a ¼-mile -radius sensitive habitat area. The buffers applied to the updated golden eagle nest sites are larger than the ¼-mile sensitive habitat buffer currently applied by the County to golden eagle nest locations.

USFWS gathered the data informing the revised Goal 5 inventory from three sources:

- Oregon Eagle Foundation
- United States Forest Service Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) for terrestrial wildlife data
- Bureau of Land Management local records

The existing Deschutes County sensitive bird habitat inventory includes 5 bald eagle and 20 golden eagle nest locations. Each nest location is currently buffered by a ¼ mile radius sensitive habitat area. Altogether, the County currently protects 2,297 acres of sensitive bird habitat associated the 25 nest locations (603 acres for bald eagles and 1,694 acres for golden eagles).

In total, the proposed sensitive bird habitat associated with bald and golden eagles would cover approximately 344,778 acres in the County. The much larger acreage of sensitive habitat identified in the updated inventory stems from 1) an increase in the number of nests included in the updated inventory (116 bald eagle, and 103 golden eagle nests), and 2) the larger radius of sensitive habitat area identified for golden eagles. It is important to note that the larger number of nests included in the updated inventory does not correspond to increased eagle success or upward population trends, especially for golden eagles. Survey methods have improved and survey efforts have greatly increased over the past several decades resulting in the record of several alternative nest sites per territory (*e.g.* the 103 golden eagle nest sites represent 41 territories). The revised data also include nests on all land ownerships even were buffers are fully located on public lands.

Elk Winter Range Habitat

Similar to the mule deer winter range inventory, the elk winter range habitat was selected by the TAC for update primarily because the existing WA Zone for Elk Range used by the County significantly differs from ODFW's survey-based understanding of how elk currently use winter range habitat. The most heavily used winter range has expanded over time and often conflicts with development projects.

The revised areas were identified by ODFW based on the following data sources:

- The existing Deschutes County WA Zone for elk habitat (which focuses on winter range)
- The biological elk winter range (ODFW 2012) which provides a general outline of elk winter range east of the crest of the Cascades in Oregon.
- Winter observation data collected by ODFW biologists from 2015 through 2020 (unpublished)
- ODFW biologists' professional knowledge of winter range habitat use patterns by local elk herds

The revised elk winter range habitat is depicted in Figure 3 (Appendix A) and it extends the existing Wildlife Area Combining Zone, which covers approximately 51,717 acres, to include additional important portions of the biological winter range covering approximately 359,473 acres. The entire revised elk winter range would cover approximately 411,190 acres in the County. Snapshots of the raw data informing the inventory update were provided by ODFW and are included in Appendix B.

Recommendations from the IWG to the County

While discussing the inventory revisions, the IWG also developed some recommendations for the County to consider during later phases of the Comprehensive Plan update. Recommendations included:

- Identify and utilize up-to-date databases to keep data layers current. For example, the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) which is part of the Institute for Natural Resources at Portland State University, manages a comprehensive database of rare, threatened, and endangered species in Oregon. The IWG recommends the County regularly access this database to keep the bald and golden eagle inventory current. It could also be used as a resource for keeping other inventories associated with rare, threatened, or endangered species in line with the best available science.
- Consider the consequences of disclosing sensitive information such as exact eagle nest locations to the public. The sensitive habitat area buffers provide some protection, but the resource agencies urge the County to coordinate with them prior to making the updated inventories accessible to the public to ensure proper precautions have been taken.

Literature Cited

Coe, P. K., D. A. Clark, R. M. Nielson, S. C. Gregory, J. B. Cupples, M. J. Hendrick, B. K. Johnson, and D. H. Jackson. 2018. Multiscale models of habitat use by mule deer in winter. *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 82(6):1285-1299.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). 2012. ODFW Deer and Elk Winter Range for Eastern Oregon. GIS Shapefile Published 01/09/2013. Online Link: <https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/DataClearinghouse/default.aspx?p=202&XMLname=885.xml>

Appendix A

Figures



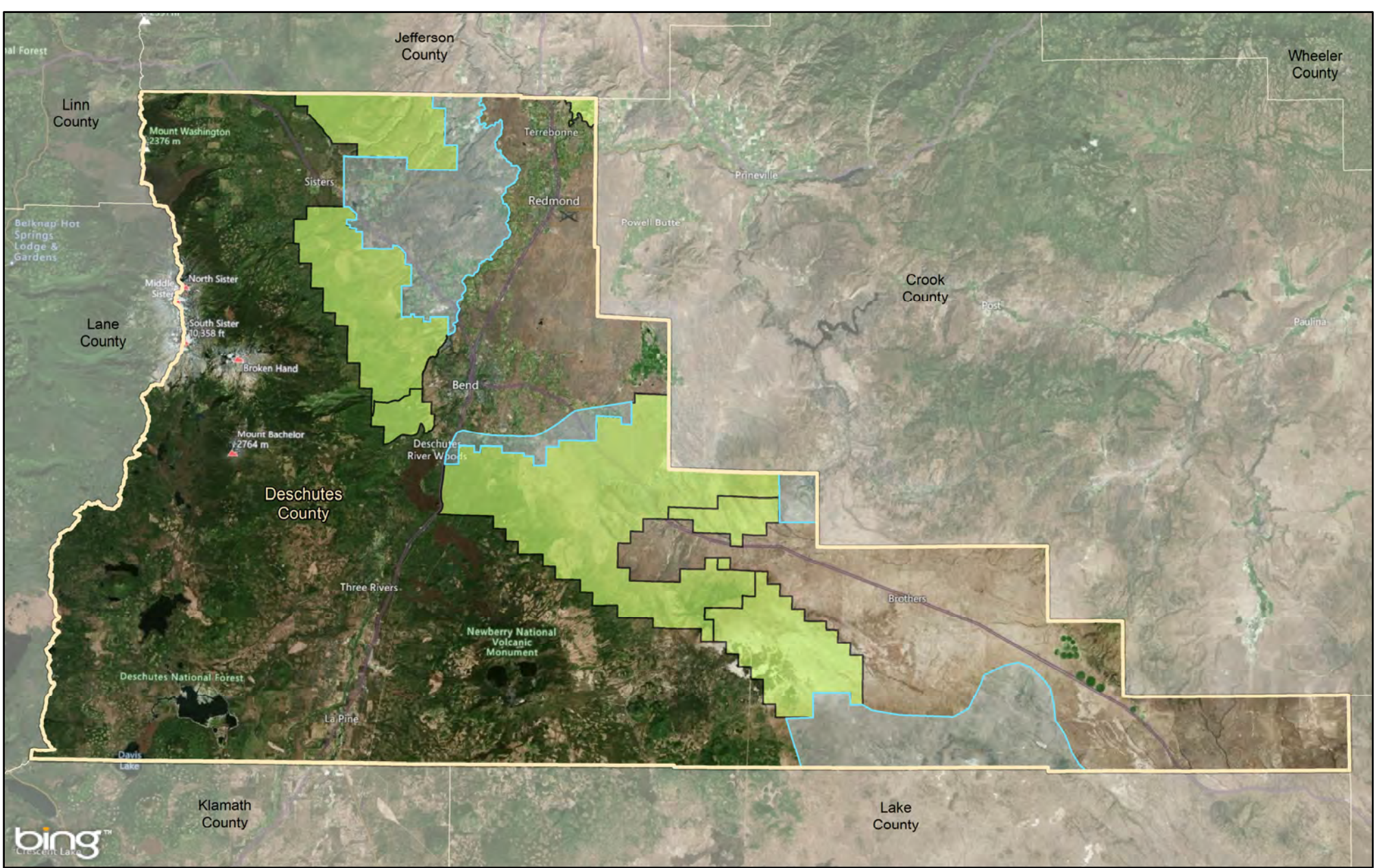




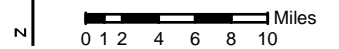
Figure 1. Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat

-  Additional Mule Deer Winter Range Habitat
-  Deschutes County Mule Deer Winter Range WA Zones

Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory
Deschutes County, Oregon



Source: basemap from Microsoft Bing; proposed additions to winter range from ODFW. Reproduced for informational purposes and may not be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.



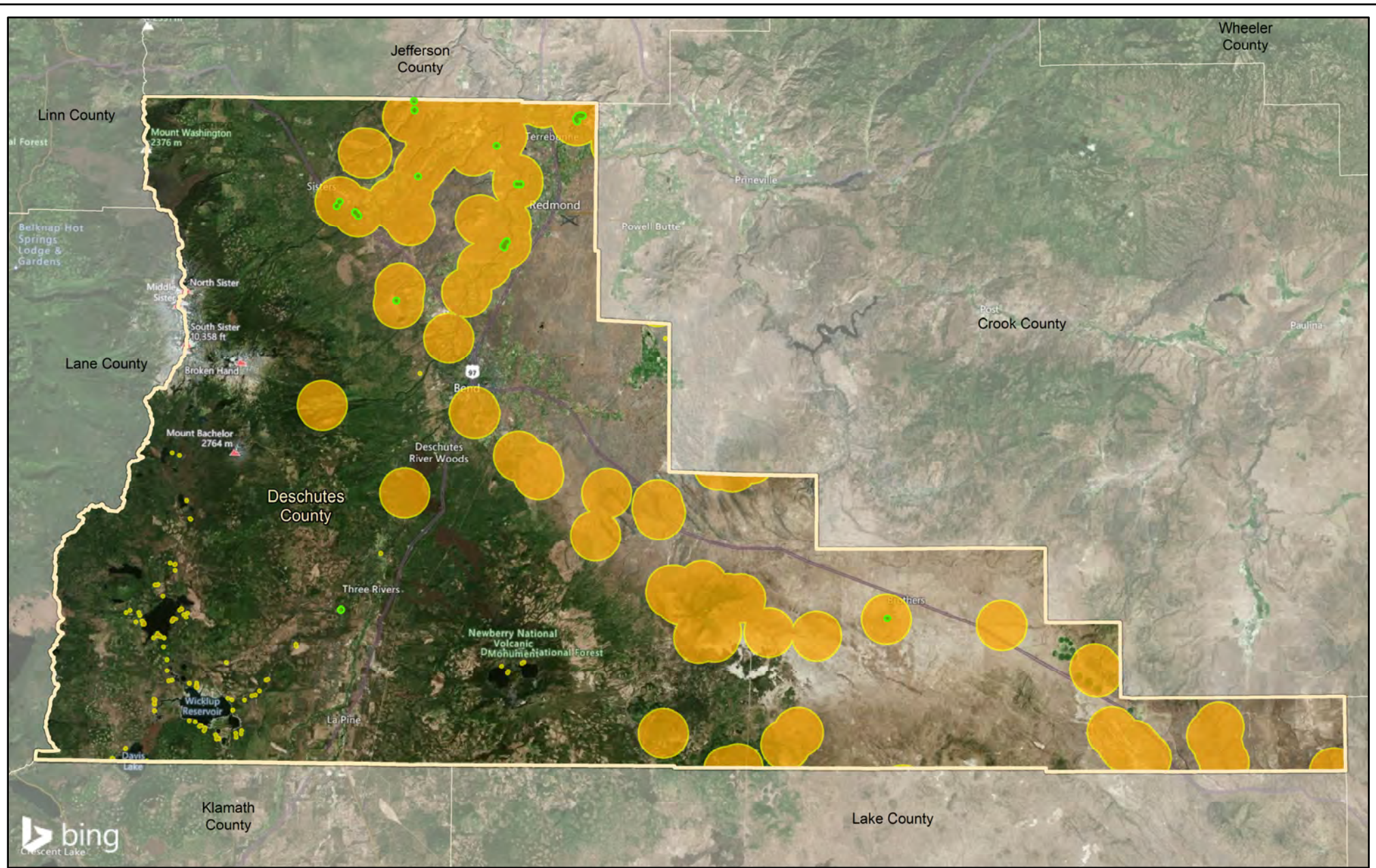




Figure 2. Bald and Golden Eagle Sensitive Habitat Areas

-  Additional Bald and Golden Eagle Sensitive Habitat Areas
-  Deschutes County Sensitive Bird Habitat for Bald and Golden Eagles

Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory
Deschutes County, Oregon



Source: basemap from Microsoft Bing; bald and golden eagle sensitive habitat areas from USFWS. Reproduced for informational purposes and may not be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.



0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles

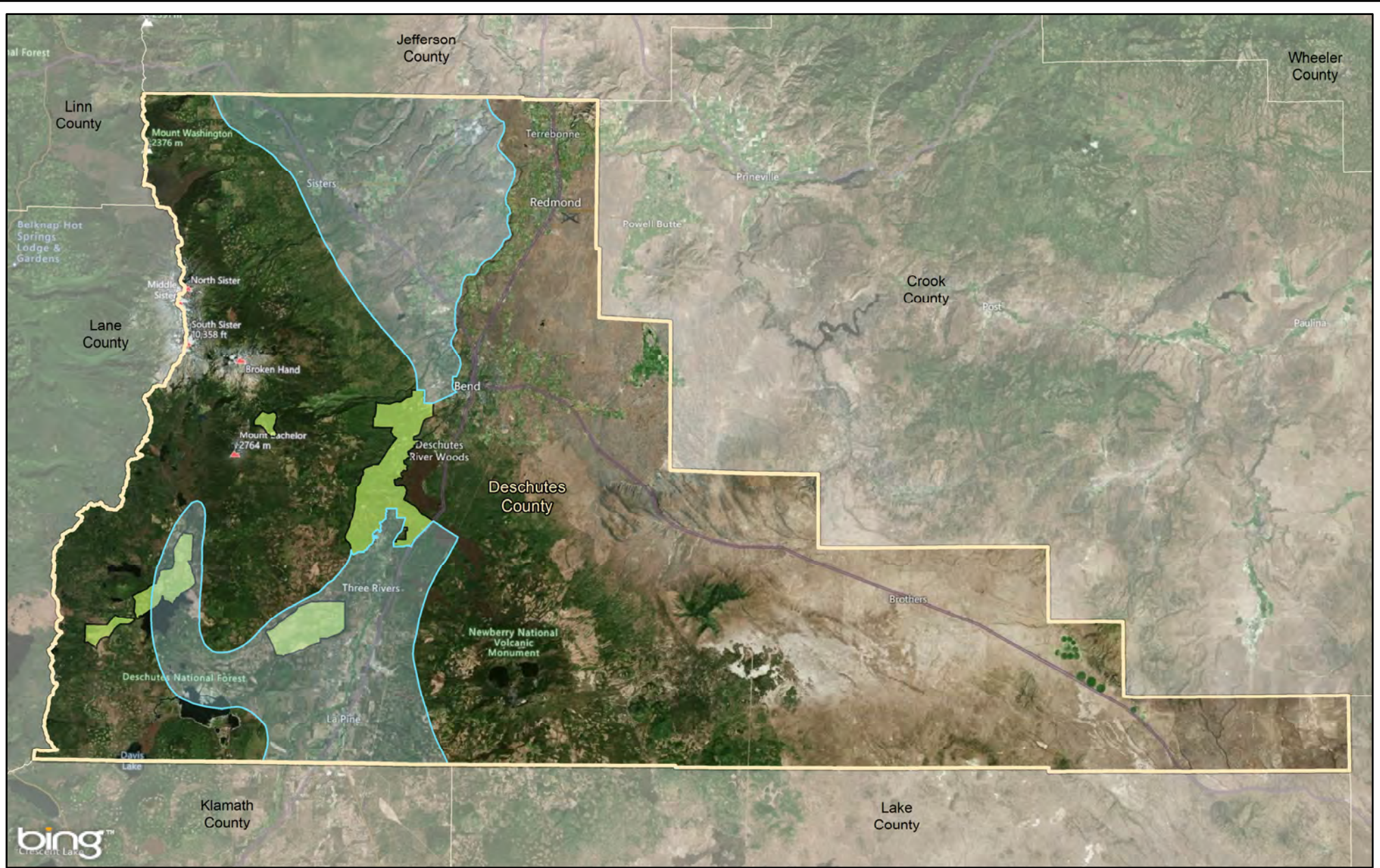




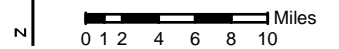
Figure 3. Elk Winter Range Habitat

Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory
Deschutes County, Oregon

-  Additional Elk Winter Range Habitat
-  Deschutes County Elk Range WA Zones



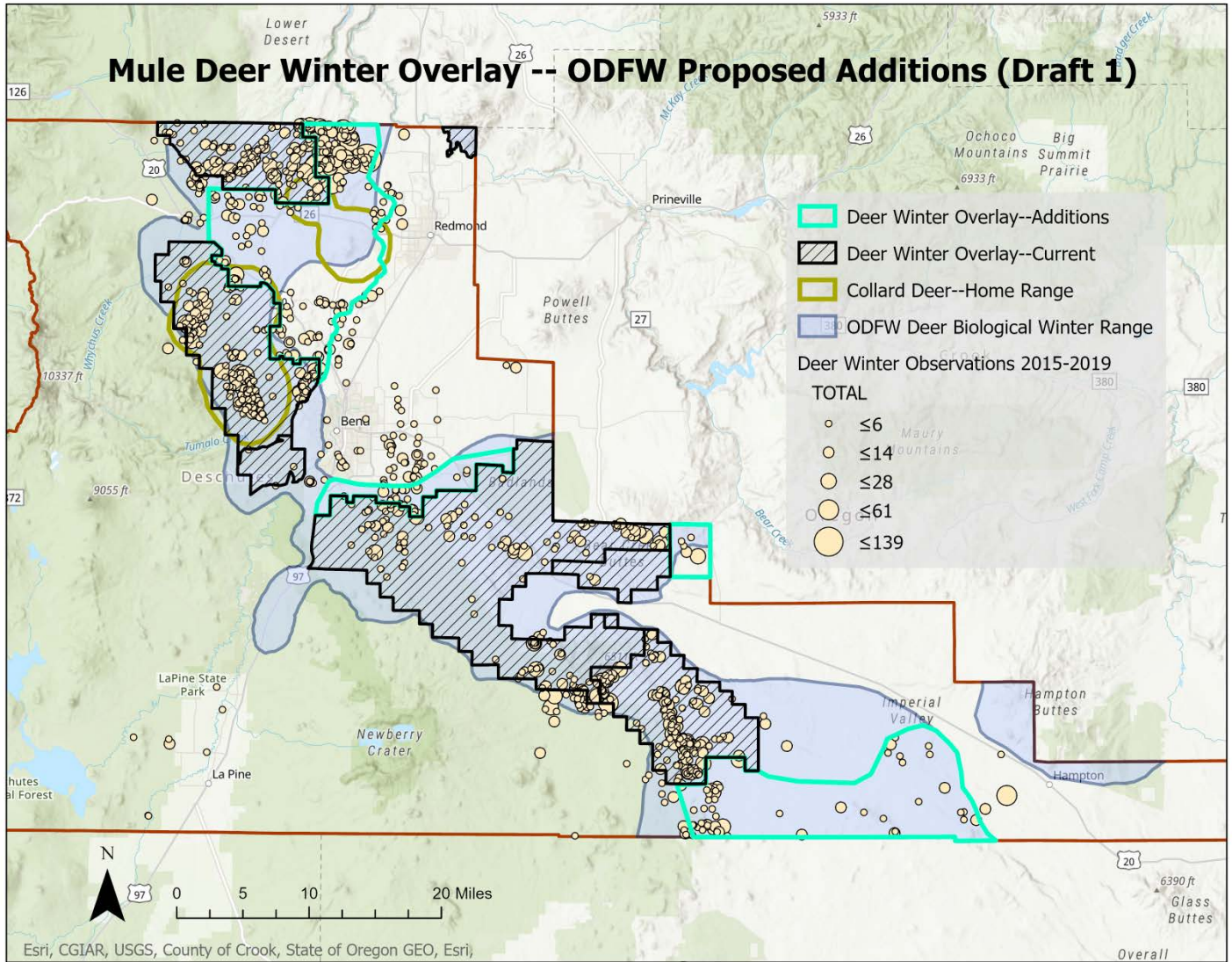
Source: basemap from Microsoft Bing; proposed additions to winter range from ODFW. Reproduced for informational purposes and may not be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user.



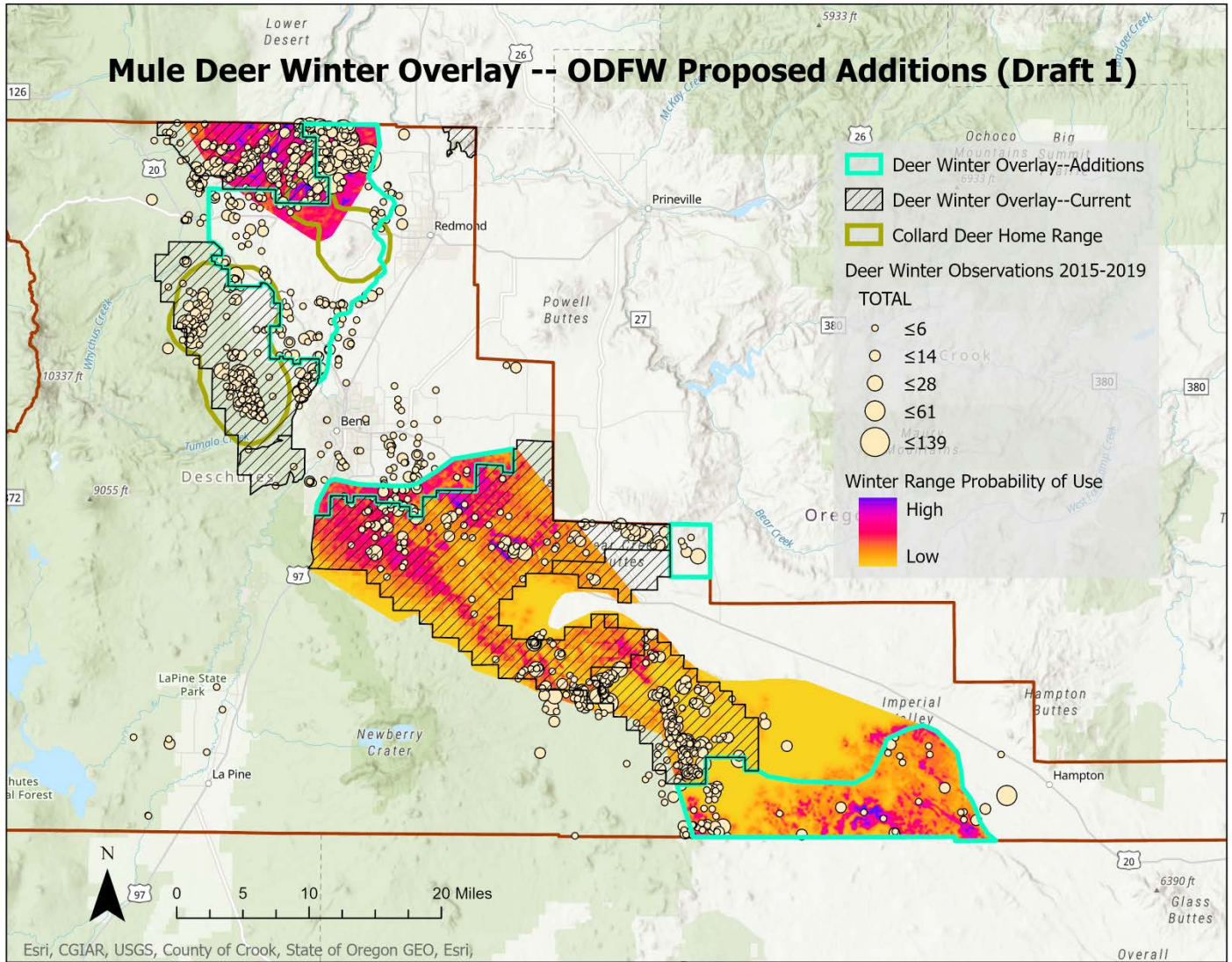
Appendix B

Data Snapshots

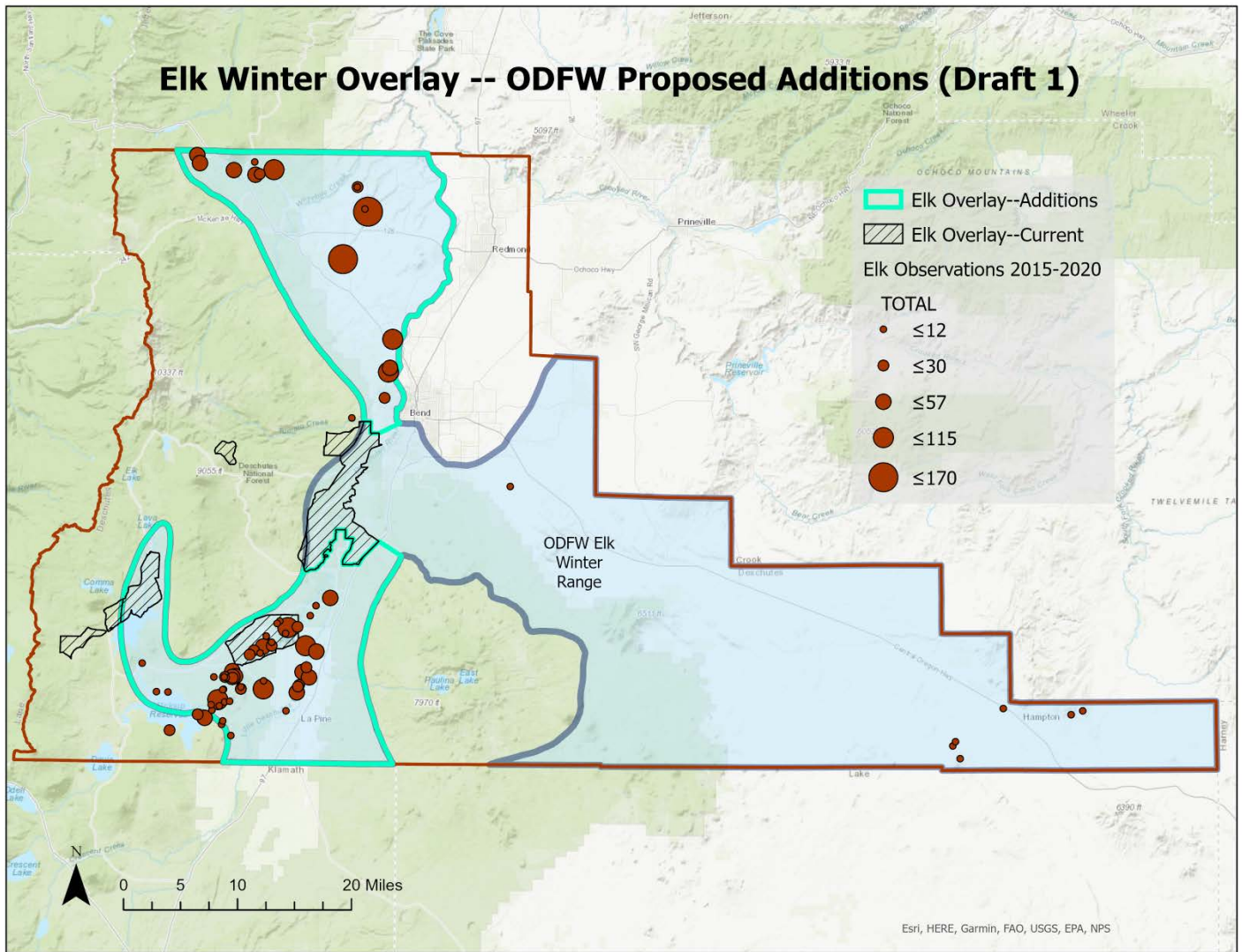




Snapshot provided by ODFW of raw data informing the mule deer winter range habitat inventory update.



Snapshot provided by ODFW of raw data informing the mule deer winter range habitat inventory update.

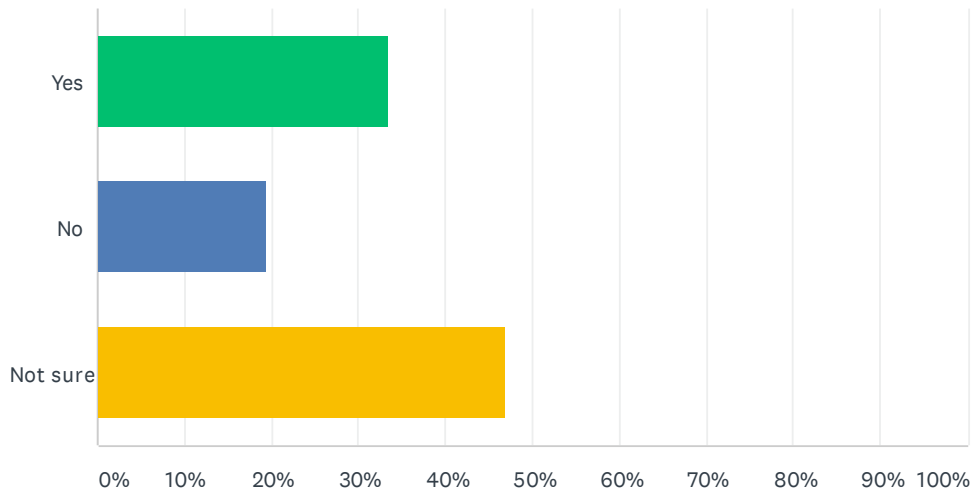


Snapshot provided by ODFW of raw data informing the elk winter range habitat inventory update.

Online Survey Summary

Q1 Do you live or own property in an area that falls within a wildlife inventory area, either current or proposed?

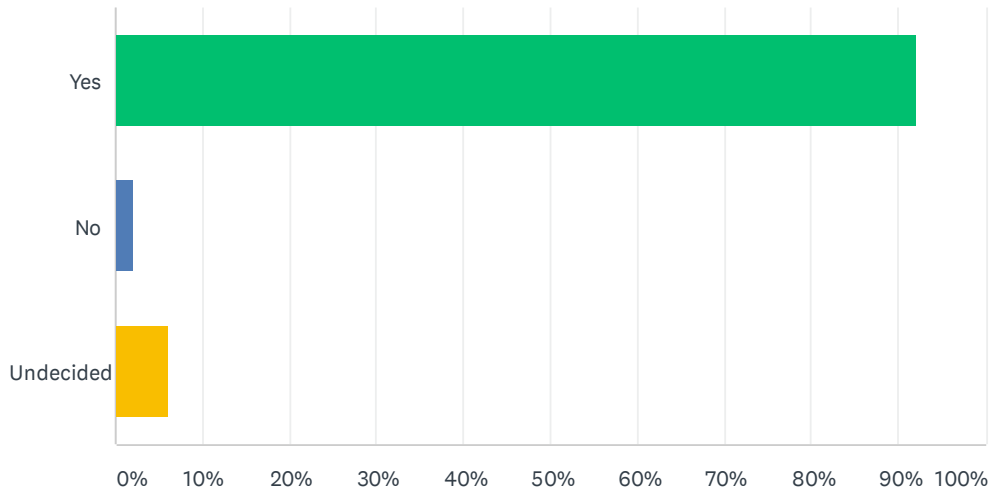
Answered: 456 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.55%	153
No	19.52%	89
Not sure	46.93%	214
TOTAL		456

Q2 Do you support using these new wildlife inventories to inform the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan and development code?

Answered: 449 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	91.98% 413
No	2.00% 9
Undecided	6.01% 27
TOTAL	449

#	COMMENTS? WHY OR WHY NOT?	DATE
1	Our wildlife are extremely important!!	5/7/2021 8:59 AM
2	What inventories? Maybe an explanation of how and why would he helpful	5/7/2021 7:07 AM
3	Wildlife is important to our physical and emotional wellbeing in Central Oregon.	5/6/2021 3:58 PM
4	We have to manage the winter range better. We are killing too many ungulates with our cars, our development without some kind of mitigation...	5/6/2021 1:18 PM
5	With the rapid pace of growth, spread and construction, it is more important than ever that we are thoughtful, strategic, compassionate and smart in relationship to our urban wildlife.	5/6/2021 12:10 PM
6	The plan appears to take in all eagle nests, even if they are no longer active. The plan appears to protect elk ranges, where elk never have been. We have a huge housing shortage, prices are high, and are only higher because of how expensive it is to go through land use process. These wildlife inventories are overreaching protecting areas that do not need to be protected, and will further limit development only to the rich that can afford to fight the legal battles that this will inevitably enable.	5/5/2021 5:39 PM
7	When you have policies informed by science, outcomes will be relevant.	5/4/2021 3:12 PM
8	Because development frequently ignore existing ecosystems after their pursuit of greed which can never satisfy itself	5/4/2021 1:21 PM
9	I grew up here and know what Deschutes County looked like in 1981 and it is not even comparable to what it looks like now. We need new inventories to go with the new	5/4/2021 12:02 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

	Comprehensive plan. Otherwise we are planning without seeing the entire picture.	
10	It's good to protect wintering areas so that we don't continue to build homes in these areas. We must keep habitat available for the species to survive.	5/4/2021 10:06 AM
11	Need to build wildlife overpasses on HWY 97, not undercrossings if herds are to survive. All other western states have it figured out.	5/4/2021 9:46 AM
12	Because supporting wildlife is supporting all life. Healthy wildlife, healthy humans. We breathe the same air, drink the same water. Environmental health is why I live in Bend.	5/4/2021 8:20 AM
13	We need to protect our wildlife for future generations both for viewing and harvesting. It is time to update the areas and data to reflect current actuals.	5/4/2021 8:12 AM
14	One thing to inventory them...another thing to not enforce speed limits resulting in huge deer mortality!!!!	5/4/2021 8:05 AM
15	We need to protect important breeding areas and habitats that sustains wildlife, while at the same time planning for safe housing that plans for the co-existence of human life and wildlife.	5/4/2021 7:29 AM
16	The current one is from 1981. Very outdated. I have lived in Bend since the 70's and everything has changed here.	5/4/2021 7:22 AM
17	It's important to include the most recent data when creating a new plan (or updating the current one).	5/4/2021 7:08 AM
18	We need accurate numbers to make informed decisions.	5/3/2021 9:57 PM
19	Understanding where our wildlife live and the habitat they require is essential for management. Using 40-year-old data doesn't make sense.	5/3/2021 7:23 PM
20	Deschutes County is not just a place for humans. What makes it special for all of us who move and live here is its rural wild area. This includes the precious wildlife who call this land home. Their protection and conservation are essential!!	5/3/2021 6:27 PM
21	we have invaded wildlife's habitat and we should respect their needs.	5/3/2021 5:57 PM
22	We need to be making our decisions based on the best available scientific data.	5/3/2021 5:46 PM
23	taking care of our wildlife is very important, they need the space	5/3/2021 3:03 PM
24	Wildlife is the reason that many people were brought to enjoy the Central Oregon region. As we have allowed growth to go unchecked with our population and building, wildlife has suffered.	5/3/2021 2:04 PM
25	We need to use the most up-to-date science when planning. I definitely want to preserve wildlife habitat!	5/2/2021 8:07 PM
26	If there is no concern on protecting the migrating herds of deer and elk, we won't have ANY! County needs to watch wildlife corridor passages and protect them from differing developing tracts.	5/2/2021 6:34 AM
27	I feel wildlife in my area (Klippel acres) is getting 'squeezed' because of traffic/people/new homes and lack of understanding of wildlife here by newcomers. I live about 400 feet from the Tanager development where there are two lakes that are beside Tumalo Creek. The wildlife thrive this area.	5/1/2021 9:49 PM
28	It's important to know what's going on with wildlife and impacts that city growth has had.	4/30/2021 10:17 PM
29	Wildlife is important! As Deschutes County becomes ever more developed and populated wildlife will lose out if there is not careful planning based on current science.	4/30/2021 5:04 PM
30	Would like to ensure that wildlife is protected	4/30/2021 4:43 PM
31	This shouldn't even be a question. We need to support our environment and this is one way to do so. We remove our ruin valuable habitat too easily.	4/30/2021 8:28 AM
32	We need to make informed decisions before we build to just build. The wildlife is precious and don't have a voice or money to represent themselves.	4/30/2021 8:04 AM
33	Yes, our county is growing fast, we need to plan for conserving the wildlife and habitat that coexist with us.	4/30/2021 8:03 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

34	It's important we know what is happening and protect wildlife as our population expands	4/30/2021 7:53 AM
35	I believe the wildlife in the area will be significantly impacted by all the piping of the irrigation canals. This reduction of surface water will cause them to search for it closer to people in many instances.	4/30/2021 1:07 AM
36	I've not seen the wildlife surveys so unable to comment. How do I view them?	4/29/2021 10:00 PM
37	If we don't know what kind of wildlife is around us how can we help	4/29/2021 9:51 PM
38	Wildlife should be considered in coordination with city planning. This is their home too.	4/29/2021 9:25 PM
39	Our wildlife is in desperate need of inventory to best determine the best course of action to preserve our wildlife community.	4/29/2021 8:52 PM
40	Very important since bends growth has pushed deer eagles and owls into our neighborhood. We want to protect them.	4/29/2021 8:42 PM
41	It is critical to know where these areas are, so they can be preserved and these key species can be supported.	4/29/2021 8:19 PM
42	Yes because the wildlife corridors and environments are important for species health.	4/29/2021 7:21 PM
43	I don't know anything about these. I need to be educated	4/29/2021 7:19 PM
44	These inventories represent the current best available science about three of the most important wildlife species in our County. In order to ensure the health and survival of these species, and the rest of the ecosystems of which these species are a vital part, we need accurate information in order to plan for and regulate impactful human development.	4/29/2021 7:00 PM
45	Hoping to STOP ALL THE DEVELOPMENT :/	4/29/2021 6:46 PM
46	Yes! The development in Bend does not seem to take wildlife communities into account - leveling ALL of the trees in a new development ruins micro-ecosystems. I live directly across Cline Falls Rd from a 5 acre parcel that will be developed this summer, and I'm concerned for the large herd of deer that use that open space for winter forage.	4/29/2021 6:23 PM
47	Very interested in the wildlife and helping out.	4/29/2021 6:10 PM
48	Current inventory is 30 years old and with the growth in humans over that time, it is essential that we have current data.	4/29/2021 5:13 PM
49	So much has changed in the county since the 1990's that it is imperative to understand what the current wildlife situation is now to use in our planning going forward. Many people live in Deschutes County because of the outdoor recreation, natural setting and wildlife. We should know what we have in order to understand how to reduce or eliminate impact and protect these resources.	4/29/2021 4:59 PM
50	It's important to know wildlife volume and routes in order to plan out growth and prevent wildlife routes being blocked	4/29/2021 4:28 PM
51	Wildlife is under increasing stress from increasing human populations, pollution, pesticide use, and poaching. It needs to be carefully monitored and protected to avoid extinction.	4/29/2021 4:07 PM
52	I don't know enough about how the wildlife inventories would be used. If the data is thorough and actually used, then I am in favor. If the data is just gathered and not utilized, just to check a box, then I'm less excited about it. In general I believe wildlife inventories should be a guiding factor in comprehensive plans.	4/29/2021 4:03 PM
53	As deschutes county grows we need to make sure it is sustainable with the wildlife that call the area home too. This is only possible by using accurate and updated data.	4/29/2021 3:41 PM
54	Wildlife is a huge part of my quality of life and I believe that wildlife range and habitat should be taken into consideration when proposing new county codes and changes to existing county codes.	4/29/2021 3:40 PM
55	Overdevelopment of bike trails and recreation is seriously degrading wildlife habitat and threatening animals. Great Gray Owls should be added to the inventory and protections as their habitat is being seriously damaged by new trails and recreation.	4/29/2021 3:15 PM
56	The existing data is 30 years old. I think we need up to date information on our wildlife	4/29/2021 3:09 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

populations to be able to make good planning decisions.

57	I support the need for new data and updating wildlife inventories from 20 years ago.	4/29/2021 1:35 PM
58	Obviously the explosive population growth in this area has impacted the wildlife!	4/29/2021 1:35 PM
59	I have a lot of deer that visit my property daily, on average about 10 to 15 deer a day. I live on one acre of natural brush on the east side of Bend and I feel that all the new development is pushing them out and that is not good.	4/29/2021 1:33 PM
60	Deschutes County's wildlife areas are essential to our reputation and quality of life.	4/29/2021 1:29 PM
61	Deschutes county is rapidly growing; we need to have a clear idea of the wildlife being displaced as we work to balance growth with wildlife protection and conservation. We cannot know what we do not measure: a wildlife inventory is very important.	4/29/2021 1:14 PM
62	Do not have enough information	4/29/2021 1:13 PM
63	Up to date data will assist in making informed decisions when updating the Comprehensive Plan and development code. Worse is basing decisions on out of date information with potential for creating conflict.	4/29/2021 1:10 PM
64	One of the reasons we love living here is because of the wildlife. Development should be sensitive to these critical places our wildlife live.	4/29/2021 1:08 PM
65	I am concerned that encroaching development will compromise and/or destroy our amazing wildlife habitats, both for today and for future generations.	4/29/2021 1:00 PM
66	Good decisions depend upon having reliable and up-to-date information.	4/29/2021 12:50 PM
67	We need to preserve as much wildlife as possible in these times of drought fire danger and increased human usage of our forests.	4/29/2021 12:44 PM
68	Important to have data to measure how Deschutes County growth impacts wildlife, habitat,	4/29/2021 12:41 PM
69	It only makes sense as we develop more areas in Central Oregon which served as wildlife habitat. Because of such rapid development, animals are getting killed by cars and familiar migration routes now have obstacles that impede their movement and increase danger. It's just the respectful "right" thing to do to consider impacts to wildlife that so many people agree is special to enjoying life here.	4/29/2021 12:39 PM
70	How can we know what to include in our plan if we don't know how many of different species occupy our area? It seems ridiculous to use 30-year-old data to make decisions that will affect the outcome of the future.	4/29/2021 12:29 PM
71	It's appalling that the last wildlife inventory update was in 1991. Bend's population has exploded since then with home building on the west side especially, (Northwest Crossing, Tetherow and Tree Farm for example) devouring acreage that deer, quail, and small mammals used to roam. And everywhere, off leash dogs are a menace. Ten years ago, in River West, I would see flocks of quail in my yard and large numbers of deer. Today, no quail sightings and fewer deer. We desperately need to update the wildlife inventory before its too late.	4/29/2021 12:25 PM
72	Only if the data supports protecting wildlife when needed. I would hate for County to see small populations as justification for development when there can be multiple reasons as to why this is. Now if sharing the wildlife inventories with the County are in the animals best interest I completely support it.	4/29/2021 12:19 PM
73	It is essential that we know our wildlife populations, where they are strong and where they are weak, so we can address any problems and promote the welfare of all wildlife.	4/29/2021 12:13 PM
74	We have chosen to live in this beautiful area, with wonderful wildlife. To ensure wildlife continues to survive and thrive it is imperative we update our habitat conservation plans to align with the most current data available.	4/29/2021 12:12 PM
75	Protecting wildlife habitat makes for good habitat for all the county's human residents, as well as the animals. Deschutes County without wildlife would just be yet another place that is devoid of all that once made it special.	4/29/2021 12:05 PM
76	Important to know where the wildlife in the area lives to plan accordingly	4/29/2021 11:57 AM
77	It is my opinion that we encroach on wildlife areas and need to know where wildlife is, how	4/29/2021 11:57 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

many, and what we can do to protect this valuable resource.

78	It is important to keep track of human/wildlife interface especially because Deschutes County human population is growing so rapidly	4/29/2021 11:56 AM
79	I'd like to better understand human impact on my neighborhood wildlife. They are critical to a healthy infrastructure, which we are responsible for maintaining.	4/29/2021 11:53 AM
80	I feel that we are encroaching on too much of the land that the wildlife needs to live and survive. I feel that there are way too many new houses going up everywhere and taking away from the beauty that Bend, OR was.	4/29/2021 11:49 AM
81	Need to ensure we leave room for native life	4/29/2021 11:47 AM
82	I love critters!	4/29/2021 11:46 AM
83	Updated data will show how important habitat conservation is and how much we need to protect it for our mule deer, elk, bald eagles, and golden eagles to thrive.	4/29/2021 11:44 AM
84	YES! We need to avoid big changes in sensitive areas. So what are the sensitive areas?	4/29/2021 11:26 AM
85	It's irresponsible to claim ignorance and not update data regularly. Development will continue no matter what so it needs to be done in an informed and responsible way, which includes updates to wildlife areas.	4/29/2021 10:08 AM
86	Wildlife are being marginalized with significant habitat loss. The inventory needs to be updated to inform planning.	4/29/2021 9:45 AM
87	Absolutely support including wildlife inventories into future codes and plans. As the developments and fences go in, migration for wildlife is drastically affected.	4/29/2021 9:22 AM
88	It is critically important especially at this stage of the condition of our wildlife and environment.	4/29/2021 9:09 AM
89	You cannot possibly update plans and development code without knowing how it affects local wildlife. You can't do that without knowing how our wildlife are doing. Ex: Declining populations of Mule Deer	4/29/2021 9:08 AM
90	If the Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan does not take in account of wildlife needs of the animals for development code, it would not really be Comprehensive - Would it?	4/28/2021 10:36 PM
91	It is important to protect our ecosystems	4/28/2021 8:20 PM
92	There doesn't seem to be any proposed conclusion to this proposed survey. What might be the resulting changes with the information gathered herein?	4/28/2021 2:14 PM
93	Using the best science available to make decisions can result in better outcomes for both wildlife and people.	4/27/2021 9:21 AM
94	As our local population continues it's tremendous growth, we need to incorporate the most rigorous and up-to-date scientific data for resources such as our native wildlife populations. Ultimately, if our growth is to be managed in a way that reduces negative impacts to wildlife populations, we will need accurate estimates for where and when animals utilize certain areas of our County. Without these estimates and associated development review actions, we are likely to continue seeing decreases in wildlife populations such as mule deer, which will ultimately compromise the very values which draw people to the region in the first place. Updates to our Comprehensive Plan which include this data represent the best chance we have for the next 20+ years to recognize the challenges to wildlife that our region has produced through its growth, and develop strategies to mitigate those damages.	4/26/2021 3:50 PM
95	Too expansive and limits options for land use	4/26/2021 12:59 PM
96	we should be paying attention to options of roads etc. when we cut down and remove different wildlife habitats. If there is a way to minimize this impact we should consider it.	4/26/2021 10:43 AM
97	The vast expansion of these areas will impose too great a cost on private property owners. The current rules seem to be working as the areas of habitat are vastly greater than inventoried in 1992 (even accounting for a less rigorous inventory process). The current WA zone rules key road requirements to 1992 -- fair for current zones but unfair for newly added properties. This will present nonproductive farm land from being used for nonfarm dwellings - sometimes the only way a farmer can qualify to live on his land (to be able to farm it to make farm income) without disqualifying the entire property from farm tax deferral.	4/26/2021 10:08 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

98	We need to do all we can to preserve wildlife habitat.	4/26/2021 9:32 AM
99	Where are the new inventories posted?	4/24/2021 3:58 PM
100	It is critical to use the best available science when assessing impacts to wildlife of current and future development and management.	4/24/2021 1:32 PM
101	We need to know what wildlife we may be impacting. People come here for the nature of Bend. Its up to us as a community to be mindful of that and protect our local wildlife.	4/24/2021 10:57 AM
102	I live off O.B. Riley and on the river and and I am increasingly fearful of the proposed housing developments on Glen Vista and how they will impact the mule deer and other wildlife in this area. They are basically getting trapped and cannot access winter range land due to developments and highways. My deer are here all year and many are injured by barbed wire fences and other obstacles around the increasingly populated areas.	4/24/2021 10:51 AM
103	So many new housing developments are taking away wildlife areas. This needs to be considered and taken into account prior to taking over the wildlife areas before passing new developments in UAR/UGB areas that animals are being displaced!	4/24/2021 9:20 AM
104	So there can be proper protection measures included in future planning	4/24/2021 7:36 AM
105	Yes data about impacts on wildlife from conversion of natural to developed landscapes is critical.	4/24/2021 5:58 AM
106	I have never heard a word about "inventories". I can't support an unknown. This is a stupid question. Be clear, please.	4/23/2021 9:15 PM
107	I did not know about this	4/23/2021 8:57 PM
108	Our neighborhood in west Bend (just off Century Drive) has an abundance of deer, squirrels, birds etc. We have lived here 30 years and there has been no noticeable decrease in wildlife population.	4/23/2021 6:55 PM
109	Need to try and strike a balance between development and wildlife needs to maintain quality of life for all.	4/23/2021 2:04 PM
110	Don't know anything about this.	4/23/2021 1:45 PM
111	Our impact is accelerating and we need to make informed choices.	4/23/2021 12:53 PM
112	I do t understand what you mean by code or comprehensive plan. What is the purpose of the plan?	4/23/2021 12:30 PM
113	...what are the plans and code?	4/23/2021 12:12 PM
114	Don't know what you are talking about	4/23/2021 12:00 PM
115	As the Bend population (of humans) expands we need to provide for the population of all creatures that have come before us.	4/23/2021 11:35 AM
116	With the tremendous amount of development going on in our area in the past 15years, it is so important to use this information to get a fairly accurate idea on how this effects our wildlife. How else can you move forward with urban planning with the additional huge influx of people expected!	4/23/2021 10:45 AM
117	I don't know what the new wildlife inventories are.	4/23/2021 10:11 AM
118	So much growth...we need to be current with data for decisionmaking.	4/23/2021 9:41 AM
119	not informed as to what the plan and development code involves	4/23/2021 9:40 AM
120	I've not heard or read anything about it.	4/23/2021 9:04 AM
121	Yes, we should always be aware of the impact our ongoing county development and growth is having on the wildlife around us.	4/23/2021 9:03 AM
122	Development definitely impacts wild life populations with home or industry building moving into former wild life habitat.	4/23/2021 8:23 AM
123	There has been significant development since the last inventory was completed, and wildlife has needed to adapt to it.	4/23/2021 8:18 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

124	30 years is a long time since the last one.	4/23/2021 7:05 AM
125	too much government !	4/23/2021 6:59 AM
126	It's vital that we understand and accommodate our wildlife as the county grows and changes. I live in Tumalo.	4/23/2021 6:54 AM
127	It's important for humans to acknowledge their negative impact on wildlife.	4/23/2021 6:03 AM
128	Don't know enough about it.	4/23/2021 3:57 AM
129	Because the Mule Deer need their habitat to thrive. Obviously if we've lost 40%, development is fringing on their survival.	4/23/2021 12:12 AM
130	It is about time that we start considering wildlife before making decision to spread out housing even further.	4/22/2021 10:51 PM
131	Probably but I have no info on the new wildlife inventories. So, answering these 2 questions is rather meaningless	4/22/2021 10:50 PM
132	Our wildlife is as much a part of Deschutes County as our natural rock outcroppings and junipers. As such, we should appreciate, and protect the natural world.. Subdivisions, and inbuilding can destroy the very reason humans are here.	4/22/2021 10:48 PM
133	I think they need to find out what the cause of such a decrease in the Mule Deer population. It was once a major area to come to to exercise your hunting privileges in the state. I do not think the decrease is due to the vast number of people moving to Bend. However, the deer kill by traffic and poachers has increased and we need to address those problems.	4/22/2021 10:45 PM
134	More data is better than no data.	4/22/2021 10:40 PM
135	Haven't heard about it	4/22/2021 10:40 PM
136	I believe we need to address sustainable growth that supports wildlife within our urban boundaries, in order to support the livability of Bend.	4/22/2021 10:24 PM
137	I believe that this land is the wildlife's as well!	4/22/2021 10:18 PM
138	More than ever we need to preserve wild lands for the wildlife. I value wildlife and support using these new wildlife inventories.	4/22/2021 10:01 PM
139	I support any measure that protects wildlife and the environment.	4/22/2021 9:06 PM
140	It seems that it would be most useful to have this information included in the Comprehensive Plan, especially if actually used to guide and inform future development plans.	4/22/2021 7:11 PM
141	Wildlife habitats are destroyed regularly to build homes & infrastructure further disrupting the balance nature provides to the ecosystem.	4/22/2021 1:07 PM
142	We need to be smart about managing the growth of Deschutes County. Wildlife is important to all of the citizens of Central Oregon. It's one of the core values of our community and huge indicator of the quality of life we want to preserve in Deschutes County for future generations. We need to protect and conserve what we have and the only way to do that is to take stock of what's out there so we can manage our growth responsibly.	4/22/2021 9:14 AM
143	This proposal is an important step towards far-reaching planning of our every expanding community. The present overlay maps do not reflect the changes in wildlife habitat use or the increase in scientific knowledge attained in the past 30 years. Central Oregon attracts people who love nature and the outdoors, and wildlife is a big part of this appeal. Human development, climate change, and other factors will continue to shape the future of our region, and improved overlay maps will help in dealing with these challenges. Growth is inevitable. Planned growth is essential.	4/22/2021 8:40 AM
144	Pull your head out, we need to get rid of predator's such as wolves and cougars, migration patterns need to be addressed and dip shits feeding deer need to be slapped.	4/22/2021 8:34 AM
145	We want to maintain the counts or restore declines of species.	4/22/2021 7:12 AM
146	Don't know about the inventories.	4/21/2021 8:50 PM
147	I am completely in favor of this proposal. As a biologiss by training and a wildlife lover as well,	4/21/2021 5:00 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

I think that revision of the overlay maps is quite overdue. Why wouldn't the county want the best available science to be included in any future planning? Having current information about the ranges of elk, deer, and eagles is paramount to maintaining healthy populations that are such tremendous assets to Central Oregon.

148	My home sits between Tumalo Reservoir Road and Pinehurst Road in Tumalo. We frequently see a herd of 70+ elk that use the area to rest and feed during the winter and even summer months. Under the proposed new expanded wildlife plan our area would be included. Given the deer, elk and other wildlife we see in our neighborhood, enlarging the current wildlife maps seems very appropriate.	4/21/2021 11:30 AM
149	The County needs to know the impact of loss of habitat is having on wildlife and also the transition from open areas to deer resistant fencing and it's related impact.	4/20/2021 7:06 PM
150	So Sad that you have to ask....If we don't protect the animals we have we will all suffer. Our growth affects all living things and we as humans need to live with in developed areas and allow animals to have healthy habitat.	4/19/2021 9:41 PM
151	Wildlife deserves our consideration and protection. Many species, including ungulates and birds of prey, are facing serious threats, and we should minimize human impacts wherever possible. To do so, we need a good understanding of current populations/ranges.	4/19/2021 3:19 PM
152	Yes. Wildlife are the primary indicators for the natural resources and values that make Central Oregon special, and which drive our tourism economy and the influx of people into the region. It's imperative that the county take measures to inventory and conserve what we have moving forward.	4/18/2021 3:16 PM
153	Because I have been involved with a mule deer advocacy group in Deschutes Co. , I wholeheartedly support this wildlife inventory update for multiple reasons. With mule deer populations declining at 10% /yr., protected habitat increases will be one of the main tools in helping their populations. These declines are not only due to habitat loss, but also due to the 1000+ deer/vehicle collisions occurring each yr. in Deschutes Co. alone, plus declines due to residents feeding deer which causes them to lose their migratory patterns, which causes increased diseases and parasite loads due to crowding, and causes death due to toxins from feeding high energy feeds such as corn cobs, alfalfa, and grains, and draws in predators due to bunching of the deer around the feeding areas. Other reasons for declines are wildlife unfriendly fencing and yard hazards causing injuries and deaths, and increased outdoor recreation and off leash dogs which stress deer at a distance of 200 meters. Increased stress hormones cause adverse affects on reproduction. Poaching accounts for 22% mortality, whereas legal harvests cause 19% mortality. I also want to finally settle the myth perpetuated in Oregon that mule deer declines are due to the "explosion" of cougar populations. Everyone believing this myth quotes that the Oregon cougar population in 6000+. Read carefully ODFWs Cougar Management Plan which clearly states that there are about 3300 ADULT cougars in Oregon. That 6000+ figure INCLUDES kittens and juveniles. High kitten mortality and juvenile replacement of adults is why MOST state wildlife officials omit them in counts! Multiple wildlife biologists with three decades of research show that Oregon's cougar densities are about 2.1-2.3/100km2 which closely matches that of WA, ID, and MT. In other words one cannot blame an "explosion" of cougars as the cause of mule deer population decline! Considering the long list of reasons for mule deer declines, is there any wonder why we are experiencing such losses? Habitat must be protected and increased. Deschutes Co. land decisions recently have been skirting the Goal 5 parameters by giving development that once was prohibited in winter deer range the go-ahead for expansion of businesses in the Tumalo and Metolius critical winter ranges. The law must be adhered to for protecting these vital habitats if we are to see any improvement in numbers.	4/17/2021 7:59 PM
154	Deschutes County does seem able to avoid unprecedented population and housing growth; evading any semblance of a sustainable ecological environment will have dire consequences.	4/16/2021 11:05 AM
155	With changing climates and increased development, it's important to incorporate this new verified information into the County's planning efforts to preserve and restore wildlife habitat.	4/16/2021 10:23 AM
156	If for no better reason than to know what we are about to lose.	4/16/2021 7:47 AM
157	Because ethical land management requires taking into consideration wildlife habitat needs.	4/16/2021 7:44 AM
158	Great presentation! I am very excited about this proactive approach towards integrating wildlife and land use planning. It is so important to support all efforts to preserve our natural environment, not only for our communities' quality of life but also for future generations.	4/15/2021 7:51 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

159	This hasn't been done in a long time and we need to know if and how the wildlife populations have changed.	4/15/2021 7:45 PM
160	I was part of the survey team for the Oregon Eagle Foundation that located and conducted Golden Eagle Nest Surveys throughout Oregon for ten years ending in 2019.. The proposed expanded area for sensitive bird habitat appears to accurately incorporate areas of known Golden Eagle nesting and territorial activity. Allowing less territory than the proposed sensitive bird habitat would be disingenuous.	4/15/2021 4:18 PM
161	Deschutes county should be using the most comprehensive, up to date data to inform it's decisions.	4/15/2021 11:48 AM
162	I value wildlife and support using these new wildlife inventories.	4/15/2021 7:41 AM
163	Nature and Science. Nothing but truth.	4/14/2021 8:23 PM
164	This proposal needs to be adopted into the Comprehensive Plan to protect area wildlife for the next seven generations. I've been a property owner in the proposed expanded areas since 1994. I have seen a decline in the mule deer population, songbirds, and raptors over the these years.	4/14/2021 8:20 PM
165	Relevant data are the basis of all sound management decisions. Can't manage what is not known. When we know and understand the resource, then an appreciation for what we have and how to protect it can be developed.	4/14/2021 6:33 PM
166	Wildlife data tracking technologies has advanced so much in 30 years. Use the new stuff.	4/14/2021 4:06 PM
167	Wildlife should have rights and should have safe, appropriate, natural places to live.	4/14/2021 1:35 PM
168	Yes! With all of the new people moving in, wildlife should be a priority.	4/14/2021 12:19 PM
169	Humans are crowding out wildlife. We need to keep open lands for them!	4/14/2021 11:48 AM
170	It is crucial to keeping a balance of wildlife and human influences in this fast growing area of development and population increases.	4/14/2021 10:29 AM
171	Mule deer population is in decline and there is a priority to save their species. Artificial waterski lakes took away their habitat.	4/14/2021 9:33 AM
172	Should always be conducting research to best serve the needs of wildlife in the face of continual growth and development.	4/14/2021 8:33 AM
173	Science should dictate areas needed for protecting wildlife.	4/13/2021 6:23 PM
174	Central Oregon is constructing new homes and infrastructure at an alarming rate. We need to have a solid understanding of how our wildlife is coping with that growth.	4/13/2021 4:44 PM
175	Even though I hate it when the deer and ground squirrels eat my newly-planted native plants, I do understand that it is THEIR habitat and we are interlopers.	4/13/2021 4:38 PM
176	The growth in Bend is so insane -- we are cutting out areas for wildlife so that, ironically, more people can live closer to wildlife! I think such an inventory would help guide growth that preserves what we love	4/13/2021 4:10 PM
177	It is extremely important to have actual date on wildlife populations and how they have been and will be impacted/harmed by human developments when making the County Comprehensive Plan.	4/13/2021 3:07 PM
178	Wildlife is worth protecting	4/13/2021 2:29 PM
179	Protecting wildlife habitat is also a protection for humans.	4/13/2021 12:32 PM
180	With Deschutes County's exploding population & subsequent building houses in wildlife zones, increasing awareness & tolerance for wildlife is in order. The reason people want to live in Central OR is, in part, due to wildlife accessibility. This asset will not continue without planning.	4/13/2021 12:13 PM
181	Would like building in wildlife areas curtailed and use best practices for decisions. Thank you.	4/13/2021 11:11 AM
182	Building is going on at a fast rate, affecting land, water, and air, and the wildlife doesn't get to fill out a survey.	4/13/2021 9:24 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

183	Development and population growth impacts need to be balanced by conservation efforts for wildlife survival.	4/13/2021 9:00 AM
184	There is a reason Oregon is a beautiful place, land use laws. Habitat for wildlife is critical in the quality of life we enjoy here. Our regional identity is connected to our wildlife. They are an important part of what makes this place exceptional and distinct. Winter habitat is very important so I hope you do seasonal studies to show migration and we learn to work within with migration patterns.	4/13/2021 8:50 AM
185	I am an advocate for our wildlife and wilderness both, neither of whom has a voice of their own with which to speak for themselves. Central Oregon wildlife was here long before people were - let's protect them as they are part of what makes our region beautiful and helps to keep our ecosystem in balance.	4/13/2021 7:27 AM
186	Proximity to wildlife and nature is why people live here. If we keep paving over lands required by wildlife to flourish in the effort to provide "affordable" housing our own quality of life will diminish in turn.	4/13/2021 7:02 AM
187	Wildlife has taken a backseat to development for decades. Winter ranges are critical for large animal migrations and current inventories can tell a factual story about the decline of many species in the county at least in part to development.	4/12/2021 10:04 PM
188	So much change means wildlife have been impacted.	4/12/2021 9:27 PM
189	Because we share living space and natural resources with other wildlife species who were here long before we moved into their home ranges.	4/12/2021 8:52 PM
190	We need to protect vital wildlife habitat as the area booms with development	4/12/2021 8:28 PM
191	Results of County planning decisions directly affect local wildlife populations and general biodiversity. In tern, biodiveristy can have a great impact on the aesthetics and overall health of the County.	4/12/2021 8:14 PM
192	For most of the earth's existence, there have been no humans. But now, humanity threatens to exterminate vast numbers of species that "get in our way". If we cannot share our world with wildlife of all kinds, whether it's serves our interest or not, we will cease to have a planet that supports humanity as well. Knowing the status of wildlife populations is the first step in that process.	4/12/2021 7:49 PM
193	It is very important to allow adequate and appropriate habitat for wildlife.	4/12/2021 5:55 PM
194	Our natural areas are obviously a necessary part of the health, welfare and beauty of our lives. And what gives us the right to exterminate everything in our path for the sake of money and selfish interests	4/12/2021 2:09 PM
195	We must know the data to know how better to co-exist with rich diversity of wildlife in the county.	4/12/2021 2:03 PM
196	Deschutes County is becoming way to overpopulated. Development is occurring everywhere. This has huge effects on wildlife habitat whether that be developing within city limits or expanding the Urban Growth Boundary. With this new development and growth is putting way to much pressure on our limited resources and wildlife habitat. More people living in Deschutes County means more people out in our forests and rural areas and having effects on wildlife habitat. This will also lead to increase parking areas for trailhead and snowparks, etc. New development means more people, less open space, less wildlife habitat, more stress on wildlife, and less available safe migration habitat.	4/12/2021 1:42 PM
197	We strongly support wildlife conservation and we need the best available information to be effective in doing so.	4/12/2021 1:36 PM
198	It is essential that citizens and govt agencies protect native ecosystems and all species that rely on the health and viability of these ecosystems. We must be caring and	4/12/2021 1:23 PM
199	This wildlife cannot necessarily recover from what we humans do to their environment, so we need to understand where they are and what they need.	4/12/2021 1:20 PM
200	If we, Bend residents show that we are not that interested in updating the County Comprehensive Plan and Development code, it sends a message that we are more interested in development than in the wildlife who live here too.	4/12/2021 12:56 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

201	I am adamantly in favor of the inventories in order to support wildlife habitat, wild lands, and biological diversity.	4/12/2021 12:56 PM
202	Of course wildlife should be considered before any new development.	4/12/2021 12:11 PM
203	It seems like it should be common sense that development code & planning needs to be updated to accommodate the updated and more accurate wildlife inventories	4/12/2021 12:10 PM
204	Making decisions based outdated information is a waste of time and a misuse of resources. If the county is going to adequately plan for development in a way that is complimentary to wildlife use then up to date information is imperative.	4/12/2021 11:49 AM
205	Because wildlife habitat is declining and we need to protect the most important habitat that is left	4/12/2021 11:46 AM
206	Critical habitat and corridors need to be protected	4/12/2021 10:59 AM
207	I feel inventories validate decisions with facts.	4/12/2021 10:50 AM
208	As stewards of this land and resources, we must know what those resources are in order to do the job.	4/12/2021 10:41 AM
209	They appear to be well researched and needed.	4/12/2021 10:29 AM
210	We are guests in nature; not the other way around. We've been 'abusing' our 'rights' way too long. Let's start respecting our surroundings & lessening our 'footprints'.	4/12/2021 10:17 AM
211	Part of the allure and character of Bend is it's proximity to and integration with nature. For so many reasons, it's worth maintaining the balance of wild and urban rather than becoming just another city.	4/12/2021 10:13 AM
212	Wildlife is a central component of the natural environment that I enjoy.	4/12/2021 10:12 AM
213	With the loss of habitat there is a dramatic decrease in ungulate populations, especially our deer and elk. We must revise and expand current wildlife inventories in order to protect habitat which might disappear under proposed development. Not doing this will potentially exacerbate loss of populations such as bald and golden eagles, and deer and elk.	4/12/2021 9:56 AM
214	We are building at a rate that is going to impact not only human quality of life, but all the wildlife that also live here. We need to decide how enormous a city we want to become.	4/12/2021 9:45 AM
215	YES! Our natural wildlife and scenic beauty are defining characteristics of Bend which profit all, including our industries.	4/12/2021 9:29 AM
216	not sure of the inventory process	4/12/2021 9:25 AM
217	The densities in the 1991 report are woefully inadequate to gauge the impact of development and recreation on 2021 habitat. The declining populations of mule deer attest to the lack of county planning to factor wildlife into conversations about land use.	4/12/2021 9:22 AM
218	Too little info provided to respond. I support not allowing VRBO, Airbnb, and Bed and Breakfasts on property zoned F2 with Wildlife overlay. County code allows the BnBs, as I understand it, but was written prior to Airbnb, so there is no ordinance forbidding this business from taking root.	4/12/2021 9:18 AM
219	Watching our wildlife is one of the joys of living in central Oregon.	4/12/2021 9:16 AM
220	I see so much development around the entire perimeter of Bend, and am especially worried about the west side that abuts NF lands. So much of the natural range of elk and deer is being developed.	4/12/2021 9:05 AM
221	Never heard of a wildlife inventory area...	4/12/2021 9:04 AM
222	Wildlife habitat protection is critical.	4/12/2021 8:55 AM
223	As a long time resident, wildlife is one of the reasons which Deschutes County separates itself from the endless sprawl happening in other urban areas.	4/12/2021 8:46 AM
224	We have an important opportunity to evaluate wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors and protect an important part of our natural heritage, part of what makes our region special.	4/12/2021 8:44 AM
225	So hard to watch their habitat disappearing over the last 35 years. It is a dramatic change.	4/12/2021 8:42 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

226	More care needs to be taken to protect these endangered species,	4/12/2021 8:33 AM
227	The wildlife was here first. We have a duty to restore as much of their habitat as we can.	4/12/2021 8:28 AM
228	We need to protect large blocks of un- fragmented habitat. With no mountain biking or motorized recreation	4/12/2021 8:26 AM
229	Wildlife need protection from all the development.	4/12/2021 8:26 AM
230	Because habitat destruction/alteration is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity. It's high time we develop responsibly.	4/12/2021 8:23 AM
231	Wildlife protections are so few, that any little bit will help. Central OR looks a lot different now than it did when the wildlife protections were initially written and adopted in the mid-90's.	4/12/2021 8:18 AM
232	Wildlife needs to be protected and we cannot do so if we don't update the inventories. The comprehensive plan will be the framework for protecting wildlife in the county as the county continues to grow, which I think most people would support. I certainly do!	4/10/2021 5:04 PM
233	We need accurate data to help make decisions as to how to best preserve our wildife	4/9/2021 1:08 PM
234	Absolutely. We need data that is more relevant than the previous 1991 information.	4/9/2021 10:56 AM
235	An up-to-date wildlife inventory is an important planning tool, a leading edge indicator for the heath of our environment and the right thing to do. If successful - to some extent - this project will rebalance the widespread belief that these wildlife spp. in particular always loose out to development.	4/9/2021 10:54 AM

Q3 Please share any additional comments relating to this project in the space below.

Answered: 146 Skipped: 310

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Deer populations have declined because of mountain lion predation	5/7/2021 7:07 AM
2	We need better signage for wildlife migration corridors (E.G., Tumalo area crossings, such as the few flagged Deer Crossing signs), and utilize seasonal reader boards!	5/6/2021 1:18 PM
3	This is very important and needs to happen.	5/5/2021 10:28 PM
4	Comments sent separately.	5/4/2021 7:50 PM
5	I'm more concerned with the declining numbers of mule deer as a result of predators and poaching. We currently have a means of catching predators (law enforcement and citizens), but due to the laws on the books we can't keep predators under control. I'm specifically talking about cougars, and bears. Cougars are the greatest threat to our mule deer populations that we should be able to control but we can't because of the laws on the books which do not allow the use of hounds to hunt these animals. It is common sense that predators keep other predators in control. Unfortunately the only predator that cougars have is man, and man has effectively been taken out of the equation by the banning of hounds in the hunting of these predators. Setting aside winter habitat is fine, but it doesn't solve the major problem of of an ever expanding cougar population which decimates the deer population. With 6,400 cougars in our state (ODFW), each killing one deer per week, the deer loss due to these cougars is 332,800 deer per year! That is a major problem that no winter habitat can effect in a positive way.	5/4/2021 10:06 AM
6	Need to build wildlife overpasses on HWY 97, not undercrossings if herds are to survive. All other western states have it figured out.	5/4/2021 9:46 AM
7	Thank you for this information. It is great to see these beautiful animals ranges have grown. Let's do what we can to keep them thriving.	5/4/2021 8:12 AM
8	If not based on current information, the project is useless. "garbage in, garbage out"	5/4/2021 7:22 AM
9	The county is not doing enough to protect our wildlife. If they have more accurate data and knowledge more can be done to maintain and restore habitat.	5/3/2021 9:47 PM
10	i have noticed over the last 10 years around our place much more Deer and Elk moving around , we are close to LaPine state park area. 2 years ago we had a doe have a pair of fawns in our back area. they hung around about 3 weeks and then were gone.	5/3/2021 3:03 PM
11	We need to protect our wildlife all over the state, but especially here in Central Oregon as this is one of the greatest areas for Mule Deer and Elk in the country.	5/3/2021 2:04 PM
12	Protecting wildlife need not be difficult. Cooperation and information is essential.	5/2/2021 6:34 AM
13	I was wondering when you update, if you could write how the inventory is done. I did not see the zoom presentation.	5/1/2021 9:49 PM
14	I see eagles and know they are nesting in the area. We need to protect these nesting areas and make sure we are not taking the hunting areas away. We need to share this space we inhabit and not destroy that which makes it special.	4/30/2021 4:43 PM
15	Every year I obtain a Deschutes Co. permit to place "give deer a brake" signs along Gosney and Rickard Rds. during spring and fall migration to/from winter range. Public feedback from these signs has been good to raise awareness that vehicle collisions are a major mortality factor, and speed a factor in collisions. I'd like to think this appears to have reduced deer deaths in these areas in the last 2 years. Why aren't there more public relations and efforts to reduce collisions? Interagency partnerships, with insurance companies, road depts, ODFW, conservation nonprofits and road frontage landowners could do more to do so, including clearing ROWs for sight distance, encouraging removal of unnecessary fences, motion sensor	4/30/2021 3:01 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

warning lights, etc. ODFW does very little stewardship to protect deer populations other than agreeing to undercrossings. Prohibiting feeding deer in neighborhoods would be a good first step to reduce deer vulnerability to vehicles. ODOT is the only agency being proactive in funding undercrossings and fencing. Perhaps with updated migration data, problem areas can be targeted for multi-pronged programs. Meanwhile deer numbers fall...

16	Think Wild should be relied in to help represent the wildlife, they have the knowledge and foresight. Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.	4/30/2021 8:04 AM
17	Wildlife is the reason I live here	4/29/2021 9:51 PM
18	I live next to a wildlife corridor east of pilot Butte and can help with counts.	4/29/2021 9:19 PM
19	While very limited in scope, it is more current and better than guessing.	4/29/2021 8:50 PM
20	Thank you for doing this.	4/29/2021 8:42 PM
21	Keep Deschutes wild. Please dont loose this natural resource to housing developments.	4/29/2021 7:21 PM
22	I support wildlife habitat preservation. What can we do to help?	4/29/2021 7:19 PM
23	The County should prioritize additional funding or resources to update habitat information for more species and habitat types, including T&E species, migration corridors, riparian species, other furbearers, reptiles and amphibians, other bird species, and sensitive plant species.	4/29/2021 7:00 PM
24	Deschutes County needs infrastructure update...increase in population is out of control.	4/29/2021 6:46 PM
25	Deschutes County as a whole should be WAY more conservative about development. Not only are we eliminating wildlife diversity, we're also contributing to the warming local climate by eliminating trees.	4/29/2021 6:23 PM
26	Just do it!	4/29/2021 4:59 PM
27	We are not isolated from the stressors that affect other species. Their extinction will affect our own lives. Fish, bird, deer and elk populations have been severely reduced because of our actions. Imagine a world in which they no longer exist. It would have a severe impact on the businesses in this area.	4/29/2021 4:07 PM
28	How can we do effective wildlife management if the data isn't accurate? This is a necessity	4/29/2021 3:41 PM
29	The last inventory was taken in 1991; 30 years is a ridiculous amount of time to have passed with no updated information on our important and revered wildlife populations.	4/29/2021 3:40 PM
30	This is a crucial project in light of rapid population growth in the county which has led to loss of habitat for many native species.	4/29/2021 1:55 PM
31	I think it's very important to preserve our wildlife and wildlife areas	4/29/2021 1:44 PM
32	It is long past time to do an update!	4/29/2021 1:35 PM
33	I have a lot of deer that visit my property daily, on average about 10 to 15 deer a day. I live on one acre of natural brush on the east side of Bend and I feel that all the new development is pushing them out and that is not good.	4/29/2021 1:33 PM
34	Human population continues to stress wildlife habitat. We must have accurate information in order to protect wildlife when making decisions for development.	4/29/2021 1:10 PM
35	We need to protect the ranges of these important species. Once they're gone, they're never coming back. Zone accordingly.	4/29/2021 1:08 PM
36	It seems as through rapid development of new homes and industry is occuring without any concvern for our limited water supply. Alos, I understand the benefits of convering the irrigation canlas to pipe, but there seems to be little concern for the plants, trese, and animals that depend/depended on the canals for water.	4/29/2021 1:00 PM
37	Failure to have recent survey data ensures poor policy decisions.	4/29/2021 12:50 PM
38	As a 30 year resident of Deschutes County, I have seen both the positive and negative effects of the growth we have experienced. I believe it is vital that we have updated and accurate data to factor in the impact our growth may be having on wildlife populations.	4/29/2021 12:16 PM
39	Please do everything you can to protect wildlife and it habitat. All over the country animals and	4/29/2021 12:13 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

birds are being driven out of their habitat--they have no place to live.

40	Wasn't the last update 30 years ago? It's critical to me and my family that we conduct an inventory update so we can wisely preserve remaining wildlife habitat. That's part of why I live and spend money in Central Oregon!	4/29/2021 12:09 PM
41	As a Deschutes County resident, I implore you to inventory and then protect wildlife habitat.	4/29/2021 12:05 PM
42	It is important to consider wildlife as our human population continues to grow.	4/29/2021 12:04 PM
43	We own our house and property near the current UGB on the south east side of the city of Bend. We regularly see mule deer, bald and golden eagles in the area! It is crucial to maintain trees (including mature pines and junipers) and to maintain intact habitat. All urban and rural planning should maintain and even bolster usable corridors and islands of habitat as the city of Bend is planning new density housing. STOP allowing contractors to cut down every tree and bulldoze current corridors for deer and other wildlife movement and migration inside the city's UGB.	4/29/2021 12:02 PM
44	Central Oregon is becoming more developed, and we need to protect the wildlife that exist and to help it populate as well. This project will keep the public informed.	4/29/2021 12:00 PM
45	We live in an agricultural area with a variety of wildlife. An inventory would help to inform how people and wildlife can share the space in a positive way.	4/29/2021 11:57 AM
46	Adopting an updated inventory will be a great first step. Following that, giving the inventory meaningfulness by threading it through planning documents and processes will be critically important.	4/29/2021 11:42 AM
47	Can you just survey the public on what they see out their windows? In Tumalo I see deer not on the current range map, and Elk also. And Eagles hunt in my field each spring.	4/29/2021 11:26 AM
48	It is important to know what the population levels and habitat usage of specific species are so that we can prevent destruction of habitat while still allowing expansion for our own growing population.	4/29/2021 10:25 AM
49	Our wildlife is retreating & has been reduced in multiple areas in & around Bend & Deschutes County. New trails/new housing developments/increased traffic through & surrounding sensitive elk, mule deer, songbird/migratory bird, birds of prey habitat is having a major negative impact. We must do better!!!	4/29/2021 10:04 AM
50	There has been so much growth in Deschutes county over the last 30 years. This is greatly needed for conservation purposes.	4/29/2021 9:33 AM
51	It's important that we embrace and protect the natural and wild parts of this region. This is where the true beauty of central Oregon lies. The spaces 'between' aren't enough.	4/29/2021 9:22 AM
52	It is imperative that we understand that the wellbeing of our wild neighbors is in our best interest.	4/29/2021 9:20 AM
53	I strongly support using wildlife inventories to update the comprehensive plan and development code. We've lived in Bend since 1984 and have owned our house and property in Deschutes County (in deer winter range) since 1993. Living with wildlife enriches our lives daily. Using the best available science to make planning decisions not only allows wildlife to continue to exist, but it improves the lives of the people who share this landscape.	4/27/2021 9:21 AM
54	This change will devalue land. Property owners should be notified and, in all fairness, compensated for the loss of land value of land they purchased at prices based on current development expectations.	4/26/2021 10:08 AM
55	Please make the inventories available to the general public.	4/24/2021 3:58 PM
56	The story board was well done, although the final graphic with sliders did not render any maps on my browser while the others worked fine. Regarding the inventories, this effort essentially inventories habitat, which is of course extremely important. However, assessing the health, trends, and impacts to wildlife populations also requires estimating abundance or at a minimum, indices of abundance, for key species. Also, while the ungulates and raptors are most iconic, I think that other species might provide better representation of different trends in the County's ecosystems. These might include amphibians, small mammals, resident birds, etc.	4/24/2021 1:32 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

57	Although you don't address the water levels in the Deschutes, I watch my area of the river fluctuate tremendously in spring, summer and fall. It is a disgrace and it happens in hours with no warnings or ability for wildlife to adapt to such drastic changes. It almost seems criminal.	4/24/2021 10:51 AM
58	Don't know anything about this and what it implies.	4/24/2021 9:56 AM
59	Stop the unbridled so called Smart code development that interfaces with designated areas. Use buffers of low density rural zoning . New housing developments are not needed for vrbo and bankers.	4/24/2021 6:25 AM
60	I would rather develop density in the existing city, and near city limits buildable lands. Make full use of all properties in and near the city boundary.	4/23/2021 6:55 PM
61	Let's keep our wildlife safe while we continue to expand as a city. The animals were here first and deserve respect, and safety.	4/23/2021 12:59 PM
62	We have lived in the same house on the west side of Bend for 24 years, and would say that the deer population has never been healthier! There are herds of deer feeding on everything and VERY healthy! We have recently experienced wild turkeys and bobcats. (This is new for us.) The wild life is VERY plentiful and very well fed on Awbrey Butte!	4/23/2021 12:55 PM
63	Wildlife is impacted in so many way, not the least of which is road kill. Great swaths of watering is lost to irrigation piping. The public needs specific information in order to have informed perspective.	4/23/2021 12:53 PM
64	Are you interested in protecting wildlife or do you have other reasons for this. Please clarify	4/23/2021 12:30 PM
65	I would like more information about this.	4/23/2021 9:20 AM
66	Don't know anything about the project but have seen a great decline in deer the past 20 years especially.	4/23/2021 9:13 AM
67	it will be interesting to see the results, I have MORE deer, rabbits and a lot less predators to keep the populations down (coyotes, etc.)	4/23/2021 8:27 AM
68	I would hope that botanical surveys are also included so that rare plants are not wiped out for development	4/23/2021 8:23 AM
69	See above.	4/23/2021 8:18 AM
70	We have small herds of Deer out here year round. We enjoy seeing them and don't want to lose that enjoyment.	4/23/2021 12:12 AM
71	We have taken so much of wildlife's resources away, if we don't change our ways we won't have any wildlife left.	4/22/2021 10:51 PM
72	Would appreciate info about this project. Send to Awerkma@gmail.com	4/22/2021 10:50 PM
73	We have to "connect the dots" so the natural wildlife - and its habitat should be taken into consideration, and have equality with the development of human habitat and the supporting infrastructure. The habitat that's destroyed for man once belonged to wildlife. . .and it's often the very reason man wants to share the unique country. We need to be more sensitive with laws to protect it.	4/22/2021 10:48 PM
74	Don't trust blue politics wildlife management practices	4/22/2021 10:40 PM
75	Please see above. I believe we need to have a better understanding and accurate picture of wildlife populations in order to better support and enhance native wildlife habitat.	4/22/2021 10:24 PM
76	Human beings have been taking away land from wildlife. That isn't fair but it is happening.	4/22/2021 10:18 PM
77	I strongly support the proposed Wildlife Inventory Update. I support land use planning and decision-making based on the best available science and most up-to-date research regarding our region's wildlife populations.	4/22/2021 10:01 PM
78	When I hike, I often hear the sound of people shooting. Do the sounds of guns negatively affect wildlife, whether or not the shots are from poachers or people shooting at targets? How can I help make the shooter disappear?	4/22/2021 9:06 PM
79	The health of our wildlife populations is a good indicator of the general health of the local ecosystems that have a direct bearing on the health and well-being of the people who live here.	4/22/2021 7:11 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

Too much competition from burgeoning human populations usually is to the detriment of the local flora and fauna....something we should certainly keep in mind, as it is the health and beauty of the natural environment which serves as a powerful magnet attracting those people here. We live in a fragile high desert ecosystem, which is already suffering from the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.... there are limits to growth!

80	It breaks my heart to see so many deer roaming the streets, and backyards in Bend. I wish something could be done to limit the number.	4/22/2021 1:51 PM
81	Understanding the wildlife populations and planning appropriately is imperative to undo damage and begin healing the Central Oregon ecosystem that so many people... and animals rely on.	4/22/2021 1:07 PM
82	We need greater protection against dogs within the WA overlay zones which disturb wildlife migration. Evidence is clear that both the smell of dogs and the barking of dogs decrease the numbers of all wildlife.	4/22/2021 9:11 AM
83	Consider migrating birds.	4/22/2021 7:12 AM
84	I believe this type of information should be updated more frequently in the rapidly changing environment.	4/20/2021 7:06 PM
85	The inventory update should include much more than elk and deer winter ranges and eagle nesting areas. The Greater Sage Grouse is nearing state and federal listing status. Leaks both present and historic should be mapped and protected. Inventories should include, birds, mammals, plants, reptiles and any rare insects.	4/20/2021 1:49 PM
86	These surveys need to be updated and given to the public for planning and advising about future growth in CO.	4/19/2021 9:41 PM
87	I have no idea what these inventories are	4/19/2021 1:53 PM
88	Not only do the wildlife inventories need to be updated, but Deschutes County needs a plan for updating them on a regular bases. USFWS recommended 2 mile buffers for golden eagles should be adopted so development within that area can be reviewed. Additionally, the county needs a wildlife biologist on staff.	4/18/2021 3:16 PM
89	I am pleased to see such increases in acres protected for mule deer, elk, and our bald and golden eagles. Now if only the county will allow for restraint on expansion of development in all these critical areas, it will make a tremendous difference in the survivability of our wildlife that we all cherish.	4/17/2021 7:59 PM
90	We should update as the area has changed a lot over last 30 years. I care about wildlife	4/16/2021 9:09 PM
91	Deschutes County's current and future growth trends are the primary driver of ecological unraveling across micro- to regional scales. In the proverbial sense, the species we identify remain "canaries of warning" but too often ignore other "keystone" species also requires broader understanding of the fundamental complexities removed by human activities. Moreover, the interactions of human activities are exponentially compounded by human behavior. This requires clear, dedicated, purposeful, and logical and seamless strategies among Federal, State, County and local agencies that is currently missing. An example involving our local situation is the unintelligent-able ability to provide species and safety decisions. For example, how are the Deschutes important comprehensive plan for wildlife going to avoid the traps of USFS, ODFs, OSP, Sheriff Department constrained by CFRs, Dingell Act, State laws, county statute, not to mention the memorandums, agencies' law enforcement handbooks, . . . when each of these have overlapping jurisdictions regarding the location of a bald eagle successfully reproducing nest. Which is within (less than 150-yds) a USFS waterfowl hunting/shooting area and with the established Upper Deschutes River Wild and Scenic River? Not to mention hunting shot impacting and endangering campgrounds, resident homes, and a wide range of recreating land users? Yes, the plan is a good beginning but will remain moot if population, human unsafe behavior, the complex "string ball" of agencies are not unwound. Best of luck!!!	4/16/2021 11:05 AM
92	Outside the urban boundaries, we need wildlife corridors to give them some chance of survival in an ever increasing populace.	4/16/2021 7:47 AM
93	This proposal fails to include other sensitive birds in this region. We need to include endangered and sensitive birds and other animal species in our inventories and our management plans and zoning.	4/16/2021 7:44 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

94	I understand this is a pilot project and the reasons behind selecting the wildlife inventory that you did. That said, I would like to see other wildlife incorporated into this process. Perhaps there are organizations that could help support this endeavor. It would be phenomenal if Deschutes County could be an example of how this should be done. Great job and kudos to your panel of experts.	4/15/2021 7:51 PM
95	I'm glad to see the county is attempting to update guidance (rules and regs) about development/zoning and building issues as part of the comprehensive plan.	4/15/2021 7:24 PM
96	I would like to see this project promoted more. I believe many Deschutes County residents would be interested in supporting this update if they knew about it.	4/15/2021 11:48 AM
97	I am a 5th generation Oregonian and have lived in Bend for over 32 years. I have been devastated to see the destruction of habitat for animals, insects, plants that have evolved here since the beginning of time. Development for one species: Humans, is crime to this planet and all of her inhabitants. We need to think beyond ourselves or there will be nothing left to love and enjoy. I remember when Elk Meadows was just that. Now it is that in name only. Even the slash burns that are done each year destroy hundreds of species: squirrels, rock chucks, badger, porcupines, spiders, ants, desert toads. The list goes on and on. Please, save this part of earth for the animals, insects, plants. We are nothing without them....	4/14/2021 8:23 PM
98	Please keep me posted on these proceedings: Marguerite Saslow canyonwren2646@gmail.com	4/14/2021 8:20 PM
99	To get "buy-in" from people living in the urban wildland interface, the knowledge of what is there is necessary. Only then can a program based on "watchable wildlife" be developed, and such a program is necessary to get taxpayer support.	4/14/2021 6:33 PM
100	How does someone help with this project?	4/14/2021 4:06 PM
101	Thanks for looking at this issue and asking for public input. Also, I moved away from Bend 6 months ago because development is out of control there and it was horrifying to see deer feeding habitats destroyed as well as seeing deer migrating in Spring and Winter and having to cross high speed roadways as well as city streets with moderate traffic.	4/14/2021 1:35 PM
102	Local wildlife populations should take precedence over tourists and transplants. Development can be done intelligently, not just for the sake of growth and money.	4/14/2021 12:19 PM
103	There is a limit to human development in order to keep the wildlife. Deschutes County needs to recognize and act on this immediately.	4/14/2021 11:48 AM
104	It's also crucial to our future well being on the planet in general. The decrease in biodiversity in general is already having a deleterious effect on the planet.	4/14/2021 10:29 AM
105	Why in the world are trails being widened & more bikes being encouraged to come through, in one of the few places on the Deschutes Wilderness River Trail, where the elk still exist? !? It's only a matter of short time, before they stop coming here as well. But hey more people & more bikes, screw the migratory birds & elk...	4/14/2021 10:08 AM
106	Loss of habit is irreversible. It would deny to future generations of humans and animals the right to a healthy, sustainable, natural ecology.	4/14/2021 9:33 AM
107	Need to close more areas to motorized vehicles west of the river off highway 126 and lower speed limits in rural neighborhood neighborhoods.	4/14/2021 9:17 AM
108	It would seem that past efforts to protect winter ranges from human encroachment has failed, and now the species have moved, no gained in population size as clearly stated in the report, so why should adding even more bureaucracy, more reports, more committees, more working groups achieve anything more than the previous failed system did. The only thing this will achieve is a good paying government jobs for a few people who like to push paper around and do absolutely nothing to help the situation with diminishing winter ranges for these species.	4/13/2021 8:11 PM
109	Curious why you are not considering within a city UGb (ie Bend) along canyon and bordering NF	4/13/2021 4:57 PM
110	I was astounded (and thrilled) to have a bald eagle fly down the street right in front of me. Things like this make this place special.	4/13/2021 4:38 PM
111	Wildlife corridors, winter range, historical migration pathways need to be protected for one of Central OR/Deschutes County's desirable assets--wildlife & their specific required habitat.	4/13/2021 12:13 PM

Wildlife Inventory Update

Wildlife without habitat will not be successful.

112	I'm glad this is being looked at and hope that development planning looks at the big picture so wildlife and humans can live together. Nature and wild places are what make this area a destination. Smart development plans that include wildlife and their migration patterns are key to our future.	4/13/2021 8:50 AM
113	The US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management should be full partners in the process given the extent of Federal lands in the county and in the survey areas. Access of NRIS data alone is insufficient as a tool. Federal biologists and land managers often have knowledge of habitat conditions and species occurrence not captured in NRIS. They also have important management responsibilities and abilities to direct management for the species of concern. Additionally, this survey should also consider other important and limited habitats such as riparian corridors and ephemeral wetlands.	4/13/2021 7:33 AM
114	I am concerned that mule deer elk and eagles are suffering from increased development in Deschutes County. Please update wildlife inventories as ranges have changed in the thirty years since the 1991 assessment.	4/13/2021 7:27 AM
115	We live out in McKenzie canyon which is already in a wildlife combining zone . This winter we have seen far fewer deer than in past winters and the last time elk came through was in November. Apparently there are two confirmed Golden eagle nests up in the rim rock behind our farm. The county needs to rethink all the rampant development that is happening now . Loss of habitat is the greatest cause of wildlife decline. Thank you , Tim and Wendy DiPaolo	4/13/2021 7:26 AM
116	We have a home in Sunriver and delight every year in seeing the deer and elk move through our area. It was worrisome to learn the deer are in decline.	4/13/2021 6:16 AM
117	Wildlife and climate change go hand in hand when considering new development codes. Particularly where water is concerned and how droughts have affected wildlife species. Codes should consider impacts to wildlife habitats and populations as a very high priority. Incentives or requirements for solar should be part of any new codes for large developments and or large homes over an determined square footage. No more golf courses should be allowed until water sustainability is determined.	4/12/2021 10:04 PM
118	Thanks I support wildlife inventories	4/12/2021 8:28 PM
119	Hopefully the Biden administration will continue to take a forceful role in enforcing policies on BLM and Forest Service land that support wildlife, rather than people.	4/12/2021 7:49 PM
120	The inventories are cursory in scope. The project aims to survey 'wildlife' but it only covers deer, elk, and eagles. If you are really concerned about conserving wildlife and habitats in the region, you need to do more comprehensive surveys. According to ODFW's own conservation strategy, Deschutes County comprises 4 different ecoregions, and these ecoregions support many species that are listed as sensitive by ODFW. And yet they only want to manage for deer, elk, and eagles. In the East Cascades ecoregion alone, there are at least 3 fish species, 4 amphibians, 3 reptiles, a dozen bird species, and 11 mammals listed as sensitive or critical (this list includes neither deer nor elk). I realize that not all of these species occur on lands managed by Deschutes County, but many do. And how will you know if you don't survey for them?	4/12/2021 7:42 PM
121	Wildfires will be even more inevitable because of the ever increasing population and growth in Central Oregon.	4/12/2021 2:09 PM
122	We should commit resources for law enforcement to stop poaching and to create safe passage ways to stop the killing of animals on roads.	4/12/2021 2:03 PM
123	To reiterate we strongly support adopting new wildlife inventories.	4/12/2021 1:36 PM
124	A Wildlife Inventory is long overdue in Deschutes County	4/12/2021 1:20 PM
125	Residents and visitors love wildlife, but more importantly, wildlife lives here and deserves the support and protection of Deschutes County.	4/12/2021 12:56 PM
126	This is important work. Thank you for the time you are putting into the process.	4/12/2021 11:49 AM
127	Wildlife is an important aspect of this ecosystem we call home. We enjoy sharing with our animal neighbors and should consider them in any plans.	4/12/2021 10:41 AM
128	Wildlife is extremely important and habitat and wildlife corridors should take precedence over	4/12/2021 10:26 AM

Wildlife Inventory Update

expanded development and sprawl. As should farm land versus housing.

129	There is a lot of economic temptation and pressure to build and grow quickly, but there's value in taking a moment to plan WITH nature, to get creative, and to consider the long term consequences and benefits of development.	4/12/2021 10:13 AM
130	Within the 30 years since the last inventories of wildlife , there has been dramatic residential development of habitat that once was used by wildlife . We must reassess habitat loss and project forward more protections to avoid what already is happening, such as elk being forced to use golf courses and neighborhoods for foraging and deer overwintering within Bend city limits, which puts both species at great risk from crossing roads, gathering at neighborhood feeding spots which risks spread of disease and parasites, threats from dogs, overgrazing native plant food sources, loss of migration incentives, and increased stress levels from recreationists.	4/12/2021 9:56 AM
131	Does anyone at the County Development Dept. actually care about the impact all this growth is having on our wildlife, or is it just MONEY MONEY MONEY?? I'd like a response. Tracy Boyer btracy@bendbroadband.com	4/12/2021 9:45 AM
132	Thank You!	4/12/2021 9:29 AM
133	See above	4/12/2021 9:18 AM
134	The old maps are well out of date. We need updated information on our wildlife's needs.	4/12/2021 9:16 AM
135	You should include a link to more info on wildlife inventory areas. Where are they? What restrictions would they impose, etc?	4/12/2021 9:04 AM
136	We must protect both base habitat and migration corridors in Central Oregon!	4/12/2021 8:55 AM
137	Wildlife is disappearing. They need our help.	4/12/2021 8:47 AM
138	It is sad that deer have to move into urban areas to survive.	4/12/2021 8:46 AM
139	This information is important for making sound land use decisions that will stand the test of time and allow us to grow economically and develop in an orderly, rather than a haphazard, fashion.	4/12/2021 8:44 AM
140	Thank you for protecting wildlife habitat through land use.	4/12/2021 8:28 AM
141	We need to designate large blocks of land that is not disturbed by human activity	4/12/2021 8:26 AM
142	Going forward, all biodiversity must be considered, not just the charismatic megafauna.	4/12/2021 8:23 AM
143	Fun and exciting!	4/10/2021 5:04 PM
144	Open spaces is important as well as stopping the use of things like wedding venues in wildlife areas	4/9/2021 1:08 PM
145	These maps are awesome! They give us up to date information on our wildlife's behavior and patterns so we can make smart and informed decisions for our future!	4/9/2021 10:56 AM
146	If this project were a genie, these open houses will start with the first toe out of the bottle. The County should give equal regard to the opinions expressed on the limited data update, future expectations and what impact this might have on future building in wildlife areas. The County is to be congratulated for approaching this topic head on.	4/9/2021 10:54 AM

Virtual Open House Q&A Summaries

WILDLIFE OPEN HOUSE Q&A SUMMARY - APRIL 15, 2021

Questions answered during the open house event (please note that some questions were edited for clarity):

1. How did the TAC pick these three inventories?

With Dr. Wenthe facilitating, the TAC reviewed the 12 inventories that currently are associated with wildlife in Deschutes County; at the end of the meeting they ended up with a selection with the inventories that are in most need of being updated, that have changed the most, and that commonly come into conflict with land use/development. These are inventories where the best supporting data was available, since best science practices has changed significantly since they were originally set up.

2. The expanded deer winter range looks justified. The report should also note that urban areas such as Bend and Redmond are also historic deer winter habitat and are presently used by deer as the observations show, and observed by many residents. This comes into play with analyses pertaining to urban growth expansion.

We do understand that mule deer have a very wide range, including the City of Bend. They use quite a range of habitat. The idea here, however, is to choose habitat areas that are particularly important to that species and to the long-term maintenance and management. Mule deer are a great example of this, because you have a lot of anecdotal evidence of mule deer sightings. But just because you see the animals there does not mean that it's the key habitat. The idea is to protect and manage these areas that are important to the long-term maintenance of the mule deer population in the County.

ODFW is very concerned about mule deer; in Central OR the population is declining at a rate of about 10 percent a year. We are trying to look at the areas where we think we have a chance to improve the populations; for better or worse, our urban areas are not those areas. ODFW refers to those areas as "sinks," where they're not able to sustain themselves as they were evolved to do.

3. Would there be plans or a need to collar more mule deer to study their winter range more on the east side? I saw a lot more mapped on the west side. When expanding the mule deer range, such as in the southeast, how you determine the boundaries of where that area is? Is it individual deer, or the number who pass through, or some other metric?

Collar data: for the green polygons that are labeled "collared deer," that is just a subset of the animals that were collared. It was meant to fill in a gap for animals that had been collared to cover other parts of the county within the context of the study Dr. Wenthe cited. So the collared animals have a much wider coverage than just the green shapes in the snapshot in the StoryMap. There

are no plans for an additional collar study for some time; that was a huge undertaking, and collar studies are currently being conducted/planned in other areas throughout Eastern Oregon.

Defining the boundaries of the inventory: in some cases those boundaries follow the biological winter range, and also natural geographic breaks, such as the Deschutes River. This isn't to say that deer don't occur out of those areas, but these have been determined to be the most important.

4. Do you have any observations comparing natural resource management in Washington versus Oregon?

It's difficult to compare the two states; land use law is quite different, as is population density. They have a different set of issues so it's difficult to compare.

5. Regarding the proposed eagle inventory, there weren't any nests identified south of the Bend urban area—why is that? Also, is the ¼ mile radius sufficient?

The reason we don't see many golden eagle nests immediately south of Bend is because there 1) aren't many nest/eyrie locations in that area and 2) finding eagle nests in trees is quite difficult so there may be nests in that area of which we are unaware. Golden eagles are usually seen more in open country and will nest on cliff faces and rocky outcroppings, but they can and do nest in trees.

With respect to buffers, bald eagles have a 660-foot nest buffer, which is based on the 2007 National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. No such national guideline exists for golden eagles, but protection measures are much more conservative since their populations are generally declining. USFWS applies a 2-mile buffer to golden eagles which essentially serves as a screening distance, or an awareness distance. For these larger buffers, USFWS's recommendations will be very project dependent, depending on what rises to the level of disturbance.

6. It is important to recognize migratory corridors, and that there are more species that need to be inventoried and evaluated. How is the County addressing other inventories beyond these three?

When the TAC originally met to discuss inventories, they also discussed selecting alternatives. The grant funding was awarded to select three inventories, so this project must work within those bounds—it is not that these others do not deserve to be addressed. The alternatives selected were the mule deer migration corridor, which has new data and a large change, and threatened and endangered (T&E) species, the Oregon spotted frog. In the latter case, it was determined that because it's federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, it already benefits from a layer of protection; in addition, it is a smaller geographic portion of the County.

The Community Development Department is treating this as a pilot project; there isn't normally a mechanism for counties to regularly update these inventories. This grant is allowing us to chip away at the start of this process. We hope to be able to address other species potentially in the future.

7. Our community needs to think beyond just the species, but also recognize that demands and challenges these species experience is ever-changing, and new species are traveling through the area. Monitoring is so important to ensure that these species remain viable and plentiful and productive. Any thoughts on monitoring?

Speaking for ODFW, the primary species of focus in this district currently is mule deer; monitoring is a priority for all wildlife management units in the area because of the population decline. For mule deer, ODFW conducts twice yearly surveys: December herd composition (does, bucks, fawns); and spring/late winter they fly the area to observe survival through winter and gather data for population estimates, and that's how ODFW can determine the decline in population. Every three years, each part of the mule deer winter range in Central Oregon is getting flown intensively via helicopter surveys; wintering deer are counted and the numbers are run through a scientific model. Elk are the same: annual aerial monitoring of all known herds every February/March. It's a core part of ODFW's operations statewide. For eagles, federal partners and many nonprofits monitor populations regularly. Oregon has an excellent dataset for golden eagles, thanks in no small part to the Oregon Eagle Foundation.

8. As the use of drones increases by recreationists, are there any plans to protect eagles and mule deer from the impacts of drones on these populations?

Drones, electric mountain bikes—there are lots of 'new' technologies that impact these species. ODFW has rules against using drones for hunting purposes, and there are also state laws (ORS 498.128) against the harassment of wildlife. ODFW tries to adapt regulations to new technology impacts, but it's a constant issue.

For bald and golden eagles, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Airborne Hunting Act outline what activities are prohibited and impose punishments for a person found in violation of those acts; USFWS has legal jurisdiction to address them. These penalties are not inconsequential and USFWS has educational materials discussing how to avoid disturbing eagles and nests, and what to do if you see someone in violation. In addition, the Airborne Hunting Act has a provision about disturbing or harassing wildlife with any airborne device. There are legal penalties for flying drones for flying around nests or following in-flight eagles. These are real issues beyond just drones—it's recreation in general: biking, hiking, dogs, etc.

9. For elk and mule deer, what is the relationship between historic range and populations to what is found today? Are elk expanding? If yes, is that desirable?

Elk populations in Central Oregon have grown slightly the last 10-20 years. Some people may be aware of the herd near Cloverdale, between Redmond and Sisters. That herd historically was south of Bend, but they were displaced by residential development and eventually landed where they are now. Desirability of elk, however, is in the eye of the beholder; they live in large groups,

and can be destructive to crops, but also some people want to view them. This is part of the reason why ODFW is advocating for the expansion of the inventory into the historic biological winter range.

The current inventory is still valuable elk habitat; most of this is in southern Deschutes County and it continues to be the area with the most density. New polygons represent where ODFW is seeing additional elk in the winter surveys, and clip them to the statewide ODFW elk winter range. Similarly, for mule deer, the existing inventory remains important.

10. Are these inventories final? If not, can people provide additional information or data to inform the inventories?

There is a process prescribed by state law (<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3073>) on how an inventory update occurs, including how the inventories are determined and finalized. These largely come from ODFW and federal agencies but there are opportunities for the public to weigh in and those agencies can evaluate that information as they see fit. This information can be relayed to Tanya Saltzman (Tanya.saltzman@deschutes.org), who will forward them to the relevant agency partner with the appropriate level of privacy. The County will look to the agencies to vet that information and provide appropriate recommendations.

11. Can you give some examples of changes to the Comprehensive Plan that could evolve from the updated inventories?

The last time the county updated its inventories was 2014/2015, when sage grouse inventories produced by ODFW that affected Central and Eastern Oregon. These inventories were adopted into the Comprehensive Plan, as well as specific rules adopted by Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) that were required to evaluate large-scale development in sage grouse habitat. This was a statewide effort to preempt a listing of sage grouse on the Federal Endangered Species Act.

12. What does this mean today if I am a landowner and I own property in one of these new inventory areas? How will this affect the development code? How will this affect our Wildlife Area Combining Zone and Sensitive Bird and Mammal Combining Zones?

At this moment, nothing specific is being proposed. In the next phase of the process, there will be a robust public process to propose and evaluate potential actions to the development code, combining zones, and the Comprehensive Plan. Under the current phase of this project, County staff goals are to provide the education about the biological inventories, and obtain public—and Planning Commission—input to hear opinions and perspectives on a possible update, which will then be relayed to the Board of County Commissioners. Specific changes to the Comprehensive Plan or development code would come as part of the next part of the process, aiming to achieve a balance between conservation goals and development expectations.

13. What are the deliverables of the grant? What are the expectations for the next phase?

In terms of the grant and its deliverables, we will have a second open house on April 29, gather all public input, compile that input into a report for the Board of County Commissioners, and present potential options to move forward (For instance, would an inventory update be a process of its own, or integrated into the larger Comprehensive Plan update?). We hope to have a direction later this summer. The grant itself ends on May 31 and the initial public engagement summary report will be complete by that date.

14. How much money was the grant? And are there any benchmarks for how much a complete inventory would cost?

The DLCD grant covered two different projects: this (\$15,000), and another project concerning wildfire (\$10,000), with a match from the County. The total for the two was \$25,000, which was eventually reduced by \$5,000 due to COVID-related state budget issues.

Regarding a larger inventory update undertaking, with this project, one of the reasons these species were selected was because the data were available. But what does that mean for us as a County, or for state agencies, or for the community, for other inventories to invest in collecting other data and evaluating them as well? This isn't necessarily something we can address now but is extremely important to consider as we move forward, perhaps beyond the pilot project.

Additional questions submitted that were not addressed during the live event:

- **Why not call the bald and golden eagle inventories eagle inventory?**

These two datasets are actually subsets of a larger inventory called Habitat Areas for Sensitive Birds. These areas are identified for several species in addition to bald and golden eagles, including osprey, prairie falcon, great grey owl, and great blue heron.

- **I believe it is very important to incorporate these updated inventories. If we fail to adequately protect wildlife and the natural environment Deschutes County's appeal and quality of life will likely suffer. Are there any estimates of the costs of not using these updated inventories?**

Currently there is not such an estimate, which would require an economic model that is beyond the scope of this project. However, part of the state requirements for adopting a new inventory will involve an ESEE (Economic, Social, Environmental, and Energy) analysis, which examines such consequences that could result from a decision to allow, limit, or prohibit a conflicting use.

For more information about ESEE analyses, please see <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=175713>

- **Do any of your alternatives reflect climate change?**

While there is little doubt that climate change affects wildlife habitat, this project is taking into account the current available data (rather than projections, which potentially could account for future variations attributable to climate change), based on observations, collaring, etc. Any updates to the development code or Comprehensive Plan would reflect that data. It is also important to note that the very act of updating and expanding habitat protections of existing wildlife habitat makes for a more resilient landscape in the face of many potential changes, including climate change, wildfires, continued increases in development and recreation.

- **How would the County propose to improve the actual protections for these wildlife in the WA overlay zones? Recently, here on Sisemore Road in the middle of the Tumalo Winter Deer Range there were 50 elk within 3 miles of us, along with the daily migration of deer across my property. Yet, a neighbor, who has been in California for the past three months was allowing 'guests' come to his property who allowed their multiple dogs run loose on both BLM property and my property. While smiling as best as possible, I tried to talk with these dog owners about the dogs potentially interfering with the deer and elk. As a result of my efforts to protect the wildlife, the vacationing neighbor is now threatening me with a lawsuit.**

The issues in question are already illegal under Oregon state statutes, (ORS 498.102, ORS 498.006, ORS 609.095), even without a change in the actual protections. The proper law enforcement should be contacted in these situations. Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Troopers handle fish & wildlife related violations, and have officers locally.

Related comment:

Since there are multiple agencies here tonight, I might mention the need for coordinated law enforcement for the protections for wildlife that have been discussed.

Speaking for USFWS, we work hard to coordinate with as many agencies as possible; that includes BLM, USFS, and USFWS law enforcement as well as OSP. Most federal law enforcement agents operate with few individuals on a large scale, and I suspect OSP is in a similar boat. Additionally, I rely heavily on ODFW, Oregon State Parks, various federal agencies, and the public to keep me apprised of any situation that might warrant involving our law enforcement.

WILDLIFE OPEN HOUSE Q&A SUMMARY - APRIL 29, 2021

Questions answered during the open house event (please note that some questions were edited for clarity):

In the Lower Bridge area, there are areas that are currently identified as part of wildlife inventories, but also some areas that are not included. There's a recognition of the importance of population counts, in relationship to acreage, and how to reconcile the two of those.

These observations are spot-on: the Lower Bridge area is crucial to wildlife, and particularly mule deer, which is why the ODFW team used different forms of data (helicopter surveys, habitat model, collar data) to inform that recommendation to increase those critical protection areas that aren't currently protected. This was the task of the group to come with data to inform the County of these potential additional areas.

What about the impacts that wildlife have on private property, such as commercial farmers? Is ODFW aware of programs that help offset those impacts? What type of resources are available?

ODFW is mandated in statute to address wildlife damage and this is a large part of what they do. It's also important to note that the majority of habitat is on private lands. ODFW has a budget to supply fencing and other protective measures, including damage tags and special hunting opportunities to keep the animals moving around a bit more. ODFW has a lot of tools to help private landowners manage that relationship between private landowners and wildlife.

How did the TAC select these three inventories?

The Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the existing significant Goal 5 inventories (approximately 12 of them) and considered things like how outdated the data are—for instance, are there more scientific resources available today?—which inventories are known to have lots of conflicts, and species that are known to be not doing so well, such as mule deer. The TAC also selected two alternates—the mule deer migration corridor, and threatened and endangered species, specifically the Oregon spotted frog. This pilot program ultimately chose the three top-tier inventories that would most benefit from an update.

General comments from members of the IWG team:

Sara Gregory: We all keep saying that these inventories are old but the landscape is ultimately the same. The technology to track movements and interact with the species has improved, which has given us fine-scale data sets. These animals need these landscapes to move around; there are so many obstacles to the migration and movement, particularly of mule deer; data show that those

mule deer that can migrate have a higher survival rate. This is likely similar with elk, but we do not have that same fine-scale data.

Andrew Walch: An additional note is the general state of the mule deer population in Central Oregon: In the last decade, mule deer across the West have been having a particularly difficult time; in Central Oregon we are averaging about a ten percent decline per year. The ODFW units in Central Oregon that make up portions of Deschutes County average from a quarter to half of what their population management objectives should be. We aren't close to those targets anymore, and that gap is getting wider. This is due to a myriad of factors, and therefore this is a good conversation to have right now and to bring this data forward to the public and to the County.

Wendy Wente: It's very encouraging to see the County reconsidering these data sets, understanding that the data were old and that things are changing on the landscape. The County is responding to where they see areas of conflict. I was happy to be involved in a project that pays attention to the best available science for these inventories.

Would Deschutes County be interested in applying to the Department of Land Conservation and Development for more grant money to expand the scope of the inventory updates for more species or habitats?

While the prospect of additional funding is always appealing, in this case it may be better to see this pilot project through first to refine our processes and public input. Since this is a pilot project, this is new territory for the County, which is not technically required to update these inventories. Because of this, we are determining the ideal process as we go; as such, it might be a better use of resources to hone in on the best practices for performing this update and then consider additional species/inventories/habitats.

Mule deer populations in the Metolius unit have been on the decline since 2016; in 2015 the populations were 129% of the management objective, and in 2016 it dropped to 93 percent. Is it true that the mule deer populations are now at 55 percent? What's the basis for that decline, especially in a rural county with statewide planning objectives and rules pertaining to farm and forest lands?

Those numbers are indeed correct and reflective of the rapid decline throughout Central Oregon. It's not just land use that drives down mule deer population; it's development dividing up habitats with fences and roads, it's dogs, it's the constant use of summer and winter range for recreation; it's disease outbreaks; it's bad winters (such as the late snow at the end of February a couple of years ago). There's only so many things wildlife managers can do—fight for habitat, improve habitat, or create more hunting tags. Lastly, they continue to work with local partners—federal, local, and private landowners.

Please discuss this project's timeline with respect to the grant and afterwards.

In terms of the grant and its deliverables, the goals of the current phase of this project are to provide the education about the biological inventories, and obtain public—and Planning Commission—input to hear opinions and perspectives on a possible update, which will then be relayed to the Board of County Commissioners. Once the survey closes on May 6, staff will gather all public input, compile that input into a report for the Board of County Commissioners, and present potential options to move forward (for instance, would an inventory update be a process of its own, or integrated into the larger Comprehensive Plan update?). We hope to have a direction later this summer. In the next phase of the process, if directed by the Board, there will be a robust public process to propose and evaluate potential actions to the development code, combining zones, and the Comprehensive Plan, aiming to achieve a balance between conservation goals and development expectations, and following a very detailed process prescribed by state statute for a potential inventory update.

That state process is outlined here:

<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=3073>

In Tumalo and throughout the less dense areas of the county, I see problematic fencing - nonporous to wildlife - being installed through large property areas confining wildlife (especially young elk and deer) often into roadways along long stretches of county roads. Are County planners able to address and perhaps impose limitations on the types of fencing homeowners can utilize?

We have numerous inventories that are identified in the County's Wildlife Area Combining Zone. For any development that is proposed in those areas, there are siting standards that come into play for fencing. To the extent that someone is building a dwelling or accessory structure, fencing is required to accommodate wildlife passage.

These new inventories extend into areas where existing zones do not. As this update process matures, siting standards for fencing (among other elements) will likely be recommended to continue into those new areas, if we have public support, Planning Commission support, and Board support.

Wolves are now dispersing through Central Oregon - from the Blue Mountains, through the Ochocos, to the Cascades. In addition to direct population management asserted by federal and state wildlife management agencies, does the County [or State] have any plans for protective designations/overlays for broader corridors accommodating landscape-scale wildlife dispersal of this type?

This issue has not elevated in the county as have the three habitats this project addresses. Wolf populations are indeed increasing statewide and do disperse through Central Oregon. Currently there is no resident wolf pack that has been identified in Deschutes County, only those who migrate to the south. Wolves are protected by the Oregon Wolf Plan, which was updated a year ago and ratified by the ODFW Commission. As far as habitat protections, while this project might

not be studying wolves specifically, it is important to note that updating protections and corridors for one species often helps those for other species as well.

Was the initial inventory compiled as part of the Comprehensive Plan?

Yes, and it becomes a part of the Goal 5 section of the Plan. An update could be a stand-alone amendment, or it could be rolled into the larger Comprehensive Plan update process.

General Public Comments

Tanya Saltzman

From: Cynthia Smidt
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Nick Lelack; Peter Gutowsky
Cc: Audrey Stuart; Tanya Saltzman
Subject: FW: DCPC Meeting 3/25 @ 5:30pm - re: Public Comments
Attachments: County Planning Commission.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Nick,

I don't know if Audrey sent this along yet but here's something for tonight's meeting.

Cynthia Smidt | Associate Planner
DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Disclaimer: Please note that the information in this email is an informal statement made in accordance with DCC 22.20.005 and shall not be deemed to constitute final County action effecting a change in the status of a person's property or conferring any rights, including any reliance rights, on any person.

From: Greg & Joyce <bendbakers@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:21 PM
To: CDD Planning <planning@deschutes.org>
Subject: DCPC Meeting 3/25 @ 5:30pm - re: Public Comments

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello, I've attached my comments here and attached as a pdf as well.

Thanks for all your work!

Greg Baker

Testimony to the Deschutes County Planning Commission

For Hearing on March 25, 2021 at 5:30 PM

My name is Greg Baker, my wife and I live at 65580 Sisemore Road in Deschutes County. I may not be able to attend your online hearing this evening but would like to thank the CDD for the (draft) FY 2021-22 Work Plan regarding future development in Deschutes County and provide a couple of comments for entry into the public record.

The 2021-22 Work Plan includes a Mission Statement and Purpose. The mission statement speaks of orderly growth and development but doesn't reflect what values might drive this growth and development. I would be interested in seeing what core values will drive future Deschutes County growth and development.

I appreciate your Attachment 3 which includes goals and projects organized by Value, one of which is Land Stewardship & Thriving Ecosystem, with an explanation that "Many people have moved to or chosen to stay in Deschutes County because of a deep interest and respect for wildlife, the outdoors and the natural ecosystem." To me, this is a foundational aspect of living, visiting and recreating in Bend, protection of which could and maybe should be stated as a core value, especially with current impacts of higher rates of population growth and development in the County.

An explanation of core values to guide future development may help residents and visitors alike understand what the County is about as well as future direction and could help in mitigating some of the issues resulting from various types of recreation occurring in areas of multi-use recreation vs. more sensitive wildlife overlays. Protection of wildlife and ecosystem is core to sustainable development (mentioned as one of CDD's Purposes), one cannot really happen without the other.

To that end I'm happy to see the Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory Update, thank you for this activity. If I might add a couple of comments:

- I would second IWG's comment regarding the disclosure of eagle nesting locations to the public and for that matter, areas of mule deer and elk overwintering (poaching).
- Has the County considered adding wildlife underpasses on highways north of town as has already been done on Hwy 97 south of Bend? There are too many dead deer on the side of the highways, and we don't see the ones that are injured and wander away to die. I hope this is a future consideration.

I appreciate your time and work.

With best regards,

Greg Baker

Tanya Saltzman

From: Peter Fullenwider <peter.fullenwider@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:26 AM
To: les.hudson.new@gmail.com
Cc: Tanya Saltzman; Nick Lelack; Peter Gutowsky; jessica kieras
Subject: Re: Deschutes County Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory Update

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Tanya: Thanks Les for the introduction. I know Les through the Friends of the Tumalo Wildlife Corridor where I am the current Sec/Treasurer. I live on Snow Creek Road off of Sisemore Road within BLM's "Tumalo Natural Area". My wife and I have been at this location for around 15 years now. Of possible interest to you is our recent purchase and deployment of vehicle counters (<https://www.trafx.net>) along Bull Flat Road and Snow Creek Road to document objectively the vehicle violations of the Winter Deer Cooperative Closure. Although this effort is in support of identifying an anecdotally obvious fact (I watch folks bypass the ODFW signs all the time), it represents our effort to support/promote the long promised BLM "Travel Plan" to further implement the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan for the Tumalo Block. We will take our last reading for the WDCC timeframe on 3/31, verify and reify the data in preparation for further discussion with the BLM and if appropriate, brief input to one of your April meetings.

The relevance to Deschutes County is indirect but I believe germane to your long term planning. Understanding travel dynamics to better post educational information (not just regulations), especially in regards to conservation (wildlife and habitat) seems to us to be an essential task.

The primary motivation to the creation of fTWC was the chaos of use (automatic gunfire/shooting, hazardous material dumping, indiscriminate off-road vehicle use etc.) within the greater Bull Flat area. In the greater Bull Flat area, we have multiple public agencies (BLM, DSL, TID, Deschutes Nat'l Forest) with differing terms of use without (except for the three kiosks our organization put up) adequate educational information posted for the public.

- To the extent the TAC interacts with these agencies regarding wildlife management information, it would be an extraordinary benefit for postings of basic information to be consonant with each other. We are aware that each agency has their own formats and specifications.
- To the extent that TAC needs to document vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, fTWC may be of value in deploying Traftx technology.
- To the extent that your initiative interacts with the above agencies, we hope you will encourage them to move forward with travel management generally and educational postings regarding wildlife and use.

Thanks for your work, time and attention. Cheers: Peter

On Thu, Mar 25, 2021 at 3:31 PM <les.hudson.new@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Tanya,

I think you and your Technical Advisory Committee will probably want to be aware of the work being done by Peter Fullenwider and his group on the quantitative assessment of human incursion into County Protected wild life zones. To date the TAC report has referenced housing development and these zones. Motorized vehicle incursion might have an equal impact and a greater footprint.

This mail is to introduce the two of you. I shall leave Peter reach out to you in due course and independently of me.

Regards,

Les.

Dr. Leslie Hudson

Mobile: 561 789 1620

les.hudson@q.com

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Tanya Saltzman

From: Merry Ann Moore <merryannmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:51 PM
To: Tanya Saltzman
Subject: Updating maps of winter range for wildlife

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Ms. Saltzman, your survey on the storymap is not working so I am writing you directly. I lived for close to 15 years in Sisters, Oregon and participated in many, many Deschutes County planning initiatives, more than a few related to wildlife. I also surveyed water temperatures on Whychus Creek as part of a salmon study. I have more than passing knowledge of how badly outdated the county's wildlife maps are.

I applaud the effort to have winter range maps actually reflect scientific reality. I note that the proposed new range would connect what is currently extremely fragmented habitat for deer and elk. This is essential for the long-term health of these populations. Further, it is now finally possible, through the Oregon Eagle foundation's groundbreaking ten-year study, to see exactly where golden eagles are nesting. These magnificent apex predators must be protected adequately.

Continuing to base development decisions on a wildlife inventory from 1981 will result in the collapse of these important natural resources sooner rather than later. The only winners will be those who seek to skirt scientific reality in the name of profit. While hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, ecosystems and the animals themselves lose. Please do the right thing and update the County comprehensive plan with accurate and current wildlife maps!

Sincerely,
Merry Ann Moore
Portland, OR

Tanya Saltzman

From: veronica newton hudson <vnewtonhudson@q.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Tanya Saltzman
Subject: Meeting yesterday evening.

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Tanya,

Thank you for laying out the proposed wildlife inventory updates succinctly and clearly (not an easy subject!) at the meeting yesterday evening.

Your IT lady whose name I didn't catch fully did, as you mentioned, an excellent job with the mapping. Hopefully people are a bit clearer on at least some of the issues wildlife is facing. I hope this project can be brought to fruition with some better prospects for wildlife!

Veronica

Veronica Newton Hudson
Cellphone: 215 275 0091

Tanya Saltzman

Subject: RE: Form submission from: Contact Deschutes County

From: Deschutes County Oregon <donotreply@deschutes.org>

Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 11:23 AM

To: cdd-webmaster <cdd-webmaster@co.deschutes.or.us>

Subject: Form submission from: Contact Deschutes County

****AUTOMATED EMAIL - PLEASE DO NOT REPLY**** You have an incoming Comment or Question from the County's Website (Deschutes.org). Submitted on: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - 11:22am The following was submitted:

Department to Contact Community Development

Subject Wildlife inventory project

Your Message

Hi i live in tumalo we infrequently have two heards of elk, one in our front pasture and one in our back pasture each heard 45 to 75 in number. They are coming almost weekly. They are wonderful and so majestic.

I'm close to highway 20 and frequently have to call 911 when the elk get close to the highway. If there is any way I can be of assistance in this project I'm happy to help.

Name Patricia devol nadon

Email Address maggie.nadon25@gmail.com

Phone Number 2066787411

****AUTOMATED EMAIL - PLEASE DO NOT REPLY****

To the Board of County Commissioners,

We have reviewed the Wildlife Inventory Update Storymap and Survey and would like to add a few comments.

Aldo Leopold once said, "Conservation, viewed in its entirety, is the slow and laborious unfolding of a new relationship between people and land."

Indeed, the process of updating its wildlife inventory in which the county is currently engaged is "slow and laborious," however, it is totally worthwhile in maintaining our respect for the beautiful place where we live. Other counties across the nation have not looked very far ahead in their planning and as a result have degenerated to a tax revenue mindset only, spawning growth that is devoid of beauty and wildlife, a cancer upon the landscape. Leopold also said, "We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

We applaud the current county effort to extend thoughtful courtesy to the values many of us hold dear, such as maintaining safe havens and corridors for wildlife, protecting plant species, and keeping our spectacular skyline free from visual impairments.

Having studied Golden Eagles for more than 70 years in the Central Oregon area and beyond, as well as participating in the recently concluded 10 year survey of our local eagles, we were pleased to see that the findings of The Oregon Eagle Foundation were incorporated into the part of the Wildlife Inventory Update that covered Bald and Golden Eagles. With increased recreational and developmental pressures mounting near these nesting territories, it is paramount that breeding areas be provided with strict regulatory protections to avoid further disturbance to their long established presence.

The 2 mile buffer zone around the known nest areas for Golden Eagles look good to us. However, if the areas outside that zone are densely developed, the Golden will have insufficient places to hunt their prey, which is mostly jackrabbits. Cooperative arrangements with BLM and USFS can help mitigate this issue.

In addition, the buffer zones need to be free of recreationists or other activity during nesting season, whether the birds are using their nest or not. Golden can, for a variety of reasons, not use their nest in a given year but will often return in subsequent years. Even if they don't produce young in some years, they often remain in the territory to keep an eye on it.

Regarding Bald Eagles, a 1/4 mi buffer around the nest is not sufficient. It should be at least 1/2 mile. Although there is documentation of Bald Eagles nesting close to human activity, with the growth that the county is experiencing, further development close to the

1/4 mi border could easily be the tipping point to cause the eagles to abandon their nest. Bald Eagles are far more tolerant of human activity but rather than asking the eagles to be accepting of the 1/4 mile rule, it would be wise to allow them a decent space to nest to begin with. It is far better to err on the side of too much rather than too little.

Both Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under a series of Federal Acts. The Acts are specific about molesting or disturbing any eagle and warn of stiff violation penalties. By not giving both Bald and Golden Eagles sufficient protection in the planning process, the county could become complicit in any activity proved to be disturbing. We are eager to see the county become heroes and examples of wildlife protection, not partners in crime trading values for dollars from pressuring developers.

The number of Deschutes County citizens engaged in land ethics associated groups alone (Deschutes Land Trust, High Desert Museum, East Cascades Audubon Society, Central Oregon Landwatch, Central Oregon Flyfishers, Coalition for the Deschutes, Deschutes River Conservancy, Oregon Natural Desert Assoc., Oregon Wild, Juniper Group of the Sierra Club, Sunriver Nature Center, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, and many others), should express to the county the importance its residents place on the values the planners are reviewing.

Our children and grandchildren will look back on these decisions as being either regretful or respectful. Let us choose the latter.

Jim and Sue Anderson
Naturalists

Tanya Saltzman

From: Jim Henson <jim@hensonbiz.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Tanya Saltzman
Subject: County Wildlife Habitat Update

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hi Tanya,
I entered a survey, but I felt it was kind of short.

I would argue in favor of accurate wildlife counts in the County.

I would suggest that part of the survey could be public observations. I can look out my windows and count Deer, or Eagles. If there was a rigorous web entry method, you could enlist thousands of people in the project.

Some other concerns--

Eagle range: I am over a mile, maybe 2 miles from the known golden eagle nest, but I see golden eagles hunting sage rats on my property. Same for Bald eagles. So a nest needs a buffer, but maybe the hunting range needs some protections also. It would be nice to notify the public in a sensitive area what the dos and don'ts are.

Coyote – are you counting predators also? A sudden change in population would be a concern.

Owl – I think the Owls are being challenged and the public could be notified how to help out. Owls control the mice and too many mice damage the corps ... So it would be good to count Owls.

Thanks,
Jim Henson
66255 White Rock Loop
Bend, OR 97703

Tanya Saltzman

From: Jon Nelson <jdnelson995@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 9:35 PM
To: Tanya Saltzman
Subject: Wildlife Inventory Update

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Jon David Nelson
2312 NW 12th
Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-233-8405

May 4, 2021

Dear Deschutes County Planners, Planning Commission, and Board of Commissioners,

I was pleased to learn about the grant-funded effort to gather data on habitat use by mule deer, elk, and eagles on county lands. Thank you for your efforts to provide a transparent and accessible public process that offers citizens ample opportunity for involvement. I am writing this letter to express my strong support and recommendation that the county pursue a full update to the inventories based on this new data, and the input of our wildlife managers.

Although I am writing as a private citizen of Deschutes County, I would like to mention my professional background as a matter of providing context to my comments. I work as the Curator of Wildlife at the High Desert Museum. For more than a decade I have developed and delivered content and programming about wildlife that reaches more than 185,000 visitors a year. Those people can be divided into two groups, those who live and work in Deschutes County, and those who are visiting, driving the tourism economy we all depend on for our prosperity.

Thanks to my work I have the pleasure of having conversations with many people every day about wildlife and how they value wildlife populations on the landscape. The majority are largely unaware of the needs of wild animals, or the myriad issues affecting the sustainability of those populations over time. However, not once have I spoken with someone after a talk about mule deer, or with a golden eagle on my glove, and had them tell me they did not value wildlife in highest possible terms. We are all aware, the forests, mountains, and wildlands surrounding Bend, Redmond, and Sisters are largely what attract people to visit and move to Deschutes County to live. Wildlife is inextricably linked to those places and to the high quality of life that drives the booming economy and unprecedented growth of our county. However, wildlife require more than just the public lands adjacent to our growing cities. To persist they need functional, well-connected landscapes, with the ability to migrate, overwinter, and reproduce. We are privileged to live in a region with so many nesting eagles, and where iconic species like elk and mule deer are part of our everyday lives. I believe not only do we have an obligation to conserve these species and others, but that doing so protects the values of our people and helps safeguard the current and future health and prosperity of our community.

I urge you to proceed with a full inventory update, and to carefully consider the needs of wildlife in planning decisions moving forward. Furthermore, I recommend you explore the idea of creating a full-time wildlife biologist position to advise on these matters, liaison with wildlife management agencies, engage with the public, and to develop more routine revision of these inventories through an adaptive management process. Please think about what we want our part of Central Oregon to look like 50 years from now. I know the people of Deschutes County expect healthy and sustainable wildlife populations to be part of that vision.

Thank you again for your efforts on this matter, and for all that you do.

-Jon Nelson