



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Tanya Saltzman, AICP, Senior Planner

**DATE:** August 16, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Mule Deer Presentation

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Following the withdrawal of the mule deer inventory update project on June 26, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) expressed interest in hearing from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) concerning the mule deer population decline in the region.

The inventory update project that was led by the Long-Range Planning Division focused on land use regulations to address habitat fragmentation. However, as noted by ODFW as well as in public testimony, there are a multitude of factors affecting the mule deer population decline. While many of these factors—such as poaching, predation, and vehicle strikes—are beyond the purview of County land use regulations, ODFW will discuss efforts currently underway to study the multiple elements associated with population decline at the regional, state and federal level. ODFW will give a presentation discussing these issues and will then offer the Board opportunities for further questions.