

ODFW Roadkill Salvage Permit Program



Photo: James Ward

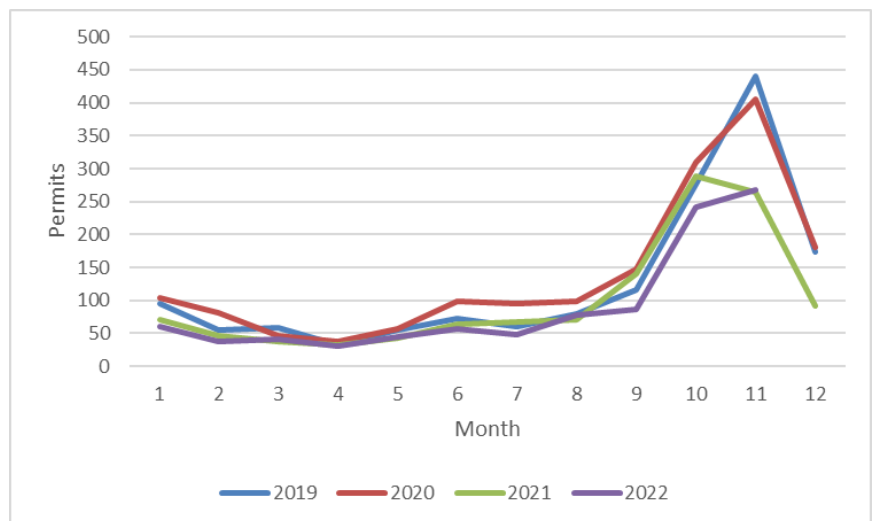
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Background

With the passage of Senate Bill 372, the 2017 Oregon Legislative Assembly directed development of a permitting process that would allow individuals to salvage game meat from deer and elk that had been accidentally killed as the result of vehicle collisions. The legislation required ODFW to initiate the permit program by January 1, 2019 and provide a report to the legislature. ODFW began issuing roadkill salvage permits on January 1, 2019. Permits were issued electronically through a web-based application and required an in-person check-in at an ODFW field office within five days for surrendering antlers and collection of biological samples for surveillance of chronic wasting disease (CWD). The check-in requirement was suspended from April 1, 2020 to March 19, 2022 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, some offices still offered sampling through drop-off process which required no in-person contact. The in-person check-in requirements resumed in 2022 for all permits issued.

Permit Participation Summary

- 5,488 permits issued from January 2019 through November 2022
- Peak issuance occurred between October through November which aligns with the peak of the deer breeding season, a biologically significant time of increased animal movement
- Compliance for check-in of issued permits was 74%
- 70% of checked-in deer and elk heads yielded a viable sample for CWD surveillance
- 60% of permits were issued in western Oregon for black-tailed deer
- Salvage permits for other species included: mule deer (22%), elk (11%), and white-tailed deer (7%)



Total roadkill salvage permits issued by month, 2019-2022.

Continued Implementation and Future Actions

- For greater ease of customer use, the permitting process is being moved to the ODFW Electronic Licensing System (ELS).
- ELS permitting will improve the collection of roadkill location data to help inform ODOT "Hot Spot" maps and priority areas to address landscape connectivity.
- The check-in requirement continues to be a critical source of surveillance sampling for CWD and has even greater significance with the recent documentation of CWD in Idaho within 30 miles of Oregon's border.