

## **NEW DEER AND ELK HUNTS AT STARKEY EXPERIMENTAL FOREST AND RANGE (HUNTS 152B, 252R, 252D)**

Research designed to evaluate the response of elk and mule deer to varying levels of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) access during elk bow (Hunt 252R), deer rifle (Hunt 152B), and elk rifle (Hunt 252D) seasons will begin inside the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range enclosure (Starkey) in 2008. Up to 70 bull elk and 300 cows and calves will be present in the study area in late summer before the start of hunting. Approximately 150 mule deer also will present, the small minority being bucks with visible antlers that are available for harvest. As part of the research, ATV access will be allowed on an extensive trail system in the south end of the study area, but roads and trails on the north end will be closed to all motorized access (see “Starkey Hunting Season Motorized Access” map). Note that ATVs are Class I and Class III motorized vehicles, as defined by the state of Oregon, which includes all quads or dirt bikes 50 inches wide or less. Motorized access shown on the Starkey Hunting Season Motorized Access map will be in effect 5 days before the start of each season and throughout each 5-day hunt period. Before and after these times, motorized access will revert to the traditional green dot open road system (see “Starkey Non-Hunting Season Motorized Access” map).

Successful applicants for Hunts 152B, 252D, or 252R must agree to participate in the research by having a GPS unit (~1.0 lb) on their person while hunting and having a second GPS unit attached to their ATV at all times when inside Starkey. The requirements for a hunter to wear a GPS unit, and to have a unit mounted on their ATV, include the 5-day period before the start of a season, and continue through the 5-day hunt period. GPS units worn by hunters will be designed not to interfere with hunting, and will be carried around the waist area, either attached to a belt or belt loop. GPS units will be attached to ATVs so as not to interfere with their operation or with passenger use or loads.

When first arriving to Starkey, either during the 5 days before the hunt or during the 5-day hunting period, hunters must stop at the hunter check station, located at the south entrance (Main Gate) of the enclosure just off Highway 244 (see maps). Hunters will be issued a GPS unit at that time and instructions will be provided for wearing the unit each day of scouting and hunting. An additional GPS unit will be attached to the hunter’s ATV during this initial stop at the check station. Additional instructions regarding care and use of the GPS units will be provided at check in.

GPS units will need to be dropped off at the hunter check station when hunters leave Starkey and picked up upon returning to Starkey. At final departure, GPS units should be returned to the hunter check station. A questionnaire regarding the hunting experience must also be completed upon departure. Hunters may be required to collect teeth or other parts of harvested animals. Animal parts will be obtained from hunters at check out.

Note that following the completion of the 5-day bow elk hunt at Starkey (Hunt 252R), hunters with an unfilled tag may continue bow hunting in any State Wildlife Management Unit open to the general bow season for elk. Hunters with an unfilled tag for the rifle

deer hunt at Starkey (Hunt 152B) also can continue hunting within the Starkey Wildlife Management Unit for the remainder of the controlled buck deer firearm season (Hunt 152A), following the end of the 5-day hunt at Starkey.

Hunters should also be aware of camping restrictions, which limit camps to within 300 feet of roads that are open to all motorized vehicles (roads shown in green on Starkey Hunting Season Motorized map). Note that these roads do not include the ATV trails open to quad and dirt bike access.