



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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April 6, 2020

Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

RE: Hunting is social distancing!

Dear Governor Brown,

During these times of uncertainty, and necessary precautions to reduce the spread of COVID 19, it is important to also maintain both mental and physical health. The act of going afield to hunt game during the springtime means the pursuit of turkeys and black bear. Each of these hunting pursuits involves a lot of solitude and outdoor exercise. For hunters, going afield at this time of year has great therapeutic benefit and can easily be accomplished with adherence to the social distancing guidelines that you have laid out for Oregon.

Another aspect of these spring hunts is to foster family bonds and mentoring, which is usually done in a one-on-one manner with someone from their own household, a close friend, or even done in a solitary manner. Turkey hunting also tends to be done on one's private property, at a local level, or just traveling far enough to be away from people and human activities.

Spring bear hunters are probably more mobile, but their numbers are lower as all spring time bear hunting is controlled – with limited numbers of permits per unit. Additionally, bears are hunted in the most remote parts of our state. Having some flow of citizens can also provide a small economic boost through purchases of vehicle fuel, and meals from restaurants with a take-out option. All of course assuming that safe distancing practices are abided by.

As travel restrictions persist for weeks, and even months, it is very important to maintain individual opportunities to enjoy Oregon's outdoors. The benefits of rejuvenation from hunting and fishing far outweigh the small risk factors of contact.

We ask that you please strongly consider the continued allowance of these most important outdoor activities. Our association commits to continuing to emphasize the importance of adhering to social distancing guidelines even while in the great outdoors.

Sincerely,

Frederick Walasavage

Oregon Hunters Association
State Board, Chairman

cc: Curt Melcher, Director, ODFW