

# OFIC-History of Deer and Elk Damage in Oregon

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Historic & Voluntary Annual OFIC Damage Surveys  
2011 OSAF / WASAF Annual Meeting

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Hope no one is expecting “The” History...

“In the Beginning.....”

On one ridge a Doe & a Buck....

On another ridge a Cow & a Bull....

And a Forbidden Seedling in the valley  
below....

# OFIC History

## Deer & Elk Damage

Statewide Surveys: 1984 & 1993

Annual Members Survey: 1986 - Current

# Definitions

- Damage – Seedling damage or loss from browse and/or pulling.
- “Severe” – Tree kill, deformation or growth loss which will require (one or more added) reforestation & protection investments (e.g. tubing).
- “Moderate” – Tree kill, deformation or growth loss, which will require close monitoring and may require a future additional reforestation investment.
- Highly subjective definitions based on individual landowner goals and tolerance (providing habitat).



# Statewide Surveys 1984 & 1993....

- Both Surveys included Public and Private Lands
  - Focus on Deer & Elk
- Approximately 4 million acres of plantations
- 1984 Survey – 1979-1983 Conifer Plantations
- 1993 Survey – Added Bear Damage (peeling damage)

# 1984 Survey....

- 560,000 acres (14%) - 1<sup>st</sup> time plantations recorded “Severe” Deer & Elk Damage
- 134,400 acres re-planted –  
(24% of total “Severe” acres)

# 1993 Survey

- 800,000 acres (20%) – 1<sup>st</sup> time plantations recorded “Severe” Deer & Elk Damage.
- 528,000 acres re-planted – (66% of total “Severe”)
  - Note increase of reforestation expectations by landowners.
- Survey revealed landowners investing up to \$61/acre on treatments to reduce Deer & Elk Damage.
- Survey determined if damage ignored, could reduce yield on 60-year rotation by 2mbf/ac = \$1,000/ac (at 1993 log prices).

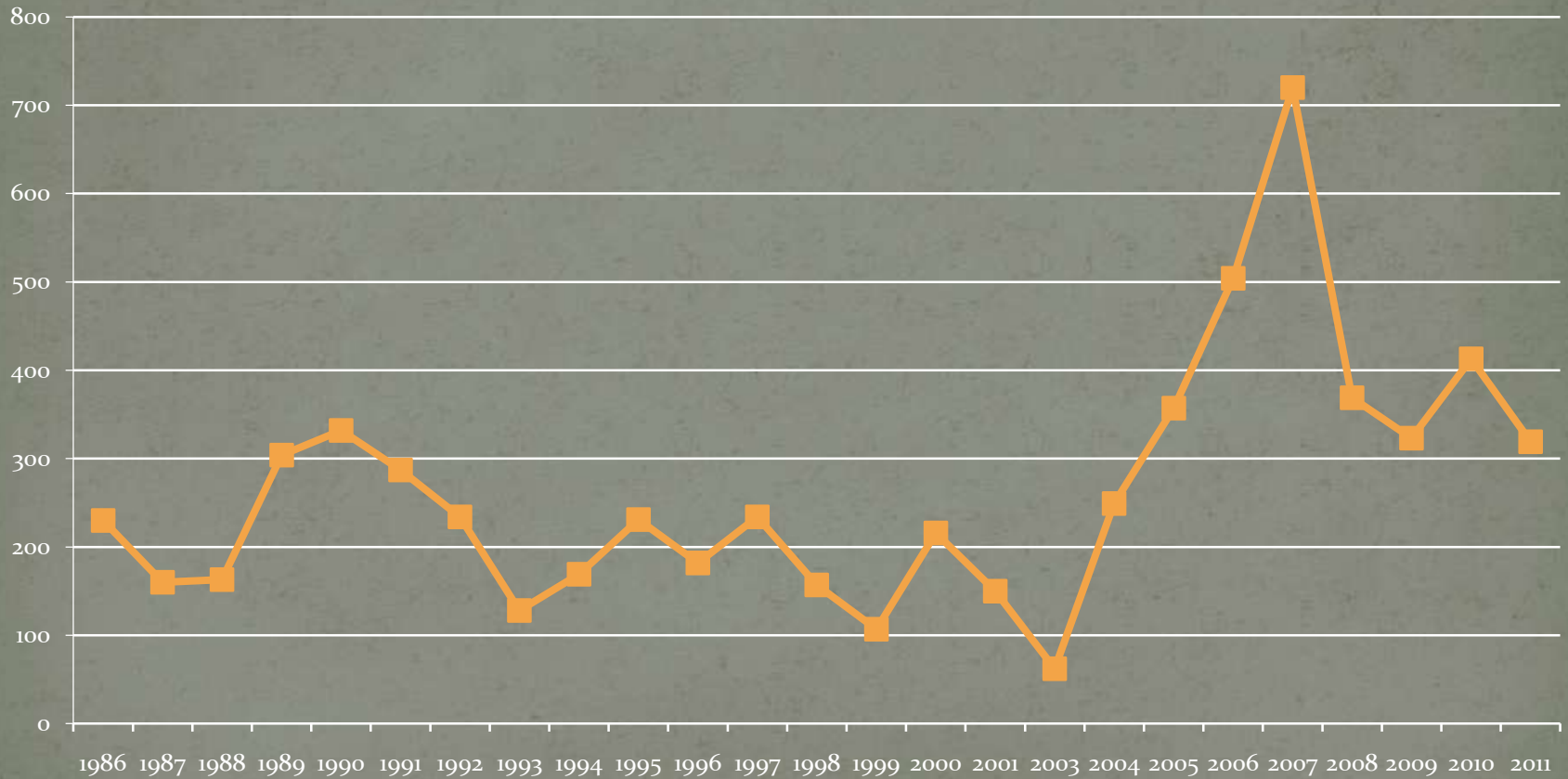
# 1986 to Today -Annual Survey Specifics

- Annual Survey (Voluntary by OFIC Members)
  - Separated Deer from Elk
  - Separated by County
  - 1 complaint per section (640 acres)
  - Damage still identified as “Moderate” or “Severe”
  - Dependent on submissions (Highly variable)
  - Competition with existing workloads
  - Primary value in exchange with local ODF&W Biologists
  - Secondary value in advocating....
  - Acre estimates began in 2004
  - Also began estimating damage “loss” in 2004



# Deer Complaints 1986- 2011

## Deer Complaints



# Top Deer Damage Counties

- Lane
- Linn
- Marion
- Coos
- Douglas
- Benton

# Elk Complaints 1986 - 2011

## Elk Complaints



# Top Elk Damage Counties

- Coos
- Clatsop
- Lane
- Linn
- Lincoln
- Douglas
- Marion



# Reported acres “Severe & Moderate”

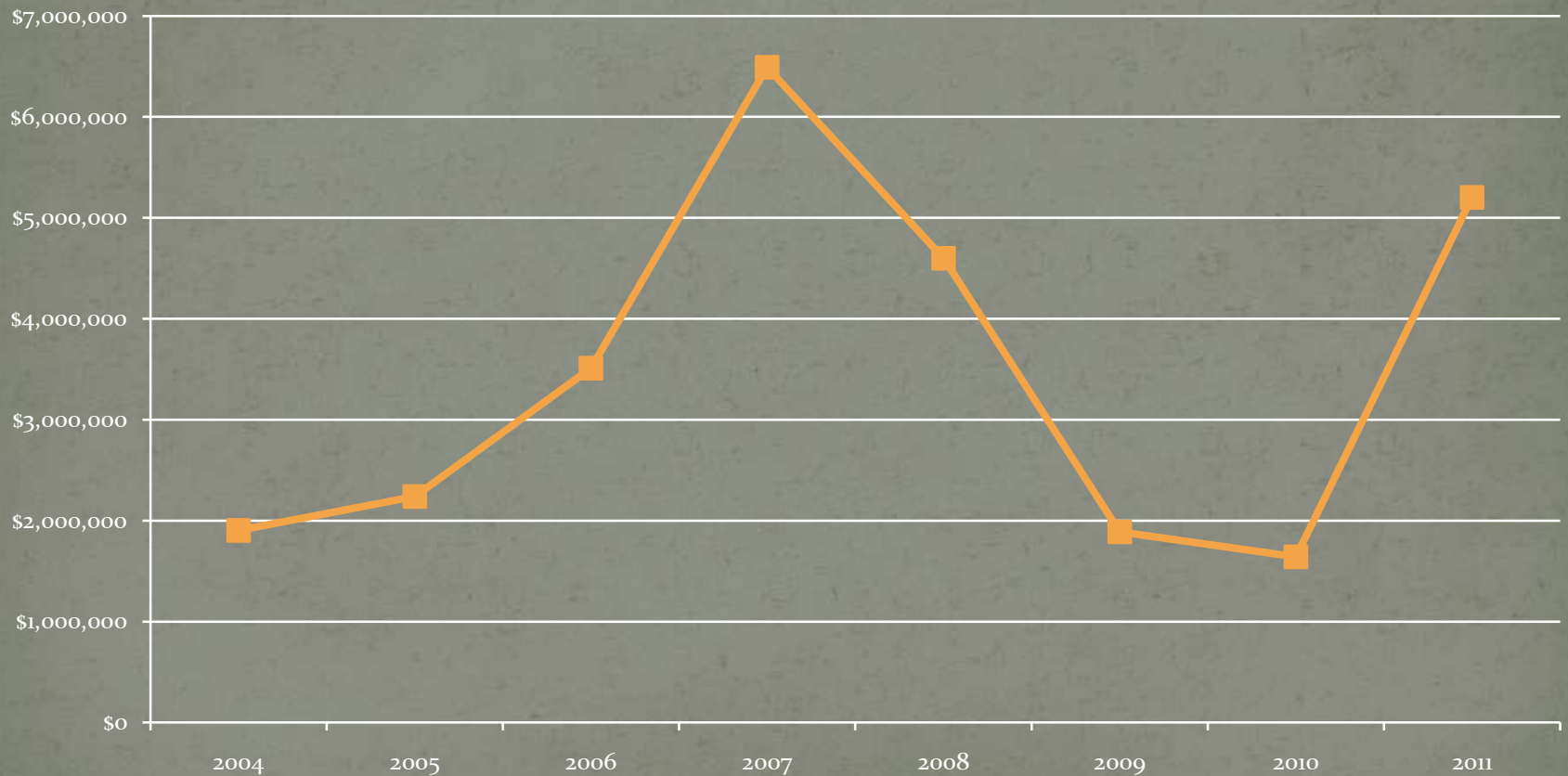
- 2004.... 17,913
- 2005.... 26,657
- 2006.... 46,538
- 2007.... 67,000
- 2008.... 53,000
- 2009.... 34,651
- 2010.... 46,915
- 2011.... 65,738

# Estimating Loss....

- Everyone willing to sacrifice something to “Habitat”
- Tolerance is an individual threshold...
- Quantifying loss, purely an estimate, but a better guess than “A Lot” (\$\$\$\$\$)
- Estimate the number of acres (not # complaints) in the “Severe” category
  - Use current contractor & seedling cost per acre to re-plant (Incorporate annual 3% adjustment)
  - Report final results to ODF&W Headquarters & F&W Commission

# Estimated Loss (Stock, Labor & Tubing)

## Value Severe Complaints



# Recent Loss Value Estimates...Severe only Seedlings, Labor and Tubing...

- 2004 Complaints
  - 98 Deer & 115 Elk = 213 Severe Complaints – 7,348 of 17,913 ac. **41%**
  - @\$259/ ac = **\$1.9 million**
- 2005 Complaints
  - 58 Deer & 188 Elk = 246 Severe Complaints – 8,386 of 26,657 ac. **31.4%**
  - @\$267/ac. = **\$2.24 million**
- 2006 Complaints
  - 142 Deer & 169 Elk = 311 Severe Complaints – 12,674 of 46,538 ac. **27.4%**
  - @\$275/ac. = **\$3.51 million**
- 2007 – Complaints
  - 296 Deer & 196 Elk = 492 Severe Complaints – 22,139 of 66,913 ac. **34.1%**
  - @\$283/ac. = **\$6.49 million**



# Recent Loss Value Cont.

- 2008 – Complaints
  - 122 Deer & 185 Elk = 307 Severe Complaints – 15,747 of 52,661 ac. **29.9%**
  - @\$292/ac. = **\$4.6 million**
- 2009 – Complaints
  - 61 Deer & 76 Elk = 137 Severe complaints – 6,276 of 34,651 ac. **18.1%**
  - @\$301/ac. = **\$1.89 million**
- 2010 – Complaints
  - 50 Deer & 74 Elk = 124 Severe Complaints – 5,292 of 46,915 ac. **11.3%**
  - @ \$310/ac. = **\$1.64 million**
- 2011 – Complaints
  - 101 Deer & 182 Elk = 283 Severe Complaints – 16,309 of 65,738 ac. **24.8%**
  - @ \$319/ac. = **\$5.2 million**

# Reducing Damage

- Working with ODF&W locally...
  - Various programs available....
- Public access for recreational opportunities (hunting)
  - Evaluating the risks and liabilities each year....
- Research
  - Continue to invest: time, locations, ideas & funding
  - National Wildlife Research Center
  - OSU
- Keep the issue alive....

Thank You