

RESOLUTION NO. 3194

A RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING FEEDING OF DEER AND OTHER WILDLIFE WITHIN THE CITY OF BEND

Findings:

A. The Bend City Council received input from members of the public about issues associated with feeding deer within the City. For myriad reasons, feeding deer and other wildlife is disfavored and leads to negative outcomes for both wildlife and humans. The negative outcomes can include attracting predators that can create risk to humans and wildlife, damage to real property and personal property, facilitating the spread of disease and parasites, and damaging the health of wildlife by introducing food that wildlife are not adapted to digesting.

B. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) discourages feeding deer, elk, and other wildlife. An ODFW document summarizing the agency's position and recommendations is attached as Exhibit A. Other organizations, such as Protect Animal Migration, offer additional educational resources.

C. In light of the problems that can result from feeding deer and other wildlife in an urban environment, the Council discussed the possibility of an ordinance amending the Municipal Code to prohibit feeding of deer within the City. After discussion, the Council decided instead to consider a resolution as an interim step.

D. The Council favors a resolution to an ordinance at this time, in hopes that increasing awareness of the issues will prevent the need to take a more direct regulatory approach.

E. However, if issues associated with feeding deer and other wildlife persist or worsen, the Council may return to consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the practice within the City. An ordinance amending the Municipal Code would make feeding of wildlife a civil infraction subject to a monetary penalty of as much as \$750 per occurrence.

F. The Council intends for this Resolution to be broadly distributed, including through the City's social media channels, so the community is aware of the Council's position and has a basis for discussions with other community members. The Council also intends for the appropriate City staff to participate in educating community members about negative outcomes from wildlife feeding where resources and circumstances allow.


Based on these findings, the City of Bend resolves as follows:

Section 1. Feeding of deer and other wildlife (not including small birds through backyard bird feeders and the like) within the City is highly discouraged.

Section 2. Community members are encouraged to educate themselves on the issues associated with feeding wildlife by consulting sources such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other resources, and to use these resources to educate others.

Adopted by a vote of the Bend City Council on February 19, 2020.

YES: Sally Russell, Mayor NO: none
Bruce Abernethy
Barb Campbell
Bill Moseley
Justin Livingston
Gena Goodman-Campbell
Chris Piper



Sally Russell, Mayor

ATTEST:



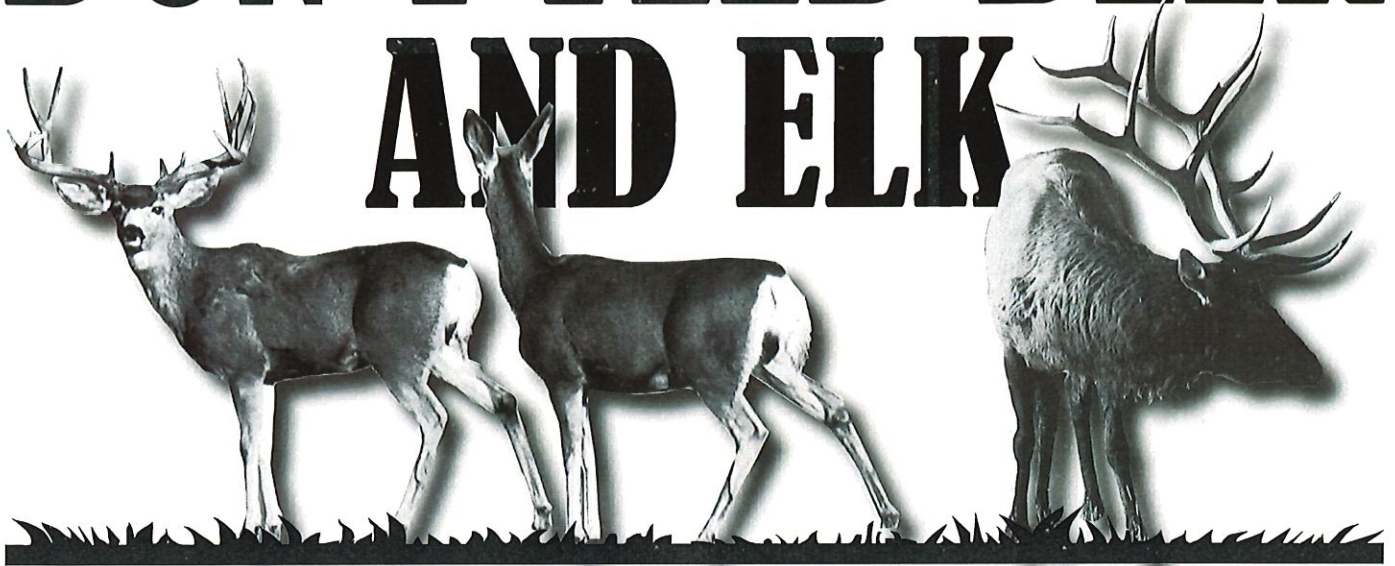
Robyn Christie, City Recorder

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Mary A. Winters, City Attorney

DON'T FEED DEER AND ELK



Well-intentioned people often feed deer, elk and other wildlife without realizing the problems feeding can create:

- Artificial feeding concentrates wildlife, which leads to the easier spread of disease and parasites and easier take by predators.
- Feeding deer and elk attracts their natural predators like cougars and coyotes to areas of human activity.
- Once wildlife associate people with giving them food, they come to expect it. Feeding will invite more deer and elk to your property and encourage them to stay.
- Artificial feeding can cause deer and elk to become habituated to humans and aggressive towards them.
- Concentrating deer and elk in human-settled areas can lead to an increase in vehicle collisions and conflicts between wildlife and pets.
- Concentrating deer and elk can hurt habitat by encouraging excessive grazing.

Every year, ODFW also sees seemingly healthy deer and elk die because they have been fed the wrong food by well-intentioned people. Their diet requirements actually change with the seasons and are best met by native forage. Deliberately feeding deer or elk may inhibit digestion and lead to death by starvation or infection.

ODFW does feed deer and elk at several wildlife areas during the winter, to keep them off adjacent agricultural lands where they damage crops. These feeding programs are long-term commitments that require significant financial and staffing resources. Feeding starts early in the season so deer and elk's digestive systems do not have to quickly readjust to new food types, and continues every day, no matter what, until forage conditions improve. Feeding areas are located away from human-populated areas to decrease conflicts. ODFW also conducts disease testing at some feeding sites.

For more information, visit ODFW's web page at www.dfw.state.or.us or call your local ODFW field office or ODFW Headquarters at **800-720-ODFW (6339)**

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



