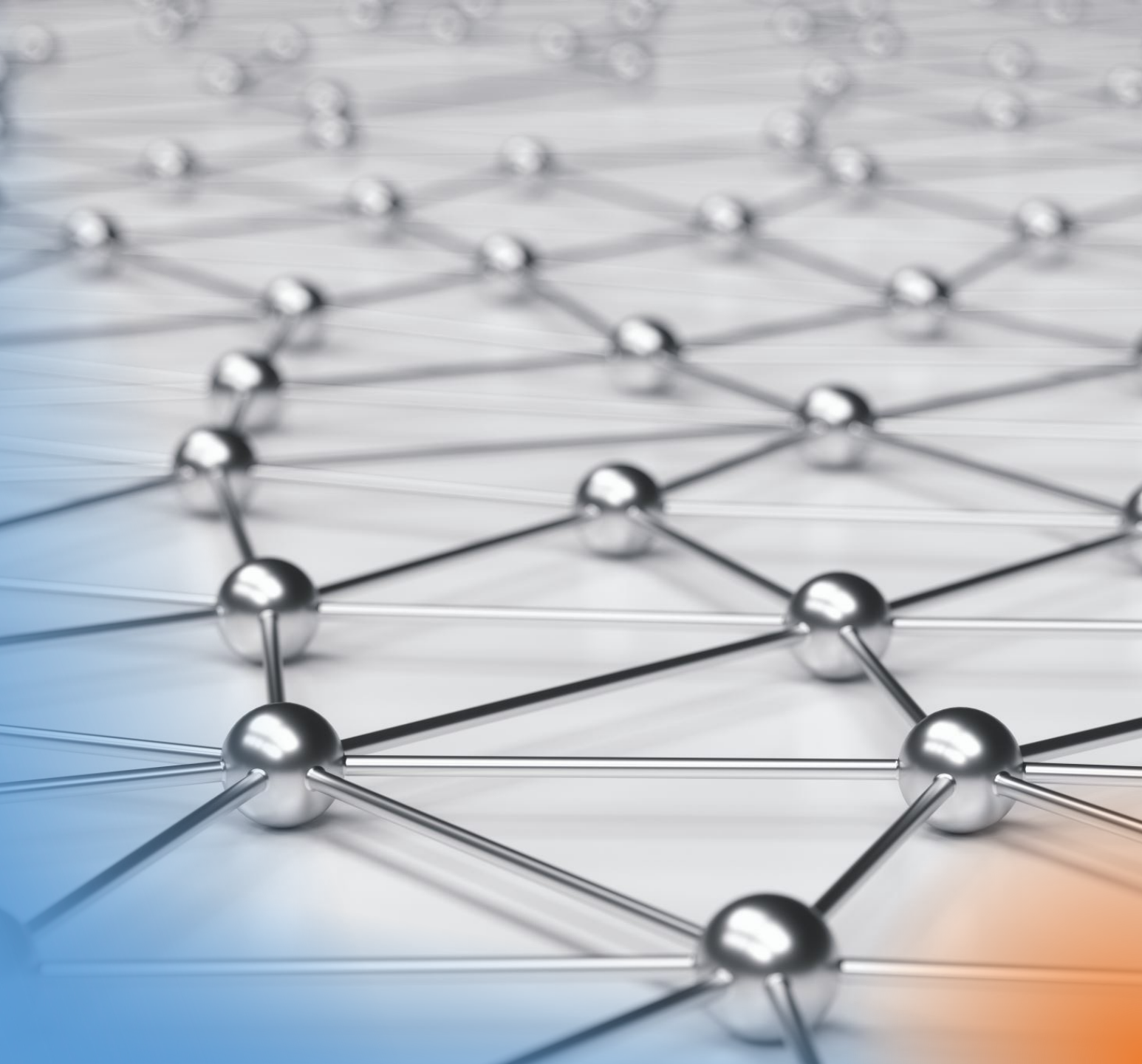




# Part I: Western Big Game Management





## Agenda:

- Points
  - Preference
  - Bonus
  - When to buy
  - What to buy
  - Helpful tools
- Western Big Game management
  - North American Model
  - How seasons are set
  - Carrying capacity
  - What is OTC and why do I care about it





# The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

**In the United States and Canada, the Model operates on seven interdependent principles:**

- 1. Wildlife resources are conserved and held in trust for all citizens.**
- 2. Commerce in dead wildlife is eliminated.**
- 3. Wildlife is allocated according to the democratic rule of law.**
- 4. Wildlife may only be killed for a legitimate, non-frivolous purpose.**
- 5. Wildlife is an international resource.**
- 6. Every person has an equal opportunity under the law to participate in hunting and fishing.**
- 7. Scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation.**



# How Big Game seasons are set in the West

- Themes
  - Carrying Capacity – How many critters can the landscape hold responsibly
    - Seasonality
      - How many does that mean we have in winter, spring, summer, and fall
    - Survival rate
      - Deaths due to predation, disease, weather, etc
  - Success Rate
    - Weapon Type
      - Rifle season = 15% success rate?
      - Archery season = 5% success rate?
  - Opportunity Management vs. Quality management
    - Do you want more hunter opportunities or fewer opportunities and more mature critters?





# Example

- Elk Zone Alpha in the State of Pensylzona
- Carrying Capacity = 1000 elk
- Target population = 950 elk
  - January
    - Herd at annual low point = 850 elk
  - April
    - Calves are born
    - Herd at 1275
  - July
    - Predation, disease, vehicle strike
    - Herd at 1100
  - September – Dec
    - Human Hunting season 10% success rate in this unit
    - 1000 tags issues
    - 100 tags filled
    - Wildlife predators, wounded elk, and wolves eliminate an additional 150 elk
  - January
    - Herd at the annual low point of 850





## States we will be covering

- Montana
- Washington
- Idaho
- Wyoming
- Colorado
- Alaska
- New Mexico
- Arizona



# What are Points

- Preference Points
- <https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/hunting-licenses/bonus-points>
- Preference points are a simple system of drawing those applications with the most points first then if those applicants all are selected, the remaining tags move to those with fewer points
- Bonus Points
- <https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/hunting-licenses/bonus-points>
- Every hunter who applies for a license or permit gets one chance in the drawing. Bonus points let you add to those chances. Think of bonus points as extra raffle tickets. If you apply for a license or permit without any bonus points, you get one “raffle ticket.” The number of “raffle tickets” you have in the drawing goes up with the number of bonus points you have.