

RECREATION
REPORT

RULES ALLOWING SALVAGE OF DEER, ELK HIT BY VEHICLE TAKE EFFECT JAN. 1

SALEM — Oregon's new rules allowing for the salvage of road-killed deer and elk takes effect Jan. 1, 2019.

Highlights of the new rules include:

- Deer and elk accidentally struck by a vehicle may be salvaged for consumption only. Intentionally hitting a deer or elk in order to salvage it remains unlawful.

- Anyone who salvages a roadkilled deer or elk must complete a free online permit within 24 hours of salvaging the animal and provide information including their name, contact info, where and when salvage occurred, species and gender of animal salvaged, and if they were driver that struck animal.

- Antlers and head of all salvaged animals will need to be surrendered to an ODFW office within 5 business days of taking possession of the carcass. This rule will meet the requirements of SB 372 and will contribute to ODFW's surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease.

- The entire carcass of the animal including gut piles must be removed from the road and road right of way during the salvage.

- In cases where a deer or elk is struck, injured and then put down to alleviate suffering, only the driver of the vehicle that struck the animal may salvage the carcass and law enforcement must be immediately notified.

Any person who salvages a deer or elk will consume the meat at their own risk. ODFW/OSP will not perform game meat inspections for any deer or elk salvaged under these rules.

- Sale of any part of the salvaged animal is prohibited, but transfer to another person will be allowed with a written record similar to transferring game meat.

- The state of Oregon is not liable for any loss or damage arising from the recovery, possession, use, transport or consumption of deer or elk salvaged.

FIREWOOD SEASON ENDS TODAY ON 2 NATIONAL FORESTS

The firewood cutting season ends today on the Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla national forests.

Woodcutting resumes May 1, 2019, on the two forests.

Winter woodcutting is allowed on the Malheur National Forest.



Photo by Peter Johnson

While the valleys were cloaked in fog and low clouds on Tuesday, sunshine prevailed at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

WAITING FOR WHITE

By Jayson Jacoby
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Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort is renowned for its dry powder snow but on Tuesday Peter Johnson, the ski area's general manager, was celebrating slush.

Well, not slush exactly.

But the snow falling on the slopes earlier this week was rather more moist than is typical at the resort's 7,100-foot base elevation.

This happens to be a rare situation in which warmer temperatures, and the wetter snow that comes with them, are welcome, Johnson said.

The reason is one familiar to any kid who has tried to mold a snowball, or construct a snowman, and had the endeavor crumble into something more resembling sugar spilling out of the gloves.

Snow with a higher moisture content is more dense than powder snow and can be compressed into a more solid layer.

And that's precisely what's needed right now at Anthony Lakes, Johnson said.

"Early in the season it's ideal that we get some of these warmer storms," he said. "It's what we need to build our base."

That base is about a foot deep — not enough to cover all the rocks and small trees, but a sturdy foundation for the snowstorms yet to come, Johnson said.

"The base is in really good condition," he said. "It's a fantastic start. We're all ready to go — we just need more snow."



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald file photo

Skiers ride the triple chairlift at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort in the Elkhorn Mountains.

Johnson estimates that another 15 to 20 inches of snow would allow Anthony Lakes to open at least some runs. The earliest possible opening would be next weekend.

As the resort enters its eighth season under the ownership of the nonprofit Baker County Development Corporation, no major changes are planned in the operation, Johnson said.

"It's pretty much going to be business

as usual," he said.

Among minor differences, Johnson said the warming hut that debuted last winter at the top of the triple chairlift will be open more often this season.

The hut — actually a 24-foot diameter yurt with outside seating on a deck — will be open Saturdays and Sundays. Skiers and boarders can buy chili, burgers, hot dogs and a limited selection of beverages at the hut.

The Trailhead, the retail store Anthony Lakes opened earlier this year in downtown Baker City, will offer season leases of downhill ski and snowboard packages, Johnson said. Participants can buy the equipment after the season.

The Trailhead, at 1828 Main St., also will offer a ski or board tune-up, and a beverage, for \$15 per person on Friday nights, starting Dec. 14, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Eagle Cap Extreme joins 2 other races to offer award

Wallowa County's Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race, set for Jan. 23-26, 2019, is joining with two other races in Idaho and Montana to offer the Rocky Mountain Challenge Cup.

"This means that we are recognized as a truly premier event," ECX President Randy Greenshields. "It's really a feather in our cap."

In planning stages for months, the ECX collaboration with both the Idaho Sled Dog Challenge Race and Race to the Sky in Montana to offer the new Rocky Mountain Challenge Cup was announced at the recent volunteer meeting at the Tomas Center in Enterprise.

The Rocky Mountain Challenge Cup provides



Photo by Ellen Morris Bishop

Montana musher Bret Bruggerman starts the 2017 Eagle Cap Extreme.

recognition for mushers who place in each of the three races. The new

opportunities for awards are expected to bring more teams to the Eagle Cap Ex-

treme, as well as the other two events.

The Eagle Cap Extreme

is still looking for volunteers to fill several important roles for the 2019 race. They include two cooks for the Ollokot checkpoint, several volunteers to staff the Salt Creek Summit checkpoint, and a few people who are familiar with the ECX race to help answer questions from the public and assist with educational programs at Race Central in the Joseph Community Center. The race also needs one or two snow machines to transport dropped dogs and carry supplies.

Those interested in these and other volunteer opportunities can sign up on the ECX website, or contact Julian Pridmore-Brown at ecxops@eaglecapextreme.com or call 503-709-9109.

