

RECREATION
REPORT

BILL WOULD BAN CONTESTS FOR KILLING WILDLIFE IN OREGON

SALEM (AP) — Animal rights activists have come out in support of a bill in the Oregon Legislature that would ban killing wildlife as part of a contest.

The Humane Society of the United States cited several such contests, including the Harney County Coyote Classic, in eastern Oregon. Five contests cited by the group involved killing coyotes, with the teams killing the most winning prizes. Rules of one contest stipulated that coyotes run over by a vehicle won't be counted.

Robert Wielgus, a retired professor and director of the Large Carnivore Conservation Lab at Washington State University, said such contests don't result in less livestock depredation or in increased deer population.

The Senate bill, sponsored by seven Democratic lawmakers, would make such contests illegal.

LEGISLATORS SEEK NEW WAY TO PAY FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

SALEM (AP) — Making it easier for Oregonians to get outdoors and finding a way to pay for search and rescue efforts are the focus of two bills introduced early in the Oregon Legislature.

The Statesman Journal reports Senate Bill 448 would study the creation of an "Oregon Outdoors Pass" while House Bill 2503 examines how Oregon might finance cash-strapped search and rescue programs.

The idea behind a new outdoors pass would be bringing the state's myriad of passes, permits and licenses under one simplified system.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING BEAR APPLICATIONS

The application deadline for controlled spring bear hunts is Sunday, Feb. 10. Hunters can apply online (make your choices during check out), at a license agent or at an ODFW office that sells licenses.

The Observer & Baker City Herald

EAGLE CAP EXTREME DOG SLED RACE IN WALLOWA COUNTY

Father-son musher duo top 2 at Eagle Cap Extreme

WesCom News Service
Spencer Bruggeman edged his father and former champion, Brett Bruggeman, to win the 200-mile race of the Eagle Cap Extreme last weekend in Wallowa County.

It took the younger Bruggeman 31 hours and 55 minutes to complete the course as he beat his dad to the finish line by just two minutes.

The father-son duo from Great Falls, Montana, was by far the fastest of the five mushers to complete the race. Third-place Gabe Dunham crossed the finish line about two hours later with a total time of 34:01. Clayton Perry, who took fourth, finished in 35:12 and Rex Mumford took 45:45 to finish.

The 100-mile race went to Jereld Rice, of Enterprise, who needed 18:20 to run the shorter course and beat David Hassilev by six minutes. Roy Etnire was about 30 minutes behind Rice, finishing third in 18:49.

Three other mushers finished the race: Steve Madsen in 22:25, Patrick Campbell in 24:33 and Melissa Turner in 25:32.

Miriam Osredkar, of



Photo by Adele Buttolph

Musher Jereld Rice of Enterprise was the winner of the 100-mile race during the Eagle Cap Extreme last weekend in Wallowa County.

Fairfield, Montana, was the winner of the two-day, 31-mile race with an overall time of 6:28, needing just over three hours each day for

the course. Dina Lund and Morgan Anderson both tied for second in 6:53. Fourth place went to Jane Devlin in 6:55. Dave Sindelar took

eight hours for fifth, Alyssa Martin completed the race in 8:50 and Connie Star clocked in at 9:49.

Israel Seemann of Boulder,

Wyoming, the only competitor in the 22-mile junior race, finished in 2:55.

Only five of the 24 mushers failed to complete the race.

Spice up winter with a wild game feast

January through the first of March is sort of a dead time in the outdoor world. Or at least as dead as it ever

gets. Sure, we have varmint hunting, ice fishing and cougar hunting going on but for us outdoorsmen, that's pretty slow. That's why they schedule all of the shows right now. I just got home this weekend and am ragged out to the max. Had seminars in Reno at SCI, Dallas at DSC and in Vegas at the SHOT. But now those are all over and things are about to flatline. So, what's an outdoorsman to do?

I'll tell you what. Have a wild game feed! I love WGFs. They're a blast. What's not to like about them? You get together with hunters, there's a guest speaker, you're eating wild game and there's always a raffle to raise money for the organization.

So who puts on the WGF? A lot of local churches do. It's a great way to get your non-Christian friends hooked into a church. I also see a lot of clubs doing them. I've been to WGFs put on by flyfishing clubs, bowhunting clubs,

varmint hunting clubs, etc. It doesn't take much of an excuse to get together with good friends and eat and shoot the bull does it?

What is the format? The sky is the limit. You can go all out or you can go the simple route. This Friday, CC in Boise is having one. The doors open at 5 p.m. I'll be doing some knife-sharpening demos before the event kicks off. Jim Fox will have some of his recurves that he has built laid out on a demo table. Normally Jim Combe, who is a local gunsmith, will have a display table which will feature a lot of cool old Winchester rifles, traps and knives. Everyone loves looking at his old gear, but he won't be able to make it this year.

Then the event will kick off about 5:30 p.m. There will be a lot of outdoor items on the raffle table. Many companies will donate items to help raise funds for your event. Tickets are usually \$1 and you put a



BASE CAMP
TOM CLAYCOMB



Submitted photo

Tom Claycomb gives a presentation on using calls prior to a wild game feast.

ticket with your name in the bucket in hopes of winning a knife, call or other item. There are usually a lot of items on raffle that we outdoorsmen love. You'll have time to enter the raffles and then the dinner will kick off.

All WGFs will be potluck. If you're not an outdoorsman, you can bring KFC, pizza or a salad or dessert. A lot of WGFs charge \$5 or \$10 to attend. This money provides for plates, silverware, napkins and drinks and to help pay for the speaker.

Some scalawags empty out their freezers with old freezer-burnt game but for

the most part, you get to try some good wild game meals.

After dinner is over, they will usually have a guest speaker. I've always enjoyed the speakers. They may talk about a big hunt they had or give an instructional talk such as sometimes I'll give one on bear hunting. Usually they always have good speakers and I enjoy them.

After the speaker is finished, they have the raffle drawings. Some of the raffles are simple and at some events there have been drawings for bear hunts, elk hunts and fishing trips. The big ticket items are usually

done as a silent auction. I've seen these guided trips won at very reasonable prices — like maybe at half of their value.

And one last item that I didn't cover, you'll want to have a good outdoor décor at your event. So have people bring in hides, mounts and so forth to dress up the room.

As we close, I'd encourage you to put on a wild game feed this winter. Don't slack and put it off until next year. Go ahead and jump in with both feet right now and perfect it more next year. You and the attendees won't regret it. It is a fun event.

New state council will evaluate wildfire response system

By Andrew Selsky
Associated Press

SALEM — Plagued by wildfires in recent years, Oregon will evaluate the effectiveness of its system to combat the blazes as fire seasons grow longer and more severe.

Gov. Kate Brown said Wednesday she's issued an executive order establishing the Oregon Wildfire Response Council. It is tasked with evaluating Oregon's current response system to large fires

and making recommendations in September on the future of Oregon's wildfire response infrastructure.

"Oregon's firefighting approach leads the nation in effectiveness," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "However, wildfire dynamics are changing and it is never too soon to evaluate the approach to wildfire education, prevention, suppression, attack and community recovery."

Senate Republican Leader Her-

man Baertschiger Jr., of Grants Pass, said he's encouraged by the governor's actions.

"This is a great first step, but we need to take a serious look at how we manage our forests, including creating a long term 100-year plan to prevent these massive fires from occurring in the first place," Baertschiger said.

The Senate minority leader has said state and federal governments should reevaluate policies that

restricted harvesting of natural resources. Thinning forests helps protect them from wildfires.

The Oregon Department of Forestry uses a "militia" approach to fighting wildfires, drawing employees with specialized fire skills away from regular duties across the agency to fill out fire teams when needed.

Brown appointed Matt Donegan as chairman of the new wildfire response council.

According to the nonprofit World Forestry Center, based in Portland, Donegan studied forestry and worked early in his career as a forester and investment analyst at Georgia-Pacific Corporation, a pulp and paper company based in Atlanta, Georgia. He was president of the now disbanded State Board of Higher Education and was co-chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural Resources Commission.