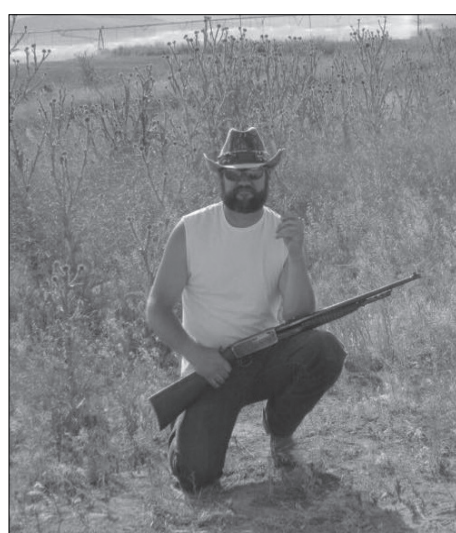


# Outdoor Rec / Local

## 5,000 feral swine in Oregon State



**THE OUTDOOR COLUMN**  
By Todd Arriola

Thinking about the deadline for controlled hunts applications, Friday, May 15, inspires visions of adventurous explorations for different species of trophy animals (aren't they all?), and a grand harvest, the result of which is a well-stocked freezer full of wild game meat, and maybe even a wall mount or two. Rarely mentioned, but to some, on equal footing with any trophy animal, is the feral pig.

What is a feral pig? Feral pigs, or "feral swine," according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), "...are animals of the genus *Sus* which meet the following conditions: (1) The animals are free roaming on public or private lands and not being held under domestic management confinement; (2) No notification to the land owner, manager, or occupant has been made by the swine owner or their representative of specifically identified and described swine having escaped domestic management confinement within a radius of five miles during the past five days; (3) The swine under consideration do not appear to be domesticated and are not tame; and (4) The swine under consideration do not meet the identification and description of escaped swine in section (2) above."

According to the ODFW, feral swine can destroy important wildlife habitat,

and they may prey on livestock and native wildlife, along with the potential to transmit diseases to wildlife, livestock and humans.

Hunters, myself included, don't normally require any sort of prompting when it comes to enthusiasm toward pursuing any

game animal, but considering the ODFW, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) consider it a priority to "...eliminate this invasive non-native species before they become established," clearly, we have the state's ringing endorsement for the harvesting of feral swine.

This doesn't mean anytime, anywhere, just like other game, but it is legal to hunt them year round on public land, with a hunting license, and there is no harvest limit. Though they're considered predators on private land, as always, permission from any landowner is necessary in order to hunt on their property.

The OISC lists feral swine as one of three "Terrestrial Vertebrates," on their "100 Worst List" of invasive species in Oregon for 2014. Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) are joined in that category by the mute swan (*Cygnus olor*) and the Eastern snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Other categories included on the list are microorganisms, aquatic plants, terrestrial plants, aquatic invertebrates, land invertebrates, and fish.

Feral swine, or swine of any kind, aren't native to Oregon, or even to North America, for that mat-



Photo courtesy of ODFW.

ter. According to a report prepared for the OISC by Arick Rouhe and Mark Sytsma of Portland State University Environmental Science and Resources department in 2007, Spanish colonists introduced domestic swine to the southeastern U.S. in the 1500s, and the first populations of feral swine were escapees from that colonization.

Fast forward to around 1769, when Spanish colonists arrived in California with domestic swine, and released them into the woods to forage (a common practice at that time), most likely resulting in the beginning of that state's feral swine population, according to the report.

For almost 200 years, feral swine have existed in Oregon, first arriving with settlers on the ship *Tonquin* in 1811, to what is now Astoria, and then later escaping into the wild. Migration of feral swine from northern California is believed to be the main cause of the feral swine population in Oregon, according to the report. The fact that feral swine are omnivorous, have the greatest reproductive capacity of all free-ranging, large mammals in the U.S., and exist on every continent except Antarctica probably isn't the best news, either. A feral sow, reaching reproductive age at eight months, can produce up to two litters a year, with 10-12 swine in each litter. A risk assessment report released in 2004 stated that economic

loss in the U.S. due to feral swine populations exceeded \$800 million a year.

Known locations of feral swine were mapped per the report, which included populations reported in Coos, Crook, Curry, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Wasco, and Wheeler counties. Two successful feral swine eradication efforts were recorded in Oregon, the first in Crook County, near Post, from 2000 to 2005, by the USDA. The second effort was recorded in Jefferson County, near Antelope, from 2001 to 2006. While eradication proved successful in Crook County, the second effort was unsuccessful, due to different factors, such as the difficulty in terrain, greater swine mobility, and a lack of the use of helicopters, in contrast to the first effort, according to the report.

According to the ODFW, there are maybe 2,000 to 5,000 feral swine in Oregon, which is still "relatively few," and they're mostly seen on private land. They move around constantly, and specific locations are difficult to map out, but major activity has been noted around Antelope, Fossil, Maupin, Mitchell and Spray.

A direct, simple statement from the ODFW regarding harvesting feral swine says, "You will be doing wildlife and habitat a favor." In my humble opinion, that's an arguably accurate statement. Good luck with your adventures!

### YARD SALES

#### 6TH ANNUAL YARD SALE AT EAGLE CAP NURSERY!

May 30, 2015. Vendors welcome. Free. Bring your own table. Call 541-523-6627.

**YARD SALE!**  
Lots of Stuff Sale, 499 2nd St., 8am-4pm, May 15th & 16th (rain or shine)

May 22, 23 from 8-5. 2810 12th St., corner of 12th & C, Baker City inside fenced area. **MOVING SALE.** Everything must go! Household goods, furniture, 20+ years accumulation collectibles. Too much to mention. No early sales. 541-523-3604.

PLACE YOUR YARD SALE AD TODAY

## Prineville star party May 16

Prineville, OR - Viewings of three brightly lit planets will be the highlight of a free Star Party at Prineville Reservoir State Park on Saturday, May 16. Saturn, with its striking rings, will be almost fully tilted towards earth and illuminated by the sun, making this mystical planet the brightest in eight years. Massive Jupiter will showcase its cloud bands and four bright moons, and Venus will appear as a brilliant thin crescent.

The Star Party begins at 1 p.m. in the day-use area with a variety of astronomy-related exhibits and activities for all ages. Visitors will be able to peer through "Big Doug," the park's 16-inch telescope. Solar telescopes will also be available during the day, allowing safe viewing of solar flares on the surface of the sun. Both professional and amateur astronomers will be on hand starting at dusk to help guide viewers in using the different types of telescopes and to point out significant features in the night sky.

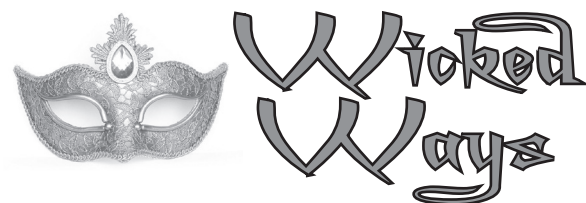
In addition, viewers will get a chance to witness colorful star clusters, nebulae (interstellar clouds of dust and gases), distant galaxies and a host of deep sky objects.

Volunteers from the Oregon Observatory at Sunriver are returning to co-sponsor the annual Star Party along with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The date was selected due to the combination of these nighttime phenomena and the fact that May's new moon will be just two nights later.

"With no moonlight to interfere with viewing, visitors can take full advantage of the starry night skies that are so well-known in this area," said Jill Nishball, OPRD Visitor Experiences Coordinator for the eastern half of the state. "Prineville Reservoir State Park--a prime spot along the lake surrounded by low mountains--is particularly well-known by astronomers as an excellent location for stargazing."

For visitors wishing to stay through the night, Prineville Reservoir State Park offers nearly 100 campsites for both RVs and tents, as well as five deluxe cabins at the main campground. Cabins are rented on a first-come, first-served basis.

Go to [oregonstateparks.org](http://oregonstateparks.org) to reserve a space.



### MASQUERADE BALL HALLOWEEN 2015

Brought to you by the baker county press and the geiser grand hotel in baker city!

Some of the add-ons available for purchase at the event:

- Professional portrait photography.
- Paranormal author book signings.
- Celebrity appearances.
- Horse-drawn carriage rides.
- A limited, themed meal menu.
- A specialty bar with a variety of gothic possibilities—a Death Fairy cocktail anyone?

Go to [www.thebakercountypress.com](http://www.thebakercountypress.com) to see more details on what we have confirmed for the evening and what's in the works!

Inspired by Anne Rice's famous Halloween Ball in New Orleans, this night is all about the costumes & the atmosphere!

**When:** Halloween Night 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m., ending 11:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Geiser Grand Hotel on Main Street in Baker City, Oregon

**Ticket Price:** \$20 per adult, ages 21 and over only, for event entry including access to "haunted" areas, a live DJ with music, dancing, mist and gothic lighting. Add-ons available at venue!

Go to the front desk of The Geiser Grand or online to [www.theBakerCountyPress.com](http://www.theBakerCountyPress.com) to buy your tickets now! We don't anticipate any sales at the door & expect tickets to sell out well in advance of the event. Don't wait!

## New WWNF Deputy Forest Supervisor started role May 6

BAKER CITY, OR – The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest welcomes Charles T. "Chuck" Oliver as deputy forest supervisor.

"I am excited about the opportunity to build relationships that awaits me in Baker City," said Oliver, who officially reported for duty on May 6.

His first experiences in the Northwest were childhood family camping trips to visit relatives in Lewiston and Clarkston.

"I am looking forward to experiencing all that Oregon has to offer," Oliver said. "I'm looking forward to Hells Canyon, the Snake River and rafting. I look forward to exploring new territory and mountain bike trails."

Most recently, Oliver was a District Ranger on the Bitterroot National Forest in Darby, MT.

"I look forward to having Chuck coming to the

Wallowa-Whitman NF in continuing to work with communities on issues important to rural Oregon," Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya said.

He earned his bachelor's degree in rangeland management and his master's in agricultural economics at New Mexico State University, then went to work for the Forest Service as a range conservationist on the Butte Ranger District of the Deerlodge National Forest.

During his tenure on the Reserve Ranger District on the Gila National Forest in the 1990s, he was a charter member of the Catron County Citizen group, one of the first nationally recognized collaboratives.

"Chuck brings a wealth of experience in working with a broad spectrum of publics on natural resource management issues, his



Photo courtesy of USFS

Charles "Chuck" Oliver, WWNF's new Deputy Forest Supervisor.

willingness to seek resolution on complex and sometimes controversial issues is welcomed," Montoya said.

In April 2000 he became a district ranger on the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland

where he worked extensively with conservation partners.

For the past 10 years he has worked on the Bitterroot National forest, re-establishing a forest timber sale program and managing the most complex fire system on the forest.

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