

Outdoor Rec

Oregon awards \$81.3K in wolf-impact funds

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved \$81,300 in funding distributed to nine counties east of the Cascade Mountains as part of the Oregon Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program.

Funds for 2015 have been distributed for actual livestock losses or injuries caused by wolves, for missing livestock above the normal historical levels in areas of known wolf activity, for proactive efforts to prevent wolf and livestock interactions, and for county wolf program implementation.

According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon's wolf population increased in both distribution and abundance in 2014. By December, Oregon's minimum wolf population was 77 wolves. Nine packs were documented and known wolf packs occurred in parts of Baker, Jackson, Klamath, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa counties. In addition, six new pairs of wolves were confirmed in Oregon; five within the Eastern Wolf Management Zone and one within the Western Wolf Management

Zone. Wallowa, Umatilla and Baker—three counties experiencing the bulk of the state's wolf activity—have received \$68,170, or approximately 84 percent of the money awarded for 2015.

The state has paid 100 percent of the claims submitted to ODA tied to confirmed or probable livestock losses due to wolves. Livestock owners worked with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to document these losses. Payments are made on a reimbursement basis for depredations that occurred during the previous grant cycle. Wallowa, Umatilla, and Baker were the only counties filing claims with ODA that experienced confirmed or probable livestock losses in the 2014 cycle. These three counties were awarded \$7,200 in 2015 to compensate affected ranchers for those losses. Wallowa County received \$3,930, Umatilla County received \$1,800 while Baker County received \$1,470 for compensation.

Of the total funding provided by the block grants this year, \$51,230—or 63 percent—is going

towards proactive, non-lethal efforts to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock. County level advisory committees established by the grant program's legislation requested funds to undertake proactive conflict deterrence efforts. Historically, these deterrent techniques include one or more of the following activities:

- Reducing attractants—bone pile removal, carcass disposal sites
- Barriers—fencing, fladry, electrified fladry
- Human presence—range riders, herders
- Livestock protection dogs and other guarding animals
- Alarm or scare devices—Radio-Activated-Guard (RAG) device, other light and sound making devices
- Hazing or harassment of wolves—loud noises, spotlights, or other confrontation with wolves
- Livestock management/husbandry changes—changing pastures, night feeding, reduced calving period, birthing earlier, changing herd structure
- Experimental practices—bio-fencing, belling cattle
- Public outreach/educa-

tion for ranchers For 2015, ODA was again able to use funds from a 2013 and 2014 wolf-livestock demonstration grants awarded by US Fish and Wildlife Service. For 2015, \$3,600 of these federal funds were used for depredation losses and \$25,615 were used for non-lethal preventative awards.

A total of \$3,645 was awarded to six counties to help with county implementation costs.

The following is a list of the total awards made by ODA to counties as part of the Oregon Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program for the 2015 Grant Period:

- Wallowa, \$24,905
- Umatilla, \$25,950
- Baker, \$17,315
- Union, \$3,000
- Morrow, \$6,375
- Jefferson, \$1,905
- Wheeler, \$750
- Crook, \$650
- Malheur, \$450

The fund process remains available for counties to address depredations that occur in the future. In that event, livestock operators should submit claims to their local county wolf advisory committee.

Two win firearms in Jubilee raffle



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

1st place winner Bob Heitmanek of Pendleton with Ed Hardt (at left), who sold him the winning ticket.



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

3-year-old Vivien McQuisten draws the winning tickets.



Submitted Photo.

Suzie Dyke's name was drawn second, making her the winner of the handgun.

• SPRINGFIELD XDS HANDGUN AND HENRY 45-70 RIFLE PRIZES IN THIS YEAR'S REPUBLICAN FIREARMS RAFFLE

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN
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Bob Heitmanek of Pendleton had a very lucky Miners Jubilee. Heitmanek travels every year to assist with the booth for the Eastern Oregon Miners Association. "But I've never won anything like this," he said.

Heitmanek was the first name drawn in the second annual firearms raffle held by the Baker County Republicans. Only 500 tickets were sold at \$10 a piece, and easily sold out before the Sunday drawing at 2 p.m.

The first name draw was given the chance to choose between a Henry lever-action 45-70 rifle valued at \$850 and Springfield XDS 9mm pistol valued at \$650. The rifle and handgun had been on display at Ace Hardware the past several weeks, where they were purchased by the Republicans.

Heitmanek, who purchased his ticket from Republican Precinct Committeeman Ed Hardt, chose the rifle.

Suzie Dyke of Baker City was the next name drawn, and the pistol went to her.

Heitmanek was available to complete his background check at Ace immediately after Jubilee, and took possession of the rifle within the hour. Dyke was scheduled to complete her background paperwork and collect her prize today.

A George Keister original oil painting was also raffled off, with Linda Hudson of Baker City the winner of that prize.

The Republicans use the money earned in fundraisers to elect public officials who uphold the conservative values outlined in the Oregon State Republican Party Platform, as well as support local initiatives that do the same, with protection of Second Amendment rights one key focus.

—ODFW RECREATION REPORT—

Weekend fishing opportunities:

Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair on the John Day River, and some catfish are being caught as well.

Jubilee Lake has been stocked and trout fishing continues to be good. Crappie fishing should be good in McKay and Willow Creek reservoirs. Look for crappie to be moving offshore and suspending in deeper water.

High water temperatures have prompted fish managers to suspend summer trout stocking in Wallowa County ponds over concerns for fish survival. Some of those fish have been diverted to Wallowa Lake.

Warm temperatures increase stress on fish. However, anglers reduce

the stress from catch-and-release fishing by following a few precautions:

Fish early in the mornings when water temperatures are lower.

Fish in lakes and reservoirs with deep waters that provide a cooler refuge for fish.

Use barbless hooks, land fish quickly and keep them in the water as much as possible in order to minimize stress.

Shift fishing efforts to higher elevation mountain lakes and streams where water temperatures often remain cooler.

Warmwater fish like bass, crappie and bluegill also feel the effects of the heat, so please follow these precautions in all your summer fishing.

GRANDE RONDE RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass

The Grande Ronde River is closed to spring Chinook angling as of July 5. The river remains open for trout whitefish and bass. Current low flows and high water temperatures will likely make trout fishing difficult. However, fishing for smallmouth bass will be good with an abundance of fish in the river. Anglers may still encounter Chinook salmon or bull trout and are reminded both species are to be released unharmed.

HOLLIDAY PARK POND: rainbow trout. Pond has been stocked with both legal and trophy-sized trout. Fishing has been fair. Pond does have an ADA fishing dock for anglers with disabilities.

HUNTER POND: hatchery rainbow trout. This pond has been stocked with 250 legal-sized rain-

bow trout. From I-84 take Hwy 244 towards Ukiah. At the Blue Mtns summit, turn left onto USFS Rd 5160. Proceed for approximately 3 miles to the Jct. of roads 5160 and 5155. Stay on 5160. Just past this Jct. on the right will be spur 710. Take this spur. The pond is just off 5160.

IMNAHA RIVER: trout, whitefish, bass.

JOHN DAY RIVER: smallmouth bass. Smallmouth bass fishing is good with many being caught. There has also been a fair number of catfish reported being caught. Bass anglers may try their luck higher in the North Fork below the town of Dale. Bass are present up to Dale but in lower numbers. Last week Oliver Creek, a tributary to the South Fork John Day River, experienced a torrential rainstorm that caused a flash flood event carrying mud and silt down river as far as Service Creek. The lower extent of the muddy water is unknown at this point but fishing for bass below Dayville will likely be only fair. However, the North Fork John Day River is still clear and has some public access that will provide good bass fishing.

JUBILEE LAKE: rainbow trout. Fishing has been best in the early morning and late evenings, bank anglers should also look for the deep water areas near the dam or bring a non-motorized boat and fish deep in the middle of the lake. The lake has been stocked and should provide good fishing for rainbow trout.

OLIVE LAKE: rainbow trout, brook trout, and kokanee

Fishing is good and lake has been stocked with both legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout. Some kokanee are being caught at 30 to 40 feet depth.

WALLOWA LAKE: rainbow trout, kokanee, lake trout.

Trout fishing has been good at Wallowa Lake with one fisherman reporting catching his limit in five casts.

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