

# Outdoor Rec / Local

## HELP WANTED

**BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J** is currently accepting applications for a .5 FTE **Culinary Arts** position. For a complete description of the position and the application process go to [www.baker.k12.or.us](http://www.baker.k12.or.us). You may also call Norma Nemeec at 541-524-2260.

**The Baker City Public Works Department** is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Mechanic II**. Closes April 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. For more information and how to apply go to [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com). The City of Baker City is an EEO employer.

## PUBLIC NOTICE: WEED SPRAY GIVEAWAY!

For 2016, Baker County Weed District will again be giving out herbicide on the following locations, dates, and times. This fully mixed, ready-to-go herbicide will be targeting whitetop and scotch thistle. Folks need to bring chemical-resistant containers, preferably gas or oil cans, and a pair of chemical-resistant gloves. Please, no food containers. There will be a five gallon limit imposed for each residence.

**Note!!! New location for Baker City Giveaways!**

Where	Date	Time
Huntington Service Station	April 22	8:00 - 11 AM
Richland/Halfway - Wildflower Corner	May 6	7 - 12 Noon
Baker City - Old ODOT Building 1050 S. Bridge	May 21	7 - 12 Noon
Baker City - Old ODOT Building 1050 S. Bridge Street	May 28	7 -12 Noon
Hereford Hall /Unity Hall Hereford - Unity	June 3	9 AM - 10:30 AM

## Talking turkey season



**THE OUTDOOR COLUMN**  
By Todd Arriola

Today marks the first day of the general turkey hunting season, a month-and-a-half long adventure, with one new surprise for 2016, sure to please most every gobbler seeker: the statewide season bag limit increased by one, for a total of three legal turkeys.

Proudly the bearer of more good news, I have noticed that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) reports that the increase in spring turkey harvests last year from the previous year of 17%, at 4,948 birds, was the highest since 2010, and

significant over-winter mortality among turkeys. The above average precipitation should result in good habitat conditions throughout the state.”

We adults love to have our fun, and steal some of the spotlight, but the younger hunters have been no slouchers, when it comes to success rates, either, having taken 22% of the total number of turkeys harvested last year, according to Budeau. One of the advantages the kiddos get to enjoy, is the price of their tag,

this spring could show an even higher jump in successes.

ODFW Upland Bird Coordinator David Budeau reported that, “Production was good last year, and despite more snow this winter, we didn’t see any signifi-

at \$10.50, while we older folks pay \$22.50 per tag.

So, where are these turkeys to be found? Southwest Oregon continues to be the top spot to find them, with the Rogue Wildlife Management Unit taking first place in turkey harvest two years in a row, according to ODFW. Statewide, ODFW relocated about 400 nuisance turkeys from private land to public land, or public accessible lands, this winter, increasing hunter access to the birds.

The western part of the state isn’t alone in showing plenty of bird hunting activity, as nearly half of the turkeys harvested during the last spring season were east of the Cascades. The Mt. Emily, Sled Springs, Ukiah, Heppner, and Northside units have shown a consistency with high total harvests, and individual hunter success rates.

The Sumpter unit rated “fair,” on a scale from “good,” to “difficult,” according to ODFW, as far as hunter success, based on the total harvest, and

individual harvest rate in 2013, compared to its rating of “difficult,” in 1993. Across the state, within that time period, other units’ ratings have improved, and turkey hunting opportunities have drastically expanded, which is all great news.

There’s plenty of time to decide whether to pursue turkeys this spring, since the season lasts from April 15 through May 31, and tags can be purchased during that period. Personally, I admittedly haven’t completed any kind of scouting ahead of time, and I don’t have any “sweet spots” pinned down, however, as pointed out, I don’t have to immediately have concerns about timing right now. Having said that, I would certainly encourage others to take on the pursuit.

ODFW provided one of the best comments I’ve heard, regarding our neck of the woods, hunting-wise, or not, when it stated, in reference to finding turkeys, “Don’t forget about northeast Oregon.”

Don’t worry—we won’t...

## Quail Ridge ladies golf scores

Following are the results for the April 6 Ladies Golf Day held at Quail Ridge Golf Course in Baker City.

Birdies: Myrna Evans, Marianne Klinger, Tori Brown.  
Count Putts: 1st Myrna

Evans, 2nd Tori Brown  
Bridge Winners: 1st Dianne Ellingson, 2nd Della Steele, 3rd Martha

Cassidy.

## Fire service exercise planned

Submitted by Gary Timm

On Saturday April 16th Federal, State and fire agencies from around the county will come together to participate in the 12th Annual Baker County Fire Service Task Performance Exercise, also known within the fire service as the Scavenger Hunt.

Originally created in 2005, the event was developed to bring fire agencies together to practice skills and mitigate realistic incident scenarios. An added bonus was to highlight the need to find new volunteer firefighters for Baker County fire agencies. In 2016, the goals have not changed – departments benefit greatly by coming together to participate in scenario based exercises, and the fire service is always interested in bringing on new personnel. Those interested in joining a local fire department/district, should contact their local agency.

This year’s Fire Service Task Performance Exercise will have several structural related task performance stations, and a wildland-urban interface station. The event will begin with Fire agencies being dispatched to a skill station and upon arrival, perform a variety of firefighting tasks. While we develop new scenarios each year, past skill stations have included – radio communications, technical scene size-up, apparatus operation, working with equipment such as ladders, hydrants and fire tools. Each of the Teams will have to successfully complete all scenario based stations.

As in prior years, each Team will be required to work through the emergency situation presented and will be scored on safety, coordination and organization, communications and appropriate completion of the scenario based incident. The realistic scenarios will challenge the crews, but in the end valuable lessons will be learned.

“Each year we create realistic and challenging scenarios – but the overall goal is to allow agencies to evaluate and improve response skills, and ultimately enjoy the day,” said Gary Timm, Baker County Emergency Management. “While this exercise could be seen as a fire service preparedness exercise, I’m hoping it will also be viewed as dedicated local firefighters’ coming together from around the county to enhance their abilities to respond to all-risk incidents within their own communities, and during mutual-aid responses.”

Past Winners of the Baker County Fire Service Task Performance Exercise:

- 2005 Keating Rural Fire Protection District
- 2006 Baker City Fire Department
- 2007 Baker Rural Fire Protection District
- 2008 Keating Rural Fire Protection District
- 2009 Baker Rural Fire Protection District
- 2010 Baker Rural Fire Protection District
- 2011 Baker City Fire Department
- 2012 Baker Rural Fire Protection District
- 2013 Baker City Fire Department
- 2014 Eagle Valley Fire Protection District
- 2015 Baker Rural Fire Protection District

## Outdoors videos wanted by USFS

In our public listening sessions over 700 people talked about their relationship with the Blue Mountains. Their voices matter, and so does yours. Share why the Blue Mountains are important to you!

Please submit a video (under 60 seconds) in which you introduce yourself and answer this question: “Why are the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon and Washington important to you?”

Think about a place in the Blue Mountains that you care about:

- Why does this place stand out?
- What do you do there? (Or what would you like to do there?)
- What’s your relationship with this place?

We will choose a variety of videos to highlight the diverse people who care about these public lands. We will not share all videos; rather we will share a selection of videos that touch on different topics in the Forest Plans. We will share these videos on this website and our forest Facebook and Twitter sites.

Please see the following website for instructions on how to submit your video, terms and conditions, and also an example video. Please note that this is not intended to be an opportunity for formal public comment on Forest Service projects.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/land-management/planning/?cid=FSEPRD495538>

## Turkey tag requirements

Spring turkey hunting is general season, and anyone can purchase a tag any time before going hunting. Turkey tags are \$22.50 for residents, \$10.50 for youth hunters (age 17 and under). Hunting licenses are \$29.50 for residents. New in 2016, all youth hunters age 12-17 can get a \$10 combination license (includes hunter, angler, shellfish and Columbia River Basin Endorsement).

The daily bag limit is one male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard (so hens with beards may be lawfully taken). The season limit is three legal turkeys; hunters must purchase a tag for each turkey.

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## Spring bear update

Bear numbers are strong in the Starkey Unit. The warm temperatures during March should provide good forage for bears in April and May. The snow pack is receding and will make for good access to the Wallowa Whitman National Forest lands within Union County. Hunters can expect snow to limit access to some areas during the month of April. Hunters should focus efforts on south aspects for best results. Walking in on closed roads is a good way to access bear habitat within this hunt area.

The Dry Road Ladd Canyon Beaver Lure area offers diverse habitat and provides limited motorized travel. Other areas that have good bear densities are Spring Creek, open slopes along Fly Creek and public lands surrounding Vey Meadows. It is also quite possible to encounter a cougar in these areas.