

Outdoor Rec / Local

Bow hunting after the big fires



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN
By Todd Arriola

I drove south over Dooley Mountain this week toward Bridgeport, and as I reached the peak and I thought about scouting around prior to deer hunting season, I had mixed emotions, as I noticed the devastation caused by last year's wildfires, and I calculated my odds of filling big game tags.

This trip up and down the mountain via Highway 245 didn't reveal any surprises, as I've become used to the view—the very distinct difference in the way the north side looks, compared to the south side. Looking north, I thought, "It doesn't look great, but it might be okay, given time." Looking south, I thought, "This looks like a nuclear testing ground that was used recently."

I stopped at my favorite gas station the other day, and the attendant commented that, given the timing, we seem to be doing fairly well in the County, regarding the avoidance of wildfires, considering

how last year went. This was before the current fires, and I felt optimistic, too, but I replied with something smart, like, "Well, there isn't much left to burn." We both knew there's certainly plenty left, and the season of wildfire danger is far from over.

Plenty of people, including me, have played the blame game regarding the management, or the mismanagement, of federal public lands, but that effort seems to be eclipsed by our County Commissioners, who are engaged in a continuous fight with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in an attempt to have all entities getting along and playing well with each other at some point, and accomplishing the end goal—proper management. To their credit—including the USFS, and the BLM—there is constant dialogue and small victories, so, there may yet be hope.

When I reached Bridgeport, I was glad to be clear of the charred remains of the south side of Dooley, and I was able to check out my "sweet spots" for signs of deer activity, later in the day. I may have been too early in the

day with my timing, or I may have been too early in the year, or I may see a totally different picture this year, because I didn't see much activity, or at least, not as much. That's not surprising, because, with hunting, anything can happen, including nothing at all. I made the remark to someone once that that's why it's called "hunting," and not "shooting," and why "fishing" is not called "catching."

As far as my odds are concerned, I don't know quite how to calculate them. General bow season for deer and elk is coming up at the end of the month, and I already have a rifle tag for elk, so I only have deer on the menu this summer. I checked some of my "sweet spots" already, but since about all of eastern Oregon will be fair game for a bow shooter (with some exceptions) once the season starts, there are plenty of opportunities to harvest one. If I purchase a tag, and I don't get the job done, I'll have only myself to blame.

Most likely, I'll avoid the wide open spaces, i.e., the ones that used to be not so wide open, before the fires. I can see much farther through a forest with no leaves, grass, or brush, but deer can see me, too, though I'll worry more about positioning myself to avoid detection with their ears and noses. Anyway, the point is, I'll probably set still in a spot from where I can ambush one, ideally from above.

I've learned a couple of new tricks this year, which may help with the bow hunting. Actually, I meant to say that I've decided to try a couple of things, and to avoid some stubborn habits. One of them is the change in the way I grip my bow, while drawing the string. I used to grip it like I was holding on for dear life, with all of my fingers wrapped around the front, because I couldn't quite trust that it would stay in my hand, when I let the arrow fly. When I started to allow my fingers to point straight out and down, and my thumb to point the same direction without a death grip, I noticed that I was more relaxed. The second change involved shortening my string release, so that I could trigger it with the middle joint of my index finger, instead of the tip of it. That helped, too.

Wildfires have changed the landscape, and the way we hunt and where we hunt, but we've always adapted to those changes, because there really was no choice. We can continue to voice our concerns about the way public lands are managed, but somewhere in there, we need to get some hunting done, too, along with the discussions. "Just get to it," as some say.

Like my grandfather, Segundo, said sometimes, when he noticed someone pondering over their next move: "Do something, even if it's wrong..."

Snake River fee proposal comments sought

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) is extending the public input period associated with the proposed Special Recreation Permit Fee on the Wild and Scenic Snake River to September 30, 2016.

"Since being published in the Federal Register on June 22, we have received significant input associated with the fee proposal," said Wallowa Mountains Office, Deputy District Ranger Jake Lubera. "We have heard ideas associated with; alternative fee structures, the use of the facilities and the willingness from many individuals and groups to help address the stewardship needs of the river. Other boaters have commented on their limited use in the Scenic river section, and concerns about the impacts of a permit fee for families. To honor this active public process as well as provide additional time, we would like boaters and other interested publics to continue to comment until the end of September," said Lubera.

Public input can be submitted at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/SnakeRiverPublicInput. Following the close of the public input period on September 30, remarks will be made available for review on the WWNF website. After that time, the WWNF will analyze the input for presentation to the Resource Advisory Council. No decision regarding the fee proposal has been made at this time.

This proposed Special Recreation Permit Fee ranges from \$5 to \$10, depending on public input received. If implemented, it would be, a per-person, per-trip that is collected from all boaters and passengers during the primary river season. Exemptions to the proposal would be outfitters and their employees, travel by land owners and guests to private land inholding; and any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provisions of treaty or law. The proposed fee would be used to help provide a sustainable funding source for stewardship of the Wild and Scenic Snake River such as improving maintenance of developed facilities and historic sites used for recreation, expanding interpretation, addressing health and safety concerns and providing extra river patrols.

For more information, questions or to submit input about any of these new fee proposals, please contact Jake Lubera, Deputy District Ranger, Wallowa Mountains Office at 541-426-5581 or jlubera@fs.fed.us or Mike Ball, River Manager, Clarkston Office at 509-758-0616 or and comments-pacificnorthwest-wallowa-whitman@fs.fed.us. Please visit the 2016 Wild and Scenic Snake River Fee Proposal website at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/WildScenicSnakeRiverProposedFee to submit input and thank you for participating in this public sensing process.

City Council hears Justice Court updates, 6 of 7 seats open

BY GINA K. SWARTZ
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The August 9, 2016 regular City Council Meeting began with Councilor Abell leading the pledge of Allegiance and giving the invocation, where she acknowledged the fire season already in full swing said, "I would ask that each of us to reach out a helping hand if we are able to do that."

City Recorder Julie Smith called role to which all councilors answered being present with the exception of Mayor Mosier.

Vice Mayor Downing conducted the meeting and he quickly moved forward with the meeting calling for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which

consisted of minutes from the June 28 and July 26 Council meetings.

He asked if there were any corrections. With none noted, Councilor Thomas made a motion to approve with a second by Councilor Lowe.

Council voted to unanimously pass the motion. Vice Mayor Downing called for Citizen Participation in which members of the Public Arts Commission Mary Miller, Corrine Vegter and Damon Rose came forward.

Miller addressed council advised, "The Public Arts Commission would like to announce to the City Council that we've used funds from our budget to purchase eight pieces from 'Little Big Show' that took

place on First Friday."

Miller went on to note charities that benefited from the purchase of pieces sold during the First Friday event and the local businesses the pieces were purchased from. Among those mentioned were Short Term Gallery, they donated 25% of the proceeds to The Baker Middle School Backpack program.

Peterson's Gallery donated to YMCA youth sports programs to keep costs low for children. Earth and Vine Wine Bar donated 25% of their proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House at OHSU in Portland. Dot and Rosie's, 25% to the Baker High School Art Department for the purchase of need art supplies.

The Castle Gallery (The Pythian Castle, home of Historic Baker City) 25% of their proceeds went to purchase art banners for Resort Street as part of Historic Baker City.

Miller speaking to the success of First Friday, said, "50% of available pieces of art were sold. There were about 560 pieces available each sold for \$40 apiece. That was quite huge turnout."

The eight pieces that the Public Art Commission purchased were donated to the City and will be hung in City Hall. After briefly viewing the pieces and thanking them the Council moved forward with the agenda.

Boards and Commissions Appointments

Smith advised Council one position on the Tree

Board was vacant due to term expiration. She stated that George Wheaton had completed an application for the three-year term empty position.

She then moved to Historic District Design Review Commission. One position on that commission was available due to a resignation.

This term expires in January 2019. Carly Anabele successfully completed the application. Smith recommended to the Council that both applicants be appointed to the position in which they had applied.

Councilor Lowe moved to appoint both candidates with a second by Councilor Abell.

Council voted unanimously to appoint them both.

Council Representative Appointment to Sam-O Swim Committee

City Manager Warner advised council that he had spoken with Mayor Mosier earlier in the day and she advised that Councilor Joseph had approached her with interest in the appointment.

Councilor Langrell moved to appoint Joseph as the Council representative to the commission with a second by Councilor Thomas.

With a unanimous vote Joseph was appointed to the Sam-O Swim Committee.

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Swimmers compete in CA



Submitted Photo.

Jared Miller.

Submitted by Noel Scott

Jared Miller and Riana Scott completed their season by qualifying for and competing at championship meets in California. The following are their results.

Jared Miller competed in the USA Swimming Futures Championship held August 4-7 at Stanford University. He swam personal best times in all of his events.

400 IM 37th
100 Back 33rd
200 Back 7th

Riana Scott competed in the Western Zone Senior Championship meet held August 2-6 in Clovis, CA. There were over 940 athletes entered in this meet. She swam personal best times in almost every event.

100 Free 154th
200 Breast 68th
200 Free 162nd
400 IM 39th
200 IM 80th
50 Free 251st
100 Breast 100th

She was also a member of the Inland Empire All Stars relay teams.

800 Free relay 39th
400 Medley relay 28th
400 Free relay 27th

Michael Rushton, DPM
Podiatric Physician and Surgeon

Treatment and Surgery of the Foot and Ankle
In-grown Nails • Bunions • Warts • Gout • Corns & Callouses
Diabetic Foot Screening • Foot Odor • Athletes Foot
Treatment for pain in feet, shins, heels, knees, lower back.
Custom molded orthotics.

Dr. Rushton is a Preferred Provider for Lifesaver and Blue Cross/Blue Shield and a Medicare participant.

Baker City Wednesdays in La Grande
2830 10th Street • 524-0122 1002 Spring Ave Suite 1
541-963-3431

The doctor speaks Spanish—El doctor habla Español.