

Outdoor Rec / Local

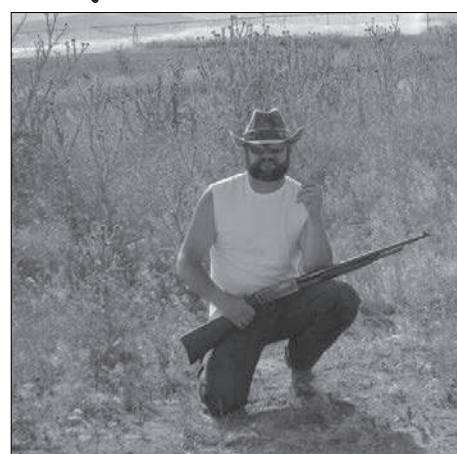
HELP WANTED

MayDay, Inc is hiring a part time, 20 hours a week, position for **Program Coordinator**. Taking applications till September 22, 2017. Please go to the MayDay office to apply. 9.15

The **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)** in Baker City, Oregon is currently accepting applications for a full time, permanent, Program Technician. Applications and materials are available online at www.usajobs.gov, and will be accepted beginning August 29, 2017 and closing September 19, 2017 11: 59 p.m. EDT. Salary begins \$29,356 - \$52,893 per year (\$14.07 – \$25.34 per hour) based on qualifications and experience.

Applications must be submitted through USAJobs. For more information please contact the FSA Office at 3990 Midway Drive, Baker City, OR 97814 or (541)523-7121 x 106. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 9.15

My misadventures in bow hunting



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN
By Todd Arriola

On the day I wrote this article, in the post-eclipse and wildfire-caused hazy world of Baker Valley, I pulled my compound bow from its case, for some more much-needed target time.

I've been spoiled for a year, opting to carry my trusty .30-06 rifle, rather than suffer through the torture of actually preparing for the big game seasons, the main focus of which is archery this time.

Bow hunting understandably isn't everyone's cup of tea, but I had several reasons for choosing this method this time, for deer and elk seasons.

First, the two simultaneous seasons, which have already begun, are about a month long in general, which means more opportunities for successful hunts, though I've made the mistake before of waiting until nearly the last day.

Second, with the significant reduction in the number of tags the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would issue this year for deer and antelope because of the previous winter, that translates to more of a crapshoot with the drawings, which cause me great pain to begin with (I applied for nine tags last year and only drew one, though on the positive side, this can be considered a small donation to ODFW). I just paid the archery tag fees this year, and I was issued the tags—a simple process.

Third, there are exceptions and restrictions, including getting permission from private landowners, but in general, the region is a wide open space to bow hunting, without the limitation of one or a few Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).

Forth—and again, it's understandable, considering the increased difficulty—there are generally less people bow hunting than rifle hunting, which means there's less competition, and less crowded country, resulting in more chances

for success.

A spooked deer or elk can very quickly be out of bow range within very little time, and with my luck, they'd be in the next county before I could figure out a new game plan.

Being out of practice for a while didn't hurt my shooting any, to my surprise, at either the roughly 30-yard or the 60-yard marks (I try to be modest with my expectations), but I appreciate, every time I do shoot the bow, that I don't have any kind of issue with my shoulders. One of my buddies isn't so lucky because of a shoulder injury, and I think he silently (or not so silently) cursed at me, while he was texting about the wonders of fly fishing, which I'm light years away from mastering.

My first article for this column included a story about a failed bowhunting adventure of mine, though I couldn't blame any of my gear for the disappointment.

I have my father's Pearson Spoiler Plus, which had been updated by the Jensens of Bowen Valley, with a new sight, a string D-loop and string release, and six custom carbon arrows.

The equipment worked well—the operator, well, not so much.

The hunt didn't go well, but I can't really blame the doe that snorted and scattered the herd, either, be-

cause I should have stayed put, in my semi-decent hiding spot above the draw, behind a small juniper tree (bush, really).

The draw was a perfect bottleneck and ambush point, with me downwind and hidden, where I could catch a buck before it reached the alfalfa field.

I wanted to move to a "better" spot, which is where I made a mistake, because I tried to sneak back toward the herd when I saw it move down the draw, and I might as well have been walking and waving a flag at them.

I noticed posts on Facebook with already successful hunters, posing happily with their trophies, and while that prompted some feelings of jealousy, I haven't been out to bow hunt (as of this writing), and I'm sure there's a buck deer and bull elk still waiting for me to get my rear in gear.

Even though I have several spots in mind, I don't expect "easy" hunting this year, because there are numerous factors involved, including proper timing and location, and the need to bring my A-game. Or, at the very least, my B-game, or C-game. Whatever works.

It might help to have some sort of mask, too, because this smoky valley is beginning to resemble a smog-filled city, and I've done plenty of rain dances, with very little response...

One big, beautiful bull



Submitted Photo.

Of all the brag-worthy hunting photos *The Baker County Press* has seen this year, this one tops them all. Above, Wyn Lohner with a behemoth of a bull elk harvested in one excellent shot from an off-the-record location in the Eagle Cap Wilderness this week.

Ladies golf and bridge scores

Below are the scores from The Quail Ridge Ladies Golf and Bridge Ladies Day for August 2:

Golf Winners: 1st Flight Myrna Evans, 2nd Flight (None), 3rd Flight Roxanne McAdams

Bridge Winners: 1st Place Marlene Cross, 2nd place Kathy Eidson, 3rd Place Carol Arnstein

August 9:
Golf Winners: 1st Flight Judy Karstens, 2nd Flight Kathy Hopkins, 3rd Flight Carol Irvine. Birdies: Linda Taylor, Judy Karstens.

Bridge Winners: 1st Shirley Dodson, 2nd Carol Arnstein, 3rd Linda Triplett.

August 16:
Golf Winners: 1st flight Linda Taylor, 2nd flight Sammye Linzel, 3rd Flight Carol Irvine. Birdies: Sammye Linzel, Jennifer Godwin, Judy Karstens.

Bridge Winners: 1st Janice Smull, 2nd Kathy Eidson, 3rd Della Steele

9-week Winners:(bridge) 1st Marlene Cross, 2nd Joan Colton, 3rd Carol Arstein, 4th Della Steele, 5th Martha Cassidy, 6th Carmen Ott

August 23:
Golf Winners: 1st Flight Linda Taylor, 2nd Flight Sammye Linzel, 3rd Flight Marianne Klinger

Bridge Winners: 1st Della Steele, 2nd Lavelle Raley, 3rd Judy Karstens.

Public urged to take care in the smoky air

The Baker County Health Department would like to remind you how to recognize and protect yourself from poor air quality due to smoke from wildfires which can reduce air quality.

"Wildfire smoke contains fine particles. When the particles in the air are concentrated, the air quality decreases. When people breathe this air, it can make them sick. People at the highest risk of illness are those with chronic lung or heart conditions, the elderly and children," said Dr. Eric Lamb, Health Officer. "People who have asthma or other lung conditions should follow their breathing management plans. They should keep medications available and contact their healthcare provider if necessary."

The change in air quality can affect individuals differently. The Baker County Health Department reminds you to listen to your body and take the following precautions to avoid breathing problems or other symptoms when wildfire smoke is present:

Be aware of the level of smoke in your area. Avoid areas with highest concentrations. For Baker County we have one air monitor located in Baker City. However, the air quality can change from location to location based on several conditions including terrain and weather. These

Air Quality Rating	Air Quality Index (AQI)	5-3-1 Visibility Index	PM _{2.5} 1-hour Average (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} 24-hour Average (µg/m ³)	Ozone 8-hour Average (ppm)
GOOD	0 - 50		0 - 38	0.0 - 12.0	0.000 - 0.054
MODERATE	51 - 100	5-15 Miles	39 - 88	12.1 - 35.4	0.055 - 0.070
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	101 - 150	3-5 Miles	89 - 138	35.5 - 55.4	0.071 - 0.085
UNHEALTHY	151 - 200	1-3 Miles	138 - 351	55.5 - 150.4	0.086 - 0.105
VERY UNHEALTHY	201 - 300	1 Mile	352 - 526	150.5 - 250.4	0.106 - 0.200
HAZARDOUS	>300		>526	>250.5	>0.200

Submitted Photo.

How to use the 5-3-1 Visibility Index:

- Determine the limit of your visual range by looking for distant targets or familiar landmarks such as mountains, hills, or buildings at known distances. The visual range is that point at which these targets are no longer visible.
- Ideally, the viewing of any distant targets should be made with the sun behind you. Looking into the sun or at an angle increases the ability of sunlight to reflect off of the smoke, thus making the visibility estimate less reliable.
- If you are using 24-hr. PM_{2.5} in addition to the Visibility 5-3-1 Index, use the more conservative of the two metrics found in the figure above.

changes might be better or worse than those being reported from the nearest air monitor.

Check the current air quality and the latest for fires across the state at Oregon Smoke blog at <http://oregonSmoke.blogspot.com/>. Avoid outdoor activities when air quality is unhealthy and hazardous. You can also use the 5-3-1 Visibility Index found in the figure below. Making visual observations using the Visibility Index is a simple way to estimate smoke levels. While this method can be useful, you

should always use caution and avoid going outside if visibility is limited, especially if you are sensitive to smoke.

Avoid smoke by staying indoors when smoke is thickest. If you stay indoors, close as many windows and doors as possible.

However, don't let your home overheat. Use a filter in your heating and cooling system that removes fine particles.

People with heart or lung disease, the elderly and children are more sensitive to serious health effects

from wildfire smoke. If smoke is thick for a short time, people in these sensitive groups should stay indoors.

If possible, they can use an air filter to clean harmful particles from the air. If smoke is likely to last for more than two days, leaving the area until the smoke clears is the best way to avoid health problems from smoke.

Avoid strenuous outdoor activity when smoke is heavy. Young children, the elderly, and people with heart or lung problems are especially vulnerable.

Reduced bag limit in Snake River

Bag limits for hatchery summer steelhead were reduced to one fish per day for the Grande Ronde and Imnaha Rivers when the season opened on Friday, Sept. 1. In addition, there will be no harvest allowed in the mainstem Snake River but catch-and-release will be allowed.

Fishery managers decided to reduce the bag limit to correspond with the historically low Columbia River steelhead counts observed in 2017. As of Aug. 28, only 70,000 hatchery and 25,000 wild steelhead had passed Bonneville Dam, which is only 30 percent of the most recent 10-year average. The catch-and-release regulations in the Snake River mirror those implemented by the state of Idaho on Aug. 17, which restricted steelhead fishing to catch-and-release statewide.

Oregon officials expect the reduced bag limits to be temporary, but support a conservative start to the season when facing a hatchery and wild steelhead run this low. "Despite the poor outlook, our current estimates suggest enough fish will return to sustain hatchery programs and provide fish for recreational harvest," said Jeff Yanke, ODFW District Fish Biologist in Enterprise. "A one-fish limit allows for a small level of harvest, but also prevents a situation where anglers are forced to put back an injured hatchery fish."

Managers will hold off on further changes until more of the steelhead run arrives closer to home. So far, only 5 percent of Grande Ronde and Imnaha steelhead have moved upstream of the Columbia River. Yanke expects to have a much clearer picture by late October.

"This is the lowest run we've seen in decades, but I'd encourage anglers not to panic and give up on fishing this year. Coupled with the right river conditions, even in a low run year, we can still have a worthwhile steelhead fishery," Yanke added.