

# OFD invites public comment on forest management

SALEM — Each year, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) invites public comment on work plans, called Annual Operations Plans (AOPs), outlining state forest activities for an upcoming fiscal year.

From now through 5 p.m. on Monday, May 4, public comments are invited for ODF's district activities for the 2018 fiscal year, which starts July 1 and ends on June 30, 2018.

These plans describe specific activities such as timber sales, reforestation, road building, stream enhancement and recreation projects that accom-

plish the current Implementation Plan objectives.

These objectives are designed to reach the goals of long-term Forest Management Plans. Two districts have also noted Forest Land Management Classification changes within their draft AOPs that are open to public comment from March 20 to May 4.

The draft annual operations plans are available for review online on ODF's State Forests Management at [www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/StateForests.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Working/Pages/StateForests.aspx). After the com-

ment period closes, each district will review comments and finalize draft AOPs for the district forester to review and approve.

An online survey is provided for submitting comments regarding the AOPs at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFH88TK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFH88TK)

Online comments are also received through ODF's comment page at [www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/Comment.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AboutODF/Pages/Comment.aspx)

Comments may also be mailed to: ODF Public Affairs, 2600 State St., Salem, OR 97310.

# STEP to feature local clam expert tonight

The Florence Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) will show a video and have a talk by Mike Bones on digging clams in the Siuslaw Bay during the group's next meeting on April 5.

The video will show how and where to dig the local eastern soft shell clams. It will also

show how to clean and prepare them.

Bones grew up in the Florence area and worked at Honeyman State Park, where he led many campers and other visitors on clamming trips. He will explain his techniques and answer questions after the meeting.

Florence STEP meetings are held in the back room of the Florence Elks Club, beginning at 7 p.m., on the first Wednesday of each month.

There will be a short business meeting before the clam digging presentation.

The public is welcome at all STEP meetings.

# Stellar outing



JOHN BARTLETT/SUSLAW NEWS

Siuslaw High School alumni and Oregon State University pitcher Jake Thompson leaves the field in the eighth inning to accolads from fellow Beavers team members and a standing ovation from fans after securing OSU's ninth-straight win in the Pac-12 last Sunday. The Beavers ranked No. 1 with a 9-0 league record.

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Heidi Jones**

**Siuslaw H.S. Vikings Softball**

The senior pitcher faced 43 batters, striking out 17 of them in an 11-inning loss last week to Coquille. In the same game, she also went 3-for-6 at the plate, scoring once and stealing four bases.

**Honorable Mention Mia Collins**

Honorable mention goes to Freshman Shortstop Mia Collins who went 2-for-3 at the plate, including a double and one stolen base, in the other half of that coquille double-header.

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## Cubs from 1B

rehabilitation facility used by the ODFW because of its specialized standard of care designed to allow young bears to develop without habituating to humans so they can be returned to Oregon for release into the wild.

"We'll receive these cubs as unhabituated and year-old bears sometime between March and June of 2018," Gillin said.

"And they'll be between 100 and 150 pounds at the time of release."

ODFW and Oregon State Police remind Oregonians that taking young animals out of the wild isn't just against the law, it's also bad for the animal.

These animals miss the chance to learn important survival skills from their mother like where to feed, what to eat, how to behave and avoid danger and predators.

The hiker who picked up the

male bear cub March 26 was given a warning by State Troopers.

Although the OSP did not issue a citation for this specific occurrence, individuals have been cited in the past for similar activities. Oregon State Police will look at each case individually and decide whether a citation or warning will be issued.

Before picking up any wild animal, call ODFW, Oregon State Police or a wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Removing or "capturing" an animal from the wild and keeping it in captivity without a permit is against state law (OAR 635-044-0015), as is transporting many animals.

Last year, seven people were cited for such offenses. Contact veterinary staff toll-free at 866-968-2600.

Follow these tips if you encounter young animals in the wild:

*Deer, elk and other mammals:*

- Never assume an animal is

orphaned. Taking a newborn deer fawn into captivity is illegal without appropriate permits or licensing. Don't handle the animal, move it or remove it from the forest, including your backyard. Female deer and elk and other mammals will often leave their young temporarily for safety reasons or to feed elsewhere. They will return when it is safe to do so (when people, dogs, or predators are not present).

• Call your local ODFW office, Oregon State Police office or a local licensed wildlife rehabilitation center when:

1) you see an animal that you know is orphaned because you observed the dead parent animal, or

2) the parent hasn't returned for several hours or even up to a day, or

3) if the animal is clearly injured or in distress.

• Bunnies are rarely orphaned; mother rabbits only visit den sites at dusk and dawn to feed her young.

• Keep your dog or cat away from young wildlife, especially in the spring.

• If you see a seal pup, young sea lion, or other marine mammal that appears stranded or in distress, contact OSP's hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

*Birds:*

• Leave fledgling birds alone. It is natural for fledgling (mostly feathered) birds to appear awkward while learning how to fly. If you see a young on the ground, leave it alone and keep your distance. Bring your pets under control and indoors (particularly cats) if possible.

The mother bird may feed the fledgling for several days on the ground until it "gets its wings."

• Return nestling birds to the nest. Nestlings (baby birds not fully feathered) found on the ground can be gently and quickly returned to the nest.

If the nest is out of reach, place the bird on an elevated branch or fence, or in a nest made from a small box, out of the reach of children and pets. Leave the area so the parent birds can return to feed them.

• If you see a bird that you think may have been harmed, please move it out of harm's way so it won't be struck by a vehicle.

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## Softball from 1B

Jones struck out a total of 20 batters on the day, taking the loss on the mound in game one, with freshman Nina Aaron taking the loss in game two.

Claire Waggoner was 3-for-8 in the doubleheader, with a home run. Viking junior Ariel Rosenbaum was 2-for-3 with 2 runs scored in the nightcap.

On Saturday, the Vikings got out to a quick 3-0 lead at the Eagles' nest in the top of the first inning, only to have Harrisburg sweep back for a narrow 5-4 win in seven innings.

Launius had an RBI and 2 stolen bases to lead Siuslaw's offense. Jones struck out 7 and allowed 5 hits.

Yesterday, the Lady Vikings (3-4) hosted Tillamook (after press deadlines). Tomorrow, Siuslaw will be at Coquille for a doubleheader originally scheduled for this Saturday.

Far West League play opens April 11 for both the Viking baseball and softball teams, when they each host Marshfield.

First pitch for both games is at 5 p.m.