

Report hunt results by Jan. 31 to avoid penalty

SALEM — Every hunter who purchased 2017 big game or turkey tags needs to report their hunt results by the Jan. 31 deadline for most tags.

Hunters are required to report on each deer, elk, cougar, bear, pronghorn and turkey tag purchased — even if they were not successful or did not hunt. Sports Pac license holders need to report on each big game or turkey tag issued.

Hunters have two ways to report:

- Online at www.myodfw.com, reportmyhunt.com or by visiting an ODFW office in Corvallis, Bend, Clackamas, La Grande, Sauvie Island, Roseburg, Salem, Springfield or Tillamook.
- Or call 1-866-947-6339 to talk to a customer service representative between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Reporting deadlines are:

- Jan. 31, 2018: For all 2017 hunts that ended by Dec. 31, 2017
- April 15, 2018: For all 2017 hunts that end between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2018

Hunters need the following pieces of information to report, which takes just a couple of minutes:

- Hunter/Angler ID number (located on ODFW licenses, tags and applications; this is a permanent number that stays the same from year-to-year)
- The two digit Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) number of the Unit you hunted in most and the Unit you harvested an animal in if successful.
- The total number of days hunted (including mentoring youth), the number of days hunted in the WMU

hunted most, and the number of days hunted in the WMU you harvested an animal in if successful.

Hunters who fail to report 2017 deer or elk tags by the deadline will be penalized \$25 when they purchase a 2019 hunting license. This penalty is assessed once, regardless of the number of unreported tags.

As of Jan. 10, about 56 percent of buck deer tags and 57 percent of elk tags have been reported. ODFW saw an uptick in reporting after mailing reminder postcards to hunters who hadn't reported on their deer and elk tags yet earlier this month.

"The information hunters provide is used when setting controlled hunt tag numbers and hunting seasons," said ODFW Game Program Manager Tom Thornton. "We really appreciate hunters taking a few min-

utes of their time to complete the report, even if they did not hunt or were not successful."

ODFW used to get this data through phone surveys but these became more difficult and expensive as hunters moved or screened their calls.

The mandatory reporting program was put in place in 2007.

A penalty of \$25 was added several years ago because even after several years promoting the program and providing incentives to report, only about 40 percent of tags were being reported on time. This rate was too low to for ODFW to even use the data.

After the penalty was implemented for 2012 tags, reporting rates jumped to 80 percent or more. This has allowed ODFW to phase out big

game survey calls; the agency no longer makes these calls.

Information from the mandatory surveys about how many hunters went hunting, how many big game animals were taken, antler points and success rates is available at ODFW's Big Game Hunting Harvest Statistics page, www.myodfw.com/big-game-hunting-harvest-statistics

Hunters that report on time are entered into a drawing to win a special big game tag. ODFW selects three names each year and the winners can choose a deer, elk, or pronghorn tag.

Hunters who win get an expanded hunt area and extended season, similar to auction and raffle tags that hunters can pay thousands for.

Health concerns prompt ODFW postponement of 2018 sport abalone season

SALEM — ODFW is continuing to postpone the 2018 recreational abalone season that had been set to open Jan. 1. The postponement will continue until further review and Commission consideration in March.

The decision follows California's closure of its 2018 abalone season due to concerns over the health of the population.

Abalone stocks in California have fallen below target levels as abalone face ongoing environmental condi-

tions that have reduced their food sources. Since California Fish and Wildlife closed its season on Dec. 7, ODFW has seen a dramatic spike in inquiries about the Oregon fishery, which is dwarfed by the California fishery.

Oregon issues about 300 abalone permits per year, while California issues 25,000 or more.

Southern Oregon is on the northern edge of red abalone range and the state's fishery is managed conservatively to protect the health of

Oregon's relatively small population.

"California's closure could lead to a large fishing effort shift to Oregon, which would cause a spike in harvest under the current rules. Yet we suspect that Oregon's abalone population has declined from historic levels," says Scott Groth, ODFW shellfish biologist for the south coast. "This emergency action postpones the fishery so we can hold off on issuing 2018 abalone permits until we've had a chance to do a more

thorough review of the situation."

ODFW staff plan to evaluate the fishery (including potential impacts from California's closure), solicit public input, and present suggestions, including possible rule changes, to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at their March 16 meeting in Salem.

Annual regulations require recreational abalone harvesters to purchase an Oregon shellfish license and obtain a free annual abalone/scallop permit from ODFW.

ODFW will continue to issue permits for scallops.

Abalone are highly prized and the fishery creates a high demand, primarily among divers. While seven species exist on the West Coast, five of these have some listing status under the Endangered Species Act.

Red abalone are the only species still fished in the contiguous United States, and southern Oregon and northern California are the only areas where recreational harvest has occurred in recent years.

Siuslaw

from 1B

And while Richards went 5-for-5 from the field, Siuslaw's overall shooting of 13-of-36 attempts allowed the Bruins to extend their lead down the stretch for a 56-31 win.

Freshman post Gracie Freudenthal had 7 points and 2 blocked shots; junior Madison Reynolds scored 6 points to go with 4 rebounds and a pair of steals.

The loss dropped the Lady Viks to 0-2 in league (3-13 overall) as of Tuesday night.

Following the girls game, the

Viking boys tipped off against Brookings-Harbor (2-0) in hopes of picking up their first league win after falling to Marshfield in the league opener the previous Friday.

The Vikings never trailed during the first four quarters against the Bruins, leading 20-10 at the end of the first period following 3-pointers from seniors Dylan McGallian and Kyle King, and a buzzer-beater dish from King to senior Jake Hickson.

But in the second period, Brookings-Harbor's Austin Fronckowiak, Eli Mills, Jon Kleespies and Brig Schofield turned up the heat during an 11-2 run that cut Siuslaw's lead to 3 points with

52 seconds remaining in the half.

Junior guard Dylan Wynn sank a freethrow in the final seconds, providing 1 of Siuslaw's total of 5 points in the period and extending the Viks' cushion to 25-21 heading into the break.

In the third quarter, the Viks narrowly outscored the Bruins 12-11 to hold a slim 37-32 lead, thanks to scoring from seniors Jared Brandt, John Rollin and King, along with another buzzer-beater from Hickson, who went coast to coast on a last-second steal.

McGallian opened the fourth quarter with a short jumper, but the Bruins took advantage of several

Viking turnovers in the final minutes of regulation to outscore Siuslaw 11-6 — tying the game at 43-43 to force things into overtime.

As with every quarter, the Viks were the first to score, but Brookings-Harbor scored the next two buckets to claim its first lead in the game, 47-45.

The Bruins added to that lead with a pair of freethrows. After missing two charity shots, Siuslaw pulled within 2 points — with 49 seconds on the clock — on a pair of freethrows from King.

The Bruins moved ahead 53-49 with 7 seconds remaining, holding that lead until the final buzzer for the

win.

King had a game-high 19 points to lead Siuslaw. Brandt had 9 points, Hickson had 7, McGallian and Wynn had 4 points each.

Last night, Siuslaw (0-2) was on the road at Douglas (after press time) and will return to host two games next week to wrap up the first half of league play.

The first game will be Tuesday against North Bend, then Siuslaw will host South Umpqua on Friday.

In both games, girls tip off first at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 7:30 p.m.

the spotlight

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KEY Realty
541-997-4842
NATALIE NAGRONE, Broker
Cell # 541-991-0531
natalienagrone@gmail.com

Alta Taylor, Principal Broker/ Owner
Office # 541-997-4842
Cell # 541-999-0727
florencekeyrealtymn@msn.com

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Presented by **Natalie Nagrone**
Oregon Real Estate License: 201218518
Work: (541) 991-0531
natalienagrone@gmail.com
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