

Carbon Footprint Assessment finds that ODFW managed lands sequester 6.5 times more carbon than emitted from agency operations

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) completed a baseline assessment of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from the Department's operations and carbon being sequestered in ODFW managed lands.

Climate and ocean change are having a significant negative impact on the habitat of fish and wildlife both in the ocean and on land. These changes represent a serious threat to the Department's mission and to all those that rely on healthy and abundant populations. Given this, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a Climate and Ocean Change Policy in 2020 that set a course to

manage and minimize those impacts, including by doing our part to lower the emissions that are causing climate and ocean change.

ODFW's total base year GHG emissions were calculated to be 9,280 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO₂e) and the estimated carbon sequestration in ODFW's wildlife areas is al-

most 61,000 tonnes of CO₂e per year and is over 6.5 times larger than ODFW's GHG emissions total. The top three sources of GHGs from ODFW operations are electricity use, vehicle fuel combustion and emissions from microbial breakdown of aquatic nitrogen during fish production.

"I'm proud that emissions from the department's operations are already being offset by carbon sequestration on our managed lands but recognize that this assessment also points to sources of emissions that we have the ability to reduce over the next twenty years," said ODFW Director Curt Melcher.

This baseline assessment

looked at emissions during the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The intent of assessing this timeframe was to capture some pre-pandemic operations and some pandemic operations.

Fish hatchery facilities were among the most energy intensive operations, but even so, these facilities generated greenhouse gas emissions comparable to the average Portland office building. Fish production at many of ODFW's fish hatcheries and the resulting GHG emissions is mitigating for the impacts that low carbon hydroelectric generating facilities or flood control structures have on wild fish populations.

Now that the baseline assessment is complete, the Department will be developing a greenhouse gas reduction plan that will seek to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from ODFW's operations, increase carbon sequestration on our managed lands and address the uncertainties outlined in the report. There are significant opportunities to transition to lower emissions electricity sources and zero emission vehicles.

The full report is available online at www.dfw.state.or.us/climate_ocean_change/docs/ODFW%20Baseline%20GHG%20Inventory%20Report_Final.pdf.

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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Autumn Festival to kick off fall in Mapleton

Blissful Seasons presents the Autumn Festival in Mapleton on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 10650 Highway 101, the former Champion and Davidson's Mill site.

There will be a Chili Cook Off, so people are encouraged to get their best chili recipe and cook up a pot of their finest.

Rules: Registration required, must make six quarts minimum and must bring your own propane cooker. No fee for entry, but tickets will be sold of tastings of the Taster's Choice

Chili. There will be three judges who will award a first, second and third place award, along with a Taster's Choice Award.

Amy Ogden Clawson will emcee the event, and will hopefully will sing a song or two.

There will be live music. Robbie Dee Woody will play her violin. Sydney Crapser and his band "SYDNEY" will play blues and rock. The Johnny Kallas Band will play original songs.

There will also be a flag

ceremony to honor our past and present veterans and military and a moment to honor America the Beautiful.

At Autumn Festival, the community will find food trucks and vendors, 4H and a variety of small animals, the Oregon State University Extension Service and Lane County Sheriff's Office emergency vehicles on display. Siuslaw Valley Fire Marshal Tony Miller will be present to kick off National Fire Prevention week, which starts Oct. 3.

In addition, there will be multiple car clubs showing off their cool cars. This includes Oregon Coast Hot Rods, Cascade Corvette Club and more.


Finally, Oregon State Rep. Boomer Wright, and former Mapleton educator, will top off the event with one of his famous pep talks — as any of his past students will remember.

For more information, call 541-999-9254.

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FACC seeks new members

The Florence Area Community Coalition (FACC) is seeking individuals interested in joining the organization and furthering their mission to improve the quality of life in Western Lane County.

The group does this through partnerships, networking, volunteerism, community involvement, education and awareness.

FACC offers opportunities for local nonprofits, service providers, and engaged community members to share news, collaborate, and connect with organizational support.

FACC meets the first Wednesday of each month, teaming up with local leaders and experts to share information regarding their programs.

Membership dues fund an annual Volunteer Recognition Event, provide a scholarship to a student of the Siuslaw School District, sponsor organizations as they apply for non-profit status, and much more.

Please consider being a part of the Florence Area Community Coalition.

FACC Board Members are available to discuss any questions and interested individuals can learn more at www.florenceareacc.org and can reach the group via email at florenceareacc@gmail.com.