

# Shed hunt responsibly to protect big game

Blue Mountain Eagle

SALEM – As shed hunters hit the woods in search of prized elk and deer antlers, wildlife officials urge them to take care not to bother big game that may be vulnerable coming out of winter.

Buck deer usually shed their antlers from late December through March, and bull elk from late February through early April. They grow new antlers spring through summer.

Rob Tanner, co-founder of Oregon Shed Hunters, the sport of shed hunting is gaining popularity.

“We are noticing more people getting out, but the clientele has changed a bit,” he says. “It’s no longer just hardcore hunters; nowadays

it’s more of a family event with mom, dad, kids and even pets out shed hunting.”

But wildlife biologists have concerns about the sport’s impact on big game if it’s not practiced responsibly.

The peak of shed hunting season in late winter/early spring coincides with tougher weather and less forage availability for big game, making it a vulnerable time for wildlife.

Biologists say shed hunters using motor vehicles can put wildlife on the move just when these animals need conserve their energy reserves. Pets and people on foot or horseback can also disturb big game.

“Shed hunters and their dogs can pressure, stress and exclude deer from the very



Contributed photo/Rob Tanner

**Elk sheds like this one are prized by hunters and collectors. Pictured: Rob Tanner, co-founder of Oregon Shed Hunters.**

ground that was set aside to help them survive the winter,” said Chase Brown, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife assistant district wildlife biologist in The Dalles.

This year’s mild winter has made conditions easier for big game, but also makes it easier for people to get into remote places where

they may disturb the animals. Mark Kirsch, Umatilla District wildlife biologist, says that also can result in resource damage from vehicles using unimproved roads or going cross country, gates left open, trespassing, and movement of animals to private agricultural land where they cause damage.

Following are some tips to protect the animals while still enjoying the hunt for horns.

- Don’t disturb big game animals: Don’t approach animals or follow the same ones on a daily basis.

- Respect road and area closures, in place to protect winter range and wintering big game. Some ODFW wildlife areas are entirely closed to public access during late winter; other areas have road and travel restrictions. More information on specific closures below or see the 2015 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

- Don’t take vehicles off-roading. The ground is water-logged at this time of year and off-roading in the wrong place can damage crit-

ical wildlife and fish habitat. Travel by foot or horseback instead.

- Don’t be in the same spot every day. Deer and elk might need to be in that spot for food or cover, and your presence will keep them from it.

- Keep dogs under your control, and don’t let them chase wildlife. State law prohibits dogs – and people – from harassing wildlife.

- Don’t trespass on private property. You always need permission to be on private land. Under Oregon law, antlers that are shed on private land belong to the landowner.

At this time of year, Oregon State Police patrol winter range closures and travel management areas by air and by vehicle.

Road closures and other regulations

Several ODFW-managed wildlife areas and travel management areas are closed during the winter to protect big game on winter range, while others have travel restrictions.

Here’s a look at some of

the restrictions. For more information, see Page 80-85 of the 2015 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

Wildlife Area closures;

- Phillip W Schneider Wildlife Area (Dayville): Closed to public access Feb. 1 - April 14, some roads closed seasonally from Dec. 1-April 14.

- Elkhorn Wildlife Area (Baker and Union Counties): Closed to public access Dec. 1 - April 10.

- Bridge Creek Wildlife Area (near Ukiah): Closed to public access Dec. 1 - April 14.

- Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area (Clatsop County): Refuge and area closures.

- Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area (La Grande): Lands west of Foothill Road closed to entry Feb. 1 - March 31.

- Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Area (Maury and Ochoco Units): Closed to motorized vehicle access Nov. 15 or Dec. 1-April 15.

- White River Wildlife Area (Wamic): Road closures and restrictions.

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**the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK**

**AMY BLACK**  
School: Prairie City  
Grade: Senior  
Parents: Wendell and Penny Black  
Sport: Basketball

*What I like best about my sport:* “I’ve never been so passionate about one thing in my life. Basketball is responsible for the best memories of growing up between teammates, road trips, and state. But basketball has made me realize that just the sport wasn’t my true passion, but making others better and helping other people really is. Blessed for the four years I’ve experienced.”

*Coach’s Comment:* “She’s been really special – she spent most of her life in a gym. All of the years of her young life have been dedicated to sports and improving herself. Her leadership and competitiveness bled over to the other girls on the team. She always led to win and was always a good example in practice, giving every ounce of her energy trying to win games.”  
– Coach Penny Black

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## GU

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League, 8-4 in league, 16-9 overall.

The Prospectors stayed with their opponents in the first quarter, tying the score three times and ending the quarter ahead 12-10.

Contributing to Grant Union scoring in the quarter were Kori Pentzer, with 4; Heather Mosley, 2; Riley Sharp, 3, including 1 point at the free-throw line; and McKenzie Wilson, 3, including one free throw.

Monroe’s shots, includ-

ing a few 3-point attempts, weren’t falling in the second quarter, and the Prospectors held them to 1 free-throw point in the period.

Two of Grant Union’s 6 points in the quarter came from Wilson, who sank Pentzer’s steal. Emily Mosley and Pentzer also scored a bucket each, and the Prospectors had an 18-11 halftime lead.

The Dragons fired up after the break, gaining 13 points in the third quarter to Grant Union’s 6 points, tying up the score at 24.

Monroe began pulling away in the fourth with a point at the free-throw line,

and a 3-pointer from Madison Ballard.

Grant Union fired back with a 2-point shot from Pentzer, 1 point at the free-throw line from Sharp, and a 2-point bucket from Emily Mosley to give the Prospectors a 29-28 lead with about 2 minutes left in the game.

Monroe got the lead back when Kailey Martin landed a 2-point shot, and though Pentzer and Heather Mosley each hit the mark down the stretch, the Dragons, hitting a couple more free-throws, got the 4-point win.

“Even though our goal was to get to Pendleton this weekend, you can’t take away from

the season that we had,” coach Mosley said. “We’re losing three valuable seniors, Riley Sharp, Babe Nash and Emily Mosley, but overall our program is young, and it has been a joy to watch the varsity, junior varsity and junior high programs improve throughout the season. I’d also like to thank the community for their support, and I encourage them to continue to support all the athletic programs at Grant Union.”

**The stats**  
**GU girls vs. Monroe**  
Kori Pentzer: 12 points, 2 rebounds  
Emily Mosley: 6 points, 5 rebounds  
Riley Sharp: 6 points, 5 rebounds  
McKenzie Wilson: 5 points, 1 rebound  
Heather Mosley: 4 points, 5 rebounds

## DANCE

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The varsity team is looking forward to competing at the Thurston competition in Springfield, which starts at

12 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday.

All dance levels are preparing for the Spring Showcase, set for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12.

The cost is by donation to support the varsity girls’ trip to state com-

petition the following week.

A barbecue pulled-pork sandwich dinner will be available to purchase at 5:30 p.m. at the Spring Showcase.

Adair said she’s looking forward to the state

competition.

“If the team continues to work as hard as they have, we will have a strong, successful finish to our season,” she said. “This is such a great group of kids, and I’m really proud of them.”

# Spend spring break on the slopes

Blue Mountain Eagle

NORTH POWDER – Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort is again offering a Spring

Break Camp, Monday-Friday, March 23-27.

The program is open to local and regional students, ages 7-18, who wish to learn or improve their skiing and riding skills. They will be placed according to their skill level, and will ski and ride with the same group and instructor for the week.

The cost is \$80 per child, which includes five days of lift tickets, rentals and lessons. The daily schedule starts at 9 a.m. with check-in and rental pick-up. Lessons will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m., followed by free use of their ticket and rentals for the rest of the day until 4 p.m.

The registration deadline is Friday, March 20. Space is limited to 100 participants.

For more information, email chelsea@anthonylakes.com, call 541-856-3277, ext. 12, or by snail mail, contact Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort, Attn: Chelsea, 47500 Anthony Lake Hwy., North Powder, OR 97867.

Visit the resort at www.anthonylakes.com or on Facebook.

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Educators play an extremely important role in our community and are often underappreciated.

This year, Doug’s Motor Vehicle Repair is saying “Thank you, educators” by honoring an “Educator of the Month.”

Each month one local educator will be highlighted in the Blue Mountain Eagle and will receive a \$50 gift certificate from Doug’s Repair. Educator of the Year will receive \$1,000 to be donated to school of their choice.

Nominate your Local Hero by picking up a nomination form at the Blue Mountain Eagle or Doug’s Repair, or download a copy from the Blue Mountain Eagle’s website – [www.bluemountaineagle.com](http://www.bluemountaineagle.com).

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## BOWLING SCORES

**Nugget Lanes**  
Feb. 25  
**Nooners Senior League:**  
Men High Game: Doug Kruse 164  
Men High Series: Duane Daniels 403  
Women High Game: Chris Rowe 159  
Women High Series: Chris Rowe 454  
Feb. 26  
**Thursday Mixed 2K15:**  
Men High Game: Grant Benton 233  
Men High Series: Grant Benton 555  
Women High Game: Cheryl Leighton 159  
Women High Series: Cheryl Leighton 456

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