

# 2022 archery elk regulation proposal to be discussed at June 18 Commission meeting

Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff are preparing to brief the Commission at their June 18 meeting and seek input on how to best proceed with potential changes to current general season archery elk hunts.

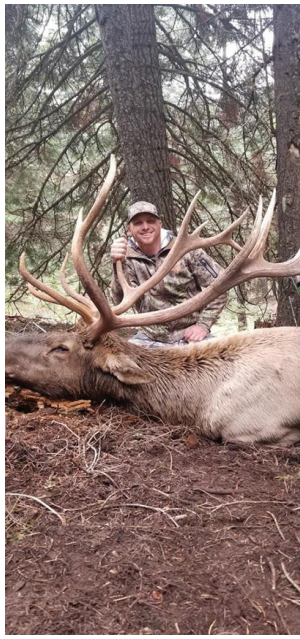
Changes are being considered for archery hunts in select Blue Mountains units where there are ongoing concerns with low post-season bull ratios, high archery harvest and hunter density, according to a press release. In proposing controlled hunts for these units, ODFW aims to reduce harvest for all users in areas where it's necessary (currently, all tag reductions in these areas go to rifle hunters) and decrease the likelihood of additional controlled units in the near future.

Archery elk changes were first proposed last year, but ODFW delayed taking them to the Commission for the 2021 season to better address public input and to better communicate the concerns that led to the proposal. In March 2021, ODFW released a draft for 2022 archery elk regulations that focused on addressing two primary public concerns: the lack of a remaining general season in Eastern Oregon and a more thorough biological explanation of the need for the change.

This initial proposal was to move several Blue Mountains hunts to controlled hunts and split remaining units into a General Western or General Eastern hunt. Under this concept, controlled unit tags would not be portable to general season hunts, so archery elk hunters would need to choose either Eastern Oregon General, Western Oregon General or the controlled hunt tag they drew.

ODFW has been accepting public comments and ideas on this proposal since March. Based on input from hunters, ODFW will present additional concepts for discussion at the June Commission meeting including:

- Several different options for the General Western/General Eastern season boundary — one breaking the boundary at the crest of the Cascades



Contributed photo  
**Ty Sharp poses with the elk he shot in 2019.**

and another that would include Cascade units in the General Eastern Oregon season.

- Another concept would retain a single general season in units not either currently within or proposed for a controlled hunt.

- A youth-only general season archery tag valid in most units statewide, to allow youth to hunt with family who may have a controlled tag.

- Grouping several units (Catherine Creek, Minam, Imnaha, Pine Creek and Keating) into one controlled hunt zone encompassing the Eagle Cap Wilderness area, in effort to maintain existing wilderness hunt characteristics.

These potential elk archery changes are part of a multi-year regulation review meant to improve regulations and align them with current biological objectives for wildlife with consideration of preferences among hunters.

Based on public input received and direction from the Commission in June, ODFW will prepare a final archery regulation proposal for consideration at the Aug. 6 Commission meeting.

Additional information about the big game review can be found at <https://myodfw.com/articles/big-game-hunting-season-review>.

Public testimony will be taking during the June 18 virtual meeting and comments can also be submitted to [ODFW.Wildlifeinfo@state.or.us](mailto:ODFW.Wildlifeinfo@state.or.us).

# Grant Union begins basketball season

Teams warming up after quick turnaround from spring sports

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The standings have not told the complete story of the Grant Union Prospectors boys basketball team's 0-2 start this season.

Prospectors head coach RC Huerta said Grant Union locked up the score at 16 apiece against Heppner in the May 26 game. However, Huerta said too many turnovers allowed the Mustangs to run away with the game, winning 64-44.

Huerta told the Eagle that senior Devon Stokes shot the ball well. In addition to Stokes' offensive output, Huerta said the team showed a lot of "grit" on the court.

"The score wasn't completely indicative of how the guys played," he said. "They showed resilience the entire time."

Huerta said the Mustangs are a "big and athletic" team, but the Pros are also, and Grant Union let the second half of the game get away from them. He said the team could not finish at the basket very well.

"We had some good looks but couldn't finish," he said.

In the Pros' 61-53 loss to Weston-McEwen May 24, Huerta said the team staged a comeback, but it was not enough to get them "over the top" to pick up the win.

With a shortened, COVID-19-condensed schedule, Huerta said the team



Eagle file photo

**Grant Union boy's basketball head coach RC Huerta during a previous season.**



**Senior Devon Stokes**



**Senior Jordan Hall**

barely had an opportunity to practice as a complete team because many of the players were finishing up their seasons in other spring sports.

He said, since then, the team has had some practices and solidified their offense. Huerta said he feels good about the team's defense too.

Huerta said the team this season has good senior leadership in Jordan Hall and Stokes. "The senior leaders are really helping the young guys come up," Huerta said.

The Grant Union girls basketball team fell to Heppner 51-30 May 26 in their only game so far. The Eagle was unable to reach head coach Jason Miller for comment.

# SHOOTING THE BREEZE Western wisdom

In the 1800s, gun manufacturing was a boom. Many companies with war contract inventory to liquidate sold to the commercial market saturated with Western-bound opportunists suffering from wanderlust. Innovators like Henry, Spencer, Winchester, Browning, Sharps and Wesson, to name a few, were rolling out new and revolutionary designs each year. The year 1873 alone saw the dawn of the famous Colt Peacemaker in .45 Colt, the Winchester Model 1873 in .44-40 and the .45-70 Government cartridge became available in various rifles.



**Dale Valade**

The Colt handgun was already a household item on the frontier with its Patterson and Walker models having been made famous in the hands of the Texas Rangers; the 1851 Colt Navy was the preferred choice for Wild Bill Hickok, and along with the 1860 Army saw extensive use in the war between the states. The Peacemaker was an instant success.

Winchester's levergun was the ultimate evolution of B. Tyler Henry's 1860 repeater. Winchester secured rights to the design and in 1866 released the "yellow boy," which shared Henry's brass frame and long tube magazine as well as the rim-fire .44 Flat cartridge. A loading gate and wooden forend were both welcome changes over the 1860's design. In 1873, the "gun that won the West" debuted with a steel frame and the more powerful .44-40 centerfire cartridge. The rifle and its round were also instant hits, combining the firepower of the fast cycling lever action with a reloadable, more powerful cartridge.

The .44-40 was so popular that nearly immediately Colt's engineers were set to modifying their Peacemaker to house the Winchester cartridge. The idea of being able to have a handgun and rifle in the same chambering was very sensible. Outposts, forts and mercantiles were quite a bit fewer and farther between back then so the versatility of being able to stock up on one caliber of ammo to then use as needed precluded a lot of potential problems. One such, which is unbelievably common even today, was chambering the wrong cartridge into the wrong gun. Especially if ammo was stored in a cartridge belt, the shooter would often retrieve the cartridges and load them by feel rather than taking the time to check the headstamp. On many occasions .44s went into .45s and vice versa. At worst, your gun could explode. At minimum, it was out of action, possibly leaving you hungry, definitely leaving you helpless.

Although there are a few rifle/pistol cartridge combos available today, the premise has largely been lost. Would it not be useful to have a 100-yard deer rifle and a self-defense handgun both using the same round? I, for one, would love to have a .357 or 10mm rifle and handgun combo.

Do you have a rifle and handgun in the same chambering? Write to us at [shootingthebreeze@me.com](mailto:shootingthebreeze@me.com)!

*Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.*



Contributed photo

**Golfers compete in the Jackson Razzle Dazzle tournament May 22-23: from left, Mandie Dowell, Maxine Day, Theresa Bex, Melody Jackson and Deborah Hayward.**

# Razzle Dazzle women's golf tourney returns to John Day Golf Course

35 golfers compete in annual tournament sponsored by Jacksons

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Jackson Razzle Dazzle women's golf tournament returned to the John Day Golf Course on May 22-23.

Tournament lead organizer Melissa Finlayson told the Eagle that 35 players competed in the annual event sponsored by longtime Grant County residents Greg and Melody Jackson.

"The sponsors, organizers, players and John Day Golf Club were so thankful to be able to hold the tournament," Finlayson said. Finlayson said rain shortened the individual play to nine holes.

Sarah Shinkle took first gross, and Lacy Avera took second in the first flight. After

that, the first net went to Teresa Lindgren, and the second went to Vickie Clemens.

Vicky Johnson won the first gross on the second flight while the second gross went to Mandi Dowell.

Stacey Radinovich took the first net, while Tina Williams and Linda McClellan tied for second.

Clemens, Melody Jackson, Melody Miller, Lisa Newman and Julie Woodbury were the top-grossing team in Sunday's nine-hole scramble. The team of McClellan, Lynda Farrell and Michele Jones placed first in net.

Finlayson said a committee plans the Razzle Dazzle every year, and the golf course holds it the week before Memorial Day weekend. She said the annual event is "full of golf, fun prizes, great payouts and lots of smiles."

Finlayson said she was named lead organizer this year and wanted to thank everyone who helped make the tournament a success.



Contributed photo

**Thirty-five golfers participated in the Jackson Razzle Dazzle tournament at the John Day Golf Club.**

# Grant Union wrestling team's Culver meet canceled on Saturday

Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant Union wrestling team head coach Andy Lusco told the Eagle Saturday that the Culver meet was canceled. The Pros will be at the Burns Invitational meet on Thursday, Lusco said.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### THURSDAY, JUNE 3

Grant Union basketball @ Crane, girls 4 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.  
Grant Union wrestling @ Burns, TBD

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