

Final archery elk proposal released for Aug. 6 Commission consideration

Single general season tag for units not proposed for controlled hunting

Blue Mountain Eagle

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has released the final proposal for commission consideration regarding changes to how archery elk season is managed for portions of Eastern Oregon within the Blue Mountain region, according to a press release.

This final proposal includes two major modifications from the original draft proposal released in March: Five units would be combined into a single Eagle Cap Zone hunt, and there would be a single general season hunt for any part of the state not proposed for controlled hunting. A map on the big game review page has more information. (The original proposal was for a general Western Oregon and general Eastern Oregon tag for any units not managed as controlled hunts.)

These changes are needed to help



Contributed photo/Gary Lewis

A bull elk in Northeast Oregon. The hunting season for archers could change from a general season to a controlled season starting in 2022 in many parts of the region.

wildlife managers meet elk plan objectives in areas with low bull ratios and in areas with a high percentage of branch-antlered bull harvest occurring within the general archery season. Current manage-

ment strategy only allows managers to alter harvest during the controlled any-legal-weapon hunts, resulting in significant changes to the season structure and tag numbers for rifle hunting over the last 30 years.

This proposal will be presented at the Aug. 6 commission meeting for potential adoption. To see the full proposal, see Exhibit B at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/21/08_Aug/index.asp.

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

The Aug. 6 Commission meeting will be online via Zoom. To testify about the proposal, register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5F152fCyTdyidRFGazIDRW no later than 48 hours before the meeting (Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 8 a.m. PT). Comments can also be sent to odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov.

The remainder of the 2022 hunting regulations will be presented at

the September commission meeting.

Under the proposal, 13 wildlife management units (WMUs) and three sub-unit hunts would move to controlled archery seasons. These hunts would be added to the current seven WMUs within the Blue Mountains already managed for regulated archery seasons. These controlled hunts would be the only opportunity for archers who draw and purchase those tags.

Within the units proposed for regulatory change, ODFW is proposing a mix of single WMU and a zone hunt to obtain the reduction in harvest that is the goal of moving to controlled archery. Both alternatives provide the control necessary for wildlife managers to regulate take to achieve the overall bull harvest reduction needed to meet agency objectives.

WMUs not proposed for controlled hunts would remain under the current statewide general season framework, allowing archers to continue to move in response to conditions throughout the state during the archery season.



Darwin Leslie "Les" Rasmussen

In Remembrance of Darwin Leslie ("Les") Rasmussen December 5, 1929 – June 14, 2021

Les was born on December 5, 1929 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Lois (Negus) and Darwin L. Rasmussen. He grew up in Minneapolis spending many summers with his grandparents, Cliff and Jen Negus, on their farm in Georgia, South Dakota until they sold in 1942 and moved to Crescent Oregon and then later to Mt. Vernon.

When Les was 14 years old, his father died and he knocked around a bit, ending up in Crescent with his grandparents and working at the family-owned service station. During this time he had many adventures, including working as a "canvas man" for a circus that toured the small towns in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Les joined the Navy in 1948 where he was assigned to a minesweeper, the USS Grosbeak, as their "tech guy" (radarman, radioman and sonarman). After his discharge in 1952, Les headed back to the Mt. Vernon area, where many of the Negus clan had migrated from South Dakota in the 40s.

Les got a job at the Central Oregon Lumber Company in Mt. Vernon and later married Clea Leach (nee Green) of Mt. Vernon. He moved his family to Albany and then Corvallis, Oregon so he could attend college on the GI Bill. Shortly after the move in 1954 the "twins" were born and it was a challenging time for the new parents. Another child, Randy, was born in 1956.

Les brought his family back to Mt. Vernon in 1958, four credits short of graduating with his bachelor's degree. He fed cattle and went back to work at the mill. Educators were in short supply in the rural areas back then and friends encouraged him to finish up those last courses and he was able to obtain a provisional teaching certificate. Les started teaching 7th and 8th grade at Mt. Vernon School in the fall of 1958 until 1961.

In 1961 Les received a VA scholarship to attend Portland State University. He packed up the family and headed for Portland, Oregon. After graduating with his Masters of Education, Les began teaching at Dale Ickes Jr High in Milwaukie, Oregon as a guidance counselor. In 1972 Les moved back to Mt. Vernon, bought property outside of town, and fulfilled a lifelong dream of building a home with his own hands. During this time, his marriage to Clea ended after 18 years.

In 1974 Les accepted an offer to work for Curry County Human Services as a Vocational Rehab counselor in the Coos Bay office. It was after moving to Coos Bay that Les met Connie Neimi, who became his wife on July 5, 1976. They were married for nearly 35 years until her death in March of 2009.

After Les's retirement in 1991 the couple moved to Brookings, Oregon. There Les kept busy with his ham radio club, volunteering with Curry County Search and Rescue, and helping his stepson, Dayle Neimi, with his car club projects.

After his wife's death, Les lived in a travel home on Kimball Creek Bend on the Rogue River, with his dog pal, Sadie, until moving back to Brookings in 2012. He lived there happily with his canine friend until his blindness necessitated a move to assisted living in September 2020 where he died quietly in his sleep in the early hours of June 14, 2021.

This undated message from Les was found among his papers: "It's been a really good life, and it is just too bad that I didn't figure that out until I was about 75 ++ Now I am smiling about all 'them' things I thought were so important and sometimes painful for me during those years. If a wish is granted to me - it would be that my kids and their "treasured ones" will continue to find joy and happiness in their lives in the years to come ... Be whoever and whatever you want to be. Take - and cherish - friends where you find them. Good-bye"

He is survived by his children, Ricky Rasmussen of San Marcos, California, Penny Godwin of Portland, Oregon and Randy Rasmussen of Prineville, Oregon, their "treasured ones" his seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Connie, her two children and his stepdaughter, Pat Sweet.

At Les's request, no memorial services are planned. If you would like to send your memories of Les to his family, please email them at penny.godwin@comcast.net. Paid for by the Family of Les Rasmussen.

S254844-1

USDA provides pandemic relief opportunity for timber harvesters and haulers

Blue Mountain Eagle

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing up to \$200 million in relief funds to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that experienced losses due to COVID-19 as part of USDA's

Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers program is administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, and was authorized in the

2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Loggers and truckers can apply for assistance July 22 through Oct. 15, 2021.

Timber harvesting and hauling businesses that have experienced a gross revenue loss of at least 10% from

Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2020, when compared to Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2019, are encouraged to apply.

For more information, visit usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/05/20/usda-announces-assistance-coastal-communities-priority-national.

Grammy-winning Shenandoah to perform at Silvies Aug. 8

Blue Mountain Eagle

Country artists Shenandoah will perform in Grant County in August.

The Grammy, Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music award-winning group will give a special acoustic performance at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 8 at the Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch near Seneca.

A local band may open the show beforehand. Attendance is limited to 200 guests.

Concert and dinner packages, including a concert ticket, barbecue dinner, three drink tickets and parking, cost \$200.

For more information, call 1-800-SILVIES or visit silvies.us/packages.php.



Contributed photo

Award-winning country artists Shenandoah will perform at The Retreat & Links at Silvies Valley Ranch Aug. 8.

OBITUARIES

Byron L. Rudishauser

Byron L. Rudishauser, 86, died Saturday, July 17, at his home. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 31, at the Prairie City Cemetery. LaFollette's Chapel is in charge of funeral arrangements.

South Fork John Day Watershed Funding Available

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council, in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, is offering funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program for juniper removal, forest health, upland water developments and pasture fencing. Funding is available to private landowners within the South Fork John Day Watershed.

TO LEARN MORE CALL: 541-792-0435

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To the family and many friends of the late William (Bill) R. Thomas, we wish to extend our sincere **thanks** for your many kindnesses, flowers, cards and for the condolences and support that we have received. We wish to thank the Blue Mtn Hospital staff for their care of Bill while he was resting in their presence; to Pastor Randy for his ministry and help to Bill and the family; to the ladies of the Nazarene Church for providing a wonderful luncheon where we could all meet and reflect on present and past memories; to Driskill's for their service and to the American Legion and Color Guard for their participation and presentation of the US Flag at the graveside services. Most of all, we wish to thank the LORD, Almighty for relieving Bill of all his pain and sorrows as He welcomed him home.

Your many acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be a great comfort to us in our time of sorrow.

In loving memory of Bill,

his family - Judy, Linda, Bill, Chuck, Marvin, David, John & Brad

S254822-1

TOM CHRISTENSEN

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Last Week's Temps

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| John Day | HI/LO |
| Tuesday | 89/62 |
| Wednesday | 87/57 |
| Thursday | 88/52 |
| Friday | 91/51 |
| Saturday | 93/55 |
| Sunday | 99/59 |
| Monday | 85/63 |

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 28 - AUG. 3

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | | |
| Mostly sunny | Chance of thunderstorms | Hot | Chance of thunderstorms | Chance of thunderstorms | Chance of thunderstorms | Mostly sunny |
| 92 | 96 | 99 | 98 | 90 | 92 | 96 |
| 61 | 64 | 66 | 65 | 61 | 57 | 57 |