

## Hansell announces candidacy for Senate District 29

Bill Hansell, current Umatilla County Commissioner, will run for State Senate District 29.

Hansell was born and raised in Athena, where his family has farmed for four generations. He and his wife, Margaret, raised their six children in the area and are currently active in the community.

Senate District 29 now includes the counties of Morrow, Union, Walla, Gilliam, Sherman and a portion of Wasco County. The primary election is set for May 15.

Hansell will be running to replace long-time Senator David Nelson, who is not seeking re-election and is an early supporter of Hansell's.

"I am proud to be an early supporter of Bill

Hansell for State Senate, and encouraged him to run. Bill is an experienced and dedicated leader who understands Eastern Oregon and I know he will continue to build on the work that I have accomplished in the State Senate," said Nelson.

Hansell announces his campaign with strong local support and support of the State Senate Republican Caucus leader.

Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli said, "I am looking forward to having Bill in the Oregon State Legislature. He is a strong fighter for conservative values and, with over 30 years of local government experience, he will be an invaluable part of the team. I am

enthusiastically supporting him in his campaign."

Currently, Hansell's finance team is being chaired by Senator Nelson, Hermiston leaders Roger Bounds and TJ Hansell, and Pendleton lawyer Steve Corey.

Also joining in early support of Hansell's bid for State Senate are more than 25 county and city officials—representing all counties fully within Senate District 29—and both state representatives from the area, Bob Jensen and Greg Smith. Hansell says he expects additional supporters to be added to the coalition in the coming weeks as the word of his candidacy spreads.



Bill Hansell

## Commission on transportation meets

The North East Area Commission on Transportation (NEACT) will hold its next meeting on Feb. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 5 headquarters at 3012 Island Avenue in La Grande.

The NEACT, comprised of transportation stakeholders from Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Walla and Baker counties, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, helps identify and prioritize transportation-related projects in the five-county area. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities, per the Americans with Disabilities Act. The general

public is invited to attend.

On the agenda are: general updates on Oregon Transportation Commission and current ODOT projects; Byways Committee, Transit, League of Oregon Cities/Association of Oregon Counties updates; local program update; NEACT county/city roundtable; bike/pedestrian steering committee update; Jobs and Transportation Act (JTA) projects status and ConnectOregon IV update; and speed study presentation.

Time has been set aside for public comments regarding project proposals and other transportation related topics. To schedule time on the agenda at future NEACT meetings, contact Lisa Hill at 541-963-3179.

An Area Commission on Transportation is an advisory body chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission to help address all aspects of transportation. More information about ACTs is available at the ODOT Web Site at <http://www.responsetrack.net>.

Meeting information can be made available in alternate format upon request for persons with disabilities, such as sign language interpreter, etc. To request alternate formats, or for more information about this meeting, call Lisa Hill at 541-963-3179 or email at [Lisa.A.Hill@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Lisa.A.Hill@odot.state.or.us). Please request alternate formats at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

## CIG pre-proposal deadline January 31

Reprinted from Oregon Wheat Newsletter

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminds applicants that January 31, is the last day to submit project pre-proposals for fiscal year 2012 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Pre-proposals support large-scale demonstration projects that test and prove original approaches to conserving America's private lands.

"These conservation grants continue to generate exciting new ideas

that help farmers and ranchers run sustainable and profitable operations and address high-priority natural resource concerns," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We are proud to encourage the advancement of innovative conservation methods that will benefit producers, the public and the economy for years to come."

This year's CIG projects focus on nutrient management, energy conservation, soil health, wildlife and CIG projects assessment.

Results of successful projects will be included

in NRCS policy, technical manuals, guides and references.

CIG funds will be awarded through a competitive grants process. At least 50 percent of the total cost of CIG projects must come from non-federal matching funds, including cash and in-kind contributions provided by the grant recipient.

To apply electronically, visit <http://www.grants.gov/> or contact a local NRCS office. To view the complete announcement of program funding, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/cig/>.

## Report hunt results by deadline to win special tag

Penalty for not reporting will begin in 2013

Hunters need to report the results of most big game and turkey hunts by Jan. 31, 2012. Hunters should complete a report for each and every deer, elk, bear, cougar, pronghorn and turkey tag purchased, even if they didn't fill their tag or go hunting. The participation and harvest rate information is critical for setting tags and seasons.

Report online or by phone at 1-866-947-6339. To complete the report, hunters need the following information:

- Hunter/Angler ID# (ODFW ID#), which is printed on all licenses and tags
- Number of days hunted
- If they mentored a youth during the hunt
- Wildlife management unit where hunted
- Number of antler points on the side of their animal with the most points

So far, only about 37% of 2011 tags have been reported.

The Jan. 31 reporting deadline is for hunts that ended between April 1 and Dec. 31, 2011. April 15, 2012 is the deadline for reporting hunts ending between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2012.

Hunters that meet the appropriate Jan. 31 or April 15 deadlines will be entered into a contest to win one of three special big game tags. Winners choose the tag (deer, elk or pronghorn) and may take an either-sex animal during an extended season and in an expanded hunt area that allows them to hunt nearly statewide.

Reporting hunt results has been mandatory since 2008 and is meant to eventually replace phone harvest survey calls that determined hunter participation and harvest rates. Oregon was one of the last Western states to adopt mandatory hunt reporting. Reporting rates were low in other states until penalty fees were introduced.

Since 2008, reporting rates have been too low and ODFW has continued to call a percentage of hunters by phone to get the needed data. To bring hunter reporting rates up, ODFW will begin charging a penalty fee to hunters who don't report on time. The fee will be set by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in October 2012, during the 2013 big game regulation setting process. ODFW's proposal to the commission

is to charge a fee of up to \$25 to hunters who fail to report on deer and elk tags, as these tags have some of the lowest reporting rates. The fee will take effect for unreported 2013 tags, with hunters facing the penalty when they purchase their 2014 hunting license. Year 2014 licenses go on sale Dec. 1, 2013.

"We were hoping a penalty fee would not be necessary but despite all our efforts to get the word out, reporting rates are still too low to phase out phone surveys," said Tom Thornton, ODFW game program manager. "It only takes a few minutes to report, and the information is critical to setting big game seasons."

"We do thank all the hunters that have reported on time," Thornton added.

Since reporting became mandatory in 2008, ODFW has gotten the word out through press releases, on the front page of the regulations, postcards to hunters, advertising online, in the regulations and by offering the chance to win a special big game tag. Hunter reporting rates averaged 58 percent in 2010, 37 percent in 2009 and less than 15 percent in 2008.

## Chance to win Sports Pac

Apply early for controlled hunt

Apply for a fall big game controlled hunt by January 31 and you will be entered into a drawing to win one of 50 2013 Sports Pacs, each a \$164.75 value.

For the third year, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is awarding a total of 100 Sports Pacs among the pool of hunters who apply for and are issued a fall big game controlled hunt application before April 15. While residents receive a Sports Pac, non-residents selected in the drawing will win a hunting license (a \$140.50 value).

The purpose of the drawings is to encourage hunters to apply for controlled hunts early, well before the May 15 deadline. The sooner hunters apply, the better their chances of winning one of the three drawings:

50 Sports Pacs (or non-resident hunting licenses) will be awarded among the pool of hunters who apply between Dec. 1, 2011 and Jan. 31.

30 Sports Pacs (or non-resident hunting licenses) will be awarded among the pool of hunters who apply by March 15.

20 Sports Pacs (or non-resident hunting licenses) will be awarded among the pool of hunters who apply by April 15.

A Sports Pac includes a combination angling/hunting/shellfish license, a combined angling harvest tag, a validation for upland bird and waterfowl hunting, plus a general or controlled deer, general or controlled elk, general cougar, general or controlled bear and spring turkey tag.

The drawings will take place Feb. 1, March 16 and April 19; winners will be notified by mail. Hunters unsuccessful in the first or second drawing will be re-entered into future drawings. Only one entry per hunter is allowed, so hunters who apply for several controlled hunts will still only be entered once. Controlled spring bear hunt applicants are not eligible for the drawing.

Hunters can apply for controlled hunts online, at a license sales agent, at ODFW offices that sell licenses, or by mail or fax order using the fax or mail order application (also found on page 17 of the 2012 Oregon Big Game Regulations).

Mail order/fax applicants should allow 7-10 days for their applications to be processed and issued. Remember, to be eligible for the drawing, the controlled hunt application must be issued, not just received, by the drawing deadlines.

Controlled hunt applications can be processed and issued immediately online, at license sales agents or ODFW offices.

The deadline to apply for a controlled hunt is May 15 each year. In 2011, 79,481 out of 380,639 total applications, or almost 21 percent, were processed by April 15, 2011. That compares to 21 percent in 2011 and 16 percent in 2010.

"Most controlled hunt applications are received during the last few days," said Deanna Erickson, ODFW license sales services manager. "However, these drawings have increased the number of early applicants."

In the past, the high volume of sales activity in the last few days prior to the deadline led to long lines and slowed or crashed the system.

The vendor that manages the license sales system is purchasing the Sports Pac and non-resident hunting licenses for the winners.

Some of Oregon's big game hunts are limited entry, including almost all rifle hunting of deer and elk east of the Cascades and pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat hunts. These hunts require a controlled hunt application.

## Firewood permit reminder

With the lack of snowfall this winter, many areas of the forest are still accessible for firewood gathering. Many folks are taking advantage of the weather and are out cutting firewood.

It is a new year, which means it time to purchase a new Personal Use Firewood Permit for 2012. Permits purchased before January 1, 2012 have expired and are no longer valid. A 2012 permit may be purchased in person at Malheur National Forest offices in John Day, Prairie City and Burns. A minimum of four cords (\$20) per transaction is required; each

cord thereafter is \$5. Beginning this year, the Malheur National Forest has raised the maximum number of cords per household from 10 to 16.

Firewood cutters are reminded that the cutting of Tamarack is not allowed from November 1 through April 30.

Your permit and related documents must be with you at all times while cutting or transporting firewood. A new load tag must be validated by completely removing the month and day that you are removing the firewood. The validated tag must be attached to the back of the load prior to

moving the vehicle from the cutting area, and tags must be clearly visible. One tag is required for every 1/2 cord of firewood, or any portion thereof. Load tags may not be re-used. Load tickets may not be sold, traded or used to remove fuel-wood under another permit.

If you fail to properly tag your load or validate your load ticket(s), you are in violation of the terms and conditions of your permit and you may be subject to fines, penalties or further prosecution.

For further information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur) or phone 541-575-3000.



Vinyl Lettering for windows  
Magnetic Door Signs

Heppner Gazette-Times 541-676-9228

Send news stories to:  
[editor@rapidservice.net](mailto:editor@rapidservice.net)