

**Ike Says . . .**

**From page 2**

usually do not winter so far north. What is theorized is that elk that customarily use the area have developed certain microorganisms needed to neutralize the acid in the lichens. The elk from Colorado did not have the microorganisms.

Researchers are now turning their attention to the lichen, trying to determine if they contained an abnormal amount of acid and if the prolonged drought in the area is a factor. Unfortunately, the die-off killed up to 5 percent of the Sierra Madre herd's breeding females, which could affect hunting quotas this fall and trigger wildlife policy changes.

Research closer to home involves the Snake River hunt unit. Recent concerns have developed around allowing motorized access to the Lord Flat Road (Western Rim Recreation Trail #1774) during Bow sea-

son because of the numbers of hunters that concentrate along the trail. According to Tim Schommer, a Forest Wildlife Biologist, the concentration of hunters on the rim road is pushing deer and elk down the hill into the middle bench country, which is about a 2,000 foot drop in elevation. The concern stems from the fact that the high ground is summer forage area and the middle bench is a winter feeding area.

Schommer and ODF&W biologist Vic Coggins agree that it is not good for either elk nutrition or the condition of the vegetation to have hundreds of elk on the winter range three months early. The area ecologist indicates his sampling of vegetation in the middle bench country shows the plant condition declining over the last 20 years. He strongly recommends that elk numbers be reduced. Schommer and Coggins also agree that closing the

Lord Flat area to vehicles during all hunting seasons will help retain elk longer on the plateaus.

Schommer became concerned when he did surveys in 2001 and 2002, traveling the plateau on both sides of Lord Flat Road from the headwaters of Cow Creek to the Lord Flat airstrip. The survey included all or portions of the following plateaus: Windy Ridge, Wing Ridge, Somers Point, Mormon Flat, Dorrance, and Lord Flat. Schommer did his first survey just before Bow season, then one after Bow season. The results were startling. Before the season upwards of 250 elk were seen, with abundance of sign. After the season, less than six elk were observed during the three-day surveys and elk sign was very scarce. Deer sightings and sign were scarce on both pre- and post-season surveys. To confirm his suspicions, Schommer rode down to the middle bench country after Bow season and the elk were there. There is now a movement to close Trail 1774 to motorized traffic, if you have a concern about this move, contact Karyn Wood, Supervisor, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, Oregon 97814.

**Izaak Walton League  
Nehalem Valley Chapter**  
meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location of meeting.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF DISTRICT MEASURE ELECTION**

Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District

Notice is hereby given that on May 18, 2004, a measure election will be held in Columbia County, Oregon.

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters on this date.

**5-122 CAPTION**

Renewal of 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Operating Funds.

QUESTION  
Shall the five-year Columbia 9-1-1 operating levy be renewed, at .29 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, in 2004?

\*This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.\*  
SUMMARY

This measure may be passed only at an election with at least 50 percent voter turnout.

The current Operating Levy for Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District, approved by voters in 1998, is due for renewal every five years. The renewal for the five-year period beginning in 2004 will be at a slightly reduced rate.

This measure is unchanged from the measure proposed in the November 4, 2003 election, which received 69.8% approval but was invalidated because voter turnout fell 1% short of the 50% turnout requirement.

The five-year Operating Fund supports all ongoing functions of the 9-1-1 call center; maintaining emergency communications service for all communities and unincorporated areas throughout the county; 24-hour staffing and training; coordination and dispatching for 16 public safety agencies in Columbia County, including fire, emergency medical and police in each community, and related support services for State Police and State Forestry Department.

The Operating Levy renewal would be at a rate of .29 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or \$29 per year, plus the permanent rate of .0002554 cents, or \$25.54 per year. For a home assessed at \$100,000 this totals approximately \$54.00 per year. Over the five-year period, the Operating Levy is estimated to raise a total of \$4,762,397; \$877,442 in the first year;

**LEGAL NOTICES**

\$907,098 in the second year; \$960,843 in the third year; \$992,304 in the fourth year and \$1,024,710 in the fifth year.

"The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate."

The following authorized district official hereby certifies the above ballot title is true and complete.

**Sally J. Jones  
Administrator**

Signed: March 18, 2004

Publish April 1, 2004

**NOTICE OF BUDGET MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Vernonia School District 47J, Columbia, State of Oregon, on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 will be held at 475 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon. The meeting will take place on the 22nd day of April, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after 4-22/2004, at Vernonia School District Office, 475 Bridge Street, Vernonia, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Listed below is the time and place of an additional Budget Committee meeting that will be held to take public comment. Any person may appear at this meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Date: May 20, 2004 Time: 6:00 p.m. Location: 475 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR. Publish April 1 and April 15, 2004

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