

Meetings on big game hunting season for public comment

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has announced a series of public meetings around the state to accept public comment on proposals for this fall's big game hunting seasons, including controlled hunts and 2007 big game hunting regulations.

ODFW staff will review big game regulations and season dates, information about herd health and populations, and proposals for the number of controlled big game hunting tags to issue this year.

Oregon offers both general seasons and controlled hunts for big game. For controlled hunts, the number of tags is limited and hunters must apply for them by May 15.

There is no limit to the number of general season tags sold.

The following public meetings are scheduled:

May 4 - SEASIDE: 4-7 p.m., Oregon Convention Center,

Sea Mist room, 415 First Ave.

May 10 - CLACKAMAS: ODFW NW Regional Office, Bldg 16, 17330 SE Evelyn St.

May 11 - SALEM: 7-9 p.m., Chemeketa Community College, building 150, room 111, 4000 Lancaster Dr. NE

May 16 - NEWPORT: 6:30 - 8 p.m., Hatfield Marine Science Center, Classroom 28, 2030 SE Marine Science Dr.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider ODFW recommendations and set the number of tags available for the 2006 controlled hunts at its June 9 meeting in Salem.

Interested individuals may provide input on Department proposals during public testimony at the June 9 meeting in Salem. Written comments can be sent to ODFW Wildlife Division, 3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303 or e-mailed to odfw.comments@state.or.us

Angling recycle program expansion announced

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) officials has announced the expansion of a program that provides streamside recycling stations for collecting discarded fishing line and tackle.

Fishing line breaks down slowly and, if discarded in lakes or streams or left on the banks, it can entangle small animals

and birds, especially waterfowl. Discarded line and tackle can also be a safety hazard to anglers, boaters, and others who enjoy Oregon's lakes and streams.

The angling line and tackle collection program started in 2004 with 26 collection stations in six major stream basins including the Sandy, North Santi-

am, Salmon, Rogue, North Umpqua and Crooked rivers. Anglers are encouraged to use the stations for proper disposal of monofilament line, fluorocarbon leaders, lines, lead weights and lures.

Volunteers with the ODFW Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program help build and install the stations, maintain them, and process the collected line and tackle. In 2005, STEP received an \$8,143 grant from the ODFW Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program to construct and place an additional 50 collection stations at locations throughout Oregon.

"Because of this program's success, particularly with reducing the amount of discarded fishing line around rivers and lakes, the Legislature recently made it a permanent ODFW program," said STEP Coordinator Gary Galovich. "The expanded program also creates the need for more volunteers."

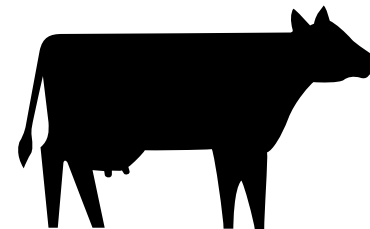
Interested volunteers should call Galovich at 503-947-6232 or contact local ODFW offices and ask to speak with the area STEP biologist.



Brethauer Vernonia Station, at Bridge St. and Jefferson Ave., closed after March 31. According to local amateur historians, this building became a gas station in about 1948. First it was a Texaco, then an Exxon, then 76, and lastly Brethauer. Before becoming a gas station, a 1930s Federal Works Progress Administration project built a bandstand on the site, where it is said, anyone could stand up and toot their horn.

Apply now to be the Dairy Princess

Columbia County chapter of the Oregon Dairy Women's Association is accepting applications for candidates for Columbia County Dairy Princess Ambassador.



A Dairy Princess Ambassador represents Columbia County in the State Dairy Princess Contest and travels around the county and state to promote the dairy industry. To enter a county contest, a girl must be at least sixteen years old, at least a high school junior, and not over age 23 as of June 1. A candidate must be a resident of the state of Oregon for at least 12 months prior to the contest. She must be single, never married or had a child and, if not living at home, must never have or currently be co-habiting.

A candidate must qualify in one of these areas: (a) Lived or worked on a dairy farm or facility at some time during her life;

(b) currently the daughter of anyone employed full-time on an operating dairy farm; (c) anyone presently employed full-time as an owner or employee of a milk processing plant or milk distributor; (d) or any person employed in a dairy-related industry; (e) a member of 4-H or FFA who has a dairy project, including raising a heifer to milk production.

Qualified candidates should contact Diane Larson at 503-397-0418 by Saturday, April 15.

County Dairy Women raise funds to support the Dairy Princess Ambassador Program, which focuses on developing the "inner beauty" of a wholesome young woman through poise, presentation, and public speaking. They seek local support through fundraising activities for scholarships toward higher education for both young women and men pursuing careers in or out of the dairy industry.

County Dairy Women will also be on the moove to various activities across the county this Spring and Summer serving delicious milk shakes, floats, sundaes, ice cream, and of course, ice cold milk.

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