

2008 big game rules announced

The Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted 2008 big game regulations on October 12. Among the changes hunters will see next year are:

- Successful bear hunters will be required to check-in skulls within 10 days of harvest at an ODFW office during regular business hours (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Participation in this currently voluntary program is not high enough, triggering the mandatory check-in requirement under the state's bear management plan.

- Hunters will get controlled late season buck hunting opportunities in 2008 (a total of 90 tags, in six hunts – three archery hunts and three firearms hunts). Bow hunters that obtain these controlled tags will not be able to hunt during the general archery season.

- Due to the ability of ODFW's new point-of-sale system to better track licenses, hunters will no longer forfeit preference points if they do not apply for a controlled hunt for two consecutive years.

- Future hunters may begin applying for preference points at age nine rather than age 11. The new rule will enable young hunters and their families to invest in future hunting opportunities and more quickly have the opportunity to hunt. Young hunters applying for preference points will be required to have a social security number, a hunter/angler identification number, and to purchase an adult hunting license.

- Under a law passed by the state legislature to simplify the process for disabled hunters, hunters can now be certified as disabled by a licensed physician, not just a licensed physician or a certified nurse practitioner.

In response to public testi-

mony, and so department staff can clarify certain parts of the rule, the Commission chose to delay adoption of rules to manage special department-appointed agents who could pursue bears or cougars with dogs. The Commission will again consider adoption of agent rules during the December 7 meeting in Salem.

Sport-hunting of cougars and bears with dogs is not legal in Oregon under Measure 18, which Oregon voters passed in 1994. Measure 18 explicitly allowed ODFW and its agents to use hounds when implementing bear and cougar management but did not clearly grant the department authority to designate agents. To clarify the law, the 2007 Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2971 which provides the department with clear authority to designate agents.

The Commission also adopted rules for the commercial crab industry that reduce the time period for permit transfers, ease buoy tag replacements, and require log book reporting so both the industry and department can better understand industry operations.

Finally, the Commission adopted staff-proposed long-term management plans for the Summer Lake and White River wildlife areas and appointed three people to the Restoration and Enhancement Board, which grants funds for projects that improve fisheries. Jack Glass of Troutdale was appointed to the sport fishing position, Terry Learned of Cloverdale to the troll fishing position and Dixie Boley of Gold Beach to the seafood processing position on the board.

The Commission is the policy-making body for fish and wildlife issues in the state. The seven-member panel meets monthly.

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer,
General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



Energy Efficiency Tips

With the advent of a rate increase starting this month, I wanted to be able to help our members find ways to use energy more efficiently. Knowing that a

lot of our members cannot afford to change the source of heat in their homes and some of the other methods of cutting heating and cooling costs are too expensive; we have compiled a list of less expensive ways to achieve energy efficiency without spending a lot of money. Along with this list, we are inviting each of our members to stop by the Co-op office and obtain a free energy efficient light bulb called a CFL. The CFLs use a quarter of the energy that traditional lights use and last up to ten times longer. While we are in the business of providing electricity, we want to encourage and assist in the efficient use of it. Using the following energy tips will help you save energy and money throughout the year.

- Lower your thermostat at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms (unless you have a heat pump). Set your thermostat back at night at least 10 degrees.

- Lower the thermostat and dress warmer. As little as 1 to 3 degrees makes a noteworthy difference in energy consumption.

Pioneer Museum schedules next talk

The Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association will present another in its Museum Talk series on Sunday, October 21, at 2:00 p.m., at the Museum, 511 E. Bridge Street. October's speaker will be Lona Pierce who has done extensive research on the Virgil Powell diaries that are a part of the museum's collection.

Powell was an early settler in the Mist and Vernonia area; he kept daily diaries for over fifty years, recording his daily work activities, the weather, wildlife observations, and other topics, including his work as a firefighter on the Tillamook

Burn in the 1930s.

Pierce is writing a book based on his detailed observations of natural phenomena and daily life in the Nehalem Valley during the first half of the twentieth century.

Bazaar, Oct. 27

A Holiday Bazaar, presented by the Scappoose Senior Center, will be held Saturday, October 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 33342 SW Meadow Dr., Scappoose.

Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be available. Buy and/or sell handcrafted items and collectibles. Call 543-2047 or come by to rent tables.

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