Still time to apply for free Sports Pacs in drawings from ODFW

A lucky 48 Oregon hunters won free 2011 Sports Pacs and two non-residents won a free annual 2011 hunting license because they applied early for their 2010 fall big game con-

trolled hunts.

ODFW and the vendor that manages its license sales system are giving away a total of 100 free 2011 Sports Pacs (for Oregon residents, a \$164.75

Power of the People

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



Project Updates

With two major projects on our plates for 2010, we will be kept very busy this year. Thank goodness we have not had a FEMA storm event to deal with this winter so we can focus our time and energy on these two key projects that are a result of the flood event. I will keep you updated as they

progress.

The first project is to construct a new substation for Vernonia out of the flood plain. Since \$475,000 of the cost of the project will be in an earmark grant from the Federal Government, there are requirements and conditions that must be met before the funds will be released. The major one is being accomplished now — a thorough environmental review must be conducted and signed off by a certified government agency or THUD, (Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development), which will be funding the earmark. We are working with the City of Vernonia as the government agency and the review is being conducted by David Evans and Associates. We expect the review to be completed by the end of this month.

Until the review is completed and signed off, we are not allowed to do any actual construction, or purchase anything for the project. What we are allowed to do and are working on at this time, is all of the engineering, design, and specs for the project. Elcon and Associates, our contract engineering firm, is conducting this phase of the project. We know the specs on the transformers now, and are ready to order as soon as the review is signed. Construction will begin as soon as possible and we hope for completion by the end of this fall.

The second project, a new Headquarters facility, has several things going at the same time. An Environmental Assessment Phase 1 and Phase 2 are being conducted by GeoEngineers, a Traffic and Storm Drainage Study is being conducted by David Evans and Associates, a clear Title for all of the pieces of property that will make up the entire site for the facilities is being completed, a Sales and Purchase Agreement has been finalized, and the building design has been started. All of these preliminary activities will lay the groundwork for the permitting process.

It is our intent to have this all completed in time for construction to begin in early summer, with completion by the end of this year. We want to take advantage of the current low construction costs to keep the total price of the project as low as possible, and we do not want to run the risk of being here through another winter storm and flood season.

As soon as the Sales and Purchase Agreement is signed, we will be able to officially announce the successful bidder for construction of the new Headquarter facilities. I can tell you that we were successful in finding a local firm to meet our goal of using local labor. The construction firm selected will have in their contract the requirement to use as much local products, goods, and services as possible.

Since I will be serving as the Project Manager, I will personally be able to oversee any and all purchases to make sure this requirement is met. It is our intent to use this project to stimulate the local economy as much as we possibly can to help our members. value) or Non-Resident Hunting Licenses (for non-residents, a \$140.50 value) to encourage hunters to apply early for their 2010 fall big game hunts. A Sports Pac includes a Combination Angling/Hunting/Shell-fish License, a Combined Angling Harvest Tag, a Validation for Upland Bird and Waterfowl hunting, plus a General or Controlled Buck Deer, General or Controlled Elk, General Cougar, General or Controlled Bear and Spring Turkey Tag.

Fifty more 2011 Sports Pacs or Non-Resident Hunting Licenses will be given away over two separate drawings. To be eligible, hunters must:

Apply for and be issued a

controlled hunt application by March 15, 2010 for a chance to win one of 30 Sports Pac or Non-Resident Hunting Licenses.

• Apply for and be issued a controlled hunt application by April 15, 2010 for a chance to win one of the remaining 20 Sports Pac or Non-Resident Hunting Licenses.

The next drawings will take place March 16 and April 19 and winners will be notified by mail. Hunters unsuccessful in early drawings are re-entered into future drawings. Only one entry per hunter is allowed, meaning hunters that apply for several controlled hunts are still entered only once.

Hunters can apply for con-

trolled hunts online, at a license sales agent, at ODFW offices that sell licenses, or by mail or fax order using the application found here or on page 15 of the 2010 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 (March 15 and April 15). Controlled hunt applications can be processed and issued immediately online and at license sales agents or ODFW offices.







Consider all of the conditions before you drive this winter.

Winter weather in Oregon can make driving downright hazardous at times. But weather isn't the only condition that leads to safe winter driving. Here are a few things to consider before you hit the road.

Weather conditions Check a weather web site, such as www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/pacnorthwest.php, for driving conditions to help you decide when and if to hit the road, or across the mountains and into the city.

Road conditions Oregon Department of Transportation continually updates www.tripcheck.org with road and weather conditions, construction zones and road camera views.

Your car's condition How are your tires? Do you have chains? You should also be prepared with emergency supplies, a full tank of gas and a charged cell phone so you can call 9-1-1 in an emergency. We hope you never need us, but if you do, we're here to help you arrive safely at your destination.

Your own condition Have you had enough rest? Or a few drinks? Honestly assess your own ability to drive safely before you get behind the wheel in winter's more challenging driving conditions.



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