

# ODFW asks archers for deer teeth

ODFW biologists are asking black-tailed deer bowhunters to send the department a tooth from the animals they harvest. ODFW staff uses the teeth to determine the age of the animals, which is used in population modeling efforts.

Accurate population estimation is a key goal of the Black-tailed Deer Management Plan adopted in 2008 by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to strategically manage black-tailed deer populations consistent with available habitat and other land uses.

"These teeth are critically important to us. Black-tailed deer are not easy to count. They often move in the dark, in dense cover," said Don Whittaker, ODFW Ungulate Species Coordinator. "The more information we have about the age of the deer in the population, the better decisions we can make about hunting seasons and the health of the species."

Last year, bowhunters harvested almost 2,000 black-tailed deer.

"To get an accurate population estimate, we really need to get teeth from all of this year's animals," said Whittaker.

The age of deer can be accurately determined by analyzing tooth roots. Removing and returning a tooth to ODFW is

relatively easy and in no way harms the taxidermy mount. Postage-paid envelopes and instructions are available at license sales agents or ODFW offices.

In six or seven months, hunters will receive a postcard showing the age of their deer.

The Columbian black-tailed deer is one of two sub-species of mule deer in Oregon. The species is found from the Pacific Ocean coastline east to the forested portions along the east side of the crest of the Cascades. The Black-Tailed Deer Management Plan is available on ODFW's website, [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/management\\_plans/black\\_tailed\\_deer.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/management_plans/black_tailed_deer.asp).



# Power of the People

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



## 66th Annual Meeting Completed

We held our 66th annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 21, at the Scout Cabin in Vernonia. It was a cool day for our

beach theme, but everything worked out just fine.

The meeting was attended by a little over 70 people including members, staff, and several dignitaries and guests also present. The BBQ provided by Terrel's Texas Bar-b-que was excellent as always and all of the good food was a hit. There were enough door prizes that everyone left with at least one prize.

The meeting itself included several reports and election results. Robert VanNatta and Bob Paleck were both re-elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Board President VanNatta gave a state of the union report which included projects that we have completed the past year such as the Timber/Elsie Transmission Line project, and projects we are getting ready to build. He briefly talked about the new substation and headquarters facilities projects that will both be built out of the flood plain. VanNatta also pointed out that we went through the year without another FEMA event and are financially sound.

Steve Scott then gave a more detailed report on the Timber/Elsie Transmission Project and the new Vernonia Substation projects. He was

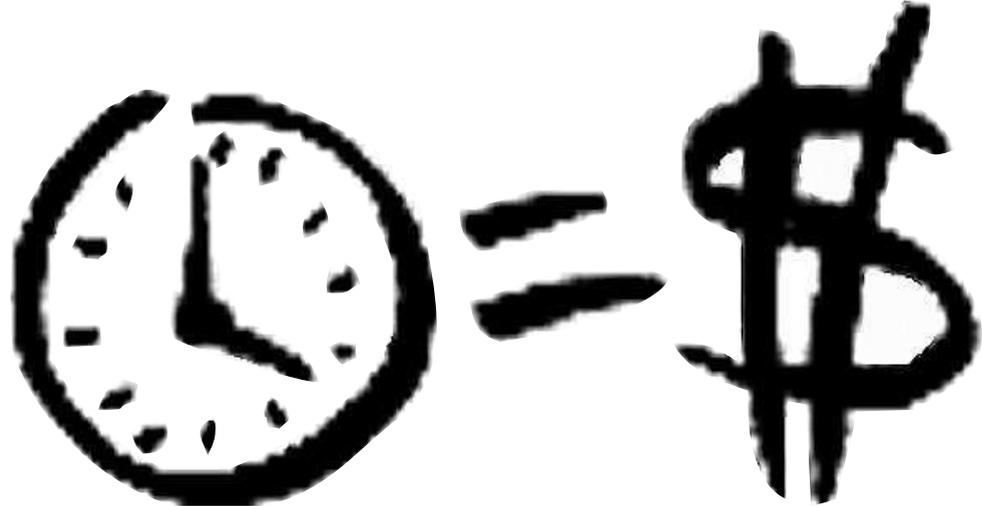
followed by David Western who presented the financial report for 2009 and how we are doing for 2010 to date. I then gave a report on the new Headquarters Facilities Project, the fact that though we had no FEMA event this winter we are still recovering financially from the over \$4 million the three events cost to recover from. Even though FEMA reimbursed 75% of the qualifying expenses, the remaining costs to the Co-op were over \$1 million in cash. That was a huge hit to a small utility like ours.

I also reported on the future effects on wholesale power rates due to the fourth worst water year in the 50 year recorded history of BPA. Though we had a lot of rain, there was little snow pack in the mountains that provide water to the Bonneville Dam. This caused a significant drop in revenues for BPA, which seriously reduced their reserves. This reduction will subsequently be made up in higher wholesale power rates in the fall of 2011. We won't know the exact amount until the rate case process is completed.

The final aspect of my report was the voluntary wage freeze for one year by all of the salaried and union staff of WOEC. It was a unanimous vote by all of the employees. We will be donating at least half of the cost savings for energy assistance for our members who are struggling with their bills due to the trying economy. The Board will match up to \$6,000 to help out our members. Care to Share and Oregon Heat will be the recipients of the funds.

We appreciate all those who came out to the meeting and all those who took time to vote in the election for the Board. It is after all, your electric cooperative and it belongs to all of us.

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