

BLM announces fee-free days

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in conjunction with other agencies within the Department of the Interior, will waive recreation-related fees for visitors to the National System of Public Lands on the first day of summer, June 21; National Public Lands Day, which is scheduled for September 24; and the Veterans Day holiday weekend, November 11-13. These fee-free days also apply to areas managed within the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

"While the American public has entrusted us with the management of their public lands, we can't do it alone," said BLM Director Bob Abbey. "One key component that assists us in caring for the natural and cul-

tural resources found on public lands is stewardship, and waiving fees a few days out of the year may help some folks, who might otherwise not have the opportunity, to experience their public lands and develop a passion for them as others have."

Site standard amenity and individual day-use fees at BLM recreation sites and areas will be waived for the specified dates. Other fees, such as overnight camping, cabin rentals, and group day use, will remain in effect. More details about fee-free days and activities on BLM-managed public lands are available at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/Recreation/BLM_Fee_Free_Days.html.

2011 Spring Fishing Guide is out

Local fish biologists are predicting some great fishing in 2011 and anglers can see just what they're saying about hundreds of water bodies throughout the state in the 2011 Spring Fishing Guide.

Published by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife every April, the Spring Fishing Guide describes available access for boats and bank anglers, water levels, recent regulation changes, best time of year to fish, where to target your efforts, and tips on gear, lures and techniques for hundreds of rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs.

The guide was released just

before the early-season trout opener on Saturday, April 23. ODFW already has been stocking dozens of lakes, ponds and reservoirs with legal-sized and larger trout and anglers should expect some very productive days on the water.

While many lakes, reservoirs and some streams throughout the state will be open to trout fishing on April 23, several other rivers and streams won't open until May 28 in order to protect young salmon and steelhead smolts that are still migrating to the ocean. Anglers should check the 2011 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for details.

ODFW seeks volunteer for board

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking three candidates to represent sport fishing, commercial trolling and seafood processing on the Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program Board (R&E Board). The application deadline is May 27, 2011.

The R&E Board was created is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees. The R&E Board reviews grant proposals from various organizations and agencies and recommends funding for fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state.

The seven-member citizen Board is made up of three sport

fishing representatives, three representatives from the troll, gillnet and seafood processing industries and one public-at-large representative.

Board members, who are appointed to four-year terms by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, meet three or four times each year in various communities throughout the state to review project funding applications, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public and to conduct other program business. Board-related business expenses are reimbursed.

To obtain an application, Gary Vonderohe at 503- 947-6259 or by e-mail at gary.r.vonderohe@state.or.us.

Power of the People

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



It's time to get salmon out of the courtroom

We are nearing a critical decision point on the latest salmon plan for the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). This plan, the 2010 Supplemental Biological Opinion (BiOp), is designed to provide strong protection for salmon and steelhead affected by the FCRPS. Coming up on May 9, U.S. District Court Judge James Redden will hear oral arguments, which ought to be the final hearing in this case.

Judge Redden should approve this plan and allow salmon managers to begin implementing it. After more than a decade of litigation, the region has a salmon plan that is more comprehensive than any before it, in this BiOp. The plan is the product of an unprecedented collaboration of federal agencies, the states of Montana, Washington and Idaho and the sovereign tribes of the Colville, Shoshone-Bannock, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Yakima. It is based on the best available science and has been reviewed and approved by an independent panel of scientists. Two Presidential Administrations have also approved it, including current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration director, Dr. Jane Lubchenco – a well-known and respected marine ecologist and environmental scientist.

And, the plan is supported by a 10-year funding agreement of over \$1 billion dollars. Additionally, the plan incorporates adaptive management of the hydrosystem that allows new scientific information to be applied as it becomes available.

Why is this important to our community? The dams at issue in this salmon plan provide our community with clean, renewable hydroelectric power. In addition, these dams offer residents of the Northwest multiple benefits including a valuable transportation system and irrigation source. The bulk of the salmon plan being litigated in Judge Redden's court will be

paid for by people like you: consumer-owned utility customers that buy power generated by the Federal Columbia River Power System. Continued litigation only increases the cost of this plan to consumer-owned utility customers and delays implementation of the plan's measures that are beneficial to salmon. In fact one third of your wholesale power bill now goes to fish issues and has been for over ten years. Enough is enough on drawn out studying, litigating, and paying. It is time for Judge Redden to make a responsible decision based on sound science and move forward.

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