Ike Says...

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When I asked Herman if there was concern because the bull harvest has not declined, but instead had increased in the last two years after the reduction in rifle bull tags, he stated that the bull escapement has actually increased and this year's count was one of the highest in a long time. He added that, if the bull escapement continues to remain high, they would probably reinstate the tags that were reduced two years ago from the rifle bull hunters. Kind of makes me think there wasn't a problem to begin with, other than with the survey methodology. I guess I would rather have our district biologist being reactive to the trends

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though, because we all know what happens when they are not...just look at the local deer herd.

I asked Herman if he still held the view that cougars are not a problem in Northwest Oregon; he confirmed that, and that he believes that the cougar population is growing slowly at best. I countered with all the sightings and hunter harvest in this last year, but he responded that most sightings are never confirmed, and the harvest may be a one-year blip. Well, we will see what future harvests hold, but it seems to this writer, that the alleged sightings are increasing. In fact, there was a sighting recently up near the Stoney Point Road water tank. Across the board, despite some antlerless deer tag cuts, the department is proposing pretty much the same number of tags overall, state-wide. Like many folks are starting to say, keeping the department revenue neutral seems to be the goal. We will see how that works out.

Izaak Walton League,

Nehalem Valley Chapter

meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Call 503-429-7193 for location.

