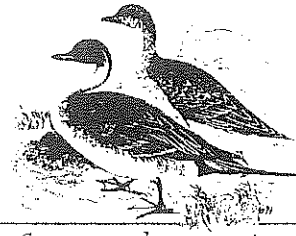


Exhibit H
Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Plan

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence**

**Public Correspondence received as of
September 1, 2010**

SAUVIE ISLAND *Conservancy*



dedicated to the preservation of island rural life, wildlife & natural recreation areas

August 30, 2010

To: Mark Nebeker
Sauvie Island Wildlife Area
18330 NW Sauvie Island Rd
Portland, OR 97231-1312
mark.a.nebeker@state.or.us

Dear Mark,

While there are some positive aspects of the revised Sauvie Island Management Plan proposal, we mainly concur with the concerns of the Audubon Society of Portland.

Some positive changes in the revised version include: explicit reference of the Oregon Conservation Strategy as a guiding document, addition of language and goals regarding restoration and management "for a wide variety of species," mention of managing habitat for songbirds and shorebird, a commitment to developing additional viewing facilities, and acknowledgment of a need to look for increased opportunities for access for birders and wildlife-watchers.

That said, here are continued concerns:

A "hunting-centric" perspective still plagues the revised draft.

The existing deficiency in equitable access for the birding and wildlife-watching communities and environmental education has not been rectified. The most significant aspect of this deficiency is the winter closures.

We strongly support the following strategies proposed by Portland Audubon:
-- Winter closure days when birders and wildlife watchers will be allowed into restricted areas rather than hunters

--Special fee-based winter birding permits that will allow conditional access to specific restricted areas (could be coupled with provisions to prevent conflicts with hunting activities).

--Permits to allow groups such as Audubon to lead trips to winter closure areas at specific times.

We concur with Portland Audubon's concern that the Management Area is being converted into a goose farm, with heavy prioritization in favor of geese while biological diversity is sacrificed. ODFW is not being pro-active in looking for solutions to the over-abundance of geese on the area.

And perhaps most important, ODFW continues to fail miserably at seeking funding from birders and other wildlife-watchers. Oregon State Parks and Metro Parks and Greenspaces have shown that Oregonians are supportive of contributing money for wildlife, natural resources and habitat. If ODFW is to achieve significantly improved wildlife habitat on the area (and elsewhere throughout the state), it is essential to garner a great deal of additional financial support from both voluntary and mandatory funding from the much more numerous non-consumptive public. This should be a key goal for the plan as well as the agency's overall directive.

It is far past the time for ODFW's hunting-centric management to be shifted to a plan for all wildlife, and especially threatened and sensitive species.

Sincerely,

Donna Matrazzo

for The Sauvie Island Conservancy
19300 NW Sauvie Island Rd.
Portland, OR 97231

*Proposed Revisions to the Final Draft SIWA Management Plan
Dated September 2010*

August 29, 2010

Comments from Leslie Like:
Secretary Northwest Pointing Dog Association
Secretary Willamette Weimaraner Club

Dear Commissioners,

June 30, 2009 a group of hunters and dog trainers representing several breeds and clubs attended the very first meeting at the Sauvie Island School to learn about the proposed changes to the PLAN and give input. Mark Nebeker told the assembled group that there would be no changes to the **Dog Training Rules** and they **were not open for discussion**. We went away disappointed but expecting things to stay exactly the same with regard to dog training.

July 26th, 2010, 13 months later Mark Nebeker e-mailed 12 people and told them there would be an restrict and eliminate dog training and events on the grounds we had been using for over 50 years.

August 11th, 2010 he agreed to meet with us as a group and go over the proposed changes he had been working on for months. Almost 50 people showed up and stood in the parking lot of the SIWA parking area until dark (See attachment A) voicing their distress over the offensive and underhanded way he attempted to move us from our traditional grounds to a 200 yard wide strip along a busy road and amongst fishermen and picnickers.

As hunters and dog trainers we are THE PEOPLE that provided funding for the formation of SIWA. We have been a hand in hand working group with the staff and SIWA from 1943 until this event. What happened? Why are we being treated like this?

Now a look at the PLAN shows that the staff has axed dog trainers, the historical users, founders and funders of the SIWA almost completely and replaced us with other users. Not only that, they did it in a sneaky and underhanded way.

Ron Anglin indicated that he would request an extension to the hearing on the 1993 PLAN so that we could have more than 21 days to properly prepare but **we were refused**. The letter sent by Mr Nebeker dated August 12th (attachment B) says there will be no changes to dog training areas or locations, **yet here is the PLAN with 25 alterations or notes on dog training**.

Having only 21 days to prepare a response to the expansion of a 30 page 1993 Plan to one that is over 100 pages is a burden that is extremely difficult. A quick read of the PLAN shows that Mr Nebeker has reduced the tradition of Dog Training on the Island to a nuisance and elevated 1000's of other users to those that will be "accommodated".

The following are changes to the Final Draft SIWA Management Plan we would like to have implemented. Documentation and rationale is brief due to the pressure of the deadlines imposed by Staff.

1.

Revise Primary Management Foci, page #4 to the following ... Providing recreation and stewardship opportunities for hunters, dog trainers, anglers, wildlife viewers and other wildlife-oriented recreational users.

Leaving dog training out of the list of users of the Island is the opening to delete our 50 year tradition of training and elevates other late coming users to a more important status above us.

2.

Revise Page 5 #4 to the following... Providing recreation and stewardship opportunities for hunters, dog trainers, wildlife viewers and other wildlife-oriented recreational users.

Same as #1, above

3.

Revise Page 7 3rd paragraph to the following.....**DELETE Another example raised by divergent groups involves the protection of ground nesting birds in parts of SIWA where dog training and organized dog trials are permitted. There is a concern that these activities may be negatively affecting ground nesting birds due to disturbance associated with allowing dogs access to areas where these nests may be present.**

This entire sentence is fictionalized. While others user groups may wish to have the traditional user groups (hunters and dog trainers) of the grounds banned or excluded so they may use them for themselves there is NO information to support the above sentence whatsoever.

4.

Revise Page 11 Objective 2.4 **Delete with emphasis on ground nesting songbirds**

The staff is ignoring OCS in emphasizing 4 songbirds which do not traditionally nest on Sauvie Island and are not indicated by OCS to be protected there.

5.

Revise Page 12 Goal 3.... Public hunting is one of the primary reasons for the purchase and creation of SIWA and waterfowl hunting and dog training will remain a high priority public use on SIWA.s

Dog training and trap shooting are integral parts of hunting. Conservation of game is of primary concern and that cannot be accomplished without a plan for the appropriate training of hunting dogs.

6.

Page 12 Objective 3.2 ... Delete in its entirety and replace with: Provide 15,000 user days for individual dog training and dog field trials annually. This provides a reasonable increase over the staffs' estimate of current users.

7.

Page 12 Objective 3.2 ... Delete Compatible with Objective 3.1 and habitat management objectives.

Deleting this portion makes dog training equitable with hunting, trapping and angling in Objective 3.1 and removes the temptation for Staff to use administrative rules to attempt to outright ban dog training as they attempted in July 2010.

8.

Page 23 2nd Paragraph, 3rd sentence.... Delete ...nesting habitat for songbirds

The pasture/grassland is managed for wintering geese. The grazing practicing currently in use and the annual flooding render the grounds minimally useful for ground nesting songbirds.

9.

Page 29 first paragraph.... Revise to place a limit on the numbers that are allowed to attend any single event on SIWA.

10.

Page 40-41 Add.... Language to direct Staff at SIWA to use volunteers at their disposal for removing non-native or noxious weeds and installing improvements to benefit habitat and structures.

An interesting trend in the PLAN is the number of times the ODF&W refers to using volunteers for all kinds of activities yet the Hunting and Dog Training Community seem unable to engage them in using us as volunteers to remove noxious or non-native species of weeds, culvert repair, road/fence repair or monitoring public use, etc.

11.

Revise Page 43.... 3rd paragraph, last sentence this sentence is inaccurate, add..... For example, off road vehicle use is prohibited on SIWA. Horseback riding is limited to roads open to public vehicle traffic and grounds for permitted Field Events. Bicycles are limited to roads open to public vehicle traffic.

Adding the Field Events makes the information accurate.

12.

Revise Page 44 Graph... Dog Training and Field Trials Westside 1,000
Dog Training and Field Trials Eastside 9,000
Trap Shooting500

This graph is not an accurate depiction of use as is it wholly a guestimate per Staff. A more accurate picture of use would reflect the separate use of dog field trials on the Eastside and the Westside. The grounds impacted are subject to different concerns over habitat. Trap Shooting is highly exaggerated. The reason for our concern over any exaggeration by Staff is the distortion of the very small footprint we leave on the grounds and habitat.

13.

Revise Page 45, 6th paragraph, last sentence Delete ... The department is presently working on a Statewide dog training plan which, when approved, will be incorporated into wildlife area operations.

These plans are as yet unknown and may not be compatible with SIWA.

14.

Revise Page 46. 2nd sentence..... SIWA is experiencing this rising interest and the department is exploring ways to increase both opportunities and facilities to accommodate these users.

While there is no objection from our community to enhancing the birding experience on SIWA, the sheer numbers the Staff proposes accommodating raises concerns over pushing other users and the Wildlife to breaking points. We hope the Commission will consider this when accepting a PLAN that adds 1000's of daily users to an already pressured resource which was purchased, maintained and enhanced for Hunters and Waterfowl.

15.

Revise Page 57 Goal 2, 1st paragraph, last sentence..... Deleteand managing to benefit grassland nesting birds in spring and summer.

The OCS does not recognize Sauvie Island as a primary nesting site for grassland species

16.

Revise Page 58 Strategy 5 Control invasive plant species on approximately 200 acres annually.

Our community finds this number to be woefully inadequate. Improving habitat is one of the main focuses of this PLAN yet only a tiny number of acres are targeted. Staff should revise this to a meaningful number which will benefit the wildlife.

17.

Page 65..... Revise Objective 3.2 Rationale: Delete Provided the activities are compatible with State regulations and wildlife area objectives.

While Staff acknowledges in the very first sentence that we have been an established use since 1947 they are now inserting clauses in every single objective, goal and strategy to enable them to eliminate or restrict dog training. The PLAN is relentless in this goal. We were told at the August meeting that there would be NO changes made to the Dog Training Rules but the PLAN is replete with limitations, exclusive, clauses and language to give Staff complete control over eliminating Dog Training.

18.

Page 65 Revise Objective 3.2 Rationale:..... Delete ...The department also recognizes that dog training/trials during the period of April through July may impact ground nesting birds. As part of the implementation of the OCS, the Department will be managing these pastures/grasslands, compatible with other management objectives and uses.

This is not compatible with the representations mad by ODF&W Staff at our meeting in August. See response above.

19.

Page 62 Strategy 2..... Agree....funding and interested partners become available.

While we have been unable to engage Staff in working with us on improvements we hope the addition of this language will be an encouragement.

20. Page 62 Objectives 3.1.. Add... Provide approximately 170,000 hunting, dog training, trapping and angling use days annually.

Retain dog training as an established use.

21.

Page 63 2nd sentence Add The department intends to manage SIWA habitats and programs to accommodate current levels of hunting, dog training, angling and trapping (170,000use days annually)

Retain dog training as an established use. Since 1947.

22.

Strategy 12 Add....: Develop rebuild and continue relationships with hunting constituent's groups/organizations to assist with wildlife area management annually.

Staff is guilty of locking user groups out of any meaningful discussion and operating in the dark to the detriment of the user groups.

23.

Page 65 Delete..... Approximately 1,252 acres (which includes open water) located in the Westside Units is available for individual dog training. Field trials can occur on either the Westside or Eastside Units, and the department has provided approximately 1,466 acres total for this use.

Commissioners please note! Staff uses additional language to restrict dog training. None of these acres are identified. Currently dog training is allowed on the Westside and this is how it should remain. Staffs' proposal to crowd all users into a tiny slice of land along a busy road with fisherman and picnickers on land that is flooded and unusable during a large part of the season is the secret plan that Mark Nebeker devised and proposed in secret. We vigorously object to this change. This is the encroachment that would virtually eliminate all dog training. Acreage can and should remain as it has been since 1947.

24.

Page 65 Strategy 1 Delete.... Continue the individual dog training and field trial annual permit process and adjust timing and location as conditions warrant (i.e. high water or administrative action).

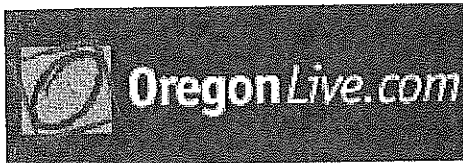
Commissioners please note! This is the open door that Staff has left for themselves to eliminate dog training. There are NO OTHER activities or user groups on the SIWA that are subject to these strategies/rules. Only dog training! This is the secret plan that was proposed by Nebeker that surprised our community and had 50 people at a meeting 21 days ago to object. Ron Anglin sent a letter to all of the users saying this would not happen yet here it is in the PLAN. Please see the attached letter from Ron Anglin. The letter gave a false sense of security to our community believing that the promise of no changes to the dog training rules was real.

25.

Page 71 3rd paragraph Commissioners please note! An additional source of funding for SIWA habitat related projects and equipment comes from the state GAME BIRD STAMP revenues.

The dog training community wrote and introduced the Upland Bird Stamp Bill to the State legislature. In 2009, 72,098 stamps were sold at \$8.50 each totaling \$612,833.00 for the ODFW. Since its introduction in 1990, the sale of this stamp has generated in excess of 10 million dollars.

E-mail - LeslieLike@yahoo.com
cell - 503-789-2464



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Bill Monroe: Sauvie Island plan won't change dog training area

Published: Saturday, August 14, 2010, 10:00 AM



Bill Monroe, Special to The Oregonian

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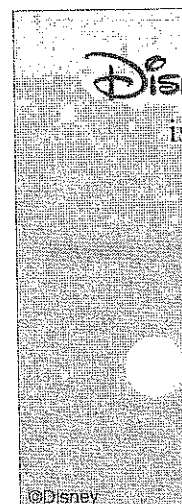
Story tools

SAUVIE ISLAND -- The only guy around in an **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** uniform stood outside his office at dusk Wednesday and took more heat than a pointing dog's shock collar set on "Really, REALLY bad dog!"

Close to 50 of Mark Nebeker's most responsible constituents on the **Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area** relentlessly zapped him in front of two of his bosses as swallows worked the metaphorical mosquito hatch overhead.

Nebeker, the wildlife area's laid-back, effective manager, got very pointed, barbed lessons: Never underestimate the passion of a hunting-dog owner and, more specifically, don't bite hunting-dog trainers.

After more than two years' work on a **new management plan** for the state-owned, 11,500-acre waterfowl haven, Nebeker had given them just a few



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Bill Monroe/Special to The Oregonian

Jim House of Hillsboro straightens the hip on his Brittany spaniel, BJ, pointing a game-farm raised chukar (foreground) during a training session on Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area. Hunting-dog trainers reacted negatively to a proposal that would have corralled them into a less optimal portion of the area.

public training and field trial area for pointing dogs would close under the new plan. This, after telling them this year they would see no changes. And the plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on Sept. 2.

Pointing dogs, unlike water-oriented retrievers, are best trained and tested on open grasslands next to tree lines.

For more than 50 years, pointer owners have developed a modest but ideal area on a few hundred acres of Sauvie Island's Crane Unit. They've built fences, cleared blackberries, sprayed weeds and put in thousands of hours of volunteer labor.

Nebeker's plan, however, was to move them to the retriever-training area on the island's east side, with fewer trees and largely flooded or wet fields during the prime field trial months of spring and early summer.

His contention that the dog owners' few hundred acres were needed for ground-nesting songbirds such as meadow and horned larks and vesper and grasshopper sparrows carried little weight. Nor did Nebeker's failure to cite specific studies other than "the Internet" and "department grasslands experts."

While ground-nesting songbirds might, indeed, view pointing dogs as potential predators, the dogs themselves pay no attention to them, the dog owners said. Surely, they said, there are other, larger grasslands on the public area as or more suitable for nesting.

Buy or Local.



Bill Monroe

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Users with comments

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And why cram them into a non-pointing dog area being used at the same time as the just-as-popular retrieving breeds?

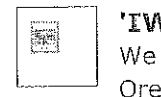
"You're taking one of the most conscientious and responsible groups of users on the area, pointing a gun at our heads and saying 'Get outta here,'" said Phil Sperr, who lives on the island. "Why isn't this something we can sit down and try to work out?"

Ron Anglin, the department's wildlife division chief, finally stepped up beside his beleaguered area manager and, ultimately, quieted the pack just before dark.

Thursday morning, after a zapping more often associated with rattlesnake aversion training (yes, it's done with shock collars), Nebeker himself turned down the volume. He proved his sincerity the night before when he said, "I have no desire to get rid of dog training on the wildlife area."

AA A

Anglin, contacted Thursday, said Nebeker sought and received approval to: a) Proceed with adoption of the new management plan at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting Sept. 2; and, b) Do so without any mention in the plan of changes in use of the area for dog training and trials.



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Ore

In December, the commission will rule on new statewide laws standardizing the use of domestically raised game birds for training hunting dogs. Once that's done, Anglin said, Nebeker will pull together the hunting-dog communities and seek new guidelines for Sauvie Island dog training starting in 2012.



From Our A

More parking fees? Making the rounds in the department's headquarters building in Salem is an idea (not yet a proposal) to expand Sauvie Island's parking fee program to at least two other wildlife management areas in western Oregon.

E. E. Wilson (Corvallis) and Denman (Medford) are popular with the nonhunting and nonangling public as well and are near population centers. Fern Ridge, west of Eugene, was also mentioned, but there could be wrinkles with joint management by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Popular T

No areas in eastern Oregon (Ladd Marsh and Summer Lake, etc.) were mentioned.

Parking fee expansion would require legislative action, so the idea is under consideration for the department's 2011 legislative package. It's an attempt, some insiders reason, to tap nonangling and nonhunting visitors who don't pay anything directly for use of the areas.

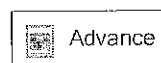
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Setback for Boys Lake: Plans to create a small lake on Sauvie Island's east-side duck hunting units and name it for the late David Boys will be suspended until spring.

Nebeker said the contractor hired to build the lake (mostly a matter of moving enough earth to create a dike and dam) wasn't able to get all of the required permits in time to complete the work for this season.

The good news is the final archaeological permit has been obtained and the lake can be built for the 2011 season.

Boys, who died of exposure in a 2006 hunting mishap on Tillamook Bay, was a longtime supporter of waterfowl, Sauvie Island and youth hunting programs, and the Oregon Duck Hunters Association.



Advance I
Site Map | Adv

-- Bill Monroe

Related topics: dog training, duck hunting, pointers, retrievers, sauvie island wildlife management area



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Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Att. B

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area
North Willamette Wildlife District
18330 NW Sauvie Island Road
Portland, OR 97231
503-621-3488
FAX 503-621-3025

August 12, 2010

Dear Dog Trainers,

I want to thank all of you for your attendance and input at Wednesday night's dog training meeting. I heard your concerns and have discussed them with ODFW leadership.



The three proposals discussed were to:

1. To delay presentation of the SIWA Management Plan until the December Commission meeting,
2. To remove or change the proposed three-dog-per-trainer limit and,
3. To make no changes to dog training areas or locations.

In discussing these three proposals, we acknowledged that we had not done an adequate job of meeting with the dog training community and felt it was appropriate to take the following actions.

We will move ahead with presenting the SIWA management plan to the Commission in September. We will not be addressing dog training as part of the plan.

We are removing the references to the three-dog-per-trainer limit from the draft plan. This will instead be part of the larger discussion to occur this winter on developing a long range training plan. In addition, no changes to dog training areas or locations will occur. *

Thus, no changes will be made for the 2011 training season.

After the Commission adopts the new statewide dog training rules in December, I will be convening a small group to work on and develop a long range dog training plan for the wildlife area. My expectation is that we will take a fresh look at dog training needs and how best to meld that with the conservation objectives and mandates expressed by the Commission.

I want to reiterate, there will be no changes for the 2011 training or field trial season.

Lastly, I still plan on holding the annual dog field trial planning meeting as usual this fall.

Thank you,

Mark Nebeker

LARRY PORTER
5510 SW Dover Loop
Portland, Oregon 97225
Telephone: 503-245-6870
E-Mail: porterpx@earthlink.net

August 29, 2010

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

Good afternoon Commissioners:

I want to thank you for allowing me to come before you with comments regarding the proposed Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan. My name is Larry Porter and I'm Vice President Field Activities and Board Member of the Oregon Brittany Club, with over 60 members throughout our great State. I am here on their behalf. My family and I have lived in Portland for over 30 years and I am an avid upland game bird hunter, together with my three sons and grandsons. I have been an active volunteer for ODFW at Sauvie Island, organizing noxious weed spraying with other members of the hunting dog community, and obtaining approval and helping to install a man-gate at the Westside Unit. I also persuaded my sons, who specialize in creek restoration, to use their brush hog machine to mow noxious weeds at the Westside Unit. Lastly I have volunteered to obtain the permits to replace a culvert at the Blue Slough at the Westside Unit that was placed there some 40 years or so ago by the Oregon Brittany Club and subsequently destroyed by the livestock that are allowed to cross the Slough.

I am here, along with other concerned members of the hunting dog community, to ask for your support in amending the Management Plan to allow us to do the following:

1. Objective 2.4. The Management Plan outlines various methods for ODFW staff to control invasive plants, with marginal success at the Westside Unit. Language needs to be added to the Management plan, pages 40-41, directing ODFW staff to use volunteers at their disposal for removing non-native or noxious weeds, to allow volunteers to utilize the ODFW herbicide spraying license, and further, for installing improvements that will benefit habitat and structures. Regarding weed control ODFW has an herbicide license and has mechanized equipment for spraying, but lacks the personnel and time to effectively spray the non-native or noxious weeds. Without an herbicide license, volunteers cannot use mechanical sprayers and must rely on hand sprayers, which are cumbersome and less effective when compared to machine sprayers. We ask that you allow volunteers to use the ODFW herbicide license, which would result in the ability of volunteers to use their own mechanized equipment. This would dramatically increase the area that would be sprayed on an annual basis and would lead to aggressive control, prevention of establishment and limiting expansion of invasive plant species. Removal of Himalayan blackberries, tansy ragwort, Canadian thistle and

other noxious plants will allow native plant material to return to those areas and increase habitat for native wildlife.

Provide language in the Management Plan to include options for the hunting dog community to assist ODFW, such as payment in kind for more herbicide spraying by ODFW on the grounds used by the hunting dog community. Payment in kind services could include fence repair, repair of roads and removal of downed trees on roads. Alternatively, the hunting dog community could pay for additional spraying and mowing of noxious weeds.

With respect to habitat improvements, include language under Objective 2.4 to expedite the replacement of the culvert at the Blue Slough. After volunteering in November of 2007 to obtain any required permits, I have been met with cancelled meetings and unreturned e-mails and telephone calls from the various regulatory agencies that may be involved in the permitting. Recently, Mr. Nebeker has arranged an on-site meeting with representatives of ODFW and DSL. I am encouraged but remain skeptical about when the permitting process will be completed, so would like some language in the Management Plan to ensure that the culvert replacement happens. Why is this important? The Blue Slough is contaminated by the crushed culvert and the banks continue to be eroded by the livestock. Tidal flow of the Slough is also restricted by remains of the culvert. Replacement of the culvert will once again provide a crossing for the livestock and it will also provide a connection between the east side and the west side of the Slough for use by the hunting dog community. Both sides of the Slough have been used for dog training for decades. Please refer to the attached map and photo. Additionally, if the culvert work meets the scheduling requirements of my sons, they may provide labor and equipment, at no cost to ODFW, to replace the culvert.

2. Lastly, I ask for certainty in the Management Plan to ensure that the hunting dog community will be allowed continuous use of those Wildlife Areas where we have historically trained our dogs. That certainty is provided in the proposed revisions to the Management Plan prepared by Leslie Like.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

ATTACHMENTS

*Site Plan of the Blue Slough and the culvert at the Westside Unit

*Photo of the collapsed culvert



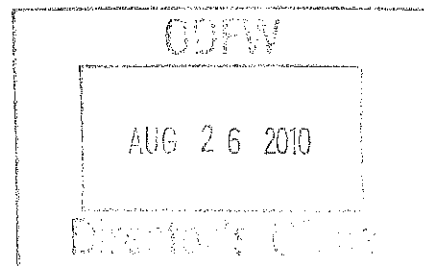
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WESTSIDE UNIT

August 24, 2010



MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon State Wildlife Commissioners

FROM: T.P. Kistner, Member of Mary's Peak Hound Club *TPK*

Although I have written two letters in opposition to the originally proposed elimination of hound hunting on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area(SIWA) in the original draft of a 10 year management plan, I reiterate my opposition to the revised plan that states " maintain the closure for hunting of furbearers, predators, unprotected and protected wildlife except black-tailed deer and game birds."

I and the membership of Mary's Peak Hounds Club, strongly urge this proposed rule be eliminated and hunting of rabbits and raccoons be permitted in the final ten year plan.

It would appear that management opposition to hunting these species is a personal bias against hound persons and hounds or revenge for losing a court case involving rabbit hunting on SIWA. Personal vendettas are inexcusable in professional management of public resources.

Pittman-Robertson as well as Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife funds were and are being used for purchase and maintenance of SIWA. If the anti-hound rule is enacted, rabbit and raccoon licensed persons will be denied their license investment, and/or be forced to drive many miles to enjoy their sport. Is this logical in times of economic crisis which may cause them to quit hunting, resulting in loss of license revenue. Also, hunter monies are being used to accommodate non-paying user groups. If other user groups want equal status, they should assist the burden of maintenance with similar support as hunters, either directly or through state monies.

A potential fallacy in the proposition to ban hound hunting is demonstrated on Page 63,Strategy 3,"to propose a new hunting opportunity for rabbit hunting in the North Unit from September 1 through January 31." This is an annually flooded area. GREAT! It will be legal to hunt rabbits where there are none due to flooding.

Page 2, letter to Commission

In all probability, the entire area will not flood, but some huntable land will be available. However, it is our understanding there is a hiking trail on the North Unit. Would it be asking too much that that trail be closed during the five months of rabbit and raccoon hunting? Also, terrestrial game hunting could be limited to days when waterfowl hunting is not conducted.

The second fallacy is on page 64, Strategy 13. "Conduct furbearer and predator mammal trapping by permit for administrative (damage control) biological (population management) and recreational purposes." This statement admits that overpopulations of certain species is anticipated with ensuing necessity for animal control, an admission that animal damage is inevitable. In other words, don't let rabbit and raccoon hunters assist in population control; permit management to arbitrarily institute control by picked groups. This is professional wildlife management?

In summary, we urge the Commissioners to include rabbit and raccoon hunting in the final SIWA plan. Suitable areas can undoubtedly be designated for these sports that will minimize conflict other user groups.

From: Libby Wentz [mailto:libbypw@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 26, 2010 10:08 AM
To: odfw.info@state.or.us; ODFW Commission
Subject: Testimony attributed to me

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Oregon 97303

Re Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Plan

September 26, 2010

Dear Sirs,

It has taken me a week to calm down enough to respond to the inaccuracies recorded as my testimony at the June 3, 2010 Commission meeting regarding Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan. The testimony attributed to me is so wrong, I almost think there may have been malicious intent on the part of someone at ODFW. I have issue with three points.

First, I do still oppose the revised SIWA Management Plan because it still excludes coon-hunting, but the convoluted way the transcripts were written have me opposing the Plan "because it allows rabbit hunting but has no provisions for raccoon hunting". I am glad rabbit hunting is now recognized as allowable. I still oppose the Plan because coon-hunting is not allowed, and that has nothing to do with rabbit hunting.

Secondly, while I do have concerns about roosting waterfowl, island residents being disturbed and law enforcement being able to find poachers, I made it very clear coon-hunting on SIWA has no adverse impact on, and is not a problem with, these issues except in the duck hunter's and LE own minds. Leaving out the part that I know there is no impact on these three points totally changes what I said 180 degrees. Unless what I said about duck & deer hunters in other parts of the United States who also coon-hunt know hounds do not go after or rustle up ducks or deer, that the island residents at town hall meetings had no objections to night time coon hunting as the hunting was well away from their homes, and that poaching will always be a problem for law enforcement as long as any hunting is legal...then the part about my concerns needs to be removed.

Finally, my dietary preferences are inconsequential. I am not sure how ODFW felt this was pertinent when what I said about the present wildlife manager at SIWA being decidedly anti-hound (transcripts say he is 'anti-dog hunting' in another section...I said anti-hound). A commissioner had asked what I do with the raccoons I hunt. The point of my answer was SIWA affords a middle-aged, suburban woman an opportunity to enjoy the American tradition of hound hunting in a safe and relatively close location and I shoot pictures of the hounds and coons. If this point had been included, the fact I don't care for game meat would be in context and could stay.

The pieces of my testimony plucked out of context completely changed the spirit and intent and point of view of what I said during the commission meeting. I am embarrassed because the inaccuracies make me sound like I begrudge rabbit hunting, agree with duck hunters and am a Vegan. I totally understand the manager at SIWA hates hounds, but to twist what I said in this manner is malicious and must be corrected.

Sincerely,
Libby Wentz
545 Collins Crest
Gladstone, OR 97027
503-722-1558

Below is the written testimony I read off of and gave copies to each Commissioner:

My name is Libby Wentz. Thank you for the hard work all of ODFW does to preserve wildlife and the hunting tradition and for allowing me to make my opinion heard today. I live in the Portland Metro area and have been going to Sauvie Island to train my coonhounds off leash since 2004. The area is ideal for a middle aged, female coonhunter because of its topography and location. Speeding cars and meth labs are my two biggest concerns at hunting at night, neither are an issue at Sauvie.

I appreciate the willingness of ODFW to look further into allowing rabbit hunting in SIWA, but I do not approve of the 2010 SIWA Management Plan because it still does not include provisions for raccoon hunting. After a town hall meeting about the plan, I spoke with a retiring SIWA employee about the reasons for not allowing hounds. He said they were allowed until the parking permit was introduced, and then they were just not allowed because the generic parking permit rules were applied to Sauvie Island, including the hours stipulation. There was no impact on other hunting, or neighbors, the parking hours simply precluded night hunting.

I appreciate Mr. Anglin addressing OHA questions about rabbit and raccoon hunting on Sauvie, but I do not think they are valid reasons with any studies to back up statements. I think it is justifications to preserve the status quo, and I will address each of the three concerns:

1) Disturbance to roosting waterfowl.

This claim is made only by duck hunters who have never hound hunted. Many people in other states do both and say this has never been an issue. These are false and selfish projections by duck hunters.

2) Disturbance to Sauvie Island residents.

The disturbances experienced by SI residents are from the deluge of beach goers every summer. The population of raccoon hunters in Oregon is minimal and the number in the metro area even smaller. I spoke with several island residents about how disruptive hounds in the wildlife area would be to them. They all said their issues were with beach users and they'd like having lawful hunters on the island at night making it less appealing to unlawful persons.

3) Difficult for LE to maintain peace and safety at night, by being unable to discern legitimate hunting from poaching or other illegal activities.

LE will always have difficulty with poachers. This argument could be used as an inane reason to reduce any form of hunting or fishing. In fact, unless all hunting and fishing was made illegal, discerning poachers will always be an unfortunate issue. Harder to understand is how an LE officer would have a hard time discerning hunting from other illegal activities. I would think the presence of hounds and hunting equipment instead of alcohol, drugs and spray paint would be a good indicator.

An easy solution for accommodating raccoon hunting would be to make a night parking permit available. Not allowing any taking of animals at night, or carrying hunting weapons at night, would preclude and trouble LE has discerning poachers from hunters. The benefits to SIWA would be less vandals and illegal drug activities at night, this would also reduce traffic on the island as those using the area for illegal activities found the island to not be so secluded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Below is what was posted as my testimony on ODFW website (
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/10/06_jun/Approved%20Minutes_%20June%203%202010_OFWC%20Meeting.pdf :

"Libby Wentz distributed written testimony and said she's

gone to Sauvie Island to train coonhounds off leash since 2004. She's opposes the Plan because it allows rabbit hunting but has no provisions for raccoon hunting. She's concerned about the disturbance to roosting waterfowl and Sauvie Island residents, and the difficulty for law enforcement to maintain peace and safety at night. She asked that night parking permit be made available to accommodate raccoon hunting; benefits would include less illegal drug activity and reduced traffic. On Page 63, paragraph 3, "Trapping of furbearers..." she said this statement is false. There is no recreational activity for furbearers. She disagreed with Strategy 2, "Maintain closure for furbearers...", and said this is due to the animosity that the manager has against dog hunters. Wentz wants the ability to pursue raccoons at night. She has no problem with a night parking permit, or with not carrying a weapon. Also, she doesn't eat raccoon or rabbit; she takes pictures of her dogs and raccoons."

Dave Fowler
46465 NW Hillside Rd
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116
Telephone: 503-844-9454
E-Mail: dave.fowler@intel.com

August 30, 2010

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission

Good afternoon Commissioners:

I want to thank you for allowing me to comment regarding the proposed Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan. My name is Dave Fowler and I was President of the German Shorthaired pointer Club of Oregon, now a board member. I have lived in Portland for over 20 years and I am an avid upland game bird hunter. I have been an active volunteer for ODFW at Sauvie Island, organizing noxious weed spraying with other members of the hunting dog community, blackberry control, and fence repair and obtaining approval and helping to install a man-gate at the Westside Unit. I donated the gate out of my own funds to provide safer access for the general public and the dog users so they would not be climbing through the barbed wire fences. I attend the Nov. Schedule meeting for the use of the area with the other dog clubs and until recently had been very impressed with the professionalism and the cooperation that we were given by the ODFW Staff.

I attended the June 30, 2009 Public Hearing for the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan. There was lots of testimony and good discussion, at the time I was told by Mark Nebeker that the dog training plan was not open for discussion and was not part of the Draft Plan, there would be **NO CHANGES TO THE DOG TRAINING PLAN**. Then all of a sudden on July 26, 2010 (over a Year later) I received an email from Mark Nebeker with the new Draft Plan which severely impacts the dog community and eliminates all the Pointing breed dog trials because of the new date restrictions and the area of land he has set aside for us to use which is too small, not fenced and on the main road with all the traffic instead of where we were which is secluded in the North West Section.

I attended the August 11, 2010 meeting at the Sauvie Island Wildlife office where over 50 of my fellow dog training community people also attended. It was obvious that Mr. Nebeker had no data and could not answer any of our questions concerning the new dates and losing our ground. He cited several studies from the internet, even one from New South Wales, Australia (does a study from Australia really apply in the NW of the United States)? At the time he had no copies of these studies and took several weeks to find something on the internet to try and prove his point. The very next day we received a letter from Mr. Nebeker saying the dog training plan and the 3 dog rule were being removed and we would hold a meeting after the Dec. Commission Hearing on the state wide dog training and bird release rules. He told us we would be able to work out a plan

that we could all agree to and it would be for a 10 year cycle. After reviewing the current plan sent to the commission it is obvious that all of the things he planned prior to the August meeting not been removed with the exception of the 3 dog rule. It looks more like a shell and mirrors game to me, a lot of the acreage has been reduced and if this plan gets approved Mr. Nebeker has the power of Administrative Rule per the strategies outlined on Page 65 to change or delete all dog training on the island if he so chooses.

I think we need to reject this whole plan based on the amount of time Mark gave us or maybe it was on purpose. At least we need to come up with a way to preserve the history of over 50 years of dog training on the island and make the dog training plan part of the SIWA Plan or eliminate all administrative rule for these types of changes that affect the public users so drastically. We have already given up too much in the past 20 years of use on the island from acreage, to use of horses, to the dates when we can train. For now I am Ok with the status quo, but we need to go back and revisit all the things that have been taken away in the new Plan with, no studies, no data; what a waste of money and resources.

Dave Fowler
GSPCO Board Member
NWPDA Board Member
Sauvie Island Liaison for Dog Clubs and Scheduling events

Chris Tewes
DoubleGun Ranch
39275 SE Wildcat Mountain Drive
Eagle Creek, OR 97022

August 24, 2010

Esteemed members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today and testify on the status of dog training on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, a historical use that goes back decades.

My name is Chris Tewes, and I train pointing breed dogs professionally. I have 15 years experience with pointing dogs, and for most of those years I have spent a considerable amount of time on Sauvie Island running in pointing breed events.

In the latter part of July, 2010, the dog clubs that utilize Sauvie Island for events were informed by Wildlife Area staff that a majority of the area available to us for dog trials and training would henceforth be closed until August 1st, rather than being opened to use on April 15th, as has been the norm. Holders of individual dog training permits were not notified of this change to the SIWA dog training plan, nor were they invited to weigh in on the proposed change beforehand. This change effectively shut the pointing breed clubs and individual pointing breed dog trainers out of the approximately 150 to 175 acres that we use in the Crane Unit for training and events. While 1200 plus acres are set aside on the West Side for such purposes, only this small parcel comes close to suiting the needs of the pointing dog owners, trainers, and event clubs.

The reason cited by Wildlife Area staff for this change was to comply with Objective 2.4 of the Revised Draft of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan that is before you today. Objective 2.4 seeks to bring the SIWA Management Plan into line with the Oregon Conservation Strategy, specifically as it applies to protecting four ground-nesting species of birds during the nesting season – the Oregon vesper sparrow, the Grasshopper sparrow, the Streaked horned lark, and the Western meadowlark. While these species are key species in much of the Willamette Valley, OCS does not list them as such for WV-01, the area in the OCS that includes Sauvie Island.

During a meeting with Mark Nebeker of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area on August 11th, 2010, Mr. Nebeker did state that, while Wildlife Area staff did know for sure that these species were migrating in and overwintering on the Wildlife Area, they had no direct knowledge of these species actually attempting to nest in the grasslands of Sauvie Island, as no survey study had been completed to date to indicate the presence of those species during the nesting season. This is a key point, as the OCS, under Conservation Actions for these species, all four species note “Minimize disturbance during breeding season *at known nesting areas*”.

Mr. Nebeker also stated that there were “studies” on the Internet demonstrating the impact of dog training on ground-nesting birds. During my Internet research prior to that meeting, I found studies concerning the Western meadowlark, none of which applied to Oregon. Studies found at the USGS concerning the Platte River Valley area in Nebraska indicated to me that, at least for the Western meadowlark, data and conclusions from one geographical region cannot automatically be assumed to hold true in another region. When pressed, Mr. Nebeker was only able to actually cite one study on the impact of dogs on ground-nesting birds, and that study was conducted in Wales, clear across a continent and an ocean from Oregon.

The dog training community has felt singled out on this issue. Our dogs know their purpose when they are hunting, and are not interested in non-game birds, and in the 15 years I’ve been on Sauvie Island, I have yet to see a dog disturb a nest. Yet there was no discussion of restricting cattle grazing, ground management activities such as mowing, or other permitted uses on this same ground during the same time frame, nor of the potentially greater impact of wild canids, rodents, raccoons, skunks, and feral cats on nesting birds.

In summary, dog trainers and trial-holding clubs were summarily restricted from areas used historically for dog training and trials, without a chance for input to work toward a compromise that would benefit both the dog training people and the wildlife on Sauvie Island, and without any data to back up the claim that our use of the Wildlife Area was in any way detrimental to the species cited as the reason for the change.

Thank you for your chance to have my comments entered into the record today.

Wilsonville Veterinary Clinic, LLC

9275 Barber St
Wilsonville, Or 97070
503-682-3737

Raymond L. Calkins, DVM
Kristen Hardinge, DVM *Jennifer Anderson, DVM* *Kristin Beckley, DVM*

August 26, 2010

Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Commission Members:

My name is Ray Calkins and I have raised, trained and hunted my own German Wirehaired Pointers in Oregon for 34 years. In 1985, Mike Rice and I organized the Upland Bird Dog Association which represented the pointing and flushing breed clubs in Oregon. This group worked with Allen Kelly of the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and Ken Durbin of ODFW to raise funds for projects to improve the upland bird hunting in Oregon. Our annual Heritage Classic field trial raised over \$25,000 over a twelve year period for habitat restoration, the red leg partridge and Seschwan pheasant projects and a cooperative project with the Nature Conservancy to re-introduce sharptail grouse to Oregon. Our organization wrote and introduced the Upland Bird Stamp Bill to the State legislature. In 2009, 72,098 stamps were sold at \$8.50 each totalling \$612,833.00 for the ODFW. Since it's introduction in 1990, the sale of this stamp has generated in excess of 10 million dollars. I have represented the pointing breeds on previous Sauvie Island planning committees.

Year by year it has become increasingly difficult to train pointing dogs in western Oregon. In 1976, the entire West Side of Sauvie Island was designated for dog training by ODFW. A 4x8 foot sign stood next to Steelman Lake as proof. The sign has been removed, the area reduced to less than ¼ of that area, fenced and locked and now a permit is required.

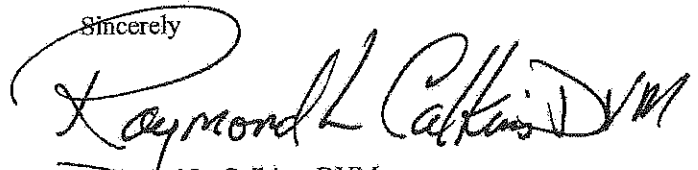
The new Sauvie Island Management Plan is an attempt to eliminate dog training and the organized events to evaluate our dog's skills as class bird dogs and hunting companions. There was no input to this plan from the user group!!! I was told in 2003 that I would be included in any discussion involving training regulations by the ODFW.

The present pointing dog training area is a safe place to train. The fencing has insured the safety of dogs being worked and the area is adequate for pointing dogs. The new proposal pushes all dogs (pointing, retrieving and flushing) and their evaluation testing into an area and time frame that is totally inadequate. The risk of human and dog injury from vehicles on the adjacent road is unacceptable.

Trained dogs greatly reduce the loss of downed birds and should be valued by ODFW. But instead of encouraging owners to train their dogs you have chosen to hinder their efforts. Those of us that utilize the island are predominantly hobby trainers and must drive an hour or more to reach the current training area. Most of us have no other options.

At one time we worked hand in hand with ODFW. Your recent change in attitude has turned allies into adversaries. We have no place else to go if this plan is enacted. We are effectively kicked off the island.

Sincerely



Raymond L. Calkins, DVM

Hello my name is Wayne Yamashita. I am the Vice President of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon (GSPCO) and my comments are representing the membership.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you. I would also like to thank the State of Oregon and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for allowing me to enjoy the use of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area. For the past 15 years I have had the opportunity to hunt, compete, and train my dogs on Sauvie Island. I have enjoyed being able to take many 8 week old puppies to Sauvie Island and train them into outstanding hunting dogs. I have had success in competitions by training my hunting companions at Sauvie Island. My dogs have attained their American Kennel Club Field Champion, Amateur Field Champion and Master Hunter titles. I share this story with thousands of other hunting dog enthusiasts and many of them have gone on to greater achievements, like winning the National Championship or qualifying at the National Invitational.

Sauvie Island is an incredible natural resource for the State of Oregon and all of the fish and wildlife that call it home are well worth conserving. The GSPCO would like to see all of the key species listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) for Sauvie Island (OCS WV-01) taken care of. The GSPCO would also like to see, as original stakeholder and still a current user of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area some 63 years later, that the hunting dog community be taken care of as well. The hunting dog community has brought millions of dollars to the State of Oregon, volunteered thousands of hours improving the land, and have always takes care of the area that they use, particularly at Sauvie Island. The GSPCO would like to see the use of current areas remain the same in acreage and time of year as it has since the 1993 plan. Because of past lack of notification from ODFW of changes to the Management Plan, recent administrative rules that would have dramatically reduced the area for dog training, and our uncertainty regarding any future administrative rules that would negatively impact our continued use of the dog training areas, the GSPCO, would like to strike the words in section 3.2 "management decision" and be replaced with the wording in Attachment A.

The GSPCO would like to ensure that the hunting dog community be part of planning that secures suitable land that is similar in acreage and time of use that is currently being practiced on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area.

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon recommends a delay in the adoption of the Revised 2010 SIWA Management Plan until an amendment or revisions of the dog training rules are applied. We would also like to recommend development of a Statewide Dog Training Review Committee with ODFW to cultivate a better partnership and to ensure better communications in the future. Thank you for your time.

Wayne Yamashita
P.O. Box 772
Washougal, WA 98671
503-705-7217

Attachment A

Objective 3.2 Provide opportunities for individual dog training and dog field trials and Hunt test.

Rationale: Dog training has been an established use since the inception of SIWA in 1947. Two dog training plans (Individual Dog Training Plan and Dog Trial Plan) currently regulate activities on SIWA. As stated in both dog plans, it is the department's policy to permit "field trials and individual dog training on designated units of SIWA provided the activities are compatible with state regulations." Such activities require a department issued permit which stipulates when and where training or trials can occur. The department recognizes that individual dog training and field trials encourage practices and techniques that enhance the tradition and quality of hunting and reduce the incidence of un-retrieved game.

These dog training plans and the current amount of permitted uses were developed during the 1993 SIWA long range management planning process, by a working group of members representing the dog training community and department staff. There have been adjustments to the plans over time and further review will occur. The department intends to maintain the current maximum number of individual dog training permits (300) and number of days of dog field trials (50). Approximately 1,252 acres (which includes open water) located in the Westside Units is available for individual dog training. Field trials can occur on either the Westside or Eastside Units, and the department has provided approximately 1,466 acres in total for this use.

Strategy 1. Continue the individual dog training and field trial annual permit process with no changes to the 1993 plan. Provide information about rules and post signs designating allowed training areas.

Strategy 2. Continue to convene an annual meeting of dog trial sponsors at SIWA to cooperatively schedule dog trial events.

Strategy 3. If there are conflicts with ODFW management decisions and the hunting dog community all stake holders will be decide how the conflict will be managed.

From: J. Files (filesj@comcast.net)

To: silverrainweim@yahoo.com;

Date: Thu, August 26, 2010 12:46:36 PM

Cc:

subject: FW: Sauvie's Island Proposed Dog Training and Use Modifications, 8/11/2010 Meeting

Julie & John Files

Track and Train Dog Supply LLC

www.trackandtraindog.com

360-256-0746

From: J. Files [mailto:filesj@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2010 12:55 PM

To: 'ODFW.comments@state.or.us'

Subject: Sauvie's Island Proposed Dog Training and Use Modifications, 8/11/2010 Meeting

Importance: High

I wanted to thank the ODFW staff at Sauvie's Island specifically Mr. Mark Nebeker and the Wildlife Division Administrator, Ron Englund for taking the time to meet with the dog enthusiasts regarding the change in Dog Training use rules on the Island that have been introduced rather abruptly.

I have concerns from two perspectives. I am currently a user of the Sauvie's Island facility as an amateur trainer for both competitions and for general canine hunting. The other perspective is as a small business owner who provides equipment and supplies for the local dog enthusiasts.

I agree that the conservation of our resources and improvement of habitat is a top mission with the ODFW and I believe there are middle grounds that will be met if the parties work together. This requires proper and open communication from the ODFW with the users of the facility. After all we are the same people that own and contribute to the grounds and mission of the agency not the enemy. The lack of communication allowed for only but a few of the dog enthusiasts who utilize the facility to be first aware and able to attend the August 11 meeting and many are not aware ODFW had changed their initial statement that there would be no changes to the dog training rules.

The lack of communication also indicates whether falsely or not that the staff at ODFW do not really want to be concerned with nor want the users aware of changes until they are so far into the process and there is no easy means of renegotiating because truly there isn't a negotiation it is a blatant decision making made on false assumptions. Considering this poor communication we still had individuals that traveled 400 miles to be at the 8/11/10 meeting to show support. I walked away from the meeting feeling that ODFW was hoping to ram rod these new restrictions through under the radar of the user groups. Once they were brought to accountability now there appears there may be ways that we could work together at this late date if they so choose. It is not adequate to make decisions of this magnitude and then expect a large group of users to have 2 weeks to respond to the proposed rule changes. There was much hashing at the meeting as to why the poor communications has happened but it doesn't change fact it has and now we need to correct this and allow for considerations of the parties involved. There also is apparently two ways that rules could be imposed one is to have as part of the Management Plan and with 2 weeks notice this is not feasible the second as some type of Memorandum of Understanding that would need to be

renewed every 5-10 years. Realistically weighing of the pro's and con's would be difficult to do in the designated 2 weeks during vacation time and participants being on the road.

I am concerned as to why we are reducing the accessibility of the facilities based on 4 species of birds that 3 are present in the current area 1 which has not been spotted on the island. It is also my understanding that the decisions by ODFW to reduce the accessibility and allow for dog use in an area that is unsuitable for its present uses appears to be on a whim and not because of a completed study or data but rather because they adopted information from other areas that may or may not be applicable. I personally believe a driver behind this may be the pending application for grant money. Mr. Nebeker indicated Grant Monies have not been applied for at this time but did indicate that there are grants that could be applied for based on the restrictions. It was unclear to me if truly the particular parcels identified specifically had to be used to obtain Grant monies or whether other suitable habitat would meet the grant requirements. If this is indeed the intent of ODFW have we exhausted consideration of other like area's on the island that may be used for the 4 species of birds instead of the sites that are currently being considered which have been maintained by the present users during the present accessible dates?

It was with much interest that dogs would be restricted yet cattle grazing and other activities will still be allowed but will be rotated better and overall managed. The statement was made that ground nesting birds won't flee a nest from a cow. Not being a biologist I'm assuming this statement is correct. However, as a former cattle rancher I can assure you that cows that travel in herds will not avoid stepping on ground nests nor will the coyote population which is also ever present in these cited areas along with other predators. Actually maybe a study could be done as to whether dogs being trained in the area displace the other predators away allowing more pristine ground nesting opportunities.

Sauvie's Island has been used for the dog training facility for over 60 years and this well documented and 3 of the 4 birds are present in the area so that would seem to indicate that the dogs being trained in this area are allowing for nesting. The evolution of the open partnering with ODFW and the current status is sad indeed.

It is now my current understanding that the new rules are indeed not part of the Management Plan being proposed to the Commissioners as we were first told but instead will be somehow identified and strategized outside the actual Management Plan through some type of Memorandum of Understanding or other document. How the decisions for this and who will be party for the development of this and based on what data is still not clear to me. I understand that the only portion that is included in the Management Plan is the restriction to only 3 dogs. How this is determined to be 3 dogs why not 4 dogs or why not 2 dogs is a question. It was apparent that staff at the ODFW really do not have an understanding as to how the facility is used or the actual numbers so therefore making determinations of impact is concerning.

I am comforted that Mr. Englund gave the meeting attendee's his personal word that we would be involved and be able to contribute to the decision process and am looking forward to hearing how this will proceed.

On my second perspective, as a small business owner who supplies the equipment and supplies to many of the current users of the island the restrictions of these areas will have financial impact to my business as well as other business owners in the area. These impacts have not been studied nor considered as well. Do we really need to make changes that may further reduce employment without fact? Is this the type of government focus and how decisions are going to be made?

I respectfully appreciate the position the ODFW staff is in, short handed, no relief in sight, do more with less I understand this but I also wonder if they understand that when they are making somewhat arbitrary decisions that affect livelihood and usage that this has repercussions as well and possibly could be avoided and turned to a win-win position.

I would appreciate being kept abreast of all meetings, agenda, meeting minutes to allow for participation in the decision making of the use of our Sauvie's Island site in a timely manner.

Julie Files

filesj@comcast.net

Track and Train Dog Supply LLC

www.trackandtraindog.com

760-256-0746

Hi, my name is Bryan Hogan and in addition to the four clubs I'm a member of I'm the President of the NWPDA and a director of the NWFTC. Many of us are here today as a result of the issues chronicled in Bill Monroe's August 15th column. In case any of you missed it I have a copy of it here for you!

I started using the SIWA shortly after I got my first hunting dog. It was actually on one of those trips 6 years ago that I found the Island property I still live on. The several 100's of acres out of the 11,000+ in the SIWA we are allowed to use are a great resource for those of us in the surrounding communities. For those of us with the passion to train our own hunting dogs or without the ability to use professional trainers this is an irreplaceable resource. The funds that paid for SIWA were actually for purposes specifically like this!

When many of us attended the 2009 public meetings for the proposed SIWA management plan Mr. Nebeker specifically told us that there would be no changes in the SIWA Dog Training Rules. Obviously this was not true or we would not be here today. That coupled with the misstatements of fact and erroneous data in Mr. Nebeker's plan, rightly or wrongly give the impression of trying to slip a biased position into the new plan without any chance for public input. Personally I'm inclined to believe it was for the former reason;

- A) On four separate occasions I've asked for a copy of the 1993 Dog Training Rules and to date I've never received them.
- B) Mr. Nebeker has submitted this plan to you today without the proposed rule changes for dog training. We were told at our August meeting that the ODFW could unilaterally make these changes at any time via "Administrative Rules." It also came up that if the Statewide Rules are adopted in December the same is also true. (We'll be back in December with our comments on those!)
- C) Over the last 2 years Mr. Nebeker's office has attempted to do 2 Ad Hoc studies on ground nesting birds. Neither of these were publicized or brought up until he was directly questioned in August. An interesting sidebar is that when he was asked if there was any outside funding connected with these studies he admitted it was available but they had not "applied for it at this time."

As a group, in the short time Mr. Nebeker has allowed us to prepare, we have some specific language we are hoping to have considered in this new

Management Plan. Although you should have already received them we are passing out copies today too.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our comments.

From: Maureen Conley (donamoor@hotmail.com)
To: silverrainweim@yahoo.com;
Date: Thu, August 26, 2010 12:21:53 PM
Cc:
Subject: SI letter

Here is my letter:

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management
ODFW

8-12-2010

This is in regards to the recent meeting that some of the folks from the various local dog clubs attended to discuss the situation that has arisen concerning the future use of our traditional field trial and training grounds on the West and East sides of the Island. We were asked to submit comments on a survey form, but there wasn't enough room on one page for all I have to bring up.

How dismayed we all are was quite evident by the turn out at this meeting. There were at least 30 citizens in attendance that, I trust, left the meeting with no clear understanding of the purpose of these changes, the value of which is in complete opposition to the use and enjoyment of our public lands, purchased and financially supported historically by hunters and fishermen, without whose support, these grounds would not exist in the first place.

As far as the dog clubs are concerned, we thought we had a good working relationship with the management of the grounds that we use, which apparently has not been in the least appreciated. I can only speak for those of us in the pointing dog community, but we are careful to make sure that no trash is ever left behind; the gates are shut and locked. We pay for and supply a porta-potty for the use of our members on the weekends (as we are told that there is no money in the budget to put a unit there.), which gets used by anyone else that is in the area and need to use the facilities. We could have padlocked it between our planned events, but chose to be good citizens and make it available to all. We started doing this a number of years ago for the sake of convenience of our members and protection against fouling the nearby woods from such use.

There used to be a unit positioned down by the Gilbert River fishing area, for the use of those people, but that went away a long time ago. Take a walk sometime along the path that goes along the bank there. I have seen piles of human waste in the bushes, which surely finds its way into the river during heavy rains. It is disgusting. You say that there were public meetings for the residents of Sauvie Island that were held earlier in the summer, predating this effort to force us from holding our club events. I don't suppose you mentioned to the tourist business owners that there would be a very large impact on their businesses if our clubs no longer use SI for events? The Reeder Beach Campgrounds come to mind. They host many, many dog trial enthusiasts needing accommodations. How about the business along the HWY 30 corridor? Were they informed of this impact? We buy groceries, gasoline, stay in motels, go out for dinner, and support businesses from Linnton to Scappoose.

Shutting us down also impacts a number of small businesses directly related to our sport. In spite of your contention that there are many professional dog trainers that make a profit from these public lands (I know of only 3 pointing dog trainers in the Portland area and they have their own private training grounds and seldom make use of SI). Instead, they train dogs so that their amateur owners can enter trials and compete with them. Also impacted will be the people whose livelihoods are based on the breeding and raising game birds for the very specific purpose of their use in AKC field events and training. They, in turn, support their own communities financially. When the state of Oregon, as well as the whole country, is struggling to recover from a very serious economic recession, is this the time to be driving all these small business owners out of work?

The bigger picture about these well-trained dogs is they are often the breeding stock that personal hunting dogs

are bred from. The whole basis behind training and competing is to prove their value in the gene pool from which future hunting partners are produced. A well-trained hunting dog is a necessary component for protection of wildlife so that any and all game taken is recovered and not wasted. You are seeking to take that away from future hunters in the Pacific Northwest. Is resource protection not one of the primary goals of our wildlife management departments?

Then that brings us back to the dubious reason for these changes. As was established at the meeting on Wednesday evening, there has, in fact, been no firm research or data to support the premise that the presence of our clubs on the two sites, East and West, for a total of 50 short days we are allowed to use during the course of 5 ½ months of the year has any impact at all. As far as the grounds being useful as nesting sites, are these four bird species mentioned, none of which are on either the endangered or threatened species lists, capable of swimming or have floating nests? For a goodly portion of the time in spring, these areas are under water. The most "wildlife" I have seen out there in spring, is dead carp strewn across the fields as the water recedes. As I understand, the water levels are determined, not so much by the amount of rainwater the Northwest is experiencing, but rather the amount of water being released from the dams along the Columbia River. To "protect" these bird species, will that, too be regulated? Do you have the power to influence the BPA? Good luck there. I don't know just how many acres are on the SIWA, but it does seem pretty illogical that the only two sites, out of probably thousands of acres, just happen to be the two places we use for our dog events? Does that make any sense?

The alternative sites offered to us, in an attempt to appease, are unusable and unsafe for our dogs (West side). There is no fence separating the area from the well-traveled road. There is insufficient parking. Some of our events involve live shotgun fire. There is a busy road, and people fishing along the bank – a dangerous combination. Plus, those grounds are not large enough and are often underwater also. Perhaps that was all part of the ultimate goal to get us off the Island all together,

There is another concern that I have about this issue: how is this going to be funded? The reason that we who use the Crane Lake area have been investing our own time and money to improve the grounds is that they have been steadily eroding over the course of the last 10 years and have been told that there is no money available to do the work needed. So we took on the task of trying to stem the encroachment of the masses of blackberry vines that have been crawling their way across the open fields. We have put in many man-hours mowing and spraying in an attempt to keep the noxious weeds from completely closing the entire field and becoming a massive thicket, much like a number of other areas have become on the wildlife area. We have cleared fence lines, installed a 4 ft gate and planted a couple of trees. We do our part, but do not see any evidence that the thistle and tansy growing rampant on the Island are getting any attention. These are noxious and invasive species that are expected to be controlled on private land by the owners of those lands.

We have put in many hours trying to sift through the quagmire of bureaucracy in order to get one of the three culverts along the Blue Slough replaced. They have rusted out and the cattle traversing them to get from one pasture to the other pretty much destroyed what was left. We were willing to invest our time and resources to do this, as it is needed, and once again, we were told, there was no money in the budget to do this. These collapsed culverts have surely impacted the movement of fish along the slough, as it is now a muddy, impassable mess. The cows traversing the areas have collapsed the banks and debris fills the channels. Not exactly fish friendly. But there is no money to fix it.

So, where is the money coming from to do this habitat redesign? Whatever money there is needs to be spent on regrading the road. It is becoming almost impassible, and frankly, dangerous. The pot holes are so deep that small cars trying to pass are going to be damaged, if it has not already happened.. There is a pretty big potential for liability and lawsuits there

Since it was mentioned that a lot of the funding for the SIWA comes from the sale of parking permits, do you realize that none of us has seen or have been checked by who ever is responsible to make sure that people on

the grounds actually have these permits? I personally have not seen a sheriff or anyone official, out there in over 10-15 years! How much revenue have you been losing? For what it is worth, we all do have the passes, and actually provide, as cost to our clubs, extra passes for people from out of town who might not have remembered to stop and buy one for the day they are there.

I know this letter is quite lengthy, but it is apparent to me, and I presume most of us at that meeting, you have no idea how large an impact these proposed changes will have, not just on us, the dog club members, but upon the economy of the area in general. The thirty or so people at the meeting are a small percentage of the actual number of people this will affect. I would have to guess that there are at least 100-200 people who regularly participate in the various AKC events that we hold. That is a lot of taxpayers and voters

A small justification used at the meeting was that was "all this contention between the dog groups". That is simply unfounded and being used as a red herring.

Also, the proposed 3-dog limit mentioned – just what is that supposed to accomplish and were did that number come from?

You don't understand or appreciate what we do in our sport, that we seem to be just another bother. Perhaps the best scenario is to close all the "public land" to the public, and then you would not have to work so hard! Please remember, that is it because of the forethought and good graces of hunters and fisherman in the past and present, that you all have jobs. Had the SIWA not been set aside and originally funded thusly, the area might be filled with housing tracts and condos by now.

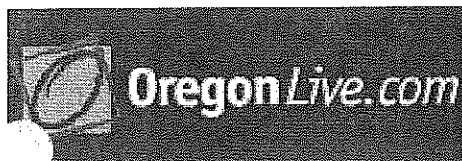
I guess you might just send this message directly to the discard file. I know it is long, but so much needed to be addressed and how I feel it is very important and valuable and should be considered. Customer service.

I will be sending a copy of this to my State Representative and State Senator. I believe that your some of your funding ultimately comes from tax revenue, and those who are charged with the distribution of money need to know this.

Sincerely

Maureen Conley

Willamette Weimaraner Club/ Northwest Pointing Dog Association



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Bill Monroe: Sauvie Island plan won't change dog training area

Published: Saturday, August 14, 2010, 10:00 AM



Bill Monroe, Special to The Oregonian

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Nebeker, the wildlife area's laid-back, effective manager, got very pointed, barbed lessons: Never underestimate the passion of a hunting-dog owner and, more specifically, don't bite hunting-dog trainers.

After more than two years' work on a **new management plan** for the state-owned, 11,500-acre waterfowl haven, Nebeker had given them just a few



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Bill Monroe/Special to The Oregonian

Jim House of Hillsboro straightens the hip on his Brittany spaniel, BJ, pointing a game-farm raised chukar (foreground) during a training session on Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area. Hunting-dog trainers reacted negatively to a proposal that would have corralled them into a less optimal portion of the area.

public training and field trial area for pointing dogs would close under the new plan. This, after telling them this year they would see no changes. And the plan is scheduled to be adopted by the **Fish and Wildlife Commission** on Sept. 2.

Pointing dogs, unlike water-oriented retrievers, are best trained and tested on open grasslands next to tree lines.

For more than 50 years, pointer owners have developed a modest but ideal area on a few hundred acres of Sauvie Island's Crane Unit. They've built fences, cleared blackberries, sprayed weeds and put in thousands of hours of volunteer labor.

Nebeker's plan, however, was to move them to the retriever-training area on the island's east side, with fewer trees and largely flooded or wet fields during the prime field trial months of spring and early summer.

His contention that the dog owners' few hundred acres were needed for ground-nesting songbirds such as meadow and horned larks and vesper and grasshopper sparrows carried little weight. Nor did Nebeker's failure to cite specific studies other than "the Internet" and "department grasslands experts."

While ground-nesting songbirds might, indeed, view pointing dogs as potential predators, the dogs themselves pay no attention to them, the dog owners said. Surely, they said, there are other, larger grasslands on the public area as or more suitable for nesting.

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And why cram them into a non-pointing dog area being used at the same time as the just-as-popular retrieving breeds?

"You're taking one of the most conscientious and responsible groups of users on the area, pointing a gun at our heads and saying 'Get outta here,'" said Phil Sperr, who lives on the island. "Why isn't this something we can sit down and try to work out?"

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But Thursday morning, after a zapping more often associated with rattlesnake aversion training (yes, it's done with shock collars), Nebeker himself turned down the volume. He proved his sincerity the night before when he said, "I have no desire to get rid of dog training on the wildlife area."

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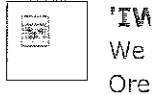
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In December, the commission will rule on new statewide laws standardizing the use of domestically raised game birds for training hunting dogs. Once that's done, Anglin said, Nebeker will pull together the hunting-dog communities and seek new guidelines for Sauvie Island dog training starting in 2012.

COMMUNITY PHOTO GALLERY

From Our Area

More parking fees? Making the rounds in the department's headquarters building in Salem is an idea (not yet a proposal) to expand Sauvie Island's parking fee program to at least two other wildlife management areas in western Oregon.

PHOTO GALLERY

E. E. Wilson (Corvallis) and Denman (Medford) are popular with the nonhunting and nonangling public as well and are near population centers. Fern Ridge, west of Eugene, was also mentioned, but there could be wrinkles with joint management by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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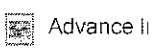
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Advance

-- Bill Monroe

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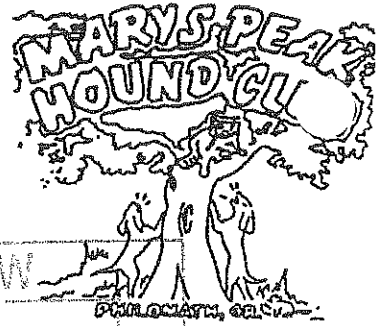
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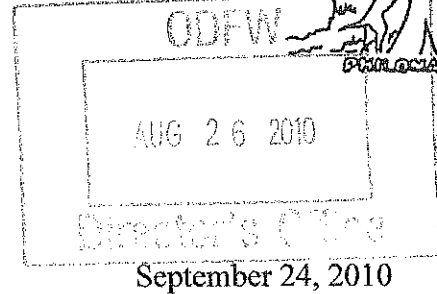
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Mary's Peak Hound Club
800 NW Meadow View
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
541-745-7311



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Plan
3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, Oregon 97303



Dear Commission,

Over twenty years Mary's Peak Hound Club (MPHC) and ODFW have worked hand in hand promoting programs which provide education and hunting opportunities in Oregon.

Programs such as: This year will be the twenty-first year we have hosted a special rabbit hunt for disabled hunters. Last year was the nineteenth year we have conducted a rabbit hunt for youth. This youth hunt, I might add has grown into a two day event. We have sponsored the "Sporting Clays Trailer" during the youth pheasant hunt at E.E. Wilson for over fifteen years. For about ten years now we have conducted very successful rabbit hunting seminars for BOW members and their families. As well as put in countless man hours mowing habit, repairing guzzlers, building kiosks, refurbishing outbuildings and sawing lumber. All of these activities were done in cooperation with the department and with pride by members of Mary's Peak Hound Club. Our goal as a club is to promote hunting by providing education and opportunity to hunt here in Oregon.

All the above being said, as a club we are greatly disappointed with the management attitude on Sauvie Island. To prevent small game hunting on the island is wrong.

Page 63 of the revised draft of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Manage Plan, June 2010. Objective 3.1: Strategy 2. "Maintain the closure for hunting of furbearer, predators, unprotected and protected wildlife (except black-tailed deer and game

birds).”

This obstruction language is a stumbling block to future conversation concerning hunting and recreational opportunities for Oregonians.

Following is what we would like to see take place.

- (1) Maintain existing hunting opportunities.
- (2) Remove the following verbiage from the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Manage Plan, June 2010. **“Maintain the closure for hunting of furbearer, predators, unprotected and protected wildlife (except black-tailed deer and game birds).”**
- (3) Allow squirrel and predator hunting on the area in accordance with state regulations.
- (4) Allow coon hunting in accordance with state regulations and established time restraints of the wildlife area.

Note:

- (a) There is no scientific data showing coon hunting is a disturbance to roosting waterfowl.
- (b) Night hunting for coon would be no more disturbing to residence than daytime hunting.
- (c) If law enforcement has a problem with safety and poaching, they need to deal with it, but don't take hunting opportunity away from the legal hunter.

We greatly appreciate all efforts put forth by ODFW to promote and improve hunting and fishing in Oregon. Because of your willingness to listen, we hope a solution to concerns about Sauvie Island can be resolved.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Jerry C. Ray
Secretary, Mary's Peak Hound Club

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3406 Cherry Avenue NE
Salem, Oregon 97303-4924

RE: Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan

Dear Commissioners:

This letter contains the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Oregon's (GSPCO) comments on the June 2010 Revised Draft Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan (the Plan) and is intended for inclusion in the public record at the Commission's September 2, 2010, meeting and for use in the Commission's adoption of a final Plan. All of the GSPCO's officers and directors have reviewed and unanimously affirm the comments contained herein.

Until very recently, our members and other users of the pointing dog training and field trial area had been assured that no change to the currently available areas would be made in the final Plan. However, to our surprise and dismay, a July 16, 2010, email from ODFW directed to certain "dog trainers" indicated that, in fact, significant restrictions would be placed on the current pointing dog training and field trialing area effective April 15, 2011, purportedly for the benefit of certain grassland nesting birds.

A public meeting on these newly disclosed restrictions was held at the ODFW office on Sauvie Island on August 11, 2010. Several of our members and many other users of the pointing dog training and field trialing area were present. The enclosed article by Bill Monroe published in The Oregonian on August 14, 2010, adeptly summarizes the meeting and the issues raised. Most importantly, there was no objective basis or supporting scientific evidence for the proposed relocation of the pointing dog training and field trialing area, and the proposed substitute area is heavily used for water retriever training and trials and is largely unsuitable for the training or trialing of pointing dogs.

Almost immediately after the August 11, 2010, meeting, we understand the decision was made to rescind the changes to the pointing dog training and field trialing area announced in

ODFW's July 16, 2010, email. We are pleased to hear there will be no change to the pointing dog training and field trialing area, and hope this remains ODFW's position on this issue in the final Plan and in any future plans for Sauvie Island.

Respectfully,



Dan Drazan
GSPCO President

Wayne Yamashita,
GSPCO Vice President

Marge Pierce,
GSPCO Treasurer

Matt Sayre,
GSPCO Secretary

Dave Fowler,
GSPCO Director

Janet Dalgaard,
GSPCO Director

Stuart Gardner,
GSPCO Director



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Bill Monroe: Sauvie Island plan won't change dog training area

Published: Saturday, August 14, 2010, 10:00 AM



Bill Monroe, Special to The Oregonian



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Bill Monroe/Special to The Oregonian

Jim House of Hillsboro straightens the hip on his Brittany spaniel, BJ, pointing a game-farm raised chukar (foreground) during a training session on Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area. Hunting-dog trainers reacted negatively to a proposal that would have corralled them into a less optimal portion of the area.

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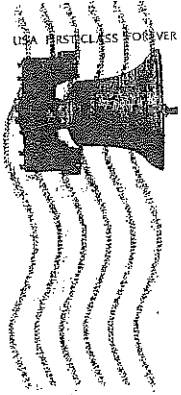
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-- **Bill Monroe**

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Portland, OR 97204



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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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