



ODFW Field Reports

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
June 5-6, 2014

EAST REGION

Bruce Eddy, Region Manager

South Central Mule Deer Study Update

We are continuing to update our management of mule deer as a result of information generated from the South Central Mule Deer Study. This study analyzed nearly 600 mule deer radio collared in south central Oregon from 2005 through 2012. Two primary objectives of that work have been completed.

One of the original goals was to provide information to Oregon Department of Transportation on where and when mule deer migrated to summer ranges and how to possibly maintain those migration routes as US Highway 97 is upgraded from a 2-laned to 4-laned highway. After this upgrade, there is high potential that migration corridors will be blocked for deer that summer in the Cascades and have winter ranges east of Highway 97. Annually, over 400 mule deer are killed along 100 miles of Highway 97 south of Bend and 50 miles of State Highway 31 between La Pine and Silver Lake.

The project has identified 17 migration corridors across Highway 97. Deer-vehicle collisions (DVC) occurred most often at these migration corridors. Twelve of the 17 migration corridors have been evaluated for suitability of constructing over- or under-passes for deer to reduce DVCs and aid in migration. The strong correlation between migration corridors and DVCs indicate that data on DVCs in other mule deer ranges may predict migration corridors and identify locations where structures could be developed to minimize DVCs.



Movements of mule deer from winter ranges to summer ranges within and among wildlife management units (WMUs) in south central Oregon were completed and this information is being used by district biologists to allocate hunting tags in the various WMUs. These results update information collected in the 1960s that had been used to allocate tag numbers among the WMUs in south central Oregon. This information is being used to identify mule deer populations and is the first step in developing population-based rather than WMU-based management objectives and is the template for future mule deer management.



Three other analyses are underway that will determine mule deer habitat selection and response to prescribed fire and juniper treatments.

Chinook Salmon Density Dependence

Chinook salmon populations in Northeast Oregon have decreased dramatically since the 1950s and were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Hatcheries have been supplementing the populations since 1984, with the goal of enhancing natural populations to the point that they could be removed from the ESA list. Recent examination of Grande Ronde Basin spring Chinook salmon life history data indicate that achieving self-sufficiency and delisting may not be possible under present conditions. Due to rearing **density limitations and available habitat**, it appears that production is limited by habitat availability.

To address density dependence in Chinook salmon population in Catherine Creek, aquatic habitat conditions were assessed for over-summer rearing of juvenile Chinook salmon at Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP) sites by applying HabRate, a limiting factors model. Most sites were ranked as either fair or good within core spawning and rearing areas, where a lack of pool complexity, high temperatures and low stream flows from withdrawals contribute to the lower ranking scores. Utilizing this information alongside geomorphic intrinsic potential and temperature profiles, a panel of scientists with broad representation located areas in Catherine Creek for proposed restoration actions focused in areas that would extend from stronghold habitat into marginal habitat downstream. Proposed restoration actions include large wood placements and channel reconfigurations with emphasis on pool development and riparian revegetation.



WEST REGION

Larry Cooper, Region Manager

Wolf OR7 Update

Cooperative survey efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ODFW indicate that OR7 may have found a mate. On May 8, monitoring cameras captured images of what appears to be a black female wolf in the area of OR7. The same trail cameras have recorded additional photos of the female wolf, as well as photos of OR7.

A joint ODFW/USFWS news release was released on May 12. Select legislators, agencies, county commissioners, local ranchers, Jackson County Stockman's Association, conservation groups, Oregon Hunters Association and Oregon Cattleman's Association were given individual courtesy phone calls prior to the public release of information.

Further surveys are needed to determine if other wolves are also present.

This new information combined with OR7's location data suggests that the pair may have denned and may be rearing pups. To avoid unnecessary disturbance, the potential den site was not assessed until after June 1. On June 3, staff confirmed the presence of at least two pups with this pair of wolves. This is the first contemporary evidence of wolves breeding in the Oregon Cascades. A "breeding pair" is defined as a pair of wolves that produce at least two pups which survive until the end of the calendar year.

OR7's collar is nearing the end of its lifespan. Now that there is documented reproduction, managers are considering options to re-collar OR7, and the possibility of applying GPS collars to any additional wolves associated with OR7. Multiple scat samples have been collected and sent to Idaho lab for DNA testing; results are pending.

There continues to be considerable public interest in OR7. A movie is being released this summer and there is also a group doing a trek to repeat OR7's movement from northeast Oregon to the Cascades, Northern California and back to SW Oregon (logo below).



1,200 miles tracking the remarkable journey of an ordinary wolf.



Above photo of female wolf detected with OR7



Above photo of OR7.

E.E. Wilson Youth Outdoor Day

The 12th annual Youth Outdoor Day was hosted at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area on May 31. Approximately 750 youth 5-14 years of age attended the event with their parents or guardians to participate in a range of activities that included fishing, wilderness survival, duck and goose calling, decoy painting, hunter education mini course, fly casting and tying, laser shot, and bird box building. There were also a number of fish and wildlife oriented displays. Kids 10-years of age and older were able to use the newly constructed archery range and try their hand at shooting sporting clays. Success of the event wouldn't have been possible without the contributions of over 25 sponsors, 200+ volunteers, and district and headquarters staff. This is consistently a well-attended event contributing to hunter/angler recruitment and retention and general support for Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Roger Fuhrman, Administrator

Dick's Sporting Goods Partnership

Fishing is fun and it's easy to get started is the message that is prominently displayed at all nine Dick's Sporting Goods stores in Oregon. End caps – so called because they sit at the end of the store aisle – feature the gear and supplies entry level anglers need to go fishing. The displays also include basic information and a one-page tear off sheet featuring nearby, easy to access fishing locations. The end caps are a cooperative effort between Dick's and ODFW to target beginning anglers. ODFW designed the displays and modified the popular "50 Places to Fish" brochures. Dick's provided the equipment and supplies and, more importantly, the valuable floor space for the displays. Dick's also designed discount certificates for the department to

hand out to participants at Family Fishing and Free Fishing Weekend events, Hunter Education classes and Outdoor Skills workshops. Tracking the use of the discount cards will allow ODFW and Dick's to evaluate whether these events lead to license sales and equipment purchases.



A survey of participants in ODFW Family Fishing Events in 2013 found that more than 55% purchased fishing gear and tackle after the event. Nearly half reported spending between \$26 and \$100 and 17% said they spent more than \$200 on fishing tackle and gear after participating in a Family Fishing Event. This pilot project between ODFW and Dick's Sporting Goods runs through 2014 and is part of the department's continuing effort to work with retailers, industry and others to encourage fishing and hunting in Oregon.

Buy a License Reminder

More than 2,500 lapsed anglers received a friendly email reminder to buy their fishing license. The email was sent to individuals who had previously purchased a fishing license, but had not yet bought one in 2014. The email included a link to purchase a license online and to sign up for delivery of the Weekly Recreation Report and links to the Stocking Report and a calendar of Family Fishing Events. The reminder email proved to be very effective. About one-third of the recipients opened the email. Of that, about 20-percent clicked on one or more of the links embedded in the email. Fifty individuals followed the link to purchase a license. The open rate and follow through to the "Buy a License" link demonstrates the potential for email campaigns to promote license sales, increase awareness of fishing and hunting and to communicate directly with hunters and anglers. The Department is now purchasing software

and services to make it easier to manage and evaluate similar email campaigns in the future. The email reminder was done in conjunction with a direct mail campaign by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to encourage lapsed anglers to purchase a license.

OSU Beaver Baseball

A cooperative effort between ODFW and Oregon State University Beaver's (OSU) baseball reached more than 50,000 Facebook users. The goal of the campaign was to increase awareness of ODFW social media services and fishing opportunities in Oregon. Participants had the chance to win four passes to OSU baseball or throw out the first pitch in exchange for "liking" the ODFW Facebook page. The campaign also included 10- and 30-second announcements on the 50 radio stations in the OSU Beaver's Baseball Radio Network and the "ODFW Catch of the Day" in-game promotion. This is the second year of a four-year partnership between ODFW and OSU to promote fishing in Oregon. National market research found that a key demographic – 25-45 year olds – is very interested in organized sports like baseball and also shows an interest in fishing and the outdoors.

E.E. Wilson Archery Range Now Open

Participants in the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area Youth Outdoor Day on May 31 were the first to try out a new archery range near Corvallis. The new range can accommodate more than 25 shooters at a time, includes covered shooting areas and opportunities for beginning and more experienced archers. The five targets (5-20 yards) at the beginner range can accommodate up to ten shooters and up to sixteen shooters can practice on eight targets (20-60+ yards) at the general target range. Construction of the range cost less than \$60,000 with support from federal Pittman-Robertson funds and the help of numerous volunteers, including members of the Capitol Chapter of the Oregon Hunter's Association. Future plans include an elevated shooting platform for bowhunters, vaulted toilets and picnic tables. The Oregon Hunters Association has already pledged \$2,500 of the estimated \$15,000 needed to build the elevated platform.



MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM

Caren Braby, Program Manager

Sustainable Fishery Certifications

A year ago, the Marine Resources Program (MRP) field report focused on Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Sustainable Fishery certification progress for the Oregon pink shrimp and commercial ocean Dungeness crab fisheries. While the certification is initiated by the fishing industries, ODFW has played a significant role in each of these certification processes, demonstrating our commitment to working with the commercial fishing industry towards improvements in the viability and sustainability of fisheries in Oregon.

In March this year, MRP staff participated in the first and third audits, respectively, for pink shrimp and crab (pink shrimp is in its second five-year certification cycle, while crab is in its first five-year certification cycle). Both audits were successful. The fishery managers for both of these fisheries are developing management measures for these stocks to ensure that there are checks and balances in place to address a population decline. The fishery management plans will include details on how managers will detect a problem with the population (e.g. if the population numbers decline below a defined threshold) and the management tools that should be applied if that circumstance were to occur.

The biggest news, however, is that the Oregon Trawl Commission has just been notified that its application to certify the West Coast Trawl groundfish fishery has just been accepted – this fishery now joins the other MSC-certified fisheries in Oregon, making Oregon the nation's leader in certified fisheries. The groundfish trawl fishery is federally managed, through the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and because of the intense management scrutiny and public process associated with this fishery, the certification has had a significant amount of support.

With the numbers of certified fisheries increasing, there are still questions about what the certification means for managers, for the fishing industry and for the resource. While the certification process is new enough that it is difficult to draw rigorous conclusions, we do know that the MSC certification process has helped frame the discussion between managers and the industry. This has in turn improved the transparency of fishery management, improved fleet engagement in management, and focused both analysis and collaborative research efforts. These successes certainly benefit the resource, and may ultimately

benefit the economic vibrancy of the fisheries that choose to pursue certification.

OREGON STATE POLICE

Captain Jeff Samuels, Fish & Wildlife Division

Fisheries

A three-month investigation by Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division into illegal crabbing activity conducted by a Garibaldi-based fishing vessel led to the recovery of over 150 illegal crab pots, some of which may be stolen.



OSP Fish & Wildlife Division troopers started the investigation in December 2013 after a mandatory hold inspection noted the Fishing Vessel "Valkyrie" deployed commercial crab pots in the Pacific Ocean and did not conduct a landing within 14 days as required by law. The vessel's captain, who was cited, criminally, as a result of the investigation, failed to retrieve his gear, conduct a landing, or make arrangements for such following the enforcement action.

Additionally, OSP had received complaints from various Salmon Trolling vessel personnel who were concerned with entangling their gear in the unlawful pot lines, creating valid safety concerns.

Starting May 6, OSP Fish & Wildlife troopers aboard the Department's Patrol Vessel Guardian assisted by United States Coast Guard personnel and resources began seizing "Valkyrie" commercial crab gear from the ocean near Cape Falcon. Many of the seized crab pots had evidence of multiple violations. Several contained biomass in the form of rotten crab or crab parts, indicating crab were being caught by the unchecked gear and the crab were dying and going to waste inside the gear.

On May 12, the Valkyrie Captain, who was in the Tillamook County Jail on an unrelated matter, was cited by OSP for the following class A misdemeanor charges: **1) Waste of Commercial Food Fish 2) Commercial Dungeness Crabbing With Inadequate Release Mechanism 3) Leaving Gear Set More Than 14 Days Without a Landing 4) No Buoy Tags No Pot Tags**

OSP has recently located and seized 25 additional crab pots from the vessel "Valkyrie" deployed near the mouth of the Columbia River. The location of this gear caused safety concerns for Trolling vessels, as well recreational and commercial vessel traffic, due to the pot buoys being covered with algae, making them difficult to see. Furthermore, it is likely some of this pot gear has not been checked for several months resulting in multiple Dungeness crab going to waste.

**END OF FIELDS REPORTS FOR
June 5-6, 2014**