



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

March 16, 2018

EAST REGION

Bruce Eddy, Region Manager

Beatys Butte Pronghorn Project

The Beatys Butte Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) winters about 5,000 pronghorn antelope, the most of any WMU in Oregon. The pronghorn population here has been stable at this relatively high level for a decade and provides a number of popular hunts. While winter distribution of antelope is fairly well documented because of the department's annual census, summer distribution is not well understood and leads to uncertainty during tag allocation. To help resolve this uncertainty, District staff GPS collared 50 Beatys Butte doe pronghorn in January 2015 and tracked their movement through summer of 2017.



The specific purpose of the collaring was to: define the winter and summer range boundaries and migration corridors; identify the interchange between Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuges (NAR) and the rest of the Wildlife Management Units; determine percentage of wintering antelope that remains in the Beatys Butte WMU and outside of the NAR through summer and fall and, estimate adult does survival.

Over the course of the project, GPS collars recorded nearly 62,000 locations from collared does. We recently received analysis of this data from a contract biometrician. He was able to

identify distinct population-wide use patterns and that, depending on conditions, winter and summer range use can overlap significantly. He also found that pronghorn use of the NAR increases as seasons transitioned from winter to summer/fall, with the highest proportional use of the NAR occurring during the August and September hunting seasons. The analysis found an annual doe survival rate of 82% during the first study year. The results of this work will help District staff better distribute tags across the collection of hunts in the Beatys Butte WMU.

Lostine River Telemetry

The upper Lostine River hosts some of the highest-quality spring Chinook salmon spawning habitat in northeast Oregon. The river also provides irrigation water essential for the Willamette Valley's agricultural economy. These water withdrawals and diversion structures can leave a gauntlet of low-flow reaches and passage barriers for salmon to navigate. Ensuring that irrigators are able to use their irrigation rights, while also assuring safe passage for salmon to reach prime spawning areas, can be a tough challenge. In some years, entire reaches of the Lostine have gone dry, requiring salmon to be trucked upstream to spawning areas.

In response, the Freshwater Trust worked with irrigators to purchase a minimum flow to improve passage during low flow periods. While these temporary agreements improve passage conditions, permanent solutions to the Lostine River's challenges are needed. With limited resources available, biologists have found novel ways to determine where improvements will have the largest benefit.

The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) in collaboration with The Freshwater Trust, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and funding from the Restoration and Enhancement Board has used a radio-tracking project to help direct flow and passage restoration in the Lostine River. Since 2008, the NPT have been radio tagging 75 adult

Chinook salmon returning each year to a trap near the mouth of the Lostine River. After tagging, NPT biologists track each fish's movements as they migrate upstream, spawn, and eventually die. The study has provided important insights about how flow affects fish travel times, and what amount of flow is needed to pass salmon upstream. Results of the tracking also found that it took salmon longer to pass some diversion structures than others. This information has been used to prioritize passage projects at three diversion structures that were delaying access to important spawning reaches of the Lostine.



As passage restoration projects are completed, radio tracking is used to evaluate the fish passage improvement, showing a substantial reduction in travel times. Travel times through these projects decreased by 60-70% after completion, and are currently more consistent with travel times through unimpeded reaches of the Lostine.

The study continues to identify where improvements can be made. While challenges remain in the Lostine River, the tracking project has improved communication with water users. Many users are making simple fish-friendly modifications to irrigation timing and practices based on recommendations from the tracking project. This is an excellent example of using science to inform and develop long-term restoration strategies. Balancing the needs of irrigation and fish is not unique to the Lostine River, but the unique approach employed by the Nez Perce Tribe has great potential to help address similar issues throughout Oregon.

WEST REGION

Bernadette Graham- Hudson, Region Manager

Fishing in Oregon, 11th Edition

West Region fish staff has been meeting with Maddy Sheehan to review and provide edits for the upcoming 11th edition of the book, *Fishing in Oregon*. The reviews and edits are extensive, and staff is putting a lot of time into the project. This is a very important task since the book is a valuable tool to direct anglers to opportunities and to recruit and retain Oregon anglers.

Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby

The 26th annual Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby was held January 31-February 3. The derby's main goal is raising money to fund fishery enhancement, restoration, and educational projects in the Umpqua River Basin through grants to watershed councils, agencies, schools and more.



On February 1, local guides took about 80 Eastwood Elementary 5th graders fishing at Cooper Creek Reservoir. Afterwards, the kids were treated to jet boat rides. For many kids, this was their first time fishing, but it was a continued educational experience tagging on to their school's hatchery program.

During the fishing derby, 35 guided teams caught 156 wild and 54 hatchery winter steelhead. This year's catch was about average for wild fish and above average for hatchery fish. The weather was great and rivers were in perfect shape. The evening auction averages \$70,000 for fish enhancement projects.

Tailrace Trout Fishery

The tailrace trout fishery below William Jess Dam/Lost Creek Reservoir received some good media coverage in early February. Known by locals as the "Holy Water", this 0.8-mile stretch of water

is the site of a Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) project to monitor and improve the fishery. Volunteers helped construct and fund eight self-reporting creel boxes and floy tagging kits, and have been conducting a voluntary creel program since mid-May 2017. STEP volunteers also fin clipped and floy-tagged 400 trophy-sized hatchery rainbow trout for release in 2017. Since May 24th, cards were collected with anglers reporting 856 trout caught, 148 of which were previously tagged. Some tagged trout have moved downstream, which is giving a minimum emigration rate of these fish. All the pieces are coming together for a population estimate. The last two weeks of January have been the hot ticket for trout fishing in this area, with an average of 2.01 trout caught per hour with anglers averaging just under 4 (3.9) trout per visit.



Sea lion trapped at Willamette Falls being released near Newport.

Willamette River sea lions

Staff began trapping sea lions on the Willamette River in February in an attempt to reduce mortality on upper Willamette wild winter steelhead and gather additional information in support of our Section 120 application to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries for lethal removal. The first sea lion was captured on Feb. 7th, taken to Newport, and released at the beach. He took only three days to return to Willamette Falls, which shows how these animals have habituated themselves to fishing at Willamette Falls and what our staff is up against to protect ESA-listed fish. Other sea lions released at the coast return in similar timeframes. Sea lions have also been reported in the Clackamas and Sandy rivers this year, and district staff has responded with limited hazing efforts on those streams to the extent possible with available resources.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Roger Fuhrman, Information and Education Administrator

Learn to Hunt Workshops

More than a dozen adults took part in a “Learn to Hunt” clinic at Canby Rod and Gun Club in early February. While traditional clinics focus on introducing youth to hunting, these sessions are designed for adults who are interested in starting hunting.

The clinic was held in conjunction with volunteers from the Oregon Hunters Association. This helped on two fronts – it reduced the number of department staff needed to conduct the workshop, but more importantly, it connects the new hunters with other, more experienced hunters who share their interests. R3 research indicates that these social connections are important to “adult onset hunters” continued participation.

Participants in the clinics learned the basics about rifle hunting for big game, how rifles operate, key firearm safety rules, how to operate rifles at a very foundational level, different shooting positions, and ethical hunting practices.

One of the participants was an 82-year old Marine Corps veteran who had hunting on his bucket list and thought this would be a great way to start. One of his other life goals is sky diving. Although ODFW will not be able to help him with that, we admire his ambitions!



First time adult hunters gather after the hunt at Canby Rod and Gun Club.

Trout Stocking Schedule Updated

One of the most common questions ODFW receives is “where are the fish?” The redesigned trout stocking schedule will help answer that

question. The revised schedule allows anglers to search by waterbody, zone, and date when the area was/is stocked. Information is pulled directly from a database maintained by the hatchery system, so the content is up to date, accurate, and readily available. Eastside stocking schedules will be posted as soon as they are available. The stocking schedule does not include information on South Willamette waterbodies stocked by a third party under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That information is reached through a link to the Corps website.

Date	Waterbody	Species	Amount	Units	Total	Cost
Feb 22, 2020 - Feb 26, 2020	CLARK L	Trout (Steelhead)	2,000	0	0	1,000
Feb 22, 2020 - Feb 26, 2020	ALICE L	Trout (Steelhead)	2,000	0	0	1,000
Feb 22, 2020 - Feb 26, 2020	WILSON CREEK	Trout (Steelhead)	2,000	0	0	1,200
Feb 22, 2020 - Feb 26, 2020	WILSON CREEK	Trout (Steelhead)	2,000	0	0	1,000
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Screenshot of Trout Stocking Schedule online at myodfw.com/fishing/species/trout/stocking-schedule

OREGON STATE POLICE

Captain Jeff Samuels, Fish & Wildlife Division

Two troopers out of the Central Point observed steelhead anglers fishing the Applegate just below the Applegate Dam. An angler carrying a steelhead started walking up the trail towards where the troopers were and immediately tossed the steelhead into the bushes when he saw the troopers. The angler said that he did not record the steelhead on his harvest card and that was the reason he had tossed the fish into the brush. When the troopers found the fish in the bushes, they discovered the real reason why the fish had been tossed away. The steelhead was wild, which is closed on the Applegate River. The angler was cited for Unlawful take/possession of non-adipose fin clipped steelhead.



South Coast Troopers were happy to present three Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) TIP Rewards to citizens for recent poaching cases. One of the tips initiated an investigation that ultimately led to an individual responsible for shooting two Elk and resulted in a charge of exceeding the bag limit. Another case involved a tip that led troopers to a felon who shot and left a doe to waste. The charges in that case included Unlawful Take Antlerless Deer, Wasting of a Game Mammal, and Hunting in Violation of trespass. The third case led troopers to two men who had unlawfully caught and retained two Wild Coho salmon. Both men were issued citations.

Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Tenmile Lake in Coos County. One subject was contacted who admitted to not having an angling license. He was advised he would be receiving a citation and the Troopers motored away to write the citation. When the subject was re-contacted, he was observed fishing again. When asked why he was fishing, he stated he thought it was okay because he was already in trouble. The subject was advised he cannot fish without a license and could have been cited again. The subject was issued a violation citation for No Resident Angling License, and he promptly purchased one after the contact.

Troopers from the Mid-Valley Team participated in the Willamette Valley Sportsman Show. Troopers were able to interact with hundreds of local sportsmen and sportswomen, local guides and local advocacy groups. On display was the team's newer River Wild patrol boat, and several trophy class Black-tailed bucks and a trophy bull elk, all seized locally through criminal investigations.



A Trooper received information of a local landowner who was observed removing the antlers off a large deceased bull elk that had died on his

property. The Tillamook Office has responded to this landowner's property on multiple wildlife violations in the past. The trooper recovered the antlers, determined the elk had been injured for some time and had died of natural causes on the property. The landowner was cited for a violation of Unlawful Take/Possession of Game Mammal: Elk Antlers. The 5x5 antlers were seized as evidence.



CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Andrea Hanson, Oregon Conservation Strategy Coordinator

Screen Settlement Campaign

Information and Education Division initiated a campaign to ask Oregonians donate their "screen settlement" to ODFW's Nongame Wildlife Fund. The screen settlement comes from the Oregon Attorney General's resolution of two lawsuits brought on behalf of Oregonians against certain manufacturers of LCD and CRTs.

A flyer was created for use at sportsman shows and offices. A video featuring Scott Haugen as the spokesperson has been created and posted to ODFW social media channels. Haugen is an educator, hunter, and wildlife photographer who works with ODFW to provide educational outreach through live streams about hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pitched to Legislators

During National Invasive Species Awareness (ASI) Week, February 26 – March 2, AIS Prevention specialists from several states traveled to Washington D.C. to ask elected officials for more support. An Oregon-specific fact sheet was

created for the specialists to use when meeting with officials. The fact sheet details ODFW's AIS Prevention program, impacts of invasive species and economic impact charts.

MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAM

Caren Braby, Marine Resources Program Manager

Introducing the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council

In January 2018, Oregon's Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) met for the first time, formalizing Oregon's response to this increasingly concerning issue. A result of carbon dioxide accumulation in the atmosphere, ocean acidification poses known threats to the stability and health of popular fishery species such as shellfish including clams, oysters, and mussels. However, we are learning more about the threats to other fishery species such as Dungeness crab and pink shrimp, as well as to marine fishes including Pollock, salmon, and tropical reef fish.



Council members gathered in Newport on 1/25/18 for the Council's inaugural meeting

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the OAH Council will be to identify actions that Oregonians can take within the state to address OAH, and that can positively influence ocean acidification patterns globally. While this challenge appears to be great, many steps can be taken locally to make a difference at regional and greater scales. For ideas on how Oregon can act to effect change, the OAH Council is taking into consideration many sources including public input (public comment is taken at every OAH Council meeting), and the Ocean Acidification Alliance Action Toolkit, available [here](#). The OAH Council will develop

recommended actions for Oregon, to better understand, mitigate and adapt to changing ocean conditions, including ocean acidification and hypoxia.

The first biennial report of the OAH Council is due to the Oregon legislature September 2018. If you would like to attend an OAH Council meeting, or you would like more information about the Council, including meeting agendas, meeting materials, and video recordings, please visit: <http://oregonocean.info/index.php/ocean-acidification>. For a good introductory video on how ocean acidification and hypoxia is influencing Oregon, please see this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h08ok3hFSs>

**END OF FIELD REPORTS FOR
March 16, 2018**