

# HERITAGE NEWS

October 2007

## Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation partners with the Columbia Plateau Chapter of Pheasants Forever



The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation has a history of funding numerous grass-land and upland bird projects. The most recent is the "No-Till Drill" project (see page 3). After getting a late start, 16 areas were seeded with grain this year. The plan now is to seed 32 site plots during the spring of 2008, both on private and public lands.

Director Bob Keerins approached the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation with an idea to raise money for Pheasant and grass-land bird habitat improvement. This developing partnership is coming together to sponsor an evening banquet and auction fundraiser on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at the Double Tree Lloyd Center. The funds raised will be used for pheasant and upland bird habitat projects to be directed by the Columbia Plateau chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

If you are interested in supporting and/or attending this event, please call the Foundation office at 503-255-6059 or check the website at [owhf.org](http://owhf.org) (under calendar) for more information as it becomes available.



## Sage-Grouse Conservation Program

The National Wildlife Federation has actively pursued a Sage-Grouse conservation program more commonly called "Adopt-A-Lek" (AAL) over the past eight years. This program monitors and conserves some of the largest remaining greater sage-grouse populations in Montana. Since 2000, this program's success has led it to expand to Nevada, Wyoming, Oregon and South Dakota. By 2008 it is anticipated that new project work will be available to Utah and Idaho. The Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation contributed \$5,000 toward the monitoring in Oregon.

Dan Herrig, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist, is taking the lead for this project coordinating volunteers and managing the data collected.

Within just a few months, 27 volunteers documented the activity in 86 assigned leks with a total of 847 birds counted. It is believed that "consistent annual monitoring contributes to a regional picture of grouse status, helps set priorities, and builds a better understanding of local and regional fluctuations in grouse numbers and lek activity, as well as the efficacy of ongoing and future habitat conservation, mitigation, and restoration efforts".<sup>1</sup>



Early surveys indicate the Sage-Grouse population in the west have declined over 60% since the early 1800's. More studies are eminent. The intent of this long range monitoring is to document the Sage-Grouse population and understand what may be influencing the decline in their population.

1- Quote taken from National Wildlife Federation 2007 Season Report to the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation.



## Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation Salmon Quest

224 guides and anglers fished in the 2007 annual **Salmon Quest** with a reported catch totalling 20 Spring Chinook.

Terry Mulkey's anglers, Dodie Hawthorne & Danise Rickard took 1st place with a catch of 3 fish, totalling 96.25".

Jerre Munson's anglers, Chris Brady & Lorrer Harwood took 2nd place with a catch of 2 fish, totalling 65.5"

3rd place was given to Doug Wilhite's anglers, John Esler & Steve Nichols with a catch of 2 fish totalling 64.75"

Largest fish award was awarded to angler Jim Jalinski who was fishing with John Bowles. His fish measured 38 5/8". The 2007 Salmon Quest netted \$33,800 for the Foundation and the projects we support. This wouldn't be possible if not for our generous sponsors: Alten Sakai & Co., Stevens Marine & Outdoors, Mercury Outboard, Toman's King Camp, Fisherman's Marine, TR-1 (Garmin), Inter-Fluve Inc., Newslanding Design, and Lowrance.

This year the 2007 Salmon Quest was supported by Northwest Salmon Derby Series. Participants in our event (and other events around the northwest) were entered in a drawing to win a 23' center console Pacific Boat powered by a Honda 4 stroke motor with galvanized EZ Loader Trailer. On September 23rd Steve Herrmann from Snohomish Washington was drawn as the lucky winner of this fabulous boat.

Special shout-out to our two photographers Don New with his boatman Brad Staples, and Dave Schamp with his boatman Dan Kearns



Above picture left to right:  
Bill Shake, Ryan & Chris McKay  
Dave Schamp, Photographer

**The 2008 Salmon Quest will be on Saturday, May 10th.**



## Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation Golf Classic

The 9th Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation Golf Classic was held September 9th. Golfers enjoyed cool weather as they teed off.

Our golfers enjoyed playing at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora, and later sat down to a barbequed chicken and ribs dinner with an abundance of raffle items.

Early reporting show this event netted approximately \$29,900.

Thank you to all the golfers that participated in this event

Special thanks to our sponsors: Alten Sakai & Co., Rain Dance Ranch, Stimson Lumber, OnPoint Community Credit Union, Suburban Door, Kerr Pacific Corp, Portland General Electric, The Collins Companies, and Capital Pacific Bank.

**The 2008 Golf Classic will be Wednesday, September 24th.**



# Projects

## **Pheasants Forever & Grassland Birds**

This project request was submitted by the Heppner Chapter of Pheasants Forever, asking the Foundation to purchase a "Great Plains No-till Drill" (pictured). The drill will be used on private and public land to develop food plots, including guzzlers, to benefit pheasants and other grassland nesting birds. With Foundation funds and the donations from our directors Bobby Keerins, Governor Victor Atiyeh, Randy Labbe, Charles Lilley, Ken Austin, Melinda & Kim MacColl, Don Denman, Julie & Rocky Dixon, Price Gripekoven, Rick Olcott, Nelson Rutherford, Dave Cummings, Macy Wall and Rod Brobeck, the much needed drill was purchased. According to Pheasants Forever the drill has already been put to use and future plans are to provide the drill for use on Conservation Reserve Program land across Morrow and Umatilla counties and make the entire area a better environment for pheasants and other grassland birds.



## **Youth Angling**

The Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife designed the "Youth Angling Program" to introduce Oregon's youth to recreational fishing and fishing education activities on the importance of maintaining healthy, clean environment for fishing opportunities in the future. ODFW biologists coordinate each fishing event as well as distribute equipment and fishing tackle. For the 2007 program, the Foundation partnered with ODFW, each paying \$25,000 toward the purchase of privately raised trout and their transportation to the ponds and lakes used for youth fishing events taking place in the spring of 2007.

*Pictured: Young angler at Hebo Lake. Picture courtesy of ODFW.*

For more information on this event visit:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/outdoor\\_skills/yaep.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/outdoor_skills/yaep.asp)



## **Grand Ronde River Land Purchase**

The OWHF Project Committee approved a grant to help the city of Island City, Oregon purchase 1.5 miles of the Grand Ronde River Corridor and an adjacent 16 acre mined-out aggregate pond for a greenway that would include stream and bank restoration activities for the community, as well as a day-use park with urban fishing for the youth. ODFW biologist, Jeff Zakel, supports this land acquisition that will allow for stream restoration and, through riparian improvements, will attract multiple non-game species.

## **Camp Angelos- Kids Fishing Camp**

The OWHF Project Committee approved providing funds that will be used as scholarship money for kids to attend the 7th Annual Fish Camp. Campers will fish for hatchery trout in the camp's trout pond as well as for trout and steelhead from the banks of the Sandy River. Last year, with the Foundation's help, the camp accommodated 101 young campers and filled the pond with trout.

## **LiDAR Survey**

The OWHF Project Committee approved funding to help ODFW to utilize a "Light Detection and Ranging" (LiDAR) survey to develop a topographic map of approximately 300 acres of lower Rock Creek, a tributary to Devils Lake for developing the restoration plan. The survey data will be used for engineering designs for East Devils Lake Road, channel remnants, and planting designs. Rock Creek is a primary tributary to Devils Lake and is home to a unique population of Coho Salmon.

# I'M COMMITTED TO RESTORING OREGON'S NATURAL HABITATS!

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