

## CITY OF CANNON BEACH AGENDA

Meeting: Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Advisory Committee  
Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011  
Time: **5:30 p.m.**  
Location: Council Chambers, City Hall

5:30 CALL TO ORDER

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

5:31 (1) **Recreation Element of the Management Plan, Hunting and Related Topics**

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6:45 (2) **Review of Comments - Community Open House, November 30, 2011**

(3) **Committee Member Comments**

(4) **Public Comments**

7:00 ADJOURNMENT

*Please note that agenda items may not be considered in the exact order listed, and all times shown are tentative and approximate. For questions about the agenda, please contact Brandy Brien, Administrative Assistant, Executive and Planning Departments, at (503) 436-8052. The meeting is accessible to the disabled. If you need special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the City Manager at (503) 436-8050. TTY(503)436-8097.*

Posted: 12/05/11



# **Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Advisory Committee**

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **DISCUSSION, HUNTING AND RELATED TOPICS**

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**Agenda Date:** December 7, 2011

**Prepared by:** Rainmar Bartl, City Planner

## **BACKGROUND**

Herman Biederbeck, District Wildlife Biologist, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Sgt. Tim Schwartz, with the Oregon State Patrol, will attend the meeting and provide background material and answer questions regarding issues related to the potential use of the Forest Reserve for hunting.

## **List of Attachments:**

- “A”** Herman Biederbeck Memorandum, ECFR Topics/Questions from October 25, 2011 email.
- “B”** Tim Schwartz Memorandum, November 29, 2011



ECFR Topics/Questions from October 25, 2011 email.

1. What is known about the deer and elk in the Forest Reserve. Populations, trends etc.

We know there are both deer and elk in ECFR, but we don't know exactly how many. Generally, our "scale of resolution" on deer and elk populations tends to be a scale similar to counties (wildlife management units). However, people familiar with the ECFR, could likely work with me to come up with an estimate for each.

2. What is known about bear and cougar. Populations, trends etc.

We have moderate populations of bears on the north coast, but based on the hunter harvest data, not nearly as many as the mid-coast. All indications point that cougar occur on the north coast at very low densities. Populations are suspected to be stable, though.

3. Hunting regulations as they apply to the above species.

In Clatsop County, elk tend to be hunted by rifle through a controlled hunt (lottery type) system. Archery deer and elk are general (over the counter) season tags, as are deer rifle tags, bear tags and cougar tags.

4. Availability of information about how much hunting might occur in the Forest Reserve.

I don't have any formal estimates based on surveys. However, long-time hunters on the property could provide better information on this as they may have a history with the area. I would say that hunting would very likely be a low key (low impact) endeavor.

5. As a landowner, what options does the City have with regard to regulating hunting, e.g. "controlled hunts", the A&H program.

See OSP response from Sgt. Tim Schwartz.

6. If the City were to prohibit hunting on some or all of the Reserve, what type of posting is required.

See OSP response from Sgt. Tim Schwartz.

7. If the City restricts hunting on the property in some manner, what resources, if any, are available to the City to assist in the enforcement of those regulations.

See OSP response from Sgt. Tim Schwartz.

8. What is the status of regulations regarding trapping. Species, requirements etc.

ODFW also has regulations regarding the take (trapping or hunting) of furbearers. Trappers are regulated by ODFW rules and state statutes. My guess is that trapping would be a very low key activity, if allowed.

9. What is known about the impact of elk on vegetative cover.

Elk are a dominant herbivore in north coast forest habitats, and can have tremendous impacts on early seral forest vegetation (e.g. forbs, grasses, small trees and shrubs).

If you can suggest other topics in this general area, that would be great.

Hunting can also be viewed as a tool to regulate big game populations. Reasons may include:

- 1) To control damage to crops, seedlings, etc.

- 2) To keep animals within "carrying capacity" of their habitat.
- 3) To address ecological damage (to their habitat).

ECFR Topics/Questions from November 3, 2011 email

1. The scope of hunting opportunities in Clatsop County. I think this is meant to provide info on the land base for hunting.

In Clatsop County, there are about 830 square miles of terrestrial lands, of which the majority (over 95%) are theoretically open to hunting. Approximately 25% of that 830 square miles are ODF forest lands; the majority of the rest are industrial forest and private landowner lands. Hunting access is very open on ODF lands and regulated by access on industrial forest and private landowner lands.

2. If information is available, number of licensed hunters in Clatsop County. Or presented in a different way, number of licenses issued for various types of "hunts."

We don't have information on the number of hunters in Clatsop County, per se, but we do for the Saddle Mtn. WMU, which takes in all of Clatsop County and the western third of Columbia County. For example, in 2009 there were 2,287 elk rifle hunters, 1479 archery elk hunters, 3445 deer rifle hunters and 774 deer archery hunters. There were also an estimated 517 bear hunters. Other species included cougar, upland game bird, waterfowl, furbearer (e.g. bobcat) and predator (e.g. coyote), which are hunted to a lesser degree in forested habitats.

## MEMORANDUM OREGON STATE POLICE

DATE: November 29, 2011  
TO: Herman Biederbeck  
ODFW-Tillamook  
FROM: Tim Schwartz, Sergeant  
Oregon State Police, Astoria  
SUBJECT: **ECOLA CREEK FOREST RESERVE**

Below are listed responses to questions posed by the city of Cannon Beach regarding the ECFR.

1. Landowner Options for regulating hunting on ECFR.

*Being the land owner, and responsible party for ECFR, the city of Cannon Beach has the authority to limit access, refuse hunting or recreational activities, and/or control public access to the ECFR. There are several options or programs to assist in regulating the access and hunting on the ECFR. The A&H program, Hunting by Written Permission Only, and Controlled Hunts are all options that allow safe, controlled and effective access to the land.*

2. Posting Required Prohibiting Hunting on the ECFR.

*ORS 105.700 outlines the posting requirements for prohibiting public access to private lands. The statute lists several specific posting requirements for land through which the public has no right of way, and land through which, or along which the public has an unfenced right of way by means of a public road. Posting consists of 8x11 inch signs listing "Closed to Entry", "Private Property", "No Trespassing", or words to that effect. Signs must be placed at normal points of entry, or gated access points, on lands which the public has no right of way. For lands that border, or through which the public has an unfenced right of way, similar signs must be posted no closer than 30 ft. from the centerline of the roadway, nor more than ¼ mile along the bordering roadway, or waterway. Fencing is another option, with painted fluorescent fence posts and signage.*

3. Enforcement Resources available to assist the city of Cannon Beach

*Enforcement Resources available to assist the city of Cannon Beach, as it relates to hunting regulation, and criminal law, would consist of the Oregon State Police; specifically the Fish & Wildlife Division. On lands that are privately owned, the OSP could not act as an agent of the land, and therefore would not actively patrol the land. OSP and other public agencies would only respond to requests for service by the land owner, or its representative, by listed regulation/statute. Under the A&H program, enforcement of the land is provided by OSP through the program.*