



# ODFW Field Reports

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission  
January 16, 2026

## State Wildlife Action Plan-COMPASS update

We are excited to announce the launch of the new and improved version of ODFW Compass—our public web mapping tool designed to support data visualization and implementation of Oregon’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). This mapping application was developed from the ground up as part of the 2026 SWAP Revision, and features many new and enhanced functionalities, including an improved user interface, additional spatial data that were previously not available in Compass, the ability for users to add their own data layers and bookmarks, and new tools for users to quickly find information on Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Key Habitats, and potential threats throughout the state. We still have a few more things we are finishing up adding to the site, and we look forward to making additional improvements based on user feedback in the future.

Access Compass here:

<https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/compass>

## East Region

Nick Myatt, Region Manager

## Lookingglass Hatchery Fish Passage and Screening Upgrades

Lookingglass Hatchery, constructed in 1982 under the Lower Snake River Compensation Program (LSRCP), completed major upgrades to its fish ladder and intake screens last summer to improve native fish passage and operational reliability. The new fish ladder replaces a system constrained by a diversion dam and historic waterfall, providing year-round volitional passage in Lookingglass Creek. This improvement benefits Chinook salmon, steelhead, lamprey, bull trout, resident rainbow trout, and coho salmon, which were recently documented in the creek. The ladder also

restores access to high-quality upstream spawning habitat, supporting regional recovery goals.



View of Lookingglass Creek flowing downstream through the newly constructed fish ladder at the hatchery.

The project included replacement of outdated intake screens originally installed in 1980. The new system allows staff to isolate and dewater individual screens for maintenance without divers or hatchery shutdowns, improving safety, efficiency, and protection of fish and infrastructure. Construction was completed within in-water work windows and used cofferdams, turbidity monitoring, and off-site settling ponds to minimize environmental impacts.



Lookingglass Hatchery’s new traveling water screens.

Funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's LSRCF with support from Bonneville Power Administration, the project is expected to remain under \$5 million—well below the original \$10 million estimate. Tribal partners, including the Nez Perce and Umatilla Tribes, were engaged throughout design and implementation. Final inspections and minor finishing work are anticipated this winter or early spring.

## West Region

Mike Gauvin, Region Manager (acting)

### ODFW response to coyote incident in Portland

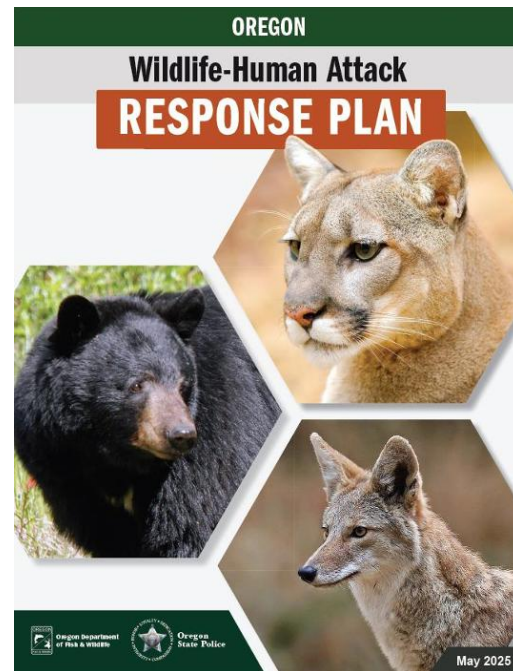
On Oct. 24, 2025, ODFW received a report of an incident involving a coyote and a child in the Alameda neighborhood of Portland. On the evening of Oct. 23, two children, ages 9 and 3, were playing hide-and-seek in their yard when a coyote approached the 9-year-old and grabbed the child's foot. The child was wearing only socks and was able to pull free by slipping out of the sock and running away. The coyote pursued the child until the child's father, who was on the front porch, began yelling, at which point the coyote fled. The child was taken to a nearby hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Upon receiving the report, ODFW activated the agency's Wildlife Human Attack Response Plan and implemented an Incident Command System structure. Staff responded to the area to conduct a site investigation, distributed informational flyers, and shared a public notice on social media to alert residents that a concerning coyote incident had occurred. Over the following two weeks, ODFW worked closely with the City of Portland, United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, and the Oregon State Police to address the situation.

On Oct. 31, a coyote was captured and humanely euthanized less than one mile from the incident location. ODFW district and wildlife veterinary staff coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Forensics Laboratory to determine whether DNA collected from the victim's sock matched the captured animal. On Nov. 5, ODFW received confirmation that the DNA profiles matched,

verifying that the coyote captured on Oct. 31 was the animal that bit the child on Oct. 23. Testing confirmed that the coyote did not have rabies.

A coordinated staff response established Wildlife-Human Attack Response protocols, clear communication, and strong interagency partnerships contributed to the successful resolution of this incident.



### Weyerhaeuser Fishing Access Program enhances access on North Fork Nehalem River

In mid-October, Weyerhaeuser launched a new fishing access permit area on the North Fork Nehalem River, expanding angling opportunities for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead as the fish move upstream to Nehalem Hatchery. The program provides anglers with access to approximately three-quarters of a mile of additional river frontage. Prior to the program's launch, fishing opportunities in this area were limited to small parcels of public land near the river, access at the hatchery, or walk-in access from publicly accessible land farther upstream.

To support the new access area, Weyerhaeuser constructed designated parking areas and installed signage in advance of the opening date. The North Coast Salmon and Steelhead Enhancement Fund contributed funding to help support the project.



Anglers holding a Weyerhaeuser fishing access permit may use designated parking areas on a spur road off the Soapstone mainline road between Oct. 15 and April 15. Permits are issued on an annual basis at a cost of \$35 per angler, with fees supporting monitoring and maintenance of the property. Permit holders are allowed access to the property for fishing purposes only.



Signage posted by Weyerhaeuser at the parking area.



Part of the area anglers can now access with the permit from Weyerhaeuser.

### Hatchery staff work around the clock during flooding events

ODFW's hatchery staff worked night and day to keep hatcheries running during the atmospheric river events in December. Rising rivers brought debris, sediment and even full trees, which can clog hatchery intakes that provide the oxygenated water fish need to survive.

Clackamas Hatchery experienced a power outage, rapid river rise, and temporary loss of the siphon water intake system. Staff responded by switching to generator power and a backup pump station, allowing operations to continue despite

the Clackamas River reaching its third-highest crest on record. Water levels have since receded, the siphon intake has been restored, and all hatchery operations and fish remain safe.

Hatcheries that sustained minor to moderate damage and storm impacts include Big Creek, Alsea, Salmon River, Gnat Creek, Nehalem, Wizard Falls, Bonneville, Roaring River, and the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. A minor landslide occurred at Trask Hatchery and Gnat Creek Hatchery staff reported a potential upriver slide, which will continued to be monitored.



High flows at Trask Hatchery in Tillamook.

Willamette Hatchery experienced muddy water and debris, including large trees, requiring staff to work rotating shifts to clear intake screens every 10-15 minutes. The hatchery draws its water from the Salmon Creek watershed, which has burned in a series of wildfires over the last five years. Burn impacts in the watershed have increased sediment transport during major rain events, contributing to the challenging intake conditions observed.

High wind and extreme rain brought down trees across Hwy 22 between the Minto and Marion Forks facilities, closing the highway for several hours. Staff worked throughout the night, without power, keeping the Horn Creek intake clear and cleaning incubation trays of spring Chinook to prevent suffocation from sediment.

In the east region, Cascade Hatchery staff with support from other Gorge hatcheries worked through the night to manage water supplies for incubating salmon eggs amid ongoing intake

challenges. The intake sustained additional damage during the event, and access roads were covered with debris. The hatchery has experienced persistent intake issues since the Eagle Creek Fire in 2017. A full intake replacement is scheduled using federal Inflation Reduction Act funds.



The bent railing is usually where staff stand to clean the screens at Cascade Hatchery. The wooden deck above was submerged at the highest river level.

Despite the intensity and widespread impacts of these atmospheric river events, ODFW hatcheries statewide remained operational due to the skill, preparedness, and dedication of hatchery staff. Rapid responses, backup systems, and cross-facility support helped protect critical infrastructure and ensured the safety of fish during records flows, power outages, and heavy debris flows. As conditions stabilize, these events highlight both the increasing challenges posed by extreme weather and the critical role hatchery staff play in operating Oregon's hatchery facilities.



Alsea Hatchery staff had a long night keeping the intake clear as debris and sediment went down the system

## **New pheasant pens on Denman Wildlife Area**

For more than 100 years, pheasant hunting has been a popular tradition at Denman Wildlife Area (DWA) for both kids and adults.

Each year, DWA hosts a two-day youth pheasant hunt in September before the start of the general season. An average of about 130 youth come to this hunt that is directly followed by a special fee pheasant hunt with about 800-900 participants annually.

An adequate pheasant holding pen is essential for DWA to host these unique hunting opportunities. The previous pen was about 30 years old and although it held together with several rounds of repairs, the wet snow load from the 2024 winter storms was the knock-out blow that destroyed it.

DWA staff and local volunteers began work on constructing a new pen. Staff secured funding for materials through the Bird Stamp Program Grant in addition to \$6,000 of lumber and plywood donated by the Jackson County Oregon Hunter's Association and Roseburg Timber Products. Countless hours were donated by the volunteers joining work parties with DWA staff.

The pen was built in the footprint of the old one with a span of 22,500 square feet. The design closely resembles the pens at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area with raceways that connect to an alley where birds are pushed along into the loading box.

With the help of volunteers and two work parties that included local Boy Scout troops, local sport hunters, and other local volunteers, half of the pen was enclosed the night before the 2025 Youth Pheasant Hunt, just 24 hours prior to the delivery of pheasants. Staff and volunteers continue to work on the construction of the second half of the pen. DWA staff is very appreciative of all the hard work and dedication exhibited toward this project through volunteer hours, funding and donations!.





Wet snow in 2024 damaged the old pheasant pen at Denman Wildlife Area.



Local Boy Scouts, sportsmen, and others volunteered their time to help build a new pheasant pen with wildlife area staff.

### **Large logs create habitat for salmonids and Northwestern Pond turtle on the Umpqua National Forest**

Habitat improvements for salmon, steelhead and Northwestern Pond turtles – all species of greatest conservation need were recently completed through a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) with the Umpqua National Forest. ODFW's Regional Habitat Biologist, Hydro Mitigation staff, and Forest Service staff completed a large wood placement project across three streams and four ponds in the North and South Umpqua watersheds on the forest.

The initial groundwork for this project was started back in 2013 by staff with both agencies that have since retired or left ODFW. Components of getting this project literally off the ground included a felling and hauling project to use fire damaged trees. Last summer there was risk of losing the logs for one stream due to the Horse Heaven fire, but the Forest Service was able to prioritize protecting the logs.

About 350 logs were placed across all sites. Logs were of such size that a minimum lifting capacity of 20,000 pounds was needed. Columbia Helicopters, well-versed in this work, was contracted through open bid process. ODFW administered the contract and helped coordinate Forest Service road guards to protect the public. Forest Service staff did the instream contractor instruction and site design, and one of the retired Forest Service staff members returned to help implement the project. There are two additional streams planned under contract for next year and ODFW staff are assisting with design for those streams.



Logs for Northwestern Pond turtles were placed along Blue Bluffs Pond.



About 350 logs were placed in streams and ponds to improve habitat for Northwestern Pond turtles, salmonids and steelhead.



## **Oregon State Police**

Captain Doug Shugart, Fish & Wildlife Division

### **Commercial Dungeness crab dead loss investigation results in charges**



Commercial Dungeness crab dead loss investigation

Fish and Wildlife Division members responded to the report of a commercial fishing vessel discovered to have dead loss Dungeness crab in its hold while offloading at a commercial wholesale dealer. After discovering the dead loss, the captain of the fishing vessel left the dealer prior to offloading the remainder of the crab and did not complete a transportation report.

The captain of the fishing vessel was contacted and interviewed. The investigation resulted in the captain being cited and released for No Commercial Fishing Boat License, No Individual Commercial Fishing License, and No Commercial Transportation Report.

### **Jackson county case results in multiple charges and evidence seizures**



Taking deer closed season investigation results in multiple charges.

A Fish and Wildlife Division member investigated a subject who reportedly killed a deer during a closed season in Jackson County within the Applegate Wildlife Management Unit in late November. The subject was contacted at his residence and admitted to killing a mature buck deer during closed season, and two fall black bears in September. The subject admitted he never checked in the two black bear skulls to ODFW as required and admitted to burying one bear skull and leaving the second bear skull behind. The subject's 3x4 buck deer euro mount and packaged deer meat were seized as evidence. The subject was issued citations for Take/Possession of Buck Deer Closed Season and Fail to Check in Black Bear to ODFW Within 10 Days, and warned for Hunting Closed Season.

### **OSP and USFWS partner on Roseburg investigation**



Fish and Wildlife Division members assist USFWS with large elk case.

Fish and Wildlife Division members assisted US Fish and Wildlife Service Agents with a search warrant service at a Roseburg residence. The search resulted in the seizure of 18 sets of elk antlers, three compound bows, a thermal imaging device, multiple electronic devices, a cell phone, drugs with associated paraphernalia and numerous other items, in connection with a multi-year investigation into illegal hunting activities by the subject. The investigation is ongoing, and charges are pending.

## The Guardian receives Best Light Award!



Marine Fisheries Team vessel “Guardian” wins ribbon at boat parade.

Fish and Wildlife Division members participated in Newport’s Lighted Boat Parade on Yaquina Bay. This year the Guardian took the award for best lights! Unfortunately, this year the event was cut short when a sailboat ran aground with recovery efforts blocking the channel. King Tides and a negative low tide made the parade course challenging for boats with deeper drafts.

## Buck visits Kindergarten class



Fish and Wildlife Division members present at kindergarten class.

Fish and Wildlife Division members, including K-9 Buck, visited the Northwest Christian Academy in Eugene. They spoke to about 20 kindergarten aged students related to community service. A large portion of the talk consisted of

interaction with Buck, who is always the most popular of the team member at these events.

## Wildlife harassment leads to consideration of charges in Jackson County



Fish and Wildlife Division members investigate bear attack.

Fish and Wildlife Division members responded to a bear attack on a human. A sub-adult black bear was in a rural-residential area when local residents approached the bear. One resident attempted to feed the cornered bear and was attacked, receiving serious injuries before her husband, who was also attacked, was able to shoot and kill it. A report was referred to the Jackson County District Attorney’s Office for consideration of charges related to the harassment of wildlife.

## Marine Resources Program

Justin Ainsworth, Marine Resources Program Manager

## Engaging communities with Oregon’s Marine Reserves

In 2024, the passage of HB 4132 re-established a communications and outreach position to support the ODFW Marine Reserve team’s education, outreach, and engagement-related legislative mandates. From the coast to the valley, the team was busy with tabling events, presentations, and community meetings this year. Since January 2025, the team participated in 36 outreach events



and activities, reaching over 2,100 people directly.

Through these efforts, the team sought out and developed opportunities to engage a variety of audiences with topics pertaining to Oregon's marine reserves, including venues such as the Portland Pride Waterfront Festival, Newport Pride, and a multilingual Café Aquarium event hosted by Juntos en Colaboración at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. As part of a human dimensions research project, the program sponsored and participated in a razor clam harvest event for Spanish-speaking Oregonians in Astoria.

Other outreach included a guided walk along Otter Crest Loop to highlight the role of reserves in the mosaic of protections along Oregon's coast, community presentations about juvenile fish, a launch event for an augmented reality deep dive into the Otter Rock Marine Reserve, a guided tour for visiting scientists and marine protected area managers, a marine reserves day at the Portland Aquarium, and more.

Additionally, ODFW provided funding to the Marine Reserves community teams to further educate, expand awareness, and cultivate stewards of the sites through partner-led onsite interpretation, community science, and outreach activities.



Members of the Marine Reserves team tabling at the Portland Aquarium.

## ODFW hosts successful Pop-Up Gear Learning Exchange

Along the West Coast, there is interest in pop-up gear technology, used on its own or in combination with longlined pots, as a potential tool for significantly reducing the number of vertical lines in the water from commercial pot fisheries, and the associated risk of marine life entanglement.

While pop-up gear has not been tested off Oregon to date, it is currently being tested under experimental fishing permits in California. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife also recently announced the first authorization of a pop-up system to be used in the California Dungeness crab fishery during spring closures due to entanglement risk.

Recently, ODFW hosted a pop-up gear learning exchange in Astoria, with support from Oregon Sea Grant, Oceana, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sustainable Seas Technology, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The workshop provided an overview of ODFW's perspective on pop-up gear testing off Oregon, and an introduction to common pop-up gear technologies and virtual gear marking. There was opportunity for discussion with crabbers that are familiar with using the gear in other fisheries, how pop-up gear is being used in California commercial fisheries, and how it might be used in Oregon. Participants also visited the Warrenton Marina for a demonstration of pop-up gear deployment and a chance to handle the gear.

The workshop was well attended with close to 50 participants representing the crab industry, enforcement, management, conservation groups, and other interested parties. There were productive conversations about the gear and interest from some industry members in testing. Many recognized that pop-up and longline gear are potential tools for maintaining opportunities to harvest Dungeness crab in times and places impacted by other entanglement risk reduction measures that have been implemented in recent years or will be considered in the future. Concerns related to gear conflicts, enforcement, and impacts to industry were also shared.





ODFW Marine Resources Program's Troy Buell discusses virtual gear marking with workshop participants.



Russ Mullins, owner of Guardian Ropeless Systems, introduces the Guardian Sled system.

**End of field reports for  
January 16, 2026**