

Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Advisory Group to Meet in Salem July 11

by Bend Weekly News Sources

SALEM – The public is invited to attend the last scheduled meeting of the Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator Advisory Group, Tuesday July 11 at ODFW headquarters, 3406 Cherry Avenue NE, Salem from 1:00 to 4:45 p.m. PDT.

Wildlife control operators are often called to assist with conflicts caused by raccoons, squirrels, and other species that can become nuisances in urban areas by occupying attics or crawl spaces and scavenging food from trash cans, pet dishes and other sources. For information on steps to take to limit nuisance wildlife around your home, visit http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/ and click on “Living with Urban Wildlife.”

The Advisory Group is composed of representatives from stakeholder groups including wildlife control operators, animal welfare groups, urban wildlife conservationists, wildlife rehabilitators, law enforcement and local government. The group is providing input to ODFW so the agency can develop Oregon Administrative Rules based on recommendations from the 2004 Task Force on Wildlife Control Activities.

The Task Force was created in 2003 after the passage of Senate Bill 832. Its purpose was to make recommendations on developing a system to license and regulate businesses conducting these nuisance, damage or public health risk animal control operations.

The Task Force adopted 16 recommendations which it presented to a legislative committee in Sept. 2004 and to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in Jan. 2005. Because most of the recommendations could be implemented through an administrative rule process, the Commission directed ODFW staff to develop the rules accordingly. Proposed rules will be presented to the Commission at their Sept. 2006 meeting.

Although other wildlife including bears, cougars, bobcats and foxes may cause damage to property or other conflicts with people, this process is not dealing with those species as their management is specified through other regulations and plans.

The meeting’s agenda includes reviewing drafts of rules, permits, monthly reporting forms and other related materials.

An opportunity for public comment is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. PDT. A teleconference line is available for members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting but cannot attend in person.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals requesting assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreters or large-print materials. Individuals needing these types of accommodations need to call the Information and Education Division at 800-720-6339 or 503-947-6002 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

For more information, contact Peg Boulay at 503-947-6316.

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