



# BIG TIMBER

## RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

www.btrpc.com

April 2024

### President's Message

I'd like to discuss a recent incident at the 50 yd range. On the website and in the newsletter are pictures from our cameras. They show people removing one of the steel targets from the pistol range and putting it on the 50yd range then shooting it with rifles. There are several problems with this. First is the safety issue, it is very dangerous to shoot steel with rifles at less than a hundred yards. You can get shrapnel blown directly back at you. It is a major violation of the safety rules. Next is the rule about not moving targets, stands and gear between the ranges. All of the members signed to follow the rules of the range. We think at least one of the rifles was an AR10 or equivalent as it made some deep divots in the steel target. There are smaller divots consistent with AR15 rounds at that range. Don't have a picture of how far out the target was but when I moved it back to the pistol range it was thirty yards out. Last is that we do not have a way to be sure that one of the people is a member. The gate was closed and a key was used to access the range. If there was not a member present then that is a violation of the rules too. When a member signs the waiver they take responsibility for all persons with them and for their safety. If you give your key to another person, the member are still responsible for their actions. We, the members of the board, would like to hear from the people in pictures. Please be safe out there as the alternative is that we staff the range and either raise dues or constrict hours of operation.

Jim Patrick



### Range Manager's Notes

Hello All.

There are going to be a few changes at the range. We have new target faces for the archery range along with some new targets. We plan on rearranging the targets and establishing a firing line when it dries out a little more.

There is now a dud/live ammo can at the pistol range.

Next range day (April 6) the plan is to cut down more trees on the left side of the rifle range to make room for a berm. I got a call from another excavating contractor that would like to dump a lot of clean dirt starting in April so we need to get that area on the left side of the rifle range cleared. Help is always appreciated

We had a nice turnout for the precision rifle shoot on a beautiful day. Everyone had a good time. In

I installed T Mobile internet in the classroom so there is now a wireless hotspot at the classroom area. The wi-fi password is on a sign board in the window next to the door. If you don't have cellular coverage at the range you should be able to make wi fi calls from the area around the classroom. Wi-fi calling needs to be enabled in your phones settings. Thank you.

Mark Mills

### Range and Event Schedule

- ★ **Nominations.** Nominations will be accepted at the May membership meeting for the 2024/2025 Board. If you are interested in serving on the board or voting in June you will need to attend three (3) events/meetings before the June vote.
- ★ **Membership Applications for the 2024/2025 year will be accepted in May** and the new keys will be distributed at that time. You will be able to use this key immediately upon receipt as we will have this year's lock and next year's lock on the gate.
- ★ **Newsletter Publisher/Editor.** I have been preparing the newsletter for over four years and would like to step down from this duty. I devote less than 10 hours on the preparation, printing and mailing and posting in Mail Chimp. Please contact me and I would be happy to go over the process. Lurlyn Patrick, 541-270-0785.
- ★ **Range Orientation Instructor(s).** 1 or 2 Orientation Instructors are wanted to teach mid month classes as needed and to fill the range day orientation class if I am unable to teach. The Instructor Manual has been updated and is easy to follow. Each orientation takes about 2 hours, not including drive time to/from the range. Contact Lurlyn Patrick, 541-270-0785, for more information.

- Apr 4 Logical Response Private Course  
8:00 am-12:00 pm  
no range closures  
Contact: Chris Miller, Logical Response  
541-272-1770
- Apr 6 Work Party  
9:00 am-3:00 pm. All ranges closed  
Contact: Mark Mills, 541-410-0530
- Apr 6 Range Orientation  
9:00 am-10:30 am  
at the Range Classroom  
Contact: Lurlyn Patrick, 541-270-0785
- Apr 9 OHA Meeting  
5:30 pm Dinner, 6:00 pm Meeting  
Rogue Public House, Newport  
contact:Todd Thompson,  
OHALincolnCountyEditor@gmail.com
- Apr 13 .22 Rimfire Challenge  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
at the Pistol Range  
Contact: Mark Mills, 541-410-0530
- Apr 15 BTRPC Membership Meeting  
6:00 pm, Timbers Restaurant, Toledo  
Contact: Jim Patrick, 541-270-2767
- Apr 20 Military Rifle Match  
9am-3pm, Rifle Range  
Contact: Dan Geisert 971-241-8658
- Apr 20 CHL Class  
8:00 am-4:00pm, Classroom and Pistol  
Range - no range closures  
Contact: Chris Miller, Logical Response  
541-272-1770
- Apr 21 Logical Response Private Course  
8:00 am-12:00 pm  
no range closures  
Contact: Chris Miller, Logical Response  
541-272-1770

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### **The Challenges of Cougar Research in the Temperate Rainforest of Coastal Oregon submitted by Jason Kirchner, ODFW**

Two decades ago, cougars in the central coast range were practically unheard of. But as Oregon's healthy cougar population has expanded into northwest Oregon from the population stronghold in the south Cascades, ODFW is observing more cougar harvest, sightings, and damage complaints along the central coast, particularly in the Alsea Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). This project,

the first on the Oregon coast, aimed to find a cost-effective method to determine cougar population density while conducting a home range and habitat use study. We attempted to replicate a successful cougar density/DNA scat collection study by colleagues in northeast Oregon to test its feasibility in western Oregon. If successful, it will allow comparisons between west and northeastern Oregon. Cougar scat collection via conservation detection dogs was initially the primary method and goal for capturing DNA samples for population density and diet analysis for our study. We discovered that research techniques used in other parts of the state and country were not feasible in our wet and brushy habitats. Scat collection samples were not found in significant quantities, so we had to drop this technique. We adapted and tried other methods of DNA collection to determine their feasibility. Two methods of hair snares (barbed wire cubbies and gun brushes) were attempted with minimal success. Too few samples were collected, and only one recapture was obtained. Bio-darting cougars via volunteer houndsmen was the final method attempted. Utilizing scent hounds to tree cougars for DNA bio darting and GPS collaring was the most consistent method for obtaining significant samples. Using scent hounds for cougar research takes considerable time and effort. Still, it is the most effective technique we found in a temperate coastal forest to collect cougar DNA samples.

Fieldwork for this project has been completed, and we are currently analyzing the data collected to determine habitat use, home range, and population density. Estimating population abundance for Cougars is difficult because Cougars are cryptic and usually occur at low densities. We cannot census the population, so we must use statistical models. Typically, capture-recapture models estimate abundance through replicated surveys, but cougars are challenging to get enough information on. We recently learned of a new method of modeling populations that utilizes traditional survey methods but adds a dead recovery (hunter, damage, safety harvest) component for additional information. This dead recovery model is ideal for harvested populations where hunters and landowners contribute valuable information. Our next steps are to acquire grant funds to hire an OSU population biologist to assist us with population density modeling. Once our analysis funding is secured,

work will continue on this important research project. This research will help produce abundance estimates needed for management. The research is funded through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, and the Oregon Hunters Association.

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**The Toledo VFW Post #4227  
invites you to join them for trap shooting**

practice days on Wednesdays starting at 9:00am  
games start at 9am on Sundays

268 Pioneer Mountai Loop (4 miles east of  
Toledo)

loaner shotguns and eye protection available  
earplugs available & shells for sale

for further information call or text Jim Buisman at  
541-270-8009. Leave a message and he will get  
back to you.

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**2023/2024 BTRPC Officers:**

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