



FRIENDS OF HART MOUNTAIN NEWSLETTER



Published bi-annually by Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge

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Spring 2006 Issue

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This newsletter is published bi-annually by the **Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge** for the benefit of its members. Copies are also made available to visitors and through various other outlets in Lake County.

Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is an independent, non-profit, 501(c) (3), corporation dedicated to supporting the primary purposes for which the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge was established: to provide habitat and breeding ground for pronghorn antelope and other species of wildlife; for the protection of natural resources; and the development of incidental wildlife-oriented recreation where it does not interfere with the primary purposes of the Refuge.

President's Message



President Morrie Chappel

Hello again from Hart Mountain NAR! Spring here has been wet but with it will come lots of wildflowers and...lots of mosquitos. As you read through this newsletter you will notice some big changes, namely: the passing of our good friend and refuge employee Bud Woods, our Biologist Rachel Huddleston-Lorton leaving for a position with the US Forest Service, and, refuge manager Kelly Hogan transferring to Region 3 in Fort Snelling, MN. Kelly is the reason the Friends Group exists and we will miss his guidance and expertise. At the same time we are saying good-bye to friends we also would like to welcome Marla Bennett to Hart Mt. as Refuge Operations Specialist and Paul Steblein to the Lakeview office as the new Project Manager for the Sheldon-Hart refuges. Through all the changes please be assured that the Friends of Hart Mountain will continue our goal of working with the refuge for the betterment of wildlife. We hope you can come and visit soon!



Paul Steblein

Hi to all our Friends of Hart Mountain! It is a pleasure to be back out in the field again and working with refuge Friends groups. I just came from the headquarters for the National Wildlife Refuge System, where I served four years as the Chief Budget Officer. While I really enjoyed working at the national level, it was time to get back out to a refuge. I have been a manager or biologist at Great Swamp, E.B. Forsythe and Cape May National Wildlife Refuges and the northeast regional office of the Fish & Wildlife Service (regional biologist and GIS coordinator). I have a wife (Tina) and two children (Jacob and Savannah) who will be coming out when school ends in Virginia.

At Great Swamp NWR, I thoroughly enjoyed working with the new Friends group. In the few weeks that I have been here, I can already see the great work that the Friends of Hart Mountain have accomplished - removal of miles of fencing, sage grouse surveys, pronghorn fawn study, and all of the support in the Hart Mountain office. We could not do it without you! You also add a lot of personality to a place that would be pretty quiet if it only included 2-3 staff.

Speaking of staff - as pointed out elsewhere in the newsletter, we are down several staff. Dave Johnson will be on Hart Mountain 1-2 days a week to oversee projects and activities. A new full-time law enforcement officer will be hired to share between Sheldon and Hart Mountain. We are approved to refill Bud's position, but not Kelly or Rachele's. Dave and I are looking at staff schedules to ensure the best coverage we can for staff coverage in the office, but it does not fully compensate for the reduced number of staff. This will clearly be a challenge for all of us. The reduction of staff at Hart Mountain, and virtually all refuges in the system, was brought about by the changing financial picture. Costs keep going up, and beginning with 2005, the budget for refuges went down. (Continued Page 2)



**In Memoriam
GEORGE "BUD" WOODS
1938-2006**

Our friend and colleague, George "Bud" Woods, 67, of Lakeview and Hart Mountain, died February 8, 2006 at OSHU in Portland of complications from leukemia treatment.

Bud was born February 9, 1938 in Likely, California. He attended school in Woodland, California and graduated from Lodi High School. Bud spent summers working on his uncle's ranch in Termo, California. Bud joined the Army in 1957 and was a member of the Fort Lewis Pistol Marksmanship Team when he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

In 1960 he married Anne Otter. They went on to have three children : Chris Pellisier of Klamath Falls, Joe Woods of Klamath Falls, and George Woods of Boise, Idaho.

Bud retired from the Forest Service and began volunteering at various wildlife refuges with his wife, Anne, ending up at Hart Mt. where Bud eventually became a permanent employee.

Many of us remember Bud from our volunteer days at Hart Mt. and will miss him very much. Bud was a founding member of the Friends of Hart Mountain. If you would like to remember Bud with a donation to the Friends of Hart Mountain, you can send your donation to our Treasurer Nadine Reynolds at PO Box 128, Lakeview, Oregon, 97630.

(Paul Steblein—continued from Page 1)

Rather than discuss the budget here, I am working with the Regional Office to develop some budget fact sheets that we will share with Friends groups and Congress. Advocacy is an important role for Friends groups, and Congress is keenly interested in hearing from you about the good work of Friends of Hart Mountain and your views. I met with your Board of Directors on Saturday, May 19, and they are a very capable and dedicated group. Most have served on the Board since its inception and heavily involved in the volunteer work on the refuge. If the Friends group is to continue and grow, additional members need to get involved on the Board or with other Friends' projects. There are many opportunities to build upon the great work that you do. For instance, there would be benefits from a closer tie with Lakeview community - more people locally to help, better tie with Lakeview businesses (e.g., sponsorship), and increased cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and County Commissioners. With a better local base, Friends of Hart Mountain can help sponsor local events and programs. There is an almost limitless need for volunteer help. Members of the board have been instrumental in helping to coordinate these volunteer efforts, especially during the spring and summer. We could use help in the fall and winter as well. Probably the most important aspect of bringing more people into board or leadership roles is that you can help guide the future of the Friends of Hart Mountain.

Finally, there are a lot of ongoing projects on the refuge. In addition to the biological efforts that were described in previous newsletters, we have some construction projects. A new maintenance shop is scheduled to begin construction in the next 1-2 months. Frenchglen Road is also slated for rehabilitation this year (new gravel on 40 plus miles). A campground will also be built adjacent to the CCC camp area at the base of Hart Mountain. While much of this project work will be completed by contractors, the Friends group will also play an important role.

We also have some other projects where your input will be critical. The future of each and every refuge needs to be described in a strategic plan called a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). We are beginning Sheldon NWR this year, and are looking at doing Hart Mountain at the same time. The CCP process provides a great opportunity for public involvement.

Remember, we manage these refuges for you the public. It is a lot fun to get involved, meet other people, and learn more about the natural treasures on the refuge - but at least come on out and say Hi!



GEMS FROM JIM
James D. Yoakum
Wildlife Biologist

Sage Grouse on the Mountain

When Meriwether Lewis crossed the continent in 1806, he observed the largest grouse in Northern America and named it "Cock of the Plains", because the males conducted elaborate strutting displays while courting females. As I was growing up during the early 1900's, these birds were commonly called "sage hens" - whether the birds were males or females. Now they are referred to as "sage grouse".

Sage grouse are classified as "sagebrush obligate" species; this means they must have sagebrush to live. This translates to "No sagebrush = no sage grouse". Sagebrush provides cover for nesting and security from predators. Also, pungent leaves and sprouting twigs are consumed year-long. Sage grouse are located only on western rangelands where sagebrush grows naturally.

The birds historically and today, live on the wide open plains - none inhabit forest or deserts. They can be seen frequently walking around on the ground feeding on insects and preferred plants. During March, adult males travel to "leks", a Scandinavian name for "sites for birds displaying mating rituals". Here the males inflate their chests, spread their sharp-pointed tail feathers, and strut their wings similar to turkeys. On these leks, females (commonly called hens) choose and mate with males. Then the hens seek secluded nesting sites under sagebrush or other shrubs about a half-mile to four miles from the leks.

Hens build nests on the ground, lay 8 to 12 speckled eggs, and tend the clutch of chicks to adulthood. The males, who during the spring displayed grand courtship rituals, do not assist in raising the growing grouse family.

Extremely important to hens during the nesting time, is the ability to find and consume abundant, preferred, nutritious forbs (flowering herbaceous plants like dandelions, clovers, phlox, and desert parsley). Because these plants are rich in nutrients, chicks obtaining adequate forage often grow fast and healthy.

All spring and summer the chicks stay close to the mother hen, receiving protection from predators by day and warmth by night. They scurry here and there to catch insects, eat forbs and periodically quench their thirst with cool water. During late summers when most of the herbs become dry, the broods travel to verdant meadows. Here, succulent forbs are often available, and the variety of vegeta-

tion supplies greater quantities of protein rich insects.

The autumn and winter arrive. Snow frequently covers the ground and preferred sagebrush species may be less available. Again, the sage grouse turns to the ubiquitous sagebrush and other shrubs, eating the tender leaves supplying nourishment and energy. Without a doubt the most persistent predators are coyotes and golden eagles that live wherever the sage grouse live.

Sage grouse thrive in greatest numbers on natural rangelands in healthy vegetation condition. This means a mosaic pattern of vegetation communities producing numerous plant species. The wide variety of plants provides a greater selection of forage species that are succulent and high in proteins and vitamins needed to maintain healthy sage grouse populations. This is especially important during spring and summer for hens that must find enough quality (nutritious and succulent) forage to lay eggs, feed chicks, and keep alive. Ideal vegetation production is about equal amounts of grasses, forbs and shrubs. One report states that Hart Mountain in Oregon possibly has the highest number of sage grouse per square mile in the Great Basin - due in part to the abundant and healthy condition of vegetation.

The old adage that "Healthy rangelands produce healthy wildlife" is true for sage grouse. This signifies that when rangelands produce abundant, diverse plant communities, then sage grouse and other wildlife are most likely to be abundant. So, that is why well managed environments, such as exist on Hart Mountain, maintain large numbers of sage grouse.



In April Hart Mt. NAR had a visitor from Russia. Yury Darman, the Director of the Russian World Wildlife Federation came to Hart Mt. with Warren Gilbert, retired ODFW. Pictured above are Kelly Hogan, Hart Manager, Warren Gilbert, Ken Guza (Friends VP) and Yury Darman. Picture by Doug Leehmann.

REFUGE UPDATE

Kelly Hogan, Hart Mt. Refuge Manager since 2002, has accepted a transfer to the Regional Office for Region 3 as the Assistant Refuge Manager Supervisor.



Kelly was instrumental in the organization of the Friends of Hart Mountain and has guided the Friends through growing pains as we found our path to where we are now. His contributions to our group and Hart Mt. National Antelope Refuge are greatly appreciated. Kelly always told us to "Go do good things for wildlife". Hopefully we can live up to his charge. We will miss you Kelly. Good luck on your new assignment in Minneapolis.



Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton, the Refuge Biologist, transferred to the Fremont National Forest in Lakeview at the end of the year. Rachelle helped us win our grant that allowed us to buy our computer at the Refuge Headquarters, our laptop and projector that is used by Refuge personnel for presentations.

Marla Bennett is Hart Mountain's new Refuge Operations Specialist. Marla worked at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada for the past 6 years as the wild horse coordinator.



Marla stated "As much as I'll miss the beauty, quiet, and yes—the horses, I am very excited about working on Hart. I'm ready to switch horses for wildlife."

"I have been spoiled by working and living on a remote refuge, and didn't know how I'd survive if I had to move to civilization. Thank goodness I haven't had to find out yet! I'm pleased to get back to working with wildlife, habitat, and volunteers. I'm eager to get to know new territory, learn new skills, and meet all the volunteers."

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS



Dr. Dean Bauman came to us from Newport, Oregon where he owns and operates Mobile Veterinary Service treating large, small, and exotic animals. Dean began coming to Hart Mountain after becoming a member of the Order of the Antelope. Dr. Bauman received his DVM from Kansas State University in 1967. This is Dean's second year of helping with the Fawn Capture for the Mortality Study. Dr. Bauman also previously owned and practiced at Alpine Veterinary Hospital in Corvallis, Oregon.

Dr. Alice Davis-Sievers is in her first year of volunteering at Hart Mountain NAR. Dr. Alice's first visit to Hart Mountain was when she was 2 years old but came to know Hart Mountain through her father, Ned Davis, who is former Chief Whitetail of the Order of the Antelope. Alice owns and practices veterinary medicine at Bear Creek Animal Clinic in Ashland, Oregon where she treats small and exotic animals. Dr. Alice did her undergraduate work at Southern Oregon University and graduated with her DVM from Oregon State University in 2000.



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We are growing!!!!

In the past year we have added 75 new members! Our organization is still growing in members as well as mission as we are working towards developing in our involvement with the Fish and Wildlife Service on Hart Mountain NAR. We hope in the coming years we will be able to come to you with more projects and ways you can support Hart Mountain National Antelope refuge so it will be the best in years to come!



West face of Hart Mountain
Picture by
James & Marguerite Schellentrager



Two newborn pronghorn fawns
Picture by
Tony Reynolds
May 2005

PICTURE PAGE

Last issue we asked if members would like to share pictures they had taken while enjoying their time at Hart Mountain NAR. Here are a few of the submissions. If you would like to share a special picture of Hart Mt., please send as a .jpg file to bhdavis@centurytel.net. The Friends of Hart Mt. reserve the right to use the pictures in publications and fund raising activities.



Buck Pronghorn on Main Road
Picture by
James & Marguerite
Schellentrager



Bridge at Hot Springs
Campground
Picture by
Diana Nance May 2006

The Pronghorn Store



Sales at our Friends store has continued to do well since our last newsletter under the nurturing of our Treasurer Nadine Reynolds with help from Lori Chappel. Our items are artfully displayed in the large showcase in the Visitor area at the Refuge Headquarters. The items listed here are available for mail order. All proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the activities sponsored by Friends of Hart Mountain.

Souvenir 3 cent postage stamp from 1956 with Pronghorn. Donation of \$2.00 + 50 cents postage. Stamps donated by Jim Yoakum. While supplies last.



We now have our logo on ceramic mugs with the words Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. These will be available only at Headquarters at Hart Mountain due to fragility of shipping. \$6.00

Ball caps are all done with embroidery. There is an antelope on the front with the words Hart Mountain. On the back above the size adjuster there are the words National Antelope Refuge. Caps are blue with a khaki tan brim. Cost is \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping.



Color Topo Maps of the Refuge are approximately 19.5" x 26.5". They are \$8.00 + \$1.00 shipping.

Set of 6 Note Cards with photos of various wildlife on Hart Mountain and one of the Hot Springs Bridge. Cost is \$12.50 + \$1.00 shipping. Other single note cards are available at Refuge Headquarters.

Refrigerator Magnets are white with a black ink drawing of pronghorn and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them. Cost is \$1.00 + \$0.50 shipping.



Water Bottles are white and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in black ink. Cost is \$2.00 + \$1.00 shipping.



Travel Mugs are tan and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in black ink. Cost is \$4.00 + \$1.00 shipping.



Can Coolers are green and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in white ink. Cost is \$2.00 + \$1.00 shipping.

T-shirts with our logo contest winner's design screen printed on it. These shirts are \$11.00 plus \$4.00 shipping. We hope to be having other shirts in the future. Check in at Headquarters when you are on the mountain.



The Friends are also selling firewood and mosquito repellent at headquarters. Both items are \$4.00 each. Don't forget there are mosquitoes at Hart Mountain.

Our treasurer, Nadine Reynolds, is hosting the mail order store from her home in Lakeview. You can order your items directly from her at PO Box 128, Lakeview, OR 97630. If you have questions or are ordering multiple items you will need to contact Nadine at 541-947-4929.

DONATIONS

Some of our **Friends** members donate beyond their annual dues or life membership dues. Your donations will support Refuge projects and general activities of the **Friends**. We appreciate any amount you are willing to donate. Please remember that since you receive no goods in exchange all donations are tax deductible. We wish to thank the members for all that they have generously donated in the past year. Your generosity helps the **Friends** pursue the activities in support of the Refuge in fulfilling its mission. Make your check out to **Friends of Hart Mountain** and send donations to:

**Treasurer
Friends of Hart Mountain
PO Box 21, Plush OR 97637**

FRIENDS OF HART MOUNTAIN SILENT AUCTION

Jim Yoakum donated a sheet of 3 cent US postage stamps from 1956 that have a Pronghorn on them and are part of a Wildlife Conservation postage stamp series. They were premiered in Gunnison, Colorado on June 22, 1956. Dwight D. Eisenhower was President and domestic letters only required a 3 cent stamp.



We are silent auctioning the number block for the highest bid over \$20. The money from this auction will aid in the funding of the many Refuge projects supported by the Friends of Hart Mountain. Send your bid to Nadine Reynolds, PO Box 128, Lakeview, Or 97630.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

Our website has been updated to include our past newsletters, you can shop online, join the Friends or renew your membership, change your address (snail and email), contact us and much more. The address on the Internet is www.friendsofhartmountain.org. Check us out. If you have any suggestions for additions use the contact button.

PRONGHORN MORTALITY STUDY

Cutbacks in the Fish and Wildlife Budget for this year eliminated funds for the annual Pronghorn Fawn Mortality Study. The Friends of Hart Mountain Board wrote a letter to The Order of the Antelope (OTA) Foundation Board asking them to consider funding the study for 2006 and for funds for the Helicopter Aerial survey later this summer. The OTA Foundation has purchased the radio tags for the 2006 study and will be paying the Lake District hospital bill for the blood studies.

Friends volunteers was the labor force conducting the capture activities as in previous years under the supervision of Biologist Marla Bennett. This year we have also had the donation of time from two veterinarians. Dr. Dean Bauman and Dr. Alice Davis-Sievers will be joining us as will Dr. Davis-Siever's Office manager, Victoria Wade. Friends volunteers were Morrie and Lori Chappel, George and Nadine Reynolds, Anne Woods, Ned & Barbara Davis, Tony Reynolds, Ken Laidlaw, Bob & Diana Nance, David Johnson, Paul Steblein and Greg Rodman.

A GREAT BIG THANKS
TO OUR WONDERFUL DONORS!
Spring 2006
Scott Erickson
Durlin Hickok & Carol Wallace
Mary Ann Kruse
William Noble
Bob Woods
Donna Fink
Ken Guza & Diane Larsen-Mills
BUD WOODS MEMORIAL
Bill & Dayle Crabtree
Bill Woods
Lee Juillerat



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