



Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Form submission from: Gearhart Elk & Wildlife

City of Gearhart Oregon <gearhart-or@municodeweb.com>
Reply-To: City of Gearhart Oregon <info@cityofgearhart.com>
To: info@cityofgearhart.com

Mon, Nov 13, 2023 at 11:52 AM

Submitted on Monday, November 13, 2023 - 11:52am

Submitted by anonymous user: 47.7.12.100

Submitted values are:

First Name Georgia
Last Name Jenkins
Email Address georgiajenkins@comcast.net
Phone 916-761-1948
Type of Wildlife Encountered Elk
Type of Experience Positive
Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience

I have had no issues with herds of Elk that have gotten as big as 30+ over the years on my property, or the need of damage tags being issued. We live right across the street from the 13th hole at GGL and have roughly 40 acres behind us that were undeveloped from 2020-2022. The groundskeeper at GGL chases ELK off the course and they come over in our backyard., and we are fine with that. I have seen from my house, over and over, idiot people that have tried to get up close to the Elk, and put themselves at risk and not consider these are wild animals. Obviously our city needs to do a better job of educating locals and visitors to not "GET IN THEIR FACE or SPACE"! Yes, they eat grass, leaves, flowers, etc., but I would never destroy any of these Elk, just because they are doing what is natural. If ODFW is going to issue 5 damage tags at a time and this has been done 6 times in one year, for one landowner, and for each year from 2020-2023, then I would think this would be a red flag, and that the ODFW did not do their due diligence in having the landowner correct the damaged area to the extent of distracting Elk from causing ongoing damage. The largest group I have seen over the past 2-months have been 4-5 elk tops! That is really a substantial amount gone in Gearhart, and it makes me sick. ODFW has a responsibility to have home owners do their part to correct their property from attracting the Elk. Recently in Seaside at Sand & Sea condominiums in the middle of reroofing, had to stop roofing because of a seagull's nest and protecting the unborn eggs until they hatched. I think if that pertains to the health and safety of the unborn seaquels, it should certainly pertain to Elk having unborn babies. I think the ODFW can think of a way to not have so many Elk destroyed! Otherwise, why issue damage tags 5 at a time, if there is no incentive for the landowner to correct the problem area. Seems that that would create a conflict to "individual" hunters. If I had a particular landowner being issued revolving damage tags, that should be enough evidence for ODFW to assume that there is a big problem with the landowner not doing their part. We are talking about 40-acres that have been in a family for generations. Why just the damage all of sudden from 2020-2022. All of these concerns, should be addressed by ODFW. Per Beth Quillian, North Coast, North & South Willamette Watersheds Communications Coordinator, on November 13, 2023, in an email to me: "The damage must be verified by ODFW district staff in order for a damage tag to be issued. When a landowner approaches ODFW about damage tags, the district staff must have a conversation with them about how to alleviate damage". This seems logical, but it also seems that it has not been done or addressed over the past 3-years, along with 78 tags being issued to one landowner. ODFW has the final say and responsibility for issuing tags and carrying out the law. ODFW should not pick and choose which part of the law they want to abide by. 78 Elk, and then some, are gone because of them and it's blatant culling, not damage control being addressed. I am not an anti-hunting, or culling (if it's proved necessary and within reason) but this is not normal damage control, this is slaughtering. One more consideration, what if the damage is being done by Bulls and not Cows, the law doesn't really cover all the problem of damage. Since there is no limit to damage tags being issued, where is the incentive to stop the slaughter if ODFW is not tracking the number of ELK that justifies a healthy herd? This works both ways, otherwise the risk is getting rid of the Elk entirely, and I do not want that to occur. Please listen to us taxpayers, we love the Elk, we love our little Gearhart, and want to coexist with the Elk. Do not let ODFW wipe them out.

Would you like us to forward your feedback to the ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofgearhart.com/node/1441/submission/25696>



Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Form submission from: Gearhart Elk & Wildlife

City of Gearhart Oregon <gearhart-or@municodeweb.com>
Reply-To: City of Gearhart Oregon <info@cityofgearhart.com>
To: info@cityofgearhart.com

Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 7:21 AM

Submitted on Friday, November 10, 2023 - 7:21am

Submitted by anonymous user: 47.7.2.187

Submitted values are:

First Name susan
Last Name romersa
Email Address suzannerom222@gmail.com
Phone 503 7171344

Type of Wildlife Encountered Elk

Type of Experience Positive

Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience

i have lived in Seaside for 18 years and when i have encountered the elk calmly walking down our street (Donnerberg) towards Stanley Lake, i have been amazed at he formerly large herd were orderly and just leisurely grazing and moving together as a group, with the bulls keeping an eye on every one to make sure none were left behnd when moving on. I have loved seeing them and enjoyed our area coexisting with these beautiful animals. I am definitely against haveing some realtor with a horse pasture that he puts feed in bins on complaining about elk interfering with his fences when he has baited them with food outdoors. i want the damage tag system severely looked at - without good old boy interference...and doing whatever they see fit to kill80 elk, some pregnant, when they have adapted to people in general, do not fear them, do not just attack people who have learned to indulge them and therefor they do not fear people, and no special interest realtor who boards horses on his 40 acres can just get damage tags to carry out his desire to kill the elk who move onto his property because he has food out for the horses he boards there he is more of a public juisance than the elk and his good old boy - in t=with the fish and wildlife agency to get his bidding done is a n absolute travesty and people are horrified to learn that the reson they no longer see the elk herd is because of the collusion of big shot realtor and land holder using the wild life agency to do his bidding so he can save time and leave food out for the horses. The elk had come to trust people in some ways and this baiting of the elk is terrible and worse yet the fish and wildlife people doing his bidding is even worse

Would you like us to forward your feedback to the ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofgearhart.com/node/1441/submission/25694>



Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

Form submission from: Gearhart Elk & Wildlife

City of Gearhart Oregon <gearhart-or@municodeweb.com>
Reply-To: City of Gearhart Oregon <info@cityofgearhart.com>
To: info@cityofgearhart.com

Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 5:54 AM

Submitted on Friday, November 10, 2023 - 5:54am

Submitted by anonymous user: 97.120.197.20

Submitted values are:

First Name denise
Last Name fairweather
Email Address fairweatherkd@gmail.co
Phone 503-738-4003
Type of Wildlife Encountered Elk
Type of Experience Positive
Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience

ODFW confirmed that the public of Oregon owns the elk. The elk are a natural resource for the City of Gearhart, both for residents and visitors. Beth Quilian, an ODFW spokesperson, confirmed that the elk in the Clatsop Plains totaled 250 in several Distinct herds. The National Service applied collars to several female elk. Jeff Gage, Highlands Golf co-owner and Gearhart resident, supplied the City of Gearhart with data from all the unique herds from the collars. That data clearly showed the Gearhart female elk collared migrated within a five-mile forage pattern, including the City of Gearhart, and did not merge with any other elk herds in the county. The ODFW 80 elk damage tags issued to Craig Weston, who has a City of Gearhart business license, resulted in 78 elk deaths that included 60% females carrying calves, which equals 124 elk killed that would have frequented inside the city limits on their usual forage pattern. Neal Maine, a Gearhart resident and naturalist/ biologist, lectured that the elk do not destroy their habitat, for they must return to forage in less than one week. Sara Vickerman, a Gearhart resident and retired Executive Director of the Defenders of Wildlife, presented facts and data through NextDoor Gearhart and to the City of Gearhart, highlighting the elk 80 damage tags issued to one property owner with a Gearhart address of a 33 1/2 acre land parcel for horse and fence damage. Bob Atiyeh, a member of the former Governor of Oregon Vic Atiyeh and editor of the Cannon Beach, published an expose' of the elk slaughter that included a verbatim Q&A with the landowners. The Gearhart public is deeply concerned with losing the elk herd that frequented our City. Sara Vickerman's NextDoor post has had more than 3,500 views and countless comments. This is a matter for the City of Gearhart to address. Folks, having been around horses all my life (eight decades), know that horses are usually fed twice a day with salt added to their feed bag and one flake of alfalfa hay when boarded on a professional farm. If allowed to graze randomly in a pasture, they may develop colic and die.

On this neighbor's "horse pasture," 77 elk were killed, plus an estimated 46 babies in the womb (ODFW figures to Gearhart City Council/October 30 work session). The 33.5-acre horse is fenced with the cheapest double-cloth electric fence possible. ELK can jump over 5' high. And, if they did break fencing, as in an escape from being shot at, it could have been repaired without a large dollar outlay.

Where were the seven horses when up to five elk were killed at a time? The landowners on this 33.5 parcel fed their horses OUT IN THE FIELD, in bins left on the ground.

This IMP was baiting the elk, and such practice should be illegal. The hunters shot 77 elk with guns from a constructed wood shooting platform built on the western edge of the horse pasture, thereby using inhumane and immoral hunting standards.

ODFW should have recognized that the 80 damage tags requested by the landowners on this 33.5-acre pastureland were beyond excessive. Indeed, throughout the entire state of Oregon, only 200 elk damage tags were issued!!! .

And, too, the land around the horse pasture has a 4-wheel drive road that circles the entire parcel at Neocoxie Creek off Surf Pines Lane. The landowners have not controlled the invasive scotch broom but allowed it to grow at its full height (about. 5'), perhaps to

hide their horse pasture from prying eyes when the big game hunters wench the elk killed in the field to haul it away to gut and dress??? Mrs. Landowner expressed her "solution" about the Gearhart elk herd at a private party this summer to a person who then conducted a fact-finding mission on behalf of the wildlife slaughtered. So, you see, dear neighbors, the slaughter became known by the landowner in a boast. Sara Vickerman and Jeff Gage have thoroughly conducted due diligence in researching the facts to expose the ODFW's killing grounds. On November 2, the City of Gearhart Council members received the data showing all the collared elk in separate and unique herds from Astoria to Seaside, including elk from herd B (an ear-tagged female nicknamed Bambi in herd B) that frequented the area within the city limits of

Gearhart and beyond into Seaside to 12th Street. Thankfully, it is against the law to kill a collared elk. The herd was rarely mixed with other herds in Clatsop County. Her collar, placed by the National Park Service, recorded data for three years. In the Cannon Beach Gazette newspaper, in a Q&A, the landowners stated, twice in the article that reported the answers verbatim. ... if "people would stop feeding the elk,"... lookie here, **THE LANDOWNERS ARE THE ONES THAT ARE FEEDING THE ELK** by leaving, horse food in bins placed out in that horse pasture!!! And then, too, Mr. Landowner stated that killing SIX per year through the usual bow and arrow hunting season doesn't fix the problem (2018); adding 6/year equals another 18 more elk slaughtered by entitled vigilantes in that horse pasture, plus the 77 elk damage/ slaughter tags issued by ODFW to the landowners and then, don't forget to factor in the 46 unborn who died when their mother was shot. The Gearhart elk were a beloved tourist and resident attraction. Cannon Beach has the puffins, and Seaside has the whales in the Cove. Something is not right next door in our neighborhood. Gearhart City Council does not want to get involved as the property is outside city limits...HOWEVER, the landowner has a business license in the Clry of Gearhart. Something is not right. Beth Quilian, public relations agent, stated that there were 250 elk in the Clatsop Plains...not anymore after the slaughter on 33.5 acres by one landowner with a Gearhart address. Would you like us to forward your feedback to the ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) Yes

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.cityofgearhart.com/node/1441/submission/25693>



I am so glad that NCLC
has your knowledge
and support - thank
you Chad -
Vianne

November 2023

Chad Sweet
The City of Gearhart
PO Box 2510
Gearhart, OR 97138

Dear Chad,

Life begets life. When you support NCLC, you support the abundance of life on the Oregon Coast. I see this truth manifested on a regular basis. For example, the other day, I was walking in the small alder forest at our Circle Creek Conservation Center. This is a grove of trees we planted about 15 years ago in an effort to rewild the land, turning a pasture of non-native grass back into a conifer-dominated forest. And yes, alders are not conifers, but that's what makes the story interesting.

The problem we faced at the time is that conifer trees, such as cedar and spruce, don't grow well in grassy fields and unmitigated sunshine. They need a shady overstory to really thrive. But how do you achieve that without a forest? It creates a sort of chicken-and-egg situation.

So we came up with a solution: We'd plant alders instead, to give the forest a jumpstart. Alders are affectionately known as "weed trees" for their ability to grow in a variety of environments, even those that seem inhospitable. But our hope was the alders would do exactly that. They would grow faster, producing shade, dropping their leaves to nourish the soil, and ultimately creating a forest with the conditions needed for the reintroduction of coniferous trees. We received plenty of support, but we also were faced with questions, doubts and even critiques concerning our strategy of planting alders. Nevertheless, we persisted.

Now, as I walk through this forest, I see the fruits of that effort. In just 15 short years, there is a forest containing not only alders but also a burgeoning midstory of shrubs, salmonberry and

elderberry, with little ferns, fringe cup, and wood sorrel popping up from the understory. Sure enough, there are even now conifer seedlings. And all we planted were alders. Life begets life.

When you donate to NCLC, that's exactly what you accomplish: You plant a tree, nurture a seedling, nourish the soil, and protect a piece of the planet.

It wasn't too long ago I read a phrase that so aptly captures the essential spirit of NCLC, represented by our alder forest story. It was part of a *Washington Post* article by Amanda Shendruk called "Tired of Feeling Hopeless About Climate Change?," in which she explores the question of how people can avoid hopelessness when confronted by a rapidly changing climate and the myriad of associated impacts.

She quotes Christiana Figueres, the architect of the Paris climate accord, who offers a solution called "stubborn optimism." This, Shendruk explains, is "a dissatisfied, gritty, determined confidence that humanity can bring about needed change in the face of great challenges. It's a necessary precursor to action, and adopting this attitude requires shifting focus from the past to the future."

"Crucially," she continues, "this doesn't require ignoring reality or becoming complacent. Stubborn optimism calls for work toward solutions."

Stubborn optimism. Those words embody the character of NCLC supporters and the values with which we strive to lead. They seem to reconcile the opposing perspectives sometimes used to characterize our organization. Sometimes we are painted as seeing the world through rose-colored glasses and being relentless cheerleaders. Other times we are painted as being a bit stubborn in our mission of conserving precious places. And it's possible that both are true. No doubt, we exist in a variety of ways in people's minds, but at the end of the day, we focus our attention on what we're for. We're *for* community conservation. We're *for* stewardship of precious places. We're *for* connectivity of lands and waters, as well as the connection between people, plants and wildlife and our Mother Earth.

We are so grateful that you, too, are *for* these things, and demonstrate your support on a regular basis with your gifts and your time.

The truth is, I don't care for doomsday rhetoric and discourse around the state of the planet. Pessimism is a roadblock. It evokes helplessness and becomes a deterrent to taking action. So, stubbornly, with eyes wide open to the truth of our current situation, we opt for optimism and the belief that we can still make a difference for our planet and the life she supports.

We know affecting change is not insurmountable. We have all the tools and the knowledge to do it. We don't have to wait around or make new ground-breaking discoveries. It just takes the will of humanity and rallying around solutions that already exist. We have forests, wetlands and prairies. We have rivers, tide pools and wildlife. We have the ocean. We have the soil. And these ecosystems support life. All we need to do as humans is let them exist. Preserve them. Keep them safe. Love and respect them.

I'm reminded of the words of Robin Wall Kimmerer, an Indigenous scientist and author. In a speech at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, she references biomimicry, which is considered a relatively new field of study that revolves around finding solutions and inventing products based on natural systems. "Human ingenuity," she says, "will absolutely be a part of the solution, but we should keep in mind that there is already a system that pulls carbon from the atmosphere, stores it for centuries, and has even more bells and whistles. This invention can also generate oxygen, build soil, protect biodiversity, purify water, and makes us feel happy and peaceful. *And it's called a forest.*"

When people are searching for actionable solutions in the face of climate change and its detrimental effects, we can offer one. Land conservation is an actionable solution. And there is scientific evidence, as well as momentum and support, behind it. For example, the country's 30x30 vision spotlights this solution by setting a national goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30 percent of U.S. ocean areas by 2030. If we rally around that vision and support the work being done by local land trusts, we can collectively create a significant difference.

By making a donation to NCLC, you are taking action in a tangible and meaningful way.

Stubborn optimism empowers you to continue moving forward, even in the face of challenges. With our early Circle Creek plantings, we received occasional critiques about our approach, one of them being that when restoring this type of ecosystem, you can't only plant trees, because you'll

end up with a tree farm, not a healthy forest. Some at the time adhered to the belief you must also plant groundcover and shrubs, in addition to trees. It would have been easy to get bogged down by this idea that we weren't doing enough. But it also would have meant doing nothing because of the time and expense involved in planting vegetation at every level of the forest.

But stubborn optimism said, "No." Doing *something*—planting trees—is better than doing nothing. We clung to the belief that if we could establish some kind of forest, even one made predominantly of alders, it would change everything else. It would alter the surrounding environment and set it on a trajectory to heal itself. **That continues to be the philosophy that informs our restoration and habitat work on the Oregon Coast.**

We have faith in the strength and complexity and capacity of our ecosystems. We know if we let them be—and give them a boost here or there—it will set them on a trajectory to thrive on their own. Just as we have witnessed with our alders at Circle Creek. It took 15 years of some pretty stubborn optimism to believe we could help restore a coniferous forest, but it's now coming to fruition. Life begets life.

Please continue with us on this path of stubborn optimism. Together, through a relationship of reciprocity, we can heal our Mother Earth.

Thank you for once again considering a donation to North Coast Land Conservancy.

With love and gratitude,



Katie Voelke
Executive Director

P.S. It's the end of the year, which means tax time will be here before you know it. If you're 72 or older, talk to your financial advisor about donating directly from your retirement account. **This is a meaningful and mutually beneficial way to support coastal conservation!**

Fwd: Oregon Coastal Community Survey

1 message

Chad Sweet <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 4:50 PM

To: Krysti Ficker <krysti@cityofgearhart.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tilt, Jenna** <Jenna.Tilt@oregonstate.edu>

Date: Tue, Nov 21, 2023 at 11:18 AM

Subject: Oregon Coastal Community Survey

To: chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com <chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com>

Dear Chad,

We are excited to announce a new comprehensive survey for Oregon Coastal community residents. This survey is part of the Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub, where teams of researchers are working alongside coastal communities to increase knowledge about natural hazards and climate change risks and ways to increase coastal community resilience. **This survey is meant for ANY Oregon coastal resident over the age of 13 who lives in a coastal community/county.** The goal of the survey is to inform those invested in coastal communities, such as yourself, with more information regarding the places that are VALUED in coastal communities, WHY they are valued, and HOW these valued places may be better protected and utilized after a disaster event.

We hope that you will help us distribute this survey throughout your coastal community/county networks. The more responses we receive, the more we will be able to identify specific trends and preferences within and between coastal communities. Below you will find the survey link and attached to this email is the QR code survey flyer in both English and Spanish. Also below is introductory language that you can use in an email, social media post, text/whatsapp when sharing the survey link/QR code.

We are truly grateful for your help and can't wait to share the survey results with you! Please reach out at any time with any questions or concerns you have regarding the survey or our research.

Best Regards,

Jenna Tilt

Jenna H. Tilt, PhD*(she/her)*

Assistant Professor of Geography

College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences

Oregon State University

Office Location: 120 Wilkinson Hall

Office Phone: 541-737-1232

Mail Address: 104 CEOAS Admin. OSU, Corvallis. OR 97331

Message to send to your coastal community/county residential networks with survey link/QR code *(feel free to modify to best suit your needs):*

As part of the research conducted by the Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub, Oregon State University Researchers are conducting a 10-15 minute survey for Oregon Coastal Community residents. The survey asks about places that YOU value in your community and your opinions on protecting these places from future disasters. To take the survey, **you must be at least 13 years old and live in a Oregon coastal community/county**. At the end of the survey, you have the option to enter a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. We will be selecting 1 winner per 25 survey respondents. Please complete your survey and enter the drawing by December 15th to be eligible to win!!

English: Click HERE (https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_54kauthUTivipFA) **to take the survey (or scan the attached QR code)**

Español: Haga clic aquí (https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Y0HsSbxJRnNNv8) **para realizar la encuesta (o escanear el código QR adjunto)**

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Jenna Tilt: tiltj@oregonstate.edu

Thank you for participating in this important research!

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"Resilient Together!"

Chad Sweet | City Administrator
City of Gearhart
698 Pacific Way | Gearhart, Oregon 97138
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chadsweet@cityofgearhart.com

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Please do not read, copy, or disseminate this communication unless you are the intended addressee. This e-mail may contain confidential and privileged information intended only for the addressee. If you have received this in error, please notify me via return e-mail.

 **Oregon Coastal Community Survey_QR codes.pdf**
4398K