
From: Tim Rozewski [rozewski@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 11:08 AM
To: Stockade Block
Subject: Stockade Block Area Management Plan -Appose Lease for Recreational Use!

Nancy Pustis - Eastern Region Manager
Stockade Block AMP
Department of State Lands
1645 NE Forbes Rd., Suite 112
Bend, OR 97701

April 8, 2009

Ms. Pustis-

It has come to my attention that DSL, in draft, intends to adopt a plan to lease the Stockade Block for recreation use. I strongly appose this proposal!

Oregon does not want to be in the "hunting lease" business. I request that this team does an assessment on the impact to state and local hunting access, as well as look at other states experience. Other states may report increased revenue, but the local hunter who can not afford to pay the lease is the hunter who suffers. This is the majority of hunters in that county, this state, and in the West.

In your daft you clearly state that you do not know the "Impacts to public users if limited access is imposed". I am sure you will hear from many hunters who appose this to give you an idea.

Every acre that is leased away, whether public or private lands, is a loss to the recreational user. I agree that many private lands are not accessible otherwise, but at one time that wasn't the standard. Oregon is quickly becoming a private land lease state in regard to hunting rights. It is a very sad ordeal.

Many lands in Eastern and Central Oregon are receiving approximately \$1 per acre when leasing the hunting rights to private parties. The State could gain \$250,000; at what price? Oregonians losing hunting access. Very few Oregonians would pay the guide fees to hunt that property. The hunters that would pay this premium would be from out of state. The resident hunters whom then have waited years, even decades, to obtain a coveted pronghorn or deer tag for that area would get the disservice from their own state by not being able to hunt on publicly managed lands.

As an official measurer for many nationally recognized big game record books, SE Oregon only produces a "handful" of trophy deer and pronghorn each year, with no guarantees that they would be produced on the "Stockade Block" lands.

Competing guides charge between \$1200 - \$3000 for guided "trophy" mule deer and pronghorn hunts across the Western states. If every acre was hutable, and a guide gave the paid hunters and the animals fair space, the guide would account for 1 hunter per 5,000 at the minimum.

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That could bring in, at best, 50 pronghorn hunters and 50 deer hunters. At maximum price(\$3000 / hunt), that would generate \$300,000 for the outfitter. He would essentially make \$50,000 (one FTE) out of the whole effort unless DSL lowered their lease price.

Of the 630 +/- pronghorn tags that are available for the three big game hunting units that intersect the Stockade Block area, the outfitter would have to book nearly 1 in 10 of those "resident" hunters. Nonresident hunters account for NO more than 3% of that 630, totaling 19 tags. The outfitter would most likely have to book all of these nonresident hunters. That just isn't going to happen.

Booking deer hunters might be a little easier, needing just 50 of the 3000 +/- tags allotted in these three units. But, nonresident hunters only account for NO more than 5% of that 3000, totaling 150 tags. There are a few other guides and outfitters that cater to these units already. I just don't see the outfitter being able to book more than 10 pronghorn and 10 deer hunters per year, and most likely at the price of \$1500 per hunter. So financially, the numbers don't even add up.

Be State Land managers, not hunting lease managers.

I oppose this portion of the Stockade Block AMP.

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