

Minutes of the meeting for the South Fork John Day River Watershed Council

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council met on the 12th day of April 2021.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm, by Joanne Keerins, at the Izee Schoolhouse.

In attendance for regular session:

Amy Stiner, SFJDWC	Hannah Latz, SFJDWC	Joanne Keerins, Chair	Phil St. Clair, Vice Chair	Jeff Maben, Director	Mike Keerins
Micah Wilson, Alt. Director	Ryan Torland, ODFW				

Quorum was not present because there are currently 8 directors on the board and 4 were represented at this meeting.

1. Agency Reports

- a. Ryan Torland, ODFW District Wildlife Biologist: update on Mule Deer, Elk, and Wolves
Ryan discussed the current deer migration and range determinations. The South Fork John Day is heavily trafficked by mule deer. The recent mule deer population counts were conducted by breaking the units into 5 square mile units. They counted 10,280 deer covering one third of the units. This would extrapolate to approximately 35,000 deer. In the Murderers Creek unit they counted 3052 deer, extrapolating to about 7855 deer. Murderers Creek winters more deer than it summers. They are seeing the fawn ratio down this year. This may be partly due to the disease Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). In 2019 they estimated that there was only a 40% fawn survival rate. The does survival rate in Murderers Creek is under 80%, which would indicate population decline.
They have also been following the elk populations and migration patterns. They collared elk and followed their migrations, trying to determine herd ranges, like they did with mule deer. They are finding that elk are much more erratic and less predictable.
The wolf populations are popping up all around Oregon. There is a new area of known wolf activity in the Murderers Creek area. In 2020 they estimated 1-2 wolves in Murderers Creek. Their minimum estimate of known and confirmed wolf activity is 3 in the Northside, 6 in Desolation, and 1 in Murderers Creek. They are asking the public that if they see wolves, or tracks, to let ODFW know so that they can report, confirm, and document.

2. Action Items

- a. Since a quorum was lacking action Items will be voted on through the Council's electronic voting procedure.

3. Coming Up

- a. April 16th, RCPP Application Deadline for the Upper South Fork Landowners
- b. OWEB Spring 2021 Grant Cycle: April 26, 2021

4. Joanne Keerins Adjourned the Meeting at 3:00 pm, Next meeting date: Monday May 10th, 2021.