



FRIENDS OF HART MOUNTAIN NEWSLETTER



Published semi-annually by *Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge*
Spring/Summer, 2017

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

The *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.

Message from the President

On March 28, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge (FOHMNAR) held its first formal meeting since being installed last August 18. The meeting took place at the Refuge headquarters and was attended by seven members, another member by conference call, the acting refuge director Lauren Kullerud, and the Hart-Sheldon project leader John Kasbohm, also by conference call. Board members also did sage grouse lek counts in which we were joined by students from the OSU Bird Nerds and the OSU Fish and Wildlife Club.

There was much ground to cover, and a good deal of the meeting focused on drafts of the memorandum of understanding between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends and the FOHMNAR bylaws. The drafts have been submitted to USFWS and we are hoping to complete these soon.

The Board also gave attention to the annual membership meeting and other activities that could engage the members. We decided that an appropriate kick-off for the revived Board would be to schedule the **Annual Meeting** and other activities at the refuge for **Saturday, October 14, 2017** in conjunction with Wildlife Refuge Week. Board member John Geller is heading the planning for this event and will be seeking volunteers. More information will be forthcoming on the website. In the early stages of FOHMNAR's revival we shall be largely utilizing on-line communications (website, e-mail) and ask your understanding.

On the topic of volunteers, in order for the FOHMNAR to return to its previous level of support for the refuge and to develop new activities, we shall need to expand the membership and to rely on the help of volunteers. While the new board members have been making a Herculean effort, all have the distractions of the myriad commitments of modern life. The help of others to share the responsibilities is sorely needed in such areas as website management, producing informational pamphlets, recruiting new members, fundraising and grant writing, outreach to schools and civic groups, organizing on-refuge activities, the newsletter, and so forth.

As one of the most important means of raising funds and promoting awareness of the refuge, the Pronghorn Store was a topic of some concern. Our stock of tee shirts and caps—the best sellers—had run low, frustrating some potential buyers. Orders had gone unfilled, prompting calls and e-mails in search of missing items. We are pleased to report that our stock of tee shirts and caps has been replenished and we are getting a handle on fulfilling orders. Moreover, we will be adding figurines of wildlife found on the refuge suitable for toddlers and up, and we are looking into stuffed animals for small children.

In short, much is happening and we are optimistic about restoring FOHMNAR to its role as a strong supporter of the Refuge and its mission. But we will need your help and hope that we can rely on your support.

Bill Crowell, President, Friends of Hart Mountain

Hart Mountain News & Events

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Location: Hart Mountain National Refuge

Please plan to join us for the first Annual Meeting of the Membership on the Refuge. The Meeting will be only one of the activities we will plan for the day. Meet the Board of Directors and other members. Participate in the activities designed to engage you with like-minded people and to encourage appreciation of the Refuge and its native flora and fauna. Watch for more details on the website: www.friendsofhartmountain.org

Wildlife Population Trends on Hart Mountain

2016 Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge Biological Program Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a report of the 2016 Biological Program Activities for the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex this past December. Below is a summary of some of the contents of the report.

Greater Sage-Grouse Population Monitoring

Annual ground surveys are conducted at Hart Mountain NAR to census the number of male Greater Sage-Grouse in attendance at leks in order to monitor general population trends on the refuge. Both USFWS staff and volunteers monitor a subset of known lek complexes each year. In 2016, the trend lek value for the Refuge showed improvement at 44.5 males per lek (vs. 36.7 males per lek complex in 2015), and comparable to the long-term average (45 males per lek complex, 1980 – 2015).

California Bighorn Sheep Annual Summer Census

In July 2016, USFWS conducted an aerial helicopter survey of the Refuge and counted a total of 168 Bighorn Sheep. This is an increase from 148 observed sheep in 2014 and a 0.2% increase in the 10-year average trend.

Mule Deer Fall Composition Count

Between November 13th and November 20th, 2016, volunteers and refuge staff observed a total of 337 deer in 57 separate groups. Observed herd ratios were 30.0 bucks:100 does and 39.3 fawn:100 does. These observations were down from the long-term average (1967 – 2015) herd ratios of 31.6 bucks:100 does and 59.7 fawns:100 does.

Pronghorn Annual Summer Census

Results from helicopter surveys in July 2016 indicate a minimum population estimate of 3,021 pronghorn on the Refuge. Herd ratios were 33.6 bucks:100 does and 61.8 fawns:100 does. These results represent a 9.2% increase from the 10-year average trend. A total of 8,291 pronghorn were observed in the greater Hart-Sheldon region.

ODFW Redband Trout Surveys of Rock Creek

Results of surveys of Rock Creek conducted in 2015 by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife indicate that the population of redband trout had decreased by 90% compared to previous surveys (2007 – 2012). ODFW researchers suggest that redband in Rock Creek were not redistributing in response to stream drying as a result of successive years of drought and near-drought conditions on the Refuge.

IN APPRECIATION



Left: Friends of Hart Mountain President Bill Crowell presents Anne Woods with Jim Davis photograph. Right: Founding member of the Friends Morrie Chappel with his photograph.

During the Friends of Hart Mountain's recent period of inactivity, Morrie Chappel and Anne Woods maintained the activities necessary to keeping FOHM alive. If not for them, new membership applications and renewals would have gone unprocessed, Pronghorn Store orders unfilled, questions from people planning to visit the Refuge or turning up at the visitor center unanswered. The host of small financial and administrative tasks necessary to running a non-profit organization would have gone undone. Their commitment to the Refuge runs deep. Without their contributions, the effort to revive the Friends would be daunting. To express our heartfelt appreciation and that of the membership, the Board has presented each of them a framed photograph taken in 2012 by noted nature photographer Jim Davis of a sunset through a mountain mahogany grove east of the Hot Springs campground. We thank Morrie and Anne for all they have done for Hart Mountain and look forward to their continued support and guidance.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS

We try to keep our membership list and address list up to date. If your address label or e-mail address is wrong, please let us know. If you know of someone who did not get their newsletter, it may have been returned to us by the postal service as undeliverable. Please send your updated mailing and e-mail address to: **Friends of Hart Mountain**, 38782 Hart Mountain Rd, Plush, OR 97637. Help us save postage costs with correct addresses! You can update your personal information by contacting us through the web site as well.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Our website has been updated to include our past newsletters. You can shop online, join the **Friends of Hart Mountain** or renew your membership, change your address (snail mail and e-mail), contact us and much more. Visit your friends at: www.friendsofhartmountain.org.

DONATIONS

Some **Friends of Hart Mountain** 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 activities in support of the Refuge in fulfilling its mission. Make your check out to **Friends of Hart Mountain**.

The Pronghorn Store



Our items are displayed in the large showcase in the Visitor area at the Refuge Headquarters. Most of 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**.



Bumper Stickers that tell the world that you love Hart Mountain. **\$3.00** includes S&H.

Souvenir 3 cent **Postage Stamp** from 1956 with Pronghorn. The Cost is **\$2.50** includes S&H. Stamps were donated by Jim Yoakum. While supplies last.



Color Topography Maps of the Refuge are approximately 19.5" x 26.5". They are **\$9.50** includes S&H.



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 **\$18.00** includes S&H.



Water Bottles are blue and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in black ink. Cost is **\$6.00** includes S&H.

16 oz. **Travel Mugs** are grey and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in black ink. Cost is **\$8.50** includes S&H.



Can Coolers are green and have our antelope head logo and Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge printed on them in white ink. Cost is **Closeout Sale \$4.00** includes S&H.

T-Shirts with our logo contest winner's design screen printed on it. These shirts are **\$15.00** includes S&H.

Check in at Headquarters visitor center when you are on the mountain to see our items on display.



Our treasurer, Sally Fitzgerald, is hosting the mail order store from her home in Plush. You can order your items directly from her at PO Box 128, Lakeview, OR 97630. Items may also be ordered from our website: **www.friendsofhartmountain.org**



T-Shirts in 4 colors, blue, green, teal, maroon that have the same embroidery as our ball caps, with National Antelope Refuge under the antelope. We have sizes Small to XX-Large. The cost is **\$19.00** includes S&H.

Friends of Hart Mountain
38782 Hart Mountain Rd.
Plush, OR 97637

Return Service Requested



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Or go to www.friendsofhartmountain.org and use our website

New Membership **Renewal** **Information Update**

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Hart Mountain**

Mail to: **Friends of Hart Mountain**, 38782 Hart Mountain Rd, Plush, OR 97637

PLEASE PRINT

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Individual Membership - \$10/year

Family Membership - \$20/year

Donor Membership - \$50/year

Business Membership - \$100/year

Lifetime Membership - \$200

\$ _____ Donation

Please update personal information only

Comments: _____

PLEASE SELECT ONE:

Please help save the environment. DO NOT mail me the Newsletters. I will view them online. (We will send you a copy by E-mail)

Please send me the newsletters by regular mail.