

ORDINANCE NO. 5430

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AMC 7.16.030, DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS, TO CREATE A LIMITED EXEMPTION FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR 2000 FOR WATER FOWL HUNTING SEASON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the discharge of weapons is generally prohibited within the corporate boundaries of the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, some property owners within the city limits are currently experiencing agricultural crop damage from migratory water fowl, which damage can be reduced by properly regulated hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has put into place a program to allow property owners who are sustaining agricultural crop damage to open their land for goose hunting during certain dates; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to temporarily amend its general prohibition against the discharge of weapons to allow goose hunting in certain circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: AMC 7.16.030 Amended: AMC 7.16.030 is amended to read as follows:

7.16.030 Discharge of weapons.

(1) No person other than an authorized peace officer shall fire or discharge within the City any weapon which acts by force of gunpowder or other explosive, or by the use of jet or rocket propulsion or spring gun.

(2) No person other than an authorized peace officer shall discharge any air gun, or crossbow or bow and arrow except with the permission of the affected property owner or other person lawfully in control of the property. No projectile so discharged may leave the property upon which permission to discharge was granted.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to prohibit the firing or discharging of any weapon by:

(a) Any person in the defense or protection of his/her property or family;

(b) At any shooting or target range maintained or provided by the City of Albany or any public or private school or at any other location designated by the Chief of Police upon determination that the location is of suitable size, design and configuration to safely allow such use; and

(c) A properly licensed water fowl hunter, hunting on privately owned property of not less than 20 acres with the permission of the property owner, in full compliance with state and federal hunting laws, regulations, and requirements, between January 13, 2000, through January 16, 2000, and between January 26, 2000, through February 27, 2000.

Section 2: Automatic Expiration: AMC 7.16.030 (3)(c) which is created by this Ordinance shall automatically be revoked on February 28, 2000.

Section 3: Emergency Clause: Inasmuch as this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the city of Albany, and an emergency is hereby declared to exist; this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect when signed by the Mayor.

Passed by the Council: January 12, 2000

Approved by the Mayor: January 12, 2000

Effective Date: January 12, 2000

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Recorder

# New goose program aims to decrease depredation

One of the most difficult challenges the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has faced in the past decade has been finding a way to minimize agricultural depredation caused by Canada geese to Willamette Valley grass seed farms.

The issue has been complicated by two things. First, the dusky Canada goose, one of seven subspecies of Canada geese that winter in the Willamette Valley, is at dangerously low population levels, while the other six subspecies have increased to the point where depredation is widespread.

Second, Canada geese are migratory waterfowl. Thus, the responsibility for their management lies within a complex network involving federal and state agencies, the Pacific Flyway Council and American Indian interests.

In recent years, through a carefully managed cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we have been able to allow fairly extensive goose hunting opportunities in the Willamette Valley, based on a requirement that hunters pass a mandatory goose identification test. The test helped us ensure with some degree of certainty that hunters could tell the difference between duskies and the more numerous subspecies.

That program was successful in providing hunting opportunity and in helping farmers haze geese away from their vulnerable fields. But its success was limited to those hunters who had connections to farmers, and to those farmers who knew enough hunters to help keep the geese from resting on their land for long periods of time.

We think we've designed a program with the potential to help put hunters on fields where landowners need them, without making a lot of extra work for the landowners.



## Guest Comment

Jim Greer

It's called the Northwest Private Lands Goose Hunting Access Program and it works like this.

Landowners experiencing goose depredation are encouraged to register fields they wish to open to hunting. They are then provided standardized signs to post in their fields.

Two types of signs are available. One states "Goose Hunting Allowed," meaning that hunters are allowed access without direct landowner contact. The other sign says "Goose Hunting Allowed by Landowner Permission," with a space provided to write in a phone contact number.

We are going to develop maps showing registered fields which we'll provide to hunters. The hunters will then be responsible for contacting landowners who require it and for scouting the fields prior to hunting.

Our department will also maintain a list of certified goose hunters for landowners who may want to contact hunters directly. We've consciously avoided creating a situation in which landowners have to endure multiple hunter visits or phone calls. If they want to give personal permission, landowners can list their phone numbers on the signs we provide, but the only people who will call those numbers are the hunters who have taken the time to scout the field and write down the phone number from the sign.

Additionally, signs we provide will stipulate "No Motorized Vehicle Access," to eliminate the pos-

sibility of vehicle damage to farmers' fields. Finally, we've recruited a volunteer force available to help post signs on the fields for those landowners who request it.

I know that liability is a major concern for landowners. No one wants to be held liable for problems experienced by members of the public who are recreating on our land. But landowners are protected by a 1995 Oregon statute. This law specifically limits landowner liability in the cases of members of the public using their land for recreational purposes, woodcutting or harvest of special forest products. Under this law, hunting is included in the definition of recreational purposes.

We are strongly emphasizing to participating hunters the need to respect property rights and to practice good hunter ethics.

This program is being funded through the Access and Habitat Program and we're working cooperatively with the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Hunters Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited.

I think we have the beginnings of a great program here, one that will help farmers reduce their goose damage and at the same time provide increased public hunting opportunity. We are going to work as hard as we can to make it as beneficial to landowners as possible. I encourage any Willamette Valley landowner who has experienced goose depredation in the past to contact our program coordinator, Chris Vandenberg, at (503) 378-6925, extension 22 to register. In order to include the fields into the maps we're developing, we will need the information by mid-~~December~~ **December**

*Jim Greer is director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

October 28, 1999

# Oregon



DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND  
WILDLIFE

Salem District Office

Dear Goose Project Landowner

Goose season is here again. Regulation changes have been adopted to make this season's goose hunt more effective in reducing crop damage. This year the permit goose zone hunt has opened one month earlier than usual. (Note General season regulations remain the same as last year. Check the 1999-2000 game bird regulations for more information) Open season is Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays from October 23-November 3, November 24-January 16, and January 26-February 27. The closed periods conform to federal hunting restrictions. The changes in hunting dates are designed to keep the geese unsettled and discourage habituation to your fields. Shooting hours have also been increased to allow hunting at 7:30 am during the January 26-February 27 hunt period. These changes should help hunters expand goose harvest higher than the 40% increase we experienced last year.

Enclosed is a list of certified goose hunters for your area. Last year landowners found these lists to be invaluable in arranging hunting on their fields. They are especially effective on legal hunt days when no hunters are scheduled. Typically hunters require only one or two days of notice and are extremely willing to assist you in ridding your fields of geese. I strongly encourage you to call people from these lists and arrange for hunting on every legal day.

During non-hunt periods the USDA Wildlife Services is assisting landowners with hazing and technical advice. Their toll free phone number is:

1-877-974-6673

Contact Mike Slater with the goose depredation project.

If you have questions or need more information please feel free to contact:

Chris Vandenberg  
Salem Wildlife District  
4412 Silverton Rd  
Salem, Or 97305  
(503) 378-6925 ext 27

Sincerely  
*Chris Vandenberg*  
Chris Vandenberg  
Wildlife Damage Specialist



4412 Silverton Road NE  
Salem, OR 97305  
(503) 378-6925  
FAX (503) 378-6233