

City of Gearhart Oregon via City of Gearhart Oregon to me

Oct 7

Submitted on Sunday, October 7, 2018 - 3:48pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 172.16.64.18

Submitted values are:

First Name: David

Last Name: Bowes

Email Address: davidpbowes@yahoo.com

Phone: 5038362373

Type of Wildlife Encountered: Elk

Type of Experience: Negative

Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience:

The last two days have found a large herd of Elk, some 50 plus, dominating the Ridge Path and adjoining streets between 4th and 7th Streets. They have caused hundreds in damage to my property ripping out mature shrubs and 2 small trees and decimating what was once a beautiful lawn, (we do plant only Deer resistant types but it really makes no difference). Many of my neighbors homes show similar damage.

This herd has no fear and will not be shooed away, they have no fear of people whatsoever and seem to know they are in charge, in fact you can get so close you can smell their stink.

This is an ongoing problem that is getting worse each year, something has to be done, the damage is only going to increase and I fear that a domestic animal or person is eventually going to get hurt.

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/4601>

Form submission from: Gearhart Elk & Wildlife

City of Gearhart Oregon via City of Gearhart Oregon to me

Oct 12

Submitted on Friday, October 12, 2018 - 1:01am

Submitted by anonymous user: 172.16.64.18

Submitted values are:

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Baker

Email Address: Cywidger@gmail.com

Phone: [5033803302](tel:5033803302)

Type of Wildlife Encountered: Elk

Type of Experience: Neutral

Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience: Was hiking came across a resting bull elk north of Surf pines near beach access. No issue. Later that day about 30 came through our yard one cow had a leg Injury looked like perhaps a ligament maybe, but she was lame. It may have been a bone break.

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/4621>

City of Gearhart Oregon via City of Gearhart Oregon to me

Oct 27

Submitted on Saturday, October 27, 2018 - 9:12am

Submitted by anonymous user: 172.16.64.18

Submitted values are:

First Name: Cindy

Last Name: Baker

Email Address: Cywidger@gmail.com

Phone: [5033703302](tel:5033703302)

Type of Wildlife Encountered: Coyotes

Type of Experience: Neutral

Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience: 1am coyote pack near Del Ray in Surf pines howling and barking

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/4641>

Form submission from: Gearhart Elk & Wildlife

City of Gearhart Oregon via City of Gearhart Oregon to me

Oct 27

Submitted on Saturday, October 27, 2018 - 11:41pm

Submitted by anonymous user: 172.16.64.19

Submitted values are:

First Name: Ian

Last Name: Widger

Email Address: ljwidger@gmail.com

Phone: 4252132563

Type of Wildlife Encountered: Deer

Type of Experience: Neutral

Feedback/Please Describe Your Experience: Doe deer with right front leg injury very lame. In Surf pines 11:40pm 10/27

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/4671>

October 31, 2018,

To: Mayor Brown, Administrator Chad Sweet
cc: Gearhart City Councilors: Cockrum, Fackerell, Jesse, Smith
For the Council Packet, November 7, 2018 Gearhart Council Meeting

From: John and Margaret Green

Subject: Dune Devastation

As past members of the volunteer Dune Vegetation Committee, we are appalled at the work that has been allowed in the Gearhart Dunes west of South Ocean Avenue and in and adjacent to the Little Beach estuary zone.

The Council has approved and enacted Ordinance 910 to control and supervise vegetation trimming and removal in the Beaches and Dune (BAD) Zone to improve safety, security, remove noxious weeds, protect habitat and enhance views.

Here are some of our observations:

1. Trees in excess of 6" in diameter at 4 ½' in height have been removed. (violation)
2. Trees have been trimmed and removed on City Parkland without adopting a comprehensive Parks' Plan.
3. Ordinance rules call for removal of organic debris, but in the area south of D, much of the debris was chipped and left in the dunes, in many cases, 1' to 2' deep. This presents problems of potential fire hazard and stifling regeneration and thus restoration of native vegetation and grasses. (violation)
4. So much habitat has been destroyed that it will be years before it will return to the desired beach grassland. Open or non-shaded areas will allow regeneration of the sun-loving Scotch broom and negate the work done to remove it.

We do not believe we are seeing the intent of the Citizens' Dune Vegetation Committee, which worked hard toward compromise between vegetation removal and the desire for forest containment to balance habitat protection for enjoyment of nature. Nor do we believe this result was the intent of the City Council after their time consuming consideration and discussion of the committee's recommendations.

The Citizens were told at a council meeting, that the fire road would be widened to 24 feet to insure safe passage of city vehicles, but in many cases, the road is 50 feet or wider. Trees, including spruce, were removed that did not need to be removed or which could have been limbed up for easy passage.

Work in the sensitive Little Beach, Necanicum Estuary has been alarming as well. The foreman was not aware that there was a 30% total limit for the removal of a tree's volume. He did know he could cut trees of less than 6" diameter at "chest height" and emphasized his job was to open up and create views for the homes adjacent to the estuary.

The mowing of Scotch broom done in late August/early September when seeds are present will result in spreading the seeds over the landscape and the quick return of this invasive species. To inquiries about this decision, it was suggested, herbicides would be used in the future for control. We sincerely hope this is not going to happen, as the commonly used herbicide "Glycosphate", is now a proven carcinogen and in the need to be broadcast, would expose walkers, dogs, and wildlife to the dangerous chemical. Buildup over the years, could potentially leach into our aquifer, and contaminate our water supply.

The haste with which these activities were conducted, has circumvented many of the best practices provided by the committee. It appears to have been a grab and run, helter-skelter approach.

What could have been a model for other landowners to emulate, The City has set a horrible example of what could and should have been done in the dunes. This scorched earth policy is a travesty.

We believe the City Council should reevaluate how this ordinance is being enforced going forward. A moratorium on work in the BAD zone should be considered, though we feel and fear it is too late.

Regards,
John and Margaret Green
POBox 2597
1250 N Ocean Avenue
Gearhart, OR 97138







