



RICHLAND ROD & GUN CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

A 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization

P.O. BOX 337

RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY DEFEND FROM WASTE, THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY; ITS AIR, SOILS, AND MINERALS. ITS FORESTS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE. I WILL HELP EDUCATE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE RESPONSIBLE CARETAKERS OF THE RESOURCES OF AMERICA.

December 2023, Volume 78 No. 12

Club Website- www.richlandrodandgun.org

Club Facebook- www.facebook.com/RichlandRodandGunClub

2023/2024 Officers

President

Matt Cummings

(509) 948-4905

Secretary

Mike Estes

(509) 551-9066

Treasurer

Richard Libby

(509)947-0498

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

Next General Meeting – December 5, 7:00 PM at Richland Public Library

Next Board Meeting- December 19, 7:00 PM at Griggs Pasco Hunter Ed room

January Newsletter Contribution Deadline is December 22.

email: admin@richlandrodandgun.org

December 5th General Meeting Presentation

7:00pm at the Richland Public Library

Have you ever pursued the biggest fish in the Columbia River? The program this month is about winter fishing for sturgeon. Wesley Lundberg of Dream Catcher's Fishing will discuss tactics and equipment needed to connect with these big fish. Don't miss this program if you are willing to brave the colder weather to pursue these mighty fish.

Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show

Volunteers are needed to help at the Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show which will be held January 26-28, 2024 at the HAPO Center (formerly TRAC) in Pasco. RRGCC will be hosting the Air Rifle Range and staffing the Lunker Lake Fishing Pond again this year. Both venues are for youth 12 years and under. Show hours are Friday, Noon to 7:00pm; Saturday, 10:00am to 6:00pm; and Sunday, 10:00am to 4:00pm. Fishing Pond set up will be on Thursday morning. Sunday is Kid's Day with free fishing. Volunteers are needed to work shifts each

day of the show and to set up and disassemble the fishing pond. Volunteers receive free admission and it is a lot of fun assisting the kids. Sign up information will be available at our December meeting.

Quality Trip Rules

It was announced last month that the rules for the 2024 Quality Trip drawing have been revised. Members who perform volunteer work on a number of RRGc projects and activities are eligible to purchase additional chances in the drawing. A free chance in the raffle will be offered to any member who 1) purchases a chance in the drawing, and 2) accumulates 20 or more hours of volunteer work on club sponsored projects during the calendar year (January 1 through December 31) preceding the drawing. A second free chance will be offered if the individual purchases 2 or more chances and accumulates 40 or more hours as described in the preceding sentence. No member may be awarded more than two free chances in the drawing. Volunteer service on the following projects will count towards the accumulated hours.

- Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show – Lunker Lake and Youth Pellet Range (set-up, tear down, shift work)
- Wild Game Dinner (food preparation, cooks, equipment transport, event set-up and tear down)
- KOE Special Needs and Kids Fishing Days (rod assembly, mentoring, event activities)
- Angler Education (class instructors and assistants)
- Hunter Education (instructors and assistants during classes and range day)
- Youth Pheasant Hunt (mentors and dog handlers)
- Introduction to Firearms Class (instructors and assistants)
- Salmon in the Classroom (egg and supply deliveries, carcass deliveries, dissections, fish release)
- Habitat (water guzzler installation, monitoring, maintenance , removal or relocation)
- Wood Duck Nests (construction, installation, monitoring and maintenance, student instruction)
- RRGc wildlife related group projects in support of WDFW, USFWS, and other agencies.

Quality Trip chances are available from Treasurer Rick Libby. The drawing will be held as the last event of the annual RR&GC Wild Game Dinner on March 23, 2024. The winner does not need to be present to win. Follow this link to the Quality Trip page then click on Quality Trip Rules underlined in the first paragraph: <https://www.richlandrodandgun.org/trips>

Guzzler Repair

Corrie Thorne-Hadley (WDFW), Robert Gerhard, Mac Ryan, Larry Martin and John Nordheim (landowner) replaced the damaged rain catchment aprons on Guzzler #131 on November 1, 2023. The guzzler is located east of the town of Dixie in the Biscuit Ridge Road area. Photos from before and after the repairs are shown below.



Donations Received for RRGC Guzzler Program

In the September newsletter we announced the receipt of a \$1,000 donation from the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs in support of the RRGC guzzler program. This month we are happy to announce the receipt of additional donations from two local organizations. The Garden Genies Garden Club donated \$1,050 and the Basin Bloomers Garden Club donated \$400 in support of RRGC projects to benefit wildlife. We truly LOVE these ladies and their garden clubs.

2024 Hunter Education Classes

Chief Hunter Education Instructor Ron Ruth announced that three hunter education classes have been scheduled for 2024. The first class is from April 1-5 with range day on April 6. The class coincides with spring break for local schools and will be a daytime class. The other classes will be July 8-12 with range day on July 13, and September 9-13 with range day on September 14. For more information contact Ron at ronruth.huntered@gmail.com

Meat and Prize Donations Needed for the Wild Game Dinner

We need meat! Marilyn Steele (509-392-2128) and John Prather (509-521-1593) are accepting donated fish, fowl, upland birds and big game meat for the 2024 Wild Game Dinner. A reminder that each package must be tagged with the donor's name, WILD ID number, species and cut of meat, plus the date and location taken and that ground meat cannot be accepted. Please bring your donations to the monthly meeting or contact Marilyn or John to coordinate a time and location for delivery. John also needs your help collecting prizes to be auctioned or given away at the dinner. Please contact John for a copy of the donation letter that we provide to businesses who might consider making a donation to us.

Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan

The comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) draft plan to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem (NCE) in Washington closed on November 13, 2023. The EIS identified three potential alternatives. Alternative A, referred to as the no-action alternative, would continue existing management practices. Grizzlies would not be

reintroduced and would depend on migration of bears from British Columbia, Alberta, and Idaho to populate the NCE. Alternatives B and C are similar to each other and propose a restoration population goal of 200 grizzly bears in the NCE. Bears would be captured in other states or Canadian provinces, relocated, and then released in the NCE. The federal agencies would aim to release 3 to 7 grizzly bears per year for 5 to 10 years to achieve an initial founder population of 25 bears. Thus, it might take 60 to 100 years for grizzlies to reach the restoration goal of 200 bears in the NCE.

The alternative preferred by federal agencies in the 2017 EIS was Alternative B in the new EIS: restoration with existing Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. The federal plan to release grizzlies in Washington was heavily opposed in 2017, which resulted in the Secretary of the Department of the Interior putting a hold on the proposal. The hold lasted about 6 years until the revised EIS was released in September 2023. Many of the concerns expressed previously by citizens who live near or recreate in the area near the NCE about the risk of death, injury, or property loss caused by grizzly bears resulted in a new Alternate C for this EIS which would designate grizzly bears in the US portion of the NCE and surrounding areas as an ESA section 10(j) Nonessential Experimental Population (NEP). The NEP designation would allow the bears to be “managed” if and when conflict situations should arise. Alternative C would also create 3 management zones covering nearly the entire state into which grizzly bears could be reintroduced. Those zones include Cascade Mountains all the way from Canada to Oregon, the Blue Mountains, the Olympic Peninsula, and everywhere except the portion of northeastern Washington which is already part of, or adjoins, the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone.

RRGC sent a letter in April 2017 opposing the reintroduction of grizzly bears as a violation of state law RCW 77.12.035 and an unnecessary risk to Washington’s citizens, wildlife, and property. We continue to believe that Alternative A of the 2023 EIS is the only acceptable alternative.

Photo of the Month

The winning photo for November shows Ron Moore with a very nice Mule deer buck that he harvested near Lewistown, Montana on November 12, 2023. The photo was taken by Clyde Allen. A photo submitted by Todd Hennick shows his son Jackson with Jackson’s grandfather James Hawe with a young Mulie buck harvested by James in Jordan Valley, Oregon on October 12, 2023. Congratulations to both hunters. Photos are voted on at the monthly Board of Directors meetings so please submit them in accordance with the contest rules to admin@richlandrodandgun.org prior to the third Tuesday of each month.



Update your contact information!

If you have changed your address, your phone number, or your email address please use this link and scroll to the bottom of the page where it says "Update My Contact Information".

[Richland volunteer opportunities for members \(richlandrodandgun.org\)](http://richlandrodandgun.org)

Get involved in one of our Committees:

Salmon in the Classroom: Gene Van Liew – e.van-liew@hotmail.com

Wild Game Dinner: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

Wood Ducks: Dale Schielke – dahlialou@gmail.com

KOE – Kids Fishing Day: Marilyn Steele – momhoops46@gmail.com

Hunter Ed: Ron Ruth – RonRuth.HunterEd@frontier.com

Guzzlers: Larry Martin - larry49martin@gmail.com

Youth Conservation Camp - larry49martin@gmail.com

Membership: Connie Cummings – richlandrodandgunmembership@gmail.com

Scholarship: Mike Estes - estesm34@gmail.com

Website: Ron Moore – admin@richlandrodandgun.org

Lunker Lake: Matt Cummings – riverviewcounsel@gmail.com

Dale Schielke – dahlialou@gmail.com

RRGC Club Upcoming Activities

Tri-Cities Sportsmen Show – January 26-28, 2024, HAPO Center (TRAC) in Pasco

Wild Game Dinner – March 23, 2024 at the Benton County Fairgrounds