

## Gary Soules

1948-2012

We lost a dear friend and colleague, Gary Soules, on Wednesday October 3, 2012. Gary was an ardent sportsman and advocate for Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. Gary served in the Army as a squad leader for a reconnaissance platoon of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Viet Nam, and a door gunner and crew chief on assault helicopters. He started his career with ODFW in 1978 working as an Experimental Biological Aide for the Deschutes and John Day Rivers Salmon Ecology research project in Madras, reading fish scales and assisting fish research biologists with many field activities. In March 1981, he moved to Enterprise as a Fish & Wildlife Technician 1, working in the fish screens program in Northeast Region, constructing, operating and maintaining fish screens and assisting the fish and wildlife districts with hunter and angler checks and wildlife damage. From there he moved to Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area as a Fish and Wildlife Technician 1 in October 1985. Gary and his family settled in Prineville where he promoted to Fish and Wildlife Technician 2 in September 1986, Fish and Wildlife Technician 3 in February 1988, and Fish and Wildlife Biologist 1 in October 1988 as an assistant district wildlife biologist. Gary worked extensively on habitat projects on private and public lands, building partnerships and making friends with landowners and agency personnel alike. He worked tirelessly helping with Hunter Education, outdoor education at Crook County schools, and mentoring many youth in Boy Scouts of America. He was also active with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans, Saving Grace of Central Oregon (COBRA), and worked with a variety of Crook County programs that dealt with troubled youth. Even after Gary retired in June 2009 he continued to volunteer on projects including the Willow Creek Youth Pheasant Hunt, checking hunters in the Ochoco district, and helping with wildlife population surveys. Gary's dedication to stewardship of fish and wildlife resources and his passion for helping people, particularly troubled youths, was unequalled, and made him a very special guy to many, many people in Oregon. The lives he touched and improved were innumerable. We will miss him and we wish his wife, Carol, and 3 children, Karen, Laura and John, comfort knowing that Gary did so much for so many.

