



# OHA TRACKER



VENUS OVER MALHEUR/TYLER DUNGANNON

SEPTEMBER 2017

## OHA to work with ODFW on poaching PR plan

During the 2017 Legislative Session, OHA wrote and helped pass a “budget note,” included in the ODFW Budget document, addressing poaching and the development of an “anti-poaching” type campaign. Here is the budget note:

“ODFW is instructed to develop a proposal for a broad anti-poaching public awareness campaign, including a budget, that will include, but not be limited to: An anti-poaching public awareness campaign strategy, identification of tools needed to combat poaching, and any statute changes needed to address poaching. The Department is to report to the appropriate Ways and Means Subcommittee during the February 2018 session on the details and budget for this work.”

Representatives from OHA and ODFW will meet soon to develop a campaign. The proposal that is developed will go before the appropriate Ways and Means committee in February 2018 during the Legislative Session.



Passing motorists reported the poaching of these I-84 rams and helped point out suspects in the area. OHA is working on a program to increase poaching awareness in the public.

## OSP seeks tips in elk poaching case

The Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public’s help to identify whoever is responsible for the recent unlawful killing of a cow elk in Douglas County.

On the morning of Aug. 12, OSP was notified of a dead cow elk southeast of the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area. The animal was located near the intersection of Deans Creek Road and Johanneson Creek Road. An OSP Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded and found the dead elk in an open field approximately 75 feet from Deans Creek Road. The animal had been shot and the majority of it was left to waste. Investigation revealed the elk was most likely shot that day during the late evening hours.

A reward of up to \$500 is offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case. The reward is comprised of \$500 from the Oregon Hunters Association’s Turn-In-Poachers (TIP) program.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact OSP Trooper Jay Evans through the TIP hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or 541-900-0447. (Case # SP17288134) (Email - JEvans@osp.state.or.us).

Information may be kept anonymous.

OHA has paid more than \$10,000 in rewards to informants in poaching cases in 2017, and in this year’s legislative session we helped pass two bills aimed at increasing public awareness of poaching and ways to fight it. If you support OHA in this effort, please join us or renew at [www.oregonhunters.org](http://www.oregonhunters.org).



## Oregon Sportsmen’s Caucus maps plans

The Oregon Sportsmen’s Caucus, the largest caucus in the Oregon Legislature, met in August to plan for the interim and beyond. Caucus members evaluated past fundraisers and what future events might be in store. Also discussed was creating a greater liaison with natural resource agencies and how the caucus can better communicate with members.

—AL ELKINS, OHA LOBBYIST

## Roadkill salvage permits start in 2019

SB 372, the bill directing ODFW to adopt rules for permits to salvage deer or elk accidentally killed because of a vehicle collision, goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2019. Earlier reports listed the wrong start date. ODFW needs the additional time to develop the program. We regret any inconvenience, but for the coming year, you can down that deer with a .22-250, but not an F250.

See this week’s Hunting Headlines at [www.oregonhunters.org](http://www.oregonhunters.org)



*OHA President Mike Ayers and OHA Resource Director Ken McCall were among the invited guests at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area Aug. 18, when Governor Kate Brown signed Senate Bill 847, creating a system to deal with state lands that fall into the category of the Elliott State Forest, which OHA and a coalition of conservation-minded sportsmen's groups helped prevent from being sold. OHA supports keeping public lands public for multiple use.*

## OHA joins signing ceremony at Elliott

Representatives from the Oregon Hunters Association were invited to join Oregon Governor Brown, Treasurer Read and State Senator Roblan of Coos Bay at the Dean Creek Wildlife Viewing Area near Reedsport on Aug. 18 for a signing ceremony for Senate Bill 847. The bill's sponsor, Senator Roblan, represents the senate district which includes the Elliott State Forest. SB 847 gives the state a mechanism to keep our state lands public while easing the burden of school funding on the common school fund lands.

OHA and hunter/angler conservation groups supporting public land retention were in the audience and on the podium.

The State Land Board's May 9 vote to keep the Elliott State Forest in public hands was a victory for hunters, anglers and other recreationists.

The vote set several processes in motion; the most immediate is a process to establish a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which is required to actively manage the forest resources with the federally protected species present in the Elliott. Along with an HCP, details of a bonding process to generate funds for separating portions of the forest from the common school fund (trust lands) is in the works.

The third key piece of the Elliott and school trust lands puzzle was creating a transfer process for school trust lands to allow managing these public lands, while maintaining school funding obligations. That is where SB 847 came into play.

There will be many opportunities to work toward a balanced multiple use plan for the Elliott in the coming years. OHA plans to stay involved in that planning and work toward habitat for the wildlife we love to hunt, as well as reasonable access to the forest.

But the Elliott is only part of the remaining trust lands in Oregon. Oregon has more than 600,000 acres of sage covered trust lands wildlife habitat in eastern Oregon. Those acres have been consolidated into manageable blocks of grazing land essentially like the block of high value conifer forests of the Elliott in SW Oregon.

There are ongoing considerations to sell some or all of those sage-covered land blocks. This is remote consolidated high desert public land habitat for some of Oregon's premier game birds and animals. OHA will work to keep it in public hands, too. —KEN MCCALL, OHA RESOURCE DIRECTOR

## OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

### SEPTEMBER 1

Seasons open for dove, forest grouse and western Oregon quail

### SEPTEMBER 13

Fall turkey application deadline

### SEPTEMBER 16-17

OHA Lake County Chapter weekend guzzler project, 541-219-0614

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby Rod & Gun Club

### SEPTEMBER 23-24

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby Rod & Gun Club

### SEPTEMBER 24

General bow season ends

### SEPTEMBER 29

Tag deadline for rifle deer, bear & cougar

### SEPTEMBER 30

Deer rifle season opens

### OCTOBER 7

Seasons open for chukar, pheasant, E. Oregon quail, Hungarian partridge and controlled fall turkey

### OCTOBER 7-8

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt, 541-591-2452

### OCTOBER 11

Eastside buck season ends

### OCTOBER 13

Cascade buck rifle season temporarily closes

### OCTOBER 14

Cascade elk hunt opens

### OCTOBER 15

W. Oregon general fall turkey season opens

### OCTOBER 20

Cascade elk hunt closes; OHA Lake County duck and goose boxes, 541-219-0614

### OCTOBER 21

Cascade buck rifle season re-opens

### OCTOBER 25

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens