



ROGUE VALLEY/TYLER DUNNANNON

Roadkill bill makes a solid hit

As spring unfolds at the Oregon Capitol, a handful of hunting-related bills have found traction, while most have found their way to the trash compactor.

HB 2566 Youth Mentor Age Expansion

This OHA bill expands the upper age limit of the Mentored Youth Hunter Program to 16. It passed the floor of the House 56-0. The bill now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

HB 2030 Spring Bear Tag Cap Removal

The bill has been amended to remove the out-of-state cap on sales of spring bear tags. The purpose of this removal is to allow for more bear tags to be sold both to resident hunters and nonresident hunters. The bill has passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and now goes to the floor of the House for a vote.

HB 2883 Outfitters and Guides

This bill increases penalties for outfitters and guides. It authorizes the ODFW Commission to revoke all licenses, tags and permits issued to a person who is convicted of violations of wildlife laws involving taking or killing of wildlife with culpable mental state if that person was an outfitter or guide registered with the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB). The bill prohibits the person from applying for another such license, tag or permit. It increases the length of time OSMB may suspend an outfitter and guide registration from 24 to 60 months. The bill has passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and now goes to the floor of the House for a vote.

HB 3158 Poaching Bill

This bill directs ODFW to set up an awards program to report poaching. The bill passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. It now goes to the floor of the House for a vote.

Track bills in the 2017 Oregon Legislative Session at www.oregonhunters.org

SB 372 Wildlife Salvage Permits

SB 372, introduced by Senator Hansell (R-Athena) and Rep. Barreto (R-Cove), requires the State Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules for issuance of wildlife salvage permits to salvage deer or elk accidentally killed as result of vehicle collision. The bill has passed the Senate and has gone to the House for further consideration. The bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

SB 373 Urban Deer Conflict

This bill requires ODFW to adopt a pilot program for urban deer population control. The bill has passed the Senate and has gone to the House for further consideration. The bill has been assigned to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dead Bills

SB 6 Modifies trap check requirements

HB 2634 Disabilities under wildlife laws

HB 2487 Deer or elk tag guarantee bill

HB 2107 & 2589 Cougar hunting with dogs by county vote

HB 3228 Wildlife policy

SB 371 Cougar hunting with dogs by county vote

SB 458 Cougar/dog controlled hunt program

—AL ELKINS, OHA LOBBYIST

See this week's Hunting Headlines at www.oregonhunters.org

We can still save the Elliott State Forest

The May 9 State Land Board (SLB) meeting is the next key date in our efforts to keep the Elliott State Forest public. We must stand our ground or lose our current access to the forest. If the three-member SLB does not abandon the current sale process and embrace a viable plan for continued public ownership, we all lose.

The three SLB members are Gov. Brown, Treasurer Read and Secretary of State Richardson. Brown supports public ownership retention. Read now claims to support public ownership after he voted for sale at the last SLB meeting along with Richardson. Please contact them and urge them to keep public lands public.

—KEN MCCALL, OHA RESOURCE DIRECTOR

How you can help save your forest



Contact the State Land Board with our priority to keep the Elliott public. Encourage further options to keep the Elliott public.

Include "Elliott State Forest" in subject line of messages sent.

Please make these points:

- OHA believes public lands should stay in the public's hands
- The Elliott represents a critical block of public land accessible to Oregonians for at least 110 years
- If the property is sold, public access must be clearly defined as to location, time and any restrictions on access type.

Visit: <https://keeptheelliottpublic.org/act.html>

State Land Board, 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100, Salem, OR 97301-1279.

www.oregon.gov/dsl

Don't Cry Wolf – Manage Them!

OHA and our allies in science-based wildlife management testified at the April 21 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Klamath Falls, supporting language in the updated Oregon Wolf Plan to provide ODFW the essential tools to manage wolves along with other wildlife. The second of two meetings takes place May 19, and OHA needs your written comments, attendance and testimony on behalf of sensible wolf management.

OHA has supported the two previous wolf plans because they included eventual “management of the species” once certain population parameters were reached. Within recent months, wolf numbers in eastern Oregon have reached a sufficient level to go into Phase III. This is considered the management phase within the plan, so the timing is critical to ensure that the language in the new five-year plan really does include wolf population management.

Now is the time to infuse plan language to ensure that wolf numbers will be managed in accordance with other wildlife – especially deer and elk – as well as other important interests of our state. OHA had strong representation in Klamath Falls and coordinated with ranching and farming organizations to make points about the need for managing wolves. The livestock producers have direct economic concerns and expressed their strong feelings. We did the same as hunters with testimony from OHA state staff and OHA volunteers, as well as other individual hunters.

Those in support of the language we're backing wore buttons and stickers

Please contact the Commission before the May 19 meeting in Portland. You can attend or email comments.



OHA President Mike Ayers sported this button OHA produced for the April 21 Commission meeting on the wolf plan.

OHA produced, stating “Don't Cry Wolf – Manage Them.”

OHA has been actively involved in three stakeholder meetings to provide input on the plan. Our focus has been to: 1) include provisions to regulate wolf numbers when they are a known cause of deer and elk number declines; and 2) use the services of hunters, in controlled situations – in Phase III areas – to remove animals associated with livestock problems. We promote this, realizing that this would occur when wolf populations are determined to be viable in the region. This simply is being consistent with the way we manage black bears and cougars.

So what's the next step? It will be a coordinated effort to make certain that future wolf management gives consideration to other game species. Our task is to provide input – from the state perspective, through chapter leadership, and as individual members and hunters.

OHA encourages members to submit comments to the Commission and attend the May 19 meeting. To learn how, visit <http://oha-conservation.webs.com>

—JIM AKENSON, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Bend Chapter wins USFS restoration award

The U.S. Forest Service is awarding national recognition for outstanding volunteer service to OHA's Bend Chapter. The award comes for the chapter's “focus on the Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy priority projects that target watersheds, vertebrate and social/economic species, and habitats.”

The nomination, submitted by five ranger district wildlife biologists on the Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests, noted over 20,000 hours of meadow

and aspen restoration, off-stream water development and improvements to sage grouse rearing and nesting habitats. The biologists stated, “The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Bend Chapter is a stellar habitat restoration partner.”

The Bend Chapter is currently working with the same partners to develop a project chainsaw training we can apply to all Forest Service projects OHA chapter volunteers participate in throughout the state.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

APRIL 28

OHA Redmond Chapter weekend spring planting on John Day River 541-383-1099

APRIL 29

OHA Klamath Chapter banquet 541-891-3734;
OHA Pioneer Chapter Spring Youth Day 503-829-2912

MAY 5

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend powerline project, 503-767-3657

MAY 6

OHA Tioga Chapter Youth Day, 541-267-2577;
OHA Tillamook Chapter banquet, Pronghorn tag auction, 503-842-2475



MAY 13

OHA State Convention, Chinook Winds Casino, Lincoln City, A&H Statewide Elk tag auction, 541-772-7313;
OHA Bend Chapter Flymon juniper clearing 541-647-0424;
Tualatin Valley Chapter Tillamook Forest Scotch broom removal 503-290-6143



MAY 15

Application deadline for controlled hunts

MAY 20

OHA Rogue Valley Young Oregon Hunters Day 541-944-8914;
OHA chapter weekend projects: Hart Mountain 541-884-5773
OHA Lake County guzzler, 541-219-0614

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 3

Klamath guzzler camp weekend 541-591-2452;
OHA youth & family events: Bend 541-388-7337
Grants Pass 541-846-7437
Redmond 541-771-8383

JUNE 9

OHA Hoodview White River weekend project, 503-358-7821;
OHA Pioneer Chapter weekend guzzler campout, 503-710-1233

JUNE 10

E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area Youth Day, 541-745-5334