



JULY 2018

OHA TRACKER



Gun initiatives misfire

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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Neither Initiative Petition 43, which would restrict ownership of semiautomatic firearms, nor Initiative Petition 44, which would implement tight restrictions on gun storage and make honest gun owners responsible for deeds done by criminals with stolen firearms, will qualify for Oregon's November ballot.

After weeks of legal challenges filed by OHA, NRA, OFF and OOC, the Oregon Supreme Court on June 27 ruled that the ballot title for IP 43 needed modification and sent it back to the Attorney General's Office, eliminating any chance for gathering over 88,000 signatures before the July 6 deadline.

The IP 44 sponsors have now decided not to proceed with gathering the required 88,000-plus valid signatures to put the petition on the November ballot, blaming groups supporting gun rights for holding up signature gathering with legal challenges. Instead they will introduce a bill in the 2019 Legislative Session, as IP 43 proponents are likely to do. If unsuccessful in the Legislature, supporters of the initiatives have stated they will make another run at a ballot initiative in 2020.

View the originally proposed ballot titles for both these gun control petitions at www.oregonhunters.org/documents

Anti-poaching funds in budget

OHA is lobbying to keep funds for the anti-poaching awareness campaign in the ODFW budget that will be submitted to the Governor by Aug. 31. The Department of Administrative Services will work with the Governor's office to develop the Governor's Recommended Budget for the 2019-21 biennium, which is usually due to go to the legislature by Dec. 1.

OHA lobbied during the 2017 Legislative Session for a budget note to the ODFW budget that required the department to develop an anti-poaching awareness campaign. That budget note passed, and in 2018 ODFW presented to the Oregon Legislature an anti-poaching campaign.

In June of this year, the anti-poaching campaign was officially adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission into their 2019-21 budget request.

Felony poaching concept eyed

OHA will participate in a July meeting to discuss making certain poaching crimes felonies. OHA is working with OSP and members of the Legislature to develop the felony poaching concept to be put into bill form and introduced in the 2019 Legislative Session. Once we have a draft of that proposed legislative concept we will present it to OHA members.

Major issues moving forward

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org

Wolf Plan – Stakeholder Meetings/Final Input:

OHA participated in selecting the meeting facilitator. The remaining meetings are supposed to occur between now and the Aug. 3 Commission meeting. We will continue to be a stalwart on keeping wolf management options and hunting language "as is."

Ochoco OHV Trail Update:

OHA's attorney did a thorough job presenting our case of elk displacement concerns, or moving elk from public to private lands, at the federal court hearing in Pendleton on May 22. OHA opposes the Summit Trail proposal because the proposed route runs through early summer elk calving and fall security areas. ODFW backed us with a strong amicus brief statement, along with other plaintiffs. A recommended decision will occur later this summer and will go to a full district judge to review and certify.

Hunting Regulations Simplification:

OHA presented our letter of input on regulation simplification at the June 8 Commission meeting in Baker City. Follow-up questions by commissioners focused on research available on caliber size and bow weight effectiveness – and suggested staff pursue these findings. Some concern on enforcement effectiveness was also raised.

Chesnimnus Elk Project:

Recently OHA met with the Private Landowners group and described our recommendation to extend (only within designated elk corridor) the green dot closure dates to include archery (deer/elk) and rifle deer seasons (Aug. 25 – Nov. 12). The USFS is now referencing the Public Lands group (OHA) elk corridor as a recognized unit. Holding elk where the hunting public can access them is our goal.

Elk Damage – Cold Springs/Gurdane Areas:

Renewed activity is happening on the Cold Springs and Gurdane Area crop damage issue, with proposed elk removal actions slated for August and September. The landowners are interested in discussing damage tag use with OHA and area hunters.

Non-Lead Education:

OHA representatives participated in an Ammunition Symposium in Lewiston, Idaho, at the Jack O'Connor Heritage Center hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe. Besides our involvement, many Idaho shooting clubs were present, along with state fish and wildlife and federal agencies from three states. I was one of the invited speakers, and I talked about the hunter's legacy in wildlife conservation and keeping non-lead ammunition use as a voluntary choice for hunters and not mandatory.

HELP WANTED

Full or part-time

CONSERVATION

DIRECTOR

- Flexible 20 or 40 hours per week
 - \$22/hour + part health reimbursement
- Job Summary: primary duty is to advocate for Oregon's wildlife, habitat and sportsmen, and represent OHA in meetings and public appearances.**

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

- Follow important conservation issues and keep OHA advised of their potential impacts on Oregon hunters and wildlife.
- Assist OHA chapters in organizing at the local level to be involved in habitat and wildlife management in their areas.
- Promote the conservation goals and accomplishments of OHA through the media, social media and public speaking engagements as assigned by OHA State Coordinator, including public agency meetings and legislative hearings.
- Review resource management plans as directed, and prepare and submit comments for OHA.
- Maintain daily contact with OHA State Coordinator and prepare written reports for the State OHA Board of Directors that include a timetable of work completed and planned.
- Effectively communicate with a wide range of stakeholders on land use and wildlife issues.
- Assist with the annual OHA State Convention and annual Chapter Summit workshop.
- Perform other duties that may be assigned by the OHA State Coordinator.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES

- Degree in natural resource field or work experience equivalent and working knowledge of wildlife and land management.
- Computer skills & knowledge, such as word processing, e-mail and Internet skills. Spreadsheet and database program skills a plus.
- Strong interpersonal, writing and public speaking skills.

**For an application or information, contact the OHA State Office, 541-772-7313, DD@oregonhunters.org
Application deadline: Aug. 10, 2018**



Recent actions favor wildlife, hunters

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director
Ken@oregonhunters.org

Farm bill moves to Congress

The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee passed the 2018 Farm Bill on June 13. The passage moves the Farm Bill to the U.S. Congress.

Hunters across the country recognize the Farm Bill is about more than farming, as the bill includes funding for the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). Federal funds are distributed to participating states through a fund match process.

For Oregon, that has meant additional funding for the Open Fields program and support for numerous Access and Habitat program funded access projects on private lands.

Three other key programs that are important to hunters, wildlife and habitat include additional funding benefits through congressional passage:

- ✓ The Environmental Quality Incentive focuses on farming practices that benefit wildlife.
- ✓ The Regional Conservation Partnership funds wildlife habitat projects on a landscape scale.
- ✓ The Agriculture Conservation Easement Program supports wetland and agricultural easements.

Each program benefits wildlife and habitat by funding different elements of habitat conservation.

The 2014 Farm Bill has provided key VPA-HIP funding for our hunting and wildlife interests. Passage of the 2018 Farm Bill will do the same over the next few years as existing programs expire, such as Green Diamond access in southwest Oregon, Hancock Forest Management access in northeast Oregon, and the Open Fields Columbia Basin and Willamette Valley private land game bird hunting access program.

The same funding source has supported numerous habitat projects. The funds are directed at improving and maintaining both public access and wildlife habitat on private lands.

Please encourage our Congressional delegation members to support the 2018 Farm Bill.

Murrelet uplisting reversed

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 8 reversed its February decision to uplist the marbled murrelet's status to endangered on the Oregon State listing of threatened and endangered species. The commission's 4 to 2 vote was in favor of not upgrading the bird's status.

The reversal resulted from new information on the size of the murrelet population in Oregon. Changes in how the forest-dwelling, but ocean-foraging birds are counted from forest counts to ocean counts gave new and updated information on population trends.

OHA supports management policies that don't result in additional species listings to threatened or endangered status while providing the many benefits of our forest lands. 

This action is a welcome but possibly temporary development for both Oregon's state and private timberlands and critical big game habitats on Oregon's coastal forests. Additional restrictions that would have accompanied murrelet uplisting place similar requirements on timber harvest outside the federal forests, forests already severely restricted

to age and size limits in harvesting commercial trees.

In addition, the private landowners of Oregon's small woodlands would have faced timber stand age limits affecting their once-in-a lifetime effort to grow family tree farms to a typical timber rotation size/age class prior to harvest.

Potential limits on removing trees in the 60 to 80 age class are a disincentive to woodland crop owners in most cases.

Forage opportunities created by harvests on industrial and state forest lands would also be affected by restricting harvest of trees arbitrarily deemed habitat simply based on tree age.

OHA supports policies that don't result in more species listings to threatened or endangered status while providing the many benefits of our forest lands.