



AUGUST 2018

OHA TRACKER



TYLER DUNGANNON

OHA works at Baskett Slough for youth hunt

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director

Ken@oregonhunters.org



OHA and Venture Scouts are painting and dressing blinds in July and September at Baskett Slough in preparation for the new youth waterfowl hunt that will take place Sept. 22 and 23. Thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pro-hunting comments from hunters and OHA chapter volunteers, Baskett Slough NWR is offering this new opportunity for young hunters.

The hunt is highlighted in yellow on Page 26 of the 2018-19 Game Bird regulations, and in the Fall issue of OHA's award-winning quarterly junior newsletter *Yearlings*.

Visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Baskett_slough/ to learn about and apply for the hunt. Registration is limited.

Fire danger extreme; check these links before you hunt

Fires began raging across Oregon in July, threatening public hunting access as hunting season approaches.

For the latest fire restrictions, visit these websites:

Northwest Interagency Coordination Center:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/information/firemap.aspx>

Oregon Department of Forestry:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx>

Good Neighbor Authority offers opportunities for wildlife habitat improvement projects

The 2014 Farm Bill and 2014 Appropriations Act opened the door to cooperative projects across federal (U.S. Forest Service, BLM) boundary jurisdictions with State and private lands. The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is another tool for partnerships in habitat improvements. Oregon Department of Forestry has taken advantage of this authority on timber sales to improve forest health while Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has recently started an effort to seek opportunities for Oregon's wildlife habitats.

GNA is another tool in the partnership toolbox for conservation organizations like OHA to engage collaboratively with other wildlife and habitat supporters and our management agencies. Similar legislation is on the 2018 Congressional agenda.

ODFW announces new electronic licensing system

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director

Jim@oregonhunters.org

Implementation of a new electronic licensing system is scheduled for Dec. 1, ODFW recently announced. This will eliminate the need for specialized paper for licenses and tags. The electronic system will give hunters a choice of electronic (paperless) or hard copy (paper) options.

By March 2019, hunters will be able to load a mobile app that will upload and report information (such as validating a tag) when a cell signal, or WIFI signal, is unavailable, and then the system will automatically load the information once a signal is obtained. Stay tuned for more details on the pending system.

Proposed controlled hunt tags dip for 2019

The total proposed controlled tags for 2019 decrease slightly, less than 2 percent. Proposed controlled deer tags are dropping 1.5 percent, while both elk and pronghorns are declining 1.5 percent. Bighorn tags will be down 2 tags, or 2.4 percent; mountain goats will stay the same, with 24 tags offered statewide.

The one increase will be spring bear having an additional 1.8 percent tags available. The biggest tag decline is with mule deer, and is mostly related to the impacts of the severe winter of 2016-17.

Regulation simplification raises questions from OHA

OHA's primary questions/concerns about proposed regulation simplification focus on changes that reduce kill effectiveness and/or make enforcement more difficult. This includes caliber size and bow weight for larger game such as elk. OHA has recommended staff pursue research findings with pertinent test results, and we are waiting for a summary of statewide big game meetings where hunters gave input prior to producing final comments. OHA recognizes that many of the simplification proposals are positive, with no concerns raised.

See the full slate of proposals at <https://bit.ly/2spd7KJ>

Wolf Plan stakeholder meetings scheduled

Two or three facilitated Wolf Plan stakeholder meetings will be conducted between early August and mid-September. OHA will be unwavering on keeping wolf management options and hunting language "as is." We also feel the population estimating system needs an update to include hunter observations – possibly modelled after what Montana has used for several years.

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

OHA pays rewards for arrest made in case of deer shot with target arrows; new case pops up

Oregon State Police Troopers from the Fish & Wildlife Division in Central Point on June 28 charged a suspect with maiming two Jackson County deer with target arrows, and OHA and others are paying rewards that were pledged for information leading to an arrest.

The charges resulted from a three-month investigation that began on April 27, when Troopers responded to reports of two live deer that had been shot with arrows and the arrows were still in the deer.

The deer were located and tranquilized, with assistance from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The arrows were successfully removed without further injury to the deer. The deer were shot with older type arrows that had practice field tips and not broadheads.

OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) Reward Fund offered its standard \$500 reward for a deer case, while the OHA Rogue Valley Chapter pledged another \$1,500. Dewclaw Archery of Medford contributed \$500 and Ashland Archers at the Ashland Gun & Archery Club added \$100 for a total of \$2,600.

OSP charged 36-year-old Daniel Logsdon with unlawful take/possession of antlerless deer, first degree aggravated animal abuse and failing to report accurate information as a sex offender.

OSP is now asking for the public's assistance in identifying whoever is responsible for shooting a female deer in the head with an arrow on or about July 4.

An OSP officer and ODFW biologist responded to the 800 block of San Souci Drive west of Roseburg on July 6. The arrow was removed and the deer returned to its small fawn nearby.

Anyone with information is asked to contact OSP dispatch at (541) 440-3333. An informant offering information leading to an arrest can remain anonymous and still collect a TIP reward from OHA.

Gun initiatives fail to make ballot

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The 2018 Initiative Petitions 43 and 44 are dead. After weeks of motions filed by OHA, NRA and other gun rights groups, OHA and others prevailed before the Oregon Supreme Court.

The Court agreed with us, and ruled that the Oregon Attorney General had violated Oregon laws that require ballot titles and summaries to be impartial and fair. The Court directed the AG to revise the ballot title for 43, but with time running out, the petitioners on both measures pulled out.

Both groups have said they will be back. We expect to see language from both petitions introduced in bill form during the 2019 Legislative Session, which starts in January.

IP 43 would have restricted the sale and use of most semi-automatic firearms, and banned their use on public lands for hunting, target practice or self defense.

IP 44 would have required restrictive gun storage and had negative impacts on youth hunting opportunities.

These two measures were the greatest assault we've ever seen on our right to hunt and defend ourselves. This was a tremendous victory for OHA and we greatly appreciate the support and cooperation we received from the NRA legal defense teams.

Workgroup moves ahead on anti-poaching campaign

A workgroup, made up of OHA representatives, legislators, ODFW, OSP, Department of Justice and others, is drafting anti-poaching legislation for the 2019 session that begins in January. The initial discussions center around making a violation of the wildlife laws a Class C Felony if the offense is committed with a culpable mental state. Specific bill language will be forthcoming.

The anti-poaching campaign that OHA is working on has several moving parts. One of these parts is the addition of felony provisions for certain wildlife offenses. OHA is a strong supporter of steps to help deter and combat poaching. Our hope is that establishing higher monetary fines, jail time and losing hunting and gun rights will significantly contribute to deterring individuals from poaching.

These anti-poaching efforts stem from the anti-poaching awareness campaign that is included in the ODFW agency proposed budget. The proposed agency budget request for 2019-21 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. OHA will lobby to keep the anti-poaching campaign funding in the budget throughout this process.

OHA 2019 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR

OHA will give away a gun a week in 2019!

For \$50 you get:

- 2019 Gun Raffle Calendar.
- Chance to win 1 of 52 guns raffled (\$289-\$1,500).
- New OHA Membership.
- \$20 Sportsman's Warehouse coupon.

Buy yours today at

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WIN A 2019 ZUMWALT PRAIRIE ELK HUNT!

3-day guided hunt for 1.

Rustic lodging included.

Tickets: \$50; 400 offered.

Value: \$4,900

Drawing: 8 p.m., March 16, 2019, Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum, McMinnville, OR

Tickets & info:

call 541-772-7313 or visit

www.oregonhunters.org

