



OHA TRACKER

SEPTEMBER 2018



SUMPTER/DUANE DUNGANNON

Commission to hear rule to allow preference points as TIP rewards

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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A new rule will be considered by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to allow for an alternative reward of controlled hunt preference points, in lieu of the current monetary award, for turning in poachers.

The new rule, based on the “Turn In Poachers” legislation (HB 3158) that was passed during the 2017 legislative session, would provide a monetary reward or preference points to people who report poachers to OSP, provided the information leads to an arrest or citation.

Here are some of the highlights of the new rule:

- ✓ Preference points awarded would vary by species. (Points awarded TBD).
- ✓ For reported violations involving multiple animals or species, points awarded will be based on the species with the highest point value.
- ✓ If more than one person reports the same violation, the rule language will spell out which reporting person(s) will receive the reward.

The rule will be available for review on Sept. 4 on the ODFW website and will be presented by staff to the Commission in September at their meeting in Bandon.

Pro-gun measures bound for ballot

A number of local measures are popping up in the fall election. Groups advocating for “Second Amendment Preservation Ordinances” have been busy in a pushback to the gun control Initiative Petitions 43 and 44 that OHA and our allies helped keep off the ballot.

These local ordinances seek to protect Second Amendment rights by prohibiting local law enforcement from enforcing any bills/local laws that infringe on the Second Amendment.

Josephine County already has such an ordinance. Jackson County has certified one, and five other counties (Columbia, Douglas, Klamath, Lake and Union) will have it on the November ballot. A few others are still in the process (Coos, Curry, Wallowa, Wheeler).

A similar statewide initiative is planned for 2020, as well as one that would mandate gun safety education in schools.

ODFW, OHA tackle big issues

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director
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ODFW unveils Electronic Licensing System

ODFW has unveiled its new Electronic Licensing System that will begin for 2019. The intent is to eliminate the need for specialized paper for licenses and tags and to provide a cell phone license and tag option utilizing a downloadable mobile application, so cell service is not necessary. The ELS will give hunters a choice of electronic (paperless) or hard copy (paper) options – printable at home like event tickets or coupons. For details, see the September-October issue of OREGON HUNTER.

OHA weighs in on regulation simplification

OHA leaders were given a good summary by ODFW staff of the proposed changes and simplifications coming for 2019 regulations at the Diamond Lake Summit early in August. Input from OHA chapters has primarily shown support for the changes, with a few concerns on bow weight and firearm caliber reductions.

Wolf Plan stakeholder meetings underway

Facilitated stakeholder meetings are currently ongoing for Oregon’s revised Wolf Plan. The intent is to get better buy-in for the plan on sensitive issues involving hunting and damage management. OHA is working with RMEF, the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, and Oregon Farm Bureau in encouraging maintaining effective management language in the 5-year plan revision.

Commission backs marten trapping petition

The Fish and Wildlife Commission heard and saw a petition brought before them on Aug. 3 by environmental groups to eliminate trapping for the Humboldt Marten, considered a rare subspecies living in the coastal mountains of SW Oregon. The Commission voted 3-2 to move the petition forward toward rule-making even though trappers have only harvested one of these marten in the past three years. The petition calls for incrementally increasing restrictions involving a strip of Oregon west of I-5, the Siuslaw and Siskiyou National Forests, and the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (most restrictive). OHA and trapping representatives, who gave testimony opposing this ban, expressed that the petition was more of a foot in the door to stop trapping, in general, than a biological concern given the extremely low mortality of this species from trapping.



DUANE DUNGANNON

Bend Chapter's John Bambe (left) accepts OHA's Organizational Member of the Year Award from OHA Field Director Bryan Cook at the Chapter Summit at Diamond Lake.

OHA presents state awards

OHA has presented its annual awards for individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunters during the previous year.

OHA chapters submitted nominations, chapter representatives and OHA State Board members voted, and awards were presented at the OHA Chapter Leadership Summit Aug. 3-5 at Diamond Lake Resort.

2017 OHA State Awards

Members of the Year (Wildlife)

**Jerry Riecke & Harry Hansen,
Klamath Chapter**

Member of the Year (Organization)

John Bambe, Bend Chapter

Chapter of the Year Bend Chapter

Conservationist of the Year Greg Love, OSP in Bend

Turn In Poachers (TIP) Award Tayler Jerome, Yamhill County OSP

Youth Member of the Year Shelby Reed, Klamath Chapter

Special Recognition Awards Mike Ayers, Rogue Valley Chapter Parker Guy, Yamhill County Chapter Greg Petsch, Bend Chapter Fred Walasavage, Mid-Columbia

Chapters hear wildlife issues, pledge support

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director
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The annual OHA Chapter Leadership Summit Aug. 3-5 was another successful gathering of OHA leaders. The Saturday afternoon session included six guest speakers who shared their expertise on physical connections between our wildlife and habitat resources and building connections between our chapters and other partners in conservation.

The afternoon started with a keynote presentation by Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a seventh generation Oregonian.

Suzanne Linford, director of Protect Animal Migration, and Sidney Bowman, Wildlife Passage coordinator for ODOT, shared information on wildlife/vehicle collisions, Highway 97 wildlife crossing projects and the effects on our deer populations statewide from vehicle collisions.

Statistically, Oregon is losing more deer on our highways statewide than we as hunters bring home to fill our freezers. During the Sunday morning meeting, 10 OHA chapters present responded to a Yamhill County Chapter funding challenge for wildlife passage efforts by pledging a combined \$60,000 to the fencing for a new crossing north of Gilchrist.

Monty Gregg, Ochoco National Forest wildlife biologist, spoke about building strategic partnerships across a range of public land opportunities and teaming with conservation organizations to accomplish landscape level projects.

Tim Greseth, executive director of Oregon Wildlife Foundation, presented ways we can build partnerships and leverage our project funds through grants and agreements with organizations supporting wildlife and habitat improvement.

Nick Myatt, ODFW's Grande Ronde Watershed district manager, closed out the afternoon with a presentation and engagement with members on the department's ongoing regulation simplification proposals and process to date. OHA is summarizing our comments to present at the September ODFW Commission meeting.

Court rules Elliott property sale illegal

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled on Aug. 1 that the 2014 sale of 788 acres of the Elliott State Forest to a private timber company was illegal. The lawsuit was brought forward by a coalition of environmental groups contending the sale was illegal under a provision of Oregon Revised Statutes, which framed the creation of the Elliott Forest through a land exchange process with the U.S. Forest Service in the early 1900s. The land transfer from federal to state public management, commonly known as the Millacoma exchange, was designed to consolidate scattered common school fund lands into a manageable block of forest land in the Coast Range.

This is but one of numerous lawsuits related to management of the Elliott and the relation of the income producing objectives of the common school fund lands. The effect of the court decision should reopen some access to the Elliott closed after the 2014 sale of the East Hakki Ridge parcel, located just south of the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area.

The lawsuit came from the same groups who sued to stop timber sales on the Elliott in 2012. The future management of the forest has yet to be determined, following the 2017 State Land Board decision not to sell the forest in whole. —KEN MCCALL

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

www.oregonhunters.org

