



THANKSGIVING TURKEY, SOUTHERN OREGON

## Cougar bill meeting slated

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist  
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Advocates of better cougar management will meet in November to discuss options for legislative action. Attendees at this important meeting will include representatives from pro-hunting groups, ODFW personnel and legislators and staff. This group will look at what legislation has been introduced in the past and what sections of those bills, if any, might be used for a bill in the 2019 legislative session. We will share the results of that meeting in the next OHA Tracker.

## Roadkill rules approved

The new rules on road-struck elk and deer were adopted at the Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in October in Klamath Falls. Here is a summary of the newly adopted program:

- ✓ Deer and elk accidentally struck by a vehicle may be salvaged for consumption only. Intentionally hitting a deer or elk in order to salvage it remains unlawful.
- ✓ Anyone who salvages a road killed deer or elk must complete a free online permit within 24 hours of salvaging the animal. Antlers and head of all salvaged animals must be surrendered to an ODFW office within 5 business days of taking possession of the carcass.
- ✓ The entire carcass of the animal, including gut piles, must be removed from the road and road right of way during the salvage. In cases where a deer or elk is struck, injured and then put down to alleviate suffering, only the driver of the vehicle that struck the animal may salvage the carcass and law enforcement must be immediately notified.
- ✓ Sale of any part of the salvaged animal is prohibited but transfer to another person will be allowed with a written record similar to transferring game meat.

In a letter to the Commission, OHA stated we supported the new program, but added this caution:

“We are hopeful that ODFW and OSP will work together to ensure that those applying for the salvage permits are in fact doing so because of road-struck kills and not poaching. It is our recommendation that OSP and ODFW monitor this program closely to ensure that poaching is not occurring under the permit process.”

## Wolf plan stakeholder meeting saga continues

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director  
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The first facilitated wolf plan stakeholder meeting was held in late August in The Dalles, where little progress was made, especially on “controlled take” or hunting language. The management representatives – including OHA, RMEF, OCA, and the Farm Bureau – all emphasized a need to leave this option in the plan.

Most of the four wolf advocate groups want hunting removed from the management tool box for the next 5-year planning period.

The second meeting was held in Salem on Oct. 9. It resulted in progress on reaching consensus on radio-collaring efforts, the definition of chronic depredation on livestock, and which agencies and staff could review depredations in the field.

OHA emphasized better wolf population monitoring, with number limits per management zone – which are yet to be developed.

The issues of controlled hunting and protecting ungulate populations will be addressed in detail at the next in-person meeting scheduled for Pendleton on Nov. 27.

## OHA emphasizes need for better cougar control

OHA staff have done interviews for TV and newspaper articles in the past month, following the tragic fatal cougar attack in the Mt. Hood area. This fatality is the first documented case of a wild cougar killing a person in Oregon in recent times.

In speaking on this incident, we have been respectful of the family’s tragedy, but also have taken the opportunity to express the importance of more effective cougar management, involving renewed use of trailing hounds for cougar hunting in many parts of Oregon.

In addition, new concepts for improved cougar hunting effectiveness are currently being formulated into an upcoming proposal for the 2019 legislative session. (See related article.)

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

# Elliott State Forest's fate still in doubt

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director  
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Oregon's State Land Board (SLB) met Oct. 16 to review the newly published assessment report on the next steps for consideration in the decoupling effort for the Elliott State Forest. Decoupling is a term for separating the Elliott Forest lands from the current obligations to provide funding for Oregon's schools.

The first key part of decoupling came last August through a bonding process initiated by the Governor signing House Bill 847. HB 847 provided \$100 million toward the decoupling effort, leaving \$120 million of the appraised \$220 million forest value.

OHA and a coalition of hunting and fishing groups supported that effort. The report, compiled by Oregon Consensus, outlines the issues and values identified by a wide range of interviews with people representing recreation, tribal, forestry, land trusts, beneficiaries of school funding and others. OHA was one of the entities interviewed. The goal is to keep the Elliott in public hands, potentially managed by a public owner other than Oregon's Division of State Lands (DSL).

Discussion will continue at the Dec. 18 SLB meeting. The SLB has asked other potential public owners to come forward with their interest and proposals toward ownership. Feedback on the report is being sought through Nov. 15 by the DSL.

The Elliott represents 85,000 of Oregon's 780,000 acres of remaining unsold common school fund public lands, a number reduced from the original 1859 federal land grant of 3.4 million acres established with Oregon's statehood in 1859. The Elliott report can be viewed at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Documents/OregonConsensusElliottStateForestReportOctober2018.pdf>

For feedback, visit the DSL website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/ElliottFeedback.aspx>

For more information on the Elliott, visit: <http://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott.aspx>

# File for OHA state elections by Feb. 1

This year OHA State Board candidates will be elected for Vice President, Treasurer, Southwest Director, Southeast Director and Northeast Director.

An individual can qualify for the ballot via a nomination from an OHA chapter or with 10 signatures from OHA members. The nomination deadline will be Feb. 1. Position statements (also due Feb. 1) of up to 200 words may be submitted for publication in the election section of OREGON HUNTER magazine.

Board member duties include, but are not limited to:

- Prepare for, attend and participate in State Board meetings, which typically include four face-to-face board meetings per year scheduled throughout the state, and up to six teleconference board meetings per year.

- Actively work on projects or current issues. This may include management plan reviews, serving on a special work group, pursuing a specific legislative action, developing OHA policies or positions, tracking and responding to external issues, etc.

- Serve on one or more OHA Board committees and may take on special assignments as needed.

For more information, contact the OHA State Office, 541-772-7313, or [cindy@oregonhunters.org](mailto:cindy@oregonhunters.org)



Karl Findling (right), pictured with U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader during a D.C. trip to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund, joined OHA's Conservation staff on Oct. 15.

# Findling joins OHA conservation staff

OHA Southeast Director Karl Findling of Bend joined our conservation field staff on Oct. 15. Karl's experience working on land-use issues in Oregon will serve OHA well in this position. Karl will serve half-time in this capacity, taking some of the burden from Ken McCall in Corvallis and Jim Akenson in Enterprise, who have agreed to stay on a bit longer and split the other half-time conservation position for the present time. Karl can be reached at 541-410-0538.



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A graphic illustration featuring a deer on the left and a red Christmas stocking on the right, filled with stacks of money.