



BAKER COUNTY/DUANE DUNGANNON

OHA submits cougar bill concepts to Legislature

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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OHA has submitted two cougar bill concepts for introduction in the 2019 Legislative Session. The two concepts stemmed from a November workgroup led by Rep. Sprenger (R-Scio) that OHA attended. At the end of the group meeting, Rep. Sprenger asked for legislative concepts for the 2019 Legislative Session.

The OHA board members and staff who attended the workgroup (Steve Hagan, Paul Donheffner, John Thiebes, Jim Akenon and Al Elkins) worked with the OHA board and designed two concepts that will be put into bill form. The concepts are:

- 🐾 Establish a position within ODFW to train and coordinate cougar agents used by ODFW. If passed and funded, this position would coordinate contracted cougar agents in zones to help maintain zone cougar quotas.
- 🐾 Where available, allow ODFW to contract with agents to assist in cougar population management. If passed, this would redistribute unused zone quotas to agents to administratively assist in removal within the allowable mortality cap.

The next step in this process is for the concepts to be written in bill form and then introduced during the 2019 Legislative Session that begins in January.

Anti-poaching campaign will go to Legislature

The anti-poaching campaign stemming from a budget note OHA had attached as part of the ODFW budget was not included in the Governor's Recommended Budget that was submitted to the 2019 Legislature. So, an anti-poaching campaign legislative concept will be submitted to be introduced in the 2019 session. The concept involves addressing poaching by focusing on two areas: increasing detection of poaching incidents and enhancing current efforts to deter poaching. This multi-year strategy involves multiple agencies and partners in a coordinated effort to:

- ✓ Increase public awareness of the impact of poaching

- ✓ Increase reporting of poaching incidents
- ✓ Increase law enforcement detection of poaching
- ✓ Ensure consistent prosecution and punishment of poaching

OHA joins SageCon Coalition

OHA has joined the SageCon Coalition to help secure funding for the state's Sage Grouse Action Plan. The funding will help meet the challenges to the sage grouse population, including the increase of large wildfires and invasion of rangelands by juniper and non-native annual grasses.

Elliott State Forest could become OSU research forest

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director
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Oregon's State Land Board (SLB) voted unanimously on Dec. 18 to direct state land managers to work with Oregon State University's School of Forestry to follow a vision of the Elliott State Forest as a research forest.

As a research forest, the Elliott would maintain public ownership and access, provide educational opportunity, recreation and research on the 85,000-acre south coast forest.

To us as hunters, the results would mean some level of habitat improvement for big game by active forest management and a chance to be at the table in future forest plans.

There are still hurdles to clear before this idea becomes a reality. Two key requirements for success are creating a financial plan that will provide the \$121 million cost of "decoupling" the forest from the Common School Fund financial requirements and creating a Habitat Conservation Plan to address the fish and wildlife species requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act.

OSU is one of seven organizations that responded to the SLB's October request for submitting interest in managing the Elliott.

The February SLB meeting will include discussion on public participation in the Elliott's future. OHA will continue our involvement by representing our hunting, habitat and public access interests.

OHA sets sights on key predator issues in '19

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director
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OHA is speaking on behalf of the interests of wildlife and hunters on predator issues that will take center stage in 2019.

Wolf Delisting Vote on HR 6784: The U.S. House on Nov. 16 passed the "Manage Our Wolves Act," which removes gray wolves from threatened and endangered status in the lower 48 states. This would immediately affect Oregon in the western two-thirds of the state. Contact Senators Merkley and Wyden soon to express support as this act moves to the Senate early in 2019.

Wolf Plan Completion: OHA has participated in four facilitated stakeholder meetings about the more contentious elements of the draft wolf plan. Defining chronic depredation of livestock, determining how non-lethal measures (protecting livestock) will be applied before lethal actions are taken, and ultimately methods used for lethal action have been thoroughly discussed. The topic of controlled take, including hunting, will be the final topic addressed at the Jan. 8 meeting scheduled for Portland.

Cougar Management: OHA is working on both legislative and administrative approaches to increase cougar hunting opportunities. The goal is to lower the statewide population to enhance deer and elk numbers and improve public safety and property protection.

Regulation Simplification: The first two phases of simplification have focused on wording clarifications and legal weapons requirements – such as bow draw weight, broadhead types, and legal muzzleloader equipment. In Phase III, the emphasis will be season structure and broader scale game management issues.

Electronic Licensing: The new system has been functional since Dec. 1. The biggest confusion so far has centered around realizing that you need to register online before you can purchase your license and tags. To determine how to accomplish this via MyODFW.com, see page 4 in the 2019 Oregon Big Game Regulations. Find a useful article about the new system in the January/February OREGON HUNTER.



Quickly spreading, massive solar farms threaten Oregon's wildlife winter range.

Solar farms pose major threats to winter range

By Karl Findling, OHA Conservation Staff
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Impacts of very large solar and wind farms have occurred on a scale larger and faster than anticipated. Some farms are thousands of acres in size, but so far, they are primarily sited on private lands. This emerging industry has the potential for significant impacts to wildlife in the foreseeable future.

OHA is engaged with the agencies at play, including the siting and permitting system and the potential mitigation efforts available for lessening the negative impacts to upland birds, pronghorn, deer and elk winter range and migration corridors. We are partnering with other conservation groups and ODFW to understand the processes, procedures and potential sites across the state.

See an in-depth feature article on the impacts of solar farms on wildlife and habitat in the upcoming March-April issue of OREGON HUNTER.

Biomass shows potential to affect wildlife habitat

OHA is keeping an eye on newly proposed forest rules and land impacts from the emerging biomass industry. Biomass utilization is an emerging technology in the renewable energy realm, and this new method of forest management has many potential impacts and benefits for wildlife. Impacts are increased industrial activities on the landscape. Benefits for habitat and wildlife occur through more prescribed fire and forest restoration.

By utilizing solar and biomass to produce electricity, Lakeview may soon be the country's first city completely powered by renewable energy.

HELP WANTED OHA part-time CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

- Flexible 10 to 20 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, visit
<https://oregonhunters.org/documents/>
or contact OHA's State Office: 541-772-7313,
oha@oregonhunters.org
Please apply by: March 1, 2019

