



OHA TRACKER

FEBRUARY 2019



Commission to vote on wolf plan

Please comment by Feb. 28


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


The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will vote to approve the revised Wolf Plan on March 15. Input into this plan has been lengthy and contentious, but the plan wording will provide both protection to wolves and considerations to our interests as hunters.


We are coordinating with chapters so testimony can come from as many chapters as possible. If you wish to provide testimony individually, please keep your comments clear, concise and respectful. You may use the bullet points below to focus your input.


To send written testimony, mail it to: ODFW Commission, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302 or email: odfw.commission@state.or.us

Be sure to get your input into the Commission by Feb. 28 so it makes it into the mailed Commission packets.

 Recommend that the Commission approve the revised Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

 Indicate that sportsmen have already been compromising by accepting the presence of wolves in our state.

 Recognize that this acceptance of wolves is based on a responsible management plan that considers all the interests of Oregon citizens, including maintaining hunting opportunity of deer and elk.

 Express concern for livestock producers, who at this time bear the greatest burden and who want to see, as we do, that wolf population numbers are eventually managed like cougars and black bears.

Bills target Oregon gun owners

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
alvinelkins@yahoo.com

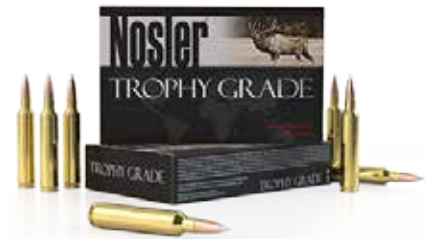
The 2019 Legislative Session is underway, and in early January, the 1,467 bills that were filed in advance of the session became public. More bills are popping up daily.

Oregon's gun owners are the targets of several bills OHA will oppose. Here is a small sample of some of the House and Senate bills OHA is following. The OHA Legislative Committee will review all bills to determine the OHA position. We will keep you updated on all the latest 2019 legislative happenings.

To learn more about these bills and others, visit the Oregon Legislative Information System page. See entire bills at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/list/>

HOUSE BILLS:

- **HB 2505** – Would require the owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock or in locked container except in specified circumstances.
- **HB 2251** – Defines “assault rifle.” The bill also prohibits the transfer of a handgun or assault rifle to a person under 21 years of age.
- **HB 2069** – This bill removes the requirement that State Fish and Wildlife Commission issue unallocated game mammal hunting tags in order requested.
- **HB 2072** – Would authorize ODFW to operate wildlife inspection stations for purposes of preventing spread of infections or infestations harmful to wildlife or of furthering wildlife management efforts.
- **HB 2082** – Would require Class II and Class IV all-terrain vehicle operator 16 years of age or older to carry and present both driver license and all-terrain vehicle operator permit.



Background checks for ammo purchases and limit of 20 rounds a month? Yes, that's how crazy it's gone in Oregon now.

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- **HB 2566** – Would require owner to register all-terrain vehicle, if vehicle is not otherwise registered in this state.

SENATE BILLS:

- **SB 47** – Would require a person operating a nonmotorized boat to have a waterway access permit.
- **SB 340** – Would require ODFW to annually establish special season during which holder of cougar tag or purchaser of SportsPac may use dogs to hunt cougars.
- **SB 5** – Would make shooting ranges and any person discharging a firearm at a shooting range strictly liable for injuries resulting from bullets that stray outside boundaries of the shooting range.
- **SB 501** – Would require permit to purchase ammo. Bans magazines over 5 rounds. Limits ammo purchase to 20 rounds a month. Requires background checks for ammo purchases. Imposes waiting period of 14 days.

Judge sides with OHA to protect elk habitat

A U.S. District Court Judge in Portland on Jan. 3 upheld the August findings of a Pendleton Magistrate Judge, siding with the Oregon Hunters Association and other groups who filed suit to stop the U.S. Forest Service from building an additional 137 miles of off highway vehicle (OHV) trails in critical elk habitat on the Ochoco National Forest.

District Judge Marco Hernandez adopted the findings of Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan, who on Aug. 27, ruled for OHA on four of five claims made against the plan. Finding the Forest Service made an “arbitrary and capricious” decision to approve the project, she recommended that the Record of Decision be set aside. The judge’s decision essentially kills the project unless the Forest Service goes back to the drawing board.

OHA filed a lawsuit in 2017 challenging the Forest Service’s Record of Decision to implement the project. OHA’s claims that the project violated road density standards in the Ochoco National Forest Plan and didn’t adequately address protection for elk during calving and rutting seasons prevailed.

“It’s a great victory for OHA and for elk and elk habitat on the forest,” said OHA attorney Scott Jerger. “Judge Hernandez adopted and agreed with all of the Magistrate Judge’s rulings on OHA’s legal claims. The project is now officially dead, and the Forest Service must return to the drawing board to address the numerous legal deficiencies in its analysis.”

Jim Akenson, OHA’s conservation director, was pleased with the decision.

“It’s a good day for elk, hunters, and conservation,” said Akenson. “OHA is not opposed to responsible OHV use, we are just opposed to the disturbance and displacement of elk in critical habitat that would move them off public land onto nearby private land, where they would get themselves into trouble. We filed this lawsuit as a last resort.”

The Ochoco Mountains have historically been some of the best habitat for deer and elk in Oregon. Information published on ODFW’s website reveals that hunting contributes more than \$14 million to central Oregon’s tourism



JIM WARD

OHA’s successful lawsuit will protect key elk habitat in Oregon.

economy and more than \$104 million to the statewide tourism economy on an annual basis.

OHA’s successful suit was funded by OHA’s Hunter’s Victory Fund and Wildlife SuperFund, with major contributions from OHA’s Bend Chapter and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

To support the funds that made this suit possible, visit <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

Plan to attend an OHA banquet near you soon

You’re invited to an OHA banquet near you soon! Enjoy a great meal, and check out a variety of outdoor gear, trips, artwork, gifts and other items that will be auctioned and raffled, with the proceeds used to fund local wildlife habitat projects and youth education events. Proceeds also contribute to statewide efforts to defend hunting and gun ownership rights, and to keep public lands in public hands and accessible to sportsmen. Money we raise here is money that stays here.

Raffles at every OHA banquet include the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle, featuring a Nosler M48 Liberty Rifle, and the Les Schwab Raffle, this year featuring a Sig rifle scope and rangefinder combo.

Enjoy a fun evening among friends and support OHA’s mission of protecting Oregon’s wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

See the 2019 OHA banquet schedule at <https://oregonhunters.org/events/>



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

