



JACKSON COUNTY/DUANE DUNGANNON

Oregon gun control bills expected to roar to life

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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March is going out like anything but a lamb in the Oregon Legislature, where many hunting-related bills are still going through the legislative process. OHA is tracking more than 1,700 bills daily and attending countless hearings and work group meetings on bills. Deadlines for respective chamber work to be completed are fast approaching, so it's now a question of just how many bills will make it out of committee before the deadline. Stay tuned.

Where are the Gun Bills?

No action has been taken on any of the gun bills we are following. The rumor is that a gun bill hearing will be scheduled for the first part of April. No word yet on what gun bill will be heard. Look for the latest on the gun bills through our OHA action alerts. You can sign up for OHA's e-mail updates and alerts at <https://oregonhunters.org>

Bills That Are Moving

• HB 2068 Percentage of Nonresident

Tags: Increases percentage of nonresident tags that can be issued for hunting of black bear, cougar and antelope within areas that may be issued by drawing.

Update: Bill has passed House and is now in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

• HB 2069 Unallocated Game Hunting

Tags: Removes requirement that State Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue leftover game mammal hunting tags to anyone first-come, first-served; allows ODFW to restrict leftover tags to those

who have not drawn a tag.

Update: Bill has passed House and now is in Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee.

• HB 2293 Residency Requirements:

Amends residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags and permits related to wildlife.

Update: Work session scheduled for March 21.

• HB 2294 Commercial Urine Products:

Requires that any commercial product that contains or is derived from cervid urine and designed for luring, attracting or enticing cervids be from herd free of chronic wasting disease.

Update: Bill has passed House and is now in Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee.

• HB 2361 Multiyear Resident and Nonresident Hunting Licenses:

Requires State Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish and prescribe fees for multi-year resident and nonresident hunting licenses. Sets agent fee for issuance of each multiyear license at \$5.

Update: Work Session scheduled for March 26.

• HB 2747 Fish & Wildlife Commission

Membership: The bill eliminates the provision that the Fish & Wildlife Commission will be made of members of the general public and instead lists various interest groups that must be represented.

Update: A workgroup has met and offered some changes in the bill. Amendments are being drafted.

• **HB 2795 Cougar Bill:** Creates a pilot program that allows a person to use dogs in the hunting and in the nonlethal pursuit of cougars within a county that elects to participate in the pilot program.

Update: Hearings have been held. No action on bill since the hearing.

• **HB 2841 Information Disclosure:** This bill allows ODFW to refuse disclosure of information relevant to department ability to manage or protect described fish or wildlife species or individual members or populations of species. Exempts information from disclosure as public record.

Update: Workgroup has drafted amendments for the bill.

• SB 723 Coyote Hunting Contest Ban Bill.

Update: A hearing has been held on this bill. We will fight this bill in the Senate and in the House.

For more information about bills:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Measures/list/>

You can find your legislator at:

www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html

See OHA legislative updates: <https://oregonhunters.org/legislative-news>



Wolf plan vote, new regs highlight wildlife issues for spring

By Jim Akenson, Sr. Conservation Director
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- **Wolf plan input:** In the wake of the recent postponing of the wolf plan vote by the Fish & Wildlife Commission, we are now waiting to see the final draft revision, which will be essential for our final OHA input. We will encourage members and chapters to provide input at the appropriate time. Watch for bullet points to emphasize in upcoming newsletters.
- **Waterfowl regulations:** Next waterfowl season there will be one pintail allowed rather than two as per recent years. The

reduction in the pintail bag limit for 2019 is due to the population status of pintails last spring. The estimated breeding population in the traditional survey areas in Alaska and Canada was 2.37 million, the lowest since 2005 and down 40 percent from the long-term average (1955-2017).

- **Big game regulation meetings:** Summer is when the hunting season recommendations are formulated by ODFW, which include several public meetings across Oregon in July. If you have specific ideas, or concerns, please attend one of these meetings, which will occur in

each region of the state. We will post the specific locations, dates, times once they are announced – likely for May chapter newsletters.

- **Electronic Licensing:** The hunting aspect of electronic licensing starts with turkey and spring bear tag purchases. Remember, you can do this with vendor assistance and print a paper copy or try the electronic version, assuming your smart phone has the right application (see page 4 of the 2019 Big Game Regulations). Earlier problems with duplicating individual registrations have been remedied.

OHA supports efforts to protect migrating wildlife in Oregon

By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director
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OHA is actively involved in several new efforts to protect Oregon's wildlife migration corridors. Three of these efforts are specific to big game.

More details can be found following the links listed below.

House Bill 2834 requires ODFW, in consultation with Department of Transportation, to develop Wildlife Corridor and Safe Road Crossing Action Plan for use by state agencies. OHA has testified in favor of this bill. <https://gov.oregon-live.com/bill/2019/HB2834>

Secretarial Order 3362 directs DOI agencies to work with Western states to identify migration routes and safe passage barriers specific to game animals, including deer, elk, pronghorn, moose and bighorn sheep. https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so_3362_migration.pdf

Oregon Action Plan and Oregon Action Team include implementation of SO 3362 in Oregon. This effort is currently active with OHA participation. The collaborative group organized to implement the Oregon Action Plan includes PEW Charitable Trust, RMEF, OHA, MDF, TRCP, TU, ONDA, ODFW and ODOT. These groups provided written and oral testimony in support of HB 2834 on March 14. <https://www.nfwf.org/westernmigrations/Pages/home.aspx>

Please Join Us!
ALL HANDS, ALL BRANDS
*Weekend work party
in the Ochocos*

June 21-23, Sugar Creek Campground, Ochoco National Forest

Join us for this cooperative fencing/guzzler project supported by many organizations and agencies, including OHA chapters and members statewide!

Project Partners:
OHA, NWF, USFS, BHA, TRCP, MDF, RMEF, ODFW & others.

Potluck dinner & raffle Saturday.

Chainsaw Certification Available:
In-Field Chainsaw Certification offered June 21.

Classroom portion: April 13, Deschutes N.F. HQ. 63095 Deschutes Market Rd., Bend. Contact: Ross Scrocca, Deschutes NF., 541-383-4768.

For more information and to RSVP, call 541-647-0424, 541-410-0538.

Federal funding will be invested in Oregon conservation work

By Karl Findling, OHA Conservation Staff
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With the recent approval from President Trump, the passing of S.47 (John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management and Recreation Act), Oregon will see substantial benefit, namely Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) that benefit wildlife and habitat.

LWCF is a fund supported by royalties from off shore oil and gas drilling. These funds are critical to purchases of lands across our nation, but namely in our state for things like the recent purchase of the Thirty-Mile access on the John Day River. That purchase, finalized in 2018, provides the only access to the John Day River canyon in a 70-mile stretch.

Long touted as the "Nation's Conservation Fund," the fund expired last fall, and lost approximately \$2.5 million per day while not reauthorized. It has helped nearly every county in our country, and has provided the necessary mechanism to purchase lands critical for wildlife habitat and sportsmen's access across our state.

Another benefit of the "Public Lands Package," is direction for federal land management agencies to facilitate target shooting on public lands. OHA has been involved with a dispute in southern Oregon, and potential closure of target shooting areas on BLM land.

Oregon has seen over \$312 million in LWCF Funds since its inception in 1964.