



New bills on guns and cougars emerge in Salem

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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The ongoing all-out assault on Oregon hunters and gun owners continues this spring in the Oregon Legislature, but OHA and our allies are standing our ground in defense of our hunting heritage and gun rights. In some cases, we're going on the offensive.

OHA is tracking more than 1,700 bills daily and attending countless hearings and work group meetings on bills.

Hearings on a number of key hunting-related bills began in early April, and OHA was there to testify on bills affecting gun rights, coyote contests and elk damage control.

Look for legislative updates on OHA's website (www.oregonhunters.org), where you can also sign up for OHA's e-mail updates and alerts. OHA's lobbying efforts are made stronger by members' voices. You can also donate to OHA's Victory Fund at <https://oregonhunters.org/donate/>

Bills That Are Moving

• SB 978 Gun Sales & Storage Restrictions: What SB 978 Does:

- Legalizes age discrimination for firearm dealers to allow them to refuse service to young adults ages 18, 19 and 20 for no reason other than being under the age of 21.
- Makes possession of a firearm without a serial number a felony. Remember: Many firearms manufactured prior to 1968 do not have a serial number; simply owning a classic hunting rifle or family heirloom manufactured without a serial number will be a felony.
- Imposes a one-size-fits-all government solution for firearm storage and require them to be made unavailable for self-defense by requiring all guns to be stored in a locked container or have trigger locking device installed whenever gun is not carried by or in control of the owner.
- Directs Oregon Health Authority to define what is and is not considered a

container or locking device. The bill clearly states container does not include a building, room or vehicle or a space within a vehicle. So a gun locked inside a vehicle, even in a locked glove box or other locked space in the vehicle, will be illegal.

- Victimized gun owners who have suffered a loss or theft of their property with criminal penalties if they fail to follow certain requirements when reporting them, including holding the gun owner strictly liable for the future illegal acts committed by criminals using the stolen firearm.

Update: This bill is now in the Senate Committee on Rules. OHA has sent an action alert on this bill. A hearing room and six overflow areas were needed to accommodate all those who came to listen and testify on SB 978. OHA submitted testimony in opposition to the bill. The bill will likely be up for a work session soon.

Anti-Poaching Bills

All three of the anti-poaching bills have been heard before the House Committee on Natural Resources.

- **HB 3035** This is the bill we have been working on with OSP and ODFW to increase maximum penalties for wildlife violations.

Update: This bill passed the floor of the House by a vote of 58 to 2 and the bill is now in the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

- **HB 3087 & HB 3088**

HB 3087 is the anti-poaching bill and HB

3088 is a wildlife penalties bill.

Update: These two bills were combined into one bill. The bill is now HB 3087 and is in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

- **HB 3118 Cougar Bill:** Authorizes ODFW to use appointed agents for cougar management.

Update: This bill was passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and referred to the House Committee on Rules.

- **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 is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A hearing has been held on this bill.

- **HB 2069 Unallocated Game Hunting Tags:** Removes requirement that State Fish and Wildlife Commission 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 is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A hearing has been held on this bill.

- **HB 2293 Residency Requirements:** Amends residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags and permits related to wildlife.

Update: Bill is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A hearing is scheduled on this bill for April 23.

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>



More hunting-related bills seeing action

• **HB 2834 Safe Wildlife Passage:** Bill 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.oregonlive.com/bill/2019/HB2834>

• **SB 723 Coyote Hunting Contest Ban Bill:** **Update:** Bill passed out of Senate Judiciary. The bill now goes to the floor of the Senate for a vote. OHA is opposed to this bill.

• **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 is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A hearing is scheduled on this bill for April 23.

• **HB 2361 Multi-year Resident and Non-resident Hunting Licenses:** Requires the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to establish and prescribe fees for multi-year resident and nonresident hunting licenses. Sets agent fee for issuance of each multi-year license at \$5.

Update: The bill passed out of committee. Bill was amended for implementation by Jan. 1, 2022. Bill is now in Ways and Means.

• **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: The bill was passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources. The bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate.

• **HB 2747 Fish & Wildlife Commission Membership:** The bill would eliminate the provision that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will consist of members of the general public, and instead list various interest groups that must be represented.

Last call for wolf plan comments

By Jim Akenson, Sr. Conservation Director
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The time is now to submit your comments on Oregon's revised Wolf Management Plan and management input. Be sure to submit input on this plan prior to May 23, so your voice is heard by Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners prior to the June 7 Commission meeting in Salem, when the revised plan testimony will be taken, and plan adoption voted upon by the Commission. Submit your input to: odfw.commission@state.or.us

The draft wolf plan is available for review at https://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves/management_plan.asp

To help guide your input, please consider using the bullet points below:

- OHA supports this most recent version of the draft management plan.
- The plan provides ample protection for this species in Oregon.
- The plan provides effective management tools that are critical to protecting other valued resources and activities,



USFWS

This wolf, caught on camera this winter, is a member of a new pack in the Indigo Unit.

such as maintaining game populations and big game hunting.

• The determination of management zones and controlled hunting is well identified within this plan, and we support these developments.

• OHA would like to also see management objective numbers established for wolves in designated wolf management zones.

• Sportsmen would like to contribute reported sightings to annual wolf surveys – modelled after the system used in Montana.

OHA defends public hunting access on OWEB properties

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
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OHA staff attended the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) meeting on April 16 and 17 in response to concerns raised by OHA members on the North Coast regarding the potential loss of hunting access on lands acquired with OWEB funds.

OHA submitted a letter to OWEB outlining concerns of a net loss in hunting access across public lands. Additional public comment was made during the meeting echoing those points. Several board members expressed support for public access, particularly for hunters and anglers.

Approval of the land acquisition was not given until assurances could be made that bowhunting would continue to be allowed on the 95-acre property in question.

OHA will continue to engage with OWEB and other conservation organizations to ensure our voice is heard regarding sportsmen's access.



Please Join Us!
**ALL HANDS, ALL BRANDS
FOR OUR PUBLIC LANDS**

**Weekend work party
in the Ochocos**

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

- ASPEN FENCING • GUZZLER REPAIR
- JUNIPER REMOVAL

Project partners: OHA, NWF, USFS, BHA, TRCP, MDF, RMEF, ODFW & more

Potluck dinner & raffle Saturday.

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