



# OHA TRACKER

JUNE 2019

BAKER/D. DUNGANNON

## ODFW unveils new anti-poaching program

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist  
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During the interim legislative session, OHA worked with legislators and representatives from the OSP, ODFW and various fishing and hunting organizations to develop legislation that would help catch poachers and prosecute them severely. One of the bills that came out of the work of the interim group is HB 3087. This bill directs the ODFW to create an anti-poaching campaign program.

Recently the program was unveiled. Here are some of the highlights of the first year of the proposed six-year program:

- Increase OSP enforcement patrols.
- Increase OSP training on investigation and enforcement of poaching.
- Create a position with the Department of Justice for a "Roving" wildlife prosecutor to work with District Attorneys around the state to prosecute poachers.
- Develop a public outreach anti-poaching campaign to make public aware of the poaching problem in Oregon and what to look for.

The bill is now in Ways and Means. The next step is to have HB 3087 scheduled for a hearing and hopefully get the program funded.

Look for legislative updates on OHA's website ([www.oregonhunters.org](http://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/>

### Bill Updates

• **SB 978 Gun Sales & Storage Restrictions:** SB 978, the gun bill that was introduced this legislative session, is dead as a result of a compromise reached by Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats. This is not the time to relax, however. There is still plenty of time left in this legislative session for gun bills that have already been introduced to be heard or new gun bills to be written. The legislative session

is not over until the final gavel.

### 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 then went to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill has passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and now goes to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

### • 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:** The bill has passed the floor

of the Senate. The bill has been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The bill has been signed by the Governor.

• **HB 2069 Unallocated Big Game 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:** The bill has passed the floor of the Senate. The bill has been signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The bill has been signed by the Governor.

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

**Update:** The bill is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill has been referred to Ways and Means by the Senate President.

• **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.

**Update:** This bill passed the House and went to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The bill has passed out of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and now goes to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

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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](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html)

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

Donate to OHA's Victory Fund: <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

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## More hunting-related bills see action as session moves along

### • **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:** The bill is in Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Amendments banning the selling of products containing cervid urine were adopted, and the bill has passed the floor of the Senate and now goes to the House for a vote of concurrence with the Senate amendments.

• **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. The 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 is now in the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A public hearing and work session was scheduled.

• **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.

**Update:** The bill was passed out of committee. The House voted to send the bill back to committee. The bill is now dead.

## ODFW proposes more changes in hunting regs

By Jim Akenson, Sr. Conservation Director  
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In the latest phase of its effort to simplify hunting regulations, ODFW is proposing significant changes to 2020 big game hunts. Highlights of proposed changes include:

- 127 existing hunts consolidated into 49 hunts.
- 91 hunt dates expanded, made simpler or made consistent with other hunts, including expanding the dates of most bighorn sheep and mountain goat hunts to at least one month long.
- 85 hunt areas expanded to the entire unit or hunt boundaries made simpler.
- 57 bag limits made simpler or made consistent with other hunts, including a proposal to change Western Oregon deer bag limits to “buck with visible antler” and “antlerless deer.”
- Nine new controlled hunt opportunities, including three late-season mule deer hunts, two mountain goat hunts, and a pronghorn hunt.



It's critical that hunters stay informed and comment on the proposals. ODFW will host 18 public meetings around the state in July; please attend and comment. OHA will submit comments at the Sept. 13 Commission meeting, where a decision will be made on proposed changes.

## OHA awards \$31,000 to fund three projects

By Ken McCall, OHA Vice President

The OHA State Board has approved three new wildlife grants this spring: ✓ **\$12,000** for GPS transmitters for an Oregon State University/ODFW study of sage grouse habitat and population recovery following the recent devastating fires in the Trout Creek Mountains. Studies will add to the knowledge of habitat used by the birds and aid in their recovery. ✓ **\$4,000** for a winter forage grant for black-tailed deer and elk winter range

habitat improvements by removing conifers and other competing vegetation species to promote early seral forage on Forest Service lands in the Butte Falls area in the Rogue Unit.

✓ **\$15,000** for winter range forage improvements and protection of year-round water sources near Fort Rock. This project is directly linked to OHA's efforts to improve wildlife passage between winter and summer range currently affected by deer/vehicle collisions on Highway 97 south of Bend.

## USFS to charge fees, limit access to five Oregon wildernesses

By Karl Findling, OHA Lands Director  
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After a year-long process considering visitor use management strategies for five wilderness areas in the central Cascades, the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests will require use permits and the purchase of overnight permits, with quotas in place for the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, Three Sisters, Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak wildernesses. Quotas have been set for all 79 trailheads, of which 19 will have conditions imposed. Fees have not yet been determined.

OHA provided objections to the plan, both in writing and at meetings. OHA maintained that a tag for any species should serve as a permit, as well as for scouting and game retrieval; otherwise hunters are getting double-taxed to hunt public lands. OHA stated, “Hunters use the landscape much differently than recreationalists — the largest user group — and are very low impact. Many never use trailheads, and are dynamic on the landscape, like the animals we pursue.”

In response, the Forest Service exempted the High Cascades Buck hunt 119A and general season archers (currently, only deer; elk were not exempted — an omission USFS is aware of).

The permits and quotas are aimed at curbing resource impacts from increasing use, including damage to meadows and riparian areas, tree damage, presence of human and dog waste, widening and braiding of trails, and site compaction.