

## Anti-poaching bill, budget sent to Governor

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist  
[Alvinelkins@yahoo.com](mailto:Alvinelkins@yahoo.com)

As the legislature begins to wind down and with “Sine Die” imminent, all bill-related actions are happening at a quick pace. Hearings in the early morning and late at night are a typical occurrence with new bills and amendments moving at a fast and furious pace in both chambers. Here is the latest bill update before the final legislative report.

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 5510 ODFW Budget:** The Governor’s ODFW budget did not include funds for the anti-poaching campaign that the Legislature mandated in a budget note OHA requested last year, so OHA lobbied to get those funds restored to the budget, and it is headed to the Governor’s desk.

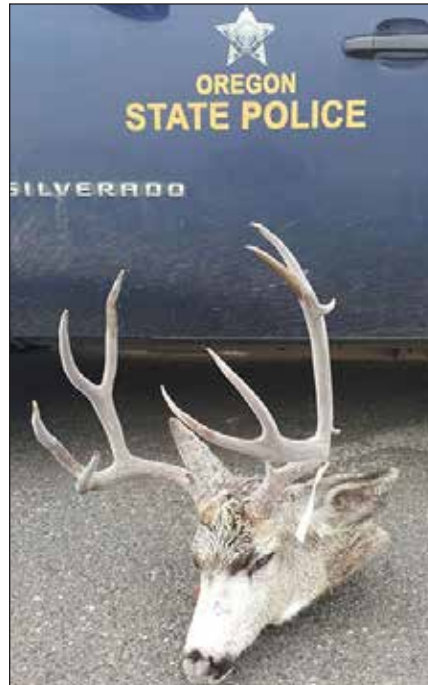
• **SB 978 Gun Sales & Storage Restrictions:** SB 978, the gun bill that was introduced this legislative session, is dead as a result of a compromise reached by Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats. This is not the time to relax, however. There is still plenty of time left in this legislative session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

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

**Update:** This bill has been signed by the Governor.

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

**Update:** The bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources and



*A poaching penalties bill supported by OHA and an anti-poaching program OHA got included in the ODFW budget are on their way to the Governor.*

moved 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:** This 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:** This 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 Ways and Means.

• **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 has been signed by the Governor.

• **SB 723 Coyote Hunting Contest Ban Bill:** **Update:** The bill has passed the Senate and is now in the House. OHA is opposed to the 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 has been signed by the Governor.

• **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 passed the House and was sent to the Senate. While in the Senate the bill was amended. The bill then passed the Senate with the new amendments included in the bill. Next stop: The House to concur with the Senate amendments. The House did not concur with the Senate amendments. So now there will be a “conference committee” with appointees from the Senate and the House to work out the differences in the bill.

# ODFW proposes major changes; please be heard

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director  
[Jim@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Jim@oregonhunters.org)

Proposed changes to Oregon's big game regulations will be discussed with public comment opportunity at a series of meetings around the state in July. Some of the proposals are sweeping changes, and hunters need to be heard.

One proposal would make spikes legal in the general western Oregon buck season and illegal in controlled 600-series antlerless hunts.

An example of the influence hunters can have occurred at the June Commission meeting, where OHA representatives stated the importance of keeping certain coveted 600-series hunts with an either-sex bag limit available for many interested hunters who have compiled preference points for them. The Commission then recommended that the proposal to change those hunts to 100-series buck deer hunts be dropped.

Other proposed changes include:

- Longer, later seasons for pronghorn, bighorn, and mountain goat hunts to give hunters who draw a prized tag a later opening and more time to hunt.
- 127 existing hunts consolidated into 49.
- 91 hunt dates expanded or made simpler or consistent with other hunts.
- 85 hunt areas expanded to the entire unit or simpler boundaries.
- 57 bag limits made simpler or consistent with other hunts.
- 9 new controlled hunts, including 3 late mule deer hunts, 2 mountain goat hunts, and a pronghorn hunt.

Plan to attend one of the meetings. This will be the only chance to comment before the Commission enacts rule making at the Sept. 13 meeting in Gold Beach.

See the proposed changes at: <https://myodfw.com/articles/proposed-changes-2020-big-game-regulations> and the meeting schedule at [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2019/06\\_Jun/062419b.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2019/06_Jun/062419b.asp)

To provide written testimony, send your comments or recommendations to: [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)



*Volunteers cut encroaching conifers and built wildlife-friendly fencing to protect aspen stands.*

## All hands, all brands turn out for public lands

By Karl Findling, OHA Lands Director  
[Karl@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Karl@oregonhunters.org)

More than 75 volunteers from several different conservation-minded sportsmen's organizations, including OHA, turned out in force June 21-23 for a "rendezvous-style" gathering and work party in the Ochoco National Forest.

Projects included fence repair and replacement with wildlife-friendly fencing around aspen stands. New buck and pole exclusion fencing was installed around various springs and aspen stands in three different locations.

The work is important because aspen

stands across the west are not regenerating due to impacts from domestic cattle and wildlife.

New projects were discovered and planned for next year's event.

Participating organizations included OHA, NWTF, RMEF, BHA, TRCP, Pheasants Forever, USFS and ODFW.

Volunteers were treated to a potluck dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. Various conservation organizations provided booths, raffles and donations. Sponsors included Legacy Sports, Leupold & Stevens, Benchmade, Sig, Work Sharp and dozens of others.

## OHA prevails again in lawsuit for Ochoco elk

By Karl Findling, OHA Lands Director  
[Karl@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Karl@oregonhunters.org)

OHA is pleased to announce the conclusion to the Summit OHV proposal, with the federal government dropping its appeal process in June. OHA filed a lawsuit challenging the Record of Decision by the U.S. Forest Service to build an additional 137 miles of off highway vehicle (OHV) trails on the Ochoco National Forest in critical elk habitat.

"The Bend and Redmond chapters were initially concerned with illegal OHV use and encroachment into critical elk calving areas," stated Jim Akenson, OHA Senior Conservation Director. "This is a big win for wildlife and habitat protections going forward."

OHA's State Board, staff, and central Oregon OHA chapters had opposed the Ochoco Summit Trail Project since it was proposed in 2009. OHA and other groups, including ODFW, had been fully engaged in the public process to oppose adding 137 miles of OHV trails and roads in critically important elk habitat, citing the Forest Service's own research in the Starkey Experimental Forest.

OHA filed suit, and OHA's Bend Chapter and RMEF contributed to legal fees.

In the latest action, the Federal Government dropped its appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, ending the case and stopping the project.

As a prevailing party, OHA will seek to recover legal expenses.