



OHA TRACKER

AUGUST 2019



Gun storage ballot initiative roars back to life

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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A new ballot measure has been submitted to the Oregon Secretary of State: The “Safe Gun Storage” Ballot Measure 2020-040 states:

A person who owns or possesses a firearm shall, at all times that the firearm is not carried by or under the control of the person or an authorized person, secure the firearm:

- With an engaged trigger lock or cable lock...
- In a locked container, equipped with a tamper-resistant lock...

The measure also addresses guns being used while hunting by saying that this measure does not apply if the unsecured firearm was obtained:

- For the purpose of hunting, trapping or target shooting, during the time in which the person is engaged in activities related to hunting, trapping or target shooting.

You can find a copy of the ballot measure here: <http://oregonvotes.org/irr/2020/040text.pdf>

This ballot measure is basically the same as Ballot Measure 44 from 2018. OHA and our allies were successful in the Oregon Supreme Court in stopping that before it got to voters. It is also similar to parts of SB 928 that was defeated in the 2019 Legislative Session. The gun owner would be responsible and liable for a stolen gun even if it is locked up. Like earlier attempts, there is no reference at all for stiffer penalties for those who actually steal guns.

“Ban Home Defense” should be the title of this ballot measure because it requires that your self-defense firearms be locked away. OHA will be working with gun rights advocacy groups to help defeat this ballot measure. Stay tuned; the fight has just begun (again). If this measure gathers enough signatures, it would appear on the November 2020 ballot.

Find legislative updates at
<https://oregonhunters.org>

FINAL LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The 2019 Legislative Session is over. Here is one last look at the status of the bills OHA was following throughout the Session.

BILL UPDATES

Bills Passed and Signed

• **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 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.

• **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 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 a herd free of chronic wasting disease.

Update: The bill has been signed by the Governor.

• **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.

Bills Awaiting Signature

• **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.

Update: On Governor’s desk awaiting her signature

• **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: On Governor’s desk awaiting her signature.

Bills That Died

• **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.

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

Update: The bill died in Committee.

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

Update: The bill died in Committee.

• **SB 723 Coyote Hunting Contest Ban:**

Update: The bill died in Committee.

• **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 died in Committee.

• **HB 2566 & 2082 ATV licensing and registration:** Died in Committee.

• **HB 2072 Game check stations:** The bill died in Ways and Means.

Comment now on proposed major changes to big game regs

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
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ODFW's 18 public hearings held across Oregon on proposed big game regulation simplifications are now completed. The purpose of these meetings was two-fold; to inform the public of the status of big game in local areas, and for hunters to hear about and comment on the changes proposed for 2020 and 2021 big game seasons.

With roughly 350 changes proposed, basically every hunter and form of hunting in Oregon will be affected – and certainly some aspects are positive, such as with more consistent start and end dates on hunts and season length increases, but others may not be positive.

Everyone should comment to the Fish and Wildlife Commission and make sure your comments are submitted prior to Aug. 26, so they make it into the Commission packets prior to the Sept. 13 Commission meeting in Gold Beach.

For more specific details on hunts and changes go to the ODFW website, under the Big Game tab, and enter: <https://myodfw.com/articles/proposed-changes-2020-big-game-regulations>

How to Submit Comments:

Email: odfw.commission@state.or.us

U.S. Mail: ODFW, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302.

OHA members have provided state staff with input, given comments on Facebook, or participated in the OHA website survey. Pulling from this input, and input from the state board, here are some topics and thoughts to consider for your input:

➤ General elk damage hunts: How will hunters connect with landowners? Will there be a list available at ODFW district offices? Will ODFW follow up with a questionnaire on the effectiveness of these general cow elk damage hunts?

➤ Clarification on hunt boundaries and timing: These could be good, but do they all have to be applied in one year, or could the implementation process take an additional year, or years, to implement and thus provide a chance for feedback and effectiveness assessment?

➤ Elk/deer distribution concerns: Given these species being increasingly skewed to private property use, it seems limited



JACKSON COUNTY/DUANE DUNGANNON

Do you believe making spikes legal in western Oregon deer rifle season and illegal in the few remaining "antlerless" hunts is a good idea? Answer OHA's poll question at the bottom of our website at <https://oregonhunters.org>

to only use expanded cow hunting to redistribute game. We have concerns about overall effect to herd numbers and moving or holding elk and deer on public land.

➤ This is a lot of change in short order: Will OSP enforcement be able to handle all the changes on the shirttail of electronic licensing going into effect? Recommend a slower and more methodical implementation process.

➤ Bag limit changes for blacktail deer: In an OHA website poll, nearly 80 percent of respondents opposed making blacktail spikes legal in general buck rifle seasons and illegal in "antlerless" hunts. Is this proposal based on blacktail-specific research? How do you know

buck ratios can withstand this harvest? Will this change have a review period?

If you have questions or want to talk about providing Commission input specific to your hunt area concerns, feel free to email me at: jim@oregonhunters.org



OHA 2020 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR

OHA will give away a gun a week in 2020!

For \$50 you get:

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