



Rec fund committee, elk salvage rules set

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its Oct. 11 meeting in Ontario established rules on two topics of interest to Oregon’s hunters:

- Establishing Conservation/Recreation Advisory Committee to advise spending of the new Oregon Recreation Fund;
- Rules for the use of elk meat when kill permits are authorized to help landowners with property and crop damage.

Recreation-Conservation Committee:

In the 2019 session of the Oregon Legislature, HB 2829 was passed to create an alternative funding source for fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation. A task force created in 2015 proposed the funding alternatives recommended to the Commission. This committee will have nine members from across the state. OHA gave testimony encouraging representation from the hunting community. OHA is pulling together partners from other hunting organizations, through a sign-on letter, to support our call for representation.

Elk Meat Disposition:

The Commission also voted to adjust rules related to how elk meat is distributed after kill permits have been used for damage control. The new rule is intended to lessen the burden on landowners in processing the elk carcasses, and it gives the landowner, or landowner agents, the opportunity to retain an elk carcass. The first priority of meat use would be delivery to food banks or other charitable organizations. OHA testified that public hunting should always be the preferred method of damage abatement, but making sure that the meat is utilized should always be the top concern.



How you store your guns for safe keeping and self-defense may no longer be your decision.

Gun storage IP receives ballot title

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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The Oregon Elections Division on Oct. 10 received a draft ballot title from the office of the Oregon Attorney General for the gun storage Initiative Petition 2020-40 for the November 2020 election.

The draft ballot title reads: “Requires firearms be locked during storage/transfer, loss reported, minor’s use supervised; imposes penalties/liabilities.”

Comments on the draft ballot title were due by Oct. 24. OHA worked with gun rights advocacy groups in submitting comments.

The new ballot measure 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 or cable lock...
- In a locked container, equipped with a tamper-resistant lock...

The measure also addresses guns being used while hunting by stating 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/2020/040textpdf>

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.

USFS rolls out wilderne\$\$ fee proposal

By Karl Findling, Lands Conservation Director
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The Deschutes and Willamette National Forests are asking for input on a proposed special recreation permit fee as a part of the new limited entry system for day and overnight use in three central Cascades wildernesses. The limited

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entry system will go into effect beginning the summer of 2020. The special recreation permit fee, if approved, also would go into effect in the summer of 2020.

The special recreation permit fee will be required from the Friday before Memorial Day to the last Friday in September in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters wilderness areas. The special recreation permits would be available through the Recreation.gov website.

The Willamette and Deschutes National Forests began an environmental analysis in January 2017 to address heavy-use impacts. Following this analysis and public input, the forests decided this past spring to apply a limited entry system, with the final decision signed on May 10.

The Willamette and Deschutes Forests now seek authorization through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to charge a special recreation permit fee as a part of the limited entry system

within the three wildernesses.

Thanks to input from OHA and others, some exceptions were made for hunters who purchase tags, which OHA stated constitutes a permit already purchased, similar to a hunting license serving as a parking pass at state wildlife areas.

Hunters with general archery tags will be exempt from day use limits and be able to scout and hunt in these wilderness areas without a limited entry day use permit. Hunters with the W. High Cascade deer tag (119A), will be able to hunt within these wilderness areas without needing to obtain a limited entry permit during the High Cascade hunt period in early September. The exemptions do not apply during the general rifle hunting seasons, but the limited entry permit season ends prior to the start of general and controlled rifle seasons.

All other hunts, when occurring in wilderness during the permit season, will require a limited entry permit or self-issue permit, depending on location. The USFS will continue to monitor hunting use in the wilderness, and their adaptive management plan will allow changes to hunting exceptions in the future, if needed (including adding more hunts).

The Forest Service has proposed the following structure for the special use permit fees:

- Day-use permit fee \$3 per person (at 19 trailheads, no fee at 60 trailheads)
- Overnight permit fee \$5 per person, per night (needed at 79 trailheads)
- No permit fees for youth 12 and under, though each person requires a limited entry reservation regardless of age.

Public input may address the proposed permit fee structure, how fees should be used, and any concerns or suggestions related to the special recreation permit fee.

The public comment period on the proposal is Oct. 9 to Nov. 25.

Comments on the special recreation permit fee should be mailed to the Willamette National Forest, ATTN: Recreation Fees, 3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite D, Springfield, OR 97477 or emailed to: WillametteRecFeeComments@usda.gov or dropped off at any Willamette or Deschutes National Forest office.



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