



OHA TRACKER

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ZACH MANSFIELD

OHA, work group to assess changes in big game regs



By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
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During the September Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Gold Beach, ODFW staff was instructed by Commissioners to provide a deeper discussion opportunity between sportsmen and staff regarding some of the major regulation changes approved for 2020.

OHA initiated this opportunity through direct communications with Commissioners and ODFW staff. This process will be conducted through a work group format. The objective of the work group will be to provide input to staff on the criteria the department will use to monitor the impact of the following changes to 2020 big game hunting seasons:

- Black-tailed deer bag limits (1 buck with visible antler and 1 antlerless deer)
- Late-season mule deer hunts (145A-Fossil, 148A-Heppler, and 143C-John Day Canyon)
- General antlerless elk damage season

Prior to the first meeting, ODFW staff will provide the work group with a document detailing changes that were made, objectives of the changes, monitoring criteria, and duration of the monitoring.

Besides ODFW, the slate of representatives will include Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Bow Hunters, Oregon Outdoor Council and Traditional Archers of Oregon. The first meeting is scheduled for Dec. 4. The need for additional meetings and dates will be determined at the end of the first 3-hour meeting.



OHA and NRA are challenging the wording of the ballot title for a gun storage initiative petition.

OHA challenges gun bill ballot title

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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The Oregon Department of Justice has certified the ballot title for the latest gun storage initiative, and OHA and NRA are challenging the title in court. The ballot title reads:

Ballot Title: Owner must lock firearm/use locked storage (exceptions), report loss, supervise minors' use. Penalties/liabilities

Result of "Yes" Vote: "Yes" vote requires owner to lock firearms when stored, transferred; exceptions. Owner must report theft, loss. Use by minors supervised. Penalties; strict liability for injuries.

Result of "No" Vote: "No" vote retains current law; locking firearms, reporting theft or loss not required. Retains current law regarding possession/sale to minors. Owner liability requires negligence.

Summary: Requires firearm owner/possessor to secure it with trigger or cable lock, or in locked container when not carried by owner/possessor, with some exceptions; must transfer firearm with trigger or cable lock, or in locked container; must report theft or loss of firearm to law enforcement within 24 hours; person transferring firearm to minor must directly supervise minor's use. Failure to comply with requirements treated as violation (not crime). Person who violates requirements strictly liable if firearm

that is subject of violation injures person/property within four years of violation; liability does not apply if injury results from self-defense or defense of another. Oregon Health Authority to adopt specifications for trigger locks, cable locks, firearm containers. Defines "firearm," "transfer," other terms. Other provisions.

In our letter in opposition to the initiative petition, OHA submitted a strong statement against the petition filing. Here is a part of the OHA letter:

"The ballot measure, title and measure summary deals with multiple subjects in violation of Article IV(1)(d) the Oregon Constitution. The measure includes the following subjects: 1) Storage and Control, 2) Transfer, 3) Reporting and 4) Minors. While item 1 and 2 may be "matters properly related therewith" under Article IV, we do not believe that item (3) Reporting, and especially item (4) Minors, are related. The safe storage of firearms is one matter. The requirement for reporting theft/loss and a creation of strict liability is a separate matter. Likewise, the direct supervision (undefined) of minors is a separate matter.

"The draft ballot title does not comply with ORS 250.035. The measure does not conform with the Oregon Constitution (Art. IV). It should not be on the ballot, period."

OHA will keep you updated on our challenge.

Great Gifts!

ODFW crafts policy on climate change

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
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ODFW is taking the lead among Oregon's natural resource agencies by creating a policy outlining how they will address climate change within their management decisions. Not only is this new ground for Oregon's agencies, there have been no similar policies implemented by any other state in the country.

The policy takes a high level view of climate change and its potential effects on habitat for the state's fish and wildlife. Citing elevated water temperature trends, increased ocean acidity, and more prolific instances of wildfires, the policy takes a broad view of how to approach, evaluate, and implement science-based decisions relative to climate change.

The Climate and Ocean Change Policy has been presented to stakeholder groups and interested parties on multiple occasions with public comment due by Dec. 12.

The policy will have an informational presentation to the ODFW Commission at the January meeting, where public comment will also be accepted. The final presentation for commission approval is scheduled for March.



PHOTO BY VIC COGGINS, WALLOWA COUNTY

Your donation will help purchase 1,800 acres of critical winter range in Wallowa County.

Donations needed for critical winter range purchase

The Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership is purchasing 1,800 acres of critical mule deer winter range in a scenic area that borders Wallowa Lake on the east side and is a classic example of Ice Age moraines found in North America. Over \$6 million of the \$6.5 million needed has been raised, but \$324,000 is still needed by mid-January, 2020. Donations are needed to raise the final

funds to secure this scenic backdrop to Wallowa Lake.

This area has been grazed by cattle since settlement times, and spring mule deer counts of nearly 400 animals have been recorded in ODFW surveys.

The mule deer wintering on this range generally summer on public land, and many move to the Wallowa Mountains. The area will be managed by Wallowa County as the East Moraine Community Forest.

Traditional uses will continue with sustainable forestry and cattle grazing as well as protection of wildlife habitat and hiking trails for public use.

For more information, contact the Wallowa Land Trust, P.O. Box 516, Enterprise, OR 97828, 541-426-2042, or visit www.wallowalandtrust.org

— VIC COGGINS, OHA NORTHEAST DIRECTOR

The balance of the \$6.5 million purchase price is due in January.



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PHOTOS BY CHAD DOTSON, ZUMWALT PRAIRIE



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