

OREGON HUNTER

A large buck with impressive antlers stands in a forest, looking towards the left. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with trees and foliage.

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Publication of Oregon Hunters Association

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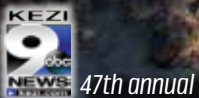
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Oregon Afield:
Your best bets
for upland
birds: grouse,
pheasant,
quail and
chukar



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You think all
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in the dark?
Here's a six-
pack of tips
for mid-day
mountain lions



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Cover: Klamath blacktail photographed by Candi Weitzel

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Reversing the mule deer decline

Many of us can recall when mule deer were plentiful, and seeing bucks hanging in camp was the norm, and not the exception. Those days are gone, but hopefully not forever. I recently attended a gathering of mule deer hunters in Enterprise. The theme of the meeting was simply the lack of mule deer in the far northeast part of the state observed this fall. Those in attendance were shocked at the lack of bucks they were seeing in traditionally stellar mule units like the Minam, Imnaha, Chesnimnus, Sled Springs and Snake River units.

This group of highly experienced local mule deer enthusiasts questioned, "How can ODFW offer any tags at all in these units at the current observed population levels?" It's a good question, and part of the answer is that – in some places – whitetail deer are taking up the slack and providing a portion of deer hunting opportunity, but not in the usual mountain and canyon habitats.

According to the 2020 Big Game Regulations, each of these five units is slated to offer the same number of 100 series buck tags as were offered in 2019. ODFW survey data show that each of these units is well below management objectives, at about 60 percent on average, and every unit experienced an estimated population decline between 2018 and 2019. This mule deer decline is likely due to the severe late winter conditions of crusted snow and unseasonably cold temperatures last March in Oregon's northeast corner.

ODFW is in a constant balancing act between resource health and hunter opportunity, not an easy task. Conditions vary from place to place, making it extra important to take note of on the ground observations by hunters. There is a classically questionable hunt offering in the 2020 regulations. It offers 20 buck tags for the John Day Canyon in late November, or during the mule deer rut.

Recently a friend and OHA leader did a float hunt for mule deer on the John Day River. He commented, "Four of us experienced hunters floated the John Day River for six days. We saw 48 does and ZERO bucks. We spoke to five other parties. One group shot a spike buck and no other bucks were spotted. Another group indicated that they had floated that river for the past 10 years and over the last 5 it has gone downhill significantly." The cause is thought to be poor fawn recruitment. So how can a new opportunity be created given this situation?

OHA is meeting in December with ODFW staff and other sportsmen group representatives to address some of the mule deer regulation changes slated for Fossil, Heppner and the John Day Canyon hunt areas. These hunt opportunities are based on stable and good buck ratios. However, if the actual numbers are low or fawn survival is poor, these hunts are questionable at best.

History tells us that active and informed management can reverse deer number declines, but effective actions require applying all available information.

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OREGON HUNTER

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 - beard
 - weight
 - all of the above
- A record book black bear uses what measurements?
 - weight
 - length
 - skull
 - all of the above
- Which of these can you hunt in April?
 - cougar
 - turkey
 - bear
 - all of the above
- National Forest land accounts for 60 percent of Oregon's forestland but only how much timber harvest?
 - 12 percent
 - 24 percent
 - 36 percent
 - 48 percent
- The Bridge Creek Wildlife Area is in what unit?
 - Northside
 - Starkey
 - Ukiah
 - Steens Mountain
- Which wilderness is in the Cascades?
 - Eagle Cap
 - Bull of the Woods
 - Black Canyon
 - Grassy Knob
- Oregon's spring bear application deadline is:
 - February 10
 - March 15
 - February 20
 - April 1
- Black bears are most likely to mate on which day?
 - Valentines Day
 - mothers day
 - fathers day
 - Halloween
- Oregon's additional fall bear tag is now valid for:
 - NW Oregon
 - SW Oregon
 - NE Oregon
 - all of the above
- Which unit is now a general season unit in the W. Cascades elk season?
 - Metolius
 - Keno
 - Upper Deschutes
 - none of the above



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Send your best guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess online at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: Jan. 20, 2020.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

James Miller, Salem

James's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized the central Oregon skyline.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 31

Seasons end for pheasant, fall turkey, W. Oregon bear

JANUARY 1

2020 licenses required; cougar season opens

JANUARY 18

Klamath PLAY Outdoors, 541-281-2224

JANUARY 19

Zone 2 duck and snipe seasons end

JANUARY 25

Bucks & Bulls ceremony, Medford Sportsman's Warehouse, 541-732-3700

JANUARY 26

Zone 1 duck season ends

JANUARY 31

Harvest reporting deadline, most tags, Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show opens, Most upland bird seasons end

FEBRUARY 1

Deadline to file for OHA state elections, OHA Tioga Chapter duck box maintenance, 541-294-7912

FEBRUARY 5

Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show opens in Portland

FEBRUARY 8

NW goose season 3rd period opens

FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear tags

FEBRUARY 14

Douglas County Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show opens in Roseburg

FEBRUARY 21

Jackson County Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show opens, Medford

FEBRUARY 22

OHA chapter banquets:
Ochoco 541-447-5730
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Emerald Valley 541-729-5220

ANSWERS: 1-d; 2-c; 3-d; 4-a; 5-c; 6-b; 7-a; 8-c; 9-d; 10-d



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Forest grouse: Oregon's other white meat

Forest grouse seem to be going into winter in very good shape this year across the state, according to Mikal Cline, ODFW upland game bird program leader. Preliminary phone surveys from September and reports from hunters this fall indicate the birds are doing quite well. For me, it's second nature to load my shotgun and take it along during deer and elk season, but I do also like to take my pointer out and find them along clear cut edges and in the timber.

"It looks like the Northwest Zone performed very well in both blue and ruffed grouse harvest," Cline said. "Southwest Zone didn't turn out many blue grouse, but

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR



Start the new year off right with a January hunt for Oregon's plentiful forest grouse.

ruffed were strong. On the east side, the Northeast Zone (Wallowa/Union/Baker) led the harvest of both blue and ruffed grouse. Zone 4 (Central Oregon, including Grant County) didn't perform as well as expected."

I like to use a lemon pepper seasoning, butter and olive oil and garlic to slow-roast my birds over the fire or in the oven. Another great way to prepare them is in the crock pot or slow cooker with your favorite

seasoning and marinade. The meat is some of the best fowl around.

The key to the late season is the good amount of forage still available to these birds, as it will extend some great hunting and also help the birds immensely as they go into winter. There are good numbers of birds to be had, and grouse hunting in Oregon's quiet season is always a great opportunity before hanging up the shotgun until turkey season. —TROY RODAKOWSKI

Hit the breaks for Oregon chukar

When chukar hunters gather, we talk about places like Juntura and Riverside and the Snake and the Owyhee, but there are chukar in central Oregon, too, in the lower Deschutes River canyon from Madras north to the Columbia.

Bird numbers are stable, and good hunting can be found throughout the season, but access can be tricky. The first thing to do is study a BLM map and look for pockets of huntable public land.

Sometimes a drift boat can be a better chukar hunting vehicle than a pickup.

Part of the west bank is off-limits. Starting north of Madras, the Deschutes is bounded on the west by Warm Springs tribal lands to a point 16 river miles south of Maupin.

From the bridge at Warm Springs, this section of river is usually referred to as the Warm Springs to Trout Creek drift and can be drifted in just a few hours with a shuttle and take-out at the Trout Creek ramp.

The next drift is from Trout Creek to Maupin, a multi-day float that should only be attempted by experienced boaters. This is the stretch of river that contains White

Horse rapids, which claims many boats each year.

Highway 197 crosses the river at Maupin, and it's here the traveling wingshooter can find miles of river to explore. The river is most accessible from the east bank, and a good road follows down from town to Sherar's Falls and beyond.

The road continues downstream from Sherar's Falls to Pine Tree, the beginning of a popular float called Pine Tree to Mack's Canyon that can be accomplished in a one-day drift (or stretch it out to two days) to Mack's Canyon. Another option is to put in at Mack's and float out to Moody Rapids (the last rapids on the river), typically called the Mack's to the Mouth float.

Chukar are Oregon's most-harvested upland bird with an average of over 41,000 bagged each season. Hunters drive across the state, just for a chance to put birds in the air. It's a great economic boost from early fall through March, with hunters buying ammunition, boots, tires, restaurant meals and hotel rooms, just so they can top out these ridges and enjoy the wide open country. —GARY LEWIS



GARY LEWIS OUTDOORS.COM

The breaks of the lower Deschutes hold plenty of chukars, Oregon's most-harvested upland bird.

Your reservation is made for quail and pheasant

It is getting harder to find good wild pheasant hunting in Oregon, but quail numbers are up in many places in eastern Oregon. There is a little-known opportunity to hunt roosters, valley quail and Hungarian partridge on and around the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – the home of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla.

A non-tribal member can buy a permit to hunt on Indian lands owned by the Confederated Tribes, and that land is right in the middle of some of the best pheasant and quail country in the state.

The reservation comprises 271 square miles with woodlands along the Umatilla River and in the mountains north of Interstate 84. Umatilla lands are sovereign to the tribes and ownership is a mixture of fee, title and trust lands.

There are larger tracts of land that offer good hunting. A number of small parcels are open, but the tribal permits are not a trespass permit. Prior to hunting, permission must be obtained to cross private lands.

It can be challenging to figure out where to hunt, but a decent map is provided on the reservation's website. Visit ctuir.org and then click on Tribal Services and Natural Resources. Click on Wildlife and look for the 2019-20 non-member bird hunting regulations.

Regulations are clear. Season dates mirror ODFW regulations with a few minor variations. Non-tribal members may not hunt grouse, mourning dove or mountain quail. Note that pheasant hunting closes Dec. 31. The map is good, but a better map should be obtained. Or use an online app such as OnX.

An annual small game/upland game/waterfowl hunting license costs \$25, while a juvenile license (12-17 years) costs \$16 and may be purchased at Arrowhead Travel Plaza (www.arrowheadtravelplaza.com) and Mission Market (541-276-9082). In addition to the tribal permit, hunters should purchase an Oregon license and upland

A non-tribal member can buy a permit to hunt the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.



GARYLEWISOUTDOORS.COM

Valley quail are abundant on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation.

bird stamp.

The tribes also own large properties that are not on the reservation. One option is the 2,700-acre Wanaket Wildlife Area next to the Port of Umatilla.

The Wanaket Wildlife Area is managed by the tribes to provide wetlands and wildlife habitat protection, mitigation for

the construction of McNary Dam. Hunting is allowed on Wednesdays and Saturdays with preference given to waterfowl hunters until noon. Upland hunters may hunt until close of published shooting hours.

No tribal license is needed on the Wanaket Wildlife Area, but an Oregon license is required. —GARY LEWIS

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OHA, work group to assess changes in big game regs



By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org

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-Heppner, 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 was held on Dec. 4.

Donate to OHA's Victory Fund at
oregonhunters.org/donate
or see Page 31



This ballot measure could make you the criminal if your gun is stolen.

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
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

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.

Oregon legislative session opens Feb. 3

Hot topics include gun bills and anti-poaching efforts

A short legislative session is scheduled to start in February. OHA will work with the House Committee on Natural Resources to help pass a "residency clarification" bill that was introduced in 2019 but languished in Ways and Means until the end of the 2019 Session. The bill clarifies dual state residency in relation to

poaching violations.

OHA will be working with ODFW, OSP and DOJ on the development of the new anti-poaching campaign we helped initiate. To date ODFW has completed the final interviews for the person who will be heading the campaign with a starting date of first of the year.

OHA will also be fighting alongside gun advocacy groups to defeat initiatives that infringe on gun ownership rights in Oregon.

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BOWHUNTING

By SCOTT HAUGEN

Blind faith for predators

When it comes to bowhunting for Oregon's predators, the greatest challenge is neither coaxing a critter within shooting range, nor figuring out which calls to use. The biggest challenge predator hunters face is reaching full draw and releasing an arrow on a keen-eyed predator without spooking it.

Predators have exceptional eyesight. They're tuned-in to detecting the slightest

There's no shortage of predator hunting opportunities in Oregon.

of movement, be it the flicker of a rodent's tail or the twitch of a bird's wing. Compare these minute movements to a human trying to bring a bow to full draw without being detected, and it's easy

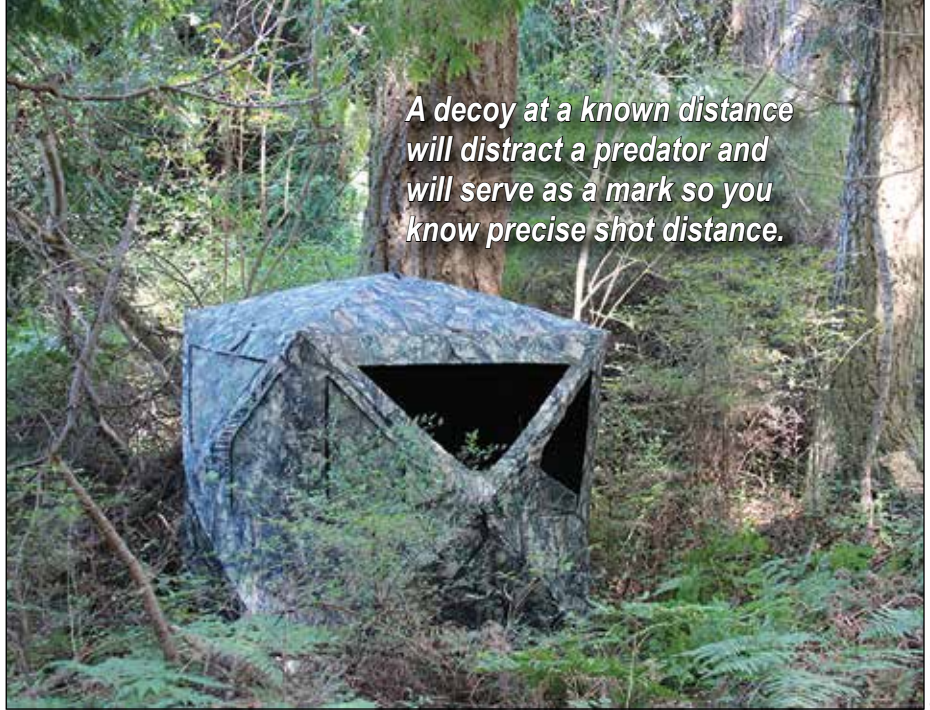
to see why proper setup is an important element when bowhunting predators.

Ground blinds are a top choice when it comes to concealment for predator hunters. Natural blinds work, as can hunting from treestands, but these options don't offer total concealment and often result in more busts than successes.

Ground blinds afford 360-degree coverage, including a solid black backdrop, which is critical for hiding a hunter's movement. Open the fewest number of shooting windows necessary, as this will keep it dark inside the blind and maximize the ability of the blind to mask your movement.

Placing a decoy at a known distance will not only help distract an approaching predator from your shooting position so you can safely reach full draw, but it will serve as a mark so you know precise shot distance.

Electronic calls also offer bowhunters a big advantage. Positioning a speaker or receiver of an electronic call near the decoy



A decoy at a known distance will distract a predator and will serve as a mark so you know precise shot distance.

Bowhunting predators from a ground blind offers 360-degree concealment, which greatly increases your chances for success.

will further help distract the attention of approaching predators away from where the bowhunter is set up. In fact, electronic calls are so effective by themselves, a decoy often isn't necessary for the simple reason a predator's ears are so acute, they'll dial into precisely where the sound is coming from and pinpoint it as they approach.

Some electronic calls have an attached moving decoy, like a spinning bird or furry flag. When it comes to a decoy, some hunters simply tie a bird wing to a piece of fishing line with a swivel, and attach that to a limb a few feet off the ground. A small wing will move in the slightest breeze.

Electronic calls also allow hunters to deliver sounds hands-free, and change up the sounds being offered. While cottontail and jackrabbit are the go-to sounds of most predator hunters, don't overlook bird distress sounds and an array of coyote vocalizations. There are a range of bird distress sounds and all can be effective. If the woods are quiet or an approaching predator hangs up out of range, rodent distress sounds can entice them to commit.

Bowhunters can further swing the odds of success in their favor by using a diaphragm call. In the time it takes to reach full draw, acquire the target in your sight, and release an arrow, a predator can cover a lot of ground and even exit a shooting lane. By having a diaphragm call in your mouth, you can make soft sounds that will stop and hold a predator exactly where you want it for the shot.

Be sure to practice with a diaphragm call prior to hunting with one. A single-reed diaphragm call is simple to use and a range of sounds can be made with very little air and tongue pressure. When practice shooting, make sounds with the diaphragm call throughout the entire shooting sequence so it's second nature.

As for the shot, predators have very small vitals, so precise shot placement is key. Practice shooting at predator targets from every conceivable position you may encounter on the hunt. If hunting from a stool in a ground blind, practice shooting from it so you know the parameters of all your gear. If hunting from a treestand, practice shooting at various angles.

Many archers like predator hunting with expandable broadheads; others prefer fixed-blade broadheads that instantly inflict a sizable wound upon impact. Practice with each and see what fits your needs.

A successful predator hunter is one who fully prepares. Go into the hunt expecting success. Know what sounds you'll make, what shot angles you're most comfortable with, and be confident that you can bring it all together. Predator hunting has a lot to offer, and there's no shortage of opportunity when it comes to pursuing them throughout the state of Oregon.



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Proceeds benefit OHA. Drawing: March 21, 2020, OHA Josephine County Chapter banquet (for banquet tickets, call 541-821-1511), 1451 Fairgrounds Rd., Grants Pass, OR, 7 p.m. Need not be present to win.

BLACK POWDER

By SCOTT HAUGEN

Get up close and personal for predators

Hunting with a muzzleloader isn't what typically comes to mind when we think of pursuing predators. But front-stuffer fans throughout Oregon can find good reason to take to the woods, with the bonus goal of building big game hunting skills while familiarizing oneself with their muzzleloader setup.

Coaxing a predator to within muzzleloader range is a bigger challenge than it may seem, because most predator hunters in Oregon who set out with a muzzleloader are employing the same setups used for big game hunting. This means no scope, which equates to open sights that can cover most of a predator's body unless it gets extra close.

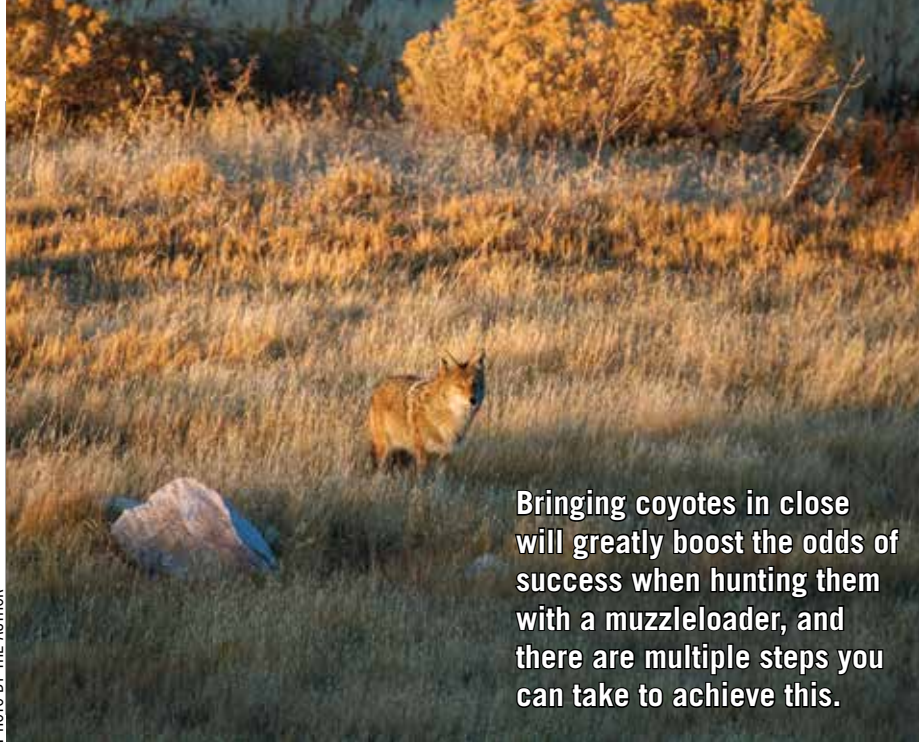
Put the front bead of an open-sight muzzleloader on a coyote at 50 yards, and about all you'll see is its head and tail. For this reason, hunters will want to focus on the proper concealment in order to bring predators in close when setting up at a calling location.

Wherever you set up, make sure there's a backdrop to break up your body's outline. If sitting against a tree, make certain it's wider than your torso. If setting up on a hillside, make sure a predator approaching from below can't see your silhouette against the skyline.

Not only is a backdrop important for concealing hunters, but having a bit of cover in front will also help hide you. It doesn't take much to break up your body outline in the foreground: a coniferous limb, some branches, even a small bush. Anything that breaks up the soles of your boots and lower body will help bring a predator in close.

A facemask and camouflaged gloves are a wise choice in order to optimize con-

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR



Bringing coyotes in close will greatly boost the odds of success when hunting them with a muzzleloader, and there are multiple steps you can take to achieve this.

Coaxing a predator to within muzzleloader range is a bigger challenge than it may seem.

cealment. I also like wearing two different camo patterns when predator hunting: one pattern of pants, another on my jacket, as this will further breakup my outline.

Keeping still is also key to successful predator hunting with a muzzleloader. Muzzleloaders are bulkier than modern predator rifles, and likely don't have a bipod mounted on them for stability with long-range shooting. In order to be ready for a shot and keep movement to a minimum, consider taking a telescoping monopod or bipod afield. Get your gun set in the shooting sticks prior to calling, as this will minimize movement when an animal pops into view. A monopod or bipod shooting stick affords easier, more discrete movement over a tripod, allowing you to efficiently track a predator on the move.

Ground blinds are also important aids in concealment. Don't feel like you need a full concealment blind, however, which can be cumbersome to carry afield. A simple drop cloth style blind that's two feet tall and five feet long is ample to offer frontal coverage. Simply put a stick at your feet, another on each side of you, and drape the camo cover over them. This will create a V-shape of concealment around you. You can also attach camo material to a tripod shooting stick, securing it to each leg, and sit behind that when calling.

Since the goal is to bring predators in close, using a mouth call is a good idea. Handheld calls will likely do the job, but if a predator hangs up out of range, you'll

need to create alluring sounds without being seen. To accomplish this, use a diaphragm call, which requires no hand movement.

If using a blind for frontal concealment, you'll be able to operate a remote control unit for an electronic call without being seen. With the call resting on your leg or the ground, you can work it with your non-shooting hand, sending sounds to the receiver while also controlling the volume. This is another reason why having a shooting stick is valuable, to cradle the gun that you're holding with the other hand.

A game-changer can be trail cameras. Trail cameras are excellent tools to help learn where and when predators are moving.

Figuring out where to set up will initially be determined by wind direction. If the wind isn't blowing toward you or across your body, don't waste time calling, for you'll only educate keen-nosed predators. If the wind is wrong, either approach from a different angle or come back another day.

Predator hunting with a muzzleloader hones multiple skills that will help build your big game hunting repertoire. Additionally, pursuing predators is a lot of fun, and when it comes to coyotes, they can be hunted year-round in Oregon.



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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020

By Jim Yuskavitch



BIG CHANGES ARE IN STORE FOR OREGON BIG GAME HUNTERS.

In 2017, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife embarked on a hunting regulations simplification process intended to make big game hunting rules simpler and more easily understood. Now in Phase 3, expected to take two years, there are quite a few changes for 2020, and more slated for 2021. Here is a rundown of some of the bigger changes approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its Sept. 13 meeting in Gold Beach. But, as always, be sure to check the big game hunting regulations for specific rules on your hunt and hunt area before going afield to avoid any awkward conversations with OSP Fish and Wildlife officers.

General Regulation Changes

This year, there are a number of regulation changes made at the legislative level. These include House Bill 2068, which increases the number of available non-resident bear tags from 3 percent to 5 percent for spring bear controlled hunts; and House Bill 2069 that modifies a previous law that leftover big game tags are to be distributed on a first-come first-served basis. The new law allows leftover tags for any particular species to be limited to hunters who have not already drawn a tag for that species.

Other regulation changes made by the state legislature include House Bill 2071, which exempts ewe hunts from the “once in a lifetime” limit for bighorn sheep tags. The purpose of this exemption is to allow ewe hunts if they are needed for management purposes, such as maintaining the health of a herd. House Bill 2294 prohibits the use of “commercial cervid attractors,” primarily urine, to prevent the unintended introduction of chronic wasting disease into Oregon.

An administrative rule change now prohibits anyone from possessing any game mammal part unless it has been killed legally, or shed antlers obtained by lawful methods. Another rule defines a traditional bow as exclusively a long bow or recurve bow, and compound bows are excluded during traditional bow archery hunts.

Tags and Hunts

For next year, big game hunting changes encompass a whole range including new or combined hunts, expanded seasons, hunt boundary simplifications and, for deer, some new bag limits based on recent wildlife research that challenges former assumptions.

Deer

Deer hunts are where the biggest changes are in store for 2020. This includes three new controlled buck hunts – John Day Canyon, Fossil Unit No. 2 and Heppner Unit No. 2 – along with three bow hunts, Mount Emily Unit Bow, Walla Walla Unit Bow and Wenaha Unit Bow, consolidated into the new North Blue Mountains Bow. In addition, boundaries for 13 hunts have been simplified or adjusted to include the entire wildlife management unit.

For antlerless 600 series controlled hunts, 16 will be consolidated into seven hunts. The Juniper Muzzleloader hunt will be deleted. Additionally, the SE Whitehorse Bow hunt will be eliminated. There will be a new youth hunt for 2020, the 616T2 NW Santiam, and a new white-tailed deer hunt 157M Sled Springs. The Heppner, John Day River and Fossil hunts will be added as late-season mule deer hunts.

The biggest adjustment, and one that has caused concern for some hunters, is a change to the bag limit for western Oregon buck hunts from “one buck deer having not less than a forked antler” to “one buck with a visible antler.” This bag limit change is in combination with adjusting the western Oregon 600 series hunts from “one antlerless or spike deer” to “one antlerless deer.”

These bag limit changes are intended to make it easier to identify legal deer and to make sure that 600 Series hunts are focused on damage and population control issues rather than an opportunity to harvest an additional buck.

Some hunters have concerns that adding spike bucks to the buck hunts might reduce future buck populations, particularly in light of the fact that – unlike the controlled 12-day mule deer season – tags are unlimited for the 35-day blacktail season.

ODFW notes that research has shown that not all spike bucks are yearlings and that genetics and nutrition also play a role in the size of a younger buck’s antlers. The new bag limit changes will allow some larger bucks to survive the season, and to grow larger for the following season, since some hunters will choose to harvest a spike buck. Of course, the question becomes how many bucks will live past their yearling year to become bigger bucks.

ODFW claims Oregon’s black-tailed deer population contains enough bucks to have an increased harvest. All but one western

The biggest change is making spikes legal for general blacktail buck season.

JOHN WHELAND



KEN KLOOK

General-season elk damage tags are among the new concepts in the 2020 big game regulations.

Oregon wildlife management unit has met or exceeded its buck ratio benchmark in two of the last three years, and trail camera surveys and recent research examining deer scat DNA indicate that there may be more than 50 black-tailed bucks per 100 does, a higher ratio than observed during spotlight surveys.

The mule deer population in the eastern part of the state is just a little over 190,000 – significantly below the statewide management objective of 350,000. ODFW will provide 62,735 controlled mule deer tags for the 2020 season, down a little more than 2 percent from 2019.

Elk

For 2020, 87 hunts are being combined to make a total of 31 hunts. Hunting seasons will be expanded or simplified for 25 hunts. Hunt boundaries will also be expanded or simplified for 25 hunts, and six new hunts will be added. To help boost elk numbers on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains, several wildlife management units are being removed from the Cascade Elk Season and converted to four new controlled hunts — Hood/White River #1 and #2, East Central Cascades and Southeast Cascades.

Another new item is a General Season

Elk Damage Tag that will have a bag limit of one antlerless elk and will be used for population control in elk de-emphasis areas and areas with chronic elk damage in western and northeastern Oregon.

One major change for elk bowhunters is to allow compound bows, along with traditional archery equipment, during the general archery season on the entire Murderers Creek Unit to simplify regulations and enforcement. While only about one percent of Oregon bowhunters participate in traditional archery, ODFW is trying to accommodate traditional archery opportunities with a North Fork John Day Wilderness elk hunt, and two new traditional archery hunts proposed in western Oregon for the 2021 season.

ODFW will offer 60,240 controlled elk hunt tags for 2020, up slightly from 2019.

Rocky Mountain elk numbers remain just above the management objective of about 70,000, while Roosevelt elk numbers are below MO at about 60,000.

Rocky Mountain Goat

With the Rocky Mountain goat population stable or increasing, ODFW will offer three additional tags for a total of 27 tags in 16 hunts for 2020. A dozen of those hunts have had season date changes, and four hunt boundary expansions. No previous



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KEN KLOCK

Seasons for bighorn sheep and mountain goat have been expanded to ensure flexibility for those drawing these once-in-a-lifetime hunts.

goat hunts have been deleted. The current Rocky Mountain goat population is around 1,200.

Pronghorn

While pronghorns are doing well in southeastern Oregon, there has been some overall population declines since it reached a high point in 2012. A total of 2,286 pronghorn tags are being offered for 2020 for 55 hunts, although this includes a reduction in buck/either sex tags of 46 tags over 2019, and 16 fewer bow and muzzleloader tags. However, with a small increase in doe tags, the overall pronghorn tag offering for 2020 will be down by 55 from 2019. This decline in tags is due to reduced tags for the Malheur and Owyhee units, where pronghorns are still suffering from the impacts of the severe winter of 2016-17.

Seven hunts will be combined into four,

while season dates have been increased for three hunts, and 12 hunt boundaries have either been expanded or simplified.

The pronghorn population is estimated at between 16,000 and 19,000 animals.

Bighorn Sheep

Major changes for bighorn sheep hunts include lengthening seasons for consistency between hunts and moving hunts to cooler times of the year along with simpler hunt boundaries. In addition, the two Aldrich Mountains hunts will be combined into one longer hunt and the east and west John Day River hunts are now combined into three consecutive hunts. Overall, 21 bighorn hunts season durations will be expanded.

There will be 67 California bighorn tags and 9 Rocky Mountain bighorn tags offered for 2020, with five earmarked for non-residents.



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- 2/29/2020, Coos Bay, OR
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- 3/14/2020, Roseburg, OR
- 3/21/2020, Enterprise, OR
- 3/21/2020, Pendleton, OR
- 4/4/2020, Eugene, OR
- 4/11/2020, Bend, OR
- 4/18/2020, John Day, OR
- 4/25/2020, Medford, OR
- 4/25/2020, Hood River, OR
- 4/25/2020, Newport, OR
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Westside Waterfowling



Here they come,” whispered my buddy Nolan Cook as he hunkered into his layout blind. “Stay down and let ‘em circle, there are more behind ‘em!”

When I first saw the flock of cacklers approaching from the south, they were a mere mist on the horizon. They quickly covered ground, however, and as their calling grew louder, my heart rate escalated.

Cupping their wings, the lead flock locked on to our decoys and began coasting in. I was so focused on the 2,000 birds in our lap, I was surprised when Nolan instructed not to shoot, as

there were a lot more birds coming.

Soon the head flock was funneling into the decoys in classic cackler fashion, and joining them was a seemingly endless band of birds. As the geese began touching down in the lush, rye grass field, the rest of the flock continued spiraling down. When Nolan gave the green light, geese fell from the sky. A few minutes later another flock came in, and just like that, our limit of cacklers was secured, right on the I-5 corridor, north of Eugene.

Not only was that cackler hunt last season one of my best goose hunting memories in Oregon, it was the biggest flock of geese I’d ever had drop into the decoys at once, anywhere in North

The opportunities are as varied as the birds.

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen



America. More than 5,000 cacklers descended upon us, their calling so deafening we struggled to hear each other shouting as to when to shoot. For the next several nights all I could hear was the ringing of geese in my head.

In the late 1960s, before I was old enough to hunt, I vividly recall being the retriever for Dad and Grandpa as they hunted ducks and geese in Corvallis. That's when the seed was planted for my waterfowling passion, a passion that continues to grow with age.

When in grade school, I started running my own trapline near our home along the McKenzie River. While trapping muskrat,

raccoon, beaver and red fox was memorable, it was the chance encounter with ducks that I most looked forward to when checking traps after school.

Here I'd take wood ducks in filbert orchards, wigeons in small pockets of flooded fields, and jump-shoot mallards wherever they popped up. I'd not hunted woodies for some time, but last season had the opportunity to join a couple friends along secluded creeks near Harrisburg. Having woodies dive-bomb into the decoys was unlike anything I'd seen, resulting in my most thrilling hunt for these birds. In addition to their captivating beauty, wood ducks are among the tastiest ducks of all.

Late last season I hunted Siltcoos Lake for the first time in decades. I was invited to join Josh Farnsworth of Farnsworth Guide Service (541-206-7163), a local man who lives just down the road from our Walterville home. Josh loves his waterfowl hunting and makes the drive to the coast multiple times a week in the late season where he guides hunters from around the state. By the end of the morning we secured limits of diving ducks consisting of five species, including great-eating canvasbacks and a dandy ruddy duck I'd been eager to add to my office wall for years.

When I was a kid I didn't have a hunting dog; I didn't have the proper time to devote to training and raising one. Six years ago I got my first bird dog, and two years after that, my second canine companion. If you've never owned, trained, and hunted with your own dog, I hope one day you can.

While hunting with a buddy's dog is fun, hunting with a dog you personally



Late season means multiple duck species making their way into Oregon's valleys west of the Cascades.



Every waterfowler knows this is the moment the birds most prefer to come in for a landing.

Nothing gets the blood pumping like when the landing gear drops and birds commit to the decoys.



Divers, sea ducks, and puddle ducks can all be hunted in various parts of western Oregon. These hunters are pleased with a handsome lesser scaup.



The author's most memorable cackler hunt unfolding before your eyes as thousands of birds drop into the decoys.



Anticipation to the start of a duck hunt on Fern Ridge Reservoir, just one of many public land hunting opportunities that exist in western Oregon.

trained takes the joy of waterfowling to the next level. The extent of your dog's dedication, hard work, and willingness to please will surpass your wildest dreams and take your waterfowl hunting experience to another level.

Over the decades, waterfowl hunts with family and friends make fine memories. From my high school buddy, Mark Brabham, to good friend Jody Smith, to my wife and our two sons, the memories are unforgettable.

For over 45 years my closest hunting partner has been my dad, Jerry Haugen. Dad and I continue to share duck and goose hunts throughout western Oregon, and beyond. As we age, our time together is what's most important, not how many birds we bring home. Thankfully, when it comes to late-season waterfowl hunting near where we both grew up, the season is long and the variety of birds and ways to hunt them are a true blessing.

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CHECKING OUR BACKTRAIL

2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Wolves and elk were hot issues for OHA in '19

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org

Several drawn-out issues OHA worked on tirelessly finally reached closure in 2019, including approval of the revised Wolf Plan, the Ochoco Summit Trails lawsuit, and the big game regulations review and changes. OHA was constantly involved in these processes, attending every possible meeting and testimony opportunity. Our fundamental intent was always protecting the best interest of hunter opportunities and the wildlife resource.

Wolf Plan Approval:

In June the Commission voted to adopt the new and revised Wolf Management Plan.

OHA actively participated in five stakeholder meetings and gave public testimony at every opportunity over the past three years. We always emphasized that wolf population growth needs to be monitored very closely, and with ever-increasing consideration for game populations and livestock interests.

The wording about the use of hunting and trapping as future management tools was kept intact for this plan revision. We encouraged ODFW to make wolf population monitoring a key priority, while at the same time looking closely at deer and elk population stability in units with established wolf packs. Looking ahead, we will need to stay on top of the Wolf Plan implementation – regularly providing input from our observations in the field.

Regulation Review and Changes:

In September, the Commission voted to adopt the large package of regulation changes proposed by ODFW. Most of these changes will go into effect beginning in 2020. The three biggest issues presented by OHA representatives were about the new regulations for black-tailed deer, the dire situation with mule deer populations in eastern Oregon, and the scale and process of the proposed general cow elk hunts.

New for blacktails in western Oregon will be the bag limit allowing for spike harvest with the new definition of “one buck with a visible antler.” Spike bucks now will be illegal to harvest during controlled antlerless hunts. Our main recommendation here was for a gradual test implementation to see how it goes prior to applying this regulation across the full range for blacktails in Oregon. Many OHA members and leaders have concerns about excessive vulnerability of spike blacktail bucks in a 35-day season with unlimited tags.

The cow elk damage tag is a change for areas of the state with high elk damage and will replace 19 controlled hunts and the need to provide damage tags to landowners. Again, the geographic extent of these changes brought us concern, and additionally, hunters taking advantage of this new opportunity would still need permission to hunt on private land to use the tag and it would be their only elk hunting opportunity.



WENHHA/ODFW

OHA helped keep hunting and trapping as future tools in the revised Oregon Wolf Plan.

OHA’s concern for mule deer centered around some new late buck hunts occurring in units where the total number of mature bucks (counted) did not seem robust enough for new opportunities as proposed. A positive result of OHA’s meeting testimony was that the Commission directed the development of deer advisory committees for both blacktail and mule deer. OHA will play a key role in this meeting input process as it develops.

Ochoco National Forest Lawsuit:

In June the Federal DOJ dropped its appeal of OHA’s Ochoco lawsuit, resulting in victory to stop developing the High Summit OHV Trail. This was a long journey to success for OHA, on both chapter and state levels, giving science-based stakeholder input. A lot of our success related to hiring an effective attorney in Scott Jaeger. Besides our internal coordination, we also partnered with RMEF and others to protect extremely critical elk habitat.

BAKER COUNTY BULLS/DUANE DUNGANNON



Oregon gun owners dodged bullets again in '19

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The year 2019 was a very busy one on the legislative front, with the session beginning in January. OHA tracked close to 1,000 bills that affected hunting, habitat and wildlife. Here is a summary of 2019 from the legislative perspective.

Bills That Passed

Anti-Poaching Campaign Funded

A big victory for OHA this session was the funding of a new anti-poaching campaign that OHA, ODFW, OSP, Oregon Department of Justice and members of the legislature worked on developing for over two years. The new \$3.7 million General Fund appropriation was allocated in part to OSP for the hiring of an additional five troopers, DOJ for the hiring of a “circuit rider” and support staff to work with prosecutors around the state on prosecuting poachers, and to ODFW for development of a “poaching awareness” campaign.

Elk Damage Bill Compromise

There were many elk damage related bills introduced this session. After hearings on the bills, a work group was established to find a compromise between legislators, landowners and hunters on elk damage to ranches and farms. A compromise proposal penned by ODFW staff was agreed to by all parties involved.

Ban on Commercial Urine Products

The bill originally required that the urine product be free of CWD. Finding that there was no test to determine if a urine product is CWD free, the legislature banned all urine-based hunting products in Oregon.

Leftover and Non-resident Tags

A bill introduced by ODFW that eliminated the requirement that allows ODFW to restrict leftover tags to hunters who didn't draw a tag for that species in the controlled hunt drawing passed, as did a bill that increased the percentage of non-resident tags issued for hunting of black bear, cougar, and antelope.

Bills That Failed

Firestorm of Gun Bills

There were some 30 gun bills that OHA tracked during the legislative session. OHA

OHA's 2019 Investments in Our Mission

Projects benefiting Oregon's wildlife & sportsmen:	\$236,482
Publications, information & education:	\$239,151
Defending hunting rights/Advocating for wildlife:	\$134,514
Fighting poaching in Oregon:	\$42,561
Volunteer hours donated by OHA members:	32,369

worked with other pro-gun organizations to stop these bills. Our actions, plus those enacted by the Senate Republicans' first walk-out, helped prevent any anti-gun legislation from being passed. Here are the types of issues we're facing through the gun bills – the good, and the mostly bad and the ugly:

- firearms safety training in schools
- ban on exploding targets/tracer ammo on public lands during high fire danger
- registration of “assault” firearms with OSP
- definition of “assault” rifles and limits on sale/possession
- minimum age to purchase “assault” rifle or handguns
- background check bills to tighten restrictions, delay purchases
- storage/locking bills to require guns be kept or transported under lock
- endangering minor by allowing access to firearms (new crime)
- theft reporting bills with liability for failure to report
- prohibitions on large capacity magazines (over 10 rounds) includes handguns
- regulation of gun ranges
- tax credits for gun safes
- illegal discharge within 500 ft. of dwelling, exceptions
- voluntary “do not sell” lists
- reporting of unlawful firearms transfers
- concealed carry permits and fees

Cougar Bills

All the cougar bills failed to pass. One bill received a late-night hearing but was then assigned to the House Committee on Rules where it died.

Coyote Hunting Contest Ban Bill

A bill that would have made it illegal to have coyote hunting contests in Oregon died after passing the Senate. It had one hearing in the House Committee on Rules and died in that committee.

Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

In 2020 OHA, along with other groups, will work with ODFW on the implementation of a bill that passed last session that created the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund. This fund will be used to carry out activities that serve to protect, maintain or enhance fish and wildlife in Oregon.

Initiative filed to restrict gun storage, impose liability

An initiative petition is on the horizon for the November ballot in 2020. The proposed ballot measure includes these provisions:

- 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 requires reporting lost and stolen guns and makes the owner responsible for actions taken with a stolen firearm, but includes no additional penalties for those who actually steal them and use them in crimes.

OHA and NRA have challenged the ballot title wording in court.



OHA put all hands on public lands

OHA works on key land-use issues important to hunting in our state. We're on the front lines with both staff and volunteers, working with key agencies and partners to improve wildlife habitat and build long-term, collaborative partnerships. Our efforts include working to keep public lands public, protect and improve habitat, and redistribute big game animals to public land from nearby private land where they are doing damage.

SE Oregon Resource Management Plan:

OHA took part in the Draft SEORMP process. As proposed, the BLM is advocating for a no-action alternative management plan (the BLM 2002 Resource Management Plan), covering over 4.5 million acres, mostly in Malheur County. OHA is advocating for an alternative to the 2002 RMP, seeking improvements to landscape scale wildlife habitat.

HB 2834, Ungulate Migration, and OHA Pledges to Help Wildlife:

This year, with bipartisan support, the Legislature unanimously passed HB 2834, which directs ODOT and ODFW to share data on wildlife migration and reduce barriers to that migration. Working with our partners at the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, a proposed new license plate was designed and will help with funding wildlife movements. (See Page 17.) OHA has pledged over \$110,000 to install and maintain 10 miles of funnel-fencing near Gilchrist on Highway 97, starting in 2020.

All Hands, All Brands, for Public Lands:

OHA's rendezvous-style work party drew more than 100 volunteers from many OHA chapters and 12 different conservation groups. Working closely with our partners on the Ochoco National Forest, three separate aspen stands were fenced off from domestic cattle.

Ochoco Trails Strategy Group:

OHA has been a part of facilitated meetings for a year with multiple stakeholders in the Ochoco National Forest. We are working to ensure that the placement for a potential network of hiker, biker and equestrian trails avoids impacts to wildlife.

Central Cascades Wilderness Permits:

OHA wrote objections and met multiple times with the Forest Service, opposing limited entry permits to access public land, in three central Cascade Wildernesses. Along with other like-minded conservation groups, we fought and were heard, thus exempting hunters from the permit requirements, during the High Cascade rifle and general archery deer and elk seasons, which fall in the limited entry period – Memorial Day through the last Friday in September. —*KARL FINDLING*

OHA worked on outreach in 2019

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
Amy@oregonhunters.org

In 2019, OHA expanded staff capacity to focus on membership outreach. The opportunity for an additional staff member, initially funded through grant money, also created the ability to cover more important issues for our membership.

Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation

Outreach to potential members, especially in under-represented communities, is a priority for OHA, and inspired the decision to create the part-time Outreach Coordinator staff position. Production of an outreach plan, promotional flyers, and revisions to the organizational Strategic Plan have laid a strong foundation for membership outreach.

Marten Trapping Ban

At the October ODFW Commission meeting, OHA, along with representation from trappers and landowners, gave testimony in opposition to the proposed marten trapping ban brought forth by several environmental activist groups. Despite our efforts, the commission approved the petition on a 4-3 vote, signaling a broader concern for all trapping in Oregon.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

OHA members located on the north coast alerted staff to concerns regarding the potential loss of hunting access on lands acquired with OWEB funds. OHA provided a letter and public comment outlining our concerns of a net-loss in hunting access across public lands and remains engaged on the issue.

OHA grants fund major projects

OHA's State Board of Directors in 2019 approved three wildlife project grants from OHA's Wildlife Superfund, supported by a 5 percent contribution from chapter banquet proceeds and donations from individual members. The board voted to grant funding 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 and species recovery.
- 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 northeast of Medford.
- 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.

Our 2018 grants are a work in progress with implementation this year. Those projects are:

- Forage creation on Hancock Forest Managements lands near Newport, to include seeding and fertilizing of powerline, harvest unit and created meadows.
- Outreach to hunters and motorists through written and social media outlets promoting barrier-free wildlife migration and driver safety on our highways. Outreach is associated with our upcoming Gilchrist wildlife underpasses, allowing more deer and elk to safely migrate between historic seasonal habitat areas.
- Winter big game forage improvements on BLM lands near Butte Falls; this is an expansion of past and ongoing efforts of local partners and area chapters.

All OHA grant projects have participation of partners for work and funds, plus opportunities and needs for local or statewide chapter participation to create success on the ground. —*KEN MCCALL*





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- Auctions
- Raffles

Great Guns,
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much more!

2020 OHA BANQUETS

Feb. 22 Hoodview	971-570-7010
Feb. 22 Emerald Valley	541-729-5220
Feb. 22 Ochoco	541-447-5730
Feb. 29 Redmond	541-233-3740
Feb. 29 Columbia Co.	949-533-7271
Mar. 7 Pioneer	503-710-1233
Mar. 14 Bend	541-480-9848
Mar. 14 Rogue Valley	503-250-3000
Mar. 14 Union/Wallowa	541-786-5841
Mar. 21 Clatsop County	503-791-0549
Mar. 21 Yamhill	503-804-2843
Mar. 21 Josephine Co.	541-821-1511
Mar. 28 Capitol	503-585-4547
Apr. 4 Tualatin Valley	503-502-0611
Apr. 4 Baker	541-403-0402
Apr. 4 Blue Mountain	541-231-4384
Apr. 4 Lake County	541-219-0614
Apr. 4 Tioga	541-297-6178
Apr. 4 Mid-Willamette*	541-971-3351
Apr. 25 Klamath*	541-882-9593
May 2 Tillamook	503-801-3779
May 30 OHA State Convention,** Seven Feathers Casino,	541-772-7313

** A&H Statewide Deer Tag auction

* A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction

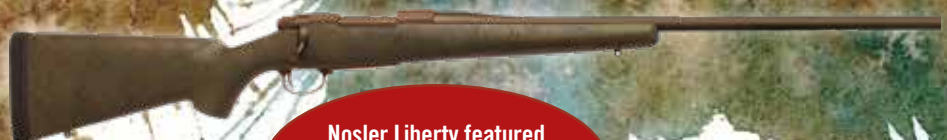


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Your tax-deductible* contributions support OHA's wildlife, habitat, sportsmen & hunting rights.

HUNTERS' VICTORY FUND

Your tax-deductible* donation to the Oregon Hunters Association Hunters' Victory Fund will be dedicated for fighting legal and legislative battles to protect hunting rights in Oregon.

Your support helped us file suit to protect key elk habitat in eastern Oregon, and helped us keep 2 gun initiatives off the ballot!

We need every Oregon hunter's support to be successful!

**YOUR GIFTS HELPED
US KEEP THE OCHOCOS
GREAT ELK COUNTRY!**



Youth Heritage Fund

Tax-deductible* donations to OHA's Youth Heritage Fund help train tomorrow's hunters & conservationists who will carry on our proud hunting heritage.



Tax-deductible* donations to the OHA's Wildlife Super Fund are dedicated for major projects and programs aimed at advocating for wildlife and enhancing habitat right here in Oregon where you live and hunt. **We recently funded three major projects thanks to your support!**

Oregon Hunters Association Special Funds Donations

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 772-7313

www.oregonhunters.org/donate Or donate online!



Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home _____ Work _____
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Please accept my contribution to OHA's Special Funds:

Gift to Oregon Hunters' Victory Fund:
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Gift to OHA Wildlife Super Fund:
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Gift to OHA Youth Heritage Fund:
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Gift of unrestricted funds:
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Total contribution: \$ _____

___ Check ___ Bill my: Visa/MC/Discover/AmEx Exp. date _____
 Card # _____
 CVV2# on back _____ Signature _____



Members who contribute \$20 or more to OHA's Special Funds receive a Silver Edition OHA Supporting Member decal. Donors of \$100 or more receive a Gold Edition Sustaining Member decal.

* OHA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The OHA Hunters' Victory Fund is not a PAC. Consult your tax preparer.





A Six-Pack of Tips for Mid-Day Mountain Lions

By Max Zeller

After nearly 45 years of calling predators, it wasn't until the 1994 initiative eliminating hound hunting that I really sank my teeth into calling cougars. Like most serious cat callers, I wanted to learn everything I could about outsmarting these cautious-but-curious felines. I felt decades of trapping and calling bobcats gave me an advantage when transitioning to mountain lion calling, because they share similar instinctual traits and behavioral characteristics.

In the Oregon Coast Range where I live, I always kept a sharp eye out for any lion sign, including scratch posts, exposed toilets, prints in mud or snow, covered kill sites old and new, and territorial scent piles. I documented everything about the freshness of the sites: date and time, location, weather conditions, temperatures, and moon phases. From this data I produced charts and graphs that would have made a NASA engineer proud, and I thought this rudimentary patterning information would increase my success. I soon learned that patterning cats was like herding them – random at best.

However, all this information was useful and gave me more confidence in calling specific areas instead of just cold-calling habitat that looked good. Still, I limited my calling to early morning and late afternoon sets. I had some success, but I was hungry to learn more.

Then, about 15 years ago, came the trail camera craze. Adding trail cams to my arsenal opened my eyes to the possibility that I might be able to pattern Coast

Range cougar movements more precisely, enhance my ability to more accurately pinpoint calling locations, and increase my harvest rates.

After all, I now had actual cat sightings with specific dates and times, direction of travel, size, gender, and approximate age. I left trail cams in known cougar territory (deer and elk strongholds) for weeks and got a better idea how long it took for a lion to make his rounds.

But the biggest eye-opener was the time of day longtails were on the move throughout the year. Obviously, there were numerous nocturnal and crepuscular photos, but the number of mid-day photos was a surprise – almost equaling the number of early morning and evening photos. With this new and exciting information, I soon put it to a test.

I was headed to southern California on a predator hunt for coyote, gray fox and bobcat. I was just north of Los Angeles hunting a 2-mile stretch of mountainous high chaparral terrain, with sandy washes snaking up shallow side-draws. I was headed back out of the area at 11 a.m. when I noticed something that wasn't there on the way in – fresh lion tracks in the sand that entered a side-draw into a box canyon with a small grove of ancient cottonwoods surrounded by a large expanse of sage.

I set up close to the copse of trees, donned my ghillie suit and tucked in tight next to a large deadfall. I was hand calling using gray fox distress sounds. It wasn't a half hour when I saw the back of a large tom slinking toward me through the sage. At a mere 9 feet, the cat emerged, staring past me looking for that injured fox. Its eyes were like huge piercing saucers (I'm sure mine were, too).

Because harvesting mountain lions is strictly verboten in the state of California,

my only option was to shoo – not shoot – the 150+ pound cat before the next three steps put him in my lap. I stood up tall and told the big fella to scoot, which he did abruptly, and without a whisper of sound, I might add.

Since then, mid-day calling sessions have increased my success – mainly in confirmed sightings, but also in kills. Last year was no exception, with a mature Coast Range cat taken in January at 40 yards using both a mouth call (fawn bleats) and an e-caller (doe distress) at about 1 p.m.

This is what I've learned through experience:

1 Always be on the lookout for fresh sign: tracks in snow or mud, fresh cougar kill, scratching's, scat piles (uncovered) and territorial scent piles (covered). Call soon thereafter because, unless on a kill, a cougar can travel long distances in a short time.

2 Use a variety of calls. A lion's main breeding activity occurs in February, so cougar vocalizations are a good calling strategy, although they can be used year-round as well. Electronic calls (legal in Oregon for predators) hold several quality cougar vocalizations from the manufacturers, or you can download from other sources. In late spring, I use a variety of distressed fawn and elk calf sounds, again, from the extensive library of an e-caller. Don't be afraid to use hand-held mouth calls. For the first several minutes of my calling sessions I enhance my e-caller fawn and calf distresses with doe or cow elk hand-call distresses. Bird sounds are also a big hit, as I've called in and killed a large tom using a variety of woodpecker/flicker distress calls, again doubling up using an e-caller in conjunction with mouth calls. For me, it just adds realism and excitement to the calling sequence.

3 Once you feel you are in a good area, call for at least an hour, but I recommend 2 hours. I've called cougars in at less than 15 minutes and right up to the 2-hour mark. Cats are patient. Unlike coyotes and gray fox, which will often charge a call site, lions will stage up in cover and observe the call site for over a half hour. I call continuously throughout the session with hardly a break, except to switch calls from cat vocalizations to distress calls, for instance.

4 Enter your calling area carefully and quietly, and limit your movements on stand. Keep hand and



The author's trail cam caught these cats and many others cruising for lunch around noon.



If you're not seeing cougars in the daytime, it could just be that they're seeing you first.

body movements to a minimum. Slowly move your eyes, followed by your head, to scan the area. Cougars depend more on eyesight and sound than sense of smell and will pick out overt movements in an instant, and – like most predators – can instantly triangulate the exact position of a sound from long distances. Electronic calls are the ticket (especially for the solo hunter); they can be set up at quite a distance from your position and placed in a way that can help direct a cat's approach.

Cougars depend more on eyesight and sound than sense of smell.

5 Partner up. I'm strictly a solo hunter who only used hand calls in the past, both of which have cost me several missed opportunities on cats sneaking in and out of my sets, as I would only get a glimpse of tawny hide and that obvious tail. A hunting partner can provide added security and an important extra set of eyes, but that also increases possible detection by doubling up on movement. Don't forget good camo can be important too (a ghillie suit has served me well over the years).

6 Above all, like most hunting endeavors, persistence and patience are your keys to success – persistence in the number of times you get out there and call, and patience in the amount of time you spend on each stand. I can guarantee there is no bigger thrill than enticing a mature mountain lion enough to have it materialize in front of you.

And don't forget to skip your lunch-time cat-naps when you could be out calling in mid-day cruisin' cougars.

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The hunter education program involves passing on the hunting tradition to future generations in a safe, fun, and responsible manner.

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- Wildlife management and conservation
- Hunter ethics and responsibilities
- Outdoor safety

Hunter education instructors are individuals 21 and older who have a passion for hunting. You do not need to be an expert hunter to teach this course; a strong interest in introducing young people and adults to the sport is what is required.

How do I become a Certified Instructor?

- Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

**ODFW Hunter Education Program 503-947-6028
www.dfw.state.or.us**



YOUNG GUNS

By JASON HALEY

Meet Oregon's youngest Hunter Ed instructor

The heart of a hunter is a curious thing. There's no way of knowing who's got it and who doesn't. But with an introduction and a little exposure, our pastime just seems to stick with some people. That's what happened to Cole.

Cole Hollingsworth is the youngest Hunter Education instructor in Oregon. He recently turned a mere 23 years old,

Cole was certified to teach Hunter Ed in 2015 at the age of 19.

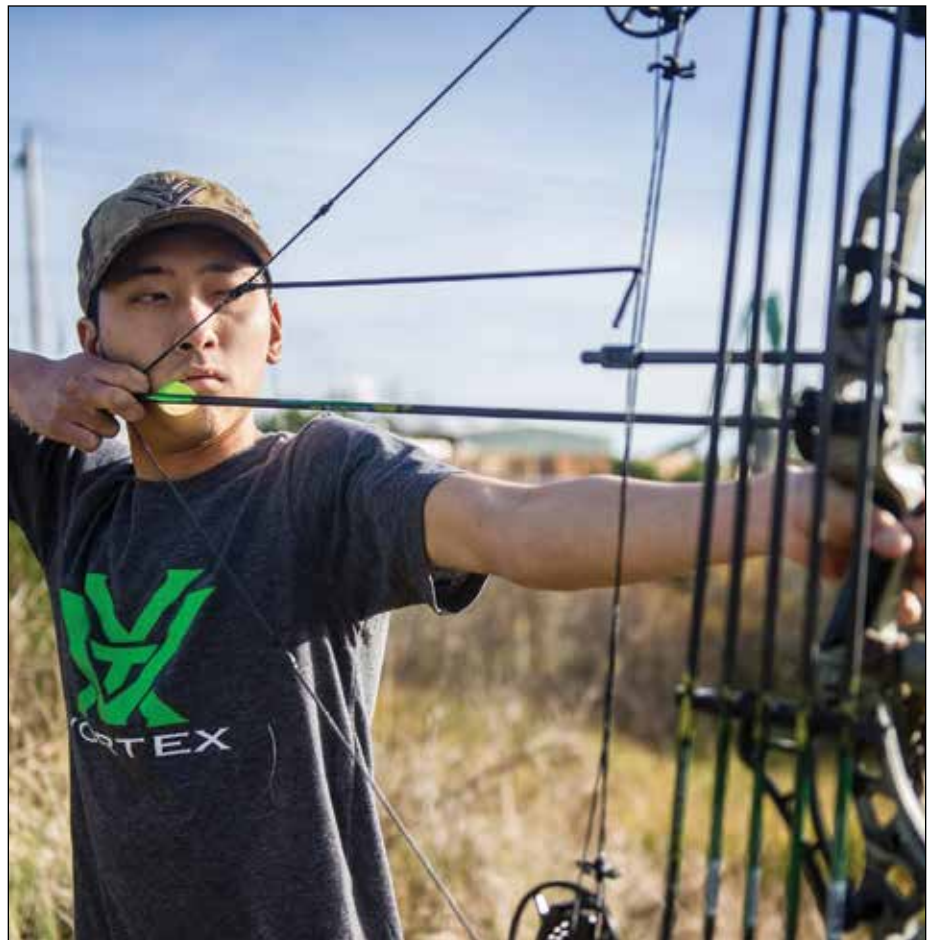
a story unto itself, but there's more. Cole was certified in 2015 at the age of 19. He studied business at Southwestern Oregon Community College before transferring to Umpqua

Community College in 2016 and beginning work toward a degree in Criminal Justice, with an eye on becoming an OSP Wildlife Trooper. He completed his Associate Degree in that field. He began pro-staffing for some outdoor brands, including Vortex Optics that year and won a Hunter Education Instructor Bronze Award in 2017.

Cole is a hard working son-of-a-gun. He's currently a truck loader at Vend West Services, Inc. in Coos Bay. He started there in 2014 during school. Before that, he cad-died and worked maintenance at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. Don't call him during normal business hours because he won't answer. After hours, he's polite, punctual and modest.

Cole's story is somewhat unlikely. He is a first-generation Korean American, adopted from Seoul, South Korea. He started hunting at age 14 when his neighbor, the County Coordinator for ODFW's Hunter Education program, took him into the field (literally) for the first time.

Cole took his first cow elk in 2015. A local rancher contacted him about an elk



Cole Hollingsworth wears many hats, including brand ambassador for Vortex Optics.

herd that was causing trouble on his property. Cole spent mornings and evenings staking out on a stand. He tagged out with one day left in the season. Needless to say, he was hooked. The rest is history and we are all better off for it.

After that, his neighbor encouraged him to apply to be an instructor in the Hunter Education program, realizing the short supply and unmet need. He pursued it, in part, because he knew that his younger sister would need to get certified at some point. Being accepted and certified strengthened his resolve. Hunting would become his calling and career. He has taught more than 200 students in the three years since. Cole believes his youth gives him an advantage when it comes to teaching, as younger students seem to feel more comfortable and aren't afraid to ask questions.

When he's not working or teaching, Cole enjoys archery, target shooting and outdoor adventures with his buds. He shoots a Remington .30-06 rifle and a Bowtech Diamond compound. He's an old-school trend setter when it comes to his

release, preferring to use fingers. "I use my fingers because that's how I'm comfortable shooting it," he said. Good for him. Having killed several bow bucks that way, I can testify that there are certain advantages, time and place considered.

Cole is also very close to his sister, Amanda, a high-schooler who is not of Korean descent. He attends many of her sporting events. Cole plans on staying close to home this year and hunting western Oregon for deer, but would love to hog hunt in Texas, someday, where his family has property. Cole is an advocate for hunting and believes the conservation message should be brought into the public schools.

Aldo Leopold said, "There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot." Cole definitely falls into the latter category which we can all relate to. I have no doubt that he'll be an effective teacher and ambassador for years to come. He's bound to unlock the hunter in countless individuals who are lucky enough to make his acquaintance.

Follow Cole on Facebook and Instagram @colehollings.

2020 Oregon Big Game Raffle Hunts

Entries sold online at **ODFW.HuntFishOregon.com**

HUNT FEATURES:

12 premier hunts in 2020

Extended season from
Aug 1 - Nov 30, 2020

Residents and
non-residents eligible

Expanded hunt boundaries.
Consult the 2020 Big Game
Regulations for details.

Drawings will be held at the Oregon
Hunters Association's Annual State
Convention at Seven Feathers Casino
in Canyonville, Oregon, starting
at 6:30pm on May 30, 2020



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* Except for specific area closures listed in ODFW's 2020 Big Game Regulations

** Columbian white-tailed deer can be hunted only in areas with authorized seasons and tags
(see 2020 Big Game Regulations)

For more information: call (503) 947-6301 or visit OregonRaffleHunts.com

Entries sold online at ODFW.HuntFishOregon.com





Rec fund committee, elk salvage rules set

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
Jim@oregonhunters.org

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 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 is the top concern.

ODFW crafts policy to address climate change

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
Amy@oregonhunters.org

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.

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.



VIC COGGINS, WALLOWA COUNTY

Your donation is needed to 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

In Memoriam
Contributions made recently to the
OHA Memorial Fund

In memory of
BRYCE MITCHELL & DON SCHALLER
from Kathryn Krieger



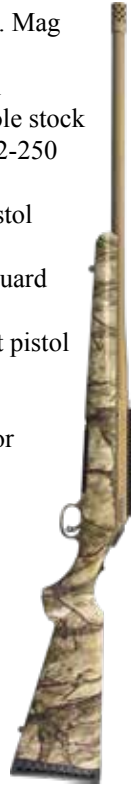
Send contributions in honor of loved ones who loved wildlife to:
OHA Memorial Wildlife Fund
P.O. Box 1706
Medford, OR 97501

OHA LADD MARSH MEMORIAL OVERLOOK/JIM WARD

Last gun winners for 2019 announced; 2020 will start with a bang on Jan. 1!

OHA congratulates our 2019 Gun Calendar Raffle winners:

- 2-Jan – Clayton Solberg, Warrenton, Nosler M48 Custom .270 WSM
9-Jan – Kimo Arruda, Gales Creek, Ruger 10-22
16-Jan – Lester O'Dell, Baker City, OHA-engraved Howa 1500 6.5 Creedmoor
23-Jan – David Dias, Hillsboro, Browning Buck Mark .22 fluted target pistol
30-Jan – Corey Ryder, Crooked River Ranch, Remington 870 shotgun
6-Feb – Braedon Bailey, McMinnville, Tikka T-3 SS synthetic .300 Win. Mag
13-Feb – Bill Jackson, Pendleton, Henry Golden Boy .22
20-Feb – Chris Krumland, Eugene, Smith & Wesson SD 9mm VE pistol
27-Feb – Terry Fox, Dallas, Savage .17 HMR with a laminated thumbhole stock
6-March – Darrell Brummett, Junction City, Howa 1500 KUIU camo .22-250
13-March – Bob Schoenky, Hillsboro, Ruger 10/22
20-March – Scott Nations, St. Helens, Smith & Wesson SD 9mm VE pistol
27-March – Travis Kirkland, North Bend, Remington 870 shotgun
3-April – Brandie Glasgow, Klamath Falls, Weatherby Vanguard Lazerguard
10-April – Mary J. Bennett, Redmond, Henry Golden Boy .22
17-April – Jeff Paradis, Hubbard, Browning Buck Mark .22 fluted target pistol
24-April – Brady Hill, Baker City, CZ over/under 12 gauge
1-May – Tom Debrie, Crabtree, Smith & Wesson SD 9mm VE
8-May – Joy Kind, North Plains, Howa 1500 KUIU camo 6.5 Creedmoor
15-May – Travis Kingsford, Prineville, Ruger 10-22
22-May – Troy Ott, Prineville, Browning A-Bolt synthetic .30-06
29-May – Kari Schultz, Brookings, Remington 870 shotgun
5-Jun – Brian Calabro, Grants Pass, Remington Model 7 SS synthetic
12-June – Linda Hammerich, Bonanza, Henry Golden Boy .22
19-June – Tyler Wilson, Hermiston, Smith & Wesson SD .40sw VE
26-June – Gordon Waibel, Hillsboro, Savage .17 HMR thumbhole
3-July – Lindsay Nokell, Bend, Henry Big Boy .45 LC
10-July – Charlie Cookson, Bend, Remington 870 shotgun
17-July – Doug Meredith, Myrtle Creek, Ruger 10-22
24-July – Lori Haury, Bonanza, CZ .17 HMR lightweight wood stock
31-July – Lakota Lawson, Dallas, Browning Buck Mark .22 fluted target pistol
7-Aug – Paula Churchill, Roseburg, Remington 700 M40 long range 7mm Rem.
14-Aug – Bryce Denfeld, Salem, Henry Golden Boy .22
21-Aug – Robert Russell, Portland, Smith & Wesson SD .40 SW VE
28-Aug – Mike Templeton, Prineville, Savage .17 HMR lite synthetic
4-Sep – Frederick Pick, Bemidji, MN, Winchester Model 70 Sporter 7mm mag
11-Sep – Troy Mace, Beaverton, Smith & Wesson SD .40 sw
18-Sep – Trevor Cook, Gaston, Ruger 10-22
25-Sep – Ryan Hackett, Trail, Remington 870 shotgun
2-Oct – Scott Jones, Scotts Mills, Stoeger auto 12 gauge, 3-1/2" camo shotgun
9-Oct – Bill Fields, Lebanon, Savage .17 HMR thumb hole laminated stock
16-Oct – Matt Reed, Oregon City, Browning Buck Mark .22 fluted target pistol
23-Oct – Ben Newburn, Redding, Henry Golden Boy .22
30-Oct – Brandon Robbins, Clatskanie, CZ .17 HMR Lightweight wood stock
6-Nov – John Wright, Tigard, Sauer Model 100 Classic .270 Win.
13-Nov – David Van Rheen, Portland, Rock Island 1911 .45!
20-Nov – Mercedes Abell, Oakdale, CA, Ruger 10-22
27-Nov – Charles Koch, II, Eugene Remington 870 shotgun
4-Dec – Thomas Brown, Neotsu, Tikka Hunter blued/wood .270 Win.
11-Dec – Jason Koenig, Albany, Henry Golden Boy .22
18-Dec – Robert Hooper, Sweet Home, Rock Island 1911 .45
25-Dec – Nancy MacHugh, Albany, Savage .17 HMR lite synthetic



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Winner of this raffle is entitled to a Guided Elk Hunt on the famous 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in NE Oregon during the fall 2020 season!

Mature bulls with trophy potential are common.

1 hunter, 2 non-hunting guests & guide for 3 days. Lodging included in updated ranch house. Hunting is on foot and hunters should be in good physical condition.

Tickets: \$100 each or 11 for \$1,000.

This hunt is valued at \$4,900 but for most hunters - it's priceless!

600 tickets available. Must be 18 years old.

Drawing March 28, 7 p.m., at Bella Union in Jacksonville, Ore.

To purchase tickets by phone or check - call or text Becky at 541-951-6765 or email tbmaddox4150@gmail.com

Transportation to the preserve and food, beverages, gear and gratuity are not included.

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OHA chapters slate banquets; you're invited!

BAKER

Charlie Brinton
(541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Sun Ridge Inn; optional dinner 6 p.m.

2020 banquet: April 4, Baker County Event Center.

BEND

Bob Dixon
(503) 572-2805

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club.

2020 banquet: March 14, Riverhouse Convention Center; call 541-480-9848.

Update: The Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt was held in Powell Butte on Nov. 23.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2020 banquet: April 4, Pendleton Convention Center; 541-231-4384.

Update: Our chapter name has been changed from Columbia Basin to the Blue Mountain Chapter. Guest speakers told us about the Ellis project at Starkey at our November meeting.

CAPITOL

Eric Colville
(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., Marion County Fire Station #1, 300 Cordon Rd. NE, Salem.

2020 banquet: March 28, Columbia Hall, Fairgrounds, Salem, 503-585-4547.

Update: Our chapter held a holiday potluck Dec. 7.



A young hunter connects on a pheasant at a hunt hosted by the OHA Bend Chapter Nov. 23.

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: next meetings are Jan. 16 and Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Wild River Pizza.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Kevin Werst
503-325-1036

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker, West Lake Chinese Restaurant, Seaside.

2020 banquet: March 21, Clatsop County Fair & Expo.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks
(949) 533-7271

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., Kozy Korner restaurant, 371 Columbia Blvd., St. Helens.

2020 banquet: Feb. 29, Fairgrounds.

Update: Chapter members helped out at the September youth pheasant and duck hunt. Last fall when fines collected from a poaching case were donated to our chapter, we used the funds to purchase equipment that we donated to OSP Fish & Wildlife. We are making plans to hold a swap meet of outdoor gear.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager
(541) 729-0877
EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzler Steak House, 1010 Postal Way, Springfield; Board meeting at 5:30 p.m., Social 6:30 p.m.

2020 banquet: Feb. 22, The Graduate (formerly Eugene Hilton); call 541-729-5220.

Update: Our annual chapter Christmas dinner meeting was Dec. 11 at the Elks Lodge.

HOODVIEW

Catherine Hamell
(503) 358-7821

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Elmer's, 1933 NE 181st Ave., Portland.

2020 banquet: Feb. 22, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas; call 971-570-7010.

Update: Our holiday party was at the Portland Gun Club on Dec. 7.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery
(541) 761-3200

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., Elmer's Restaurant, Grants Pass.

2020 banquet: March 21, Josephine County Fairgrounds; call 541-821-1511. We will draw the winners of the Zumwalt Prairie elk and deer hunts (for tickets, visit oregonhunters.org/store).

Update: We collected non-perishable food at the November and December meetings for our holiday basket program.

KLAMATH

Allen Wiard
(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Shasta View Community Center.

2020 banquet: April 25, Klamath Fairgrounds. We will auction an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag. Call 541-882-9593

Update: Our youth day, PLAY Outdoors, is Jan. 18 at the Klamath Fairgrounds; call 541-281-2224. We held a Youth Chukar Hunt Oct. 19-20, for which the chapter purchased 300 birds for release.

LAKE COUNTY

Tom Zarosinski
541-219-0614

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., The Village Restaurant, Lakeview.

2020 banquet: April 4, Lake County Fairgrounds.

Update: Our last guzzler project this year was held Sept. 14. We worked on duck and goose boxes Oct. 19.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Todd Williver
(541) 648-6815

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, OSU extension office, Newport.

MALHEUR COUNTY

Bruce Hunter
(208) 573-5556

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6:30





2020 Vision

Sharing OHA's 2020 Vision

OHA is focused on our vision for 2020 and beyond, from protecting gun rights to safeguarding wildlife migration. See the OHA 2020 Vision Video at oregonhunters.org

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p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA in the chapter newsletter.

Update: Our chapter hosted a Christmas dinner at the Boulevard Grange Dec. 12.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting is Feb. 20.

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jacob Williams

(541) 740-5992

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 6 p.m., Old Armory, 4th and Lyons, Albany.

2020 banquet: April 4, Boys & Girls Club, Albany; call 541-971-3351. We'll auction an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag.

Update: Our chapter contributed \$2,000 to the 4-H Youth Shooting Sports program, hosting youth from Linn and Benton counties. We awarded scholarships to two 2019 high school graduates, who plan to study Forestry Management and Fishery Science.

OCHOCO

John Dehler, III

(541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 1868, 152 NW 4th St., Prineville.

2020 banquet: Feb. 22, Carey Foster Hall, Prineville; call 541-447-5730

PIONEER

Bill Park

(503) 730-7650

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., Canby Rod & Gun Club.

2020 banquet: March 7, Mt. Angel Community Festhalle; call 503-710-1233.

Update: Volunteers cleaned up our stretch of highway Nov. 2. We worked on duck boxes Oct. 26 and Nov. 9, and took our last guzzler trip Oct. 12. Our spring youth day at Canby Rod and Gun Club will be April 25; email elkhunter14@msn.com or call 503-829-2912.

REDMOND

Tim Van Domelen

(541) 771-8383

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, VFW Hall. Dinner at 5:30, member meeting at 6:30, board meeting at 6.

2020 banquet: Feb. 28, Deschutes County Expo Center; call 541-233-3740 or email jlcrafton@hotmail.com

Update: Chapter members did a winter planting on Bridge Creek near Mitchell



Fred and Debbie Baldwin and supervisor Jackson were among the Redmond Chapter members who braved the frozen tundra to do a planting project on Dec. 14 at Bridge Creek Wildlife Area.

Dec. 14. We collected canned and dried foods and new toys at the November and December meetings. Spring work on the Priest Hole Project begins again April 24-26; email jlcrafton@hotmail.com or call 541-233-3740.

ROGUE VALLEY

Bryan Coggins

(541) 601-9905

oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation, Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Rd.

2020 banquet: March 14, Medford Armory; call 503-250-3000.

Update: We provided pheasants and volunteer help for the Denman Wildlife Area youth pheasant hunt. The chapter again donated funds, which were matched by federal funds, for the annual forage seed giveaway by ODFW. We will host a booth at the Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show Feb. 21-23 at the Jackson County Expo.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman

(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook PUD.

2020 banquet: May 2, Tillamook County Fairgrounds; call 503-801-3779.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton

(541) 267-2577

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. no host dinner, Puerto Vallarta restaurant, Coos Bay.

2020 banquet: April 4, Coquille Community Building; call 541-294-7912.

Update: Our chapter worked with ODFW to put on the first youth pheasant hunt in Coos County Sept. 7-8. Our Christmas Party was Dec. 14 at Myrtle Point Gun Club. We will do duck box maintenance Feb. 1 and shed antler retrieval April 18, both at Dean Creek.

TUALATIN VALLEY

Tony Kind

(503) 290-6143

oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

2020 banquet: April 4, NW Events & Environments, Hillsboro, 503-502-0611.

Update: Our chapter Christmas Party was on Dec. 14 at Meriwether National Golf Club. We again co-sponsor the Junior Winter Trapshooting League at Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 430-6353

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Roseburg ODFW office. Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, same place.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2020 banquet: March 14, Blue Mountain Conference Center; call 541-786-5841.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Bill Dollar

(503) 804-2843

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6:00 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

2020 banquet: March 21, Evergreen Space Museum.

Update: Chapter volunteers staffed the Stimson gate behind Hagg Lake for deer and elk rifle seasons and the extended youth hunt weekend Nov. 2-3. We will host a booth at the Portland Expo Center sportsman show Feb. 5-9.

ROGUE VALLEY OHA

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GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

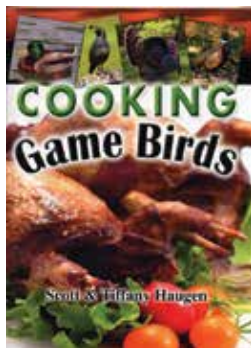


Sauce for the Goose

Whether you're digging through the freezer or bringing fresh geese home from Oregon's late-season hunts, this simple recipe is tasty and easy to prepare. As when cooking any wild game, the key to a good finished product begins once an animal is down, and this goose recipe is no different.

We've enjoyed this recipe with cacklers from the Valley, Aleutian cacks from California, Vancouver Canada geese from Alaska, snow geese from Saskatchewan, and black brant from Izembek Lagoon. It also works on honkers.

Before cooking, be sure your bird is cleaned of all bloodshot, feathers, and shot. Remove excess blood vessels and any bruised tissues, as cooked blood results in a gamey flavor. Cooking methods are key with waterfowl, as overcooking often results in stronger flavored meat. Hot and fast with the breast meat, low and slow with legs, wings and thigh meat is the way to go. Keeping it simple is key, and you can't go wrong with this quick preparation.



- 1 large goose breast
- 1/2 teaspoon of your favorite seasoning salt or 1/4 teaspoon each of salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 tablespoon olive or coconut oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon red wine or rice vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Fresh parsley, cilantro, basil or mint for garnish

Clean goose breast and carefully remove blood vessels and sinuous surrounding tissues. Slice the breast in 1/4"-1/2" slices, across the grain. Spread out on a plate in a single layer, season both sides of the meat. Let sit at room temperature 10-15 minutes.

In a large skillet, heat butter and oil on high heat. Fry goose steaks 30 seconds to a minute on each side; do not overcook. Add soy sauce and red wine or rice vinegar and let the liquid reduce, 1-2 minutes. Serve immediately over rice, garnishing with fresh herbs of choice.



For 150+ more great bird recipes and signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular cookbook, *Cooking Game Birds*, send a check for \$20 (free shipping) to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Waltherville, OR 97489 or order online at www.scotthaugen.com. Watch Tiffany, online, at *Cook With Cabela's*, for more ways to cook your game, and follow her on Facebook & Instagram.



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Big changes in new big game regulations

A multi-year effort has been underway to improve and simplify big game regulations. ODFW's goal in this process has been to make the regulations more consistent, simpler where possible, and in tune with current populations and issues.

Many controlled hunts have been consolidated into larger areas and/or have longer seasons. Boundaries of many controlled hunts were expanded or made simpler.

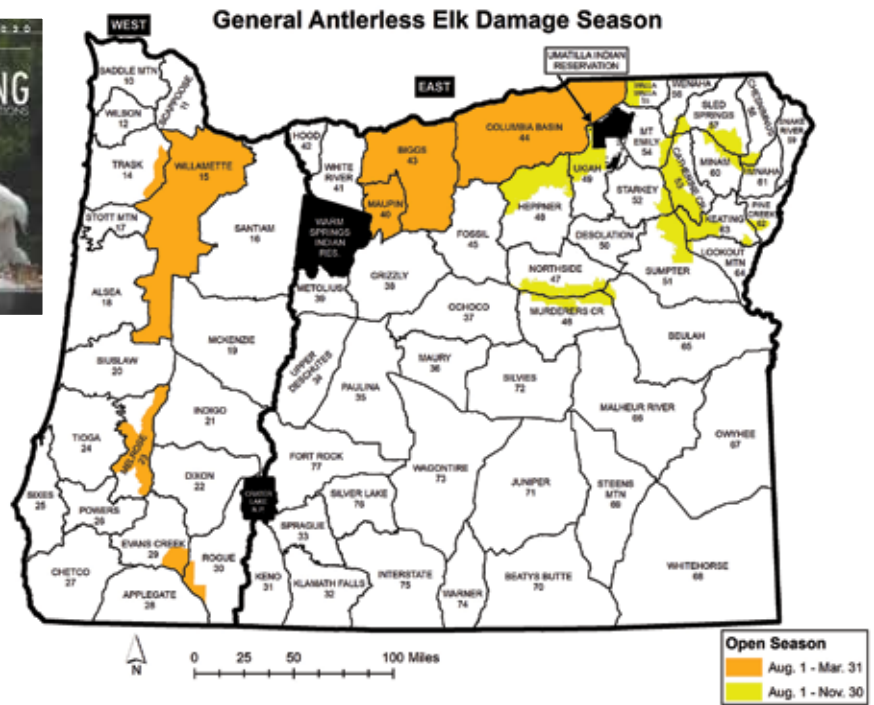
Closely check the regulations before applying for a controlled hunt in 2020, as your hunt name or number may have changed. Hunt maps will be available in 2020. While some controlled hunts were consolidated, the number of tags available has not been reduced through this process. Tag numbers may have changed in response to changes in animal populations or damage caused by wildlife.

Longer seasons will accommodate busy schedules and give people more time to hunt, while simpler boundaries make it easier for hunters to determine where they can legally hunt.

New General Antlerless Elk Damage Season on private land to address chronic elk damage and increasing private land elk populations in some areas.

This new, general season tag will replace 19 controlled hunts and the need for landowner damage tags during the season's timeframes. The tags will be valid only in specific chronic elk damage areas mapped annually by ODFW (detailed maps available in 2020). Hunters need permission to hunt on private land to be able to use this tag and it will be their only elk hunting opportunity.

This change should give more hunters the opportunity to harvest an elk where they are causing damage and more fairly distribute elk hunting opportunities. The change may also reduce the shift of elk populations onto private land, creating



more opportunity for public land hunters in the future and reducing damage.

In Western Oregon, spike deer are now included in the buck hunt bag limit and removed from the 600 Series "Antlerless Deer" bag limit.

A bag limit of "any buck with visible antler" will increase hunters' opportunity to harvest a deer in western Oregon. The previous bag limit (which prohibited the harvest of spike bucks during the primary seasons) was not necessary and limited hunters' opportunity to fill their tag.

While the change will likely result in an increase in buck harvest, there are sufficient bucks in the population to support increased harvest. All but one Western Oregon unit has met or exceeded the benchmark for observed post-hunting season buck ratio in at least two of the last three years. The change may also help the buck deer population by allowing hunters to remove deer in poorer condition and the bucks genetically inclined to remain spikes. Data shows that some yearling bucks have forked antlers while some 2-year-old or older bucks are spikes.

Finally, the change will make deer bag limits consistent statewide and make the identification of a legal deer easier.

"Centerfire" seasons are now called "Any Legal Weapon" seasons.

This is simply a change to the language to what were once known as Centerfire or Rifle Seasons, so hunters are aware that any legal rifle, shotgun, bow, muzzleloader, or handgun is allowed during these seasons.

This has been in effect for a number of years but some hunters are unaware that they can use any legal weapon.

Most eastern Oregon Any Legal Weapon elk hunts are now controlled.

Rocky Mountain bull and spike elk seasons in the Hood-White River-Maupin-Biggs-Columbia Basin units are now controlled hunts to improve hunt quality and accommodate the new General Antlerless Elk Damage Season.

The eastern Oregon units that were in the Cascade general any legal weapon elk season (Metolius, Upper Deschutes, Keno, parts of Fort Rock, Sprague, and Grizzly) have also been moved to new controlled hunts to improve bull ratios.

The additional fall bear tag will be available statewide. Spring and fall season dates will be consistent statewide.

Oregon has sufficient bear populations to allow for this increased opportunity and extended seasons.

Commercial deer and elk urine scents are banned.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, it will be illegal to use or possess "commercial cervid attractants" (deer and elk scents containing or made from urine), which will reduce the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) coming to Oregon. The prions that cause CWD can spread through an animal's bodily fluids.

Please bring any remaining cervid urine products to an ODFW field office for proper disposal and do not pour them on the ground or down the drain.

Nosler®

2020-2021 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST PRIZE: Nosler M48 Liberty Rifle

2ND PRIZE: Case (10 boxes) of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo

3RD PRIZE: Leupold Scope

4TH PRIZE: Danner Alesa Hunting Boots

5TH PRIZE: Benchmade Altitude Hunting Knife

Each finalist will receive an OHA-engraved Coast knife, and entrants whose photos are selected to appear in Oregon Hunter will receive a Nosler hat.

Two finalists in each category will be chosen and published in each issue of Oregon Hunter, beginning with the March-April issue and ending with the November-December issue. From the 10 finalists in each category, five finalist prize winners will be chosen. These will be announced in the January-February issue of Oregon Hunter. Photos received after the entry deadline will be judged for the next issue.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

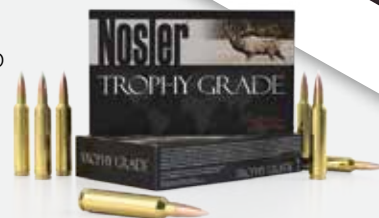
Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter for more than a quarter century!

PHOTO CATEGORIES

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing.

YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

Grants Pass OHA member Alyssa Mahaney wins a Nosler M48 Liberty Rifle with this photo of a bobcat treed by hounds in Klamath County.



SECOND PLACE

Mike Mordell, OHA member from Georgia, scores a case of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo for this photo of himself with an Idaho mule deer he took with a .300 Weatherby and 180-grain Nosler Accubond bullets.

THIRD PLACE

OHA member Michelle Crafton of Spray claims a Leupold scope for this photo of wintering chukars after a late snow.



FOURTH PLACE

OHA member John Cham of Wilsonville claims a pair of Danner Alsea hunting boots for this photo of Kyle Cham with a mule deer he tagged in the Whitehorse Unit.



FIFTH PLACE

OHA member Mike Menasco of Martinez, Calif., claims a Benchmade Altitude hunting knife for this photo of himself with a moose he tagged in the Yukon's McKenzie Mountains with a .338 RUM.

NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

Sherwood OHA member Lily Langer wins a Nosler M48 Liberty Rifle for this photo of herself with a nice mule deer she bagged in Wheeler County.



SECOND PLACE

Scappoose OHA member Marty Liesegang claims a case of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo for this photo of Griffen Mortenson with a Sauvie Island Canada goose.

PEAK OF MT. THIELSEN PEEKS THROUGH THE CLOUDS/DUANE DINGANNON

THIRD PLACE

OHA member William Smith of Oregon City claims a Leupold scope for this photo of Hailey Smith with a mule deer she took in the Interstate youth hunt. She bagged her first buck with a 7mm-08 Thompson/Center rifle and Nosler Accubond bullets.



FOURTH PLACE

OHA member Kirstin Ornelas of Baker City scores a pair of Danner Alsea hunting boots for this photo of Anna Ornelas with an elk she took in Baker County last New Year's Eve – the last day of a 5-month season.



FIFTH PLACE

Hermiston OHA member Karl Adams scores a Benchmade Altitude hunting knife for this photo of his son Cody, 14, with a spring turkey he tagged in the Sumpter Unit.

Where's the Beef? Have You Herd?

At the last gathering of the Bear Mountain Gang, Pistol Pete told us a story he heard.

“So a bear walks into a Chinese food restaurant and orders a beer. The proprietor knows the bear hasn’t been in many restaurants, so he charges him \$10. The bear forks over the money. After a few minutes, the proprietor comes back around and says, ‘You know, we don’t get many bears in here.’ The bear looks up from his beer and says, ‘Well, at 10 bucks a beer, I’m not surprised.’”

I mentioned the story I heard about a black bear that broke into a dumpster at a Chinese food restaurant in Colorado.

Charlie had heard the story, too. “It might seem funny to you, but I guarantee you it wasn’t funny to the guy who owned the restaurant.”

Charlie set out a platter of fried fish and a pitcher of root beer.

“What do you think the bear liked best, the chow mein or the moo shu pork?” T. Roy asked. “What do you suppose his fortune cookie said? You will be hungry again in one hour?”

This is why we gather once a month down at Charlie’s Fish & Chips. We talk these things out and we become better bear hunters.

“Have you heard that pork is no longer a white meat?” O’Jambo asked through a mouthful of fish. He dipped another chunk of fried salmon in a nice dill sauce and said, “Twenty-five years ago, they sold us on pork - The Other White Meat.”

Pork is not a big topic of conversation with the Bear Mountain Gang. Sometimes the subject of bacon comes up, but it is usually in the context of wrapping a bear roast.

“It turns out that the Cattleman’s Beef Board and the National Pork Board voted to fund a joint research project to “reduce and eliminate consumer confusion at the butcher counter,” O’Jambo said.

“The result is a makeover that creates a common name standard that simplifies



meat cut names, reduces unappealing terms and provides a name structure for meat cuts. So now you no longer have to be confused about the term pork chop. We don’t call them pork chops anymore, we call them pork porterhouse chops, which will presumably reduce consumer confusion.”

After a little research on my part, it turns out that O’Jambo was right. Fourteen cuts of pork are getting new consumer-friendly names like pork rib chop, pork ribeye chop and the pork New York chop. And pork shoulder will be called brisket. It looks like Big Pig has pulled one over on Big Cow.

It turns out that the USDA treats pork as a red meat already. Pretty soon, the foodies and the industry toadies are going to start a Pork - the Other Red Meat campaign. This is going to be hard to swallow.

Remember, you herd it here first.

Those of us that find ourselves with a surplus of bear meat in our freezers might take note. Bear meat has often been compared with pork, but this is often done by people who have just tried bear for the first time. If bear meat had an advocacy group, we might call our cuts ribeyes and T-bones and porterhouses, instead of bear steaks and roasts. Try that on the in-laws.

Bear tastes like bear. Berry- and apple-eating bears taste different than fish-eating bears, which taste different than grass-eaters which taste different than bears that have been feasting on dead grass-eaters like cattle or pigs or deer fawns.

Sometimes bears taste a little like beef. A few years ago, I met a fellow named Dan Turpin who was hunting mule deer up in eastern Oregon. It was opening day and he left camp and walked up a trail into the forest.

Tall timber kept the trail in shadow and groundwater helped the ferns stay green, even in early October. Turpin found where a buck had rubbed his antlers on some willows, so he began to look for the tracks.

He heard something coming fast. A lot of somethings. It sounded like a stampede. Turpin got down behind a fallen tree. A herd of cattle lumbered into view. A young calf galloped at the rear and right on its heels – a half-jump behind the calf – was a bear.

Turpin, who also had a bear tag and a Remington .30-06, had a split second to make a decision. Should he take the shot and risk alarming the buck he was hunting? Or let the bear pull the calf down? He took the shot when the wide-eyed black Angus and the bruin were less than 25 yards away.

If Turpin hadn’t been there, that herd would have been de-calfenated.

Later that evening Turpin had another encounter. The bear was up on the meat pole all dressed up in the game bag Turpin had planned to dress his mule deer in.

Six cows and a calf walked down out of the trees and gathered around the meat pole. They stared up at the bear that had tormented them, they sniffed it, walked around the camp, rumbled a bit as if to say “thank you” to the hunters, then they turned around and headed back up into the forest.

Cousin Leddy wasn’t able to make it to the last meeting, so when I caught up with him, I asked what he thought about all this.

“Up where we live,” he said, “the cows’ legs are shorter on one side than the other. It helps them get around up in the mountains. When we ship them down to the flatlands, we sell them as lean beef.”

He was thinking about buying one of Peebles’ heifers, he said. He asked me what I thought about her, but I hadn’t seen her herbivore.



If you have a beef with this story, contact the author at www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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