



OHA TRACKER

JANUARY 2020



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Protecting Oregon's wildlife,
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Mt. THIELSEN'S PEAK PEEKS THROUGH CLOUDS

OHA follows up on changes to big game regs

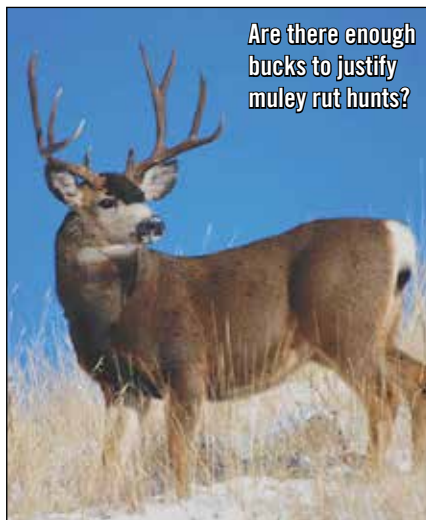
By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
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ODFW staff and representatives of sportsmen's groups, including OHA, met in December to discuss 2020 hunting regulation changes pertinent to mule deer, black-tailed deer and elk damage hunts. This meeting stemmed from OHA submitting a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission expressing concerns about biological aspects of the new hunting regulations for these three game animals.

One of the Commission members participated in the meeting along with representatives from five stakeholder organizations. The focus of this meeting was to ensure that ODFW carefully monitors the effect of these new regulations. This concern applies to both the mule deer rut hunts, such as the one slated for the John Day Canyon, and for blacktail bag limit changes in western Oregon, where spikes are now legal in the general westside buck rifle season.

For the other blacktail regulation change, where spikes are not legal during antlerless hunts, OSP will track violation data and compare to the recent past regulation. For blacktails, spotlight surveys will be the primary method to determine buck ratios, and this trend will be reported back to the commission and stakeholders annually.

In the general cow elk damage hunts, which are primarily on private lands, ODFW will step up monitoring and reporting of elk populations in adjacent



JIM WARD

OHA wants to verify that Oregon's deer herds can withstand the new harvest as proposed.

units and ask in mandatory reporting if harvest occurred on private or public land.

ODFW staff will use the established sport group leader meetings to engage in more real time discussions as the reports are drafted each summer after annual population and hunter reporting data is compiled.

New gun control petitions filed

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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Petitioners have filed two Initiative Petitions that apply to certain semiautomatic firearms. If passed, they would raise the minimum age to purchase those firearms to 21, tighten background check requirements, institute a five-day waiting period on new purchases and ban magazines over 10 rounds.

The petitioners must gather 1,000 signatures to send the initiative petition to the state Attorney General and Supreme Court for the ballot title and definition.

Once approved, the petitioners then must gather some 112,000 signatures to place the petitions on the ballot in November.

The petitions are referred to as: #60 Reduction of Gun Violence Act through Regulation of Semiautomatic Firearms and Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines and #61 Reduction of Gun Violence through Regulation of Semiautomatic Assault Firearms.

Legislative Session Updates

• Anti-Poaching Campaign

While the 2020 legislative session does not officially start until February, OHA is working with legislators in drafting a bill that would be the final piece to the OHA "anti-poaching campaign." The bill changes statute language to make it easier to prosecute poachers who declare they reside in multiple states.

• Organized Hunts for Veterans

During a recent meeting of the Senate Interim Committee on Veterans, a representative from the NW Steelheaders Association presented a proposal that establishes organized group angling or shellfish activities for Oregon residents. The chairman of the committee, Senator Alan Olson, said during the hearing that he would like to see this concept include hunting, as well. OHA will work with ODFW and Senator Olson to review this proposal.

• Coyote Contest Ban

A bill to ban "coyote contests" will once again be introduced, and this time in the 2020 Legislative Session. A similar bill introduced in 2019 passed the Senate, but failed to pass the House.

SEE OHA'S 1-MINUTE 2020 VISION VIDEO AT OREGONHUNTERS.ORG

OHA weighs in on Owyhee proposal

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director
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Senators Wyden and Merkley have crafted a bill that could resolve the long-standing issue of wilderness designation within the Owyhee Canyonlands. This proposal would establish 1.1 million acres of wilderness on BLM lands, while releasing a roughly equal acreage from current wilderness study protection.

There are many concessions and compromises in this 71-page bill. Settling this public land management plan in this arid region has been challenging for decades. The bill proponents have engaged both local citizens and diverse stakeholders in formulating this proposal, which offers some unique provisions to maintain grazing, access, and scenic quality.

From a hunting perspective, OHA and other sportsmen partners are still reviewing and providing input on the wildlife habitat improvement aspect for many species, ranging from water guzzler maintenance to invasive weed control. We also have aired concern about bighorn sheep health and ensuring separation between bighorns and domestic sheep.

OHA participated in a sportsmen's group meeting with Wyden's staff to express our points of concern and to gain a better understanding of this proposal.



OHA President Mike Ayers draws the winning ticket for the first prize in the 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle at the OHA State Office on Dec. 18. That Kimber pistol – winner announced on New Year's Day – is the first of 53 guns to be given away every Wednesday in 2020 on OHA's website and Facebook page. The names of 10 lucky ticket sellers were also drawn:

2020 Gun Raffle Calendar Seller Prizes

Prize

1. Howa 1500 KUIU 6.5 CM
2. TC Compass .300 Win. Mag.
3. Sig Whiskey3 3-9x40 scope
4. Leupold VX-1 3x9x44 scope
5. Benchmade Altitude knife
6. Gerber Santiam knife
7. Gerber Santiam knife
8. Gerber Santiam knife
9. OHA bino system
10. OHA bino system



Winning Seller, OHA Chapter

Charlie Brinton, Baker
Shelley Kind, Tualatin Valley
Mike Vallery, Tualatin Valley
David Stamback, Pioneer
Bill Jackson, Umpqua
Bob Dixon, Bend
Troy Laws, Clatsop
Daniel Smith, Pioneer
Steve Gilbert, Mid-Willamette
Carolyn Samples, Columbia County



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Mark Labhart (center) addresses the OHA State Board, flanked by OHA Field Director Bryan Cook, SW Director and past Commissioner Bob Webber, Vice President Ken McCall and Outreach Coordinator Amy Patrick. Labhart asked each OHA staffer and board member what he should know as a new Commissioner, and heard about issues across the board, from hunter recruitment and retention to predator management.

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PHOTOS BY CHAD DOTSON, ZUMWALT PRAIRIE