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2020

Membership publication of Oregon Hunters Association

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THE HIGH DESERT**

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FOR GAME BIRD REGS**



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- 2 Commemorative Gifts

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* OHA member prices. Nonmembers add \$35 for 1-year OHA membership.

** Early Bird tickets must be ordered by April 30, 2020.

Party Starter: 2 guns (\$599 & \$349). Max 1,900 tickets.
 Special: Rifle (\$960); Knife (\$40). Max 1,760 tickets.
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 Early Bird: Rifle (\$469); Knife (\$40). Max 1,900 tickets.

Tickets must be ordered and prepaid by May 20, 2020.

To order your tickets, contact the OHA State Convention Committee, PO Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313 • oregonhunters.org

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It's a varmint
roundup! Set
your sights on
rock chucks,
jackrabbits &
sage rats



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up when
bowhunting
bears and
start with a
muzzleloader



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To beat
a bear's
home-field
advantage,
you have to
tackle him on
his own turf



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FINDING DIRECTION

By JIM AKENSON, OHA SR. CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Owyhee/Tyler DUNGANNON

OREGON HUNTER

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What is the Owyhee's future for hunters?

The future of the Owyhee canyonlands remains uncertain, but might be gaining some clarity with a new proposal being developed by Senators Wyden and Merkley. This bill is called the Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, and it contains solutions for the 32 wilderness study areas (WSAs), with designations either going into multiple use or wilderness areas. Multiple sportsmen's organizations, including OHA, have been providing input to Wyden's office to consider the interests of habitat, wildlife, hunting and fishing.

Over the past decade there have been many attempts at public input and planning sessions to resolve the conflicting interests of ranchers, environmentalists, sportsmen and the local community businesses on this unique landscape. The Monument proposal has come and gone, as have other efforts to resolve the contentious land use disputes.

The latest proposal, a prospective senate bill, is far from perfect, but it does consider the needs and interests of a broad range of stakeholders. It also seems that no one is completely happy, so perhaps that indicates a good compromise.

The Owyhee is big country – a mix of sagebrush, grasslands, and rock-walled canyons. The public land base is managed by the BLM's Vale District – covering 5.1 million acres. For 40 years there have been 1.3 million acres of WSAs or lands with wilderness character that have lacked a final designation. The new proposal would create 1.1 million acres of wilderness and release 200,000 acres from consideration. There are several provisions within the wilderness designation, including the continuation of existing livestock grazing permits, noxious weed treatment, and active wildfire control. Other considerations include wild and scenic designation of 14 miles of rock-walled Owyhee River canyon, more discussion of wildlife management opportunities and improvements, and keeping an existing network of roads for recreational access.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this proposal is the part dealing with adaptive management and the establishment of a 13-member stakeholder's advisory committee. The committee would consist of a mix of local community ranch and business owners, environmentalists, hunters and fishermen, and a Burns-Piute tribal representative. This body would advise on management actions and be more responsive in applying the group consensus.

So, is this proposal good for our interests as hunters? That has yet to be seen.

One common comment we hear is, "let's just keep the Owyhee the way it is." While that's a noble notion, someone probably once said that about Yellowstone and expanses of land that are now covered by wind turbines and solar panels. The way to keep wild country the same is not by doing nothing. Without protections, change will come, and it likely won't be change favorable to habitat, wildlife and hunting. Hunters can be at the table actively shaping the future of the landscape in the Owyhee, or we can sit on the sidelines and watch what happens.

OHA is at the table. So let's dig in.

No one is completely happy, so perhaps that indicates a good compromise.



IF YOUR HAPPY PLACES ARE WIDE-OPEN SPACES, YOU NEED TO JOIN US.



After winning a lawsuit to protect elk habitat in the Ochocos, OHA is protecting the interests of habitat, wildlife and hunting in key land-use plans governing the Owyhee Canyon and Lakeview BLM district. Join us and support our efforts to protect the range where the deer and the antelope play.

LAKE COUNTY TYLER DUNGANNON

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WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

1. What big game species has a general season in July?
a) bear c) antelope
b) cougar d) none of the above
2. Hunts ain the 500 Series are for:
a) bighorn c) antelope
b) mountain goat d) spring bear
3. Western Oregon mountain quail season opens:
a) August 1 c) September 1
b) August 15 d) September 15
4. The Stott Mountain Unit is home to:
a) mule deer c) whitetails
b) blacktails d) all of the above
5. Which state forest is near Crater Lake?
a) Elliott c) Santiam
b) McDonald d) Sun Pass
6. You can find chukars along what river?
a) John Day c) Owyhee
b) Snake d) all of the above
7. Imnaha, Wallowa, Whitman and Sumpter creeks are all found in what national forest?
a) Rogue River c) Umatilla
b) Malheur d) Wallowa-Whitman

TRUE OR FALSE?

8. A moose is considered an Oregon game mammal.
9. The Owyhee River is found only in the Owyhee Unit.
10. The recent daily limit on most ducks has been 7.
11. Pheasant season opens the same day as chukar season.
12. There's a bag limit on crows.

ANSWERS: 1-b; 2-a; 3-c; 4-b; 5-d; 6-d; 7-a (really); 8-T; 9-F; 10-T; 11-T; 12-F.



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name the Oregon river winding through this snowy canyon, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! 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: March 20, 2020.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Justin Miles, Lakeview

Justin's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized Flat Top Ridge near Dayville.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

MARCH 7

OHA chapter banquet:
Pioneer, 503-710-1233

MARCH 12

Central Oregon Sports Show opens

MARCH 14

OHA chapter banquets:
Bend, 541-480-9848
Union/Wallowa, 541-786-5841
Rogue Valley, 503-250-3000

MARCH 21

OHA chapter banquets:
Yamhill County, 503-804-2843
Clatsop County, 503-791-0549
*Josephine Co., 541-821-1511
(* Zumwalt hunts drawing)

MARCH 28

OHA chapter banquet:
Capitol, 503-585-4547

APRIL 1

Spring bear opens statewide

APRIL 4

White River Youth Turkey Clinic,
503-502-0611

OHA chapter banquets:

Tualatin Valley, 503-502-0611
Baker County, 541-403-0402
Blue Mountain, 541-231-4384
Tioga, 541-297-6178
Lake County, 541-219-0614
* Mid-Willamette, 541-971-3351
(* A & H Statewide elk tag auction)

APRIL 11-12

Statewide youth spring turkey hunt

APRIL 15

Harvest reporting deadline, winter tags;
furtaker harvest report due;
Spring turkey season opens

APRIL 25

OHA chapter banquet:
Klamath, 541-882-9593
(A&H Statewide elk tag auction);
OHA Pioneer Chapter Spring Youth Day,
503-829-2912



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Rockchucks in rim rock

Way up above the river I sat down on the rim and put the rifle across my lap. Somewhere out in that expanse of spires and treetops, I had heard a rockchuck whistle. There. Another rockchuck answered.

This was wild rockchuck habitat. The nearest alfalfa field was half a mile away. With the binocular, I picked them out from their surroundings.

Rockchucks fed on bits of green in rock slides just recently freed from the late snows, and rockchucks sunned themselves on rimrock. It was a glorious April morning above the Deschutes River.

We tend to think about hunting rockchucks in the artificial environment of a tended field of alfalfa, with rocks stacked along the fencerows and at the corners, where chucks den up and multiply. And these are great hunts, but they are harder to find as available land is converted to small



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Some rockchucks shun the farms in favor of rocky canyons.

As early as February, eastern Oregon rockchucks can be seen emerging from their long sleeps.

ranches and hobby farms.

Think instead about the rockchucks that live on the fringes, in river canyons and above dried streambeds, anywhere there is a bit of water, a lot of rimrock and spring green-up to fill the belly.

The modern day rockchuck hunter without an alfalfa field to call his own should look to BLM lands, especially where major tributaries feed into our great rivers. Get an Oregon Road & Recreation Atlas (Benchmark Maps) and look for the color-coded BLM sections up the canyons that feed into your favorite central and eastern Oregon rivers.

For rim rock rockchuck hunts on public land, trace a finger along those blue rib-

bons that feed the Deschutes, the Crooked River, the Metolius, the John Day, the Malheur, the Powder, the Owyhee and the Snake. Rockchucks are found across more country than most people would guess.

Look for access points and then switch over to Google Earth to better visualize contours.

If there are agricultural lands nearby, there will be rockchucks moving back and forth from public to private ground.

Hunting rockchucks can be frustrating, but approaching the sport with the kind of dedication a deer hunter invests can pay off with many opportunities and glorious April days, sitting in the sun in the rim rock. —GARY LEWIS



WARNER VALLEY/DUANE DUNGANNON

Like larger quarry in Oregon, jacks are most active in the early morning and late evening.

There are no bad hare days

Many of the best rifles and the best rifle scopes are made in Oregon. We put them to use in October for elk, mule deer and blacktails, but there is another blacktail we can hunt year-round.

The black-tailed jackrabbit is a critter typically found in low-lying semi-desert regions, but they were spread around the West in the Depression and can be hunted in many parts of western Oregon, as well as in their homeland east of the Cascades.

Although they are solitary animals, they may be found in large numbers at times, especially when they have found a good supply of alfalfa.

Jacks are active feeders under the moon and can be spotted with great frequency in the last light of evening and again in the first hour of the day. Shooting can continue through midday. The solitary rifle hunter should find an overlook from which to glass in sagebrush and around the edges of agricultural land.

The .22 Long Rifle is the classic

jackrabbit round, but jackrabbits are hardy animals, so a better choice is a .223 Remington or a .22 Nosler in an AR-15 platform or a .22-250 in a bolt action. The .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington and 6.5 Creedmoor are well-suited to long-range rabbit shooting with low recoil.

Try to stay in one good perch. Glass field edges and openings. Other targets of opportunity, like coyotes and badgers, can show up on a jackrabbit stand.

From Wasco to Klamath County and east to the Owyhee, black-tailed jackrabbits can be found on public land and can offer great sport for the patient hunter.

When combing a map for jackrabbit possibilities, look at large bodies of water in desert country. Think Moon Reservoir near Burns, or Warm Springs Reservoir, west of Juntura.

When asked in advance, landowners are often happy to allow hunting to keep jackrabbits from destroying valuable alfalfa and other crops. —GARY LEWIS



Spring weather will bring ground squirrels out.

Sage rats offer varmint hunters March madness

Hit some big shots of your own

Early on a spring morning, you can almost hear the alfalfa grow. By 10 o'clock, the sun beats down and a breeze stirs the tops of the stalks. Irrigation water seeps into the soil. It is a land of plenty for the Belding's ground squirrel, better known in these parts as the sage rat.

From the end of March to the second week of June, hordes of sage rats can destroy a crop. In these days when many fields are planted to hemp, alfalfa is more valuable than ever.

Lay a map of Oregon on a table and look east of the Cascades. Sage rats in shootable numbers can be found from Poe Valley, east of Klamath Falls, way out past Bly and Lakeview to Steens and beyond. Any field of green from Paisley to Brothers to Bend and north to Fossil and Condon and east to Enterprise and Ontario is likely to be beset by these pests that can account for over 14 pounds of alfalfa per critter in an average growing season.

Orchard grass and alfalfa are the primary income-producers for many families in eastern Oregon. In a good year, a farm can yield three cuttings – if the rats don't eat too much.

It would be hard to find a place with more sage rats than Crane. Over the last



OHA Midwest Director Paul Donheffner takes aim while guide T.J. calls the shot.

dozen years, a number of outfitters have sprung up to help the landowner and provide access for shooters who want to exercise their long guns in the spring.

One outfitter option is Diamond A Guides, owned by Justin and Nikki Aamodt, of Hines. Shooters stay in wall tents, soak in Crystal Crane Hot Springs and partake of sumptuous meals between trips to the field. In order to get a spot, the

traveling hunter is wise to book the trip well in advance.

Around the state, property owners may let a traveling hunter shoot, but permission should be obtained in advance. Keep in mind well-traveled highways carry the most hunters and access might be easier to find off the beaten path. Establish relationships with landowners prior to the hunt. —GARY LEWIS

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

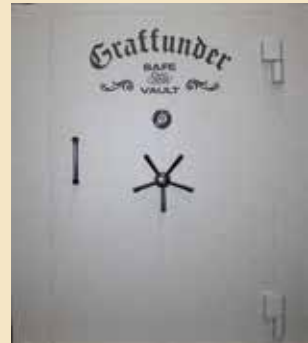
Outfitters have sprung up to help the landowner and provide access for shooters who want to use their long guns in the spring.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By AL ELKINS



Hunting bills, gun initiatives introduced

The 2020 Legislative Session is underway with 256 bills already introduced for the short 35-day session. So, it's pretty much a sprint to the finish line. Here are some of the bills we are following:

• **HB 4005 Gun Storage Bill**

This bill requires a gun owner or possessor of firearm to secure firearm with trigger or cable lock, in locked container or in gun room except in specified circumstances. OHA will be submitting testimony on our concerns about the bill. OHA is working with a variety of other organizations in opposing this bill and others coming up in the short legislative session.

• **HB 4052 Residency Bill**

This bill is one that OHA requested as part of our anti-poaching campaign. The language in the bill changes some ambiguity in statute related to the definition of residency. OHA supports this bill.

• **HB 4091 Sage Grouse Fund**

This bill establishes a "Sage-Grouse Mitigation Program In-Lieu Fee Fund." The money in the fund goes to ODFW to support, restore, protect, or increase habitat for sage grouse. The monies for this fund would come from developers paying an in-lieu fee for mitigation rather than doing on the ground mitigation activities. OHA supports this bill.

• **SB 1543 Group Sports Pac**

This bill sets up special opportunities for vets to hunt and fish by establishing a "Group Sports PAC." OHA is working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other groups to determine what the impact of this bill would be on the hunting community.

• **HB 4075 Bans Coyote Contests**

This bill bans coyote hunting contests. We are currently working on an amendment to the bill that would allow OHA chapters to continue their current coyote contests.



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.

Update on Gun Petitions

• **IP 40** – Requires locked gun storage, reporting stolen guns, strict liability for injuries. OHA appealed the draft ballot title, in cooperation with the NRA, and our case is awaiting a decision by the Oregon Supreme Court.

• **IP 60** – Regulates semi-automatic guns and large capacity magazines. Comment period closed on Jan. 29, with a final ballot title due from the Attorney General on Feb. 13.

• **IP 61** – Sale/transfer of certain semiautomatic firearms requires gun dealer, safety course, waiting period, age 21. Comment period closed Jan. 31, with a final ballot title due from Attorney General on Feb. 15.

• **IP 62** – Prohibits firearm magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition; provides for exceptions. Allows persons who have magazines over 10 to keep them. Comment period closed Jan. 31, with a final ballot title due from the Attorney General on Feb. 15.

OHA is working with a variety of other organizations in opposing these measures.

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BOWHUNTING

By SCOTT HAUGEN

Proper follow-up is critical when bowhunting bears

I've been fortunate to hunt numerous big game animals around the world over the past 20 years, and when properly hit, it's my experience nothing expires faster than a bear. The question is, "What's a proper hit?"

When bowhunting black bears, the proper hit equates to a broadside, double-lung shot. I've taken many bears with a bow, and seen numerous others taken by fellow hunters. Never have I seen a big game animal expire as quickly as a black bear that has a hole punched through both lungs. Many I've taken and seen taken have expired in less than 10 yards, and I've never had a double-lung hit bear run more than 20 yards.

While I've never had to trail a double-lung hit bear, I can't say the same for a single-lung hit bruin. I've heard many stories from hunters claiming to have lost double-lung hit bears, and to that I can only say that arrows can do unexpected things once impact is initiated. Maybe the broadhead hit a rib and took a sharp turn; maybe the mark was simply missed.

In all the hunting camps I've been to throughout the West, I can firmly say bears are the most often missed, and crippled, no matter what they're shot with. Shot placement on bears is another article in itself, but suffice it to say the long black hair and lack of muscle definition regularly account for less than ideal hits.

A bear's long hair is the nemesis when it comes to a one-lung hit, or a shot that's too far back. Early in my bowhunting years I shot a few bears that were quartering,

In essence, a bear walking over its own blood trail is much like passing over it with a mop.



Author Scott Haugen has taken many bears with a bow, and while he's never seen a double-lung hit bear go far, a one-lung or poorly hit bear is a different story.

resulting in a one lung hit. These shots were intentional, but after seeing how long it takes for a single-lung hit bear to expire, and how far they can travel, and how difficult the tracking is, I quit taking such shots.

Bears hit in one lung will eventually expire, and the same is true for a liver or gut shot bear, but it takes time. While ungulates hit in these places often travel downhill in a straight line, then bed down, a bear hit in the same place will often meander, sidehill, move uphill and navigate the bushiest of habitats. Bears may not lay down for a long time, and often tracking takes several hours.

Trailing a one-lung hit bear is tough because the blood collects on the fur and runs down to the chest before being dragged over brush. A big bear with a sagging belly makes things worse because the belly fur wipes the blood from the brush. A bear's short hind legs will erase even more of the blood trail as brush passes between the legs.

In essence, a bear's walking over its own blood trail is like passing a mop over it. The blood rarely has a chance to drain, collect, and run down the inside of a bear's front leg as with ungulates, and the thicker the brush, the harder it is to find a blood trail. Tracking gets even worse with a bear that's hit far back, which leads to virtually

no visible blood loss and very little gut content loss.

Once a bear is hit, watch and listen, especially if it's not a double-lung hit. The longer you can keep the bear in sight, the better. The same is true for hearing where the bear goes. A hit bear often takes off at full speed and maintains that speed for a great distance. Listen for brush moving, limbs cracking, rocks falling, even water that's being traversed, and commence tracking from there.

Often when tracking a hit bear, you're doing just that, tracking. Focus on leaves and grass that have been overturned, along with broken sticks and a disrupted forest floor. If struggling, back away from the trail and view it from a distance, as it's often easier to see a trail from further away than by actually walking in it.

Weather conditions and terrain will affect trailing a bear, so be prepared. Work it as long as you can, and be patient, as no other animal will test your tracking skills like a black bear that's not been punched through both lungs.



Want to learn how to skin and quarter a bear? Scott's popular DVD, Field Dressing, Skinning & Caping Big Game shows how and is available at www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.

BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS

Muzzleloading? It's about time

It's 1859. Statehood has been proclaimed, there's a new flag flying in Salem, and you are a butcher in Oregon City or a baker in Stumptown or a teamster from Dalles City or a trapper on the Owyhee. Your first language might be Hawaiian, German, English, Shoshone or Sahaptin, it doesn't matter. You want a rifle and you have coin in your pocket or peltry on the packsaddle. Let's see what is available.

If you wandered into a trading post at the mouth of McKay Creek in a place that would later be called Pendleton, there might not be much to choose from. It would be common to find Indian trade guns for sale. They were called variously Hudson's Bay fukes, North West guns or Carolina muskets and were often smoothbore and flintlock. At a trading post, a trade gun might go for \$20 if you paid in coin, or 20 pelts if you brought in beaver fur. It was common for a Barnett Trade Gun made in Birmingham, England, to change hands in such a transaction.

In a well-stocked gunsmith's shop such as could be found in Portland or The Dalles (they started calling it that in 1860), it was a different story. In any of these establishments, it would have been common to find new rifles, shotguns and handguns alongside traded-in guns, cleaned up and ready for resale.

Close to Fort Vancouver, and along a major trade route – the Columbia River – guns of all types would have flowed in and out of local smith's shops and hardware stores. The Enfield rifle-musket long guns in their 1853 and 1856 variations would have been available, as well as the shorter flintlock carbine. Percussion rifles were in favor and the Harpers Ferry 1857 would have been easy to find. As far as handguns go, a hunter could have purchased anything from a Pepperbox to a Colt Model 1851 for \$25.

You caress the Colts and ogle the



All muzzleloading accessories needed in the field can be carried in a bag carried over the shoulder like this one.

If the muzzleloading hunts have caught your eye and this is the year to start carrying a front-stuffer, look for the Blackpowder column in the May/June issue of OREGON HUNTER. For more information on loading and shooting a muzzleloader, a good resource is <https://www.muzzle-loaders.com/articles/loading-a-muzzleloader/>

Enfields but opt for a used .50-caliber Hawken, made in St. Louis in the 1840s and converted from flintlock to percussion ignition somewhere in the last decade. Maybe it was carried by old Joe Meek. If it was good enough for him, it is good enough for you. You grumble a little as you dig in your poke for \$20. Maybe you go out to the pack animal and count off 20 beaver pelts. Now you are the proud owner of a pre-owned percussion Hawken.

You already know how to load it. What you need are the accoutrements, the sachen, the –oyoti (Shoshone suffix for stuff) to put fire in your fusil.

It's the same today. A hunter needs certain accessories to feed and care for a muzzleloading rifle. Here's your list...

To order a signed copy of *Hunting Oregon*, send \$24.80 (includes shipping) to Gary Lewis Outdoors, P.O. Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709 or visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

IN YOUR POSSIBLES BAG

The first thing a blackpowder hunter needs is a bag. The solution today is the solution the early hunter used – a possibles bag worn strapped over head and shoulder so it rides on the hip, close to hand.

For the purposes of this discussion, we will look at supplies available at muzzle-loaders.com, based in La Grande.

To put together a basic kit, the hunter should consider what kind of bullet to use. In 1859, that hunter would use round balls and patches. Today, that same style of rifle might be fed a diet of conical bullets like the TC Maxi-Hunter bullets available in 275 to 350-grains for \$24 for a 20-pack.

The next decision is the type of propellant. Go with black powder or a substitute like Hodgdon's Triple Seven FFG at \$27.99 for a one-pound can.

For ignition, select the RWS No. 11 percussion cap at \$10 for 100. A ball starter should be added to the kit, cost \$4.

For cleaning and loading, various implements can be added to the ramrod that comes with the gun. Essential items include a bullet puller at \$1.25, a loading tip at \$1.99, a patch puller at \$2.75 and a brass bore brush at \$3.

Powder should be carried in a flask or horn. A traditional powder horn costs \$15 while a brass flask goes for \$20 and up.

To measure powder charges, I recommend the Thompson Center U-View at \$16.

A nipple wrench will come in handy when cleaning the rifle and servicing it in the field – cost \$6.

Cleaning patches should be carried in the possibles bag. A 100-pack costs \$3.50.

To complete the list of essentials, a hunter should carry speed loaders. A three-pack costs \$5.

At the end of the shopping trip, your possibles bag should be bulging with the necessities on a budget of \$120.48

Let's see... in pelts at today's prices, that's four prime beaver. Now where did my pack animals go?



MR. BIG

Bears enjoy home-field advantage. If you want to take them down, you have to tackle them on their own turf.

By Max Zeller

Enveloped in a sea of sword-fern green and towering old-growth splendor, I followed the fish and wildlife trooper up the steep incline. This was his day off, so not an official outing. We'd been friends since college, and by choosing the same career paths, we shared a common bond. He knew, since my retirement, that I was an avid bear hunter, so it was at this location he wanted to share an encounter he experienced in the spring a few months earlier.

We finally leveled out, exiting the dark canopy into what I can only describe as bear nirvana – an actual bowl devoid of trees except for the skeletal, decaying stumps of even older old-growth conifers of bygone days. I was instantly impressed by its bear-attracting qualities – a series of small swampy beaver ponds surrounded by marsh grass and meadow, all originating from a small stream at the alder-choked head of the bowl. Encircling the meadow and ponds were thick patches of berry-laden brush, all of which were protected by the towering stands of old-growth timber to the north and west, and near-vertical brush-choked hillsides on the east and south sides of the canyon. As I looked on in awe, taking mental notes, he continued his story.

He was on foot patrol investigating something nefarious, I'm sure. He came upon this location and marveled at the beauty that surrounded him. He was working his way along the meadow between the ponds and large patches of thick salmonberry toward the alder thicket at the head of the bowl. Suddenly, a bear arose out of the pucker-brush like an apparition, only a stone's throw away – not just your average bear, but a bruiser of a bruin the likes which the trooper had never seen.

Unlike most black bears that run at

the first sight of man, this monster stood his ground defiantly as the two engaged in a stare-down. The trooper employed the proper protocol when confronting a bear: raising his arms and yelling at the beast to leave while he backed out of the situation, weapon at the ready just in case. What ensued shocked him even more – the huge boar stomped the ground and paralleled his every move the entire way, escorting my friend out of the bowl. I was determined to hunt this bear the following spring.

While most spring bears are taken over large swaths of clearcuts in the Coast Range and Cascade Mountains, or the more open mountainous terrain east of the Cascades, some of us prefer close-encounter bear hunting, which takes a little different skill set.

I find it even more challenging to harvest big mature boars right in their living rooms. Most bears inhabit core areas that supply all their needs in the form of food, water and security, but what I've also found is that big dominant boars also inhabit primary domains within those core areas. These primary domains are like comfort zones where these bears spend their down time for sleep, or just to hang out, and are usually smaller micro-habitats also providing some or all of their main needs, but mainly seclusion and security. These locations are like the hub of a wheel, and the trails leading out are the spokes heading out into various parts of their core areas.

If undisturbed, these boars use the same trails without much deviation and will even step into their own footprints each time they travel, leaving distinct bear trails. Bedding areas within these domains are easily identi-

fied by the large and numerous piles of scat surrounding the actual bed – an exciting find. Sows can enter these domains without much consequence (except when in estrus), but other boars are rebuffed, sometimes violently. My first record-book bear was taken a day after he just kicked the snot out of a smaller boar that dared enter the small bench he claimed as his primary domain.

Core areas can change throughout the year, depending on food availability and travels taken during the breeding period from late May into July. Consequently, primary domains can change as well, but over the expanse of a mature boar's life, I believe these areas are all predetermined as they really are creatures of habit, but again, as long as they are not disturbed by natural or human interference.

In the decades I've hunted spring bears, experience has taught me to be on the lookout for these micro-habitats of big mature boars. Scouting is key. While hunting other game throughout the year, I always keep a lookout for bear activity, sometimes stumbling into potential primary domains of mature bruins. This is where a notebook, journal, or GPS comes in handy. Jot down these waypoints for future reference when scouting for spring bears.

Winter is the best time to search for these secluded habitats, which may be in close proximity where the bear has dened up for the winter months. Once found, make several trips into these areas before bears emerge in order to determine prevailing wind directions and thermal action at certain times of the day, to locate and construct stand/ambush sites that put wind direction in your favor, and when to safely enter the area during your hunts.

From the time bears come out of the den in early spring until they den up again in the fall, their main objective is to consume thousands of calories each day, which is

I find it a challenge to take mature boars in their living rooms.



Author with a large boar taken in his primary domain – 520 pounds and 20 4/16 skull measurement.

only interrupted by the late spring breeding season. Digesting all those carbs takes quite a bit of water consumption on a daily basis, so it's no wonder I find most of these primary domains within easy access to a water source, especially in drier environments or during drought years.

In my pursuit of the scary bear that stared down my friend, I applied and drew a spring bear tag for the area. That winter, I made several scouting trips to ascertain the best position to take up a stand within this dominant boar's primary domain. I found a huge root wad under an ancient hemlock along the eastern edge of the bowl to use as my ambush site. I figured the giant boar would enter from the old-growth stand of dark timber along the western edge.

Most domains are within easy access to a water source.

I carefully cleared a trail into the area and any obstructions around my stand to ensure my entry into the bowl was whisper quiet. I decided to hunt this bear only in the evenings when the prevailing wind allowed me to enter without detection. The trap was set, and I felt patience and persistence would win the day.

On the May evening of my seventh visit, I heard a twig snap in the dark reaches of the old-growth stand west of my position. It was a half hour before shooting light ended when I peeked through the root wad and saw the massive bear enter the bowl with the most arrogant swagger. He paused directly across from my position at only 60 yards. He moved slowly and deliberately, constantly scent-checking the air. Finally, he moved into the open along the forest's edge, moving past my last obstacle and giving me a perfectly broadside shot. My rifle rang true, and the beast dropped where he stood and never twitched.

Because of his sheer size and weight, I struggled seven hours to skin and break him down during the night. He still sported three inches of fat along his whole back. By 3 a.m., I stashed the bagged quarters to cool overnight, and then tested what little strength I had left packing out the 147-pound hide. All pieces of that bear, minus the entrails, weighed in at 479 pounds, and conservatively adding 10 percent gut weight, that 21-year-old Booner was over 520 pounds live weight – a bear of a lifetime.

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Brews of a Feather

Thoughtful pairings of Oregon craft beers with our favorite upland game birds

By Gary Lewis & Mark Knowles

Liesl the pudelpointer was sure there was a chukar on the canyon wall. She scrambled across shale slides, dashed between the boulders and cut back and forth till she had the scent. I trusted her, but she was 150 yards away.

A single chukar flew out ahead then doubled back and swung into range. I missed it. When we went to find it, I missed it again. But by that time we had full game bags. Sore-footed, we began to find our way back down to the trucks.

Headed north in the F-150, from Maupin to The Dalles, we passed fields planted to winter wheat, now rich with November green-up. We checked in at Celilo Inn, and then headed to Freebridge Brewing.

Brewmaster Steve Light named the brewery after one of his favorite steelhead runs on the Deschutes River. Freebridge boasts six pillar beers and

four seasonal beers. Their craft brews carry hints of soft winter white wheat from Wasco County, Cascade hops and Hood River valley cherries. Light told me about a beer called Local Farmer, and it sounded like a perfect pairing for a Hungarian partridge hunt. My thoughts drifted. It had been a long time since I shot a Hun in Wasco County, and I thought I knew where I could find one.

Craft brews and the stories of hunts retold over the dinner table make a great combination. But with all the choices available these days, how does a person select a beer to serve with chukar or grouse or that rarest and finest of upland birds – mountain quail?

We start with the habitat. Figure in the provenance of the shotgun or the native province of the bird. Then look at the recipe. Does it utilize local ingredients or spices from another region? This can get complicated. Let's start with an easy one.

Chukar in the Deschutes Canyon

Imported from India in the late 1800s, chukar thrived in the steepest, least accessible country in our state. Find them at a place like Sage Canyon Preserve or walk BLM ground high above lonely river canyons. Look for bunchgrass and cheatgrass and steep changes in elevation. The recipes? Treat chukar like free-range chicken, but cook it hot and fast. Then take the beer from the same watershed.

Pairing: Da Shootz
deschutesbrewery.com

Spring Turkey in the Hood Unit

The National Turkey Federation, a poultry industry advocacy group not to be confused with the National Wild Turkey Federation, tells us consumption of turkey meat has climbed to 18 pounds per person per year. We take off our collective hats in salute to the turkey production industry for their efficiency at producing poultry and selling it to us.



A brew from Pendleton is the perfect pairing for a rooster from Oregon's Sage Canyon Outfitters.





GARYLEWISOUTDOORS.COM

Mountain quail, which dwell primarily in western Oregon's backcountry, pair with a pint of a beer brewed between the Coast Range and the Cascades.

Then we put our hats back on. We can We can get our own turkey.

Wild turkey, cooked with the juices in, is 10 times more flavorful than a grocery store bird. Why? It's what they eat. Give me a bird from the Mt. Hood National Forest, where gobblers migrate into farm fields in winter and back up to wild country in summer. We cook ours on a Camp Chef pellet grill with a competition pellet blend.

Pairing: Oregon Fog
sideabrewing.com



Pheasant in Standing Corn

Our best wild pheasant can be found in places like Pendleton and out to Vale and Ontario. Little burgs figure large in our memories from Harper to Athena to Hardman. Imported from China in the 1880s, Chinese roosters came to Oregon first. Primary foods include grain crops like corn, wheat, milo and soybeans. Rooster pheasants have spurs, so the best beer pairings ride saddle broncs.

The event calls for jalapeno poppers filled with cream cheese and wrapped with prosciutto, so the pairing demands a sweet taste to counter the explosive pepper.

Pairing: A Bier Named Uter-Kolsch
prodigalsonbrewery.com



Cold Springs Valley Quail

Food and cover are synonymous. Where blackberries and wild grapes grow, there may be a covey of quail close by. Quail are often found around old homesteads, too, thriving on the crops that were once planted and now return voluntarily each year. While bird hunting, I never miss a chance to walk around an old pile of brush or broken down equipment. Such places often pay off with a covey of quail. Our favorite recipe? Quail cordon bleu, which demands a hometown brew.

Pairing: Easy Amber Red Ale
Hermistonbrewingcompany.com



Mountain Quail in the Siskiyou

Mountain quail sightings are short affairs punctuated by whirrs of wings and palpitations of the heart, but a hunter is more likely to hear mountain quail before seeing them. These birds seem to operate under the philosophy that a quail should be heard and not seen.

The birds thrive on the brushy edges of conifer forests and streams. They eat the fruit of the blackberry, elderberry, hackberry, serviceberry, Oregon grape, gooseberry, poison oak and manzanita. Mountain quail make good use of pine nuts, clover,

and the seeds of weeds and grasses. This is the finest fare and rarest of all our upland birds. It insists on a brewery between the Coast Range and the Cascades.

Pairing: Just Chillin
greatnotion.com



Blue Grouse in the Blues

Out on the ridge tops – that's where we found them – blues in ones and twos, loafing in the early October sun. We treated the meat as if it were a treasure, taking it from the dog with thankfulness. In the pan, the fresh grouse did not disappoint. They eat berries, green leaves, flowers, seeds and insects in the summer and fall. With the absence of these in the winter, they turn to the needles of the conifer trees which can flavor the meat. Plan the hunt for earlier in the season. The best choice is a fruit beer.

Pairing: Huckleberry Wheat
prodigalsonbrewery.com



Ruffed Grouse North of Remote

A bird for every hunter, the ruffed grouse is one of the most available, yet under-hunted birds in our state. And the taste is unmatched, except by mountain quail. Ruffeds inhabit brushy areas of mixed hardwoods, adjacent to swampy lowlands or steep hillsides, along the edges of clearcuts, creeks, swamps, meadows, and where thick growth meets a stand of timber. In the pan, I like to cook it fast and hot, in butter, with wild onions and mushrooms.

Pairing: City of Dreams
fortgeorgebrewery.com



GARY LEWIS OUTDOORS.COM

Huns, connoisseurs of wheat and barley, pair nicely with a brew from the Columbia Basin.

Great Basin Hungarian Partridge

When I'm hunting Huns, usually 200 yards behind, my dog creeping ahead, whether in crop lands or sage, this is my favorite bird. But these hunts are rare. Memory takes me back to places like Ruggs Ranch, near Heppner, and to the rimrock above the Deschutes, and to bunchgrass on the edge of the Alvord.

Huns feed mainly on grains like corn, oats, wheat and barley, but also eat weed seeds and green leaves. The taste is wild, and the beer? It wears suspenders.

**Pairing: Freebridge Local Farmer
Freebridgebrewing.com**



Sage Grouse on Jackass Mountain

Out on the bunchgrass flats and on the high, arid hilltops, sage grouse can be found in habitat that is made up of about 70 percent sagebrush and 30 percent grassland.

To me, it is Jackass Mountain with the dust billowing behind the truck. Late in the afternoon we walked into low sagebrush near water in a playa and kicked up and knocked down two birds.

Sage grouse meat, like pronghorn, can be sweet or strong. How to cook it? Try it in a curry and crack open an amber or a brown ale.

**Pairing: [Banished] Freakcake
Cruxfermentation.com**



Contact outdoor writer Gary Lewis at garylewisoutdoors.com

Mark Knowles is a technical site analyst, identity resolution specialist and beer sommelier. Contact Knowles at mark@smartz.com

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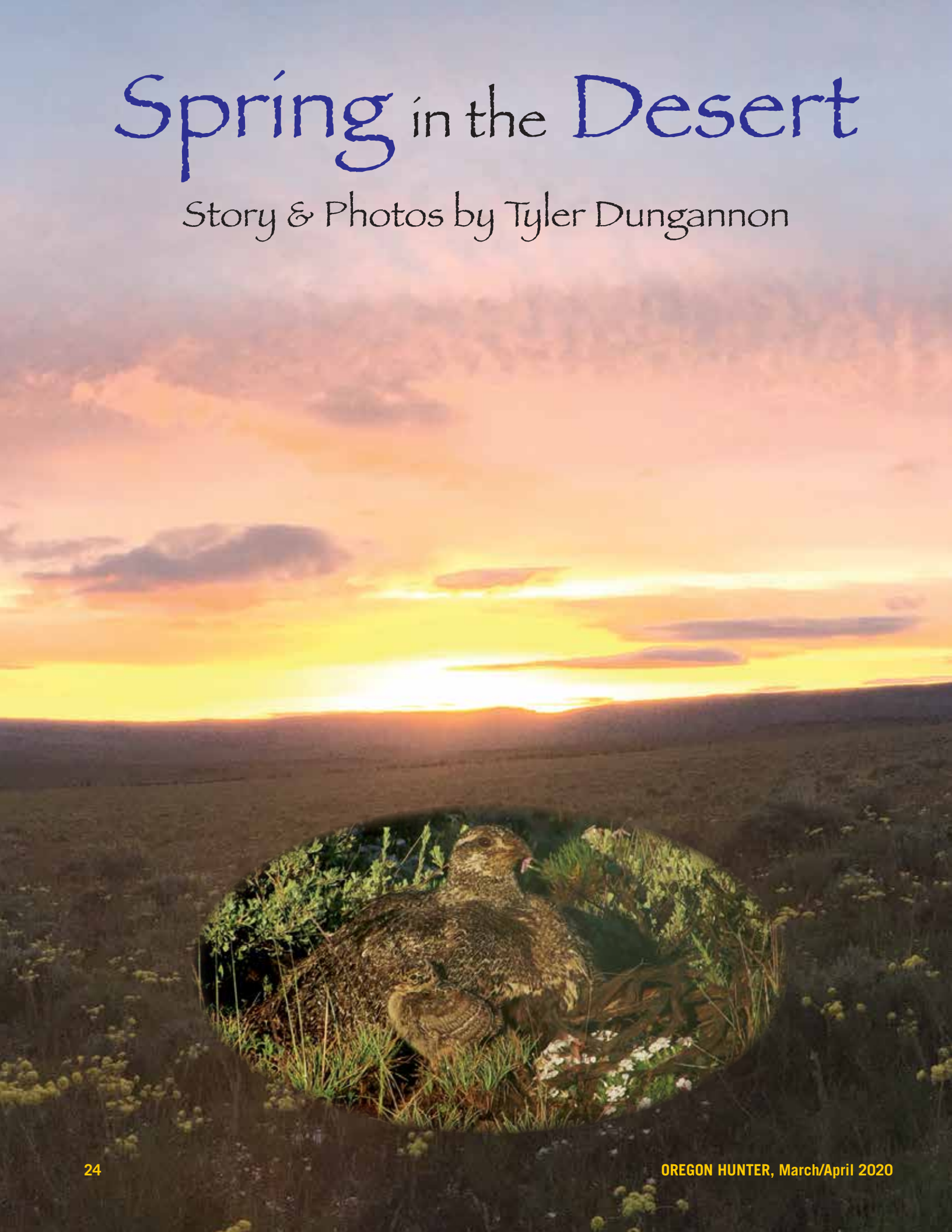
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Spring in the Desert

Story & Photos by Tyler Dungannon



Winter's snow melt gives new life to the landscape.

A promising and productive spring was in sight as I headed into the high desert darkness for the umpteenth time since November. I was charged with capturing sage-grouse for my graduate research project in the Warner Mountains of south-central Oregon. The high desert stars were unforgettable, and it wasn't uncommon for my capture nights to end with a panoramic sunrise following multiple bird captures, 10 miles hiked, and strained eyes. This night didn't disappoint. Even with strained eyes, I gazed at the contrast of colors on the horizon, the vast green floral carpet beneath the expanse of sagebrush, while feeling gratification for what my technicians and I had just accomplished. These experiences never became ordinary, because Oregon's high desert is far too extraordinary.

Cowboys, hunters and professionals in natural resource fields are the folks that

know Oregon's remote high desert well. Few places in Oregon experience the extremes of seasonal change that are the norm in the high desert. Many hunters, however, only see the high desert during pronghorn seasons when the hot summer sun has baked the ground and cracked the clay of alkaline lakes. Herbaceous vegetation has senesced by this time, and animals have recruited their young. It may be hard to imagine that much of this land was standing water just months prior.

As hunters enter the sagebrush biome in late summer, many folks have come

across flocks of sage-grouse. This time period coincides with the late part of the brood-rearing life history stage, where hatch year chicks are still found with the brood hen, or sometimes with other hens that have potentially assumed some parental duties. It's often heard that sage-grouse show little fear of man, sort of like a "fool hen," but there are a few facts that dispel this myth. First, sage-grouse are inherently reluctant to fly, and it makes sense that the seemingly halfwitted sage-grouse that folks encounter in the summer are actually young-of-the-year, which can be slow to take wing. Their cryptic coloration is arguably the best suited camouflage for any animal in its environment in the west, so it is often prudent for sage-grouse to hold tight. Flushing may also increase risk of detection by predators. Finally, sage-grouse are found near and are dependent on water sources this time of year, and they may be disinclined to leave these areas when water

Few places in Oregon experience the extremes of seasonal change that are the norm in the high desert.



JIM WARD



A mule buck didn't make it through the winter, but does may be birthing his fawns this spring.

is scarce. Oregon sage-grouse hunters that pursue them later in the summer would say hunting these birds can be a challenge and they are anything but fool hens.

Sage-grouse face threats that negatively impact population growth across their range, including loss and degradation of habitat.

The Oregon Hunters Association has assisted with ongoing research conducted by Oregon State University that is assessing the response of the species in the aftermath of a massive wildfire that ripped through the Trout Creek Mountains in 2012. The Rogue Valley Chapter of OHA funded restoration efforts to curb annual grass invasion post wildfire. State OHA has purchased GPS transmitters for the aforementioned project that are capable of collecting multiple locations per day, which are monumental for research. Another sage-grouse project is investigating grouse population growth as a result of large-scale



Runoff from melting snow reveals hidden artifacts.



Curious pronghorn fawns are able to run almost as soon as they can stand.

juniper removal treatments in an effort to restore high desert sagebrush communities back to pre-European settlement quality. The latter project brought me to the high desert, which I had previously only seen during late summer hunting seasons.

Had I continued to only visit the high desert in late summer, I would have missed the bucket list views of sage-grouse iconic lek displays, and the vivid mix of wildflowers as hens hatched their chicks. And pronghorn fawns displaying their own curious behavior, such as wandering through a sea of lupines to check out a sage-grouse researcher. I would have missed the thrill of stepping over snowy bitterbrush to see a polished arrowhead revealing itself from receding snowpack. I wouldn't know what it is like to stumble upon a fresh over-winter killed mule deer buck, and two months later, see a newborn mule deer fawn poised to take his place. 🐾



Research in Oregon's high desert seeks to help identify, protect and restore sage-grouse habitat. OHA has provided funding for these important studies.

YOUNG GUNS

By DAVID CRAIG

OHA helps trap shooting teams take their best shot

The 2020 school year will mark the fifth year in Oregon of an exciting new opportunity for Oregon high school students to participate in the competitive shooting sport of trap. Initially organized in Minnesota, the USA High School Clay Target league has taken the nation by storm. The non-profit organization has successfully made clay target shooting the fastest growing high school sport in the nation.

Surprising to some, the league has also successfully made the Clay Target League the safest sport of all high school sports. With more than 30,000 students participating in 2018, more than 30 million rounds of ammo were fired. Since the league's inception over a decade ago, there have been over 100 million shots fired, and the league has yet to record its first injury.

This year should see around 50 Oregon high schools fielding teams as the sport continues to grow rapidly since coming to Oregon five years ago.

The league is unique in that all competition is virtual. Athletes shoot scores for competition each week, and coaches enter their scores into the league's online portal where results are tabulated weekly for everyone to follow.

Each state has a state championship shoot, and beginning in 2018, the league has also hosted a national championship shoot in Mason, Mich., where the top 2,200 athletes in the country shoot for top team and individual honors.

To this avid outdoorsman, hunter education instructor and trap shooter, the league seemed like a natural way to contribute to shooting sports on several levels. It seemed incredible to me that a sport involving firearms could be a high school sport given the political climate and media portrayal of schools and firearms.

In 2018, I gathered a couple of interested students and approached Newberg High School about forming a team. We

Teams must be organized by March. If your school doesn't have a team, you can join another team.



Keeping the sport affordable is a challenge OHA chapters have helped school teams meet.

were informed that approval would not come without demonstrated student interest. We did, however, get permission to post some flyers at school and hold an informational meeting, which 29 parents and students attended. We were off and running, with 23 students on our first team.

The high school became very supportive once we were under way. We worked with the kids twice a week for the 8-week season. We watched their marksmanship improve. We also watched their attitudes about firearms be influenced by having a safe and positive experience. A dozen kids from that first-year team earned varsity letters for their role on the team. We finished sixth in the State Championships, and five of our shooters qualified for the National Championships.

One of the challenges with the sport is keeping it affordable. Ammunition is the largest cost, followed by targets and shooting gear. It costs about \$360 to get an athlete through the season. Big support came from the Yamhill County Chapter of OHA, which donated \$5,000 to the Yamhill County high school teams. Bi-Mart was also huge in supplying ammo for the entire season at their cost. Many other local businesses pitched in, and the financial portion was well in hand. Our 2019 team ended up with 42 shooters and 10 coaches.

The benefits of the High School Clay Target League are many: We are exposing high schools and high school students to the safe and positive side of firearms. We are revitalizing local gun clubs. We are reviving shooting sports. We are

positively influencing the lives of young people who may struggle to fit into other extra-curricular activities. It is a sport that students can excel in regardless of gender, physical abilities, or disabilities.

It's a coed sport. The top finisher for Oregon at the National Championships in 2019 was Isabella Berg from Canby High School. The petite female athlete has taken the sport quite seriously and finished 10th in the nation.

Many thanks to OHA chapters across the state who have supported this new program. There are a lot of really good youth shooting programs out there. Oregon expects around 1,000 participants for the upcoming 2020 season.

Students who attend a high school that does not yet have a team have a couple of options. The best option is to attempt to get a team started at their school. The Oregon High School Clay Target League has a ton of information on its website to help with this process. Teams must be approved by mid-March to participate in the coming 2020 season.

If your school does not have a team, you may participate on another local team. In most cases, participation is open to kids in 6th through 12th grade.

For more information about the program, visit the league's website at www.orclaytarget.com or contact the Oregon Director at statedirector@orclaytarget.com. If you would like to help out by volunteering or contributing financially, contact the league, your local gun club, or your local high school.

WANTED:

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Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?

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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
- 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



GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Hot Legs! Try Mexican slow-cooked turkey legs

We love eating wild turkey, be it in the spring or fall. If someone tells you wild turkeys aren't worth the trouble to cook, they've not had a wild turkey that's been properly cooked.

The biggest mistake I see when it comes to cooking wild turkey is people treat them like a plump, store-bought turkey raised on a farm. Treat your turkey more like the upland bird they are, and the recipes will turn out tasty every time.

We've smoked, roasted, braised and stewed wild turkey legs and thighs. Amid the many recipes, one way to cook this flavorful dark meat still stands above them all – slow-cooking. Because turkeys spend most of their time running around on the ground, their legs and thighs are sinuous. Unless you want to spend a lot of time separating all the meat from the tendons and ligaments, throw this part of the bird into the crock pot. The meat stays moist, absorbs flavors, and becomes incredibly tender when slowly cooked on low heat.

2-4 turkey thighs & legs

1 onion, diced

1 tomato, chopped

1-2 jalapeno peppers, diced

1 4.5-ounce can green chilies, diced

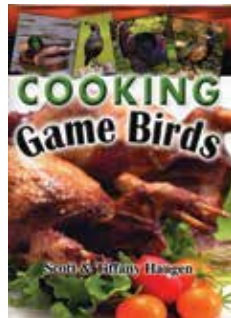
1 6-ounce can tomato paste

1 cup white wine or beer

2 tablespoons chili powder

2 teaspoons cumin

1 teaspoon salt



In a medium bowl, mix all ingredients. Place turkey meat in slow cooker/crock pot. Cover with vegetable/spice mixture. Cook on high heat 4-5 hours or until meat falls from bone. Remove bones, tendons and ligaments (careful, some are quite small) and use meat for burritos, tacos, enchiladas, etc.

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.

Authors Scott & Tiffany Haugen donated Tiffany's cookbooks and Scott's hunting books to every OHA chapter attending last year's OHA Chapter Leadership Summit for this year's chapter banquets – more than 200 books in all. See the 2020 OHA banquet schedule on Page 19.



TIFFANYHAUGEN.COM

Slow-cooking makes the tougher turkey bits more tender and moist.

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GUESTS & 1 GUIDE
FOR 3 DAYS IN 2020!**

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400 offered. Value: \$4,900.

Drawing: March 21, 2020.

**For tickets, call 541-772-7313,
visit oregonhunters.org/store or**

**mail check & contact info to OHA,
PO Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501.**



3-day guided buck rifle hunt for 1 hunter on the 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Oregon's Wallowa County during the fall 2020 season (dates TBD; early October). Hunter may bring up to 2 guests who do not hunt. Hunting is all on foot and hunters should be in good physical condition. Recent hunter success has been close to 100%. Mature bucks are common with trophy potential. The Preserve is part of the largest remaining intact Pacific Northwest bunchgrass prairie in North America. Food, beverages, gear, and gratuity not included. Transportation to the Preserve not included (once there, your guide will provide transportation). Tag is guaranteed, but hunter is responsible for license & tag cost. Valid for the fall 2020 season only; must make arrangements by April 1, 2020. Sponsored by TNC.

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.

CHAPTER NEWS

You're invited to attend an OHA chapter banquet near you soon!

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.

Update: Applications for the Harold and Rojean Atkins Scholarship have been sent to all the high schools in Baker County and North Powder High.

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 Bend Chapter Youth Board was officially formed on Nov. 20. In December, funds were allocated for the following: a new banner for the All Hands All Brands project, seed money for youth board activities, ammunition and a support banner for the Mountain View High School Clay Target Club, an Ochoco crew for Heart of Oregon, and a Deschutes National Forest request for phase 3 of the mahogany planting project.

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.

CAPITOL

Eric Colville
(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com



Outdoor celebrity and pro-hunting and public lands advocate Randy Newberg stopped by the OHA State & Yamhill County Chapter booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show.

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: The powerline project in Detroit is scheduled for May 16; call 503-509-9287.

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: 5:30 p.m.; next meetings are March 19 & April 9, Wild River Pizza, Brookings.

Update: We partnered with Del Norte Rod & Gun Club to hold a Youth Trap Shooting Clinic Jan. 18.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Kevin Werst
503-325-1036

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker, 4H Clubhouse, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

2020 banquet: March 21, Clatsop County Fair & Expo; call 503-791-0549.

Update: Our chapter granted \$1,000 to the Astoria Middle School Library to upgrade the outdoor/hunting book section. Many of the books were checked out within days.

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, Columbia County Fairgrounds.

Update: Our chapter board voted to give \$1,500 to the Rainier school district Trap Shooting Team. We are holding a membership participation contest, with quarterly prize drawings.

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.

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.

Update: The Youth Turkey Hunting Clinic will be held at White River Wildlife Area April 4; call 503-502-0611. Three chapter members taught portions of the ODFW Adult Learn to Hunt classes in December as part of certification; the Hoodview Chapter will then be able to independently offer the class. At our November meeting, ODFW biologist Kurt Licence gave a presentation on the Mt. Hood elk collaring project we funded three years ago.

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 deer tickets, visit oregonhunters.org/store before March 20).

Update: Members gathered to build wood duck boxes on Jan. 25, and installed them on Feb. 22.

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'll auction an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag; call 541-882-9593.

Update: Our youth day, PLAY Outdoors, was held Jan. 18 at the Klamath Fairgrounds. Klamath Chapter volunteers manned the Round Lake gate on Green Diamond property Dec. 28-29 for the kids who had not yet filled their Keno youth elk tags. The Hart Mountain project/campout is slated for May 16; call 541-884-5773.



OHA seeks full-time Conservation Coordinator

- Flexible 30 to 40 hours per week
- \$20-23/hour + partial health reimbursement

Job Summary: primary duty is to advocate for Oregon's wildlife, habitat and sportsmen, and represent OHA in meetings and public appearances.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

- Follow important conservation issues and keep OHA advised of their potential impacts on Oregon hunters and wildlife.
- Assist OHA chapters in organizing at the local level to be involved in habitat and wildlife management in their areas.
- Promote the conservation goals and accomplishments of OHA through the media, social media and public speaking engagements as assigned by OHA State Coordinator, or Senior Conservation Director, including public agency meetings and legislative hearings.
- Review resource management plans as directed, and prepare and submit comments for OHA.
- Maintain daily contact with supervisors and prepare written reports for the State OHA Board of Directors that include a timetable of work completed and planned.
- Effectively communicate with a wide range of stakeholders on land use and wildlife issues.
- Assist with the annual OHA State Convention and annual Chapter Summit workshop.
- Perform other duties that may be assigned by supervisors.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES

- Degree in natural resource field or work experience equivalent.
- Working knowledge of wildlife and land management.
- Must be highly organized and be able to organize and motivate volunteers.
- Must be able to take direction, and work closely with OHA staff and board.
- Must possess basic computer skills & knowledge, such as word processing, e-mail and Internet skills. Spreadsheet and database program skills a plus.
- Strong interpersonal, writing and public speaking skills.
- Must support OHA mission, values, and organizational structures.

For an application or more information, contact the
OHA State Office, 541-772-7313, DD@oregonhunters.org
Application deadline: May 1, 2020





Tioga OHA and 4-H kids, along with a BLM employee, cleaned out wood duck boxes on Feb. 1 in Coos County. Wood duck boxes are one of conservation's greatest success stories, having helped wood ducks rebound from the brink of extinction to becoming one of our country's most plentiful duck species.

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, Lake County Fairgrounds.

Update: Our spring guzzler project will take place May 16; call 541-417-1750.

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 p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA; call for location.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage
(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting will be May 21.

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 will auction an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag.

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.

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: Members staffed a booth at the February Sportsman Show at the Expo Center. Our spring youth day at Canby Rod and Gun Club will be April 25; call 503-829-2912 or email elkhunter14@msn.com.

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. 29, Deschutes County Expo Center; call 541-233-3740 or email jlcrafton@hotmail.com

Update: Chapter members did planting on Manning Field Dec. 14. Spring work on the Priest Hole Project begins 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 hosted a booth at the Sportsman's and Outdoor Recreation Show Feb. 21-23 at the Jackson County Expo. Work on the Bill Kirk Scholarship program has kept the committee busy. Our chapter is working with ODFW and local landowners on new access opportunities for hunting turkey and nutria.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman
(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, at 7 p.m.,

at the 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.

Update: Our chapter did duck box maintenance Feb. 1 at Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, and we will pick up shed antlers there on April 18. Our Youth Day will be at Myrtle Point Gun Club on May 2; call 541-297-6178.

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 co-sponsored the Junior Winter Trapshooting League at Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club. We will do habitat restoration at Barney Reservoir May 16; call 503-290-6143. Our Youth Days are June 6-7 at Henry Hagg Lake, partnering with I'm Hooked.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore
(541) 580-5660

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 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

2020 banquet: March 21, Evergreen Space Museum.

Update: We hosted a booth at the Portland Expo Center sportsman show Feb. 5-9. Our December chapter meeting set a record with 52 members attending.



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OHA NEWS & VIEWS



WHITEHORSE/D. DUNGANNON

This buck was poached east of Bend near Pine Mountain recently. If you have information, call *OSP and you could bag a reward.



A KUIU camo Howa 1500 rifle is the first gun in March to be awarded in OHA's 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle.

OHA pays out \$4,600 in 10 poaching cases

In the last two months, OHA issued 10 reward checks to informants in 10 cases totaling \$4,600 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund. Charges included: hunting prohibited hours, hunting with artificial light, hunting on another's cultivated or enclosed lands, hunting closed season, hunting wildlife from a motor vehicle, unlawful take of spike deer, antlerless deer, and buck deer, aiding in a wildlife violation, waste of game mammal, and exceeding bag limit of big game – buck deer.

OHA gives away a gun a week in 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle!

OHA is giving away a gun every week to winners in the 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle. The first guns given away were a Kimber Pistol and a Nosler Custom rifle. A new winner is announced every Wednesday on OHA's website and Facebook page.

Ticket sales ended Dec. 17 and no calendar raffle is being held for the coming year.

2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners so far:

- 1-Jan – Kimber Custom II .45 ACP, Christina Houtz, Springfield
- 8-Jan – Nosler Liberty M48 .300 WSM, Robert Browning, Baker City
- 15-Jan – Beretta A300 Max 5 Camo 12 gauge, Quinton Graves, Klamath Falls
- 22-Jan – Henry Big Boy .44 Rem. Mag., Steve Pringle, Gaston
- 29-Jan – Savage TH-16 SS Syn. .270 & 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Troy Hickok, Glide
- 5-Feb – Tikka T-3X Hunter Blued 7mm Rem. Mag, Luther Yam, Hillsboro
- 12-Feb – Benelli Nova camo 12 gauge, Ethel Reeves, Hood River
- 19-Feb – Ruger 10-22 Stainless black, Joe Morse, Unity



OHA follows up on regs changes

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

ODFW staff and representatives of sportsmen's groups, including OHA, met recently 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 units and ask in mandatory reporting if harvest occurred on private or public land.

ODFW staff will use the 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.

In Memoriam Contributions made recently to the OHA Memorial Fund

In memory of
DARYL WALKER
from Richard & Patty Jepson



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

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Time: Doors @ 3:30pm

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Trailer takes wildlife message on the road

So just what kind of impact does a trailer full of taxidermy offer for inquisitive young minds? Let's just say no illustration in a biology book ever got bayed up by passing dogs.

Connections with Wildlife is a traveling educational trailer hosted by the Oregon Hunters Association's Clatsop County Chapter, taking its message about natural resource management on the road to youth events around Oregon. It features interactive displays that include taxidermy.

It's the brainchild of former Clatsop County Chapter President Wendell Locke, who believes school children too often are fed misinformation about wildlife management based on politics, rather than science.

"The purpose is to educate kids about the wise use of timber management and the correlation between timber management and wildlife," Locke explained. "We want to teach kids that if we manage forests correctly, we will keep habitat open for animals that use forest openings."

Receptions at schools have been mixed.

"We have a hard time getting into schools, and about the only time they want it is when they teach biology," Locke said,



Clatsop County OHA's wildlife trailer teaches kids about managing forests for wildlife.

noting the fact that the trailer's main theme is not a pro-hunting message plays better with some school administrators.

Elsewhere the trailer is a hit, drawing crowds at youth events ranging from OHA-sponsored youth field days to youth events hosted by ODFW and ODF.

The trailer has even traveled to the OHA State Convention and last year's OHA Chapter Leadership Summit, where it drew the attention and fascination of families vacationing at Diamond Lake. OHA leaders from chapters around the state toured the trailer there, as well. Several OHA chapters from both sides of the Cascades contributed financial support to the trailer, as did OHA State with a grant from the OHA State Board.

Displays were contributed from a wide array of sources. Mounts were donated by taxidermists such as Mike Downing of Memories Taxidermy in Lincoln City, Johnson's Taxidermy in Tillamook, and Research Manikins in Albany.

Life-size bear and cougars in the trailer were taken on damage complaints, while another cougar was killed by a vehicle near Camp 18 in Clatsop County. That cat went

from being a traveler's roadkill to being part of a traveling road show.

A pair of sage grouse were mounted by former OHA Southwest Director Lance Podolski of Wildlife Designs in Josephine County after being taken on a hunt by Tyler Dungannon, a former OHA Youth Member of the Year Award winner who now heads up a sage grouse research project in Lake County for Oregon State University.

A wildlife identification display proves especially popular with kids. In addition to wildlife pelts and skulls, the display features several cases of insects that were once a college project for a student in Portland.

The trailer's educational message is geared for kids from 6th Grade down.

"For kids that age, the taxidermy is the hot thing with them – it just has more impact than books or posters on the wall."

Sometimes a little too much impact.

"We've even had the life-size predator mounts bayed up by dogs," Locke laughed.

If you have an event for which you would like to host the OHA Clatsop County Chapter's Connections with Wildlife interpretive trailer, contact Wendell Locke at (503) 359-3535.



Displays combine art and taxidermy with a message about forest management.



Kids visiting the trailer get to interact with engaging hands-on teaching tools.



The trailer's life-size taxidermy mounts are the most compelling draws for kids.

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

2020 Oregon Big Game Raffle Hunts

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

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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



AVAILABLE HUNTS

Governor's Statewide Combo - 1 Deer Tag & 1 Elk Tag

1 Pronghorn Antelope Tag

1 Bighorn Sheep Tag

1 Statewide and 3 Regional Deer Tags

1 Statewide and 3 Regional Elk Tags

1 Rocky Mountain Goat Tag

* 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



Chance to comment on next framework for upland birds

It's normal for upland bird numbers to fluctuate widely each year, mostly due to weather. Long-term changes in upland bird numbers are largely due to the quality and quantity of habitat available, with little impact from hunting.

With these factors in mind, ODFW sets the general framework for upland bird hunting seasons once every five years, rather than making major changes annually. Our goal is always to maximize upland game bird hunting opportunities while adequately protecting bird populations.

This is the year ODFW will be setting regulations for the 2020-25 seasons, and the agency wants to hear from upland bird hunters on any recommended changes to seasons.

The Commission will adopt a framework and 2020-21 Game Bird Regulations at its April 17 meeting in Reedsport. Submit your comments to odfw.commission@state.or.us or testify in person at the meeting.

Some proposals being considered are:

Open mountain quail season statewide with a 10-bird bag in western Oregon and a 2-bird bag limit in eastern Oregon.

Hunters have the potential to encounter mountain quail in every county of the state due to successful translocation efforts in eastern Oregon. This change would protect hunters who may not be able to distinguish mountain quail from California quail on the wing, while still maintaining a conservative management approach. This change also aligns mountain quail seasons with California quail seasons in Hood River and Wasco counties, but does reduce the bag limit for mountain quail from 10 to 2 and delays the mountain quail opening until the second Saturday in October in these two counties. (Previously, hunters could hunt mountain quail in Hood River and Wasco counties on Sept. 1, but not California quail.) Similar to western Oregon, eastside



Translocated mountain quail find a new home in the high country of eastern Oregon.

quail bag limits would be combined (e.g. 10 birds singly or in aggregate with mountain quail, within the daily bag limit you may not have more than 2 mountain quail.)

Eastern Oregon upland bird seasons (chukar, pheasant, mountain quail) opening changed from "Saturday closest to Oct. 8" to "second Saturday in October."

This change is necessary to adhere to a season opening one week after most eastern Oregon controlled deer seasons begin. Controlled deer seasons are proposed to open the first Saturday in October beginning in 2021. This change would not affect the proposed 2020 eastern Oregon upland bird opener, which is already scheduled for the second Saturday in October.

Extend fall turkey season to Jan. 31 statewide. Extending the hunting season for fall turkey by one month will allow additional opportunity for hunters and provide a tool for managers dealing with nuisance and damage, particularly on private land. Many fall turkey tag holders do not actually use their tags and harvest is low (approximately 1,000 birds statewide in 2018). Eastern Oregon fall turkey hunting seasons will remain private lands only from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31.

Change western Oregon fall turkey opener to be concurrent with eastern Oregon. Currently western Oregon fall season opens on Oct. 15 and the eastern Oregon season is proposed to open on the second Saturday in October. Having a concurrent opener simplifies regulations

and adds more hunt days to the western Oregon fall turkey season.

Remove caps on total tags available for Oregon fall turkey hunts. Wild turkey populations continue to expand throughout Oregon. Western Oregon fall turkey tags have never sold out, so tag limits are not necessary. Eastern Oregon fall turkey tags always sell out, but based on mandatory reporting, harvest rates and actual hunter participation are low. Removing artificial tag caps will increase opportunity for hunters and provide an additional tool for Wildlife Districts seeking to address turkey damage using licensed hunters.

Eliminate White River WMU controlled fall turkey hunt (ending fall turkey hunting on the wildlife area and unit). The White River WMU hosts one of the most popular spring turkey hunts in Oregon with the highest hunter density. Maintaining the White River WMU turkey population is a management priority, but hunter success continues to decline. Fall seasons are a management tool to control turkey populations by potentially removing breeding hens from the flock, and therefore incompatible with White River WMU turkey management goals. Removing the White River Controlled Fall Turkey Hunt (K41) also simplifies turkey hunting regulations by removing the last controlled turkey hunt in the state.

More information about potential changes will be available later in 2020 at MyODFW.com.

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

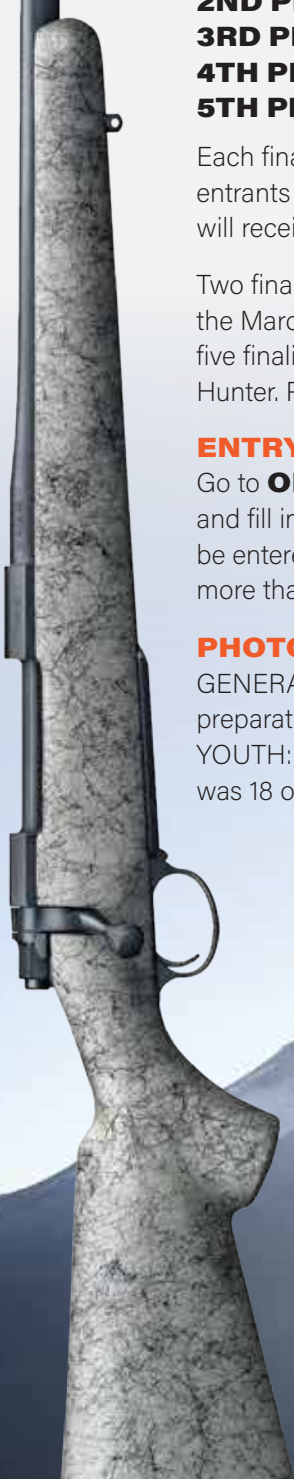
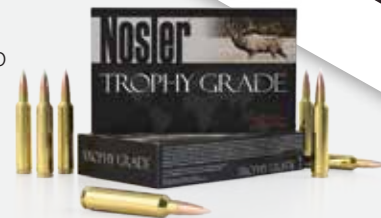
Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter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



OHA member Will Waddell of Springfield claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of an Idaho elk taken with a Browning X-bolt 7mm.



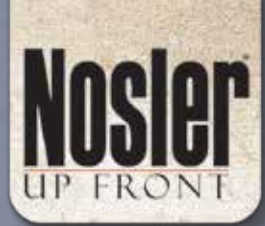
Jeff Lewis, OHA member in Merlin, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of himself with an Applegate blacktail he took opening weekend last year with a .308.

LAKESIDE SKYLINE/DUANE DUNNANON



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS



Pendleton OHA member Josh Roy claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Hank Roy, 9, with the buck he took on a mentored hunt in the Morrow Unit last October.



OHA member Darren Fast of Albany bags an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Kate Fast with a pronghorn she took in August with a Ruger American .270 in the Gerber Reservoir youth hunt.



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



OHA member Les Gargan of Caldwell, Idaho, gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself and his dad on a successful moose hunt last year in Alaska.



Irene VanDyke, OHA member in Cornelius, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a bighorn sheep taken last year in the Whitehorse Unit.



Newberg OHA member Andy Bodeen earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Korie Bodeen with a hare taken with a 20 gauge shotgun last fall in the Trask Unit.



Collecting honorable mention and a Nosler hat, OHA member Andy Cail of Bend took this buck in Jackson County last fall with a Ruger M-77.



OHA member Eric Brown of Bend receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for these photos: Doug Hopper, Eric Hopper and Mark Crisp looking down into the Snake River country before loading up and packing out an elk last fall in the Pine Creek Unit; and Kona posing with the day's chukars taken during a November hunt in Crook County last year.



OHA member Wes Ferraccioli of Brookings earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Daphne Schultz and Grace & Charlie Ferraccioli with pheasants taken last September at the youth hunt held at Denman Wildlife Area.



Medford OHA member Pete Gray gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Lake County mule deer taken last season with a Ruger No. 1 .270 and Nosler Ballistic Tip bullets.

The Shelf Life of Bears

“Daddy, what is a Leonard Nimoy?”

In our house, they call me Poppa Culture because it’s easier to ask me a question than to type the same question into the Googler.

Lil Sassy was reading the funny papers and had her finger on a reference to the pointy-eared Spock in a strip called Candorville.

“Leonard Nimoy was an actor,” I told her. “He hosted a TV show called In Search Of. The producers went out looking for things like Sasquatch or extraterrestrials, which they didn’t really want to find. So now when we look for something we don’t necessarily want to find, we invoke his name. We might say something like, ‘Lil Sassy needs to Leonard Nimoy herself a husband.’”

“I see,” she said.

It is a useful phrase.

If we want to find the original meaning for the word “bear” we might say, “The original word for bear has been lost, but we are going to Leonard Nimoy it.”

Regular readers of this column will remember the original word for bear was so fearsome, perhaps even so magical, that if the word was uttered, the fearsome creature was likely to appear.

New words were created by tribal groups all over the world which meant The Brown One, The Honey Eater, The Grabber or The Shaggy Coat. Note that the words refer to its habits or appearance and not to its essential fearsome nature. Thus through fear the original name of *Ursus horribilis* was lost to humanity.

This, of course was in the days prior to the combination of saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal, and the invention of the match-lock fusil, which could be primed prior to saying the dreaded name.

Another way we might use Leonard Nimoy in a sentence is like this: We are stuck in a ditch and hungry, waiting for someone to come along with a tow rope and we find a package of gummy bears



PHOTO BY DEWEY DELANEY

down in the console of our old Ford Ranchero and we wonder how long it has been in there. Maybe there is an expiration date on the package, but we don’t really want to find it. Let me Leonard Nimoy the expiry.

Sometimes on a bear hunt, I’ll say “We are going to Leonard Nimoy a bear today,” which really means to the discerning listener that it is too early in the hunt to find a bear.

We want to find the bear on the second-to-last day of the hunt so we don’t have to go back to work early. This is especially important if we are guiding a new hunter on a first bear hunt.

We do not want to find the bear on the first day because we would have to skin it and then cut it into small pieces and wrap them in paper. Which is a lot like work.

We do not want to find it on the second day because we would have to go home early.

But we do want to find a bear on the third day after the new hunter has gotten bored and has driven out to find a Starbucks. We desperately want to find the bear while he has gone to town. Then he can help us skin it when he gets back.

I recently opened a box of Winchester Long Range ammunition, the nickel-plated cartridge-heir-apparent to the old Silvertip and found the modern silver-tipped bonded bullet inside. I looked the box all over and could not find an expiration or even a best-used-by date. Wouldn’t that be a helpful label on the outside of a box of ammunition?

Best used by bear season? Best used by deer season. Best used by the last day of elk season. Now that would be useful.

One of the things people often ask me is does ammunition have a shelf life? How long should a hunter keep a box of ammunition?

It’s simple. Ammunition expires at the same time the target expires. Case in point. Last September I was in a tree stand in a cedar swamp on the first afternoon of a five-day hunt. The weather forecast called for wind and rain for the next four days. If I shot a bear, I could sit indoors for the next few days while my partners suffered outside.

When a black bear padded out of the timber and checked the breeze about an hour before dusk, both my silver-tipped cartridge and the black bear expired at the same time. It was a beautiful thing.

Once I had a box of 70-year-old .308 Winchester Silvertip ammunition that ended its shelf life on the exact same afternoon a colony of sage rats expired.

So don’t worry about it. Save your worrying for more important topics like how to Leonard Nimoy your life’s purpose.

Or the origin of the universe. Or do some people really believe ducks evolved into bears? They do. Or how did ducks evolve into bears? Leonard Nimoy that one. Or was there a fearsome word that meant duck before the first *Anas platyrhynchos* evolved into a bear?

Here is a story about a bear and a duck.

A bear and a duck are walking down a street together and suddenly the bear notices a low-flying airplane coming right for them. The bear yells “DUCK!!!” and the duck looks back at the bear with an angry face and says, “I have multiple personalities,” being Frank.


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— *Paul Phillips*



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Photo by Marcus Hockett