



Every OHA banquet this summer will feature the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for a chance to win a Nosler M-48 rifle with a cerakote finish.

REVISED 2020 OHA BANQUET SCHEDULE

JUNE 13	
Lake County	530-640-3368
JUNE 20	
Capitol	503-585-4547
Tioga	541-297-6178
JUNE 27	
Mid-Willamette	541-971-3351
JULY 11	
State Convention	541-772-7313
Tualatin Valley	503-502-0611
JULY 18	
Josephine County	541-821-1511
JULY 25	
Rogue Valley	503-250-3000
AUGUST 15	
Bend	541-480-9848
TBA	
Baker	541-403-0402
Clatsop County	503-791-0549

You're invited to OHA summer banquets!

In response to the Governor's rules to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon, OHA has been scrambling to reschedule its annual fund-raising banquets around the state.

We'll post updated banquet and event information as it becomes available on our website (<https://oregonhunters.org>). At left are the rescheduled OHA banquets for this summer, as of April 24.

A&H tags to be auctioned by phone

Due to banquets being rescheduled or canceled where Access & Habitat deer and elk tags were to be auctioned, OHA has scheduled phone auctions for two

statewide elk tags and one statewide deer tag.

To arrange to bid by phone, call 971-270-7035 at least two days in advance.

Note that the Access & Habitat hunt raffle drawings previously slated to take place at the OHA State Convention on May 30 will now be held online. Visit www.oregonrafflehunts.com.

- OHA A&H phone auction schedule:**
- May 15 – Statewide Elk Tag, OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter**
 - May 30 – Statewide Elk Tag, Klamath Chapter**
 - May 30 – Statewide Deer Tag, State OHA**

ODFW announces new legislative aims

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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ODFW staff at the April Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting presented the agency's legislative priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Here are the concepts that OHA will be involved with:

- Greater Sage-grouse Mitigation Fund set-up, and investment in intermediate term pool with permission from State Treasury.
- Land Owner Preference (LOP) Tag Program sunset on Jan. 2, 2022.
- Flexibility to invest funds from State Wildlife Fund in intermediate and/or long-term pools with permission from State Treasury.

Virus fallout expected to plague ODFW budget

ODFW programs may be hit hard by budget shortfalls and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 fallout.

Factors include lack of lottery fund dollars, lack of state general fund dollars, impacts of federal funding or lack thereof, the state employment picture and the impact on license and tag sales.

All of these are unknown currently but will play a huge role in building the 2021-23 Biennium budget.



OHA to Governor: Hunting is social distancing

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

OHA delivered a letter to Governor Brown’s office on April 6 advocating for the continued access to our outdoor areas through hunting and fishing opportunities. While many locations have been closed, such as state parks, US Forest Service and BLM sites, and numerous beach and river access areas, Oregon’s hunting and fishing seasons have remained intact. However, the governor’s directive to stay home raised concerns regarding the certainty of our spring bear and turkey seasons.

As stated in the letter, going afield has great therapeutic benefit and can be easily accomplished with adherence to the social distancing guidelines contained in the governor’s directive. Emphasis was given to the ability to recreate either in family groups or in a solitary manner and the inherent desire for hunters to distance themselves while participating in this type of recreation.

The letter closed with a reminder of the importance of maintaining individual opportunities to enjoy Oregon’s outdoors and a request for strong consideration that

these options continue to be allowed as the state deals with the COVID-19 issues.

The full letter can be read on the OHA website at www.oregonhunters.org.

Nonresidents told to stay home

In keeping with Governor Brown’s Executive Order that directs people to stay home, ODFW has prohibited nonresidents from participating in hunting, angling, and shellfishing within the state. Made effective on April 10, the ruling will stay in effect through Oct. 6, unless it is deemed appropriate to lift the ban earlier – a move that is dependent on the governor’s direction.

While recreating through hunting, fishing, and shellfishing may be restricted, sales of licenses and tags are not. Residents and nonresidents alike may continue to purchase licenses, tags, and permits via the electronic licensing system.

Comparatively, Washington has made no distinction between residents and nonresidents by postponing their spring bear and turkey seasons until at least May 4 and closing all recreational fishing and shellfishing.

Wolf numbers increase

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

Oregon’s wolf population is at least 158 wolves, according to the 2019 wolf report released in April. This is up 15 percent from the previous year and includes 22 documented packs, which is an increase from 16 packs in 2018. The number of breeding pairs (with pups) was 19 in 2019, a 27 percent increase from the previous year.

The 158 estimate represents wolves located during the winter count, so the actual tally is higher. For the full wolf report, see <https://dfw.state.or.us/wolves/>

Deer, elk tags reduced

Fewer tags will be available in eastern Oregon due to poor mule deer numbers observed last fall. A total of 3,953 buck tags will be eliminated from 12 units along with 287 antlerless tags.

Elk tag offerings will also be trimmed by 670, including hunts within the Imnaha, Maury, Sled Springs and Chesnimnus units.

Check the ODFW news website for a detailed table of the new numbers per unit: www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/index.asp

More refuge hunting



OHA is excited to share some good news about new hunting opportunities proposed in Oregon. This will include both upland bird and waterfowl hunting on Hart Mountain, goose hunting at Nestucca Bay, and waterfowl hunting at Wapato Lake.

The Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Gaston will be open to waterfowl hunting this fall. A total of 275 acres of the northern portion of the refuge will be open to waterfowl hunting from designated blinds placed on or adjacent to the interior levee surrounding the lake. OHA members have lobbied for public hunting here.

Use this link to view information on the refuge plans and submit comments: www.fws.gov/refuge/Wapato_Lake