



OHA TRACKER



JUNE 2020

oregonhunters.org

OHA Banquet Status

Baker: Regular fundraiser canceled. Online auction status pending. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Bend: Fundraiser Aug. 15.

Blue Mountain: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Capitol: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Clatsop County: Regular fundraiser canceled. Online auction pending. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Josephine County: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Klamath: Regular fundraiser canceled. Online auction status pending.

Lake County: Regular fundraiser canceled. Online auction status pending.

Mid-Willamette: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Rogue Valley: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email & newsletters for updates.

Tillamook: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch email for updates.

Tioga: Regular fundraiser canceled. Will hold raffles; watch for updates.

Tualatin Valley: Fundraiser July 11.

State Convention: Regular event canceled. Will offer online auction and raffles; watch email, OREGON HUNTER magazine and social media for updates.

Check out OHA online auctions & raffles!

In response to the Governor's latest restrictions on large gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon, OHA has been forced to cancel most of the banquets that were rescheduled earlier this spring, including the 2020 OHA State Convention.

At deadline, two chapters – Bend and Tualatin Valley – still held onto hope their rescheduled banquets could take place.

Most OHA chapters whose banquets were canceled will conduct raffles, and some will host online auctions, as

Yamhill County successfully did earlier.

See information appearing at left and watch for more details coming soon.

Due to banquets being rescheduled or canceled where Access & Habitat deer and elk tags were to be auctioned, OHA scheduled phone auctions for two statewide elk tags and one statewide deer tag. The Mid-Willamette Chapter auctioned an A&H Statewide Elk Tag for \$47,500 on May 15, while auctions for Klamath's Statewide Elk and State OHA's Statewide Deer were scheduled for May 30.

OHA steps up again to defend trapping

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

What began as a request from a single national forest to ban beaver trapping within its boundaries has grown to a large-scale push to ban the activity on all federal land in the state. The Siuslaw NF has asked the Fish & Wildlife Commission to ban beaver trapping on its lands, although the request is not in keeping with ODFW staff recommendations and has no relevant science in support of its assertions. Several of the usual environmental groups have taken up the issue and submitted letters in support of the forest's request. An additional request has recently been submitted that would expand the initial ban area to include all federally managed areas – equal to 53 percent of the state.

These requests, along with the speed in which they have grown, are clearly another attempt to chip away at the ability of Oregonians to participate in trapping. After the disappointing ruling by the Fish & Wildlife Commission in September regarding the marten trapping ban, these groups are now attempting to leverage the proverbial inch into a mile by attacking beaver trapping.

The requests will be considered at the June 12 commission meeting as part of the review and approval process for the furtaker regulations. OHA is working with partners such as the Oregon Trappers, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and Oregon Forest & Industries Council to submit letters and testimony in opposition to these requests.

ODFW sets sights on more changes in big game regs

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

ODFW has been collecting feedback from sport group leaders and hunters from the public to help steer them in developing proposals for changes to hunting seasons. This input, along with ODFW staff recommendations, will be presented to the Fish & Wildlife Commission on June 12. At its September meeting, the Commission will adopt the regulations for the 2021 big game seasons. Some of the main topics of interest are:

Elk Hunting Seasons



- **Cascade Elk General Any Legal Weapon Season** – This season historically occurred in November, but it was moved to mid-October, a less desirable time of the year, due to difficulty in maintaining bull ratios which are below management objective.

- **Coast Elk General Any Legal Weapon Seasons** – ODFW does not anticipate any season changes seasons on the coast.

- **Saddle Mountain and Tioga Unit Bag Limits** – These two units have the only hunts in the state with a 3+ point elk bag limit. ODFW is currently evaluating

the 3+ point bag limit.

- **Spike-Only Elk Hunts in North-east Oregon** – ODFW is still evaluating the future of spike hunts in six units: Wenaha, Walla Walla, Mt. Emily, Starkey, Ukiah and Heppner. Recent input forums have not shown much support for these spike hunts although ODFW feels they do provide opportunity for hunters each year. Staff is still evaluating options that include a chance for a mature bull.

- **Eastern Oregon Archery Elk Seasons** – Recent forum input indicated that ODFW should review their approach to general elk archery season in eastern Oregon, particularly in the popular units of the Blue and Wallowa Mountains. Staff will likely recommend that those units previously in a general archery season become controlled hunts.

Deer Hunting Seasons



- **Western Oregon General Any Legal Weapon Buck Deer Season** – If the Cascade Elk season is moved into November, there would be the opportunity to eliminate the 7-day break in Cascade Buck Deer season and have a standard season date for the General Buck Deer season in all of western Oregon.

- **Cascade 600-Series Units** – These also could be affected if the Cascade Elk season is moved into November; there would be an opportunity to expand the dates of 600-series hunts in the Cascade units to match the same dates of the Western Oregon general buck deer season. This longer season was already approved for 2020 hunts in coast deer units.

- **Eastern Oregon Archery Deer** – ODFW staff is discussing whether a statewide general archery season with unlimited tags is an appropriate deer management tool in eastern Oregon. They are favoring proposing controlled archery hunting in eastern Oregon for mule deer.

- **Western Oregon Late Season Deer Hunting** – ODFW staff is looking for opportunities to simplify the late seasons, improve the opportunities where possible, and the potential to create some new, high quality, low tag number hunting opportunities in western Oregon.

Big Game Summary Data



Availability of big game harvest, population and preference point summary data has improved. For information, visit: <https://myodfw.com/biggame-hunting>

OHA shares impacts of virus with Legislature

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

OHA received an invitation in May from the administrator of the House Committee on Natural Resources for testimony that tells the story of how the pandemic is affecting our organization and our mission.

OHA will be bringing up the following points in testimony to the members of the committee:

- Canceled OHA banquets will result in a loss of revenue of over a half million dollars.
- This revenue loss will mean a great reduction in statewide wildlife and habitat projects and services to our mission.
- Spring and summer youth events have also been canceled.

Pandemic causes agency funding cuts

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

All state agencies in Oregon were asked to make 8.5 percent budget reductions in general fund dollars for the current biennium. ODFW submitted its general fund budget cuts in May to meet the deadline.

The cuts for the Wildlife Division included some reduction in anti-poaching enforcement and some cuts in the anti-poaching program components, which OHA was instrumental in getting funded.

In response to the lottery revenue shortfall, OSP moved six lottery-funded Fish & Wildlife troopers to

other funded vacancies and another 15 to Patrol Division. Obviously, this will impact Fish & Wildlife enforcement efforts around the state.

To see how the general funds reduction will impact the OSP, visit <http://allthingsosp.org/?p=129>.

What now? The process for adoption of a state agency budget for the next biennium will continue as normal with the Commission holding hearings in June and July on projected agency budget for the 2021-23 biennium. Once adopted, the approved agency recommended budget will be submitted to the Office of the Governor for further work.