

OREGON HUNTER

**BIG CHANGES
ON HORIZON**

\$3.95
**July-
August
2020**

**FIND YOUR
OREGON
BUCKS &
BULLS**

**OREGON Big
Game Outlook**

**PRIMER FOR
PRONGHORNS**

OREGON Afield:

- BEARS OF SUMMER
- EARLY BIRDS
- SUMMER DOG DAYS

**BIG CHANGES
FOR EAST BOW,
CASCADE ELK**

**POACHING
CHARGES MAY
LEAD TO BIG
PENALTIES**

SMOKIN' HOT:
• SMOKEPOLE
PRONGHORNS
• BLACKTAILS
IN THE BURNS





All Seasons

RV & MARINE

Shop Online 24/7!
www.asrv.com

NEW 2019 Jayco Hummingbird 17RB



SALE \$19,888 + fees

\$176/mo

OAC 10% down (\$19,888) \$176/month 144 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$29,972 Stock# J2409 Vin# 3C0131 *tier 1 credit only

NEW 2019 Forest River Rpod 190



SALE \$19,888 + fees

\$176/mo

OAC 10% down (\$1,988) \$176/month 144 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$26,772 Stock# FR400 Vin# 016952 *tier 1 credit only

NEW 2019 Jayco Jay Feather 23BHM



SALE \$23,888 + fees

\$211/mo

OAC 10% down (\$2,388) \$211/month 144 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$38,907 Stock# J2481 Vin# JX0131 *tier 1 credit only

2018 Jayco Melbourne 24L - Rental Fleet Sell-Off!



SALE \$64,888 + fees

\$440/mo

OAC 20% down (\$12,977) \$440/month 180 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$79,995 Stock# J2359 Vin# 721656 *tier 1 credit only

NEW 2019 Jayco Seismic 4013



SALE \$88,888 + fees

\$605/mo

OAC 20% down (\$17,777) \$605/month 180 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$128,619 Stock# J2525 Vin# 9S0075 *tier 1 credit only

NEW 2020 ATC 36' Fifth Wheel Toy Hauler



New to ASRVM!

SALE \$106,888 + fees

\$725/mo

OAC 20% down (\$21,377) \$725/month 180 months @ 5.99% APR*
MSRP \$122,734 Stock# AT03 Vin# 220089 *tier 1 credit only

Models & options vary. Photos are for representations only. Prices valid through 9/1/2020. All payments based on 10%-20% down payment, 5.99% APR 750 credit score or better, OAC

We Rent RV's!

Class C Motorhomes and Travel Trailers
Rates starting at \$110/night
www.asrv.com

63195 Jamison St

855-689-1284

Sales, Parts, Service, Propane, Dump Station
Bend, OR off 3rd St & Empire

10-11

Oregon Afield:
Beat the
summertime
blues with
bear, coyotes
and early
birds



CONTENTS

VOL. 38, NO. 4

SCOTTHAUGEN.COM

FEATURES

16 Oregon Fall Big Game Preview

By Jim Yuskavitch

Elk are faring well in most places but the Cascades, but mule deer are suffering.

22 Find Your Buck & Bull Now

By Scott Haugen

It's not getting any easier in Oregon's outdoors, so you may need to step it up.

26 Prime Time for Pronghorns

By Scott Haugen

Here are a few tips for taking your long-awaited Oregon antelope.

OREGON AFIELD

10 **BEAR:** Here's where to find your summer sausage

10 **COYOTE:** Make the most of summer's dog days

11 **EARLY BIRDS:** The outlook is outstanding for Sept. 1 openers

DEPARTMENTS

6 FINDING DIRECTION

Moving elk from private to public

8 OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

Know Oregon? Win a Work Sharp!

8 HUNTING CALENDAR

The latest on OHA event dates

12 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

OHA surveys members on game regs

14 BLACKPOWDER

Smokepole pronghorns

15 BOWHUNTING

Firewalking for a forked-horn

30 YOUNG GUNS

Three Rivers Archers get 'em on target

32 OHA CHAPTER NEWS

OHA chapters offer ongoing raffles

34 OREGON HUNTING NEWS

Oregon man injured by black bear

35 SPOTLIGHT ON POACHING

Charges filed in two major cases

36 OHA NEWS & VIEWS

Wolf numbers up; deer & elk tags down

38 ASK ODFW

Changes eyed for archery, Cascade elk

40 GAME ON THE GRILL

Pronghorn Breakfast Tostadas

41 NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

Your best shot could win a Nosler rifle!

46 PARTING SHOTS

Death, Taxes & Harvest Reporting

Cover: Brute of a blacktail photographed by Scott Haugen. See Page 22.

14-15

Where
there's
smoke...
Smokepole
pronghorns
& blacktails
in the burns



16

Oregon's
2020 fall
big game
preview
looks better
for elk than
deer



22

It's time to
step it up in
Oregon, and
here's how
to find your
buck and bull
now



26

It's prime time
for pronghorns
in eastern
Oregon, and
here are some
tips for taking
your trophy



38

Major changes
on horizon for
Cascade elk
and eastern
Oregon
archery
seasons





Introducing **Valo** Camouflage

Valo Is Versatile. It's effective across a variety of terrain and vegetation after seasonal changes or frost burn. Featuring, a complex color palette, Valo takes on the colors of its surroundings, and works at both, long and short range distances.

Valo Is Subtle. It's composed of lighter, low-contrast earth tones with a minimal amount of black. Its subtle tones conceal a hunter's movements, blending in and adapting while hunting in dormant, uniformed, and muted environments.

It's KUIU. Valo's large macro pattern with micro details share the same human outline disruption qualities as Verde and Vias. Hunters now have three camouflage options optimized for any distance, environment or season.



Now hunters are completely covered for every environment with the three most effective camo patterns in the industry, available in our premier skin-to-shell layering system. Optimized for any distance, environment or season, our camo philosophy is to break up your outline, so you blend into your surroundings and go undetected by game. KUIU's camo patterns offer the optimal mix of blending, concealment and break up for anywhere you hunt.



Valo features a low-contrast, large macro pattern with micro details to retain breakup from close range to 200+ yards. Visually, it works best for uniform, dormant vegetation.



Verde is a high-contrast, large macro pattern with micro details designed to retain breakup from close range to 200+ yards. Visually, it works best for green vegetation.



Vias is a high-contrast, large macro pattern to retain breakup at 200+ yards. Visually, it works best for fall or late-season hunts after frost burn in grey environments.

Only At **KUIU.COM**



KUIU®

THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

FINDING DIRECTION

BY JIM AKENSON

CHESIMMUS/T. DUNGANNON

Moving elk from private to public

These are challenging times for both wildlife managers and elk hunters. The challenges aren't necessarily a lack of elk, but that elk are not in reachable places to hunt them. For a variety of reasons, a significant proportion of elk have moved to private pastures and rangelands, to small coastal towns and their suburbs, and away from our public land. The result of this movement is conflict, with situations that are hard to resolve. Oregon is not alone with this elk distribution phenomena; it's a pattern in nearly every western state.

This raises some obvious questions: why are the elk changing their movement patterns, what can be done to improve the elk distribution issue, and who holds the keys to the needed re-distribution?

Elk distribution problems are not new to our state, but the scale has become staggering.

Before jumping into the list of solutions, it seems logical to first evaluate the causes of elk distribution trending away from public land. There are three factors that drive elk to favor certain places: 1) food that is better than other places; 2) security that is safer from danger; and 3) following a learned pattern – or something that mom did.

The food issue relates to the fact that early successional vegetation is not as available as two decades ago due to reduced logging activity on federal land. To some degree, fire has helped stimulate this lack of vegetation rejuvenation, but controlled fire has limits and risks. Forest stimulation from logging and reseedling is probably the main missing factor.

As for security, the number of hunters afield at one time is a big factor, along with how they move around, and this can be regulated through controlled hunts and access limits. Another variable is an increased predator presence, which is harder to manage effectively.

The third factor deals with elk homing instinct once the herd has learned what works best for its survival, and the only option is to train a next generation of elk with a different homing instinct.

Much of the distribution discussion involves state and federal agencies and what their action capabilities entail. Just as important is the cooperation and involvement of private landowners. This year ODFW has responded in part by offering expanded elk damage hunts, such as the general cow hunt opportunities for the upcoming hunting season on both sides of the state. Will this solve the problem? Maybe in some places. OHA has contended that each elk distribution situation is different and requires unique responses that utilize licensed hunters as one of the primary tools. Because this cow hunt involves the variable of landowner cooperation for hunter access, the effectiveness has yet to be seen.

Elk distribution problems are not new to our state, but the scale has become staggering, with some examples involving herds of 4,000 head of elk, such as those currently camping the winter-spring season on private property, within eastern Oregon's Columbia Basin and Ukiah units. ODFW-directed hazing actions have been the tool used here, along with radio-collaring 50 elk to track the hazing effectiveness over time.

There also must be incentive for elk to stay on public land. In this area, the Forest Service is engaging in a major habitat improvement effort that includes a combination of forest thinning, burning, and access management. OHA is offering to help with salt distribution on National Forestland once spring green-up cranks up. Ultimately, we all share the common objective of moving elk to where we can hunt, watch, and enjoy them – but success will require a team effort and a full bag of tools.

OREGON HUNTER

Editor & Publisher

Duane Dungannon (541) 772-7313

Editorial Assistants

Cynthia Martinich, Bret Moore

State Officers

President: Mike Ayers (541) 840-3723

Vice President: Ken McCall (541) 602-1819

Secretary: Mary Jo Hedrick (541) 576-4006

Treasurer: Mike Vallery (503) 538-8232

OHA Board of Directors

Chair: Fred Walasavage (541) 296-6124

Northwest: Steve Hagan (503) 551-8645

Northwest: John Putman (503) 842-7733

Midwest: Paul Donheffner (503) 399-1993

Southwest: Bob Webber (541) 332-0886

Southwest: Cindy Rooney (541) 430-4722

Northeast: Vic Coggins (541) 263-0335

Southeast: Gary Lewis (541) 317-0116

Southeast: Ralph Goode (541) 505-4826

OHA State Coordinator

Duane Dungannon (541) 772-7313

Field Director

Bryan Cook (971) 270-7035

Senior Conservation Director

Jim Akenson, Enterprise (541) 398-2636

Outreach Coordinator

Amy Patrick (503) 949-9785

Lobbyist

Al Elkins (503) 780-6824



Official publication of the Oregon Hunters Association, dedicated to wise management of Oregon's huntable wildlife. United in protecting hunter interests in the state of Oregon.

Our mission: Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

OREGON HUNTER (ISSN 1545-8059) is published bimonthly by the Oregon Hunters Association for its membership and is sold on newsstands statewide. Membership rates are: Individual: \$35 a year, \$65 for two years, \$90 for three years, \$800 for lifetime, \$10 for junior, \$12.50 for full-time student; family: \$45 a year, \$80 for two years, \$900 lifetime; business membership \$75. Memberships include \$5 magazine subscription. Periodicals postage paid at Medford, Ore., and at additional mailing offices.

OREGON HUNTER welcomes articles and photos pertaining to wildlife and hunting in Oregon. We are not responsible for unsolicited material. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped return envelope.

Advertising media kits are available. OHA does not necessarily endorse advertisers, or goods and services advertised in OREGON HUNTER.

Address inquiries to OHA State Office, 804 Bennett Ave., P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, (541) 772-7313, oha@oregonhunters.org

<http://www.oregonhunters.org>

POSTMASTER: Send changes to Oregon Hunter, PO Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501.

OHA IN LETTER TO GOV. KATE BROWN: WE WERE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE IT BECAME TRENDY.

DARYL STEWART



OHA recently sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking that spring hunting seasons be kept open, stating that hunting IS social distancing, and it's important for Oregonians to get outside and enjoy some solitude in our great outdoors. Please join OHA and support our efforts.

JOIN OHA!

- Get 6 issues of Oregon Hunter, the magazine dedicated exclusively to hunting in Oregon.



- Receive the Oregon Hunter's Calendar, with 12 photos of Oregon game animals and important season dates and deadlines.

- Make your voice heard on important hunting issues.



JOIN US!

LIKE US! FOLLOW US!
OREGONHUNTERS.ORG

CHECK OUT OUR
INSTAGRAM



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: WWW.OREGONHUNTERS.ORG

Please sign me up as an OHA member, send my calendar and decal, and start my subscriptions to OREGON HUNTER and my local newsletter.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephones: Home _____ Work _____

Email (optional): _____

Individual: ___ Annual \$35 ___ 2 years \$65 ___ 3 years \$90

Family: ___ Annual \$45 ___ 2 years \$80 ___ 3 years \$115

___ Payment enclosed ___ Bill my: Visa / MC / Disc / Amex

Card # _____ Exp. date _____

CVV2# on back _____ Signature _____ MGZ

WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

- Oregon's recent daily bag limit on doves has been:
a) 6 c) 15
b) 10 d) 20
- The Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness is shared with what state?
a) Washington c) Idaho
b) Nevada d) California
- Summer Lake is in what unit?
a) Fort Rock c) Silver Lake
b) Interstate d) Wagon Tire
- The longest river within Oregon's boundaries is:
a) Willamette c) John Day
b) Owyhee d) Malheur
- Which duck is smallest?
a) canvasback c) bufflehead
b) wigeon d) pintail
- The deepest river gorge in North America is:
a) Owyhee Canyon c) Hells Canyon
b) Columbia Gorge d) Grand Canyon
- Which unit is located in the extreme southwest corner of the state?
a) Applegate c) Sixes
b) Chetco d) Powers
- Which species of deer is smallest?
a) blacktail c) N.E. Ore. whitetail
b) mule deer d) Columbian whitetail
- Which species of big game is most likely to spend the winter above timber line?
a) elk c) mule deer
b) bighorn sheep d) mountain goat
- How many fall wild turkeys can you bring home for Thanksgiving dinner?
a) 1 c) 3
b) 2 d) 4



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name this Oregon river, 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: July 20, 2020.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Brian Stewart, Medford

Brian's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized Gearhart Mountain.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available

JUNE 27

OHA Pioneer duck boxes, 503-349-2824

JULY 11

OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter Banquet,
503-502-0611

JULY 18

OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter Tillamook State
Forest cleanup, 503-290-6143

AUGUST 1

Fall bear season opens



AUGUST 15

OHA Bend Chapter banquet, 541-480-9848
Standard antelope season opens;
OHA Yamhill Chapter youth shotgun shoot,
503-737-9483

AUGUST 21

OHA Klamath Chapter's Gerber Reservoir
youth antelope hunt BBQ, 541-281-6518

AUGUST 22

Malheur County youth shoot, 208-573-5556

AUGUST 28

Bow tag sale deadline

AUGUST 29

General bow season opens

SCOTT HAUGEN

PERFECTING A LOST ART

AT IT'S CORE, bench stone sharpening is an art, an intimate relationship with your blade. Such a tradition is worth preserving.



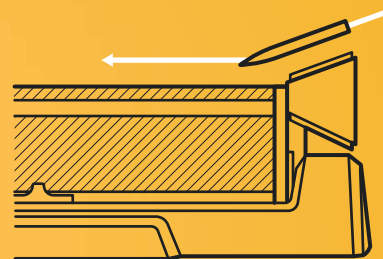
THE ALL NEW

WORK SHARP BENCHSTONE



1. UNDERSTAND YOUR ABRASIVE

Select coarse or medium diamond for initial sharpening and raising a burr. Then use ceramic to hone the edge for a razor finish.



2. ANGLE GUIDES FOR CONSISTENCY

Rest your blade on the guide to establish the proper angle. While maintaining the proper angle, use light pressure to push the edge of the blade along the abrasive.



3. SHARPEN TO THE TIP

Keep the blade perpendicular to the abrasive and stop the stroke with the tip of the knife still on the stone. The Work Sharp Benchstone utilizes Pivot-Response™ for curved blades allowing the abrasive to pivot and naturally follow the edge of the blade.

See Our Sharpeners and Learn More Sharpening Tips at

WORKSHARPTOOLS.COM/EDUCATION



WORK SHARP SHARPENERS



WORK SHARP
SHARPENERS

Where to find summer sausage

Finally. After spotting and passing on 33 sows and sub-adult fall bears in multiple pre-scouted areas, I had the bear I was after – a good 7-year-old male representative of a coastal Oregon black bear.

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR



Wait in a bear's buffet line to tag a summer bruin like this one taken by author Max Zeller.

And that's the key – don't put all your efforts in one spot throughout the long fall bear season. Scout multiple potential spots and rotate between them, looking for fresh sign and recent bear activity. Analyzing fresh prints and piles of scat can reward you with a wealth of information, such as size of the bear, how recently bears have been in the area, and most importantly, what food source bears have been feeding on. Find the food source, and they will come, and in our coastal mountains, that normally means the soft mast crops of berries and tree fruits.

Look for sign such as tunneled and matted down briar patches and broken upper limbs on fruit trees. Hard mast

crops that are more prevalent in some areas, ripped up stumps and decaying logs, ground diggings for insect larvae, scavenging activity, and predation on vulnerable critters are all good signs and food sources, and should be considered seriously when choosing ground to hunt. But berries and fruits are where it's at when targeting coastal bears. And don't forget that old spring treat – grass. The new growth of grasses after a drought-stricken summer emerge soon after the first fall rains, and bears continue to crave the lush new growth throughout the fall as well. When scouting bear habitats, as with hunting,

always keep wind direction in mind – getting sloppy can push a mature boar out of the area or limit him to nocturnal activities.

As autumn days decrease, a bear's appetite increases, eating up to 20 hours per day during the fall feeding frenzy, or hyperphagia, which usually runs from August through October, depending on several factors such as weather, temperatures and food availability. When the energy and calories a bear expends searching for food exceeds the amount of calories he consumes, it's time for him to hang it up for the year and den-up. Take advantage of the hyperphagia. —MAX ZELLER

Make the most of summer dog days

Summer in Oregon – it's hot and dry, yet full of life – young life, at that. This offers exceptional hunting for predators as they look to make easy pickings on deer and antelope fawns while at their most vulnerable stage of life.

Early in the summer season, both male and female adult coyotes are busy raising pups. This causes coyote behavior to change. Call strategy and set-up locations should be adjusted. Coyotes will be more crepuscular (active during dawn and dusk hours) this time of year, but you can coax them in and find them around at any time of the day. Coyotes may be more active during the day around water sources.

Prey-in-distress calls still work well in summer, when parent coyotes have a long shopping list each day. A dying animal makes for a quick and easy meal to take to their pups. Other species of offspring are out at this time, and a baby cottontail demise or a series of fawn bawls and bleats fetch good odds for attracting the trickster.

Coyote vocalizations are very effective. You'll want to be sure of the intended target before making a stand. Use a dominant howl early summer; if a den is nearby, it will trigger an aggressive instinct in the parent coyotes to protect the den and their territory. Likewise, the same response is achieved with pup distress and pup fight vocalizations.

This may also spark a pup reaction later in the season, when they'll be curious, playful, and uneducated still. Plan to sit for up to 30 minutes, because coyotes will still tend to want to come in slowly and circle downwind. Other times they bomb right in.

With no shortage of sun, you'll want to set up in the shade if possible. If not, sacrifice the sun before the wind. In order to further shift odds in your favor, wear a camo facemask and gloves, even if it is hot. Coyotes can pick out the glimmer of exposed skin moving and may check-up.

Gear up and head afield to control Oregon predators. —CAMDEN HAMMER



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Author Camden Hammer called in this summer Silvies coyote with a rabbit distress call.



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Valley quail and doves are thriving in Oregon.

Take a bead on the early birds

Many of us have been cooped up from the Corona virus all summer long and are ready to dust off our trusty shotguns for some early wing shooting when dove and western Oregon quail seasons open Sept. 1.

Decent nesting conditions and abundant feed have bird numbers looking good. For dove and quail, I like to use my trusty 28 gauge double barrel with No. 6 or 8 shot. Doves visit streams where they can find grit in large amounts, and these are excellent places to be in the evenings. I like to set up in a blind and just wait for inbound birds. Agricultural lands that border these areas are also hot spots.

Water sources are critical to upland birds, so make sure to refine your searches to areas that have good amounts. Last season I set up near an open-limbed dead oak tree in the mornings and evenings where doves would perch to rest and scope out the land before descending to feed.

Scout places like this now. It will make your hunt that much easier come September. For bonus early-season shooting, don't forget the Eurasian collared doves are open year-round, as they are classified as an invasive species.

In western Oregon, berry patches are the best places to find coveys of quail. Agricultural areas throughout the region provide good opportunities for hunters looking for access. Over east, quail frequent thick sage bottoms near water around farmlands. There is a good amount of CRP land available to hunt in the Columbia Basin and locations further east. Areas near Juntura, Vale and Ontario are perennial favorites for upland hunters. —TROY RODAKOWSKI

Don't Be Misled!!!

Remember... Your Valuables Are Important to You.



Come let Knute and Marie show you the difference in safes!



Before you consider buying a safe ANYWHERE...

Go to www.RogueSafe.com and view our video!
See how easily a typical safe can be broken into in under two minutes!

Rogue Safe

773-6020
1904 Hazel Street
Medford

WE HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO BRING HOME THE GAME!
FLATBEDS • BUMPERS • HITCHES • WINCH TRAYS • CAB GUARDS



PRO-LINE
F A B R I C A T I O N

541-447-4555

1440 SW Tom McCall Rd.
Prineville, OR
www.prolinefab.com



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

OHA surveys members on proposed big game changes



OHA recently surveyed 5,000 members for whom we have email addresses to gauge their opinions on ODFW's latest proposed major changes to big game hunting regulations. Survey recipients

See Page 38 for details about proposed changes to big game regs.

were asked their opinions on: moving Cascade elk rifle season back to November; making all or part of NE Oregon controlled hunting

for archery elk; and making all of eastern Oregon limited entry for archery mule deer.

OHA intends to present the survey results to the Commission. To sign up for alerts and surveys, visit oregonhunters.org

ODFW announces its new legislative aims

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

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
- Land Owner Preference (LOP) tag program sunset on Jan. 2, 2022. This will be the standard review of the LOP program and renewal with or without changes and with or without a new date to sunset.
- Flexibility to invest funds from State Wildlife Fund in intermediate and/or long-term pools with permission from State Treasury.

OHA to Gov: 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 eas-

ily 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 letter is posted on the OHA website at oregonhunters.org/documents

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 were to 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.

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 learn more about 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.



**PROUD TO SUPPORT THE
OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
AND THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF RESPONSIBLE
SPORTSMEN!**



\$10 OFF

Valid thru Aug. 31, 2020



YOUR NEXT PURCHASE!
Make your own sale with \$10 off
your next purchase of \$50 or more!

No Cash Value. Cannot be used for purchasing Gift Cards or Licenses. Cannot be combined
with any other offers. Limit 1 coupon per Customer. Valid – Aug. 31, 2020.

FIND A STORE IN YOUR AREA AT www.COASTALFARM.com

BLACK POWDER

By TROY RODAKOWSKI

Smokepole pronghorns

Their eyesight is impeccable. They are the fastest animal on the North American Continent. Pronghorn roam the high desert of Oregon making dust trails through the sage like four legged jet airplanes. Bagging a trophy class animal is no easy task for most hunters who pursue them.

My father, Terry Rodakowski, has made a habit of drawing speed goat tags throughout his lifetime. He has a total of 8 Oregon bucks to his credit, 3 of which have been taken with a muzzleloader and easily made the Record Book for Oregon. How has he been so lucky and blessed to find success hunting these magnificent creatures might you ask? Well, "It hasn't been easy," he said.

First of all, drawing the tag is the toughest part. However, from the outside looking in, I have to say he is a very blessed individual when it comes to drawing the permits. He drew his first tag back in the early 80s for the Silvies Unit long before the current preference point system came into effect. Since then, he hasn't had an issue coming up with a tag every handful of seasons.

Most recently, he has drawn in 2005, 2007 and 2018 for blackpowder, and scored on a Boone and Crockett buck. His bucks scored 72 2/8, 73 and 69 2/8 respectively, over the minimum of 63 B&C required to make the Oregon book.

According to my father, it takes a lot of patience in order to hold out for a great buck. Back in 2005, he sat at a watering hole for over 8 hours while barely moving. "I had bugs, birds and even small rodents crawling on me in the 85 degree heat all day long," he recalled.

Minimal movement is key when trying to wait out a mature buck to make his way into range. Stalking these great animals is also a frequently used method to get into range, but due to the pronghorn's keen



Use promo code OHA20 to get 20% off your onX subscription, and onX will make a donation to OHA.

The author's father, Terry Rodakowski, bagged this 2018 muzzleloader pronghorn scoring 69 2/8.

eyesight, it's challenging to close the distance for a decent shot opportunity with a smokepole.

My father looks for small secluded locations with good water and feed. Finding them takes an extensive amount of time scouting. Using onX Maps and Google Earth can also be useful. Use promo code OHA20 to get 20 percent off your onX subscription, and onX will make a donation to OHA.

In 2018, it took 6 days for my father to tag his latest B&C buck. Finding this buck was almost accidental. He wasn't having much luck with his original locations he previously scouted. On his way back to camp, he spotted a lone buck heading to what looked to be another small watering hole. Upon further investigation, he noticed many antelope had been using it, and decided to return there the following morning. As the sun came up, my father waited patiently as the same buck cautiously approached the watering hole. Dad anchored him at 120 yards with his 400 grain power punch bullet, loaded with 90 grains of pyrodex triple F powder.

Most of Oregon's muzzleloader hunts for pronghorn take place in late August and September, during the onset of the rut. This can make for some exciting hunting. The desert weather can be harsh, with daytime highs topping 90 degrees and nighttime lows in the 20s. Be sure to prepare for large temperature swings this time of year.

If you're lucky enough to tag a pronghorn, proper care is a necessity with the

warm desert weather. Be sure to field dress and remove the hide promptly to cool the meat.

Most importantly, take time to enjoy your memorable experience.

In Memoriam

Contributions made recently to the
OHA Memorial Fund

In memory of
JERRY FRENCH
from Bryan & Tammy Cook



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

OHA LADD MARSH MEMORIAL OVERLOOK/JIM WARD

Firewalking for a forked horn

In the third week of archery season, the Ochoco National Forest was blanketed with smoke from a large prescribed burn in the unit. I was at the old creek bottom camp, keeping an eye on our trailers and using the time as an opportunity to scout and learn the area for a bull elk hunt in October.

A heavy storm system rolled through the area, pounding the forest. My dog and I took refuge in the trailer as the storm roared on for an hour, producing loud thunder crackles that seemed to echo off the hillsides and intensify in volume. The trailer shook as the belly of the beast rolled through the valley right over the top of us.

After the storm had calmed to a light rain, it was time to search for critters. This is a favorable time to look for deer, as they seem to become more active after a storm passes or when there is a light rain. The roads and surrounding dirt were wiped clean from the hard rain, making it much easier to pick up fresh tracks. I bumped into three bucks and cut some fresh elk tracks.

Upon returning to camp, I noticed a paper plate, with a message, nailed to a tree. The message read: "Lightning fire! Quarter mile downstream on the hill!" My stomach sank. I jumped back in the F-150 and hit the road to locate said fire, driving a road in the bottom of the valley paralleling the hill where the fire should be.

No fire was to be seen, but the smell of burning pine was obvious – strong, fresh, and close.

I reported the fire to the U.S. Forest Service, and then warned family of the possible threat to their trailers. I then decided to stay in camp for the night.

Daylight trickled in as I geared up for my short trek up the hill – shovel in hand and a backpack full of gallon water jugs. Smoke filled the tiny creek bottom valley. After a half-mile jaunt, there it was – fire. I saw four-foot flame lengths gaining momentum. The fire had burned about a



Deer were in the older burns, but nowhere near the ongoing fires.

The author's father took his first archery buck last year amid prescribed burns and a lightning fire.

25-foot ring. Knowing it wouldn't be long until morning winds and temperatures picked up, I sprang into action.

I tossed mud on the fire, dug fire line, poured water on smoldering pine needles, stirred wet soil, and examined the ground for hotspots. All efforts were successful, and I was both triumphant and thankful. Past wildland fire training had given me the confidence and skills necessary to protect the camp and the surrounding forest.

Later that day my father arrived at camp, eager to find out what had transpired overnight. After hearing that I had already extinguished the fire, he was able to relax and put his mind on hunting. Excitement ran high as conditions were just right for deer hunting. So, we set off for an evening hunt in a logged area where deer like to hang out and feed on lichens growing on stumps. It's not uncommon to walk up on decent bucks bedded in or near these areas, so long as you put on the Mohecan sneakin' and slip in unnoticed. Walk slowly and quietly, and keep your head up and eyes glued to the forest cloak for movement and symmetrical silhouettes.

It's no simple task to bag a buck during the swing of archery season. They become masters of disappearance and will primarily move at night. Prime times during bow season for deer seemed to be about

7-8 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. The air was muggy and smoky. Elk seemed to be lying low and silent. Deer were unfazed, showing unchanged patterns, though there seemed to be no animals at all in lower altitudes closer to the prescribed burn.

We found the most deer activity in the logged areas, as well as prescribed burns from years past. Deer love to browse the fresh, nutrient-rich vegetation that grows after a fire. We walked up on two big typical bucks hiding among the edges of these burns and logging operations. But big bucks don't get big by being dumb, and the deer bounded away before my father came to full draw. On to the next logged area.

"That's a buck!" I whispered. "He's 40 yards." THUMP! The arrow found its mark in the vitals, and my father instantly pumped the success fist. Thanks to the Swhacker broadhead, we followed a short, immense blood trail to my father's first archery deer and second archery kill. A velvet forked horn, it was the perfect twin to a buck I shot opening week in the Upper Deschutes Unit. It was an exhilarating moment for father and son. Archery season 2019 was packed with forked horns, fires, and unforgettable memories.



Author Camden Hammer is the founder of Hammer Down Outdoors.



OREGON'S 2020 FALL BIG GAME PREVIEW

Little hope on the horizon for mule deer

BY JIM YUSKAVITCH

While we've had a series of hard winters, last winter was mild throughout Oregon, something that hunters often welcome because of reduced cold-weather mortality on big game populations. But surprisingly, those mild conditions didn't necessarily help all big game species in all regions of the state due to a number of factors, including low populations going into winter and disease. On top of that, the mild winter could signal drought later in the year that would result in less green-up and poor habitat conditions.

Nevertheless, across the state big game numbers generally continue the pattern they have been in for the past several years, with strong elk numbers throughout Oregon except in the Cascades, black-tailed deer doing fair, and mule deer still struggling. Interestingly, most bighorn sheep herds have not been too troubled by disease lately, but disease outbreaks had negative impacts on some mule deer populations. Here is the rundown on the status of big game based on the observations of a variety of ODFW wildlife biologists from around the state.



OHA State-Level Sponsorships

Please support the sponsors who support OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

PLATINUM

Coastal Farm & Ranch
coastalfarm.com

Les Schwab Tires
lesschwab.com

GOLD

Sig Electro Optics
sigsauer.com

SILVER

Nosler, Inc.
nosler.com

Benchmade
benchmade.com

TGB Outfitters
tgboutfitters.com

Legacy Sports International
legacysports.com

BRONZE

Work Sharp
worksharptools.com

Chinook Winds Casino
chinookwindscasino.com

Green Mountain Grills
greenmountaingrills.com

Sportsman's Warehouse
sportsmanswarehouse.com

Traeger Grills
traegergrills.com

Pronto Print
goprnto.com

For information about OHA state-level sponsorship opportunities, call the OHA State Office at (541) 772-7313.



RANDY SHIPLEY/WRSHIPLEY.ZENFOLIO.COM



What say you? Rogue blacktails photographed nearly 4 years and a half-mile apart. Same buck?

Deer

On the North Coast, Tillamook-based assistant district wildlife biologist Dave Nuzum reported "good numbers of black-tailed deer, good buck ratios and good overwinter survival," which is generally ODFW's report throughout western Oregon.

In the central western Cascade Mountains, blacktails are also mostly faring well with good buck-to-doe ratios, according to district wildlife biologist Chris Yee in Springfield. Although there were some outbreaks of adenovirus hemorrhagic disease (AHD) in local deer herds, Yee is more concerned that dry weather conditions in spring and summer may reduce forage sources.

ODFW conducted a black-tailed deer radio collar study in the western Cascades from 2012 to 2017 that yielded some useful information for hunters. "We found that most of our deer didn't move too far and had small home ranges," said Yee. "So if you are out scouting and see a nice buck in a particular area, it will probably still be there when the hunting season starts."

Roseburg-based district wildlife biologist Tod Lum reported that black-tailed deer numbers in southwest Oregon are about the same as last year and hunting should be equally good for this season with the most successful hunters working old burns, brushy areas and open country.

On the east side of the Cascade Mountains, the story with mule deer is essentially the same as it has been for a number of years now – low and sometimes declining populations.

While assistant district wildlife biologist Ryan Platt in John Day reports stable buck ratios, they have not had very good fawn carryover despite the mild winter. In 2015, an outbreak of adenovirus disease hit local deer herds and Platt thinks there still may be lingering effects. "Since 2015 we've had low fawn ratios going into winter and low fawn ratios coming out of winter," he said. "We're not replacing the deer we are losing."

On the bright side, regrowth from the 2015 Canyon Creek fire in the Murderers Creek Unit is producing more deer than other units in the John Day watershed.

The news is worse further northeast. "Our mule deer numbers are the lowest I have ever seen them right now," said Enterprise-based district wildlife biologist Pat Matthews. "We're not recruiting fawns like we used to, so those numbers are not bouncing back." He's considering reducing the number of tags available for the 2021 seasons, but for now hunters after mule deer in northeast Oregon should expect low success.

However, their white-tailed deer numbers are pretty good, and populations are up in the Sled Springs, Minam and Imnaha units. While they are harder to find and harvest, whitetails are providing some alternative deer hunting opportunities.

Mule deer populations continue to be down in the High Desert Region, as well, according to Rod Klus, district wildlife

biologist out of the Hines ODFW office. Mule deer in south central Oregon were hit with an outbreak of AHD recently that Klus thinks might have spread into High Desert herds undetected and may be part of the explanation for weak population numbers. But weather is more of a concern. "With the mild winter we had good carryover, but drought is affecting habitat conditions for mule deer."

Elk

Roosevelt elk throughout the Coast Range are generally doing very well and at management objectives overall. On the North Coast, Nuzum reports that bull ratios are above MO, with the Saddle Mountain Unit the best elk producer. Down on the southern end of the state, district wildlife biologist Lum says there are plenty of elk in the coast range units where regular logging activity on private timberlands is being conducted.

It's in the Cascades where elk are still struggling, largely due to a lack of logging on national forest lands, and are tending to concentrate on private timberlands. Some are now moving down onto agricultural lands, where they can cause problems.

"The only thing that will really help," said Yee, "is if we can get some good projects going on national forestlands to improve habitat for big game. We have some in the works, but it takes time to get them implemented."

Yee also noted that they have recently documented hoof rot disease in some elk in the Oakridge area, and added that if hunters spot any limping elk while out scouting this season, anywhere in Oregon, ODFW would like to hear about it.

"Elk are doing fine and are at or above MO," said Platt of herds in the Blue Mountains of the John Day region. ODFW biologists spotted a variety of age classes while doing winter elk surveys, so, Platt added, "we know that there are older, big bulls out there."

In northeast Oregon, Pat Matthews reported that "elk are doing very well and bull ratios have been pretty strong." He expects elk hunters to have a typically good season in his district. He also notes that there has been a reduction in cow tags in the Chesnimnus and Imnaha units where ODFW is finally getting elk numbers under control that had substantially exceeded MOs, and were causing agricultural damage issues.

While not Oregon's premier elk hunting destination, Klus reported that High Desert elk are doing fine and are at or above MO in most units.

Bighorn Sheep

The news for Oregon's desert and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep population is pretty good. High Desert herds, according to Klus, are stable and not having any particular issues for now with disease or predation.

Platt reported a similar situation with McClellan and Aldrich Mountain herds. Last winter ODFW conducted a capture and disease test of 23 sheep in those two herds and found no presence of pneumonia in any of the animals.

"All our bighorn sheep are doing well, except for the Hurricane District hunt herd, which is seeing some problems with pneumonia," said Matthews in Enterprise. Currently there is one tag for that hunt, and



DENNIS KIRKLAND/HISIMAGES.COM

For OHA's take on moving elk from private to public ground, see Page 6.

Elk are faring well in most areas of Oregon, except the Cascades, but hoof rot is now a concern.

HUNTERS PARADISE



Buster Beaver

Performance Coatings • Cerakote Certified

buster-beaver.com

800-931-1966

28120 SW Boberg Road • Wilsonville



HART MOUNTAIN/JOHN C. McFARLAND III

Oregon's pronghorn populations have been stable recently, absent the typical cycles.

ODFW is considering closing it down beginning in 2021 until herd numbers come back a little. Otherwise, test results for the other northeast Oregon bighorn herds have come back negative for the pneumonia bacteria.

Rocky Mountain Goat

Rocky mountain goat numbers are doing very well through their Oregon range. Matthews reported that goats are increasing in numbers in his district, as is the Strawberry Mountain herd – up to about 80 animals as of last year's survey. "If the population grows a little more we will probably offer an additional tag," said Platt.

As with bighorns, hunters who draw a

goat tag should expect a quality hunt with a high success rate.

Pronghorn

"Pronghorn are still going strong," said Klus of the High Desert population. "They haven't had any peaks or valleys in a good while, which is unusual as they can be flashy." Pronghorn hunters should expect a typical season for 2020.

Bear and Cougar

Oregon continues to have large black bear and cougar populations, with the largest numbers of bears in the south coast mountains, and the biggest cougar populations in southwest and northeast Oregon,

although biologists are seeing an increase in cougars in northwest Oregon over the last few years. While hunters will specifically target bears for spring hunts, and some hunt cougars by calling, most bear and cougar are taken opportunistically. 🐾

Oregunsmithing, LLC

Full-Service Custom Gunsmithing Shop

Rebore & Reline Services • Seamless Muzzle Brakes

Cerakote Certified Applicator

Pendleton composite stocks in many styles

Wayne York, Gunmaker 541-278-4177

www.oregunsmithingllc.com

SPS
SHOOTER'S PRO SHOP

ShootersProShop.com!
Your Local Choice For The Best Deals On
Bullets, Brass, And Ammo

#OREGON, OUR OREGON

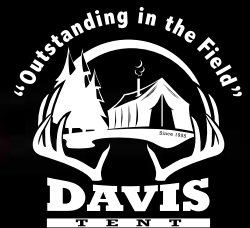
KEEP OREGON GREEN.ORG

PLEASE, **KEEP OREGON GREEN**

Check fire restrictions before heading afield. Prevent your campfires, smoking materials, equipment and off-road vehicles from sparking the next wildfire.

Hunting Package Specials!

Now Online at: DavisTent.com



Davis Tent
4635 Jason St.
Denver, CO 80211
1-877-ELK-CAMP



**It's not getting any easier in Oregon's outdoors,
so you may want to dial it up a notch.**

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen

I can't wait for deer season so I can get back in the woods," shared a gentleman I bumped into at a local hardware store.

He was referring to blacktail season, and when I asked him how his summer scouting was going, he shot me a look I'll never forget. Confusion, guilt, frustration and doubt instantly flushed across his face, and I immediately knew he didn't scout.

Truth is, by the time deer and elk season rolls around, Oregon hunters should know where they're going, and why.

Times are changing in Oregon's outdoors, and the "why" of where you'll be hunting this year should not be based on, "Because we've always hunted here." The "why" of where you'll be deer and elk hunting this season – and every season – should be based on the number or size of bucks and bulls in an area, and those determining factors can only be learned through scouting.

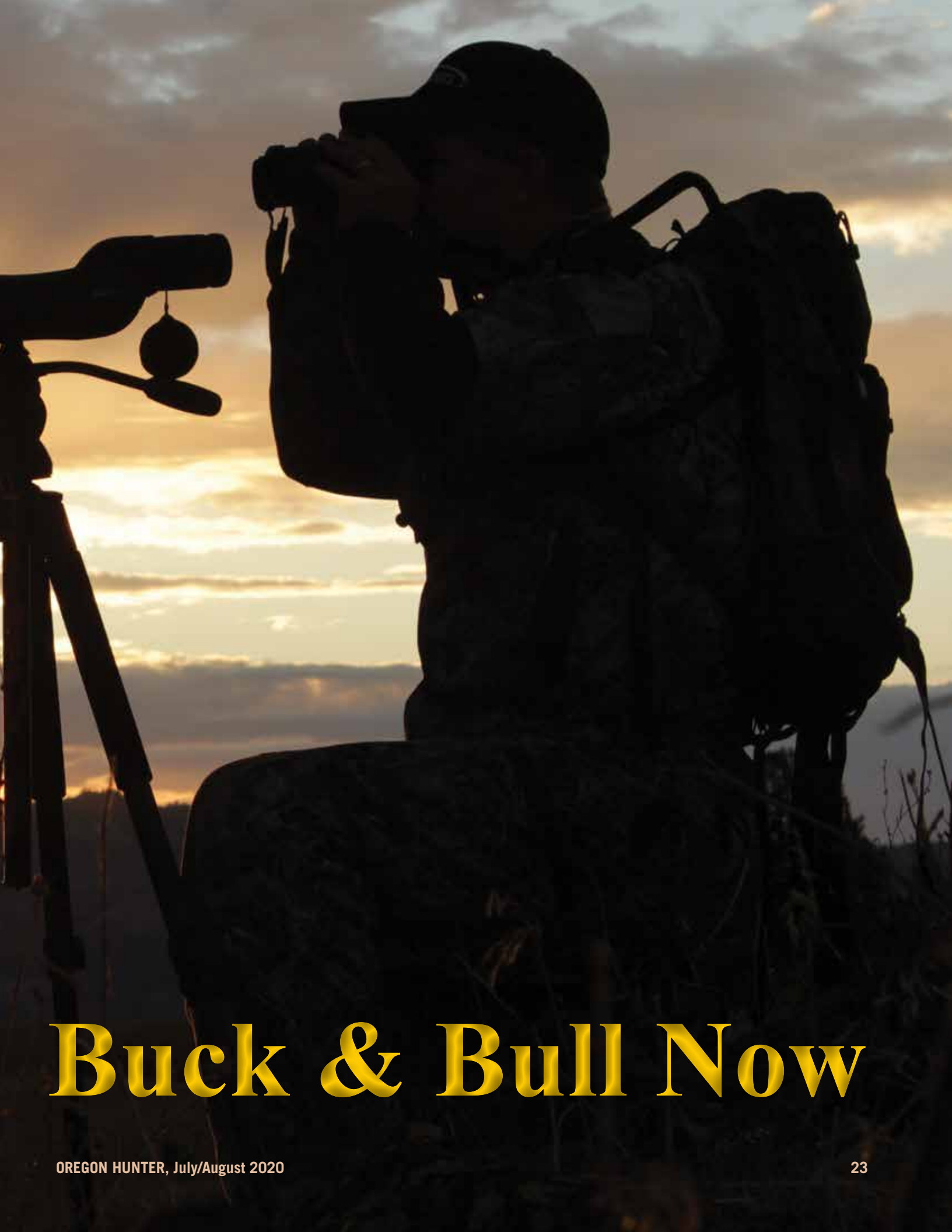
Start Searching

The Fourth of July is a fun time, for two reasons. First, it's a celebration of our nation's independence. Second, it's the date I start getting serious and super excited about deer and elk season, because this is when my scouting efforts hit another level.

Because bucks and bulls in velvet are hanging out in the open in order to prevent damaging their precious and tender headgear, they're highly visible. Head out with quality binoculars and a spotting scope, and it's common to see more bucks and bulls in a day of summer scouting than you'll see all season long. Now is the time to find out where they live and study the surrounding cover they'll be hiding in this season, then figure out how to best hunt it.

Being out in Oregon's woods during the summer months is invigorating and relaxing. When it comes to hunting blacktails, I'm always searching for fawns in the spring and summer months. If you're a bowhunter, determining

How to Find Your



Buck & Bull Now

WISH YOU WERE HERE!

This ad was seen by some 50,000 Oregon hunters!

IT COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR AD!



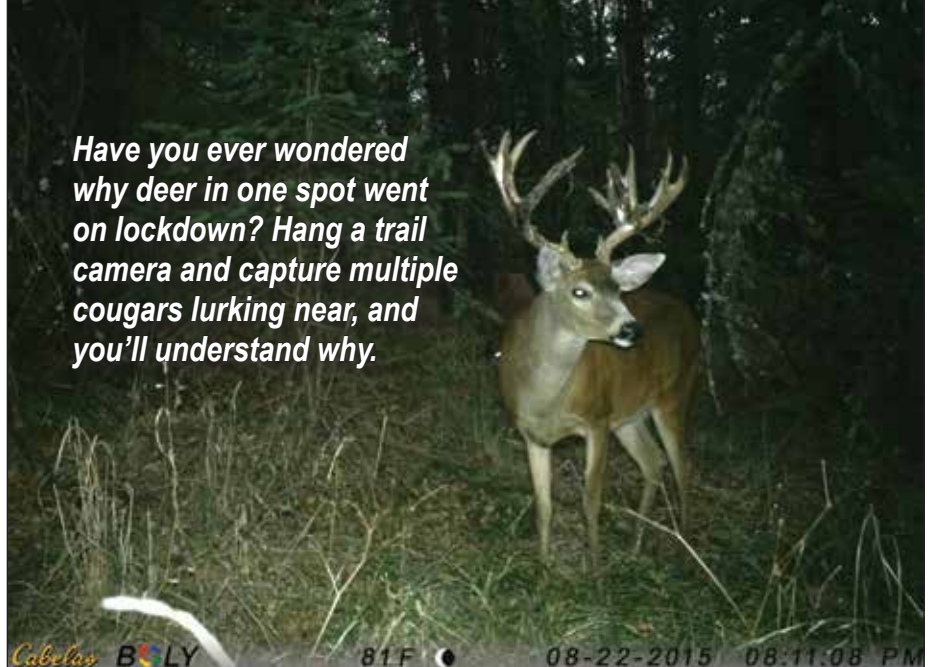
To find out how you can reach our readers, call (541) 772-7313 for a free advertising kit, or download it at oregonhunters.org/publications
Promote your business and help support Oregon's wildlife and sportsmen.

New Bonus Exposure!

The whole wide world can see your ad in OREGON HUNTER on our website: oregonhunters.org/publications/



Have you ever wondered why deer in one spot went on lockdown? Hang a trail camera and capture multiple cougars lurking near, and you'll understand why.



Trail cameras are our eyes in the woods when we can't always be out there.

precisely when a blacktail fawn hits the ground is important. This is because blacktail does have a gestation period of nearly 200 days, so count back from the fawn's birth to learn when the doe was bred, then tack on another couple weeks to learn when the peak and pre-rut commenced. This will tell you when the rut happens in your area, and I believe that with blacktails, it can change from drainage to drainage, and differ in the Coast Range, valley floors, and Cascades.

Video Mode

While July and August mark the peak of scouting for most of us, I actually scout year-round for blacktails and Roosevelt elk. Trail cameras are my eyes in the woods when I can't be out there, and they capture things that continually blow my mind.

Trail cameras have advanced a great deal over the years, and the quality of video they take is exceptional. I rarely set any of my StealthCam DS4K cameras to picture mode, selecting 10 second video mode almost exclusively. Video reveals so much more than still photos, and proves a great learning tool. Not only does video catch more animals on the move, it allows you to track their behavior and even hear them communicating. Getting a dozen still shots of a Roosevelt elk herd moving through the forest is one thing, but get 30 seconds of video of the herd moving, cows and calves talking, and bulls bugling, and it dramatically changes the learning curve.

Ever hear an estrus cow call, or a blacktail doe bleat, or see a pair of coyotes chase deer through the forest? Trail

camera video can capture these. Have you wondered why deer in one spot went on lockdown? Hang a trail camera and capture multiple cougars lurking near, and you'll understand why.

Tracking Movement

Trail cameras, along with your physically being in the woods, allow you to locate and keep track of elk herds and individual bucks and bulls. Now is the time to pattern the movement of deer and elk. Once blacktail bucks strip their velvet, they quickly go nocturnal, but they'll still be living in the same area come the early season archery opener. The same is true for Roosevelt elk; it's just that their movement has shifted to the safety of cover and grown more erratic.

Elk are big animals requiring a lot of food. The chances of catching elk herds – both Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain – in the open are good early and late in the day this time of year. Map their locales and study the surroundings. Note food and water sources, and learn how these will be affected as summer heat intensifies.

Burns, especially from last year or the year before, are ideal places to see both deer and elk. Due to a lack of logging over the decades, burns are now the place deer and elk seek due to the food they yield. Ash is also a great delousing agent.

Oregon's Bonus Species

I've been fortunate to hunt big game throughout much of the West, and if there's one thing I've concluded, it's that the diversity of game Oregon has over other states is inspiring, to say the least. No other state



Author Scott Haugen considers summer scouting to be one of the most important elements of big game hunting. Scouting helped put him in position to earn this Roosevelt bull taken in the Siuslaw River drainage.

To order Scott's popular Trophy Blacktails book, his Field Dressing Big Game DVD and more, visit www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.

has more big game species to hunt, and our bird, predator, and varmint hunting options are many.

While deer and elk are the primary target of most big game hunters in Oregon, don't overlook other species you'll potentially hunt in fall. When scouting for deer and elk, keep an eye out for bears, turkeys, grouse, quail, coyotes, cougars, and more.

Not long ago I had a trail camera set where three game trails converged in the western foothills of the Cascades. In less than two weeks I caught Roosevelt elk, black-tailed deer, bear, cougar, coyotes, gray fox, turkey, valley quail, gray squirrels, raccoons and opossums on that camera. Talk about a wildlife mecca.

When scouting this summer, look for secondary animals you may hunt. Now is the time to spot black bears and learn what they'll potentially be feeding on come hunting season. It's also prime time to pay attention to turkey flocks as family units assemble, thereby providing a starting point come the fall opener.

Looking to score on coyotes and maybe a prized cougar? Both can be hunted year-round while you're scouting.

One scouting tip that's helped me learn a great deal about the animals I seek, is to hang two trail cameras on a single tree, pointing in opposite directions. You'd be amazed what's missed by using only one camera pointing in one direction. The number of mature bucks and bulls that lurk off the main trail is amazing to witness.

This summer, take advantage of warm weather and all our great state has to offer. Now is the time to learn about the animals we'll soon be hunting and the land in which we'll be pursuing them. What you'll come away with is a firsthand education, insight, and a greater appreciation for what Oregon offers hunters throughout the state.

FASTER EASIER

READY RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX

BDX 2.0

The world's most advanced optics system



QUICKLY AND EASILY BOND BDX RANGEFINDERS AND SIGHTS USING QUICKBOND™ FEATURE

COMBO KITS PRE-BONDED FROM THE FACTORY

PRESET BALLISTIC GROUPS LOADED ON ALL SIERRA BDX RIFLESCOPE AND KILO BDX RANGEFINDERS

SMART BDC™ RETICLES TO CUSTOMIZE RIFLESCOPES OUT OF THE BOX

APP FREE EASY SET-UP ON ALL BDX PRODUCTS

TO UNLOCK THE ADVANCED FEATURES OR CREATE A CUSTOM BALLISTIC PROFILE, JUST DOWNLOAD THE BDX SMARTPHONE APP





Ballistic Data Xchange

sigsauger.com



PRIME TIME FOR PRONGHORNS

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen





‘My dog wouldn’t even eat that stinkin’ thing,” scowled the farmer as he looked uncomfortably at the pronghorn I was skinning in his barn. It was an old, record-class buck I’d taken during the peak of the rut, and you could smell it over every other foul odor in the barnyard.

But once the hide was removed and the buck quartered and in cold storage, the clean, odorless meat was sure to yield many great meals, which it did. The key with optimizing the flavor of any big game taken in hot conditions is quickly removing the hide and cooling the meat, and this is especially true with pronghorn.

In addition to great tasting meat, pronghorn hunting in Oregon has much to offer. The weather is warm and beautiful during our August season, animals are plentiful, and nothing cleanses the soul like being in Oregon’s vast desert, a habitat full of life and rich in history.

Cool It!

For many of us, drawing a prized tag is the biggest challenge of pronghorn hunting in Oregon. Once that tag is in hand, however, rest assured you’ll be pursuing one of the tastiest, most tender big game animals out there, no matter how strong they smell on the outside. My family has enjoyed eating dozens of speedgoats from throughout the West, and they are among our favorite. In order to optimize meat quality, the moment your pronghorn is down, snap photos and immediately get to field dressing it.

Get the animal into some shade, peel the hide off and quarter the entire animal, fast. Take a couple big coolers with ice, and quickly get the meat cooling; don’t kill an animal then drive to a little town, searching for ice. The worst thing you can do is drive around with the hide on the animal all day – or even an hour or two – then skin it and hang it in the shade of some junipers. That will not allow the meat to properly cool, and will result in tough, gamey meat.

Age the meat 5 to 7 days between 33-42°F. An antelope is small and can easily be broken down to fit into a refrigerator. Be sure not to stack or cover the meat, as air must circulate around it.

Hunt Preparation

One thing Oregon offers over any other state is the opportunity to take a trophy class buck in any unit they’re hunted. To top it off, I rank Oregon’s pronghorn bucks as the most beautiful in the country, thanks to their stunning, contrasting colors, and coal black facial features. Your taxidermist can tell an Oregon pronghorn cape from a cape taken in Wyoming.

Once you draw a tag, start scouting. By late spring, pronghorn bucks are starting to mark their territories. Throughout the summer, bucks will establish territory boundaries through making scrapes, urinating, defecating, and spreading their scent.

If looking for permission to hunt on private land, make phone calls and knock on doors early, not a few days prior to the season. Most pronghorn are hunted on public land, and learning as much about the terrain and the animals is key to success, making scouting crucial.

By the time Oregon’s pronghorn season commences, the pre-rut will be taking place, so search for bucks and does when scouting. August is when mature bucks begin to separate from one another and hang around does.

While many hunters drive roads searching for pronghorns, most big bucks are taken by hunters who are willing to walk and glass hidden pockets. Being in good shape while scouting and hunting raises success rates.



CHRIS STEWART

Zane Stewart took this record-book class pronghorn in Lake County.

Pronghorn hunting takes place in very hot conditions, so make sure all your gear is in order. Having a hydration system that holds plenty of water is important while both scouting and hunting.

Before the hunt, practice shooting and know your effective range. Shots at pronghorn can be long, so know exactly what your shooting capability is, and practice shooting from various positions. Pronghorn aren't big animals, and a flat-shooting rifle in a small caliber, topped with a powerful scope, can aid in shot accuracy.

Make sure your vehicle is in good

condition and has proper tread for rugged, rocky terrain. Jagged juniper claims a ton of tires. Carry extra water, a cooler of food, a big cooler with ice and two spare tires. Hunting from a mobile camp is much more efficient than staying at a motel.

It's best to know the location of multiple bucks by the time hunting season arrives. Set trail cameras along trails and at waterholes. It's common for mature bucks to drink at night, so sitting at a waterhole can be valuable time that's wasted.

The Hunt

When hunting pronghorn, spot and

stalk allows much more ground to be covered versus sitting and waiting. Pronghorn occupy a range of habitats in eastern Oregon, from farmland to sage, river bottoms to timber. Due to the varied terrain in which pronghorn live, glassing is an efficient way to find them.

Early morning and evening are best to find pronghorns on the move. During the heat of the day, pronghorns often bed down in shade, broken ground, and open flats. Pronghorns are small animals and can easily hide in uneven terrain, grass, and amid bushes, so cover ground in order to see all the land you can.

Due to a pronghorn's two-tone coloration, the way they reflect light can make them surprisingly challenging to find. Pronghorns have exceptional vision, so binoculars are a must for locating them before they locate you. A spotting scope will help in finding and field judging bucks from a safe distance.

Field judging pronghorn is not easy, so take your time. If hunting for a trophy class buck, look for a dark face, from the nose to the base of the horns; this indicates a mature buck. On a trophy buck, the prongs will appear very large and protrude far forward from the horn. The base of the prongs should start at the top of the ears or higher. Overall horn length should be 2 1/2 - 3 times the length of the ear; the average ear length is about 6 inches. The thicker the horns, the more mature the buck. Horns with a base circumference of 6 to 7 inches indicate a trophy class buck. When looked at from the side, a buck's eye is about 2" wide, and because it sits directly under the horn, it's a good reference point with which to gauge horn circumference.

When it comes to the shot, take your time and shoot from a solid resting position. If you can't shoot from a prone position, a tripod shooting stick will help steady the shot. Range a pronghorn before shooting, as their small size and contrasting colors result in shots often being missed, high.

Finding a trophy pronghorn requires effort. After all the years you've waited to draw this prized Oregon tag, dedicate the scouting time and enjoy a part of our wonderful state you might not experience otherwise. When on the hunt, be patient and enjoy what many hunters praise as the West's most relaxing, enjoyable big game hunts, amid some of the country's best country.





**HANDCRAFTED, RUGGED
AND BUILT TO LAST**

High ground clearance
Wood burning stove provides comfort in the cold
Customizable

GO FARTHER, STAY LONGER

Camp, hunt and fish with greater success!!



Western Range Camps, LLC
1145 S Blackhawk Blvd • Mt. Pleasant, UT

435-462-5300
wrcamp.com







**PROUD SUPPORTER
of OHA for**



**TIRES, BRAKES, ALIGNMENT,
SUSPENSION, BATTERIES & WHEELS**

LesSchwab.com

Three Rivers Archers get kids on target

OHA provides key support

Started as an idea of creating a youth archery club, Three Rivers Archers went much further. We recognized a need in our area, and later around the country, for a program that would help youth develop a skill set to be confident and ethical hunters.

Our vision and mission statement of “Teaching Skills and Respect for Hunting and the Archery Shooting Sports” is reflected in our curriculum that advances students through a progressive wrist band system, focusing on skills

We offer hunts ranging from turkeys to antelope. 🍖

including: always safety first, yardage estimation, shot placement, game care, tree stand usage and safety, tracking, landowner relations and land stewardship, wilderness first aid, land navigation, emergency shelter building, day pack necessities and proper use of each item, and accurate/proper shooting form, among many other skills.

We try to add moments of stress that require students to learn to calm themselves and let their training take over. The program is designed to be progressively more difficult, so students truly feel the accomplishment and pride of earning the next level of wrist band.

All interested prospective coaches go through a background check and training process to become certified, allowing TRA to give its students quality instruction. Those who show passion for our mission but lack the skill set to teach at a higher level are brought on as line safety coaches and assistant coaches, allowing them to acquire those skills necessary to effectively coach the curriculum.

Community support from La Pine Fire



When students show their proficiency, coaches help them get in the field to start hunting.

Paramedics and Oregon State Police game officers allow proper instruction of wilderness first aid and hunting ethics. At the end of each summer season, our coaches take the students on a two-day, pack-in camping trip where the youth use the skills they have learned throughout the season to camp out of their day packs. While it can make for some uncomfortable camping, the students learn that if properly prepared and educated, they will be just fine and can handle bad situations if they ever find themselves having to stay unexpectedly out in the woods. Even students who only desire target archery as an activity also learn important skills to support them anytime they are in the outdoors.

Understanding that not all kids have hunting opportunities, one of the more popular aspects of TRA is the partnerships we have fostered with various landowners allowing our coaches to accompany the youth on private land hunts in a safe, controlled environment. Currently we are able to offer hunts ranging from deer and turkeys to antelope and elk. Turkeys in particular have proven to be an excellent first hunt for the students.

Once students show their proficiency and passion for the program, they are partnered with coaches willing to donate additional time to help get these youth in the field.

Shortly after our beginning, students expressed a desire to shoot year-round, moving us to create our winter indoor target program to further hone their shooting skills. We quickly learned these kids were able to move more quickly and easily through the shooting portion of our wrist-band system because of the focus on proper

form and additional time spent shooting.

La Pine Park & Recreation partnered with us for this indoor space and is assisting with a permanent home for our Summer 3D and outdoor skills program. ODFW has supported this by providing some of our original equipment and a venue for youth to showcase their shooting skills in various tournaments.

Three Rivers Archers has always had the vision of opening a public archery range for everyone to enjoy. In between coaching youth and growing the program, we always had an eye out for an appropriate location and property. Through a partnership with La Pine Park & Recreation created during our winter indoor season, an opportunity presented itself for an amazing location. After more than two years of planning and negotiation, we are proud to announce that soon La Pine will have its public archery range, and TRA will have a permanent home for the youth to practice. This was accomplished at no cost to the public, a lot of hard work on the part of La Pine Park & Recreation and Three Rivers Archers, as well as the generous financial support of sponsors for the program.

Last year TRA started receiving requests from youth archery clubs across the West to join with us in our curriculum. We decided to formalize and copyright the program, allowing us to franchise into other states. Incurring this additional workload and membership was a significant undertaking and turning point in TRA. All board members and coaches are strictly on a volunteer basis. All membership fees and sponsorship funds go back into the program for equipment, scholarships for eligible youth, and operating costs.

TRA has been fortunate to have developed partnerships with generous sponsors such as OHA and The Mule Deer Foundation for support, such as replacement of targets, bow maintenance equipment, a storage container, financial support for scholarships and general operating costs. OHA has been instrumental in our growth and success.

TRA has a vision of getting youth into the outdoors and becoming active participants as the next generation of ethical hunters. With the ever-decreasing rate of hunter recruitment, we all need to do our part to ensure the future of our hunting heritage and wildlife conservation.



Contact J.R. Lorimor at jr.tra19@gmail.com

WANTED:

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS



**Remember the thrill of your first hunt?
Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?**

ODFW's Hunter Education Program NEEDS you!

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

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

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

How do I become a Certified Instructor?

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



Hunter Education

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



CHAPTER NEWS

Chapters offer online auctions, ongoing raffles

Below are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter meetings, which were suspended at press time, and previously scheduled projects. Please confirm all info found here.

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: Canceled, but we will hold some raffles.

Update: Baker City Banner Bank has partnered with our chapter in support of continuing education and our Harold and Rojean Atkins Scholarship program.

BEND

Bob Dixon
(503) 572-2805

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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

2020 banquet: Aug. 15, Riverhouse; call 541-480-9848

Update: Our 2020 Mule Deer Classic Banquet has been rescheduled to Aug. 15, at the Riverhouse Conference Center in Bend. The chapter Youth and Family Day at Cyrus Ranch was canceled, as was the multi-chapter and multi-organization project All Hands All Brands for Public Lands. Due to the uncertainty of the progression of COVID-19 and ordered restrictions, the Bend Chapter may be forced to cancel or reschedule other upcoming events. Please check your monthly newsletters, our chapter's website <https://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OHABend> for the latest.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the



Redmond OHA volunteers working the chapter's Priest Hole Project have recently planted 2,300 shrubs.



CRAFTON CREW

month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2020 banquet: Canceled, but we will hold some raffles; call 541-231-4384.

Update: Ours is one of nine OHA chapters who donated an additional \$500 to the TIP reward for information leading to charges involving a bighorn ram shot illegally in the Wenaha Wildlife Area last January.

CAPITOL

Eric Colville
(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

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

2020 banquet: Canceled.

Update: The powerline project near Detroit has been canceled. Chapter elections will be held at the first general meeting we can schedule.

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: 5:30 p.m., next meetings TBD.

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: Canceled; will hold raffles.

Update: Our youth day at the Clatsop County fairgrounds scheduled for June 27 has been canceled.

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: Held Feb. 29.

Update: 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: Held Feb. 22

HOODVIEW

Kelly Parkman
(503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

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

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 22

Update: We had a board meeting via telephone in April and voted to make some donations to: our two clay target high school teams, 4H shooting sports, hunters education, Ladies Range Day and Ladies Hunting Camp.

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: Canceled, but we will hold some raffles.

Update: Our May clean-up day was canceled, as was the June Youth Day. Chapter elections were held by mail.

KLAMATH

Allan Wiard
(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2020 banquet: Canceled, but an Access & Habitat Statewide Elk Tag was auctioned for \$47,000 on May 30.

Update: The Hart Mountain project/campout in May was canceled. We did a clean-up June 6 on Green Diamond property.



We will put on a barbecue for the Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunters Aug. 21; call 541-281-6518. Chapter elections were held by mail in May.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(530) 640-3368

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

2020 banquet: Canceled; we will hold the Coastal Farm and Ranch raffle and the Les Schwab raffle; call 541-810-1617.

Update: Our May guzzler project was canceled, as was the chapter's annual Youth Day in June.

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 in the chapter newsletter.

Update: Our chapter's May 9 Sporting Clay Shoot and fundraiser was canceled. We plan a youth shoot Aug. 22 at the Snake River shotgun complex in Ontario; call 208-573-5556.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Chapter Meetings: Quarterly, 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. Next meeting is scheduled for July 16.

Update: Our chapter meeting will immediately follow the annual public meeting by ODFW on July 16.

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: Canceled.

Update: Though our banquet was canceled, we auctioned an Access & Habitat State-wide Elk Tag for \$47,500 on May 15.

OCHOCO

John Dehler, III

(541) 815-5817

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

2020 banquet: Held Feb. 22

Update: Our chapter scholarship application deadline is July 15; contact cdeh44@gmail.com.

PIONEER

Brian Andrews

(503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

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

2020 banquet: Held March 7.

Update: We pledged \$500 to the \$10,500 bighorn sheep reward. We convened a socially distanced guzzler scouting trip on May 2, and plan a duck box route for June 27. The annual family campout dates are June 19-20; call 503-710-1233. Our booths at the Molalla Buckaroo and the Clackamas County Fair have been canceled. We plan to be at. Sight-in-Days at Canby Rod & Gun Club are Sept. 19-20 and 26-27; call 503-710-1233.

REDMOND

Shorty Berry

(541) 546-8008

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: Held Feb. 29.

Update: Redmond OHA volunteers planted 2,400 shrubs and cottonwood trees along with setting drip lines and pumps in April. We did fencing at Priest Hole May 16.

ROGUE VALLEY

Ricky Clark

(530) 905-1186

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: Canceled; we will hold some raffles.

Update: Young Oregon Hunters Day at Denman Wildlife Area has been canceled. Four students, chosen from 14 applicants, were chosen this year to receive RVOHA Bill Kirk Scholarship awards. Chapter elections were held by mail in April.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman

(503) 842-7733

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

2020 banquet: Canceled; will hold some raffles.

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: Canceled; will hold raffles.

Update: Our shed antler pickup at Dean Creek on April 18 and our May 2 Youth Day were both canceled.

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: July 11, NW Events & Environments, Hillsboro, 503-502-0611

Update: The habitat restoration at Barney Reservoir on May 16 and the June Youth Days at Henry Hagg Lake have been canceled. We will clean up the Tillamook Forest target shooting area July 18; call 503-290-6143. Chapter elections were held by mail.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

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

Update: Our chapter picnic will be held July 21 at Roseburg Rod & Gun Club. Chapter elections were held by mail.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2020 banquet: Held March 14.

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: Canceled.

Update: Though our banquet was canceled, we raised more than \$41,000 via online auction. We are also holding some raffles, with winners to be drawn at our general chapter meeting on Dec. 10; go to our chapter website ohayamhill.com to buy tickets.

Our board of directors has decided to again support local high school trap teams with a \$2,500 donation to the schools in Yamhill County who have teams. Our booth at the St. Paul Rodeo is canceled, as was the one at the Yamhill County Fair. A youth trap/shotgun shoot will be held at the Newberg Rod & Gun Club Aug. 15; call 503-737-9483. Chapter elections were held in May by mail.





NEW KUIU VALO CAMO

Bear injures Creswell man

A male black bear injured a man after encountering him and his dog in an incident that happened on private industrial timberland west of Creswell.

The incident happened on May 10 about five miles west of Creswell near Camas Swale Road, which is in a semi-rural area with a mix of rural residential and private timberland properties in Lane County. The 72-year-old man was able to walk home after the incident and seek medical attention. He was treated and released from the hospital.

According to an Oregon State Police interview with the victim, he and his dog had hiked from his property to the adjoining timber company property. While walking a forest road, they encountered a bear in the road only 20 feet away.

The dog barked and ran at the bear. The bear knocked the dog down and was on the dog when the victim approached, yelling and waving his arms in an attempt scare the bear from the dog. The bear turned from the dog and redirected to the victim.

The bear charged, knocking the man to the ground. The man fought back and after a short time, the bear left. The man and dog, both injured, hiked approximately one mile back to his residence before being transported to receive medical care.

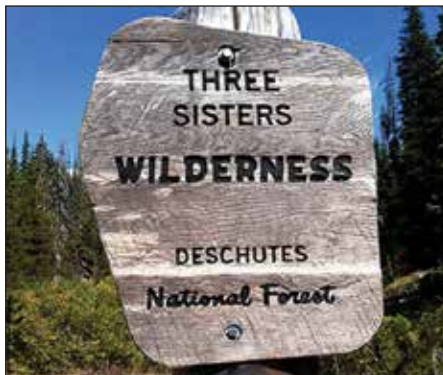
The man suffered lacerations and punctures on his forearm as well as lacerations to his torso and head. He was released from the hospital after receiving treatment for his wounds. His dog was treated by a veterinarian. Both the man and his dog are expected to fully recover.

The man described the bear as mature, black in color with a "cream" colored muzzle. He did not see any other bears at the scene of the attack.

ODFW, Oregon State Police and USDA Wildlife Services responded to the incident after Lane County Sheriff notified them.

Fresh bear sign was located and Wildlife Services hounds gave a short chase before treeing a large, mature male bear with a light-colored muzzle. The bear was shot and killed.

Human-bear incidents are rare in Oregon. Black bear populations number between 25,000-30,000 statewide but there have only been four previously reported incidents in the state since 1988, none of them fatal.



Wilderness permit system delayed; fire ban in place

The Deschutes and Willamette National Forests will delay the implementation of the Central Cascades Wilderness limited entry permit system until May 2021, due to difficulties in implementation caused by COVID-19. The limited entry system was set to begin on May 22, and would bring day-use limits to 19 out of 79 trails and overnight limits to all trails in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington and Three Sisters Wildernesses.

One aspect of the Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies decision that will be implemented this year is the elevational campfire ban. The ban includes:

- All campfires are banned above 5,700' elevation in Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wildernesses, as well as some areas lower than 5,700'.
- All campfires are banned above 6,000' elevation in Diamond Peak Wilderness.

Other than the elevational fire ban, the wilderness areas will be managed this year as they were previously. The Willamette National Forest will maintain the Pamelia and Obsidian limited entry areas, and both forests will maintain the free self-issue permit systems for entering the wildernesses.

Elk hoof rot found in Douglas County

ODFW veterinarians recently confirmed the presence of elk hoof disease for the first time in Douglas County and are asking the public to report limping or lame elk. A hunter harvested an adult cow elk, which was seen limping in the Indigo Unit east of Sutherlin, tested positive for Treponema Associated Hoof Disease (TAHD), often referred to as elk hoof disease.

It is the first known elk to test positive for this disease in Douglas County and is the southern-most location of a confirmed case in Oregon.

ODFW is asking the public to use an online form to report limping elk or those with visibly abnormal hooves or call the Wildlife Health Lab at 1-866-968-2600.

Prize drawings offered for trying non-lead

Hunters who have chosen non-lead ammunition in the past year may go to www.nonleadededucation.com and enter for a chance to win prizes, including Maven Optics, First Lite Gift cards, and more.

Separate entries for brand new and long-time hunters.

Drawing will occur first week of July.

KUIU unveils Valo camo

KUIU, the ultralight performance hunting gear company and OHA supporter, announced the launch of Valo, its newest hunting camouflage pattern.

The launch comes after three years of research and development, extensive testing, countless iterations, and input from a carefully assembled team of trusted guides and hunters.

With the introduction of Valo, hunters are now completely covered for every environment with the three most effective camo patterns in the industry.

Valo is a lighter, low-contrast pattern, and adds a new dimension to KUIU camouflage. Its large macro pattern with micro details help breakup the human outline effectively at both long and short range distances. For more, visit kuiu.com



Men charged with poaching 27 big game animals

Tougher penalties pushed for by OHA could result in stiff sentences in this major case

Three Oregon men have been charged with poaching 27 big game animals over the past two years after a concerned citizen alerted authorities. Restitution for the crimes, which occurred in western Oregon, may top \$162,000.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife troopers issued criminal citations in lieu of custody for William Hollings, 34, of Philomath; Nicholas Lisenby, 39, of Lebanon; and Eric Hamilton, 33, of Alsea. Amanda Hughes, 37, of Lebanon, was also charged. The crimes occurred in Benton, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Polk and Tillamook counties.

Details of the case remain confidential until cases are complete. However, after conducting several searches, OSP troopers recovered evidence indicating numerous wildlife crimes. They issued multiple charges of unlawful take or possession of buck deer, bull elk, black bear, bobcat and cougar. Charges also include felon in possession of a firearm; illegal transfer of a tag; hunting during a closed season and hunting without big game tags.

Evidence of the crimes was discovered after an initial search warrant executed on Hollings' residence on April 8. Based on those findings, Troopers served additional warrants for related suspects on April 25. They discovered multiple subjects, who allegedly poached at least 27 big game animals.

OSP Senior Trooper Jim Andrews led the investigation. Andrews received a tip through the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Line which started the wheels turning. People who report poaching and other wildlife crimes are eligible for cash rewards or hunter



Under new statutes, restitution in this case could amount to \$162,700.

preference points if their report leads to a citation or arrest.

"We had an anonymous member of the public lodge the original complaint," Andrews said, "He did an awesome job. He's the reason we got this case going and he's going to get some hunting preference points."

New legislation, passed in 2019 with OHA's key support, increased fines and restitutions for fish and wildlife crimes. Under Oregon Revised Statutes, charges related to this case call for \$162,700 in restitution to the State of Oregon. The three men will likely lose hunting privileges and pay additional fees. Restitution fines generally fund improved wildlife and habitat programs through ODFW.

Yvonne Shaw, ODFW's Stop Poaching campaign coordinator, praised the effort.

"This sends a message to others who might poach, that we can and do find perpetrators," Shaw said.

OHA issues \$2,600 in 6 TIP reward cases

In the last two months, OHA issued six reward checks to informants in six cases totaling \$2,600 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund. Charges included: unlawful take of: undersized Dungeness crab, cow elk, spike elk, bull elk – closed season and rifle in shotgun zone; exceeding daily bag limit of Marine fish; aiding/counseling in a wildlife crime; lending/borrowing big game tag; hunting game mammals prohibited method; motor vehicle use restriction; tampering with a witness and with physical evidence; providing false info on required ODFW report.

Two charged in alleged antelope poaching



A pronghorn buck skull, six buck deer skulls and a bull elk skull were seized as evidence.

OSP troopers in John Day have charged two local men in connection with the illegal killing and wasting of a pronghorn buck from a vehicle.

Austin Catron, 18, and Jonas Waite, 19, were initially charged with Unlawful Taking of Antelope and Waste of a Game Mammal. Neither possessed an antelope tag.

Police said further information revealed that Catron and Waite were also involved in the unlawful killing of multiple deer over the past two years as well as Waite's unlawful killing of a golden eagle.

A .22-250, identified as the weapon used, was seized. Additional charges will be forwarded for consideration.



OHA NEWS & VIEWS

Coastal

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 on the facing page 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 held phone auctions for two statewide elk tags and one statewide deer tag. The Mid-Willamette Chapter auctioned a Statewide Elk Tag for \$47,500 on May 15, and auctions for Klamath's Statewide Elk (\$47,000) and State OHA's Statewide Deer (\$50,000) were held on May 30.

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:

Jan 1 – 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
26-Feb – Ruger American 6.5 Creedmoor camo/bronze Cerakote, James Slaughter, Bend
4-Mar – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Vias .223, C. J. Trotta, Tiller
11-Mar – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Dennis Hungerford, Bend
18-Mar – Remington ADL SS syn. .30-06 & 3-9x40 scope, Curt Allen, Astoria
25-Mar – Savage 93R17 BTVS .17 HMR, Tom Luttrell, Molalla
1-Apr – Black Flag Citadel 1911 in .45 ACP, Aaron Burke, Sweet Home
8-Apr – Browning X-Bolt Hells Canyon Speed .28 Nosler, Bryce Denfeld, Redmond
15-Apr – Benelli Nova camo 12 gauge, Jonathan Anderson, Warrenton
22-Apr – Kimber Hunter SS 6.5 Creedmoor, William Abbott, Clatskanie
29-Apr – Savage TH-16 SS Syn. .308 & 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Kari Phillips, Gresham
6-May – Stoeger 3500 Camo Max-4 3-1/2 Mag, Derrek Gwyn, Eugene
3-May – TC Compass .22-250, Jeff Senger, Portland
20-May – Walther PK380 SS and Teal, Christopher Yee, Eugene
27-May – Remington ADL SS synthetic black .308 & 3-9x40 scope, George Somics II, Woodland
3-Jun – Weatherby Deluxe 12 gauge, Garrett Weaver, Roseburg
10-Jun – Howa lightweight gray Cerakote KUIU Verde .223, Jenice Lawson, Rickreall
17-Jun – Bergara B-14 Hunter 6.5 Creedmoor, Becky Roberts, Salem



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 to be offered in Oregon

More hunting opportunities will be offered soon on national wildlife refuges 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



CHECK OUT OHA'S



Online



AUCTION

& RAFFLES



AWESOME AUCTIONS



- GREAT GUNS • HIGH-END GEAR • TRIPS • ART & MORE!



ROCKIN' RAFFLES

NOSLER®



- NOSLER RIFLE RAFFLE



- LES SCHWAB RAFFLE • WALL OF GUNS RAFFLE
- COASTAL FARM & RANCH RAFFLE FOR A NOSLER RIFLE



See it all at: <https://stateoha.cbo.io>



**RAFFLES
FOR GREAT
GUNS**



**ONLINE
AUCTION
JULY 4-11**

**Bonus
Gun Drawing!**

Howa flag 6.5 Creedmoor
chassis package shown above

Get 1 ticket for every
\$100 spent on
raffles!

Possible changes for Cascade elk, archery

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working for several years to conduct a complete review of big game hunting seasons and associated regulations. The goals of this review are to:

- Improve customer service through simpler big game hunting seasons, bag limits, boundaries and associated regulations
- Allocate hunting opportunity fairly and consistent with hunter preferences
- Review hunting season structure and allocation of hunting opportunity to promote hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3)
- Ensure hunting seasons meet biological objectives and maintain or improve overall hunter opportunity

This year's review is focused on the timing of West Cascade deer and elk rifle seasons and eastern Oregon deer and elk archery seasons. The proposals ODFW staff are considering are informed by extensive surveys on the preferences and opinions of Oregon's deer and elk hunters collected through unbiased research from a professional survey and research firm (more info below).

Any changes approved by the Commission are expected to take effect for the 2021 season. Here are the major changes ODFW staff are considering for initial public comment in July before developing final proposals for the Commission:

Timing of West Cascade General Deer and Elk Seasons

General season Cascade rifle elk hunting has grown into a poor opportunity, with success rates below 5 percent. ODFW is proposing to move the season from October to early November to improve hunting conditions. Another benefit to this approach would be the chance to eliminate the week-long break in deer hunting in the Cascade units, allowing for standard deer season dates in all of western Oregon. Another option suggested by some hunters is to keep the current dates for Cascade elk season but allow deer season to continue during this elk season so hunters can hunt for both at the same time.

Change remaining general season eastern Oregon archery elk hunts to controlled

Archery hunting has grown in popularity over the past few decades, with archery elk hunting increasing by 50 percent while rifle elk hunter numbers decreased by 55 percent in eastern Oregon from 1995 to 2019. For the most part, we know the increase is because more hunters are choosing an archery season where they may hunt for nearly a month throughout many units of their choice, while rifle bull tags have become limited and take preference points to draw in most units. Unfortunately, this increase in popularity has led to complaints about crowding from some archery hunters. Biologists believe it's also contributing to elk distribution problems – with more elk moving to private land and increasing damage but decreasing opportunity for the public land hunter. The current framework also conflicts with hunters' weapon preferences and doesn't allocate harvest fairly between weapon types. ODFW's hunter survey found that 75 percent of eastern Oregon elk hunters would prefer to hunt with a rifle and 21 percent with a bow. Yet in some popular units like the Starkey, Ukiah and Heppner Units, 73 percent of the branch antler bull hunters in the three units combined were archers and 60 percent of all bull harvest was during archery season.

Change remaining general season eastern Oregon deer hunts to controlled

ODFW is also proposing to move the remaining general season archery deer hunting in eastern Oregon to controlled hunts – but for different reasons than for elk. Elk are at or above management objectives in most of eastern Oregon but mule deer are 50 percent or more below MO in half of the units. Biologists believe a general season with unlimited tags is an inappropriate management tool for declining mule deer populations. Moving to a controlled season would allow more close management and tracking of harvest.

How do I give feedback?

Hunters can comment on these proposals via a form available at www.MyODFW.com/articles/big-game-review.com

We'll use the feedback we receive at the site to inform the development of final proposals for 2021 big game hunting seasons.

Those final proposals to be presented before the Commission will be online on Sept. 1.

Once these final proposals are posted, additional comments can be emailed to odfw.commission@state.or.us

The Commission meeting to adopt 2021 Big Game Regulations is scheduled for Sept. 11, but will likely be online due to the COVID-19 virus. Although the meeting is online, there will be opportunity for public testimony during the meeting.

More about how hunters were surveyed

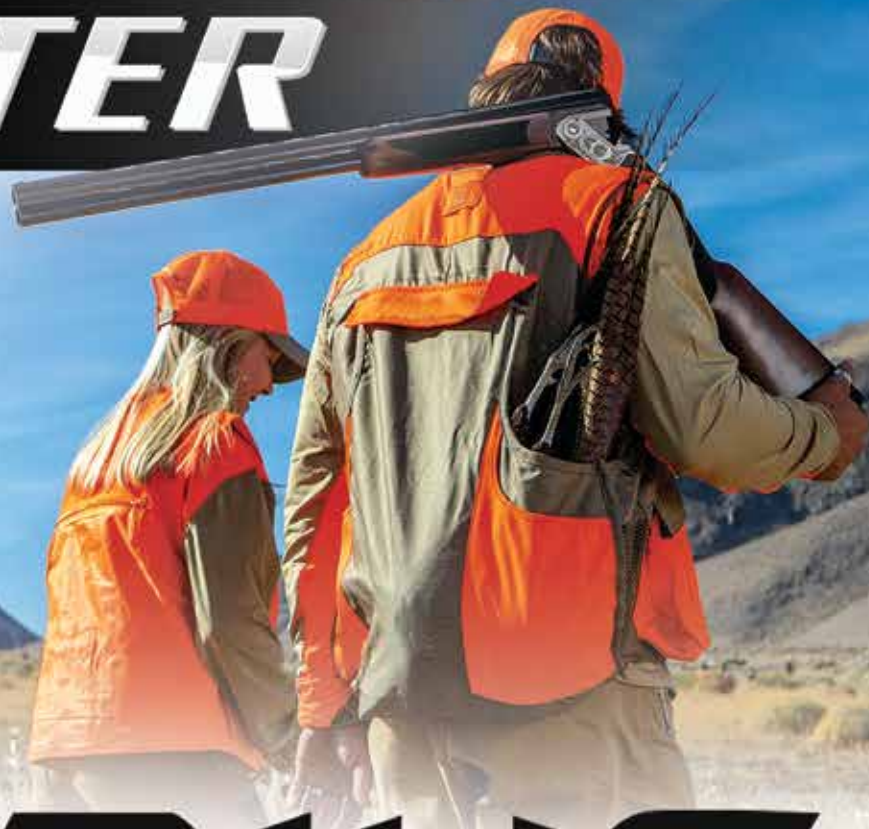
As part of the Big Game Review, the Department prioritized collecting unbiased information about the preferences and opinions of Oregon's deer and elk hunters. Responsive Management, a national survey and research firm specializing in hunting, fishing and natural resources survey work, was contracted to survey Oregon hunters.

Survey efforts began in 2019 with over 2,000 randomly selected hunters being surveyed on their satisfaction, weapon preferences, factors influencing hunt choices, and other issues important for the Department to know.

In early 2020, an online public forum was launched for 30 days so all hunters could provide input on deer and elk hunting season and other issues that were important to them. The online forum was an opportunity for hunters to share ideas and opinions prior to the Department developing proposed changes to 2021 hunting seasons. Approximately 1,400 comments were submitted by the 10,000 visitors to the forum.

Following the online forum, another survey was conducted of more than 4,200 randomly selected Oregon resident deer and elk hunters. This survey focused on preferences and opinions on specific issues related to changes being considered for 2021 hunting seasons and informed the proposals ODFW staff are considering.

POINTER



NEW ACRIUS



MSRP \$589

FEATURES -

- Available in 12ga., 20ga., 28ga., 410ga.
- 28" Chrome Lined Barrels
- Youth Barrels 26" (410ga & 20ga)
- Barrel Selector
- 5 Chokes (C, IC, M, IM, F)
- Raised Vent Rib
- Fiber-Optic Front Sights

MODELS AVAILABLE -

KAR1228
KAR2028
KAR2828
KAR41028
KAR2026Y YOUTH
KAR41026Y YOUTH



AVAILABLE

+ Gauge - 20 & .410
+ Barrel - 26"
+ Length - 42"
+ LOP - 12.5"

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: LEGACYSPORTS.COM
FOR A FREE CATALOG CALL : 1.800.553.4229

LEGACY
SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL®



LegacySportsIntl



LegacySportsInternational



LegacySportsInt



GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Looking for a *fast* breakfast? Antelope Breakfast Tostadas

Ground antelope is as versatile as any other big game meat. The key to a juicy venison burger of any kind is not to overcook the lean meat. Many choose to add a bit of ground pork, ground beef or even bacon to their burger patties, but they can also be left 100 percent lean meat.

Depending on the flavor profile you're looking for, burgers can be simply seasoned with salt and pepper or dry spices like cumin, paprika, chili powder, or oregano; ginger can be also added to enhance your dish. Enjoy your wild game for breakfast or any time of day with these tasty breakfast tostadas.

- 1 pound ground antelope or other game
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 small corn or flour tortillas
- 1 cup refried beans
- 4 slices pepper jack cheese
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon chipotle hot sauce
- Fresh cilantro for garnish



Form ground meat into four equal patties. In a small bowl, mix sour cream or Greek yogurt with hot sauce, set aside. In a large skillet, fry burger patties in olive oil over medium-high heat until cooked to desired doneness. Warm refried beans and tortillas. In another skillet, fry eggs over easy. Assemble tostadas by placing a warm tortilla on the plate. Top tortilla with beans, burger patty, a slice of cheese and the over easy egg. Top with chipotle cream sauce and fresh cilantro.



For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular cookbook, *Cooking Big Game*, send a check for \$20 to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Walterville, OR 97489 or visit www.scotthaugen.com for this and other titles.



TIFFANYHAUGEN.COM

Any wild game meat can be used for this tasty burger recipe.

Crafting Natural Accessories from Natural Resources!

- Chandeliers, Lamps & Wall Sconces
- Flatware, Serving Sets & Home Accessories
- Fireplace & Barbecue Sets

We buy antlers!
21584 Hwy. 62,
Shady Cove, OR
541-826-4050 • 800-736-2104
Fax 541-826-4055
www.highcountryarts.com

Ask about items with OHA's new branding!

PUT YOUR LOGO ON OUR ITEMS!

ON X HUNT

THE #1 HUNTING GPS APP

Use promo code **OHA20** to get **20% off your onX subscription**, and **onX will make a donation to OHA.**

NOSLER[®]

2020-2021 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST PRIZE: Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle

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

3RD PRIZE: Leupold Scope

4TH PRIZE: Danner Alsea 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 Tim Shoepe of Newberg claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Elizabeth Shoepe with a Wyoming mule deer.



Joe Mead, OHA member in Hillsboro, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of himself with a Steens Mountain muley taken with his grandfather's rifle.

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

Curt Gibson, OHA member in Prineville, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Skyler with his first ducks, wigeons he bagged with a single shot .410.



OHA member Brent Meisinger of Vale claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2020 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of himself and son Robert with his first turkey, which sported a 10-inch beard, taken in Malheur County with a Remington 11-87 shotgun.

JOSEPH CANYON/DUANE DUNCANNON

NOSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Cathee Brown of Boring earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a pronghorn she tagged in the Beatys Butte Unit.



Curt Gibson, OHA member in Prineville, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Gabi posing with a limit of Crooked River ducks.



Beaverton OHA member Tyler Harper collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Hood River turkey.

Once again this issue, several good photos were not considered because they were low-resolution. A photo should be at least 500kb for publication.

David King, OHA member in Banks, gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Cascade elk taken last year in the Rogue Unit with a Tikka 7mm.



Medford OHA member Jessica Koepp gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself hunting in Jackson County.



Member Brent McNeill of Jefferson gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with ducks taken in Clackamas County.

HYATT LAKE, MT. McLOUGHLIN/DUANE DUNCANNON

Death, Taxes, and Reporting

I was recuperating nicely, the nervous tic had subsided, antler hallucinations had faded, and I finally stopped jumping out of bed at night to reload my Hawken. But with just one measly text from a friend, I relapsed.

“Don’t forget to report!”

Joe meant no harm. My sensible stockbroker buddy was merely advising me to avoid the \$25 penalty.

I had been tormented by that dreadful memory, three months prior, when a nosey lead cow prevented me from trying the new e-tagging system, where I could duct tape my smart phone around the antlers of a massive bull in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

I usually don’t kill large bulls. Not because I’m a pathetic hunter mind you, it just makes no practical sense when your ceilings are not vaulted. But for this elk, I would have remodeled.

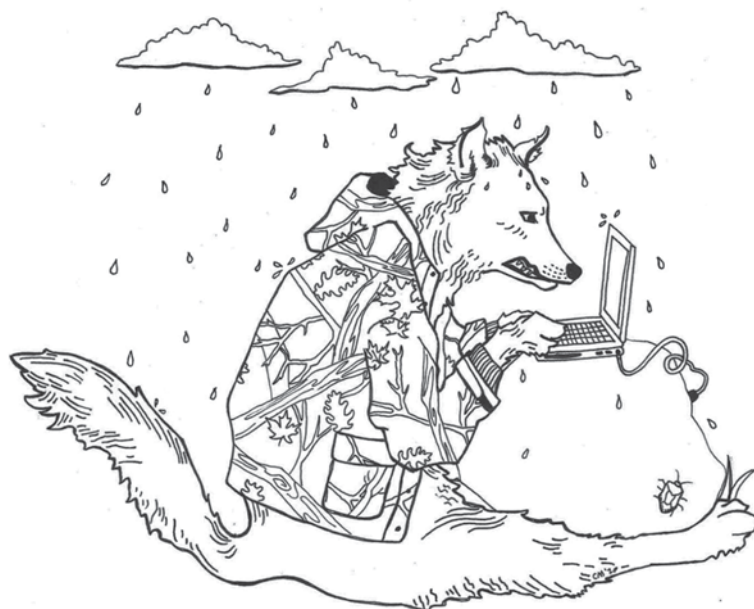
My fingers trembled violently as I logged on to report and evade the insult to injury charge. I halted my horses at ODFW’s “Report Your Hunt” page to read the actual justification for the \$25 penalty.

In their description, harvest and hunting pressure data was “not statistically sound” because successful hunters were more likely to report, which in turn overestimates hunter success, thus less tag opportunities. The article went on to proudly pontificate that since the penalty was instituted in 2012 reporting has climbed from 41 percent up to 80 or 85.

So I did math, which isn’t easy for a writer.

I totaled a combined 102,640 Oregon elk hunters in 2018. The non-reporting 15 percent, which is conservative, came to 15,360. Then I multiplied those by \$25 which equaled \$384,000 in non-reporting fees from elk hunters alone!

Math was aggravating my condition, so I migrated to my personal reporting page where I maintained a fingertip grip on mental stability – until the last question:



“Did you harvest an elk with this tag?”

My only choices were “Yes” or “No!”

Is it any wonder unsuccessful hunters don’t report! Even criminals are allowed to plead their case. For \$384,000, elk hunters deserve an interactive “ALMOST: Please explain in 1,000 words or less.” It also would provide our wildlife managers more sound statistics.

Dear ODFW,

With lungs burning, I scampered near 8,000 feet to climb in front of a grazing herd sporting 21 elk, which I spied in a forested ravine from below. There were 17 cows, 2 calves, 1 spike, and 1 bull sporting at least 330 inches of... the need for vaulted ceilings.

A constantly reversing crosswind was about to encourage a full cardiac arrest when the 2 calves grazed out of the island of trees in front of me. I was barely concealed behind a small pine when the lead cow pushed through a bush. I could have counted the tiny leaves matted to her forehead.

The bull finally swaggered into view 25 yards below her! But the cow had me pinned. The third time her head shot up, she barked. When I cleared the tree and fired, the bull was already at full speed. With no blood, I knew he had beaten my .54 caliber bullet. My heart was broken.

Mr. FitzGerald,

First of all, we were terribly sorry to hear about your loss. Fortunately, thanks to the overly generous funds, via non-reporting penalties, we are now able to provide an onsite mental health hunting

specialist 24/7 to help you, the hunter, work through this difficult time.

In the report, you mentioned a herd of 21 elk with only 2 calves. Did you see any predators in the area?

Dear ODFW,

Why, actually, yes. We saw 3 gigantic wolves nearby a couple days prior. I have pictures! We also did find an elk wolf-kill. Did the wolves fail to report it?

Mr. FitzGerald,

Currently we are not requiring predators to report, or even register as predators for that matter.

Mark Twain once said there are “Lies, damn lies, and statistics. If wildlife managers truly want accurate information on harvest and hunting pressure, they better demand predators start reporting, too.

Alpha Male Pack Party Leader:

Which territory did your pack hunt in?

All of them

How many days did your pack hunt?

365

Did you participate in the Youth Pup Mentorship Program?

Yes, all 6 of my pups participated.

Was your pack successful in harvesting any elk?

Yes, we harvested a lot of elk, 45 of them to be exact: 20 cows (7 pregnant), 19 calves, 6 bulls, and even 4 of the fat slower moving elk who live down lower.

Statistically, there is a 100-percent chance you will pay a penalty for not reporting. I would say hunting pressure is at an all time high. Please report.



FASTER EASIER

READY RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX

BDX 2.0

The world's most advanced **optics** system



QUICKLY AND EASILY BOND BDX RANGEFINDERS
AND SIGHTS USING QUICKBOND™ FEATURE

COMBO KITS PRE-BONDED FROM THE FACTORY

PRESET BALLISTIC GROUPS LOADED ON ALL
SIERRA BDX RIFLESCOPE AND
KILO BDX RANGEFINDERS

SMART BDC™ RETICLES TO CUSTOMIZE
RIFLESCOPES OUT OF THE BOX

APP FREE EASY SET-UP ON ALL BDX PRODUCTS

TO UNLOCK THE ADVANCED FEATURES OR
CREATE A CUSTOM BALLISTIC PROFILE, JUST
DOWNLOAD THE BDX SMARTPHONE APP



Ballistic Data Xchange

sigsauer.com

SIGSAUER
NEVER SETTLE



NOSLER[®]

WORTH THE WEIGHT.

A rifle that spends more time on your shoulder than at your shoulder better be light. So if you've been searching for an ultralight rifle, but aren't willing to sacrifice accuracy, or 10 grand to get it, we've got you covered.

The M48 Mountain Carbon Ultra Lightweight.
Sub-MOA accuracy. Just six pounds. Your wait is over.

NOSLER RIFLES.

Built by hand.
To see what they'll do in yours.

Available in standard and Nosler Calibers.



800 285 3701 / NOSLER.COM

Photo by Marcus Hockett