



## Beaver trap ban fails

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator  
[Amy@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Amy@oregonhunters.org)

Beaver trapping in Oregon became an unusually high profile topic at the June Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. Letters and comments were submitted by 27 environmental groups in support of a requested ban on beaver trapping on all federal land in the state.

OHA, working with a broad coalition of state and national organizations, provided written and oral testimony opposing the proposed ban. In the 12-hour meeting, the Commission heard testimony from more than 60 individuals, including several legislators, who aired concern over the lack of scientific justification for the proposed ban.

Ultimately, the 2020-22 Furbearer Regulations were approved as proposed and without the beaver ban. The Commission couldn't vote on the ban request due to a Secretary of State filing technicality and instead instructed ODFW to form a workgroup to evaluate beaver population health and any impacts of trapping. The Commission also requested a working group be formed to review trap check times and the Commission's ability to adjust these regulations without legislative process. This outcome signals continued involvement by OHA and our coalition of partners to ensure trapping opportunities for Oregonians.

## You're invited to OHA's Online Convention!

*Online auction July 4-11; raffles rockin' the rest of the year!*

While we're disappointed that we could not hold the OHA State Convention at Seven Feathers Casino this year, we're excited to offer our members a chance to participate in the auction and raffles without ever leaving home!

Our Awesome Online Auction will be held July 4-11 at <https://stateoha.cbo.io>

You don't even need to sign in to check out the items up for bid, which include great guns, top-quality gear, trips, art and more!

Our Rockin' Raffles include the premier gun raffles offered at OHA State Conventions: the Nosler Rifle Raffle for a Nosler Liberty .270 Winchester, the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for

a Nosler M48 .300 Win Mag, the Les Schwab Raffle for a \$750 Schwab gift card, and the ever-popular Wall of Guns, featuring six premium firearms, including a Browning Hells Canyon rifle, a Tikka, a Kimber and a Beretta, as well as a pair of patriotic guns in flag colors.

You can purchase raffle tickets for all these rousing raffles at the online auction site at <https://stateoha.cbo.io>, by calling the OHA State Office at 541-772-7313, or by mailing the printable order form at [www.oregonhunters.org/documents](http://www.oregonhunters.org/documents)

For every \$100 you spend on raffle tickets, you will get a ticket in the Bonus Drawing for a Howa Flag 6.5 Creedmoor chassis package, pictured above.

**UPDATE: Bend banquet canceled; late-July online event will be held. Visit then at <https://bendoha.cbo.io> For info, go to <https://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter>**



## OHA Klamath Chapter spruces up forest

30 volunteers helped OHA's Klamath Chapter clean up local forest property and filled trucks and trailers with tires, furniture and other trash this weekend. They even found 1 car chopped off a road. Basin Tire took the tires, Waste Management loaned dumpsters, Sportsmans Park provided staging area, and Klamath County waived the dump fees. MDF provided a great lunch.

# OHA surveys members on major regs change proposals

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director  
[Jim@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Jim@oregonhunters.org)

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.

OHA asked opinions on: moving Cascade elk rifle season back to November; making all or part of eastern Oregon controlled hunting for archery elk; and making all eastern Oregon limited entry for archery mule deer.

More than 1,400 members provided these responses:

• **Cascade elk rifle hunt back to November:**

Yes 63%, No 15%, Unsure 21%



• **Going to controlled hunting in E. Oregon for archery elk:**

Yes 52%, No 32%, Unsure 16%



• **Going to controlled hunting in E. Oregon for archery deer:**

Yes 43.7%, No 43.6%, Unsure 12%

OHA representatives used our survey information to compare with ODFW's broader Oregon hunters sampling during the Sport Group Leaders virtual meeting held on June 25.

OHA will feature the same three survey questions on our monthly website poll this summer – one each summer month – appearing at the bottom of the home page.

To sign up to receive future OHA alerts and surveys, visit our website at <https://oregonhunters.org>

## OHA welcomes familiar faces to board and staff

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director  
[Jim@oregonhunters.org](mailto:Jim@oregonhunters.org)

OHA recently filled staff positions for Conservation Director and Conservation Coordinator to better serve our effectiveness as hunter-conservationists.

The new Conservation Director will be Mike Totey. Mike brings a wealth of natural resource knowledge to this position, having been a District Forester for Oregon Department of Forestry for 30 years in western Oregon.

Tyler Dungannon will take on the Conservation Coordinator position. Tyler has deep roots in OHA, both as a volunteer and part-time media specialist. Tyler is currently wrapping up his Masters of Science degree in wildlife management at Oregon State University.

On the State Board, Jason Haley is stepping down after several years of service as the Board Secretary. His position will be filled by Mary Jo Hedrick of Summer Lake. Mary Jo recently retired from ODFW after spending most of her career as Assistant District Biologist in ODFW's Lakeview District.



Chris Gerdes, manager at L.L. Stubb Stewart park in Vernonia, and Yvonne Shaw, ODFW Stop Poaching campaign coordinator, show off a new Turn In Poachers (TIP) sign. Oregon Parks, which have experienced poaching problems, have agreed to post these signs. OHA was key in getting the new anti-poaching awareness program funded, but a COVID budget panic has the program in peril.

## COVID crisis threatens anti-poaching funds

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist  
[Alvinelkins@yahoo.com](mailto:Alvinelkins@yahoo.com)

The pandemic has caused a state budget crisis. General fund revenue shortfall is estimated to be around \$664 million by June 30, 2021. Consequently, state agencies have been asked to submit budget cuts for the current 2019-21 biennium.

ODFW is proposing the elimination of some of the \$3.7 million in general fund dollars that it received during the 2019 legislative session for the anti-poaching program. This initiative in part was to create a public awareness campaign emphasizing the poaching epidemic in Oregon and how the public could help combat it. Another portion of the program was to fund a position in the Department of Justice to help support state prosecutors. ODFW is proposing the elimination of the funds that support both aspects of this program.

In total, ODFW is proposing a \$413,178 General Fund reduction for these two programs. Also, in relation

to our current poaching problem in Oregon, ODFW is proposing to eliminate \$203,077 in General Funds for anti-poaching enforcement efforts.

In all, ODFW is proposing to cut about \$600,000 in general funds for support that is much needed to ensure the protection of Oregon's wildlife.

Making this situation even more problematic, the Fish and Wildlife Division (FWD) of the Oregon State Police, in response to the lottery revenue shortfall that the agency is experiencing under the pandemic, has already moved six lottery-funded FWD troopers to other funded vacancies and another 15 to the Patrol Division. Obviously, this will impact FWD enforcement efforts around the state.

While OHA understands the current funding crisis, we will be working with legislators in a special session to voice our concerns about the need to put some dollars back into the ODFW and OSP FWD budgets to protect our wildlife.

