



# OHA TRACKER

October 2020



OHA MEMBER DENNIS KIRKLAND/HISIMAGES.COM

## Oregon goes limited entry for archery mule deer

*Commission delays changes to archery elk hunting regs*

By Jim Akenson, OHA Sr. Conservation Director  
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on Sept. 11 approved the ODFW proposal for archery-only mule deer hunting in 2021, but delayed implementation of archery-only elk hunting at this time.

ODFW announced in August it would delay until 2022 the proposed changes to eastern Oregon archery elk season to become all controlled hunts. Department staff evaluated all their surveys and other forms of input, including recommendations from OHA and other sport group organizations, before making this announcement.

As OHA urged, ODFW decided to slow the process, allowing for more unit-specific hunter input and giving further refinement on tag numbers per unit, preference point variables, and the overall biological situation of elk per management unit.

OHA did not oppose the ODFW proposal to make all eastern Oregon units controlled for mule deer, based on the entire region experiencing poor survey counts or averaging just 50 percent of management objectives.

Controlled hunts for mule deer will help better distribute hunting pressure and reduce hunter crowding in popular areas. Currently, there is essentially no control or management of either.



TY SUMNER

*All Oregon mule deer bowhunting will be controlled hunts in 2021.*

## Commission shoots down crossbows

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist  
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its September meeting declined to authorize the use of crossbows for any-legal-weapon big game seasons. ODFW, as part of its staff recommendations for 2021, proposed that the use of crossbows be allowed in Oregon during any-legal-weapon seasons for big game (when rifles, bows, handguns, and other weapons are also allowed).

Tyler Dungannon, OHA conservation coordinator, gave the OHA position on

the issue. In part Dungannon said:

“OHA is very cautiously supportive of this change, which has not been part of the big game review process. Recognizing that crossbows could only be permitted for use in hunts where all legal weapons are allowed is the only condition where OHA could consider supporting this. OHA is firmly opposed to having crossbows used in any archery season in Oregon.”

After hearing public testimony, the Commissioners voted not to adopt the ODFW staff proposal.

# Cascade elk season to move to November

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator  
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the ODFW staff proposal to move the Cascade elk season to early November next year, so that this season will no longer break up the western Oregon buck deer season. Additionally, ODFW believes Cascade elk hunters will have better success in 2021 with the season dates set for Nov. 6-12.

OHA testified in support of the change, but we have concerns about the Cascade elk season opening on the same weekend as the extended youth deer hunting weekend. The additional youth

deer hunting weekend was created to give kids who have not filled their western Oregon deer tags a chance to hunt one last weekend without crowding from adults. OHA advised ODFW staff of the need to monitor this change to ensure that youth hunters are still having quality hunting experiences during their extra youth weekend and are not being inundated by general season elk hunters.

Additionally, OHA suggested that ODFW and Oregon State Police ensure that law enforcement is not hindered by this change that creates concurrent general season deer and elk rifle hunting in the same area.

## OHA-supported projects bag OCRF funds

### *Sportsmen's donations support wildlife undercrossing, trails project*

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator  
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently approved eight projects funded by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, including two supported by OHA. Sportsmen have demonstrated once again that hunters and anglers are our state's premier conservationists, as the largest portion of revenue has been raised by hunters and anglers who made online donations when purchasing licenses and tags.

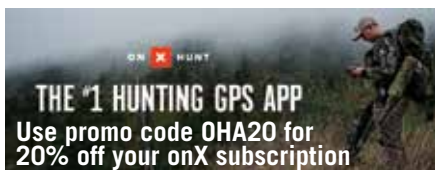
The Gilchrist wildlife underpass fencing project received \$10,000 – the maximum amount that could be awarded to any one project this year. This project aims to reduce deer and elk mortality on Highway 97, and OHA has pledged over \$114,000 to the effort.

OHA also endorsed the Ochoco Trails project, where recreationists can enjoy unique scenery, while minimizing

disturbance to wildlife. This project received \$7,500 to create a trail network on the Crooked River National Grasslands. Project planners have been conscious of wildlife displacement issues, and this project aims to minimize human-instigated ungulate movement from public to private lands. Involvement in this project has allowed OHA to contribute to a project outside of the realm of our typical dealings, while investigating the possibility of upland gamebird hunting opportunities along the trail system.



*Deer are dying needlessly on our highways, sometimes taking human lives with them. OHA has committed more than \$114,000 to the next Hwy 97 undercrossing and successfully lobbied to get grant funding, as well. How can you help? Reserve a mule deer license plate that helps fund wildlife crossings. Visit <https://www.myowf.org>*



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*OHA's Virtual Convention raffles are still rolling with tickets available on OHA's web store at <https://oregonhunters.org/store/> 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 (SOLD OUT!), the Les Schwab Raffle for a \$750 Schwab gift card, and the ever-popular Wall of Guns, featuring 6 premium firearms!*