



COAST ELK

OHA will work to restore anti-poaching funding

Check stations bill will be back in 2021 Legislature

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
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The OHA Legislative Committee and OHA Board have set the OHA Legislative priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session. The two groups took into consideration the recent cuts across the board for the funding of OSP game enforcement troopers, the cuts to the newly established anti-poaching campaign program, and two bills that were a priority for OHA during the 2019 Legislative Session but were stalled because of the walk-out by legislators.

Funding Priorities

In the 2021 Legislative Session, OHA will:

- Work closely with OSP to determine what game enforcement trooper positions are needed around the state and what funding amount is lacking to bring the division back to full force.
- Work closely with ODFW to determine what cuts have been made to the Wildlife Division and what monies are needed to restore important programs.
- Determine what dollars are needed to restore the anti-poaching program.

Bill Priorities

During the 2019 Legislative Session, two bills that OHA had established as a priority were passed by the House, but both became stalled when the legislative session was cut short by the walkouts:



OSP

A mule deer poached in Grant County and a whitetail poached in Douglas County this summer illustrate the need to support anti-poaching efforts in Oregon, not cut their funding.

• **Residency Bill** – This bill closes some loopholes that poachers use by declaring they are not residents of this state, but of another. The bill proposes new residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags, and permits related to taking wildlife. The bill defines resident as a person who has physically resided in this state for no less than six consecutive months immediately prior to application submission. The bill in 2019 was HB 2293.

• **Check Stations** – This bill gives ODFW the authority to operate wildlife inspection stations to prevent the spread of infections or infestations and to collect

information related to wildlife management efforts. The bill requires that wildlife inspection stations be plainly marked by signs and be staffed by at least one uniformed ODFW employee. The bill in 2019 was HB 2072.

Considering the COVID-19 epidemic we currently face and the recent wildfires in Oregon, OHA recognizes that there will be numerous issues concerning wildlife and habitat that we will be challenged with during the 2021 Legislative Session. We will, of course, weigh each issue on its own merits and determine its importance.

OHA to oppose latest anti-trapping ploy

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
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The request to ban beaver trapping on federal land in Oregon will once again come before the Fish and Wildlife Commission during its November meeting.

OHA and our partners continue to emphasize the importance of scientifically based wildlife management.

beaver trapping on federal lands, the Commission chose to create working groups to review beaver management on federal lands and to revisit trap check times for all species.

Previously, the Commission reviewed this topic in June after receiving several written requests from environmental organizations. Though unable to vote on an immediate decision to ban

The new request comes as a formal petition that the Commission must decide to accept or reject. A denial of the petition would effectively close the door to any requested changes to trapping beaver on federal lands. However, accepting the petition opens the rule-making process and requires ODFW staff to review scientific data that would inform any requested changes to the established rules.

The petitioners bringing this latest iteration are many of the same organizations invited to participate in the workgroups sanctioned by the Commission in June.

This move signals an apparent dismissal of collaborative work in favor of a unilateral approach to redefining approved practices on public lands.

OHA and our partners continue to emphasize the importance of scientifically-based wildlife management and the protection of recreation opportunities on public lands.



Deer are dying needlessly on our highways, sometimes taking human lives with them. OHA has committed more than \$114,000 to the next Highway 97 undercrossing. 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 BANQUET DATES SET SO FAR FOR 2021

BAKER	April 3
BEND	March 13
BLUE MOUNTAIN	April 3
CAPITOL	April 17
CLATSOP COUNTY	March 20
HOODVIEW	Feb. 20
JOSEPHINE COUNTY	March 20
KLAMATH	April 24
LAKE COUNTY	April 3
MID-WILLAMETTE	April 17
PIONEER	March 6
REDMOND	Feb. 27
TILLAMOOK	May 1
TIOGA	March 20
TUALATIN VALLEY	April 10
UMPQUA	April 10
UNION-WALLOWA	March 13
STATE CONVENTION	May 22
➤ A&H Statewide Deer Tag Auction ➤ A&H Statewide Elk Tag Auction	

NOSLER
 Nosler Rifle Raffle
Nosler Liberty .270 Winchester
 20 each, or 7/\$100, 350 offered. Value \$1,800
 Drawing 1/7/21 3pm. 804 Bennett Ave, Medford, OR 97504

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 (SOLD OUT!), and the ever-popular Wall of Guns, featuring 6 premium firearms!