

OREGON HUNTER

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Bighorns
of Plenty

Publication of the Oregon Hunters Association

**WHAT'S NEW
IN OREGON
FOR 2021**

**BOWHUNTING
FOR MULEYS**

**LAST CALL
FOR GEESE**

**WINTER
PREDATORS**

**2020 ELECTION:
WHAT IT MEANS
TO HUNTERS**

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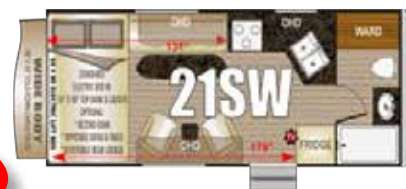


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Cascades
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turkey in OT,
and the sports
shows must
go on!



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FINDING DIRECTION

OHA seeks migration policy

By Jim Akenson, Senior Conservation Director, Oregon Hunters Association
and Lori McKinnon, President, Coastal Farm & Ranch

The Oregon Hunters Association urges ODFW to develop and implement a policy to enhance and conserve migratory habitat for big game, and all wildlife that make seasonal movements. Habitat connectivity, the degree to which separate habitat patches are connected, is a crucial factor for conservation of wildlife. Increases in urban and energy development have resulted in extensive habitat loss and fragmentation for many species in Oregon. Fortunately, advances in wildlife tracking technology have allowed wildlife managers to more accurately identify where animals move on the landscape, as well as impediments to wildlife space use. For ungulate species (e.g., deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep), migration corridors are fundamental to their life history, but until recently, these corridors were thought of as conduits between seasonal ranges rather than essential habitat.

Many big game migration corridors are currently obstructed by transportation infrastructure and energy development sites. Therefore, state agencies must consider the full extent of migratory habitat to better manage ungulate populations.

ODFW is making leaps and bounds through the Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project, an innovative effort to map wildlife movement and corridors across the state. Oregon has an opportunity to ensure this new information leads to sound management solutions by developing agency policy to formally identify migration corridors.

This action will bolster current conservation projects where many groups (including OHA) are working to conserve and enhance migratory habitat. For example, OHA has pledged over \$114,000 and many volunteer hours to the Gilchrist Wildlife Underpass Project aimed at reducing ungulate mortality and vehicle collisions on U.S. Highway 97. Additionally, a migration policy will frame new partnerships between private landowners, non-government organizations, and government agencies, which will result in additional conservation projects and funding sources.

Recently, Coastal Farm & Ranch, after obtaining the low bid to provide fencing material, generously supported the Gilchrist Wildlife Underpass Project by providing fencing materials at a discount below their initial low bid.

OHA's Bend Chapter has invested hundreds of volunteer hours maintaining the fence that funnels wildlife into the Lava Butte wildlife underpass on U.S. Highway 97, approximately 50 miles north of the new Gilchrist underpass. The Lava Butte wildlife underpass has reduced vehicle-wildlife collisions by 86 percent.

Individuals can support and help fund habitat connectivity and migration corridor projects by purchasing a specialized Watch for Wildlife license plate voucher at www.myowf.org/watchforwildlife

Global Positioning System (GPS) wildlife tracking collars have become commonplace in wildlife management today, and this shift toward more efficient and accurate technology will allow for more precise management into the future. GPS collars collect an immense amount of animal location data on fixed time schedules, and these data are ideal for describing ungulate resource selection and utilization and migratory habitat. A migration policy will assist ODFW and their partners in obtaining additional grant funding to provide wildlife professionals with additional GPS collars, which will in turn further our knowledge of migration corridors, resource selection, and population dynamics.

How can Oregonians assist with protecting wildlife and their habitats? By working with their local wildlife biologist, watershed managers, ODFW commissioners and legislators to promote continued research and policy development. In addition, the public can support protection of wildlife, their habitats, and mitigation from land management, urban, and energy development and transportation infrastructure projects through county, state and federal public comment processes.

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1. You can legally take how many bears in Oregon annually?

- a) 2 c) 4
- b) 3 d) 5

2. You can legally take how many turkeys in Oregon annually?

- a) 2 c) 4
- b) 3 d) 5

3. Which road leads to Rome, Oregon?

- a) Hwy 95 c) Hwy 205
- b) Hwy 140 d) Hwy 395

4. The California bighorn is a subspecies of which member of the Grand Slam?

- a) Rocky Mtn. c) stone sheep
- b) desert d) Dall sheep

5. You can tell a deer's exact age by its:

- a) antlers c) hooves
- b) teeth d) all of the above

6. Blue grouse are most likely to share habitat with:

- a) valley quail c) pheasant
- b) mtn. quail d) sage grouse

7. The Summer Lake Wildlife Area is in what unit?

- a) Wagon tire c) Fort Rock
- b) Silver Lake d) Interstate

8. The Mill Creek Wilderness is in what county?

- a) Grant c) Crook
- b) Baker d) Deschutes

9. Bighorns live in which mountains?

- a) Aldrich c) Sheepshead
- b) Trout Creek d) all of the above

10. You can hunt antelope in which mountains?

- a) Klamath c) Stinkingwater
- b) Wallows d) all of the above

Answers: 1-c (1 spring, 1 leftover spring, 2 fall); 2-d (3 spring, 2 fall); 3-a; 4-a; 5-b; 6-b; 7-a; 8-c; 9-d; 10-c.



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Entry deadline: Jan. 20, 2021.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Vince Bixler, Plumas Lake, CA

Vince's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized Fourmile Lake and Mt. McLoughlin.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

JANUARY 1

2021 licenses required;
Cougar season opens

JANUARY 17

Sauvie Island youth waterfowl hunt

JANUARY 24

Zone 2 duck and snipe seasons end

JANUARY 29

Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show opens

JANUARY 31

Harvest reporting deadline, most tags;
Most game bird seasons end

FEBRUARY 1

Deadline to file for OHA State Elections

FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear tags

FEBRUARY 19

Douglas County Sportsmen's and Outdoor
Recreation Show opens in Roseburg

FEBRUARY 20

OHA chapter banquet:
Hoodview 503-706-7481

FEBRUARY 26

Jackson County Sportsmen's and Outdoor
Show opens, Jackson County Expo

FEBRUARY 27

OHA chapter banquet:
Redmond 541-233-3740

MARCH 6

OHA chapter banquet:
Pioneer 503-710-1233

MARCH 10

Late goose seasons end

MARCH 13

OHA chapter banquets:
Bend* 541-480-9848
(*A&H Statewide deer tag auction)
Union/Wallowa 541-786-1283

MARCH 20

OHA chapter banquets:
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Clatsop County 503-791-0549
Tioga 541-267-2577

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Cascade crest spring bruins

Every year we see more and more black bears around here.” In April, May and June, I fish for lake trout with my friend Jon Ditgen, owner of Odell Lake Resort (located in Willamette Pass, just off Highway 58) and while we wait for a big mackinaw to strike, we talk elk hunting and black bears.

Over the last several elk seasons, Ditgen said their hunting parties have encountered several bears and tied their tags on two. If those bears are there during elk season, they are there in the spring, waking up after a long winter’s sleep. By mid-April, bears will be headed to the mountain meadows on the south-facing slopes where the spring grass grows.

Grasses, grubs, flowers, and the tender shoots of smaller trees and shrubs are the

target as the bears get digestive juices flowing again. When the foliage dries out, the bears climb higher in search of goodies. This brings them into the open on green sunlit slopes where they may graze for hours, eating grass and turning over rocks in their search for insects and larvae.

Scout for fresh sign, and then stay put. That bear will be back.

Right at the top of the Cascades, two easy-draw spring bear hunts come together at the Pacific Crest Trail: the Southwest Oregon hunt, which includes the Indigo Unit (21), and the South Central bear hunt, which includes the Fort Rock Unit (77).

The Fort Rock side of the equation

Scout for fresh sign and stay put. That bear will be back.

Bear tracks in the Indigo Unit don’t lie. The Cascades are often overlooked for spring bear hunting.

is no spring bear powerhouse; the black bear harvest statistics for 2019 show one bear taken in the spring hunt, but there are plenty of bears.

On the west side of the PCT, the harvest total is significantly higher, with 47 bears taken in the Indigo Unit during the spring, in which hunters spent an average of 6.3 hunter days for a 19 percent success rate.

Apply for a spring bear tag before the Feb. 10 deadline. The spring season runs April 1 through May 31. If I were planning a spring hunt near the crest of the Cascades, I would base camp at Odell Lake and take time out to fish for lake trout after the season opener in late April. —GARY LEWIS



Sudden death – the author intercepted this fall gobbler on his way to a known feeding area.

New turkey season goes into OT

Oregon turkey hunters will get the chance to qualify for the postseason this year, as the fall turkey season has been extended to Jan. 31 in much of the state. No longer when the ball drops in Times Square will the sun be setting on your fall turkey season.

I love turkey hunting here in Oregon, but have never spent as much time as I’d like pursuing them during the fall seasons. Often while deer hunting late in October or November, I’d see large flocks and wish I could swap my rifle out for a shotgun for just a few minutes. That prompted me to devote some time and pursue these birds prior to the holidays and do my part in providing some turkey meat for holiday dinners.

I usually pattern a good sized flock for several weeks, learning where they roost and fly down, as well as their feeding patterns. Another tactic that works is to scatter the flock and call them once they begin to regroup. This is very effective and is probably used more back east. Where it’s legal to use dogs, hunters will use hounds to scatter birds prior to setting up.

Separated birds want to regroup. You can set up near the scatter location and try to call them back to you. Turkeys will always be near food sources, and if there are plenty of droppings, feathers and tracks, you are likely in a very good location to sit, wait and even call birds.

There are three calls one should know in order to be successful when hunting fall birds. First of all, the kee kee-run is essential for family groups. Yelps are also necessary to bring both gobblers and hens without young. Raspy yelps tend to work best with gobbler gangs or male birds in general. Long series of yelps are what lost hens or younger birds will most often respond to. When in doubt, remember that imitating the sounds that the turkeys are already making will usually work. I have also found that light purring while scratching leaves works during the fall to bring in curious birds. Remember to use tones that other birds are using. If they are being excited and loud, do the same; if they are softly calling to each other, mimic that.

—TROY RODAKOWSKI

The sports shows must go on!

Whether in-person or in a virtual format, sportsmen's and outdoors shows are resolute in their ability to provide an engaging experience for attendees in 2021. COVID-related regulations have forced the events to creatively balance the standard trade show format with health requirements; smaller booth spaces, wider aisles, and managed venue capacities are trending among all the events to provide for attendee's health concerns while participating in the event.

Many shows are also adding virtual components as either a complement to the in-person event or a replacement, if needed. While solutions may vary from event to event, show producers are rising to the task of providing sportsmen and women with the "show experience" for 2021.

ExpoSure's Shows offer four events in the southern Oregon and northern California areas. Featured seminars for 2021 are led by local fishing experts Jody Smith and Davey Jones. Bag a trophy? Enter it in the Southern Oregon Head & Horns competition, or e-mail a pic in the new photo contest to nwbiggame@yahoo.com

Check out Combat Hero Bike Build showcasing their amazing custom built bikes adapted for wounded veterans. Event locations and dates are listed below. See the additional virtual shows at their website www.exposureshows.com.

- Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show – Feb. 5-7, 2021, Lane County Event Center
- Douglas County Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show – Feb. 19-21, 2021, Douglas County Fairgrounds
- Jackson County Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show – Feb. 26-28, 2021, Jackson County Expo
- NorCal Boat, Sport & RV Show - March 5-7, Shasta Fair/Event Center, Anderson, CA

The Sportsmen's Shows provide large-scale sport and recreation shows in the northwest and central parts of the state. Randy Newberg will headline the Portland event (moved to March) as the featured speaker. See more at www.otshows.com

- Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show – March 24-28, Portland Expo Center
- Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show – March 11-14, Deschutes County Expo

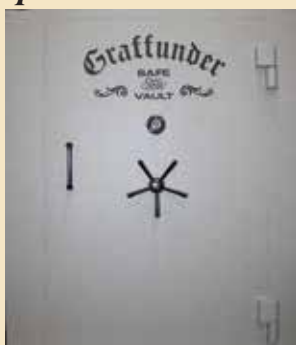
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Election signals challenges ahead

*Gun owners will likely
come under fire in 2021*

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

While at least one Oregon House of Representatives race was still too close to call at deadline, it looked like the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate will pick up a Republican seat each.

This means the Democrats will maintain their Super Majority in both chambers, but the need for a 2/3 quorum in both chambers still exists.

Republicans in both chambers still have the numbers to walk out if they choose to do so to shut down the legislative process.

What 2021 Election Changes Could Bring

The beginning of the 2021 Legislative Session is just around the corner, but it is too early to know if the closure of the Capitol building to the public will continue or if the building will be open to the public sometime during the Legislative Session.

This past year during the Oregon Special Sessions, all Committee meetings and public testimony were done virtually. Adding a new twist to the virtual format is this question: do Legislative Committees have authority to vote virtually? If not, what does this do to the process? We will know more as we get closer to the start of the 2021 Legislative Session.

The makeup of the Oregon House and Senate are pretty much the same. What this means is that chances for gun legislation to



The federal delisting of wolves means they can now be managed by state wildlife agencies.

be introduced are as high as they have ever been. COVID-19 stopped the anti-gun petitioners from gathering enough signatures to put their gun measures on the November ballot.

Will that continue in 2021, or will the COVID-19 vaccine enable business as usual? Will the coyote contest can be reintroduced in 2021? Stay tuned for this and more.

On the National Level

Nationally there has been a change in leadership that will impact gun owner rights. President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris both bragged about their battles with the “gun lobby” in their Oregon Voters Guide statements.

OHA will, as always, monitor all gun legislation as the Oregon Legislature and Congress sessions begin in 2021.

Congressional House & Senate Results

Congressional Senate: 48 Democrats and 50 Republicans. 51 is needed for a majority. The control for the Senate is still a tossup with races in Georgia to determine the outcome. The Georgia runoff election is to be held in early January. (If there is a tie vote in the Senate, the Vice President has the deciding vote.)

Congressional House: 222 Democrats and 204 Republicans. 218 is needed for a majority.

Trump returns wolf management to states, tribes

More than 45 years after gray wolves were first listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Trump Administration and its many conservation partners are announcing the successful recovery of the gray wolf and its delisting from the ESA.

State and tribal wildlife management agency professionals will resume responsibility for sustainable management and protection of delisted gray wolves in states with gray wolf populations, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service monitors the species for five years to ensure the continued success of the species.

USFWS based its decision solely on the best scientific and commercial data available, a thorough analysis of threats and how they have been alleviated, and the ongoing commitment and proven track record of states and tribes to continue managing for healthy wolf populations once delisted.

This analysis includes the latest information about the wolf’s current and historical distribution in the contiguous United States.

In total, the gray wolf population in the lower 48 states is more than 6,000 wolves, greatly exceeding the combined recovery goals for the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes populations.

—USFWS

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BOWHUNTING

By CAMDEN HAMMER

Patterning muleys on our public lands

It's no easy task to bag a mature muley buck in Oregon; it takes dedication and patience. The key for bagging a big buck is patterning his habits, habitats and daily movements.

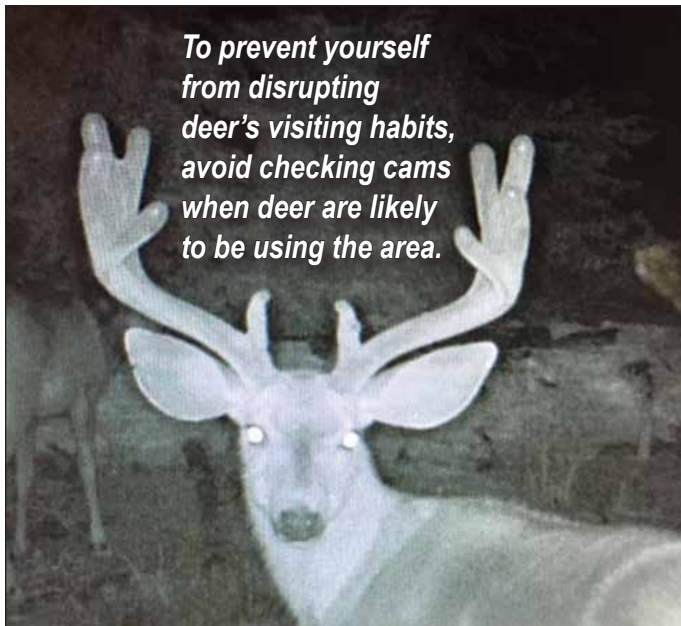
Tree stand hunting is a technique primarily favored by eastern whitetail hunters, but it can be very effective for taking any big game mammal if done right. Hunting out of a tree stand can provide advantages such as keeping you and your scent above ground level and offering a better view into surrounding timber, as long as your stand is not too obscured by tree branches. You'll want to have a few branches around you at the height of your stand to break up your silhouette.

Five days after the commencement of bow season I was perched 20 feet up a pine tree in a Summit tree stand, overlooking a 60-yard clearing in the timber in the Upper Deschutes Unit. In a boredom-induced half-slumber, I jerked alert at the peripheral sight of movement in the clearing. A 4x3 muley had appeared, foraging on forbs at 30 yards.

It took what seemed like forever to free the bow from the bow hook threaded into the tree. The top cam was stuck. I pulled out all the stops and weaved the bow off the hook. The buck was now at 25 yards.

I had all trees in sight pre-ranged to be prepared for the appearance of a buck. A slow draw and a breath. THWAP! The Easton FMJ arrow found its mark in the boiler room. I followed a short blood trail to a buck I had been spying on since early May.

To prevent yourself from disrupting deer's visiting habits, avoid checking cams when deer are likely to be using the area.



The author's trail camera caught this muley on public land. Watch for OHA's new trail camera photo contest sponsored by Tactacam coming in 2021.



The author took this archery muley in the Upper Deschutes. To hunt muleys on public land, you may need to elevate your game – literally.

Establish a buck's pattern early in the year. Set out in late spring and look for areas with the most deer sign and best habitat offerings. Choose an area with a water source, nutrient-rich forage, and a close hillside you would expect deer to utilize for bedding.

Hang your tree stand as soon as you know what spot you want to hunt. The longer it hangs prior to hunting season, the more accustomed deer become to it. Stands are usually hung 15-25 feet above ground; 20 feet is just fine to keep your scent off the ground and your movements above deer eye level.

Place a trail camera in a secluded area where deer can feel comfortable hanging out, as opposed to a wide-open area in direct sunlight. Apply bait. A simple salt/mineral lick is a great start; deer need salt in their diet, and they love it. Buck Jam, a gel-like mineral lick, is a good bait to keep the deer coming back. Pour the Buck Jam over dirt, rotten logs or stumps, rocks, and even corn grain feed. Another great offering is molasses. Do not use urine scents, as they were recently prohibited in Oregon.

If practical, check cameras and re-bait the location at least once per week, but avoid times when deer are likely to be there, so you don't disrupt their habit of visiting. The idea is to allow the deer to become habituated to this area for a steady nutrient source while undisturbed.

Deer can change their patterns overnight, especially when the season opens and hunters flood the woods. Therefore, you will want a secluded stand location well away from roads. Park your rig even up to a mile away when sitting the stand; those old cagey bucks are hard to fool. Climb your stand 20-30 minutes before shooting light, always wear your safety harness, and let the deer take it from there.



Camden Hammer is an Oregon bowhunter and is the founder of Hammer Down Outdoors.

BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS

Guns of The Great Migration of 1843

What was it like to buy a rifle in Missouri before setting out for Oregon?

Picture this. It's early April, 1843, in Independence, Missouri, the muddy streets abuzz with middle class families who have their sights set on Oregon. Almost every pioneer wishes to go armed. There are several hardware shops stocked with the necessities, which could be purchased new or used.

For many pioneers, this was their first gun. The advice from *The Emigrants' Guide to Oregon and California*, penned by Lansford W. Hastings, would have been ringing in their ears.

In chapter XV the greenhorn read: "All persons, designing to travel by this route, should, invariably, equip themselves with a good gun; at least, five pounds of powder, and twenty pounds of lead; in addition to which, it might be advisable, also, for each to provide himself with a holster of good pistols, which would, always, be found of very great service, yet they are not indispensable."

In any hardware store a pioneer might fondle a smoothbore flintlock from the late 1700s, a Harpers Ferry rifle from 1803, a Hall Rifle from 1819; both new and used Kentucky rifles, both flintlocks and percussion locks, which were all the rage.

If a person wanted a handgun, choices ranged from the Allen and Thurber Pepperbox, Johnson or Waters flintlocks and the 1835 Colt Paterson.

According to G.W. Thissell, who crossed the plains in 1850, one of the most common guns in wagons west was a Kentucky rifle with a long, heavy barrel.



One of the most common guns on the trail was the Kentucky. This is a flintlock replica from La Grande-based www.muzzle-loaders.com.

Inflation at The Trailhead

In the inflated prices at Independence, a Kentucky rifle will cost \$12, and then there is the matter of powder, shot and flints or percussion caps to fill out a possible bag. Make sure to bring enough flour, hard tack, bacon, sugar, coffee, beans, dried fruit, salt and pickles for the scurvy. If you smoke, stock cigars in your Conestoga (that's where the word stogie comes from).

Jesse Applegate was in that great migration of 1843, when thousands of families sold their farms, homes and businesses and put their belongings in wagons and drove their livestock before them.

Out of Missouri, into Misery

Applegate's train was divided into two groups, the light wagons that would move quickly ahead, and the "cow column" which brought up the rear with the livestock.

Applegate described the experience in his book, *A Day with the Cow Column* in 1843. Sixty wagons, some 50 families and 5,000 animals slept in easily defended circled wagons, and then the sun began to light the eastern sky.

"It is four o'clock A.M.; the sentinels on duty have discharged their rifles – the signal that the hours of sleep are over – and every wagon and tent is pouring forth its night tenants, and slow-kindling smokes begin largely to rise and float away in the morning air."

Ten or 15 of the young men were tasked to hunt buffalo. They rode away from the train to the top of a nearby butte.

"Some dark moving objects have been discovered in the distance, and all are closely watching them to discover what they are, for in the atmosphere of the plains a flock of crows marching miles away, or a band of buffaloes or Indians at ten times the distance look alike, and many ludicrous mistakes occur."

In the days of COVID, I built a Kentucky flinter from a kit I bought from www.muzzle-loaders.com based in La Grande.

In commemoration of Applegate's buffalo hunt, I carved a bull buffalo in the stock. Anyone who crossed the plains in the 1840s shot a buffalo if they wanted to. After they scaled the Blues and started up the slopes

'In the atmosphere of the plains ... ludicrous mistakes occur.'



of the Cascades, those Kentucks would have been put to use for rabbits, antelope, sheep, elk, bears and wolves, too.

After six months of joy and misery, the weary travelers limped into places like The Dalles, Oregon City and Eugene City, which were little more than soggy tent camps. As soon as shelter was up, it was time to put meat on the table.

Classic Hunts

What would be the classic Oregon hunts to better understand that Barlow Road trailblazer, the pioneer of the Tualatin Plains or an Applegate Trail ancestor?

Any of the west side 100-series muzzleloader hunts take hunters to the places where the pioneers of 1843 left their tracks. The 100M hunt offers a long season with 880 tags available in the drawing.

Two easy-draw elk hunts include the NW and SW Cascades options. Hunt in November to get the full experience, in the rain, in your work-worn buckskins and flatlander shoes.

Don't forget the May 15 controlled hunt application deadline. Keep your powder dry and your flints sharp.



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WHAT'S NEW FOR 2021

CASCADE ELK, ARCHERY MULEYS HIGHLIGHT CHANGES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

By Jim Yuskavitch

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife embarked on a major review of its big game hunting regulations with the goal of making them easier for hunters to understand and follow, better allocate and provide hunting opportunities, promote hunting and maintain science-based wildlife management practices to meet management objectives. For that reason, the 2020 hunting seasons saw the largest number of major changes in many years.

For 2021, ODFW had planned to focus on reviewing deer and elk seasons statewide. Because of limitations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, ODFW instead concentrated on the timing of western Cascade deer and elk seasons, and eastern Oregon archery seasons for deer and elk. The result is a number of changes for the 2021 big game hunting seasons that hunters should be aware of as approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its September 2020 meeting.

Crossbows

One of the most controversial proposals was to allow crossbows during “any legal weapon” seasons, not including archery seasons. It was brought before the Commission by ODFW staff as a result of having received numerous requests by hunters over the years. However, the Commission declined to approve that proposal.

Tags and Hunts

Deer

There are several important changes for deer hunting beginning in 2021. First, the 7-day break in the Cascade Buck Deer area of the Western Oregon General Any Legal Weapons Season has been eliminated. This will make the general deer seasons consis-

tent across western Oregon and provide more hunting opportunity within that area.

Meanwhile, eastern Oregon deer archery hunting will become controlled hunts in 2021 (western Oregon archery will remain a general season), with 38 hunts planned. This change has been driven by the fact that over the past 40 years in eastern Oregon, the mule deer population has

declined by almost 50 percent, and continuing to offer unlimited tags is no longer an appropriate management strategy.

Eastern Oregon units with a one-deer archery bag limit will now be one buck with a visible antler. Overall, the number of antlerless deer tags will be reduced by less than one percent.

Five eastern Oregon hunts are also being deleted because of declines in mule deer populations and in response to a recent disease outbreak in white-tailed deer herds. Finally, five Western Oregon 600-Series hunt dates are being expanded that will include all of the Western Oregon General Any Legal Weapon Deer Season.

ODFW is still crunching the numbers for its most recent mule deer population estimate, but the 2019 estimate was 190,445. There are no reliable numbers available for black-tailed deer populations due to the difficulties of doing surveys in their rugged, forested habitat, according to ODFW.

Elk

Changes in elk seasons for 2021 include starting the West Cascade Elk Season two weeks later to begin on the Saturday immediately after the West Cascade General Deer Season ends. This hunt has declined in popularity and hunter success over the years, and the change will simplify the rules and allow better management of declining Cascade elk numbers.

Significant changes to eastern Oregon archery elk seasons may be coming in 2022, based on ODFW hunter surveys and the need to address some management challenges, but for now overall changes to archery elk seasons are minor. A new, traditional archery elk hunt is being added to the Santiam Unit, a change has been made from one elk to one bull in the Desolation Unit, and the Snake River Unit is being removed from the list of wildlife management units that allow an expanded bag limit for hunters with disabilities.

Overall, the number of controlled hunt tags offered for 2021 will be reduced by 1,707, with the largest reduction for the first season of the Starkey spike elk hunt.

Rocky Mountain elk populations are currently estimated at 71,125, with 18 of 33 management units at or above management objective. Roosevelt elk are not faring as well, with a population of about 55,500 animals, which is 77 percent of management objective.

Bighorn Sheep

Hunters will have 85 bighorn sheep tags available for 2021 in a total of 32 hunts. This includes 10 California ewe tags, 70 California bighorn ram tags and five Rocky Mountain bighorn ram tags. There will be three Rocky Mountain bighorn hunts and 29 California bighorn hunts. This includes deletion of three Rocky Mountain bighorn ram hunts – 560A, 564A1 and 564A2 – due to the presence of pneumonia in those herds.

There is one new California ram tag added to the John Day River No. 1 hunt, and two new ewe hunts – the John Day River ewe hunt with 5 resident tags and the Deschutes River ewe hunt with four tags. These ewe hunts are for sheep within two of Oregon’s strongest herds and will be used to help manage the populations.

Oregon has 3,800 to 4,000 California bighorn sheep and approximately 600 to 800 Rocky Mountain bighorns.



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BAKER COUNTY/JIM WARD

Two mountain goat hunts are added for 2021.

Rocky Mountain Goat

For 2021, two additional Rocky Mountain goat tags will be added: one additional tag for the Strawberry Mountain Hunt No. 946A, and one additional tag for the South Snake River No. 2 Hunt, 959B2. Total Rocky Mountain goat tags will be 29 (including 2 nonresident tags) in 19 hunts.

The mountain goat population is estimated to be about 1,200 animals, including a small-but-growing herd in the Mt. Jefferson area of the Cascades.

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LAKE COUNTY/JOHN C. McFARLAND III

Pronghorn tag numbers are down this year.

Pronghorn

Because some pronghorn herds have not fully recovered from the hard winter of 2016-17, tags have been reduced by 3.7 percent from last year to 2,105 in 55 hunts. This includes tags for all hunts – any weapon, bow, muzzleloader and youth.

Oregon's pronghorn population is estimated at 16,000 to 19,000 animals.

Black Bear

Spring bear and controlled spring bear seasons will continue to be from April 1

to May 31 statewide. This was changed in 2020 to make the season uniform statewide, adding an additional two weeks to

the eastern Oregon spring bear controlled hunts. There will be 9,905 controlled tags for 2021 in 17 hunts.

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This hunter learned there's nothing premium about the Sprague Unit Premium Pronghorn Tag.

Cougar

Cougar seasons and management zones quotas remained unchanged from last year. The total Oregon cougar population is estimated at 6,600 and thriving.

Premium Hunts

For 2021, there will be one Premium Deer Tag for each of Oregon's 67 units (20 in western Oregon and 47 east of the Cascade mountains). Each unit will offer one Premium Elk tag except for the Owyhee/Whitehorse hunt area, Steens Mountain/Beatys Butte hunt area and Juniper/Wagontire hunt area, which include two units. These three hunt areas will only have one tag each. There will be 27 Premium Pronghorn hunt tags in 2021.



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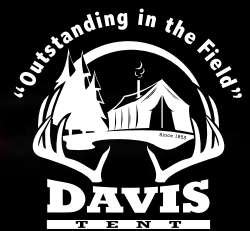


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BIGHORNS OF PLENTY

If you draw a tag for these prized trophies of Oregon's wildlands, you will enjoy the fruits of the labor of dedicated biologists and conservation-minded sportsmen's groups like OHA.

PHOTO ESSAY BY
CHAD DOTSON

It was the kind of hillside where you don't want to fall, not because you might skin up a knee or an elbow, but because you couldn't see a place below where you would be likely to stop rolling.

The band of rams was bedded somewhere below us, and we had been making a painfully slow descent for over an hour. The margin for error was incredibly small for multiple reasons, the most important being our own self-preservation, and the fact that one rolling piece of shale would send the rams running.

We were over a week into the hunt, a time when mental and physical fatigue begins to take a toll; but this was not a time for that; we needed to be sharp. We finally determined that our elevation should be about the same as the last landmark we had made. A small crevice knifed between us and where the target ram had been bedded.

Suddenly, the ram appeared at a mere 35 yards. Bill shouldered his rifle and anchored the deep-chested animal. We watched as the sheep slid down the rock face, out of sight. Once out of sight, we listened in amazement and horror as the ram continued to fall, sending a cascade of rocks with him.

Finally, all was silent.

We picked our way down the mountain and located him wedged in between two rock faces. We stood in awe at the magnificent animal and thanked the sheep gods that he was still intact. Bill had finally realized his lifelong dream as he placed his hands on the trophy of a lifetime.

By the 1940s, most of the Rocky Mountain bighorns in Oregon had been extirpated, by what we now know is a pneumonia caused by a mycoplasma bacteria, *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*. This disease is transmitted by domestic sheep and goats and is extremely detrimental to wild sheep herds.





An Oregon bighorn tag is once-in-a-lifetime at best. Some will never draw.

Adding to the complexity, researchers are finding there may be somewhere near 100 variations of mycoplasma that affect wild sheep.

In the 1970s, tireless efforts by many caring state employees, biologists, and sportsmen and women organized multiple transplant events throughout the state to reestablish wild sheep in Oregon. Most of the Rocky Mountain bighorns transplanted were stock from Alberta, the Salmon River in Idaho, and Wildhorse Island and the Missouri River Breaks of Montana. These areas have long produced big-bodied rams with large horns.

As the Oregon populations began to take hold, so did the record-book producing entries. While many sheep fanatics

across the nation don't think of Oregon when they think of record-class rams, they should. The decades of the 1990s and 2000s consistently produced sheep that qualified for the record books, and Oregon still produces as high of quality sheep hunting experience as anywhere in the nation.

The state boasts both Rocky Mountain bighorns and California bighorns. Currently, Oregon offers 67 tags for California bighorns and six for Rocky Mountain bighorns. Unfortunately, in mid-February of 2020, the state was forced to cancel three Rocky Mountain bighorn tags in the Lookout Mountain Unit – one of the state's most sought-after areas, due to an outbreak of pneumonia. The unit will also be off limits to both the statewide auction



Oregon has produced many record-book entries for Rocky Mountain bighorns.

and statewide raffle sheep tag winners.

Throughout Oregon's sheep recovery history, there have been many successes as well as many setbacks. Vic Coggins, a retired ODFW biologist and OHA Northeast Oregon Director, has been working with Oregon sheep for over 50 years. He points out that these disease outbreaks are extremely difficult and disappointing times for biologists and sportsmen, alike.

Sporting advocacy groups such as OHA and the Oregon Chapter of Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) are critical providers of both political and financial support to wildlife managers during these difficult times.

OHA has invested more than \$100,000 in transplanting sheep, providing water

sources and fighting disease outbreaks.

Today's reality is that wild sheep populations are always in flux, riding waves of highs and lows.

That said, Oregon is a success story. These iconic animals still inhabit some of the roughest topography that the state has to offer, with many sustainably huntable populations.

For those who are lucky enough to receive the once-in-a-lifetime bighorn permit, their successes are a direct reflection of the collaborative efforts to put, and keep, wild sheep back in Oregon's wild places.



Author and avid hunter Chad Dotson is the Zumwalt Project Steward for The Nature Conservancy in Wallowa County.



Bill Hitner took this Rocky Mountain bighorn in the Lookout Mountain Unit.



OHA has invested more than \$100,000 in Oregon's bighorn sheep.

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2020 HINDSIGHT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

2020: A year few laws would pass; what now?

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

There are many words that could be used to describe the year 2020, but none of them would be positive. The highlights for covering state government this year are almost non-existent. While the year began normally with a “short” legislative session starting in early February with hearings being held and bills being passed, it all ended later that month as both the Senate and House Republicans walked out and never returned. The Session ended officially shortly thereafter.

In March, OHA joined forces with NRA in opposing gun initiatives that had been filed. These initiatives included: locked gun storage requirements, regulating of semi-automatic guns and large-capacity magazines, transfer restrictions on the sale of certain automatic weapons and restrictions on firearm magazine size. The deadline to submit signatures for these November ballot initiatives came and went due in large part to COVID-19 restrictions.

As the months of the new year rolled on, it became apparent to all involved in state government that nothing in 2020 would be business as usual. While ODFW staff at the April Commission meeting announced their legislative priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session, they let the Commission know that it was apparent that Oregon was facing a huge budget crisis for the current biennium and cuts to current programs would have to be made.

In May, OHA received an invitation from the administrator of the House Com-



A silver lining of COVID-19 was that gathering restrictions greatly hindered signature gathering for three gun-control initiatives in Oregon.

mittee on Natural Resources to testify on how the pandemic was affecting our organization and our mission. We testified that pandemic impacts to OHA included canceled banquets, which caused a loss of revenue of over a half million dollars. This revenue loss meant a great reduction in statewide wildlife and habitat projects and services to our mission, and that spring and summer youth events also were canceled.

June brought the state budget crisis into focus as general revenue shortfall was estimated to be around \$664 million by June 30, 2021. Consequently, state agencies were asked to submit budget cuts for the current 2019-2021 biennium. ODFW proposed 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. The Oregon State Police (OSP) also received cuts to the game enforcement division.

OHA spent the next few months battling these cuts before the Commission

and the legislature. The anti-poaching campaign OHA fought for came out of Special Session 2 with a reduced budget. The program took a one-time reduction in services and supplies for the anti-poaching informational campaign portion of the program, but funding was continued for the campaign coordinator position.

As the management of the budget crisis continued, other issues also came and went. At a Commission meeting in September, ODFW staff proposed the use of crossbows for any-legal weapon big game seasons. OHA stated to the Commission that we were “cautiously supportive of this change but we were 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.

In November, the OHA Legislative Committee and OHA Board 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 and the cuts to the newly established anti-poaching campaign program.

What issues will 2021 bring forth during the Legislative Session? 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.

Maybe the highlights for 2021 will be more positive. We can only hope.

Conservation issues didn't slow down in 2020

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

The OHA conservation staff and board members from OHA's Wildlife-Lands Committee have continued some long-term efforts on hunting regulation revisions, and 2020 was dominated by proposed changes to 2021 archery seasons. Other key topics addressed in 2020 involved elk redistribution on both sides of the state, staying engaged with all game bird regulations, maintaining engagement with predator management issues wherever possible, combatting a proposed ban on beaver trapping on public lands, mitigation for mule deer migration across Highway 97 and other busy routes using underpasses and fencing, developing a Conservation Easement with a private landowner on critical winter range, and seeking funding opportunities through grants provided by the Oregon Conservation Recreation Fund and the PEW Charitable Trust.

We are also key members in two larger sport group collaborations, both on the beaver trapping issue and with the Owyhee land designation solution. It has been a busy year, with all occurring amid the restrictions caused from both the Covid-19 pandemic and a summer of massive wildfires in Oregon and the West.

Archery Regulation Proposals

ODFW has undertaken a massive review of the big game regulations, and the first area of change has been with the deer and elk archery hunts on the east side of the state. During 2020, OHA was involved in every deliberation and input opportunity.

Changes proposed for mule deer hunting differed from elk in that mule deer are in a dire situation in many units of eastern Oregon. The move to make all mule deer archery hunts controlled was supported by OHA, given the biological situation.

OHA's 2020 Investments in Our Mission

Projects benefiting Oregon's wildlife & sportsmen:	\$318,868
Publications, information & education:	\$247,136
Defending hunting rights/Advocating for wildlife:	\$114,442
Fighting poaching in Oregon:	\$30,713
Volunteer hours donated by OHA members:	30,678

Conversely, the proposal for all east-side elk units going controlled was more based on issues of crowding, elk distribution, and equity with firearm hunts. The resolution was to postpone implementation of controlled hunts to have more time to better assess controlled hunts in terms of tag numbers and effect on the preference point system. OHA will re-engage on this topic once ODFW is ready to discuss the option details.

Owyhee Lands Bill

During 2020, Senate bill 2828 began making its way through Congress. This bill has a big objective – to protect the most important wildlife and fish habitat in Malheur County, including the Owyhee Canyonlands, while also protecting the rural way of life. Incredibly, this bill has the support of many locals, ranchers, conservation and sportsmen groups, truly unlikely allies coming together to find compromise.

OHA, along with a half dozen other sportsmen's groups, felt that this bill, also known as the "Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act," deserved the support of Oregon's elected officials. Our sportsmen's coalition has strongly urged Senators Wyden and Merkley, plus Representative Walden, to work together to pass this bill, which now hopefully will see congressional attention early in 2021.

Predator Management

OHA continues to maintain a pulse on population increases described by ODFW for both cougars and wolves. Our strategy is to expand the tools available to manage these species in consideration of ungulate numbers.

For cougars, we have continued efforts to revisit opportunities for expanded use of target areas.

For wolves, the recent federal delisting proposal will help expand management capabilities on a statewide basis and hopefully allow the establishment of controlled hunts where wolf numbers are suppressing deer and elk populations and causing continuous livestock depredation.

As ODFW revises the Mule Deer Plan, one of our goals will be to address the impact of cougars, wolves, bears, and coyotes on mule deer population dynamics.

New Conservation Staff

With key financial support from our chapters, OHA expanded our conservation staff capability in 2020 by hiring new Conservation Director Mike Totey and creating a Conservation Coordinator position filled by Tyler Dungannon. These two bring very complementary skill sets of resource management and biological/scientific knowledge that will serve OHA very well looking into 2021 and beyond.



Wildlife migration, elk management were big in 2020

Conservation easement to serve wildlife in Jefferson County is in the works for 2021

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

For the first time in OHA's existence, we have an opportunity to hold a conservation easement. Late in 2019, David and Pamela Potter contacted OHA with a proposal to grant our organization a conservation easement on their property in Jefferson County near Wychus Creek.

Conservation easements enable landowners and organizations like OHA to permanently conserve the property.

Conservation easements are a way for landowners and conservation-minded organizations like OHA to permanently conserve the property, in this case for mule deer habitat.

This is a new opportunity for OHA, so we are proceeding carefully and methodically through the process.

The end product, an easement, will be filed with the county and attached to the deed for the property and will likely be completed in early 2021. A management plan will then be completed and implemented to provide oversight and direction on the property to maintain and enhance the forage and cover for mule deer.

For OHA, this will be a permanent contribution to mule deer habitat in an area that is critical to the Metolius herd. It could also provide many opportunities for local chapters and members across the state to engage in "on-the-ground" work to benefit the mule deer as well as potential educational and hunting opportunities.



JIM WARD

OHA is working to keep elk on public land and away from private land where they do damage.

OHA is all-in for safe wildlife migration

The Oregon Action Team on Ungulate Migration (OAT) is a collaborative group of conservation organizations, including OHA, focused on improving ungulate habitat connectivity, ecosystem structure and function, and human/wildlife safety.

Some of the early work of the group has been addressing barriers to migration, such as highways and roads, and advancing measures to restore degraded and fragmented habitat.

The Gilchrist underpass on Highway 97 is an example of work that can come from these collaborative efforts.

A critical migration crossing was identified, and coordination came together between ODOT, ODFW, USFS and multiple conservation organizations to make this happen.

At the October Commission meeting, the group presented information to the Commission about its work and future goals. The most prominent goal is promoting the development of a "wildlife migration policy" for the state with an associated habitat designation for migration routes and important stopover areas, similar to how ODFW already designates winter range for ungulates.

The conversation with the Commission is ongoing and will continue into 2021.

OHA works for solutions for northeast Oregon elk

The Gurdane working group, consisting of agency staff, landowners, and conservation groups, continues to tackle the tough issue of managing elk winter range.

The Gurdane area serves as elk winter range for Rocky Mountain elk from at least four different wildlife units. In years with heavy winter snowpack, as many as 5,000 elk can use this area. The challenge is that nearly all of this is on private property.

Now, with information from more than 200 elk with GPS tracking collars, we are learning more about where the elk move for summer range. Unfortunately for some of the landowners, a portion of the elk have taken up permanent residence on their property instead of returning to summer range, causing damage to their property.

Public land management on federal land and state wildlife management areas can contribute to better elk winter range that could keep more of the elk on public lands, instead of nearby private lands.

ODFW addresses the issue by working to improve elk winter range capacity on wildlife management areas like Bridge Creek (where Redmond OHA improves habitat), the use of damage hunts and hazing where appropriate, and an ongoing effort to gather more information to inform management decisions into the future.

OHA advocated for sensible bird regulations in 2020

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA urged the Commission to continue hunting sage-grouse due to the indispensable biological data that it yields, in addition to the recreational opportunity that it provides hunters who are fortunate enough to draw permits. Sage-grouse hunters provide biological data by sending hundreds of harvested wings each year to ODFW for analysis of demographic rates, such as nest success, sex ratio and age structure.

Hunters are at the front lines of conservation for the species, and it is imperative that sage-grouse maintain their gamebird status in order to receive support from hunting organizations, which substantially contribute to sage-grouse conservation. The future of sage-grouse hunting is uncertain, but OHA will continue to support the scientific evidence that legal harvest of sage grouse aids management and does not limit populations in Oregon.

OHA supported changes to turkey season dates, lifting of tag quotas and closing the fall turkey season for White River Wildlife Management Area to allow greater opportunity for hunters during the spring. OHA also applauded the ODFW



OHA supported continued sage grouse hunting and a fall turkey season lasting until Jan. 31.

proposal to add a small bag limit for mountain quail in eastern Oregon, as well as the agency's support for expanded hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges.

OHA-supported OCRF bears fruit for wildlife

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently approved 8 projects funded by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) – 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. 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.

OHA recently submitted an OCRF grant application to protect and restore habitat for mule deer and all wildlife along Smoke Creek. This area is located on Ecotrust Forest Management land southwest of Fort Rock and lies between Highway 97 and Route 31. This project requested \$9,000 of OCRF funds with aspiration for matching funds from the Oregon general fund.

OHA helped stop trap ban, continued outreach efforts

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

What began as a request to ban beaver trapping on a single national forest grew into a rule-making petition to ban both recreational and commercial beaver trapping on all federal lands in the state.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission heard the initial requests regarding beaver trapping at the June Commission meeting, at which time they decided instead to create a workgroup to begin researching the issue. While those workgroups were being formed, the environmental groups who brought the initial requests and were invited to participate in the workgroup process decided they were not happy with that outcome.

In September, those groups submitted a petition to the Commission to change the regulatory rules to ban beaver trapping on all federal lands.

The Commission addressed this topic again at the November meeting, where

it failed to pass by a 3-3 vote. Accepting the petition would have opened the rule-making process with the intent to review the scientific basis of the request, while denying the petition effectively closed the door on any immediate changes to the beaver trapping regulations.

OHA continues to work with a broad coalition of other sportsmen's groups and natural resource organizations to fight this ban and promote science-based wildlife management.

Outreach meets social distancing

OHA's outreach plan for 2020 started off promisingly with great public outreach at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show in February. In March, we secured participation in the Oregon Zoo's Twilight Tuesdays – summertime events that draw a large urban population, creating a new audience for OHA's conservation message.

In April, we realized that things were not going to continue as anticipated, and

instead we learned to use Zoom.

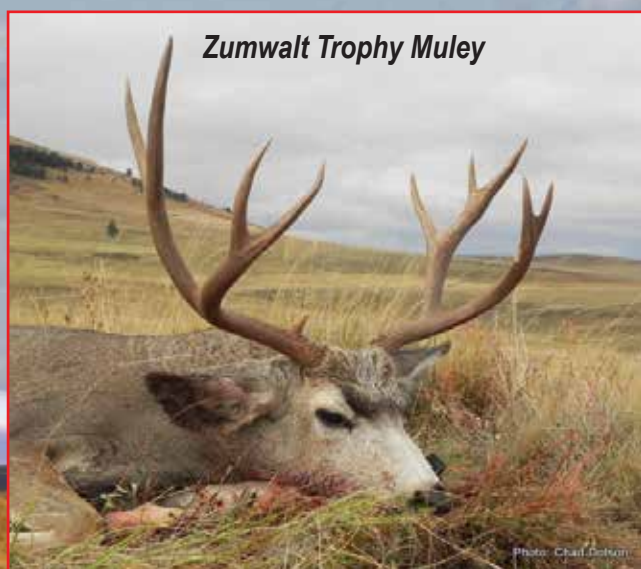
Embracing virtual meetings became the focus of outreach with the creation of Monday Meet-Ups to increase communication with chapter leadership. It became apparent that the virtual platform would be the new norm for the foreseeable future, not only for association communication, but also for agency and legislative arenas.

To assist the membership in participating in these opportunities, several staff members put together a presentation on providing effective testimony with an emphasis on the new virtual formats.

As we move into 2021, the focus will remain on increasing our use of virtual meetings and the incorporation of hybrid meetings to combine small, in-person meetings with a broader virtual audience. While person-to-person interaction is the goal for our outreach plans, we remain flexible and adaptable to the current constraints while we continue to bring the OHA message to new audiences.



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Proceeds benefit OHA. Drawing: March 17, 2021, 3 p.m. OHA State Office, 804 Bennett Ave., Medford, OR.


NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.



Last Call *for* Geese

Hope springs eternal in Oregon seasons that reach the end of winter.

BY TROY RODAKOWSKI




The geese seemed to circle forever, lowering ever so slowly as we watched intently from our blind. They'd shift with the wind and dive left, then right, as if they were trying to tease us. We were hoping the couple hundred cacklers would commit before moving off to the adjacent field where other birds had already landed.

We waited almost 10 minutes until a smaller group of 30 broke off and flew into gun range before firing at them. We managed to knock down a handful before the sky once again grew quiet.

Late goose hunting in Oregon has become well known as a late-season destination for waterfowlers across the country. Whether you plan to hunt the Northwest permit zone, Southern Oregon zones or on the eastside, you will likely find plenty to draw a bead on late this winter.

From late February into the second week of March, the ODFW biologists use hunting pressure to shift goose movement from private holdings with crop damage to the refuges in the Klamath Basin. According to experts, there are 300,000 excess white-fronted geese in the Klamath. That's a lot of geese for the pot. Open Counties for white and white-fronted geese only are



Klamath, Lake, Harney, and Malheur from Jan. 16 to March 10.

In Northwest Oregon's permit zone, a hunter is required to possess a goose permit in order to hunt the late season and into early spring. The permit covers all of Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill Counties. Closed areas include Fern Ridge, E.E. Wilson, and Sauvie Island with the exception of white-fronted geese. Hunters must possess a valid permit and hunt areas of the Sauvie that are open on permitted days (See regulations). Open season runs Nov. 21 to Jan. 13, and Feb. 6 to March 10. Bag limits are 4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese and 6 white geese.

In the western United States, much-

needed precipitation improved wetland conditions in parts of the region this spring, but waterfowl habitats continue to suffer the effects of drought in many areas.

But, I'm not about to put away my shotgun with some of Oregon's best waterfowling likely yet to come.

Cold storms during November and December will push good numbers of birds through our area and improve the hunting, particularly on private lands and wildlife refuges. Moving water will be a key ingredient during cold snaps that ice over stagnant waters. Hunting rivers, creeks and smaller streams adjacent to larger green fields that do not freeze will draw the fowl to these locations.

"We should have a good abundance of feed late into the season this year," says Dave Rogers of River Refuge Seed in Brownsville.

Water that is not frozen near agricultural productions where birds can transition from feeding areas to resting locations can make for some great shooting. Open production fields that produced grass, grains, corn, peas, rice or buckwheat will be a good bet. Another option is to head to the coast, where there is typically more water due to tidal flooding and where good numbers of early migrant birds of-

ten congregate. Fall-planted grass, grain and clover fields seem to be some of the favorites for late-season geese.

Those early blasts of Arctic air into British Columbia are critical to move birds down early. However, if the winter storm surge is delayed, it's likely that some of the best hunting will once again be found during late December, January and clear into early March.

"As the season progresses and rains return, hunting should improve with the caveat being cold weather," said Brandon Reishus, ODFW Waterfowl Biologist. Cold storms during November and December will push birds through our area and improve the hunting, particularly on private lands and wildlife refuges.

Over the past 15 years, the Pacific populations of Canada geese have increased approximately 9 percent per year, according to breeding ground surveys conducted by the USFWS. This is good news for those fowlers who like to pursue geese. The flyway's population of light geese increased by about 4 percent, and the Wrangel Island (Russia) population of lesser snow geese jumped about 45 percent.

Decoys are essential during the late



The author shows off a bag of Canada geese from a recent late-winter hunt in Oregon.

winter hunts. For cacklers, lessers, Taverners, Aleutian and white-fronted geese, large decoy spreads draw wary birds into gun range. Make sure to have a few landing zones where birds feel comfortable dropping into your spread. During late hunts, it's not uncommon to have speckle-

bellies and snows mixed in with the cackler flocks. Decoy spreads and great calling can be what typically put more geese in your bag, but the location you choose to hunt is probably the most critical.

It takes time to set up good decoy spreads, so headlamps are necessary during the early morning hours prior to shooting light. Carting dozens of decoys into a field is not uncommon in order to create a decent spread. Using high quality, realistic decoys will help.

"It truly makes a difference when hunting late-season birds," added Rogers.

Spending a few extra dollars on dekes most definitely pays off in the long run.

A good variety of birds in your spread or at your disposal is important, as well. Having a good flock of specks and snows to use when necessary has helped us in the past. Many of the birds we have hunted were returning north and heading back toward their breeding grounds.

If you want a bird for the wall, late winter is optimum for plumage and making a trip to the taxidermist. This late season also can offer a great opportunity to bag a nice snow goose or speck without having to endure the worst winter weather.

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

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YOUNG GUNS

By GARY LEWIS

Predator hunts can help kids beat the post-holiday blues

Gray and white, its guard hairs tipped in silver, the coyote bounced out of the sage and stopped behind tall sagebrush. We had been calling for most of the day and had yet to bring a Catlow Valley coyote within range. Now it was dusk. We had just finished our last call set of the day and put the guns in the Ford. Now a coyote was running toward us. Just had to get it to stop. Get a gun loaded.

I barked and that stopped it, but Jennifer was still trying to load the Remington.

Predators are always in season, so pick weekends with good weather.

There, her rifle was up. The coyote swapped ends and headed back the other direction. Gary Madison howled. The coyote put on the brakes then took a step and looked back over its shoulder. My 16-year-old daughter Jennifer spotted the coyote through

the sage, caught it in the crosshair and squeezed the trigger.

Part of growing up in our family meant the kids had to hunt. After Jennifer, our middle daughter, passed hunter education at the age of nine, she shot her first game at a friend's place, a Belding's ground squirrel, and she took a lot of ground squirrels after that, on hunts east of Mitchell and north of Bly. When she was ready for bigger game, instead of going after deer or elk, she wanted to hunt bears.

That first bear hunt took us to the Snake River Unit in September and the Imnaha River canyon, where we used mule deer distress calls and tolled in a black bear on the second day. The rancher helped us bring the bear back to the barn, where we skinned it out and hung the skin over a fence rail.

That evening, I pointed out to her that the black bear that swam the river to get to us was coming to a mule deer distress call. That was a bear that was used to eating deer. By the act of taking this bear, she



Jennifer Lewis took this coyote in the Catlow Valley. Winter predator hunts offer a chance to put those guns and optics received for Christmas to use long before next fall's big game seasons.

was ensuring a future with more deer in it.

In the Imnaha, out in the John Day River country, west of Steens and down in the Interstate Unit, and in the Melrose Unit, where she bagged her first blacktail deer, Jennifer listened as we warmed our hands at wood stoves or shared a cool drink with a rancher. The message was the same everywhere we went. Hunting is conservation. More and more Jennifer and her sisters came to understand the special connection between farmers and ranchers and hunters. And the ranchers we came to know that really loved the deer and elk let the kids see their role in conservation.

The only way we can really help our deer is to make sure more of them grow up, and that means hunting predators.

Coyotes are one of the main predators of deer and antelope young, especially in the late spring and early summer.

Coyote hunting is one of the easier sports to get started in, although there is a bit of a learning curve and specialized equipment. It is assumed that the new coyote hunter is going to educate a few coyotes before bagging the first one. But coyote hunting teaches a lot of the discipline that the new hunter needs to be successful. Best of all, coyote hunting can and should go on year-round, and no tags are required.

Every coyote hunter should have a cougar tag in pocket, too, in case a cougar responds to the predator call. Cougars may also be hunted year-round.

The young person who wants to hunt

bears is also in luck. With both spring and fall bear seasons to hunt, an Oregon hunter can go bear hunting up to seven months out of the year.

Predator sounds are easy to master, whether with electronics or with mouth calls. Decoys and camouflage add to the fun.

You can pick hunting weekends around good weather, because you never have to worry about whether the season is open or not. It's always open. With a hunting season that never stops, the opportunities to teach kids about conservation are limitless.

If one adult coyote can account for a half a dozen or more deer in a single year, it is easy to demonstrate how a kid can save a whole herd of deer when they can manage to reduce a single coyote to room temperature.

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OHA NEWS & VIEWS

BLM

OHA helps stop beaver trap ban

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

OHA, along with a coalition of sportsmen's and natural resource associations, successfully defended the right to trap beaver on federally managed public lands in Oregon.

The topic was discussed, for the second time this year, at the November Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, with the petitioners seeking to permanently end all beaver trapping on over 53 percent of the state.

The Commission voted down the petition in a 3-3 split vote with commissioners Wahl, Wolley, and Zarnowitz voting for the petition, and commissioners Labhart, Spelbrink, and Hatfield-Hyde voting against it. The Commission went on to approve a return to the workgroups previously sanctioned in the June meeting.

State-specific, scientific research to link trapping mortality to decreased beaver populations was starkly absent from the materials presented to justify the petition. OHA's input to the Commission continues to be rooted in science-based wildlife management, an argument which resonated with those who voted against the petition's acceptance.

ODFW staff recommended denying the petition, based on a lack of scientific evidence, a position that led petitioners to repeatedly attack ODFW staff and leadership with overt disdain, baselessly accusing them of dishonesty and ineptitude.

OHA's testimony supported the staff recommendation to deny the petition and again called for conclusive, state-specific research regarding beaver population health before any broad-sweeping species management decisions could be made.

The tie vote constitutes a win for trappers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts, but the fight is not over. The petitioners, having attempted and failed twice, will likely renew their efforts through a variety of angles, including legislative maneuvering and a return to the Fish and Wildlife Commission when new commissioners have been appointed.

Commissioners are appointed by the governor; therefore, advocating for hunt-



OHA testimony helped defeat a proposed ban on beaver trapping on Oregon's federal lands.

ing, fishing, and trapping representatives to be placed on the commission is extremely important to the outcome of this topic and many others ahead of us.

OHA will continue to advocate for the interests of Oregon sportsmen and sound wildlife management in these discussions.

OHA can help with wildfire recovery effort

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

After a record-setting fire season with nearly 1,000,000 acres burned in Oregon, natural resource managers and conservation groups are digging in to start on the post-fire recovery process. While it is difficult to see anything positive with these types of catastrophic events, there is work to be done and opportunities for OHA to engage.

The first step for natural resource managers is to get an assessment done on the damage caused by the fires, such as what infrastructure was damaged, and how severely the fires burned. Some of this information is already available. Next is to try to make the burned areas safe to be entered and roads safe to be traveled. This, too, has already started.

The part that will take the longest will be the long-term planning and implementation to recover the severely burned areas. The planning and discussions for this are underway, but will take some time and coordination to get moving.

OHA has started discussions with the U.S. Forest Service, ODFW and the Oregon Department of Forestry to offer help and stay engaged in the recovery and restoration work.

Projects like forage seeding or replacing existing seasonal winter range gates could be areas where local chapters can engage with their local national forest to make a difference, particularly for big game.

Proactive management will ensure that burned areas provide valuable early seral habitat for big game species and help make sure that those areas aren't taken over by invasive species.

In Memoriam

Contributions made recently to the
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OHA LADD MARSH MEMORIAL OVERLOOK/JIM WARD

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OHA gives away a gun a week in 2020 Gun Calendar Raffle!

OHA has given away a gun every week to winners in the 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle. Winners were announced each Wednesday on OHA's website and Facebook page. No calendar raffle will be held in the coming year, but we are hopeful for the next year.

Most recent 2020 OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners:

2-Sep – Tikka T-3 Lite SS 6.5 Creedmoor, Alan Bozarth, Rainier
9-Sep – Benelli Nova camo 12 ga., Steven Dark, Stayton
16-Sep – Savage TH-16 SS 7mm Mag 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Chris Mather, Astoria
23-Sep – Howa lightweight Cerakote KUIU Vias .243, Jon Schnebly, Klamath Falls
30-Sep – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Arne Knutsen, Dallas
7-Oct – Beretta A300 Max 5 Camo 12 gauge, Elizabeth Gonzales, Hillsboro
4-Oct – Remington LR SPS SS 7mm Rem., Al Rich, Gresham
21-Oct – Weatherby Series 2 .25-06, Brent Tannock, Hillsboro
28-Oct – Savage 93R17 BTVS .17 HMR, Brandy Bauman, Gates
4-Nov – Howa Cerakote KUIU Verde .22-250, Nathan Hobson, Milwaukie
11-Nov – TC Compass .270 Win., Raymond McLaughlin, Philomath
8-Nov – Springfield XD Model 2 subcompact .45 ACP, Beau Hudspeth, St. Helens
25-Nov – Legacy Pointer 12 gauge O/U, Darren Dutcher, Redmond
2-Dec – Savage TH16 SS .300 WM, 3-9x40 Nikon scope, Lane Osborn, Corvallis
9-Dec – Walther PK380 SS & Teal, Molly Jimenez, Albany
16-Dec – Ruger 10-22 Stainless black, Kyle Miller, Oakland
23-Dec – Howa KUIU Vias .204 Ruger, Travis Kent, Tillamook
30-Dec – OHA-engraved Legacy Pointer O/U 12 gauge, Albert Barrows, Malin





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Drawing 3pm, Jan. 7, 2021, OHA Office, 804 Bennett, Medford, OR. Need not be present to win.



Poaching frenzy plagues Oregon statewide

Poaching has spiraled out of control across Oregon this fall, and it's not about hunger or empty store shelves – in most cases the animals have been left to waste. OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) Reward Fund is offering rewards to informants who provide leads resulting in a citation. OHA, ODFW and OSP have publicized the cases, asking for the public's help in identifying suspects.

Spotlighted here are just a few of the recent cases publicized by OSP and the ODFW Stop Poaching Program, and it's important to realize that these are just the cases that have been discovered, reported to police and publicized. It's probably just the tip of the antler.

Details about these cases and others can be found on OHA's Facebook page, as well as OSP's FlashAlert (www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=1002) and ODFW news (www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/index.asp).

TIP rewards are paid for information leading to the arrest/conviction of person(s) for the illegal possession, killing, taking, and/or waste of big game, furbearers and game birds. Informants may remain anonymous and still collect a reward.

- **\$1,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat and Moose**
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- **\$100 Furbearers**

The TIP program also offers the option of ODFW preference point rewards instead of cash rewards for information leading to a citation for the unlawful take/possession or waste of big game mammals.

Preference Point Rewards:

- **5 points** for a citation involving bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose or wolf;
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Call: 1-800-452-7888 or *OSP (24/7)

E-mail: TIP@state.or.us (monitored M-F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)



OSP needs tips in the shooting and wasting of a Columbia whitetail buck near Glide on private property in October. OSP Troopers responded to the area of Abbott Street and Mt. Scott Lane in Glide, where they found a whitetail buck that had been shot with a small-caliber firearm.



Oregon State Police seek information in connection with a bull elk that was shot and left to waste in Baker County the last week of November. The elk was located on BLM land in the Pine Creek Unit near Halfway. Troopers believe that the elk was killed sometime between daylight and 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 28.



OSP seeks leads to identify whoever shot and left to waste a 6x6 bull elk in the 3000 block of Reuben Road in Glendale on Nov. 5 between 9 p.m. and midnight. The bull was killed with a small caliber rifle. Residents reported seeing a white Chevy crew cab with a white canopy in the area.



OHA's Redmond, Bend, Capitol and Josephine County chapters have pledged a combined \$2,500 in addition to the standard \$500 per elk offered by OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward in the recent killing of three elk that were mostly wasted in an area near Sisters. A branch bull, a cow, and a spike were killed at the same time east of Sisters near Hwy 126 and Quail Tree Drive. Two of the elk were left to waste. The third, a large bull, had its head and shoulders removed as a trophy. The elk were likely killed during the Cascade elk season, wherein cows are not legal, and multiple animals were illegally wasted.

Please Support OHA's Special Funds!

Your tax-deductible* contributions support OHA's wildlife, habitat, sportsmen & hunting rights.

HUNTERS' VICTORY FUND

Your tax-deductible* donation to the Oregon Hunters Association Hunters' Victory Fund will be dedicated for fighting legal and legislative battles to protect hunting rights in Oregon.

Your support helped us file suit to protect key elk habitat in eastern Oregon, and helped us keep 2 gun initiatives off the ballot!

We need every Oregon hunter's support to be successful!

**YOUR GIFTS HELPED
US KEEP THE OCHOCOS
GREAT ELK COUNTRY!**



Tax-deductible* donations to the OHA's Wildlife Super Fund are dedicated for major projects and programs aimed at advocating for wildlife and enhancing habitat right here in Oregon where you live and hunt. **We recently funded three major projects thanks to your support!**



Members who contribute \$20 or more to OHA's Special Funds receive a Silver Edition OHA Supporting Member decal. Donors of \$100 or more receive a Gold Edition Sustaining Member decal.

Youth Heritage Fund

Tax-deductible* donations to OHA's Youth Heritage Fund help train tomorrow's hunters & conservationists who will carry on our proud hunting heritage.



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(541) 772-7313

www.oregonhunters.org/donate Or donate online!



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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email (optional): _____

Please accept my contribution to OHA's Special Funds:

Gift to Oregon Hunters' Victory Fund:

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Gift to OHA Wildlife Super Fund:

___ \$20 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other: \$ _____

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* OHA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The OHA Hunters' Victory Fund is not a PAC. Consult your tax preparer.

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapters shake off 2020, slate events for 2021

Chapters of OHA are busy slating events for 2021, ranging from critical fund-raising banquets to sports show booths. Much will depend on gathering restrictions, so please confirm all info found here. OHA appreciates your continued support!

BAKER

Charlie Brinton

(541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Sun Ridge Inn; optional dinner 6 p.m.

2021 banquet: April 3, Baker County Event Center.

Update: The Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab raffles were drawn Oct. 1.

BEND

Rex Parks

541-480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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

2021 banquet: March 13, The Riverhouse Conv. Ctr.; call 541-480-9848. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag.

Update: State OHA awards were presented to Bend Chapter members at our outdoor chapter meeting in September at Bend Pine Nursery Park, which ended sooner than usual due to darkness coming on. We had no October general meeting, but members did routine fence patrol and maintenance Oct. 8. Our chapter's 17th Annual Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt took place Nov. 21.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong

(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2021 banquet: April 3, Pendleton Convention Ctr.

CAPITOL

Erik Colville

(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

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

2021 banquet: July 31.

Update: We held chapter meetings via Zoom in August and September; there were no general meetings in October or November. Due to restrictions on social gatherings, the Board decided not to have a holiday potluck general meeting this year. In addition, the Board has postponed the 2021 fund-raising banquet, originally scheduled for April 17, tentatively to July 31 (location TBD).

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli

(541) 450-4100

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

CLATSOP COUNTY

Jim Bergeron

(503) 458-6829

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker, 4H Clubhouse, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

2021 banquet: March 20, Clatsop County Fairgrounds. Call 503-791-0549.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles in 2021.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks

(949) 533-7271

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, 57317 Old Portland Rd., Warren.

Update: Beginning with October, our chapter meeting time and place has changed to the third Thursday at the Moose Lodge in Warren. Our board voted to support the Tualatin Valley Refuge Blind project. We

will donate \$1,500 and loan \$8,000 for the project.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager

(541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Update: General membership meetings are on hold. Board meetings will be held monthly and are open to all members. If you want to attend, you must contact a board member in advance so proper seating can be arranged. We hope to restore general membership meetings in the spring, possibly outdoors, as our former meeting place (Sizzler) has permanently closed.

HOODVIEW

Kelly Parkman

(503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 5:50, Elmer's, 1933 NE 181st Ave., Portland.

2021 banquet: Feb. 20, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas.

Update: Hoodview held a meeting Nov. 12, the first since March. We firmed up plans for our novel live banquet in February. Nothing like it has ever been done! We can do it unless they shut down everything indoors. Wish us well!

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery

(541) 761-3200

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., Elmer's Restaurant, Grants Pass.

2021 banquet: March 20, Josephine County Fairgrounds; call 541-821-1511.

Update: Chapter members collected items and put together holiday baskets in December.



BILL LITTLEFIELD

The OHA Bend Chapter's annual youth bird hunt on Nov. 21 was another smashing success.



OREGON HUNTER'S 2021 CALENDAR

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
FINALLY!**

*OHA thanks you for your support of
our mission in this most difficult year.
We look forward to doing even more
in the new year with your support.
Good hunting in 2021!*

"Racing the Snow"
by Jane Vanderzanden
(imaginationsofthewild.com)

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

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KLAMATH

Allan Wiard

(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2021 banquet: April 24, Klamath County Fairgrounds; call 541-882-9593.

Update: The Youth Chukar Hunt was held Oct. 24-25. OHA Klamath Chapter teamed up with the Mule Deer Foundation to hold a gun raffle event on Nov. 18. Our Christmas Potluck was canceled.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(530) 640-3368

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., Dinner Bell Cafe, Lakeview.

2021 banquet: April 3, Fairgrounds; call 541-810-1617.

Update: Our fall plans included a September guzzler project and goose/duck boxes at Dog Lake in October.

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: Thanks to Coastal Farm & Ranch for their donation of the Nosler .300 Win. Mag we raffled. Though general membership meetings are on hold, our board continues to meet and conduct chapter business.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles.

Update: Our November chapter meeting was canceled. Instead, we had a Zoom meeting on Dec. 1.

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jeff Mack

(503) 949-3787

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 6 p.m., Old Armory, 4th and Lyons, Albany.

2021 banquet: April 17, Boys & Girls Club, Albany; call 541-971-3351.

Update: Chapter volunteers gathered at Old Peak Meadow for a shrub cage repair and weeding project on Oct. 18. Our

chapter purchased birds for and helped at the September Youth Pheasant Hunt at E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area, which set a new attendance record. OHA's 2019 TIP Award was presented to Trooper Jim Andrews by Mid-Willamette Chapter board members Debbie Mode and Ken McCall on Sept. 24.

OCHOCO

John Dehler, III

(541) 815-5817

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

PIONEER

Brian Andrews

(503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

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

2021 banquet: March 6, Mt. Angel Community Festhalle; call 503-710-1233.

Update: Our chapter will donate \$1,500 toward building a duck blind at Wapato Refuge, which will include a plaque naming our chapter as a sponsor. Chapter members worked on our duck box route and guzzler in October, the last of those trips for the year. Guzzler trips will begin again in May. We will have a booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show.

REDMOND

K.C. Thrasher

(541) 419-7215

OHA line (541) 383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, VFW Hall. Dinner at 5:30, member meeting at 6:30, board meeting at 6.

2021 banquet: Feb. 27, Deschutes County Expo; call 541-233-3740

Update: Our chapter pledged an additional \$1,000 toward a TIP reward to catch the poachers of multiple local elk recently. We collected non-perishable food items at the November and December chapter meetings for holiday baskets.

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.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal Farm & Ranch raffles in 2021.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman

(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: Held the 3rd Monday,

7 p.m., at the Tillamook PUD.

2021 banquet: May 1, Tillamook County Fairgrounds; call 503-801-3779.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal Farm & Ranch raffles in 2021.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton

(541) 267-2577

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. no host dinner, Puerto Vallarta restaurant, Coos Bay.

2021 banquet: March 20, Coquille Community Building.

Update: Chapter members volunteered at the youth pheasant hunt.

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.

2021 banquet: April 10. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag.

Update: Chapter meetings are on hold until Washington County is in Phase Two of re-opening. We sadly canceled the Christmas Party, but drew winners for the Coastal Farm & Ranch and Les Schwab raffles on Dec. 12.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

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

2021 banquet: April 10, Seven Feathers Casino; call 541-430-7324.

Update: We hope to start up chapter meetings again in January, as usual.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2021 banquet: March 13, Blue Mountain Conference Center, La Grande.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Andy Bodeen

(503) 490-2489

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

Update: Volunteers staffed the Stimson Gates on October and November weekends. Youth deer hunters enjoyed good success. We drew the winners of our 2020 raffles on Dec. 10.



OHA Invites You to Our 2021 Banquets for Oregon's Wildlife & Sportsmen!



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Feb. 20 Hoodview	503-706-7481	Mar. 20 Josephine Co.	541-821-1511	Apr. 24 Klamath	541-882-9593
Feb. 27 Redmond	541-233-3740	Apr. 3 Baker	541-403-0402	May 1 Tillamook	503-801-3779
Mar. 6 Pioneer	503-710-1233	Apr. 3 Blue Mountain	541-231-4384	May 22 OHA State Convention, Chinook Winds Casino,	541-772-7313
Mar. 13 Bend	541-480-9848	Apr. 3 Lake County	541-810-1617	July 31 Capitol	503-851-8409
Mar. 13 Union/Wallowa	541-786-1283	Apr. 10 Tualatin Valley	503-502-0611	A&H Statewide Deer Tag auction	
Mar. 20 Tioga	541-267-2577	Apr. 10 Umpqua	541-430-7324	A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction	
Mar. 20 Clatsop County	503-791-0549	Apr. 17 Mid-Willamette	541-971-3351	To bid by phone, call 971-270-7035	

GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Get ducks in a row with Coconut Curry Waterfowl

Oregon's waterfowl season has been very good, overall, and with all those ducks and geese hitting the ground, you may be looking for different ways to cook them. Here's a recipe everyone in our family has enjoyed, many times over.

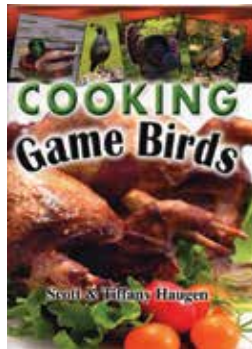
Slathering waterfowl in spices is a great way to give them deep flavor and keep the moisture in. This Indian-inspired dish produces a rich, creamy sauce, and keeping it all in the oven bag ensures a delectable end product.

1 whole goose or 2-3 ducks, dressed (plucked or skinned)

Yellow Curry Paste:

1/2 onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic
Juice and zest of 1/2 lemon
2 teaspoons curry powder
2 teaspoons coriander
1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon white pepper

1 14-ounce can coconut milk



Using a food processor or mini-chopper, blend all curry paste ingredients until smooth. Place goose or ducks into an oven roasting bag. Place the bag into an oven-proof casserole pan. Coat the bird(s) with the curry mixture. Pour coconut milk in bag. Seal bag and make several slits on the top for steam to escape. Bake in a preheated, 350° oven, 45 minutes or until meat thermometer reaches 140°-160°.

To brown birds, carefully slice open the bag down the center, tucking into the sides of the pan during the last 10 minutes of cooking time. Remove from oven and let sit 10 minutes. Serve birds over rice with curry sauce from the bag.



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



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AT 250 YARDS



AT 100 YARDS



TACTACAM.COM

Report tags by Jan. 31, 2021

or face \$25 fine for not reporting your deer or elk tag

TWO WAYS TO REPORT:

Online at ODFW's licensing system:

odfw.huntfishoregon.com/login

Be sure to use "Verify/Look Up Your Account" if you have never used ODFW's online licensing system before.

At a license sale agent

Agents will take your report for no fee.

ODFW does not recommend customers call ODFW to report as hold times can be long. Remember ODFW offices remained closed to in-person visitors due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Who needs to report:

Everyone who purchased a deer, elk, cougar, bear, pronghorn or turkey tag—even if you were not successful or didn't go hunting. SportsPac buyers need to report on any tag issued to them.

What information to report:

A series of questions will ask if you went hunting, how many days you hunted, what unit you hunted in the most, and antler points of animal harvested if appropriate.

Deadline:

Jan. 31, 2021 for any hunt that ended by Dec. 31, 2020

April 15, 2021 for any hunt that extends into 2021

Penalty for not reporting:

Hunters who fail to report a deer or elk tag by the deadline will be charged \$25 when they go to purchase a 2022 hunting license. This fine does not go away if you skip a year of purchasing.

What does ODFW do with the information?

ODFW uses this information to determine hunting pressure (which is why we need to hear



Ken Moyer of Bend took an elk in the Wenaha Unit after winning a special big game tag for reporting his hunt results on time. Photo by Ken Moyer.

from hunters who weren't successful or didn't go) and harvest. This information helps determine tag numbers and regulations. It's also posted online for hunters to use (search Big Game Harvest Statistics)

Successful e-taggers still need to report:

Information from mandatory reporting is organized separately and presented statistically (rather than associated with an individual hunter).

Incentives to report:

Each hunter who reports on time is entered to win a special big game tag. Three winners are drawn each year and they can choose a deer, elk or pronghorn tag and hunt anywhere in the state for three months (similar to auction tags that people pay thousands of dollars for).



NOSLER[®]

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

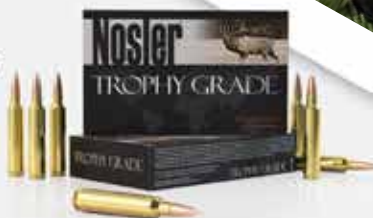
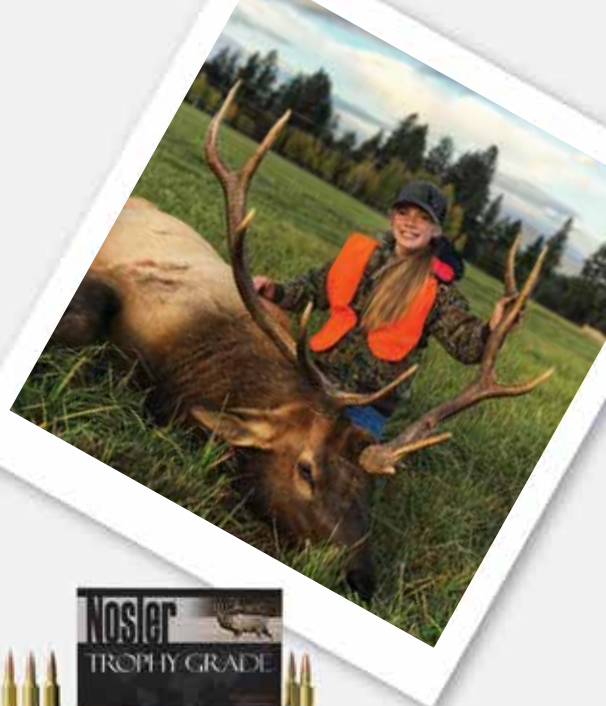
Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter 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 WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

OHA member Tim Shoepe of Newberg wins a Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle for this photo of Elizabeth Shoepe with a Wyoming mule deer.



SECOND PLACE

OHA member Travis Rutz of Prineville scores a case of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo for this photo of Molly posing with a limit of ducks taken on the last weekend of the season at Sauvie Island.

THIRD PLACE

Jeff Lewis, OHA member in Merlin, claims a Leupold scope for this photo of himself with an Applegate blacktail he took opening weekend in 2019 with a .308.



FOURTH PLACE

Jason Kamperman, OHA member in Bend, claims a pair of Danner Alsea hunting boots for this photo of Reed Kamperman and himself with a bighorn taken on Steens Mountain.



FIFTH PLACE

OHA member Will Waddell of Springfield claims a Benchmade Altitude hunting knife for this photo of an Idaho elk taken with a Browning X-bolt 7mm.

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

Matt Bartolotti, OHA member in Prineville, wins a Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle for this photo of Jolene Bartolotti with a Cascade elk she took on a mentored hunt in the Upper Deschutes Unit.



SECOND PLACE

OHA member Brock Cota of Sweet Home claims a case of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo for this photo of Sophie Cota, 6, with her mother Ashley's bear taken in May in the Imnaha Unit.



THIRD PLACE
OHA member Lucy Langer of Sherwood claims a Leupold scope for this photo of herself and Alyse Hurley on a Christmas break duck hunt near home.



FOURTH PLACE
Springfield OHA member Will Waddell scores a pair of Danner Alsea hunting boots for this photo of Kori Groff and her dad Matt with a turkey she bagged last spring in the Melrose Unit with a Remington 870 Express shotgun.



FIFTH PLACE
Baker City OHA member Kirstin Ornelas scores a Benchmade Altitude hunting knife for this photo of Reanna and Marjorie Ornelas with Marjorie's elk taken in August in a youth hunt hosted by Idaho Power in Baker County.

How to Get Rid of a Hitchhiker

Dear Mayo Clinic: What is the best way to remove a tick?

There are a lot of folk remedies. You can put nail polish on them. Or duct tape them. Or smother them in Vaseline or simply touch with a hot kitchen match.

I recently had to make a decision on the quickest way to get rid of a tick.

When you are a powerful and influential member of the hunting media, you get invitations to go on guided elk or caribou hunts. All the rest of us get to hunt with people like T. Roy, who took me on a turkey hunt.

After said turkey hunt, where I dozed against a tree for 45 minutes while T. Roy squawked on his box call, I took off my camo and put on street clothes again. That evening I had to drive south on I-5 to stay at a hotel preparatory to my next adventure, an all-day board meeting in Canyonville.

About 30 minutes into the evening drive, in the fast lane, one hand on the wheel, I discovered a strange little lump on my rib cage. Hmmmmmmmmm.

I was going 65, it was not appropriate to do further self-examination, but my immediate diagnosis was I had picked up a hitchhiker. With eight legs.

I was still a good twenty minutes from my destination. The speedometer crept up to 75 mph.

Having a tick on one's person is not unlike having a yellowjacket in the car, except you know all the time where the tick is. And you can swat at it, but it's not going anywhere. Best to get to your destination and deal with it.

In the lobby of the hotel, I was greeted by two members of the opposite sex. It must have been a slow night at the front desk. Buffy and Giggles were happy to see me. They looked me up and down. Calculating. Buffy checked my ID, looked at my

birthdate and figured out we were close to the same age. She wanted to talk more.

But I felt the need to cut the banter short and get into my well-lit, I hoped, and antiseptic, I hoped, hotel room where, I hoped, I could dig into my go-bag and find the necessities to deal with a troublesome hitchhiker.



First step: connect to WiFi. I thumb-typed "How to remove a tick," which brought up the

Mayo Clinic website for me.

The Mayo Clinic was very helpful. They advised to avoid areas where ticks are found. Uhh, have you BEEN to Roseburg? Some of the ticks have their own ticks.

The Mayo Clinic advised against trying to smother the critter.

In the fifth paragraph, I found the following: "To remove a tick that is embedded in the skin, grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible, using tweezers, if available."

That was a problem. No tweezers in my traveling kit. So I sidled back down to the front desk.

Giggles asked, "Is there some way we can help you?"

"Just need a first aid kit."

Instantly, the smiles vanished. Buffy and Giggles looked me up and down with calculating frowns.

Receding hairline. Hasn't shaved in a while. Smells like bear grease.

Buffy asked, "Is the first aid kit for a human or an animal?"

"A human."

I was now the focus of real concern. They had just checked me out, checking me into the hotel and they KNEW I was traveling alone. King bed. Non-smoking. Not leaking bodily fluids on the tile floor.

"Which human?" Buffy wanted to know.

"This particular one."

"Well what's wrong with you?"

"Got a tick."

Maybe it was the way I said it. Buffy left. She turned on her heel. Gone. Not coming back. Giggles, frowning, called a facilities manager.

Giggles turned pages in the reservation

book. I shifted from one foot to the other till the facilities manager showed up. He handed over the first aid kit and I returned to the room whereupon I employed the tweezers to do battle with the parasite.

The thing you want to do is grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible and pull upward with a steady, continuous motion. What you don't want to do is leave parts of the tick in the skin. No one was there with a stopwatch, but the battle for control of my dermis seemed to take five hours.

Ticks are not the only kinds of parasites one may experience on a hunting trip. There is also campground neighbor guy.

Out in eastern Oregon, on a September archery hunt, a pastor and his buddies were hunting elk. They had set up tree stands and a few of them had put up trail cameras.

One of their hunting camp neighbors would circle through the camp each day after lunch and check in to see how they were doing.

The pastor checked his trail cam and found pictures of campground neighbor guy peeing all around his stand. The next afternoon when neighbor guy showed up in camp, the pastor asked him if he had anything he would like to confess.

"No, nothing to confess."

We don't know if the guy was a Catholic, a Protestant or a Messianic Jew, but we do know he gave the wrong answer. If a priest or a pastor or a rabbi says you have something to confess, he is probably right.

"Think really hard. Have you done anything recently for which you are sorry?"

The guy put on his best I'm puzzled look. For the life of him, he couldn't think of anything bad he had done.

The pastor showed him some pictures from the trail camera. Then he remembered.

Campground neighbor guy confessed he was jealous of the tree stand location and asked for forgiveness. So the pastor and his buddies gathered 'round and laid hands on him and prayed. Campground neighbor guy, a.k.a. the irritating irrigator, got his elk the next day.

That's one way to deal with a parasite. I would have pulled him apart with tweezers.



The Mayo Clinic does not advise the use of MAYOnnaise, except in the case of a turkey sandwich. Contact Gary Lewis at www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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