



Check out the upcoming May-June issue of OREGON HUNTER for turkey hunting tips and a path to a higher level of turkey hunting decorum.

Gun bills, coyote contest ban bill on fast track

By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists
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March saw the first bill deadline come and go in the 2021 Legislative Session. The mid-March deadline stopped the bills that were not going anywhere and extended the life of bills that had hearings and work sessions scheduled for the remainder of March and beyond.

HB 2548 Wildlife Corridor Funding

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to study issues related to funding construction of wildlife corridor road crossings and report to legislature its findings on or before Sept. 15, 2022.

Update: At a February hearing, OHA testified in support. The bill had a work session scheduled in late March.

HB 2728 Coyote Contests

It's back! However, this version has an amendment that protects certain aspects of nonprofit contests (Section 5 of the bill lines 17-19). The bill prohibits a person from conducting or participating in a contest, competition, tournament, or derby that has the objective of taking coyotes for cash or prizes. Provides that prohibition does not apply to raffles conducted by nonprofit organizations if the organization does not award raffle prizes based on number, weight or size of coyotes taken. Punishes violation of

prohibition by maximum fine of \$2,000.

Update: The bill had a work session. An amendment to allow for a county-by-county vote on contest restrictions failed. The bill was passed out of committee and now goes to House floor for a vote.

HB 2844 Beaver Bill

This bill would remove beaver from both the predatory animal designation and rodent listing in statute. It would hamper a landowner's ability to deal with damage-causing beavers by removing them from the current management structure and requiring landowners to now receive a permit, similar to furtaker requirements. No exemption for emergency damage mitigation has been included.

Update: The bill had a public hearing. OHA staff worked with Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Forest & Industries Council, and the Oregon Cattlemen in a coordinated effort to stop this bill. The bill has not been scheduled for a work session and will not move forward in the legislative session.

SB 630 Elk Damage Tag Bill

Authorizes use of landowner damage tags to take elk on adjacent property with consent of the owner of the adjacent property.

Update: Senator Hansell, the sponsor of the bill, formed a work group to discuss the provisions of the bill in relation to

what is currently allowed under ODFW rules related to damage tags. The workgroup consisted of Senator Hansell, landowners, an OHA representative and personnel from ODFW. The workgroup met twice and decided that current ODFW rules address the provisions in the bill. It was therefore decided that no legislation on this subject would be needed at this time.

Gun Bills

HB 2543 Firearm Transfer Prohibition

Prohibits transfer of firearms by gun dealers or private parties if OSP is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive a firearm.

Update: OHA opposes this bill, which was scheduled for a work session in late March.

SB 554 Concealed Weapon Laws

Authorizes city, county, metropolitan service district, port operating commercial airport, school district, college, or university to adopt ordinances or policies limiting or precluding affirmative defense for possession of firearms in public buildings by concealed handgun licensees.

Update: OHA opposes this bill, which is now awaiting a floor vote of the Senate.

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To learn more about these bills, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws

Volunteers needed to help others learn to hunt

By Amy Patrick, OHA Outreach Coordinator
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OHA is encouraging members to become certified instructors of the Intro to Big Game Hunting course through ODFW. ODFW is interested in certifying OHA members as instructors through their Train the Trainer program, which would allow the courses to be taught

throughout the state.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to become instructors and begin hosting Intro to Big Game Hunting courses in their local areas. To become certified as an instructor, contact Cat Sandor-Korte with ODFW at catherine.N.Sandor-Korte@state.or.us for more information.

This opportunity is also the initial phase of a larger Learn to Hunt Program that OHA is developing and plans to roll out to chapters this year.

OHA's program includes additional components, such as a library of course outlines and teaching tools, a guide for hands-on day trip modules, and an online resource library.

ODFW unveils archery elk plan

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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ODFW has released its initial strategy for moving more eastern Oregon archery elk hunts to the controlled hunt system. On March 11, ODFW issued a release that described the proposal, along with a map and a process for hunters to provide their input. Information is available at the Big Game Review page on the ODFW website at: <https://myodfw.com/articles/big-game-hunting-season-review>

OHA continues to track this proposal and participate in discussions with ODFW staff. OHA representatives are reviewing data and information on the current elk archery hunting, assessing potential impacts if the current proposal is implemented, and making sure our members have an opportunity to engage in the discussion.

Jeremy Thompson, ODFW District Wildlife Biologist from The Dalles, who serves as the agency lead for the process, said in the release, "We have tried to craft a solution that addresses the problems we are seeing in some units, while continuing

to retain as much general season opportunity as possible. We recognize that any change we propose will impact hunters, but we will also be impacting hunters if we do not make a change."

ODFW has a goal of getting a decision on the potential elk archery hunt changes by the June Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting, rather than waiting until the normal meeting date of September when most archery hunters are in the field. Any changes made on the elk archery seasons would not be implemented until the 2022 hunting season.

ODFW will share the information they are using and describe the proposed changes in a meeting specifically for OHA members.

Join us April 28 at 6 p.m. for a Zoom meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/98322391188?pwd=S3dVclldFk3d3FLUXVQQm1qRW5HZz09>

Meeting ID: 983 2239 1188

Passcode: 045108

Or call in at:

1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799



OHA volunteers will complete the second half of a buck-and-pole fence to protect the riparian area along Smoke Creek in Lake County during a project on April 24. OHA has provided funding at the state level for the project, which will permit wildlife access but guard against livestock damage. Volunteers will camp at Pothole Springs. For information, contact Joe Giacinto at 541-410-4555 or Eric Brown at 541-647-0424, Ebrown@bendcable.com



OHA chapter banquets change dates, formats

Some OHA chapters have moved banquet dates and others have gone online. Please call the numbers listed for the latest info.

Apr 1-15 Union Co (online) 541-786-1283

May 1-14 Pioneer online: ohapioneer.cbo.io

TBA Yamhill County 503-490-2489

TBA Baker 541-403-0402

TBA Blue Mountain 541-231-4384

TBA Lake County 541-810-1617

TBA Tualatin Valley 503-502-0611

June 5 Redmond 541-233-3740

June 5 Columbia County 949-533-7271

June 9-13 Klamath (online) 541-882-9593

June 19 Mid-Willamette 541-971-3351

July 17 OHA State Convention,
Chinook Winds Casino, 541-772-7313

July 31 Capitol (online) 503-851-8409

21-GUN SALUTE RAFFLE

OHA WILL GIVE AWAY
21 GREAT GUNS IN '21!

TICKETS \$50 OR 5 FOR \$200.
CALL OHA AT 541-772-7313 OR
VISIT OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/STORE



Maximum tickets offered: 1,000. Drawing: 2 p.m., Dec. 30, 2021, OHA State Office, 804 Bennett Ave., Medford, OR