

# OREGON HUNTER

Nov-Dec  
2021  
\$3.95

Membership publication of Oregon Hunters Association

## THE CALL OF ELK

- COAST
- CASCADES
- EASTSIDE

DUCK DAYS  
OF DECEMBER

GAMEBIRDS ON  
A&H LANDS

BLACKTAILS BY BOW  
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## FINDING DIRECTION

BY MIKE TOTEY,  
OHA CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

# Looking Back to Look Forward

**C**OVID-19 and all of its mutations will be what many remember about 2021. For hunters, COVID has certainly been on our minds, but other changes and challenges around our passion and lifestyle are important, too.

This was the first year for controlled archery hunting for all mule deer hunts. This change became necessary to give wildlife managers the controls to address the declining mule deer herds in eastern Oregon. We also endured another catastrophic wildfire season, directly impacting wildlife and habitat.

The legislature authorized the re-creation of a Habitat Division within ODFW. Our opponents continued with their campaigns to reduce our Second Amendment rights, and even launched a campaign to outright eliminate hunting, fish and trapping in Oregon (see Page 12).

Membership has declined with our lack of ability to do in-person banquets. OHA was evicted from our state office location of more than 20 years, and before we could move out, a tree fell on our office building.

OHA's office manager of 27 years, Cindy Martinich, will retire at the end of the year, and Arlene Holmes, member services coordinator for a quarter century, will retire this coming spring.

These are just a couple of examples of how 2021 will affect us into the future, both good and bad.

Looking ahead, let's do what we can to take advantage of the positive things that happened and learn how we can adjust to those things that aren't. OHA at the state and chapter levels found creative ways to stay engaged throughout the year, continuing with meetings, fund-raisers and projects. In some cases it was a model of perseverance. Last year the OHA State Convention was postponed, and then ultimately was held online. This year the Convention was postponed and then rescheduled for yet another weekend at Seven Feathers Casino, where we held one of our most spirited and successful conventions ever. (See OHA News & Views on Page 47.)

It may not have always been how we wanted to do it, but with some creative thinking and additional effort, it got done. Hats off to all of you for that.

Those of us with a passion for the outdoors will always have the ability and desire to be socially distanced, mostly because our lifestyle affords us that opportunity. Hunting season might be winding down for some at this point, but for bird hunters and those who have late season tags, there's still so much to look forward to.

The new year will bring additional opportunities, regardless of pandemics and those that oppose us. OHA chapters are scheduling 2022 in-person banquets and resuming meetings. (See Chapter News on Page 50.) Soon the 2022 OHA Calendar will arrive to you, loaded with OHA events, and of course all of next year's hunting season dates and deadlines.

OHA will continue to work for wildlife and habitat in Oregon, and do all that is needed to protect our hunting heritage. This is what we do; this is who we are. Let's lean in together to make 2022 the year to remember for all the right reasons.



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# WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

## HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

### KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

1. A Sports Pac license doesn't include:  
a) bear tag      c) turkey tag  
b) cougar tag      d) Federal duck stamp
2. Which unit is a W. Cascade elk hunt?  
a) Keno      c) Upper Deschutes  
b) Metolius      d) none of the above
3. Which is a yellow-bellied marmot?  
a) rock chuck      c) sage rat  
b) digger squirrel      d) jack rabbit
4. Fall turkey season ends on:  
a) Halloween      c) New Year's Eve  
b) Thanksgiving      d) None of the above
5. A hen turkey with a beard is legal:  
a) during spring season  
b) during fall season  
c) during both seasons  
d) during neither season
6. Pasteurellosis is a major killer of:  
a) antelope      c) cougars  
b) bighorns      d) deer
7. Cougars must be checked by ODFW in:  
a) 48 hours      c) 7 days  
b) 72 hours      d) 10 days
8. Where are mule deer likely to be found?  
a) Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness  
b) Bull of the Woods Wilderness  
c) Boulder Creek Wilderness  
d) Mill Creek Wilderness
9. Which unit has Roosevelt elk?  
a) Evans Creek      c) Catherine Creek  
b) Pine Creek      d) Murderers Creek
10. You need a furtaker's license to take:  
a) badger      c) mountain beaver  
b) muskrat      d) all of the above

#### TRUE OR FALSE?

11. Snipe are considered migratory birds.
12. Blacktails are ruminants.

ANSWERS: 1-d; 2-d; 3-a; 4-d; 5-c; 6-b; 7-d; 8-d; 9-a; 10-b; 11-T; 12-F



### WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Identify this aptly named Oregon mountain, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! Send your best guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess at [oregonhunters.org](http://oregonhunters.org), where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

**Entry deadline: November 20, 2021.**



### LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

**Adam Smith, Williams**

Adam's name was drawn from among the OHA members who correctly identified Saddle Mountain.

## OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 27

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens

OCTOBER 30

Lake County guzzler project  
541-417-1750

NOVEMBER 2

Election Day

NOVEMBER 5

Western rifle deer season closes

NOVEMBER 6

Youth general rifle season western deer hunt weekend opens;  
Rocky Mountain elk 2nd season opens;  
W. Cascade elk season opens

NOVEMBER 12

W. Cascade elk closes

NOVEMBER 13

Coast elk 1st season opens;  
Late SW deer bow opens

NOVEMBER 14

Rocky Mountain elk 2nd season ends

NOVEMBER 16

Coast elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 20

OHA Bend Chapter youth bird hunt  
541-480-7323;  
Coast elk 2nd season opens;  
Late NW deer bow season opens

NOVEMBER 26

Coast elk 2nd season closes

DECEMBER 1

Bobcat season opens

DECEMBER 5

Late SW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 12

Late NW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 31

Bear, cougar & pheasant seasons end

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*This year the hunt formerly known as the Cascade elk season shifts back to the November timing it had before ODFW changed it to an October hunt with the aim of increasing bull ratios.*

# Brave New Cascade Elk

A gray-whiskered follower of such things would notice the yellow highlight text on Page 41 of the Big Game Regulations and might be prompted to ask... Why?

This used to be a November hunt before it became an October hunt because they said changing to October would help increase bull escapement and buck up lagging bull ratios in the Cascades. That was in the late-1980s. Now it is a November hunt again. What has changed?

This is the second year since the name change of what is now called the West Cascade Elk season, but the first year in a long time for a November season.

**2-percent success offers a once-in-a-lifetime proposition on average.**

The hunt is composed of units 16, 19, 21, 22, 29 and 30 (Santiam, McKenzie, Indigo, Dixon, Evans Creek and Rogue), all of which are blessed with good access and high percentages of public lands. Of these, hunter success, at 9 percent, was highest in the Santiam Unit, where 120 bulls were harvested. In second place, for harvest success, Evans Creek Unit hunters tagged out at 7 percent for a total of 18 bulls. Evans Creek is a smaller unit with a lower percentage of public land (43 percent).

Hunter success in the McKenzie, Dixon and Indigo averaged 6 percent in 2020.

The Rogue Unit harvest fell to 2 percent, making a Rogue Unit bull literally a once-in-a-lifetime proposition on average. That half century of seasons spent to tag that bull equates to an entire year of hunt-

ing (you get 2 weeks off for a vacation from hunting for it), and you'll invest some \$2,500 in resident elk tags at today's prices.

One of the telling aspects of elk hunting success is the amount of time a hunter is willing to invest. We know elk hunters in Oregon typically have to put in 6.6 days to kill a bull elk. This hunt provides the opportunity with seven whole days. Want an added advantage? Scout it.

If it was me (and who knows, it might be) I would scout the fringes of the Lionshead, Holiday Farm, Thielsen and Archie Creek fires where new grass is pushing through the ashes.

Best of all, a tag for our brave new West Cascade Elk hunt is available for purchase for anyone who can scrape together the requisite \$49.50. Bag limit is one bull elk and the season runs from Nov. 6 through Nov. 12. —GARY LEWIS

## These are the good ol' days for Roosevelt elk



*While many buck and bull tags are becoming elusive, OTC tags still abound for Roosevelt elk.*

‘Remember when we used to just buy a rifle tag and go deer hunting?’ a buddy reminded me, referencing the good old days of Oregon’s general mule deer season. Things change, but for now at least, Roosevelt elk hunters are still living the good ol’ days.

Roosevelt elk hunters have three general season over-the-counter options when it comes to hunting in November. That’s right, three. And you can walk into Coastal Farm & Ranch the day before the season opens, buy your tag and go hunting on opening day.

First up is the West Cascade Elk hunt, which this year runs Nov. 6-12. The bag limit is one bull elk with at least one visible antler. This is the season that, for so many years, interrupted Cascade blacktail hunts in mid-October.

Roosevelt elk hunters on the coast have two general seasons to choose from, once again. The Coast Elk 1st Season runs Nov. 13-16, where a spike bull or better is

required. The Coast Elk 2nd Season runs Nov. 20-26; check regulations for bag limit and open areas on this hunt. Coast hunters must choose either the 1st or 2nd season.

If you’re serious about putting meat in the freezer, park the truck and walk. Road hunters have extremely low success when it comes to Roosevelt elk. By November, these elk have seen people for three months – bear hunters in August, archery and upland bird hunters in September, and general season blacktail hunters in October – and they’re wise.

To find bulls, cover ground that can’t be seen from the roads. This means walking. Bulls may be in small bachelor herds, hanging out with cows, or leading a solitary life in the bottom of a canyon.

If you locate fresh sign, strap on a pack and follow the tracks. Be prepared to work once a bull is down, as these big animals retain a lot of heat, and you want to maximize the quality of all that great meat by getting it quickly cooling. —SCOTT HAUGEN

# Chukar, Hun & Quail: Paybacks on A&H lands

**M**alheur River, Steens, Beulah, and Owyhee are some of our favorite units, yet we don't hunt them as often as we'd like. Those units are open for hunting chukar, Hungarian partridge and quail every season, no controlled hunt tag required.

The first time I hunted above the Alvord Ranch, we came down out of the hills, footsore and tired, but the dog flagged a pair of Huns in the grasslands near the parking area. I bagged a bonus Hun and was as proud of that partridge as any limit of chukar.

Want elbow room? There are close to 80,000 acres of private land open through the Access & Habitat program in southeast Oregon in some of our favorite units.

How many times have you flushed a covey of chukar or quail while stalking mule deer under a rimrock? If those partridges caused your old pump to palpitate, it's time to plot paybacks.

The Access & Habitat Program was created in 1993, establishing a mechanism to provide grants to landowners, timber and ag corporations and other groups for projects designed to increase hunting access to private lands and/or improve wildlife habitat.

Southeast area properties include the Kueny Ranch (4,276 acres), Jenkins (13,233 acres), Otley (16,734 acres), the Alvord Ranch (10,100 acres) and the Mackenzie (11,029 acres). Some properties provide drive-thru access to public land, opening up more habitat for chukar, Huns and quail hunters.

Click on <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-private-lands-access-habitat-program> for a list of private lands. Scroll down to the Malheur Council.

Each listing includes management unit, location, huntable species and the access period, which usually runs from August to the first of March. Special regulations are listed for each property and can range from walk-in only to motorized travel on roads posted as open; leave the gates like you found them. —GARY LEWIS

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## OHA battles anti-hunting petition

By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists  
[Alvinelkins@yahoo.com](mailto:Alvinelkins@yahoo.com)

The coming of fall brings forth many topics for OHA to follow as the Oregon Legislature returns with Legislative Days in September along with a one-day special session on the topic of redistricting.

### The Latest on IP13, the Oregon Hunting, Trapping & Fishing Ban

In September OHA continued working with two like-minded coalitions to develop strong messaging to defeat IP13 should the proponents gather the 112,000 signatures needed by June 2022 to place it on the November 2022 ballot.

**IP13 would criminalize hunting, fishing, and trapping in Oregon.**  

IP13 would implement a number of egregious changes to Oregon's animal abuse statutes, including criminalizing hunting, fishing, and trapping activities. It would classify many aspects of raising livestock as either animal abuse or sexual assault and turn Oregon into a no-kill, sanctuary state for animals.

OHA staff is creating a grassroots campaign aimed at keeping the initiative from reaching the ballot, and our membership will play a key role.

Stay tuned; we will need your help to defeat this radical initiative.

For more information on our efforts to defeat IP13, visit the OHA website at: <https://oregonhunters.org/initiative-petition-13>

## Gun control petitions collecting signatures

Petitioners have begun gathering signatures on gun control initiative petitions IP17 and IP18.



*Just what Oregon needs – another new gun permit system, right?*

IP17 imposes a new permit system to purchase a firearm and prohibits possession or use of magazines over 10 rounds.

IP18 prohibits manufacturing/possession/transferring of many semiautomatic firearms and their use on public lands.

The petitioners need to obtain 112,000 signatures by June 2022 to get their measures on the November 2022 ballot.

OHA is working closely with gun advocate groups to defeat these petitions.

To contribute to OHA's efforts, visit <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

## Commission adopts big game regs for 2022

The Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted 2022 Big Game Regulations during its meeting on Sept. 17, with a surprise modification to move the long-duration youth elk hunt start date from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15.

Archery elk regulations that moved Blue Mountains units to controlled hunting in 2022 were already adopted in August.

There is also a new Rocky Mountain bighorn hunt (556) as part of a rotation among the states of Oregon and Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. One California bighorn hunt (551) will no longer be available in response to pneumonia in the herd.

Several new youth hunts were approved, including for deer and spring bear.

The Commission also approved funding for several Access and Habitat projects that provide hunting access or improve wildlife habitat on private land.



## Extremists petition feds to ban interstate transport of game

Leveraging fear of COVID-19, the Center for Biological Diversity and Natural Resources Defense Council have petitioned the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban all import into the United States and interstate transport within the United States of all wild mammals and almost all birds – including all parts, such as hides and horns, even if properly processed – while also creating a comprehensive chain-of-custody system for all plants and animals imported or exported from the U.S.

The petition is seemingly aimed at legal wildlife trade, such as pet stores and other importers of birds and mammals, but would hit hunters by ending the import of all parts, products or carcasses from any country, and prohibiting their transport across state lines within the United States. –SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE (SPORTSMENSALLIANCE.ORG)

### Annual Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Oregon Hunter is published bi-monthly for the members of non-profit corporation Oregon Hunters Association, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, by publisher and editor Duane Dungannon, and is sold on newsstands statewide. In the past year, of the average 11,592 magazine copies published each issue, 8,009 were paid subscriptions, 1,652 were sold on newsstands, 384 were outside-county as stated on Form 3541, 13 were other classes mailed through the USPS, and 1,531 were not distributed, demonstrating 96% paid and/or requested circulation. In the preceding issue, 11,150 magazine copies were published, 7,631 of which were paid subscriptions, 2,821 were sold on newsstands, 384 were outside-county as stated on Form 3541, 15 were other classes mailed through the USPS, and 296 were not distributed, demonstrating 96% paid and/or requested circulation.

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## BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS

# Black Oaks, Blacktails & Blackpowder

From the valley floor a band of black oaks marked the shoulder of the mountain. November leaves were falling from the trees. And the blacktail bucks were supposed to be in the mood for breeding, which is when they make mistakes. But every group of blacktail does I had seen were unaccompanied by bucks.

This was not the case with the Columbia whitetails down along the river. The bucks' necks were swollen, and they chased does along the banks of the North Umpqua and fought each other out in the flats.

When I carry the old .54-caliber Lyman sidelock, I feel a kinship to the people who settled this land, who followed the trails west out of Missouri, the Barlows, the Applegates, the Dixons, the Pengras, and the rest, whose names are found on creeks and small towns all over Oregon, who carved out the roads and cleared the land for farms. They carried rifles like this one and hunted deer the same way, gathering mushrooms and berries, too.

Out of the black oaks and into the madrones.

This was the second day of the hunt on property leased by Black Oak Outfitters. Owner Lee Sandberg is a worthy descendant of those pioneers, working at least as hard as they did 364 days a year. He had told me where I would probably find the deer. The rest was up to me.

On the first day, when fog hung heavy on the hill, I had taken a trail up through the oaks and found the bright red madrone berries fallen on the ground. Here the deer tracks were fresh. Perhaps the deer were foraging on the berries to go with the acorns. Beneath the madrones and at the



*Moments before this mature 3x3 showed itself, the author passed up a shot at a spike buck.*

edge where the madrones gave way to firs, I glimpsed blacktail does. And now with that memory, I slowed, tree to tree, pausing for long minutes, my silhouette blending with the bark of an oak or a madrone.

A silver gray squirrel walked along a branch, while another skittered head-down into the leaf litter. I circled wide so as not to alarm them and be announced.

Uphill now, the slope steeper, the tops of my legs were burning. Around deadfall, careful not to step on branches, in the shade of a grandfather madrone, I leaned into the bark, noting the red berries beneath my feet. This was the level of the mountain to focus the hunt.

The graceful angles of a deer resolved between the branches of an oak – a black brush for a tail, a gray face – a blacktail and another one, both females. Wind touched the left side of my face, blowing down from the ridge top. Where were the other deer?

A spike buck walked through an opening. This was the third day, and it would be easy to end it now. I left the rifle against the tree and then felt the wind shift, blowing straight at the back of my neck, holding my breath.

One doe raised its head, and then another and then deer were running. I counted seven flashing through the trees. Gone. Every one. Still I leaned into the madrone.

Another deer strode out of the shadows, a sleek buck, blocky in the body with tall antlers wider than its ears, by far the

biggest blacktail I had seen in three days.

The buck passed through an opening and stopped behind the large oak with a low crooked moss-covered limb. With the rangefinder, I got the range at 73 yards, about what I had guessed. This rifle was capable of that shot if I could get a rest on the limb... but then the buck turned and began to walk a trail toward me. It stopped next to the oak tree, only its head and neck exposed.

Hammer at full cock now, steadied against the trunk of the madrone.

The buck must have caught a hint of danger, for it turned broadside and began to go for the top of the little ridge.

Focus on the front sight. Move. Squeeze. At the crack of the rifle, a white curtain of smoke was like a blanket thrown on the calm air. After a quick reload, I walked up to the fallen buck through the sweet smell of burnt powder.

The buck had given me a 53-yard shot, and the .54-caliber bullet had taken it high in the shoulder.

The buck gave me one more thing: poison oak. I figured that out the next evening, over at my friend Troy Boyd's house, telling the story while we wrapped the meat in neat white packages and planned our next year's hunts. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



Gary Lewis's new book is *Bob Nosler Born Ballistic*. Find it at [garylewisoutdoors.com](http://garylewisoutdoors.com)

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## Two Fresh Takes on Rattling Blacktails

I rattled in my first blacktail in 1979, which a buddy shot. An hour later I rattled in a monster 4x4 I never got a shot at. It was my first attempt at rattling. I was hooked.

Since that October day – my freshman year in high school – I’ve devoted countless hours to rattling blacktails throughout their range. While I still have a lot to learn, over the decades I’ve amassed a sense of the advantages of this technique.

First, don’t overthink things. A man once shared after a seminar I’d delivered, “I think these deer can tell the difference when rattling with antlers from the same deer, which is why I like using one antler from one buck and a different antler from another buck.” Another gentleman showed me his rattling setup; two sets of blacktail antlers, each duct taped together at the bases. “I think these deer can tell when you’re rattling with one set of antlers versus two sets, like in a real fight.”

Whatever gives you confidence, go for it. But for me, overthinking can do more harm than good, as this leads to hesitation and doubt. When it comes to rattling testosterone-induced bucks, it’s all about timing. When hormones are high, wise bucks turn aggressive and lose sight of rational thought. They’ll cross busy roads, fight 3D archery targets, even try to breed concrete statues of deer. Catching a buck when its guard is down – that’s what rattling is about.

If I’m looking to fill a tag with any buck, I like using a synthetic (all plastic parts) rattling bag. While the high pitch it creates doesn’t sound great to our ears, I don’t care because it provides a sudden spark that fires-up bucks and the sound can penetrate high winds and dense forest unlike natural antlers can. If the woods are calm and young buck numbers are high, I also like using antlers from young bucks.

When targeting young bucks, I cover ground. Ideally it starts on a long ridge



*The idea is to issue aggressive sounds that challenge a mature buck on its home turf.*

*Author Scott Haugen has rattled in many blacktails over the decades, and credits much of his success to being aggressive and not overthinking things. He brought in this buck, one he'd never before seen in person or on trail camera, in the Cascade foothills.*

where I can move every 10 minutes or so, into the wind or a crosswind. I’ll start with soft sounds in case a buck is close, rattle for up to a minute, then wait a couple minutes. If nothing responds, my next 30 second sequence is louder and more aggressive. I’ll repeat this for 10-15 minutes, then move down the ridge, setting up on the edge of where my last sound reached, then repeat the sequence.

I’ll toss in a few grunts and doe bleats if doe numbers are high. This creates the illusion of a chase, thus competition to breed, which gets bucks moving. Ideally the bench or ridge runs a mile or more, as these are places young bucks like to cruise.

If rattling for trophy bucks, I like using heavy antlers from old deer. While a big buck will respond to rattle bags and high pitch sounds generated from young antlers, I think they’ll often dismiss these sounds as young deer sparring, not fighting for breeding rights. The idea is to issue aggressive sounds that challenge a mature buck on its home turf.

If rattling river-bottom and valley-floor bucks, I might stay in one spot for two hours or more, rattling for up to a minute, then waiting three to five minutes before the next sequence. If rattling in the Coast

Range or Cascades, I’ll move every 20 to 30 minutes.

My first sequence is subtle, as I like getting as close as possible to a buck’s core area prior to rattling. The closer you can get, the better the odds of eliciting an aggressive, reactionary response. I pinpoint a buck’s core area through year-round scouting and use of trail cameras.

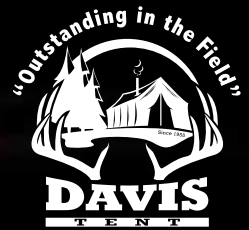
Mid-way through my trophy buck rattling quest, I kick the ground, break branches and rake trees. If you’ve ever watched mature bucks fight, it’s an all-out rage. Ten minutes into my rattling sequence, I’m tired and sweating; it’s a very aggressive delivery.

If a buck doesn’t respond to my calls and I’m confident it’s in the area, I’ll keep moving and rattling, day after day. I don’t let an area rest during the rut. It’s all about catching a buck in an aggressive frame of mind, and to do that, continual rattling is key. Keep at it, play the wind, and the chances of tagging a buck will rise.

*Signed copies of author Scott Haugen’s best selling book, Trophy Blacktails: The Science of the Hunt, can be ordered at [www.scotthaugen.com](http://www.scotthaugen.com). Follow Scott on Instagram and Facebook.*

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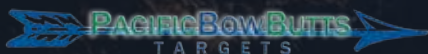


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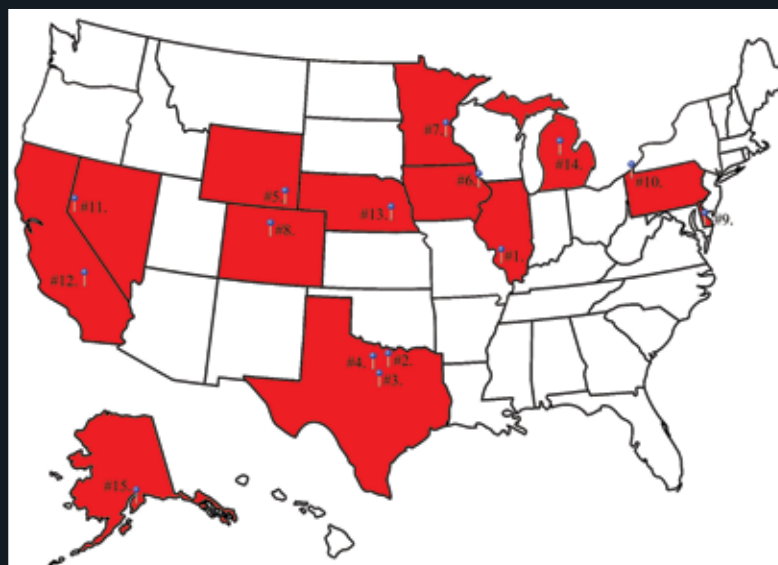
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# BRANCHING OUT

**Oregon elk hunting bears fruit in this family tree.**

**BY ZACH MANSFIELD**

**J**ust like a cup of black coffee first thing in the morning, or dry flies on my favorite river in June, I need November for hunting late-season bulls. The nights spent around a campfire or huddled inside my wall tent, hovering over a cribbage board with family and friends, are precisely what the doctor ordered after a long year of uncertainty.

Last year my wife was the only tag holder. It would be her third bull tag in a five-year span in Oregon's draw system. On her first hunt, she came away with a hard-earned six-point bull and stocked our freezer for our growing family. She wrapped her tag around the antler of that bull at the end of an exceptionally hard hunting season.

Her next hunt was much of the same, miles, canyons, a couple close calls, but together we couldn't seal the deal. As much as it hurts me to type this, I understand that the elk have to win sometimes, and that season they did.

This season had all the makings for a fine elk camp. Wall tents, late-season snows, weary canyon-dwelling bulls. It's a match made in heaven up here in northeast Oregon. Of all the units that comprise northeast Oregon, only a handful offer second-season opportunities for branch antlered bulls, while a majority of them offer spike bull hunts.

Given my professional life and hunt schedule, Oregon's second-season hunts seem to fit nicely between out-of-state hunts and the lengthy game bird season we all get to enjoy here in the Pacific Northwest. I just happen to live in close proximity to five of the units that make up the northeast part of the state, which makes planning and logistics far less of a hassle than if I were to travel all the way across the state.

When preparing for these hunts it's important to remember factors like weather, road closures, and private property boundaries. A solid foundation for the lay of the land can be made with any modern mapping system. With mapping tools such as OnX



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

The author's wife Chelcee tagged this northeast Oregon bull during last year's second season.

and Basemap, there is no excuse for today's modern hunting population to be confused by property lines.

Elk hunting had not come easily to me; it's with the help of a few mentors and some hard lessons learned I've refined my skills. I now get to enjoy the fruits of years of frustration in the form of meat in the freezer and antlers on the wall, and I feel

obligated to share it with as many people as possible.

Fortunately for me, my wife is quickly becoming my number one hunting partner.

Opening morning of the 2020 rifle season will go down in my personal record books as one of the finest opening mornings I'm sure I'll ever have in the elk woods. My wife, dad, and I shook the sleep

from our heads with a stout pot of coffee, a warm fire and drive.

The hike started well before daylight up a steep finger ridge. The plan was to hike straight up the razorback ridge to hunt a secluded spot and glass an adjacent basin that always seems to hold a bull or two.

During our ascent, we watched the dull grey of the early morning dawn give way to the pastels of a sunrise that painted the cathedral of canyon walls. We stopped to catch our breath, soak in the moment, and take a quick look into a cut that bulls frequent. I poked my head around a rock nob ever so carefully. Not more than

*My wife is quickly becoming my number one hunting partner.*

200 yards away stood two bulls. I couldn't really believe my eyes. Without the help of my fancy European optics, I could plainly see two bulls standing broadside to me, and one was a great bull for the unit we were in. I've never been the "lucky" one on any of my hunts. But I guess my wife is.

I signaled to my wife with a series of hand gestures that clearly indicated bull in



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PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

*No one respects the elk that call these canyons and mountains home more than an elk hunter.*

my mind. The look she shot back was that of confusion and concern, like maybe I was having a seizure. She finished the trek to my location, and I pointed out the bulls. The colorful language that came from my 5-foot, 4-inch petite wife's mouth about the bulls' close proximity to us could have been mistaken for that of a seasoned sailor.

I settled her in over our packs, almost certain that the elk could hear my heart

trying to beat right out of my chest, gave her earplugs and told her in no uncertain terms "make them count." Chelcee took her time. She maneuvered the bolt, loaded a live round in the chamber and put the crosshairs where they needed to be, settled her breathing, and squeezed the trigger.

At the report of the rifle the bull was still standing. Recovering from the deafening blast, and still confused as to why the bull looked unphased, I said in an almost sterile voice, what I would've told myself. "Put another one in him."

With a sense of urgency but steadfast precision, she worked the bolt like a grizzled veteran of these canyons and sent another 150-grain Nosler E-tip through the barrel of the .280 Ackley. The bull stood there.

We conversed for a few brief moments about the lethality of the shots, and we decided that one more was better than not. She cycled the bolt without hesitation and compressed the trigger with a live round in the chamber until the rifle's roar filled the canyon air. She worked the bolt one more time without my coaching, only to watch the bull stumble to his final resting place.

If you've ever hunted elk, you know the moments that follow success are bit-

tersweet. Laughs, tears, happiness. All of these emotions and more can flood the hunter. Over the course of about 30 seconds after the final shot cleared the chilled November air, I witnessed a series of emotions from my strong, compassionate, smart, beautiful wife that showed true reverence for the moment – the moments only an elk hunter can appreciate.

She tagged a fine bull in northeast Oregon, and I witnessed a shift in her outlook on elk and the places they call home – a genuine caring for the animals and land.

We spent the remainder of the day butchering and packing elk quarters. It was as perfect of a fall day in the elk woods as I'll ever have. No one feels more respect for the elk that call these canyons and mountains home than an elk hunter, and my wife proudly wears the title of an elk hunter.





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# DUCK DAYS



# OF



# DECEMBER

By Troy Rodakowski

## When that Arctic blast comes, get ready to have a blast of your own.

Last season my good friend Jarrod and I got a late start to our blind in the central Willamette Valley. Nonetheless, we knew there were plenty of birds that had just arrived in the area. We quickly tossed out a half dozen decoys and got settled in for what would hopefully be a good mid-morning shoot.

Around 10:30, a brace of mallards dumped in fast, and we managed to fold both fat greenheads. The dog worked quickly and retrieved the corn-filled pair from the north.

Shortly thereafter, a flock of wigeons circled several times prior to their descent into range. Both of us managed to splash three into the pond.

The morning was turning out to be even better than expected and we were enjoying the excitement. When all was said and done, we finished with two mallards, three wigeons, two teal and three geese. Not bad at all for getting a late start.

By the time November rolls around and deer season finally begins to wind down, I really start getting excited about waterfowl hunting. Hopefully, our weather pattern changes this season to push some birds into our laps here in the Pacific Northwest.

Those early 4 a.m. mornings with coffee, decoys, dogs good friends – now is the time we have all been waiting for. Guns are cleaned and the waders are patched, calls are tuned and I'm ready to go. All that time building blinds in Septem-

ber is about to pay off. That first breath of frosty morning air and gun powder wafting through the air is coming with the hopes of flocks and flocks of northern birds for the smoker.

### Weather Watch

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. This season most biologists are optimistic about spring nesting conditions and hatch success. Our initial fall rains and early abundance of water flooding agricultural zones and filling ponds will prompt birds to find feed earlier and slow their migration.

"We should have a good abundance of feed late into the season this year," said Dave Rogers of River Refuge Seed. We are all hoping to get some much-needed precipitation by December this year.

Cold storms during November and December should 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 freeze stagnant waters. Hunting rivers, creeks and smaller streams that do not freeze will magnetize the fowl to these locations. Water that is not frozen near agricultural productions where birds can transition from feeding areas to resting locations can make for some great shooting.

Those early blasts of Arctic air into British Columbia are



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critical to move birds down early, but if the winter storm surge is delayed, it's likely that some of the best hunting will come during late December and January.

### Late Season Decoys & Tips

Decoy spreads are critical for the late season. Having the right number and a good variety of birds is important. Make sure to include some motion with jerk cords and feeders. I also like to add a small flock or two of Canada goose decoys. It looks a bit more realistic to approaching birds.

Decoy spreads of two dozen or more divers tend to work best when setting up on coastal lakes or open waters. Place your spread out in a horseshoe formation with four to six rafts of birds throughout. Make sure to include three or four open-water landing zones for incoming birds. Groups of birds will swing into the spread from different directions, so providing various landing zones is crucial. Motion in your decoy spread on days with little or no wind is always a must.

The use of small drift boats or motorized boats where allowed seems to work best to transport decoys and dogs to secluded spots along shorelines. Obtaining permission and hiking to riverbanks and lakeshore locations is also a great idea. Some of the best hunting is found along



*The author and a friend survey incoming birds as they work a late-season decoy spread.*

private tracts where hunting pressure is very minimal. I like to find these places and focus on them. This is where scouting is key and worth your time.

When wary birds seek hideouts with less pressure, I hunt backwater sloughs that might take a little hiking or sweat hauling the decoy bag. It's a lot like finding a good buck during deer season when we walk over that extra ridge and are rewarded.

Modern camo and blinds are amazing and do look very realistic, but there is nothing like natural real cover from your surroundings. Remember that concealment is critical for all situations. If you aren't concealed, you will not kill many birds. Their eyesight is amazing, and cloudy days actually make it easier for birds to pick you out than sunny and clear ones.

This sounds crazy, but I like to sleep in and sneak out to the blind around 9 a.m. and sit for about 4 hours and catch birds filtering back in after a rough morning battling barrages of calls and shots. It's amazing how relaxed these birds can be looking for a safe place to land and digest their early morning crops full of feed.

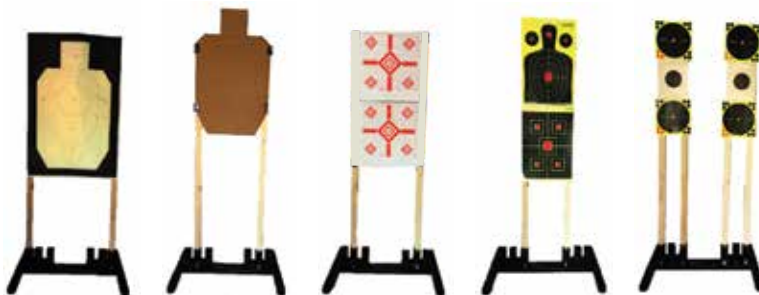
Flyways have shifted recently with private duck clubs and changing agricultural practices. Keeping a close eye on where the majority of the fowl are moving will help put you in a good position, whether it is on private land or a small public access point.

### The Last Blast

We all like to finish strong in December and January. For some of us, it's a good limit of mature birds sporting winter plumage. For me, it's just having a few good hunts, relaxing and enjoying my surroundings. Personally, I like to take it all in, and I always hope that it won't be

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The author shows off a December bag of mallards that showed up from the north during a cold snap.

the last time I load my shotgun, take a sip of warm java and laugh with my buddies in the blind.

The last bird and retrieve of the season is difficult, knowing the wait for next

season is long. Those sunrises will remain etched in my mind, and the whistling wings prior to the first shot being fired will always be whispering in my ear during the off season.

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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.

# For The Birds

Fall bird seasons are here. Don't miss a thing.

OREGON PHOTO ESSAY BY SCOTT HAUGEN

**Cacklers are thriving in the Pacific Flyway, creating great hunting opportunities all winter long in western Oregon.**

**M**y buddy had just landed a spring Chinook on the Willamette River, south of Springfield. When I turned to snap a photo of him, I barely recognized the gravel bar in the background. It was where I took my first game bird in Oregon, a mourning dove.

Dad and I got our limits of doves that evening, back in 1975, when I was 12 years old. It was fast-paced shooting and that's when I fell in love with bird hunting.

I've been fortunate to hunt many of Oregon's game birds. Making my living as a full-time writer and wildlife photographer, I can attest that when it comes to bird hunting, it's hard to match what Oregon has to offer.

As for waterfowling, nothing rivals

the childhood experiences so many of us lived at Summer Lake. Generations of Oregonians still flock to Summer Lake, as much for the time together as the thrill of the hunt.

Oregon's prairie country and meandering rivers throughout the eastern part of the state also offer unique waterfowl action. One of my most memorable bird hunts ever took place not long ago, on the Malheur River. The river was low, and after jump-shooting a limit of ducks, I turned to valley quail, where I ended up with not only a limit of those, but a brace of wild ringnecks, too.

Wild pheasants are all but gone from where I grew up hunting them in the Willamette Valley – where I continue hearing stories from my dad, who would often shoot a limit before school in what is now the city limits of Springfield – the quail,

dove, band-tailed pigeon and waterfowl hunting somewhat makes up for it these days.

Don't forget the fantastic turkey hunting, in both the spring and fall season. Today, turkeys can be hunted in every Oregon county. One of my favorite bird hunts is pursuing fall turkeys with my puddlepointers, an experience every hunting dog lover would relish.

The Oregon Coast continues to be a hotbed for puddle ducks and divers, with opportunities for brant and sea ducks in select places at specific times. Quail and grouse hunting is still thriving in the Coast Range, with avid upland hunters traveling from around the country to take a prized mountain quail.

Blue grouse numbers are up throughout much of their range. Whether plinking



these for the pot in deer camp throughout eastern Oregon or mountain biking non-motorized access roads in the Cascades, these big birds are fun to hunt and taste great.

Let's not forget the pinnacle of upland bird hunting when it comes to physically demanding hunts, the chukar. Chukars were first introduced to Oregon in 1951. No other bird lures hunters into our captivating rimrock country like chukars. Chukar hunts take place in excessive heat early in the season, snow in the latter weeks. The hunts are almost always physically punishing, but oh, the memories, and how delicious these birds are.

In the shadows of the chukar hills, another transplant, the Hungarian partridge, offers fun opportunities. First planted from central Europe into western Oregon in 1900, then eastern Oregon in 1912, Huns are easier to hunt than chukars.

South of Hun land lies sage grouse country. I recall the first sage grouse tag I drew in the late 1980s. I still have those birds mounted in my office and each day I look at them I recall the fun hunt I had with my taxidermist who also drew a tag, the late Carl Hunter; Carl was a good man; I miss his laugh.

Many Oregon hunters have enjoyed pursuing less glamorous species over the years, like snipe, crows and recently, Eurasian collared doves. Many people despise these invasive doves, but I like



The Oregon Coast is home to many great bird hunting hotspots.



An often-overlooked opportunity, crows respond aggressively to calls and decoys, and make great table fare.



After some down years not long ago, bandtails appear to be coming back in many areas, creating fun hunting opportunities.



**Oregon offers some of the best turkey hunting in the country.**



**While pheasants are struggling in Oregon, there are still places to hunt these magnificent birds.**



**Pintails are particularly prized by Oregon waterfowlers.**

them; their calls remind me of Africa, a land I love to hunt. I also enjoy hunting these slow-moving doves with my dogs year-round with no bag limits.

As I write these words, UPS delivered an order of five dozen cackler decoys. Last fall was the best cackler season I've seen in Oregon, where we repeatedly had flocks of more than 20,000 screaming birds descend into the decoys.

Bird seasons can never get here soon enough.



*Scott Haugen is a full-time author living in Waltherville. Learn more about his many books, and his booking service, at [www.scotthaugen.com](http://www.scotthaugen.com). Follow Scott on Instagram and Facebook.*





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# BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

Oregon's bear dog man trees his 4,000th bruin.

BY JIM AKENSON



*Ted Craddock of Wallowa County recently treed his 4,000th bear at age 81. He's shown here sporting a commemorative belt buckle presented by Oregon United Sporting Dog Association with dogs and "4,000 bears" embossed on it.*

A contingent of sportsmen – most being OHA members, family, friends, and state agent houndsmen – recently honored Ted Craddock for completing a unique accomplishment of putting 4,000 bears into trees using his dogs. Ted's time period for achieving this milestone spans from 1958 to 2021. His captures have ranged in purpose from personal hunting or leading guided hunts, to conducting capture for research and management purposes.

My connection to Ted comes from the research and management aspect, where we spent seven years working together on northeast Oregon cougar and black bear studies. During the 1990s, we would gain the distinction of having conducted the largest scale bear study in the western United States using pursuit dogs as the primary capture method. It was a real honor to be with him again. Plus, having his son Wes and family and other houndsmen friends there to witness him complete this personal goal was just icing on the cake.

In doing the math on Ted's accomplishment, that is 63 years of hound hunting effort dating back to the early years of Elvis Presley. Ted averaged treeing more than 63.5 bears per year over that time. Of course, there were winter months when the bears were sleeping that Ted shifted his focus to cougars and bobcats, and even those numbers are significant at about half the tally of 4,000 for each cat species. Another amazing thing about Ted is his record keeping, something I noticed during the years I worked with him on studies from 1990 through 1997. He always kept a journal of captures, which described the date and place where his dogs treed bears, cougars or bobcats.

The day of the big event in May to honor Ted was cloudy, cool, and raining off and on. Ted's bear-treed-tally was 3,998 as this day began. We all gathered at an impressive log cabin at the gateway to the Wallowa Mountains. Getting the dogs and people assembled took a bit. However, before long we were headed for the higher ridges and draws where the crew thought bears might be moving or had moved recently.

For me, it was very reflective watching the three dogs on the truck hood platform working the air currents as we slowly drove along. No sooner had Ted spotted a bear track in the trail did the dogs strike scent. Soon the chase was on, slow at first as the dogs worked the scent trail, which had been dampened by the rain, but then the chase gravitated into a bonified bear race. It did not take long for the dogs to indicate a constant position with their tracking collars, so we loaded up in the rigs and drove to the closest road access. After a short hike, we made it to the tree. The bear was well up in a limby Douglas fir, so little time

PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR





*This northeast Oregon bruin was the 4,000th bear treed by lifelong houndsman Ted Craddock. OHA led the successful effort to pass legislation allowing the state to enlist citizen houndsmen as agents, and then won the uphill battle to renew the law.*

was spent there except to document the bear color (black) and medium size. This one became bear No. 3,999, so we headed back to the rigs and went in search of No. 4,000.

The rain persisted and we contemplated calling it a day. The houndsmen discussed hitting a cut-across road on our return that we could not take earlier – going uphill – due to remnant winter snow drifts. This time, we’d be approaching from the top going down, but results were the same with the big drift. However, the guys noticed a good-sized bear track headed down the snowy road where most rigs couldn’t go. The track was somewhat melted-out, but the dogs could still get enough scent to move with it, and before long, off they went.

The dogs could be heard going down canyon, and then the pitch changed, as the bear was jumped from his bed, and off we went in pursuit. An hour later we had moved the rigs around to a point where we could clearly hear the dogs treed. After climbing over a few hundred yards of deadfall, there he was – bear No. 4,000. This was a mature male bear, rich brown in color, and a perfect subject for Ted’s goal accomplishment. Many photos ensued of the bear, the crew of people, and congratulations extended

to both Ted and his excellent helper crew of Oregon houndsmen and their families. As we left the tree, I just looked up at that impressive specimen and felt relieved that we didn’t have to make him another “Air Bear” through darting and dropping into a large capture net as we had done in the Starkey bear study days.

That evening over dinner, the Oregon United Sporting Dog Association honored Ted with a commemorative belt buckle with dogs and “4,000 bears” embossed on it – a very fitting celebration for an amazing accomplishment. Brad Mombert, David Walker, and others presented the award to Ted, and it was obvious from his big smile that he was very appreciative.

At the time of this writing, Ted is 20 bears beyond 4,000. Agents are given the opportunity to work their dogs catching cougars and bears for not only training, but to help state biologists monitor population density of these species. Many of Ted’s adventures with hounds, bears, cougars, and bobcats will be available for readers in a forthcoming book written by Ted’s wife, Sharron. Until then, Ted looks forward to many more years of agent work and maintaining his distinction as the most prolific “bear-dog-man” in Oregon.



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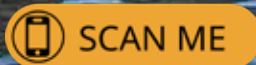
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# WATCH THE ADVENTURE LEARN WHAT'S AT STAKE





## YOUNG GUNS

By JASON HALEY

# Youth weekend offers kids one last shot at deer

**P**lanning big game hunts for kids is always fun to think about, but involves bonus points, calendar examination and vacation planning. It often requires juggling school sports schedules.

The master-planned hunts can be stressful and a tad overwhelming when the ultimate goal is simply to provide a good time for our youngsters and maybe get a crack at a buck, something that might instill our love of hunting. It got me thinking. Sometimes simple is better.

One thing I've experienced with my son over the last few seasons is "controlled" isn't always best. There are some good controlled hunts out there with great success rates, particularly the youth-only hunts, but nothing is easy. You get what you put into any hunt and that's a great lesson.

The Youth Weekend of the Western Oregon General Deer Season is special. Nearly 15 years ago (2007), ODFW began extending the season for two days for youth ages 12-17. This increased opportunity, but also success. This year, youth hunters with an unfilled Western Oregon general season deer tag or an unfilled W. High Cascade (119A) controlled hunt tag may hunt Nov. 6 and 7. We're talking prime time.

For us, this OTC general tag with an extended weekend has been a Godsend. The season is long, which provides flexibility for students. You can trudge around early in t-shirts, in the snap-crackle-and-pop woods, but thoroughly enjoy the process without the pressure of a short season. Kids can even get selective, knowing November is coming.

Our ghostlike, nocturnal blacktails start making daylight appearances and



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

*The author's son Jacob tagged this late-season blacktail in southern Oregon.*

making a few mistakes at the start of the rut. It seems like finding does is all a kid needs from about Halloween on. Nearly every group of does has a buck in tow. The seemingly futile days of early October, when success is measured by seeing a deer or two, suddenly turn to buck tracks in the mud. It's like magic.

Kids seem to love knowing they are the only ones allowed to hunt that weekend. Suddenly, getting up early isn't as painful. It's their time. If you do encounter other hunters, it's usually other kids bundled up in orange. They can relate. It's like a Happy Meal toy or kids menu with crayons. It's uniquely theirs. They love it. Of course, seeing this makes parents happy, as well.

Let's talk success. According to Brian Wolfer, ODFW's Acting Game Program Manager, there is only a couple of years' worth of data. That came in 2016 and 2017. The hunter survey questionnaire used to include all Western Oregon hunters and asked if they participated in youth weekend or not and whether they were successful. There were some flaws in the survey design. That question was discontinued.

We know that, among youth who still had their tags, 17 percent were successful on youth weekend in 2016 and 21 percent were successful in 2017. That may sound unimpressive, but it's actually a high percentage. There was much lower suc-

cess for the vast majority of youth hunters during the regular part of the season. By comparison, overall success (all hunters) was also 21 percent in the entire Western Oregon general deer season in 2017. So, a lot of bucks are getting taken on youth weekend. According to Wolfer, it's still a great chance for young hunters to fill their tags.

This year, the Cascade Elk Season was moved back to Nov. 6-12, after many years in October. This creates overlap with youth weekend and is something to consider, but not worry about. As Wolfer explained, deer and elk hunters tend to approach things differently and don't always hunt the same areas. There's also the added benefit of kids getting to hunt both species for a couple days with their families.

One frosty youth weekend, I rattled in two bucks at the same time from different directions. No shot. Another year, Jacob connected on a small buck that was intent on following does. Last November, our hunt started in the fog and ended packing and skinning in a snow storm. No flies. No wasps or hornets.

This additional opportunity is not available to participants in the Mentored Youth Hunt Program. Young hunters must have their own tag. Tag sale deadline is Oct. 1, and the bag limit is one buck with visible antler.

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### **How do I become a Certified Instructor?**

- Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



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# GAME ON THE GRILL

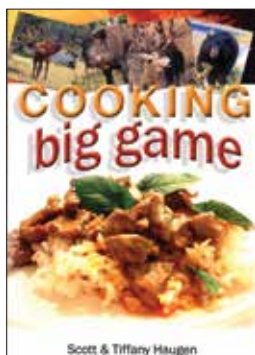
By TIFFANY HAUGEN

## Try Tasty Turkey Tacos

**W**hat better way to kick off the holiday festivities – before that whole turkey dinner is served – than with appetizers? And while you're at it, why not go all out and make those appetizers out of wild turkey?

While a bird cooks in the oven, whip up some wild turkey tacos. They're fun to make, go well with just about any appetizers, and they're a healthy, tasty option. We had these one holiday, and they were so popular, I've made them multiple times for family and friends throughout the year. Once you sink your teeth into these little beauties, you'll know why.

- 1 wild turkey breast (approx. 1 1/2 to 3 pounds)
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground oregano
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 24-36 street taco size corn tortillas
- 1-2 cups fresh pineapple chunks, optional
- Hot Sauce, optional
- Cabbage, pickled red onion, and cilantro for garnish



Rinse wild turkey breast and pat dry. Remove the tenderloin from the breast and cut out the tendon. Cut the larger part of the turkey breast across the grain in 1/2"-3/4" slices. Remove any sinuous tissues where the breast connected with the ribs and keel. In a small bowl, mix pineapple juice, vinegar, tomato paste, chili powder, salt, granulated garlic, cumin, oregano, paprika and black pepper until thoroughly combined.

Add turkey meat to a pressure cooker or slow cooker. Pour sauce over turkey meat and stir until all of the meat is coated, then add chopped onion and peppers. Pressure cook on high 30 minutes, allowing pressure to release naturally or slow cook on high 3-4 hours or until turkey is tender.

Taste for seasoning, adding additional salt, pepper and/or hot sauce if needed. If desired, add fresh pineapple chunks during the last 10 minutes of cooking. Serve on warm tortillas topped with cabbage, pickled onions and cilantro.

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ON  HUNT



*Wild turkey tacos make great appetizers for your family's holiday feast.*

*For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular book, *Cooking Game Birds*, send a check for \$20 to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Waltherville, OR 97489 or visit [www.scotthaugen.com](http://www.scotthaugen.com) for this and other titles.*

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## Muley to make a plate appearance

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director  
[mtotey@oregonhunters.org](mailto:mtotey@oregonhunters.org)

The Watch for Wildlife license plate voucher presale is officially complete. OHA has been active in promoting the pre-sale of the license plate vouchers for a couple of years.

The purchase of the vouchers was a way for interested people to show their support for this new Oregon license plate, and reserve their copy when it is released. Advertisements in our publications, promotions at the sports shows, and other media outlets helped tremendously in getting the necessary 3,000 vouchers sold.

The Oregon Wildlife Foundation stated in its recent newsletter, "We'd like to thank everyone who purchased a voucher to help make this new license plate possible. Because of your support, OWF will have a sustaining fund through registration and renewal fees, which will support statewide wildlife passage projects." OHA has become a leader in identifying needed wildlife road crossings, and now we will have a source of funding to tap into to help with these efforts.



*The Watch for Wildlife mule deer license plate - due to make a plate appearance in 2022 - will help fund safe wildlife crossings.*

DMV reports that production is currently taking 5 to 6 months, so the plates won't be in local offices until March. At that time, if you didn't purchase a voucher, you will be able to purchase a Watch for Wildlife license plate at any DMV location.

Are you interested in getting one of the first plates in the series? As other organizations have done, OWF will be holding a VIP list auction to raise additional money. The DMV gives plate sponsors numbers 00001 - 00020. OWF will auction the corresponding places on our VIP list using eBay. Keep an eye out for information regarding the VIP list auction coming soon.

## Video exposes Hwy 20 roadkills

By Ken McCall, OHA NW Director

The Burns Paiute Tribe recently released a video highlighting deer/vehicle collisions on Highway 20 between Juntura and Vale in eastern Oregon.

OHA partnered with conservation groups and agencies seeking solutions for wildlife passage on central Oregon Highway 97, where an 86-percent reduction in wildlife/vehicle collisions resulted from the underpass construction.

While Highway 97 is straight, forested and four lanes south of Bend where deer cross seasonally, this section of Highway 20 presents a different landscape and vegetation type. The deep Malheur River canyon and parallel Highway 20 bisect

the mule deer winter range, where deer are forced to make numerous highway crossings in their wintering ground across a narrow, crooked highway with limited line of sight for drivers, a bad situation for deer and drivers.

There are many possible solutions to address the problem, such as using the existing river bridges as modified undercrossings, directional fencing, overpasses, and even electronic means to signal drivers on the many blind corners.

Please view the video for a better understanding of the Tribe's efforts toward a collaborative solution:

<https://burnspaiute-nsn.gov/departments/natural-resources/>



Scan to view video

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For information about OHA state-level sponsorship opportunities, call the OHA State Office at (541) 772-7313.

# OHA supporters turn out big for State Convention

A crowd of nearly 500 guests toasted OHA's 38 years of conservation at OHA's 2021 State Convention Aug. 7 at Seven Feathers Casino Resort.

More than 70 great firearms are going to new homes, including premium firearms donated by Legacy Sports International, Sig Sauer,

**Mark your 2022  
OHA Calendar  
for May 14 at  
Seven Feathers**

Coastal Farm & Ranch and Nosler. Guests took home an amazing array of optics donated by OHA Platinum

Sponsors Leupold & Stevens and Sig Electro Optics. Donations were too many to list here, but included great gear from Benchmade, KUIU, Coast, Work Sharp, Gerber, Danner, GrovTec, KuduPoint, Phelps Game Calls, Langer's Family Entertainment Center, Vortex, Tactacam, Klymit, G4 Outdoors, Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse.

Awesome adventures came from S2

Outfitters, Troy Rodakowski, Jody Smith Guide Service, Buck & Gerri Teasley, Upfront Outfitters, Ladies Hunting Camp, Diamond A Guides, Peterson Guide Service, Sunriver Lodging, Hammerhead Guide Service, Seven Feathers, Chinook Winds and Argentina's TGB Outfitters.

A raffled elk camp was sponsored by Cabela's and Cascade Lakes Brewing, crafters of Elk Camp IPA, the official brew of the OHA State Convention.

While many supporters contributed to making the event a success, special thanks go to Ron Burgess, Bret and Nikki Loper, Shirley Pritchett, Tom Derbyshire, Dale Guillory, Jeff Janssens, Cris Benitez, Kelly Smith, Leroy & Joy Miller, Waldron's Outdoor Sports, Century Printing, Valley Web Printing, ProntoPrint, and of course, our Herd Bulls – Jim Thompson, Brandt's Construction & Fencing, Lamonte Group Real Estate Professionals and Table Mountain Forestry. Many of our donors were in the house, including Jane Vanderzanden, whose art graces OHA calendar covers.



Steve Exceen of Ride for 22 (ridefor22.org) – providing support to families of veterans with PTS – shows a spirited crowd an antler lamp up for auction crafted by Tammy Cook from antlers seized by ODFW and OSP.

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# OHA honors achievements with state-level awards

**O**HA recently recognized outstanding volunteer efforts with the announcement of a dozen statewide annual awards. Chapters, state board members and staff nominate deserving individuals for awards, and then vote from the nominees on the ballot.

## **MEMBER OF THE YEAR - ORGANIZATIONAL**

### **Fred Walasavage**

As OHA's State Board Chairman, Fred helped guide OHA through one of our most difficult years ever, with unyielding perseverance. While lending support to all of OHA's state committees, he also took the lead in expanding OHA's conservation staff and overseeing the hiring process. In addition, Fred helped secure funding for the new position. In short, Fred helped us bloom during the winter. There isn't enough space here to list all of the issues that Fred has been involved in at the state level, only enough space to say thank you!

## **MEMBER OF THE YEAR - WILDLIFE**

### **Ken McCall**

Ken has been instrumental in many aspects of OHA's state-level work, from working as staff to serving as Vice President and as a board member. Ken has served as the chairman of the grant committee, secured outside grant funding for our conservation efforts, represented OHA's interests on the Elliott State Forest issue, and continues to work tirelessly on wildlife migration issues. Ken was also instrumental in helping OHA secure our first conservation easement to protect habitat in key mule deer range. Ken is no longer on OHA's payroll, but we are forever in his debt.

## **YOUTH MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

### **Jacob Berge**

Jacob came on board as the first-ever Youth Ambassador to the OHA State Board, and attended State Board meetings and other events. He started the new OHA club at Oregon State University, which we hope will serve as a model for other colleges, too.

## **CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR**

### **Corey Heath, ODFW**

Corey Heath, District Wildlife Biologist, is a great asset to OHA; he annually takes time out of his busy schedule to interact with OHA members. Corey attends most local chapter meetings and is always available to answer any question the chapter may have as it relates to wildlife manage-



*Building and maintaining fences helped the Bend Chapter earn OHA's Chapter of the Year Award.*

ment. Corey has the ability to speak across a wide variety of opinions and is always highly professional. Corey provides a wealth of information that allows OHA to provide support to ODFW at the state level on wildlife management issues.

## **LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR - CORPORATE**

### **Ecotrust Forest Management**

More than 25,000 acres of EFM's Oregon lands are located in the Fork Rock Unit. EFM utilized an Open Fields grant to provide "Welcome to Hunt" public access to their lands. These lands are open to the general public to hunt and recreate while being mindful of the fragility of the environment. OHA, MDF, RMEF and other conservation chapters and groups have helped to clear and build buck and pole fencing around meadows to keep cattle out while still allowing for winter and summer mule deer and elk use.

## **LANDOWNER OF THE YEAR - CITIZEN**

### **David Potter**

David helped OHA break new ground this year by enrolling his property in OHA's first-ever conservation easement. The property is considered mule deer winter range and is located in the Metolius Unit, bordering the Crooked River National Grassland. OHA conservation staff, David, ODFW and CRNG are currently working on a management plan to ensure this property will provide long-term, quality habitat for mule deer in the winter.

## **TURN IN POACHERS (TIP) AWARD**

### **John Gander**

As OHA State Vice President, John served as the Turn In Poachers (TIP) Administrator, and continued that role even after he stepped down from the board. John coordinated with Oregon State Police, OHA's State Office and OHA chapters to log and track TIP cases, request rewards and maintain the ledger of TIP cases. OHA thanks John for all his efforts to help OHA identify and punish poachers in Oregon.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS**

### **Teri Dunganon**

Teri contacted OHA regarding an opportunity our own bank hadn't shared with us about forgivable Payroll Protection Program loans for nonprofits that had experienced income loss due to COVID. She then helped us through the process to receive the loan through First Interstate Bank and then successfully apply for forgiveness. The \$58,000 in free government stimulus money we don't have to pay back was effectively OHA's biggest fund-raiser in 2020. She then advised us of another opportunity for 2021, and that \$63,000 is already in our account, as well. Teri has volunteered at the front desk and auction item pick-up every year at OHA's State Convention for the past 24 years.

## **Bob Buddenbohn, Bend Chapter**

Bob took on the position of First Member at Large, Media Manager, to address the chapter's online media needs and increased the ability to get more information out to members through the use of the chapter website and Facebook page. Using a hand-out with a QR code, Bob worked to update member addresses and emails to enable the monthly newsletter to get out to more of our membership.

## **Spencer Tabor, Bend Chapter**

Spencer Tabor is a gifted certified shotgun instructor. When he owned Central Oregon Sporting Clays, he would host our annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt. Spencer continues bringing his professional quality clay throwers and shooting stations and setting up outstanding courses not only at the youth hunt but also to the shotgun range at the Youth and Family Day.

## **Melody Kind, Tualatin Valley Chapter**

Melody has helped many OHA chapters as well as her own. She helped Hoodview

with their turkey clinic registration, and she has helped other chapters with Maestro banquet software questions, and continues to be an asset to her chapter in many ways.

#### CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

##### Bend Chapter

Covid shut down the chapter's 2020 annual Mule Deer Classic fundraiser a mere 2 days before it was scheduled to happen. After rescheduling the March date to August, the chapter was again disappointed to have to cancel the event and instead move to an online auction and fundraiser. Even though this was the chapter's first time doing online fundraising, the attempt surpassed all expectations with net proceeds to the chapter of more than \$57,000. Covid also changed the way the chapter conducted its annual wildlife projects. The Sugar Creek camp, which recently morphed into "All Hands, All Brands," and the maintenance of the wildlife fence along Highway 97 was also scaled back to a handful of members due to covid restrictions but still persevered. The chapter continues to award the annual Charles Beckley Scholarships, supports the 4-H State Shooting Competition, High Desert Shooting Sports, and Three Rivers Archers, as well as their annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt.



### OHA moves camp!

After 27 years on the same corner in Medford, OHA has moved our state office – to the opposite corner of the same block. You can find us now at 301 Crater Lake Ave. Suite C in Medford.

Our other contact info stays the same.

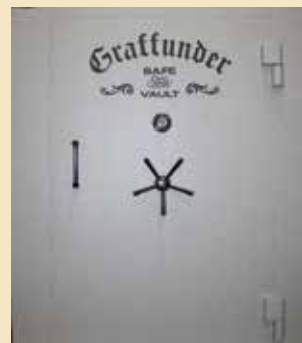
Karma for the landlord who wanted the space for their own use and insult to injury for OHA, between the eviction notice and the move, a tree fell on the old office. Probably some nice gun stocks in that walnut.

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## CHAPTER NEWS

RON BURGESS

# OHA chapters wrap up fall projects, slate 2022 banquets

**B**elow are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter meetings, many of which were still suspended at press time, and previously scheduled projects. Please confirm all information found here.

### BAKER

**Charlie Brinton**  
(541) 403-0402

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

**Update:** Tickets for the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle are on sale now. Go to our Facebook page for news and updates. We plan to hold a scholarship raffle and issue a scholarship this year.

### BEND

**Rex Parks**  
541-480-0230

[oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club

**2022 fundraiser:** March 12, The River House; call 541-480-9848.

**Update:** The annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt takes place Nov. 20 in Powell Butte; call 541-480-7323. Our chapter was both a Prize Sponsor and a Station Sponsor for the Central Oregon Sporting Clays Tournament held Aug. 20 at the Redmond Rod and Gun Club.

### BLUE MOUNTAIN

**Dean Groshong**  
(541) 377-1227

[ohabluemountainchapter@gmail.com](mailto:ohabluemountainchapter@gmail.com)

**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.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 2, Pendleton Convention Center; call 541-231-4384.

**Update:** Chapter members volunteered at the annual Youth Pheasant Hunt Sept.



*Volunteers from OHA's Columbia County Chapter picked up trash on Sauvie Island this summer. Many OHA chapters regularly clean up our public lands, as well as private lands that are open to public hunting access.*

25-26 held at Irrigon Wildlife Area. Raffle sales end Nov. 22 for the Coastal and General raffles, with final winners to be drawn Nov. 23 at our meeting. Our chapter donated \$700 to help build an ADA ramp for the Wanakat Wildlife Area, and we have committed \$1,000 to the Minam acquisition project.

### CAPITOL

**Erik Colville**  
(503) 851-8409

[ohacapitol.webs.com](http://ohacapitol.webs.com)

**Chapter Meetings:** 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., via Zoom through 2021.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 2, Columbia Hall, Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center.

**Update:** Our chapter voted to contribute \$5,000 toward the Minam acquisition. We hope to resume in person general meetings in January.

### CHETCO

**David Green**  
(541) 207-4866

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

### CLATSOP COUNTY

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

**Update:** We are holding the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles this year.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY

**Jordan Hicks**  
(949) 533-7271

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Kozy Korner

**Update:** Our chapter picnic was held July 17, and featured free bow shooting. We changed our meeting date to Tuesdays.

### EMERALD VALLEY

**Tony Hilsendager**  
(541) 729-0877

[EmeraldOHA@live.com](mailto:EmeraldOHA@live.com)

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzlers on Gateway

**Update:** We are raffling two rifles to raise funds. The winner of the Christensen Arms rifle donated by Coastal will be drawn at our meeting on Dec. 8, and the General Raffle .30/06 Mossberg winner will be

drawn at the Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show Feb. 6.

#### **HOODVIEW**

**Kelly Parkman**  
**(503) 706-7481**

[oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter)

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Portland Gun Club  
2022 banquet: Feb. 26

**Update:** A fresh start for Hoodview with a new venue and meeting day. On Wednesday, Nov. 10, Nolan Doyle will teach reloading fundamentals. Pizza, raffles and door prizes. Text Kelly Parkman at 503-706-7481 to register.

#### **JOSEPHINE COUNTY**

**Cliff Peery**  
**(541) 761-3200**

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

**Update:** In person chapter meetings have resumed.

#### **KLAMATH**

**Allan Wiard**  
**(541) 884-5773**

[ohaklamath.webs.com](http://ohaklamath.webs.com)

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

**Update:** The chapter hosted a BBQ for youth hunters Aug. 20 at Gerber Reservoir. We released 200 birds for the youth chukar hunt Oct. 23-24. We plan to start having membership meetings again Jan. 13.

#### **LAKE COUNTY**

**Larry Lucas**  
**(541) 417-2983**

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

**Update:** Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle winners were drawn Sept. 6 at the Lake County Fair Rodeo. Youth Day was held Sept. 18 at Juniper RV Resort in Lakeview. Oct. 16 and 23 were duck/goose box project days. Our second guzzler project is on for Oct. 30; call 541-417-1750.

#### **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:** 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:** Next meeting is planned for Nov. 18, location to be announced.

#### **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.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 9.

**Update:** We began in-person meetings again in September. We raised \$18,000 at our fundraiser. Our chapter donated \$350 toward the 300 birds released for the EE Wilson Wildlife Area Youth Pheasant Hunt in September, and member volunteers helped at the event.

#### **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](http://oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter)

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

**2022 banquet:** March 5, Mt. Angel Community Festival Hall; call 503-710-1233.

**Update:** Sight-in-Days at Canby Rod & Gun Club were Sept. 18-19 and Sept. 25-26. We had a booth at the Clackamas County Fair Aug. 17-21. We are offering two scholarships this year, and we currently have two gun raffles, one to support youth and wildlife projects, the other to support the Minam River Wildlife Area land acquisition.

#### **REDMOND**

**K. C. Thrasher**  
**(541) 419-7215**

OHA line (541) 383-1099

[oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter)

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

**Update:** The Redmond OHA Chapter will donate \$10,000 toward the Minam acquisition.

#### **ROGUE VALLEY**

**Ricky Clark**  
**(530) 905-1186**

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation, Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Rd.

**Update:** We are making plans for a 2022 fund-raising banquet.

#### **TILLAMOOK**

**John Putman**  
**(503) 842-7733**

**Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook PUD.

#### **TIOGA**

**Marcey Fullerton**  
**(541) 267-2577**

**Chapter Meetings:** 4th Tuesday, 6 p.m., Uncle Randy's Café, Coquille.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 2, Coquille Community Building.

**Update:** Volunteers helped at the Coquille Wildlife Area youth pheasant hunt in September.

#### **TUALATIN VALLEY**

**Tony Kind**  
**(503) 290-6143**

[oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter)

**Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

**Update:** Chapter meetings are live again at Prime Time where we now have the whole room for meetings, so space is no longer limited. Volunteers trimmed and pruned at University Falls on Sept. 18. The Christmas Party is Dec. 4.

#### **UMPQUA**

**Tadd Moore**  
**(541) 580-5660**

**Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., via Zoom.

**Update:** The drawing date for our Coastal Raffle rifle is Nov. 1.

#### **UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY**

**Morgan Olson**  
**(541) 786-1283**

**Chapter Meetings:** La Grande Library, next date TBA.

#### **YAMHILL COUNTY**

**Andy Bodeen**  
**(503) 490-2489**

[ohayamhill.com](http://ohayamhill.com)

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

**Update:** In lieu of our August chapter meeting, we hosted a pint night at Yamhill Bar & Grill.



## POACHING SPOTLIGHT

**DIAL \*OSP**  
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS



**For poaching news  
as it happens, find  
OHA on Facebook**  
[facebook.com/OregonHunters](https://facebook.com/OregonHunters)

### Douglas County sees spike in elk poaching

**D**ouglas County has been hit hard by elk poaching cases late this summer and fall. The Oregon Hunters Association offers a standard \$500 for information leading to a citation in an elk poaching case. Informants may remain anonymous and still collect a reward.

For more information about OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund or to make a donation to our efforts, please visit <https://oregonhunters.org/turn-poachers-tip>



*A Douglas County man was charged with shooting this bull with a rifle during bow season and tagging it with his archery elk tag.*

OSP Fish & Wildlife Troopers from Roseburg received a tip in August from a local resident about the possible unlawful taking of a trophy bull elk in southern Douglas County.

Two suspects were identified within a week, interviewed, and charged with the crimes. The main suspect, Jeremy Pritchard, 39, of Dillard, confessed to shooting the elk with a rifle on Aug. 30, during the general archery season in the Powers Unit. Pritchard later used his general archery season tag to tag the bull. Pritchard was cited for several charges. The suspect's accomplice, Dean Hickok, 62, of Glendale, confessed to knowingly aiding the suspect in processing and transporting the elk. He was cited for Aiding in a Game Violation. The antlers, game meat, and rifle were seized as evidence.



*A rifle, elk antlers and meat were seized in an investigation of a Douglas County bull elk shot with a rifle during bow season.*

OSP responded on Sept. 2 to a report of a dead bull elk in the 2800 block of Mehl Creek Road near Elkton. The bull had the head removed and the meat removed. The elk had been shot by a rifle during the bow season. The investigation revealed that Jase Billman, 20, shot the bull from the roadway with a .270 caliber rifle, then enlisted the help of friends and family to pack it out. Billman was issued a citation for Unlawful Take of Bull Elk and his rifle was seized along with the elk antlers and meat, which was salvaged. Two other individuals were issued citations for Aiding in a Wildlife Offense.



*OSP is asking for tips in the poaching of this five-point bull in south Douglas County.*

OSP asks for leads about a five-point elk illegally killed and left to waste the first few days of October on a BLM road between Turkey Creek and Upper Cow Creek Road in South Douglas County just east of I-5 and Canyon Mountain. If you have information, call the OSP TIP line at 1-800-452-7888 or by cell at \*OSP (\*677).

### 'Things Will Die'



For a compelling in-depth read about Oregon's poaching problem and the mindset of those responsible, check out the feature "'Things Will Die': The Text Messages That Brought Down a Coast Range Poaching Ring" by Tess Riski in *Willamette Week*. Two OHA state board members are quoted. Some adult language appears in poacher text messages. <https://www.wweek.com/news/2021/10/06/things-will-die-the-text-messages-that-brought-down-a-coast-range-poaching-ring>



### OHA pays out 7 TIP rewards for \$1,100 in 6 cases

In the last two months, OHA issued 7 reward checks to informants in 6 cases totaling \$1,100 from our Turn In Poachers reward fund. Charges included: Unlawful take of a bull elk x2; unlawful take of oversize sturgeon; take/possession of white sturgeon; aiding in wildlife offense; multiple shellfish offenses.

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## OHA KUIU Pattern Hats

Valo, Vias or Verde, \$25.



Sand



Stone

**OHA MISSION SHIRTS:** 40/60 polyester/cotton blend featuring decal and alternate logos on left sleeve and back collar. Lettering proclaims OHA mission. \$19. Sand or Stone. Sizes M-XXL.

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Embroidered Orange & Black or Brown & Tan (\$19) or patch (\$22).



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# TACTACAM TRAIL CAM CONTEST

See rules and enter your best shots at [oregonhunters.org](http://oregonhunters.org) for a chance to win a great Tactacam prize!



## WINNER:

OHA member Victor Coggins of Enterprise wins a Tactacam Reveal Trail Camera for this photo of three cougars relaxing around a mountain pond in Wallowa County the day before Independence Day.

## HONORABLE MENTION:



Martin Vavra, OHA member in La Grande, earns an OHA hat for this shot of Union County bulls sparring this summer.



OHA member John Godard of Klamath Falls gets an OHA hat for this photo of bears taking a dip in Klamath County.



Jonathan Anderson, OHA member in Warrenton, receives an OHA hat for this photo of a Saddle Mountain bear.



OHA member Tim Sowa scores an OHA hat for this shot of a blacktail under an apple tree in Clackamas County.



This Keno Unit pic earns Medford's Darren Davidson an OHA hat. The deer ref says the Bucks score a 3-point shot.

# REVEAL X

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CHRIS WHITMORE

## 10 tips for e-tagging (and for paper, too)

**O**regon State Police report that many hunters and anglers don't have the MyODFW app, are not tagging their fish or animal immediately (and being cited for that), plus other problems. Be sure you are tagging correctly by following these tips.

### 1 Make sure you have the MyODFW app and that it's updated.

E-taggers are required to have the MyODFW app on their mobile device so they can tag when out of cell range and show OSP or ODFW their license and tag if contacted in the field. (If you haven't already, download the app on your mobile device and sign in with the username/password you created at the MyODFW.com licensing page on your Internet browser.)

The app is updated periodically and it's good to have the latest version so the app runs smoothly. The app should automatically update but you can double-check by going to the App store on your device, finding the MyODFW app and clicking "Update" or "Open."

### 2 Log in to the MyODFW app and sync before you lose cell reception.

The MyODFW app works without cell reception, but you need to be logged in for your profile to come up and to be able to use the app out of cell range. Be sure you are logged in before you head out of cell range.

Forgot your username or password? Follow the system prompts to recover them or contact ODFW by phone or email for help.

### 3 Be sure to get your tag by the deadline, even if you have a Sports Pac.

Your tag won't automatically show up in your account; you still need to pick it up by the deadline, which is always the day before the hunt begins for big game hunts (and the day before any-weapon buck deer seasons to purchase a fall bear or cougar tag).



Hunters are being cited for failing to tag their animals properly. Make sure you're logged into the MyODFW app in the field.

Sports Pac holders also need to redeem their voucher for the actual tag by the deadline. Go thru the steps to purchase it (at no cost) via the online licensing system or visit a license sales agent. A how-to video is available at MyODFW.com.

### 4 Immediately tag fish or animals and enter required information properly.

Oregon State Police are seeing large numbers of improperly e-tagged fish and wildlife. Fish and animals aren't being tagged immediately or location information is entered wrong. There were also issues with e-taggers not being able to (or not knowing how to) pull up their e-tag while out of cell service.

The regulation to immediately tag applies to both paper and electronic tags, even out of cell service, which is why e-taggers must download the app and be signed in.

### 5 Don't forget flagging tape, duct tape or other material to "tag" your animal.

Hunters must still physically tag an animal so it can be visually identified by OSP and other hunters.

If you're using e-tagging, your first step is to validate the tag in the MyODFW app. Then, write down the confirmation number provided by the app, plus your name, ODFW ID, date of birth and harvest date on anything that will stand up to the elements (like flagging or duct tape). Affix it to the animal like a traditional tag and keep it attached to the carcass in transport.

### 6 Turn off WiFi if you have problems tagging or opening app in the field.

If you're connecting other peripheral devices (such as GPS or camera) through your phone's wireless connection and get an error message, you may need to disconnect your WiFi to validate your tag in the app. You can turn it back on once you're done tagging.

### 7 Keep your phone charged with a portable charger or other method.

Just like in previous years when only paper tags were available, hunters/anglers are required to have and display their license and tag to ODFW or OSP upon request. It's important to have enough battery life (or an external battery source) so you can show your license or tag. Putting your phone in airplane mode will conserve battery life when out of cell range.

### 8 Make sure kids have paper tags or their own smart phone.

Each hunter/angler is required to carry their own license or tag, so young hunters/anglers need to have their own phone or tablet, or use paper tagging.

### 9 Protect paper licenses/tags in a plastic bag or other waterproof container.

Lost licenses can be reprinted at no charge, but if you lose your tag, you must visit a license sales agent and pay \$2 for a reprint. The new tag will have a new barcode and your old tag will be invalid.

### 10 You still must file a mandatory report for big game & turkey tags.

Even e-taggers are still required to report their tags separately. Report deer and elk tags by the deadline (Jan. 31 of following year for most tags) or be fined \$25 when you buy a future hunting license.

# NOSLER<sup>®</sup>

## 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](http://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<sup>®</sup> PHOTO CONTEST

## GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS

John Pomazi, OHA member in Sandy, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of his horse pack-in elk camp in the Snake River Unit last fall.



OHA member Wendy Renneke of Woodenville, Wash., claims an OHA Coast knife and entry to the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of the mule deer she killed in Whitman County.

# NOSLER<sup>®</sup> PHOTO CONTEST

## YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA member Kirsten Ornelas of Baker City scores an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Marjorie Ornelas with a coyote she took during this year's Flat Creek youth elk hunt. The coyote was stalking a band of antelope.

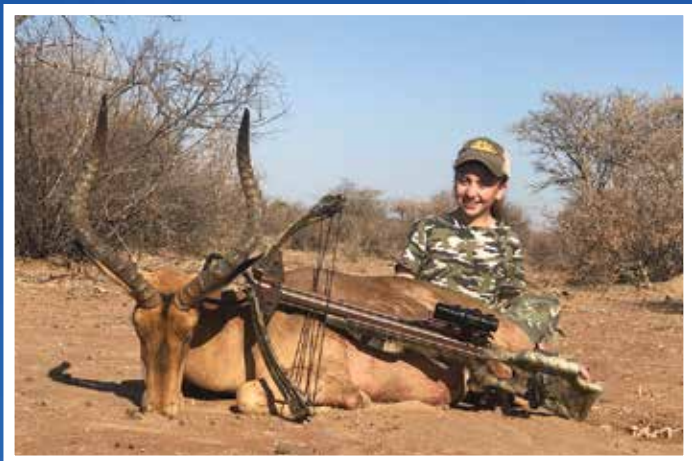
Central Point OHA member Nikki Hickey claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Bella Hickey with a blacktail she took last year in the Rogue Unit.



SKY LAKES WILDERNESS/DUANE DUNGANNON

# NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

## HONORABLE MENTION



John Pomazi, OHA member in Sandy, gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Charlee Pomazi with an impala she took with a crossbow in South Africa.



OHA member Mike Menasco of Martinez, Calif., earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Dall sheep he claimed this September in the Northwest Territory.



OHA member Chris Bocchi of Redmond collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of a Nevada elk he took with a bow in early September.



OHA member Sara Moore of Central Point receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a mule deer taken on opening day of the Warner Youth Hunt last fall.



**OHA member Eric Busch of Sandy gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Joey Busch with a Biggs Unit turkey taken during this spring's youth weekend.**



**OHA member Brent Wright of Bend collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Tuffy finding some shade during a sage grouse hunt last fall in Deschutes County.**



**OHA member Joshua Knoebel of Springfield gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself and a bear he killed with a bow in this year's Murderers Creek elk hunt.**



**Brent Wright, OHA member in Bend, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Michael Wright with shed antlers found this spring in Crook County.**



**OHA member Tim Johnson of Astoria collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Cody Johnson with his first buck, taken last fall in Clatsop County with a Ruger .30-06.**

# PARTING SHOTS

By Uncle Geddy

## Cat Burglar Breaks in

'After an extensive area check the animal was not located.' This one brilliant sentence, could sum up every single attempt I have made hunting mountain lions.

Sergeant Joe Valiente of the City of San Bruno Police Department was the author of the press release, and if he is ever looking to change careers, he could ghost-write my memoirs.

San Bruno is a city in California, which is a large political and geographic area shaped like a dirty sock located south of Ashland. San Bruno is located in San Mateo County, south of downtown San Francisco and was named for St. Bruno of Cologne, who once had to wallop a fellow friar on the head with a bottle of perfume to knock some scents into him.

The incident in question happened May 25, when a mountain lion broke through a window pane in the small hours of the morning, entering a house with "several large game, taxidermy trophy heads," mounted on the walls.

Let us imagine we own a house with large windows and several trophy heads on display. Not hard to imagine, at all. In fact, we have deer, a red stag, a tahr and pronghorn, bears and a large kudu shoulder mount.

Mountain lions, we are led to believe, have a propensity for going for the heads and throats of their prey. It is not hard to picture a cougar looking through the living room window, salivating as it imagines itself going for the throat of my Beulah Unit mule deer.

Kind of like T. Roy's fiancée RaeBelle walking by a case full of fritters, crullers and cream-filleds. Something's going to get chomped.

Let us imagine we have a cougar tag in our possession. Now let us imagine a cougar propelling itself at a ground floor window.

At my house, the big cat would probably have to grab a splitting maul off the wood pile to break a window, but let's say he made it indoors.

I'll be coming down the stairs with a shotgun. I've always believed the best defense is a good offense.

In California where the body politic protects large purring predators, perhaps the better part of valor might just be scaring the cougar away. Even a homeowner with the skills to turn "several large game" into "taxidermy trophy heads" was not about to terminate the large tawny critter with prejudice in his front room.

Sergeant Valiente in sparse prose describes the incident thusly: "The mountain lion exited the residence after it was scared off by the homeowner."

What really happened was the cat spotted stuffed bison and elk heads on the wall, leapt onto a fence and then rocketed through the window. Once inside, it jumped onto the couch, which was where the lady of the house spotted it. She is reported to have said, "It almost made me puma pants."

After one scintillating paragraph of description, Valiente reverted to common journalistic style. He cut-and-pasted tips to the public, which consumed another page of copy, courtesy of



the California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Mountain lions typically pose little threat to humans, blah, blah, blah, bullet points, blah, blah, blah.

Way, way down at the end of the bullet points, the CDFW offers this tidbit: Research on mountain lion attacks suggests that many potential victims... WAIT A MINUTE. Mountain lion attacks? Like the fatal mountain lion attack on a hiker near Mt. Hood? Like the Placerville marathon runner? Or the birder north of Mount Laguna? Or the mountain biker on the Cactus Hill Trail?

I digress.

The CDFW says research on mountain lion attacks suggests many potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, garden tools... HOLD THE PHONE. Garden tools?

The Googler says the number one garden tool for 2021 is the FELCO 2 One-hand pruning shear made in Switzerland. "It is the universal cutting and pruning tool for anyone who enjoys the sense of satisfaction that comes from a job well done." But nothing in the FELCO advertising suggests this is the right smooth cutting micro-metric garden tool for fighting off a lion. But still, think of the satisfaction you would have after fighting off a lion with a pruning shear.

If recent events from the Bay Area are any indication, we have not heard the last of the San Bruno lion.

After a mountain lion killed a koala bear at the Los Angeles Zoo, I predicted California lions were going to start taste adventuring. Shortly afterward, a mountain lion broke into the San Francisco Zoo and killed a red kangaroo and a wallaroo. That cat was caught and released near Oracle Park and then made the news a short time later when it was killed on a highway.

We have been thinking about upgrading our existing home security system from a pump action to a 12-gauge Weatherby semi-auto, but I think there is another alternative that could protect us from a midnight meow marauder. If a full body mountain lion trophy was to be prominently added to our collection and displayed in a spot visible from the porch, a prowling cougar might go looking for an easier target, like my neighbor's goats.



*Never hike alone. Always hike with someone you can trip and outrun. Contact Gary Lewis at [www.garylewisoutdoors.com](http://www.garylewisoutdoors.com)*

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