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elk tags &

under fire

out west



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Cover: Cory Miller and a hard-earned Hells Canyon ram. Photo by Zach Mansfield

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## **FINDING DIRECTION**

#### **BY AMY PATRICK**

## For defending our heritage, the best defense is a good offense

he great Bear Bryant is credited with the saying, "Offense wins games, defense wins championships." That man knew a thing or two about winning football championships, and while I believe in the sovereignty of a solid defensive backfield, a good defense is no longer the primary game changer - not in football, and not in the current political climate we face in Oregon.

For the last few decades, the playing field has been relatively even with most issues fought at the legislative or commission level. As such, the hunting, fishing, and trapping communities have been able to rely primarily on a good defense to preserve our ability to partake in these heritage sports. By working hard in the Capitol with our legislative allies and engaging with Fish & Wildlife Commissioners, our communities have been able to stop large-scale impact to our activities.

However, in recent years the field of play has begun to change. With the increase in the state's urban-based populations, who are generally more removed from the activities we enjoy, the voting populous has become sympathetic to the rhetoric of environmental and animal-rights groups. Shrewdly, these groups have adapted their messaging to address this shift, pursuing rule-making petitions while invoking a "change in social acceptance" as reason enough to curtail not only hunting, fishing, and trapping, but also science-based wildlife decisions and predator management.

In some cases, they have chosen to bypass any rule-making agency or legislative body and go straight to the voters, as is the case with Initiative Petition 13. These groups are keenly aware that four counties can carry the state, should they successfully reach the ballot.

While defense has held the line, it has become clear that to win the day we must go on the offensive. Our lineup begins with the organizations that have been the backbone of our defense: Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and numerous others who are engaged in the policy arena. But to be effective, we need every sportsman and woman in the state to help carry the message of hunting, fishing, and trapping as sustainable, viable activities. Imagine a chorus of proud voices proclaiming the value of providing a family with high-quality protein, preserving a heritage skill, and engaging in wildlife conservation - this is the offense we need to push back against the idea that Oregon's social acceptance of hunting, fishing, and trapping has substantially changed.

As of 2021, there were over 900,000 hunting and fishing license holders in the state. That is an astounding number of people who should be fighting to protect every Oregonian's right to hunt and fish. Chances are, if you're reading this, you are one of those license holders. If so, I challenge you to join and support an association, like OHA, that is actively working to protect hunting, fishing, and trapping rights. If you are already a member, thank you! It is only through the voices of Oregon's sportsmen and women that we can go on the offensive, exploring our own legislative concepts and initiatives with the assurance that if we run the ball and take the hits, all of you will have our backs. (



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 Genetic diversity is a concern for which Oregon big game animal?
 a) deer
 c) antelope
 b) elk
 d) bighorn

2. An average wait between buck antelope rifle tags is:
a) 6 years
b) 10 years
c) 14 years
d) 18 years

3. Which does not count toward a turkey's measurements?a) weight c) beard lengthb) tail length d) spur length

4. Oregon's unit with the highest spring bear harvest in the most recent stats is:a) Snake River c) Siuslawb) Sled Springs d) Sixes

5. Which are always ground nesters?a) quailb) wood ducks d) all of the above

6. Which can you not hunt with bait?a) cougarb) deerc) upland birdsc) all of the above

7. It's illegal to use electronic calls for:
a) elk
b) predators
c) waterfowl
d) all of the above

8. The Warner Wetlands are in which county?a) Columbia c) Klamath

b) Umatilla d) Lake

9. Black and white head and wing mark a drake of which?a) wigeon c) pintailb) gadwall d) bufflehead

10. Hungarian partridges are found mainly in which region of Oregon?a) northwest c) northeastb) southwest d) southeast

7-c; 8-d; 9-d; 10-c. 7-c; 8-d; 9-d; 10-c.



#### WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

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Entry deadline: March 20, 2022.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Donald Coffman, Klamath Falls Donald's name was drawn from among the OHA members who correctly identified Abert Rim & Abert Lake.

## OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 26 OHA Redmond Chapter banquet 541-233-3740

MARCH 5 OHA chapter banquets: Emerald Valley 541-731-2403 Pioneer 503-710-1233

MARCH 10 Central Oregon Sports Show opens; Late goose seasons end

MARCH 12 OHA Bend Chapter banquet 541-480-9848

MARCH 19 OHA chapter banquets: Josephine County 541-821-1511 Rogue Valley 503-250-3000 Yamhill County 503-490-2489

MARCH 26 OHA Chapter Banquet: Tualatin Valley 503-502-0611

MARCH 31 Deadline to buy spring bear tags

APRIL 1 Spring bear opens statewide

APRIL 2 White R. Youth Turkey Clinic, 503-358-7821 OHA chapter banquets: Baker County 541-403-0402 Blue Mountain 541-231-4384 Lake County 541-810-1617 Tioga 541-267-2577 Capitol 503-851-8409

> APRIL 9 OHA chapter banquets: Mid-Willamette 541-971-3351 Umpqua 541-430-7324

APRIL 9-10 Statewide youth spring turkey hunt

APRIL 15 Turkey season opens; Harvest reporting deadline for furtakers and hunts ending after Dec. 31

APRIL 30 Klamath Chapter banquet 541-882-9593





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## **OREGON AFIELD**

## **Southern Comfort**

Warmer weather means southwest Oregon spring bears move early and often, but where to find them?

o you have a Southwest Oregon spring bear tag. Where are you going to be April 1? Maybe you should be at work, watching the weather forecast before you ask for vacation time.

Last year ODFW sold 4,840 SW spring bear tags. That's a lot of hunters, but take heart; this is a huge chunk of Oregon and there is enough room for everyone. Also, many tag buyers never even go hunting.

Mike Jenkins is the owner of Upfront Outfitters (upfrontoutfitters.com), based in Benton County. The Southwest Oregon spring bear hunt is one of his favorites.

Jenkins has observed that in a typical season, there will be more bear activity in the second week. "That's when they start getting on that green grass, the shoots start



This fawn decoy tasted kind of flat.

springing up, and the bears start finding the wet dandelion areas. In the second week, you will see the bears start scattering and a few more coming out of their dens," Jenkins said. "and the bigger bears that came out first start traveling more."

In a typical season, bear movement spikes the first week of May.

"There is a lot of food on the ground," Jenkins said. "Bears are traveling a lot more looking for food. All they do is eat, eat, eat. They're pulling logs apart, looking for grubs. They're up in the avalanche slides turning over rocks."

Jenkins cautions hunters to really look at the bear before shooting. Bears are hard to judge at a glance. Any legal bear is a good bear to shoot, but it is against the law

#### OHA will defend spring bear hunting in Oregon

Spring bear hunting has come under attack in Washington. Because what happens north of the Columbia often spills across the river, OHA is prepared to use the best available science to defend spring bear hunting in Oregon.

to take a cub or a sow with cubs.

Toward the end of May, the onset of the breeding season factors in. "Boars are combing the country, cruising for sows," Jenkins said.

And that's the time the baby deer are being born. This may be the best time of year to try to call a bear. Put a fawn-indistress or elk calf-in-distress call into play. Use cover scents and call for an hour. Pay close attention to the downwind side.

Throughout the season, don't give up hunting during the middle of the day. If the day is warm, bears are probably still feeding. Look to the swampy stuff and the deep, shaded canyons. If it is a colder day, watch the sunny south-facing hillsides.  $--G_{ARY} LEWIS$ 

## Don't miss last call for Oregon's late, great goose hunts



Oregon's plentiful goose populations provide opportunity for waterfowlers into March.

t's always fun to get out on a lateseason goose hunt, and the multitudes of Canada, white-fronted and white geese wintering or passing through Oregon in late winter provide plenty of opportunities. Thousands of geese reside in and around the Willamette Valley and areas in eastern Oregon until spring, feeding on ryegrass, wheat, clover and other crops prior to migrating north to their breeding grounds in Alaska or Canada.

Scouting is key, and many folks who do not own large quantities of decoys or are not proficient at calling can be quite successful at pass shooting birds once they are patterned. Use optics to find where birds feed and travel. Most landowners are happy to grant access to birds creating crop damage.

Seasons run through March 10 in some zones (see the Oregon Game Bird Regulations or myodfw.com). Hunters have many options to get in a few more hunts. In the western valleys, geese will feed and roost near several food sources and water. Finding flocks and obtaining permission throughout the Klamath Basin, Umpqua and Willamette Valley will be your best bet. Farther east, look to agricultural lands near Summer Lake, Warner Valley and Chewaucan Marsh.

Late-season flocks are wary and tough to decoy. Large numbers of decoys will work in a field or feeding area where geese frequent. It may take numerous passes for birds to get into range, so be patient and don't overcall.

The Pacific populations of Canada geese have increased approximately 9 percent or more per year recently, according to breeding ground surveys conducted by the USFWS in Alberta, B.C., Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho and Montana. The flyway's population of light geese increased by about 4 percent, and the Wrangel Island (Russia) population of lesser snow geese jumped about 45 percent. —*TROY RODAKOWSKI* 



Adam Stein took this muley in Idaho, where the new tag draw requires non-residents to get in line.

#### Idaho is still a gem, but no more OTC non-resident tags

Recently Idaho has made changes to its non-resident system, requiring a little more planning, but still offering a solid extra deer hunting opportunity for Oregonians.

Pre-planning is key when jumping into the Idaho draw. Visit https://license. gooutdoorsidaho.com/Licensing/CustomerLookup.aspx to purchase a license and get in line for the draw. In order to get in line for the Dec. 1 draw, you must already have an account or a license for the year you are hunting. It's best to log on a couple days prior to the draw and create or update your account. This will ensure a smooth outcome when purchasing your tag.

For the 2021 season, I was logged on while hooking up a center pivot for local farmer. While making my electrical connections, I would check my phone periodically to see where I was in the draw. Right about lunch time, my number was chosen and I was able to purchase a tag.

For 2022 I was not so lucky. The morning of the draw, I missed my early log-in due to work meetings, and I was not able to log in until late morning. Due to my late arrival, I was somewhere in the 24,000 range of being drawn. Not ideal. I did my due diligence and waited throughout the day hoping for break, but by the end of the day, I was unable to pull a tag.

The Gem State offers generous seasons and ample opportunity for game. Idaho is a blast to hunt, and it's always in my fall plans if my schedule allows. I just need to clear my schedule on Dec. 1. -ZACH MANSFIELD

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## OHA fires back vs IP13 rhetoric

#### By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

OHA continues to lead the fight against IP13 by spreading the word with several interviews and a letter to the editor submitted to *The Oregonian*.

OHA Policy Director Amy Patrick took part in a podcast interview with Rob-

IP13 would criminalize hunting, fishing and trapping. bie Kroger of Blood Origins regarding IP13 in December; that podcast episode was scheduled to be released in January. Additionally, another IP13 interview with The Outdoor View, a

hunting and outdoor platform based in California, has been posted to their website and YouTube channel. OHA also submitted a letter to *The Oregonian* in response to the IP13 proponents' opinion piece published earlier in the month.

Links to all of these items will be included on OHA's IP13 webpage as they become available: https://oregonhunters. org/initiative-petition-13/

IP13 would criminalize hunting, fishing and trapping, and it would make it virtually impossible to raise livestock.

The IP13 proponents have until July 8 to collect the 112,020 signatures needed to place the initiative on the November ballot. OHA is asking all of our members to talk to your family, friends, and coworkers to make sure they understand the detrimental effects of criminalizing hunting, fishing, trapping, and raising livestock. All Oregonians would lose the ability to raise or harvest their own food, creating a situation where all meat and dairy products would have to be trucked in from other states. Make sure everyone in your circle knows not to sign the petition.

#### **Oregon sportsmen's** partnership launches

The Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership (SCP) has recently been formed to amplify the voices of sportsmen and women in Oregon. Created from the constant pressure of attacks by anti-hunting, animal rights, and environmental advocacy groups, the SCP's goals are to increase the presence of sportsmen and women in the legislature and policy arenas, as well as encourage communication and collaboration among existing sports groups.

The SCP held its inaugural meeting in January to establish its leadership, hear from agency staff on important topics, and review legislative topics arising in the 2022 legislative session. About 20 hunting, fishing, and trapping organizations were in attendance. The SCP identified CWD detection funding and advocating for federal infrastructure funding for Oregon's natural resource agencies as its initial priorities, in addition to the ongoing fight against IP13.

## Sportsmen's Caucus online auction a hit

The 2022 Oregon Sportsmen's Caucus online auction in early February grossed \$11,875 thanks to the support of generous donors and participants.

OHA was a major sponsor to the annual fund-raiser again this year.

The caucus consists of legislators, pro-sportsmen's groups and their lobbyists. This group works to pass legislation that has a positive impact on hunting, fishing, and wildlife in Oregon. Each year the caucus holds a fund-raising event to help pay for its activities and staff.

DONATE TO OHA'S VICTORY FUND AT www.oregonhunters.org/donate

#### Wolf bill and wildlife crossings highlight start of new session

The 2022 legislative session is a veritable footrace with its contracted 35-day timeframe from start to finish. Leading off the session are two bills OHA is engaging on:

• **HB 4130** funds wildlife crossing projects and helps the state leverage federal funds available to complement local monies spent. OHA has long been a proponent of wildlife crossings and testified in favor of the bill.

• **HB 4127** funds the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund to assist landowners in loss due to wolf depredation or costs incurred implementing nonlethal deterrence techniques. OHA continues to advocate for wolf management based on the approved wolf plan and testified in favor of this bill as part of that management strategy.

In addition to these high-profile measures, OHA monitored and participated on several forestry-related topics, such as the issue of the Elliott State Forest and funding a large-scale thinning project in wildlifeprone areas, as well as a predator control district bill.

#### America's Wildlife Recovery Act clears its first hurdle

America's Wildlife Recovery Act has passed out of the Congressional House National Resources Committee and has been sent to the floor of Congress for a vote. The Act, HR 2773, would invest \$1.3 billion to state fish and wildlife agencies. The money is to further fish, wildlife, and plant conservation efforts. OHA signed on a letter to support this Act along with other state hunting and fishing advocates.



#### Money we raise here stays here.

## **2022 OHA BANQUETS**

		-
Online	<b>Clatsop County</b>	503-738-6962
Online	<b>Union-Wallowa</b>	541-786-1283
Feb. 19	Hoodview	503-314-3090
Feb. 26	Redmond	541-233-3740
Mar. 5	<b>Emerald Valley</b>	541-731-2403
Mar. 5	Pioneer *	503-710-1233
Mar. 12	Bend	541-480-9848
Mar. 19	Josephine Co.	541-821-1511
Mar. 19	Rogue Valley	503-250-3000
Mar. 19	<b>Yamhill County</b>	503-490-2489
Mar. 26	<b>Tualatin Valley</b>	503-502-0611
Apr. 2	Baker	541-403-0402
Apr. 2	<b>Blue Mountain</b>	541-231-4384
Apr. 2	Capitol	503-851-8409
Apr. 2	Lake County	541-810-1617
Apr. 2	Tioga	541-267-2577
Apr. 9	<b>Mid-Willamette</b>	541-971-3351
Apr. 9	Umpqua	541-430-7324
Apr. 30	Klamath	541-882-9593
May 14	OULA Chata Comu	ntion **

May 14 OHA State Convention,\*\*<br/>Seven Feathers Casino, 541-772-7313May 14 Columbia Co.949-533-7271July 16 Tillamook503-801-3779

\* A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction Feb. 19 at PNW Sportsmen's Show \*\* A&H Statewide Deer & Elk auction

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## Easy-to-Draw Blackpowder Elk

e know how you are. You have an elk preference point because you missed out on the draw last year. Or maybe you have zero points because you spent them in 2021. And you want to hunt again in 2022. Of course, you do. Open up the Big Game Regulations and turn with me in the hymnal to Page 55.

The 2022 Big Game Regulations list eleven 200-series muzzleloader elk hunts. Five of these offer easy-draw odds, the kind of chances that make you want to take vour muzzleloader out of the safe and run a patch through the barrel and shoulder that big gun again, sighting through the buckhorn sight, putting that thin front blade on your target. Hold on, Daniel Boone, why are you still hunting with a buckhorn sight? You can use fiber optics in Oregon, even on a front-stuffed flinter, if you want. In fact, ODFW announced in the regulations that muzzleloader season hunters are no longer required to have an open ignition. That might make a few of you fellers want to peruse the offerings from the likes of CVA and Traditions and find yourself a new smokepole. But what you really want to do is hunt elk.

The way I reckon things, for 2022, you have four good easy-draw options on the dry side for Rocky Mountain elk and one slam dunk option in the Cascades.

Consider a November hunt in the Cascade Muzzleloader (200M) season. For 2022, ODFW will offer 900 tags. Last year, 583 people applied for this one. The harvest success is low, typical of the Cascades hunts with any weapon, but there is one more reason to consider it. The hunter who draws a McKenzie Unit Muzzleloader (119M) deer tag or an Indigo Unit Muzzleloader (121M) tag and a 200M elk tag can hunt both animals at the same time in the McKenzie and North Indigo – a unique deer and elk combination opportunity.



Oregon's Big Game Regulations list 11 muzzleloader elk hunts. Five of these offer easy-draw odds.

#### **ON THE DRY SIDE**

East of the Cascades, there are two easy-draw, antlerless-only hunts in some of Oregon's best elk country. The drawbacks are that private lands limit the access. Make sure to have landowner permission before applying.

Check out the Elkhorn Nos. 1 (251M1) and 2 (251M2) in the Sumpter Unit. The first season runs Aug. 1 to Oct. 15, and



A kit built 50-caliber flintlock is one option for the Oregon hunter with a muzzleloader elk tag.

the second season runs Oct. 15 to Dec. 31. A frontiersman with his coonskin thinking cap on might also apply for a Baker Muzzleloader (151M) tag for a November whitetail deer season opportunity while hunting elk. Daniel Boone would do it if he were here.

For a nine-day bull elk hunt, consider the Eagle Cap Muzzleloader (260M). In 2022, the state will offer 55 tags and applicant numbers were low last year. Nine days is a good long hunt and enough time to pattern animals and get close to herds.

For the hunter who likes to be alone in the junipers, the High Desert Muzzleloader (278M) is a good option. The 278M hunt takes in the Beatys Butte, Juniper, Malheur River, Owyhee, Steens, Wagontire and Whitehorse units. Fill your tank, pack extra gas and two spare tires. Set up on a hilltop and glass for elk along their travel routes. The one thing you can count on is that elk will show up if you wait long enough. It might take seven days, but hey, you get nine. ODFW will offer 138 tags in 2022. Last year 154 people applied, so the word is getting out on this one, but it does not take a lot of points to draw this tag.

For most of us, the promise of the muzzleloader is the opportunity to spend more time in the woods and mountains, but many of Oregon's best muzzleloader opportunities are getting more popular, making it harder to draw a tag each season. Count your elk points and make the easy choice. Wouldn't you rather hunt elk?

Ò

*Gary's latest book is* Bob Nosler Born Ballistic. *Look for it at garylewisoutdoors.com* 

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## Trail Cam Takes

*Some states restrict their use; Oregon Commission discusses* 

he use of trail cameras and increases in technology have become topics of conversation recently. Arizona and Utah recently cracked down on the use of trail cameras in the field, and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission raised the topic at a recent meeting.

OHA wants to get ahead of any new regulations to ensure that hunters have a place at the table and a voice when the time comes. As such, we asked members to tell us what you think.

In a poll with 900 responses from OHA members, 39 percent supported the use of all trail cameras (cellular and non-cellular), while 20 percent supported non-cellular cameras only, and 1 percent supported cellular cameras only. Another 27 percent supported trail cameras for scouting, but not while hunting. Finally, 13 percent opposed all use of trail cameras for hunting and scouting. A poll conducted on OHA's website mirrored those results almost exactly with more than 300 respondents.

Hunters' opinions varied, with most supporting continued use of trail cameras in some manner. Survey design (i.e., the questions asked/method of administration) and sample size affect any poll or survey, of course, but it's safe to say this is a start and perhaps more outreach is necessary. Time will tell us more. At stake is the quality of future hunting experiences, something we all treasure. For each of the basic questions asked online, there are subsequent, more specific questions and considerations.

**Ethics:** Do cellular cams give hunters an unfair advantage? Should we have to hike-in and physically check our cameras? Or is that creating too much human disturbance? Are instant notifications to your couch or camp chair fair chase? Does the proliferation of cams create privacy issues, lessoning the hunting experience of others (being watched by cameras while



Western states are questioning the ethics in trail cam use. Oregon's Commission has raised the topic.



you hunt a wallow)? Are cams strictly a scouting tool or is leaving them up all season acceptable? Cams are often used to essentially "stake claims" on public land, keeping other hunters out of certain areas. If so, how early is too early to stake these claims? Theft has been an issue, which has led many to lock personal property to trees for many months. Unpleasant conflicts are occurring, as well. We don't need that.

How many cams per hunter are too many, and how would you enforce that?

**Conservation:** Are they really used on trails, as the name implies? The term "came-in" is common on social media trail cam images. Came in to what? It's nearly always to bait, which is legal for deer and elk, or to water. Some bait products are excellent for luring critters in front of cameras, particularly in the early season when they are growing antlers, but have predators learned to hunt these bait stations, also? Are we making it too easy for them? Biologists tell urban and rural residents not to feed deer, as disease potential increases. The same is true for bait stations in the woods. Does the disturbance associated with cams harass wildlife away from water sources?

With big game seasons in early August and late seasons running through March, there's no time in the year when there are no cams out. The cam craze is shared with nature lovers and landowners who use them for security/trespass issues. That's more cams on trees, stumps, and fence posts.

For me, less is more in terms of regulation. That's why I voted with the largest group to leave things as they are. I'd love to think we can hunt legally and ethically and be kind and considerate to one another in the field. If we don't manage ourselves and our resources, someone else will. Arizona and Utah have already banned cams for hunting big game. We may be in the hole soon if we fail to exercise common sense.

Mystery and wonder are what attracted many of us to hunting. Surely there's a place for that still. Who wants to hunt bucks or bulls with names? I'd rather be surprised. Ground shrinkage is part of the experience.

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# PRIVATE POULTRY

Everyone knows some of Oregon's best turkey hunting is on private land, but not everyone knows how to get there from here.

**By TROY RODAKOWSKI** 

took my first gobbler near a vineyard in western Oregon, and since then I have harvested several birds on or near agricultural lands across Oregon. It's no secret that a good share of Oregon's turkeys dwell on private land, but for many, the secret to finding private land access is still a secret.

Fortunately, Oregon hunters coveting turkeys taunting them from private land have a few options: get permission to hunt smaller parcels of private land, hunt larger private properties that are open to public access, or hunt public land where birds may roost adjacent to private holdings where they may feed.

#### **Access & Habitat Properties**

ODFW Access & Habitat Lands have provided 260,000 acres of access across the state. Portions of this land are great for accessing Oregon's growing turkey flocks. Hunting up private land opportunities through the A&H program is a great resource for hunters wherein maps and contact information may be obtained. Other options exist, as well, so start at https://myodfw.com/ articles/hunting-access-map. From here you can select Species, turn off everything and then click on turkey, and then go to the map for leads. You'll also find a link to A&H properties, or just visit https:// myodfw.com/articles/hunting-privatelands-access-habitat-program

Once on the A&H page, simply do a page search for turkey, and you'll jump to

properties that offer turkey hunting. Study up on the properties. Confirm the property is open during turkey season; some may not be open for all of the spring season, or they may only be open for fall turkey. Some properties list turkey as a "secondary" species to hunt, meaning you could get lucky, but it probably shouldn't be your Plan A for opening weekend unless you've done some scouting and have them dialed in.

Many of the A&H properties offering turkey hunting are private timberlands, and there are plenty of turkeys in the timber, but if you prefer to aim for the more open areas on and around farmland, you'll likely need to do a little more homework and leg work than just logging onto a website.

Oregon has several wildlife management units with good access to fringes of private ground. Some of these units will require research to locate the top spots, and taking a few minutes will help you plan a good hunt. Priority one is to find places that border good private land and extensively research the area to find and obtain access near them. Birds typically favor private areas because those properties offer something the public land does not. Often they'ye been

public land does not. Often they've been bumped or spooked repeatedly on public property and relocate to private ground, where they're likely not disturbed as much. Studies show, however, that they usually don't leave their season home ranges, so even harassed birds won't move all that far. Talking to the local ODFW biologists





The author's daughter accompanied him on this hunt, and she is now his favorite turkey hunting partner.

THE WHITNEY LAND COMPANY EST. 1970 will never hurt (these are the folks who field landowner complaints about turkeys, after all), and I have found that sometimes they have some good insight for hunters looking for new locations and expansion of flocks.

According to Mikal Cline, ODFW Game Bird Biologist, "We are seeing some range expansion in parts of the Columbia Basin and eastern Malheur County where Idaho birds are pioneering some new areas." ODFW conducts some trap and transplant operations, moving problem birds to more desirable locations, but these birds are only used to improve existing flocks.

According to several local landowners and turkey hunters, there are also growing flocks in the Upper Deschutes and locations around Bend, as well as the Hood River Valley. With below-average snow pack and a fairly mild winter, larger flocks have been congregating in the lowlands near the mountain ranges of northeast and central Oregon.

Biologists report some range expansion in southern Wasco and Wheeler counties, part of the Fremont National Forest north of Lakeview, and south of Ontario. No matter where you look, it is very likely that there are some new areas to check out this coming season.

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**OREGON HUNTER, March/April 2022** 

#### Scouting

Get out and scout, and knock on doors in advance of the season. Landowners are typically not nearly as protective of a flock of 70 turkeys pooping on their porch as they are their deer and quail. Now is prime time because flocks are still grouped up and have not yet broken up into breeding mode. Also, snowy landscapes make for

Remove the

fossilized

candy bar

you left in

vour vest.

great backdrops to spot turkeys from long distances. You might even see some early strutting and breeding activity as longer, warmer days approach. Gobbles will become more frequent in the mornings and throughout the day as birds become even more vocal. Sit and listen in and around areas you have seen

turkeys. They won't be far off by the time the season opens.

Find food sources, such as old oak stands with acorns, and open fields with seeds and plentiful insects. Creek bottoms with snails and amphibious life are also hot spots.

Listening at dusk for gobbles can make a huge difference for hunters willing to invest some extra time putting a bird to bed.

Late in the day, once fields, pastures

and small meadows have dried from the warm wind and sun, turkeys will be easier to coax across. Birds will venture into spots where forage has grown during the warm spring weather. These areas will hold a variety of insects, such as caterpillars, flies and beetles, as well as slugs, snails and many other tasty treats that turkeys can't resist. Birds will not venture too far

> from the security of the woods and the umbrella canopies of cool afternoon shade.

The top five units on the west side in Oregon have been the Melrose, Rogue, Willamette, Evans Creek and the Applegate. One unit to keep an eye on for this year will be the Siuslaw near Lorane, especially in the

southeast portions near the towns of Drain and Creswell. Also, the McKenzie, Alsea, Chetco and Keno units have seen increasing numbers of birds on private lands near the foothills.

Don't overlook areas near small towns such as Philomath, Scio, Wonder, John Day, Seneca, Long Creek and Unity: these communities have several ranches and farms that are surrounded by National Forest, BLM and other timber lands. Birds will

congregate in the lower elevations during winter and spread into the higher hills as the weather warms. Starting a bit higher in the mountains this year, especially in early April, is a good idea.

Locations near La Grande, Imbler, Elgin, Union, Cove, Wallowa, Sumpter and Flora all hold healthy flocks of birds. Catherine Creek, Sumpter, Walla Walla, Pine Creek, and Minam units all have seen decent harvests in recent years. Units that showed significant increases in harvest during the past few years were the Sled Springs, Chesnimnus, Keating and Starkey. **Preseason Prep** 

To make the most of your spring turkey hunt, take a little time after the layoff from your most recent hunts to go through your gear. Remove the fossilized candy bar you left in your vest, replenish the mosquito repellant and re-organize your pockets. Nothing is more frustrating than getting out there and opening your nearly empty bug juice as the biting insects and ticks take advantage of your complacency. Change the batteries in your head lamp. Take a good inventory of your shells and always take at least one shot on paper to reassure yourself of your pattern and boost your confidence in the field. (



**OREGON HUNTER, March/April 2022** 

## THERE'S NO FISHING LIKE BOW FISHING

There's no limit on Oregon carp - or the fun.

By GARY LEWIS

The author set up his daughter's Hoyt bow with a reel and an arrow. After a couple of practice shots Mikayla was ready to hunt, er, fish, whatever.

0

ver the last couple of springs and summers I made it a priority to go bowfishing several times and that goal found us

stalking the swamp with stick and string in Oregon, and all the way across the country, in Florida, in the Indian Lagoon. My kids got addicted to bowfishing, too, which is a good thing.

In May and early June, the carp in these parts - I live in central Oregon cruise into the shallows, their fins showing above the muddy water, and the carp even swim into the tall grass when the water is high. When we time it right, we can put on wading boots and string our bows.

We timed it right. The carp were up in the grass. It looked like we were walking through an uncut lawn, the grass knee high, the water shin deep and dorsal fins visible to a close inspection.

My daughter Tiffany (28), my daughter Mikayla (22) and several friends – Chris Lewis, Chase Lentenmaier and Brooke Murphy – took their bows and splashed in. My girls didn't need my help; they had played Hunter Dan's Bowfishing Survival Gauntlet video game for years.

They spread out and tiptoed through the tall grass and made their kills.

The carp, as big as 10 pounds or more,

when spooked, bulled through the rushes like bison.

And like ancient buffalo hunters, the kids took their quartering shots and missed and collected their arrows and shot again. If they thought the video game was good, this, the real thing, was great. Thirtysomething Chris Lewis, out of breath, with a carp on the arrow, turned to look at me and said, "This is the funnest thing I have ever done."

#### Yep. GET BOWFISHING

Our tackle consists of purpose-built bows with barbed and tethered arrows as well as elk hunting bows and recurves with aluminum arrows and judo points. We also hunt carp with spears, crossbows and arrow guns. Like any kind of fishing (or hunting) you can put a lot of money into the sport. But you don't have to. If an angler (or hunter) has a bow already and a dozen arrows, all it takes is a lake or a pond or a backwater with carp showing their backs above the water.

To get started bowfishing, it is easy, and cheap to add a reel to most modern recurves or compound bows. Sportsman's Warehouse offers fish arrows, fish points, reels and fishing lines. I recommend using a white arrow and fluorescent orange line for high visibility. To convert a bow for fishing, consider a roller rest (like the Cajun bowfishing arrow roller rest) and a reel like the AMS Bowfishing Retriever Pro or Cajun Winch Bowfishing reel.

For a dedicated bowfishing combo, take a look at the Western Edge Bowfishing package, the Muzzy Vice Bowfishing kit, Western Recreation Envoy 2, RPM Bowfishing Striker and the Cajun Bowfishing Sucker Punch.

#### WHERE AND WHEN

Carp may be found in rivers like the John Day, the Snake, the Willamette and the Columbia and are more likely to be located in backwaters or sloughs. Depending on the body of water, carp may be hunted year-round. There are no seasons or reasons to protect this invasive species, but in late May, through June and into August, carp may be in the shallows or at the top of the water column.

Some lakes and rivers are best hunted from a boat, but carp may also be found in creeks, canals and ponds where a careful tread can pay off with close up shots.

Last July, the carp were at the edge of the orchard grass. In the still evening, ripples in the brown water showed carp close to the surface. Here a back bulged, a fin broke through, and there, a fish shouldered through the tules. One of the tricks of shooting a fish in any depth of water is to compensate for refraction, I tried to remind my companions to hold low.

The sun was low and our shadows were long.

"Try not to spook the fish with your shadow," I said. Chris Lewis spotted a fish tailing in a shallow cove and I expected him to miss, but the arrow flashed away and the six-pound fish thrashed against the reel.



Chris Lewis fell in love with hunting carp.

It took me five decades, too long to get started bowhunting for carp.

I confess, as a fly fisherman, I have too long been a trout snob, and too long ignored the challenge posed by the big scaly goldfish nemesis.

And I may have stopped bowhunting

#### **BOWFISHING EAST**

In Florida, we fished the Indian River Lagoon, right there where the storm clouds build off the Atlantic above the ivory walls of the Kennedy Space Center.

Our final frontier was the shoreline of the Indian River Lagoon with Captain Josh Padrick, of Central Florida Trophy Hunts (gatorhuntingequipment.com).

Our ride for the late evening run was a 22-foot Tracker with a 150-hp Mercury. Up front, with a bank of batteries and a generator to power them, the way would be lit with huge halogens. A Minn Kota on the bow provided stealth propulsion.

Out of the wind, we slipped across to the Titusville side of the wide mouth of the Indian River, and soon the bottom of the bay came into focus. We were in two feet of water, with Captain Padrick leaning against one of the front seats, the remote control for the motor on a lanyard around his neck.

Mullet flashed one way and another, quicksilver streaks above the surface. From time to time, larger fish were seen at the edges of the light. We looked for big game, but I count carp in my hunting journal.

Listen to the Ballistic Chronicles podcast on Spotify, iTunes, Apple podcasts and more. To contact Gary Lewis, visit www. GaryLewisOutdoors.com

three types of fish – sheepshead, striped like zebras and about 12 inches or more – and flounders and rays. The flounders might go as big as four pounds, but the rays, as I well knew, could be large.

Larger targets are better.

One of the tricks of shooting a fish in any depth of water is to compensate for refraction. I shot two inches low and three inches low and almost every time I missed high. But I was missing close, usually within an inch of the inch-anda-half target area.

In the dark of the night, the halogens bathed the scene in an otherworldly glow of greens and gold. My white shirt was green, my pants were green and as a bowfisherman, I was green. Then there was a ray in the sandy bottom. And I was golden.

I loosed the arrow. The arrow plowed away with the ray, the fluorescent orange line marking its headlong flight.

Holding the clutch of the reel against the bow, I brought the creature back.

We took more rays till I had accounted for three rays and missed twice that many sheepshead. —*GARY LEWIS* 

# MY SIDE OF THE OUNTAIN

Nothing replaces our special places.

Story & Photos By Scott Haugen



e all have that special place in Oregon. That place that, when we close our eyes, we're there. That place where the sights and sounds never leave our mind. That place we know that, no matter when we go there, or what we'll see, things will

Maybe your special place is the dense coastal rainforest surrounding Tillamook Bay, where Roosevelt elk lurk. Perhaps it's the wide open spaces surrounding our stunning Steens Mountain. Or it could be Summer Lake, where so many of us grew up hunting amid the deafening sounds of geese and gun fire the moment the red light went out.

Many of us have multiple places in Oregon we hold dear to our heart, and rightly so, given the vast range of habitats that span our great state. For some of us, driving to remote corners to escape traffic and city life is the best therapy there is. For others, our





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That's me. My special place is right out my office window, where the hills climb into the sky, and where I can't begin to count the miles my boots have logged here in my lifetime. The Cascade foothills surrounding Walterville is where I grew up hunting and trapping. I've also spent a lot of time fishing the McKenzie River that winds its way around the base of these hills.

As a kid I never thought I'd one day live in my happiest place in the state. Over the years I've traveled the world to dozens of countries and have found there's no place like home. Tiffany and I have lived in Alaska and in Sumatra, Indonesia, but knew that each time, we'd return to Oregon.

Walterville is where we raised our two sons. It's where my parents and Tiffany's parents live. Tiffany's side of the family was among the first to settle here. Her relatives, the Millicans, have a long history in Oregon. George Millican settled along the McKenzie River in 1862. In 1868, he located a ranch 27 miles southeast of Bend at what is now the present day sight of Millican, in the Millican Valley. Walter



The author took this blacktail in the foothills of the McKenzie River Valley – his favorite big game animal to hunt in his favorite area.

Millican, George's son, was born in 1870, and the little town of about 1,000 people Tiffany and I call home, Walterville, was named after him.

I spend a lot of time in the hills sur-

rounding the McKenzie River Valley, near Walterville. When I was a kid, there were no elk or wild turkeys or band-tailed pigeons here. Today they're plentiful. Blacktails are doing well, though not as well as they used to. The forest fires that swept through the hills in 2020 seem to have driven many of the mature bucks away. I hope they come back.

Cougars take their share of blacktails, I'm sure, which could be another reason deer numbers here are thinning. I run trail cameras year-round in the hills on both sides of the McKenzie River. The number of cougars I catch – and many very near people's homes – is eye-opening. Livestock, cats, even dogs routinely fall victim to cougars, more now than what I remember as a kid.

The ridge on which I spend most of my time runs roughly three miles long and a mile wide. It's a mix of oak trees and maples in the low elevations, giving way to solid stands of Douglas fir as you climb. In these hills I've seen some of the biggest blacktails of my life, and while I've taken some nice bucks from it, the monster bucks have eluded me.

As a kid I dreamed of one day hunting



On the very trails people walk by day, cougars, coyotes, gray fox and bobcats travel at night. Trail cameras don't lie.

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turkeys somewhere in the country. When Oregon's first turkey season opened, Dad and I each drew tags and filled them near Glide. I was hooked. "How cool would it be to one day have turkeys near where I lived so I could hear them gobble in the spring, watch them strut, and maybe even hunt them?" I often thought to myself. I was willing to move to the North Umpqua area to make this dream reality. Then, one day, they showed up in the McKenzie River Valley. Now they are plentiful, and while hunting them is far from a slam dunk, I do pursue them in the fall and spring seasons. While I love calling toms in the spring, hunting them with my dogs in the fall is my favorite.

There are other upland birds to hunt here, too. When we first built our house in the former sheep pasture near Walterville, ringneck pheasants were plentiful. It's been years since I've seen or even heard a rooster. But valley quail are thicker than



OHA LADD MARSH MEMORIAL OVERLOOK/JIM WARD

ever. When I was in junior high school, scraping up a quail was saying something. Today, seeing multiple flocks are the norm. Securing a limit of these tasty birds, with my dogs, isn't difficult.

Mountain quail are also present here. During winters with high snowfall in the hills, I've seen family coveys on the valley floor. But it's the spring mating calls of the male mountain quail that captures my attention. I love hearing and watching these gems of the forest.

Western gray squirrels also abound on the ridge, something I recall rarely seeing as a kid. The later in the hunting season, the better for these bushy tailed tree dwellers, and oh, how my dogs love tracking, treeing and retrieving these furry creatures; they're great eating, too.

The waterfowl hunting is as good as it ever was. Cacklers are now common in the valley, something we never had 40 years ago. They'd pass through on their journey south, and I'd race to hunt them in the Klamath Basin, but now they winter here, usually a couple thousand of them.

My boyhood friends and I used to hunt ducks on Walterville Reservoir, as did my



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Scott and Tiffany Haugen's roots run much deeper than those of turkeys in the McKenzie River Valley.

dad and my father-in-law when they were boys; that's been closed for years. A few years ago the reservoir was drained. Now it only holds rainwater in the winter and is very overgrown with willows and cottonwoods. Elk live in the lake bed year-round. Waterfowl thrive in the wetlands in the fall and winter months.

Today, Covid has greatly impacted activity around the reservoir. Each day recreational traffic is high around the wetlands – so high that I avoid taking my dogs on walks and training sessions there. It's great that people get to see a brief glimpse into what makes this little slice of Oregon so special, though.

But what they don't know is how close they are to some of the best wildlife action in western Oregon. Up in the hills, deer, elk, bears and turkeys abound. On the very trails people walk by day, cougars, coyotes, gray fox, bobcats and skunks travel at night. I know this, because trail cameras don't lie. In the nearby Walterville canal, otter, nutria and muskrat are common.

For me, these hills in the McKenzie River Valley are my escape, my happy place. It's where I photograph some of Oregon's most coveted animals and share them with the rest of the world. The wildlife I've captured in this paradise have appeared in hundreds of magazine articles over the decades. I like sharing what we're so blessed to have, so close to home.

This stretch of hills is where I train my dogs and go on walks with Tiffany. It offers relief and therapy. It's my favorite place on earth, and I'm fortunate to call my side of the mountain my home.

For signed copies of Scott Haugen's hunting books, visit www.scotthaugen.com.







**The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's** Access & Habitat program is raffling off 12 exclusive tags with statewide & regional hunts, the use of any legal weapon, & extended season dates.

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Go to www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW or scan this QR code to view the livestream raffle.

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## Anyone who says the toughest part of sheep hunting is drawing a tag has never drawn one.

**BY ZACH MANSFIELD** 

**OREGON HUNTER, March/April 2022** 



olding a sheep tag in your pocket is nothing more than a dream for most Oregon hunters. A small percentage of us will ever

actually get to hunt them, and many turn into "helpers" just to be able to share in the experience.

Hunting in the canyon country of eastern Oregon is surreal, and the sheer mass of the landscape is inspiring. There are views throughout the West that make you take a step back and admire the amazing natural beauty we get to live in. There are also views that strike you to your core and make you a truly humble man. This place is both of those. When you marry the rare experience of a ram tag with the formidable country like this, then you have the recipe for an unforgettable hunt.

If you're lucky enough to draw one of these once-in-a-lifetime tags, it won't be because you've cashed in your preference points. All sheep and goat tags are completely random with approximately 100 tags drawn across the state every year. Goat hunters are required to take an orientation class, while it is highly recommended for sheep hunters to take one, as well. As with all other hunts across the state, there are guidelines and boundaries to fall within while hunting. Ensure you have good knowledge of the unit, regulations and the animal that you are pursuing. You can't simply hold a once-in-alifetime tag and hope to stumble into sheep. Hours of studying maps, boots on the ground, glassing and hiking are required to ensure you are successful at the end of a hunt of this magnitude.

Perched atop a steep knife ridge, we found a band of rams. Was it the same band that Cory had spent countless hours watching all summer? Did they move deeper into an untamed piece of land with the weeks thunderstorms? A few tense moments behind spotting scopes passed before suddenly he appeared. His dark horns and mass were unmistakable.

A plan was made, packs were loaded and we ventured deep into no-man's land.

Cory Miller of Wallowa County tagged this hardearned Hells Canyon bighorn just an hour from his home. The descent into the canyon and a wellplanned stalk put us within 500 yards of the ram's last known location. The relentless sun, jagged rocks, and pressure of this situation was evident on everyone's face. In an effort to ensure a successful hunt, Cory departed from the group to close the distance by a few hundred yards.

As the afternoon wore on, so did the group; the canyon air was devoid of any hint of autumn. Hot, dry September heat is what Mother Nature served that day, and she served it well. As Cory settled into his perch, we all waited. Today would either end with Cory notching his once-in-alifetime tag or with darkness. Those were the only options.

With sweat dripping from our brow and rocks embedded into our skin, we all witnessed something we'll never forget. The ram Cory had watched all summer, like the king of the canyon he was, he stepped out from his secluded bed to survey his domain. As proud and as distinguished as I've seen any big game animal to this day, he looked over the massive complex of canyon rims and valleys as if he owned it all and would call it home forever.

Fate would have other plans for him, though.

Cory settled in heavy over his pack, applied steady pressure to the trigger of his trusty 7mm STW, and the bullet broke from the barrel, shattering the silence we had all been so diligent in keeping all day. Before the report could clear the hot, thick, dry, canyon air, the ram was down.

The pressure that was lifted from the group was immense smiles, handshakes and congratulatory high fives were passed all around. The descent to the ram reminded me more of a triple black diamond ski run than a stroll through the hills. Cory harvested the trophy of a thousand lifetimes, and it's a special memory to all who got to share it with him.

These canyons don't part ways with their prized possessions easily. The pack out was a treacherous and brutal affair that was nothing short of miserable. Blisters, dehydration and sore backs were all part of the game. Amid smiles and a touch of sarcasm about how bad of shape we were all in, the ram left those canyons on the back of a very proud Oregon hunter. Over time we have all healed from those aches and pains, but time will never diminish the magnitude and the memories.



Cory and hunting company make the initial descent into sheep country.



Glassing from afar ensures crossing a canyon is worth the effort and the pack out.



A moment that few will ever savor - a world-class ram, killed in world-class country.



Cory poses with the ram of 1,000 lifetimes.

Heavy packs make for sore backs.

Sheep horns are solid and heavy like they're made of stone. It's a beastly burden, but one that everyone who applies for bighorn tags hopes to feel.

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#### HERD BULL PACKAGE \$2,500

• For the Bull: 1 Henry Big Boy 44 Mag. & 1 Trophy package

• For the Herd: 6 Stag packages (upgrade to 6 Lone Wolves for

\$1,200 more) • Table sign, special recognition & extra goodies

#### **BENEFACTOR PACKAGE \$1,500\***

• 1 Henry Big Boy 44 Mag. & 1 Trophy package • Special recognition & extra goodies

#### TROPHY PACKAGE \$350\*

• 1 in 10 wins a 9mm 3" Springfield HellCat! (\$587)

- 2 Dinners & 6 Drink Tickets
- 8 Party Starter Raffle Tickets
   8 Special Raffle Tickets
  - 72 General Raffle Tickets
    - 8 Early Bird Tickets\*\*
  - 2 Commemorative Gifts

#### LONE WOLF PACKAGE \$275\* (1-PERSON TROPHY PACKAGE]

- 1 in 10 wins a 9mm 3" Springfield HellCat! (\$587)
- 1 Dinner & 3 Drink Tickets
  - 8 Party Starter Tickets
  - 8 Special Raffle Tickets
  - 72 General Raffle Tickets
  - 8 Early Bird Tickets\*\*
  - 1 Commemorative Gift

#### **DELUXE PACKAGE \$250\***

- 2 Dinners & 2 Drink Tickets
- 2 Party Starter Raffle Tickets
  - 24 General Raffle Tickets
  - 2 Early Bird Tickets\*\*
  - 2 Commemorative Gifts

#### STAG PACKAGE \$125\*

- 1 Dinner & 1 Drink Ticket
- 1 Party Starter Raffle Ticket
- 12 General Raffle Tickets
  - 1 Early Bird Ticket\*\*
- 1 Commemorative Gift

#### \* OHA member prices. Nonmembers add \$35 for 1-year OHA membership.

#### \*\* Early Bird tickets must be ordered by April 14, 2022.

Party Starter: 2 guns (\$599 & \$349). Max 1,900 tickets. Special: Rifle (\$960); Knife (\$40). Max 1,760 tickets. General: 45 items (>\$7,000 total). Max 24,000 tickets. Early Bird: Rifle (\$469); Knife (\$40). Max 1,900 tickets.

### TACTACAM TRAIL CAM CONTEST

See rules and enter your best shots at *oregonhunters.org* for a chance to win a great Tactacam prize!



#### **HONORABLE MENTION:**



OHA member Karl Swanson of Tigard earns an OHA hat for this profile photo of an elk in Grant County.

the state of the



OHA member Ryan Gertken of Port Orford earns an OHA hat for this photo of a bashful black bear in the Sixes Unit.



OHA member Preston Prentice of Aloha gets an OHA hat for this shot of a cougars on the prowl in the Hood Unit.



Mike Slinkard, OHA member in John Day, bags an OHA hat for this Grant County cougar/turkey encounter.

WINNER: OHA member Jeremi Johnson of Eugene wins a Tactacam Reveal Trail Camera for this photo of a Metolius Unit bull elk in velvet.



TACTACAM

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### YOUNG GUNS BY JASON HALEY

### Tucker's Tom

*In spring, a young man's fancies turn to thoughts of turkeys* 

hobbled into the open following wing beats and saw Tucker's foot on its neck. Tucker's dad, Vince, joined us from his hiding spot, grinning. First turkey!

He told me it was his most intense hunt. We forgot about his repaired elbow on the pack-out, but he never complained. Watching him shake his head in awe made the hunt. You'd have to know Tucker. He doesn't rattle. He's a hunting junkie with considerable experience for 17 and successful in competitive archery, powerlifting and football. But thunder chickens? That's entirely different. Funny: the ordeal could've been less nerve wracking if he wasn't such a great listener.

Things started poorly. I was worried. They traveled from Washington. We left at half-light, and I expected gobbles. It was silent. I stopped to point-out a roost knob. A bird shock-gobbled as I extended my arm. Bad move. We were fully visible.

We curled around to work him anyway. No answer. We left on a hunch to find cooperative birds. We got an answer later in a brushy draw. The terrain looked perfect, so we tried him. He answered, but walked away, each time further. I'd seen that movie before.

We walked another half-mile up to a rocky tabletop and heard three gobblers in the distance. One was the bird we'd just worked. He wouldn't hush, but the vibe was wrong, a scared jake. I tried the others. Answers were delayed. I didn't like it. Not hot enough to move far. The vocal jake continued, but we left them all, to the dismay of my guests. I remembered that feeling as a kid.

Vince and I grew up hunting together, but usually failed without our dads. I've wasted considerable time chasing turkeys since then.

Back down and up another hill we went, a mile north, walking and calling.



Already a hunting junkie at 17, Tucker said taking his first turkey was his most intense hunt.

It was 11 a.m. and warm. We called into five drainages without luck, then placed a decoy and fell back, trying again. We sat until all our legs went numb. Vince fell asleep and Tucker fell. We laughed. I planned to return and try those retreads before quitting.

I wasn't feeling it and wouldn't bail off our ridge without hope. They talked me into it. Halfway down, the boys heard something. I shook my head. They stopped again and exchanged nods. I wasn't convinced, so we moved closer. A stroke from my box call and there he was, too close for comfort! Our calls from the ridgetop had started him up.

We hustled to a draw where he was. I motioned for Vince to drop back, and scanned for large trees to put Tuck, settling for a tiny oak. We needed the decoy, but it was tight. We were dangerously close and had to get down. I laid it on the ground off Tuck's left shoulder and hustled back. Without trees, I dropped on my side and made a soft locate yelp. He blew instantly, but to Tucker's right. "He's gonna make him shift," I thought.

He gobbled without provocation. The direction was better. Silence followed until, "whoomp!" He was drumming, closer. I hoped Tuck knew what he was hearing. I'd coached him on being still and raising his gun. I could see Tuck, but not the strutter. His gun was down, head cocked left toward our decoy. "Whoomp!" They sound like a car door slamming sometimes. He hushed and seemed to walk away. "No!" Spitting and drumming continued, and his line changed to perfect. He was looking at our decoy. "Too far?" I wondered. "That's as close as he'll get." It continued. I saw Tuck's neck turn, slightly. "He's looking at him. Why won't he raise?" We were pushing our luck.

I told him not to shoot one in full strut. There's always an opportunity. Not this tom. He was in display mode but getting suspicious. I heard dry leaves crunch. I hadn't called in 15 minutes, but his red head stretched over a black rock and pinned me, peeking and peering. I was flat, eyeballs straining. We were toast, but Tucker hadn't moved.

Typically, this bird leaves. Instead, Tucker's tom returned to the decoy and locked. Our new turkey hunter was done waiting. He raised slowly, but deliberately and held. Something was wrong. Too long! I touched the call and the bird thundered immediately and so did Tucker's Browning. He remembered to step on his neck to keep him from flopping away.

# WANTED: HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS



#### Remember the thrill of your first hunt? Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?

#### **ODFW's Hunter Education Program NEEDS you!**

The hunter education program involves passing on the hunting tradition to future generations in a safe, fun, and responsible manner.

- Firearm and hunter safety
- Wildlife management and conservation
- Hunter ethics and responsibilities
   Outdoor safety
- Wildlife management an
   Outdoor safety

Hunter education instructors are individuals 21 and older who have a passion for hunting. You do not need to be an expert hunter to teach this course; a strong interest in introducing young people and adults to the sport is what is required.

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

Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

ODFW Hunter Education Program 503-947-6028 www.dfw.state.or.us



### GAME ON THE GRILL By TIFFANY HAUGEN

### **Gobble up Corned Turkey**

hile March celebrations traditionally bring corned beef to mind, corning wild game of any kind is a wonderful addition to the table, year-round. Corned venison and corned waterfowl may be recipes you've tried, and if you haven't, you should.

This spring, try corning that wild turkey and you will not be disappointed. Corning game not only adds to the flavor and textures of meat, it offers a break from making any cooking decisions for 3-10 days.

Due to the preservatives in Tender Quick or a pink salt cure, meat can brine for an extended period of time. This means you can cook up a bit of your quarry, toss some in the brine for the following week and freeze the rest. Use the breasts or the legs, wings and thighs for this recipe.

2 wild turkey breasts or the legs, wings and thighs from 1 turkey

- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 6 cups ice-cold water
- 3 tablespoons Morton Tender Quick
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons pickling spices
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon granulated onion
- 1 tablespoon black pepper

In a large brining container, mix dry ingredients with boiling water and stir to dissolve. Add ice-cold water and stir well. Add either 2 turkey breasts or the wings, legs and thighs of 1 turkey to the brine. Be sure all meat is submerged in the brine. Refriger-ate 3-10 days.

Corned turkey breast can be smoked, grilled, sliced and pan fried, pressure cooked (high pressure 30 minutes) or slow cooked (3-5 hours or until tender). Wild turkey wings, legs and thighs should be pressure cooked (high pressure 50 minutes) or slow cooked (5-6 hours) until meat can be removed from bones easily.



*Corning game adds to the flavor and textures of meat, and it buys you several days to make cooking decisions.* 



If you haven't tried corned venison and waterfowl, you're missing out.

Shred or slice Corned Wild Turkey and serve in a traditional Reuben sandwich, fry into hash or serve beside eggs any style for breakfast.

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



**OREGON HUNTER, March/April 2022** 



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### Trap workgroup ends without recommendations

#### Issue is not going away

### By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

In response to discussion of current trap check intervals by some ODFW commissioners, a workgroup was formed to address concerns of those commissioners and protectionist groups. Since the onset in June 2020, OHA and partners were frustrated with the composition of the workgroup in that it seemed to be slanted toward an anti-trapping agenda and led by a former commissioner with obvious anti-trapping bias.

The workgroup met nine times, and each contentious meeting was minimally productive from the OHA perspective, and likely the same from the protectionist point of view. Ultimately, the group could not come to consensus on any interval, so the result is no recommendation from the workgroup and current intervals remain the same for now.

We have not seen the end of this issue; protectionist groups will continue to push for reduced intervals despite trappers' concerns that shorter intervals equate to reduced opportunity, success, and efficiency.

OHA supports 48-hour recreational trapping intervals of furbearers, unprotected mammals, and predatory animals.

#### **Trap Check Requirements**

• All traps or snares set or used for the taking of furbearing or unprotected mammals shall be inspected at least every 48 hours and all trapped animals removed.

• Any person setting a trap for predatory animals, as defined in ORS 610.002, must check the trap as follows:

1. For killing traps and snares, at least once every 30 days and remove all animals;

2. For restraining traps and snares, at

least once every 76 hours and remove all animals.

3. For restraining traps and snares set by a person owning, leasing, occupying, possessing or having charge of or dominion over any land, building, structure, wharf, pier or dock or their agent, and set for predatory animals damaging land, livestock or agricultural or forest crops, shall be checked at least once every seven (7) days.

### OHA helps coalition secure funds for I-5 crossing study

### By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

The Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition (SOWCC), of which OHA is a member, has likely garnered the needed contributions to fund a \$125,000 feasibility study for a sorely needed wildlife crossing structure on I-5 south of Ashland. Feasibility studies are the first major step in implementing wildlife underpasses and overpasses, and this group has acquired the needed funding in short order.

SOWCC has recently received OWEB staff's recommendation for full funding of its OWEB Technical Assistance grant of \$52,000. If the OWEB Board follows staff recommendations and votes to approve at its April meeting, this puts the group at 99 percent of the \$125,000 goal for a feasibility study.

SOWCC also received a \$20,000 grant from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, while other contributions (including Rogue Valley OHA, who has pledged \$5,000) have helped fill the needed funding gap.

The coalition includes representatives from OHA, ODOT, ODFW, BLM, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Southern Oregon University, and several local groups interested in natural resources and outdoor recreation.

### OHA will restore Interstate Unit wildlife habitat

### By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

State OHA is leading a new project to restore mule deer habitat recently impacted by wildfires in the Interstate Unit. Over a half-million acres burned in this unit in 2021, including the colossal Bootleg Fire of more than 400,000 acres. As a result, mule deer and other wildlife are in need of habitat restoration.

Extensive acreage of two key plant species, antelope bitterbrush and mountain big sagebrush, burned in these fires. Though they are a vital component of these ecosystems, these plants are tremendously slow to regenerate naturally. However, planting and caging seedlings will considerably expedite their reestablishment.

This project is set to provide Adults in Custody at Warner Creek Correctional Facility sagebrush and bitterbrush seed in Winter 2022, and those seeds will be cleaned and sowed in spring 2022. In late fall 2022, a strong force of volunteers and OHA staff will plant and cage seedlings into previously burned areas for the benefit of wildlife. In 2022, we will plant a minimum combined total of 14,000 sagebrush and bitterbrush plugs in critical mule deer winter range identified by local wildlife biologists.

If all goes according to plan, we will duplicate our restoration effort and output in 2023 within fire perimeters.

State OHA and OHA's Klamath and Lake County chapters each contributed \$3,000 to the project. OHA conservation staff secured grant funding from project partners as follows:

### Conservation & Recreation Fund\$23,000Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation\$10,000OHA\$9,000

Pending - Mule Deer Foundation \$5,000

Funds used for this project will benefit the Warner Creek Correctional Facility's Sagebrush and Prisons Program to ensure its longevity and increase its capacity to assist in habitat restoration projects in Oregon.

### **OHA STATE-LEVEL SPONSORSHIPS**

Please support the sponsors who support OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage. For information about OHA state-level sponsorship opportunities, call the OHA State Office at (541) 772-7313.

#### PLATINUM

Coastal Farm & Ranch coastalfarm.com

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#### SILVER

Gerber gerbergear.com

#### BRONZE

Cascade Lakes Brewing cascadelakes.com

> KUIU kuiu.com

GrovTec grovtec.com

Cabela's cabelas.com

Coast coastportland.com

Pronto Print gopronto.com

### OHA salutes winners of 21-Gun Salute Raffle

OHA ended 2021 with a bang as officers and staff drew the winners of the 21 firearm prizes in the 21-Gun Salute Raffle on Dec. 30 at the OHA Office.

We congratulate the winners and thank everyone who entered for supporting OHA's mission.

#### 21-Gun Salute Raffle Winners:



Howa Flag Chassis – Aaron Seth, Keizer Tikka Super Lite - Marshall Rasor, Central Point Howa 1500 KUIU 7mm – Austin Bersin, Stayton Henry Big Boy 44 mag. – Doug LaTulip, Grants Pass Tristar Viper 12 ga. – Debra Mode, Lebanon Pointer O/U – Zachary Dahl, Siletz Citadel 1911 – John Rutkowski, Canyonville Browning Hells Canyon – James Patrick, Newport Pointer O/U – Kris Davis, Baker City Howa Flag 22-250 – Mark Webb, Grants Pass Howa KUIU 300 Win. – Dale Ballard, Troutdale Tristar Viper 12 ga. - Dennis Myers, Springfield Henry Big Boy 44 mag. – James Patrick, Newport Citadel 1911 – John Ware, Grants Pass Browning Hells Canyon – Nick Alfonso, Vancouver Henry Big Boy 44 mag. - Austin Bersin, Stayton Howa Flag BW 6.5 CR – Dale Hillyer, Salem Tikka Super Lite – Herbert Frazier, Springfield Howa KUIU 270 – Joe Danielson, Grass Valley Pointer O/U – Ken Hardwick, Independence Citadel 1911 – Leonard Levy, Winston

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# CHAPTER NEWS

### Check out an OHA banquet near you soon!

#### BAKER

Charlie Brinton (541) 403-0402

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

**2022 fundraiser:** April 2. If you ordered ticket to the 2000 banquet and didn't get a refund, your order will be honored for the 2022 banquet.

**Update:** 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

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

**2022 fundraiser:** March 12 at the Riverhouse. Contact John Bambe if you have reserved 2020 or 2021 tickets to use this year.

**Update:** Possible formation of a coalition to look into solar farms that are continuing to be developed and their detrimental impact on wildlife; please let a board member know if you are interested. The Project Coordinator position is open. Contact Eric Brown if you are interested in filling this position.

#### **BLUE MOUNTAIN**

Dean Groshong (541) 377-1227

(541) 577-1227

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:** Our chapter is looking for volunteers to help with our annual banquet. Please come to the next meeting to help us plan.



OHA Bend Chapter members recently repaired the fence that funnels wildlife through the Lava Butte undercrossing after trees fell on the fence. For a Highway 97 crossings update, see Page 48.

#### CAPITOL Erik Colville (503) 851-8409 ohacapitol.webs.com

**Chapter Meetings:** 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 4090 Cherry Ave, in Keizer. The Eagles have a full bar and menu food service available to us during our meetings, so feel free to grab a beverage or a sandwich to enjoy during the meeting.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 2, Columbia Hall, Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center. **Update:** Chapter is looking for volunteers to help plan the Blacktail Classic banquet in April. Also looking for hospitality minded people to help spice-up the local meetings.

#### CHETCO

David Green

(541) 207-4866

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

#### CLATSOP COUNTY

Troy Laws 503-738-6962

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

**2022 fundraiser:** Our 2022 fund-raiser will be held online; call 503-738-6962

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY Jordan Hicks

(949) 533-7271

**Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m., location listed in the newsletter

**2022 fundraiser:** May 14, Columbia County Fairgrounds; call 949-533-7271 **Update:** Chapter members volunteered at a cleanup project on Sauvie Island. Our chapter is pledging an additional \$500 per animal to TIP rewards in two Columbia County elk poaching cases.

#### EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager (541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

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

**2022 fundraiser:** March 5, The Graduate Hotel, Eugene; 541-729-5220.

**Update:** We raffled off two rifles to raise funds: the winner of the Christensen Arms rifle donated by Coastal was drawn at our meeting on Dec. 8, and the General Raffle .30-06 Mossberg winner was drawn at the Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show Feb. 6.

#### HOODVIEW

Kelly Parkman (503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA **Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Portland Gun Club

**2022 fundraiser:** Feb. 19 at the Monarch Inn, Clackamas; ohahoodview2019@ gmail.com

**Update:** Our March meeting will be raffling a Savage .22 Rifle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

#### JOSEPHINE COUNTY

#### Cliff Peery

(541) 761-3200

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

**2022 fundraiser:** March 19, Josephine County Fairgrounds; 541-821-1511.

Update: We currently have scholarship op-

portunities. Encourage seniors and college students to apply.

KLAMATH Allan Wiard (541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

**2022 fundraiser:** April 30, Klamath County Fairgrounds; 541-882-9593.

**Update:** Squeak Package Raffle tickets are available. Drawing will be held at the Klamath banquet April 30. Contact us if you are interested in helping repair local guzzlers.

#### LAKE COUNTY

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

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., Dinner Bell Cafe, Lakeview.
2022 fundraiser: April 2, Lake County Fairgrounds; call 541-417-2983

**Update:** Our last guzzler project for 2021 took place Oct. 30.

#### 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:** We had a Christmas party Dec. 2 at the Boulevard Grange.

#### MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage (541) 296-1022

**Quarterly Chapter Meetings:** 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles. **Update:** At our Feb. 17 meeting, we had an

ODFW presentation on the use of camera traps in local district surveys.

#### 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, Boys & Girls Club, Albany; 541-971-3351.

**Update:** January chapter meeting had Greg Reed, ODFW District Wildlife Biologist for South Willamette Watershed. He discussed recent deer/elk surveys and changes to regulations.



All OHA banquets feature top quality gear from donors such as Benchmade, Work Sharp, Gerber and Coastal Farm & Ranch. For updates to the schedule, see oregonhunters.org/events

#### осносо

#### John Dehler, III (541) 815-5817

**Chapter Meetings:** 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Crook County Library. **Updates:** The next Hunter Education Class

in Crook County will be in April of 2022. **PIONEER** 

#### Brian Andrews (503) 266-2900

#### oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

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

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

**Update:** District Wildlife Biologist Kurt Licence was our guest speaker at the March Meeting. Bring your coyote ears to the next meeting to receive 1 ticket for each pair of ears.

#### REDMOND

**K. C. Thrasher** (541) 419-7215 OHA line (541) 383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

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

**2022 fundraiser:** Feb. 26, 541-233-3740 **Update:** The Redmond OHA Chapter Scholarship Raffle winners Tom Hilty, Debbie Baldwin, John Crafton, Rich Simpson, Dustin Hewitt and Scott Bergum. Annual Bridge Creek/Priest Holehabitat project date is April 22-23. Come lend a hand.

#### 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. **2022 fundraiser:** March 19

**Update:** We have many events planned from the spring Youth Turkey Clinic, Young Oregon Hunter's Day and our RV OHA pheasant hunt at Denman Wildlife Area.

#### TILLAMOOK John Putman

(503) 842-7733

**Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook PUD. **2022 fundraiser:** May 7, Tillamook Fairgrounds; 503-842-7153.

#### 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.

#### TUALATIN VALLEY

Tony Kind (503) 290-6143

oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter **Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

**2022 fundraiser:** March 26, Washington County Fairgrounds, 503-502-0611 **Update:** We had a booth at the PNW Sportsmen's show Feb 16-20.

#### **ÚMPQUA**

Tadd Moore

#### (541) 580-5660

**Chapter Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza.

**2022 fundraiser:** April 9, Seven Feathers Hotel & Casino Resort; 541-430-7324. **Update:** Our guest speaker was Nick Leonetti, who presented a slide show about

#### the Indigo Wolf Pack. UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

#### **Morgan Olson**

#### (541) 786-1283

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

**2022 fundraiser:** will be online again this year. Details to come.

#### YAMHILL COUNTY

Andy Bodeen (503) 490-2489

#### ohayamhill.com

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

**2022 fundraiser:** March 19 at Yamhill County Fairgrounds, 503-737-9483



### Crossing Paths for Wildlife

*Gilchrist wildlife passage project creates enduring partnerships and conservation leadership* 

s the new wildlife underpass project on Highway 97 at Gilchrist nears completion, OHA chapters can take pride in the fact that they have helped raise both funds and awareness for safe migration in Oregon.

But the project's approaching conclusion is just a beginning.

OHA leaders have been working on wildlife safe passage projects on Oregon's highways since 2017. At OHA's 2018 annual Chapter Leadership Summit that featured a theme of habitat, wildlife, and partnership connectivity, speakers Suzanne Lindford, director of Protect Animal Migration, and Cidney Bowman, Wildlife Passage Coordinator for ODOT, focused on the need for safe wildlife passage specific to Highway 97 by sharing information on wildlife/vehicle collisions, the success at the Lava Butte wildlife crossing project (85 percent reduction in deer mortality) and the impact that wildlife/vehicle collisions have on our deer and human lives.

Their presentations described the requirement of fencing to funnel deer to the wildlife crossings and the fact ODOT was installing an underpass at Gilchrist and not funding the required fencing necessary for effective wildlife passage.

That fencing project cost was estimated at \$1 million. Presentations by OHA member Monty Gregg of the Deschutes National Forest and Tim Greseth of Oregon Wildlife Foundation sparked conversations about raising funds to build that fence.

OHA's Yamhill County Chapter challenged all other OHA chapters to pledge funds for the Gilchrist fencing project. Chapter pledges totaled \$118,500, and a \$10,000 grant from Oregon Conservation



OHA has invested \$118,500 in the new Hwy 97 wildlife crossing project fencing near Gilchrist and helped secure much more, while widening the scope of needed crossing projects statewide.

OHA Contribution Hwy 97 Crossing F	ns to Gilchrist encing Project
Yamhill County	\$20,000
Rogue Valley	\$20,000
Mid-Willamette	\$10,000
Bend	\$10,000
Josephine County	\$7,500
Clatsop County	\$5,000
Pioneer	\$5,000
Umpqua	\$5,000
Tualatin Valley	\$5,000
Emerald Valley	\$5,000
Klamath	\$5,000
Capitol	\$5,000
Tillamook	\$1,000
OHA State Grant	\$15,000
OCRF Grant by OHA	\$10,000
Grand Total	\$128,500

and Recreation Fund brought the OHA donation to \$128,500. OHA played a key role in the efforts to bring in additional partners from hunter conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, and wildlife advocates. A coalition of 18 organizations was developed and a total of \$870,000 has been raised by this group to date.

So where are we with the Gilchrist fencing project? The underpass construction was completed by ODOT in summer 2020. Three of the five miles of fencing on each side of the highway were constructed by fall 2021 with the expectation that the 5 miles of fencing would be completed in 2022. The project timeline is nearly two years behind schedule due to a long list of hurdles including weather, rapidly increasing costs of materials, contract delays and other challenges, including COVID. The wildlife migration barrier presented by Highway 97 is just one of many statewide safe passage locations needing improvement. OHA has worked continuously over the past few years becoming a leader and partner in these landscape-level efforts to improve habitat and provide wildlife passage and has expanded our reach in this critical work.

The Gilchrist fencing project demonstrates OHA's ability to effectively support and implement wildlife habitat actions statewide.

The funding acquisition for the Gilchrist regional project was a template that we duplicated in the recent Minam property acquisition wherein OHA chapters combined to contribute \$100,000 to help RMEF purchase thousands of acres of ungulate winter range in northeast Oregon.

OHA's localized chapter structure, position of influence with wildlife agencies, legislators, private landowners and public land managers puts us in a position to continue wildlife passage projects. OHA is deeply involved in migratory habitat connectivity through membership in the Oregon Action Team on Ungulate Migration, which provides leadership in identifying wildlife passage projects and funding acquisition.

It is important to note raising funds like those needed to fence the Gilchrist undercrossing is not a sustainable model. Larger funding sources will be required for the multimillion-dollar wildlife passage projects identified statewide.

Oregon is far behind other western states in these efforts, but we are now in a position to be much more proactive and effective than we were in 2017.

### OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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OREGON HUNTERS

GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR

OCIATION

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Each purchased chance to win includes: 2023 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar 1-year OHA membership

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or \$35 toward pledge life membership). Drawing: Jan. 4, High Noon, OHA State Office,

**301 Crater Lake Ave. Suite C, Medford, OR.** 

Need not be present to win.

Call OHA at 541-772-7313 or visit OHA's online store at www.oregonhunters.org/store









### **OHA ups ante in antelope poaching case**

Poachers left two pronghorn antelope dead and two more to suffer on the night of Jan. 16 in a thrill kill near Crane. OSP Fish and Wildlife Division would like to hear from anyone who saw unusual activity on Hwy 78 near milepost 33.

The Turn in Poachers (TIP) reward stands at \$1,000 cash or seven ODFW hunter preference points for information that leads to an arrest or citation in this case. The Oregon Hunters Association manages the TIP reward fund.

A landowner noticed two pronghorn antelope does behaving strangely on the morning of Jan. 17 in his field along Hwy 78. When he reached the does, he could see the animals were badly injured. The landowner contacted OSP Fish and Wildlife Division and Senior Trooper Dean Trent, from the Burns office, responded.

Senior Trooper Trent could tell right away that the injuries were not survivable and a result of intentional criminal activity. The injured does were euthanized immediately. Senior Trooper Trent then located



OHA is offering a \$1,000 TIP reward in a case of four pronghorns killed and wasted near Crane.

two additional does that had been killed outright, clearly during the same incident.

OSP F&W Sergeant Erich Timko reported that the dead does had been partially devoured by predators, indicating the kills likely happened sometime between the previous evening of Jan. 16 and the early morning hours of Jan. 17.

If you have any information regarding this incident, please contact Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Senior Trooper Dean Trent through the OSP TIP hotline: 1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP (677) or TIP email: TIP@state.or.us

### **OHA offers reward in case of decapitated deer**



Find the poacher matching witness description and bag yourself a reward from OHA's TIP fund.

A poacher fled the scene leaving behind both the buck deer he shot on private property, and the head he had just cut off the animal as a trophy. State Troopers ask the public to be on the lookout for a vehicle related to the Dec. 9 incident, which happened in Lane County.

Troopers describe the subject as about 5-foot, 1-inch tall, with brown hair and a brown beard. He left the scene in a late 1990s white Chevy flatbed pickup. The truck is likely a 3500 diesel. A witness reported seeing several toolboxes or gang boxes on the bed of the truck. The poacher had difficulty starting the vehicle, so it might have mechanical issues.

OHA's TIP Reward for information that leads to an arrest or citation in this case stands at \$500 or four ODFW hunter preference points.

According to authorities, the man shot

the deer from a private driveway near Upper Camp Creek Road in Springfield. Troopers aren't sure if the man realized how close he was to nearby residences. He killed the animal close to someone's house and along an active driveway leading to multiple other houses. When a passerby asked the man what he was doing, the man fled the scene.

Senior Trooper Josh Wolcott and area residents worked together to field dress the deer and pack it out. OSP Troopers donate salvaged meat to local charities and non-profits. In this case, the meat went to a local church, which will distribute the meat to local families in need.

Members of the public are asked to contact Oregon State Police TIP line at 1-800-452-7888, \*OSP (\*677), or email at TIP@state.or.us

Reference case #SP21-342721.

## NOSLER®

### 2022 PHOTO CONTEST

#### **FINALIST PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories. **1ST PRIZE:** Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle **2ND PRIZE:** Case (10 boxes) of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo **3RD PRIZE:** Leupold Scope **4TH PRIZE:** Danner Alsea Hunting Boots **5TH PRIZE:** Benchmade Altitude Hunting Knife

Each finalist will receive an OHA-engraved Coast knife, and entrants whose photos are selected to appear in Oregon Hunter will receive a Nosler hat.

Two finalists in each category will be chosen and published in each issue of Oregon Hunter, beginning with the March-April issue and ending with the November-December issue. From the 10 finalists in each category, five finalist prize winners will be chosen. These will be announced in the January-February issue of Oregon Hunter. Photos received after the entry deadline will be judged for the next issue.

#### **ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS**

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

#### **PHOTO CATEGORIES**

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing. YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year

### **NDSLER PHOTO CONTEST** *general category finalists*



OHA member Bryce Purtzer of Canby bags an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of a mule deer buck taken last fall in Idaho's Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.



Joshua Knoebel, OHA member from Springfield, claims an OHA Coast knife and entry in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of a Columbia whitetail taken on Christmas day in the North Bank Habitat Area.

**CHRISTMAS SNOW IN THE APPLEGATE/DUANE DUNGANNON** 

### NDSLER PHOTO CONTEST YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA member Tyler Douglas of Medford claims an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Easton Douglas on a blacktail buck hunt in the Applegate Unit.



OHA member Chase Brown of Tygh Valley scores an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo from a Deschutes River bighorn ewe hunt. Sawyer Brown participated in the mentored youth program and filled the tag with a Tikka in 6.5 Creedmoor.

### **NDSLER**<sup>®</sup> **PHOTO CONTEST** HONORABLE MENTION



OHA member Renata Tucker garners honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this picture of an impala from South Africa.

OHA member Jacob Burton of Union earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo from a pronghorn hunt. Danner Burton took his pronghorn in the Owyhee Unit with a premium tag and a 6.5 Creedmoor.





OHA members Brent and Shari Glidden from Klamath Falls capture honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of themselves with Brent's Wallowa Mountains Rocky Mountain goat taken last October with a .300 Remington Ultra Mag.



OHA member Shane Graves of Tualatin receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Nicole Graves on a successful bighorn sheep hunt in the John Day canyon.



Winchester OHA member Devon Johnson gets honorable mention and a hat for this photo of Gabriel Goodson with his first buck, taken in the Indigo Unit with a Savage 110 Ultralight in 6.5 Creedmoor.



OHA member Brad Hawes of Jefferson garners honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Brittany Hawes and a mule deer she tagged last fall in the Beulah Unit with a Tikka T3 .30-06.



OHA member Ryder Sawyer of Tenmile earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo from a mule deer hunt in the Murderers Creek Unit. Ryder was hunting with a .243 and his grandfather Curt Stookey.



If we had a humor category, top honors would go to OHA member Brad Davis of Bend for this photo of a mule deer checking out the mule deer mounts in his house, while another buck maintains his distance.



Cheyenne Heuberger, OHA member from Sublimity, collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a bruiser blacktail buck taken last October in the Melrose Unit.



### What hunters can do about Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD) was detected in Idaho within 30 miles of the Snake River in October, bringing it that much closer to Oregon. ODFW is increasing sampling in areas along the Idaho border, but the prion that causes CWD can enter the state in many ways, including transport of infected carcasses by hunters.

Now more than ever, we ask hunters to follow regulations and assist in stopping the spread through surveillance and early detection in Oregon. Here's how to help:

#### Get your animal tested for CWD

Hunters can have their harvested deer or elk tested for CWD at any one of ODFW's district offices statewide. Simply contact your local ODFW office to set up an appointment.

Testing will be conducted on any adult deer or elk harvested from any location in the state. All we need is the harvested animal's head with at least one vertebra below the skull. Also try to keep its head cool prior to sampling.

ODFW is currently setting up an online system to report test results to hunters. Until then, you will only be contacted if your animal tests positive.

Stopping at a CWD check station when you approach one on the highway is now mandatory if you are transporting harvested wildlife (due to HB 3152 passed in 2021). Expect to see check stations during hunting seasons.

Also, any adult deer or elk salvaged under Oregon's roadkill law is being tested for CWD.

#### **Report sick animals**

If you see or harvest a sick deer or elk, DO NOT EAT THE MEAT. Report it to the ODFW Wildlife Health Lab number at 866-968-2600 or by email to Wildlife. health@ODFW.Oregon.Gov.

Note that most animals diagnosed early in the course of CWD show no signs or symptoms. Animals that have had the

salivation, loss of balance when walking, drooping ears, and wasting appearance.

#### Avoid using deer/elk urine products and safely dispose of them

The use of products containing commercial deer or elk urine (scent lures) was banned by the Legislature in 2020. The urine can contain CWD prions and there are concerns about regulatory oversight/ validated CWD testing of these products.

Hunters or businesses who have these products should dispose of them by delivering them to an ODFW district office. ODFW staff will arrange for any scent products collected to be incinerated in an 1,800-degree oven, a temperature known to kill the prion that causes CWD.

It's important that these products are not poured down a drain or on the ground when they are discarded to limit the CWD prion from entering water sources or being deposited on the landscape.

### Take steps to protect yourself when field dressing, processing meat

There is no evidence that humans can contract CWD from eating or handling contaminated meat, but public health guidance directs hunters to not eat any meat from infected animals. Humans are susceptible to similar diseases such as Mad Cow Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). So hunters should:

• Follow all normal precautions for field dressing (wear gloves, wash hands and thoroughly wash instruments used, don't harvest sick animals, etc.).

• Avoid sawing or cutting through the brain or spinal column when dressing your animal as these tissues are where CWDcausing proteins are known to concentrate.

• Bone out the meat, if possible, and avoid sawing through bone.

• Soak your tools in a 50-50 mix of bleach and warm water for one hour to disinfect them. (The CWD proteins are resistant to desiccation, low or high temperatures, and anti-bacterial soap.)

• Request that each animal you harvest is processed at a meat processor individually, without mixing in other meat.

### Don't bring certain animal parts back to Oregon when hunting out of state

If you harvest a deer, elk, moose or caribou in any other state or Canadian province, don't bring home parts of the animal known to harbor the disease (brain and spinal column). Hunters who bring illegal parts into Oregon will have those parts and potentially their entire harvested animal confiscated and may be liable for the cost of incinerating them.

See the Parts Ban under General Hunting Regulations for more info. Note that the Parts Ban now extends to all 50 states, provinces, and other countries not just those with a documented case of CWD.

#### Leave carcass parts in the state or area of harvest and follow disposal regulations

Oregon has no restrictions for carcass transport or disposal for animals harvested. But ODFW recommends hunters not dispose of waste parts (bones, organs) in areas other than near the site of the kill, in a landfill directly or via routine garbage disposal with your service provider.

If you harvested a deer or elk in another state, do not bring the brain, intact skull or spinal column with neural tissue into Oregon. It is against the law. ODFW recommends that you remove all the meat from that animal and leave the brain, skull, spinal column, other bones and all organs in the state of harvest or follow that state's carcass disposal recommendations. Leave these parts at the site of kill in the state where you harvested the animal. Many states provide carcass parts receptacles or dumpsters or recommend carcasses be deposited in their landfill rather than left on the landscape.

#### What will ODFW do if CWD is detected?

ODFW will work to determine the range of cervid species affected, distribution, and prevalence of the disease. We may try to control the number, density, and movement of potentially infected animals.

There may be changes to big game hunting seasons or bag limits after a detection. For example, there is evidence that increased and sustained hunting pressure to reduce infected deer or elk herd sizes in disease hot spots may be effective at stopping or slowing spread of CWD.

Unfortunately, there have been very few successful efforts to control the spread of CWD in states where the disease has been found and becomes established. The success of the ODFW plan will depend on hunter cooperation, good communication with stakeholders, and implementing the best management and control strategies available for protecting Oregon's wild deer and elk populations from this disease.

ODFW thanks hunters for their cooperation and asistance.



### MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

The world is run by the people who show up. That's why the Oregon Hunters Association is on guard year-round in the Oregon Legislature to defend hunting. OHA supports your right to hunt. Are you supporting OHA?

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• Receive the Oregon Hunter's Calendar, with 12 photos of Oregon game animals and important season dates and deadlines.

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### JOIN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT HUNTING

### **Initiative Petitions facing Oregonians:**

OHA has filed comments to challenge the ballot language on all of these IPs and continues to work toward keeping them from reaching the ballot. Each one must collect 112,020 signatures by Summer 2022 to be placed on the November 2022 ballot.

#### IP13:

Initiative Petition 13 is the most radical idea to potentially face Oregon voters. This extreme, vegan agenda would criminalize hunting, fishing, and trapping; in fact, it would make the killing of any animal, for any reason other than self-defense, a crime.

### IP17:

Initiative Petition 17 imposes a new permit system to purchase a firearm and prohibits possession or use of magazines over 10 rounds.

### IP18:

Initiative Petition 18 would prohibit the manufacturing/possession/transferring of many semiautomatic firearms, as well as their use on public lands.

The gun control and anti-hunting groups will not stop and neither will OHA. We will continue to fight for the rights of Oregon hunters.

### Oregon Hunters Association

The Oregon Hunters Association is the leading Oregon-based hunting and conservation organization in Oregon.

OHA continuously works to uphold our mission of "protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage" but we need you to join the fight.

In recent years we've seen a drastic increase in the number of attacks aimed at restricting or outright banning our ability to hunt, fish, trap, and own guns.

Numerous animal-rights, antihunting, and gun control groups have targeted Oregon as the next battlefield for their radical agendas.

In order to fight off these incessent attacks, we need you! join OHA today and help us fight to keep Oregon's hunting heritage alive!



### JOIN THE OHA AT WWW.OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/JOINRENEW

### ANTI-HUNTING, GUN CONTROL & RADICAL VEGAN AGENDAS ABOUND IN OREGON...



End Animal Cruelty @yesonip13 · Oct 30 • We can end hunting in our lifetime. Killing animals is not sport, it's cruelty.

If you want to see the end of hunting, help our initiative get on the ballot. If passed, IP13 would criminalize hunting in the state of Oregon.

### HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

Learn more at yesonip13.org/about.



Oregon Wild October 19 at 3:00 PM · @

Trophy hunting and trapping. Bounty hunts. Killing wolf pups. Heinous acts like these are what pushed wolves to the brink of extinction. State politicians and their bureaucrats across the West have proven they aren't capable of responsible wildlife conservation. It's time to speak up in support of restoring wolf protections! Take Action: https://oregonwild.org/restore-protections-gray-wolves



Speak up to protect wolves!

WildEarth Guardians @wildearthguard - Oct 31 Halloween can be a little spooky, but trapping is absolutely horrifying. Speak up today and help us end brutal trapping on #publiclands nationwide: guardiansaction.org/TrapFreeUSA





Lift Every Voice Oregon

Gun control activists submitted the initial round of signatures Wednesday in support of 2 expansive initiative petitions.

Permit to purchase a gun Magazine rounds limited to 10 Stop manufacture of assault firearms



End Animal Cruelty @yesonip13 · Oct 29

We need to ban the killing of animals for so-called 'wildlife management' and 'pest control'.

IP13, if passed, would do just that. Help us get on the Oregon ballot in 2022.

Learn more at yesonip13.org/about.

HELP US FIGHT THEM! PLEASE DONATE TO OHA'S HUNTER VICTORY FUND! WWW.OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/DONATE





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### PARTING SHOTS

#### By Uncle Geddy

### An Appetite for Diabetes

V kay, class, what do we call bears without teeth? Those would be gummy bears.

The average life span of a grizzly bear, we are told, is 20 to 30 years, but that does not include the cubs killed by older grizzlies to bring the females into heat.

Besides older grizzlies killing their offspring, one of the limiting factors in long life for bears is that eventually they run out of teeth. That brings us to the subject of Grizzly 168.

According to meticulous records kept by researchers in Yellowstone, Grizzly 168 lived to the age of 34, which is long past the age of mastication. When he ran out of chompers, he still had that legendary grizzly bear appetite which got him into trouble.

You could say Grizz 168 had an appetite for destruction.

He was gumming cattle (which puts large bruises on the beef) and had to be put down. That's when someone pulled back his lip and found the tattoo. This was No. 168.

Dan Thompson, a carnivore biologist, said that No. 168 was born in 1986, which was when Thompson was still in junior high. Thompson is reported to have said, "I know it was the year before Appetite for Destruction came out."

Of course, Thompson was referring to the Guns N' Roses' breakout album which didn't have A and B sides, but instead had a G side with songs that dealt with drugs and hard living and an R side, with songs about love, lust and relationships.

The album was released on July 21, 1987, and by July 22, every 15-year-old in the country knew the words to all the songs, like *Welcome to the Jungle*, which was inspired by a homeless man and written in Seattle. The homeless man is reported to have said, "You know where you are? You're in the jungle, baby; you're gonna die!" Note the use of the semi-colon.

Lil Sassy is thinking about getting a tattoo and she brought up the subject the other day when she came home for a visit. I have long been a fan of tattoos, and I think a person should start with one on the underside of the lip. That's how wildlife biologists do it.

When I talked about the situation with my friend O'Jambo, who had recently drawn a deer tag in the Paulina Unit, he said he was thinking about getting a heart with an I Love Paulina script written across his bicep. But he didn't want to bring up the subject at home because his wife was still weeping and gnashing her teeth over their daughter's latest ink adventure. Apparently, the girl went out and got tattoos of a heart, a spade, a club and a diamond, all without parental permission. O'Jambo said he would deal with her later.

Once our friend Pistol Pete went to a temporary tattoo parlor to get a series of tattoos. First, he got a tattoo on his cervical that said 5. Next, he got one on his thoracic that said 4. Then he got one on his lumbar that said 3. Then he got one on his sacrum that said 2. Then he got one on his coccyx that said 1. It was the Spinal



Countdown. When they wouldn't wash off in the morning, he went back to get his money back. But the tattoo parlor was gone.

At a recent gathering of the Bear Mountain Gang, our old associate Alexander Figley showed up to share in the cod and the perch and the halibut and the special tartar sauces Charlie had mixed up for our benefit.

After a proper amount of root beer had been consumed, Figley said he wanted to be prepared in case he was attacked by a bear while he is on vacation in Yellowstone.

Fortunately, we had a fresh bear attack to talk about. It seems that a 72-year-old fellow had been out walking his dog in forest lands near to his home in Creswell, and had been attacked by a black bear. According to the news story, the man was unnamed, which seems a shame. My momma named me on the day I was born, which I think is a good policy.

Let's just call him Man No. 49, which was the year he was probably born and also the same year Goldilocks and the 3 Bears was released on Caravan Records and the first Silly Putty was sold in plastic eggs.

By contrast, Brian Wolfer was named, which enabled him to get a job as ODFW South Willamette Watershed Manager. Wolfer (which is a very good name, by the way) said Man No. 49 tried to fight back when he was attacked.

Hounds were used to track down and find a bear matching the description which went something like, "It was big. It had sharp teeth. It growled a lot and snapped its jaws. It had a Guns N' Roses tattoo."

That same week four bears broke into a vacation rental home near Gatlinburg, Tenn., and stole food from two ladies vacationing there. The bears took most of their provisions, which included five pounds of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, a pound of M&Ms, two pounds of Sour Patch Kids and two bags of potato chips. The bears also absconded with two beers, two Diet Cokes and allergy medicine.

One of the victims, Michelle Eberhart, said, "It was just a fight-or-flight, like I just have to remove us from this situation and make sure that we're at least in a safe place."

I like to think the bears saved her from diabetes.

If she wants to get back her allergy medicine, she can just follow the bear sign. Black bear droppings will be a dark color and may contain brown paper cups and, of course, Reese's feces.

We are advising Figley to bring salad kits on his vacation. You never hear about a grizzly breaking into a cooler and stealing someone's lettuce.



Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh had only one thing in common: their middle names. Contact Gary Lewis at www. garylewisoutdoors.com



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# Shhhhhhh

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