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IP3 collects its needed 1,000 initial signatures

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The proponents of Initiative Petition 3, the newest iteration of IP13, which sought to criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping, and raising livestock, have gathered the initial 1,000 signatures needed to qualify the initiative for draft ballot language. The signatures must first be verified, but once the draft language is submitted, OHA and our partners will submit comments and possible appeals to make sure the approved language clearly communicates the dire nature of the proposed initiative.

It should be noted that it took only one month for them to collect these initial signatures and, if they are successful in securing approved ballot language, they will have a full two years to collect the 112,020 signatures needed to secure a spot on the 2024 ballot.

Gun control initiatives continue signature bids

Two gun control initiative petitions continue to collect signatures aiming for the November 2022 ballot. Both IPs were filed by the committee called “Lift Every Voice,” which is the organization also collecting signatures.

IP 17, the “Reduction in Gun Violence Act,” would require a permit to purchase a firearm, which requires safety training



Target shooting on public land with this semi-automatic rifle would be illegal under IP18.

of both classroom and live-fire, a complete background check prior to release of a firearm, and a database to track firearms. Additionally, it would prohibit the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of “large capacity” magazines, which are defined as over 10 rounds.

IP 18, the “Reduction of Harm from Weapons Act,” would prohibit the manufacture, import, purchase, transfer, possession, and use of many semiautomatic firearms, including rifles, pistols, and shotguns. Any of these weapons currently owned would be allowed to be retained only if registered with the state and if use is limited to owner’s property, shooting ranges, and hunting.

Given the increase in gun violence in the Portland-Metro area, these initiatives have a high probability of gaining signatures, regardless of whether the IPs would address the criminal component of those actions. OHA continues to work toward keeping these IPs off the ballot while educating legislators and policy-makers to the fallacy of further restrictions for law-abiding citizens as a cure for acts of criminal gun violence. —AMY PATRICK

OHA conservation efforts cover Oregon’s landscape

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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OHA conservation staff and volunteers are constantly working to fulfill OHA’s mission. The diversity of wildlife and conservation opportunities and challenges are vast, and seem to be never-ending.

Examples of recent and on-going work include participating in the Mountain Lion Workshop and Black-Tailed Deer Summit; working on the Oregon Mule Deer Plan update; working to further implementation of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan; addressing elk distribution; monitoring and tracking wildlife disease outbreaks such as CWD, EHD and others; and facilitating on-the-ground projects to conserve and improve habitat.

Other work continues with the Access and Habitat Program; working with the ODFW Commission; Southeast Oregon and Western Oregon BLM Resource Advisory Committees; and tracking landscape scale projects on public lands.

Species that have received attention in 2022: Columbian black-tailed deer, mule deer, white-tailed deer, cougar, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, Roosevelt elk, waterfowl and upland birds.

Public lands that have our attention so far in 2022: Elliott State Research Forest, ODF State Forests; Mt. Hood, Willamette, Fremont-Winema, Umatilla, Umpqua and Ochoco National Forests, Crooked River National Grasslands, Hart Mountain NWR and Vale District BLM.

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Commission updates game bird bag limits

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director and Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission updated bird hunting regulations and game bird regulations for the 2022-23 at its April meeting, where OHA testified. A few notable updates include regulations for Canada geese, fall turkey and sage-grouse.

FALL TURKEY – The ODFW Commission recently approved the ODFW staff proposal to increase the daily bag limit for the General Western Oregon Fall Turkey Season to two turkeys per day. The season limit of two turkeys of either sex has not changed, but this change now allows hunters to fill both tags on the same day. OHA testified at the April Commission meeting acknowledging the effort by ODFW to expand hunting opportunity while using hunters to address damage issues. In response to the daily bag limit increase for western Oregon fall turkey, OHA asked that ODFW continue to carefully monitor turkey populations in western Oregon, particularly on public lands, because OHA does not support reducing turkey populations on public lands.

SAGE-GROUSE – OHA continues to have strong influence in protecting sage-grouse hunting in Oregon. There are many factors driving sage-grouse populations, but hunter harvest does not contribute to any decline in Oregon. Hunting yields vital rate data for biologists, and ODFW currently uses more than 50 percent of upland gamebird stamp funds to benefit sage-grouse. Hunters also pay for sage-grouse permits and applications, while

hunting organizations, including OHA, frequently contribute large sums to the species' research and conservation. OHA asserted that sage-grouse must retain their gamebird status if they are to continue receiving this substantial chunk of upland stamp funds.

The ODFW Commission approved sage-grouse permits similar to those allocated in 2021. ODFW staff have the authority to implement a temporary rule to alter permit allocations later this summer if breeding survey data indicate change is needed.

CANADA GEESE - Due to declining cackling, Taverners, and struggling Dusky Canada goose populations, the ODFW Commission approved the ODFW staff proposal to reduce the limit on all Canada geese in the northwest Oregon permit zone to 3 per day beginning in the 2022-23 season.

There are seven sub-species of Canada geese that can be found in the northwest Oregon permit zone. All but the dusky have open seasons. Cackling and Taverners Canada geese typically make up a large portion of the geese harvested in the northwest permit zone. OHA testified at the April Commission meeting and did not stand in the way of this change because recent surveys in Alaska are showing the cackling Canada geese population at just over 200,000. The population goal for the species is 250,000, and Taverners Canada geese have experienced a population decline. Other waterfowl seasons for the state will be similar to the 2021-22 season for bag limits and season length.

Bear, cougar & roadkill now must be checked in

Anyone who salvages a roadkilled deer or elk or harvests a bear or cougar during hunting season is again required to call the nearest ODFW district office and make an appointment to check in the animal per the usual regulations.

ODFW and all state offices were scheduled to open around May 1, but check-in appointments must be arranged prior to showing up at an office.

For the roadkill salvage rules for deer and elk, see this webpage <https://myodfw.com/articles/roadkill-salvage-permits>.

com/articles/roadkill-salvage-permits.

Note that antlers and head of all salvaged animals need to be surrendered to an ODFW office within 5 business days of taking possession of the carcass. Call ahead to your nearest office to make an appointment.

Data collected by ODFW on bear and cougar harvest assist wildlife managers and these data help protect our bear and cougar hunting seasons from anti-hunting activists.



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