



OHA TRACKER

June 2022



HARNEY COUNTY/DUANE DUNGANNON

IP3 draft ballot language released

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The proponents of IP3 have successfully gathered the 1,000 sponsoring signatures to qualify for draft ballot title/language.

The language was released on May 12 and can be read here:

<https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/irr/003dbt.pdf>

It is largely the same language we saw for IP13 with a few minor edits due to the additional language specifying artificial insemination as sexual assault.

OHA and our allies in both the sportsmen's community and the farming and ranching communities will submit comments on the draft language and work on strategic next steps.

ODFW proposes 2023-25 budget with no fee increase

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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ODFW has proposed its draft budget for the 2023-25 biennium based on no fee increases. With the recent increase in hunting and angling licenses, the department's financial outlook appears solid enough to forgo any fee increase for license products.

OHA provided testimony before the Commission in support of the proposed funding requested related to the Mule Deer Coordinator, Mule Deer Research and Data Management positions, and the Minam acquisition.

OHA staff also expressed concern over a lack of funding to establish in-state testing for Chronic Wasting Disease.



ODFW Director Curt Melcher (right) presents retiring OHA lobbyist Al Elkins with a bottle of wine from Duck Pond Cellars that supports wildlife conservation, while OHA State Board Chairman Fred Walasavage and Legislative Committee Chairman Paul Donheffner look on.

OHA State Convention a big hit

OHA's annual State Convention was another solid hit on May 14 at Seven Feathers Casino Resort, where a spirited crowd rocked the auctions and sold out nearly all the raffles. Guests enjoyed a gourmet buffet, as well as 110 auction items and more than 100 raffle prizes donated by supporters like OHA Platinum Sponsors Coastal Farm & Ranch, Sig, Work Sharp and Leupold & Stevens. Retiring OHA lobbyist Al Elkins was honored for his 25 years of service to OHA's mission of Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage. Make plans to attend OHA's 40th Anniversary State Convention May 6, 2023, at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City.



A happy camper celebrates winning the Key Gun, congratulated by a Wall of Guns winner at OHA's State Convention May 14.

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OHA elects state officers, board

OHA members elected a pair of officers and a trio of board members to serve on the OHA State Board of Directors in annual elections held this spring.

OHA State Vice President Steve Hagan was elected State President, while longtime Mid-Columbia Chapter member Renee Walasavage was elected Secretary, filling in for Mary Jo Hedrick, who was elected Southeast Director. Northeast Director Fred Walasavage and Southwest Director Bob Webber were re-elected to their respective positions.

OHA thanks outgoing President Mike Ayers for a decade of service on the state board, including three terms as President.

Commission accepts beaver workgroup recommendations

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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After almost a year of work, the Beaver Management Workgroup has finalized its recommendation to the ODFW Commission. The workgroup was originally formed in June 2020 and sanctioned again in November 2020 as the result of a narrowly defeated petition to ban beaver trapping on all federally managed public lands.

While the primary impetus of the petitioning groups was to ban all beaver trapping, the group ultimately formed management recommendations around habitat needs and expanded data collection relative to the current beaver population in the state.

The commission accepted the document put forth by the workgroup and requested that staff support the recommendations and return to the commission in August with actionable items related to increasing beaver habitat on federally managed lands. It was noted by the Commission that the focus of such actions should be on the landscape rather than simply restrictions on trapping. OHA will remain involved in these discussions as they continue in August and beyond.



JACKSON COUNTY/TYLER DUNGANNON

Black-tailed deer habitat and population trends are key concerns for OHA.

OHA co-sponsors blacktail workshop

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

OHA conservation staff recently attended and co-sponsored the Black-tailed Deer Summit at Leupold & Stevens headquarters in Beaverton, where the focus was Columbian and Sitka black-tailed deer status and ongoing research from California to Alaska.

OHA seized this opportunity to expand our partnerships with other organizations, hear about challenges in other states with Columbian black-tailed deer, and stay up to date with the latest ongoing research conducted by ODFW.

The ODFW West Region Wildlife Research Supervisor, Dr. DeWayne Jackson, and his research team are in the process of attaining black-tailed deer density estimates in western Oregon. They are using scat detection dogs and collecting fecal data to estimate densities across wildlife management units. OHA staff were encouraged by this work, and we look forward to working with ODFW to improve our knowledge of deer populations west of the Cascades.

Leupold & Stevens is an OHA State Title Sponsor, and OHA is excited about our collaboration for the benefit of black-tailed deer. Mule Deer Foundation organized the event, and agencies in attendance included ODFW, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, California Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service.

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