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Cover: Coast elk photographed by Dennis Kirkland (Hislmages.com)



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Joining the hunting community

hen I began working for OHA, I had no first-hand experience with hunting. Growing up on a farm that raised Christmas trees and cattle meant we had freezers full of beef and autumn was prep time for harvest; all of which meant that hunting was not a priority. I had plenty of peripheral knowledge because many friends and extended family members were active hunters, so I understood the language and culture well enough to get by. But well enough is not good enough, not when your job is to defend Oregon's hunting heritage.

Our ability to welcome and encourage new hunters is key to protecting our hunting heritage. Over the course of the last three years, I have studied and defended the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, coming to understand the beauty and function of the Model as it relates to modern wildlife conservation. Understanding the interplay between conservation and hunting led me to the realization that to participate fully, and to advocate more effectively, I needed to become a hunter.

With the support of the OHA board, I applied for the Wild Sheep Foundation's Women Hunt Program, an intensive week-long course for first-time hunters, and was selected as one of 12 women invited to the October event in Texas. I am thrilled to participate in this unique opportunity, but, moreover, I am excited to join, completely, the ranks of the community that I endeavor to accurately represent.

As I have shared my upcoming hunt with friends, coworkers, and members, I have learned an indelible truth about the hunting community: the level of excitement and support for new hunters is both astounding and constant. Every person has sought to offer a piece of advice, a suggestion on gear, or simply to share their own first hunt story. Without fail they have taken a few moments out of their day to share a bit of themselves with me, even staying after a chapter meeting for an extra hour to discuss rifles and make sure I was outfitted with a proper OHA sling.

While not all first-time hunts are immersive trips to Texas, the resulting support, mentorship, and inclusion into this community are refreshingly immutable. This is incredibly evident in OHA's investment in the Learn to Hunt Program. Geared toward new adult hunters, the program seeks to bring new hunters into the fold through both in-person and online courses. It's a prime example of OHA members giving their time and energy to educate new hunters and provide them with opportunities to get into the field for the first time. More information about OHA's Learn to Hunt Program can be found on Page 46.

The circumstances of my first hunting trip may be unique, but my experiences within the community are not. Our ability to welcome and encourage new hunters is key to protecting our hunting heritage – not just in the policy realm, but in the reality of ensuring future generations of hunters on the landscape. Thank you for the kindness you have shown me, as well as other new hunters; your investment in us will be propagated in future hunters, voters, and advocates.



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| 1. A female | antelope is called a: |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| a) nanny | c) doe |
| b) ewe | d) cow |

| 2. Electronic calls are illegal for: | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| a) elk | c) bear | |
| b) waterfowl | d) all of the above | |

3. Good chukar hunting can be found at what Oregon wildlife area?a) Klamath c) Summer Lakeb) Riverside d) Irrigon

| Cascade elk in which | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Oregon wilderness? | | | | |
| c) Gearhart Mountain | | | | |
| d) Black Canyon | | | | |
| | | | | |

5. Moose are on the loose in what region of Oregon?a) northwestb) southwestc) northeastd) southeast

6. Which animal can live longest?

| a) antelope c) o |
|------------------|
|------------------|

| 7. ' | Which | numbers | fewest in | Oregon? |
|------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| a) a | antelor | be d | c) cougar | |

b) bear d) bighorn

8. Oregon's most-harvested native upland bird in the last 5 years is:
a) pheasant
b) ruffed grouse
c) valley quail
d) chukar

| 9. Which bird dances on a lek? | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| a) pheasant | c) ruffed grouse | | |
| b) blue grouse | d) sage grouse | | |

10. Which two units are not part of the early High Cascade buck hunt 119A?a) Hood/White R. c) Santiam/McKenzieb) Indigo/Dixon d) Rogue/Keno

7-d; 8-d; 9-d; 10-a. ANSWERS: 1-c; 2-b; 3-b; 4-a; 5-c; 6-c;



Identify these lookalike lakes, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! Send your guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: Nov. 20, 2022.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: John Shipley, Albany John's name was drawn from among the OHA members who identified the

John Day River Canyon.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 26 Rocky Mountain Elk 1st season opens

> OCTOBER 29 Lake County guzzler project, 541-417-1750

OCTOBER 30 Rocky Mountain Elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 4 Any legal weapon deer season closes

> NOVEMBER 5 Youth general rifle season Western deer hunt weekend; W. Cascade & 2nd Rocky Mountain elk seasons open

NOVEMBER 12 Coast elk 1st season opens; Late SW deer bow season opens

NOVEMBER 13 Rocky Mtn. elk 2nd season ends

NOVEMBER 15 Coast elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 19 OHA Bend Chapter youth bird hunt, 541-480-7323; Coast elk 2nd season opens; Late NW deer bow opens; Hope & Habitat restoration planting in Interstate Unit, td@oregonhunters.org

> NOVEMBER 25 Coast elk 2nd season closes

> > DECEMBER 1 Bobcat season opens

DECEMBER 4 Late SW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 11 Late NW deer season ends

DECEMBER 26 Last day to purchase OHA Gun Raffle Calendar tickets





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Go wild for pheasants!

hat pheasants want are layers of cover. Russian olive growing out of tangles of blackberry, waisthigh rye and cattails. What we want are pheasants in the snowy crop stubble, rising up against a brooding sky like in all those paintings we love. There are still places where hunters and pheasants get what they want in Malheur County, in Umatilla County and the Columbia Basin.

Once, I hunted farmland outside of Hermiston and the landowner, Phil, walked with us while my young pudelpointer picked the way ahead.



The biggest challenge in decoying wood ducks is pulling birds from where they want to land in thick cover into openings like this, but it can be done, and with consistency.



Five golden ringnecks? On the fifth day before Christmas, the author took this wild ringneck on a hunt in Umatilla County.

Late in the afternoon, Liesl pointed a thick tangle of willows, briers and Russian olive two stories high. There was no way she could go in, but she knew a bird was there. An important bird.

Inside the layers of branches something climbed up through the limbs. It was too dark inside to see it. I had my camera in my left hand, my shotgun in my right. Then way above my head the bird crawled out of the brush and took to the air. I shot and missed. Still one-handed, I fired the second barrel and as I found out later, Phil, shot, too. The bird folded out in the open under the leaden sky. Phil said it had one of the longest tails of any bird he had taken in a long time.

The season ends Dec. 31; it's last call for wild pheasants.

Some of the best public access private and hunting opportunities can be found in the Access & Habitat program. It's still possible to find a place to hunt a rooster in these last weeks of the season.

Click on https://myodfw.com/articles/ bunting-private-lands-access-habitat-program for a list of private lands. Scroll down to the Malheur and Northeast councils.

Each listing includes management unit, location, huntable species and the access period. Scan the huntable species section for pheasant.

Don't hunt the stubble; save that for the artists and their paintbrushes. Get down in the mud, shoulder through the cattails and look for the layers of cover where the wise old birds grow their tails long. — $G_{ARY} L_{EWIS}$

Woodies don't always duck decoys

Before I saw the flock plunge into the decoys, Richard and Brent Kropf each had a wood duck on the water. Instantly, flocks of approaching woodies filled the early morning sky along the creek we hunted, returning from filbert orchards where they'd fed.

In less than 20 minutes the two brothers from Harrisburg and I had our limit. All were shot over decoys.

Many hunters believe wood ducks won't decoy. That's what I thought until the Kropf brothers educated me four seasons ago. Since that initiation I've decoyed wood ducks with the Kropfs many times in creeks and sloughs in the Willamette Valley.

in creeks and sloughs in the Willamette Valley. "The situation has to be almost perfect in order to get wood ducks to decoy," shares Richard. "If the wind is wrong, the water level too high or too low, or the birds are dropping into an area too far from an opening where your decoys are, it won't work. These are very shy ducks and if they see something they don't like, or the situation isn't just right, they won't drop into any decoys."

The challenge of decoying wood ducks lies in getting them to land in semi-open water rather than amid tight cover. To do this, set up where a creek slightly widens. "If you can't get within 40 or 50 yards of where the ducks normally land in the morning, it's almost impossible to pull them in," points out Richard.

Six to 12 woody decoys are all you need. Set a couple where there's a slight current, so the decoys move; this is key. If there's no moving water, set the woody decoys closer to brush, with a pair of mallards on a jerk cord in open water.

Scout the area at least three days prior to hunting it so you know birds are there. If we get a good shoot, we only hunt that spot once per season.

Wherever in Oregon you might see wood ducks, try decoying them. But be ready, because these fast-flying birds can be tough to hit, even when dive-bombing into the decoys. —*Scott HAUGEN*

Catch a squirrel under the mistletoe



How can you tell when gray squirrel season is over? **A:** It's when the mistletoe leaves.

That's the joke you tell the state policeman when he checks for your

squirrel tag. But the joke's on him. You don't need a squirrel tag to hunt gray squirrels. Just a license. It's our smallest big game animal. Don't believe me? Check page 64 in the 2022 Big Game Regulations.

If the state trooper still isn't laughing, ask him this one:

Q: What weighs more, a pound of mistletoe or a pound of squirrels?

A: Neither, they both weigh one pound. Seriously, every holiday table should be graced with a seasonal squirrel in white gravy with a wild plum in its mouth.

The western gray squirrel is hunted west of the Cascades and in some parts of central and southern Oregon. In units 10-33, 36-38, 40, and 43-77, the season runs Sept. 15 to Nov. 15 with a daily bag of five squirrels and 15 in possession. Central Oregon's season (units 34, 35, 39, 31, 42) runs Sept. 15 to Oct. 31 with a three squirrel per day limit. If that's not enough big game hunting, then head south for your Christmas squirrel. There is no limit or closed season in the Rogue Unit south of the Rogue River and the South Fork Rogue and north of Highway 140.

The liberal regulations were designed to reduce damage to private timberlands. When squirrels begin girdling trees, they can destroy whole stands of young timber.

The best squirrel hunting is in mixed forests of oaks, firs, madrone and downed timber. Some people like to hunt under the mistletoe. For obvious reasons.

Large shrubs of Phoradendron villosum adorn the limbs of oak trees from the Willamette Valley down to the Siskiyous. If the game warden doesn't leaf you alone, make sure you ask for a kiss. —GARY LEWIS

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OHA chapters step up to fight Measure 114

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director Amy@oregonhunters.org

OHA is preparing to fight Ballot Measure 114, formerly called IP17, when it arrives on the November ballot. The OHA State Board approved the purchase of two arguments of opposition for the voters pamphlet, funded by OHA's membersupported Victory Fund (you can donate at www.oregonhunters.org/donate).

At the Chapter Leadership Summit in early August, OHA staff brought forward the opportunity for OHA chapters to support the purchase of an additional argument at the cost of \$1,200. The response was overwhelming. Several chapters pledged \$1,200 on the spot, with numerous others confirming their pledge over the next two weeks. In total, 12 chapters had pledged funds in support of the fight against Measure 114 as of Aug. 20 (Tualatin Valley, Columbia County, Umpqua, Ochoco, Capitol, Yamhill County, Josephine, Bend, Redmond, Tioga, Hoodview).

In addition to the voter pamphlet arguments, OHA is preparing additional outreach items, such as rack cards and counter displays for chapters to distribute throughout their local areas. Staff is also participating in several community outreach opportunities to educate the public beyond the hunting and shooting communities.

Measure 114 would create a new permit-to-purchase procedure administered by a police chief or county sheriff with a background check that includes fingerprinting and photographing of purchaser. The purchaser is not eligible for a permit unless proof is shown of an approved firearms training course that includes a live fire component. The permit-to-purchase, if approved, is valid for 5 years.



Measure 114 would require firearm purchasers to obtain a new permit that agencies would be under no obligation to issue. OSP predicts no permits would be issued next year if 114 passes.

The measure would place an underfunded burden on local law enforcement agencies, which would be under no obligation to provide certification or issue permits. It also creates a searchable database to maintain the information of all permittees, including those with expired permits, meaning once in the system, a permit-holder is always in the system. All firearms purchased by a permit-holder will be recorded in the database and the information is allowed to be stored for an indefinite period of time.

"Large capacity" magazines, defined as holding more than 10 rounds, would also be banned, and that is not limited to detachable magazines, which means numerous firearms – most notably shotguns with at least a 21-inch barrel – would be outlawed because they can hold more than 10 mini-rounds in the tube.

Clearly, these constraints against lawful firearm owners are not an answer to the criminal aspect of gun violence. We already have in place mandatory background checks that are currently taking an excessive amount of time in some cases due to backlog.

OHA and our allies have been fighting Measure 114, and our efforts continue.

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GET in GAME

OHA is protecting our wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

OHA is a strong voice for Oregon hunters with a full-time staff working on issues that are important in our state. Join us and support our efforts!

- Leading the fight to protect our hunting heritage
- Pressing for intensive predator management, including wolf damage hunts
- Advocating for science-based wildlife management
- Increasing recruitment through our Learn to Hunt Program
- Leading efforts to combat poaching
- Enhancing habitat where you live and hunt
- Safeguarding wildlands and access to hunt
- Funding safe wildlife passage projects
- Actively representing hunters in Salem



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f



Bag your holiday bird with a blunderbuss, Pilgrim

orley Safer once said, "Pilgrims who are looking for a cure are soon looking for a curio." I reckon it's not the same kind of pilgrim, but when I saw those pictures of the puritans in their funny hats and wooden shoes in those old Thanksgiving sketches, it seemed one of them always had a blunderbuss.

Now Morley probably would say I am safer without a blunderbuss, but I can tell you, when I was sick to bag a fall turkey last year, the cure to me looked a lot like a flintlock blunderbuss.

The blunderbuss was a gun for the common man, for close range self-defense or to procure wild game like rabbits or forest chickens.

From about 1770 to 1830, the blunderbuss would have been a flintlock, and from about 1840 on, it would been equipped with a percussion lock. When the pilgrims of their generation – those stalwarts that walked and whipped their way to places like The Dalles, Foster and Yamhill – there were more than a few blunderbusses mixed in their collective armory alongside Kentucky rifles and trade guns.

Those Oregon Trail-trotting pilgrims would have loved to find turkeys here in the 1840s!

I built the short bell-barreled smokepole from a Traditions kit from La Grande-based Muzzle-loaders.com, and by the time I had range-tested it, I knew I would take it hunting.

One of the best opportunities in Oregon now is the wild turkey, which exists in numbers to justify spring and fall seasons. Those Oregon Trail-trotting pilgrims would have loved to find turkeys here in the 1840s!

Toward the end of the fall hunt, I slipped over the mountain to hunt turkeys near Junction City with my friend and fellow outdoor scribe Troy Rodakowski.

A RECIPE FOR WILD TURKEY

The flared muzzle of the blunderbuss makes loading easy. I poured 80 grains of black powder down the barrel. On top of the powder, I tamped a paper card and followed that with 1-1/4 ounces of No. 6 shot. Then I sealed the load with a fiber wad. Spark is provided by a prison-sourced flint crafted sometime in the 1700s, igniting a small amount of FFFFg powder in the pan.

At the fan-tail end of our hunt, late in the afternoon, a flock of seven magnificent gobblers strode into the open and paused to bask in the sunlight where I was able to stalk within 16 yards.

The first thing you notice when you shoulder a blunderbuss



Gary Lewis's first flintlock gobbler weighed 22 pounds. The blunderbuss's advantage was it was concealable, did not take up a lot of space in storage and could sweep a swath of deck or a patch of prairie in the hands of a persevering pirate or pioneer.

is it's hard to aim at the thing you want to shoot. Lining up the flared muzzle on the one bird that was separate from the others, I could not see it as I held the barrel steady and squeezed the trigger. Instead of BOOM, the gun went THUMP!

Guns are not supposed to go THUMP! The leather around the flint had struck the steel. I rolled back the leather with my thumb and re-cocked and re-sighted on the noggin of another nervous bird.

The flint struck sparks and the powder fizzed for over a full second before it ignited the charge in the barrel. BOOM! A white cloud of burnt powder hung in the air and the big gobbler flopped over in the sunlight.

I've learned on previous muzzleloader hunts to dash to the prize and grab the bird. Rodakowski beat me to it. He put his foot on the bird's neck, but it did not require further dispatching. A full load of No. 6s had done the trick at 16 paces.

My big, beautiful gobbler weighed 22 pounds, its beard stretched the tape to 9-1/4 inches, and the longest spur measured 1-1/4 inches. Fanned out, the feathers were perfect golden and bronze – one of the biggest, most beautiful turkeys of my career.

If you're the pilgrim in charge of bringing home the bird for Thanksgiving or Christmas, the short-barreled sparking muzzleloader is the cure. And the blunderbuss makes a great wall-hanging curio with a turkey feather dangling from it.



Listen to Gary's podcast – Ballistic Chronicles – on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Podcasts and other podcast platforms. Or visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com.

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ne, two, three...I had to wait until seven cows and calves walked single file through the small meadow. I knew he would be coming through behind them, but I was pinned down because of the cows, and I was still too far for a shot. As cow seven exited the clearing I glanced downhill and couldn't see any more legs coming through the thick timber; it was now or never.

I took off at an accelerated rate, not a run, but more of a long stride, very fast walk. The type of stride a kid takes who has been yelled at several times already for running at the pool. My eyes stayed glued downhill and I dug for my rangefinder as I went. A stick cracked and I saw a shadowy hulk climbing quickly toward the meadow. A beautiful bull entered the clearing at a trot. I stopped abruptly and fumbled to get a reading of 61 yards, still too far. It didn't matter anyway, he was through the opening too fast.

As suddenly as he exited stage right, he wheeled and trotted back through the way he had come. He bugled angrily as he went back through the meadow downhill. A cow and calf were straggling behind and he was going back to get them. I hurriedly repeated my process from before and cut off another 13 yards just as the cow and calf pushed through the meadow. I drew and simultaneously managed to squeak out a garbled cow mew without choking on my mouth diaphragm. The bull stopped in his tracks broadside in the meadow and bugled. The arrow hit him high in the lungs mid-bugle.

With stories and encounters like these, it's no wonder that in the mind of most western hunters, archery elk hunting is king. But what happens next after you punch your archery elk tag? Are you done hunting for the year? Or worse, what happens next year if you don't have an archery elk tag in your pocket at all? In a hunting world where tags become increasingly harder to draw, OTC units are disappearing, and the expense of outfitter tags is rising as fast as the price at the gas pump, it may be time to examine your archery hunting plan.

Step 1: Come up with a good plan! Whether you apply in multiple states, or stay close to home here in Oregon, sketch out what your five-year hunting plan might look like. Add species, areas and season dates of hunts you would like to go on within those five years. Are there holes in your hunting schedule that can be filled with an archery tag and some creative thinking?

A number of years ago, I drew an archery antelope tag in my home state of Oregon with five preference points. For that same unit, a rifle tag would have cost me 15 points. Now, I'm no mathematician, but three antelope tags in a 15 year period is greater than one.

Most eastern Oregon archery hunts for both deer and elk have



The author took this nice whitetail with an Oregon second-choice tag. Most Oregon archery deer tags have very few first-choice applicants.

gone to a draw system after historically being over the counter. As such, most of those tags have very few first-choice applicants, meaning whether it be first or second choice, an archery buck tag is all but guaranteed. To that, I can hear your response now: "But that's because the deer hunting in the state has declined dramatically." To that I say, the mule deer hunting in the state has declined dramatically, but luckily for us, our state gives us two additional species to choose from. Many units in northeast Oregon have opportunities for whitetails on both public and private land. They are extremely keen and taste delicious. Hunt them from the ground instead of a tree, and you up the ante on the difficulty scale (if you're into that type of thing).

After being fed up with multiple trips to the high country with a rifle in search of mule deer that weren't there and people that were, I made the switch to archery whitetails and had the most fulfilling deer hunt I've had in quite some time.

The west side of Oregon can offer fantastic late-season blacktail hunting. These shy little deer offer a unique challenge with the benefit of hunting them late in the year when your hunting schedule is less packed. I took this route a couple of years back, and although unsuccessful, had a fantastic time. I can promise you I will hunt blacktails with my bow again.

There is no doubt that archery elk hunting stirs your soul in ways that are hard to parallel. When it comes to my archery hunting goals, I prefer to be an opportunist. Make a plan, and spend more time bowhunting.

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Oregon Elk from Coast to Canyons

t was my buddy's first hunt for Roosevelt elk and he had a decision to make. Two bulls fed out of the timber on the western slopes of the Coast Range, south of Florence. But they were a long way away and darkness was closing in.

"If we hurry, we can make it – maybe," smiled guide, Jody Smith. "First, we'd have to cross a couple draws and climb up that ridge to get a shot," he pointed. "If the wind stays steady and we don't run out of daylight we'll be OK, but if we spook 'em, we probably won't see them again."

"And our second option?" asked Skip Knowles, who held the tag. "Let 'em be and we'll try to find them first thing tomorrow morning," Smith offered.

Option two it was. Sleep didn't come easy for Skip. By dawn the next morning we were in position, and found the bulls still out grazing, 300 yards from where we'd left them the night prior. The stalk went smoothly, the wind held, and Skip made a great shot with his new Browning 6.8 Western.

I was the third wheel on this hunt, though I'd been on many such elk outings with Smith over the years. One of the biggest qualities I admire in Smith is his level of patience. Rarely is Smith in a rush, and he knows the land and the animals he hunts, intimately.

"These elk get a lot of pressure by the time general rifle season rolls around, and if you push 'em into the jungle, you might not ever see them again," Smith conveyed. "There's a reason they're one of our most challenging big game animals to hunt."

Whether hunting Roosevelts in the Coast Range or Cascades, or migratory or homebody Rocky Mountain elk east of the mountains, matching your approach to the elk, the habitat, the pressure they've felt, and the weather, will be key to consistently filling a tag. Story & Photos by Scott Haugen





Hidden in plain sight, elk are camouflaged by sage, and this big Baker County herd has many sets of eyes to spot you stalking in open country.

Roosevelt Quest

Rooting out Roosevelts in their jungle-like habitat is the norm come November. With decreased logging on public ground in both the Coast Range and Cascades, glassing units is not as effective as it was 30 years ago. While logging occurs on private timber lands, many hunters are reluctant to pay to play. Due to less logging, hunt two- or three-year-old burns, which can attract elk.

Roosevelt elk habitat has become so dense, the biggest challenge of tagging a bull is simply locating one. Beginning in August, scouting has alerted bulls, as has the September archery season and October deer season, all of which push bulls farther into cover.

Roosevelt bulls are notorious for gathering in small bachelor groups and retreating to the thickest, deepest, darkest canyons soon after the rut. Walking to the bottom of a gorge in the Coast Range and coming out with a bull isn't as simple as it sounds, for this is some of the most rugged terrain in the West. Add to it towering Douglas fir forests and cover so dense it's often impenetrable, and simple navigation becomes almost impossible. Warming trends have affected big game migration habits throughout the West.

So have wolves.

If you're in good shape, can navigate with a compass or GPS, don't mind crawling on hands and knees, and are dedicated to starting the hunt well before daylight and emerging after dark, likely in heavy rains, there's a chance of success. Reaching the places these bulls retreat to in the Coast Range and Cascades is the challenge of hunting them. Do that, and follow the sign until you run out of light, then do it again the next day, and the next, and you're heading in the right direction. Tracking and navigation skills are put to the test with these elk, but it's doable, as many hunters fill tags with big bulls every year.

Rocky Mountain Migrants

When planning a hunt for migratory Rocky Mountain elk, be flexible. A mistake that's easy to make is putting your schedule ahead of nature's. On migratory hunts, if bad weather hasn't forced elk to move, you may not see one, and face it, our global warming trends have affected big game migrations throughout the West.

Monitor storms and time your hunt after a few feet of snow have fallen in higher elevations. It can take a lot of snow to push elk from their summer and fall range, so be patient. If the snow hasn't pushed elk down to where you normally hunt them, you may need to move camp.

Just because a unit or valley has consistently produced big bulls, don't count on it year after year if conditions aren't favorable. If the snow doesn't fall, the elk likely won't move. If wolves have taken over an area, not only will this deplete herd numbers but it can alter paths of travel.

The barrage of wildfires Oregon has experienced in recent years can also impact elk migrations. Monitor not only recent wildfires, but research where fires have occurred over the past five years. Where they've not burned too hot and scorched the ground, fires can create favorable habitat that will attract elk.

Do your research before heading on a hunt for migratory elk. The fact you've been building points for years means nothing if the area is devoid of elk. Track the weather, call regional wildlife agencies for specific details on the hunt unit as well as neighboring units elk may be moving out of, and scout.

If you can't get away to physically scout, check satellite imagery on the internet, as the detail which can be seen might surprise you.

Hunting migratory bulls can be a game of patience. Setting up with quality optics and covering ground with your eyes is an efficient way to approach it. A spotting scope will save time and energy, allow you to size up bulls, and devise a plan once bulls on the move are located.

Rocky Residents

If hunting non-migratory Rocky Mountain bulls at lower elevations than where migratory bulls reside, realize they've been pressured for months. Some homebody elk have seen hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers since June. They've likely seen shed hunters much of the summer, as well as early season archery hunters, along with deer, upland bird and pronghorn hunters. And don't forget predator and varmint hunters, whose presence can put resident elk on alert.

Under so much pressure, homebody elk can be largely nocturnal and will often hunker into the deepest draws and brush-choked hideouts, emerging to feed right before dark and heading back to bed well before sunup. Then again, elk are big animals that must eat, especially as winter approaches.

With decreased logging on National Forest lands from the Coast Range and Cascades to the Blue Mountains, glassing units is not as effective as it was 30 Ø years ago. Homebody bulls can travel miles at night for food, even water in dry conditions. Finding these bulls often means scouting to learn the feeding and bedding areas, then intercepting them on the move. If bedding areas are found, try hunting from the bedding areas toward the feeding spots, so you're not chasing bulls. Being in front of bulls as they approach their bedding locations is much easier than trying to catch up to them.

Keep in mind that bedding areas can change from day to day, for many reasons. Locating elk from afar at first light, watching them until they bed if you can't commence a stalk, then planning a move, is another option. Sometimes bedding areas are so dense, the only hope of filling a tag is to move in close and wait for elk to emerge in the final moments of shooting light.

Unlike glassing up migratory bulls from a stationary vantage point, slowly moving through habitat without first seeing elk is a good approach when hunting resident bulls. The sign you'll discover along the way will influence the decisions you make, so be willing to adapt.

Even if you hold a cow tag, the same approaches apply, as they can be very wise. Last year I was on a cow hunt just east of Baker City. We spotted a herd early, but had to wait for them to bed in the sage brush before moving in for a shot. Our patience paid off.

No matter where in Oregon you're hunting elk this season, research the area, watch the weather and plan your hunt, accordingly. Be aware and flexible, for much of our elk hunting success comes down to altering even the best laid plans.

Order Scott Haugen's popular DVD, Field Dressing, Skinning & Caping Big Game, which includes elk. Mention in the notes of your order you'd like the OHA Special, and you'll also receive a FREE copy of Cooking Big Game with over 100 recipes. Order at www.scotthaugen.com.



Ambush elk as they approach a bedding area, like this herd making its way into the timber after feeding at night.



A Game Plan for Late-Season Muleys

Hunting distracted mule deer at the ragged end of the season

By Gary Lewis

ule deer are less abundant in central and eastern Oregon than in days gone by, and big bucks are wary, perhaps more stealthy than ever, but late in the season, they make mistakes. A hunter who examines the challenges and advantages of a late fall or early winter hunt can put a good buck in the crosshair. **ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY**

By late October and into November, most mule deer hunts have come and gone, but there are late season opportunities like the Beulah and Hart Mountain bow hunts. muzzleloader hunts in Sled Springs, NE Whitehorse units and several centerfire rifle hunts in the Silvies, Interstate, Silver Lake/Ft. Rock, Sled Springs and Heppner units. These deer spend the summer months in and among the mountain peaks. When the snow begins to fall in earnest, they begin to work down the canyons and river valleys. Take a look at the hunt area and identify the main travel corridors. A call to a game biologist can provide the answers. Look for the main migration path,

then plan to hunt where the deer are going.

With snow on the ground, a hunter can find the track of a specific buck and follow it. I carry a small tape measure for just this reason. I'm looking for a track that measures three inches or longer. Measure one of the front tracks. My biggest buck's front hoof measured over 3-1/2 inches. Lay a cartridge down next to a track in fresh snow. A .30-06 cartridge measures almost 3-3/8 inches long. A 7mm Magnum stretches the tape to just over 3-1/4 inches.

Regardless of the size of the track, a big animal can have stunted antlers, while a younger buck can have a bigger rack. Maybe that doesn't matter as much as we think it does. Taking a buck after following its track for half a day or more is one of the most satisfying moments in a lifetime of hunting deer.

Try to start with the wind in your face and anticipate what the animal will do. Following a track, watch the edge of the trees ahead and look to spots where the deer will stop and check its backtrail.

This is one of the oldest hunting meth-

ods we have, and it is fast becoming a lost art. Don't expect immediate results. In fact, tracking a buck to a shot opportunity could take all day long. In a lot of cases, the buck knows it is being followed. The closer the hunter gets, the better the animal uses the cover to stay hidden. But it is also curious about the creature on its trail. It wants to get a look at the hunter, to check his progress. That's when he looks back through the trees.

OOH THAT SMELL

Antler rattling and scraping can bring bucks to shooting range, but in my experience that tactic works best early in the breeding season. There are exceptions. Once on a Thanksgiving Day, my friend Steve Jones rattled in a mule deer that crossed a road and climbed up to the rim where he waited with his muzzleloader.

My friend David Jones, no relation, had a similar late season hunt a few years later. He was hunting with Rich Meredith, Troy Boyd, Lynn Bruno and David's brother, Jeff–OHA members all– and they spotted a buck and a doe bedded together.

Taking a buck after following its track for hours is one of the most satisfying moments in a lifetime of hunting deer. <u> Klamath Basin/Dennis Kirkland, Hislmages.con</u>



David Jones of Bend waited 14 years to make this blackpowder hunt in southeast Oregon. He stalked the buck on hands and knees where it was bedded with a doe 30 yards below the rim rock.

At this time of year, the buck was not going to leave that doe.

Jones, reading Boyd's signals from the other side of the draw, stalked to the edge of the rim.

Jones flicked the safety to "fire" and

swung the front sight to find the shoulder as the buck gathered his muscles for the jump.

Watching from half a mile away, Boyd saw a sudden plume of white, a cloud that hung in the still air.

Two deer bounded out of the curtain of smoke, but the buck went down in 50 yards. Jones picked his way down through the rocks and knelt, thankful. Later, the buck would prove to measure 24 inches at its greatest width and 24 inches high. Fourteen years, Jones had planned this hunt. He said the wait was worth it.

It's not magic, but a bit of fresh scent placed in the right spot can produce a buck right where it should be. That scent will stop them. Sometimes just for a moment, but that might be all it takes.

I CAN SEE FOR MILES AND MILES

When the temperature drops, mule deer need more groceries, and they look for them on slopes facing south and west where the rays of the sun linger the longest. If there is snow on the ground, deer trails will show up on the hillsides near the best feeding areas. I like to look for bushes that show up red or purple in fall and winter. The deer trails wend in and out of the shrubbery. On an overcast day, the deer are likely to feed at any hour and they may bed out in the open, too, to soak up whatever warmth they can get.

Use a binocular to examine every slope and follow the tracks. It doesn't take too



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long to find the deer in such places. The trick lies in finding the bucks. That's where a spotting scope comes in.

Many hunters carry spotting scopes, but leave them in the truck. That's a

mistake. A spotting scope, on a tripod, is essential for counting antler points, for judging a legal buck (in antler point-restricted areas) and determining trophy potential. And a spotting scope – I like to be able to dial up to 40X – can help to find bucks bedded in tight cover.

A scope can be mounted to the window of the hunting vehicle. It's a common tactic and is employed all over the

West. But the best bucks often bed in side canyons not visible from the road. Put that scope in a pack and hike away from the vehicle. There's a lot more to see.

Even in the rut, bucks need to rest, but are careful to pick bedding spots where they can watch and catch the scent of danger or a passing doe. At this stage of the game, while the food is important, what the does are doing is the primary thing. **WATCHING GIRLS PASSING BY**

When the migration is well underway, small groups of does and fawns find

> each other and work their way toward winter range. As the females gather together, there is an exchange of pheromones and the first of the older females go into heat.

> The bucks, meanwhile, are in prime physical condition. Antler display and sparring can turn into full-on battles for the right to breed.

> In most places mule deer live, the ratio of bucks to does tends to be one buck for every

9 or 10 females. Some of those bucks are spikes or forked horns, some are smaller three points. To find a really big buck requires looking at a lot of deer. Count 100 females and there should be 10 bucks in attendance. Now the odds are in your favor.

When a buck commands a harem of does, he might have them for a day, a

week or a few weeks – as long as he can keep them away from other bucks, and it is seldom that any group of females will not have a buck in attendance.

In short, scout the females and watch for the buck. He is nearby, resting, feeding or hiding. If in fact there is no buck with a herd, and the rut is still in play, a buck will find the females. It's just a matter of time.

To contact author Gary Lewis, visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com



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GAME ON THE GRILL By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Happy Shanksgiving!

Believe it or not, shank meat is the most flavorful cut on a big game animal. Similar to the preference of chicken legs and thighs over breast meat, lower legs of larger animals do taste differently from the bigger muscle groups.

The theory is that less-used muscles like the tenderloin are not as flavorful as shanks, which incur more work, thus more blood flow. The trick with cooking shanks – be it from deer, elk, or any big game – is to go for the "low and slow" method or the quicker pressure cooker (InstantPot) method.

Although a slow cooker is preferred for retaining moisture, either gadget works for this recipe as the shanks are cooked separately from the stuffing they are served upon. If you're lucky enough to have some fresh shanks, or even some in the back of the freezer, switch things up with a big game Shanksgiving dinner this year!

For the Shanks:

4 bone-out venison shanks or 1 elk shank
1 tablespoon beef broth concentrate
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup melted butter
1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
1 sprig rosemary
3-6 sage leaves

Dissolve beef broth concentrate in 1/4 cup water and pour into slow cooker or instant pot. Place shanks in a single layer, if possible, into cooking vessel. Mix melted butter with poultry seasoning and pour over shanks and top with rosemary and sage leaves.

SLOW COOK 4-6 hours or until shank meat is "fork tender." Every hour or so, turn meat over to allow for even cooking. Keep warm until ready to serve.

PRESSURE COOK on high-pressure 55 minutes and allow pressure to lower naturally.

For the Stuffing:

1/3 cup butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped
6 celery ribs, chopped
8 ounces mushrooms, chopped
1 apple, chopped
4 cloves garlic, diced
1/3 cup fresh parsley, chopped
1/4 cup raisins
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt





The key to delicious shanks is to cook them low and slow.

1/2 teaspoon pepper1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes, optional5 cups crouton stuffing mix3/4 cup beef broth2 eggs, beaten

In a large skillet, heat olive oil and butter on medium-high heat. Add onions and celery and sauté 5-10 minutes. Add garlic and mushrooms and continue to sauté another 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add apples, raisins and spices. In a large bowl, gently mix cooled onion mixture with crouton stuffing, beef broth and beaten eggs until combined. Pour into a greased 8"x8" oven-proof casserole pan. Cover with foil and bake in a preheated 350° oven 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake for an additional 10 minutes or until the top of the stuffing is golden brown. Keep warm until ready to serve.

For the Gravy:

cup beef broth or pan drippings from crock pot
 cup whole milk
 cup butter
 tablespoons flour
 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

In a large skillet, melt butter on medium-high heat. Add flour and whisk until bubbles begin to form. Slowly add beef broth and milk, whisking constantly. Cook until thickened. Salt and pepper to taste and add more broth if gravy becomes too thick. Add parsley and keep warm until ready to serve.

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For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular book, Cooking Big Game, 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.

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Oregon's Mighty Umpqua

Photo Essay by Scott Haugen

etting out one last bugle, the enraged bull finally emerged from the trees and came my way. Inside 40 yards, the bull was approaching fast, about to reach an opening. As I started to draw my bow, a snapping branch to the left caught my attention.

Certain it was another bull, I prayed it'd stop, for the one I'd been working was the biggest bull I'd ever seen when hunting. The other bull didn't stop, and worse yet, the other bull wasn't a bull, but a hunter who came to my calls.

"I'm so sorry about that!" pleaded the hunter. It didn't matter. The bull was gone.

Figuring I'd never see the bull again, I did, two months after my archery encounter, when a man showed me a picture of the elk he'd recently killed in the place I hunted. No question it was the bull I encountered; it was easy to tell by the distinct tines and 321-inches of massive bone atop its head.

I've taken other elk near the mouth of the Umpqua River over the years, as has my wife, Tiffany. One season she tagged a dandy six point in velvet. My dad and grandfather also took bulls from this drainage, but high near the headwaters in the Cascades.

Reflecting on the more than 90 years my family's hunting history spans in the mighty Umpqua River drainage, it's easy to take things so close to home for granted. Like the time in the mid 1980s when dad and I called in and took our first turkeys. It was off North Bank Road, the birds came in gobbling, and the experience hooked us on turkey hunting for life.

Then there was the time my dad, Tiffany, and I took limits of ducks and geese in a flooded marsh off the Umpqua, north of

> Blue grouse abound in both the Cascades and Coast Range of the Umpqua River drainage.



Roosevelt elk of the Umpqua River drainage dwell in some of the most rugged terrain the West has to offer .

Reedsport. We were hunting with good friend Jody Smith, and it was our time with Jody that most stands out from that day. Smith is one of my favorite people in the world to hunt with, the kind of man you want your sons to grow up and be like. Our family has been fortunate to hunt many places along the Umpqua River with Smith over the decades, for many animals.

In 2006, I took my first Columbia whitetail deer from the banks of the North Umpqua, not far from where I caught my very first summer steelhead in 1968, at age four. I never thought I'd have the chance to hunt these grand deer, but their numbers rebounded and after more than two decades of closure, reopened, proving what a valued and viable habitat the Umpqua drainage truly is.

One of my most memorable turkey hunts took place near the banks of the South Umpqua River. Smith and I were filming a TV show when an erythristic tom came strutting into the decoys. About one in 300,000 wild turkeys carry this reddish coloration trait. We got lucky.

I've been fortunate to take a number of bears from the Umpqua River drainage. My biggest came late in May. A sow slithered out of some timber in the Coast Range, disappeared into a thick creek

The coastal forest is thick near where the Umpqua River dumps into the ocean at Reedsport, making for challenging deer, elk and bear hunting.



Black bears thrive in the coastal habitat of the Umpqua River.



bottom, then came out on my side of the mountain. It worked its way up the same logged unit I was glassing from. It was 10 a.m. but temperatures were still cool. Then, from nowhere, another bear appeared behind the sow.

It didn't take long to see it was a boar. Its blocky head, massively gyrating hind end, and thick front legs left no doubt what I was looking at. The boar kept pushing the sow, and they drew closer to me. Finally, I got the shot I was hoping for, and soon I was admiring the biggest black bear I'd ever taken, anywhere, a record-book dandy that's mounted right next to my office desk where I'm writing these words.

As a kid I eagerly anticipated summer gray digger hunts with my pellet gun along the hot, dry banks of the Umpqua River. Some of my most fond blue grouse and mountain quail hunts also happened in the forested headwaters.

Having traveled the world and hunted many places I never dreamed possible, I still hold our beloved Umpqua River Valley among the most pristine, game-rich watersheds I've ever seen. Don't take this unique waterway for granted, because it truly is a special place we're so fortunate to have in our great state.

And had black in the same such



From high in the Cascades, all the way to the coast, the Umpqua River drainage is home to booming turkey flocks.



Tiffany Haugen has enjoyed many memorable hunts with family friend, Jody Smith, who is sixth generation in the Umpqua River Valley. This hunt took place near Reedsport.



The Umpqua watershed is home to secretive blacktails, as well as Oregon's only hunted Columbia white-tailed deer.

STRIKE GOLD WHEN IT'S COLD

Cold snaps will soon move waterfowl down from up north. Their loss is your gain.

The last mallard of the day descends on the decoys.

Story & Photos by Zach Mansfield



Jody Masey helps out the dogs after a good hunt.

he wind was cutting. It felt like it carried razor thin cuts with every gust. The crew knew it would be worth it. The week prior we had watched hundreds of fresh birds settle on this small piece of thawed out water. As day broke and shooting hours arrived, the first brace of ducks began to work our dynamic mid-season spread, which consisted of a dozen mallards, a handful of wigeons and one pull string.

As the birds made the big bank to the left, Chad Carlson let out a wail of comeback calls that seemed to speak directly to the working birds. Soon enough Jody and I began to follow the lead. Before it was said and done, the three of us had orchestrated a symphony of duck sounds that pulled the group to well within all of our shooting ranges and we quickly dispatched half a dozen greenheads with good shooting. Before the dogs even had time to retrieve them all, we had another group working.

Jody handled the dogs throughout the morning with poise. We ensured an accurate count on the birds for the three of us. I knew my shooting was sub-par that morning and so did Chad and Jody, as the two of them made sure to point out every easy shot I missed. In my defense, I've usually got a camera strapped to my body as well as my duck calls. Jody and Chad unloaded their guns and gave me a gentleman's opportunity at the final bird of the morning. One last group of mallards picked up our spread and we set to our calling concert one more time. The ducks responded, and with one well placed shot on the lead drake, I capped a great morning of duck hunting.

As the long waterfowl season advances across the Pacific Flyway, time your hunts with weather patterns, including warm and cold snaps. Both can provide excellent shoots, depending on your location. As weather warms after a freeze, look to sheet water and puddles. Sheet water wigeons are about as fun of a shoot as you can have. Wigeons provide excellent table fare and a challenge to test your marksmanship. Warm weather hunts in eastern Oregon pose a unique problem that is not often mentioned among waterfowlers: mud. As much as I romanticize about hunting, there is one thing that I don't romanticize about,



Kurt Boyd takes a moment to admire a mallard drake.



Solid gun dog work can take a hunt to a whole new level.

and that's mud. If you haven't had to trudge a couple dozen full-body goose decoys across a thawed winter wheat field after an unsuccessful hunt, I'm not sure you can call yourself a waterfowler. It's a brutal combination of a weighted pack and mired bog boots. Add a dose of despair about all the work you went through to lay in your blind for no birds, and that will flat wear you out.

Cold snaps up north keep birds moving south. As the cold moves across the Pacific Northwest and concentrates in eastern Oregon, I always find the first couple frozen hunts of the year the most rewarding. With the cold weather settled into the Grand Ronde and Wallowa valleys, I'll concentrate on small pockets of thawed water. Once the cold snap is extended for several weeks, I'll focus on food sources; corn stubble adjacent to roosting areas will hunt like something out of a video game. Many times across eastern Oregon, a knock on the door to farmers with cornfields can yield a hunt like you've never experienced.

Public access across this region can be tricky if you're not up to knocking on doors. Ladd Marsh in Union County is a waterfowl hotspot. I'll be honest, knocking on doors and asking permission is not my favorite approach. I consult that small computer in my hip pocket with mapping software and locate parcels of BLM or Forest Service with waterways on it.

If setting up in a field and being mildly hypothermic waiting on ducks and geese to come into your decoys isn't your idea of fun, try jumpshooting. For a quick hunt, it can be great spot-and-stalk hunting, and it will counteract all the holiday meal calories. Most hunters would be surprised how adept ducks and geese are at avoiding a hunter's approach. Waterfowl make their living with their eyes, and trying to avoid being seen can be a real trick at times. Couple that with an average bird dog who's as excited to be out of the house as you are, and you have the recipe for a great day of exercise and keeping your favorite non-toxic ammunition manufacturer in business.

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John McFarland III



Sage & Bitterbrush Planting

WHERE:

West of Lake Abert, Valley Falls, ~30 minutes north of Lakeview.



Project Partners



BRING: Planting gear (shovels, etc.), gloves, cold weather gear.

WIN:

Volunteers will be entered to win prizes including products from Sig Sauer, Benchmade and a HOWA M1500 Carbon Fiber 6.5 PCR with NIKKO STIRLING 4-16x44 Optics & Buffalo River BI-POD. (DONATED BY LEGACY SPORTS INTERNATIONAL)



register as a volunteer.

REGISTER:





https://oregonhunters.org/regional-projects/restoring-hope-habitat/

Contact Tyler Dungannon (td@oregonhunters.org ; 541-778-1976) for details.



OHA defends spring bear hunting, offers input on other key big game issues

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA had a strong presence with three representatives at the September Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Burns, where big game regulation proposals were approved. (See dfw.state.or.us/news/2022/ index.asp) OHA was one of only two organizations to testify at this important meeting, and only OHA's representatives testified on behalf of Oregon hunters in person.

OHA staff expressed to the Commission that OHA should play an important role in the creation of the new Mule Deer Management Plan, and that one of our highest priorities is to bolster mule deer populations, while optimizing hunting opportunity and quality. OHA's Mule Deer Sub-Committee consists of mule deer experts from Oregon, Idaho and Montana, and they are eager to help develop the plan.

Spring Bear Hunting

After a commissioner pressed concerns about the ethics of spring bear hunting and Washington's recent ban on spring bear hunts, OHA stepped up in support of continued spring bear hunting in Oregon. Our black bear population is strong and increasing, and ODFW does an excellent job of protecting sows with cubs and making use of extensive data collected from harvested bears. ODFW has a mandatory check-in for bears, and the data collected inform population models. As a result of these data and others, Oregon's bear population estimate sits at 34,000 bears.

OHA thanked ODFW for carrying out OHA's desire to create more youth archery elk hunting opportunity in light of archery regulation changes in eastern Oregon. OHA is confident that this will maintain and improve archery hunter recruitment.



Join OHA in planting forage seedlings to rehabilitate burns in the Interstate Unit on Nov. 19 and 20.

Chronic Wasting Disease

OHA applauded ODFW for their work to prevent Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Oregon, including their effort to partner with Oregon State University, which will allow for in-state CWD testing of ungulate samples. Hunters were reminded to stop at roadside check-stations this fall and allow ODFW to collect samples in an effort to monitor for the presence of the disease.

ODFW has an excellent CWD web page complete with resources for Oregon hunters. To learn more about CWD, check the status of your sample, the laws in effect pertaining to CWD prevention, and what ODFW is doing to prevent the disease, please visit https://myodfw.com/CWD.

In addition to working with ODFW, OHA is also working closely with legislators to develop legislative concepts aimed at securing funds to maintain the in-state testing opportunity with OSU, as well as added personnel specific to CWD research and sample collection.

Controlled hunt results will be available June 12

Starting in 2023, controlled hunt draw results will be available eight days earlier, on June 12 rather than June 20.

The deadline to change controlled hunt applications will shift to May 25 (from June 1).

The deadline to apply for controlled hunts will remain May 15.

Restoring Hope & Habitat planting in Interstate Unit set for Nov. 19-20

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA is on the hunt for 50-100 OHA volunteers to plant and cage 14,000 sage and bitterbrush seedlings to restore mule deer habitat recently affected by wildfires in the Interstate Unit. Over a half-million acres burned in this unit in 2021, including the colossal 400,000-acre Bootleg Fire.

The seedlings are growing and will remain at the Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview until Nov. 15. As with any outplanting project, weather is a critical component and by planting in November, plants should remain dormant until spring when moisture will be readily available. OHA staff have strategically set the outplanting dates (Nov. 19 and 20) to accommodate volunteers who are holding late season Rocky Mountain elk tags.

State OHA and the Klamath Chapter each contributed \$3,000 to the project, while OHA's Lake County Chapter donated \$2,500. OHA conservation staff successfully attained grant funding to make this project possible.

Some project details are still to be determined. Please contact Tyler Dungannon (td@oregonhunters.org) for information.

OHA asks Commission to sanction wolf hunt

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director mtotey@oregonhunters.org

OHA submitted a letter to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in early August requesting the Commission direct ODFW to initiate a framework for a wolf damage hunt in areas of chronic livestock depredation. The letter was sent after discussions with OHA's wolf sub-committee, Wildlife-Lands Committee and the Board of Directors.

Wolf populations in Oregon have continued to increase, and recently livestock depredations have seen similar increases. Oregon's current Wolf Conservation and Management Plan includes using "controlled take" of wolves for several reasons. To this point, removing offending wolves (both packs and individuals) in northeast Oregon has been done on a limited basis, and solely by wildlife agents or livestock owners who catch wolves in the act of taking livestock. Removal of wolves in



OHA pays out \$2,000 in rewards in 7 cases

One case involves 19 animals

In the last two months, OHA issued eight reward checks to informants in seven cases totaling \$2,000 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund.

Charges included: four cases of Unlawful Take of Sockeye Salmon, one case of Unlawful Take of Sturgeon, one Unlawful Take of a buck deer and an ongoing potential criminal case of Unlawful Possession of 11 deer, 3 elk and 5 raptors. Some of the deer and elk were reported to be "trophy class" animals.



MTNS/ODF

OHA is asking the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to authorize Oregon's first wolf hunt.

other parts of Oregon is still prohibited.

The letter specifically details the ability of the Commission to authorize the damage hunt, and suggests details on how and where a damage hunt could be sanctioned. OHA is looking forward to continuing the discussion with the Commission and ODFW.

OHA supports hunting on two public parcels

OHA has long been a proponent of managed hunting on public lands, and two different areas in Oregon are considering changes in these opportunities.

Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, near Dallas, is managed under the Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex and provides valuable habitat for ducks and geese throughout the fall and winter. Until recently, no hunting was allowed. Currently there is a limited opportunity for youth duck hunts. Now, there is an opportunity to expand the hunting opportunities to include the September Canada goose season and the entire duck season. OHA submitted comments in support of this long overdue expanded season.

LaPine State Park in central Oregon is managed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), and while most Oregonians think of state parks solely as a place to camp and picnic, a significant number of areas managed by OPRD are open to hunting. OPRD recently announced that it would close the northern portion of LaPine State Park to deer, elk and waterfowl hunting because of potential user conflicts. OHA has submitted comments opposing the closure, citing a lack of information to support the proposed closure.

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 Leupold & Stevens 1 leupold.com **Sig Electro Optics** sigsauer.com Work Sharp worksharptools.com GOLD **Benchmade** benchmade.com Nosler, Inc. nosler.com

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Chapters set banquet dates; you're invited!

CHAPTER NEWS

BAKER

Charlie Brinton (541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m., Location Oregon Trail Restaurant.2023 Fundraiser: April 1.

BEND

Rex Parks 541-480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: please see newsletter for date and time.

2023 Fundraiser: March 11, Riverhouse Convention Center, John Bambe 541-480-9848.

Update: We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt will be held Nov 19. Pre-registration is required. For information, call Kevin at 541-480-7323.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Kevin Martin

541-969-6744

ohabluemountainchapter@gmail.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m.

2023 Fundraiser: April 29 at Pendleton Convention Center. Call 541-231-4384. **Update:** ODFW Youth Pheasant Hunt at Irrigon Wildlife Area was held Sept. 24-25. **CAPITOL**

Erik Colville

(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 4090 Cherry Ave, in Keizer.

2023 Fundraiser: April 22 at Columbia Hall Oregon State Fairgrounds. **Update:** We donated \$1,200 to purchase



A shotshell flies from a young person's shotgun at the annual youth clay shoot sponsored by OHA's Malheur County Chapter. OHA chapters hosted youth field days all over the state this summer.

a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. Our Chapter was awarded an Access & Habitat statewide deer tag to auction at our 2023 banquet.

CHETCO

Matt Thompson 530-351-5847

mandmthompson02@yahoo.com **Chapter Meetings:** 5:30 p.m., next meetings TBD.

Update: We recently drew the lucky winner of the rifle prize in the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Troy Laws

(503) 738-6962

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

Jordan Hicks

(949) 533-7271

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

2023 Fundraiser: March 25.

Update: We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. Hunter Ed Instructor Training was held Aug. 20-21 at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area in La Grande.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager (541) 729-0877 EmeraldOHA@live.com ohaemeraldvalley.webs.com **Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzler on Gateway.

2023 Fundraiser: March 11 at The Graduate Hotel, Erica 541-729-5220 & Kelli 623-670-6701.

Update: We have an even better Sponsor Banquet Table available for the 2023 banquet event. See newsletter for details. **HOODVIEW**

Kelly Parkman

(503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA **Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Thursday, 5:30 at

Elmer's.

2023 Fundraiser: Feb. 25 at the Gresham Armory. Contact Kaleena, 503-314-3090 **Update:** We pledged \$500 toward the purchase of a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. The Learn to Hunt Online Academy offers over 200 lessons, articles and videos for new hunters. Visit oregonhunters.org/learntohunt

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Randy Hecker

541-659-3259

stormy419@hotmail.com

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

2023 Fundraiser: March 18, JoCo Fairgrounds, David Downs, 541-821-1511. **Update:** We donated \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114.

KLAMATH

Allan Wiard (541) 884-5773 ohaklamath.webs.com

onakiamath.webs.com

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

2023 Fundraiser: April 29.

Update: Gerber Reservoir Youth Antelope Hunt and BBQ was held on Aug. 19 and Youth Chukar Hunt Oct. 22-23. Hope & Habitat Bootleg fire seedling planting will be Nov. 19 and 20. Contact Tyler Dungannon TD@oregonhunters.org

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(541) 417-2983

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., VFW Hall, Lakeview.

2023 Fundraiser: April 1.

Update: Duck and goose box projects were held in October. Hope & Habitat Bootleg fire seedling planting will be Nov. 19 and 20. Contact Tyler Dungannon TD@ oregonhunters.org

LINCOLN COUNTY

Todd Thompson 541-270-2393

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, Jack Sprats.

Update: We are currently selling tickets for the Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle gun.

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 raffled off a Browning Hells Canyon Speed 6.5 PRC to help sponsor our free youth shoot that was held on Aug. 20. More than 50 young guns attended.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage (541) 296-1022

Chapter Meetings: Quarterly, 6 p.m., ODFW's screen shop, The Dalles. **Update:** All chapter members will be entered into a drawing at each meeting to win a \$100 Coastal Farm & Ranch gift certificate. Must be present to win!

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jeff Mack

(503) 949-3787

ohamidwillamette.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting 6 p.m. Old Armory, Albany. **2023 Fundraiser:** April 15, Albany Boys & Girls Club; 541-971-3351.

Update: We donated \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. Old Peak Meadow Project is a long-running chapter project, and we thank all of this year's volunteers.

осносо

John Dehler, III (541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Crook County Library.

Update: We donated \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114.

PIONEER

Brian Andrews (503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., Canby Rod & Gun Club.

2023 Fundraiser: March 4 at Mt. Angel Community Festival Hall; 503-710-1233. **Update:** Pioneer Chapter Sight In Days were Sept. 17-18 and 24-25 at Canby Rod & Gun Club.

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.

2023 Fundraiser: Feb. 25 at Deschutes County Expo Center.

Update: We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114.

ROGUE VALLEY

Ricky Clark (530) 905-1186

Chapter Meetings: Eagles Club, 2nd

Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation.

Update: Denman 3D Archery Shoots were held on July 30 and Aug. 20.

TILLAMOOK John Putman

(503) 842-7733

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

2023 Fundraiser: May 6, Tillamook County Fairgrounds; call Glenice, 503-801-3779 or Dixie, 503-842-7153.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton (541) 267-2577

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

2023 Fundraiser: April 1, Coquille Community Building, Marcey 541-294-7912. **Update:** We pledged \$500 toward the purchase of a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. ODFW/OHA Youth Pheasant Hunt was held Sept. 24-25 at the Coquille Wildlife Area.

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.

2023 Fundraiser: March 25, Wingspan Event Center at Washington County Fair Complex. Call Melody, 503-502-0611.

Update: We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. Tualatin Valley Chapter Christmas Party will be held Dec. 17 at Carpenter Creek Farm & Winery. Registration deadline is Dec. 8. Contact Melody at 503-502-0611.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

umpquaoha.org

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m. at Backside Brewery.

2023 Fundraiser: April 8, Seven Feathers. **Update:** We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. A Learn to Hunt field day was held Aug. 21 at a secret location near Timothy Lake.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2023 Fundraiser: March 11, Blue Mountain Conference Center.

Update: We were awarded the mountain goat tag to auction at our 2023 banquet.

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.

2023 Fundraiser: March 18, Yamhill County Fairgrounds.

Update: We pledged \$1,200 to purchase a voter's guide argument in opposition to Measure 114. We held a great youth trap shooting event on Aug. 13.

TACTACAM TRAIL CAM CONTEST

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



WINNER: Airborne! OHA member

OHA member Michael Minder of Eagle Point wins a Tactacam Reveal Trail Camera for this trail camera photo of a cougar launching over a fence in Jackson County.





Eric Martin of Corvallis set up the Reveal camera just right to catch the rays shining through the dust kicked up by these Alsea Unit elk. Martin snatches an OHA hat.



OHA member Scott Vallance of Clackamas earns honorable mention and an OHA hat for this trail cam image of a bevy of young Willamette Unit blacktails.



OHA member Brent Wright of Bend earns honorable mention and an OHA hat for this early August trail cam snap of a pride of lions at a guzzler in Deschutes County.



OHA member Jerry Holbrook of Molalla earns an OHA hat for this photo of a bathing black bear in east Clackamas County at the end of July.



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Late Rogue Youth Deer Hunt: A Box of Chocolates

fter the best part of spring turkey season 2021 and before the controlled hunt deadline, I started checking bonus points for the family. What hunts to target?

It was mostly longshots, except perhaps my son, Jacob. He'd used Mentored Youth points on cow elk and youth antelope hunts and would never have the points to draw the now-bygone Interstate late deer or the coveted Hart Mountain antelope. We started examining the late Rogue deer hunt (630T).

He'd never drawn a controlled deer tag, so the First-Time Hunt Program fit. Some pros and cons of the hunt were obvious. It was in our own backyard. The either-sex tag reduces pressure to fill-out early. Winter hunting means no stinging insects. Christmas and New Year's means no missed school. I imagined deer concentrated on winter ranges with low-elevation private timber lands open after fire season and wet, soft ground for stalks and tracking. You could even build a campfire safely. Let's not forget trophy potential! Hmm?

Negatives included post-rut hunting, which isn't ideal, frozen hands and feet, fogged scopes, and a relatively short season when factoring in winter sports and holiday obligations.

We went for it! I bragged-up the hunt for months to generate some excitement and Jake bought in. He even flexed on his fellow teen hunters.

Some of the drawbacks weren't obvious. It starts Dec. 15 and ends Jan. 5. Ten days before Christmas made shopping easy for one person on my list: pack boots and extreme weather gear. You can't go wrong with waterfowl stuff. But a Christmas basketball tourney eliminated the first several days. Then we made an



Jacob's late-season youth hunt was a challenge, and full of surprises, but ultimately successful.

after-school hunt, but days are noticeably short, leaving only a few hours. The woods were seemingly dead. My impression was the post-rut bucks weren't totally out of the high-country yet. The Rogue is only 57-percent public land and most of that is up where we cut Christmas trees.

Just before Christmas, I arranged to hunt private property. We're talking oaks, buckbrush basins and mixed-conifer knobs with trails. The owner even offered an eastern-style shooting house overlooking trail crossings. We were set.

That hunt was fun, but somewhat a debacle. I settled for a verbal description of the spot rather than a waypoint. It rained and snowed hard that night and visibility was virtually zero before daylight. There were more forks in the road than those vein diagrams in anatomy textbooks and said roads were now rivers and brutal. I parked my new computerized Ford and tried to dim the monster LCD screen, which was blinding. Lights everywhere and no way to dim. We stepped out to rig up and it was total saturation, like standing in a shower. We marched up the road with hoods blocking our headlamps and took the wrong fork in the dark. An unidentified critter growled at about 20 yards, seemingly startled, but moved closer. My first thought was bear on a kill and then perhaps a stray or guard dog after our lights revealed an old camp trailer nearby, but it was empty and had been. It was freaky. We still have no idea what it was.

We blundered around until after daylight before reaching the blind. We saw three deer feeding after two hours. It was eerily quiet and a fluted barrel on the metal window frame sent them running. It spit all day before we trudged out.

Our prospects seemed dim, but a Christmas miracle arrived in the form of an e-mail from ODFW. I forgot that Jake applied for a one-day guided hunt on the C-2 Ranch. Apparently, he was "first alternate" and someone dropped out. No way! We needed to pick a single day and had fifth pick out of a handful of days left in the season.

A big White Christmas hit and, like Bing Crosby popularized, everyone dreams of it, especially buck hunters. But this was different. Hunting would clearly be restricted to what you could reach off the highway. That's if the highways were open. Access! We had it, and then we didn't.

Lucky for us, we had a great guide and a strong, older kid with experience. Our third hunt of the day produced an hour-and-a-half stalk and perfectly placed 200-yard shot. It wasn't easy. I honestly don't know how our season would have transpired without an abundance of luck. This hunt is like Forrest Gump said of a box of chocolates, "you never know what you're going to get."

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

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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?

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Hunter Education

ODFW Hunter Education Program (503) 947-6002 Email: hunter.ed@odfw.oregon.gov



OHA IN ACTION By AMY PATRICK

OHA's Learn to Hunt Program hits the mark

HA's Learn to Hunt Program is growing and adding new hunters to our community. Geared toward new adult hunters, the program has been built to reach non-traditional communities and help break down barriers to entry that may keep people from learning how to hunt.

Most adults who are entertaining the idea of learning to hunt do not have a family member or friend who can serve in that important role of instructor and mentor. Without that generational guide, something as foundational as understanding the regulations or knowing how to buy a license or tag is not only daunting, in many cases it can be enough to stop a potential new hunter from beginning the journey.

The Learn to Hunt Program seeks to help new hunters overcome these obstacles and learn the basics that will get them into



Learn to Hunt instructors help students become more comfortable with their firearms.



Learn to Hunt courses include hands-on training, such as learning a variety of shooting positions.

the field in a short amount of time. By helping to foster new hunters, we are also creating those important mentors who can help pass the skills on to future generations.

The program is built in two separate but complementary pieces with in-person and online course tracks. The online component includes carefully curated information drawn from articles, YouTube videos, and blogs; all with a focus on how to hunt in Oregon. The learning modules are broken into three specific areas: elk, deer, and turkey hunting. More modules will be developed as the program grows to offer an even more robust learning resource for new hunters to revisit as they mature in their capabilities. The online courses allow students to learn at their own pace and move through the modules in any order that suits them.

The in-person courses offer more traditional learning environments with both classroom and hands-on aspects. From an Intro to Hunting course created by ODFW to a course about how to choose and use a GPS system, the in-person course offerings cover the wide range of education needed in the early learning stages of hunting. Field days focus on putting the classroom knowledge into a real world setting so new hunters can gain confidence in their growing skill sets.

OHA chapters are investing time and energy into the Learn to Hunt program by providing instructors for in-person courses and creating field day opportunities for new hunters. It has become a great way to get new people interested, not just in hunting, but in the conservation projects and events each chapter sponsors. Currently, Hoodview, Umpqua, Pioneer and Bend chapters have participated in the program. Hoodview has been the pilot chapter for two years, instructing classes and field days with great success in recruitment and retention of new hunters; several first-time students are now active chapter members.

Know someone who's interested in learning to hunt but they're not sure where to start? Encourage them to access the Learn to Hunt Program on the OHA website (oregonhunters.org/learntohunt) to find courses and register for in-person classes.



Kelly Parkma

Classes can teach a new hunter many things, but finding the game can be daunting for all hunters.



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ASK ODFW



New Mule Deer Management Plan

DFW is updating Oregon's Mule Deer Management Plan, which was last revised in 2003. Expect parts of the plan to become available for review this fall at odfw.com. Hunters and others who are interested can sign up for the page to receive updates about new content and provide feedback.

Some of the changes to expect are: Focus on herd ranges rather than WMUs

Oregon's 67 wildlife management units (WMUs) were originally established in the 1950s. Their boundaries don't necessarily align with mule deer behavior, as many deer herds summer in one unit and winter in another.

Recent data from mule deer fitted with GPS radio collars from across their range in Oregon provides a more informed understanding of how populations are distributed on summer, winter, and migratory habitats across eastern Oregon. The updated Plan uses this data as the basis to introduce more biologically meaningful herd ranges, which will replace WMUs as the monitoring unit for mule deer management in Oregon.

Herd ranges will include multiple WMUs that represent summer range, winter range and migratory routes for mule deer populations. This delineation of herd ranges (so that survey data collecting during winter applies to the same populations as hunter harvest reports from summer-autumn) is critical for developing appropriate management recommendations.

WMUs will remain the principal unit for managing mule deer harvest and providing hunting tags.

"We'll be managing at a larger scale than wildlife management units based on research that shows deer are more interconnected across multiple units," says Josh Smith, ODFW Mule Deer Coordinator.

ODFW is also working with a vendor (SpeedGoat) to develop an integrated population model based on the research. Current surveys occur in varying conditions and can result in large swings in numbers of



Example of Herd Range development from Hood to Biggs Wildlife Management Units. Red lines represent mule deer straight line distance and direction from winter to summer range. No lines indicate non-migratory mule deer. The Deschutes River divides the Mid-Columbia Herd Range (Hood, White River, West Biggs WMUs) from the Biggs Herd Range (East Biggs, Maupin WMUs).

deer observed and the population estimate, which the integrated model will help correct. The model will combine multiple data types into a single, integrated analysis of abundance and demographic processes that will allow ODFW to manage mule deer more effectively.

Stressing summer habitat

For many years, wildlife managers and conservationists have stressed the need to protect big game winter range-low elevation habitat they need to survive the winter. The Plan will take a closer look at the critical role summer range plays in mule deer survival. Researchers and biologists have more understanding of how forage conditions during spring and summer are impacting mule deer. Without enough nutrition during summer to make it to winter range in decent body condition, mule deer are unable to sustain pregnancies and fawns and are more vulnerable to severe weather, predation and disease. Unfortunately, the quality and quantity of mule deer forage has declined in Oregon. Accounting for climate change

A recent study in the Starkey Experiment Forest is, well, stark. Researchers compared current data on plots during spring growing seasons to data collected in the 90s. Spring growing seasons have declined by 2-3 weeks and the duration of shrub senescence (period without growth) has increased by three weeks. In effect, the growing season has decreased by a month, depriving mule deer of needed forage. Information in the Mule Deer Plan will discuss observed and expected impacts of climate change and suggest ways to mitigate the worst impacts.

Enhancing habitat after fire

Wildfires are becoming larger and more common. Fires can be beneficial for mule deer habitat as they create more young growth and forage, provided invasives like Medusahead rye and cheat grass don't get a foothold first. The Plan will look at options for increasing habitat enhancements so fires actually benefit mule deer habitat.

Addressing migration corridors

The study with GPS collars also shed more light on mule deer migration and the pinch points where more deer are dying in vehicle collisions. The Infrastructure Bill passed by Congress in 2021 is providing \$350 million to the states for wildlife crossings and other mitigation, and ODFW's Mule Deer Plan will look at how best to use Oregon's portion of that investment.

N O S L E R[®]

2022 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories. **IST PRIZE:** Nosler Model 21 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



Mark Knaupp of Rickreall scores an OHA Coast knife and a place in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this image of a Roosevelt bull with palmated antlers taken in British Columbia with a .300 Win Mag.

OHA member Viri Glennon of Bend claims an OHA Coast knife and entry in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of herself with a Murderers Creek bull she took with a rifle in late October last year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There were many great general category photos this issue, and we're sorry we couldn't print them all.



NDSLER[®] **PHOTO CONTEST** GENERAL CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION



OHA member Celena Hefner of Union earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of her Keating Unit pronghorn, which she took with her .257 Weatherby.



Prineville resident and OHA member Dennis Potter receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this picture of a mule deer shedding velvet in August.



OHA member Brandon Palmer of Burns gains honorable mention for this shot of his Snake River bighorn taken in August.



Corvallis OHA member Greg Stucky bags a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Hart Mountain archery pronghorn.



OHA member Jay Baymiller of Central Point gets honorable mention for a photo of Atlas with Malheur River sage grouse.

NDSLER[®] **PHOTO CONTEST** YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

It was a rainy day in late October in the Wilson Unit, and the deer were moving. OHA member Russell Leavitt of Warrenton claims an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Youth Photo Contest for this photo of his son Conner with a blacktail buck. Conner was shooting a Remington 700 .308 topped with a Leupold VX2.





A mixed bag on a muddy late December duck hunt. Rickreall resident and OHA member Mark Knaupp scores an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2022 Nosler Photo Contest for this picture of Blake and Troy Tow hunting a slough near Rickreall.

NDSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION

OHA member Darryl Laws of Central Point earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of daughter Ellie with a great Interstate Unit buck taken with a Savage 7mm-08 and stoked with a 140-grain Nosler AccuBond.



Honorable mention and a Nosler hat go to 14-year-old Jonathan Bates Torres, who tagged his first deer in the McKenzie Unit last season.

> EDITOR'S NOTE: Remember, if a hunt requires hunter orange, it must be showing in the photo.



OHA member Preston Prentice of Beaverton earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of his son Luke with Preston's premium Maupin Unit buck.



Californians and We Ain't Lion

Keep calm, eat chocolate and pray they send a St. Bernard.

ousin Leddy is always sending me various tidbits of news items from around the world. This week, Cousin Leddy sent a video from a Jamaican zoo wherein a contractor for the zoo puts part of his hand through a galvanized chain link fence to pet a male lion. He successfully did pet the male lion after which he decided to pet the lion again. This time the lion grabbed his finger. After a violent struggle on the part of the contractor, the lion released said contractor. When asked if the man would be able to keep his finger, the doctor said, "No, but on the other hand, he is OK."

That was a good one, but my favorite stories come out of California, where the body politic is particularly protective of their large purring predators.

Last week Cuz sent me a story from California whose motto is Eureka, which means "I have found it," and was originally said to have been uttered by Archimedes famously painted naked in a bathtub when he found IT. Whatever IT was. I looked at the painting and I couldn't see it. Anyway, Cousin Leddy sent me a story about P-22. We have reported on P-22 in these pages before. P-22 is the mountain lion who was famously photographed in front of the Hollywood sign (in 2013) and recovered from rodenticide poisoning and mange in 2014.

From genetic testing, P-22 is thought to have been born in the Santa Monica Mountains and therefore would have had to negotiate both the 405 and 101 freeways to make it to Griffith Park, where he lived before moving back to the Hollywood Hills and the Silver Lake neighborhood.

He was photographed there most recently by a resident in Silver Lake and on Berkeley Circle early on a Tuesday morning. A woman said she thought it was a coyote at first, but then a gentleman who was with her recognized it as a cougar. He may or may not have said to the cougar, "I think you should go home now, Devin! Get back on the San Vicente. Take it to the 10, switch over to the 405 North and let it dump you onto Mulholland. Where you belong!"

Which brings up wildlife crossings. This was the subject of a recent survey in which 99 out of 100 people from Santa Monica did not know what a wildlife crossing was, nor did they care. The average Californian has not cared about wildlife since the Donner party ran out of Vienna sausages. But it turns out some Californians care a lot about wildlife and recently spent \$88 million to build a wildlife crossing over the 101. When asked for his opinion, one Californian said, "I saw the B-52s at the Canyon

Club in Agoura Hills and they were awesome." Another resident said, "Let me get this strain for mountain lions? OK. Once you have raised give me \$300,000 of that and let me show you all with equipment, food and staff to catch some of lions, take them to the other side to mate, and vic Another resident said, "Let me get this straight: \$88 million for mountain lions? OK. Once you have raised the \$88 million, give me \$300,000 of that and let me show you all how to budget with equipment, food and staff to catch some of these mountain lions, take them to the other side to mate, and vice versa." Which sounds like high school.

Another fellow said, "One could buy a lot of cougars for 88 million dollars." Now that's the Eureka spirit.

Even in the most backward of nations like Idaho, which spelled backwards is Ohadi, they care about wildlife. For example, you can go to Boise and ask a recent transplant from Beverly Hills what kind of bird the frog are they will give you a blank stare. But if you find yourself in downtown Weiser on a Saturday night and ask the same question, they will tell you, "anda nangkwa bon-go gwidape gimme gimme," which translates "Where I come from isn't all that great, my automobile is a piece of crap..." Which means they learned to dance in the 1990s.

Cousin Leddy sent over a story about a man from Switzerland whose national motto is Unus Pro Omnibus, Omnes Pro Uno which means Keep calm and eat chocolate. The man whose name wasn't given, but we will call him Frank, was on a mountain bike ride west of Bend, Oregon, at the base of Broken Top in May, in the snow.

Now I confess, when I hear the words Broken Top and mountain bike in the same sentence, I get a little peeved. They built a mountain bike trail through elk breeding grounds up at Broken Top and now every time a bull wants to have some alone time with his old cow, he has to look over his shoulder to make sure he isn't going to get run over, but I digress.

Swiss Frank was up there riding his mountain bike in the snow when he bumped into a cougar. Now I know you're thinking, why is he riding his mountain bike in the snow? You're saying, "Cheez, Uncle Geddy, this story has holes in it, maybe he saw a muenster." But no, it was a mountain lion, and we believe him. Because he ran his bike off the trail, which is exactly what we would do. And then he called 9-1-1 for rescue because he could not find his way back to the trail, which of course was covered in snow because it is the mountains. In May, And when the rescuers showed up, they arrived in an Argo, which is an eight-wheeled tracked all-terrain vehicle made in Canada whose motto is "We're north of you guys, eh," and they immediately got stuck. I think it was because the Swiss got in and they were in neutral. So, the rescuers called for another rescue crew to dig out the Argo.

Reports are they arrived on snowmobiles and brought a Swiss flag to wrap Frank up in. Which was a big plus, to be frank.

I mentioned all of this to my old friend Bill Haltz who used to live in California and he told me about his friend who works for a grocery store in Alturas and gets pictures on his trail camera of a cougar he named John. After John the cougar got old and lost his teeth, he kept trying to catch antelopes. The guy started putting out expired produce for him and it turns out he really likes eating cantaloupes. So I guess John cougar is in the melon camp now.

ð For a signed copy of A Bear Hunter's Guide to the Universe, send \$24.95 to Gary Lewis Outdoors, PO Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709 A portion of proceeds from the sale of Elk Camp IPA are proudly donated to OHA

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