

# Drop off ballots by November 8

If you haven't already and it's not too late, please remember to drop off your election ballot. As they say, every vote counts and every vote will be counted; and the world is run by the people who show up.

For what's at stake in this Oregon election, see October's OHA Tracker at: https://oregonhunters.org/publications



OHA is working tirelessly to improve ungulate migration, and reduce wildlifevehicle collisions in Oregon. Many aspects of this example in Nevada apply



to Oregon, and we need your help to achieve what other states have done to bolster big game populations.

Join our efforts at www.oregonhunters.org

Scan the code or visit this link to watch a compelling video on the need for more safe crossing structures: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKmvhPMokY&t=4s

### Hunters should have their heads examined

ODFW seeks samples to test for Chronic Wasting Disease

#### By Mike Totey, Conservation Director mtotey@oregonhunters.org

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for your help this fall for preventing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from entering Oregon, and detecting CWD if it already has. CWD is a fatal neurological disease infecting deer and elk across North America.

OHA President Steve Hagan spent the first three days of the deer season assisting ODFW at the big game check station in Prineville. Samples were taken from 49 deer and one elk that weekend at the check station. Other check stations at Celilo and Elgin collected 104 and 15 samples, respectively. These samples will be tested for the presence of CWD to find out if the disease has already spread into Oregon. It was recently detected in Idaho very close to the Oregon border.

While check stations in Prineville, Elgin and Celilo were all mandatory check stations for those who pass by, any hunter who harvests a deer or elk this fall is encouraged to contact a local ODFW office to make an appointment to take a sample from the harvested animal.

For testing, ODFW will need the animal's head and at least one vertebrae below the skull. Keep your deer or elk head cool prior to sampling if possible. Once your sample is collected, you'll be able to get the results of the test online.

If you plan to take your animal to a taxidermist or butcher, ODFW has a



OHA President Steve Hagan collects a sample from a deer to be tested for CWD at a hunter check station in Prineville. OHA seeks funding for faster in-state CWD testing.

program in place for those facilities to take the sample from your animal and submit it.

Currently all samples are sent out of state to other wildlife disease labs for analysis. OHA has been working hard to support an in-state testing facility at Oregon State University. This will increase capacity for testing, and also help get test results to the hunter faster.

If you are one of the lucky hunters travelling out of state this fall, keep in mind the strict rules for transporting your harvested animal home, specifically the ban on bringing home the brain and spinal column.

For more, visit ODFW's webpage about CWD and what can be done to fight its spread: www.myodfw.com/CWD

### You're invited to an OHA banquet near you in 2023! What we raise here stays here!

Enjoy a fun evening among friends and check out auctions and raffles featuring trips, great gear and more at an OHA chapter banquet near you soon.

Watch for 2023 fund-raiser updates at: https://oregonhunters.org/events-2

OHA's 2023 banquets will feature the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for a Howa Lightweight (4 lbs 7 oz) in 6.5 Creedmoor.



Feb. 25	Hoodview	503-314-3090
Feb. 25	Redmond	541-419-7215
Mar. 4	Pioneer	503-710-1233
Mar. 11	Union-Wallowa*	*541-786-1283
Mar. 11	<b>Emerald Valley</b>	541-729-5220
Mar. 11	Bend	541-480-9848
Mar. 18	Josephine Co.	541-821-1511
Mar. 18	Yamhill County	503-490-2489
Mar. 18	<b>Clatsop County</b>	503-440-9934
Mar. 25	Tualatin Valley	503-502-0611
Mar. 25	Columbia Co.	949-553-7271
Apr. 1	Baker	541-403-0402
Apr. 1	Lake County	541-417-2983
Apr. 1	Tioga	541-267-2577
Apr. 8	Umpqua	541-580-5660
Apr. 15	Mid-Willamette	541-971-3351
Apr. 22	Capitol **	503-851-8409
Apr. 29	Blue Mountain	541-231-4384
Apr. 29	Klamath	541-884-5773
May 6	Tillamook	503-801-3779

May 6 OHA State Convention,\*\*\* Chinook Winds Casino, 541-772-7313

\* Oregon Mountain Goat Tag Auction \*\* A&H Statewide Deer Tag auction \*\*\* A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction



### Public or private land?

*ODFW adds hunt reporting question to improve hunt planning and management* 

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

OHA believes that Oregon hunters deserve access to harvest statistics at the wildlife management unit scale, and we maintain that hunters play a critical role in wildlife management by providing harvest data to wildlife management agencies. After many discussions between OHA and ODFW over the last six years on the topic, this year via mandatory hunter reporting surveys, ODFW is asking successful big game hunters whether they harvested their animal on public land, private land, or private lands that allow public hunting access (e.g., Access and Habitat properties).

If you have ever perused harvest stats for a unit before, applying for a controlled hunt, you have probably wondered whether the harvest success stat for a given unit was representative of the unit's public land for which you have access. For example, the Ochoco Unit's estimated harvest success for any legal weapon buck deer was 25 percent in 2021. Just 53 percent of the unit is public land, so what percentage of the harvest occurred on public land? These are questions that OHA believes hunters deserve to have answered, particularly because hunters are providing the data.

With ongoing ungulate distribution issues, and efforts underway to retain ungulates on public lands, this information will benefit ODFW and enhance the agency's ability to manage big game populations. The data provided by hunters will increase support for the Access and Habitat Program, and above all for OHA, now hunters will be better informed when planning hunts.



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## GREAT GIFTS FOR HUNTERS!

