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GOT GOAT?

SPRING BEAR

How Bad Do You Want It?

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Turkey
Hunting
Saved Me

OHA files briefs against Measure 114, introduces Right to Hunt

Solar farms coming to Oregon's BLM land

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banquet
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tree stands that are somehow still standing



How many days and miles would you hunt to take an Oregon spring bear?



Oregon sage country cow hunts keep elk numbers in check and freezers full

TURKEY HUNTING



finds needed inspiration in turkey hunting with his daughter



When a scouting trip the teachers



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Keeping access on public lands

Know Oregon? Win a Work Sharp!

You're invited to an OHA banquet!

OHA introduces Right to Hunt bill

More cow bell, please!

Vintage tree stands that still stand

Enter to win a prize from Tactacam

OHA's 40 years for generation next

Try tasty Indian Butter Turkey

Chapters set spring banquets & projects

Solar farms are coming to BLM land

OHA invests in nest eggs

New K-9 will help collar poachers

Your best shot could win a Nosler rifle!

Let Them Hunt Crickets

Cover: Oregon bear photographed by Dennis Kirkland, Hislmages.com





GOAT

turns into a hunt, it's a humbling lesson for



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Preserving public land hunting access

ublic lands are where many of us hunt and recreate, and they provide valuable habitat for the wildlife we care about. Access to private lands is becoming more difficult in many places, and this presses the need for hunter access and wildlife habitat on public lands.

Half our state is comprised of public lands, but not all of it is open to public hunting. Some of our public lands are closed to hunting for management purposes, some are closed because of safety concerns or "user conflicts" with other forms of recreation, and some are essentially inaccessible for a number of other reasons.

Some National Wildlife Refuges are closed to hunting for the protection of the wildlife those lands are intended to benefit. In other cases, refuges provide hunting opportunities on at least a portion of the lands for some hunting opportunities. OHA has worked to open portions of some closed refuges to limited hunting or expand hunting opportunities where limited hunting is allowed, provided it won't undermine the conservation values that those refuges provide.

State Park lands are another example where only a portion of the lands are open to hunting for specific seasons or species. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department recognizes hunting as another type of outdoor recreation for which they try to provide access. Managing different types of recreation and keeping them compatible is an area that OHA is actively providing input on across both federal and state managed lands. Without our voice, land managers will likely move toward the interests of non-hunting forms of outdoor recreation.

Just simply reaching public lands can be the biggest challenge in some cases. How many times have you looked at a map or your onX app and seen public lands that are behind private lands that don't allow entry? OHA sees several solutions. First and foremost, we support the Access and Habitat (A&H) program. Lands that are enrolled in the A&H program not only allow access to the private lands, but allow hunters to get through the private lands to access landlocked public lands. OHA also supports the use of land exchanges that block up and provide access to public lands. These are complex, lengthy and expensive endeavors for land managers, but have reaped huge benefits for public access where they've been done successfully. Yet another trend is the purchase of private lands that are then deeded to a public land manager. The ODFW/RMEF Minam purchase that OHA supported with a \$100,000 contribution is a great example. In nearly all cases, these land transactions are done for conservation purposes. OHA has directly supported several of these with the clear stipulation that hunting will be allowed on the lands once they become public.

More recently, large catastrophic wildfires have damaged roads and created a sea of snags, making huge areas of our national forests unsafe for entry and causing prolonged forest closures. OHA has been constantly imploring our National Forest managers to proactively work in those areas to make them safe for public entry, only to have those plans squashed by protectionist groups.

There are numerous other examples and justifications for not allowing hunting on public lands. OHA understands that there are legitimate reasons that some lands should not be open for hunting. For those areas that lack justification for a hunting closure, we will continue to work on opening those lands and improving access.

OREGON HUNTER

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http://www.oregonhunters.org

POSTMASTER: Send changes to Oregon Hunter, PO Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501.





KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

- 1. Which wildlife area is near La Grande?
- a) Ladd Marsh
- c) Murderers Creek
- b) Summer Lake
- d) White River
- 2. Which corner of the state has the fewest bears?
- a) northwest
- c) northeast
- b) southwest
- d) southeast
- 3. Which season opens first?
- a) antelope
- c) general archery
- b) fall bear
- d) dove
- 4. You can hunt blacktails in the aspen in which unit west of I-5?
- a) Alsea
- c) Applegate
- b) Tioga
- d) Chetco
- 5. Which season is longest?
- a) antelope
- c) sage grouse
- b) band-tailed pigeon d) dove
- 6. In the Pueblo Mountains, you'll likely find:
- a) chukar
- c) mountain quail
- b) pheasant
- d) all of the above
- 7. Mountain goats are hunted in all but which?
- a) Sumpter Unit
- c) Snake River
- b) Minam Unit
- d) Lookout Mountain
- 8. Which of these is a dabbling duck?
- a) pintail
- c) canvasback
- b) redhead
- d) bufflehead
- 9. Guano Valley is in which unit?
- a) Wagontire
- c) Juniper
- b) Beatys Butte
- d) Whitehorse
- 10. Which unit is named after Hawaii?
- a) Wenaha
- c) Owyhee
- b) Ochoco
- d) Imnaha

TRUE OR FALSE?

- 11. Bears typically live longer than elk
- 12. A female bighorn is called a nanny.

9-b; 10-c; 11-T; 12-F.

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



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Identify this lake popular with waterfowl hunters, 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: MARCH 20, 2023.





LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Daniel Taque, Lakeview

Daniel's name was drawn from among the OHA members who identified Oregon's Pueblo Mountains.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY 25
OHA Chapter Banquets:

Redmond 541-419-7215 Hoodview 503-314-3090

Columbia County 949-533-7271

MARCH 4

OHA chapter banquet: Pioneer 503-710-1233

MARCH 9

Central Oregon Sports Show opens

MARCH 10 Late goose seasons end

MARCH 11

OHA chapter banquets: Bend 541-480-9848

Union/Wallowa, featuring mountain goat tag auction, 541-786-1283

MARCH 18

OHA chapter banquets: Josephine County 541-821-1511 Yamhill County 503-490-2489 Clatsop County 503-440-9934

MARCH 25

OHA chapter banquet: Tualatin Valley 503-502-0611;

OHA Restoring Hope & Habitat planting project, Lake Co., td@oregonhunters.org

APRIL 1

White River Youth Turkey Clinic, 503-358-7821;

Spring bear opens statewide; OHA chapter banquets: Baker County 541-403-0402 Tioga 541-267-2577

APRIL 8

Youth spring turkey hunt opens; OHA chapter banquet: Umpqua 541-580-5<u>660</u>

APRIL 15

Turkey season opens;
OHA Chapter banquet:
Mid-Willamette 541-971-3351;
Harvest reporting deadline for late hunts

APRIL 22

OHA chapter banquet: Capitol 503-851-8409, featuring Access & Habitat Statewide deer auction

APRIL 29

OHA chapter banquets:
Blue Mountain 541-231-4384
Klamath 541-884-5773;
OHA Pioneer Chapter Spring
Youth Day, 503-936-4718

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OHA members weigh in for C. Oregon wildlife

HA members in Deschutes County have sent the message that the wild-life inventory study well underway must be completed to provide planners with the best scientific data. One OHA Bend Chapter member called it "A rare but urgent opportunity for you to personally influence public policy affecting central Oregon wildlife."

One of the fastest growing Oregon counties, Deschutes County sometimes feels like it's bursting at the seams. Land use planning dictates how Bend and Redmond grow, and demand for property and homes seems sometimes insatiable.

Think of it in terms of edge habitat.



OHA members want Deschutes County wildlife populations considered in land-use planning.

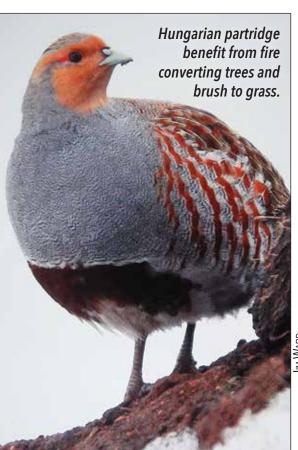
This is where the mountains meet the plain, where the forest meets the desert, where water from the Deschutes irrigates the dry land. This is winter range for deer, elk and antelope, but all the forces that negatively impact wildlife – solar farms, tract housing developments, fencing and roads, loss of bitterbrush stands, poaching and predators – are all at work.

In January, OHA members went before the Deschutes County Commission two weeks in a row, first giving input regarding the priority of the Goal 5 Wildlife Inventory Update that had been shelved for political reasons. OHA members showed up wearing OHA hats and jackets, and the commission noticed to the degree that additional opportunity for comment was provided the next week. OHA members mainly from the Redmond and Bend chapters, both in person and through email comments, reminded commissioners that our mule deer, elk and eagle wildlife inventories were last updated in the 1990s and are not the best scientific data.

The overwhelming message from OHA was that development and recreation pressure are bringing more conflicts between land use and wildlife protection and that protection of wildlife is a widely shared value in Deschutes County.

Our thanks go to OHA Southeast board member Mary Jo Hedrick and to OHA president Steve Hagan for not letting this fall through the cracks. And thanks to the Bend and Redmond chapters who showed up in January when they could have been out chukar hunting. —*GARY LEWIS*

How chukar habitat becomes gray partridge ground



e stood on a hilltop and gazed across the burnt-over ground. Gone were the stands of junipers. Gone the tall bitterbrush and sage, replaced by grass turned golden in October. Gone too were the chukar, at least as far as I could tell, but the gray partridge, the Hungarians, or huns, seemed to be doing well.

"Fire can convert what was brush and juniper forest to a moonscape of grasses," said Mikal Cline, ODFW state upland game bird biologist and avid bird hunter.

She pointed out that chukar and Hungarian partridge were introduced to the West in the mid-1900s, and as such, not much is known about what makes them thrive, but hunters and biologists can make educated guesses.

Tom Segal is an ODFW wildlife habitat biologist based in some of the best chukar hunting in the state. Juniper trees are an important component of the landscape, but are currently more numerous

than at any time in recorded history. "When you remove junipers you inevitably get a release of water and the nutrients that they were sucking up," Segal said.

"Historically, we had range fires that kept junipers out of the flatlands and up on the ridges where fire couldn't get to them. The problem that confounds the system now is we have annual grasses."

In a balanced Great Basin environment (if there is such a thing), bitterbrush and sagebrush are better ground covers, providing food and shelter from heat and hawks. But bitterbrush and sage are fast to burn and slow to come back.

"Historically we didn't have grasses in the bare spaces," Segal said. "The fires would not have been as intense as they are now. What we see now is a more frequent fire return interval. We will see more fire in that system now, which will keep the junipers at bay but will eventually give way to invasive grasses." —*Gary Lewis*

Ammunition field testing: You can help!



any OHA members have participated at one time or another at shooting ranges with Leland Brown using non-lead bullets to see how they compare with commonly used lead bullets for various calibers. He has provided these free testing opportunities through the North American Non-Lead Partnership, of which OHA is one of the sportsmen group partners.

The next step from testing on the range is to better understand bullet killing efficiency for all bullet types under actual hunting conditions encountered afield. Debate over bullet type killing effectiveness has gone on for decades without a scientific approach for comparison. Looking globally, these types of data and conclusions are virtually non-existent.

Young is now looking deeper into the actual bullet terminal performance on North American big game, and doing this analysis for a Master's Degree from Portland State University, and there is an opportunity for OHA members to participate.

Recording the data during and immediately after a successful hunt is important to make sure the information is as accurate as possible. The online survey will include questions that address a hunter's experience, hardware, and the circumstances of a harvest. Basic variables, such as shot distance, cartridge, and bullet type, will be compared to animal reaction variables. such as animal awareness at shot time, reaction to impact, travel distance and "route of flight" after the shot, the hit location and bullet penetration, the size and weight of the animal, and if a finishing shot was required. The study and survey focus will be on Oregon big game species.

No personal identifying information will be collected from participants, but personal contact information may be provided by participants if they choose to enter to win one of the incentive gift cards associated with providing survey responses.

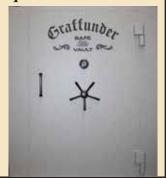
For more information, simply visit www.bit.ly/AmmoPerformance or contact lelandbrown@pdx.edu — JIM AKENSON

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OHA introduces bill for Right to Hunt

CWD, cougars, bobcats, wildlife crossing bills highlight OHA's efforts

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

The 2023 legislative session has officially begun with more than 4,000 bills filed the first week and potentially hundreds more waiting to be filed in the next few weeks. The session will last until the end of June, providing six months of political engagement on a myriad of topics. In this protracting landscape of bills, OHA is actively tracking close to 100 bills that affect our interests of wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

OHA has authored several bills this session, providing an opportunity to play offense on issues such as securing funding for enhanced, in-state testing for Chronic Wasting Disease, restructuring the Fish & Wildlife Commission, and attempting to secure a ballot referral for a constitutional right to fish,

hunt, harvest and gather.

OHA will support the plethora of concepts that have been put forth to approve cougar hunting with hounds on a county-by-county basis by utilizing a county-wide election. There are no less than six bills addressing this topic, each with slight differences in the process but all unified with the intent to allow hound hunting for cougars. However, a bill has been filed attempting to further

restrict hound hunting by making it illegal to utilize hounds in the pursuit of lynx and bobcat; OHA will oppose this bill.

Protecting wildlife migration and reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions has long been an area of focus for OHA. In

2022, OHA supported the \$7 million wildlife crossing bill, and in 2023 we will be supporting the follow-up legislation that requests an additional \$5 million while tasking Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife with prioritizing projects that support wildlife mobility and habitat connectivity.

OHA will engage on numerous other bills throughout the session, all

with a focus on our mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage.



OHA files briefs challenging Measure 114

OHA members provide important depositions

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

OHA filed two amicus briefs in early January, supporting the lawsuit against Measure 114 brought by National Shooting Sports Foundation and Oregon State Shooting Association, both members of the sportsmen's coalition formed to fight the measure.

The first brief was filed in conjunction with Ducks Unlimited; the second was filed with other members of the coalition, including Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Deer Association, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation, Delta Waterfowl, Safari Club

OHA's amicus briefs detail the impacts Measure 114 would have on hunters, particularly young people and newcomers.

International, and Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation.

Two OHA members provided depositions to the amicus briefs that gave individual voices to our arguments. Kelly Parkman, Hoodview Chapter president and Learn to Hunt founder, spoke to the detrimental effects Measure 114 would have on new hunters and those wanting to expand their hunting skills into new areas of game that require specific firearms. James Nash, outfitter/guide and podcast personality, wrote eloquently about his experiences as an outfitter/guide, hunter, and veteran, all of which would be negatively impacted by the measure.

OHA worked with two lawyers to

prepare the briefs, Mike McLane and Matt Wand, both of Lynch Murphy McLane LLP in Bend, who support sportsmen's priorities. OHA was able to file both briefs with the recent donations made to our Victory Fund. To donate to this effort, and the numerous others on the horizon, you can donate to OHA's Victory Fund on the OHA website. Visit https://oregonhunters.org/donate





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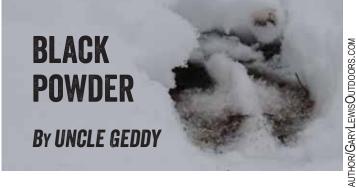
Jan. 3, 2 p.m., OHA State Office, 301 Crater Lake Ave. Suite C, Medford, OR. Need not be present to win.

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More cow bell, please

"Fellas, we just wasted two good tracks."

Maybe you've been there. You're in the passenger seat or the back seat, or best of all, you're the real cowboy in the middle seat and there's snow on the ground and two or three of you have elk tags in pocket. And the driver has come up with a good reason to NOT follow fresh elk tracks. Maybe you're hunting a bull and it looks like a cow and a calf crossed the road a half hour ago. Maybe you're hunting antlerless elk and that looked like a big bull track back there. But maybe it WAS a big dry cow. You won't know unless you track it.

"Fellas, we just wasted two good tracks."

Someone has to remind us what we're trying to do. Yes, the heater is blowing warm and we're having coffee and doughnuts in the truck, but babies, we're hunting elk here!

My name is Uncle Geddy, and in my house they call me Poppa Culture. And I have ridden around in a lot of trucks with would-be elk hunters.

So let's see

what's new

in the 2023

Regulations

for the black

powder elk

hunter.

I was going to apologize to Christopher Walken for stealing his line from the Saturday Night Live skit where he plays "legendary producer" Bruce Dickinson, but maybe he should apologize to us.

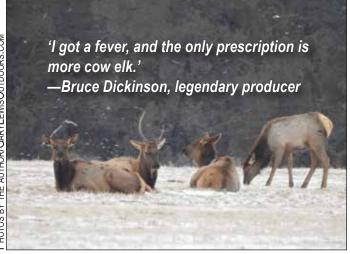
The fictional Bruce Dickinson is portrayed as the producer for the classic Blue Oyster Cult song (Don't Fear) The Reaper, recorded in 1975. Dickinson keeps calling for more cow bell. But in my mind, at least, he is calling for more cow elk. Bruce Dickinson might as well be my elk hunting conscience.

"Fellas, you're going to want that cow elk." Picture Will Ferrell tapping the cow bell with a stick.

So let's see what's new in the 2023 Oregon Big Game Regulations for the black powder elk hunter.

HOLD THE PHONE!

Without much fanfare, ODFW has been loosening the regulations on what it means to hunt with a muzzleloader in Oregon. No longer do you have to have open ignition on your frontstuffer! This looks like a major giveback to the inline modern muzzleloader crowd, but it's really not. The prohibitions against 209 (centerfire) primers, pelletized powder or plastic on a bullet are still in place, meaning there really are not many new options in play. Don't get your buckskin panties in a bunch.



The author boldly predicts snow in Oregon the last week of November for late muzzleloader elk hunting. Don't waste a good track.

CASCADE MUZZLELOADER SEASON CHANGE

The Cascade Muzzleloader season has a new time frame for 2023. This year the season will run Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 with additional tags for a total of 990 hunters across ALL of the Santiam, McKenzie, Indigo, Dixon, Evans Creek and Rogue Units. That's a lot of country, and there's a lot of public land in these units, but the landscape has changed. Many roads are still closed due to fire damage (remember September 2020?), salvage operations and recovery. But the silver lining in this forest fire cloud is there is a lot of grass springing up in the burns. The bag limit is one elk outside all USFS lands, or one bull elk inside all USFS lands.

NEW CATHERINE CREEK COW HUNT

Guess what! I got a fever, and the only prescription is more cow elk.

In case you haven't cracked the new regulations yet, there is a new Catherine Creek antlerless elk offering in the 2023 Big Game Regulations on Page 57 (Page 59 if you're searching online). They call it the 253M hunt, with an allocation of 165 tags and a season that runs Nov. 25 to Dec. 3. The Catherine Creek Unit is comprised of 24 percent public lands and this is elk country. Base camp in La Grande, Elgin or on the Minam or at Moss Springs. I'm calling for three inches of new snow on Nov. 25, and two more inches on Nov. 27.

Hey, I've been there, Fellas, don't waste a good track. Really explore the space this time.

This November, when you wake up in the morning in that one-star motel or you roll out of that sleeping bag in a 40-degree, four-star canvas wall tent, you announce this to your partners: "Fellas, I put my pants on just like the rest of you, one leg at a time. Except once my pants are on, I find cow elk."



For a signed copy of A Bear Hunter's Guide to the Universe, send \$24.95 to Gary Lewis Outdoors, P.O. Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709.







Tree Stands I Have Known

here's an expanse of summer range where the eastside habitat begins and the westside habitat ends. It's characterized by large, low-sage flats connected by narrow, open draws between large timbered mountains. Some of the sage flats contain rises and dips and islands of Ponderosa pine with waist-high bitterbrush.

As a kid, I was fascinated by the little rockpile blinds that dotted the landscape, placed just so every few miles. Some were occupied by rifle hunters in October to take advantage of early storms and deer migration. The men claimed some were originally built by native hunters and simply repaired by modern ones. Made sense. You couldn't put your foot down there without stepping on obsidian pressure flakes. I found a nice arrowhead on the blood trail of an antelope buck my dad harpooned after a long stalk.

While setting an elk blind for him last summer, and practically carrying him to it, it dawned on me that we'd come full circle and I drifted off. Neither of us climb trees nowadays, although we used



This is more like a tree house. Why just get in on the floor level, when you can raise your ceiling?



This tree stand had a footprint bigger than some tents. Was it a camp as well?

to often. Some of the contraptions I've seen over the years are straight out of Foxworthy's stand-up routine, "You Might Be a Redneck."

Once I ventured out alone from camp as a 13-year-old bowhunter and climbed into a spraypainted plywood tree fort above a dirty water hole. Dad directed me there. It was all mine except for the mosquitos. The next evening the builder showed up and we chatted. He offered it to me again and I declined and left him to it. Nice man.

Another time I sat on a hanging barstool of some kind, with black vinyl, only it didn't swivel. My feet simply hung down. There was no stand on this stand. A game warden friend had devised it near a 4-way mega trail intersection. There were no trail cams then and you didn't need one to realize there were numerous nice bucks using those highways. I missed a gorgeous velvet buck from it as my long wheel bow wouldn't drop down any lower because of the ugly seat.

Years later we got into the fixed-position hang-on stands with screw-in stakes for climbing. It was fun. These were modern and effective, but still heavier than what's produced now, and one heck of a workout, especially when you are impatient and changing trees every other day. Low tree placements looked ridiculous, but I had a herd of elk nearly brush my feet one time. I could have jumped on a big cow bareback. High placements are obviously better, except dangerous when you're sleepy or it's pitch dark or when the hornets and yellowjackets won't leave you alone and you have the urge to jump.

A friend of ours used to climb on top of orange slash piles in logging areas and spend the morning. Never worked, but he enjoyed the views. We always chuckled, but I tried it once with a bow and had a pair of cow elk at 22 yards before climbing down.

I wish I had a dollar for all the unique and now vintage, comical stands I've encountered before cell phones. The plywood, 2x4s, tarps, carpet, chains, ropes, string, log blinds, rock blinds and brush piles always make you think. About solid waste disposal issues? Yes.

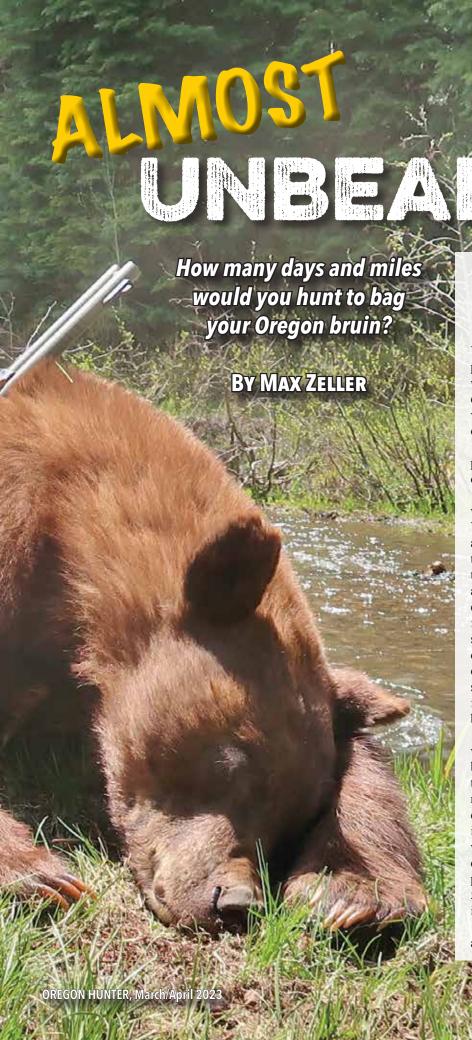
But each one also has a story or three and they all connect us to those who came before. Somebody thought this spot was good hunting at one time. Maybe it was and still is. Were these wise or foolish builders? You can never tell by outward appearances.



If you can pack the materials for a meaty stand like this, packing your elk won't be a challenge.







pring bear hunting can be tough. But sometimes I wonder if the hunting gods smile down upon those of us who put in the extra effort, fighting adversity with hard work and persistence.

We are taught throughout our hunting life that persistence and perseverance create opportunities, which is the prelude to success. No guarantees, of course, but those of us who choose to leave our vehicles behind and strive to reach the next basin or the next bend in the trail are often rewarded.

Adversity can test one's resolve, and the persistence aspect of the hunt can be a little more difficult to stomach.

A couple days before leaving for my three-week spring bear camp in the South Cascades, a Willamette Valley turkey hunt rewarded me with a poison oak outbreak on my hands, arms and legs that lasted a couple weeks. That made for some tough tent living. On top of that, snow replaced a predicted mild week of sunshine. Thankfully, camp set-up day was dry, but it ended up snowing for eight straight days thereafter; each day with sub-freezing temps. Nights and mornings even got down into the teens. Having to wake up all hours of the night slathering my body with calamine in sub-freezing temps and then trying to still-hunt on frozen snow during the day made for some tough bear hunting.

I managed to track a few bears in the snow, as well as a family of mountain lions. I tracked one bear for a mile, and found where he dug out a pit to sleep in. It seemed he was headed back into the mountains to sleep off the cold. After the eighth day, the weather improved, and I spotted two bears in two days, but both were young bears I didn't want to take. I left camp before daylight on the 11th day, and the wheel bearings on my truck's front passenger side went out. I had to get it towed over 50 miles to the nearest repair shop, waiting it out in a flea-bag motel.

I had a week left in camp, and the weather was a little more cooperative, but rain and even some



Once the snow melts and temps warm, it doesn't take long for green-up and bear sightings.

heavy snow squalls came through periodically. I made several major 11-mile hikes into some beautiful backcountry creekbottom draws, and in doing so spotted two more bears, but still nothing big. One was a sow that I snuck up to within 10 yards. She was like a big round beach ball with the most beautiful black and shiny, long fur. She finally spotted me standing there looking at her and was gone in a flash.

Thankfully, the poison oak rashes cleared up, and I was feeling spry again, but my camp time had run out and it was time to get home and do some spring

chores. I planned to return to the South Cascades the next week and spend the last few days of the season giving it all my effort. The weather was perfect with temps in the 70s and vegetation greening up by the day. I stalked up on another bear the first evening, but he got a whiff of me before I could react.

On the last day, I decided to head back into the wilderness country where temps would reach near 80 degrees by mid-day. Before daylight, I arrived at the gated forest road and biked the 3 1/2 miles to my trailhead at the head of a small stream, stashed the bike in the brush, and still-hunted upstream for two miles. The stream flows through a series of small floodplains before it ends into a very steep draw unsuitable for stalking. I still-hunt the entire length, taking only a couple small, slow steps at a time, knowing a bear can emerge at any time, feeding in the grassy meadows or travelling the well-used game trails that follow the waterway.

I made it to the end of the two-mile stretch in three hours and found several piles of bear scat along the way. This is where I made a stand for the remainder of the morning, sitting it out in the shade



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Bears emerge from the den and travel in the snow, looking for food. Find food to find bears.

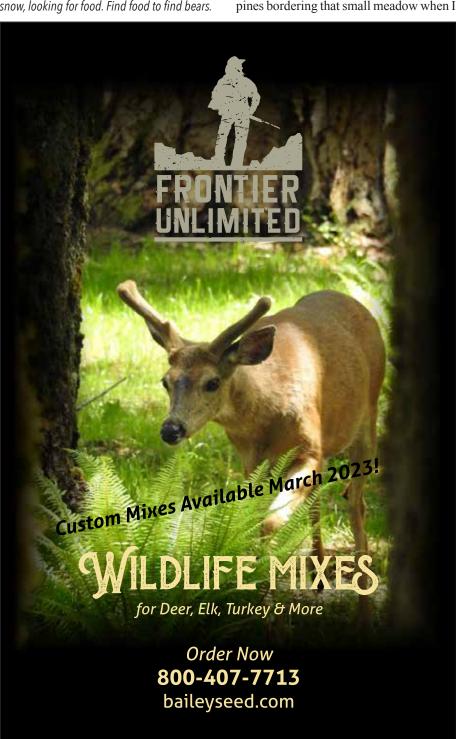
along the tree line bordering the meadow, moving sparingly and paying close attention to wind direction. A herd of elk entered the scene to drink from the stream, and they fed on the succulent grass directly in front of me, but no bears entered the park. At noon, I decided to creep back downstream a half mile to a small meadow where, earlier that morning, I found a scat pile that was no more than a couple hours old.

I had just crept into a copse of dark pines bordering that small meadow when I

stopped and looked at the dusty game trail at my feet and observed a very fresh bear track that wasn't there when I walked in. I then looked ahead through the trees into the willow-choked meadow, and standing not 20 yards away was a beautiful cinnamon bear staring at the stream. It was 1 p.m. and near 80 degrees, a time of day when most bears are laid up in the shade waiting for the cooler temps of evening. I slowly knelt to get a better line of sight under the branches, when the boar turned and stared my way temporarily. Luckily, I was in the shade of the trees and the steady breeze flowed in my favor. He turned his head once again to stare at the creek and then sat down on his haunches like a dog. I found a clear lane and placed the shot perfectly for a quick kill. In the few seconds he had left, he lunged in my direction and died within 10 feet of where I was standing.

Persistence and perseverance don't end with the kill. As the saying goes, this is when the work begins. It was hot, and I knew I wouldn't be able to pack this bear out in one trip. The meat needed to be cooled ASAP, so it wouldn't spoil. I fought off the hordes of mosquitos and got him skinned, quartered and bagged by 3 p.m. Luckily the ice-cold stream fed by mountain snow was only a few feet away where I could wash up and lay a cool tarp over the remaining quarters and hide, left behind for the second haul out to my bike 1 1/2 miles downstream. I stumbled my way over endless blow-downs to my bike by 4:30 p.m., unloaded, and then headed back to retrieve the rest of the meat, hide and remaining gear.

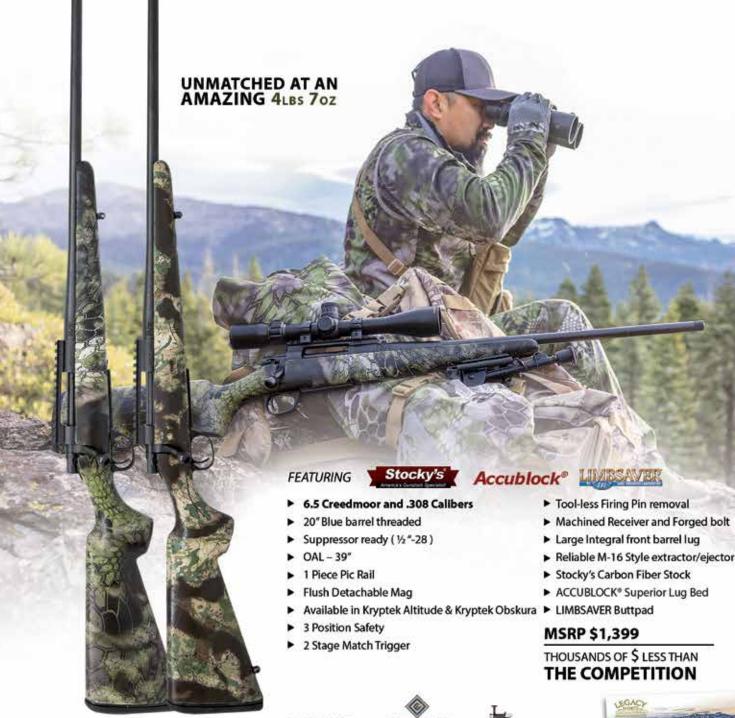
The second load was even more burdensome, because the pack could only handle the remaining hind-quarters and scrap meat. I wrapped the hide in the tarp and slung it over my shoulders. I had to sit and rest often, as I could only travel 50-100 yards at a time before my legs, back and shoulders gave in to the weight, awkwardness and uneven ground. I made it to my bike by 6:30 p.m. and got the whole unwieldy load strapped to my bike and back for the 3 1/2 mile trek to my truck. I made it without incident, but my body was spent. Back out to the main road, I had to travel to find ice to pack the meat and hide in my three coolers. I made it back to camp by 10 p.m., and after a thorough scrubbing, I was finally ready to call it a day. And what a grand day it was!





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Modern Day OREGUN COW BUYS (and Girls)

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen

Oregon's sage country cow hunts keep elk numbers in check and keep freezers full.

t was the first cow elk I'd ever looked at through a rifle scope. It was facing away, and a bullet to the neck quickly ended the hunt. I was less than two hours into the morning, just south of Pendleton. It was a cold winter morning with a skiff of snow on the ground, enough to lay the quarters on to cool while I whittled away at the rest of the carcass.

The following night I was back home in Walterville, and my wife Tiffany was cooking up fresh tenderloin from that cow. The next night we had backstrap steaks. For lunch the following day we had stir fry, and a roast for dinner. "I don't care if you ever shoot another bull, this is the best meat we've ever had," shared Tiffany.

For more than 20 years I've made my living hunting, writing, and filming TV shows around the world. In the 1990s, Tiffany and I lived a semi-subsistence life in Alaska's high arctic, where the only meat we ate every day was what we hunted for. Moose, caribou and Dall sheep topped our regular menus.

In the early 2000s I started hosting hunting TV shows fulltime, and went on multiple elk hunts every fall. Big bulls were required for the TV show, because after all, that business was about ratings, not table fare. Big racks drew high ratings, but cows, nothing.

Tiffany made her living as a wild game cook during those years. She's written several books on the topic, and traveled the

country delivering hundreds of seminars on butchering and cooking big game. So, for her to say this cow elk was the best she'd ever eaten – save for some of Africa's big game – was not to be taken lightly.

The next year I took another cow, and Tiff got one the following season. In fact, that's all we've killed over the past eight years, and I have no real desire to kill another bull, perhaps because I've been fortunate to take several over the years.

Last November came the opportunity to hunt with a buddy and his daughters out of Baker City. The four of us held cow elk depredation tags, and I was excited to hunt in the rolling sage country of this part of Oregon.

"Not many people would believe we're taking elk in these big sage flats," whispered Jon Woolard of Hustler Hunting as we glassed the expansive sage brush on the first morning of the hunt. The land we were hunting was actually public, but it was landlocked, and Woolard and his partner Logan Kerns, had permission from multiple landowners to pass through their gates. The growing number of elk on private property imparts a lot of agricultural damage in the area, and that's where this controlled hunt comes in.

After 20 minutes of glassing, we heard some cows calling in a ravine in front of us. Easing up to the edge, we saw three cows walking at a steady pace, up the draw. They were moving fast,

Big herds of elk graze on prime pastureland and hay at night, and then retreat to rolling sage brush, which is where the hunt takes place.



and we were in no rush. "Let's see where they go and not push them," Woolard said. "I can assure you there are more elk around than just those three."

Cheyanne Korpi, my buddy's daughter, was with Jon and I. It was Cheyenne's first elk hunt.

An hour later we eased over a ridge, and in front of us were over 250 elk. They were relaxed. Some were feeding, many sleeping, and several milling around. There were bulls, cows, and lots of young of the year. We wanted Cheyanne to shoot first, but the herd was still 800 yards away.

We slithered closer, but in the rolling sage, 500 yards was as close as we could get. That's when Jon made the call for me to shoot. I did, and dropped a cow. We got the elk field dressed, put in game bags and hanging in Woolard's big walk-in cooler. Quick cooling is the key to great eating big game, and Woolard was all about making sure that happened.

That afternoon we were back out, glassing the sage for elk. We found three cows, feeding 880 yards away. The wind was wrong to commence a stalk, so Woolard broke out a cow call.

We got settled, sitting in soft, sandy soil, overlooking the sage brush. Cheyanne was solid in the tripod shooting sticks with her .30-06. That's when Woolard began cow calling. Instantly, the cows lifted their heads, and the closest one started moving our way. Fifteen minutes later, Cheyanne was staring at the cow through her scope, 80 yards away. She dropped the cow with a perfectly placed shot to the base of the neck. Before dark we had her cow hanging in the chiller.

The next morning Cheyanne's dad, Mark Korpi, filled his tag with Kerns. Not only did we all love the great eating meat throughout the year from those cows, but we relished in the whole experience. There we were, hunting in one of Oregon's most historically rich places, so different from our hometowns on the west side of the Cascades.

For me, living in Walterville, near the McKenzie River and in the foothills of the Cascade Range, I simply appreciate taking trips to the eastern side of the state. I've been fortunate to travel the world, but honestly, when it comes to hunting, there's no place like home. Oregon's diverse habitats, wildlife and history are so special, and a simple cow elk hunt can bring out the best of all worlds.



Cheyanne Korpi and guide, Jon Woolard, are all smiles over how this cow hunt came together. She has already booked her hunt for next November.



From over 880 yards away, guide, Jon Woolard of Baker City, called in a cow elk through the sage, which Cheyanne Korpi dropped with one shot.

Woolard and Kerns were both born and raised in Baker City. Their knowledge of the land, history and wildlife made the experience that much more special to me. Their love of the land and hunting made for a great time. In fact, it was so fun, I planned to return the following season, but a last-minute change of plans prevented that.

Still, Mark and Cheyanne Korpi went, along with another friend. The first day of their hunt was a bust. Due to heavy fog, the hunters couldn't move. Rather than force it, they waited, but the fog didn't lift that day.

The following morning was different, and all three hunters filled their tags, and their freezers.

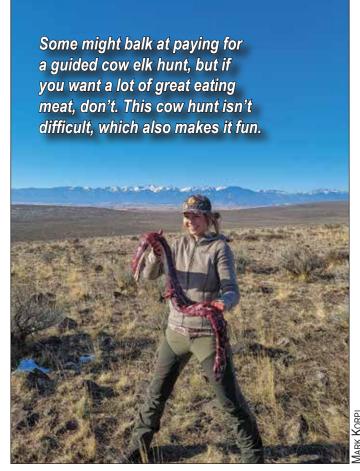
While Oregon offers many cow elk hunts, not all tags are easy to draw. And once drawn, you can't always be assured the elk will be in the area.

But in this sage brush land of Oregon's high desert, the elk are usually around. Is it a guarantee? Not by any stretch of the imagination, nor should any hunt be, in my book.

Some might balk at paying for a guided cow elk hunt, but if you want a lot of great eating meat, don't. This cow hunt isn't difficult, which also makes it fun. In fact, we drove up to each cow we killed, which helped keep the meat clean during the field dressing and quartering process. The elk are in the area and Woolard and Kerns work hard to find them. On top of that, landowners trust them to do the right thing, knowing they'll take fellow hunters across their land safely and provide an enjoyable hunt in a captivating corner of Oregon. It's one I wouldn't hesitate taking my 82-year-old father on.

Once you sink your teeth into a tender cow elk steak, I think you'll agree it's some of the best eating wild game on the planet. And to be able to enjoy a hunt in this special part of Oregon, with folks who love doing what they do, makes the total experience that much greater. You can bet I'll be back for this hunt again, and again.

Want to learn how to skin and break down an elk? Scott Haugen's popular DVD, Field Dressing, Skinning & Caping Big Game shows this and more, and is available at www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.



Backstraps in beautiful sage country of eastern Oregon. Cheyanne Korpi helps break down the depredation cow she shot this past November with Hustler Hunting, out of Baker City.









Turkey Hunting Saved Me

By Troy Rodakowski

OVID was no joke for me, as it hit hard and made me very sick during November of 2021. I was slow to recover and had very little energy over the next several months as I struggled to feel normal again. This last turkey season, I had swelling in my legs and was very short of breath with a harsh case of pneumonia settling into my lungs.

I'm one to not go to the doctor and try to be tough while denying that there is anything really wrong with me. I ended up in the emergency room and spent a week in the hospital. The diagnosis was heart failure, with a blood clot in my heart, and pneumonia. I was devastated and vowed to do my best to strengthen my heart so I could live a normal life.

We had just finished filming a TV show (Frontier Unlimited) with my good friend and author Gary Lewis. It was the second week of Oregon's spring turkey season, and I wasn't feeling well. I knew something was wrong but wasn't willing to admit it as turkey season was now in full swing and I was ready to hit the woods and fill a few tags. It was tough hiking into my favorite turkey haunts, and it was apparent that something was very wrong when I had to stop and rest every 40 yards or so.

"Is this what it's like to feel old?" I thought to myself. After a couple of weeks, I started to realize turkey season was likely going to have to be put on hold, which meant my spring bear tag would go



The author credits his desire to hunt with his young daughter for the inspiration to recover from COVID.

to waste, as well. Mentally, I was drained with a million things running through my head, and it was tough to remain optimistic.

One sunny day in May, I took my 5-year-old daughter to one of our favorite spots. She didn't know that I was feeling like garbage, but I wanted to get her out at least one more time before season was over. Although I was struggling, we had a great time. She even packed the decoy and helped with whatever she could, and I brought some great snacks for her and she knew it. Nothing like a little bribery in the turkey woods. Right?

I realized she loved being out there regardless, and that was really nice to see. In my mind I knew this would likely be the last trip up the hill for the spring of 2022, and since it was with my little girl, I most certainly couldn't have asked for a better partner on that day. The turkeys were quiet, and my daughter had fallen asleep against the fence. She woke up when one

Reese likes to help with the decoys and loves turkey hunting at a very young age.

hen came within five paces of us. The turkey gave us a quick cluck, cluck, put, put, put before disappearing into the oak underbrush. She was pretty, and it was nice to at least see a turkey up close that day.

I started to wonder if this would be my last hunt, or would I ever have the chance to take my daughter hunting again. It really throws life into perspective – the small things like getting out of bed, getting dressed, heading to the office or going to your child's soccer

game. These were only a few of the things staring me in the face at 46 years old. My daughter looked up at me that day and said, "It's OK, Dad, we can get one next time like we usually do." That gave me a huge lump in my throat, and I could feel a tear gathering in the corner of my eye. As it began to stream down my cheek, I quickly wiped it away. Dad was supposed to be tough and there was no way I was going to cry in front of my daughter. As I took one last look at the sunset, we hiked off the hill not knowing if I'd ever make it back.

Two weeks later I was in the hospital having echocardiograms, angiograms, color enhanced MRI's and all kinds of other tests. One of my friends had dragged me out of the house to the doctor after seeing what kind of shape I was in. Turkey season was now officially over, and I had some choices to make. One doctor told me that this was just my 100,000 mile tune up and another told me I was looking at a possible pacemaker or heart transplant. I remembered that last trip on the hill with my daughter and kept replaying it in my mind over and over again like a good movie you rewind again and again. It lit a fire inside me. There was no way that I wasn't going to take her hunting again, and I had a long life to live, see her grow up, get married, etc. Plus, she was my turkey hunting buddy and we had seasons of hunting and lots of

memories to make.

A few months went by, and I was due to see the cardiologist following my echo a week earlier. I had lots of prayers from friends and family.

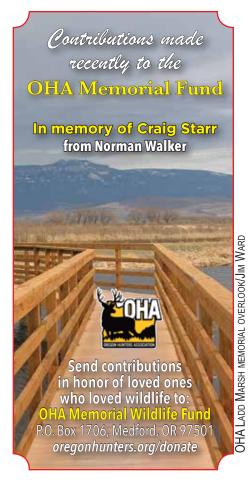
friends and ranny.

"Did they call you with the good news?" asked the cardiologist as she entered the office. "Your heart is back to normal and your blood clot has disappeared." I

wanted to hug her but instead I just smiled and said thanks as a few tears ran down my face. I'd be turkey hunting again soon enough. It was a blessed day to be able to let my friends, family and especially my daughter know that I was going to be OK. The doctors and health professionals were amazing, and the support from my family and friends was truly a gift in my life.

We are already planning our hunts for this spring, and my daughter is very excited to come be my "turkey hunting buddy." That fire burned strong inside me all summer and into early fall as I was determined to make it back to the turkey woods in 2023.

Never forget that every trip is special, and cherish every moment you have in the great outdoors, because you never know when it could be your last. Turkey hunting and time with my daughter, family and friends is what gave me the hope and determination to beat the dark diagnosis of heart failure from COVID. I can truly say that, among other things, turkey hunting helped save me and has been a driving force at a second chance and new lease on life for this Oregon hunter.



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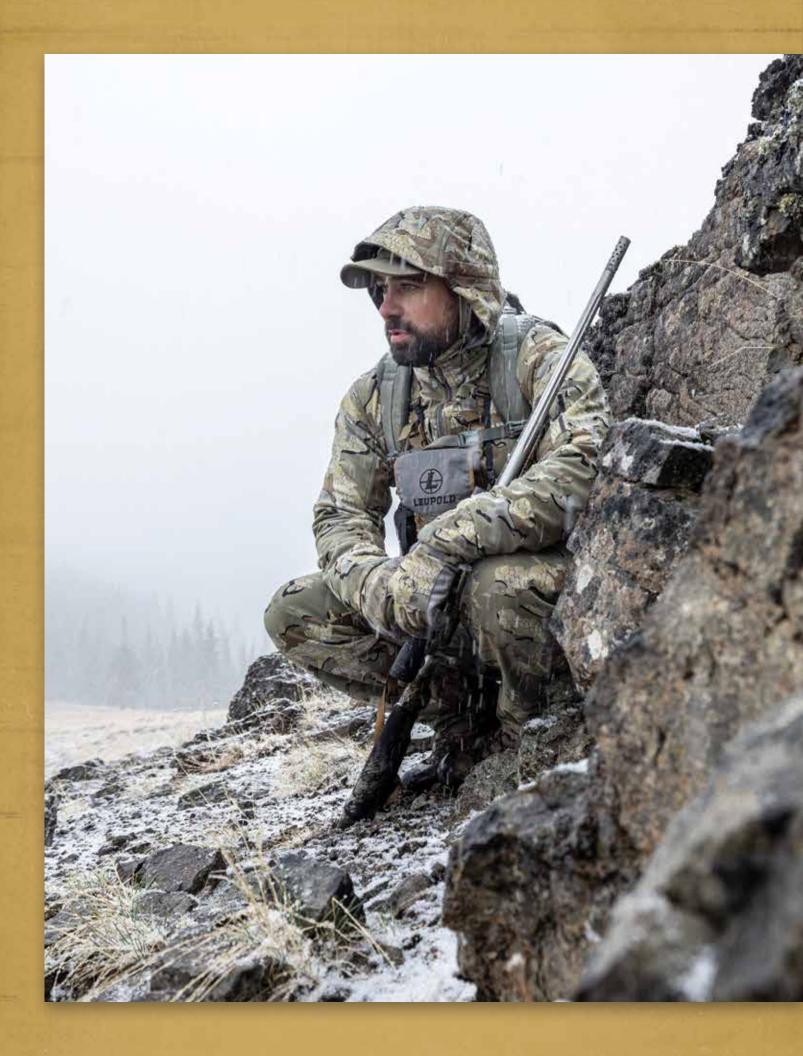
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AND A MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT BROKE OUT,
WHICH TAUGHT THE OUTDOOR SKILLS
TEACHERS A HUMBLING LESSON
WE ALL SHOULD LEARN.

BY CANDY YOW

was on my way from our central Oregon home to Sheridan, Wyoming, to host an Advanced Rifle & Long-Range Shooting Ladies Camp with my husband, Randy. We were excited to see our friends and colleagues, Brenda Weatherby from Weatherby and Nic Kytlica from Leupold, and meet our students from all over the United States.

We stopped for breakfast at a cafe in Burns. As we waited for our coffee, Randy got his phone out to check the Oregon draw results. I was getting my own phone out to check on mine as Randy announced that he had drawn nothing. I was still fiddling with my phone to locate my own results when I realized Randy was looking right at me in absolute silence. With a serious expression, he said, "You drew a mountain goat tag," and I responded with a laugh: "Yeah...right!"

Randy held his screen up: "You drew a South Wallowa Mountain goat tag, Lady!"

But of course, I didn't believe it – there must be a mistake! The odds of drawing this once-in-a-lifetime tag are overwhelming, with less than 25 available in the whole state on any given year – but there it was: a mountain goat tag for me!

The reality was sinking in fast and my mind was whirling: What if I can't do it? I'm getting older – and full of arthritis! But

before I blurted that out, I thought: God gave me that tag; there is no way I could have drawn it without Him ... and if He brings me to it, He will bring me through it. With that, my worrying was over, and I'll bet I bought that tag faster than anyone else ever has, with the thought if I pay for it, they can't take it away!

My hunt opened on Aug. 1 and ran all the way through the month of October. Randy and I marked off the calendar for goat hunting during the entire last week of September. Knowing I'd want support out in the field, we put together a crew of hunting friends we knew we could count on. We had hunted other species in areas where there were mountain goats, but didn't really know much about them. So, we started studying, watching videos, poring over maps, and talking to others who have hunted them, gleaning all the information we could.

I was daunted by the near-vertical terrain where these nimble, shaggy goats live, and I wanted a feel for the area and a sense of the challenges I'd be up against, so in mid-August, we packed up for a couple days of scouting. On the way to the South Wallowa Mountain hunt area in Oregon's northeast corner, we stopped in Baker City for the scheduled meeting with the biologist, and then a couple of hours beyond to

Hells Canyon in the northeastern corner of Oregon. We got in late, and that evening's short scouting didn't turn up anything, but we made a plan to glass at sunrise.

At daybreak, we were standing on one of the steepest rims I have ever set foot on, and I marveled that God had created this vast, beautiful awesomeness of rugged mountains and forests. Within moments, Randy and I had both spotted a white dot in the distance...but over a mile away, there was no way to tell if we were looking at a billy or a nanny even from behind the scope.

We decided we should get closer. Five hours later, after trekking up and down a nearly vertical, barely-there trail, we were indeed closer. The first descent was 2,000 feet of rock and shale. Not even halfway down, I hit some shale and over-extended my knee, and from that point, every step was accompanied by shooting pain. The alternative was to turn around, but I hated to give up ground, so on we went.

At the bottom of the trail, we entered some of the thickest creek bottoms I have ever seen. We wrangled our way through it and then up 800 yards on the next hill, down 800 yards, through another tangled creek, up another 300 yards, and there was the white dot – now looking like a great billy – and only 300 yards across a canyon.



Getting in position for the shot and then crossing the canyon to get to the goat proved to be an experiment in misery, but the long nightmare was just beginning.

We watched the billy awhile, and then I asked the question you don't ask on a scouting trip: "Randy, is he a shooter?"

He was quiet a minute, and then answered, "Yeah, Lady ... he is a shooter."

At this point, with cramping in both legs and feet, I was not sure I would make it out of here well enough to ever consider coming back again. I pulled up my rifle and put my crosshairs on the billy.

My shot rang out, the goat took two steps and started to roll, tumbled through some brush, and then mercifully held fast by the twisted remains of an old burnt tree.

I just shot a mountain goat! Let that sink in. I started to shake and cry.
I just shot a mountain goat!

We started the trek toward my goat – 300 yards down and another 300 yards back up of physical misery – but it was replaced by awe when we walked up on that magnificent animal. He was so big, with massive shoulders and a long donkey head ... I couldn't quit looking at him and thanking God for this opportunity.

At over 300 pounds, we couldn't move him, so we tied him off to a bush and got to work in the tight quarters of the narrow ledge. We took our time, as we wanted a full body mount, and after lots of blood, sweat, and a few curse words, we had him quartered up and in bags.

By now, the sun was more than half-way across the sky, and even though I knew what was coming next, I will never forget the feeling when Randy said, "We need to talk. It's early evening, and we have a good 7-hour hike out. There's no way we can make it before dark, and it's not really intelligent to hike this terrain in the dark."

He suggested we go straight up: 1,000 yards as the crow flies, but we couldn't tell how tough the terrain might be from our vantage point. I was not excited about any of our options, but once again replaced fear with faith and said, "OK, let's go." We scrambled up and got close to that top, but with dark coming on, we didn't have time to look around, so we decided our best bet was to go back down while we could see.

And here is the most embarrassing part of this hunt for me: through our Hunting Camps, Randy and I have taught hundreds of youth and women of all ages how to hunt and prepare for any situation you could possibly find yourself in when out in the field, from wilderness first aid to – you guessed it, what to put in your pack. But I hadn't looked at my pack because

"we were just on a scouting trip." It sure didn't take long to take stock of what we had: 3 Mountain Ops bars in my pack, and a Snickers in Randy's. Our waters, which we drank and filled in the creek earlier, were about half gone. And though I had only a light jacket, Randy had none at all.

The realization that we were not prepared was humbling, to say the least.

We went back down to the creek and filled our waters again. We shared a dinner of Snickers and one Mountain Ops bar, and then pretended to sleep. I know I started to fall asleep a couple

of times, but in this steep terrain, as soon as you relax, you start sliding downhill.

It wasn't long until we both started shivering and cramping, so we donned our packs and started hiking uphill through the dark with headlamps to warm up. After about 45 minutes we stopped again. This time we took out a set of quarter bags and put them over us, which helped a little, but it wasn't long before we were shivering and cramping again. So, the packs and headlamps went back on and we headed uphill once more. Randy found some big rocks near a ledge we knew we would need to go down come morning, and we spent the rest of the night there.

It was a very long night, but I never panicked, just got through it just like He

said I would. And in the wee hours of the morning, we feasted on the last two Mountain Ops bars.

We put the headlamps on at 4:30 and got started on all the descents and ascents to get back out. It seemed to take forever, but we made it. After that night, I have never felt closer to God, truly blessed by that peace that passes all understanding.

Twenty-six hours after we had started hiking to take a closer look at a white dot, we were back on level ground with a beautiful billy waiting on us still below. And practical matters came to the forefront: we needed some help to get that goat out.

Randy doesn't ask for help very often, even though we are always happy to help others. Now, for the first time in what seems like ever, he called in some

'We need to talk.

We have a good

7-hour hike out.

There's no way

we can make it

before dark, and

it's not really

intelligent to

in the dark.'.

hike this terrain

of our buddies and told them: "After a night on the slope, I am not going back in there today; I just don't have it in me." I know it was hard for him. But we were blessed again when six friends showed up and brought that goat out to us, especially when they were sitting on tags for opening weekend of archery elk and deer, you have no idea how grateful I was. True friends who drop everything to help pack a goat out of Hells Canyon, great folks and hunters that I will forever be thankful for: Dan Daggett, Fred & Heather Daggett and their son Wyatt Daggett, DJ

Fox and his son Taylor Fox.

In the meantime, I started letting everyone know we were all right and called our crew of friends who had planned to join us on the hunt to let them know about the goat and the free week they now had on their calendars. Everyone said: "I thought it was just a scouting trip!"

Well, when you hunt that hard, hike that far, and keep your faith in the face of discomfort – and pull up on a great goat like that at 300 yards – you don't just back out. And lovely though it is, I don't want to ever go back into Hells Canyon again!

We learned a lot, went well beyond what we should have done, and leaned on God. And along with it, I got a mountain goat of a lifetime.



Deer

Flk

Rocky Mountain Goat

Pronghorn

Bighorn Sheep

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

The 2023 raffle will be held on May 26, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at ODFW Headquarters in Salem, Oregon.



FOR MORE INFO:
Scan the QR code or go to
https://tinyurl.com/4wevpusk

The event will also be livestreamed starting at 2:00 p.m. on May 26. Go to www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW to attend the event.





TACTACAM TRAIL CAM CONTEST

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



WINNER:

Panther on a
Ponderosa.
OHA member
Justin Hilger of
Beavercreek wins
a Tactacam Reveal
Trail Camera for
this Tactacam pic
of a puma paused
at a prostrate pine
on public property
in Grant County.



HONORABLE MENTION:



A big Jackson County blacktail strolls in front of a big apple-eating black bear. OHA member Darren Davidson of Medford earns honorable mention and an OHA hat.



OHA member Ryan Sweeney of Newberg earns honorable mention and an OHA hat for this trail cam photo of a bobcat scurrying away with a squirrel.



OHA member Paul Thompson of Medford earns honorable mention for this rare capture of three January bucks at a lick in Jackson County.



A sow and cub go for a dip in the water trough on a hot August evening. OHA member Tyler Gange of Terrebonne earns an OHA hat for this mid-August trail cam snap.

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40 Years of **Generation Next**

What OHA has done to recruit and train future generations of hunters

magine the dilemma of OHA member Jerry Frampton in Baker City. His kids wanted to hunt, but to draw a mule deer tag required a few preference points – and a few years of applying and waiting for June 20 to roll around for one more rejection in the mailbox. That's what we call Not Sustainable.

A 12-year-old who wanted to hunt deer was looking at possibly graduating high school before actually getting in the field.

OHA initiated the First-Time Hunter Program and raising the upper age limit for the Mentor Program.

Uh, dad, that's half a lifetime. That's precisely the position the OHA State Board member from Baker found himself in with kids coming of hunting age and no place to go except faraway western Oregon, where weekend hunts would re-

quire as much drive time as they would yield hunting time. It recalls a song from 1976 by a gent who is rumored to have hunted pheasants in Oregon:

Time keeps on slippin'slippin'slippin' into the future.

I wanna feed the babies, who can't get an elk to eat.

Wanna give deer tags to the children with no deer tags on their street.

Oh, yeah there's a solution.

The solution was the First Time Hunter Program, and it was the brainchild of



For just youth turkey hunters alone, OHA puts on annual clinics, and initiated half-price youth turkey tags and the Youth Sports Pac to encourage families to participate.

an OHA Northeast Director whose kids couldn't draw a muley tag. Since then, thousands of kids have benefited from the First Time Hunter Program because OHA got involved and lobbied ODFW. In our family, the first time the kids met other OHA members, it was at hunter education class. OHA members were the people who guided my girls on youth pheasant hunts, helped teach them the proper feeding and care for a shotgun and introduced the concept of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

By the time my girls were past the youth hunter stage, the Youth Sports Pac concept had been pitched to ODFW by OHA, and it sure would have saved my family a lot of money if it had come a few years earlier. Have you ever wondered why turkey tags are so expensive? I know I have, while walking through the meat department, eyeballing whole Butterball turkeys for LESS than the cost of a wild turkey tag, but OHA did something about that, too, lobbying for half-price youth turkey tags, as well as the youth turkey weekend.

The Youth Sports Pac and half-price turkey tags were pitched to then-ODFW Director Roy Elicker during a visit to the OHA State Office. Director Elicker embraced the concepts and ran with them.

The Mentored Youth Hunter Program, when I first heard about it, was another idea I thought was going nowhere, until it passed, and you can bet a lot of today's hunters can thank a mentor for the chance to go hunting for the first time. It's a pro-

gram available to all, very easy to learn and implement, and the concept was supported by OHA. Even better was when OHA introduced a bill to raise the eligibility limit from 14 to 16, making it more inclusive of busy high school kids. A lot of mentored hunters go on to take hunter education and become lifelong hunters.

When a new youth waterfowl hunt was proposed at Baskett Slough 10 miles west of Salem, it was opposed by the usual anti-conservation groups. Who was there to rally support and win the day for young hunters? It was OHA.

When the first-ever youth pheasant hunt at the Coquille Wildlife Area went wanting for a lack of funds, it was OHA's Youth Heritage Fund that stepped up with the money.

When a gaggle of fresh-faced youngsters show up at the first day of hunter education classes, who is there to greet them? OHA members. And who are the volunteers who give up their Saturdays to host the ever-important field days at gun ranges? OHA members.

With 26 chapters around the state and members who like to spend time together and use their time and talents to help young people be successful, many of the volunteers at youth upland bird hunts are OHA members.

The Oregon Hunters Association is actively making a difference in the lives of people around the state every day of the year. The future of hunting is in the hands of the young people. OHA members have known this for 40 years.

WANTED:

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS



Remember the thrill of your first hunt?

Do you have a passion for hunting that you would like to pass on to others?

ODFW's Hunter Education Program NEEDS you!

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

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

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

How do I become a Certified Instructor?

Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

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





Indian Butter Turkey

've heard it for years, "A turkey tastes great when ya cook it on a plank; throw away the bird and eat the plank." While the comment brings an awkward chuckle, nothing could be more offensive to a professional outdoor cook, or anyone who knows the very basics of how to cook a wild turkey.

When properly taken care of in the field and not overcooked, wild turkey is one of the best-tasting, most tender, upland game birds there is, no matter if it's a jake or an old tom. After taking a bird, get it field dressed and quickly cooling. Don't toss the birds around, because the meat easily bruises. Turkeys are big birds and retain heat for a long time, so get it in a cooler of ice or a refrigerator.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, the relatives devour the wild turkeys I cook, well ahead of the store-bought bird someone else brings. One of the great things about wild turkey meat is its mild taste, thus it easily takes on the flavors with which it's cooked.

Butter Chicken is a popular curry throughout the world. Originating in Northern India, Butter Chicken can be a less complicated dish with fewer spices than some curries, and it adapts well to wild turkey. The added healthy fat from cashews makes this dish extra creamy. Canned coconut milk can be substituted for the cream if desired. Using a blender or food processor will make this a fast and easy meal.

For slow-cooked wild turkey legs and thighs to cook separately, blend all marinade and sauce ingredients together in a blender. Add everything to crock pot and cook on high 3-5 hours or until meat falls from the bone.

1 pound wild turkey breast

Marinade:

1/2 cup plain yogurt

3 tablespoons lemon juice

3 cloves garlic, minced

1" fresh ginger, minced

2 teaspoons turmeric

2 teaspoons garam masala

1 teaspoon cumin

1/4-1 teaspoon cayenne or Kashmiri chili pepper

Sauce:

3 tablespoons butter

1 cup cashews

1 cup tomato sauce

1/2 cup cream

2 teaspoons sugar, optional

1 teaspoon salt

Water

Fresh cilantro for garnish





Butter Chicken is a popular curry throughout the world.

Cut turkey breast into bite-sized pieces. In a blender or food processor, add yogurt, lemon juice, garlic, ginger, turmeric, garam masala, cumin and pepper. Blend or pulse until marinade is smooth. Coat all turkey pieces with marinade, cover and refrigerate 3-12 hours. In a small bowl, cover cashews in water and soak, refrigerated, 3-12 hours.

Remove marinated turkey and cashews from the refrigerator and drain water from cashews. In a blender or food processor, add soaked cashews, tomato sauce, sugar and salt. Blend or pulse until sauce is smooth.

In a large skillet, heat 3 tablespoons butter on medium high heat. Remove turkey pieces from marinade and add to skillet. Brown turkey on all sides and remove from pan. Add another tablespoon of butter to the skillet and add remaining marinade. Once the marinade is bubbling, add blended cashew and tomato mixture. Bring sauce to a boil. Add the turkey to the sauce and reduce to medium-low heat. Simmer 4-6 minutes, adding cream right before serving. Add additional hot water to achieve desired sauce consistency. Serve over basmati rice with fresh cilantro.

To order signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular book, Cooking Game Birds, visit www.scotthaugen.com





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OREGON

WILD SHEEP.



OHA chapters gear up for spring projects and banquets

BAKER

CHARLIE BRINTON 541-403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m., Oregon Trail Restaurant.

2023 Fundraiser: April 1, Baker County Event Center.

Update: Baker Chapter would like to thank James Nash & Kelly Parkman for adding their voices to the amicus brief against Measure 114.

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, 541-480-9848.

Update: Our chapter testified before the Deschutes County Commission to complete the wildlife inventory study to provide planners with current information to better protect the needs of the area's wildlife (See Page 11). Join us at the Central Oregon outdoor show March 9-12.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

KEVIN MARTIN 541-969-6744

ohabluemountainchapter@gmail.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 5:30 p.m. meeting, dinner and drinks available. **2023 Fundraiser:** April 29, Pendleton Convention Center, 541-231-4384.

Update: Thanks to our volunteers who helped at the OHA booth at the Eastern Oregon Youth Outdoor Skills Day.



2023 OHA banquets feature the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for a Howa SuperLite (4 lbs., 7 oz.) in 6.5 Creedmoor and Kryptek Altitude, a \$1,300 value sponsored by Coastal Farm & Ranch, and the OHA 40th Anniversary Raffle for a Christensen Ridgeline Burnt Bronze .300 Win. Mag. (\$2,200).

CAPITOL

ERIK COLVILLE 503-851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: No longer having monthly meetings.

2023 Fundraiser: April 22, Columbia Hall, Oregon State Fairgrounds.

Update: Our Chapter was awarded an Access & Habitat statewide deer tag to auction at our 2023 banquet. Be sure to attend.

CLATSOP COUNTY

TROY LAWS 503-738-6962

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

2023 Fundraiser: March 18, Clatsop County Fairgrounds. 503-440-9934.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

JORDAN HICKS 949-533-7271

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

2023 Fundraiser: Feb. 25

Update: OHA/CC will be donating hats to the Sauvie Island Duck Station as a great way to get OHA involved in local events.

CURRY

MATT THOMPSON 530-351-5847

mandmthompson02@yahoo.com

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, Sunset Family Pizza, Gold Beach, 6:30 p.m. **2023 Fundraiser:** Beast Feast, March 11,

Event Center on the Beach.

Update: The Chetco Chapter has changed our name to now be the Curry Chapter. We would like to welcome everyone in the area to join us for a meeting.

EMERALD VALLEY

TONY HILSENDAGER 541-729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com https://ohaemeraldvalley.webs.com **Chapter Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzler on Gateway.

2023 Fundraiser: March 11, The Graduate Hotel, 541-729-5220 or 623-670-6701.

Update: Our chapter hosted a booth at the Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show Feb. 3-5. Thanks to Yvonne Shaw, who spoke at out January meeting about poaching in our area.

HOODVIEW

KELLY PARKMAN 503-706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chanter Meetings: April 13 G

Chapter Meetings: April 13 General Chapter Meeting - ODFW Black Bear Plan.

2023 Fundraiser: Feb. 25

Update: The annual youth turkey clinic will be held April 1 at White River Wildlife Area.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

CLIFF PEERY 541-761-3200

peery@charter.net

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

2023 Fundraiser: March 18, JoCo Fairgrounds, 541-821-1511.

Update: JoCo Chapter plans small group hunts and one big fishing trip in the fall. Mike Mull mmmull@aol.com or 541-499-2237.

KLAMATH

ALLAN WIARD 541-884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2023 Fundraiser: April 29, Klamath County Fairgrounds, 541-884-5773.

Update: Restoring Hope and Habitat project continues March 25 with planting more sage and bitterbrush seedlings in the Bootleg Fire Burn; contact OHA Con-

servation Coordinator Tyler Dungannon, TD@oregonhunters.org. Congratulations to Susan Topham! She is the 2022 Coyote Contest winner of a Henry Pump Action .22 mag with Octagon barrel.

LAKE COUNTY

LARRY LUCAS 541-417-2983

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 5 p.m., VFW Hall, Lakeview.

2023 Fundraiser: April 1, Lake County Fairgrounds, call 541-219-0614.

Update: Restoring Hope and Habitat project continues March 25 with planting more sage and bitterbrush seedlings in the Bootleg Fire Burn; contact OHA Conservation Coordinator Tyler Dungannon, TD@ oregonhunters.org.

LINCOLN COUNTY

TODD THOMPSON 541-270-2393

tjaz@charter.net

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, dinner 5:30, Rogue Bayfront Public House, Newport.

2023 Fundraiser: TBD

Update: President Todd Thompson has volunteered to become certified as a Learn to Hunt Program Instructor and would like to ask others to do so as well.

MALHEUR COUNTY

BRUCE HUNTER 208-573-5556

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA in the chapter newsletter.

2023 Fundraiser: TBD

MID-COLUMBIA

CHUCK ASHLEY 541-993-8076

Chuckashley4120@gmail.com

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW's screen print shop on Klindt Drive, The Dalles.

Update: Our chapter is planning a pub night and a major local project for 2023; plans will be discussed March 2 at the ODFW screen print shop. Details will be forthcoming in the chapter newsletter, emails and our new Facebook page.

MID-WILLAMETTE

JOHN TACKE 541-231-8165

john@visitnrc.com

https://www.facebook.com/midwillamettechapteroregonhuntersassociation

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., meeting 6 p.m., Old Armory, Albany.

2023 Fundraiser: April 15, Albany Boys & Girls Club, 541-971-3351.

Update: Our chapter hosted a booth at the Willamette Sportsman Show Feb. 10-12. Our March 10 meeting speakers will be Jeff and April Mack sharing about spring turkey hunting.

OCHOCO

JOHN DEHLER, III 541-815-5817

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held Feb. 18.

Updates: Thanks to all who helped us kick off the OHA banquet season at the year's first OHA banquet!

PIONEER

BRIAN ANDREWS 503-266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

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

2023 Fundraiser: March 4, SOLD OUT! **Update:** Our chapter co-hosted the OHA booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show Feb. 15-19.

REDMOND

K. C. THRASHER 541-419-7215

OHA line 541-383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

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

2023 Fundraiser: Feb. 25 - SOLD OUT! **Update:** Our annual Bridge Creek project will be held April 28-30, 541-233-3740.

ROGUE VALLEY

RICKY CLARK 530-905-1186

Chapter Meetings: Eagles, 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social/dinner, 7 p.m. presentation. **2023 Fundraiser:** June 3, Ashland Hills Inn. **Update:** Our chapter is hosting a booth at the Jackson County Sportsman's & Outdoor Recreation Show Feb. 24-26. Elections for our board positions are open. Please join our chapter as President, Secretary or a board position.

TILLAMOOK

JOHN PUTMAN 503-842-7733

Chapter Meetings: New meeting place! 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook ODFW office. **2023 Fundraiser:** May 6, Tillamook County Fairgrounds, 503-801-3779 or 503-842-7153.

TIOGA

MARCEY FULLERTON 541-294-7912

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

2023 Fundraiser: April 1, Coquille Community Building.

Update: Tioga Chapter Youth Day will be held May 6 at Myrtle Point Gun Club.

TUALATIN VALLEY

TONY KIND 503-290-6143

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

& Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

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

Update: Our chapter co-hosted the OHA booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show Feb. 15-19. Our January Chapter Meeting Speaker was Tim Rozewski, Director of Records at Pope & Young.

UMPQUA

TADD MOORE 541-580-5660

https://www.umpquaoha.org

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

2023 Fundraiser: April 8, Seven Feathers Hotel & Resort.

Update: We hosted a booth at the Douglas County Sportsman's & Outdoor Recreation Show Feb. 10-12. April 18 speaker is Mary Jo Hedrick about mule deer populations.

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 state mountain goat tag to auction at our banquet.

YAMHILL COUNTY

ANDY BODEEN 503-490-2489

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m. meeting, 6 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, McMinnville.

2023 Fundraiser: March 18, Yamhill County Fairgrounds.

Update: We are pleased to offer a new banquet dinner package to our guests this year; the Royal Package will treat you like a king!



BLM looks to expand solar farms to Oregon public lands

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director mtotey@oregonhunters.org

Imagine going to your favorite hunting spot on the high desert and finding that thousands of acres of it are fenced off, eliminating public access and big game habitat.

BLM has announced that it is starting a process for a "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" to consider updates to the Western Solar Plan that was originally done in 2012. This is the formal process to make it easier for the development of utility scale solar development on BLM lands in our state. The BLM states that they are "committed to planning for responsible solar energy development on public land in a responsible way that balances the need for clean energy with protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources."

This process, if completed as planned, would update the existing Western Solar Plan to take into account the new technology that has evolved over the last decade with renewable energy and not only include the six southwestern states, but expand it to include five additional states: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

The expansion of the existing Western Solar Plan is being driven by mandates in the 2020 Clean Energy Act and a presidential executive order (E.O. 14008) which was put in place to tackle the climate crisis at home and abroad. President Biden ordered the Secretary of the Interior to "review siting and permitting processes on public lands" with a goal of increasing "renewable energy production on those lands..."

OHA is committed to protecting wildlife habitat on all public lands. Specific impacts from energy development on public lands will need to be evaluated on a site-by-site basis.



Your favorite hunting area on Oregon BLM land could look like this soon.

OHA protects hunting on Elliott Forest

To initiate the forest management on the Elliott State Research Forest, the Department of State Lands and Oregon State University are seeking an Incidental Take Permit. In order to get the permit, they must have an approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

OHA has submitted written comments on the draft HCP in support of the preferred alternative, which will allow the forest to remain open to public access and hunting throughout the duration of the 80-year HCP.

The forest consists of 83,000 acres

in Coos and Douglas counties that were formerly managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry to generate revenue for the state's Common School Fund. After much political wrangling, the State Land Board finally agreed to turn over management of the forest to OSU to manage as a research forest.

Throughout this process, OHA has had a representative on an advisory committee, former state Vice President Ken McCall, to ensure that the future plans for the forest would include the access and inclusion of hunting. —*MIKE TOTEY*

Restoring Hope & Habitat planting Round 2 in Interstate Unit March 25

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

OHA will be back in the Interstate Unit on March 25 for Round 2 of sage and bitterbrush planting for the benefit of wintering mule deer. We're on the hunt for 75 volunteers to plant and cage an additional 4,000 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, and OHA planted 6,000 sage and bitterbrush plants in frigid -9° temps in late November. Thank you to all of our

hardy volunteers that braved the cold to restore mule deer habitat. This round, the groundhog promised warmer weather, and volunteers will have a chance to win various small prizes.

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.

Find the ad for the project on Page 49, and use the QR code to register. Contact Tyler Dungannon (td@oregonhunters.org) for more information.

OHA stands up for mountain goat hunters

OHA staff testified at the January Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in support of re-issuing three tags to Rocky Mountain goat hunters who were not able to hunt due to fire closures in the Hat Point

and Goat Mountain hunt areas in 2022.

OHA applauded ODFW staff for their effort to restore once-in-a-lifetime hunts for those who were affected by land closures.

—TYLER DUNGANNON

Commission denies petition to ban coyote contests

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

Fifteen protectionist organizations submitted a petition to ODFW requesting a ban on coyote contests in Oregon. The Commission denied this petition, but directed ODFW staff to "work within its legal authority to stop coyote killing contests." However, ODFW does not have a lot of room to work with regarding any effort to stop coyote contests.

Coyotes are classified as predatory animals when they are or may be destructive to agricultural crops, products and activities.

By statute, the Commission cannot make rules pertaining to the take of predatory animals (i.e., time, place or amount taken), so it is no wonder why this initiative from protectionist groups has been denied three times by the legislature and now by the Commission.

OHA legislative committee chairman Paul Donheffner provided comments at the December Commission meeting supporting coyote contests. Sen. Lynn Findley (R-Vale) and Rep. Mark Owens (R-Crane) also submitted testimony asking the Commission to deny the petition.

Commission adopts agreement with Cow Creek Tribe

OHA is closely watching new agreements between tribes and ODFW. OHA is engaged in conversations with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and ODFW to address valid concerns of Oregon hunters regarding a new agreement between the tribe and ODFW.

OHA is interested in potential impacts of this agreement on ungulate populations and ODFW management objectives in southwest Oregon, but those won't be known until the tribe's first-year harvest figures are published. If OHA believes that the impact is substantial, we will engage

with the tribe, ODFW, and other entities to share those concerns.

In the long-term, our best approach is to develop and foster a relationship with the tribe. The tribe possesses substantial influence at both the state and federal level and now stands on equal footing with ODFW in making management decisions in their service area. OHA has been advised that the tribe shares a similar mindset of increasing deer and elk populations to sustain harvest, and that benefits all hunters.

Tribes are powerful entities that are capable of influencing land management decisions. Without this influence, federal land managers will continue to manage for late seral forests, which indirectly limit deer and elk populations due to reduced forage. In the policy world, tribal alignment benefits sportsmen in that the tribe does not align with anti-hunting groups. In many cases, the goals of the tribes, such as hunting and predator management programs, are directly oppositional to protectionist agendas.

Get your 2024 Gun Calendar now at oregonhunters.org/store

First Gun Calendar winners announced

OHA drew the winners of the 2023 Gun Calendar Raffle on Jan. 4 at the State Office.

Winners are posted every Wednesday on OHA's Facebook page and website. Here are January and February winners: Christensen Mesa .28 Nos, Jeffrey Martin, Baker City Pointer Acrius O/U, Perry M DeLapp, Jr., Salem Taurus The Judge revolver, Joshua Raby, Portland Browning Hells Canyon, Jimmy Borah, Klamath Falls Springfield Hellcat 9mm, Christina O'Hearn, Albany Sig Sauer Cross .308, Christine Baird, Eugene Howa Yote package .223, Pete Sanok, South Beach Henry Big Boy .44 Mag, Joe Morse, Unity

Sales of the 2024 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar began in February, at sports shows, participating OHA banquets, and by calling the OHA state office at 541-772-7313 or visiting OHA's website at:

www.oregonhunters.org/store

OHA STATE-LEVEL SPONSORSHIPS

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

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OHA invests in **NEST EGGS** for a rainy day

ne of the more popular projects for OHA chapters over the years has been the construction and deployment of nesting structures for some of our feathered friends. Benefits from projects like wood duck boxes and nesting platforms serve a multitude of waterfowl species.

For OHA, youth projects doing box builds introduces our young companions to OHA and conservation work in their area. Chapter projects doing placement and maintenance of boxes is a common occurrence, and frequently leads to other benefits, such as building landowner and partner relationships. OHA has been successful in the past getting reduced costs or donations for the material needed for the boxes or structures. Partner organizations like Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl,



OHA has been successful getting reduced-cost or donated materials for nest box projects.



Nest boxes increase populations of wood ducks in areas where natural cavities for nesting are scarce.

ODFW, and watershed councils are frequently engaged to help make these projects successful, as well.

Foremost are the benefits to the birds that use these structures for nesting and producing the next generation. For example, the deployment of large numbers of nesting boxes can be used to help increase local or regional populations of wood ducks in areas where natural cavities for nesting are limited. Nesting boxes are credited for bringing wood ducks back from the brink of extinction to becoming one of the more common ducks in the country.

OHA's project gallery on our state website features photos of wood duck boxes and nesting platforms. While nest boxes are mainly intended for wood ducks, they frequently serve as habitat for other cavity nesting birds, as well. Nesting platforms for species like Canada geese provide valuable nesting sites for birds that are easily used by them, mostly to avoid nest predation, and can provide a great starting location for goslings to launch from.

Mallard hen houses have been shown to greatly increase nesting success when the proper specifications are closely followed. Not so much if made too narrow, built with flimsy wire or stuffed too full of hay.

These nesting structures have been placed across the state on both private and public lands, in ponds, along streams and in wetland areas. Wood ducks, for example, typically fly up and down streams looking for suitable nesting locations. Putting a box up where the birds will find them on these flights, elevating them away from predators, and hanging them in a manner that the

young birds can easily access the stream typically yields the best success rates.

Ducks Unlimited notes that "several important factors must be considered when selecting sites to place wood duck boxes. Suitable brood habitat must be available within a couple of hundred yards in order for ducklings to survive once they exit the box. In addition, shallow, fertile wetlands with thick cover and an abundance of invertebrates typically provide the best habitat for broods. Ideally, boxes should be erected on either wooden posts or metal conduits outfitted with predator guards."

Watch for upcoming projects and jump in with your local chapter to keep this great work going.



Nest box projects introduce youth to OHA and conservation work in their area.

Restoring HOPE & HABITAT

March 25, 2023

ROUND 2

REGISTER:

Scan the QR Code and register as a volunteer.







Sage & Bitterbrush Planting

WHERE:

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



RESTORE WINTER RANGE:

OHA planted 6,000 seedlings in November 2022, and we have another 4,000 seedlings to plant in the same area used by wintering mule deer and other wildlife



Tyler Dungannon td@oregonhunters.org (541) 778-1976

























POACHING SPOTLIGHT

k ye

For poaching news as it happens, find OHA on Facebook facebook.com/OregonHunters

DIAL *OSP
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

New OSP K-9 will help collar poachers

Scout will work out of Bend Command Office

Oregon is putting the bite on poaching by expanding the popular and effective Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Conservation K-9 team. Media and antipoaching stakeholder members were invited to attend the unveiling of Oregon's second conservation K-9 and an on-site demonstration of Buck, Oregon's first Conservation K-9, during a joint Press Conference at ODFW headquarters on Jan. 25. OHA Conservation Director Mike Totey attended as OHA's representative.

Generous donors with the Oregon Wildlife Foundation provided the funding to purchase and train both Conservation K-9s.

"Oregon Wildlife Foundation is pleased to be able to support the Conservation K-9 program and our partnership with Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division," said OWF Executive Director Tim Greseth. "We greatly appreciate generous donors stepping up, once again, to expand this successful program."

OSP Fish and Wildlife Senior Trooper Josh Wolcott and Conservation K-9 Buck demonstrated the training behind locating carcasses, gunpowder, and following human scent. Buck, a 5-year-old yellow Labrador retriever, can locate stashed wildlife parts and weapons used to commit crimes in a fraction of the time it takes a Trooper to conduct the same search. Conservation K-9s can also locate people, whether they are lost or hiding.

Wolcott and Buck work from the OSP Area Command in Springfield. The second K-9 team will work out of the OSP Area Command in Bend.

Conservation K-9s give OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers another tool in their toolbox, according to OSP Fish & Wildlife Captain, Casey Thomas.

"Adding another wildlife detection



Buck is a 5-year-old veteran of fish and wildlife law enforcement in Oregon.

K-9 team provides another asset to our division to address poaching issues and increase awareness across the state," Thomas said. "Senior Trooper Wolcott and K-9 Buck have done a great job of getting this program started. Adding a second team will increase the program's efficiency and reduce the excessive travel strain of the current team."

OWF accepts donations to the Wildlife K-9 Fund to offset expenses associated with the canine members of the teams. Donations to the fund help defray the costs of veterinary care, training equipment and related supplies.

"I want to thank everyone involved in establishing, maintaining, and supporting OSP's Conservation K-9 program," Thomas said. "This program wouldn't be possible without them and these strong partnerships."

"Conservation K-9s are an effective tool in combatting poaching," added Yvonne Shaw, who leads the Stop Poaching campaign. "The generosity of Oregon Wildlife Foundation and donors from across the state has bolstered Troopers' ability to preserve our natural resources."



Scout joins the OSP force as a rookie, thanks to support from Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

To support and learn more about the state's Conservation K-9 program, visit www.myowf.org/K-9team.



OHA pays out \$2,100 in rewards in 4 cases

In the last two months, OHA issued seven reward checks to informants in four cases totaling \$2,100 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund. Charges included: Unlawful Take/Possession of Elk x 3 separate cases and multiple charges filed, and Unlawful Take/Possession of Game Birds/Grouse. Multiple firearms were also seized as evidence in these cases.



2023 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST 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 guarter 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



NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA member David Varner of Salem claims an OHA Coast knife and entry in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Photo Contest for this picture of himself with the Whitehorse Unit ram he took last September. This ram was spotted at four miles and the stalk lasted four hours.

Marvin McClendon, OHA member in LaPine, scored an Upper Deschutes premium buck tag last year. His hunt finished in November 2022, and for this well-composed picture, Marvin claims an OHA Coast knife and entry in the finals of the 2023 **Nosler Photo Contest.**



5 LER PHOTO CONTEST GENERAL CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION

Keaton Zarbano and **Kathwryne Carter of Coos** County teamed up on this mountain goat hunt in the Snake River Unit and in this memorable photo marking their engagement! The October 2021 spot and stalk hunt was consummated with a **Christensen Arms rifle and** Leupold optics, while the picture garnered a Nosler hat and honorable mention.









Beautiful Beulah buck with a cowboy gun! Anchorage resident and OHA member Bob Mumford earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this picture of an opening-day mule deer taken with a scoped .30-30.

NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

Avery Varner, 12, of Salem, claims an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Photo Contest for this picture of her great Willamette Unit buck taken on the first day of November.





Rainy day spike
with a smokepole!
OHA member Taylor
Stamey of Coquille
submitted this
picture with Linnea's
first bull taken with
a CVA muzzleloader
in the Tioga Unit.
Taylor gets an OHA
Coast knife and a
spot in the finals
of the 2023 Nosler
Photo Contest.

NOSLER PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY HONORABLE MENTION



Tel Painter bagged his first bear in a Keating Unit apple orchard with a rifle at the end of September 2022. The Baker City youth garnered a Nosler hat and honorable mention for this great photo.



Brynn's first buck, a last day 65-yard blacktail in her first season of hunting. Central Point resident and OHA member Jacob Perdue earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this picture of Brynn and her Evans Creek Unit buck.



Avery Orlow of Grants Pass earns a Nosler hat for this photo of his first Applegate buck, taken under the mentor program with his grandma Michelle Duer. Avery, who hunts with a .30-06, is a junior member of OHA's Josephine County Chapter.



ASK ODFW: BIGHORN SHEEP

A new "Test and Remove" program removes sick sheep from the herd to protect lambs.

Think of them as the Typhoid Marys of the wild sheep world. Some bighorn sheep exposed to the Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae bacteria (aka M.ovi) that causes respiratory pneumonia can't shake the disease. Known as "chronic shedders," these sheep survive their exposure but continue to shed the disease, sickening others.

But a new strategy called "Test and Remove" is helping herds. Managers capture a significant percent of a herd (80 percent or more) and do a PCR test to determine if an animal is shedding. Any animal tested receives a collar and a unique ear tag so it can be identified and later removed if test results from the lab show it is shedding.

In hard-to-reach areas, a "one and done" policy means any sheep that tests positive is euthanized. In other herds, it's two strikes and you're out--meaning ODFW returns to test positive animals a second time before euthanizing them, an interval that potentially helps increase herd resistance.

The timing of "Test and Remove" is critical: It happens early in the year before lambs are born in spring. Newborns never exposed to M.ovi are most vulnerable to the disease.

The effort is already showing promising results in the Hells Canyon area where herds once infected with the disease are coming up negative for M.ovi since chronic shedders were removed.



Photos of 2023 "Test and Remove" efforts by Adam Baylor, ODFW.



Late in 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to address the sharp decline of bighers sheep on Hart Mountain National Wildlife

bighorn sheep on Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge—from 149 sheep in 2017 to 53 in 2021, a 66 percent decline in four years.

High cougar predation and declining habitat quality (juniper encroachment and invasives) were identified as the primary factors behind the decline.

After completing a full Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with ODFW and other partners to implement a cougar removal program, removing four cougars over two winters. The refuge has also invested significant money into juniper removal as encroachment is exacerbating drought and drying up naturally sourced springs on the refuge.

Agencies are measuring adult survival, lamb survival, total population size and the population growth rate—and planning to continue cougar removals until all four reach a three-year average target and stay there.

ODFW is also continuing to collar enough sheep to serve as a meaningful sample so it can monitor adult survival and causes of mortality for bighorn sheep remaining on the refuge. So far, effects have been positive—bighorn sheep populations on the refuge have increased since efforts began.







OHA IS PROTECTING OUR WILDLIFE, HABITAT AND HUNTING HERITAGE.

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JOIN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT HUNTING

Measure 114:

Measure 114 passed by a mere 1.5% margin and was promptly greeted by no less than five lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of its components. OHA is engaged on the litigation front and filing an amicus brief in support of the arguments opposing the measure.

IP3:

IP3 is even more radical than its predecessor, IP13. This extreme vegan agenda criminalizes hunting, fishing, trapping, and raising livestock, among other restrictions. As of July 2022, the IP3 proponents have been granted approval to collect the 112,020 signatures needed to place it on the 2024 ballot. With two years to gather signatures, there is a high probability they will be successful in placing the measure on the ballot.

Measure 114 proponents bringing more gun control to the 2024 ballot:

In 2022, IP 18 was put forth by the same proponents behind Measure 114. Although it didn't make the 2022 ballot they have signaled their intent to renew the substance of the initiative in the 2023 legislative session and the 2024 ballot. This IP would prohibit the manufacture, import, purchase, transfer, possession, and use of many semiautomatic firearms, including rifles, pistols, and shotguns. Any of these weapons currently owned would be allowed to be retained only if registered with the state and if use is limited to owner's property, shooting ranges, and hunting.

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

Oregon Hunters Association

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

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

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

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

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



RADICAL ANIMAL RIGHTS, ANTI-HUNTING, GUN CONTROL AGENDAS ABOUND IN OREGON...

Statements from the animal rights extremists behind IP3 (formerly IP13):



End Animal Cruelty @yesonip13 · Oct 30

We can end hunting in our lifetime. Killing animals is not sport, it's cruelty.

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

HELP US FIGHT THEM!

PLEASE DONATE TO OHA'S HUNTER VICTORY FUND!

WWW.ORFGONHUNTERS.ORG/DONATE



This is viewed as a fun family pastime on #Oregon news, we see it as senseless cruelty and violent death for fish!

If #IP13 becomes law this kind of #animalcruelty would be criminalized.

Please visit Yesonip13.org



A statement from
Lift Every Voice,
the proponents and
supporters of Measure
114, regarding their
intention to bring
further restrictions to
firearms ownership in
the 2023 legislature
and on the 2024
hallot:

What is the status of banning sale and manufacture of semiautomatic assault weapons in Oregon?

We are preparing to file a bill banning the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons for the Oregon Legislature to pass in the 2023 full session.

- Connecting with legislators about support and sponsorship (urge your state senators and representatives to contact us and support this measure).
- Preparing to refile an Initiative Petition for the 2024 ballot, banning the sale and manufacture of semiautomatic weapons, if the Oregon legislature fails to take the action needed in 2023.
- Continuing to raise funds to support the movement to bring safer firearm use to Oregon.

We will not stop working until the changes in Measure 114 and IP18 become Oregon law!

OHA STATE CONVENTION



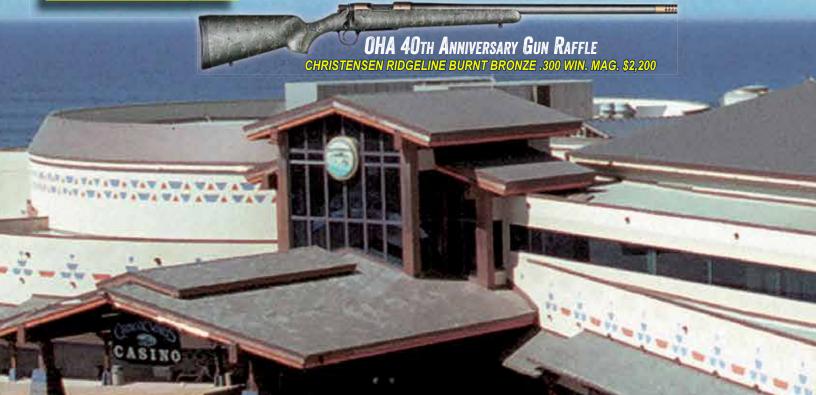
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 - 8 Special Raffle Tickets
 - 72 General Raffle Tickets
 - 8 Early Bird Tickets**
 - 1 Commemorative Gift

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 - 2 Early Bird Tickets**
 - 2 Commemorative Gifts

STAG PACKAGE \$150*

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- 1 Party Starter Raffle Ticket
- 12 General Raffle Tickets
 - 1 Early Bird Ticket**
- 1 Commemorative Gift
- * OHA member prices. Nonmembers add \$35 for 1-year OHA membership.
- ** Early Bird tickets must be ordered by April 6, 2023.

Party Starter: 2 guns (\$599 & \$569). Max 1,900 tickets. Special: Rifle (\$800); Knife (\$40). Max 1,760 tickets. General: 45 items (>\$7,000 total). Max 24,000 tickets. Early Bird: Rifle (\$599); Knife (\$40). Max 1,900 tickets.

Let Them Hunt Crickets

In today's lesson, we are going to examine the origins of tofu, and give solid options, if you are trying to figure out what you would like to eat for dinner. Tofu was invented in China during the Han Dynasty, which also gave us porcelain, gunpowder and wheelbarrows, that led to important innovations like the bidet, the modern sporting rifle and the F-150.

Tofu, as everyone knows, stands for "The Odds Favor U," which is what the royal cook whispered to the emperor Wang Mang's royal taste tester when he served those first white lumps of carcinogenic estrogen-filled soy on the royal table.

A little-known fact about taste testers in the Han Dynasty was that if you could survive a week at the emperor's table, you were promoted to the cadre of royal table napkin arrangers, which gave us the first labor union which came to be known as Triangle Origami Folders 'r' Us, which not coincidentally spells out the word tofu.

Today tofu is largely the same cubic pulpy mass as it was in the days of emperors Gaozu and Wang Mang, except today it is washed in aluminum vats. So, you not only get that same great carcinogen and estrogen as in days of yore, but you also get trace amounts of aluminum, which the aluminum industry assures us has shown no harmful side effects such as Constipation, Hypophosphatemia, Osteodystrophy, Proximal muscle weakness or Seizures. Or as we like to say in this house, if you got tofu, you got CHOPS!

One of the certain threats we are going to face in this decade is an agenda championed by the mayors of the world's largest cities. A vocal minority of "thought leaders" want us to have no red meat (which means no hunting) and no dairy products by 2030 (which means no milking). In a short Facebook video, Iman Meskini gives us a glimpse. "Food causes a lot of the world's problems," she said. Which struck me as odd.

This morning, I ate a banana, strawberries, blueberries and a piece of sprouted-wheat toast with butter and honey.

Tonight, I plan to eat eastern Oregon mule deer and potatoes from my garden. None of those things has ever caused me a problem, except once when a mule deer got into my garden and ate my potatoes.

Meskini went on to say, "We must eat less meat. Especially red meat." Then she said, "Food can fix it." So let me get this straight. Food causes all our problems and food can fix it?

The anti-beef bias is nothing new. An anarchist assassin beat a cow to death in a rice paddy in the year 202 B.C.E. using two small porcelain figures. It was the first known case of knick-knack paddy whack.

One thing we can be sure of, calls for the banning of dairy cows and wild animal hunting for the sake of planetary health are going to escalate, couched in COVID-19 (so-called zoonotic spillover) and climate change imperatives.

Now Hollywood spokespersons and sustainable food experts are telling us crickets are a "good source of protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and fiber, and may benefit gut health." You can bet that if I am hearing about this, it is being taught to fourth graders and they will preach it to us when they get out of college.

Eating crickets is not a new concept. The families of bad hunters all over the world have eaten crickets since the beginning of time. In fact, the first wagon train to cross the high desert in 1843 in sight of Wagontire Mountain encountered cricket eaters, and when they held their first Thanksgiving in what is now Powell Butte, those prairie-crossing pilgrims sat down to a table featuring a large cricket with a wax apple in its mouth.

The first eaters of crickets were those early hunters whose primary prey were ancient beavers, the *Microtheriomys brevirhinus*, which were less than half the size of a modern beaver. The ancient beaver was related to beavers that crossed the Bering land bridge about 7 million years ago followed by small groups of hunter-gatherer beaver believers.

Unable to hit the small beavers with their atlatls or spears, a few ancient omnivore opportunists learned to pounce on crickets feeding on the shores of Lake Lahontan.

If you couldn't catch a cricket, there was still hope. You could hunt escargot, which was a slower moving target. Even today, shooting a snail only involves a single shell. Slow-moving bullets were needed for hunting snails, so slugs were invented. Not only were snails slow – trailing them was hardly a challenge – but the pursuit spawned a whole new industry, which is where the term cargo trailer comes from.

Interestingly, the vegetarian movement started at the same time those first poor hunters gathered crickets. And the vegetarian movement can still be observed in places like Seattle, Corvallis and Eugene. But trust me, I was behind a vegetarian in a Starbucks and the vegetarian movement is not as alluring as it used to be, and certainly not as wonderful as walking behind the women's movement.

Maybe Ms. Meskini is right. Maybe food does cause all the world's problems. If we eat the deer that eat our potatoes, why shouldn't we also eat the crickets that eat our potatoes? Maybe it's like tossing down a plate of Mexican jumping beans. They would pair nicely with an IPA, they both got hops.



For a signed copy of A Bear Hunter's Guide to the Universe, send \$24.95 to Gary Lewis Outdoors, P.O. Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709



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