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10,000 sets of eyes in the field

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Walkout stifles good bills and bad

New Steens Mountain antelope hunt

Little things make a big difference

Try Thuringer Fried Rice

Enter to win a prize from Tactacam

Bear: Oregon's summer youth hunt

OHA tackles major habitat projects

OHA chapters put green on the ground

OHA protects SW Oregon meadows

What you need to know about e-tagging

Your best shot could win a Nosler rifle!

Big cat P-22 finally runs out of lives





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FINDING DIRECTION

BY MIKE TOTEY, OHA CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

MAX ZELLER

10,000 pairs of eyes in the field can make a difference

Oregon Hunters Association members contribute to our mission in so many ways – volunteering time, contributing funding for important projects, and engaging with local agency staff, just to name a few. One of our best and often overlooked contributions from having 10,000 members across the state is having those eyes and ears in the field. With just a handful of staff and board members, and a huge diverse state like Oregon, it's impossible to know everything that's going on all the time.

That's where OHA members can step up. OHA members are in the field all year long in places as diverse as the coast, to the Cascades, to the High Desert. Years of experience and observations make it easy for members to notice the changes that are taking place and the actions that are driving them.

As a member of OHA in the field, your input and communication are needed to make positive changes.

As an example, a member came to OHA staff when he observed new fencing that was being installed – using public funding – that could be detrimental to the wildlife we work so hard to protect. By bringing this to the attention of the OHA Board and staff, we were able to contact the right people in the right places to affect a positive change in the future, in this case, the use of wildlife-friendly fencing.

As a member of OHA in the field, your input and communication are needed to make positive changes. Most importantly, as they say, when you see something, say something. This needs to extend beyond turning in poachers, and should expand to conservation work, land management practices and government planning processes.

See a guzzler in disrepair or a livestock enclosure fence down at a riparian area? We invest too much to let that go unaddressed.

Find a remote area where trash needs to be cleaned up? We do that.

Learn of a meeting where proposed actions could affect wildlife or habitat? We can weigh in.

Start with your local chapter and learn if others are aware of the same thing. Check in with an OHA State Board member or OHA staff member to find out if it's something that's even on the radar.

We will always have limits that keep us from being able to see or be aware of everything that's going on in Oregon with our habitat and wildlife, and we may be even more limited on trying to address these things. But we certainly can't address a problem we don't know about. Ultimately, it's OHA's members who serve the most important role and make the most important contributions to serve OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

OREGON HUNTER

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Our mission: Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

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KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

- Which unit has the least public land?
a) Applegate c) Rogue
b) Melrose d) Dixon
- Zumwalt Prairie is in which unit?
a) Minam c) Chesnimnus
b) Imnaha d) Wenaha
- Which wild sheep lives on the Lower Deschutes?
a) Rocky Mountain bighorn c) desert
b) California bighorn d) stone
- Hungarian Partridges dwell in which state wildlife area?
a) Ladd Marsh c) Phillip W. Schneider
b) White River d) all of the above
- Cheat grass is a favorite food of:
a) mallards c) pheasants
b) wood ducks d) chukars
- Northeast Oregon's blue grouse have been reclassified by which name?
a) spruce c) Franklin's
b) sooty d) dusky
- Which gives birth earliest in the year?
a) antelope c) mountain goat
b) bear d) deer
- Which forest is managed by OSU?
a) Elliott c) Dunn
b) McDonald d) all of the above
- The wing plumage of a cinnamon teal is indistinguishable from what other duck?
a) blue-winged teal c) northern shoveler
b) northern pintail d) green-winged teal
- Which is most likely to dine on salal?
a) antelope c) mule deer
b) blacktail d) mountain goat

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



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Identify this river canyon, 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: JULY 20, 2023.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Rose Kniesteadt, Gervais

Rose's name was drawn from among the OHA members who identified Whistler's Bend on the North Umpqua River, below the North Bank Habitat Area.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

JUNE 23-25

All Hands All Brands for Public Lands weekend project, Ochocos, 541-480-0230

JUNE 24

OHA Lake County youth & family event, 541-417-2983

JULY 1

Leftover tags go on sale

JULY 8

Tioga Shotgun Clinic, 541-267-2577

JULY 15

Tioga Sportsman Show, 541-267-2577;

Pioneer Chapter Guzzler Maintenance, 503-874-9851

JULY 18

Umpqua Chapter Picnic, 541-580-5660

JULY 29

Emerald Valley Family/Youth Fundraiser, 623-670-6701

AUGUST 1

Fall Bear Season opens

AUGUST 12

OHA Yamhill Chapter Youth Shotgun shoot, 503-737-9483; Curry Community 3D Archery Shoot, 530-351-5847;

Malheur County Chapter Youth Clay Shoot, 208-573-5556

AUGUST 19

Standard antelope season opens

AUGUST 25

OHA Klamath Chapter's Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunt BBQ, 541-281-6518

AUGUST 27

Standard antelope season closes

SEPTEMBER 1

Mourning dove, forest grouse & W. Oregon valley quail seasons open; deadline to purchase archery tags

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OREGON AFIELD

PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Late start could change the game for High Cascade buck hunt in '23

Slated for September, the often-swel-
tering West High Cascade deer hunt
lures the hot-blooded among hunt-
ers. These Cascaders risk tiptoeing through
crunchy tinder landmines towards the tree
line of some gnarly ridge. All to catch an
unmigrated, unsuspecting, bleach-blond
blacktail still out sunbathing his new rack.

Historically, the first weekend is a
hunter's best shot, but this year the hunt
doesn't clear leather until Sept. 16 – a
week late – a ripple effect of the ALW deer
season now opening the first Saturday in
October, which this year is Oct. 7. So the
119A has migrated. Will the bucks?



Dylan Marsh took this bruiser in the High Cascade buck hunt, which is timed to catch migratory bucks in the high country. This year the season doesn't start until Sept. 16. Will the clock be ticking when the hunt starts?

"There are several things we look at," said Dan Ethridge of ODFW's Rogue District, "such as moon phase, day length, pressure, and weather." Weather events especially reflect higher spikes in migration data.

Cascade bucks commonly migrate farther than other deer and will typically start earlier, but still "A majority of migra-

tion occurs around Oct. 13, with some bigger bucks even later," said Ethridge.

Pressure might create an appearance of migration. "A lot of activity in the woods gives them clues," said Ethridge. More traffic in the wilderness may prompt increasingly nocturnal habits.

To beat the heat and catch one of these bruisers with their eye-guards down, Cascaders shouldn't get trigger happy with their snooze buttons.

If a farmer's tan is all you pack out of the wilderness, don't worry; an unfilled High

Cascade tag will start to identify as a Western Oregon General Deer Tag later in the fall. The same buck that out-smarted you in September may be dumbstruck and distracted by November, where the general season is pushed back toward the rut.

Also, e-taggers, log on to your phones before reaching reception-less wilderness.
—SHANNON FITZGERALD

Be rattlesnake-ready – even on western Oregon slopes



JENNIFER LEWIS

Rattlesnakes never crossed my mind. We were headed into the wilderness to fly-fish a mountain creek. In my pocket was a cougar tag. As defense against a cougar in the national forest where a cougar killed an Oregonian not long ago, I carried a single action Pietta Model 1873 .357 Magnum stoked with hollowpoints. My daughter Jennifer and I shouldered our backpacks and started up the trail.

In the morning, we hiked down the creek, then worked back up, pool by pool. Little rainbows took our dries with wild abandon, and when the only thing on our minds was dead-drifting a Parachute Adams down the next riffle, a quick movement alerted me.

We were on a narrow path between a deep hole in the creek and a rock wall.

"Snake," I warned Jennifer, and then I saw its head and tail. "A rattler."

It ran out of options when it got to the cliff wall. Cornered, it turned and headed straight back at me, its head lifted eight or ten inches off the ground. That's when I shot it. Twice and once more.

Struck, the snake pushed off the bank and tumbled toward me. I stepped out of the way as it went by, into the creek, a gorgeous, hideous creature, near three feet long with eight buttons in its rattle.

I try to avoid snakes but this one did not rattle and attacked fast as thought. I was not hunting a snake, but I was ready for it.

Now if I am in a situation where I might see a rattler, I carry a Ruger Single-Six .22, loaded with snake shot. I've tested it at 3, 6, 9 and 12 feet and find it to be the best option in my arsenal.

I think of it as preparedness and prudence, combined with a live-and-let-live philosophy, something which the snake does not always agree with. —GARY LEWIS

This Mt. Hood rattler spooked but ran into a rock wall and attacked. It measured 36 inches.



Bison at Hart?

SAMUEL PYKE

A private herd of bison on the Sand Hills in Nebraska. After bison vanished from west of the Rockies, the Nez Perce and other tribes traveled across the mountains to hunt.

In 1916, Captain Louis, a chief of the band of Paiute Indians near Burns, told the writer that there used to be buffalo all over the Malheur Valley.” Thus wrote Vernon Bailey in his book *The Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon*, published June 1936.

A hard winter is thought to have wiped out the last of the herd of wild bison in the early 1800s.

Once I walked along the Deschutes River with a friend and he led me up onto a cliff to show me a petroglyph of a bison surrounded by hunters. There was an arrow in the animal and another in the bent bow of an archer.

Long ago they killed a buffalo in this spot.

One of the great treasure stores of Oregon memory is a book called *Memoirs of a Backcountry Bio* by Vic and Vicki Coggins. When I bought the book, the first thing I did was turn to the chapter on bison.

Vic Coggins, recently retired from a career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, quotes Vernon Bailey’s book and provides other historic references to bison in Oregon. This chapter caused me to recall a picture I have of a bison head found near Summer Lake. An obsidian tip is buried in the skull. That ancient warrior may not have survived to carve a petroglyph!

Today, a tanned bison hide tanned sells for about \$1,500 each, and the cost of sewing and the artwork upon it would add value.

When the Nez Perce used bison hides for their lodges, the 3- or 4-pole structure might take 16 to 20 hides stretched together. Each tipi today might be valued at \$35,000 for replacement cost.

The American bison is our national mammal. They once roamed free in Oregon. Is there a place for them today, perhaps on the Zumwalt Prairie at Hart Mountain or Beatys Butte? —GARY LEWIS

Chronic Wasting Disease

Control Action

Detections

Species	Age Class	Sex	Not Detected	Detected	% Positive
WTD	Adult	Male	50	10	16.7%
		Female	177	10	5.3%
Mule Deer	Adult	Male	35	1	2.8%
		Female	94	2	2.1%

Idaho Fish and Game Commission May 2023



CWD too close to Oregon for comfort

Idaho Fish and Game recently released an update on the status of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the Gem State that warrants the attention of Oregon hunters and wildlife managers.

The prion disease was first discovered in Idaho’s Unit 14 in 2021. Since then, IDFG allocated emergency tags in the area to limit the spread of CWD, which resulted in 555 harvested animals. All animals were sampled for CWD, and the results are of

great concern. Twenty-seven deer tested positive, and as expected, bucks showed the highest prevalence (~17 percent of whitetail, and ~3 percent of mule deer bucks tested positive).

The good news is that white-tailed deer are less likely to migrate to Oregon compared to mule deer, but hunters who don’t abide by restrictions on the import of cervids can certainly spread the disease to Oregon. —TYLER DUNGANNON

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Senate disruption causes uncertainty for important bills

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

Senate members from the Republican and Independent parties have been absent from the Senate floor since May 3, effectively denying a quorum and therefore stopping all Senate votes. Regardless of the reasoning for the walkout, the move creates uncertainty for a large number of policy bills awaiting a vote from the Senate floor. If the Senate cannot continue to pass legislative measures before the end of the session, those bills will die and must begin anew in the next session.

***OHA's bills
have been
caught in
the political
crossfire
of the 2023
legislature.***

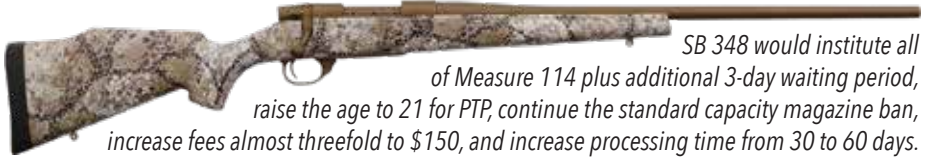
OHA's bills have, unfortunately, been caught in the political crossfire of the 2023 legislature.

- HJR 5, the referendum to the 2024 ballot seeking a Constitutional protection to fish and hunt, awaits a work session.
- HB 3086, the restructuring of the Fish & Wildlife Commission, is awaiting a work session.

However, should they be passed out of committee and pass the House floor, they would be sent to the now stalled Senate with no guarantee of further action.

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SB 348 would institute all of Measure 114 plus additional 3-day waiting period, raise the age to 21 for PTP, continue the standard capacity magazine ban, increase fees almost threefold to \$150, and increase processing time from 30 to 60 days.

Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership proves effective in difficult legislative session

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

The Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership has proven to be an effective coalition so far in the 2023 legislative session. Formed in January of 2022, the Partnership was formed from the initial group of sportsmen's organizations that began fighting the extreme initiative petition IP3, which seeks to criminalize legal hunting, fishing, and trapping, as well as animal agriculture on Oregon's November 2024 ballot.

Since that time, the Partnership has grown to include 36 wildlife and fisheries organizations and engaged on numerous conservation, wildlife, and fisheries topics. With the Partnership's participation on important legislative issues, the voices of Oregon sportsmen and women have been amplified in a new and effectual way.

With OHA lobbying in the Capitol, the mobilization of the Partnership organizations and their memberships, has made a positive impact in a difficult legislative session. The joint effort has propelled the three bills brought forward by OHA and the Partnership to remain in play and viable deep into the session.

OHA BILLS:

HB 2532: Secures funding for establishment of in-state testing for Chronic Wasting Disease and increased staff for sample collection and research. This bill was passed out of its original committee with a "do pass" recommendation and is currently in the Ways & Means Committee awaiting a public hearing.

HB 3086: Restructures the ODFW Commission statute to replace congressional districts with the more regionally diverse river basin model.

This bill has become a battlefield over appropriate representation on the Commission. It was diverted from its original committee and is currently in the House Rules Committee awaiting a public hearing.

HJR 5: Seeks a referral to the 2024 ballot for a Constitutional protection to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather.

This bill received a public hearing in February and is currently awaiting a work session.

GUN BILLS:

HB 2005: This bill now includes components from two other bills and seeks to restrict homemade firearms (with ramifications for custom firearms and muzzleloader kits), an age restriction to 21 years old to own or possess a firearm, and expansion of the ability of public buildings/locations to restrict CHL ability.

The bill is currently on the Senate floor.

SB 348: Seeks to institute all of Measure 114 plus an additional 3-day waiting period, raises the age to 21 for PTP, continues the standard capacity magazine ban, makes sheriffs the permitting agents, increased the fees almost threefold from \$65 to \$150, and increases processing time from 30 to 60 days. Contains a provision stating any legal challenge, including the constitutionality, must be filed in the Circuit Court in Marion County.

This bill is currently in the Ways & Means Committee.



GET *in the* **GAME**

OHA is protecting our wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

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

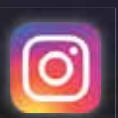
- Leading the fight to protect our hunting heritage.
- Pressing for increased predator management, including wolf damage hunts.
- Advocating for science-based wildlife management.
- Increasing recruitment through our Learn to Hunt Program.
- Leading efforts to combat poaching.
- Enhancing habitat where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



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BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

New Steens Mountain muzzleloader hunt!

If you drew this hunt for '23, count your blessings. Otherwise count your points and plan for next season.

History is a common theme in blackpowder hunting stories, so I'll tell you what is history. The 470M East Beatys Butte pronghorn hunt is history. There is sure to be wailing and gnashing of teeth, but we should know by now that nothing stays the same in wildlife management.

The good news is the new-for-'23 469M Steens Mountain muzzleloader season has arrived on the scene. The venue is all of Unit 69 excluding the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Hunting access is good with 69 percent public lands, according to the unit description online.

Bounded by Burns on the north, the Steens Mountain Unit's northern boundary is Highway 78. Highway 205 is the western boundary from Burns down to Fields. Note that the use of motorized or mechanized vehicles, mountain bikes, game carts, motorized equipment and the landing of aircraft are prohibited in the 170,000-acre Steens Mountain Wilderness Area. There are not a lot of wilderness pack-in pronghorn hunts, and you might just be one of a very few wilderness pack-in pronghorn hunters here.

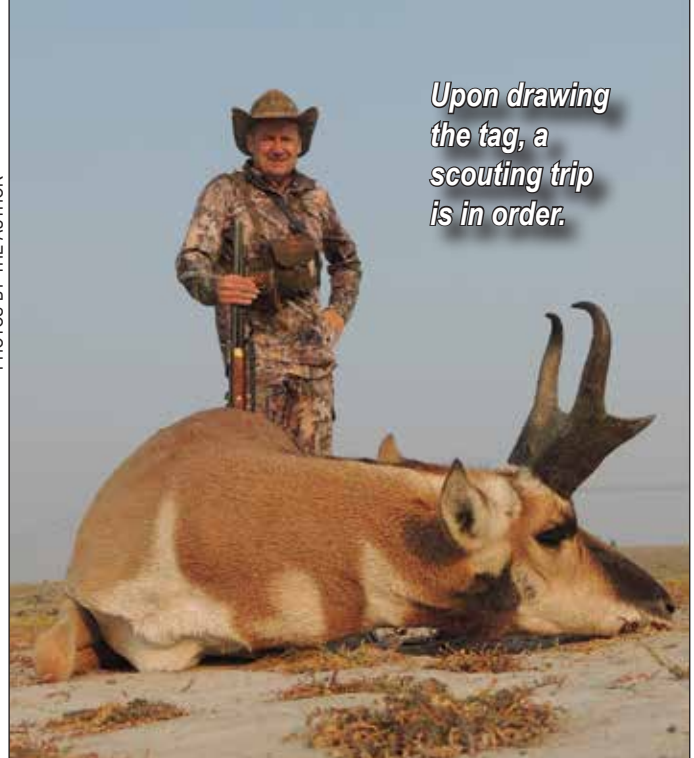
Gas up and grab groceries and ice in Burns or Hines. This is a hot weather hunt, so keep one cooler full of ice, ready for deboned antelope. Bring another cooler for groceries and drinks.

Upon drawing the tag, a scouting trip is in order. I would plan a couple of scouting trips, one in mid-June and another during the rifle season, which precedes the muzzleloader hunt.

Plan early and get your reservations placed for campgrounds or at a bed and breakfast. Best bets for base camps include Frenchglen, Crane and Diamond.

Options in Frenchglen include the Frenchglen Hotel, Steens Mountain Wilderness Resort, Steens View Cabin and Page Springs Campground. At Crane, Crane Hot Springs is another good location to base a hunt. And the community of Diamond (population 5), with the Hotel Diamond puts the traveler right smack in the geographic center of the unit.

Muzzleloader pronghorn hunts tend to be more successful in terms of harvest than the rifle hunts. Why is that?



Upon drawing the tag, a scouting trip is in order.

The author took this pronghorn on a solo hunt. Lewis hunts with a .54-caliber Lyman Trade Rifle.

Hunters of any beast or bird at Steens should know that dispersed camping on Steens Mountain is now limited as BLM has closed traditional roads and herded hunters into fee campgrounds you must share with Subarus and Volvos hauling Huskies and Akitas. And this year BLM increased those campground fees.

According to the pronghorn population estimates for 2021 (the last year for which the data were available), there are some 1,235 pronghorn in the unit. That's down from 2017, when there were 1,900, but still, plenty of antelope. One clue to the decline is the number of fawns counted per 100 does. Over the last five years, there has not been a season when there were over 40 fawns per 100 does. A doe generally gives birth to one or two fawns. If, at the count, there are less than 40 fawns, it is hard for the herd to replace itself. One thing you can do to help is shoot a coyote or two while scouting for your pronghorn hunt. Or bring your friends and hold a contest.

One of the interesting things I noticed while examining the 2021 harvest statistics is that our muzzleloader pronghorn hunts tend to be more successful in terms of harvest than the rifle hunts. Why is that? There are usually fewer muzzleloader hunters, but they tend to be serious and spend time getting closer for an accurate shot. Then I remembered I had a muzzleloader pronghorn tag in 2021 and I did not harvest an animal. Because I missed. That season there were four of us in our camp with tags and only one of us filled a tag. So we dragged the harvest numbers down in that unit.

The new Steens Mountain muzzleloader hunt is sure to be popular. If you drew the tag, go make history with a black powder rifle. This year the season runs Aug. 30 to Sept. 7, with a bag limit of one buck pronghorn.



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The Little Things that can make a Big Difference

I was elk hunting Oregon's Coast Range, near the Siuslaw River, and it was hot and dry on opening weekend. I cut some tracks crossing a small, grassy opening on a hillside. The closer I moved to the tree line on the other side of the meadow, the more tracks converged. It was easy to see that, as the animals bottlenecked onto a single trail leading into the timber, their pace quickened; fresh dirt was kicked up. One track landed smack in the middle of a mole hill. I reached down and grabbed a handful of clean soil that had worked its way up between the toes. It smelled strong.

I followed the trail for about a quarter mile, down into a heavily wooded ravine. The hillside was steep, but flattened out as it neared the bottom. That's where I caught a big whiff of a wet, rutting bull. I searched and searched for a wallow, but found nothing.

As I followed my nose, the odor grew stronger. Then I found where the bull had made a dry wallow. The ferns were beaten down, the moist forest floor heavily tilled, and the smell of fresh urine permeated the area. I kept following the herd, and right when I caught up with them, the wind changed. Rather than force it, I backed out, approached from another angle, and when the herd went on the move later in the day, ended up arrowing a dandy bull.

Patience and playing the wind played parts in that hunt, but what kept me moving forward was the smell of the tracks and the dry wallow; both screamed "fresh!"

Every time a split-toed ungulate, like an elk or deer, takes a step, it leaves an identifying odor on the ground, deposited there from the interdigital gland. Humans have some of the worst noses on the planet, so you know if we can smell this scent



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

Bulls will wallow whether there's water to roll in or not. In recent dry conditions, more elk have been dry-wallowing in damp grass, sand or even sagebrush flats.

being laid down, other animals easily can. In thick habitats like the Coast Range, the western slopes of the Cascades, or any dense habitat where elk live, scent from the interdigital gland is how they often keep track of one another. If you can smell this scent on hot days, you know elk have just been there, so keep tracking.

If you can smell elk scent on hot days, you know they have just been there, so keep tracking.



tall grass, even in high-desert sand and sage brush flats. Rub-urinating is a part of the dry wallowing process, just as it is in water, so keep your eyes open and nostrils working.

If you do find a wet wallow, study the trails leading to and from it. Look for splashes of mud on nearby leaves, fern fronds, rocks and the ground. As the mud droplets hit, they'll disperse in the direction the bull is moving. This will not only tell you which direction the bull is heading once it's wallowed, but at what speed it's

traveling. Flat droplets mean a bull is moving slowly. Droplets that are lined-out reveal a bull on the move; those are the ones I'll follow fast, and commence calling.

Pay attention to cow and calf chatter as the season progresses. As calves venture farther from their moms, talk becomes more frequent, loud, and urgent. Mimic these sounds with your calls, and mix in some bugles.

In the last half of the season, I like mixing up cow and calf talk, along with bugles. I'm a fan of open-reed, bite-down style calls, as you can easily emulate a range of cow and calf chatter. Diaphragm calls are also good for this. If you're not a fan of diaphragm calls, check out a new call, the Enchantress, by Slayer Calls of Idaho. This push-button call is super easy to use and creates great sounds. I called in a number of bulls with it last fall. They also have an acrylic bugle that I love the crispness of, called the ArchAngel.

This elk season, pay attention to the little things. Cover ground and don't be afraid to call often early in the morning and late evening when elk are most active on hot days. No matter which side of the Cascades you hunt, the rut must go on, no matter the conditions.



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.

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2023 OREGON

BIG GAME PREVIEW

BETTER LATE THAN EVER!

The first year we see the effects of the new season structure, we'll see rifle hunters pursuing blacktails well into the rut, and possibly snow for westside elk hunts. November will be no time for watching football.

BY JIM YUSKAVITCH

Weather plays a critical role in the success of a hunt. The weather affects access, the ability to track big game movements, how quiet or noisy the woods are, habitat quality and the abundance or lack thereof of the animals you are pursuing. The late snowfall that took most of Oregon from below-average in early winter to above average by late winter lasted into early spring. But because the temperatures were not extreme, big game didn't seem to suffer inordinately as the animals did in some western states, although there still was some winter mortality across the board.

Weather will play another important role in hunter success this year with the week-later opening for "any legal weapon" deer season, and subsequent later openings for other hunts, as well. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife big game management framework, that season now begins on the first Saturday of October instead of the Saturday closest to Oct. 1. It's a key season opening date, because later season starts are coordinated to this opener. In the year that the first Saturday of October falls on the 7th — which is the latest possible opening date for this hunt under the framework — the opening day jumps a week later. Then the opener for this and most other big game seasons will be a day earlier each year

until it is time to reset once again.

This has some hunters concerned about how it might affect hunting success, particularly for later seasons where more snow might be encountered that could limit access. ODFW field biologists had some opinions on how this could impact this year's big game hunts — and it's all about the weather. Some biologists noted the later start will put the hunt overlapping more of the rut, which should be an advantage. Acknowledging the potential for heavy snows during the later seasons that could limit or deny hunter access to areas at higher elevations, a lighter dumping of snow would make tracking and locating deer and elk easier. The weather will have the final say.

Here's an overview of the current status of big game across Oregon based on the latest data, along with some observations from local ODFW field biologists.

Deer

ODFW has conducted ongoing genetic sampling of black-tailed deer, and estimates that currently buck-to-doe ratios are around 60-to-100, more than twice what was estimated from spotlight surveys and hunter harvest data. Data from radio-collared doe black-tailed deer indicate that doe survival rates have increased since the 1990s to between 71 and 84

With the Cascade elk season running through Nov. 17 this fall and the second Coast hunt lasting until Dec. 1, tracking snow could be a big help to hunters.



JACKSON COUNTY/RANDY SHIPLEY, WRSHIPLEY.ZENFOLIO.COM

Western Oregon blacktail season will run through Nov. 10 this year, offering a rifle hunt in the rut.

percent. These newer studies with more advanced data collection methods have made biologists cautiously optimistic that the population may no longer be declining and may even be increasing in some areas.

On the North Coast, Tillamook-based District Wildlife Biologist Dave Nuzum reported black-tailed deer to be doing very well, with buck ratios at or above management objective on all of his wildlife management units. Similarly, Christopher Yee, District Wildlife Biologist in Springfield, said black-tailed deer are “doing pretty well” on the west slope of the Cascades. The heavy winter snows created access problems for biologists doing surveys.

For mule deer on east side, the story continues to be less optimistic, but not necessarily disastrous, either. Data from 2022 surveys showed a population of 160,000 to 165,000 mule deer. While well below the management objective of 350,000, it is only a 0.2 percent decline from the previous year. Of the 49 units that support mule deer, the population increased in 19 units and decreased in 23 units. The mostly private West Biggs Unit is the only one where the mule deer numbers are at objective.

District Wildlife Biologist Tom Collom in Klamath Falls reported that he has really only seen a slight recent decline in mule deer population. However, added Collom, “We also had several mega fires over the past four years that have burned up a lot of good habitat.”

In John Day country, District Wildlife Biologist Ryan Torland reported, “Deer are not doing great. We had a little more winter this year and some high fawn mortality. The adults are doing OK, but their

winter survival rate was a little less than we would like to see.” Right now his best deer unit is Murderers Creek, largely due to the Canyon Creek Fire several years ago that is now producing good habitat as the burn site regrows.

“Our deer are still being affected by the winter of 2016-17,” explained Hines-based ODFW wildlife biologist Lee Foster in the High Desert Region. “Fawn recruitment tapered off a little last year, but we had a slight increase in adults.”

ODFW is in the process of updating its mule deer management plan to address factors affecting populations in the state including quality and quantity of habitat, food sources, and road-kill mortality by

developing more highway wildlife crossings – an initiative in which the Oregon Hunters Association is a key player.

Elk

In Oregon, elk are a “Tale of Two Regions.” Rocky Mountain elk from the east slope of the Cascades eastward are faring pretty well. The population is estimated at 70,876, which is only a little below the management objective of 73,650. Of the 35 units with Rocky Mountain elk populations, 17 are at or above management objective.

Ryan Torland, in John Day, noted that elk numbers in his district are more stable than deer, although some of his calf-to-cow ratios are low at around 14 to 100. Population maintenance level is around 17 or 18 to 100, and 25 or more calves per 100 cows is ideal. He also reported normal bull to cow ratios of 14 to 100. In the High Desert Region, Foster said that in his two elk units – Silvies and Malheur River – bull ratios are at objective. Bull ratios are strong in the Keno Unit at low- to mid-20s per 100 cows, according to Tom Collom.

In western Oregon, Roosevelt elk continue to struggle. The estimated population is around 56,500 – only 79 percent of the desired management objective of 70,850. The Sixes Unit in southwest Oregon is the only unit that is above management objective. The lowest Roosevelt elk populations are in the Santiam, McKenzie, Indigo and Chetco units at 50 percent or less of objective. A substantial factor in Roosevelt elk



DESCHUTES COUNTY/RYAN HOEFT

Only one Oregon wildlife management unit is currently at management objective for mule deer.

decline is attributed to the decrease in logging operations, especially on public lands in the Cascades, where Forest Service lands no longer produce the good ungulate habitat offered when logged areas regrow.

Nevertheless, Christopher Yee said his elk in the west central Cascades are “doing OK,” although ODFW was not able to get a very reliable count during this year’s aerial surveys. Heavy snow delayed the spring green-up, and cows and calves stayed in the timber and were difficult to count.

On the North Coast, Dave Nuzum said that local elk “are doing pretty well” and close to objectives, although, because of the late winter in the Coast Range, access to do surveys was delayed this year.

Pronghorn

Oregon’s pronghorn population has been stable over the past few years, although the estimated 16,000 to 19,000 is considerably less than in the early 1990s when the numbers were nearly double. The hard winter of 2016-17 knocked pronghorns down in Baker, Harney and Malheur counties, and they are still recovering, and a number of years of drought didn’t help, either. Lee Foster reported that some of the High desert pronghorn populations are faring well. He also noted that melt-off from heavy snow this winter has made the desert very wet. That means there is plenty of water out there for pronghorns, and hunters may find them more scattered than in recent drought years.

LAKE COUNTY/JOHN MCFARLAND III



Oregon pronghorn populations have been steady, but at a much lower level than 30 years ago.

Bighorn Sheep

With a statewide population of about 4,200 to 4,500, California bighorns, which occupy desert mountain areas in southeast Oregon and the John Day and Deschutes river canyons, are fairly stable. Lee Foster reported that his bighorn herds are stable, with no disease issues, although the Pueblo Mountains herd is down a little. ODFW is still looking into potential causes.

Ryan Torland related that the McClellan and Aldrich herds are doing fine, and a few have even dispersed to the lower Middle Fork John Day River area.

The Rocky Mountain bighorn population in Northeast Oregon is estimated at 800 to 900 animals and some still have some disease issues, primarily *Mycoplasma ovipneumonia*, which causes respiratory disease in wild sheep.

However, hunters who draw tags for either California or Rocky Mountain bighorns continue to have high success rates.

Rocky Mountain Goat

Oregon’s Rocky Mountain goat population is estimated at about 1,200, with most of them in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains, and have been stable or increasing in recent years. The Cascade Mountain population in the Mount Jeffer-

son-Three-Fingered Jack area is also doing well. The 2020 Lionshead fire caused some changes in distribution, but didn’t affect population size.

In the Strawberries, Torland reported that the goat population is stable. Some have moved into the Desolation Unit, and a very few have been seen in the West Beulah hunt area.

Bear and Cougar

Bear and cougar status remains largely the same, with robust black bear numbers wherever there is good, forested habitat. The Coast Range remains a hotspot with populations increasing as you move southward. Oregon’s statewide bear population is estimated to be around 34,000.

The cougar population remains strong as well, with an estimated statewide population near 7,000, including all age classes. Dave Nuzum, in Tillamook, noted that he is continuing to see more cougar harvest and damage complaints each year. He reported that one cougar radio-collared in a study further south along the coast has turned up in his district.

The state’s estimated cougar population has more than doubled since Measure 18 banned the use of hounds to hunt cougars in 1994.



JOHN DAY RIVER/PETER SODERSTROM

Oregon's California bighorns have managed to escape much of the disease problem that has plagued the state's Rocky Mountain bighorns.

Hunt Elk Year-Round

No sooner had I set foot on the tree line where a bachelor herd of Roosevelt elk hung out the past two days, and I could see a matching set of sheds laying side by side. I walked up to them with my dogs. Once they got a whiff of them, they knew what we were after.

A little while later Echo, my female Pudelpointer, came busting out of the brush proudly carrying another elk shed. Kona, my male, stood over another, one he couldn't pry from the tangle of briars it had dropped in. It was a great day of shed hunting, and not just because my dogs were with me, but because these elk were in a place I'd have never imagined elk being 25 years ago.

On the drive home I reflected on the growing herds of Roosevelt elk within an hour's drive of our home in Walterville. When I was a kid, there were no elk here. Today, due to the growth and expansion of elk herds in many places, I enjoy them year-round. Being a full-time writer, I'm always striving to learn, and what I've learned from chasing elk year-round has taught me more than I ever imagined.

As I write these words it's April 1... no fooling. I have my eyes on three more herds of Roosevelt elk, as the bulls have yet to drop their racks. Last year I got pictures of a mature bull on opening day of spring turkey season, April 15, still carrying its rack.

Where we picked up the sheds yesterday, I'd not seen elk before. But once I got into the thick brush and began rooting around, I was blown away by the number of rubs. It was obvious elk had been using this oak and maple thicket on the valley floor for years, as evidenced by the varying ages of rubs. Come the September rut, this discovery would be money if you're a bowhunter.

Not only are Roosevelt elk capable of being kept track of all winter long, but so are non-migratory Rocky Mountain bulls.



The author sets more than 40 trail cameras during the fall and spring, and keeps at least 20 up year-round for elk.

I have many friends and several folks I know, who live in eastern Oregon who love watching elk all year. Just last year a high school buddy moved to northeast Oregon because it had elk on the property he bought, year-round. He'd always wanted elk on his property. Now he has it.

I run a lot of trail cameras for elk, year-round. They've taught me about predator densities and how elk survive them. They've also revealed how many cougars are really out there – way too many.

I love seeing what trail cameras reveal in the calving season, too. This is an exciting time. Not only do the calves develop fast, but the rate at which the antlers grow on bulls is mind-boggling.

Throughout the spring and summer months, I've been amazed to learn how far elk will move at night, both Roosies and Rockies. In mid-August I start working on

one of my duck blinds as the water is just about gone from the pond and the nearby little creek is almost dried-up. Almost. There's barely a trickle of water in it, but it's enough to keep a bit of grass green and willows growing. Every August elk come into the area to eat, and the bulls thrash the willows as they strip their velvet. I've tracked two different herds that travel there. One covers over three miles, the other close to seven, nearly every night. They'll start doing the same in January, when farm fields green-up. Did I mention I'm less than a mile from I-5?

Once bulls strip their velvet, things really get interesting. A few summers ago, I watched a big Roosy bull. Almost every day I went looking for that bull, I found it. I caught hundreds of video clips of that bull on multiple trail cameras I had set in an area about 1x3 miles. Then, in mid-September the bull left for three days. That's when I caught it on another trail camera I had set, nine miles away. On day four, that bull was back with the cows it had spent the summer with, having traveled the nine miles in one night. The ground was far from flat. The bull eluded bowhunters, but was killed in the rifle season.

Another bull moved in the following August, replacing that bull's spot in the harem. It stayed with the cows all bow season, then was killed in the rifle season. The same happened to another big bull, last season, as it was killed seven miles away on the last day of rifle season. I watched that bull from May through the end of October, when it finally left the area.

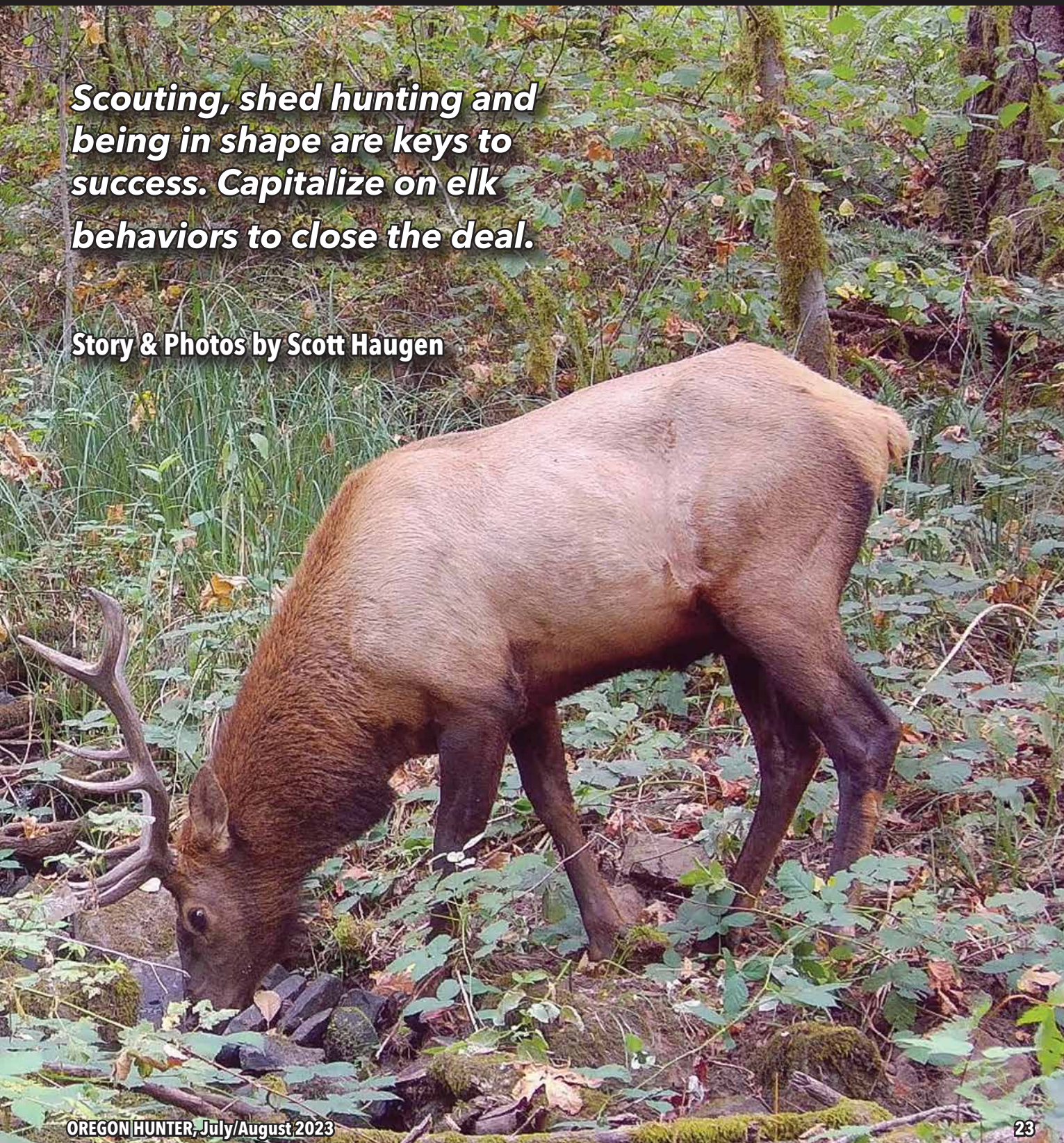
I'm amazed at how far these bulls will travel. I've learned that there's no managing these bulls to let them grow bigger until next year, not when they're covering so much ground, both private and public. Even during the rut, a lot of big bulls travel at night. I've caught a number of bulls over the years only one time on one trail camera, and never laid an eye on them or heard of them being killed. Old bulls are wise, and



If you want to be a really good elk hunter, dedicate the year to them, not just hunting season.

Scouting, shed hunting and being in shape are keys to success. Capitalize on elk behaviors to close the deal.

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen





Echo, one of the author's pudelpointers, with a Roosevelt shed she sniffed out and retrieved last March. Shed hunting is just one of the many pleasures elk hunters can enjoy.

I think many die without ever being seen.

I have more than 40 trail cameras set out during the fall and spring, and keep over 20 cameras up year-round for elk. I run all my trail cameras on video mode, because the sights and sounds a video captures reveal much more information than a still image. I don't run transmitting trail cameras for big game – other than cougar – because I learn a lot every time I'm in the woods checking them. There's only so much a stationary trail camera can catch.

For years I ran Stealth Cam DS4K Ultimate cameras, and still have some of those in the woods. But almost a year ago I tried Browning's Dark Ops Pro DCL trail cameras. The quality of video these high-definition cameras capture instantly caught my eye. These cameras have held up great all year and withstood torrential downpours, being covered in snow multiple times, and maintained battery life in freezing temperatures for weeks on end. I didn't change a battery for six months on one of these cameras, one that had caught

over a thousand video clips of all sorts of game, and keep in mind, many of those videos were a minute long.

If I find an area where elk might be for a while – like calving, feeding, bedding, drinking or wallowing grounds – I'll extend the time of the cameras. I've even gone to two-minute videos on some of my Browning trail cameras. The information such a lengthy video reveals can only be matched by being in the woods, watching critters with your own eyes, something we don't have enough time to do. Trail cameras are your eyes in the woods when



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Filling an elk tag can happen quickly if you've been watching elk all year and know where the bulls are and what they're doing.

you're not there, and will teach you a lot.

As hunting seasons pass and elk move, it's intriguing to watch herd dynamics shift.

The calves of the year still stay with the herd, and often subordinate bulls join them. Late last November a herd of 14 spikes showed up in one of the Roosy herds I'd been watching. They were there for over a month, then slowly went their separate ways. Now there are only three spikes in the herd. A 4x4 and 5x5 also joined the herd. Both are young bulls, and it'll be interesting to see what happens to them as summer progresses. If history repeats itself, a big bull will move in this summer and the younger bulls will either leave or get put in their place, come the rut.

As winter vegetation changes, elk will cover a lot of ground in search of food. By December, woody tissue foods carry little nutrition and are basically a filler, so elk move to grass on which to graze.

If they're lucky, January is warm and green grass will start to sprout, so they won't have to move too far. But this past winter was the opposite of that; cold and wet, so grass growth was delayed. Due to the cold conditions, I found multiple elk herds that traveled over two miles nearly every night to reach green grass.

One of the coolest things is seeing how much elk and deer feed on moss following

a big storm. High winds, heavy rain and snow can all bust tree limbs, even topple trees. In those limbs and trees is a valuable food source elk love. I've gotten hours of video footage of big herds of elk foraging on tree moss after a big storm. They also crave moss during those first storms of fall, something hunters should keep in mind.

If you really want to learn more about the animals you love to hunt, try following them all year.

By being afield as much as you can, and running as many trail cameras as possible, you'll be surprised at the education you'll receive. Heck, I'm a former high school science teacher with a degree in biology, and what I continue to learn, even at my age, astonishes me. And honestly, those are the kinds of things that keep me going, because when it comes to understanding animals and animal behavior, the learning never stops.



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. It's available at www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.



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BE RELENTLESS



OREGON MOOSE

NO LONGER A BULL MARKET

By Gary Lewis



Dead moose don't reproduce. Why are we willing to let moose go to feed the wolves and cougars?

I was on Salmo Mountain in Washington, way up next to the border with British Columbia, when I found an odd track, about four inches long, not an elk, not a moose. When I called the forest biologist, he laughed.

"Yes, we have a small herd of caribou here in the Selkirks," he said. They were a cross boundary herd, spending time in northern Idaho, northeastern Washington and British Columbia. At the time there was said to be about 50 animals in the South Selkirk herd. That was the year wildlife managers had documented the state's first breeding wolf pack in modern times.

Now take a look at the documented wolf packs in northeast Washington. There is a wolf pack called Salmo. Care to make any guesses at what happened to the last caribou herd in the lower 48?

In 2018, the battle to save the caribou was lost, the herd labeled "functionally extinct" with only three female caribou left, the rest gone to feed cougars and wolves. In a footnote to history, the *Smithsonian* magazine documented the lone survivor, netted and transplanted to a 20-acre enclosure near Revelstoke, B.C.

If we had caribou in Oregon, would we let wolves and cougars eat them all? We are doing that with the moose.

In the early 2000s, Oregon moose numbers were going up. In 2006, biologists counted nine cows, eight calves and two bulls in the west Sled Springs and Wenaha units. They estimated 30 moose in the northern Blue Mountains that year.

At the same time, moose numbers were increasing in southeast Washington and across the border in Idaho.

Vic Coggins was the district biologist in the Enterprise office at the time. From 2006 on, he made it a point to conduct road and aerial surveys to count moose. By 2010, the number of moose in Oregon had been adjusted to 50 animals and the



ODFW PHOTOS BY PAT MATTHEWS

Moose numbers were on the increase in Oregon till 2013. As wolf numbers have increased, moose numbers have declined.

population estimate topped out in 2013 at 70 moose.

"The last survey was March 2021," Coggins said. Although Coggins has retired from ODFW, he stays active, working as a wildlife consultant and is particularly interested in moose and elk numbers in the area he calls home.

"We are probably back down around 30 moose in the state," Coggins said.

Until about 2014, moose numbers seemed to be rising with occasional reports of calves in the Snake, Chesnimnus and Minam units and less frequent reports of moose in the Imnaha and a little group of moose that were reproducing in the west Sled Springs unit that Coggins believes was tied to the Wenaha, where they probably wintered.

"They just aren't expanding like they were," Coggins said. "We have personally had cameras on Alder Slope on our place and the last time we had a picture of a

moose was 10 years ago."

According to Coggins, one of his counterparts in Washington thinks there is just a handful of moose left in the Evergreen State. "He told me about one that was just killed that had produced twin calves a lot of years."

This is not an unfamiliar story.

"The average person doesn't have a clue as to how fast these wolves reproduce," Coggins said. "As the wolf numbers have increased, the moose have decreased and that's a fact. I know of a number of moose that have been killed by wolves recently. There are virtually wolf packs in every unit. At least one pack in each unit and most have a couple packs," Coggins said.

Another limiting factor is that Nez Perce tribal members are shooting moose under treaty rights.

"That's not helping," Coggins said. "And it's hard to know how many because



PHOTO BY THE AUTHOR

A shed moose antler. "Even if we never hunt moose in Oregon, it is a great satisfaction to most of us just to know they are there." –Vic Coggins

they don't keep track of harvest." On the flip side, the Umatilla tribes currently do not hunt moose. Coggins said there are tribal members in both communities that are concerned about what's going on with the moose.

The moose were one of Coggins' priorities during his days as an ODFW bio.

When wolf numbers began to go up and moose numbers started going down, Coggins and fellow biologist Pat Matthews proposed trying supplemental transplants.

"That didn't go anywhere," Coggins said. The easiest place to get the moose then was the state of Washington.

"Washington has issues with them

coming into the towns. And we gave them some bighorn sheep, and I know a trade could get worked out, but it seems like nothing happens except we get fewer moose."

Care enough about moose to make a prediction about where moose numbers go from here? Care enough to do better than Washington did with their caribou? Do we let moose go to the wolves or do we give the moose a chance?

Monitoring predation on moose is needed to prevent extirpation of the species. With the low moose numbers we have, a collar should be on every Oregon moose. Careful consideration should be given to the habitat they are using, and causes of moose mortality should be addressed.

In Coggins' opinion, both wolves and cougars are responsible for the steep decline in moose numbers. "And some of the (tribal) hunting activity has not helped. A dead moose is not going to reproduce."



Gary Lewis is the author of Fishing Central Oregon, Bob Nosler Born Ballistic, Oregon Lake Maps and Fishing Guide and other titles. To contact Gary, visit www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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NOSLER: 75 YEARS OF BULLETS MADE RIGHT. MADE RIGHT HERE.



Bob Nosler and guide with a moose in the water.

***Born in Ashland,
raised in Bend,
educated at
Steens Mountain***

BY GARY LEWIS

In a little truck shop in Ashland, a truck driver experimented with a bullet design. The year was 1947 and the truck driver was John Nosler, a 34-year-old who loved to hunt and was fascinated by machines. He settled on a unique dual core bullet he came to call the Partition.

That fall, John and his friend Clarence Purdie both killed moose with one shot using John's new bullet. It was a breakthrough, and hunting around the world would be transformed because of the new bullet.

In those days, as now, bullet performance was measured by penetration and expansion, but a person had to choose between a bullet that would penetrate and a bullet that would reliably expand. The Partition bullet with its dual core married those two hitherto estranged qualities.

John Amos Nosler dropped out of high school after the stock market crash in 1929 to take a job sweeping floors at the Ford dealer. He raced cars, he turned wrenches and he experimented with engines and business. He founded a Ford dealership and salvaged one truck when the business failed and turned that one truck into a trucking company in Ashland. And he started hunting, with a passion, for blacktail deer, mule deer, elk and moose. It



John Nosler at the lathe in the 1950s.

was the moose hunting that convinced him the world needed a better bullet.

But John's passion for the bullet business was taking him away from work. His wife Louise never quite knew where he was in those days, indeed, if he was still alive, till he would call her from some café in British Columbia after 47 days in the woods. Finally Louise said, "You have to pick one. You're either a truck driver or a bullet maker; you have to pick one."

And John picked the bullet business. Founded in 1948, the Nosler Partition Bullet Company outgrew their Ashland shop. John and Louise pulled stakes and moved their young boys, Ron and Bob, to a little lumber town called Bend. That was 1958.

It was never easy, but the company attracted good people because John and Louise cared for their employees and they fostered a culture of hot rodding, motor-

cycles, athletics, public service and hunting.

Bob Nosler grew up brother to the Partition bullet. Born in Ashland, raised in Bend, schooled in the Steens. Bob killed his first buck in the Steens, with a bullet that had his name on it.

John Nosler boasted once that a lot of the roads in the Beatys Butte area he cut while hunting mule deer.

While the company grew from strength to strength, it gained an ally in another Oregon company called Leupold & Stevens, who purchased a controlling interest.

Ron went in the Air Force. Bob joined

Nosler annually donates a rifle to OHA's State Convention, and 2 rifles and a pair of cases of ammo for the Nosler Photo Contest winners.

the Navy. After their tours of duty were over, both returned to Bend, to be close to family. Bob took the experiences he learned in the submarine service and set a goal to return the family business to 100-percent family ownership. Joan Nosler stood alongside him every step of the way.

Taking a major risk, the family purchased controlling ownership back from Leupold & Stevens in the late 1980s. Along the

way, Nosler produced the bullets sportsman needed: first the Partition, then the Zippedo, the Solid Base, the Ballistic Tip, the AccuBond, the Custom Competition, the E-Tip and more. Other milestones in-



John and Bob Nosler with a good buck.




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John A. Nosler 382 Weightman St. Ashland, Oregon



One of the first ads for the Partition bullet.



The crew at the Parrell Road plant in Bend.



John R. Nosler with a black bear taken on a hunt in 2008.

cluded Nosler Custom rifles introduced in 2004, the Trophy Grade Rifle in 2010, and in 2018, the Nosler Model 48 Long Range Carbon was released. In 2021, Nosler Inc. released the Model 21. It was featured in the Nosler Rifle Raffle at this spring's

OHA 40th Anniversary State Convention.

Today Nosler Inc. is owned and managed by the third generation. "We build bullets we can believe in," Bob Nosler said in his new book, "and rifles we can rely on. It is as if the hand of Providence

has guided each of us, although it has not been easy. And we know the seas will be rough again."

Together, Jill (Nosler) Bailey, Jeff Bailey and John R. Nosler are steering the company into the future, but they have never forgotten the lessons they learned from Bob. And from their grandfather.


Big John was a risk taker. He left a successful trucking company to pursue a dream the industry told him would fail. In the second generation, Bob kept the dream alive, when the economy crashed again and the odds seemed insurmountable. And the fire of 2010 tested them all, their faith, their resolve.

"I think to be a successful hunter, to be a successful businessman, it's the patience, the perseverance. They are going to be the exact same traits." John Nosler said recently. "Once you put skin in the game you find a way."



The Bob Nosler story is the subject of a new book. For a signed copy of Bob Nosler Born Ballistic, send \$29.95 (includes shipping) to Gary Lewis Outdoors, P.O. Box 1364, Bend, OR 97709 or visit www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

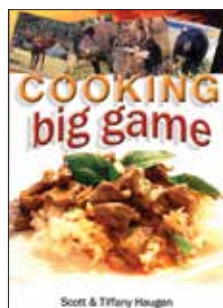
Try Thuringer Fried Rice

As you begin to plan another season of hunting, don't forget about what you may have put in the freezer last fall and winter. Ideally, wild game should be used up within a year of harvest.

Items made from wild game, like thuringer, summer sausage, pepperoni and jerky, should also be used before the possibility of freezer burn. Although vacuum sealing may extend freezer life a few additional months, use up that game to enjoy optimal flavors and textures.

This is a super quick meal to whip up for lunch or dinner, anytime. Use your imagination and add what you like, such as a few eggs, more vegetables, kimchi, or even crushed potato chips, which can create a tasty twist to the fried rice.

- 2 cups chopped thuringer or summer sausage
- 2 cups cooked, cooled, long or medium grain rice
- 1 cup cooked, cooled, wild rice
- 2-3 tablespoons canola or coconut oil
- 1/2 onion, minced
- 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1" fresh ginger, minced
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon oyster sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce, optional
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion or chives
- 1 cup chopped pineapple
- 1 sheet or packet nori
- Fresh lime for garnish



In a small bowl, mix soy sauce, oyster sauce, sesame oil and optional fish sauce until thoroughly combined. In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of canola or coconut oil on medium high heat. Sauté thuringer or summer sausage until it begins to brown. Remove from skillet and set aside. Add another tablespoon of oil to the pan and sauté the onion, garlic and ginger until soft. Push vegetable mixture to the edges of the pan and add another tablespoon of oil, turn heat to high. Add cooked rice – I like Oregon Wild Rice, grown in the Willamette Valley – to the skillet, breaking up any clumps.

Fry 1-2 minutes until rice is hot. Mix in onion mixture into rice and stir-in browned thuringer or summer sausage. Sauté 1-2 more minutes. Stir-in green onion or chives, pineapple and nori and continue to sauté another minute. Serve immediately with a squeeze of fresh lime if desired.

Field Care Note: If looking to attain the best quality thuringer or summer sausage possible, make sure the meat you work with, or take to the butcher shop, is clean. Nothing taints the end product



This is a super-quick meal to whip up for lunch or dinner.

faster than dirty, bloody meat, and the cook or meat shop should not be blamed. Avoid tossing chunks of meat laden with sinew, into the grind, as this will make for tough, unappealing bites. The better the quality of the meat you start with, the better the end product will be in both flavor and texture.



To order signed copies of Tiffany Haugen's popular book, *Cooking Big Game*, visit www.scotthaugen.com for this and other titles.

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



WINNER:
Suspicious minds. This picture narrowly edged the competition thanks to the camera angle and the lighting. OHA member Erika Forsythe of Terrebonne wins a Tactacam Reveal Trail Camera for this early April photo capture of a pair of Jefferson County gobblers.



HONORABLE MENTION:



A Jackson County black bear strolls through the neighborhood after dark. OHA member Andy Schofield of Talent bags an OHA hat for this November trail cam trophy.



Pete Soderstrom of Columbia City scores an OHA hat for this shot of a Roosevelt bull that showed up on opening morning of archery season while Pete was at work.



Black bear scratching post. OHA member Antonio Garcia of Siletz earns honorable mention for this Alsea Unit backscratcher.



OHA member Curtis Pedro of Cove receives honorable mention for this trail cam capture of a Starkey Unit bull.

BACKSIDE OF NO-TELLUM RIDGE/DUANE DUNCANNON

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YOUNG GUNS

By TROY RODAKOWSKI

DUANE DUNGANNON

Fall Bear: Our Summer Youth Hunt

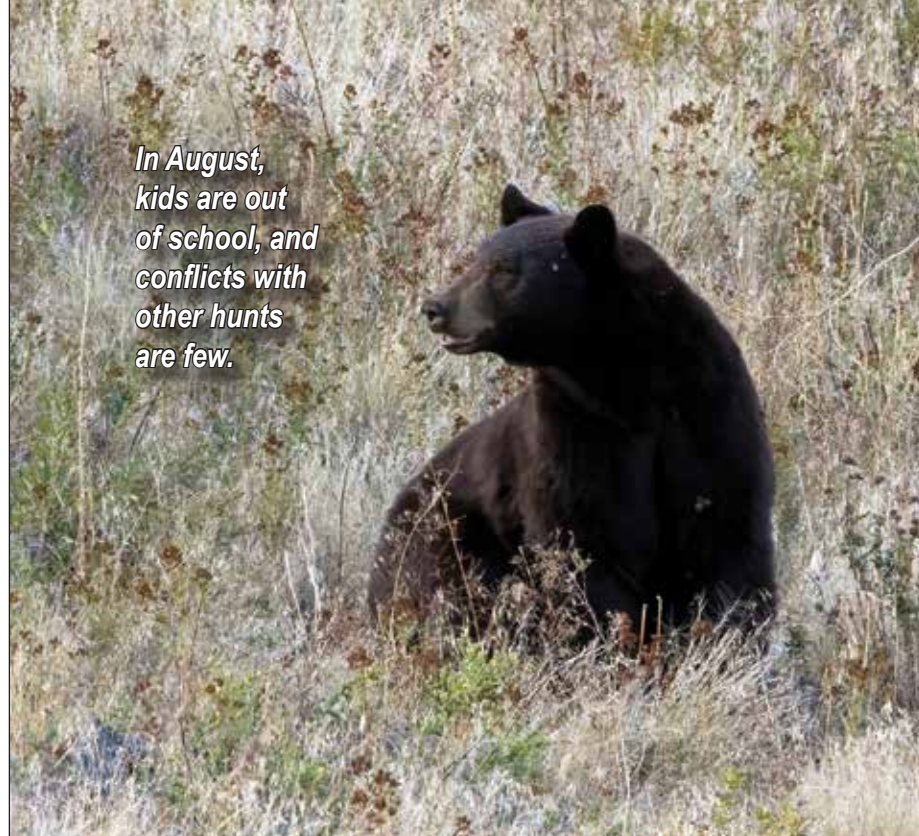
Some youth big game hunts are tailor-made for youth success – timed with the rut or school vacations. Others, like Oregon’s fall black bear season, just happen to be amazing opportunities for Oregon’s young guns. Oregon’s fall bear season opens statewide Aug. 1, when kids are out of school, and conflicts with other hunting seasons are the fewest of the fall.

Early August weather is usually pretty darn nice. The sunny days equate to ripe berry patches and comfortable hunting conditions throughout bear country. Just pack the scentless sunscreen and a summer sleeping bag. And a Thermacell to ward off flying bloodsuckers.

Many kids have waited all summer after passing their Hunter Education courses to get out and look for some big game. One of the biggest bonuses is that there will be plenty of prime campsites available to spend a weekend or a few nights camping and searching the clearcuts and creek drainages that bears love during the warm late summer and fall.

I like to take this time to scout for deer and elk, pick some fresh berries for pies and relax. Some of my best memories growing up were hitting the backcountry with my father looking for deer and elk in hopes of finding a bear. We always had a cougar tag in our pockets, because you never know when you might cross paths with a hungry cat. (See the author’s recent cat close encounter in our next issue.)

Fall bear season runs through Dec. 31 in Oregon, and all bears must be checked in at an ODFW field office by the hunter within 10 days of the kill. There were 608 bears harvested in the Southwest units last fall, which is tops in the state, followed by 500 harvested throughout the Northeast units. The Northwest portion of the state



In August, kids are out of school, and conflicts with other hunts are few.

Oregon has a robust bear population estimated at over 34,000 bruins roaming the state. Get one.

produced 387 bruins, while the rest of the state’s combined harvest came in at 198 animals. Some of these bears were tagged by youngsters early in August.

The Beaver State offers some of the best bear hunting in the country, from the coast to the canyons.

Black bear populations have been on the rise throughout much of Oregon. Since the 1930s when it was thought that approximately 9,000 bears inhabited the state, populations have grown to well over 34,000. In 2005 the ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) started using tetracycline mark-and-recapture methods to better estimate the current bear population. Orchards and vineyards across the state have suffered bear damage, and obtaining permission to hunt on some of these private parcels can greatly increase your odds for harvesting a fall bear.

Keep those youngsters interested and don’t overdo it. Burning a kid out by hiking too far or in steep terrain will not make for happy times. We want our kids to enjoy the outdoors, so taking our time and being mindful of a youngster’s limits is important. I like to hear, “Daddy when are we going hunting again?” That’s music to my ears, even if it’s just because of the snacks in my pack, because at least I know she’s having a good time and we are making memories together.



DUANE DUNGANNON

Bear Necessities

Don’t Stink at Bear Hunting. It’s said that a bear’s nose is so sensitive it can smell what you’re thinking. Or stinking.

Be Patient. Find a comfortable location and invest some time. This is crucial, especially during prime hours of movement.

Mix It Up. If you have been glassing for a couple days without success, go for a hike, set up near a food source, or do some distress fawn, calf or rabbit calling. Check out new areas and explore a bit.

Go Where Few Have. Late in the season, look to areas away from roads and well used trails. Bears like solitude.

Remain Optimistic. If you’re seeing nothing, that’s perfect. Nothing is what you see right before you see the bear.

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- Hunter ethics and responsibilities
- 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?

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Hunter Education

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OHA NEWS & VIEWS

TYLER DUNGANNON

OHA improves blacktail habitat at White River

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA conducted a work party weekend at White River Wildlife Area on June 10 and 11, led by State OHA, Hoodview and Mid-Columbia chapters. Volunteers built buck-and-pole fencing to protect aspen, felled and bucked trees to increase ungulate forage, and removed some existing invasive vegetation.

Volunteers were entered to win great prizes from Benchmade, Yeti, Black Rifle Coffee Company, Coast, Work Sharp, Napier Outdoors and the grand prize, a Howa Carbon Fiber 6.5 PRC with Nikko Stirling Optics and Buffalo River bipod donated by Legacy Sports International.

See more in our next issue.

OHA comments about BLM land solar farms

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

Planning for and development of renewable energy facilities is accelerating in our state, including BLM lands.

OHA recently provided comments on the BLM's "Western Solar Plan" expansion into Oregon, outlining specific areas and places that solar farms should not be allowed on BLM lands to protect hunting access and habitat.

OHA is also tracking and commenting on various legislative proposals to address renewable energy siting and processes in the current legislative session.



LAKE COUNTY/ODFW

ODFW's latest annual wolf report reveals increasing numbers, distribution and damage.

ODFW publishes Annual Wolf Report

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

ODFW released its Annual Wolf Report in late April and covered the details at the April 21 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The report offered no surprises. Wolf packs in Oregon continue to increase, new sightings and groups of wolves continue to increase, wolves continue to expand to new areas in Oregon, and impacts to livestock producers continue to increase. A copy of the 2022 Annual Wolf Report is available at: https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2022_Annual_Wolf_Report_Final.pdf

At the April Commission meeting, ODFW also outlined a process and timeline for the required "5-year review" of the current Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. ODFW staff told the OHA Board of Directors that the agency will be coming to OHA to solicit our input during the review process.

OHA was successful in keeping future hunting and trapping included as management tools during the last plan review, and wolf protectionists will certainly be on the offensive to strip wildlife managers of those options.

A copy of the current plan is available: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/2019_Oregon_Wolf_Plan.pdf

OHA weighs in on game bird changes

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA was the only organization to testify on game bird regulations at April's ODFW Commission meeting. OHA supported continued conservatively controlled sage-grouse hunting that yields critical population information for wildlife managers, supported new youth pheasant hunting opportunities, new turkey hunting opportunities on EE Wilson Wildlife Area, and thanked ODFW for using hunters to mitigate turkey damage.

Fall turkey season will now open on Sept. 1 in western Oregon, and private-land Grant County turkey hunting opportunity will be abundant. OHA expressed concerns regarding impacts of this change on western Oregon turkey populations that predominantly use public lands, but we will look at the data next year and reassess whether this was a sound science-based decision to maintain quality hunting opportunity on public lands in western Oregon.

OHA has concerns about new regulations' impacts on turkeys on public lands.





OHA members returned to a Lake County burn to plant forage seedlings that will benefit mule deer.

OHA returns to the burn; more on horizon for '23

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA, partners, and adults in custody at the Warner Creek Correctional Facility finished planting and protecting 10,000 sage and bitterbrush seedlings in April within the Cougar Peak burn scar, which is key mule deer winter range.

With more funds in the project budget, OHA is working with partners and land managers to set up another bitterbrush planting project farther north on Highway 31, potentially near Hole In The Ground this fall.

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OHA pays out \$1,300 in rewards in 7 cases

In the last two months, OHA issued 5 reward checks to informants in 7 cases totaling \$1,300 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund. Charges included: Unlawful Take/Possession of an Elk; 3 juveniles were each cited for Unlawful Possession of 3 Jake Turkeys and hunting without an adult; Possession of an undersized Dungeness Crab; Excess of daily bag limit of Surf Perch; Harvesting Razor Clams during closed season; Exceeding daily Bag Limit of Turkeys; Waste of a game animal.



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

Latest Gun Calendar winners announced

Winners of the 2023 Gun Calendar Raffle are posted each Wednesday on OHA's Facebook and website (oregonhunters.org). Here are the April and May winners:
 Henry Golden Boy H004 Lever 22LR, Rance Pilley, Drain
 Stoeger M3500 Max-5 - Thomas Harboldt, Redmond
 Walther CCP 380ACP - Brett Lynn Stallings, Roseburg
 Browning A-Bolt III Comp Stalker - Ryan Hoeft, Albany
 Christenson Arms Mesa - Christopher Burton, Pendleton
 Ruger American .308 Win - Richard Farmer, Salem
 Weatherby VGD 6.5 PRC - Patrick Churchill, Sparks, NV
 Howa Yote pkg .223 - Matt Thompson, Brookings

Sales of the 2024 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar are underway, so get yours for a shot at one of 52 great guns by calling the OHA state office at 541-772-7313 or visiting OHA's website at: www.oregonhunters.org/store

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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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CHAPTER NEWS

OHA HOPE & HABITAT PROJECT

OHA chapters put their green on the ground

BAKER

CHARLIE BRINTON 541-403-0402

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

2023 Fundraiser: Canceled

Update: The Baker Chapter is in need of chapter officers. If you want to make a difference in your local chapter, please call Charlie Brinton or the State Office at 541-772-7313 for info about volunteering!

BEND

REX PARKS 541-480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: Please see newsletter for date and time.

2023 Fundraiser: Held March 11.

Update: Our youth and family event took place on June 3. Bend Chapter volunteers have been active in the field on a number of recent projects, including OHA's Southwest Meadow project in Jackson County, and we are at All Hands All Brands for Public Lands June 23-25. The chapter's Youth Upland Bird Hunt is now scheduled for Oct. 21 at Powell Butte Vista Property. Registration will be at the Bend ODFW office, 541-480-0748.

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: Held April 29.

Update: Blue Mountain Chapter will be helping at an ODFW Pheasant Hunt Sept. 23 at the Irrigon Wildlife Area, 541-276-2344.



MICHELLE CRAFTON

OHA's Redmond Chapter planted 450 cottonwood trees in May along the John Day River near Mitchell, where the chapter has planted 1,500 four-wings salt brush, wild roses and currant over the last three years, complete with drip line. Mule deer, elk and antelope use the area for winter range, as well as chukars, valley quail and pheasants.

CAPITOL

DANNY SOUTH (503) 577-6033

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: No longer having in-person meetings.

2023 Fundraiser: Held April 22.

Update: Chapter members repaired fences protecting aspen groves at the June aspen enhancement project.

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: Canceled

Update: Get your tickets for the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle. We are raffling a Nosler M48 .300 Win Mag valued at \$1,935. Tickets are \$20, 3/\$50, 7/\$100. Contact Troy or Debbie Laws.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

JORDAN HICKS 949-533-7271

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held Feb. 25.

Update: A huge thank you to those who helped at the Jewell Meadows re-fencing project.

CURRY

MATT THOMPSON 530-351-5847

mandmthompson02@yahoo.com

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, Double D's Cafe, Gold Beach, 6:30 p.m.

2023 Fundraiser: Beast Feast was held March 11.

Update: Aug. 12 we are holding a Community 3D Archery Shoot in Curry County. Details to come.

EMERALD VALLEY

TONY HILSENDAGER 541-729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

<https://ohaemeraldvalley.webs.com>

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Sizzlers on Gateway.

2023 Fundraiser: July 29 Family/Youth Fundraising Event.

Update: Family/Youth Day July 29. We will have booths, games, raffles, air rifle range, silent auction, wall of weapons and plenty of food and drinks. Call 623-670-6701 to pre-register.

HOODVIEW

KELLY PARKMAN 503-706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: Second Thursday, Elmer's Restaurant, Portland. No meetings July & August.

2023 Fundraiser: Held Feb. 25.

Update: The White River Region Project June 10-11 was a great habitat project led by OHA Hoodview & Mid-Columbia chapters. We accomplished a lot during the weekend.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

CLIFF PEERY 541-761-3200

peery@charter.net

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., Black Bear Diner, Grants Pass.

2023 Fundraiser: Held March 18.

Update: Josephine County Chapter volunteers helped build fence to protect important habitat at the Southwest Cascade project in April. Our chapter youth day was on June 3, and our annual campout at Willow Lake Group Camp was held June 15-18.

KLAMATH

ALLAN WIARD 541-884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held April 29.

Update: The annual Hart Mountain project was held May 20-21, and the Green Diamond Forest cleanup took place on June 3. Gerber Reservoir Youth Antelope Hunt & BBQ will be held on Aug. 25, 541-281-6518.

LAKE COUNTY

LARRY LUCAS 541-417-2983

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held May 20.

Update: Lake County OHA Youth Day at Juniper RV Resort on June 24 at 8 a.m.

LINCOLN COUNTY

TODD THOMPSON 541-270-2393

tjaz@charter.net

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

2023 Fundraiser: Pint Night held June 13.

Update: Thank you to all who attended our Pint Night Fundraiser. It was a good start to getting the chapter back into a yearly fundraiser. We look forward to a great fundraiser next year!

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.

Update: Chapter Youth Clay Shoot Aug. 12 from 9-12 with lunch included.

MID-COLUMBIA

CHUCK ASHLEY 541-993-8076

Chuckashley4120@gmail.com

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: July 13 at 6 p.m., ODFW's screen print shop on Klindt Drive, The Dalles.

Update: Our Pint Night was held on May 25. Mid-Columbia Chapter volunteers helped build buck-and-pole fencing to protect aspen, felled and bucked trees to increase ungulate forage, and remove some existing invasive vegetation at the Black-Tail Regional Project June 10 and 11 at the White River Wildlife Area.

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: Held April 15.

Update: Our July Monthly Meeting Speaker will be OSP Wildlife Troopers for the Albany OSP-Fish & Wildlife Division speaking about laws & regulations to protect wildlife & habitat.

OCHOCO

JOHN DEHLER, III 541-815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., COCC Open Campus Room 119.

2023 Fundraiser: Held Feb. 18.

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: Held March 4.

Update: Pioneer Chapter will have a Guzzler Maintenance Trip on July 15. Call Scott Jones, 503-874-9851.

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: Held Feb. 25.

Update: Our chapter planted 450 cottonwood trees in May along the John Day River near Mitchell.

ROGUE VALLEY

PAUL THOMPSON 541-941-6978

Chapter Meetings: Eagles, 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social/dinner, 7 p.m. presentation.

2023 Fundraiser: Held June 3, Ashland Hills Inn.

Update: Chapter members helped install a 2,000-foot section of wildlife-friendly fence that connects two other fences and protects a sensitive southwest Cascade meadow system and watershed headwaters.

TILLAMOOK

JOHN PUTMAN 503-842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., ODFW, 4907 3rd St., Tillamook.

2023 Fundraiser: Held May 6.

TIOGA

MARCEY FULLERTON 541-294-7912

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held April 1.

Update: July 8 is the Tioga Shotgun Clinic at Myrtle Point Gun Club. July 15 is the Sports Show at the Coquille Community Building. If you would like a vendor table, please contact Marcey.

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: Held March 25.

Update: Our chapter hosted a booth teaching shooting sports skills at the annual youth outdoor event at Hagg Lake.

UMPQUA

TADD MOORE 541-580-5660

<https://www.umpquaoha.org>

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held April 8.

Update: Chapter members helped build wildlife-friendly fencing to protect key habitat at the Southwest Cascade project the last week of April. Umpqua Chapter Picnic will be held on July 18 at the Roseburg Rod & Gun Club at 5 p.m. It is a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

MORGAN OLSON 541-786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2023 Fundraiser: Held March 11.

YAMHILL COUNTY

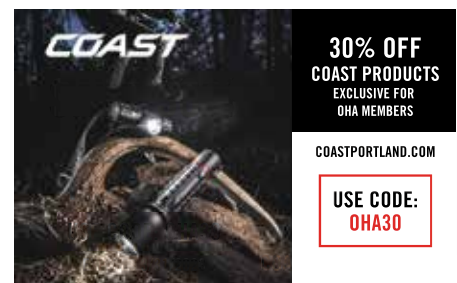
ANDY BODEEN 503-490-2489

ohayamhill.com

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

2023 Fundraiser: Held March 18.

Update: The 9th Annual Youth Shotgun Shoot will be held Aug. 12 at 9 a.m. at Newberg Rod & Gun Club.



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OHA protects meadow in SW Cascades

More regional projects on horizon

The Oregon Hunters Association and partners are working to protect and enhance meadow systems in the southwest Cascades for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and hunters. Meadow systems are important for deer and elk, and across the Cascades, meadows are at risk of loss, degradation, and fragmentation due to conifer encroachment, heavy use by domestic livestock, illegal OHV use, wildfire suppression and other factors.



The new fence protects a sensitive Cascade meadow system and watershed headwaters.



Members from several OHA chapters installed a 2,000-foot wildlife-friendly fence to protect a meadow.

In April, OHA conservation staff, SW Director Kelly Forney, and volunteers from several OHA chapters, including Rogue Valley, Umpqua, Bend and Josephine County, installed a critical 2,000-foot section of wildlife-friendly fence.

The newly installed fence connected two other fences and protected a sensitive southwest Cascade meadow system and watershed headwaters (Whiskey Springs and Fourbit Creek) on USFS land.

The aim of this project was to catalyze an increase in deer and elk forage and improve water quality of the source that provides drinking water to roughly 150,000 people in the Rogue Valley area. As with many of our OHA habitat projects, this work will also benefit numerous other wildlife and species of conservation concern.

Ultimately, OHA and partners will protect three areas in the Cascade Mountains (Willow Prairie, Short Creek, and Whiskey Springs/Fourbit) with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore the resiliency of these mesic systems and provide quality habitat for deer, elk, and other wildlife.

OHA conservation staff have secured \$50,000 in grant funds from the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund for the remaining meadows associated with this project.

State OHA has initiated an effort to work with chapters to implement regional conservation projects such as the Southwest Cascade Meadow Protection Project

on an annual basis across the state. With collaboration of multiple chapters and an open invitation to any and all OHA members and partners, we have and will continue to implement landscape-scale projects that offer a significant benefit to wildlife.

It is inspiring to see multiple chapters and OHA volunteers from across the state come together to achieve lofty goals that benefit Oregon's wildlife. Using this recently implemented regional project model, in the last 6 months, OHA successfully planted 10,000 sage and bitterbrush plants in the Interstate Unit, and we've begun implementation of a massive meadow protection project in the Cascades.

In June, several OHA chapters enhanced deer and elk habitat on White River Wildlife Area.

OHA conservation staff are working out details for another bitterbrush planting effort in a burn scar in southeast Oregon, and we have begun conversations regarding a northeast Oregon regional project.

State OHA and OHA chapters have contributed financially to the aforementioned projects, but this regional project model utilizes OHA conservation staff and regional directors to procure external grant funds which will make implementation of these landscape-scale projects feasible into the future.



For more information on any regional OHA project, contact Tyler Dungannon (td@oregonhunters.org).

Thanks for helping us make the Watch for Wildlife plate a reality!



SALES AND RENEWAL OF THE WATCH FOR WILDLIFE PLATE SUPPORTS HABITAT CONNECTIVITY STATEWIDE

Each year, almost 6,000 drivers in Oregon are involved in a collision with deer, elk, bears, or other wildlife species. Working together with partners like OHA, we're reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions through projects that help wildlife move safely under or over busy roadways. Funding for these efforts comes in part from the sale of the Watch for Wildlife specialty license plate.

To get yours, visit your local DMV or order online when you register your vehicle.

OREGON WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION



Scan to learn more,
or visit us at
myowf.org/watchforwildlife



ASK ODFW: E-TAGGING

50 percent of hunters are using e-tagging. You can switch to e-tagging from your account profile. Read on for tips to get started and FAQs.

Why do I need to attach a tag to my animal after e-tagging it?

It's necessary so OSP and ODFW staff in the field, and other hunters, recognize when an animal has been tagged as it's being transported out of the field and home.

Why did ODFW do away with tags on weather resistant paper?

One of the main benefits of the new system is the ability for customers to print tags from home or from anywhere. Not requiring the weather resistant paper reduced costs and made it easier for license agents to sell products. Some license sale agents will print on this special paper for a small fee.

Aren't there technical glitches in the app?

Glitches after release in late 2018 have been fixed. An updated mobile app was released in 2022 and since then, issues with low service connection have been eliminated. There are no customer-facing bugs or technical issues with the app at this time and new ones that appear are typically resolved within 48 hours.

Why am I required to share my harvest locations with ODFW?

You aren't. The app provides the option to select the unit where you harvested the animal—the same info hunters provide through mandatory reporting. To make it easier, there is also an option to use your GPS location. This information is converted into the relevant wildlife management unit. ODFW does not receive any more specific information than the unit where the animal was taken.



Find more tips at
MyODFW.com



E-tag requirements:

- **Verify ELS account.** Go to MyODFW.com, click Buy a License, verify your account, follow steps and create a username and password.
- **Download the MyODFW app** (via Google Play or Apple's app store) on your mobile device. Login to the app using your ELS account username and password. **The app is required to e-tag without cell service.**
- **Double-check that you are logged in**, sync account, confirm tags available before hunting or fishing (while you have internet service).
- **E-tag by "validating" your tag on the app immediately after you harvest an animal—no internet service needed.** Use flagging, duct tape or some other material to physically tag your animal. Write down the confirmation # provided by app, plus your name, ODFW ID, date of birth and harvest date on the material. Affix it to the animal like a traditional tag and keep it attached to the carcass in transport.
- **Keep your phone charged in the field.** Carry a portable charger or conserve battery life by putting your phone on airplane mode.
- **Don't forget to purchase your tag (or redeem your SportsPac voucher) by the tag sale deadline,** always the day before the season begins.



NOSLER[®]

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 quarter century!

PHOTO CATEGORIES

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing.

YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year



SCAN HERE TO ENTER



NOSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS

On a second-season spike-only elk hunt, sometimes your best trophy is the one you take with a camera. OHA member Julie Sandstrom of Warren claims an OHA Coast knife and entry in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Photo Contest for this picture of a great Desolation Unit mule deer.



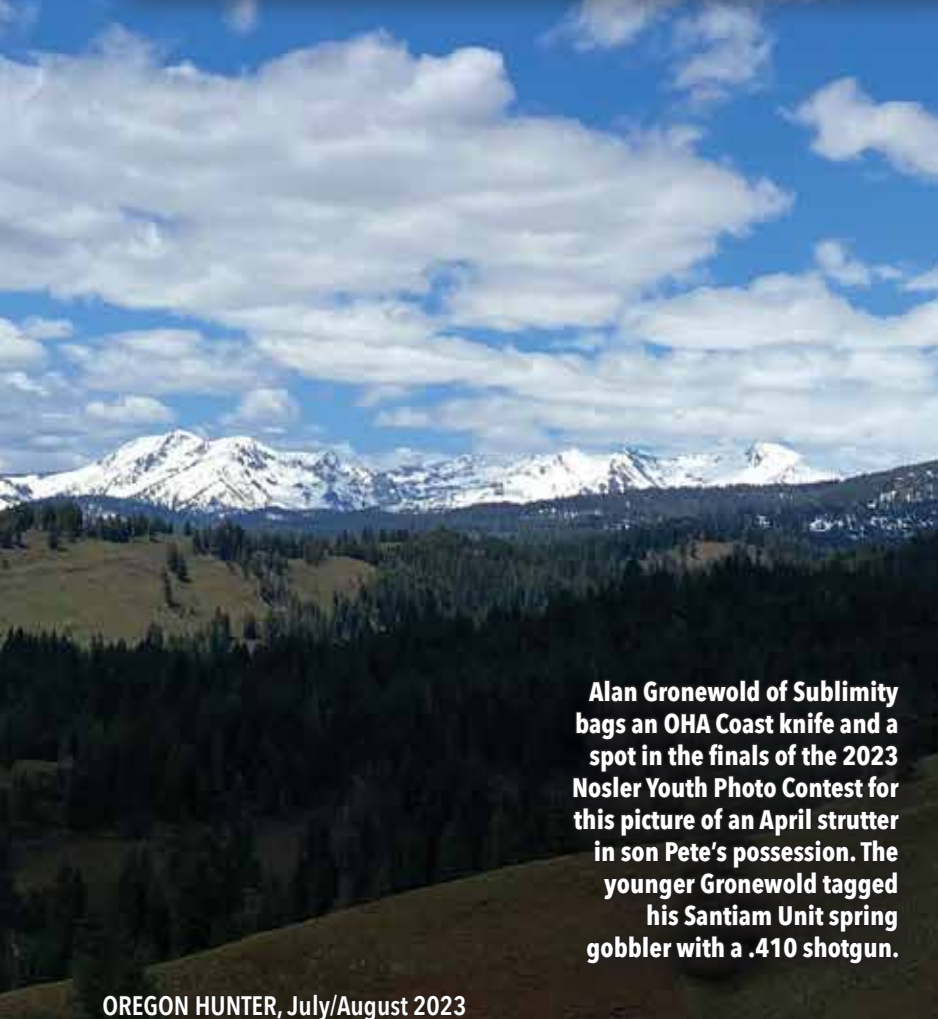
Mark Knaupp of Rickreall claims an OHA Coast knife and a place in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Photo Contest for this picture of himself with a free-range wild bison on northern British Columbia's Sikani River.

NOSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS



Matthew Hedgpeth of Baker City claims an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Youth Photo Contest for this picture of Reanna Ornelas and her December '22 cow elk from the Daly Creek Youth Access in Baker County. Reanna used a Browning .30-06 for her elk hunt.



Alan Gronewold of Sublimity bags an OHA Coast knife and a spot in the finals of the 2023 Nosler Youth Photo Contest for this picture of an April strutter in son Pete's possession. The younger Gronewold tagged his Santiam Unit spring gobbler with a .410 shotgun.



WALLOWA COUNTY/TYLER DUNGANNON

NOSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Crossing the Brim River in northern British Columbia in search of a grizzly in 2016, prior to BC's grizzly hunting ban, Gaston resident and OHA member Russ Morgan earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this memorable picture.



A southern Oregon Cascade blacktail for Owen Swift. Swift hunted with his father to tag this Jackson County buck. Grandfather Gary Reed of Phoenix earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo.



It was opening day of the '23 Oregon youth turkey season when Allison Bohnert used her Weatherby 20 gauge to tag this Mt. Emily tom. David Bohnert of Burns earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for the picture.



OHA member Shelley Kind of Cornelius earns a Nosler hat and honorable mention for this picture of herself with her first turkey, taken this spring in the Applegate Unit with a 20 gauge.



Andrew Bartoldus, Siletz OHA member, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a coastal black bear he took this May with a .300 RUM.



OHA member Shawn Winn of Dallas earns a Nosler hat and honorable mention for this picture of a blacktail he tagged last fall with a landowner preference tag.



OHA member Curtis Pedro of Cove earns a Nosler hat and honorable mention for this picture of Jill Pedro with her 2020 Starkey Unit cow elk.



OHA life member Mike Holte of Eagle Point and son Tavan called this gobbler for Taylor Wilson. Holte claims a Nosler hat and honorable mention.



OHA member Brandon Dolan earns a Nosler hat and honorable mention for this picture from his Wilson Unit archery Roosevelt elk hunt. Six-year-old Dolan called the bull in to 20 yards for his father. When the bull paused to rake a tree, Brandon drew, settled the pin on the vitals and squeezed the release.



Aryis Duer of Gold Hill earns a Nosler hat for this photo of his Applegate Unit tom. Nine-year-old Aryis was hunting with his grandpa under the mentorship program and used a 20 gauge to seal the deal on this gobbler.



P-22 Finally Runs out of Lives

The final chapter in the story of an aging bachelor not named Brad Pitt

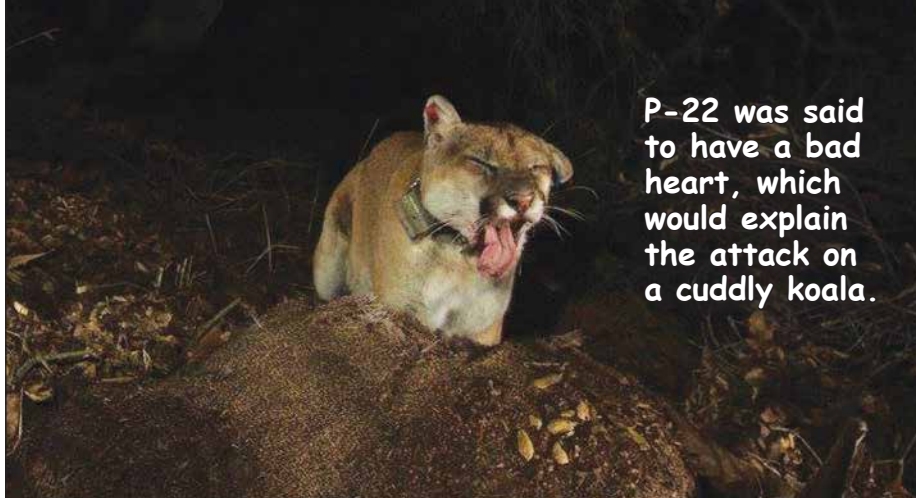
At OREGON HUNTER magazine, we ordinarily don't provide extensive coverage of the city of Los Angeles unless a major news development occurs, such as when a mountain lion breaks into a zoo and attacks a koala. This happened six years ago, when a lion named P-22 dragged a koala named Killarney away from its enclosure. And ripped its face off.

The male lion known as P-22 first came to the public's attention when it was photographed in front of the Hollywood sign. Later it ate dead rats that were filled with rat poison and had to check in to the Betty Ford Center.

The alert reader will now be asking the question, what does the P stand for? P stands for puma. And in numerology, the number 22 is significant because 2 is the first of the feminine numbers, a sign of inner balance, cooperation, compromise and understanding. Repeating 2s means it is time to be your own nurturing mother, and to cultivate and care for yourself and your desires is a priority. Right action, and healthy emotional boundaries and love are required. P-22 was all about his desires. Especially when he desired a Chihuahua. He was 'bout it, 'bout it.

When this reporter agreed to write about the passing of P-22, part of the research consisted of watching an episode of Gary Busey's TV show *Pet Judge*. Busey, who makes his home in Malibu, a scant 31 miles from P-22's home turf, is famous for his Buseyisms, and at the risk of presuming to speak for His Honor, I would like to offer one or two, as well as an apology.

We have been guilty here, of maligning the memory of the big cat. Now that



P-22 was said to have a bad heart, which would explain the attack on a cuddly koala.

P-22 hacks up a hair ball from the deer he was feeding on in this National Park Service photo.

it has passed on to that great deer preserve in the sky, we would like to offer a proper eulogy. If we were to consult the Pet Judge, he might remind us PUMA is simply a Pussycat Understanding Masculine Action. Or maybe – in his rat poison recovery phase – a Pretty Ugly Mangy Anarchist. In fact, we have given P-22 a bit of flak. And we all know what FLAK is. Feeling Like Another Koala.

So we would, by way of apology to the memory of P-22, say we are ready to let the past be gone. We are Getting Over Negative Energy.

In California, the body politic loves their prolific purring predators, and California's most famous mountain lion, the one that made NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, the one that inspired an \$88 million dollar wildlife overpass, the one that had mange and recovered – in his last days – killed a Chihuahua on a leash and attacked another Chihuahua ON A LEASH! Let Energy Appear Slowed Henceforth.

At the same time P-22 was inspiring fear among small dog walkers in the Silver Lake neighborhood – False Evidence Appearing Real – the big cat became an inspiration. He was called the Lion King, a mountain lion who changed the world, and the Brad Pitt of Pumas.

My interns searched all over the Internet and could find no instances of Brad Pitt attacking a Chihuahua, so we decided the comparison had to do with his "do," his haircuts, like back when Brad Pitt had mange, the 1990 Brad Pitt or the Fury haircut or the Fight Club haircut.

In his later years, he was said to have been agitated. Some experts believe he never mated. Terminally single, some said, which is newpeak for drop dead gorgeous, but unmated, which can lead to irritability.

We're talking about P-22 here, not Brad Pitt. We want to go on the record as saying Brad Pitt is not irritable.

What do we know about the leading causes of cougar mortality? Among wildlife bios of my acquaintance, it is said other cougars are a leading cause of death. What we do know about P-22's demise is he was hit by a car. An anonymous phone call to an emergency line alerted the authorities and they triangulated the bashed up big cat to a backyard.

We must therefore assume he was hit by a Mercury Cougar. I'm picturing one of those late '70s Cougars with the coil springs heated up so it scrapes on speed bumps. A baby blue Cougar with a white vinyl top and opera windows. Probably not a Mercury Bobcat or Lynx, as none of those are still running, and certainly would have been totaled in the mismatch. At one time, as reported by Joan Rivers on the Tonight Show, the Mercury Lynx was the least stolen car in America. But we are not ruling out the possibility P-22 was plastered by a Jaguar out on a test drive from the dealership in nearby Thousand Oaks.

P-22 was said to have a bad heart, which some have suggested was a cover for the decision to euthanize the icon. But that would explain the attack on a cuddly koala and "near misses with humans." In "cat years" P-22 lived to the ripe old age of 64, which is 12 years by our reckoning.

There is no sense in dwelling upon the past, which of course is Preoccupation About Spent Time. P-22 is Living On Victorious Energy.



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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