



OHA is doubling down in the fight against poaching in Oregon by doubling reward offers from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) program to informants in poaching cases.

OHA to create hunting network for women

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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Women are the fastest growing demographic in the hunting community and a growing percentage of OHA's membership. As such, OHA staff and board members are currently working to build a new aspect of our outreach efforts with the creation of a women's "network" within the organization.

Similar to the successful Learn to Hunt Program launched in 2021, the women's network will include a comprehensive resource hub specific to women in hunting, such as gear selection, safety, fitness, and many other topics.

Special events with invited speakers, skills-building courses, and Q&A sessions are also planned as resource opportunities.

The network will also include a strong focus on mentoring. Providing new women hunters with mentors who can help them move through the entirety of their first hunting experience is a high priority for the new program.

The planned launch date for the program is early 2024 with prospective events scheduled into the next year.

In addition to the resources, events, and mentoring, the program will include a social component aimed at building camaraderie and deeper relationships among OHA members, hunters and friends.



OHA doubles TIP reward amounts

By Gary Lewis

The Oregon Hunters Association is doubling down on efforts to fight poaching in Oregon by doubling the rewards paid to informants in fish and game poaching cases through OHA's Turn in Poachers (TIP) reward program.

Since 1986, OSP, ODFW and OHA have collaborated on the Turn In Poachers (TIP) program, which provides cash rewards to persons who report unlawful killing of wildlife, fish, upland birds and waterfowl and/or destruction of habitat.

OHA President and TIP Coordinator Steve Hagan thinks that the TIP program is a tool that conservationists can use to reverse the recent mule deer decline. "In light of the dire situation that mule deer populations are facing, this is one of the ways we can make a difference," he said.

One ODFW study of south central Oregon mule deer found that more were killed by poachers than were taken by licensed hunters.

In a recent five-year span, the TIP program paid out more than \$100,000 in cash rewards to informants in poaching cases. Since 2018, informants have been offered the option of accepting preference points in lieu of cash, and approximately half the informants have been taking advantage of that opportunity.

Qualification for the reward depends upon the issuing of a citation by the OSP Wildlife Division for illegal taking of wildlife, fish, upland birds, waterfowl, and destruction of habitat. If the investigation by OSP finds insufficient evidence to issue a citation, no reward will be made.



Two new categories aim to stop poaching before it happens: illegal spot-lighting, and snagging or attempting to.

If a citation is issued, the standard amount of the reward may be as follows:

- Bighorn, mountain goat, moose - \$2,000
- Elk, deer, pronghorn - \$1,000
- Bear, cougar, wolf - \$600
- Upland birds, waterfowl - \$200
- Furbearers - \$200
- Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags - \$200
- Salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, halibut - \$200
- Illegal spotlighting - \$200
- Snagging/attempt to snag - \$200
- Habitat destruction - \$300



OHA and our chapters sometimes offer higher rewards for information in particularly heinous cases.

To report a violation or suspicious activity, call the TIP Hotline: 800-452-7888 or *OSP (677) (available 24/7) or email TIP@state.or.us (monitored weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

The TIP reward fund is mainly supported by court-ordered restitution from convicted poachers and individual donations. For more information or to make a donation, visit <https://oregonhunters.org/turn-poachers-tip/>

TO DONATE TO OHA'S ANTI-POACHING FUND, VISIT [HTTPS://OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/DONATE](https://oregonhunters.org/donate)

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Deschutes National Forest exploring e-bike use on trails

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director

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The Deschutes National Forest is exploring allowing e-bikes on non-motorized trail systems, and OHA is closely monitoring the issue.



The U.S. Forest Service has a national policy that e-bikes, a motorized vehicle by definition, should not be allowed on non-motorized trails.

However, the local forest does have the ability to make variances to that policy with local decisions. The Deschutes Trail Coalition has convened a public discussion on the topic.

OHA does not have a formal position on the topic, but the OHA Wildlife-Lands Committee discussed this topic recently and agreed that we should support the forest service position.

There are currently three different classes of e-bikes, and the discussion is limited to Class 1 e-bikes on non-motorized trails. Class 1 e-bikes are the lowest-powered class, but can be indistinguishable from other e-bikes without a detailed observation. The discussion is also limited to soft-surfaced trails (not paved trails).

Existing research shows the impacts to wildlife, specifically deer and elk, and how they will move away from areas of heavy recreational use. Vehicle speed was determined to be a factor in the wildlife disturbance that occurred.

OHA engages on Cascade-Siskiyou Monument Plan

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator

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The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) is in the process of revising the Monument's Resource Management Plan (RMP) and OHA is weighing in. OHA strongly supported continued use of the CSNM for hunting and suggested managers increase hunting opportunities where possible.

**OHA will
continue to
engage on the
CSNM RMP
revision until
its approval in
fall of 2024.**

One of the preliminary purposes of the revised plan was to protect and restore habitat that supports rare and endemic species, but there was little mention of other wildlife and their habitats.

OHA supported protecting and restoring habitat that supports rare and endemic species, but this goal of the RMP should extend well beyond these species. Many species that occur on the CSNM rely on early to mid-successional habitat, and availability of habitat for these species has been in decline for decades. OHA urged CSNM managers to create additional early seral habitat for species such as black-tailed deer, elk, and numerous others. Creating early seral habitat can also reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

OHA has advocated for improving habitat connectivity for wildlife for over a decade, and recently we have served as a driving force for the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition. Together we hope to implement a wildlife overpass on Interstate 5 to connect the CSNM, but this wildlife crossing is not a silver bullet for restoring habitat connectivity, so OHA applauded the RMP goal to protect and restore wildlife migration corridors.

OHA will continue to engage on the CSNM RMP revision until its approval in fall of 2024.



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