



Commission sets big game regs, supports spring bear

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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Following an outpouring of support by the sportsmen's community, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously to approve the 2025 Big Game Regulations as presented by ODFW staff, which included a 2-percent increase in the number of spring bear tags and a new youth spring bear hunt in the Alsea-Stott Mountain area.

About 30 people provided testimony on the proposed regulations, primarily around the spring bear regulations. OHA staff was on hand to speak directly to the issue and also provided expanded testimony related to our concerns around

Oregon's small moose population.

While two commissioners expressed discomfort with the spring bear season, they made the astute decision to trust the science and data presented by ODFW staff and voted to approve the expanded spring bear opportunities as part of the overall proposed regulations. ODFW staff provided clear data showing Oregon's robust bear population of 44,000 is not negatively impacted by the spring season opportunities.

OHA partnered with Howl for Wildlife to produce an action alert for sportsmen and women to voice their support for spring bear hunting and worked with the Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation

Partnership to provide a sign-on letter supporting the entirety of the big game regulations, including the expanded spring bear opportunities.

Friday's win was accomplished by the overwhelming support generated by the sportsmen's community, and OHA thanks everyone who took the time to participate in our call to action.

The sportsmen's community did an excellent job of engaging on this issue, generating 3,000 emails to the commission in a mere five days. Though the season was approved for 2025, the attacks on Oregon's spring bear hunting are likely to continue, and the hunting community will need to remain vigilant.

Wildlife program funding will highlight '25 legislative session

The 2025 legislative session is still over three months away, but OHA staff has been working on potential bills through the summer. While it's too early for a complete list of issues OHA will be engaging on, there are a few that have already risen to the top of our list.

★ **Agency Budgets** - OHA will focus primarily on the ODFW budget, and subsequent rate increase, throughout the 2025 session. The budgets for the Oregon State Police, specific to fish and wildlife enforcement and poaching, and the Oregon Department of Transportation, specific to wildlife crossings, will round out our agency budget support.

★ **Energy Siting** - OHA remains vigilant regarding new or changed regulations for siting of new renewable energy projects, specifically relating to the potential impacts for fish, wildlife, and habitat.

★ **Wildlife Issues** - Bills related to wildlife stewardship, predator management, beaver habitat, and the perennial attempts to reinstate cougar hunting with hounds will continue to be topics OHA regularly weighs in on.

As the 2025 session approaches, OHA staff will keep the membership up to date on the latest developments on bills relevant to OHA's mission. —AMY PATRICK

OHA joins national coalition to enhance presence on federal level

In an effort to increase effectiveness in the policy arena, OHA joined the State Action Coalition in 2024. The coalition is made up of conservation and wildlife-focused organizations across the country and focuses on increasing awareness and engagement at the national level. Assisted by two lobbyists and organizational experts, the coalition meets regularly to discuss federal policy and current bills that may be beneficial to its interests.

OHA has closely followed and engaged on issues such as funding requests for wild horse/burro management, the BLM's programmatic environmental impact statement and proposed plan for utility-scale solar energy development, chronic wasting disease funding, Hunters for the Hungry funding, potential legislation to keep non-lead ammunition use voluntary, the Farm Bill, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), and several other related topics.

While OHA remains focused on Oregon, the increased awareness of federal level policies enhances our effectiveness to advocate for federal funding, expanded resources, and greater public input. As an example, both the chronic wasting disease funding and the BLM solar energy siting information proved invaluable to OHA's local advocacy on both issues within the state. —AMY PATRICK

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OHA stands up for Oregon's moose

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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Shiras moose in Oregon are rarely discussed publicly, and OHA aims to change that. It is a shame that we have such a coveted species within our borders, and we do not have, nor do we prioritize the resources needed to effectively manage and monitor our moose population.

We really do not know how many moose we have in Oregon today; we really do not know what our bull:cow or cow:calf ratios are at this time. Efforts have been made by ODFW in the past to monitor moose herd composition, but that effort has subsided. The ODFW Enterprise Field Office is currently inundated with more work than its staff can handle with wolf-livestock conflicts and a multitude of other efforts.

OHA believes we need to find the means to increase capacity in this north-east Oregon district to achieve ODFW's mission, and we offered these points in testimony at the September Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting

Some of our neighboring states are seeing increasing moose populations, and OHA believes Oregon should strive to achieve a sufficiently large and healthy moose population. Nevada is a state much like Oregon in that moose are on the edge of the species' range. Despite this, Nevada is currently seeing an exponential increase in their moose population, and they are now actively managing roughly 100 moose. In some areas, bull ratios are very high, and simply put, this can negatively impact the population in a number of ways. In response, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) offered two bull moose tags this year to residents only. NDOW received 21,914 applications for those two tags and brought in \$349,553 from those applications and fees for NDOW to use to manage Nevada's fish and wildlife. These funds will also be used to increase poaching enforcement in the Silver State.

It goes without saying that this species is and will be valued by all Oregonians, and we should all strive to attain the resources we need to manage moose.

Latest Gun Calendar winners announced

OHA Gun Calendar Raffle winners are posted every Wednesday on OHA's social media, but Facebook and Instagram have been taking down the posts because they contain guns. See weekly winners on OHA's website or download our app, which you can also use to enter contests and get timely notifications.

Get your 2025 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar now by calling the OHA state office at 541-772-7313 or visiting OHA's website at: www.oregonhunters.org/store

Aug. 28: Henry Golden Boy .22LR

Austin Wilson of Longview

Sept. 4: Pointer O/U Acrius 12 Gauge

Steve Fox of Terrebonne

Sept. 11: Browning A Bolt III .300 Win.

Dennis Stacey of Scotts Mills

Sept. 18: Christensen Mesa

Jerry Rosenblad of Salem



OHA raffled a HOWA M1500 donated by Legacy Sports International to benefit OHA habitat projects.

Raffle benefits habitat

Matt Shorb of Powers won a Howa M1500 6.5CR with Bipod and 4-16 Nikko Stirling Scope donated by Legacy Sports International in OHA's Habitat Raffle. Congratulations to Matt and thanks to all who entered. Proceeds will be used for OHA Regional Habitat Projects where multiple OHA chapters come together with State OHA for landscape-scale projects to benefit wildlife.

Cascade Lakes Brewing will donate a portion of sales of Elk Camp IPA to OHA.



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