



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 2025

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**Wednesday, February 12th**  
→ \* 6:00 pm \*  
**Bend VFW**

**(come early if you want to purchase dinner)**

Please turn to *page 2* for *more details* on our upcoming monthly chapter meeting. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

### LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- ◆ Meeting recap
- ◆ Bend Chapter info.
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities, habitat projects
- ◆ Mule Deer Classic banquet details on pg 5: **REG NOW!**
- ◆ OHA Tracker (no room this month)
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Thank you, **Bill Littlefield**, for the header photo. Turn to pages 10-11 to read his chukar article, see the original photo before it was cropped, as well as other photos of his German Wirehaired Pointers

### President's Message

Hello to all our members of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.

As of January 20th our total membership was at 544. We extend a warm welcome to our 4 new members. From Bend we now have the **William Bailey Family** and the **Mark Hinshaw Family**. Both **Trevor Ellis** and **Andrew Sanchez** come to our chapter from La Pine. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, on a project or any of our other activities soon. Remember to check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of your Oregon Hunter magazine.

It's February already and with that comes the early bird last call to sign up and be included in a unique drawing and an additional 10 general raffle tickets per person for our annual **Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser**. That **early bird deadline** is **February 12th**. If you want to be included for that drawing, you need to have your registration postmarked or received by February 12th. There is still time to get signed up for your seat. Don't wait too long and miss your chance. A special registration and order form was sent out to all our members last month. If you won't be able to attend, how about passing that on to someone you know that might be able to join us that night. Remember, the **banquet is on Saturday March 8th** at the Riverhouse Convention Center. **Doors open at 4:00 PM**. Visit our website – [www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter) for more information or call John Bambe at (541) 480-9848.

As is the case each year, the committee that pulls all this together is again in need of assistance in collecting donations and helping out that night. Contact our banquet chair Greg Petsch at (541) 330-6218 to see how you may be able to help your chapter out.

Hope everyone that had tags for last year got their big game reports completed on time. Make sure you get your 2025 licenses if you haven't already. While you're at it, pick up a cougar tag to carry with you while you're out and about. The less lions, the more deer that survive. Most of us are already looking ahead to what tags and where we will once again be applying for in the upcoming seasons.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

**Rex E Parks Sr**  
Bend Chapter President  
Oregon Hunters Association

## UPCOMING FEBRUARY MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday February 12th**. Our **NEW** meeting location is **the VFW Hall** in Bend. Remember to arrive early so you can purchase dinner from a nearby food truck and enjoy it before the meeting. Food is also available onsite at the VFW bar. (You are welcome to bring food with you) Arriving early also gives you the chance to visit with old friends or meet some new ones. Doors open at 5:00pm. **NEW START TIME is 6:00pm**

### GUEST SPEAKER:

Our February guest speaker will be **Kristin Fratella**, who will give a presentation on CWD (chronic wasting disease) A few district staff will also join her to answer other ODFW questions.

Your attendance is important to us and you might even win a prize. (see page 8 for last month's winners)

## January Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Jan 8th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was again **Bob Buddenbohn**, the media manager for the Bend Chapter. He completed his presentation from December and explained the matrix used to assist the board's decision on funding. Now that his computer is working again, Bob was able to show examples of completed grant/donation requests and how those requests are evaluated. After the applicant fills out the request form, each answer receives a value. This process takes the emotion out of the decision. Since we don't have access to all of the funds in the checking account, we need to prioritize where the available funds will go. He also reviewed some key points from December's meeting. We need to continue our grass roots efforts (bottom up rather than top down) to fulfill OHA's mission statement, to shape the public's perception, and to get more people involved. He also reminded us of the 3 R's: recruit, retain, reactivate. What more can we do for the future, to secure our traditions and hunting culture?

The link to the digital newsletter will arrive in your email inbox, ask well as appear on our website: [oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter) Bob Buddenbohn sends the digital newsletter and his monthly announcements from his new email address: [oha.budd@gmail.com](mailto:oha.budd@gmail.com)

**Rex** announced that phase 2 has begun for the Bend to Suttle Lake wildlife overpass project. The plan is 4 overpasses between markers 90-95. They are in the process of securing funds. The cost for just the engineering is \$852,000! So far they have \$700,000 in pending grants.

**Monty Gregg** announced that a documentary is in the works, showing the off-road impact on deer migration.

A safe was purchased for the storage of firearms for the banquet.

Both the nomination and voting for Member of the Year 2024 took place at the January meeting. The winner will be announced at the March monthly meeting and possibly at the banquet. (to save time, we won't be announcing all of the volunteers at the banquet this year)

*Please get your donations turned in ASAP for the Mule Deer Classic fundraiser banquet in March. If you don't have a service or product to offer, perhaps you know someone who does. Anyone can also donate funds to sponsor a gun raffle or allow the banquet committee to purchase other necessary product.*

You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.*

## Now Collecting Donations for our Mule Deer Classic Banquet (fundraiser)

Do you have a service, skill, product . . . that you would like to donate for our 2025 banquet? Or perhaps you would like to make a cash donation or sponsor one of our raffles. NOW is the time to make those donations!

Bring your donations to a meeting, contact a board member or Eric Brown 541-647-0424, who can assist in getting your donation from you.

Thanks for your support! See page 5 for more details on our upcoming banquet

### IMPORTANT:

As requested by the OHA state office, our chapter is sending our newsletter via email. Just like last month, this issue will be mailed to only 1/4 of the usual recipients. Everyone else will receive an email with a link to retrieve the newsletter online. Thanks for your patience during this transition. If you receive a hard copy, either you requested it, or we don't have your email address. If you didn't receive the email with the link, then we don't have the correct email address for you. Please inform Wendy Borst of any problems and she will pass along the info to the correct person (s). [Wenb.oha@outlook.com](mailto:Wenb.oha@outlook.com) You can also turn to page 4 to learn how to update your info. Thanks for your help!



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## Volunteer Opportunities

Sometimes last minute volunteer opportunities arise. If you would like to be notified of such projects, please contact **Don Clark** @ 702-460-3653

If you have an interest in helping with wildlife fence maintenance please contact **Eric Brown** @ 541-647-0424

### SAVE THESE DATES

**March 8, 2025:** Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser (many volunteer opportunities available)

**May 31:** Youth & Family Outdoor Day

**June 27-29:** All Hands, All Brands

**4th Saturday in September:** National Public Lands Day

**Oct 18:** Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt

**Stay tuned:** We are working on a calendar to better inform you of more volunteer opportunities. There are many activities and events each month where we can invest our time to pass on the hunting heritage, teach skills, improve habitat, promote OHA by setting up a table at the event, lend a helping hand, etc. Thanks in advance for your participation whenever and wherever you are able.





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**IMPORTANT:**



Staying in touch with members is vital to our mission, so if you have not been receiving Email Alerts and Reports from OHA Bend Chapter once or twice a month, then please scan this QR code or go to <https://oregonhunters.org/bend-membership-update> to input your email, phone and mailing address. If you are unable to do this, then call 817-472-4272 where we'll take your information over the phone.



**COMING SOON:  
The Bend Chapter's  
Mule Deer Classic Fundraiser Banquet**

**MULE DEER CLASSIC 2025**

The Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter announces its  
"33rd annual Mule Deer Classic"

The banquet/fundraiser will be held at the Bend Riverhouse  
Convention Center March 8, 2025

This is the main fundraiser for the year and it enables us to fund  
chapter habitat projects, scholarships, youth programs & more.

You can help make it a success with a **donation** or  
by **volunteering** at the banquet!

If you have been looking to get involved in chapter activities,  
this is a fun and meaningful way to contribute.

Find the registration form and more details in the separate mailing  
and also on our website: [oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

You don't want to miss this worthwhile and fun event!

If you have any questions about the banquet please contact:  
Greg Petsch at [g.petsch728@gmail.com](mailto:g.petsch728@gmail.com) or call 541-330-6218

Or

Eric Brown at [ericbrown5112@gmail.com](mailto:ericbrown5112@gmail.com) or call 541-647-0424

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**



## OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President **Rex Parks Sr** firelt602@gmail.com (541) 480-0230  
 1st VP **Doug Stout** (541) 312-8332  
 2nd VP (newsletter editor) **Wendy Borst** (541) 480-0748  
 Treasurer **John Bambe** (541) 480-9848  
 Secretary **Carolyn Lorimor**  
 At-Large (Media) **Bob Buddenbohn** (817) 470-7018  
 At-Large (Youth Events) **Kevin Borst** (541) 480-7323  
 At Large (Outreach Coord.) **JR Lorimor** (541) 420-2741  
 Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653  
 Volunteer hrs. manager **Don Clark, Bill Littlefield**  
 Banquet Chair **Greg Petsch** (541) 330-6218  
 Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions available  
 Past President resigned

**Website:**

[oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

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## CALENDAR

*Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details*

Consult your OHA calendar for Sportsmen's Shows throughout the state

- February 5 Banquet meeting Abby's pizza 6:00 pm
- February 12 Monthly Chapter Meeting; Early-Bird banquet deadline**
- February 17 Presidents Day
- February 19 Banquet meeting Abby's pizza 6:00 pm
- February **23 \*Deadline to submit items for March newsletter\***
- February 26 Board meeting
- March 8 Mule Deer Classic Banquet and Fundraiser**
- March Daylight Saving begins
- March 12 Monthly Chapter Meeting

**CHECK YOUR OREGON HUNTER'S CALENDAR FOR TAG DEADLINES, HUNT END DATES, & EVENTS ACROSS OUR STATE**



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**NRA R.S.O. CERTIFICATION**

Would you like to earn the NRA Range Safety Officer Certification? The Bend Chapter will offer this 1-day course if there is enough interest. If you are a Bend Chapter OHA member, then the curriculum will be paid for by the chapter. The NRA Certification & card (application fee) is paid for by the student.

Please contact  
**Doug Stout** 541-312-8332 or  
**Kevin Borst** 541-480-7323  
so they can add you to the list.



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**Thank you to everyone who contributed content for this newsletter!**

**Stay Informed**

Please go to our chapter website: [oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter) and find the publications link to read past issues of The Tracker. We ran out of room to include the Tracker in this newsletter, so watch for it to also appear on that link.



**EQUIPMENT**

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***It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:***

Congratulations to **Carolyn Lorimor** for winning the door prize at our Jan. meeting.  
Enjoy your \$25 gift card!

**Richard Lesperance** of Bend drew for the January monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but was not present to win.

# STICKS & STONES

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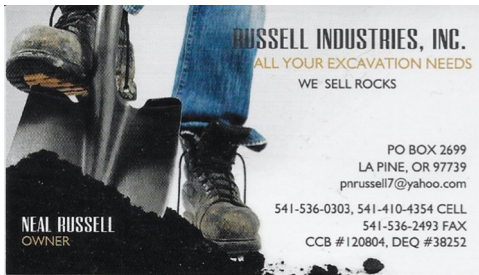
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### REMEMBER TO RENEW!

When does your membership expire? Check the address label of your Oregon Hunters magazine for your expiration date.  
Welcome to any new members!



# Your Chapter at Work

## Enhancing Habitat

### Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

# Volunteer Hours:

A new procedure to report them

In order to keep better track of the Bend Chapter's volunteer hours, Bill Littlefield created an online reporting system. By scanning the QR code or using the URL below, volunteers can easily complete the online form.



<https://forms.gle/Bghi5dBzor8t8Cbj8>

The QR code and link are also on our chapter website:

[Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](https://Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

The details have been printed on business cards so you can pick up one at the project/event and easily report your volunteer hours on your phone, tablet, or computer.

Thanks for your help!

### WILDLIFE FENCE REPAIR

**US 97 MP 152**  
(Jan 15)

This Monday I (Eric Brown) received a call from an OHA Volunteer who said that OSP and ODOT were currently attempting to

get elk out of the highway side of the fence. On Tuesday I was contacted by Warren Nelson, Bend ODOT Maintenance Coordinator who told me about damage on the fence on both sides of the highway and that they were concerned more elk would get through those area. I then drove down to the site to determine what was needed for the repair.

On Wednesday, six OHA volunteers made the repairs that were needed. Due to us having to park along the shoulder of the highway ODOT put out traffic cones and warning signs which were greatly appreciated. We also required all volunteers to wear a bright vest.

On the SB side near the wildlife tunnel the fence had been cut as an attempted outlet for the elk. We spliced in a small section of new fence and then tightened up the fence line in a few areas.




L to R:  
**Larry Sharp,**  
**Greg Petsch,**  
**Teri Gainer,**  
**Brian Gainer**  
and  
**Roger Points.**  
Photo by  
**Eric Brown.**

For the NB side there was much more damage. We did one splice in of new fence and we also installed 130' of new fence wire on the highway side and leaving the old wire on the opposite side in place.

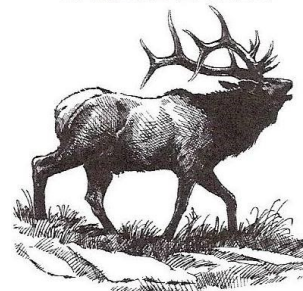
19 hours of total volunteer time was recorded to complete this task. Many of these members are actively working with soliciting donors for our March 8 banquet so for them to drop what they were doing and come out and help speaks volumes. Two phone calls were received while repairing the fence from donors in regards to the banquet.

The next week, on Jan 23rd **Roger Points, Don Clark, Karl Findling and Eric Brown** patrolled the full fence (US 97 Lava Butte to Vandevent Rd), removed two trees and performed a few repairs. They do not anticipate any additional work on the fence until Spring.



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# Chukar season came to a glorious end.

By Bill Littlefield, Feb 3, 2025

What a year! I have never seen a chukar year like this one. There were birds just about everywhere I went to hunt in the Oregon desert.

When last year's chukar season ended, I was troubled and bewildered. My male dog, Bandit, was bumping birds and I was not getting the shot opportunities I wanted. But let me back up to explain the journey. My previous GWP was a dog we called Rascal. He was a perfect dog in nearly every way. By the time he was 6 mo old, he was pointing, retrieving, backing, and a great house dog. He was the dog that taught my daughters Kenna and Bryn what upland hunting was about. He naturally knew how to hunt.



Rascal (8 mo) and Bryn (9 yrs)

When Rascal was 7, he came down with lymphoma and within a few short months, he had passed. Enter Bandit. Bandit was an 8-week-old male GWP pup that filled the hole in the lineup left by Rascal. Bandit is a very athletic dog with a lot of prey drive. Unfortunately, in his first few training sessions, he was able to trap and catch some planted chukars. By his third training session, he had made up his mind that chukars were his for the taking. Now I had my hands full and since I'm not a professional dog trainer, I was in way over my head.

By the time Bandit was two years old, I had been shopping for a companion dog for him. My initial excuse was that Bandit needed a companion to play with in order to have a place for some of that ENERGY to go. But I think in the back of my mind I was thinking I would have a fallback plan if I couldn't fix him from busting birds. I had also started spending time with a professional trainer.

Enter Quincy. Quincy was a sweet 8-week-old female GWP. She just loves to cuddle. Side note: When Kenna went off to college, I got Bandit. When Bryn went off to college, I got Quincy. I'm accused of replacing my daughters with dogs, they won't let me forget it.

By the time I got Quincy I had acquired more training tools. I had started raising my own pigeons as training birds, purchased some bird launches, and started training with some much more experienced folks at NAVHDA. It didn't take long to learn that Quincy had a much better nose than Bandit and a much stronger pointing instinct. She was everything I had hoped she would be.

When the 2024 season ended, I was disappointed. I had not been getting out as much as I had hoped to and Bandit was still untrustworthy around birds. Quincy was coming along nicely but needed more training to refine her skills. When the 2025 season started, I had multiple big game tags in various states and my time was tied up trying to make the best of them. When we finally did start getting after it we had so-so success. The dogs were doing better than the previous year and I was crediting that to a lot of off-season training. But there were still issues. My friend Dominic Bachman (Bachman Bay Kennels) suggested that I hunt the dogs one at a time. He said they were too attached to each other and not focused enough on me. It made a difference. They both became much more tuned into me while we were hunting and what I was asking them to do. Although, I learned the hard way that if I leave one in the truck, I had better have him/her in a kennel or they will eat the truck to try to get out to hunt!



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Bill with Quincy L, Bandit R

Things were looking up. Dogs were pointing birds and I was luckily able to hit a few for successful harvests. I was starting to see a path to success. But still I had to worry about Bandit. He just loves to push the range out beyond what I'm comfortable with. To be fair, he is a Bone Point Kennel dog and right on their website they say, "our dogs run big." He works the field hard and at a fast pace and if I'm honest, his nose is not that great. I think a lot of times when he bumps birds, he doesn't realize they are there until after they flush. He's so athletic that he will hunt hard at a run for hours and hours without tiring. Lots of drive to go with that athleticism. As a result, I'm in the habit of checking him in with the tone on his e-collar and he knows to listen to it or it will be followed by a correction.

By early December, I was really starting to doubt if I would keep Bandit long term. Quincy was doing great and Bandit just couldn't be trusted to hold a point. I could see a time where I would re-home him and focus on her. I managed to get in quite a few hunts from December to the end of January. We traveled across the Oregon desert 2x a week most weeks and stayed out overnight more than once. The dogs were getting lots of work and given how many birds there were this season, this was the year to take advantage of it.

Somewhere along the way in December, Quincy, who also has a lot of bird drive and just gets so excited, started barking on fresh bird scent. That does not bode well for making birds hold! It was easy to know when we were on fresh scent, but it wasn't easy to get any shots in unless you like taking 80-yard hail Mary shots!



I started running her with a bark collar on next to her e-collar. We had some success with that but the barking is still a problem. Another thing to address in the off season.

But Bandit, he was really starting to figure things out. He was holding points, and slowing down at the hint of fresh scent, and working smarter. In the last week of chukar hunting we made it up the steep slope to gain the ridge we were planning to hunt. Quincy was working pretty close, Bandit was doing his thing at 80 - 130 yards. I was watching him like a hawk. I was on the right side of the ridge top. He worked back and forth. On one such run over to the left edge, he went out of sight which he had done several times already. I watched, wondering if he would check back in any second or disappear. I didn't fully trust him. I kept moving and watching. Seconds went by. He should have checked in by now. I got nervous and toned him to come back. The moment I hit the tone button I saw a nice covey of chukars fly off the ridge away from me. That's when I knew, he had been on point and right on top of them. I felt like an idiot for not walking up the 100 yards to check in person. That flush was my fault. Bandit came back a few steps and into sight. He just stood there and looked at me for a few seconds. I had a feeling he was saying "really dad, you had to go and screw that up?"



We hunted up the ridge for about three more miles before getting to a good turn around point. We found coveys along the way and put birds in the bag. The dogs did good. They found them, pointed them and retrieved them. Quincy still barking on fresh scent and me still missing more than I was hitting. I was really starting to trust Bandit. He had not bumped a single bird that day.

We were about ¾ of a mile from the point we would drop off the ridge and return to the truck. Bandit went over the ridge edge to my right. I watched for him to come back. He didn't. This east

side of the ridge is where we had found all the birds throughout the day. I checked the controller and it was acting erratic. It would say he was at 106 yds and then it would say he was at 72 yards. Then it would say 90 yards and then 55 yards. It was all over the place. I knew that edge was lined by rimrock and my guess was he had dropped over the rim. I hurried over there to see with my own eyes. I was not going to make the same mistake I had made earlier and tone him to come back. It took me a while to get over there. I had Quincystay close to me to avoid her "barking." When I got to the rim, sure enough, Bandit had dropped below it. He was on point, nose and eyes directly down hill. There was heavy cover and some boulders on a very steep slope with some scree. Quincy went just up the ridge from him. She too dropped below through a crack in the rim and for a second I thought she was going to bust in there. But she went on point and held hard. I wanted a picture but more importantly I decided I wanted another bird or two for the bag. I worked my way down and next to Bandit, ready for a shot. Nothing happened. I put a hand on him and quietly told him good dog. I started to work below him. Five feet later, I slipped and fell. I quickly got up readying for a shot expecting birds to bust out. None did. Nothing happened. I moved my eyes

back and forth looking for movement somewhere, anywhere nearby. I looked back at the dogs. They were still intensely focused and holding point. I went down another few steps. Nothing. I'm starting to wonder if the birds had left before I got there. I also was thinking there might be just one bird here, somewhere. Another couple of steps. Now I'm 20 feet below the dogs and questioning if I can go any further in this terrain before it becomes un-

safe. Then, right in front of me there was an explosion. No less than 40 birds, that had been in a very tight covey, went off in every direction. Down and away at lightning speed. There were so many, and so tight, I just couldn't pick out a single bird to shoot. In hindsight, this would have been the time, if there ever is a time, to just flock shoot but I didn't. I didn't fire a shot. Then, a few seconds later, a lone chukar took off and I fired. A miss! Bandit was still on point. Quincy was barking her fool head off and running around. I was yelling, "No Bird!"

I went up and gave Bandit a big hug and told him what a good dog he was. This was the year he figured out how to put it all together and become the hunting dog I had always hoped he would be and for a few years had feared he never would. Now, I can't wait until next year. I suspect that it will be another good year, and me and my dogs are going to put on many more miles and chase that elusive Hungarian partridge we call the Chukar.



## SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!



**Marc and Erika Forsythe**

My husband Marc and I spent our New Year hunting quail in Arizona. Our goal was to hunt scaled, mearns and gambels over the three days, but the birds were hard to find. We finally wound up with one mearns and 15 gambels between us. It's always fun to get out hunting no matter what the outcome is.

### **CORRECTION:**

On the digital version of the January newsletter, the youth hunter photo on page 10 was inadvertently labeled incorrectly. It should have been **Haley Honda**.



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### OSP Turn-in-Poachers (TIP)

*Dial 1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP or \*677 from a mobile phone to report suspicious activity*

#### Oregon Hunters Association Cash rewards

- \$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose
- \$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
- \$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
- \$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting
- \$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



#### ODFW Preference Points rewards

- 5 Points-Bighorn sheep
- 5 Points-Rocky Mountain goat
- 5 Points-Moose
- 5 Points-Wolf
- 4 Points-Elk
- 4 Points-Deer
- 4 Points-Antelope
- 4 Points-Bear
- 4 Points-Cougar



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