



# THE OHA TRACKER

February 2012



## Special Oregon 2012 Legislative Session full of hunting issues

The legislature will return to Salem in February for a short legislative session that will see a number of hunting and wildlife bills introduced on hot topics such as hunting cougars with dogs, a killing-of-livestock-by-wolf tax credit plan and how ODFW deals with county impacts when listing animals on the endangered species list.

In all probability other hunting and habitat issues will also be brought forward.

The upcoming session begins on Feb. 1 and will last about a month, because the new annual legislative sessions law limits the length of the session to no more than 35 days.

## Damage Committee meets governor's staff

A number of stakeholders from Oregon's Wildlife Damage Council met with the Governor's staff in December and discussed the Council's activities in 2011 and the direction it is aiming for in 2012.

The Council, headed by George Houston of Oregon FNAWS, discussed predator damage to Oregon's crops, wildlife and fish, and what steps the Council is taking to help direct control of predator damage in Oregon.

The Council is currently planning a two-day predator damage symposium for this spring. The meeting will be held in Lane County and will focus on discussions about wolves in Oregon with a special meeting of the Council during day two.



JOSH LINDEMANN/WILLAMETTE UNIT

Oregon's youth turkey hunt will be three days this year due to an error in the Game Bird Regulations.

## Youth turkey hunt to be three days in 2012

Due to an error in the Oregon Game Bird Regulations, this year's youth spring turkey season will be April 7, 8 and 9, 2012 (Saturday, Sunday and Monday). The youth spring turkey season is open to licensed hunters age 17 and under.

## ODFW to purchase new headquarters

The Fish and Wildlife Commission voted in January to authorize ODFW staff to proceed with the purchase of a new headquarters building in Salem.

The new HQ building would be located at 4030 Fairview Industrial Drive SE in Salem. ODFW currently leases office space, and the purchase and renovation of the new building would coincide with the expiration of the current lease on Aug. 31, 2013.

\$16 million in bonds approved by the 2011 Oregon State Legislature will finance the purchase. Purchasing, rather than leasing, the building will save the agency roughly \$5 million over the 25-year bond. Like current lease payments, the bond will be repaid using hunting and fishing license and tag revenues.

## ODFW to fall under new budget process

OHA is a member of ODFW's External Budget Committee, which has been meeting since the middle of last year to discuss and learn about the new budget process that the state will have all agencies adhere to in building their budgets for 2013-15. The new process is called "outcome-based budgeting."

While this process is a complicated one, it basically ties agency budgets to statewide outcomes and directs "funding teams" made up of non-agency personnel to recommend funding to the Governor for a program. State agencies will learn more on preparing their proposals to their respective funding teams after the Legislative Session in February.

OHA will be watching this process carefully to make sure hunter dollars stay within the agency and are spent on wildlife management.

## LOP to sunset; issue looms on the horizon

Oregon's Landowner Preference Program (LOP) statutes sunset in 2013, and OHA will be working with the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the program and any changes to be considered.

# Hunters can now donate to predator control program

Hunters may now donate to predatory animal control, with proceeds going to Oregon counties to help fund their local predator control programs.

The Oregon State Legislature created this new program with the passage of HB3636 last year.

Hunters purchasing a license, tag or permit at a license sales agent or online will be asked if they would like to make a predatory animal control donation through a \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, or \$100 contribution.

Any donation received will be split among counties with a predatory animal control program where the license, tag or permit is valid. For example, if the donation is made with the purchase of a general hunting license, it would be evenly distributed among all counties with predatory animal control programs because these licenses are valid state-wide. If the donation is made with the purchase of a controlled big game tag for a particular wildlife management unit, the donation would go to the county (or counties) where that unit is based, provided the county has a predatory animal control program.

Customers may also choose to donate to the program without actually purchasing a license, tag or permit. To designate a specific county for a donation, the purchase must be made at an ODFW office that sells licenses.

ODFW will track all donations and provide monies to the appropriate counties on a quarterly basis.

The following counties work with USDA Wildlife Services to control predators and are eligible for the program: Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Coos, Crook, Curry, Deschutes, Douglas, Gilliam, Jackson, Jefferson, Harney, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Washington. Other counties may have their own predator control programs and could also qualify, or become eligible for funds once

they start their own program.

HB3636 designated the following animals to be covered by the fund, "to the extent allowable under state and federal law." Most current predator control programs target coyotes, cougars and bears.

🐾 "Predatory animals" or feral swine, coyotes, rabbits, rodents, and some birds which are or may be destructive to agricultural crops.

🐾 "Fur-bearing mammals" or beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, red fox and gray fox.

🐾 Black bears, cougars, and gray wolves. Special rules guide any take of gray wolves, which are a special status game mammal and are currently considered endangered throughout the state of Oregon.



## ODFW improves web page Oregonhuntingmap.com timed with goose seasons

ODFW has updated its online map, [www.Oregonhuntingmap.com](http://www.Oregonhuntingmap.com). Recently added – just in time for late goose seasons – were Open Fields properties available to hunt on a By-Permission basis and contact information for how to get permission. Previously, only Welcome-to-Hunt properties were included on the map.

Open Fields properties are private lands opened to hunting through a federal grant. They are located in the Columbia Basin (upland bird hunting) and Willamette Valley (goose hunting).

In the future, other Access and Habitat properties open by permission will be added. "We expect to enroll a number of By-Permission and Welcome-to-Hunt properties for the 2012 hunting season," said Matthew Keenan, ODFW Access and Habitat coordinator.

"All areas will be clearly signed and posted to [oregonhuntingmap.com](http://oregonhuntingmap.com) so hunters can find them easily."

ODFW has also color-coded properties on the map to make it easier to identify property types. Welcome-to-Hunt properties are green, By-Permission properties are yellow and ODFW offices are blue.

## Wolf OR7 enters California

The gray wolf that was wandering in southern Oregon has crossed the California border. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, this animal is a 2½-year-old male formerly from a pack in northeast Oregon. Since the animal has been collared with a Global Positioning System (GPS) device that periodically transmits its location, biologists have been able to document its travels since it was collared in February 2011. Based on the GPS data, he is now more than 300 miles from where his journey began.

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 3

Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show opens, Lane fairgrounds

### FEBRUARY 4

NW goose season 3rd period opens



### FEBRUARY 8

Portland sportsmen's show opens

### FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear

### FEBRUARY 17

Douglas County Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show opens

### FEBRUARY 18

Goose seasons open, S. Coast and Klamath and Malheur counties

OHA chapter banquets:

Bend (541) 815-8242

Columbia County (503) 201-7495

Emerald Valley (541) 998-9299

Ochoco (541) 447-5029

Columbia Basin (541) 278-4963

### FEBRUARY 20

Spring bear draw results available

### FEBRUARY 24

Jackson County Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show opens, Jackson Co. Expo

### FEBRUARY 25

OHA chapter banquets:

Hoodview (503) 834-2351

Redmond (541) 447-3939