



# THE OHA TRACKER

January 2012



## Commission denies LOP rule changes

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission at its December meeting denied the petition of an Oregon landowner seeking to amend Oregon's Landowner Preference tag rules to allow the issuance of LOP tags to landowners owning more than 40 acres in western Oregon even if those acres are not contiguous.

Landowner Jeff Mullins of Rainier presented his petition before the Commission, explaining that he is an owner of 56 acres actively managed as forestland. Under the current program definitions, he does not meet the requirements to receive LOP tags because the acreage he owns and manages consists of three parcels, which do not meet the definition of "40 contiguous acres" needed to qualify for



JIM WARD

The Commission denied a petition to relax LOP tag regulations.

the LOP program.

The Commissioners, after listening to Mullins' presentation and an overview presentation of the LOP program by ODFW staff (who recommended

that the Commission deny the petition), voted unanimously to deny the petition. Commissioners noted that some LOP statutes sunset in 2012, and the 2013 legislature will have to revisit the program.

## Imnaha wolves kill two more cows after court denies relief

ODFW confirmed on Dec. 13 that wolves from the Imnaha pack had killed another cow. The yearling heifer was found dead on private land in Wallowa County. The next day, ODFW confirmed another livestock depredation by Imnaha pack wolves on the same property. This brings the total number of confirmed livestock losses by Imnaha pack wolves to 20 since spring 2010. It is the sixth confirmed livestock loss to wolves since an Oct. 5 court-ordered stay ended ODFW plans to kill two wolves in the Imnaha pack in an attempt to stop further livestock losses. The Oregon Court of Appeals let stand the court-issued stay despite legal challenges by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, OHA and Oregon FNAWS.

While the pack is continuing a pattern of chronic livestock depredation begun in spring 2010, ODFW wolf coordinator Russ Morgan said the recent kills are a significant change in the pack's behavior. Previously the pack killed mostly smaller calves, but it has shifted to larger animals. The timing is also new, as depredation by this pack has not been previously confirmed during the period October through December.

## Wolf advocates decry county's wolf compensation committee

Just days after state officials said they're adopting a framework for wolf compensation claims, the predator advocacy group Cascadia Wildlands lashed out, saying they're worried about how the plan will play out on the ground.

Specifically, they're concerned about Wallowa County. In a letter to Governor Kitzhaber, they accused the county of forming an anti-wolf compensation committee even before the state finalized rules on the program.

The program will compensate ranchers who lose cows to wolves.

The Imnaha pack of at least five gray wolves has killed six cows since October, when a lawsuit stayed the state's plans to eliminate wolves that prey on livestock.

The pack has killed 20 cows since the spring of 2010, according to ODFW.

Cascadia Wildlands was one of three wolf advocacy groups that recently filed legal action to stop the ODFW from using lethal control of problem wolves as authorized in the state's wolf management plan.

# CALENDAR

**JANUARY 1**  
2012 licenses required;  
Cougar season opens

**JANUARY 3**  
Zone 2 scaup season ends

**JANUARY 14**  
Klamath PLAY Outdoors  
(541) 591-2452

**JANUARY 15**  
NW goose permit season's 2nd  
period closes, most areas;  
South coast goose  
season closes;  
Youth waterfowl hunt  
held at Sauvie Island

**JANUARY 17**  
Goose season ends  
in Klamath County

**JANUARY 22**  
Zone 2 duck season ends

**JANUARY 29**  
Zone 1 duck season ends;  
most goose seasons end

**JANUARY 31**  
Harvest reporting  
deadline, most tags;  
Most remaining upland  
bird seasons close

**FEBRUARY 1**  
Deadline to file for  
OHA state elections

**FEBRUARY 3**  
Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's  
Show opens

# Hunting bills effective Jan. 1

Here is a list of the hunting bills that were passed during the 2011 Oregon Legislative Session that are effective as of Jan. 1.

**HB 2875 – No Net Loss of Hunting Land:** This bill specifies that state land currently accessible for hunting must remain accessible for hunting unless a state agency restricts access for reason of public safety or wildlife management. The bill directs state agencies to avoid making determinations that result in net loss of access.

**HB 3636 – Voluntary Predator Control Contributions:** This bill allows an applicant, when requesting issuance of a license, tag, or permit from ODFW, to make a voluntary contribution for predatory animal control in the county or counties in which the license, tag or permit allows the person to hunt.

**HB 2125 – Mandatory Reporting:** The bill allows ODFW to impose a surcharge of up to \$25 on hunters who do not meet harvest reporting requirements.

**HB 2126A – Reporting Requirements Incentives:** Companion bill to HB 2125, this bill gives ODFW the authority to issue free tags by drawing to hunt antelope, deer, and elk as an incentive to complete the mandatory reporting requirements for big game reporting.

**HB 2127 – Voluntary Habitat Conservation Stamp:** This bill authorizes state Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue a voluntary habitat conservation stamp and to charge a fee not to exceed \$50 for the stamp.

**HB 3560 – Wolf Management and Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund:** Allows the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation financial assistance grant program. The purpose of this program is to compensate persons who suffer loss or injury due to wolf depredation.

**HB 2329 – ATVs:** This bill created the classification of Class IV all-terrain vehicles. In this class, vehicles are exempted from laws relating to vehicle registration, titling and accident reporting. The bill also changes definitions of Class I, II and III all-terrain vehicles.

**HB 3399 – Invasive Species Inspections:** This is the “boat checkpoint bill.” The bill gave the authority to ODFW, the State Marine Board, and the State Department of Agriculture to stop recreational or commercial watercraft for inspection of invasive species. The bill is in effect now.

## KID STUFF

### Juvenile Sports Pac \$3 refunds available

Anyone who purchased a Juvenile Sports Pac between Dec. 1, 2009, and May 26, 2011, was accidentally overcharged by \$3 and may seek a refund from ODFW.

For the refund, email Deanna Erickson at [Deanna.M.Erickson@state.or.us](mailto:Deanna.M.Erickson@state.or.us) or fax 503-947-6117 with your Hunter/Angler ID# (ODFW ID #), which is printed on all licenses and tags. Be sure to include the address where the \$3 check should be mailed.

OHA initiated the concept of reduced-price Sports Pacs – along with half-priced turkey tags – for youths in 2009, when other fees increased.

### Register for Hunter Education online

Oregon's hunter education students can now register for a class or field day online at ODFW's licensing sales website under the “Classes/Workshops” tab. Students who have never purchased another license or tag from ODFW will need to click on the arrow next to “Hunter/Angler ID#” and select “New Customer” from the drop-down box.

Students may also register at any license sales agent or ODFW office that sells licenses and tags. Previously, students or their parents had to sign up by contacting class instructors.



Jim Ward

**It's mandatory!**

**Report your fall big game  
and turkey harvest by  
Jan. 31! It's easy at:  
[www.oregonhunters.org](http://www.oregonhunters.org)**