



THE OHA TRACKER

July 2012



Anti-trap activists threaten ballot initiative in Oregon

Sponsors of the restrictive trapping petition submitted to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission stated at the June 7 Commission meeting during the testimony on the Furbearer Trapping and Hunting regulations that a ballot initiative banning trapping in Oregon would be forthcoming. The petitioners added that, unlike their last failed bid, this time the petition would be worded differently and would not ban the trapping of moles and gophers, but would be worded to apply to all other trapping in Oregon.

OHA will keep you updated on the latest as this movement develops.

Commission revises furbearer regulations

The Commission at its June meeting approved staff proposals for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 Furbearer Harvest and Pursuit Season Regulations. The Commission revised several rules in response to a petition regarding trapping rules:

- Any killing trap having a jaw spread of 7.5 inches or more, but less than 9 inches, set on public land must be more than 50 feet from a permanent or seasonal water source. The rules allow the Department to make an exception in cases of problem animals.
- Trappers cannot set traps within 50 feet of trails and 300 feet of campgrounds.
- The Commission did not change rules regarding trap-tagging and trap-check internal requirements.
- The Commission also denied the request for rules requiring posting signs near traps.



JIM WARD

The ability of Oregon's wildlife managers to control predation on wildlife, livestock and pets would be crippled by a trapping ban.

Ecola Creek Forest Reserve draft plan would ban hunting

The Ecola Creek Forest Reserve Advisory Committee in June presented a draft of its management plan, which would basically ban hunting on property that Cannon Beach now owns.

OHA members testified that they were opposed to losing any hunting land in Oregon. According to many who testified, this land has been hunted for hundreds of years. OHA members are working to get the wording in the plan changed to allow for the continuation of hunting on the land.

Commission approves Oregon Black Bear Management Plan

In another vote at the June ODFW Commission meeting, the Commission

unanimously approved the Oregon Black Bear Management Plan. The plan will guide the overall management of the state's black bear population and reflect improvements in research and monitoring techniques, and establishes four objectives designed to balance ecological, social and economic considerations when managing bear populations.

While OHA testified in support of the plan, it pointed out that a more accurate number of the bear population in southern Oregon was needed.

Suit filed to get lead out

Environmental groups on June 7 filed suit seeking federal regulation of lead in ammunition, claiming exposure to the toxic metal from spent bullets fired into the environment by hunters kills millions of birds and poses a risk to human health.

The EPA said it did not have the authority to regulate lead ammunition, a claim disputed by environmental groups. That issue is now at the center of the federal lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and six other conservation groups in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

In the lawsuit, environmentalists contend the EPA can make rules to limit lead exposure under the Toxic Substances Control Act, a law designed to limit exposure to harmful chemicals.

Environmentalists say millions of birds, including bald eagles and endangered California condors, and other wildlife are poisoned each year by scavenging lead-contaminated carcasses or from ingesting spent lead-shot pellets.

Groups such as OHA, the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation say such ammunition has been on the landscape for centuries without denting populations of raptors.

CALENDAR

JUNE 30

Harvest reporting deadline for spring turkey & spring bear; OHA Lake County Chapter Youth Day, (541) 947-4005

JULY 1

OHA Bend Chapter thinning project, (541) 382-1032

JULY 14

OHA Capitol Chapter Youth Shotgun Clinic, (541) 996-9984

JULY 15

OHA Capitol Chapter Sporting Clays Fun Shoot, (541) 996-9984

JULY 20-21

OHA Capitol Chapter Yachats Project, (541) 390-1451

JULY 28

OHA Portland/TV Chapter Tillamook Forestry Center Project, (503) 357-8104; OHA Columbia County Chapter Picnic, (503) 201-7495

JULY 29

OHA Lincoln County Chapter Youth Day, (541) 444-1187

AUGUST 1

Bear season opens

AUGUST 11

Standard antelope season opens

AUGUST 12

OHA Klamath Chapter FFA/4-H BBQ, (541) 591-2452

AUGUST 17

OHA Klamath Chapter Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunt BBQ, (541) 591-2452

AUGUST 18

OHA Clatsop County Chapter youth day, (503) 325-8471; OHA Columbia Basin Chapter youth bow shoot, (541) 379-6858

AUGUST 19

Standard antelope season closes

AUGUST 24

Bow tag sale deadline



OHA Hoodview chapter members (above and left) thinned juniper and conifers encroaching on eastside meadow habitat in June.

Members of the Pioneer Chapter maintained guzzlers, while Capitol Chapter volunteers helped rehabilitate aspen stands in our High Desert.

OHA chapters on both sides of Cascades work to help improve High Desert Habitat

This spring and summer, members of OHA's Pioneer, Capitol and Hoodview chapters from the westside joined east-

side OHA chapters in cutting juniper, maintaining guzzlers and planting shrubs to improve habitat in the High Desert.



Jim Knott



John Gander



Mike Whitney

PHOTOS BY TYLER DUNGANNON

OHA welcomes new state board members

OHA welcomes to its State Board of Directors: Vice President John Gander (jc.gander@frontier.com) of the Yamhill County Chapter; Northeast Director Jim Knott (lazysagetwo@hotmail.com) of the Malheur County Chapter; and Central Oregon Director Mike Whitney (mwhitney@bendbroadband.com) of the Bend Chapter. They were recently elected or appointed to fill vacancies.