



THE OHA TRACKER

June 2012



Wolf Symposium a great success

A group of Oregon hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor enthusiasts, along with Oregon livestock producers, attended the 2012 Oregon Wolf Symposium at the Linn County Expo Center on May 12.

Approximately 200 attendees from Oregon and Washington came together to learn the facts about the gray wolf in Oregon. The attendees ranged from fish and wildlife commissioners from both Oregon and Washington, to elected and appointed officials, university instructors and students, landowners, and guides and outfitters from around the State of Oregon. Speakers covered all aspects of co-existing with wolves in Oregon, from wildlife and livestock devastation, to actual numbers of wolves in Oregon and their migration patterns.

ODFW addresses big game herd declines before House committee

The House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee on May 22 discussed its agenda topic "Decline of Mule Deer and Elk Populations" in Oregon. As part of that topic discussion, ODFW representatives gave a presentation on "Deer and Elk Hunting Season Development." In the hour-long presentation, ODFW gave an overview of the regulation process, how big game hunts and controlled hunt tag numbers are established, an overview of statewide mule deer, black-tailed deer and elk population numbers, a summary of mule deer initiative activities and black-tail deer plan activities and a listing of tags sold for each species.



ODFW

Oregon's expanding wolf packs drew about 200 people to the Wolf Symposium on May 12 in Albany.

Commission denies trapping petition request

In April the Humane Society of the United States, Predator Defense Institute, Sierra Club's Oregon Chapter, Audubon Society of Portland and Cascadia Wildlands presented to the ODFW Commission a "Petition of Rulemaking" to amend and enact trap check timelines, minimum distances and warning signs around traps. The seven-page petition requests specific changes in the current trapping administrative rules.

At its April meeting the Commission denied the petition. However, it recommended staff consider matters raised in the petition during the regularly scheduled Commission meeting on the trapping rules in June. At this time ODFW staff has not made public its trapping recommendations that will be presented at the June meeting in Salem.

OHA's spring projects improve wildlife habitat

• Capitol Chapter Powerline project:

About 20 volunteers from the Capitol Chapter of OHA were among the 55 people who spent May 5 improving and maintaining habitat for deer, elk, bear and other wildlife species on the Willamette National Forest. Now in its 11th year, this ongoing project takes place on the Detroit Ranger District within the Bonneville Administration-Portland General Electric powerline right-of-way along the Breitenbush River, and in several meadows near Marion Forks.

• Redmond Chapter Bridge Cr. project:

More than 40 volunteers from the Redmond Chapter of OHA continued their ongoing wildlife habitat improvements on about 25 acres of former agricultural lands along Bridge Creek, just west of Mitchell on May 5 and 6. The habitat improvement project is a 10-year partnership between the chapter and the Bureau of Land Management to improve and restore wildlife habitat on about 300 acres of land acquired by BLM in a past land exchange. The area is used extensively as winter range by deer, elk and pronghorn and as summer nesting grounds for many species of birds.

• Rogue Valley Chapter aspen project:

More than a dozen members of the OHA Rogue Valley Chapter spent May 5 working with ODFW to maintain aspen habitat on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest at Woodruff Flat. Located on the national forest in the upper Rogue River watershed north of Prospect, Woodruff Flat has two large aspen groves, three acres and five acres in size, which OHA volunteers and the US Forest Service fenced off in 2007 to protect from overgrazing by cattle and elk.

CALENDAR

JUNE 2

E.E. Wilson Youth Day,
(503) 580-8713;
OHA chapter workshop,
(541) 643-5327;
OHA Rogue Valley Chapter
Young Oregon Hunters Day,
(541) 890-2029;
Bend Chapter cottonwood
planting, (541) 382-1032

JUNE 3

OHA chapter workshop,
(541) 643-5327

JUNE 9

OHA Mid-Columbia habitat project,
(541) 980-8075;
Hart Mountain weekend project,
(541) 947-4005;
Hoodview White River Project,
(503) 834-2351;
OHA Pioneer Chapter campout,
(503) 632-6756

JUNE 15

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend
aspen project, (503) 399-1234

JUNE 16

Klamath Chapter youth day,
(541) 591-2452

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available

JUNE 22

OHA Tioga Chapter youth outdoor
ed camp weekend, (541) 267-2577;
OHA Capitol Chapter weekend
Paulina project, (503) 930-0213

JUNE 23

OHA Ochoco Chapter, weekend
habitat project, (541) 447-6751;
OHA Bend Chapter weekend
Paulina project, (541) 389-1321

JUNE 30

Harvest reporting deadline for
spring turkey & spring bear;
OHA Lake 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

Anti-hunting bill passes CA Senate

California Senate Bill 1221, a bill that will ban the use of hounds to hunt black bears and bobcats, passed the state's Senate in May. The passage of SB 1221 by the senate casts a dark cloud over the future of all hunting and wildlife management in California. Senate Bill 1221 passed with a vote of 22 to 15.

The bill, which is sponsored by the animal rights group Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), triggered a strong outpouring of opposition from California sportsmen and women, plus sportsmen's organizations, in the state and nationwide. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance (USSA) denounced this retaliatory wildlife management bill that was created when HSUS could not have a state game commissioner removed for his legal mountain lion hunt. As the bill moved forward from introduction and through the hearing process, hundreds of opponents wearing orange "NO on SB 1221" buttons also packed the corridors of the capitol to let their Senators know they opposed this anti-hunting bill.

"The California Senate today chose retribution and revenge over sound science-based wildlife management," explained Evan Heusinkveld, USSA's director of state services. "Despite having a Fish and Game Commission explicitly designed to handle these questions free from the politics of the statehouse, the California Senate voted in favor of a hunting ban."

USSA has been working with the Masters of Foxhounds Association, California Houndsmen for Conservation and the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance to defeat SB 1221.

Sheep killed by wolf in northern Umatilla County

A May 2 investigation by ODFW confirmed that four penned sheep (two ewes, two lambs) were killed by a wolf on private land east of Weston in northern Umatilla County.

One additional lamb is missing and believed to have been killed by the wolf.


The incident occurred in an area not known to be frequented by one of Oregon's known wolf packs (Imnaha, Wenaha, Walla Walla, Snake River), but by two wolves discovered last August in the northern Mt. Emily wildlife management unit. Based on evidence at the scene, wildlife biologists believe a single wolf was involved in the depredation.

ODFW immediately helped the landowner install electrified fladry, a type of fencing that can deter wolves, around the sheep pens. ODFW is also working to capture and radio-collar the wolf.

This marks the first time ODFW has confirmed a wolf kill of livestock in Umatilla County. The county has an active Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee under the state's new Oregon Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program and the landowner is eligible to seek compensation for the loss.

The five dead sheep bring the total number of livestock animals killed by wolves in Oregon to 57 since 2009. The last confirmed wolf kill of livestock occurred March 8, 2012.

For more information on wolves in Oregon, log on to ODFW's wolf page: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves/>



Buy your tags and enter OHA's Bear and Cougar Contest

Complete contest rules at:
www.ohabearandcougar.webs.com

OHA
OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Jim Ward