



THE OHA TRACKER

May 2013



'County Vote' Cougar Bill Passes House

HB 2624A passed the Oregon House of Representatives 40 to 19 on April 23. The bill provides that a county is exempt from the statute banning the use of dogs to hunt cougars if voters approve a county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to the people by the governing body of the county. This "Let the Counties Vote" bill now goes to the Senate.

Bills affecting hunting and wolves see action

- HJR 16, the bill that proposes a voter-approved amendment to the Oregon Constitution establishing the right to hunt, to fish, to trap and to harvest wildlife, has been sent to the House Committee on Rules. We will be working to move this bill through the process.

- HB 3395, which would have required ODFW to recommend rules to the Commission regarding creation of a pilot program that allows persons to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars, died in committee.

- HB 3437, which would have required certain qualifications for appointment as a member of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission, died in committee.

- HB 2452, a bill to allow a rancher to take a wolf under certain circumstances, is being used as the center stage to resolve the differences for all parties involved in the wolf issue. The bill as amended would allow ranchers to: kill, or "take" wolves without a permit "while caught in the act of attacking livestock or working dogs; or while caught in the act of chasing livestock during the time period in which the department has determined to take lethal action because of chronic wolf depredation and the person has taken non-lethal



ODFW

A house bill would allow counties to vote on local cougar management.

action as specified by the department.

The bill has been amended and sent to the House Committee on Rules for further "tweaking".

Gun bills pass out of Judiciary Committee

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed out four gun bills:

- SB 347, a bill to allow school districts to prohibit concealed handgun licensees from carrying their firearms on school grounds.

- SB 699, which would require that firearms carried into public buildings by licensees be concealed from public view.

- SB 700, a bill that would require a background check for all private sales and transfers, except for those among family members.

- SB 796, which would require that applicants for concealed permits take a course

OHA thanks members who have attended recent legislative hearings and sent emails in response to our email alerts. We greatly appreciate your participation and all that you have done for hunters and wildlife. If you're not receiving the alerts, sign up at www.oregonhunters.org

taught by a live instructor.

The bills now move to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

OHA backs bill to allow new shooting ranges on ag land

SB 713, a bill at the request of the Oregon Association of Shooting Ranges and sponsored by Senator Boquist, would allow for the construction of shooting ranges in exclusive farm use zones. The bill in Senate Judiciary has had a hearing and work session. OHA testified in support of this bill.

CALENDAR

APRIL 27

OHA Pioneer Spring Youth Day 503-829-2912;
OHA Chapter banquets:
Klamath 541-783-3376
Mid-Willamette 541-367-4089

MAY 3-4

OHA Redmond Chapter Bridge Creek project,
541-447-3939

MAY 4

OHA Tillamook Chapter banquet:
503-801-3779;
OHA Capitol Power Line project,
503-949-7309;
OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter
Timber cleanup, 503-310-7575;
OHA Tioga Chapter Youth Day, 541-267-2577

MAY 11

OHA Lake County Chapter guzzler project,
541-219-2629

MAY 15

Controlled hunt deadline

MAY 18

OHA State Convention, Chinook Winds,
541-772-7313, www.oregonhunters.org

MAY 18-19

OHA Klamath Chapter guzzler project,
541-591-2452

MAY 26

OHA Rogue Valley Chapter commemorative
at Denman Wildlife Area kiosk

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 1-2

OHA chapter workshop, 541-643-5327

JUNE 8

OHA Umpqua Chapter banquet,
541-430-4722;
OHA Pioneer Chapter campout,
503-632-6756;
OHA Rogue Valley Chapter Young Oregon
Hunters Day, 541-890-2029

JUNE 14-16

OHA Capitol Chapter aspen project,
503-399-1234

JUNE 15

OHA Klamath Chapter Youth Day,
541-591-2452;
E.E. Wilson Youth
Day, 503-580-8713

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results out

OHA awards \$7,000 for Gorge habitat

A \$7,000 grant from the Oregon Hunters Association will help fund a US Forest Service project to improve habitat for elk, deer, wild turkey and other wildlife in the Columbia River Gorge. The project is located in the Seven Mile Hill Area on the Rowena Plateau near Mosier.

“The area has a herd of about 70 elk along with migrating elk that come down in the winter from Mount Hood,” said Brett Carré, fish and wildlife biologist for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, which is managed by the US Forest Service. “But the forage there is not very productive.”

The area is made up primarily of oak savannah grassland, but is mostly

composed of annual and exotic grasses that do not provide much forage value for elk and deer. To improve wildlife habitat conditions, the US Forest Service plans to conduct a prescribed burn over an 80-acre area. About 55 acres will then be treated with herbicides followed by seeding with a variety of grasses with high wildlife forage value. In addition to improving big game habitat, the prescribed burn will also reduce the risk of future wildfires in the area.

Work is scheduled to begin this fall.

In addition to the OHA grant, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and National Wild Turkey Federation are also contributing funding to the project.



OHA's State Convention hits the beach this spring at Chinook Winds Casino.

OHA to toast 30th Anniversary at Convention

Tickets for OHA's 30th Anniversary State Convention at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City are selling at a record pace, with the premium packages and the 30th Anniversary Rifle Raffle sold out nearly a month in advance of the May 18 event. The Nosler Rifle Raffle for a Nosler Model 48 Legacy rifle generously donated by Nosler, Inc., was close to selling out by the last week of April.

Don't wait another moment to check on ticket availability! Call 541-772-7313 or visit www.oregonhunters.org.

The event will feature a gourmet buffet, more bars than ever before, and exciting new events like the Cash Grab Money Cube Raffle sponsored by Chinook Winds.

When the banquet room doors open, guests will enjoy a lively social hour with auction previews, raffles and games. You can enter to win one of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 12 dream hunts for deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep and mountain goat. The drawings for each will be held that night.

Auction highlights include an ODFW Access & Habitat Statewide Deer Tag, a pair of African safaris, an Argentina big game hunt and two branch bull tags for Zumwalt Prairie. For more information or to bid by phone on any of these hunts, call 541-772-7313.

Other raffles include the Wall of Guns, Les Schwab Rifle Raffle, and the popular Bownanza Raffle for a hot new bow!

At least 50 guns will be raffled during the evening, along with optics, sporting goods, fine art and more. The general raffles alone feature 45 items, including 15 guns, high-end optics and top-quality outdoor gear donated by our generous sponsors like Les Schwab, Leupold & Stevens and American Income Life. More than 100 items worth a total of more than \$40,000 will be raffled, and someone has to win it, so it might as well be you!

See you at the beach!