



THE OHA TRACKER

July 2011



Find the final OHA 2011 legislative report on hunting bills at: <http://legislation.webs.com>

OHA helps pass key hunting bills

The Oregon Hunters Association successfully helped pass several hunting bills in the 2011 Oregon Legislative session. Here is a roundup of important pieces of legislation that passed, as well as the status of other hunting bills in the session's waning days

Bill passed to provide no net loss of hunting lands

After years of battling to get in statute "no net loss of hunting lands" language, the legislature this session passed HB 2875A, which specifies that public lands 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 also directs state agencies to avoid making determinations that result in net loss of access for hunting purposes and directs ODFW to report to the legislature assembly each year the acreage of public lands available for hunting.

The bill passed the House by a 58-0 vote in March, and passed the Senate by a 22-7 vote in June. The bill now goes to the governor for his signature.

Mandatory harvest reporting penalty, incentive bills pass

HB 2125A, the mandatory harvest reporting penalty bill, and HB 2126, the reporting incentive bill, have both passed the House and the Senate. HB 2125A allows the ODFW to impose a surcharge not to exceed \$25 on hunters who fail to comply with mandatory harvest reporting requirements for big game and turkey. HB 2126 allows ODFW to issue free tags (awarded in a drawing) to hunt antelope,



JIM WARD

A bill to raise predator control funding has gained traction in the legislature.

deer and elk to provide incentives to increase compliance with the reporting requirements.

These two bills were brought to both the House and Senate chambers as a package. The bills became known as the "carrot and stick" bills. The House passed HB 2125A on June 9 by a vote of 33-28 and HB 2126 by a vote of 56-3. On June 15 the Senate passed HB 2125A by a vote of 26-2 and HB 2126 by a vote of 28-0. Both bills now go to the governor for his signature.

Agreement Reached on Wolf Compensation Package

The Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Defenders of Wildlife reached an agreement on a wolf compensation bill. HB 3560 has passed the full Committee of Ways and Means and now goes to the floors of the House and Senate for a vote.

The bill authorizes compensation for livestock and working dogs killed by wolves. The program is overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Ways and Means full committee funded the program with \$100,000 of General Fund monies.

Tracking Other Bills

• HB 2127 – Voluntary Habitat Conservation Stamp

This bill authorizes ODFW to issue a voluntary habitat conservation stamp and to charge a fee not to exceed \$50 for the stamp. This bill has passed both chambers and has been signed by the governor. It becomes effective Jan. 1, 2012.

• HB 2337: Pilot Program to Hunt Cougars with Dogs

The bill would have required ODFW to create a pilot program that allows persons to use dogs to hunt or pursue cougars. The bill set forth provisions to allow a county to request inclusion in the pilot program. The bill passed the House with 45 yes votes, but died in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

• HB 2791: Removal of OSP from Background Checks

This bill would have removed OSP as the designated state point of contact for purposes of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. The bill would have allowed a gun dealer to use the national system directly.

This bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee, made it to the floor of the House, and was referred to Ways and Means, where it had one hearing. The bill died in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety.

• HB 3636 – Predator Control

This bill would allow each person applying for a hunting license, tag or permit by 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. This bill is in Ways and Means. At this writing the bill is very active and has the support of many legislators and stakeholder groups.



Cindy Rooney of the Umpqua Chapter accepts her award as OHA Organizational Member of the Year from OHA Field Administrator Ty Stubblefield.

OHA presents 2010 state-level awards

The Oregon Hunters Association presented its 2010 state awards for outstanding contributions to Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunters at the OHA State Convention May 21 at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City.

Member of the Year – Organizational
Cindy Rooney, Umpqua Chapter

Members of the Year – Wildlife
Harold & Lyla Duncan,
Redmond Chapter

Chapter of the Year
Capitol Chapter

Conservationist of the Year
Corey Heath, Central Oregon ODFW

Corporate Landowner of the Year
Plum Creek Timber

Citizen Landowner of the Year
Dale Ackler, Prineville

Youth Member of the Year
Ty Parsons, Bend Chapter

Special Recognition Awards
Clark Griffith, Mid-Willamette Chapter
Sam Lucontro, Mid-Willamette Chapter
Larry & Judy Sale, Redmond Chapter

OHA maintains water guzzlers in high desert

About 25 members of the Pioneer Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association made their annual trek to the High Desert east of Millican the weekend of June 11-12, as they have for more than a decade, to maintain 10 wildlife guzzlers the group has "adopted" that provide wildlife with regular sources of water in this arid region.

The volunteers were happy to find that none of the guzzlers suffered damage over the winter, although one was low on water and needed to be refilled. They also replaced salt blocks that are placed at the guzzlers to provide deer, elk, pronghorn and other wildlife with important minerals.

OHA weeds out weeds

Volunteers from the Rogue Valley Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association, along with the Upper Rogue Watershed Association, pulled non-native Scotch broom from along Elk Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River, just below Elk Creek Dam on June 11.

The OHA Rogue Valley Chapter has been working on restoration projects in the Elk Creek watershed for several years. Earlier this year, the chapter pulled yellow star thistle, another non-native noxious weed, and planted willow saplings along a tributary of Elk Creek.

Chapter members also trimmed apple trees on an abandoned homestead near the creek to help stimulate apple growth for wildlife to eat. Last year, they cut trees that were encroaching on meadow habitat that is used by elk, deer and other wildlife.

OHA reduces fire hazard at White River WMA

About 40 volunteers from the Hoodview and Portland chapters of OHA worked June 11-12 at the White River Wildlife Area clearing dead trees to reduce wildfire hazard, constructing a corral to protect a deer feeding station and picking up litter. OHA members have been assisting with land and wildlife management activities at the wildlife area every year for the past 13 years.

Ram Offset becomes Bronze Sponsor of OHA

Ram Offset of Medford is the latest pro-hunting and conservation-minded business to become a state-level sponsor of the Oregon Hunters Association.

Ram Offset for several years has been the printer of the annual Oregon Hunter's Calendar, which is an exclusive membership benefit of OHA and is available nowhere else.

Ram Offset offers top-quality sheet-fed and web press printing. OHA and



Ram Offset have partnered on other printing projects over the years, including the glossy cover of

OREGON HUNTER before the magazine was printed on all-coated stock. The glossy cover enabled OREGON HUNTER to get on newsstands throughout the state and spread the word about OHA's mission.

For more information about services offered by Ram Offset, visit their website at www.ramoffset.com

CALENDAR

JULY 9

OHA Lincoln County Chapter Youth Day, 541-994-5067;
OHA Capitol Chapter Youth Shotgun Clinic, 541-996-9984

JULY 10

OHA Capitol Sporting Clays Fun Shoot, 541-996-9984

JULY 15-17

OHA Tioga Chapter Youth & Family Outdoor Ed. Camp, 541-267-2577

JULY 16

OHA State Board meeting, Bend, 541-772-7313

JULY 23

OHA Portland Chapter Tillamook Forestry Center project & BBQ, 503-259-9821

JULY 30

OHA Klamath Youth Day, 541-591-2452

AUGUST 1

Bear season opens