



THE OHA TRACKER

June 2011



Track the latest hunting headlines from Oregon papers at OHA's website: www.oregonhunters.org

Cougar Bill Stalled in Senate

HB 2337, the bill that would allow counties to establish pilot programs to hunt cougars with dogs, is stalled in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The Oregon Hunters Association sent out an email alert on May 23 asking members to contact the Senate Committee members to have a hearing and possible work session scheduled on the bill. We will continue to keep you posted as to the bill's fate in our weekly legislative updates, which are posted at <http://legislation.webs.com>.

Historic "No Net Loss" Bill Has Hearing in Senate

HB 2875A, the bill that specifies that public lands currently accessible for hunting must remain accessible for hunting and directs state agencies to avoid making determinations that result in net loss to access, had a hearing in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. OHA testified in support of the bill, as did others. This historic piece of legislation now awaits a work session.

Removal of OSP from Background Checks Bill

HB 2791, the bill that removes the Oregon State Police as designated state point of contact for purposes of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and allows gun dealers to obtain authorization to transfer firearms directly from the federal system, had a hearing before the Ways and Means subcommittee on Public Safety. Many testified in support, with union representatives opposing the bill. At this writing negotiations continue on the bill's fate. OHA is working with representatives



ODFW

A bill to allow ODFW to work with counties to manage cougars is stalled in the Oregon Senate.

from the NRA, NSSF and Oregon Firearms Federation (OFF) on this bill.

Quick Tracks

HOUSE BILLS

• HB 2125A - Mandatory Reporting

Bill Summary: Allows State Fish and Wildlife Commission to impose surcharge not to exceed \$25 on persons who fail to comply with mandatory reporting requirements. This bill is now in Ways and Means.

Bill Status: Bill is being examined as to whether it raises new fees or is in effect a new tax. If bill is determined to be neither it will get a hearing.

• HB 2126A - Mandatory Reporting Incentives

Bill Summary: Allows Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission by rule to authorize issuance of free tags to hunt antelope, deer and elk to provide incentive to increase compliance with reporting requirements.

Bill Status: This bill is in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources and has had one hearing. This bill may become part of the overall ODFW budget.

• HB 2127 – Voluntary Habitat Conservation Stamp

Bill Summary: Authorizes Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to issue voluntary habitat conservation stamp and to charge fee not to exceed \$50 for stamp. Directs Commission to arrange for selection of design for stamp. Allows commission to make stamp available for creation of art prints and art works. Allows commission to contract for performance of duties regarding stamp.

Bill Status: The Governor has signed this bill.

• HB 3560A – Wolf Management and Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund

Bill Summary: Directs State Department of Agriculture to establish and implement wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program, for purposes of compensating persons who suffer loss or injury due to wolf depredation, and providing financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management techniques or non-lethal wolf control techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock. Creates Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Continuously appropriates fund monies to department for purpose of establishing and implementing program.

Bill Status: This bill is currently in Ways and Means. A hearing on the bill will be scheduled.

SENATE BILLS

SB 924 A – Wildlife Violations

Bill Summary: Changes provisions related to revocation and denial of licenses, tags and permits. Modifies penalty provisions related to wildlife laws.

Bill Status: This bill is in the House Judiciary Committee. It has had one hearing already and a work session is scheduled for late May. OHA testified in support of this bill, as did others. The bill has passed the Senate already.

OHA completes pavilion at Hart Mountain Refuge

About 40 members of the Lake County and Klamath chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association completed finishing work last Saturday, May 7, on a covered pavilion at the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge that will be used as a facility for presentations to inform members of the public and school groups about the refuge's environment, wildlife and purpose.

OHA volunteers began work in 2009 on the 32 by 36 foot covered pavilion, which is located at the CCC Campground along the access road to the refuge north of Plush. The campground has about a dozen campsites and picnic tables that were donated by the Lake County and Klamath OHA chapters.

"We put the final coat of paint on the inside of the pavilion and painted and installed siding on the pump house that provides water to the site," explained Lake County OHA chapter president Gerald Slay. The OHA volunteers also cleared weeds from fire rings in the campground and cut junipers near Warner Pond to improve habitat for pronghorn antelope, mule deer and other wildlife species.

Located about 35 miles northeast of Lakeview, the 278,000-acre Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Established in 1936 primarily to protect pronghorn antelope habitat, it currently provides a home for more than 300 species of wildlife.

OHA returns to Bridge Creek for 4th year of habitat work

About 50 members of the Redmond Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association devoted more than 900 volunteer hours on the weekend of May 7-8 to improving wildlife habitat on former agricultural lands along Bridge Creek, just west of Mitchell.

The project is now in the fourth year of 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 nesting grounds for many species of birds.

Weekend work included planting 21 acres of wildlife forage seed, 38 fruit trees and 350 shrubs. The volunteers also set out 600 feet of irrigation pipe and installed three pumps in the creek for irrigation. The chapter has its own tractor, disc and fertilizer and is farming the area with wheat, milo, sunflower and other plants specifically to provide food and cover for wildlife.

"It's an awesome project," said Redmond OHA chapter member John Crafton, who helps organize the effort. "Because this is a winter range area we are especially concerned that there is plenty of food and habitat available for wildlife over the winter."

OHA restores meadow habitat in Tillamook State Forest

About 20 members of the Oregon Hunters Association Portland Chapter spent May 14 restoring meadow habitat in the Tillamook State Forest near the community of Timber. It is the second year of a four-year project to improve habitat in the state forest for elk, deer, bear and other wildlife species.

Working with the Oregon Department of Forestry, OHA volunteers have been removing Scot's broom and brush from a 10-acre forest meadow. Meadows are important habitat because they provide grass, forbs and other food for wildlife. Clearing and cutting invasive species and encroaching brush helps encourage the growth of plants beneficial to wildlife and maintains the meadow's open habitat.

"Animals are already starting to use the meadow," said Portland Chapter member Larry Dorland who helped with the project. "We saw fresh sign of elk and bear."



Report your spring harvest by June 30! It's easy at: www.oregonhunters.org

Jim Ward

Pronto Print becomes OHA Bronze Sponsor

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

Pronto Print for several years has been the printer of many of OHA's chapter newsletters, and has produced many other printing projects for OHA.

Among Pronto Print's most popular products are business cards, calendars, envelopes, letterhead, postcards, posters and tri-fold brochures.

For more information about services offered by Pronto Print, visit their website: www.gopronto.com



CALENDAR

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 4

OHA Rogue Valley Chapter Young Oregon Hunters Day, (541) 890-2029;
OHA Chapter Workshop, (541) 643-5327.

JUNE 11

OHA Hoodview Chapter White River project, (503) 358-7821;
OHA Pioneer Chapter campout, (503) 632-6756

JUNE 18

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend aspen project, (503) 399-1234;
OHA Ochoco Chapter weekend guzzler project, (541) 447-5029

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available

JUNE 25

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend Paulina project, (503) 930-0213

JUNE 30

Harvest reporting deadline for spring turkey, spring bear