



THE OHA TRACKER

May 2012



U.S. House votes to protect hunting on public land

With bipartisan support the U.S. House of Representatives in April approved the most significant pro-sportsmen legislation in 15 years.

Titled The Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012, H.R. 4089:

- Classifies Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service lands as open to hunting, fishing and recreational shooting unless closed or restricted based on scientific evidence;
- Confirms that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cannot ban lead in traditional ammunition or in sport fishing gear;
- Protects recreational shooting on BLM National Monument land; and
- Allows the import of legally hunted polar bear trophies now tangled in federal red tape.

A major focus of the organizations that helped craft H.R. 4089 is to prevent frivolous lawsuits that unfairly restrict the rights of hunters, anglers and shooters and limit wildlife conservation and management. Over the last decade, anti-hunting groups and their trial lawyers have filed multiple suits in courts arguing that existing federal law does not allow, or requires restrictions on fishing, hunting, and shooting on federal public lands. Defending against these suits has cost state and federal wildlife agencies and sportsmen's organizations millions of dollars.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

This legislation gained the support of national sportsmen's organizations such as the United States Sportsman's Association and Safari Club International. OHA is a supporting member of both.



Oregon's abundant bobcats take a huge toll on game birds, and research shows bobcats are the leading cause of Columbian whitetail fawn deaths on the North Bank Habitat Area.

ODFW asks Commission to deny trapping petition

ODFW staff recommends the ODFW Commission deny a petition seeking an overhaul in the state's trapping regulations and instead direct ODFW staff to consider the concerns of the petitioners in the rulemaking process.

Last month the Humane Society of the United States, Predator Defense Institute, Sierra Club 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.

After a review of the petition, ODFW staff is recommending to the ODFW Commission that they deny the petition and direct staff to consider the matters raised in the petition during the regularly scheduled rulemaking process in June of this year.

The review of the petition was placed on the agenda for the April 20 Commission meeting in Salem.

ODFW faces budget axe

Ready for another license and tag fee increase? Didn't think so.

The ODFW External Budget Advisory Committee met on April 14 in Salem to review the 2013-2015 budget outlook for ODFW and hear plans for proposed cuts. Despite the large across-the-board fee increases approved in 2009 that were to last the agency for six years without another anticipated fee increase, ODFW now faces shortfalls that will lead to cuts in the agency's budget.

ODFW staff will conduct budget hearings around the state in early May and the external budget committee will meet again in July to hear specific agency program cut packages.

OHA testifies on black bear management plan draft

The ODFW Commission heard public testimony on the draft of the Black Bear Management Plan at its April meeting. OHA testified in support of the plan and made these points in testimony:

- OHA supports healthy black bear populations in Oregon. However, over-populations of black bears are detrimental to big game and other wildlife. Over-population also has an adverse impact on Oregon's economy due to impacts on public and private timber.

• Therefore, OHA suggests that, while costly, more in-depth methods of obtaining population estimates are needed in some areas like southwest Oregon in particular, where we suspect black bear populations are far greater than ODFW estimates.

OHA suspects black bear populations are greater than ODFW estimates. 

CALENDAR

MAY 5

OHA chapter banquets:
The Dalles (541) 980-8075
Tillamook (503) 801-3779
Umpqua (541) 430-4722
Tioga Chapter Youth Day,
(541) 267-2577;
Redmond Bridge Creek Project,
(541) 233-3740;
Capitol Powerline Project,
(503) 949-7309

MAY 6

OHA Redmond Chapter Bridge
Creek Project, (541) 233-3740;
Tualatin Valley Chapter
cleanup, (503) 647-6842

MAY 15

 Application deadline
for controlled hunts 

MAY 19

OHA State Convention,
Deschutes County Expo,
Redmond, (541) 772-7313,
www.oregonhunters.org
Klamath Chapter guzzler
project, (541) 591-2452

MAY 20

Klamath Chapter guzzler
project, (541) 591-2452

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear
seasons close

Wolf Symposium slated for May 12

The Oregon Animal Damage Council is sponsoring the "Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Program" on May 12 at the Linn County Fairgrounds and Exposition Center in Albany. The symposium will provide an informational and interactive discussion of wolf management practices and an opportunity to learn about current best practices and research on wolf populations and impacts to Oregon. For more information, call 541-752-8350 or 503-826-9109 or email jricker1@ix.netcom.com

OHA stops issuing membership cards

Following the lead of many other sportsmen's conservation organizations, OHA has discontinued issuing membership cards, which will save \$2,500 annually that can be directed toward OHA's mission. Cover letters accompanying OHA decals and TIP stickers now feature the information previously printed on membership cards so members can have it available as reference and proof of membership if needed.

OHA turkey clinic scores another solid hit with kids

The Youth Turkey Hunting Clinic held March 31 at the White River Wildlife Area near Tygh Valley and sponsored by the Oregon Hunters Association and the

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was the place to be for kids interested in learning how to hunt wild turkeys. OHA chapters helping with the clinic, now in its 10th year, included the Mid-Columbia, Hoodview, Pioneer, Columbia County, Capitol and Portland chapters.

"We had 101 kids and 250 adults, including volunteers," said Fred Walasavage, a member of the Mid-Columbia OHA chapter and state OHA board member who helps organize the clinic each year. "It was a great turnout."

Clinic activities included instruction on turkey calling, turkey hunting techniques, how to scout for turkeys and shotgun shooting practice. The kids also received a variety of raffle prizes including binoculars, knives, hats, gloves and other outdoor gear. A shotgun was also given away.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff from the wildlife area, The Dalles office and hunter education specialists from the Salem headquarters also helped with the clinic. Reser's Fine Foods donated food and funding.

"It's a full day for the kids, but they loved it," Walasavage said.



OHA State Convention

Banquet • Auctions • Raffles

Saturday, May 19, 2012

Deschutes Expo, Redmond

Tickets must be ordered and prepaid by May 9, 2012.
See the convention ad in OREGON HUNTER,
or visit www.oregonhunters.org



To order your tickets,
call (541) 772-7313.