



THE OHA TRACKER

January 2013



Hunting related bill concepts abound already

Hunting and wildlife related bills abound as the opening of the 2013 Legislative Session nears. Legislative bill sponsors have been contacting OHA to ask if OHA will support their bills next session.

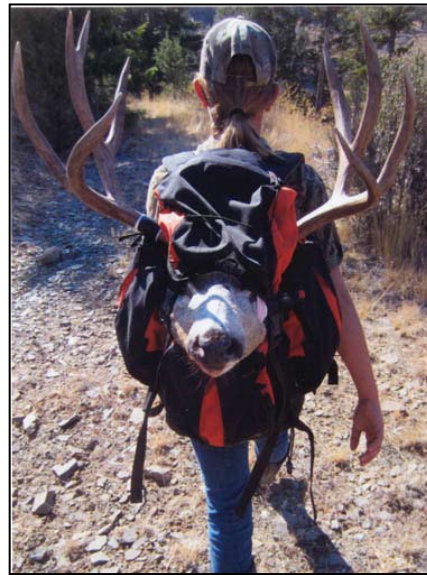
Some of the legislative concepts that OHA has been asked to support include: an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to protect hunting and fishing in Oregon, the formation of a predator control committee to oversee predator damage to wildlife in Oregon, the formation of a committee to review the concept of moving OSP game enforcement officers under the direction of ODFW, allowing cougar hunting with dogs under certain circumstances and various concepts to expand the LOP program.

As we have done in the past, OHA will review all bills dealing with hunting and wildlife once they are formally introduced in the legislature and determine our position on each.

Land Owner Preference review committee meets

The Land Owner Preference (LOP) review committee pulled together by ODFW met for a third time in December. The committee, charged with reviewing the LOP program, is going through all aspects of the program to see what – if any – changes need to be made to landowner eligibility, tag distribution, and timber industry eligibility.

The group is made up of representatives from the landowner community



Ed Huggins

Oregon hunters have until Jan. 31 to report their fall turkey and big game harvest results.

including farmers and ranchers, the hunting community and timber industry. The decisions of this committee will be put in bill form for the next legislative session. The current LOP program sunsets next year.

Harvest report deadline Jan. 31; avoid \$25 penalty

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that hunters who purchased 2012 deer and elk tags need to report their hunt results on time (Jan. 31, 2013, for most tags) or they will be penalized \$25 when they purchase a 2014 hunting license.

Hunters are required to report on each deer, elk, cougar, bear, pronghorn and turkey tag purchased – even if they were not successful or did not hunt. The number of unsuccessful hunters is used to determine hunting pressure and success rates, which is important information for wildlife biologists in setting seasons and

tag numbers.

The penalty will initially be implemented for not reporting on deer and elk tags as these are some of the most under-reported tags and provide critical information due to the large number of deer and elk hunts in Oregon.

Reporting deadlines are:

- Jan. 31, 2013, for all 2012 big game and turkey hunts that end by Dec. 31, 2012;
- April 15, 2013, for all 2012 hunts that end between Jan. 1-March 31, 2013.

The penalty does not take effect until the purchase of 2014 licenses because 2013 licenses go on sale before reporting deadlines. The penalty fee is \$25 per hunter per year, regardless of the number of unreported tags.

Hunters have two ways to report:

- Online via www.dfw.state.or.us or www.reportmyhunt.com either at home or at ODFW offices that have computers available for Hunter Reporting (ODFW field or regional offices in Adair Village/Corvallis, Bend, Clackamas, La Grande, Portland-Sauvie Island, Roseburg, Salem Headquarters, Springfield, Tillamook.).
- By telephone: Call 1-866-947-6339 to talk to a customer service representative. Hours: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pacific seven days a week.

ODFW appoints A&H members

At its December meeting the ODFW Commission appointed new members to the Access and Habitat Board. Barry DelCurto of Halfway was appointed chair. DelCurto has been serving as a landowner representative on the board for the past five years and begins his new role as chair immediately.

In addition, the Commission appointed two hunter representatives to the A&H board. James Morrell from Sisters was re-appointed to a second four-year term, and David Stiefvater of Ontario joins the board for a four-year term beginning Jan. 1.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 1

2013 licenses required;
Cougar season opens

JANUARY 13

NW Goose permit season's 2nd
period closes, most areas;
Youth waterfowl hunt,
Sauvie Island

JANUARY 14

South coast goose season closes

JANUARY 19

Klamath PLAY Outdoors Day,
541-591-2452

JANUARY 20

Zone 2 duck season ends

JANUARY 27

Zone 1 duck season ends;
Most goose seasons end

JANUARY 31

Harvest reporting deadline, most
tags; Most upland seasons close

FEBRUARY 1

OHA state election filing deadline;
Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show
opens, Lane County Fairgrounds

FEBRUARY 2

NW goose permit season
3rd period opens;
OHA chapter banquet:
Columbia Basin 541-231-4384;
Capitol Chapter wood duck nest
box project, 503-566-7779

FEBRUARY 15

Douglas County Sportsmen's and
Outdoor Recreation Show opens

FEBRUARY 16

Malheur County white goose
season opens;
OHA chapter banquets:
Bend 541-815-8242
Ochoco 541-447-5029

FEBRUARY 17

Zone 1 snipe season ends

FEBRUARY 20

Spring bear draw results available

OSP seeks tips to bag blacktail poachers

Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife troopers from the Central Point area command office are asking for the public's help to solve another deer poaching case found Dec. 13 in the same general area of other illegally killed deer the previous weekend near Trail in northern Jackson County. A reward of up to \$3,000 is offered for information that leads to an arrest and conviction in this investigation. The reward is comprised of \$250 from the Oregon Hunters Association Turn-In-Poachers (TIP) program and \$2,500 from the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust.

On Dec. 13, another 4x4 blacktail deer was found off Crowfoot Road near milepost 3. OSP troopers believe it was killed around the same time as two other deer found near milepost 1. On Dec. 8, OSP troopers responded to a call of an unlawfully killed 4x4 buck deer found in a resident's yard near milepost 1 off Crowfoot Road east of Trail. The buck had a single gunshot wound to its side. Several area residents reported hearing several gunshots about 3 a.m. OSP received the call about 10:30 a.m. and subsequently determined after getting on scene that the meat was not salvageable.

While investigating, OSP learned of



This trophy blacktail was one of several poached in southern Oregon in December.

another 2x2 buck that was wounded in the pasture next to where the 4x4 buck was found. The responding trooper had to put the deer down due to the nature of its injury. The second deer's meat was salvaged and taken to a butcher shop in Eagle Point to be donated to area food banks.

During the ongoing investigations, OSP troopers developed information that two unknown people may have been walking along Crowfoot Road wearing camouflage clothing and possibly carrying firearms between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on Dec. 8.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to call the Turn-In-Poachers TIP line at 1-800-452-7888 or contact Senior Trooper Jim Collom at (541) 618-7997.

Commission approves Coquille land swap

The ODFW Commission approved a Coquille Basin land exchange at its meeting in December in Portland.

The Commission approved the exchange of 607 acres of ODFW-owned timber lands on Eel Lake for two privately owned parcels of wetlands in the

Coquille River Basin. The trade offers a unique opportunity to restore tidally influenced wetlands and enhance habitat for coho salmon, migratory birds and several other wildlife species. Public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation also will be improved.

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

Complete contest rules at: www.oregonhunters.org

OHA