



# THE OHA TRACKER

February 2013



## Hunting and Wildlife Bills Introduced in Legislature

The gavel sounded on Jan. 14 and the 2013 Legislative Session officially began. There were hundreds of legislative bills to go through the first day, and here are just a few of those bills that we are following that affect hunting and wildlife that:

- **HB 2039 Guides and Packers**

This bill is the result of a guides and packers task force that met during the interim and will modify parts of the guides and packers program based on interim committee recommendations.

- **Land Owner Preference Program (LOP) Bills**

A number of bills address the LOP program, which sunsets this year. These bills include: HB 2250, which extends the sunset on the program; HB 2251, which removes the sunset; and SB 442, which allows a landowner who is qualified to receive landowner preference tags to sell tags received, provided that at least half of the tags are sold to Oregon residents. There also may be an LOP bill introduced based on the LOP Review Committee recommendations. This LOP Committee has been meeting during the interim. OHA is involved, and will work to ensure that public hunting opportunity is not diminished by any changes to the program.

- **HB 2324 Livestock Safety and Wildlife Protection Account**

This bill requires ODFW to provide a system whereby a person can make voluntary contributions to be used for programs that promote livestock safety and wildlife protection.

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**For a complete listing of the bills we are following, visit the OHA website:**  
[www.oregonhunters.org/leg.htm](http://www.oregonhunters.org/leg.htm)

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- **HJR 16 Right To Fish And Hunt Amendment**

This bill proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution establishing right to hunt, to fish, to trap and to harvest wildlife. If passed, it would require a vote of the people.

- **Senate Bill 197 Gray Wolf**

This bill describes circumstances in which a gray wolf may be taken without a permit.

- **Senate Bill 355 OSP/ODFW Game Enforcement Task Force**

This bill establishes an ODFW Task Force for the purpose of recommending the feasibility of transferring the Fish and Wildlife Division of Oregon State Police to State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- **SB 428 Hunt Cougars With Dogs**

This bill allows the use of dogs to hunt cougars during the final three months of general cougar hunting season if ODFW determines that the harvest quota for a particular hunt zone might not be met.

The 2013 Legislature reconvenes on Feb. 4, at which time committee hearings and floor sessions will begin. For a more complete listing of the bills we are following, visit the OHA website. They are listed under the latest legislative report. This list will include all the firearms bills we are following as well.

### Anti-Trapping Petition Gathers Initial Signatures

In January, "Trap Free Oregon" submitted the 1,000 signatures needed for the prospective petition to get a ballot title to begin collecting the signatures required to get on the 2014 ballot. The system now calls for the office of the Secretary of State to verify the signatures, and then within a specific timeline the prospective petition is submitted to the office of the Attorney General to draft a ballot title. Once that draft ballot title is issued, interested parties can submit comments on the ballot title. When the final ballot title is submitted by the Attorney General, interested parties who submitted comments previously may file an appeal.

Petitions such as the one submitted by "Trap Free Oregon" are called statutory petitions. These petitions require 87,213 valid signatures to qualify for the 2014 ballot.

To qualify for the General Election ballot, petitioners must submit signatures to the Secretary of State no later than July 3, 2014, four months prior to the 2014 General Election.

When the initial petition was filed in July, a stakeholders group was formed to fight this petition. Representatives from agriculture, timber, hunting, trapping and ranching have been meeting on a regular basis to defeat the measure. In December the group hired PACWEST to spearhead the campaign to defeat the anti-trapping petition.

# CALENDAR

## 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 6

Portland Sportsmen's Show opens

## FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear

## 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 20

Spring bear draw results available

## FEBRUARY 22

Jackson County Sportsmen's Show opens, Central Point

## FEBRUARY 23

Special goose season opens, S. Coast and Klamath County; OHA chapter banquets: Columbia County 503-201-7495 Hoodview 503-255-1946 Redmond 541-233-3740

## MARCH 2

OHA Chapter banquets: Josephine County 541-761-1852 Emerald Valley 541-484-0767 Pioneer 503-710-1233 Rogue Valley 541-773-1587

## MARCH 7

C. Ore. Sportsman's show opens



This mount was seized as evidence.

## Toledo man faces charges following OSP investigation

An Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division ongoing investigation led to the late December arrest of a Toledo-area man on several charges.

On Dec. 21, OSP Fish & Wildlife troopers from the Newport Area Command office served a search warrant at a Toledo-area residence. Subsequent to the search warrant and investigation, troopers arrested Joshua Burnham, 29, from Toledo, and lodged him in the Lincoln County Jail on the following charges:

- 3 counts of Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree
- 3 counts of Hunting on the Enclosed Lands of Another
- Unlawful Possession of a Roosevelt Bull Elk

Evidence, including a mounted 7x7 Roosevelt elk, was seized in connection with the investigation.



Oregon wolf OR-16, pictured here, was killed by an Idaho hunter after the male wolf swam the Snake River.

## Oregon wolf killed in Idaho

The northeast Oregon wolf known as OR-16 recently was killed by an Idaho hunter after the male wolf crossed the Snake River, according to ODFW.

OR-16, a member of the Walla Walla pack, was shot near Lowman on Jan. 19.

The number of wolves killed by hunters in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming is reportedly approaching 1,000.

OR-16 became the second Oregon wolf fitted with a tracking collar to be shot by a hunter in Idaho.

The wolf known as OR-9 – brother of the famous OR-7 wolf that traveled across the state and into California – crossed into Idaho last year and was shot by a hunter.

Wolves have contributed to a 20 percent reduction of Idaho's elk herds in the last 15 years. Elk numbers have dropped from 125,000 to 103,000 in Idaho since 1997, and wildlife managers there finally concede that wolves are the primary cause of the decline in many areas.

# Enter OHA's Bear & Cougar Contest!



**Buy your new tags and enter OHA's 2013 Contest!**

For complete details, visit OHA's website:  
[www.oregonhunters.org/cougarcontest](http://www.oregonhunters.org/cougarcontest)