



THE OHA TRACKER

OCTOBER 2013



Oregonhunters.org

Anti-trapping campaign receives money for poll

Financial contributions are starting to roll in to get the Oregon anti-trapping initiative on the ballot in 2014, according to PACWEST, managers of our pro-trapping efforts. TrapFree Oregon (TFO) recently announced that \$28,000 was pledged to them to conduct polling on the issue. Half of the money (\$14,000) was pledged to TFO by their individual supporters, while the other half was promised to them by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). This is further proof that TFO is being backed by powerful national animal rights groups.

HSUS reportedly stated to TFO that if they like the results of the polling (to be released in mid-October), they will be ready to move all-in to push the anti-trapping measure in Oregon. Full support from HSUS will mean paying signature gatherers, advertising, and publicity. TFO has stated that other major animal rights groups are ready to jump in with financial support as soon as they receive hard data on the issue.

Commission to decide fate of crossbows

In October, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will have on its meeting agenda the issue of whether crossbows should be legalized for hunters with disabilities who qualify. In preparation for this issue to come before the Commission, the OHA State Board over the past four months studied the issue and drafted a position on the use of crossbows by disabled hunters who qualify. The position was then approved in September.

Here is the official OHA position on crossbow usage:
"OHA opposes the use of crossbows dur-

ing any archery season. The technological advantages of a crossbow far exceed those of the currently approved archery equipment. Such advantages would undermine the integrity of the existing archery hunts, which could eventually lead to a loss of hunting opportunities. OHA would support the use of crossbows for hunters that have a permanent physical impairment assuming that stringent eligibility requirements and approval process is in place."



Commission will review Cougar Management Plan in December

In December the Commission will review Oregon's Cougar Management Plan. ODFW developed the 2006 Oregon Cougar Management Plan to guide cougar management in Oregon. A primary aspect of this plan is the use of proactive adaptive management strategies, including addressing human safety, livestock depredation, and conflict with other big game species. At the December Commission meeting ODFW staff will provide an update regarding the plan.

At that meeting OHA will testify before the Commission in support of the plan as follows:

- It helps oversee and manage Oregon's cougar population;
- It's important because it manages cougar-human conflicts, cougar-human safety/pet conflicts and cougar-livestock conflicts;
- It manages cougars in a manner compatible with game mammal species using proactive, adaptive management strategies.

OHA questions pertaining to the plan:

- How is calf survival faring on private versus public lands?
- Is now the time to revisit the harvest quotas for cougars?

The December Commission meeting will take place in Portland on Dec. 6. We need as many OHA members there to testify in support of the cougar plan as possible.

OHA weighs in on feral horse issue in Oregon

OHA has sent a letter to BLM about the feral horse issue in Oregon. In its letter OHA states that BLM has a management plan for addressing feral horse numbers and their effect on rangeland and wildlife habitat, and the BLM must implement its plan. Once the estimated population reaches or exceeds the upper level of the plan's objectives, excess animals must be humanely gathered and removed.

OHA is a member of the newly formed Western States Sportsmen Alliance, and is working with the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition to hold federal agencies accountable for feral animal management on public land.

Support is growing for a plan to remove all feral horses from the Hart Mountain/Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

OCTOBER 5

Seasons open for pheasant, E. Oregon quail, chukar, Hungarian partridge and controlled fall turkey

OCTOBER 5-6

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt, 541-591-2452

OCTOBER 9

Eastside buck season closes

OCTOBER 11

Deadline to buy Cascade elk tags; Cascade buck season temporarily closes

OCTOBER 12

Cascade elk season opens

OCTOBER 15

General fall turkey season opens

OCTOBER 18

Cascade elk season closes

OCTOBER 19

Cascade buck rifle season reopens

OCTOBER 22

Deadline to buy tags for 1st season Rocky Mountain elk

OCTOBER 23

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens

OCTOBER 27

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 1

Western deer rifle season closes; Deadline to buy elk tags for 2nd Rocky Mountain season

NOVEMBER 2

2nd Rocky Mountain elk season opens

NOVEMBER 2-3

Youth general rifle season western deer hunt weekend



Topper Schluppe and Don Hodge of the Hunter Education Program accept a \$1,000 check from Doug Knott (right), president of the OHA Malheur County Chapter. The chapter recently donated \$1,000 to the county's Hunter Education program to help purchase a Laser Shot Hunter Education Program.

Parvo strikes wolf pack

Lab results show that a dead Wenaha Pack wolf pup died as a result of parvovirus. The carcass of the pup was discovered by ODFW on July 30 while staff was conducting routine surveys. This marks the second wolf death attributed to parvovirus in Oregon (the first was a 55-pound female yearling, also from the Wenaha pack, discovered in May). Other apparently healthy pups were observed when the carcass of the pup was found on July 30, so the extent of the disease within this pack is unknown.

Parvovirus outbreaks have been documented in wolf populations throughout the western United States.

Portion of Steens Loop Road closed for repairs

A portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road beyond the South Steens Campground will be closed for repairs in October to address a safety issue due to cave-ins. The affected area is a mile-long stretch of the "rooster comb" portion of the road. The upper areas remain accessible via the north loop road.

Denio Junction out of gas

Hunters traveling to southeast Oregon to hunt should be aware that no gasoline is available at Denio Junction until new pumps are installed next spring.

OSP seeks individual who shot cow elk with bow and fled

The Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help in locating whoever is responsible for the unlawful shooting with an arrow of a cow elk Sept. 21 near Coos Bay.

A reward is offered through the Oregon Hunters Association's Turn-In-Poachers (TIP) program to help solve this case.

On Sept. 21, at approximately 6 p.m., a resident had contact with a bowhunter near milepost 5 on Coos Sumner Lane. Shortly after that contact, the resident saw a herd of elk run out of a private pasture next to the road, with an injured cow elk remaining on scene that had been hit with an arrow. When the resident tried to re-contact the bowhunter near the injured elk, the bowhunter left the scene in a navy blue mid-2000 GMC Yukon or similar style sport utility vehicle with unknown Oregon license plates.

The suspect is described as a white male, early 20s, approximately 6 feet tall, with brown curly hair and possible brown eyes. The suspect is a smoker and was wearing camouflage, similar to a military-style digital camouflage pattern.

An OSP Fish & Wildlife Division trooper responded to investigate the elk's unlawful killing and recovered evidence at the scene. Although the elk was wounded, an OSP trooper tracked it about 300 yards but couldn't find it.

Senior Trooper Levi Harris said that even though it was bow season at the time, it is unlawful to shoot a cow elk during the current season at the location where this incident occurred. Also, the suspect unlawfully shot the elk on private property without permission.

A reward of up to \$500 is offered by the OHA Turn-In-Poachers (TIP) reward program for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact the TIP line through OSP Southern Region Dispatch at (800) 442-2068 or Senior Trooper Harris at (541) 888-2677 ext 245.