



THE OHA TRACKER

JUNE 2014



Oregonhunters.org

Fee increases face the public

A public hearing on the ODFW budget and a report of the comments received at town hall meetings recently held around the state were placed on the ODFW Commission's June 5 agenda.

For all of the specific proposed increases in hunting licenses and fees, see the May issue of the OHA Tracker at www.oregonhunters.org/tracker.htm

These are the wildlife and fish proposed increases by percentage:

Wildlife Division:

- 2016 – 7.5% fee increase
- 2018 – 4% fee increase
- 2020 – 3% fee increase

Fish Division:

- 2016 – 18% fee increase
- 2018 – 12% fee increase
- 2020 – 12% fee increase



ODFW projects that the increases would approximately raise in the 2015-17 biennium \$6.4 million for the Fish Division and \$2.1 million for the Wildlife Division.

All of these increases are based on a proposed increased allocation of General Fund monies to ODFW. OHA is skeptical that such a large amount of increase (some \$13 million) in General Fund money to ODFW will actually materialize. That means that if the proposed General Fund allocation is not met, it will be back to the "build a budget" drawing board.

Taking aim at drones

You can go online or to any local box store and find drones for sale, in all shapes and sizes. Drones, according to some, in 10 years are going to be as popular as cell phones are today. So what

does this have to do with hunting?

The legislature will visit the subject of drones in the 2015 session, and OHA will ask that officials take a hard look at what role drones should not play in hunting. OHA will draft legislative concepts that will: prohibit using drones from spotting wildlife herds for hunting purposes; prohibit drone usage in the actual hunting of wildlife; prohibit drone usage for harassment of wildlife; and prohibit drone usage from harassing hunters.

These concepts will be discussed with legislators during the interim and developed for bill usage during the legislative session in 2015. We will keep you updated on their progress.

OHA to ODFW: No hunter dollars for fish programs

In the process of reviewing the ODFW budget for the 2015-17 biennium, OHA became aware of a budget line item that caused some concern. The line item in the ODFW proposed budget has to do with "Avian & pinniped management (\$900,000)." This line item deals with the program management of predators – avian and pinnipeds (sea lions) – that prey on certain species of fish.

This program is currently funded by fish revenues and is part of the fish division, but OHA has learned through the EBAC budget process that this program could fall under the direction of the Wildlife Division and that hunter dollars (\$900,000) could be used to fund this program if the ODFW General Fund proposed increase is not met.

OHA believes that hunter dollars should pay for hunting-related programs and not be used for fish-related programs. In keeping with this, OHA sent a letter to the Director of ODFW outlining our concerns with the proposed budget item.

ODFW floats big changes in regs

ODFW held a series of public meetings in May to present tag numbers and get public input on changes to 2015 regulations. OHA received no advance notice of the proposals, and we are in the process of reviewing them. Some of the bigger changes under consideration are:

- Add days to W. Oregon deer rifle general season in some SW units where deer numbers aren't as low as other areas.
- Allow spike harvest in some NW Oregon units during Western Oregon general season by changing the bag limit to "One buck with a visible antler" (currently bag limit is "One buck deer having not less than a forked antler").
- Change the bag limit for 600 series deer hunts in some or all areas from "Antlerless or Spike" to "Antlerless."
- Expand general fall turkey hunting in eastern Oregon.
- Increase daily turkey bag limit from one to three (hunter must possess additional turkey tags).
- Extend season for quail, chukar, and Hungarian partridge in Umatilla and Morrow counties and the eastern Oregon forest grouse season through Jan. 31; these seasons currently end Dec. 31.
- Change the reservation hunter check-in system for the Sauvie Island Eastside Hunt Area from first-come, first-serve to a system that would randomly assign the blind selection order for "Blind Units" and check-in order for "Roam Units."
- Open remainder of Columbia River Refuge to waterfowl hunting (from the railroad bridge at Celilo east to Arlington, where it is currently closed).
- Reduce bobcat limit in eastern Oregon from five to three.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close;
OHA Bend Chapter Youth & Family Outdoor
Day 541-480-7323;
E.E. Wilson Youth day 503-580-8713;
Rogue Valley YOH day 541-773-9869

JUNE 7

Lincoln Co. meadow project 541-265-7466;
OHA youth & family events:
Redmond 541-771-8383
Klamath 541-591-2452
Pioneer 503-710-1233

JUNE 13

OHA Hoodview White River weekend project
503-834-2351

JUNE 14

OHA Capitol Chapter Prairie City weekend
habitat project 503-399-1234

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available;
Multi-chapter Paulina project
541-408-1272, 541-447-6751;
OHA Tioga Chapter youth outdoor ed camp
weekend 541-267-2577

JUNE 28

OHA Lake County Youth Day 541-417-0042

JULY 12

OHA Lincoln County Chapter Salmon River
weekend meadow project 541-265-2403;
OHA Bend Chapter Crescent tree thinning
541-330-0140

JULY 19

OHA Bend Chapter weekend Ochoco
campout & guzzler project 541-330-0140;
OHA Lake County guzzler project
541-947-3231;
Tualatin Valley Timber meadow project
503-310-7575;
OHA Clatsop County Youth Day
503-359-3535;
Weekend Yachats project 541-999-9222

JULY 26

OHA Capitol Youth Shotgun Clinic
541-996-9984



This black female wolf was photographed near OR7 in eastern Jackson County this spring.

OR7 may have mate in S. Oregon

OR7, a wolf originally from northeast Oregon, may have found a mate in southwest Oregon's Cascade Mountains.

In early May, remote cameras on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest captured several images of what appears to be a black female wolf in the same area where OR7 is currently located. The images were found by wildlife biologists when they checked cameras on May 7.

The remote cameras were set up by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as part of ongoing cooperative wolf monitoring efforts. New images of OR7 were also captured on the same cameras and can be accessed and viewed at ODFW's wolf photo gallery (see first three images).

"This information is not definitive, but it is likely that this new wolf and OR7 have paired up. More localized GPS collar data from OR7 is an indicator that they may have denned," said John Stephenson, Service wolf biologist. "If that is correct, they would be rearing pups at this time of year."

The Service and ODFW probably won't be able to confirm the presence of pups until June or later, the earliest pup surveys are conducted, so as not to disturb them at such a young age. Wolf pups are generally born in mid-April, so any pups would be less than a month old at this time.

If confirmed, the pups would mark the first known wolf breeding in the Oregon Cascades since the early 20th century.

Wolf OR7 is already well-known due to his long trek and his search for a mate – normal behavior for a wolf, which

will leave a pack to look for new territory and for a chance to mate. "This latest development is another twist in OR7's interesting story," said Russ Morgan, ODFW wolf coordinator.

The Service and ODFW will continue to monitor the area to gather additional information on the pair and possible pups. That monitoring will include the use of remote cameras, DNA sample collection from scats found, and pup surveys when appropriate.

Wolves throughout Oregon are protected by the state Endangered Species Act. Wolves west of Oregon Highways 395-78-95, including OR7 and the female wolf, are also protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, with the Service as the lead management agency.

At the end of last year, there were 64 known wolves in Oregon. Except for OR7, most known wolves are in the northeast corner of the state.

About OR7



OR7 was born into northeast Oregon's Imnaha wolf pack in April 2009 and collared by ODFW on Feb. 25, 2011. He left the pack in September 2011, travelled across Oregon and into California on Dec. 28, 2011, becoming the first known wolf in that state since 1924.

Other wolves have travelled farther, and other uncollared wolves may have made it to California. But OR7's GPS collar, which transmits his location data several times a day, enabled wildlife managers to track him closely.

Since March 2013, OR7 has spent the majority of his time in the southwest Cascades in an area mapped on ODFW's website.