



THE OHA TRACKER

July 2014



Oregonhunters.org

OHA comments on proposed regs changes

The State Board of the Oregon Hunters Association recently submitted comments regarding ODFW's proposed changes in the Oregon Big Game Regulations. Here are shorter summaries of four proposed changes that OHA submitted to the Commission:

- Extending 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.

OHA Comment: Without adequate justification, the season should not be changed. We know of no data to support extending the forest grouse season in eastern Oregon to include the month of January. In fact the opposite may be true, as declining wing collection may suggest lower populations. Also, OHA has concerns about additional disturbance to wintering big game animals east of the Cascades.



UNION COUNTY/JIM WARD

OHA would like to know the science behind proposals to expand game bird harvest opportunities east of the Cascades.



APPLIGATE UNIT THIS SUMMER/TYLER DUNNANNON

OHA cannot support additional hunting pressure on black-tailed deer when our herds continue to struggle in western Oregon.

- Replacing eastern Oregon controlled fall turkey hunts with a general fall season and limited number of tags; increasing the daily bag limit for turkey; increasing spring turkey season limit to three statewide.

OHA Comment: While the effort to provide additional hunt opportunities is laudable, the rationale and supporting population data is questionable. It is of concern that these changes are proposed without credible science and data to support these additions. OHA is concerned about flock-shooting and over-harvest on public lands where opportunities can be scarce.

- Western Oregon deer bag limit change.

OHA Comment: In response to the ODFW recommendation to allow spike harvest in some NW Oregon units during western Oregon general season, OHA is hesitant to encourage additional harvest of blacktail deer, especially immature bucks, in areas where the populations are trending downward. OHA also questioned the biological support for adding five days to the western Oregon rifle season in some units.

- Cougar Zone Quota Modification.

OHA requests that for the remainder of the 2014 hunting season, and beyond, the following modifications in the cougar zone quotas be made: 1) the quota in Zone A be increased 10 percent, from 120 to 132; and 2) the quota in Zone C be increased 23 percent, from 65 to 80. OHA's proposed changes are based on population estimates and harvest trends.

ODFW brainstorms fund-raising options

At the June ODFW Commission meeting, hunters and anglers brought forth a number of revenue raising ideas, and the Commission asked Director Elicker to have ODFW staff look into a number of these ideas. Here are some of the revenue-raising ideas that are being discussed:

- Increasing the cap of tags available to non-resident hunters (currently 5 percent of total tag availability) with the purpose being to bring more non-resident hunters into the state and more revenue. If this were done, ODFW would have to look at moving the May draw date forward, as early as March.

- Adding a small fee to the free Pioneer License so ODFW can capture the federal match, but give the buyer of the license something in return.

- Providing for a lifetime license like Idaho and Montana do.

- Providing a "Premier Hunter/Fisher Program." For example: one or two tags in a unit.

- Offering a wildlife license plate to raise revenue.

- Exploring the idea of a "conservation group" that would receive a special newsletter and certain benefits. (Idea not fully developed).

The Commission will make its final budget decisions at its Aug. 1 meeting.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

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

AUGUST 2

Lincoln County Youth Day, 541-996-9984;
Bend Crescent tree thinning, 541-330-0140

AUGUST 10

Klamath OHA's FFA/4-H BBQ 541-331-0917

AUGUST 15

Klamath Chapter's Gerber Reservoir youth antelope hunt BBQ 541-281-6518

AUGUST 16

Standard antelope season begins

AUGUST 16-17

OHA Columbia Basin Youth Bow Shoot 541-379-6858

AUGUST 24

Standard antelope season closes

AUGUST 29

Bow tag sale deadline

AUGUST 30

General bow season opens



TYLER DUNGANNON

OHA seeks to get the facts about sage grouse numbers, predation and harvest in response to inquiries about continued sage grouse hunting.

Is a sage grouse hunting ban on the horizon?

At a recent hearing before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on the threat of a sage grouse listing, it became apparent that legislators are concerned that hunting for sage grouse still occurs. With this in mind, OHA has put together a committee to get the facts on sage grouse hunting, sage grouse predation and sage grouse population trends, and weigh the value of the information collected from the wings taken by hunters, which amount to about 1 percent of the fall adult bird population.

OSU, ODFW to survey hunters about lead ammo

Oregon State University and ODFW are sending a survey to a random sampling of hunters in Oregon to get their views on lead ammo. A recent OSU news

release states:

“The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University are collaborating on an effort to survey Oregon hunters about their use and knowledge of lead ammunition. The random sample of 4,200 Oregon hunters will begin later this month and those selected should receive a letter from ODFW within the next two weeks. Oregon has approximately 250,000 hunters and the survey will include hunters from each geographic region of the state.

The use of lead ammunition has become a national issue because of impacts to wildlife and human health concerns, according to Ron Anglin, ODFW Wildlife Division administrator. Last year, Cali-

fornia passed a law banning the use of lead ammunition for all hunting in the state beginning in 2019; other states have adopted voluntary measures encouraging the use of ammunition made from alternative compounds.

The EPA was petitioned to ban the use of lead in ammunition on a nationwide basis.

“There is no proposal to ban or limit use of lead ammunition in Oregon, but developments outside of Oregon could affect the use of lead ammunition within the state,” Anglin said. “The Environmental Protection Agency was petitioned to ban the use of lead in ammunition on a nationwide basis, and there is the potential of condors being restored in northern California.”

The California legislature passed a law banning lead ammunition to protect endangered California condors, according to Dana Sanchez, an OSU Extension wildlife specialist and one of the project leaders. Condors can become ill after scavenging on animals that have been killed by lead bullets. The birds ingest lead fragments and can become sick or die, she said.

Individuals not chosen for the survey are welcome to provide comments on lead ammunition directly to ODFW at a special email address: ODFW.wildlifeinfo@state.or.us

Anglin said the ODFW/OSU project team plans to conduct a similar survey of non-hunting Oregonians in the future.