



THE OHA TRACKER

November 2014



Oregonhunters.org

OHA calls for de-listing of wolf in eastern Oregon

The Oregon Hunters Association testified at the October ODFW Commission meeting in support of the wolf plan and the next step in the wolf plan process, which is to de-list the wolf. In our testimony, OHA stated:

🌿 The Oregon Administrative Rule adopted to implement the Wolf Plan specified that the Commission will initiate the rulemaking process to consider de-listing when the Phase I conservation population objective for eastern Oregon is met.

🌿 OHA expects that the December survey will demonstrate that the Phase I criteria of four breeding packs in three consecutive years in eastern Oregon has been met.

🌿 Further, OHA recommends the Commission continue to place a priority on research of wolf/prey relationships. In early 2013 the department identified research recommendations specific to wolf/ungulate and wolf/predator interactions, which included: 1) wolf prey preferences across a variety of ungulate assemblages in northeast Oregon; 2) wolf competition with cougars; and 3) shifts in ungulate habitat utilization. The Department in 2013 initiated a partnership with Oregon State University to provide a PhD student to study wolf/cougar interactions, and wolf predation rates on northeastern Oregon ungulates. Updates should be made available to the public to assist in public awareness and understanding.

OHA's testimony is in line with the current wolf procedures, as those familiar with the Oregon Wolf Plan will remember that the plan adopted in 2005 calls for considering de-listing when eastern Oregon has four breeding pairs for three consecutive years. ODFW staff has documented at least four packs reproducing

in the previous two consecutive years. If that trend continues, the de-listing process would begin in April 2015.

OHA testifies in support of increase in cougar quotas

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission set 2015 big game regulations at its October meeting, where OHA testified in support of increasing the statewide cougar quota from 777 to 970 to reflect increasing cougar populations, more damage and public safety issues from cougars in some areas, and deer and elk populations that are below objectives in many areas. The Commission voted to approve the increase.

Commission makes changes to bowhunting regulations

The Commission on Oct. 9 voted to make major changes and include several modifications to archery season regulations as a result of the recent Archery Review Public Advisory Committee process, including:

➡ Adding three controlled archery deer hunts in Walla Walla, Mount Emily and Wenaha units, and removal of the requirement to have a controlled elk archery tag to deer hunt. The tag will also be valid during the general bowseason.

➡ Adding a new November controlled archery white-tailed deer hunt in the Wenaha unit (estimate 30 tags, will be the hunter's only archery deer opportunity).

➡ Severing the link between archery deer and elk tags in Sled Springs, Chesnimnus, Maury, and Warner units, meaning a controlled archery elk tag will no longer be required to hunt deer with a general archery deer tag in the Sled Springs and Chesnimnus units, and a controlled ar-

chery deer tag will no longer be required to hunt archery elk in the Maury and Warner units. However, in 2015 there will be new controlled archery elk hunts in the Maury and Warner units.

➡ Adding new Maury and Warner unit controlled bow elk hunts. Tags will also be valid during the general archery season.

➡ Returning Sled Springs, Chesnimnus, and Steens Mountain units to the general archery deer season.

Other changes in the 2015 big game regulations include:

➡ Adding one week to the Saddle Mountain Unit late archery deer hunt and ending a long-standing closure for deer hunting in the unit north of the Burlington Northern tracks. The area was closed years ago to protect Columbian white-tailed deer. The deer population has expanded, making the closure unnecessary.

➡ Adding the Keating Unit and removing the Stott Mountain Unit from areas where archery hunters and hunters with a disability permit may take an antlerless elk during bull seasons.

ODFW director search begins

Also at the October ODFW Commission meeting the Commission adopted a recruitment plan for a new agency director. The plan calls for a national search to replace Roy Elicker, who recently retired to take a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The recruitment will be open from Nov. 3 through Dec. 5.

The Commission will interview finalists in February. The recruitment process will begin with a public survey regarding the characteristics and qualities the new director should have. OHA encourages members to take the survey by going online at the following address: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ODFWDirector

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 2

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season closes;
Daylight Savings ends

NOVEMBER 4

Election Day

NOVEMBER 7

Western deer rifle season closes

NOVEMBER 8

2nd Rocky Mountain elk season opens

NOVEMBER 8-9

Youth general rifle season western deer
hunt weekend

NOVEMBER 15

Coast bull 1st season opens;
Late SW deer bow season opens

NOVEMBER 16

Rocky Mountain elk 2nd season ends

NOVEMBER 18

Coast bull 1st season closes

NOVEMBER 22

Late NW deer bow season opens;
Coast bull 2nd season opens;
OHA Bend Chapter youth bird hunt
541-480-7323

NOVEMBER 28

Coast bull 2nd season closes

NOVEMBER 29

Late antlerless elk bow season opens
Late Saddle Mt deer bow season opens

NOVEMBER 22

Bend Chapter youth pheasant hunt,
541-480-7323

NOVEMBER 30

E. Oregon bear season ends

DECEMBER 7

Late SW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 14

Late bow seasons end for antlerless elk,
NW & Saddle Mountain deer

DECEMBER 31

Seasons end for pheasant, fall turkey, W.
Oregon bear, some E. Oregon game birds

Ashland bear cub being rehabilitated for return to the wild

A black bear cub found wandering the aisles of a Rite Aid in Ashland in October has been transferred to PAWS in Lynwood, Wash. PAWS will be caring for the cub with the goal of returning it to the wild next year.

The cub was picked up by ODFW and Oregon State Police on Oct. 19 and taken to ODFW's Wildlife Health Lab near Corvallis the following morning. The cub was transferred to PAWS on Oct. 21.

PAWS veterinarians describe the cub's condition as guarded to good. They are waiting for results of bloodwork to get a better sense of the cub's overall health.

ODFW wildlife veterinarians examined the female cub and found her to be a little thin at 13 pounds. Most black bear cubs are born in January, so this cub may be underweight because she was born later in the year or her growth may have been stunted.

There have been no reports of a sow killed, so biologists don't know what happened to the bear's mother. The local bear population is healthy so bear sightings are common in this area.

For daily hunting headlines from newspapers across Oregon, visit OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org. While you're there, sign up for OHA news alerts and stay ahead of the game!



The PAWS Wildlife Center is a top bear rehabilitation facility in the country with a full wildlife veterinarian staff and hospital. Bears and other wild animals brought to the center are cared for under special methods that mimic natural conditions in the wild.

"Bears are given diets filled with natural foods they would normally forage for in the wild," said Jennifer Convy, PAWS wildlife director. "PAWS Wildlife Center rehabilitates and treats bear cubs with a hands-off method with no human interaction so rehabilitated bears maintain their natural fear of humans and don't become habituated to people."

ODFW hopes to release the black bear cub back into suitable habitat in southern Oregon in spring 2015.

Oregon is home to an estimated 25,000-30,000 black bears.

ENTER OHA'S BEAR & COUGAR CONTEST!



WIN 1 OF
4 GREAT
OPTICS
PRIZES!

To enter: If successful, send OHA a copy of your harvest sheet; if unsuccessful, send a copy of each bear or cougar tag by Jan. 6.

Mail: OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501;

email: oha@ccountry.net; fax: 541-772-0964.

"Hillside Bruin" by Dave Bartholet/DaveBartholet.com