

Hunting bills abound as session opens

OHA will track bills on fees, guns, predators, technology and more

The 2015 Legislative Session was to officially start the first week of February, but on Jan. 12 legislators began three days of meetings and seminars, at which time we received 1,430 bills to review.

Here are just the highlights of some of the bills that OHA will follow during the 2015 Oregon legislative session. More bills will emerge as the session progresses. The OHA Legislative Committee reviews each bill and determines with the OHA Board of Directors our official position.

2015 HOUSE BILLS

• Battery-Powered Scopes

HB 2049 – Authorizes a hunter who possesses a visually impaired hunter license to use battery-powered scoping devices, pin sight lights and laser sighting devices to hunt.

• Cougars and Dogs

HB 2050 – Provides that county is exempt from the statute banning use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars if voters approve county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to people by governing body of county.

• Predator Management Plan

HB 2182 – Requires ODFW to develop a predator management plan for Oregon



USFWS

Three cougar bills were introduced to start a wild 2015 Oregon legislative session.

and to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly by Sept. 15, 2016.

• Wild Bird Seed Excise Tax

HB 2401 – Creates an excise tax on wild bird feed. The tax would support a Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Fund and the Wild Bird Conservation Fund.

• Task Force on ODFW Funding

HB 2402 - This bill from the Governor's office establishes a task force to identify and recommend potential alternative funding sources for ODFW, including the sale of recreational outdoor equipment, clothing or related goods, as well as contributions from businesses and other organizations to support the protection



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A house bill introduced in January would prevent state agencies from implementing bans on traditional ammunition for hunting.

and preservation of nongame wildlife and their habitat

• Legislature Sets Hunting Ammunition and Fishing Gear Regulations

HB 2503 – Gives the Legislature the sole authority to regulate hunting ammunition and fishing gear.

• State Agency to Notify ODFW When Restrictions or Closures to State Lands for Hunting Occur

HB 2518 – Requires a state agency to notify ODFW before state agency restricts or closes access to state lands used for hunting.

• Plan for Nonlethal Options to Reduce Conflicts between Humans and Wildlife

HB 2519 – Authorizes ODFW to develop and implement a program to provide technical assistance to Oregon landowners, businesses and communities regarding nonlethal options to reduce conflict between humans and wildlife.

• Drones for Hunting and Fishing

HB 2534 – Directs ODFW to adopt rules prohibiting use of drones for angling or hunting.

• Consent for Inspection

HB 2536 – Requires applicant for license, tag or permit to angle, take, and hunt or trap to attest that applicant consents to inspection of tag or permit and taken wildlife.

• Task Force on Feasibility of Transferring to ODFW OSP Game Enforcement Officers

HB 2538 – Establishes an ODFW task force for purpose of recommending the feasibility of transferring Fish and Wildlife Division of Division of State Police to ODFW.

• Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish

HJR 13 – A resolution that proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution establishing the right to hunt, to fish, to trap and to harvest wildlife, and to use traditional methods to hunt, fish, trap and harvest wildlife.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

JANUARY 26

Late white and white-fronted goose season opens in southeast counties

JANUARY 30

Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show opens

JANUARY 31

Harvest reporting deadline, most tags; All remaining upland bird seasons close

FEBRUARY 1

Deadline to file for OHA state elections

FEBRUARY 4

Portland Northwest Sports Show opens

FEBRUARY 7

NW Goose season 3rd period opens;
OHA Malheur County banquet 541-216-0485
OHA Capitol Chapter wood duck nest box project 503-566-7779

FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear tags

FEBRUARY 13

Douglas County Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show opens in Roseburg

FEBRUARY 14

OHA Columbia Basin banquet 541-231-4384

FEBRUARY 20

Spring bear draw results available;
Jackson County Sportsmen's Show opens

FEBRUARY 21

OHA chapter banquets:
Ochoco 541-447-5029
Hoodview 503-255-1946
South coast goose 3rd period opens

FEBRUARY 28

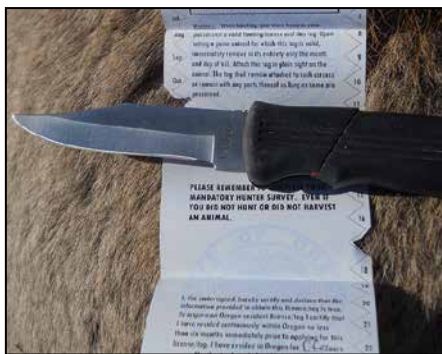
OHA chapter banquets:
Columbia County 503-201-7495
Rogue Valley 541-773-1587
Redmond 541-419-7215

Keep up with all the bills affecting Oregon hunters in the 2015 session by logging on to www.oregonhunters.org. While you're there, sign up for OHA's email alerts.

2015 SENATE BILLS

• Dogs/Cougars

SB 126 & 453 - Provide that county is exempt from the statute banning use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougars if voters approve county measure proposed by initiative petition or referred to people by governing body of county.



DUANE DUNGANNON

A new Senate bill would increase Oregon hunting license and tag fees.

• ODFW Fee Increase

SB 247 - Establishes a stable funding base for fish and wildlife management and enforcement through an increase in recreational fishing, hunting, trapping, occupational, and commercial fishing fees over the next six years.

• Natural Resource Agency Consolidation

SB 24 - Establishes task force on Natural Resource Agency Consolidation to study the benefits of abolishing or consolidating state agencies involved in the management of natural resources, including: ODFW, Department of State Lands, Land Use Board of Appeals, Water Resources Department, State Department of Agriculture, Columbia River Gorge Commission, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, Department of Forestry, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Land Conservation and Development, State Marine Board, State Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.



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A rack of gun bills – most good – were introduced in the opening week of the legislative session.

2015 GUN BILLS

• Retired Law Enforcement Officers Protections

HB 2348 - Provides honorably retired law enforcement officers with protections provided to Oregon concealed handgun license holders.

• Firearms Related Crimes

HB 2357 - Modifies certain law enforcement defenses applicable to certain firearms-related crimes.

• Repeals Sunset on Certain Possession and Purchasing Laws

HB 2429 - Repeals sunset on provisions related to relief from prohibition on possessing and purchasing firearms and authorizes Psychiatric Security Review Board to conduct relief hearings for persons found guilty except for insanity of certain misdemeanors.

• Retired Law Enforcement Officers with Firearms in Public Buildings

HB 2527 - Provides that active and honorably retired law enforcement officers may possess firearms or other dangerous weapons in public buildings.

• Transfer of Firearms Exemptions

HB 2529 - Exempts certain transferors of firearms from requesting criminal history record check if purchaser or recipient has concealed handgun license.

• Handgun Safety Instructor Program

SB 106 - Directs Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish handgun safety instructor program.

• Firearms and Public Buildings

SB 173 - Authorizes a person licensed to carry concealed handgun to present valid license instead of providing firearm to peace officer for examination when possessing firearm in public building.

• Removes OSP as State Point for Background Checks

SB 300 - Removes State Police as designated state point of contact for purposes of National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

• Firearm Transfer

SB 315 - Provides that used firearm transfer register may be electronic or manual.