



OHA TRACKER

SEPTEMBER 2015



DUANE DUNGANNON

Interim legislative issues heat up this summer

As wildfires rage across the state, Oregon hunters face several burning issues that pose an impact on hunting and wildlife. The housing of the state's wildlife law enforcement division, the proposed Elliott State Forest sale, possible sage grouse listing, new game bird regulations and wolf delisting represent just a few of the issues that OHA is following. Here's a quick roundup.



This elk was recently poached in Clatsop County, and OSP is seeking tips. Some believe hunters might get the best bang for their buck if ODFW did wildlife law enforcement.

OHA gives direction to OSP workgroup

A feasibility study of transferring wildlife law enforcement from OSP to ODFW was a question that OHA introduced this past legislative session in bill form. As a follow-up to the idea, an interim workgroup was established and recently OHA submitted direction for the group to follow:

★ The main issue is: can wildlife enforcement be provided in a more efficient manner? The fact that only two states in the nation use state police for fish and wildlife enforcement suggests there may be a better way. We need an analysis of the cost and effectiveness of OSP or ODFW doing the job, and this should include a third-party fiscal analysis of the OSP game enforcement program. How are the dollars spent: field work vs. administration, training, equipment, etc.? Where are they spent – fish vs. wildlife enforcement, and where? The analysis should include a review of other state fish and wildlife enforcement programs, such as Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona or others to compare program structures, costs and effectiveness.

★ We need an analysis of how ODFW handled wildlife violations via ODFW field personnel in the past and if this

system can be implemented again. The analysis should include how effective that program was and what would be needed to implement such a program in the future.

The workgroup will meet again soon. We will report updates on the progress of the workgroup.

Elliott State Forest faces two fronts

The Elliott State Forest is in the news again on two fronts: a board decision/resolution by the Division of State Lands (DSL) and a panel by a legislative caucus group.

In a unanimous vote in August, the State Land Board approved a resolution that directs DSL staff to begin implementing a protocol to transfer ownership of the Elliott State Forest out of the Common School Fund and to stop work on finding a new manager for the Elliott and on securing a new habitat conservation plan.

The DSL transfer protocol laid out in the resolution includes the following requirements that any plan for transfer must contain:

☞ Compensating the Common School Fund for the fair market value of the forest

- ☞ Ownership of the entire property;
- ☞ Retaining other values such as recreational access, older forest stands and watersheds for species habitat, and local economic benefits from the forest.

On the other front, the Oregon Coastal Caucus (CC) is meeting in August for a panel presentation on the status of the Elliott Forest. It appears that the legislature is looking at establishing a "trust lands transfer program" similar to what they have in Washington, which gives the state more flexibility on state land ownership.

OHA testifies in favor of sage grouse hunts, administrative rules

OHA testified in support of the administrative rules for sage grouse management on July 27 at the ODFW Commission meeting. OHA spoke to the need for protection of the species and the need to continue to collect scientific data.



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Ken McCall, the new OHA Field Director, provided the Commission with OHA's position.

OHA will testify in favor of wolf delisting



OHA will testify at three fall Commission meetings in favor of removing wolves from the state Endangered Species list in accordance with the state's wolf management plan. OHA will bring in a wolf management expert from Idaho who will stress the need for management at this stage of wolf recovery.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

AUGUST 28

Bow tag sale deadline

AUGUST 29

General bow season opens

SEPTEMBER 1

**Seasons open for forest grouse
& western Oregon quail**

SEPTEMBER 12

**OHA Bend Chapter Flymon thinning
541-330-0140**

SEPTEMBER 19-20

**OHA Lake County Chapter weekend guzzler
project 541-947-3231**

SEPTEMBER 27

General bow season ends

OCTOBER 2

Tag deadlines: rifle deer, bear & cougar

OCTOBER 3

Deer rifle season opens statewide

OCTOBER 10

**Seasons open for pheasant, eastern Oregon
quail, chukar, Hungarian partridge and
controlled fall turkey**

OCTOBER 10-11

**OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt
541-591-2542**

OCTOBER 14

Eastside buck season closes

OCTOBER 15

General fall turkey season opens

OCTOBER 16

**Deadline to buy elk tags for Cascades;
Cascade buck season temporarily closes**

OCTOBER 17

**OHA Lake County duck & goose box
project 541-947-3231;
Cascade elk season opens**

OCTOBER 23

Cascade elk season closes

OCTOBER 24

Cascade buck rifle season reopens

Longtime OHA leader Ken McCall named part-time Field Director

A committee of OHA staff and the state board is pleased to introduce — or reintroduce — an old friend as OHA's new part-time Field Director. He is Ken McCall of Corvallis, an OHA member for a quarter century who has served on the OHA State Board of Directors and served the Mid-Willamette Chapter in about every officer position there is, as well as banquet chairman. He holds a natural resource degree and recently retired from the Forest Service. His location just 40 minutes from the Capitol gives OHA a staff presence in the heart of it all.

Although he didn't officially start until Aug. 1, Ken attended the July 27 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Salem and presented sage grouse testimony prepared by OHA Conservation Director Jim Akenson in Enterprise, saving Jim his entire part-time work week behind the wheel — a perfect



Ken McCall of Corvallis, a longtime OHA member, former state board member and past chapter president, is OHA's new Field Director.

example of how we envision this dream team in opposite ends of the state working efficiently together.

Ken met with representatives from 23 chapters at the OHA Chapter Leadership Summit Aug. 7-9 at Diamond Lake.

Ken can be reached at 541-602-1819, ken@oregonhunters.org

Tanks a Lot: Pioneer Chapter makes guzzler water tanks available to other OHA chapters

If your chapter has trouble getting water to your guzzlers and you would like to be able to haul water with ease, OHA's Pioneer Chapter currently has 14 water tanks available at no cost to OHA chapters or volunteers doing OHA guzzler work. Contact Gary Skou at 503-632-7596 or David Scott at 503-701-1233.

Efforts such as this won the Pioneer Chapter OHA's Chapter of the Year award at the 2015 OHA Chapter Summit in August.



Guzzler tanks are available to OHA chapters.

Deschutes Deputy DA named Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year

Deschutes County Deputy District Attorney Andrew "Drew" Moore was honored with the "2014 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Award" at the Oregon District Attorneys Association summer conference held in Bend in August. The award print, sponsored by the Oregon Sportsmen's Coalition and underwritten by OHA, was presented by OSP and ODFW representatives.

The central Oregon OSP Fish and

Wildlife team said that "Drew Moore has proven himself and we consider him a valuable part of our team. Drew is always available to the team day or night; whether it's a phone call to answer questions, give guidance or to meet personally to review cases. He takes a vested interest in the effort the team makes in investigating wildlife cases and works diligently to achieve positive case resolutions, supporting our efforts."