



# OHA TRACKER

OCTOBER 2015



TYLER DUNGANNON

## OHA to weigh in on wolf delisting

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission is expected to determine this fall whether wolves in Oregon should be delisted. The agenda for the October meeting in Florence will include wolf delisting as an “informational” topic. The Commission will meet on Nov. 9 at ODFW HQ in Salem where the actual vote will take place.

The Oregon Hunters Association at these two meetings will be addressing the ODFW Commission with our position of support for wolf delisting. Here in part is what OHA is saying:

“The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is fully supporting the recommendations made in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan... Years ago we agreed to support the wolf plan because it gave consideration to our recreational interests to hunt deer, elk, and several other species that are prey for wolves. The plan also recommends that, over time, wolves become a game animal. This consideration involves established minimum wolf population parameters that allow wolves to succeed, yet maintain opportunities for other citizen interests in our state, such as big game hunting.

The fundamental scientific criteria for delisting wolves calls for four breeding packs to successfully rear two or more pups for three consecutive years. These criteria have been met and exceeded in eastern Oregon as of the 2014 annual surveys conducted by ODFW...

According to ODFW survey information, as of the end of 2014 and at a minimum counted number, there were 10 known “successful breeding pairs” of wolves in Oregon. Nine packs are in northeast Oregon and one pack is in the southern Cascade Mountains. In addition,

## Attention OHA Members!

**OHA needs you to support wolf delisting with your comments now!**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will discuss removing wolves from Oregon’s list of threatened and endangered species in October, and will make a decision in November. OHA supports delisting, and we need you to email comments and/or testify at the Commission meetings. Here are three ways you can help support sound wildlife management in Oregon:

### 1) Testify at the Commission Meetings

The October Commission meeting takes place Friday, Oct. 9, at the Driftwood Shore Resort and Conference Center in Florence, 88461 1st Ave., Florence, OR 97439. The November meeting will be Monday, Nov. 9 at ODFW HQ, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302. Meetings start at 8 a.m.

If you testify before the Commission, please keep your testimony under 3 minutes and stress your points clearly. You may want to incorporate some of these points in your testimony:

- ✎ The Oregon Hunters Association fully supports the recommendations made in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.
- ✎ The fundamental scientific criteria for delisting wolves calls for four breeding packs to successfully rear two or more pups for three consecutive years. These criteria have been met and exceeded in eastern Oregon as of the 2014 annual surveys conducted by ODFW.
- ✎ The plan outlines specific and cautious conservation measures for this species in Oregon. The plan calls for these animals to be very carefully monitored and protected as we move through the three sequential phases, regardless of the listed status.
- ✎ Years ago OHA agreed to support the wolf plan because it gave consideration to our recreational interests to hunt deer, elk, and several other species that are prey for wolves. That agreement continues today and we believe that all parties should honor the phase agreement of this document.

### 2) Attend the Commission Meetings without Testifying

Wear OHA apparel and remember to be courteous to all in attendance.

### 3) Email the Commission Members in Support of Wolf Delisting

- ✓ In the subject line of the email use the words: Please Support Wolf Delisting.
- ✓ State that you are a member of OHA.
- ✓ Make your email original and stress just one or two points (examples above).
- ✓ Do not use a form email. Please make it your own.
- ✓ Send your emails to: [odfw.commission@state.or.us](mailto:odfw.commission@state.or.us)

there are, at least, another six known wolf pairs with one of those also occurring in southern Oregon. The distribution potential, considering reproduction and dispersal, is well established to fill in remaining habitats in the state.

In sum, it is obvious that wolves are thriving in Oregon, particularly eastern

Oregon, and they are well into a phase II of management consideration in that part of the state. We feel strongly that it is time to remove gray wolves from the endangered species list of Oregon and progress through the sequential management phases laid out in the Oregon Wolf Plan.”

# OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

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

OCTOBER 27

Tag deadline: 1st season Rocky Mtn elk

OCTOBER 28

Rocky Mountain elk first season opens

NOVEMBER 1

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season closes;  
Daylight Saving ends

## Sage grouse won't be listed



An unprecedented, landscape-scale conservation effort across the western United States has significantly reduced threats to the greater sage-grouse across 90 percent of the species' breeding habitat and enabled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to conclude that the charismatic rangeland bird does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This collaborative, science-based greater sage-grouse strategy is the largest land conservation effort in U.S. history.

The FWS reached this determination after evaluating the bird's population status, along with the collective efforts by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, state agencies, private landowners, sportsmen's groups and other partners to conserve its habitat. Despite long-term population declines, sage-grouse remain relatively abundant and well-distributed across the species' 173-million acre range.

## OHA advocating for continued public hunting access if Elliott Forest is sold



Ownership of the Elliott State Forest and access for public hunting are at stake after the State Land Board in August directed the Division of State Lands (DSL) staff to begin implementing the transfer of ownership of the Elliott State Forest to private ownership.

The transfer is subject to three criteria, provided a suitable buyer can be found:

- Compensation of the Common School Fund for fair market value of the forest;
- Private ownership of the entire property;
- Retaining other values such as recreational access, older forest stands and watershed for species habitat, and local economic benefit from the forest.

DSL hopes to have a new owner and plan that they can bring to the State Land Board in December of 2015.

## OHA testifies in favor of lighted nocks



OHA's October Commission testimony includes support for the use of lighted nocks in Oregon for 2016. In a statement sent to the ODFW Commission last year, OHA outlined support for the usage of lighted nocks in this statement:

"Historically Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) has opposed the introduction of technology and electronic devices that enhance and increase the effective range of archery equipment. We have opposed the introduction of many proposed devices that would advance archery hunting from its current status of a primitive weapons season.

With the recent survey of our membership and the ruling by Pope and Young to accept "Lighted Nocks" as an accepted tool for the fair chase of wild game, the OHA State Board of Directors has revisited OHA's position on this device. Pope and Young is accepted in the hunting community as the national authority on bow hunting and fair chase.

We do not see where lighted nocks will have any impact on range of the current bows approved for use in Oregon. It may in fact assist archery hunters in the recovery of game hit by an arrow. All hunters are concerned about the wounding of an animal and then not being able to recover it whether using archery equipment or firearms. The lighted nock will assist the archery hunter in identifying the point of impact on an animal and assist in the recovery of animals.

Oregon is one of only five states that don't allow lighted nocks for bowhunters.

Oregon Hunters Association asks that the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the use of lighted nocks for the 2016 archery seasons."

## Tualatin River NWR offers new youth hunts



The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge will host new youth waterfowl hunts this year. Dates are Oct. 31 (water conditions depending), Nov. 28, Dec. 13 & 26, and Jan. 10. For information, call Mark Newell: 503-625-5944 ext. 228.