



## Oregon wolves delisted statewide

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on Nov. 9 voted to delist wolves from the state Endangered Species Act throughout Oregon.

More than 106 people – including many members of OHA and partner groups with whom OHA worked to pack the Commission room – came to testify during the 11-hour meeting, and they were limited to three minutes each. OHA even brought in experts to testify.

Commissioners thanked the public for coming to testify and asked that interests on both sides of the issue continue to work with each other.

Chairman Michael Finley noted the many people “some in cowboy hats and others in t-shirts supporting wolves” who came out to testify on opposite sides of the issue because they care about wolves. “The Wolf Plan has been working well and you are all responsible for that,” he told the public still in the meeting at the end of the day. “We will remember the merits of the Wolf Plan and the next one will be as good or better. You can all help that happen.”

The filing removes wolves from the state ESA but has no other effect on wolf management at this time.

The Wolf Plan continues to provide protection of wolves into the future. Any take of wolves is tightly regulated in all phases of the plan. Non-lethal preventive measures to prevent wolf-livestock conflict are the first choice of wildlife

managers in all phases of wolf management. There is no general season hunting of wolves allowed in any phase of the Wolf Plan.

Additionally, west of Hwys 395-78-95 wolves are also still listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and the Commission’s action has no effect on their federal status.

Wolves in eastern Oregon moved to Phase 2 of management earlier this year. They will move to Phase 3 after ODFW documents seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years, which could occur as early as January 2017. In Phase 3 while wolves are delisted, controlled take of wolves in situations of chronic depredation or wolf-related declines of prey populations (deer and elk) is allowed with Commission approval.

The vote was not unanimous. Commissioner Greg Wolley voted not to delist while Commissioner Laura Anderson supported delisting only in the eastern part of the state and voted against the motion.

Other Commissioners also expressed support for delisting in eastern Oregon only. However, they noted that Oregon ESA law does not allow for delisting in only a portion of the state. Commissioners will be sending a note to the Oregon State Legislature asking that the law be changed so that listing and delisting would be allowed in only a portion of the state for other species in the future. Commissioners also asked that penalties for unlawfully taking a wolf be increased. Currently, the maximum penalty is a \$6,250 fine and a year in jail and that penalty does not change with the delisting of wolves.

## OHA thanks members for support in wolf delisting

Over the last several years OHA has taken an active role in lobbying for the delisting of wolves in Oregon through countless emails, letters, and testimony before the Commission highlighting the importance of delisting and allowing for Phase 3 of the wolf plan to be implemented. The final stage for the debate was set before the Commission via two meetings; one in October in Florence and one in November in Salem.

It became apparent at the meeting in October that the discussion would be highly charged emotionally with dozens of people on both sides of the issue entering the delisting debate arena. At the end of the Florence meeting, the chair of the Commission said that at the next meeting there should be more of a concentrated effort on talking about the science of delisting rather than the emotions of delisting.

For years OHA had spoken to the science of delisting and the importance of moving to Phase 3 of the Wolf Plan – a critical phase as Oregon’s wolf population grows. This phase provides additional tools for ranchers and farmers to protect livestock and for Oregon’s wildlife managers to protect our big game herds.

Delisting could not have been accomplished without the help of OHA members. In November the outpouring of emails, letters, and phone calls to the Commissioners was unequalled, and the number of OHA members attending the final vote was unprecedented.

Congratulations, OHA. Together, we made it happen.

—AL ELKINS, OHA LOBBYIST

**Our supporters responded to alerts from OHA with emails and testimony supporting delisting.**



# OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

NOVEMBER 30

Eastern Oregon bear season ends

DECEMBER 6

Late SW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 13

Late NW deer bow season ends

DECEMBER 31

Seasons end for pheasant, fall turkey & Western Oregon bear

JANUARY 1

'16 licenses required; cougar season opens

JANUARY 10

Tualatin NWR youth hunt 503-625-5944

JANUARY 12

2nd period closes for NW goose seasons

JANUARY 14

South coast goose second period ends

JANUARY 16

Klamath PLAY Outdoors 541-591-2452

JANUARY 17

Sauvie Island youth waterfowl hunt

JANUARY 24

Late white & white-fronted goose season opens in SE counties; Zone 2 duck season ends

JANUARY 31

Harvest reporting deadline, most tags; Most bird seasons end

FEBRUARY 1

Deadline to file for OHA state elections

FEBRUARY 5

Eugene Boat & Sportsmen's Show opens

FEBRUARY 6

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

FEBRUARY 10

Deadline to apply for spring bear tags; Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show opens in Portland



For alerts on TIP cases, find OHA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

*This six-point bull was shot and left to waste.*

## Wave of poaching strikes in Oregon; OHA offers rewards

Poaching has hit a fever pitch in Oregon this fall, and the carnage has included trophy animals shot and left to waste. OHA is offering rewards in these cases to anyone with information that helps police bag the poachers who are robbing Oregonians of wildlife, as well as hunting and viewing opportunities.

If you think you may have information that could lead police to those responsible for these wasteful acts, please call the Turn In Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888. Callers may remain anonymous and still collect rewards.

### **Trophy elk wasted near Union Creek**

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the Roseburg office responded to a report of a six-point bull elk found dead in the Union Creek area off Cow Creek on Nov. 13. Troopers located the bull and found it was killed by a rifle bullet and left. The bull appeared to have been dead for about two days. Information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible could result in a \$500 reward from OHA's TIP Reward fund.

### **Branch bull wasted near North Bend**

OSP Fish and Wildlife Division Troopers on Nov. 5 responded to a report

of a wasted bull elk that was found on Menasha Timber property on Shutter Creek Road in rural North Bend. Upon arrival, a 4x5 bull elk was located in an area visible from the roadway. The bull was killed on Nov. 4 or early on Nov. 5. The only thing taken from the bull elk were both backstraps. The right hindquarter was most of the way skinned out but was not taken. The remainder of the meat was left to waste. Elk season for this area was not open. OHA is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the poacher.

### **Buck poached on Days Creek farm**

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a Nov. 7 report of a 3-point buck deer shot from a vehicle parked in the middle of the 17000 block of Tiller Trail Highway, Days Creek. A farmer working in a field nearby observed the vehicle stop in the roadway and heard a shot fired. The farmer went up to contact the suspect who had backed his blue Jeep Grand Cherokee up to the deer. The farmer informed the suspect hunting season was over. The suspect was described as medium to dark-complected, with black hair and goatee, in his early 30s. The suspect then immediately jumped in his vehicle and left, headed westbound on Tiller Trail Highway toward Canyonville. There was also a female passenger in her early 30s in the vehicle. As the vehicle left, the farmer noticed there was a large wooden box on the back of the Jeep Grand Cherokee that was attached by a hitch in the receiver. The buck was salvaged by the OSP. Police are asking for tips from anyone who may have information regarding this case.

## Senate re-appoints two commissioners

OHA is pleased to report that Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Michael Finley of Medford and Holly Akenson of Enterprise have been reappointed to serve four more years on the Commission. Both members sided with science in recent key decisions, and OHA looks forward to continuing to work with these qualified individuals on the Commission. For more about their experience and qualifications, visit [www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/members.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/members.asp)