



OHA TRACKER

JANUARY 2016



oregonhunters.org

WALLOWA COUNTY

Eastern Oregon land-use issues heat up this winter

Groups target Owyhee, Ochocos for wilderness

By Jim Akenson, OHA Conservation Director

Sweeping land-use proposals are gaining traction in the Owyhee Canyon country and the Ochoco Mountains this winter, and OHA is actively involved in protecting wildlife habitat and public hunting access.

Owyhee Country: OHA is participating in the land designation discussion for the Owyhee Canyonlands. This issue has stemmed from the Oregon Natural Desert Association coming forward with an "Owyhee Canyonlands Conservation Proposal," which would establish 2.5 million acres of National Conservation Area, including a proposed 2 million acre wilderness area, and an extended Wild and Scenic River designation.

Local residents, ranchers, and the hunting community are concerned about losing access and the capability to manage wildlife, rangeland, and other wildlife habitat. Many elements in this proposal are not in the best interest of sportsmen, and the biggest threat here is that if a viable alternative (land designation) proposal is not brought to decision makers, the President could designate a National Monument for this area through presidential order.

In response to this potential, and from encouragement from the OHA Malheur County Chapter, OHA has formed a committee of members from the state board and local chapter to identify what we would like to see on this landscape, giving strong consideration to the elements



A proposal by Oregon Wild could create a National Recreation Area in the Ochoco Mountains, where OHA members Hannah and Naomi Piehl teamed up to take this turkey.

of our mission. We are also looking at partnering with other sportsmen's groups to bolster support. Action on this issue is gaining traction and picking up speed.

Ochoco Mountains: Oregon Wild has initiated a proposal for a 312,000-acre National Recreation Area with three smaller-sized interior wilderness areas totaling 25,700 acres. The Ochocos have a tradition of high quality hunting for both deer and elk. Our interest in this area focuses on maintaining high quality hunts and protecting wildlife habitat for several game species, including deer, elk, bear, cougar and game birds. Local chapter leaders and state OHA staff are compiling a list of concerns that we would need to see addressed in this proposal.

Predator plans up for review

It is not yet known if legal action will be taken on the recent wolf-delisting decision by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. If that happens, OHA will be in the thick of countering these efforts and supporting, again, the current Oregon Wolf Plan and ODFW staff recommendations.

Both the wolf and cougar management plans for Oregon will be up for revision during 2016, and OHA will be poised to participate in every opportunity.

OHA will join ODFW in review of elk objectives

ODFW will soon undertake the task of evaluating and readjusting elk management objectives for each wildlife management unit around the state.

ODFW leadership is encouraging the agency's district biologists to address this issue starting early in 2016.

OHA is prepared to actively participate in the process for each watershed region within Oregon.

See this week's Hunting Headlines at www.oregonhunters.org

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

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

FEBRUARY 13

OHA Columbia Basin Chapter banquet 541-379-0174

FEBRUARY 19

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

Potential buyers line up for Elliott State Forest



By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist

More than 30 groups have submitted notice of their interest in acquiring some 84,000 acres of the Elliott State Forest near Coos Bay. Interested parties include timber companies, tribes, county governments, state and federal agencies, and conservation and environmental groups.

OHA has been working with the Division of State Lands and the State Land Board to ensure continued access by all sportsmen to the Elliott Forest. We will continue to make our voice heard on this important matter throughout the selection of a new forest owner. The State Land Board will choose between competing plans in December 2016. Among those throwing their hats in the ring are:

Bureau of Land Management
Cascadia Forest Defenders
Coast Range Forest Watch
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Conservation Forestry Partners, LLC
Coos County
Coos Watershed Association
Coquille Indian Tribe
Cow Creek Band, Umpqua Tribe
Douglas County
Douglas Timber Operators
Ecotrust
Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics
Hutchinson, Theron - North Bend, OR
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lone Rock Timber Management Co.
New Forests, Inc.
Oregon Board of Forestry/ODF
Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Solutions
Oregon Wild
Quantum Group et al
Reavis, Kelsey - Lakeside, OR
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Roseburg - RLC Industries Co.
Shamet, Barbara - Allegany, OR
The Conservation Fund
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Forest Service

ODF sets hearings on proposed fee changes, rules on loaded firearm use, other recreation

The Oregon Department of Forestry will host two public hearings focused on recreation issues in Oregon state-owned forests. The hearings are scheduled in Portland and Astoria, and will focus on recreation rule changes.

Included in the rule changes:

- ▲ Making changes to the fees for recreation on State Forest Lands.
- ▲ Language about possessing a loaded firearm in designated recreation areas.
- ▲ Providing clarification on the presence of service animals and stock animals, and to address occupancy of campsites.
- ▲ Adding commercial events to the list of activities that may require a permit from the State Forester.
- ▲ Clarifying conditions and process for obtaining a permit for organized events.
- ▲ Providing process and conditions for obtaining a large commercial event permit.
- ▲ Providing clarification on when and how unattended personal property will be removed.
- ▲ Addressing how rules will be enforced.
- ▲ Providing clarification on the penalty level for violations of rules.

Hearing dates and locations:

• Portland – Jan. 4; 6 to 8 p.m.

World Forestry Center
4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, 97221

• Astoria – Jan. 15; 6 to 8 p.m.

ODF Astoria District Office
92219 Highway 202, Astoria, 97103

Where do your license dollars go?

Hunters will now be able to see how some license and tag dollars are spent.

At the December ODFW Commission meeting, an administrative rule was adopted requiring ODFW to track and prepare reports showing the number of hours ODFW spends providing services to other state agencies as these agencies implement their own fee-funded programs. This rule implements the language in HB 3315, passed in the 2015 legislative session that OHA supported.