



OHA TRACKER



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JOSEPH CREEK CANYON, DUANE DUNGANNON



MAY 2016

OHA testifies in cougar plan panel discussion

At the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in April OHA participated in one of two Cougar Plan Review Panel presentations. Alongside of OHA were representatives from the Oregon Outdoor Council and the Oregon Farm Bureau. The second panel was made up of representatives from the Humane Society of the United States, Predator Defense Institute and Cascadia Wildlands.

The purpose of these panels is to give the Commission an overview of the various organizations' concerns on the Cougar Management Plan and the positions it will take on certain issues during the rewriting of the plan this year.

In his testimony before the Commission, OHA Conservation Director Jim Akenson stated, "It is very important for ODFW to continue expanding the management options discussed within the



OHA pointed out that Oregon's cougar numbers have doubled since Measure 18.

Adaptive Management Process in Chapter VI of the current plan. OHA recommends that this involve continued hunting opportunities and harvest monitoring for the six established management zones, but also look at options for applying targeted removal to benefit other social and economic interests of our state, such as big game hunting and agriculture.

"The new plan needs to develop language that precisely defines target area type, size, and circumstances when they are appropriate to administer. Also important is developing a two-tiered prioritization process. This would include one tier oriented toward human and pet safety risk and reducing livestock damage. The second tier or category would involve protecting imperiled ungulate populations in special circumstances, such as: on winter feed grounds for deer and elk, around transplants, such as big-horns, with newly recolonizing species, including moose, goats and bighorns, for protecting special species at capture and management sites, such as Lostine, and in management units that traditionally had healthy ungulate herds but are experiencing severe reductions in population recruitment and survival."



Commission adopts changes in bird regulations

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 22 adopted bird hunting regulations with the following changes from the 2015-16 season. Printed regulations will be available in early August.

✦ Allow youth hunters 17 or younger to participate during the September youth waterfowl hunting weekend. Prior federal regulations restricted this hunt to youths 15 or younger but were recently changed to allow 17 or younger.

✦ Combine three controlled fall turkey hunts (Baker, Grande Ronde, Wallowa) into one general season "Northeast Fall Turkey Hunt" with 450 tags available over-the-counter on a first-come, first-service basis starting July 1. Blue Mountain controlled fall turkey hunt will also become a general season hunt with 500 tags available starting July 1.

The popular White River fall hunt will remain controlled due to the high number of applicants.

✦ Change Klamath Wildlife Area hunting regulations to allow game bird hunting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays October-November (except both Saturday and Sunday would be open on opening weekend of duck and pheasant season) and every day in January. This will reduce confusion from current regulations, which allow hunting every other day.

✦ Daily upland game bird hunting hours at Klamath WA will change to 10 a.m. throughout the waterfowl season to better distribute hunting pressure (currently begins 8 a.m., which conflicts with early morning waterfowl hunters).

✦ Close most of Klamath WA (except

birding trail, parking areas, public roads, dog training area) to access from Feb. 1-April 30 and prohibit the running or training of dogs at Klamath WA through Aug. 31 (currently July 31) to protect birds. This is not expected to make a huge impact on visitors as most visitors use the sections that will remain open.

✦ Formally require completion and return of daily wildlife area hunting permits at wildlife areas where they are used (permits indicate hunter effort and harvest).

✦ Remove the requirement for upland game bird (pheasants, grouse, partridges, and quail) and crow hunters to obtain HIP validations to hunt for these species. Migratory game bird hunters (mourning doves, band-tailed pigeons, snipe, ducks, geese, and coots) will still need to obtain a migratory game bird HIP validation.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

APRIL 30

OHA chapter banquet:
Tualatin Valley 503-646-4733;
OHA Pioneer Chapter Youth Day,
503-829-2912

MAY 6-7

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend powerline
project; 503-767-3657

MAY 7

OHA Redmond Chapter Bridge Creek
weekend project 541-233-3740;
OHA Bend juniper cutting 541-847-0424;
OHA Lake Co. guzzler project 541-219-0614

MAY 14

OHA Tillamook banquet 503-842-2475
OHA chapter youth events:
Rogue Valley 541-773-1587
Tioga 541-267-2577
OHA chapter projects:
Tualatin Vly Tillamook Forest 503-407-2486;
OHA Hart Mountain project 541-884-5773;
OHA Emerald Valley weekend Pine Grass
541-729-0877

MAY 15

Application deadline for controlled hunts

MAY 21

OHA State Convention, Seven Feathers
Casino, Canyonville (SOLD OUT!);
OHA Umpqua fence removal 541-892-8482

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 4

OHA Bend Family Day 541-480-7323

JUNE 10-12

OHA Hoodview White River weekend project
503-358-7821;
OHA Pioneer Chapter family campout
weekend 503-710-1233

JUNE 17-18

OHA Capitol Chapter Aspen Project
503-399-1234

JUNE 17-19

OHA Tioga Chapter youth outdoor ed family
camp weekend 541-267-2577

JUNE 18

OHA Klamath Youth Day 541-591-2452

JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available



These two bighorn rams were poached along I-84 in April. Two weeks later, a third was poached, and OHA is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest in the case.

Two men charged with poaching two I-84 rams; tips sought in new case

Two men were arrested after allegedly poaching a pair of bighorn rams on Interstate 84 on April 3.

OSP Troopers received a report that it appeared a subject was gutting a big game animal near the freeway, and the informant was concerned it was a bighorn.

OSP Troopers responded and located a vehicle in the area occupied by a male later identified as Justin M. Samora, 32, of Layton, Utah. While troopers were speaking with Samora, passing motorists stopped and advised there was a man hiding in the brush west of their location. While troopers were searching for the man, they discovered two severed bighorn sheep heads. The other male, Cody J. Plagmann, 28, of Albany, was found hiding along railroad tracks.

Plagmann was charged with: taking/possession of bighorn sheep; wasting of a game animal; hunting on another's cultivated or enclosed land. Samora was charged with aiding in a game violation.

On April 19, another ram was poached near Rufus along I-84. OSP is seeking tips in the case, and OHA is offering a TIP reward of up to \$500 for information leading to an arrest. Call 800-452-7888.

OHA annually pays over \$13,000 in Turn In Poachers (TIP) rewards to informants in poaching cases and recently helped pass a new law with stiffer penalties for poaching.

Mike Ayers elected OHA State President

SW director open; apply by May 13

Oregon Hunters Association members elected Mike Ayers of Medford as OHA's new state president in a statewide election held this spring. Ayers had been serving on the state board as OHA Southwest Director, a position that now becomes vacant.

The board will accept nominations until 5 p.m. on May 13 from OHA members interested in serving on the OHA board of directors. The board will consider filling the position at its May 21 meeting in conjunction with the OHA State Convention at Seven Feathers in Canyonville. Interested candidates must be from one of the following counties in the southwest district: Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine or Jackson. Candidates should email a letter of interest and resume to oha@ccountry.net. Please confirm receipt.

For more information, contact the OHA State Office (541-772-7313) or any member of the state board of directors.

Ayers succeeds Fred Craig of Grants Pass, who is stepping down after 10 years as OHA's tireless president.

Two other Rogue Valley OHA members join the board this spring. Jason Haley was elected state secretary to spell Tom Zandoli, who served two years in the position, while Jeff von Kienast steps in for outgoing Southwest Director Lance Podolski.

Northeast Director Fred Walasavage and Southeast Director Walt Van Dyke were re-elected to their positions for another term.

AIL no longer offers OHA members AD&D insurance

American Income Life announced recently that the company is discontinuing its long-term relationship with OHA and is no longer offering members complimentary accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

AIL stated that OHA members were not purchasing enough life insurance policies to make the relationship cost effective.