



# OHA TRACKER



OCTOBER 2016



BAKER COUNTY/DUANE DUNGANNON

## OHA denounces public funds closing access to hunting

Restrictions on public hunting access continue to turn hunters away from their traditional hunting areas in northwest Oregon, but at a recent legislative hearing, the Oregon Hunters Association took a stand against using public funds to close access to hunters.

Bryan Cook, OHA Yamhill County Chapter president, testified on Sept. 22 before the House Interim Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources that an area that he hunts, Chehalem Mountain, had been closed to hunting after the land was purchased by Metro (oregonmetro.gov). Metro has an existing no-hunting policy. In essence, they do not want to manage hunting on their lands.

The 1,200-acre Chehalem Ridge property was a family hunting spot and there was quite a hunting history on this property with his immediate family.

"I first lost duck and goose hunting on a piece of ground at the north end of Springhill Road and Hwy 47," Cook told the committee. "About 7 years ago, we lost one of our favorite local deer hunting spots up on Dixon Mill Road, and most recently we lost another duck hunting spot when Gary Zerker sold his farm land to Metro.

"After Chehalem Mountain sold, the No Hunting signs went up. I called around and was told Metro has a no hunting policy. After the last land purchase in my back yard and my growing involvement over the years with OHA, I felt I needed to try and make a change for the better. This land is being purchased with my tax dollars so others can enjoy it and

taken away from my family and friends and myself.

"I started hunting the mountain in 1991. Hunters, hikers, and horse riders have co-existed with no issues that I have ever heard of. This is land true conservationists have enjoyed for years. Having us help pay for this land well beyond the purchase price and maintenance and taking away the opportunity for my children and grandchildren is just not right."

At the hearing, committee members encouraged OHA and Metro to continue their dialogue about this issue and keep the committee members abreast of any and all progress.

## OHA backs two big NE A&H projects

OHA is supporting approval of two major Access and Habitat project proposals that go before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in October. These two projects are:

**Desolation Creek LLC Access Area** would allow public hunting access to 21 square miles of private property that is surrounded by the Umatilla National Forest for the next three years. The A&H requested funding is 37 percent of the overall cost of the project. The project received unanimous support from both the regional and state A&H boards.

**Hancock Forest Management NE** would continue to provide hunter access to over 390 square miles in northeast Oregon through December of 2021. The private landowner would like to continue the relationships that are in place with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and hunters by foregoing a fee-based access system. A&H funds requested in this case are \$0.40/acre.



OHA is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the poacher of this Glendale bull.

## OSP asks for leads in Douglas County elk poaching case

The Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help to identify whoever is responsible for the unlawful killing of a bull elk in Douglas County.

After receiving notification of a dead bull elk in the area of the 4000 block of Reuben Road in Glendale on the morning of Sept. 17, OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded and found a dead elk in an open field between two houses, and determined the bull had been shot with a rifle and left to waste. Investigation revealed the elk was most likely shot on or around Sept. 17 at 2:30 a.m.

OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) program is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to an arrest in this case.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact OSP Senior Trooper Aaron Baimbridge through the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or 541-817-4473, or email: aaron.baimbridge@state.or.us

Information may be kept anonymous. The TIP hotline will change to \*OSP in 2017.

OHA annually pays more than \$13,000 in rewards to informants.



That's not a fence. It's a looong line of elk on private land in the Chesnimnus Unit.

MATTHEW HEDGPETH

## OHA aims to help revamp Master Hunter program to address damage concerns

OHA representatives have been actively engaged in work group meetings – at both the local and state level – to attempt to achieve solutions for elk damage on agricultural lands. Trends are for elk to disproportionately use private land over federal lands, causing increased crop damage, fence damage, and foraging competition on rangelands. OHA has met with ODFW leadership, and representatives from the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Bow Hunters, and several affected private landowners.

Dealing with elk and deer damage is not a new problem, and ODFW has many tools for addressing this issue, including: hazing, seeding and fertilizing away from damage areas, stack-yard fences, kill permits, damage tags and controlled hunts. The last three have the most pertinence to hunters and the Master Hunter Program. So how can Masters Hunters help to solve damage problems? Let's start with a program definition taken from the ODFW website: "The Master Hunter Program is an advanced hunter education program designed to help hunters increase their knowledge of the sport, and particularly help them understand the concerns of

private landowners." This definition goes on to list several applied benefits of the program, with the first four being to:

- Foster positive relations between hunters and private landowners.
- Improve awareness of ethical hunting practices.
- Increase access to private lands by giving landowners a way to identify hunters who have graduated from the program.
- Improve the public image of hunters.

In OHA's discussions with landowners, one complaint about the program was that it was statewide, and the list of hunters could include people 500 miles away from the place of need. OHA suggested breaking the list up into regions to help with response time and hunter availability. Another issue raised was the need for having landowners involved in "vetting," so landowners could know the prospective hunters in advance of the damage hunt. The upshot of all of this seems to be establishing a Master Hunter Program working group, comprised of representatives from ODFW, OHA, and involved and interested landowners aimed at revamping the Master Hunter Program.

## OSP seeks tips in Klamath deer poaching

The Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help to identify whoever is responsible for the unlawful killing of a deer in Klamath County.

OSP was notified on Sept. 11 about a doe deer that had been killed and dumped on a side road near Doak Mountain in Klamath County. OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded and found a dead deer with its back straps removed and left to waste. Investigation revealed the deer was most likely killed more than a week prior to Sept. 11.

OHA is offering a reward of \$250

for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case. The reward is offered through OHA's Turn In Poachers (TIP) program.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact OSP Senior Trooper Ryan Niehus through the TIP hotline at 1-800-452-7888. Information may be kept anonymous.

The TIP line will change in 2017 to \*OSP.

OHA annually pays more than \$13,000 in rewards to informants who turn in poachers, and recently helped increase penalties for poaching.



## TIP number to change in '17

The Oregon State Police number to report poaching incidents will change to \*OSP in 2017.

## OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

**SEPTEMBER 30**

Deadline to buy tags for rifle deer, bear and cougar

**OCTOBER 1**

Deer rifle season opens

**OCTOBER 8**

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

**OCTOBER 8-9**

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt  
541-591-2452

**OCTOBER 12**

Eastside buck season ends

**OCTOBER 14**

Cascade buck rifle season temporarily closes

**OCTOBER 15**

Cascade elk season opens;  
General fall turkey season opens;  
OHA Lake County duck box project,  
541-219-0614

**OCTOBER 21**

Cascade elk season closes

**OCTOBER 22**

Cascade buck rifle season reopens

**OCTOBER 26**

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens