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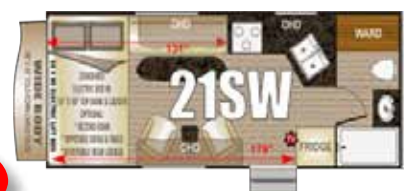


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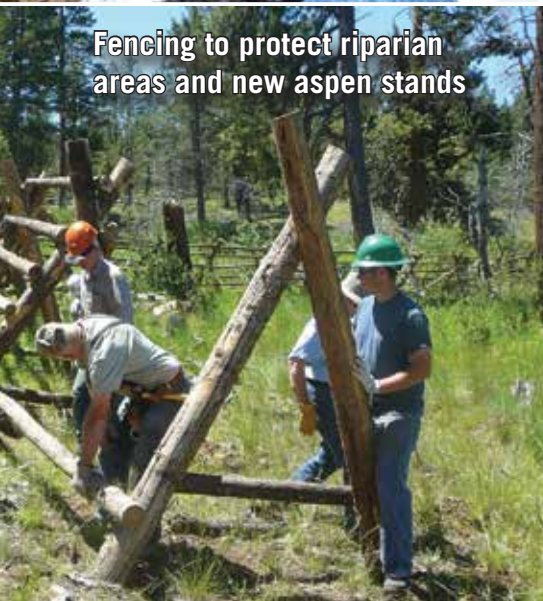
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OHA buys birds and crates, and helps out at youth bird hunts.



OHA sponsors youth shooting teams and events.

OHA Defends Your Hunting Rights

After successfully helping to renew the sunset on a law allowing ODFW to hire citizen houndsmen as agents to remove cougars and helping to reform and protect the integrity of the state's Landowner Preference tag program, OHA led the successful efforts to de-list wolves in Oregon and review the state's wolf and cougar management plans.



OHA's board and staff have led efforts to de-list wolves in Oregon, improve predator management plans, defeat gun control legislation, protect key Oregon elk habitat from development, and defend public hunting access in places such as the Owyhee Canyon, Elliott State Forest and central Oregon wilderness areas.



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The pioneer on Oregon's Capitol couldn't have imagined a time when Oregon, founded on beaver fur trade, would ponder banning beaver trapping. Times are changing in Oregon, and not for the better.

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FINDING DIRECTION

BY TYLER DUNGANNON

Federal delisting of wolves: the first step

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon's tribes are now charged with managing gray wolves, following the federal delisting of the species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If you're an outdoorsman, chances are, when you heard this news, your ears perked up like an apex predator reacting to a bugle from an adjacent ridge.

To date, many press releases mentioning the consequences of this action have been geared toward protectionist groups and livestock producers. Specifically, it has been reiterated that wolves remain protected under the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, and lethal removal of wolves is now a viable option for ranchers in particular cases.

How does the federal delisting affect Oregon hunters? In the interim, hunters may see little or no impact of this action, because hunting and trapping of wolves is still prohibited, and wolves likely won't be intensively managed in the immediate future.

However, this was a necessary step to allow ODFW biologists to more effectively manage all wildlife, and the door is slowly opening for management action by ODFW in response to wolves' adverse impacts on other species. If wolves are suppressing ungulate populations, and those populations are not meeting established management objectives in a given wildlife management unit, ODFW may soon (with Commission approval) have the authority to lethally remove problem wolves in eastern Oregon, where we are in Phase III of the Wolf Plan (more than seven breeding pairs for three consecutive years). This action will likely take a bit longer in western Oregon where wolves are still in Phase I (less than four breeding pairs for three consecutive years).

Wolves will continue to have a ripple effect on ecological communities, and there are many potential scenarios across the state where wolves could directly or indirectly have a negative impact on game species. There is a lot of debate among wildlife professionals about the concepts of compensatory vs. additive mortality as they relate to wolf predation on ungulates. Simply put, predation can be considered compensatory if it compensates for some other source of mortality for the prey population. In contrast, predation is considered additive if prey killed would have otherwise gone on to survive and reproduce.

The bottom line is that compensatory mortality does not negatively affect populations, but additive mortality does. In the case of wolf predation on ungulates, there is no doubt that some is compensatory, meaning that some of the ungulates that wolves kill would have died by other means anyway (e.g., winter kill, disease, etc.). However, it's known that wolves often kill ungulates that would have survived and reproduced (i.e., additive mortality).

It's important to acknowledge that the degree to which wolf predation on ungulates is compensatory vs. additive is extremely difficult to discern, and it's variable. It's likely though, that instances of additive mortality are commonplace, especially when multiple predator species pressure a given ungulate population. Regardless, either type of predation reduces the number of deer and elk that are available for hunters, who largely foot the bill for wildlife conservation and management in Oregon.

Following the federal delisting, ODFW now has the reins to ensure that wolf management in Oregon reflects the state's ungulate populations and hunting opportunity. OHA worked tirelessly against loud opposition to ensure that when this day came, and the state was able to manage wolves on its own, Oregon would have a wolf management plan with some teeth to protect our ungulate populations.



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Try a bow to beat pronghorn point creep

Can't draw an antelope tag? Got the pronghorn point creep blues? Why not consider an archery hunt? If you're one of those rifle hunters who applies for an antelope tag every season, you will, by the law of averages, get to go afield for antelope once every 14 to 18 years.

Let us say a rifle hunter starts applying for antelope tags at the age of 25 years. The first time he or she draws a tag will be at the age of 40. Given point creep and poor range conditions, the next tag comes at the age of 60 and the next one at the age of 80. The poor pathetic pronghorn pursuer only gets three tags in a lifetime. And this for arguably one of the best hunts in the West. There has to be a better way!

It's bowhunting. In the 2021 Big Game

Regulations, a scant three inches on page 57 are devoted to the archery controlled 400 series hunts. The state offers 12 archery antelope hunts, and of these, seven provide an opportunity to draw a tag at least once every five years. Several offer the chance to draw a tag once every three years. Now let's go back to our prototypical 25-year-old pronghorn hunter. Said hunter would draw an archery tag every three years and get to go afield with bow 18 times in a lifetime.

Would you rather hunt more or less?

According to the Oregon Tag Draw Percentages (<https://sites.google.com/site/oregontags/>) the 435R Paulina bowhunt can be drawn at 100 percent with 4 or 5 preference points. The 436R Maury hunt

takes an average of 3 to 4 points. The 464R Lookout Mountain hunt takes 3 to 4 points. The 466R Malheur River bowhunt and 467R Owyee hunt each take an average of three points.

But wait! It gets better. The 475R1 E Interstate and 475R2 Gerber Reservoir can be drawn with 0 to 1 preference points. The 477R E Slope hunt is a slam dunk every year and with good reason, but a few dialed-in diehards manage to punch tags every year.

Hunting antelope with a bow requires a return to the old ways: ambush at a fence line, flagging and other confidence tricks. But the higher percentage play is to use a blind – brushed-in near a waterhole.

—GARY LEWIS

Oregon's 7 not-so-deadly elk hunts

You've heard the proverb: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Sometimes the fix can have deadly consequences. The shoe fits two recent changes to the Oregon Big Game Regulations, except the combination may have created not-so-deadly effects.

A new "West Cascade" general elk season was created in 2020, separating land in the east Cascade units from the traditional Cascade general elk hunt, making them controlled hunts during the first Rocky Mountain elk season. Specifically, areas west of Highway 97 in the Fort Rock and Sprague units were removed. This land is now part of the new east Cascades controlled hunt (231X), which includes Unit 31 (Keno) and the western portion of Unit 33 (Sprague) and the new East Central Cascades controlled hunt (234X), which is Units 34, 39 and the western portion of Fort Rock.

Additionally, leftovers are no longer available as a second tag. They can only be purchased by those who didn't draw a controlled tag or buy a general tag. They are

also only available via the online licensing system. You have to have an account with a username/password.

The stated purpose was to improve big game hunting as part of a larger simplification/clean-up effort. The leftover tag change was to ensure equitable distribution of hunting opportunities.

Fast forward to July 1. Leftovers used to sell out within three minutes. This year, 1,377 tags remained after the draw. Tags were available for the magnificent seven or, shall we say, seven not-so-deadly hunts, nearly two weeks after they went on sale. At press time, there were still 521 tags available for three different hunts, including 343 resident and 20 non-resident tags for 241Y White River Hood No. 2 and 106 for the new SE Cascades hunt.

Beginning July 2, hunters were allowed to exchange a tag they drew or purchased for a remaining leftover tag while leftover tags remained. That didn't generate much excitement. Said changes remain a head-scratcher, for now, but we will continue to monitor. —JASON HALEY

Long awaited and overrated

When you finally draw a long-awaited hunt, you expect the best. Sometimes you may wonder if it was worth the wait.

A few years back my father and I drew a Juniper Unit muzzleloader buck tag. It happened to be the year that fires in the unit scorched much of the grounds we planned to hunt. The fires destroyed critical winter range, and decent mule deer bucks were tough to find come late November. Nevertheless, we managed to scrape out a couple small 4-points nowhere near the class of bucks we expected after 17 years of waiting. The hunt isn't even offered now.

In 2011, I had waited 18 years to draw a coveted Hart Mountain antelope permit, and it was worth all of the hype. I tagged a nice trophy buck after passing several very nice ones during the season. That being said, there are several excellent antelope hunts that take half as many points and can produce very nice bucks.

A good quote from a fellow hunter: "Anything with name recognition is likely overrated." This may be very true for many hunts across our state. Steens Mountain, Trout Creek, North Bank Habitat, Mt. Emily, Starkey, Metolius Bow and the list goes on and on. We have all at one point or another had our eyes set on something we hoped to be special. For every hunter, "special" is defined differently, of course. Like the guy who chased two hunts for 11 years and was getting no closer to drawing either one because the points required kept increasing as quickly as he could accumulate them. Finally, he put in as a party with a couple other guys on a hunt only requiring 4 points and all took nice deer.

We have very few hunts here that are managed solely for trophy class animals. The 600-series tags that have a "one deer" bag limit can take up to 20 points to draw. Are they worth the application fees just for the "one deer" option?

Is it worth waiting 15-plus years for a special 100-series hunt, when you may be missing several good opportunities along the way to kill a good deer? We all know that there are several hunts across the state that have plentiful tags issued with the expectation that harvest percentages

will be low enough that it won't hurt to issue extras.

Remember, no matter what you have been banking your points for, there is always risk and nothing ever comes easy. That is, of course, one of the many reasons we hunt. —TROY RODAKOWSKI



A few long-awaited hunts live up to the hype.

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A firestorm of gun control legislation is aimed at Oregon gun owners in the 2021 legislative session.

Bills abound on cougars, coyotes, wildlife crossings, using crossbows *And a barrage of gun control bills*

By Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyist
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The 81st session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly began in mid-January, and hunters and gun owners have a lot to be concerned about. The 2021 Legislative Session is starting out virtually, with hearings being held remotely. Legislative leadership has said that while bills will be voted on and moved out of committee, no votes on bills will occur on the House or Senate floors until April or May.

The session began with over 1,800 bills already filed. Here are some of the bills that OHA will follow in 2021:

HB 2548 Wildlife Corridor Funding

Directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to study issues related to funding construction of wildlife corridor road crossings and report to legislature its findings on or before Sept. 15, 2022.

HB 2728 Coyote Contests

It's back! However, this version has an amendment that protects certain aspects of nonprofit contests (Section 5 of the bill lines 17-19). The bill prohibits a person from conducting or participating in a contest, competition, tournament, or derby that has the objective of taking coyotes for cash or prizes. Provides that prohibition does not apply to raffles conducted by nonprofit organizations if the organization does not award raffle prizes based on number, weight or size of coyotes taken. Punishes violation of prohibition by maximum fine of \$2,000.

HB 2762 Multiyear Hunting Licenses

Directs the Fish and Wildlife Commission

to establish and prescribe fees for multiyear resident and nonresident hunting licenses. Sets amount of agent fee for issuance of each multiyear license.

HB 2797 Use of Dogs to Hunt Cougars

Allows electors of a county to approve a measure allowing use of dogs for hunting, pursuing, or taking cougars within that county. The bill authorizes ODFW to issue a resident of the approving county a special cougar tag that allows use of dogs for hunting, pursuing, or taking cougars within that county.

HB 2804 Use of Crossbows

Requires ODFW to allow a person meeting certain criteria to hunt game mammals using a crossbow. The language of the bill says ODFW will allow a person possessing a valid hunting license to hunt game mammals using a crossbow if the person provides proof that: (1) The person has previously used a bow; (2) The person has a permanent physical impairment that prevents the person from holding or using a bow other than a crossbow; and (3) The person has a medical release issued by a health care professional stating that the person is physically able to hunt using a crossbow.

HB 2843 Taking Beavers on Federal Land

Prohibits taking of beavers on federally managed public land, as waters flow through federally managed public land or in pond, lake or water storage facility on federally managed public land. Exempts taking of beaver by employees of federal land management agencies to address conflict related to infrastructure. ODFW is directed to adopt any rules necessary to implement prohibition.

SB 592 Lead Shot Prohibition Bill

Prohibits using lead shotgun pellets for hunting. Also prohibits using lead weight in waters of this state for angling or commercial fishing.

SB 630 Elk Damage Tag Bill

Authorizes the use of landowner damage tags to take elk on adjacent property with consent of the owner of the adjacent property.

SB 637 Nuisance Game Mammal Meat

Allows a person taking certain nuisance game mammals to retain game meat if meat is offered to charitable organizations and refused.

Gun Bills

OHA is following several gun control bills:

HB 2510 Mandatory Lock Up

Requires the owner or possessor of firearm to secure the firearm with trigger or cable lock, in a locked container or in a gun room except in specified circumstances.

HB 2543 Firearm Transfer Prohibition

Prohibits transfer of firearms by gun dealers or private parties if OSP is unable to determine whether recipient is qualified to receive a firearm.

SB 396 Undetectable Firearm Prohibition

Prohibits "undetectable firearms," which include "ghost guns" constructed to avoid detection by devices used at security check points.

SB 554 Concealed Weapon Laws

Authorizes city, county, metropolitan service district, port operating commercial airport, school district, college, or university to adopt ordinances or policies limiting or precluding affirmative defense for possession of firearms in public buildings by concealed handgun licensees.

SB 585 Repeals Preemption Law

Repeals Oregon's preemption law allowing any locality to create and enforce any gun law they choose.

SB 604 Permit to Purchase Firearms

The bill requires a permit to purchase firearms. The bill requires mandatory training, background checks, and fees. The bill requires safety training from the "National Firearms Association" (bill language). The permit must be renewed every 5 years.

To learn more about these bills, visit www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws

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BLACK POWDER

By SHANNON FITZGERALD

Pursuing a powderhorn pronghorn

Glassing through a light haze of wildfire smoke and into a low hanging sun, Terry couldn't tell if the lone antelope was big or he was making more of the buck than it actually was.

Antelope are not just the fastest land animals in the western hemisphere, but also possess a tremendous sense of smell and 320 degrees of panoramic eyesight. If spooked, these high-g geared goats can leave a smoke trail and gobble up real estate at speeds of a mile a minute.

High desert antelope hunters usually sweat it out for nine years waiting for the East Beatys Butte muzzleloader tag. While it normally requires eight points, Terry Jones of Wilsonville drew it with only four. But, preferring to cover ground, rather than having the ground cover of a blind, for Terry, the sweating would soon begin.

Distinguishing a good buck over the vast open country through heat waves can be challenging enough. Spotting one in the varying visibility of 2020's wildfire season made it downright difficult. But Terry wouldn't be alone.

Jim Jones, 79, came along with his son to hang out, and help out.

Jim started hunting around 30, but made certain his two sons got an earlier jump than he had.

Scouting in the southern part of the unit two days prior to opening, Terry spotted a wide buck two miles away. At daylight, he hiked in for a closer look, but what he thought he saw wasn't there, only smaller bucks. Believing he may have actually seen a large buck, he kept it in the back of his mind.

Terry and his dad were itching to hunt their way to higher ground in the northern



Oregon hunter Terry Jones first took this wide pronghorn in the East Beatys Butte Unit...

part of the unit with more reliable water.

"We would just camp wherever and throw our cots out – just find a place out of the wind, but other than that, not too picky," Terry said

But after arriving in the north, it was not what Terry had hoped. Three groups of people were glassing from different ridges. Irritated with the traffic, Terry started scouring the map.

The two flipped back to the south. Terry started focusing on roadless areas and plateaus above 6,000 feet where there might still be water.

"Are you coming back here?" Jim would always ask.

"Well, that's the plan right now."

Later, Jim, watching through optics, would see Terry walk off a different part of some plateau. Then Jim would throw everything in the truck and track his son down.

"He saved me a lot of miles," Terry recalled.

Terry was finding antelope, but not what he was looking for. By Friday afternoon, they had come almost full circle.

Terry swung around the southwest side of the butte, where he had seen the wide buck before season, and hiked to the top right before dark. He still didn't have good visibility, but spotted what he thought was the same buck.

"Rumor is: you put antelope to bed, and they'll be right there in the morning," Terry said.

But after Terry climbed back up on

the butte at daylight, the buck was gone, and just like before, only little bucks. The heat waves were getting bad again and a frustrated Terry started to believe he was exaggerating the size of the buck.

Later on, Terry heard a gunshot behind him to the south and saw a lone antelope walk out of the sage and turn straight up a butte. As the antelope crested the ridge, Terry could see it was the elusive wide buck.

"Okay, well alright!" Terry thought.

"I waited for him to get out of sight, and then I started hoofing it up there."

The butte had an expansive flat top, and Terry figured the antelope would bed down.

But the buck again disappeared. Dismayed, Terry hunted his way off the other side of the butte toward where a lone juniper stood.

"I could see his horns, but didn't know if he was lying down, or standing up."

After 35 yards of belly-crawling over small rocks, only one boulder separated him from the antelope. When Terry eased his shooting sticks onto a flat rock, the buck was looking straight at him.

"The wind was good, but I figured he had either spotted me, or was going to spot me."

Terry shot him through the shoulders and reloaded for a second closer shot.

Terry's diligence finally pinned down the elusive buck. Even after breaking a couple inches off one horn, he was still unusually wide.

BOWHUNTING

By SHANNON FITZGERALD

Traditonal trophy in the Trout Creeks

Terry's antelope buck was adjusting to a new climate inside the cooler, as he and his father, Jim, rumbled further east across the desert in an attempt to salvage opening day of his next hunt.

It was a primitive weapons weekend for Terry Jones of Wilsonville. The same Saturday he tagged his East Beatys muzzleloader antelope, his archery deer hunt began. The Trout Creek Mountains Traditional Bow hunt is carved out of the western side of the Whitehorse Unit.

The area is popular for massive muleys, but Terry hadn't any plans for being picky. Without sights, and no rest, Terry shoots off the shelf of his long bow. He'll practice at 40, but 25 yards is more realistic. That's a short distance for a desert hunter.

After arriving to a slow Saturday afternoon in the Trout Creeks, it picked up Sunday evening. Terry and Jim hiked into a canyon to camp. Just before dark, Terry slipped within 30 yards of a forked horn.

A higher bush separated Terry from the buck, and before releasing, he was busy doing mental calculations regarding elevation, and his aim.

The arrow sailed over the deer's back.

"With a traditional bow, even at 30 yards, there is a lot of arc to your arrow," Terry said. In retrospect, by just holding at 30, Terry estimates the arrow would have cleared the bush naturally.

But this also would have prevented Terry's next opportunity.

The following weekend, Terry and Jim made it from Wilsonville back to the Trout Creeks by 3 a.m. Saturday. That's when Terry changed his mind.

Determined to be glassing at daylight



...and then tagged this massive mule deer a few days later in the Trout Creek Traditional bow hunt.

from wherever they threw out their cots, Terry turned around to catch a road he had been up five years earlier. They camped atop a plateau near the canyon's edge.

Daylight revealed hunters in all directions. Even on the canyon bottom a hunter was glassing up toward them.

Deciding to hunt anyway, Terry dropped down the canyon wall to inspect some of the less visible side draws. A mile down he ran into a side-by-side. Further disgusted, Terry turned around for the hike back up.

"Well, I spotted you a buck" Jim said. "Where?"

Sure enough, a buck was concealed in a wrinkle of the country others just couldn't see. When the buck strolled behind an outcropping, Terry moved for a different angle, this time with his spotting scope. Terry was shocked at the size of the buck, now bedded under a mahogany tree,

After talking to Jim, Terry headed back off the rim, keeping a rock outcropping between him and the buck. Dry sage shivered all around as a warm wind blew up the canyon.

At 100 yards out, he dropped his pack, and exchanged boots for a pair of Safari Stalkers his uncle had left him.

Terry reached the outcropping and ranged the tree over the buck at 45 yards.

Too far.

Terry inched his way along until he was just 12 yards above the buck and could see his antlers through the mahogany's branches, but the buck had turned toward

him. No shot.

Terry scrambled to different ledges, struggling for a window, until climbing higher gave him an angle. He pulled, bent at the waist, trying to maintain upper body posture. Too awkward! Terry let down for a few more steps back.

"Quit messing around and shoot him, before he runs off!" Terry thought to himself.

When the arrow flashed out, his first thought was: I missed! Shooting through the top of the mahogany was like shooting into a cloth-less umbrella and he thought he heard his arrow graze a branch.

The buck exploded from under the mahogany and stopped, bleeding, at 40 yards. Terry thought his arrow wasn't well placed and shot again: low!

Panicked that he had only wounded the buck, he shot: low again!

Terry quickly moved up to 30 yards. The buck staggered and lay down: fourth shot, high!

"I was a mess!" About to find a way off the rock, Terry watched in relief as the buck reared up, rolled over, and lay still.

Terry got his dad on the radio.

When Jim got down to his son, he was shocked, too.

Terry said, over the years, he and his dad had reasons for high-fives, but never could quite pull off a clean one.

"And, this was no exception," Terry said. "We made some ridiculous effort at a high-five and dang near missed each other's hands completely."

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Mistakes Not To Make on Oregon's Opening Day

By TROY RODAKOWSKI

Over the years I have made plenty of mistakes and learned some valuable lessons when hunting Oregon's spring turkeys. No year is exactly the same as another, and every trip into the woods is a learning experience. The minute you think you have it all figured out, the birds and Mother Nature prove you wrong. Whatever you do, stay humble and always be a student in the turkey woods.

Here are a few tips for what not to do on opening day – mistakes not to make.

1 HUNT WITHOUT SCOUTING

Don't expect to pull into a place you have seen turkeys and find them in the same location during the season. I've made this blunder several times, and it's a lot like going to a job interview without your resume. Locating a prospective spot, not taking the time to scout it and hoping for positive results just doesn't work. Unfortunately, most of us have been in this position at least once, had a lack of time to spend in the woods prior to season and hurried out on opening day only to find disappointment. The lesson here is get out before season and scout, and you will be rewarded with more birds for the freezer.

Remember to always find food sources, such as old oak stands with acorns, and fields with seeds and plentiful insects. Creek bottoms with snails and amphibious life are also hot spots. Turkey tracks are easily observed in soft soils during the early spring. Places where birds spend time strutting and dusting become prime areas to set up an ambush. Birds like old burns or slash pile remnants to dust themselves.



The author called this nice bird in for his father early last season. The bird was very cautious.

2 OVER-CALL If you hear a gobble, don't get excited and over-call. Remember that it's natural for a hen to go seek out a tom. We as hunters are trying to persuade these birds to do the opposite of what comes naturally to them.

When first encountering a bird, I like to gently test him with some light yelps and purring. If he doesn't respond, I'll hit him with a couple cutts and cackles to see if he will shock gobble.

A gobble that has hens around is sometimes even more difficult, but establishing a dialogue with one of his ladies can cause him to make a mistake and follow her to your location. I like to mimic what a hen is saying. If she yelps at you, yelp right back with the same tone and cadence. If she cackles and cutts, make sure to do it right back at her. Make her mad; you are there to steal that gobble from her. More often than not, he will follow the fired up hen right into your lap.

Larger breeding groups of turkeys and birds are very vocal at fly down, but solo gobblers are not always keen to radical calling techniques. Infrequent calling and silence can be the ticket, as it stirs their curiosity and seems more natural, especially later in the day when birds are less vocal.

3 STAY PUT Be prepared to cover lots of ground. Nesting hens usually stay within a radius of 1 mile, spending the day feeding, laying and sitting on eggs. Gobblers, on the other hand,

can cover ground wandering up to 2 miles from their roosting site looking for receptive hens. Hearing a gobble over a ridge doesn't mean you will find that bird in the original location that he sounded off from. One year I contacted a bird and ended up killing him 3 miles from where I had first heard him. Wear good base layer clothing and plan on sweating a little.

4 CALL IT A DAY After a long morning, I like to find a tree to take a short nap and get a bite to eat, drink some water and relax. I have harvested countless birds in the afternoon and just prior to sunset. Many hunters get frustrated and call it a day after hiking a few miles without hearing any gobbles or even seeing a bird. Remember, most of the breeding occurs in the morning within the first few hours after fly down. Gobblers are driven to breed, and their potency is higher during the morning hours, when they will usually try to locate a receptive hen immediately after fly down.

Afternoon hunts are great because many of the hens will return to their established nesting sites to lay and incubate eggs. This leaves Mr. Tom lonely and in search of any hens that are still wandering

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about and feeding. This is your chance to make things happen, so make sure not to throw in the towel too early. Come prepared to spend the entire day, and remember to take breaks.

Every season is different, and not every bird is the same. I encounter many new challenges every year, and as I

Establishing a dialogue with one of his ladies can cause him to make a mistake and follow her to you.

have come to learn, there are things you can do to increase your odds of harvesting a turkey each season. I have been blessed to enjoy 20 consecutive seasons of success (knock on

wood), in which I have lived and learned many valuable lessons while tromping through Oregon's turkey woods.

Regardless of how you plan to spend your opening day this coming season, keeping a few of these simple things in mind will surely be helpful in notching your tag this spring.




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THE BEST OF THE ROCKIES

An out-of-state tag application primer for the Oregon hunter

BY GARY LEWIS

Here we are at the beginning of 2021, and one of the things you told yourself during lockdown last year was you were going to hunt more. If Oregon is your home state, you probably have made a short list of hunts to apply for. You have a good idea of what you will draw and what you probably won't. Chances are that's not enough. It's time to look out of state. Maybe you are not ready to jump on an airplane, but even Wyoming and Utah can be reached in a long day's drive.

Want to dip your toe in an out-of-state lottery pool? Pick one nearby drive-to state this year and learn how the system works. Or pick two. Or roll the dice on all of them. But don't wait. The clock is ticking on the earliest application deadlines.

IDAHO

For 2021, the state of Idaho will offer 12,815 nonresident elk tags and 14,000 nonresident regular and white-tailed deer tags. The application deadline for moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat tags is April 30 of each year, while over-the-counter tags go on sale on Dec. 1 of the previous year. June 5 is the application deadline for deer, elk, antelope and fall bear, with results back by July 10. The deadline to purchase controlled hunt tags is Aug. 1. Unclaimed and leftover tags are available in a second application drawing through Aug. 15.

To play in Idaho's tag lottery, a nonresident must purchase an annual hunting license (\$185) prior to applying for a controlled hunt. A license is required to buy a general season tag. There are additional combination tag options. Application fees for deer, elk, antelope, bear and turkey are \$6.25

For moose, sheep and goats the non-

resident application fee is \$16.75.

An elk tag costs \$651.75 for a nonresident and a deer tag is \$351.75, valid to take a black bear or a mountain lion instead of a deer if the season is open for that species.

To buy a license, hunters who were born after Jan. 1, 1975, must show proof of a hunter education course or a hunting license from another state.

<https://idfg.idaho.gov/>

MONTANA

Montana's banquet of big game includes elk, mule deer, whitetail, antelope, moose, bighorn, mountain goat and bison with licenses and permits. The application deadline is April 1 for elk and deer and various programs like Come Home to Hunt. May 1 is the deadline for moose, bison, bighorn and mountain goat licenses, while the deadline is June 1 for antelope, antlerless deer B and elk B licenses.

Combo licenses include fishing, upland bird, conservation license, base hunting license fee and aquatic invasive species prevention stamp. A general big game combo (deer and elk) license costs \$1,046 while a deer combo costs \$612 and an elk combo costs \$884.

To get started, a hunter must purchase a base hunting license (\$15 nonresident), buy a conservation license (\$10) before applying for, or buying a hunting license. Nonresidents must hold a big game, or elk or deer combination license before applying for an elk or deer permit. Application fees are \$5 for deer, elk and antelope. For moose, bighorn, goat and bison, the application fee is \$50.

Montana's preference point system allows hunters to accrue points over several years to assure a successful draw at some point in the future. A preference point may be purchased for \$50. In addition, Montana

has a bonus point system to increase the chances of drawing a license or permit. To apply for a bonus point the fee is \$20 for the nonresident.

In addition, a hunter born after Jan. 1, 1985, must show proof of a hunter education class or sign up as an apprentice hunter.

<https://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/>

WYOMING

Wyoming's offerings include elk, mule deer, whitetail, antelope, moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn, mountain goat and bison. Depending on the species, the state has both general and limited quota licenses available.

To apply for an antlered or horned animal, the hunter must buy a full price license. Reduced price licenses are offered for doe/fawn, cow/calf and ewe/lamb harvest in certain hunt areas. For the elk hunter, general and limited elk licenses are available. For deer, also, both general and limited deer licenses are offered.

A nonresident must apply by Jan. 31 for elk, with results posted by May 21. Apply by March 2 for moose, sheep and goats. Apply by March 31 for wild bison. The deer and antelope application deadline is June 1 with results by June 18.

In addition, nonresidents may apply for leftover elk, deer and antelope tags.

Application fees are \$15 per species type. A nonresident antelope tag costs \$326, while a doe/fawn tag is \$34. For the nonresident, a deer tag is \$374, while an elk tag costs \$692 and a cow/calf tag costs \$288. A hunter should also purchase a conservation stamp (12.50) prior to the hunt.

Wyoming's preference point system improves a hunter's odds in the draw. The preference point purchase period begins July 1.

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/hunting>





Hunting with an outfitter in Wyoming paid off with a huge pronghorn for the author. Wyoming offers plenty of pronghorns.

Utah

To apply for a big game hunt in Utah, the hunter must purchase a basic hunting license and then apply for separate hunting

permits. The menu includes elk, mule deer, antelope, moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn, desert bighorn, mountain goat and bison. The application period begins Jan. 30 and the deadline is March 5. Hunters may apply for bonus or preference points by March 19. Drawing results are available by May 29. Remaining limited-entry and general season bull elk permits are made available on July 16. Remaining general season buck deer permits and youth archery permits are made available on July 21.

A base hunting license costs \$72 and there is a \$10 application fee for each species or preference point applied for. Permit fees are only charged if the permit is drawn.

A nonresident general season buck deer tag (includes 365 day fishing license) costs \$398 while a limited entry buck deer tag costs \$650. A nonresident general season bull elk license costs \$593 while a limited entry tag costs \$1,000.

<https://wildlife.utah.gov/>

Nevada

Elk, mule deer, antelope, mountain goat and Rocky Mountain bighorn and desert bighorn tags are available through Nevada's random draw hunt system. Applicants are assigned a random draw number

plus any numbers for accumulated bonus points. In sequence, the draw number is the lowest of all random numbers received. The computer steps through draw numbers starting with lowest first looking for a match to an available tag. If a match is found, the hunter is awarded the tag. Hunters are advised to list most desirable hunts first with easiest to draw hunts as secondary through fifth choice.

The big game questionnaire must be submitted by Jan. 31. Applications are available mid-March with the deadline in mid-April. A second drawing for leftover tags is held in June.

A good tag application tutorial can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipSu3wzags>

An adult nonresident hunting license costs \$155, while a nonresident mule deer tag costs \$240. An antelope tag is \$300; an elk tag is \$1,200 and a black bear tag is \$300.

The application fee for elk is \$15 while other species cost \$10 each.

<http://www.ndow.org/Hunt/>

Gary Lewis is an award-winning outdoor writer and television host. For more, visit garylewisoutdoors.com



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Tag Application Services

Plan to hunt multiple states in the future? At the very least you will want to organize all records, usernames, passwords and preference points in a spreadsheet. Or use a hunt application service to do it for you.

Here are some companies that will store your information for you and help keep track of it all for a fee:

Worldwidetrophyadventures.com

Huntinfool.com

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1. Which unit borders Crater Lake National Park to the northeast?
a) Fort Rock c) Dixon
b) Upper Deschutes d) Sprague
2. You can hunt western gray squirrel year-round with no limit in parts of what unit?
a) Willamette c) Rogue
b) Melrose d) Alsea
3. W. gray squirrels may be hunted with:
a) dogs
b) broadheads < 7/8 inches
c) semi-autos > 5 rounds in a clip
d) all of the above
4. The daily bag limit on turkeys is:
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4
5. Waterfowl validations expire:
a) Jan. 31 c) July 31
b) June 30 d) Dec. 31
6. What is defined as a predatory animal?
a) rabbit c) feral swine
b) coyote d) all of the above
7. What is the minimum contiguous acreage to obtain a W. Oregon LOP deer tag?
a) 40 c) 160
b) 80 d) 640
8. A canvasback drake's eye is:
a) gold c) white
b) red d) black
9. Fire suppression is one factor blamed for the decline of:
a) antelope c) pheasants
b) aspen d) juniper
10. Which is most likely to nest in a pear tree?
a) partridge c) grouse
b) quail d) dove



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Name this Oregon wildlife area hunters warm to in the autumn, be drawn from all correct entries, and win a Work Sharp Original Knife and Tool Sharpener! Send your best guess to Oregon Hunting Quiz, OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501, or submit your guess online at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: March 20, 2021.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Monte Gingerich, Corvallis

Monte's name was drawn from among the OHA members who recognized the gateway to Mitchell.

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

MARCH 10

Late goose seasons end

MARCH 11-14

Central Oregon Sports Show opens

MARCH 17

Zumwalt Prairie TNC deer & elk hunt raffle drawings, OHA State Office, Medford 541-772-7313

MARCH 13

OHA chapter banquet:
Bend (online)* 541-480-9848
(*A&H Statewide deer tag auction)
Union/Wallowa 541-786-1283

MARCH 20

OHA chapter banquets:
Tioga 541-267-2577
Clatsop County 503-791-0549
Josephine Co. (online) 541-821-1511

MARCH 24-28

PNW Sportsman's Show, Portland

MARCH 31

Deadline to buy spring bear tags

APRIL 1

Spring bear opens statewide

APRIL 3

OHA chapter banquets:
Baker County 541-403-0402
Blue Mountain 541-231-4384
Lake County 541-810-1617

APRIL 10

OHA chapter banquet:
Tualatin Valley* 503-502-0611
(*A&H Statewide deer tag auction)

APRIL 10-11

Statewide youth spring turkey hunt

APRIL 15

Turkey season opens;
Harvest reporting deadline for furtakers and hunts ending after Dec. 31

APRIL 23-25

OHA Redmond Chapter Priest Hole project
541-233-3740

APRIL 24

OHA chapter banquet:
Klamath 541-882-9593

Answers: 1-a; 2-c; 3-d; 4-a; 5-b; 6-d; 7-a; 8-b; 9-b; 10-d



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A black bear is seen from the back, standing in a field of tall, green and yellow grass. The bear's dark fur is the central focus, with its back and hindquarters visible. The background is a soft-focus green forest. The title text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Oregon Black Bears

Spring to Life

Spring is the time when a black bear's
fancies turn to love... and lunch.

Photo Essay by Scott Haugen



If I were to sum up the behavior of black bears, I would compare them to teenagers: You never know what bears are going to do, when or why they'll do it, and just when you think you have them figured out, they do something totally different, something that rarely makes sense. I draw this conclusion after having observed countless bears over the decades, and having been a high school teacher along with a father of two sons.

Years ago a gentleman approached me, excited to write a book on hunting black bears. When he said he'd only killed three bears, I shared with him that I, too, wanted to write a book one day on hunting black bears, but that I'd only killed 30-some, and still had a lot to learn. Since that day my tagged numbers have almost doubled, and I've still not penned the book. I've been on numerous other successful hunts with friends, and have observed several hundred bears, not only in Oregon, but throughout much of their range, including Alaska and Canada. What I've concluded is, just when you think you have black bears figured out, they educate you.

Unless they're glued to a food source like grass or berries, black bears are tough to pattern in daylight hours. Their movements are highly nocturnal, and once food is exhausted, they'll move on.

Toss in Oregon's diverse habitat in which black bears live, and figuring them out becomes even more challenging. From the jungle-like rainforest of the Coast Range, to the valley floors, to the Cascades, and the high desert, black bears are opportunistic omnivores suited to carry out life wherever they may range.

Two points have struck me as surprising about black bears, both of which I learned while tagging along on ODFW projects. First is the number of calf elk black bears kill, especially in the northeastern part of the state. This explains why using predator calls to bring in bears is highly effective late in the spring season, when elk herds are calving.

Second, is the number of miles a rutting black bear boar will travel. ODFW radio collar studies have shown boars to travel more than 25 miles a day in mid-May and June, searching for sows in heat. These studies were carried out in the most rugged stretches of the Cascades, where paths traveled were not on logging roads, but rather up and down some of the most rugged land in the state. Bears are tough beyond our comprehension.

I've taken black bears over 20 years old, along with others that lived into their late teens. Some of these old boars were in phenomenal shape, while others had teeth worn to the gums, no body fat, and their statures diminutive.

No matter what their age or location in which they were taken, I've never experienced a bad tasting black bear in the spring. In fact, I'll take black bear meat over just about any ungulate, save for a cow elk.

The key to optimizing black bear meat comes with proper and immediate field care. As soon as a bear is killed, snap a few photos, then quickly remove the hide, hind quarters, backstraps and neck meat, and trim away all fat. Hang the meat in a cool, shady place while field dressing and get it into a cooler as soon as possible. There's no need to age bear meat, as the fat makeup is much different from deer or elk. We often cut, wrap and freeze bear meat the same day it's taken, as the oily fat can



Balsamroot, a member of the sunflower family, has a fleshy taproot bears often love digging up. Knowing what bears eat, when, and where, is key to consistently filling tags.



Bears are hungry and on the move in spring, so glass feeding areas and cover ground with your optics.



Tracks are a great way to size-up bears and see where they're traveling. Wet spring conditions make for good tracking.



Vandalized? Look again. Bears love chewing on wooden sign posts along logging roads. Often they'll be shredded, bitten, and torn to pieces.

turn rancid quickly. Be sure to freeze the fat to later render and cook with.

If you're not prepared to spend the night taking care of a bear, don't shoot one in the waning moments of daylight. The worst thing you can do is leave the hide on a bear; anything much over an hour will result in meat degradation. Have a couple big coolers with ice, ready to put the meat in. Even if a bear is taken near a road, skin and quarter it on the spot.

With lots of bears roaming our state, we're very fortunate to have hunting opportunities in the spring, summer, and fall. Be prepared, devote hours and days to pursuing these intriguing animals, and then you'll start to gain a more thorough understanding of just how complex and challenging black bears truly are.



Want to learn how to skin and breakdown a bear? Order Scott Haugen's popular DVD, Field Dressing, Skinning, & Caping Big Game, at www.scotthaugen.com or send a \$20 check to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Waltherville, OR 97489. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.



To optimize bear meat flavor, immediately remove the hide, quarter and debone the meat, and get it cooling.

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- 2 Commemorative Gifts

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 (1-PERSON TROPHY PACKAGE)**

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- 8 Party Starter Tickets
- 8 Special Raffle Tickets
- 72 General Raffle Tickets
- 8 Early Bird Tickets**
- 1 Commemorative Gift

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- 2 Dinners & 2 Drink Tickets
- 2 Party Starter Raffle Tickets
- 24 General Raffle Tickets
- 2 Early Bird Tickets**
- 2 Commemorative Gifts

STAG PACKAGE \$125*

- 1 Dinner & 1 Drink Ticket
- 1 Party Starter Raffle Ticket
- 12 General Raffle Tickets
- 1 Early Bird Ticket**
- 1 Commemorative Gift

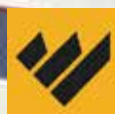
* OHA member prices. Nonmembers add \$35 for 1-year OHA membership.

** Early Bird tickets must be ordered by June 17, 2021.

Party Starter: 2 guns (\$599 & \$349). Max 1,900 tickets.
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Previous conventions sold out early, so don't delay!
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Tickets must be ordered and prepaid by July 7, 2021.
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or visit oregonhunters.org/store



GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

Butter Parmesan Stuffed Turkey Breast

The popularity of cooking stuffing along a wild turkey breast not only adds a delicious side dish, it helps keep lean, wild turkey moist while baking. Whether pounded flat, rolled up and filled with stuffing, or butterflied with stuffing in the middle – or like this recipe, sliced and stuffed – stuffing adds lots of flavor.

Separating the wild turkey breast from the legs, thighs and back of the bird will get the best results, as the breast meat can be cooked using many methods, but the legs, thighs and back always benefit from “low and slow” or pressure cooked heat.

Depending on the time of year you choose to cook your bird, this recipe can be varied to include different herbs and spices. The key ingredients are butter and Parmesan cheese, but even the breadcrumbs could be changed to crackers, cornbread or a gluten-free option.

Butter Parmesan Stuffed Turkey Breast

- 1 3-pound skinless, wild turkey breast
- 1/2 cup butter, divided
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/3 cup grated carrot
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- 5-7 fresh sage leaves (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 3” fresh rosemary (or 1/2 teaspoon dried)
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 cup Panko breadcrumbs
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme (or 1/2 teaspoon dried)
- Salt & black pepper



Clean any silver skin, fat or sinuous tissues from the turkey breast. Lay a wooden skewer on each side of the turkey breast, preferably on a cutting board. Using a sharp chef’s knife, cut 1/2” cross-grain slices in the turkey breast. When making the cuts, the wooden skewers will stop the knife from cutting all the way through the breast. This should leave about 1/4” of meat attached at the bottom of the entire turkey breast, allowing the stuffing to fit in the “pockets” you are making. Discard skewers and place turkey breast on a foil or parchment lined baking sheet.

In a large skillet, caramelize onion and carrots in 1/4 cup butter on medium heat. Add garlic, parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme and orange zest, and sauté a few more minutes. Remove from heat, let cool slightly. Stir in Panko, orange juice, beaten egg and Parmesan cheese, mix until combined.

Divide stuffing equally in between each slice of turkey, tuck any leftover stuffing under the turkey breast. Drizzle remaining 1/4 cup butter over stuffed turkey and sprinkle with salt, pepper and additional Parmesan cheese if desired.



Stuffing adds flavor and helps keep lean wild turkey moist while baking.

Bake in a preheated 350° oven 35-45 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 160°. Let turkey sit 5 minutes before slicing and serving.



For signed copies of Tiffany Haugen’s popular book, Cooking Game Birds, send a check for \$20 to Haugen Enterprises, P.O. Box 275, Walterville, OR 97489 or visit www.scotthaugen.com for this and other titles.

Youth turkey clinic canceled for 2021

The 20th Anniversary White River Youth Turkey Clinic has been moved to 2022 in response to continuing COVID restrictions that would limit participation and render some portions of the event impractical.

Youth turkey hunting weekend is April 10-11, and the general season runs April 15 through May 31.

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YOUNG GUNS

By GARY LEWIS

Set your sights on varmints for spring break

Even the novice has a reasonable chance to bag rabbits or squirrels.

HARNEY COUNTY/GARYLEWISOUTDOORS.COM



Keep expectations low. Keep it fun.

TAVNI WENGER PHOTOGRAPHY

A low-key, fun varmint hunt in Oregon can put the spring back in a young gun's step.

Last time I'd hunted with Callan, he was 12, and the last picture I'd snapped of him was with his first deer. Cal has his cap on backwards, the bolt action .243 tilted toward the sky.

Now he is 20, his hands in his pockets, his ball cap turned backward, a rifle on his shoulder. The more things change, the more things stay the same.

Tricked by circumstances, Cal was supposed to be in college in The Netherlands last spring, but travel was curtailed due to some health crisis or other. Instead of bicycling to class along the canal, he was rolling east in an F-150 to a place called Seneca. Instead of applied sciences, he was studying ballistics.

I had been invited to try the custom rifles being built by Jake Reynolds out of John Day, and since Callan was otherwise unemployed, he trailed along with me and his dad, Bill, and my friend Jon Blocker. We stopped for coffee at the store in Seneca, and then turned onto a dirt road that led us off to the orchard grass fields.

Jake and his brother Percy had set up shooting benches for us on the shoulder of a bluff and a little tent to keep the rain and the sun off us. Out on the far horizon, a coyote stood up, shook himself and trotted over the crest of the hill. Here and there, little gray-brown sage rats scurried or stood tall on mounds of earth.

We settled in behind stacks of ammunition and shiny rifles chambered in .223 Remington, .204 Remington and .22 Long Rifle, all custom guns.

Small Game, Low Budget

We get a lot of things backward. These days young hunters start out at shooting ranges and then are taken to the big game woods for deer and elk. And with big game comes the tensions, the high expectations, the stress. And stress ends some hunting careers before they start. Better to begin with small game hunting – from sage rats to squirrels to rockchucks and jack rabbits – and then graduate to big game.

Even the novice has a reasonable chance to bag rabbits or squirrels. It

doesn't mean small game is easy, but success improves as skill level increases. And the experiences translate to other types of hunting with lowered expectations and FUN. It's supposed to be fun.

In these days when it is harder to travel and family is tending to spend more time together, small game hunts can be easy hunts, close to home. Cottontail and jack-rabbit hunts on public or private land are within reach of hunters of any economic class. Gray digger squirrels can be found outside of places like Portland, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg and Medford and in a few spots on the east side.

East of the Cascades, sage rats (Belding's ground squirrels) and rockchucks can be hunted on public land (in small numbers) or in large numbers on private alfalfa and orchard grass fields.

All of the above can be hunted with a simple hunting license with no tag draw. Keep expectations low. Keep it fun.

Out east of Seneca in a green valley removed from the crazy masked-up world, we breathed in the mountain air and honed our shooting skills. Nothing does that quite like sage rat or digger squirrel or jackrabbit shoots. Small game hunts teach safety and shooting form and self-discipline at a fraction of the expense of a big game hunt.

After he had fired a hundred rounds or so, Bill put his rifle down, poured a cup of coffee and watched his son spot a target, calculate the holdover, drop his head into the scope and shoot.

I looked at my gallery of friends, from 20-year-old Callan to 70-something Jon, who has hunted all over the world. I don't know which one enjoyed it more. They both wore huge smiles.



Gary Lewis is an award-winning outdoor writer and television host. Contact him at garylewisoutdoors.com

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How do I become a Certified Instructor?

- Easy process: contact the number below for an application.



Hunter Education

ODFW Hunter Education Program 503-947-6028
www.dfw.state.or.us



Hunters score wins in Elliott Forest

By Ken McCall, OHA Vice President
kenemccall@gmail.com

The proposal transferring the Elliott State Research Forest to OSU's School of Forestry Management was approved by unanimous vote of the State Land Board on Dec. 8.

OHA was at the table, adding hunters' and anglers' voices to the call for continued public ownership and access. While there are a few hurdles yet to jump in the transfer process, public ownership and access is assured.

OHA also pushed for science-based decision making on the level of access as related to wildlife disturbance, primarily focused on elk. OHA also successfully pushed for harvest plans that ensure distribution of complex early seral habitat across the landscape over time.

Among the specific points on public ownership, access, big game habitat and

security, OHA input followed three main themes: return the Elliott to an active working forest, create jobs for local economies, and continue recognizing hunting and angling as primary traditional uses of the forest.

Adding to the themes, OHA advocated that any new management or recreation development, such as campgrounds and forest headquarters, should be located outside the forest, maintaining the forest lands for dispersed recreation and timber management.

The last two years have shown OHA's intense participation on the Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee was key to conserving the hunting heritage on the 82,500-acre block of central coast range lands.

For a deeper dive into the approved proposal, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/dsl/Land/Pages/Elliott.aspx>

OHA stepping up for Oregon's mule deer



OHA Conservation staff recently visited a central Oregon property for which OHA now holds a conservation easement. The property is considered mule deer winter range, and OHA will enhance and maintain the property to suit mule deer and other wildlife. Conservation staff are currently working on a management plan, and will work with ODFW to ensure this property will provide long term, quality habitat for mule deer in the winter.

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For information about OHA state-level sponsorship opportunities, call the OHA State Office at (541) 772-7313.

OHA to be active in updating Oregon's mule deer plan

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director
MTotey@oregonhunters.org

Work will begin in 2021 to update Oregon's Mule Deer Management Plan. The current plan was adopted in 2003, and since that time, a lot has happened with mule deer in Oregon.

Over the last 18 years since the current plan was adopted, mule deer populations and buck ratios have, overall, dropped significantly. Using the latest population estimates from 2019, 92 percent of the 49 units have population estimates well below the approved objectives, with more than half below 50 percent. The same population estimate also shows buck ratio numbers in 76 percent of units below the approved objective or with decreasing numbers. Reductions in hunting opportunities have become a trend based on the declining population data.

From wolves to energy development, Oregon's landscape has changed a lot since the mule deer plan was last updated in 2003.



ing opportunities have become a trend based on the declining population data.

Oregon mule deer populations face numerous limiting factors. Human development and some land management practices have led to significant declines in mule deer habitat. Predation, vehicle collisions and competition with other wildlife have all affected deer populations, as well.

In 2009, ODFW created the Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) to assist in addressing the problems affecting mule deer populations. Pilot units in the MDI saw positive results from cougar removal, juniper thinning, reduced tag numbers and increased law enforcement. But we're not hearing much about the MDI lately, nor satisfactory responses to our questions about why that is.

As a direct result of the MDI's recommendations, the department has taken steps to reduce hunt opportunities by decreasing unit tag numbers over the last decade. Based on continued decreases in population thresholds, the department reduced tag allocations on 24 mule deer hunts for 2020, covering both buck and antlerless deer series.



KLAMATH BASIN/JOHN MCFARLAND III

Updating Oregon's mule deer plan will be one of OHA's highest priorities for 2021.

Now ODFW has made the eastern Oregon deer archery season all controlled hunting beginning this year.

Not only would an updated Mule Deer Management Plan give us the opportunity to address these factors, it would also benefit from the incorporation of the many substantive studies and aerial surveys that have been conducted by ODFW, as well as several other entities, such as GPS collaring studies that have identified migration patterns, stopover areas, and complete barriers to animal movement. It would also allow the department to take into consideration the numerous impacts that were not on the landscape 18 years ago, such as power production sites, land development projects, and the effects of climate change. Many of these factors have increased exponentially in the last two decades, which makes the decreasing mule deer population an increasingly necessary topic to address.

OHA will be engaged in the development of the updated Mule Deer Management Plan at every turn. This will be one of our highest priorities for 2021.



Deer are dying needlessly on our highways, sometimes taking human lives with them. OHA has committed more than \$114,000 to the next Hwy 97 undercrossing and successfully lobbied to get grant funding, as well. How can you help? Reserve a mule deer license plate that helps fund wildlife crossings.

Visit myowf.org

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapters change dates, formats for 2021 fund-raisers

Below are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter meetings, which were suspended at press time, and previously scheduled projects. Please confirm all information found here.

BAKER

Charlie Brinton
(541) 403-0402

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Sun Ridge Inn; optional dinner 6 p.m.

2021 banquet: April 3, Baker County Event Center

BEND

Rex Parks
(541) 480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club

2021 banquet: Will be another awesome online auction and raffle; call or watch for details. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag on March 13.

Update: Our chapter's 17th Annual Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt took place Nov. 21. Chapter members will join with other volunteers April 24 to build Smoke Creek buck and pole fencing on EcoTrust Forest Management property; call 541-647-0424. The fencing is part of a larger project partially funded by OHA at the state level. June 5 is Youth Day at Cyrus Ranch in Sisters; call 541-480-7323.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, The Saddle, 2200 Court St., Pendleton, 6 p.m. meeting, 5:30 p.m. dinner and drinks available.

2021 banquet: April 3, Pendleton Convention Center; call 541-231-4384.

CAPITOL

Erik Colville
(503) 851-8409

ohacapitol.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m.,



OHA members and other volunteers worked on brushing in new blinds at the Wapato refuge in Gaston in December. OHA's Columbia County and Pioneer chapters each sponsored a blind. After lobbying for hunting opportunities there, OHA volunteers worked hard over the past months to meet the Dec. 15 opener. Other supporters DU, ODHA and Oregon Waterfowl Festival sponsored blinds, and Fallen Outdoors volunteers built blind frames.

Marion County Fire Station #1, 300 Cor-don Rd. NE, Salem.

2021 banquet: July 31

Update: We held a chapter meeting via Zoom in January. Due to the state government restrictions on social gatherings the Board decided to postpone the 2021 fundraising banquet for the second time. The date is now July 31 (location TBD).

CHETCO

Wes Ferraccioli
(541) 450-4100

Chapter Meetings: 5:30 p.m.: next meetings TBD.

CLATSOP COUNTY

Jim Bergeron
(503) 458-6829

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker, 4H Club-house, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

2021 banquet: March 20, Clatsop County Fairgrounds; call 503-791-0549.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles in 2021. Youth Day will be June 26 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks
(949) 533-7271

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Moose Lodge, 57317 Old Portland Rd., Warren.

Update: Our December and January mem-

bership meetings were held via Zoom. Our chapter's financial support and OHA volunteer help contributed to the successful opening of waterfowl hunting on the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager
(541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Update: Due to the effects of Covid, all of our normally conducted activities are canceled and currently there are no plans as to when or where we may resume our meetings and activities. We are hopeful with the introduction and availability of the vaccine we will be able to return to our regular schedules and activities.

HOODVIEW

Kelly Parkman
(503) 706-7481

oregonhunters.org/hoodview-chapter

Facebook: Hoodview OHA

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 5:50, Elmer's, 1933 NE 181st Ave., Portland.

2021 banquet: Feb. 20, Monarch Hotel, Clackamas.

Update: Hoodview held a general meeting via Zoom with the Capitol Chapter on Jan. 26. We firmed up plans for our novel live banquet in February.

OREGON HUNTER, March/April 2021

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery

(541) 761-3200

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., Elmer's Restaurant, Grants Pass.

2021 banquet: Online auction & raffle, March 20-27; call 541-821-1511.

Update: Youth Day will be at Josephine County Sportsman's Association on June 5; call 541-218-2836. Our chapter family campout at Willow Lake will be June 24-27. As soon as we can hold a general meeting, we will give away a firearm in an attendance raffle. If you are new to hunting or your partners have retired, join our Hunters Without Partners group; mmmull@aol.com or 541-499-2237.

KLAMATH

Allan Wiard

(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Shasta View Community Center.

2021 banquet: April 24, Klamath County Fairgrounds; call 541-882-9593.

Update: The Hart Mountain campout and work party will be May 15-16. We will

do trash cleanup June 5 on Green Diamond property near Keno. OHA Klamath Chapter teamed up with the Mule Deer Foundation to hold a gun raffle event originally scheduled in November, but changed to Dec. 16.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(530) 640-3368

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday at 6 p.m., Dinner Bell Cafe, Lakeview.

2021 banquet: April 3, Fairgrounds; call 541-810-1617.

Update: Our first 2021 guzzler project is scheduled for May 15; call 541-417-1750. Youth Day is June 26 at Juniper RV Resort in Lakeview; call 541-621-8123.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Todd Williver

(541) 648-6815

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m. meeting, OSU extension office, Newport.

MALHEUR COUNTY

Bruce Hunter

(208) 573-5556

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m., no host dinner 5:30, location TBA in the chapter newsletter.

Update: Though general membership meetings are on hold, our board continues to meet and conduct chapter business.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

Quarterly Chapter Meetings: 6 p.m., ODFW Screen Shop, The Dalles.

MID-WILLAMETTE

Jeff Mack

(503) 949-3787

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., board meeting at 6 p.m., Old Armory, 4th and Lyons, Albany.

2021 banquet: June 19, Boys & Girls Club, Albany; call 541-971-3351.

Update: Our chapter donated another \$5,000 for the Gilchrist underpass.

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John Dehler, III
(541) 815-5817

Chapter Meetings: 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m., Room 1868, 152 NW 4th St., Prineville.

PIONEER

Brian Andrews
(503) 266-2900

oregonhunters.org/pioneer-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 7 p.m., come early for dinner, Canby Rod & Gun Club.

2021 banquet: Our 2021 event will be an online auction and raffle; call or watch for details.

Update: We have a booth at the virtual sportsmen's show March 24-28. Youth Day is April 24 at Canby Rod & Gun Club; call 503-829-2912. The Pioneer Chapter Family Campout will take place June 18-21; call 503-710-1233. Our chapter donated \$1,500 toward building a duck blind at Wapato Refuge, which includes a plaque naming our chapter as a sponsor. Guzzler work party trips will begin again in May.

REDMOND

K. C. Thrasher
(541) 419-7215

OHA line (541) 383-1099

oregonhunters.org/redmond-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, VFW Hall. Dinner at 5:30, member meeting at 6:30, board meeting at 6.

2021 banquet: June 5, Deschutes County Expo; call 541-233-3740

Update: We rescheduled the banquet to June 5. We begin work this year at Priest Hole April 23-25; for information, contact jlcrafton@hotmail.com or 541-233-3740.

ROGUE VALLEY

Ricky Clark
(530) 905-1186

oregonhunters.org/rogue-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 6 p.m. social & dinner, 7 p.m. presentation, Eagles Club, 2000 Table Rock Rd.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal Farm & Ranch raffles in 2021.

TILLAMOOK

John Putman
(503) 842-7733

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Tillamook PUD.

2021 banquet: May 1, Tillamook County Fairgrounds; call 503-801-3779.

Update: We will hold the Les Schwab and Coastal Farm & Ranch raffles in 2021.

TIOGA

Marcey Fullerton
(541) 267-2577

Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. no host dinner, Puerto Vallarta restaurant, Coos Bay.

2021 banquet: March 20, Coquille Community Building.

Update: Tioga Chapter Youth Day is May 1; call 541-267-2577 or 541-297-6178.

TUALATIN VALLEY

Tony Kind
(503) 290-6143

oregonhunters.org/tualatin-valley-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 7, Prime Time Restaurant & Sports Bar, Forest Grove.

2021 banquet: April 10. We will auction an A&H statewide deer tag.

Update: Chapter meetings are on hold until Washington County is in Phase Two of re-opening. We plan to have a booth at the virtual sportsmen's show March 24-28. Our Barney Reservoir habitat project will be on May 15; call 503-290-6143. The Henry Hagg Lake youth event is scheduled for June 5-6; call 503-290-6143.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore
(541) 580-5660

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., Roseburg ODFW office. Board Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, same place.

2021 banquet: canceled

Update: We had a chapter meeting via Zoom in February. This year's banquet is canceled.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson
(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

2021 banquet: March 13, Blue Mountain Conference Center, La Grande.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Andy Bodeen
(503) 490-2489

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

2021 banquet: Will be another awesome online auction and raffle; call or watch for details.

Update: Chapter volunteers joined the work party Dec. 5 at Wapato National Wildlife Refuge.



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White City man fined \$42,500 for poaching in Crater Lake Park

A White City man was sentenced on Feb. 4 for violating the Lacey Act by illegally poaching a trophy bull elk in Crater Lake National Park.

Adrian Duane Wood, 44, was sentenced to five years' federal probation to include a six-month stay at a residential reentry center. The court also ordered that Wood be banned for life from Crater Lake National Park, be restricted from hunting for the duration of his probation, and pay \$42,500 in restitution to the Park Service.

OHA wrote a letter to the court asking for stiff penalties and attended sentencing.

According to court documents, in July 2014, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Oregon State Police (OSP) began a multi-year investigation into Wood's illegal hunting activities based on reports that he was poaching wildlife in Crater Lake National Park. At least two sources stated that Wood had killed several deer and elk on the west side of the park after baiting them to a meadow with rock salt. OSP received further reports that Wood was illegally poaching wildlife at night.

On Aug. 31, 2014, an OSP trooper observed Wood and his son leaving the national park after dark. After speaking with Wood, the trooper located a loaded AR-15 semi-automatic rifle outfitted with night optics beneath his truck. Wood initially claimed the rifle was for bear hunting, but after the trooper pointed out that the rifle was not lawfully equipped to hunt any wildlife, Wood then claimed it was for personal protection. The trooper cited Wood for being a felon in possession of a firearm and seized the rifle. Wood was convicted in state court of the charge and placed on probation.

Throughout 2015, NPS and OSP continued receiving reports of Wood's illegal poaching. NPS rangers found carcasses and piles of rock salt in an area of the park frequented by Wood. In October 2015, an NPS ranger found an elk skull, jaw, and vertebrae in the national park. The remains were determined to be near a custom track



Investigators definitively linked six seized specimens to elk or deer poached by Wood in the national park.

log found on Wood's GPS unit. Investigators later learned Wood entered and won second or third place in a trophy contest.

In August and September 2016, Wood engaged in several incriminating text conversations. Wood texted his wife about his attempt to locate a bleeding elk he had shot. Wood texted another individual, bragging about his hunting activities: "I've been in the elk since opening season and passed up 5 last Sunday... I'm pretty good at finding elk around here, I've killed 24 and get one every year."

On Sept. 22, 2016, OSP contacted Wood in his vehicle as he was pulling a horse trailer near the boundary of the national park. Although Wood stated he had not been hunting in 2016, the trooper observed blood on Wood's hands and clothing. Wood then gave the trooper a partially validated Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) archery elk tag, which also had blood on it. The next day, an OSP trooper returned to the area where they had contacted Wood, walked a short distance into the national park, and discovered a freshly killed and partially butchered elk. The carcass was in the same meadow wherein Wood was previously reported to have hunted elk. The trooper noted that the elk's head was sawed off and some meat

was removed. Shortly thereafter, Wood texted photos of himself posing with the elk. OSP obtained the photos and matched them to the carcass.

On Oct. 4, 2016, FWS agents executed a federal search warrant on Wood's residence. They located multiple firearms, assorted ammunition, and several wildlife specimens. FWS special agents later searched Wood's GPS units and confirmed he was in the national park when he killed the bull elk on Sept. 22 and had marked the location of the kill. They further confirmed that the majority of his GPS hunting waypoints and track logs between 2011 and 2016 were within the boundaries of the national park.

Forensic scientists at the FWS National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab conducted forensic examinations and genetic analyses of the wildlife specimens taken from Wood's residence and compared them to animal remains recovered in the national park. DNA analyses revealed that Wood possessed parts of at least 13 elk, 12 deer, and one black bear, and the blood found on Wood's ODFW archery tag matched the DNA of the elk poached on Sept. 22. A forensic pathologist further determined the elk killed on Sept. 22 had been killed by a gunshot. In total, investigators definitively linked six seized specimens to elk or deer poached by Wood in the national park in 2015 and 2016.

On May 1, 2019, Wood was indicted by a federal grand jury in Medford for violating the Lacey Act by unlawfully taking and transporting a trophy bull elk from Crater Lake National Park and illegally possessing ammunition as a convicted felon. On Aug. 17, 2020, Wood pleaded guilty to the Lacey Act charge and agreed to pay restitution to NPS for the wildlife illegally taken from the national park.

This case was investigated by the USFWS Office of Law Enforcement, National Park Service, and the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division. It was prosecuted by Adam E. Delph, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon.

OHA chapters increase reward to \$3,500 in elk poaching case

Four chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association have pledged funds toward the reward for information leading to an arrest in the case of three elk killed and mostly wasted near Sisters recently, bringing the total reward offered to \$3,500.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers are asking for the public's assistance in locating and apprehending whoever is responsible for illegally killing and wasting a branch bull, a spike and a cow elk, which were killed on or about Oct. 28 east of Sisters near Hwy 126 and Quail Tree Drive.

Two of the elk were left to waste. The third, a large bull, had its head and shoulders removed as a trophy. The elk were likely killed during the Cascade elk season, wherein cows are not legal, and multiple animals were illegally wasted.

OHA is offering a standard \$500 reward from its Turn In Poachers (TIP) fund, to which OHA's Bend and Redmond chapters each added \$1,000, and its Josephine County and Capitol chapters both pledged \$500.

Anyone with information is asked to call the TIP line at (800) 452-7888 or *OSP (677) and request to leave information for Senior Trooper Creed Cummings.

Callers may remain anonymous and still collect a reward.

In response to a number of member requests, for the first time OHA will accept personal donations toward the reward from anyone, including the public, to increase the reward. To donate, contact John Bambe at 541-480-9848 or via email at john.bambe@gmail.com.

OHA recently increased the standard TIP reward amounts offered in poaching cases, and pays an average close to \$20,000 annually to informants in fish and wildlife violation cases. TIP rewards are paid for information leading to the arrest of poachers for the illegal possession, killing, taking, and/or waste of big game, furbearers or game birds. Rewards are also offered for turning in vandals destroying wildlife habitat.



OHA pays out 13 TIP rewards totaling \$4,600

In the last two months, OHA issued 13 reward checks to informants in 13 fish and wildlife violation cases totaling \$4,600 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund. Charges included: Take/Possession of: Buck Deer, Spike Elk, Antlerless Elk; Female Dungeness Crab, Undersized Dungeness Crab, Salmon, Chinook Salmon; Exceeding Daily Limit Trout and Game Mammal; Waste of Game Mammal; Hunting Closed Season; Hunting Prohibited Method; Angling Prohibited Method; No Angling Tag/License/Endorsement on person; No Resident Angling License; No Resident Shellfish License; False Application of Resident License and Tags; Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation; Taking Doe-No Big Game Tag; Loaning Big Game Tag; No Big Game Tag; Violation of the TMA; Angling Closed Area; Hunting Prohibited-Within City Limits; Hunting While in Violation of Criminal Trespass; Unlawful Use of Weapon; Felon in Possession of Firearms; Criminal Trespass II; Harassing Wildlife; and Littering.



OSP named Melissa Leritz, Jackson County Assistant DA, 2019 Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year.

OSP, OHA honor prosecutor

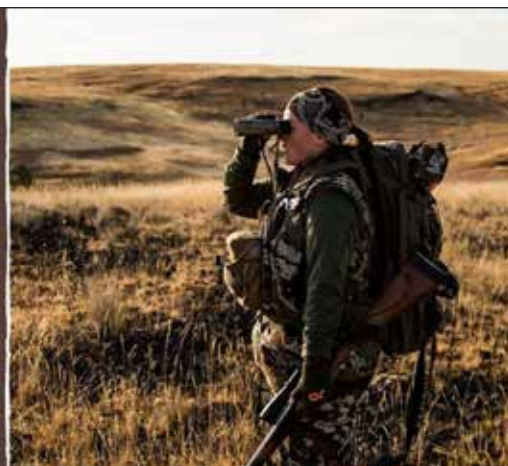
Jackson County Assistant District Attorney Melissa Leritz was presented the 2019 Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Award on Dec. 4. The wildlife print with engraved plaque was underwritten by OHA and presented by the Oregon Sportsmen's Coalition.

Prosecutors play an integral role in helping combat wildlife crime by working to help bring those to justice who disregard state fish and wildlife laws. Leritz was selected for her outstanding work in 2019, and was specifically nominated for her ability to prosecute any fish and wildlife case that comes to her office. Leritz also works actively with the Rogue Valley OSP Team by putting on educational training to keep them current with case law.

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Mule Deer Draw 2021

By Jesse Kane,
ODFW Outdoor Skills Specialist

Last year I made the transition to archery hunting. With the upcoming changes to the tag system, I am thinking about how to approach this year's archery deer hunt applications.

If you aren't aware yet, the previous general season eastside archery deer units have been converted to controlled hunts. This will allow local District Biologists some additional control over the harvest of mule deer, which have been struggling in Oregon and across the West.

The change also means hunters will need to be thoughtful and strategic about their selection of an archery deer hunt. I have had many conversations recently about how this will impact hunters. It seemed like everyone had a different theory so I decided to talk to a few experts in the field to get a clearer picture of what we can expect.

Speculating with Ron Wold

I first spoke with Ron Wold, who runs a popular Oregon draw statistics website, <https://sites.google.com/site/oregontags/>. This site has become very popular in recent years and is integral to many hunters as they plan a strategy for their annual controlled hunt draws.

Wold first made it clear that everything this year is speculation. "I do everything in mathematics, based on trends and history, all different algorithms going on. I don't have any direct data with these new hunts so it's conjecture," he said.

Archery deer tag distribution per unit is based primarily on the deer population and herd parameters, such as the number of bucks per 100 does (buck ratio). There are some units where tags offered are less than hunter numbers in that unit in recent years. (Check the big game harvest statistics at MyODFW.com to see how tags offered compare to the number of hunters who reported hunting most in that unit last year.)

Ron expects some of the more popular



Jesse Kane, ODFW Outdoor Skills Specialist, on a deer hunt in northeast Oregon last year.

units to become what he calls "premier" hunts that take 3+ points to draw. These hunts will be in line with the number of points needed to draw a rifle deer tag. Also, units producing higher success rates will rise in popularity and require spending your buck deer points to draw the tag.

Wold says elk hunting choices will also play a role (more on that below). He expects more predictability in the archery deer draw in 2023, as hunter behavior begins to stabilize after two years.

Be a data driven hunter

I also spoke to Andy Hamilton, the ODFW Archery Education Coordinator for the state and an avid outdoorsman and passionate archery hunter. Andy is a data driven hunter and researches his hunt choices more than anyone I know. He spoke to me about his process in selecting a unit using data available at MyODFW.com.

Andy takes many variables into account, including size of unit, percentage of accessible land, hunting pressure and deer population. He likes to target places with large enough deer populations and low hunter pressure in hopes of finding overlooked pockets of huntable public ground.

Andy predicts that hunters will now fall into three groups: First, archers who will target a "premier" unit. Willing to burn points, they will want to ensure they have the opportunity to harvest a good buck in a unit of their choosing.

The next is the point-driven group, who may have been stacking points with eyes on a particular hunt for the future.

Andy expects this group to use their second-choice options, targeting a first choice with the intention of losing, in order to stack points and still pick up a 2nd-5th choice eastside hunt.

The last group consists of those hunters who will fall back to rifle deer or general westside archery.

What about elk hunters?

The last person I spoke with was Jeremy Thompson, District Biologist for the Mid-Columbia, who has recently taken over reviewing ODFW's approach to eastside elk archery seasons.

Jeremy says most archery hunters target elk, holding a deer tag opportunistically during their elk hunt. He expects the majority of archers to maintain this practice and focus on second choice hunts or westside general season for deer to preserve points. In his opinion, the point numbers needed for the elite deer units (10+ points) will remain unchanged. Conversely, he expects the points needed for mid-range hunts might drop as people look to have yearly opportunities and choose something easier to draw.

In closing, I'll repeat that we can guess and hypothesize all we want, but this year will be impossible to accurately predict. The draw is ultimately a gamble on human behavior.

But that's no excuse for not thinking carefully, doing your research by checking out resources at MyODFW.com and choosing your hunt wisely. Finally, do not be afraid to reach out to your ODFW district offices to get more local information.

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2021 PHOTO CONTEST

FINALIST PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in general and youth categories.

1ST PRIZE: Nosler M48 Heritage Rifle

2ND PRIZE: Case (10 boxes) of Nosler Trophy Grade Ammo

3RD PRIZE: Leupold Scope

4TH PRIZE: Danner Alsea Hunting Boots

5TH PRIZE: Benchmade Altitude Hunting Knife

Each finalist will receive an OHA-engraved Coast knife, and entrants whose photos are selected to appear in Oregon Hunter will receive a Nosler hat.

Two finalists in each category will be chosen and published in each issue of Oregon Hunter, beginning with the March-April issue and ending with the November-December issue. From the 10 finalists in each category, five finalist prize winners will be chosen. These will be announced in the January-February issue of Oregon Hunter. Photos received after the entry deadline will be judged for the next issue.

ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

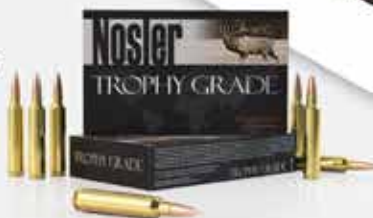
Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter for more than a quarter century!

PHOTO CATEGORIES

GENERAL: Any aspect of hunting, including but not limited to preparation, camping, hunting situations, game and packing.

YOUTH: Same as above, except photos must feature a person who was 18 or younger at the time the photo was taken.

Current year contest prizes will be delivered the following year.



NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

GENERAL CATEGORY FINALISTS



OHA member Bob Mumford of Anchorage claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of rooster pheasants fighting near Vale last spring.

Dennis Potter, OHA member in Prineville, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of a badger encountered while deer scouting in Crook County. Watch for an article about badger hunting in the next issue of Oregon Hunter.



NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

Bend OHA member Bill Littlefield wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Bryn Littlefield with her Wyoming antelope she tagged last year.



Editor's Note: The quality and quantity of photos this issue exceeded anything we've ever seen. Wish we could print 'em all. Watch for more of them in our various publications and social media.



OHA member Josh Scott of Salem claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Mackenzie Scott with a Rogue Unit blacktail she took on youth extended deer hunting weekend last November.

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Rickreall OHA member Mark Knaupp gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a desert bighorn he took in Mexico last year with a .300 Win Mag.



Pete Soderstrom, OHA member in Columbia City, earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a John Day River bighorn he tagged last year after 30 years of applying.



OHA member Lily Langer of Sherwood gets honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Lucy Langer with a bull she took while lying in the snow in Jefferson County last year.



Lucy Langer, OHA member in Sherwood, earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Bill Blakeslee and Ted Korhage with a bull taken last year in Jefferson County.



Gresham OHA member Dale Loeb collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of his niece Shelby Loeb with her first buck, taken with a bow in the Metolius Unit.



Sherwood OHA member Aidan Highberger receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Santiam Unit elk he took last year with Nosler Trophy Grade Ammunition in .270.



Silverton OHA member Tucker Stadel earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself and the monster mule buck he bagged last November in the Interstate Unit youth hunt.



Sherwood OHA member Lucy Langer earns honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Kevin, Lily, Lucy, Timmy and Andrew with waterfowl taken on a Christmas week hunt near home.

LAKE ABERT/DUANE DUNCANNON

Financial Planning for Far-Sighted Oregon Hunters

Long ago I learned all I needed to know about three important topics: Rifles, financial planning and wood stoves. In those days I sat at the feet of one of the foremost authorities on these manners: my once, future and present father-in-law.

When the estrogen at a Thanksgiving celebration grew too thick for easy breathing, we would adjourn to the family room where the oils in my hair would not soak into and stain the living room furniture, a thing which was apparently much feared by my mother-in-law and this BEFORE I began to dress my locks with bear grease and lemon grass.

My father-in-law had three topics of conversation and if the subject was not one of the aforementioned, he just was not interested. Fishing, he could take it or leave it. Yard work, just another way to get out of the house and think about rifles, financial planning and wood stoves.

In previous columns we have explored topics like family planning, exercise and whether or not we can believe in ghosts, but now we will examine another very important subject – financial planning – because the price of a nonresident deer tag in Idaho has just climbed to \$351.75, while a big game combo in Montana now costs \$523.

This means that your future standard of living depends on the investments you make today. If you fail to plan ahead, you could well spend your retirement years shooting Eurasian collared doves with a pellet gun. Whereas, if you heed the advice in this column, you will be able to buy a scope for your Daisy.

So let's go back to one of those Thanksgiving celebrations in my distant past and examine what my father-in-law would have shared, albeit with a bit of turkey gravy on his tie.



The father-in-law would feed a piece of cottonwood into his wood stove and lean back in his chair. "You know, people don't give cottonwood enough credit. It's a soft wood, but it burns." Noted.

Then he would expound on the qualities of the .35 Whelen, which was his current favorite big game cartridge before he discovered the .45-70 and then the .204 Ruger and the .257 Roberts and the .257 Roberts Ackley Improved.

"It's necked up from the .30-06 Springfield and with a .225-grain Nosler Partition at 2,600 feet-per-second, it generates 3,380-foot pounds of energy. And it still fits in a standard length action with the same size bolt face as the thirty-ought-six."

At this point, I was expected to deliver an affirmation. I would say things like "Hmmm" and "Wow" and "I guess so" and then he would go on to explain other things about rifles and ammunition, till what do you know, I actually understood what he was talking about!

But I forgot, this is a column about financial planning and I've already used up half the page talking about rifles.

What is financial planning?

Here is a short story to illustrate the need for financial planning.

One night a weary traveler knocked upon the door of a monastery, and when the door opened, he saw a man wearing a robe and a hood. He could smell fish and chips cooking inside, so the traveler asked, "Are you the fish friar?" "No," he replied, "I am the chip monk." "Well, I am a traveling accountant," the traveler said, and then

he asked, "Who is responsible for keeping your finances in order?" But that was nun of his business.

To understand financial planning, we have to go back in history. The first financial genius was Noah, who, as some may know, floated his stock while everyone else had to go into liquidation. The other one was Pharaoh's daughter who went to the bank of the Nile and drew out a prophet. Later on, Egypt's financial system collapsed because it was built on a pyramid scheme.

Financial security means different things to different people. For one person, it might be important to have enough money in retirement to be able to live out their years in comfort. Another might want to be able to afford a duck hunt in Montana every couple of seasons.

Duck hunting can be very expensive. Once a hunter up in eastern Washington shot a limit of ducks and when he was traveling home, he was stopped by a game warden. The game warden asked to see his hunting license, and when he showed it to him, the warden picked up one of the ducks and looked at its rear end and said, "This duck ain't from Washington boy, this duck is from British Columbia, you got a license from British Columbia?" The hunter reached into his wallet and pulled out a license from B.C.

The warden picked up a second duck and looked under its tailfeathers and said, "This duck here is from Alberta, you got a license for Alberta?" To which the hunter said he did and produced the proper paperwork. Now the game warden was mad. "What about you?" the game warden demanded. "I've never seen you around here before, where did you come from?" The hunter turned around, bent over and said, "You tell me, you're the expert."

Sometimes people ask me whether or not to invest in a bull market or in a bear market. I think it depends. Would you rather be gored or mauled?

My baby sister had the best plan for her retirement. She said she wanted to marry a witch doctor. "Mostwy for financial secuwyty."

My father-in-law worries about my future, but I'm being sponsored by a child in Africa.



Uncle Geddy had planned to write about sinkholes this month, but that fell through. For more, visit www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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