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Throwing Stones at Giants

Conservation groups battling to protect hunting rights

Since its inception in 1983, OHA has stood shoulder to shoulder with other hunting-conservation organizations, continually defending against those who want to curtail our right to hunt and trap. Oregon has faced a growing number of petitions and legislative measures attempting to chip away at hunting, trapping and gun ownership rights, both directly and indirectly, and with each attack, the opponents seem to grow in their extremism, resources, and financial backing until they appear to loom over us and our allies.

Now we are faced with Initiative Petition 13, a new giant taking to the field to challenge our right to hunt, fish, and trap with a potential ballot measure for Oregon voters.

These constant attacks require hunter-conservation organizations to continually expend time, energy, and finances in the fight to maintain the rights of hunters. Unfortunately, these organizations are often outnumbered and out financed by the environmental and animal rights groups continually pushing anti-hunting views.

Over the course of the last five years, the environmental and animal rights groups have successfully leveraged fear mongering into financial gain. Dealing in half-truths and extremism, they increased donations to finance an ever-increasing number of lawsuits, petitions, and legislative measures to promote their protectionist causes around the western states. For example, a couple of the groups that regularly petition animal rights causes in Oregon boast upward of \$30 million in assets.

While these numbers dwarf most hunter-conservation organizations, many of us on the battlefield operate on a substantially smaller budget with staff adept at wearing many hats. Staff members commonly find themselves in the minority when working on issues, at times outnumbered two-to-one, as seen with recent wildlife policy workgroups. Like David, striding out to battle with only a few stones and a strong belief system, the smaller hunting-conservation organizations continually take aim at the giants on the field.

The unfortunate by-product of continually defending against these attacks is the amount of resources redirected away from more productive efforts, such as on-the-ground conservation efforts and hunter recruitment. Finances and staff hours that might be spent directly on wildlife conservation must be prioritized to also defend against the onslaught of petitions and lawsuits, creating a war of attrition over funds and manpower.

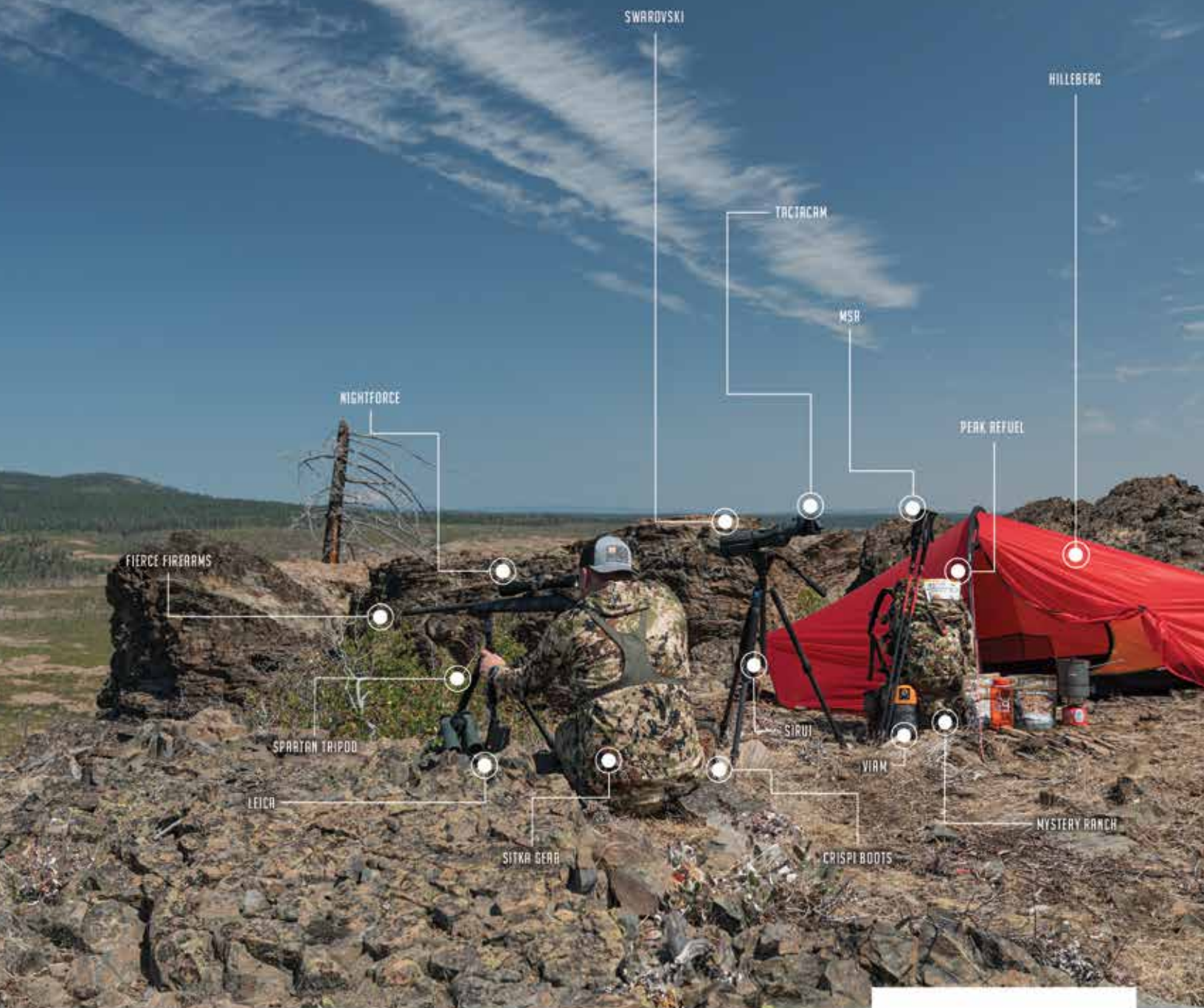
Unbalanced as the fight may be, OHA and our partners will continue to stand strong against restrictions to our hunting, fishing, and trapping rights. You will find us, not on the battlefield of old, but on the new landscape of hearing rooms, Zoom meetings, and workgroups, with stones in hand, determined to face down the well-financed, ill-intentioned giants we must face.

Please join us and support us in the fight to defend your right to hunt, fish and trap.



We are faced with Initiative Petition 13, challenging our right to hunt, fish, and trap with a potential ballot measure in Oregon.

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WORK SHARP OREGON HUNTING QUIZ

HELPING SHARP OREGON HUNTERS HOLD THEIR EDGE

KNOW OREGON? WIN A WORK SHARP!

1. Oregon's Zone 1 for duck season takes in all but which area?

- a) NW Oregon c) Columbia Basin
- b) SW Oregon d) SE Oregon

2. Which unit is entirely in the Mountain Time Zone?

- a) Snake River c) Owyhee
- b) Beulah d) Whitehorse

3. The controlled W. High Cascade buck rifle hunt is held in what month?

- a) September c) November
- b) October d) December

4. The North Bank Habitat Area was acquired primarily for which species?

- a) Roosevelt elk c) Columbian whitetails
- b) dusky geese d) Aleutian geese

5. You can take a doe with a general season bow tag in which unit's late season?

- a) Sixes c) Evans Creek
- b) Melrose d) Rogue

6. Bifurcated antlers are typical of:

- a) blacktail c) whitetail
- b) mule deer d) a and b

7. Dewclaws are absent on:

- a) antelope c) elk
- b) deer d) none of the above

8. Which isn't part of a tom's headgear?

- a) snood c) carunkle
- b) waddle d) none of the above

9. Which adds no score on antelope?

- a) horn length c) circumference
- b) horn spread d) none of the above

10. The lake pictured here that no one identified last issue is:

- a) Alvord Lake c) Abert Lake
- b) Alkali Lake d) none of the above



WHERE IN OREGON WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN?

Identify this foggy Oregon mountain, 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 at oregonhunters.org, where a larger version of the photo appears. One entry per OHA member.

Entry deadline: September 20, 2021.



LAST ISSUE'S WINNER:

Nobody Knows!

We had plenty of guesses, but no one correctly identified this Oregon lake. That's a first. Better luck this issue!

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

AUGUST 27

Bow tag sale deadline

AUGUST 28

General bow season opens

SEPTEMBER 1

Openers for forest grouse, mourning dove, W. Oregon quail

SEPTEMBER 18-19

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby
Rod & Gun Club 503-710-1233

SEPTEMBER 25-26

OHA Pioneer Chapter Sight-In Days, Canby
Rod & Gun Club 503-710-1233

SEPTEMBER 26

General bow season ends

OCTOBER 1

Tag deadline for rifle deer, bear and cougar

OCTOBER 2

Any legal weapon deer season opens

OCTOBER 9

Seasons open for chukar, pheasant, E. Oregon quail, Hungarian partridge and E. & W. Oregon fall turkey

OCTOBER 13

Eastside buck season ends

OCTOBER 15

Fox season opens

OCTOBER 16

OHA Lake County duck and goose boxes
541-417-1750

OCTOBER 23

OHA Lake County duck and goose boxes
541-417-1750

OCTOBER 23-24

OHA Klamath Chapter youth chukar hunt
541-643-7077

OCTOBER 26

Deadline to buy tags for Rocky Mountain elk 1st season

OCTOBER 27

Rocky Mountain elk 1st season opens

OCTOBER 30

Lake County guzzler project 541-417-1750

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



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Make a dove connection

Mild winters and severe drought are cause for concern, unless you're dove hunting. This fall should be stellar. Mourning doves are one of the most abundant game birds in North America. They breed from Canada to South America. Winter ranges are smaller, so hunters are familiar with doves leaving at first frost. That shouldn't be a problem this year. Hot has become routine.

While the USFWS estimates there are 183 million doves in the U.S., Oregon had the lowest harvest in the west during 2018-19 at 13,200. Our harvest increased during 2019-2020 to 24,200 and we're poised for another spike.

ODFW's game bird forecast (2020-21), reports eastern Oregon populations at 41 percent above the 10-year average. Numerous burns should provide great hunting statewide, as weedy growth establishes

Pass-shooting doves is fun and challenging for hunters of all ages. Bring lots of shells.

itself, and snags provide perches above food sources and waterholes.

There is limited local harvest data. Denman Wildlife Area produced 125 doves last season, 101 during the first week and 80 on opening day. Some were taken during pheasant seasons and four were taken in October. E.E. Wilson reported 202 doves in September and 14 in October during 2019-20.

Ag is great, but find isolated water in burns and you're golden. I found an amazing wad of birds last fall – straight out of Hitchcock! Season was open, but I was scouting for something else. I would've killed for a shotgun and lawn chair. I found another spot still crawling with doves in November. It was a dry pond, but the candy

on the ground was clearly popular. Look for mullein. Doves like the tall, woolly mullein in disturbed areas, but the low-growing turkey mullein (doveweed) is the goods.

Doves are ideal for new hunters and provide excellent crossover opportunities for high-school trap athletes. Clay-target leagues are growing fast. Pass-shooting screaming doves, from all-new angles, should appeal to some of these youngsters and complement their practice regimens. My own hot-shot whiffed on numerous doves last September. I'd rub it in, but so did his granddad and I.

The national banding program started in 2003. Recoveries occur during the hunting seasons, so check those legs. Our numbers continue upward (173 in 2008 to 860 in 2019). ODFW banded a record 299 doves at Ladd Marsh last year. Doves "did phenomenal" and "amazing flocks" were reported.

This year's regs created two new geographic zones and two periods in one of them (Western Oregon/Columbia Basin will be Sept. 1-30 and Nov. 15-Dec. 14). We can now hunt wintering birds in western Oregon.

Bag limit is 15. No limit or closed season for Eurasians. For a delicious way to prepare doves, see Page 44. —JASON HALEY

Early waterfowl seasons call to Oregon hunters

A mild spring saw high survival rates of ducklings and goslings in western Oregon, and the stage is set for another fantastic early waterfowl season. Water, or a lack thereof, might be a challenge for birds as well as hunters, but scouting and legwork will reveal where birds are.

The early goose opener just keeps getting better and better for many folks in the Willamette Valley. Those who are willing to locate birds on rivers and public wetlands, pattern where they're feeding, and then set up accordingly, have largely been rewarded. Scouting can take time, but flocks can be patterned this time of year, which is key to knowing where to situate the blind and decoys.

Because Canada geese are still in family flocks in September, large decoy spreads aren't necessary. With six or eight shell decoys, and maybe a few silhouettes tossed in, you can create a very realistic, attractive spread. As fall progresses and more flocks converge in feeding areas, larger

decoy spreads can help bring in geese.

The same holds true for early season ducks, which are primarily local birds in the opening weeks of the season. Not many decoys are needed early for duck hunters, and as with the geese, scouting and covering ground to locate birds is important for success.

Several rivers can be floated and hunted in western Oregon for ducks and geese. Jump shooting is the norm, but early morning decoying can be effective. Know where you are when floating rivers and be respectful of private property.

A look at the ODFW website <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-access-map> will point you in the direction of other public land hunting options. If you're seeing ducks or geese on private lands and wanting to hunt them, be sure to seek permission from landowners. This can take time, and you may get turned down, but it can be worth the effort, as I've learned over the years. —SCOTT HAUGEN

A kayak can put you beyond the reach of other hunters and into some great waterfowling.

Last call for NE general bow elk

When we set out for the third morning's hunt, we sensed a particular aura. Action was just a stone's throw away. Set up in a 40-yard clearing in the timber, we began the sweet serenades of elk talk. Ceaseless, we called for 20 minutes before the first elk appeared. A lone cow busted into the set and stopped 18 yards in front of me. Yearning for a bull, I elected not to shoot. The cow incited a staring contest as her female counterpart brought up the rear. No bulls materialized from the tree line.

An ODFW proposal to add eight northeast units and a five-unit Eagle Cap zone to controlled archery next year has been approved. What that means to Oregon bowhunters is this season offers a last opportunity to hunt it as a general season, cover some ground during the rut and check out units they might want to apply for in the coming years.

A commonly shared theory among Oregon elk hunters is that Rocky Mountain elk are much more aware of the trickery and certain tones/sounds that popular elk calls produce compared to Roosevelt elk in the western region of the state. Though I cannot prove that for certain, one thing is true. Elk are wild animals, and they will do whatever they're going to do for reasons we may never understand. All you can do as a hunter is work hard, stay on task, and get lucky. One can assume what the elk are going to do next and be confident in that guess thanks to scouting and obsessive research, but that doesn't mean they will do what you expect.

With that in mind, experiment with unpopular techniques and ideas. Many great elk hunters say you shouldn't call too much as it gives you away. That is not true in every case. We found that you can call in plenty of elk with incessant calls. Whether it drives them crazy, annoys them or draws exigent curiosity, it works. One season later my father arrowed a 5-point bull in the same spot with the same call tactic.

Never be afraid to think outside the box and try different tactics, even if other hunters bag on it. Elk can surprise you and pull a fast one. Think like an animal, adapt, overcome, and be odd. —CAMDEN HAMMER



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OHA fights anti-hunting, gun petitions

By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists
Alvinelkins@yahoo.com

The 2021 Oregon Legislative session is over, but the work continues for the OHA legislative team, as initiative petitions threatening hunting and gun ownership have been filed, and we are currently working on defeating them. Here is the latest from Salem.

IP13: Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Ban

IP13 has passed another milestone on the way to the ballot. As of July 15, the petitioners have approval to solicit signatures to place the measure on the November 2022 general election ballot.

After successfully challenging the ballot title to better reflect the sweeping implications of the extreme proposal, OHA continues to spread the message about IP13 through interviews with American/NW Outdoor Radio and participation in the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's regional policy briefing. We are heavily involved with two coalitions working in tandem to keep the measure from making the ballot, and our web page dedicated to IP13 information and updates (<https://oregonhunters.org/initiative-petition-13>) remains the most comprehensive information source.

How can you help? Three simple ways to help keep IP13 off the ballot:

- 1) Make sure the people in your family, friends, and coworkers are aware of the ramifications and understand the reasons not to sign.
- 2) Donate to OHA's Hunter Victory fund for this and other legislative or legal battles (<https://oregonhunters.org/donate>).
- 3) Talk about the importance of our self-reliant lifestyle. Being less reliant on the national food network and understanding where our food comes from is a conversation that resonates well with people even if they don't hunt or fish.

IP17 & IP18: Gun Control Initiatives

Two gun control initiatives aimed for the November 2022 ballot have been filed with the Oregon Attorney General:



Sign of the times? Initiative Petition 13 would ban hunting and fishing in Oregon. To support OHA in this and other legal and legislative battles, donate to OHA's Hunter Victory Fund at <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

- **IP17:** Imposes a new, additional permit system in order to purchase a firearm, and prohibits possession or use of magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.
- **IP18:** Prohibits manufacturing, possessing and transferring many semiautomatic firearms.

OHA submitted a letter about IP17 to the Attorney General stating that the petition violates the constitutional provision that initiatives only address one subject.

OHA also sent a letter to the Attorney General on IP18 that in part stated: "IP18 also purports to prohibit the use of covered firearms for practice and target shooting expressly permitted under federal law on federal public lands such as the national forests and BLM lands, which comprise almost 50 percent of Oregon's land. The Draft Ballot Title does not inform voters of this radical, indeed unprecedented effect of IP18."

OHA is working closely with gun advocate groups to stop these two petitions.

OHA's Amy Patrick named Sportsmen's Caucus Chair

Elections for the Oregon Sportsmen's Caucus Foundation Board were held last week. Here is a list of the newly elected board members:

Chair – Amy Patrick, Oregon Hunters Association; Vice Chair – Bob Oleson, Association of Northwest Steelheaders; Secretary/Treasurer – Sherrie Sprenger, Linn County Board of Commissioners.



Amy Patrick

Congratulations to the new officers!

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BLACK POWDER

By GARY LEWIS

A Blunderbuss for the Rest of Us

As long as God makes rocks and chickens make poop, you can hunt with a blunderbuss.” That’s an old saw the pilgrims used to tell children when they were scared of the dark. But it’s true.

Chickens are the source of nitre, a component of primitive gunpowder, and if you can find flint, you can make the spark to fire the blunderbuss.

But like a lot of things in 2021, I had to wait for a flintlock blunderbuss to show up at my doorstep before I could hunt any kind of forest chickens with it.

You might very well ask, “What the heck is a blunderbuss?” Thank you for not using a bad word.

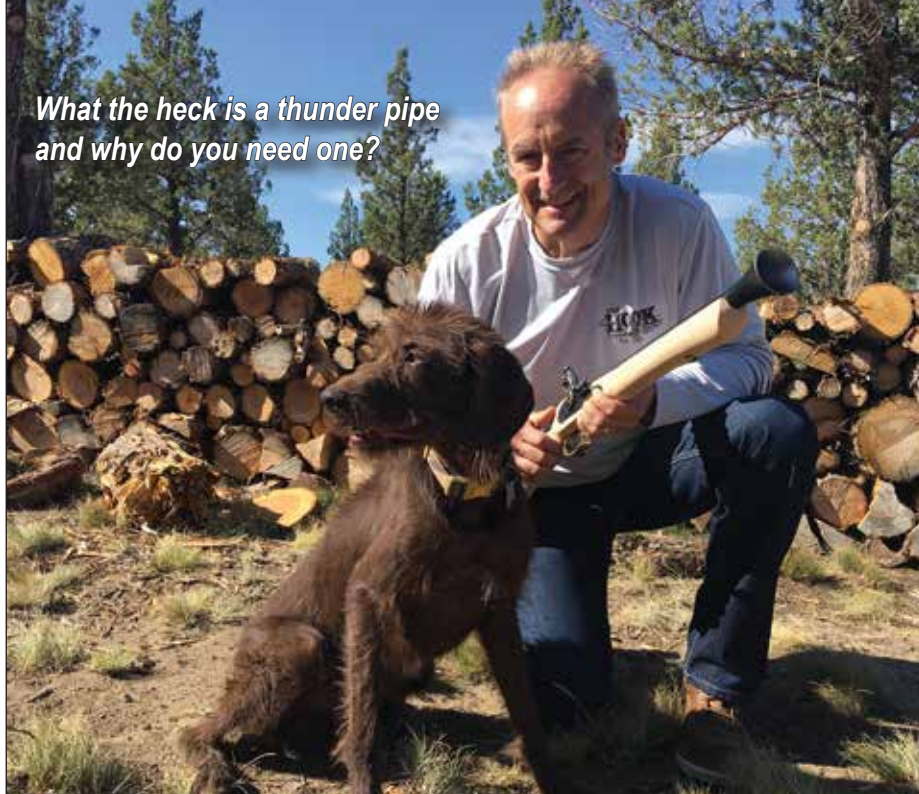
Ninety-nine out of 100 college graduates in a recent survey did not know what a blunderbuss was, nor did they care. We did not expect them to. College graduates haven’t given a rat’s rear end about history since 1812. It’s time we act like we care.

Even in the most backward nations like Idaho, they study history. For example, you can go to Boise and ask a college graduate what important building was erected on the shore of Lake Pend Oreille in 1809 and they will give you a blank stare. But if you find yourself in Sandpoint on a Saturday night and ask the same question in Salish, they will tell you, “Nek’we’, esel, chi’les, homme,” which translates “One, Two, Three. What are we fighting for.” Which means they are still stuck in the 1960s.

We, however, confess to being stuck in the 1700s, which is when the blunderbuss was at the height of its popularity. A blunderbuss is that firearm most often depicted in the clutches of a pilgrim or a privateer with a muzzle shaped like the bell of a trumpet.

The word itself comes from the Dutch donderbus, which means thunder pipe.

What the heck is a thunder pipe and why do you need one?



Sporting his new blunderbuss, this Pilgrim is aiming to put his Thanksgiving turkey in the pot.

Early thunder pipes were decorated with dragons hearkening to the fire-breathing beasts of legend.

The flared muzzle increased the spread of the shot and allowed for fast reloads, funneling powder and shot, making it a good choice for a man on horseback or in a carriage.

In the days of the pilgrims, yea me hearties, and out on the high seas, the blunderbuss was often fired by a fuse. Like a shoulder-mounted cannon, it was loaded with a suitable amount of powder and a charge of shot or nails or whatever might be available and the fuse touched off.

After the flintlock came into common use in the late 1700s, the blunderbuss became an even more useful tool.

Cheap to produce with a crude wooden stock and a short, often unfinished barrel, from the dirty streets of London to the mean back alleys of Boston and a lot of places in between, a blunderbuss was a gun for the carriage or the ship, and a defender of home and hearth.

It is a certainty that a lot of Conestogas and Studebaker wagons headed toward Oregon Territory (pronounced Oree-GONE by Missourians that were populating the new frontier) in the 1840s had a flared-muzzle shotgun tucked away inside. These were working guns, for close range self defense or to procure wild poultry like sage hens for the larder.

The Portuguese marines, the British Royal Mail, the Nottingham Police and even the Lewis & Clark expedition used blunderbusses mounted on swivels in the front of their pirogues.

From say 1770 to 1830, the blunderbuss would have been a flintlock and after that, the percussion lock would have been in more evidence. Even into the Civil War, the blunderbuss was still in common use.

Its advantages were it was concealable, did not take up a lot of space in storage and could sweep a swath of deck, a stretch of road or a patch of prairie when necessary, in the hands of a determined man, woman or child.

The blunderbuss available from Traditions Firearms and www.muzzle-loaders.com comes in .54-caliber. Of course, I still have to test loads, but I’m thinking it will take 90 to 100 grains of FF black powder, a cardboard wad, one to two ounces of bird shot and then two cardboard wads on top of that. I’ll fire it with a piece of flint.

Hunt with it? I’m thinking fall turkey or grouse. I’ll brown the barrel and put a dark finish on the wood and maybe carve a fire-breathing monster like an Imnaha Unit blue grouse on the stock. Or even that patron symbol of our pilgrim paternity, the domestic chicken.



To contact author Gary Lewis, visit www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

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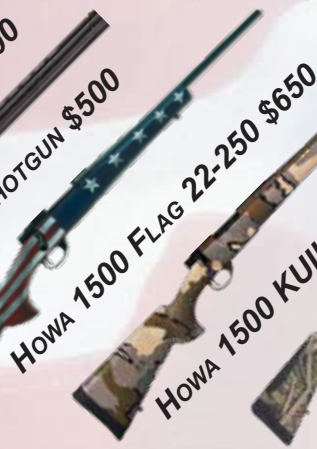
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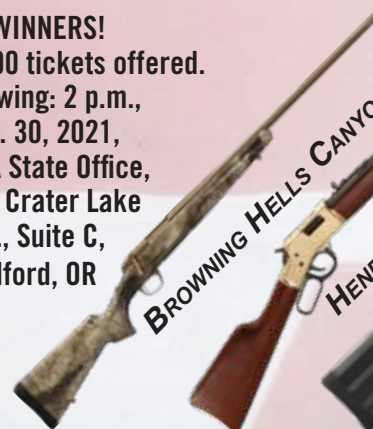


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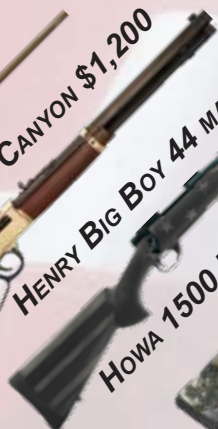


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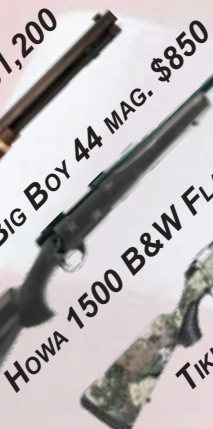
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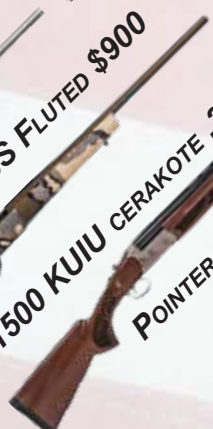
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Beginner's Buck

You're cold, wet and numb. Why in the world would you want to hunt out of a tree stand in Oregon during one of the rainiest months of the year? One thing you're guaranteed is to be shivering and miserable while hunting the western part of the state during November.

Hunting from a tree stand is often considered an eastern U.S. strategy for white-tailed deer. Rarely does one find the average hunter in Oregon or Washington hunting from a deer stand in the thick, dense coast range, or the valleys west of the Cascades. Even after talking to multiple successful hunters throughout the state, it was difficult to find someone with an archery blacktail tree stand story, let alone a story of a successful hunt.

Last season I hunted from a tree stand, which resulted in dozens of deer sightings and four shot opportunities.

Why hasn't it become more popular? Frankly, I have no explanation other than the lure of the western hunting adventure – long, drawn out valleys with rolling hills and deep coulees with easy areas to glass for a thousand yards or more. Anyone who has stepped into the dense forest of northwest Oregon knows that long glassing advantages are nearly impossible unless you have access to clear-cuts. Even then, that's mostly a rifle hunter's arena, which was the same strategy that I had for the first two seasons of hunting blacktails in Oregon. Drive clear-cuts, glass for bucks, navigate the swarms of other hunters, and glass some more. Many blacktails get harvested every year with this tactic, but after two years of coming up dry, it was time to find a new strategy.

The initial draw to commit to archery was the simple fact that I could hunt archery elk for basically the entire month

of September while holding both a deer and elk tag. The dual opportunity is well known among most Oregon hunters, and the cherry on top is that you can still hunt western Oregon for late-season archery deer during the rut. This offers increased hunting opportunity and a longer hunting season, and as a new archery hunter, I wanted all the time I could get.

Now three years in, I have been lucky enough to tag two blacktails with my bow. That success hasn't come without a whole lot of trial, error, and failure, but persistence has been the common denominator through everything.

Last season I chose to hunt from a tree stand, which resulted in dozens of deer sightings and four shot opportunities – by far my most successful blacktail season. In past years I had stuck with spot-and-stalk and still-hunting, but had nowhere near the amount of success as I enjoyed while hunting from a tree stand.

That being said, it has also been my

hardest season to date. I now have more respect than ever for the rifle and archery hunters to the east who find success in the deer woods from a stand, hunting 12- to 14-hour days through anything that Mother Nature throws at them. My hunt last year lasted a little over four days before I tagged my buck, and for the majority of them I came down from the tree with hands and feet numb, and my whole body shivering. The more successful hunters I talk to and learn from, the more I find that success increases with mental toughness, determination, and persistence.

Blacktails are often referred to as "gray ghosts," a fitting mythical title for these deer because of their elusive nature and fleeting encounters during the hunt. Blacktails, especially blacktail bucks, live up to the legend, but using a tree stand might level out the playing field for some hunters to find more success. As a relatively new hunter who still has a lot to learn, it definitely did for me.

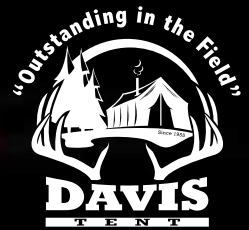


A new bowhunter, the author has learned much, including the success that tree stands produce.

PHOTO FROM THE AUTHOR

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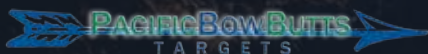


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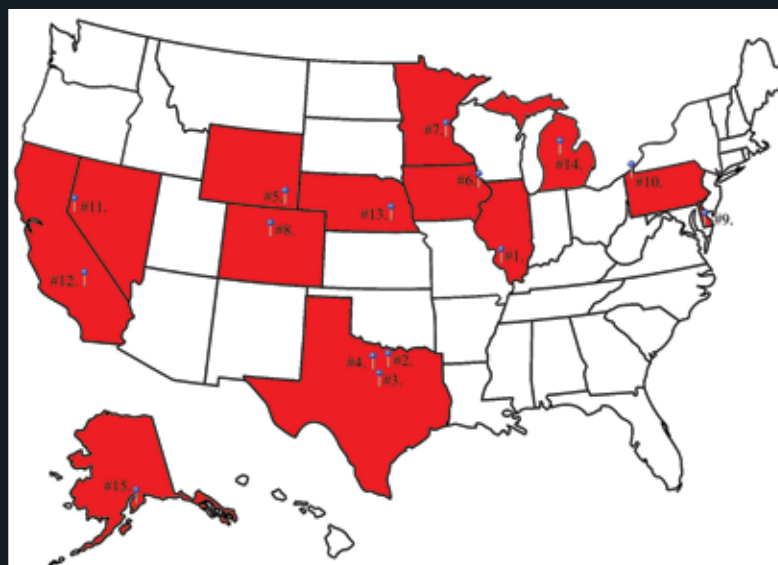
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OREGON'S EARLY BLACKTAILS



GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!

Story & Photos by Scott Haugen

Blacktail habits change with the season, so you must roll with the changes.

I watched from a distance as a young 3-point thrashed a small, dry, fallen Douglas fir. In less than 10 minutes, the young blacktail had stripped its velvet. Two other bucks – the same age and still in velvet – watched as their bachelor buddy carried on with intensity. It was late August, and I was scouting the Coast Range for elk.

Two days later I was back in the same spot, searching for a specific bull, when the same three bucks stepped onto the same ridge. This time the velvet was stripped from each, and two of them proceeded to spar and chase one another for several minutes – typical behavior this time of year.

The blacktail pre-rut begins once the velvet is shed. At this stage, testosterone levels begin to rise, and paying attention to bucks and does in an area occupies a buck's mind. For hunters, knowing the progression of the blacktail rut, beginning with the pre-rut, can help fill tags.

September Pre-Rut Behavior

While mature blacktail bucks largely turn nocturnal within a couple days of stripping their velvet, younger bucks are often doing the same thing they did all summer, in the same places. The difference is that now they can often be seen later into the morning hours as well as earlier in the evening as they check out nearby does, spar with bucks of the same age class, and feed.

While September is a tough time for archers to fill a blacktail tag via spot and stalk on the parched, noisy ground, there are options. Hunting from a ground blind or treestand along trails connecting bedding and feeding areas can be effective, as can spending time near water.

If you're hunting trails, don't be afraid to call, even rattle, in early September. Doe and fawn bleats can be highly effective at drawing in does, and often bucks in the two to four year old age class come barging in with them. If you're seeing bucks in an area and know does and fawns are around, aggressive bleats can work.

At the same time, rattling with a set of young blacktail antlers can bring bucks to your stand. Create timid, soft sounds that are barely audible to most humans. The goal is to achieve sounds the bucks are making, and they normally lightly clash headgear in early September while sizing-up one another. As the month rolls on, rattling will become less effective as behaviors shift to seeking seclusion and feeding.

For High Cascade rifle hunters in the mid-September season, watch for bucks on the move much of the morning, then search for them in beds overlooking open land or on shaded hillsides during the heat of the day. These bucks are often still continuing their summer patterns of movement, and knowing when and where that is will be key.



Eric Gossler used a treestand set along a series of trails to put his tag on this early September river-bottom blacktail near Springfield. Eric's key to success was patterning this buck.

If thermals are strong and cool in the late afternoon or early evening in the Cascades, bucks will often get up and feed, preparing for the upcoming rut when they will be losing critical weight. This is some of the last quality food many bucks will be getting for a few months, and they are drawn to it.

The First Rains

Whether the first fall rains come during the September archery and high Cascade season, or in October during the general rifle season, the wet conditions and drop in temperature get bucks excited. The cooling and decreasing daylight spur testosterone production, thus a spike in pre-rut behavior. Bucks will cover more ground and also spend more time feeding, getting food they've not had for several months.

The first rains will often result in sprouting grass, and with the barrage of wildfires that have swept through blacktail country in recent years, fresh food will become exposed. With a lack of logging on public ground, burns are some of the best open habitats in which to find blacktails. Blacktails can be seen rolling in ash to delouse themselves this time of year, too. I used to wait three to five years before hunting a burn; now I hunt them the very

next year – sometimes the same year – as they're a provider of much needed food once rains fall, and it doesn't take much moisture to stimulate new growth.

October Movement

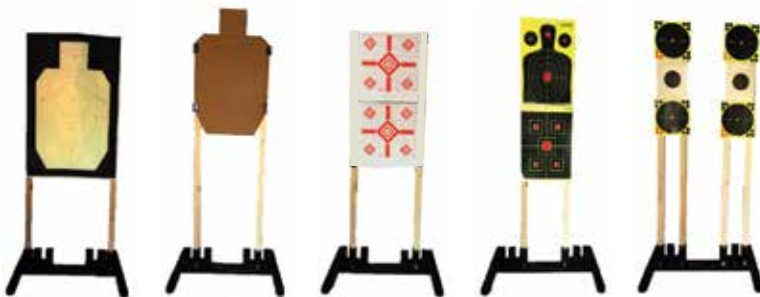
As October progresses, older blacktail bucks go on the move. This is a time when younger bucks slow down, for they don't want to encounter big bucks that aren't afraid to fight. The younger bucks already know what does are in their area, as well as what bucks they'll likely be fighting for improbable breeding rights.

By mid-October, it's all about the big bucks. Mature blacktails five years old and older that have been largely nocturnal almost immediately following the stripping of their velvet, and consumed with taking in as much food as possible while avoiding predators, begin to get serious. They can cover a lot of ground searching for does and finding bucks they'll soon be fighting.

This year there's no break in the Oct. 2–Nov. 5 Western General Season for blacktails, as the Cascade elk season got moved back. If, in years past, you hunted Cascade elk in October, you likely saw an increasing number of blacktails at that time. That's because this is about the peak of the pre-rut, when bucks cover ground.

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If you're not used to hunting Cascade blacktails in mid-October, do it, for many things are happening in the woods. If you're a Coast Range blacktail hunter, the rut starts kicking in around Oct. 15, a week to 10 days before the Cascade rut and at least two weeks ahead of valley floor's primary ruts. Of course, nothing is set in stone when it comes to pre-rut or primary rut blacktails, as anything can happen.

By the last week of October, try rattling and calling to bring big bucks out of the woodwork in the Cascades and foothills. Though they're not breeding heavy, bucks are eager to see what's happening, and rattling and calling can be good until the end of the month, with Halloween being a favorite day for many hunters.

With the general season going through Nov. 5 this year, take advantage of any bad weather. The harder it rains, the colder it is, and the more intense it's blowing, the more bucks will move, so hunt all day. It's nothing for a mature buck to cover two to three miles or more on such days, something I've witnessed multiple times, both in person and via trail cameras.

Generally, there's a lull between the pre-rut and peak rut, but that timeframe is impossible to pin down due to such varying factors as buck density, the age class of bucks in a given area from year to year, the number of mature does, predator intrusion, weather conditions, and even hunting pressure in a given locale; it will even vary among the many different types of habitats



Author Scott Haugen was elated with this mature benchleg blacktail taken high in the Cascades last season. Persistence and glassing paid off for Haugen and his buddy, Brandon Ayres, as they spotted the buck in a mid-morning bed.

that black-tailed deer call home.

Ultimately, the best way to fill a blacktail tag is by being in the field as much as possible. After 45 years of hunting these grand deer, I still have much to learn, yet acquire knowledge every single day I'm out there.

The key to success is paying very close attention to all that's happening, reading sign, interpreting sounds, monitoring weather, then efficiently covering

ground. The more time you spend chasing blacktails, the more you'll understand why I consider consistently taking a mature buck to be the toughest big game hunting challenge in North America.



To order Scott Haugen's best selling book, *Trophy Blacktails: The Science Of The Hunt*, visit www.scotthaugen.com. Follow Scott's adventures on Instagram and Facebook.



Check fire restrictions before heading afield. Prevent your campfires, smoking materials, equipment and off-road vehicles from sparking the next wildfire.


A large mule deer with impressive antlers is shown in profile, facing left. The deer is standing in a field of dry, brown brush and small trees. The antlers are large and multi-tined, with a light brown color. The deer's coat is a mix of grey and brown. The background is a dense thicket of dry brush and small trees, creating a textured, natural setting.

A DOZEN DAYS

FOR A MANZANITA MULEY

**On the 12th day of deer season,
his true love of hunting
was rewarded with a gift.**

STORY & PHOTOS BY GARY LEWIS



Oregon's October controlled mule deer rifle hunt is a 12-day affair, and it pays to spend every day in the field. After the first five or six days of the season, when everyone else has headed for home, a hunter can traverse miles of desert or high country without seeing another human.

Grocery stores and restaurants in communities like Juntura, Jordan Valley, Paisley, Bly and Bonanza keep uncertain hours. Fuel stations are few and far between. A veteran of central and eastern Oregon hunts fills up at every station and carries an extra 5 or 10 gallons in cans padlocked and chained to the bumper.

What the first-time visitor might remember more than anything else are the roads. They can turn a two-wheel drive pickup into a rattling bucket of bolts. Only four-wheel drive rigs with high clearance need apply. Bring two spare tires and

chains, because the character of the dirt tracks change when it rains. All that dust that blows in the rearview mirror turns to gumbo overnight.

The weather can turn fast, and with rain or snow, a deer hunter's odds go up. That's the way it happened for a young man with a deer tag in one of the most pressured opportunity hunts in the state.

Twelfth-Day Success



The boy, Paxton Eicher, killed his first deer when he was 12, a rite of passage of sorts. The deer was a blacktail doe (Central Melrose) and he took another blacktail the next year, this one, a 2x3 buck. It was a December day and we stalked it on a ridge parallel. Paxton laid down and shot it with a borrowed rifle.

It was always a borrowed rifle, until his 18th year, when he earned his own rifle, a Remington 783 topped with an Alpen scope.



Paxton Eicher and Gary Lewis with a matching set of elk antlers found while hunting a patch of mountain mahogany. Working for McLagan's Taxidermy, Paxton built a lamp for Gary with the antlers.

Eighteen, out of school, working in a taxidermy studio, he was still a kid, quiet, unassuming, yet behind those eyes burned a passion to hunt. He had learned he could find ducks on his own and bring home a brace of mallards before work, but he wanted his own buck to bring back to the

taxidermy studio.

I wouldn't be able to help. I was busy on the east side of the state and Paxton had a tag in the Upper Deschutes Unit.

"I just want a buck to practice on. It doesn't matter how big it is," he told me.

By the last day of the season, Paxton

had learned a few things. This was his first season by himself. His father was in Canada, I was busy filming television shows. Success or failure was up to him.

I woke that morning and thought of him, whispered a prayer. I knew he had risen early and was out there, somewhere.

The Upper Deschutes Unit is managed for opportunity. It is close to Bend, Oregon's most populous city east of the Cascades. Tags are easy to draw, even for out-of-state hunters, but hunting there isn't easy.

The Upper Deschutes Unit is managed for opportunity, meaning tags are easy to draw – even for nonresidents – but hard to fill.

On Day 11, Paxton spotted a group of does and watched them for a few minutes, trying to "grow" antlers on one of the females.

"I didn't know what I was doing the first few days," he said later. "I really



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learned a lot between the first day and the last day.”

Eleven days of hunting and dreaming about bucks can do that for a guy.

Last morning, Paxton had one spot in mind and he knew he had to be there before daylight.

Going up into an old burn, he found himself in tall manzanita at daylight. Although there was a fresh snow, the brush made too much noise and he knew he was in the wrong place when he found vacated deer beds.

He worked his way down and out of the brush to find a different way around. That’s when he saw the buck, its head down, feeding. Paxton had sighted the rifle in by himself. He was confident in the new load and scope, but he rushed the shot and missed.

Startled, the buck ran up the hill and offered one more chance, this time screened by brush, one gray shoulder exposed.

Paxton settled down and made the shot and walked up through the trees to kneel beside the four-by-five buck his bullet had stilled.

This was not just a buck to practice on; it could be the biggest he might ever



Paxton Eicher, hunting solo in Upper Deschutes, tagged this mule on the season's final day.

encounter on public land in Oregon.

At first, it looks so easy, a boy figures there isn’t a lot to learn. Then a mule deer buck gives him the slip in the manzanita and maybe he learns something. It happens again. He studies, puts the pieces together.

For some it takes a dozen seasons. Sometimes it takes 12 days.



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



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Ochoco Odyssey

Oregon Photo Essay
by Troy Rodakowski

Growing up hunting, fishing and camping in the Ochoco Mountains was truly a blessing. Our family has traveled there several times each year since the 1940s. We have names for hills, draws, canyons and roads that will never be on a map, and always make sure to stop at Tastee Treet in Prineville for a hamburger and shake. Our fire pit is still in the same location, with some of the same stones that previous generations placed around the ring way before I was close to stomping around those beautiful hills. The stones around that fire pit old and new for over 50 years could tell some amazing stories. Although the camp has changed over the years, it still feels the same and I can vividly smell the aroma of its smoke as it floats across the crisp Ochoco air.

I shot my first buck from that camp when I was 12 years old, and I even used my old .32 Winchester Special lever action with open sights. Boy, I was excited and can remember that like it was yesterday. Still have that little gun, too. Back in the 50s and 60s it was all gravel road into our old camp; nowadays there is pavement for a good portion of the trip. The older generations told stories of massive mule deer, and always had a camp full of bucks with impressive antlers. Grandpa, dad and my uncles all used to shoot very nice deer back in the late 60s through the 70s. It was rare to see many elk back in those days. In fact, it was a big deal to even put eyes on one or even find sign. That has changed as well over the years, with more elk and fewer deer found throughout the unit.

The Shoshone Native Americans spoke of the Ochoco and John Day Highlands as a fruitful place for game and rich plant life in the land they called home. The Spanish traveled back and forth throughout the range and mined in the 1800s. Gold





The deer and the antelope still play on the range in the Ochoco Unit, although big mule bucks are not the common sight they once were.



Hawk soaring over Ochoco/Duane Dungannton

was discovered at the headwaters of the Crooked River in 1845, and old mines can still be found throughout the country, many of which are on private lands. It was rumored that one of the biggest gold nuggets west of the Mississippi was once found in this great land. Wild horses of Spanish descent can still be found throughout the mountains today.

Old settler cabins are scattered throughout the countryside and are proof of the long rich history here. Settlers began to find their way to the Ochoco between 1840 and 1860. Old military roads are still barely visible throughout the range if one is lucky enough to stumble onto a piece of one. Although there are many mountains, creeks and trees throughout this land, it is also home to vast sections of desert sage, greasewood and the occasional juniper.

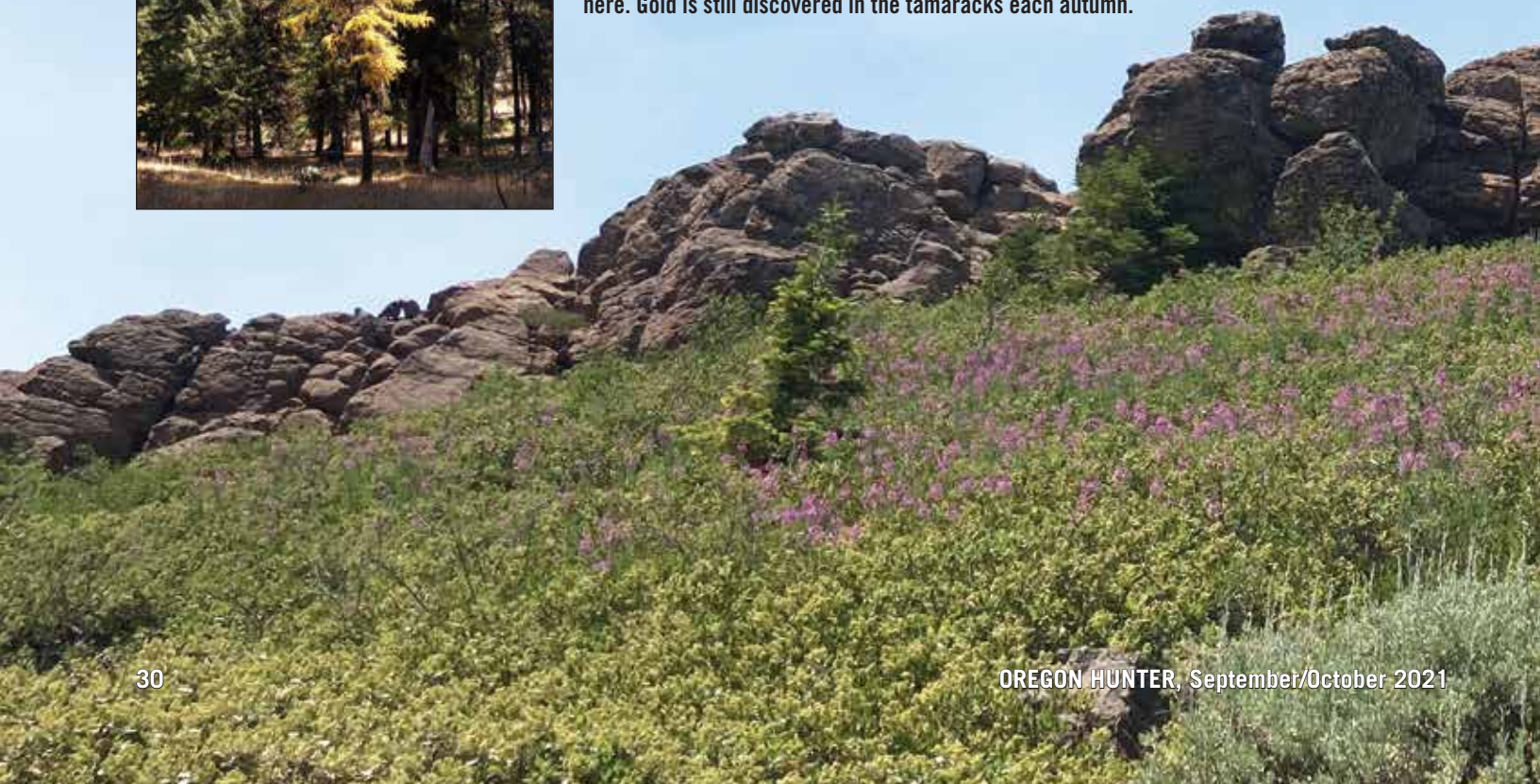
Hunting history here is rich and still pretty good. Over the many years, we have been fortunate enough to shoot nice mule

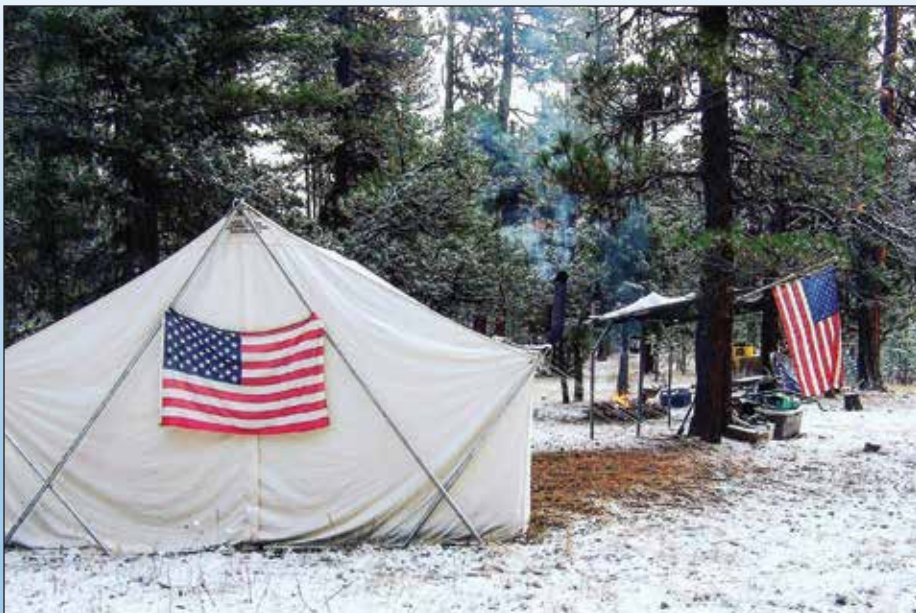


A roaring campfire is a fitting toast to the end of an enjoyable day of hunting.



Feral horses, decendants of stock belonging to the Spanish who toiled for gold, still roam here. Gold is still discovered in the tamaracks each autumn.





Fresh tracking snow is an Ochoco elk hunter's friend – until it gets too deep.



OHA helped build a buck & pole fence to protect Derr Meadow this year. OHA also successfully sued the federal government recently to protect sensitive elk habitat in the Ochoco Mountains.

deer, elk, antelope, turkeys and upland birds. Of course, there are always bears, coyotes and mountain lions roaming about. We had heard the rumor from a few ranchers that there were some black colored wolves hanging around, and my uncle was able to spot one in 2019. Almost exactly a year later we were in the same area and had a black wolf cross our path from about 100 yards away. I guess that's proof enough for me that they are here.

Elk thrive in the deep canyons and creek drainages of the Ochoco, the deer enjoy the mahogany thickets and thrive on the excellent forage throughout the draws, and the pronghorn antelope make good use of the prairie land and patchy timber. Increasing numbers of turkeys are also expanding throughout the forest, making the land fruitful and rich for hunters.

That fire pit beckons us every season and whether we have a tag in hand or find ourselves just needing a whiff of that fresh mountain air, we always seem to make our way back to this place. We sat around the old fire pit once again last fall at late elk camp with family and friends. Unfortunately, the trip was short-lived due to a severe snowstorm that forced us to break camp early. Nonetheless, we made a few more great memories around that fire ring in the land of the mighty Ochoco.



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Despite the summer heat spells, game bird numbers – both upland and waterfowl – seem to be hanging in there across most of the state, partially due to relatively good spring weather that increased upland bird chick survival and a not-too-severe winter that saw more birds making it through the cold months. The one big exception is the desert regions of southeastern Oregon where ongoing drought conditions are taking their toll on the birds and their habitat, upland and waterfowl alike.

Here's an overview of what ODFW biologists said about game bird populations and hunting prospects for this year.

Pheasant

Once a pheasant hunting hot spot, western Oregon, and the Willamette Val-

ley in particular, has seen a significant decline in wild pheasant numbers over the decades. This has been due primarily to development and more efficient farming methods that leave less food and habitat for the birds to utilize.

For that reason, the best long tail hunting in the western part of the state is put-and-take fee hunting programs, which are sponsored by the ODFW at Denman, E.E. Wilson, Fern Ridge and Sauvie Island wildlife areas.

The best places in Oregon for wild pheasants remain North-Central Oregon, the Vale-Nyssa area and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Pheasant numbers in general are good to average. Steve Cherry, Heppner-based District Wildlife Biologist, said that he is seeing good numbers of pheasants and broods. "There are still wild

marsh birds out on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge," said Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Lee Foster, based in Hines. "But you can walk a long way before you see one." But even in the Vale-Nyssa area, traditionally one of Oregon's better pheasant hunting regions, District Wildlife Biologist Phillip Milburn noted that more efficient farming techniques are having an impact on the birds.

Overall pheasant numbers are decent, but the birds are definitely not as abundant as they once were.

Quail

"I think most of the upland game birds, including quail, are doing well this year," said Chris Yee, District Wildlife Biologist in Springfield. "It was a dry spring. It's those wet springs that can cause chicks to die of hypothermia. We are going to have



HUNG OUT TO DRY

a good season across the board.”

Tod Lum, Roseburg-based District Wildlife Biologist, reported that valley quail are doing well, and there are good numbers of them in the lower elevations of the Rogue Valley. The area is experiencing drought conditions, so he does have some concerns about how that might affect the birds and brood production. Steve Cherry also reported healthy numbers of valley quail in his region.

It's a different story in southeast. “It's shockingly, shockingly dry in the desert, which leads me to believe that it won't be a good production year for game birds,” reported Lee Foster in Hines. That includes valley quail.

As for mountain quail, Dave Nuzum, District Wildlife Biologist in Tillamook, Lum and Yee all reported good numbers

with good overwinter survival and brood production.

Forest Grouse

Forest grouse numbers are looking pretty good this year. Said Nuzum in Tillamook, “On our grouse hooting surveys this year we are only a little bit back from last year's record numbers. So there are still high numbers of birds out there.” Although they only survey for sooty grouse, Nuzum noted that what's good for sooty grouse is good for ruffed grouse as well.

Chris Yee in Springfield is also seeing good populations of forest grouse. Roseburg-based Tod Lum reported that his grouse numbers look good with one caveat. “We had a pretty good spring rain, so we still need to see if that cold and wet affected brood production,” he said.

Lum also encouraged grouse hunters

(and mountain quail hunters) to participate in the grouse barrel collection program, which provides ODFW biologists with important management information. A map of collection barrel locations can be found under the Articles section on the ODFW website, “Forest grouse and mountain quail hunters: Turn in wings and tails.”

(<https://myodfw.com/articles/forest-grouse-and-mountain-quail-hunters-turn-wings-and-tails>)

Sage Grouse

Sage grouse were hard hit in recent years by range fires that destroyed large tracts of habitat, and now persistent drought conditions are not helping.

“We were on our way up for sage grouse over the past few years, but given the drought conditions, I expect we will see a drop in production,” said Lee Foster.

ROGUE VALLEY HUNTERS/RANDY SHIPLEY, WASHPILEY.ZENFOLD.COM

2021 OREGON GAMEBIRD PREVIEW

BY JIM YUSKAVITCH

The drought may have hurt spring waterfowl nesting, and it sure won't help draw migrating birds this fall.



JIM WARD

A dry spring probably helped nesting success for upland birds, but drought could take a toll.

Chukar

Chukars are also suffering in the High Desert region due to the ongoing drought, and Foster is expecting lower production. Chukar is another species that was on the upswing until the persistent drought conditions arrived. Finding chukars in their High Desert canyon habitat may be a little tougher this year.

On the other hand, Steve Cherry in

Heppner is reporting decent numbers of chukar and chukar brood production in his district.

Wild Turkey

Wild turkeys seem to be doing well everywhere. "It should be a good year for turkeys," said Todd Lum of Roseburg. "There are plenty of turkeys, and I am seeing large broods walking around." Lum's primary problem with wild turkeys is that he has too many of them and is getting damage complaints from area ranchers and farmers. Problem birds are sometimes captured and released in the Keno Unit.

Chris Yee in Springfield reported that his wild turkey numbers are good, but they are all on private land. But he said you can register to hunt turkeys on private land through the Hunt by Reservation Program on the ODFW website on the wild turkey hunting page under Game Bird Hunting. Yee does warn that spots fill up quickly.

(<https://myodfw.com/articles/hunt-reservation-program>)

Turkeys are also expanding their populations on the east slope of the Cascade Mountains, John Day area and in northeast Oregon. Ochoco elk hunters reported seeing broods while scouting in July.

Doves & Band-tailed Pigeons

Mourning dove populations tend to be pretty stable throughout Oregon, and that remains true for this year. Hunting opportunities generally depend on how soon the fall cold snaps drive the bulk of the birds south.

The Ontario area is among the top destinations for mourning dove hunters, where irrigated land and grain fields provide excellent opportunities. There are also good opportunities on public lands along irrigation ditches where trees have grown to provide roosting sites and at waterholes.

Band-tailed pigeon populations seem to be holding steady, as well. Dave Nuzum in Tillamook hears them regularly when he is out in the woods. Tod Lum in Southwest Oregon said that local band-tailed pigeon populations are doing well, and notes that they have lately been descending on local commercial blueberry farms, much to the displeasure of the farmers.

Ducks and Geese

"It looks like good production for local birds," said Dave Nuzum on the North Coast. "Hunting for resident ducks should be good in early fall." Lum reported that resident ducks in southwest Oregon are

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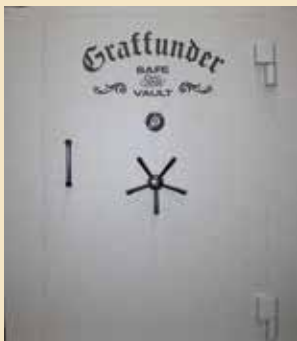
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Resident duck numbers are faring well in some areas of the state, while the ongoing drought has dried up habitat in other areas.

also doing well with projected good hunting opportunities this fall. Resident duck populations are also doing well along the upper Columbia River, according to Steve Cherry in Heppner, with good public hunting access at a number of wildlife areas and national wildlife refuges.

However, Chris Yee at the Springfield ODFW office reported that they are suffering from drought conditions that are affecting resident duck populations. "This year is going to be a disappointing season for waterfowl hunters," he said.

Ongoing drought has been especially hard on High Desert ducks. "Waterfowl hunting is not going to be any good this season," said Lee Foster in Hines. He noted that the North Malheur Lake Hunt Area is closed if the water level drops to less than 10,000 acres, which is almost certain to be the case this fall.

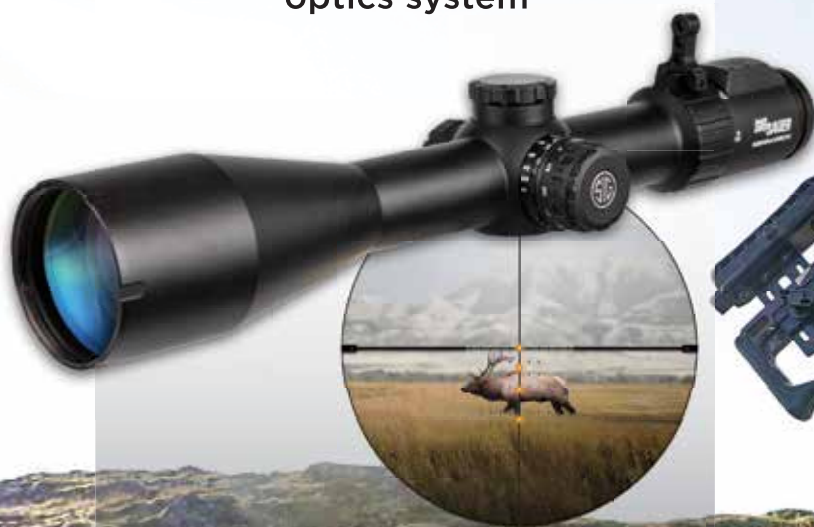
For most of the state, early season hunting for resident ducks should be decent. Later season hunting opportunities will depend on the fall migration down the Pacific Flyway. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Canadian Wildlife Service canceled its 2021 waterfowl surveys. Ducks Unlimited has reported that, with the exception of Alaska, late spring drought conditions prevailed for much of the waterfowl nesting habitat in British Columbia and Alberta.

Geese, both resident Canada geese and migratory geese, are doing well as usual, and hunters will find plenty of good opportunities for the upcoming season. 

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OWYHEE: OREGON'S OUTBACK

BY CAMDEN HAMMER

Though it sometimes feels like there are no secret special places left in Oregon, the Owyhee canyonlands are a diamond in the rough. Located along the eastern border of Oregon, the canyonlands boast more than 2 million acres of open natural desert, rolling hills and deep canyons formed by wind and water. The skies above are some of the least light-polluted in the lower 48.

Pronghorn antelope hunting in the area is excellent, though you'll probably have to wait many years until you draw a rifle tag for the Owyhee or neighboring Whitehorse Unit. Odds are better for drawing an archery tag. Those who draw pronghorn tags should head out in June and July to scout for antelope and hunt coyotes. Note where you see sage grouse, and plan a return trip for coyotes in September/October when predator hunting is at its peak.

Antelope can be found just about anywhere, but you must spend time behind the glass. Pronghorns are drawn to water sources that break up the desert.

We were crouched amongst the short sage around the perimeter of an oasis. We had been stalking a herd of antelope since the break of dawn. Bucks were busy running each other around as does and fawns fed and lounged mid-morning.

On hands and knees, the three of us crawled to within 257 yards of the herd. Prone over a backpack, my father chambered a round in the Browning A-Bolt .243 WSSM. I rattled the range off, and the rifle barked. The buck crashed to the ground in a heap of dust. There were high fives all-around as my dad notched his third Oregon pronghorn tag in four years. It had taken 12 years to draw the first tag, but we always had an excuse to visit the area even if we weren't hunting big game.

Variety of Wildlife

The Owyhee maintains robust wildlife populations, providing great hunting experiences and opportunities in this remote region. There are only three paved roads in the area, keeping it one of the greatest undeveloped land expanses in the lower 48.

Pronghorns and coyotes are not the

only animals that call this place home. Mule deer, chukars, sage grouse, bighorn sheep, bobcats, badgers, horned lizards, rattlesnakes, and a few elk have also staked their claim in the region.

The coyote hunting has always been exceptional, until 2015 when predator control agents in helicopters began frequenting the region. Coveys of chukars can be found anywhere, and sage grouse seem to flourish.

Mule deer can be difficult to find, but when you do find them, there's a good chance you will see a dandy buck. It typically takes 4 preference points to chase 4-points in the unit. That being said, it is a fair wait – much like the type of hunting this region requires. You'll want to perch yourself in a spot with a commanding view of the country. Sit and glass, and pick the landscape apart piece by piece repeatedly before moving spots.

Look where the deer are, not where you expect them to be. Deer will be found where there is water, good forage, higher elevation, and tall sage where they can bed



Brent Wright

You can find solitude in the Owyhee, as well as an occasional shed mule deer antler.



BLM photo

and hide. Quality bucks are often taken in the Owyhee canyon itself. Glass up deer from one side of the canyon, swing around to the opposite side, and drop down on top of them for a sneaky clean shot.

The list of scenic attractions in the Owyhee knows no bounds. There are numerous options for scenic hikes and overlooks. The trail through Leslie Gulch is only 2.3 miles and 1,300 feet of elevation gain. For the more technical hiker, there is the Succor Creek Trail at 28.7 miles and 3,800 feet of elevation gain. And for the in-betweeners, the Painted Canyon loop is 8.5 miles with an elevation gain of 1,200 feet. All are examples of the Owyhee canyonland's splendor.

A rockhounding paradise, Succor Creek Natural Area offers primitive campsites, geodes galore, and opportunities to discover petroglyphs. The creek and surrounding vegetation attract an array of bird species.

Spend the early day rockhounding and hiking, then head over to the Three Forks recreation area and lounge in the lazy river while fishing for bass. If you get cold, head up the hill to the hot springs for a soak and natural shoulder massage from the warm mini waterfalls that flow into the hot pools of water.

Owyhee Reservoir and the three forks of the Owyhee River offer great fishing

where you can angle for smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, crappie, rainbows, channel catfish and even yellow perch. Keep your eyes peeled for bighorn sheep in the surrounding rimrock.

Hawaiian Origin

The Owyhee canyonlands were named in honor of three Hawaiian members of a fur-trapping party, lost to the region in 1819. "Owyhee" and "Hawaii" are two different spellings of the same word.

Unless you live in southeastern Oregon, it is a poke to reach Owyhee, but every mile traveled is well worth it. Carry extra food and supplies, as well as means to remove a stuck vehicle. The region is dry and dusty until it rains, then it can be a mudhole. The best time to avoid any undesirable weather is late summer/early fall, when chances of rain are lower, and the air has begun cooling off. Summers are quite hot and winters severe.

The Owyhee region is a spectacular and relatively remote region, which is why OHA is working with local groups to form plans to conserve the character of the Owyhee canyonlands and our access to hunt them.



Author Camden Hammer is an Oregonian public land hunter. He founded HammerDown Outdoors and helps operate HammerDown Firearms gun shop in Bend.

OHA committed to conserving Owyhee

The rugged country in the Owyhee canyonlands offers an outstanding opportunity for landscape-scale conservation. OHA is working through a coalition of sportsmen's groups and sporting businesses – Owyhee Sportsmen – to ensure this remarkable area remains unspoiled by development.

A proposal by Senators Wyden and Merkley, called the Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act, contains solutions for the 32 wilderness study areas, with designations either going into multiple use or wilderness areas. The Owyhee Sportsmen have been providing input to Sen. Wyden's office to consider the interests of habitat, wildlife, hunting and fishing.

As former OHA Conservation Director Jim Akenson penned: "The way to keep wild country the same is not by doing nothing. Without protection, change will come, and it likely won't be change favorable to habitat, wildlife and hunting. Hunters can be at the table actively shaping the future of the landscape in the Owyhee, or we can sit on the sidelines and watch what happens."

OHA will be engaged in the conversation around the Owyhee area to ensure that hunters and wildlife will continue to benefit from this unique part of our state.

For more, visit owyheesportsmen.org
—Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director

Owyhee Sunrise/Tyler Dunganon, OHA Conservation Coordinator

Photos courtesy of the author



After your predator hunt in the Owyhee, take a dip in Three Forks Hot Springs.

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GAME ON THE GRILL

By TIFFANY HAUGEN

High Pressure Pigeons & Doves

One of the quickest ways to cook your quarry is by pressure cooking. Lean game birds especially benefit from moist cooking methods like a slow cooker or pressure cooker. Getting flavor into birds prior to cooking with a quick brine is also beneficial. Right after plucking and dressing your birds, toss them into a brine, refrigerate a few hours, and you'll be ready to add some herbs and enjoy a fresh dove or pigeon dinner quickly, right out of your Instant Pot.

2-4 pigeons or 8-10 doves, dressed & plucked

6 cups water

1/3 cup kosher salt

1/4 cup white sugar

1 tablespoon black pepper

1 medium onion, chopped

1 cup chopped celery

1 large sprig fresh rosemary

4-6 fresh sage leaves

1/2 cup fresh parsley

1/2 cup chopped tomatoes

1 cup chicken or game bird broth

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons butter

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon granulated garlic

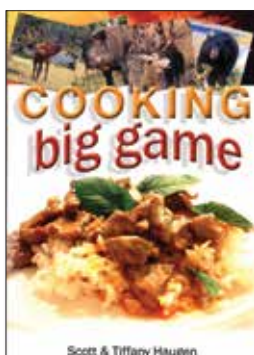
1 tablespoon cornstarch dissolved in 2 tablespoons cold water

Fresh parsley for garnish

In a large container, mix water, kosher salt, white sugar and black pepper until thoroughly combined. Add birds to the brine and cover so birds are fully submerged. Refrigerate 3-12 hours.

Remove birds from brine and pat dry. Let sit at room temperature 15-30 minutes. In a pressure cooker on medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add olive oil and brown birds until golden on all sides. Add onion and celery and sauté until soft. Add rosemary, sage, parsley, tomatoes, broth, salt and granulated garlic to the pressure cooker. Cook at high-pressure 30 minutes and let pressure release naturally. Remove birds from pressure cooker and bring pan drippings to a boil. In a small bowl mix cornstarch with cold water until thoroughly combined. Add to the boiling pan drippings and stir until sauce reaches desired thickness. Pour sauce over birds and serve garnished with fresh parsley.

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



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YOUNG GUNS

By JASON HALEY

Birds outside the Box

ODFW's youth pheasant hunts are great, but they're short and sweet at best, often conflicting with other hunts and activities. Luckily, there are other cool and unique hunts for youngsters to consider without drawings, orientations or sign-ups.

The hot, dry weather should make good dove hunting (see Oregon Afield on Page 10). Dad bought me a case of Western (Dove & Quail) loads when I was a kid. I nearly burned through it before downing a dove on the wing. It should've been traumatic, but wasn't. I can still smell the powder. Cozy-up to a farmer. It'll go a long way toward a quality, low-key hunt. I drove by a place in Klamath County last fall that was absolutely loaded. Eurasian collared doves are expanding, and ODFW is encouraging hunters to get after 'em; there is no bag limit or closed season.

My great uncle's favorite, band-tailed pigeon, an Oregon native, opens statewide on Sept. 15 and closes Sept. 23. Western Oregon has a good population. I've seen bunches in the Rogue and Applegate. They are common in semi-open forests that have slope and checkerboard logging and tend to fly tree-to-tree in groups. They are challenging targets at typically longer ranges. Flush them from dead tree tops, and they'll likely circle back in a while, so wait. They're partial to elderberries. Consider a



The author's son Jacob took this grouse on a hunt near home. Grouse season opens before school does, and no reservations are required.



PHOTOS BY THE AUTHOR

These young guns enjoyed a good day at a preserve, where the bag limit is your credit card limit.

bird dog to help find dead birds. Kennel them until needed. The limit is 2 per day. Rock pigeons aren't regulated.

Wild chukar hunts are totally western, and worth it, and a far cry from club hunts. ODFW's 2020-21 forecast stated that chukars are "showing a strong increase from the previous year, and are exceeding the long-term average." Harney and Baker districts showed the highest densities, followed by Grant. Grant and Heppner had the highest production. The John Day and Deschutes River canyons remain good, but there are easier hunts in the sagebrush foothills. Consider going dog-less with a kid. That is, unless he/she needs to get in shape for fall sports. As fun as it is for adult handlers, I've taken just as many without dogs and the pace and stealth may suit you.

Mountain quail and grouse can be found in hilly buckbrush abutting mixed conifers in southwest Oregon or behind gates on timberland. Clear-cuts that are 2 to 5 years old provide good quail cover and are still thin enough to hunt. Aspen patches and lodgepole meadows on public land are good for grouse. Might need a pointer, lest ye be surprised.

Preserves are hard to beat. The birds will be there, raptors permitting. These offer good opportunities to get in some field work for kids and dogs, sometimes before school starts. There are more than 30 licensed preserves in Oregon.

Invasive European starlings aren't regulated. They damage crops, steal food and raid nests. Not too long ago, before ammo shortages, farmers would host shooters and supply shells. Just sayin'.

2021 ODFW YOUTH UPLAND BIRD HUNTS

- **September 11-12:**
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- **September 18-19:**
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- **September 25-26:**
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- **October 16-17:**
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- **October 23:**
Klamath Wildlife Area



Reservations

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DERR MEADOW

OHA signs group letter on elk archery regs



By Jim Akenson, OHA NE Director

OHA has been actively involved in giving input on ODFW's proposal to make changes to eastern Oregon's archery regulations, primarily as part of a series of sport group meetings spanning the last couple years.

This proposal culminated with the Fish and Wildlife Commission putting these changes into rule at the Aug. 6 Commission meeting.

The ODFW staff proposal adds eight wildlife management units to the seven existing controlled units for archery and leaves the rest of the state in one general season for archery.

OHA submitted a detailed letter with 3 other sportsmen's groups.

There will also be a five-unit Eagle Cap Zone including and surrounding the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

OHA supports these changes, including the zone concept, assuming that elk tag numbers were within objectives for biological factors and equity in harvest distribution for all weapon types.

In addition, OHA has strongly encouraged establishing a statewide controlled archery youth hunt, which would allow youth to hunt the newly proposed controlled units, and general hunt units, during archery season.

OHA will submit a separate letter encouraging this youth hunt concept and hope that our membership will also contribute support for future bowhunters.

OHA submitted a detailed letter to the Commission jointly with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Oregon Outdoor Council, and Traditional Archers of Oregon.

The joint letter can be viewed at <https://oregonhunters.org/documents>

OHA safe crossing work continues

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

OHA has been actively engaged with our conservation partners to help forge the way for both identifying critical wildlife crossing locations, and securing funding for construction of passage structures in Oregon.

The Watch for Wildlife license plate campaign, participation in a work group for HB 2834 to look at state funding sources, taking advantage of Secretarial Order 3362 for projects on Department of the Interior lands, and pressing for passage of the federal transportation bill that includes \$100 million for wildlife crossings in the western U.S. are recent examples of our work.

OHA lobbies for Hart Mountain management

By Craig Foster, OHA Advisory Council Member, and Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator

The bighorn sheep population on the Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge has substantially declined, and inventory data indicate that the mule deer population on the refuge has also declined considerably.

Continued bighorn decline could lead to either the extirpation of the population or trap them in a "predator pit" where low numbers remain, but the population cannot increase under the pressure of predation. Cougar predation is especially impactful when bighorn sheep density is low and individual cougars become "bighorn sheep specialists."

Based on the observed data, both the USFWS and ODFW believe this is the case for the Hart Mountain bighorn sheep herd, and OHA supports that conclusion. OHA submitted comments to the USFWS and emphasized that implementation of the cougar control measures presented in the Draft Hart Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan is the best management decision for reversing the current bighorn and mule deer population decline.

OHA STATE-LEVEL SPONSORSHIPS

Please support the sponsors who support OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

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

OHA eyes Klamath wildlife crossing on Highway 140

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA recently obtained information from local ODOT personnel that an ungulate crossing structure currently exists on privately owned lands on Highway 140 west of Doak Mountain.

OHA staff confirmed this information and eagerly contacted ODFW and ODOT regarding the underpass and the possibility of utilizing the crossing for deer and elk in an effort to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

This 6-mile stretch of highway has been identified by ODOT as a priority area given the number of vehicle strikes on mule deer dating back to 2016. OHA, ODFW, ODOT and Mule Deer Foundation met at the site in mid-June, and the process to plan and map this fencing project to funnel wildlife under the highway has begun.

OHA hopes to soon meet with the landowner and will provide assistance to agencies moving ahead.

All Hands Make Light Work



70 volunteers participated at this summer's All Hands, All Brands for Public Lands event in the Ochocos, which produced a mile of buck and pole fence built to protect Derr Meadow, a mile of old wire fence removed, maintenance on nine guzzlers and several past projects monitored. Volunteers worked 1,095 hours on the fence and 40 hours on guzzlers. Participants were OHA members from Bend, Capitol, Emerald, Tualatin Valley, Mid-Willamette and Redmond, along with RMEF, BHA, NWTf, USFS & ODFW. The event featured an archery and .22 rifle/pistol shoot, BBQ steak dinner, and raffles with items donated by Sig, Nosler, Oregon Pack Works, RMEF, Bend OHA and others. A nice evening finished with Mikal Cline and Chad Marks-Fife providing music.

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Chapters spruce up our woods

Below are the regularly scheduled times and places for chapter meetings, many of which were suspended at press time, and previously scheduled projects. Please confirm all info in 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.

Update: Tickets for the Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle are on sale now. The banquet has been postponed; go to our Facebook page for news and updates. We plan to hold a scholarship raffle and issue a scholarship this year.

BEND

Rex Parks
(541) 480-0230

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Bend Golf & Country Club

Update: June 5 was Youth Day at Cyrus Ranch in Sisters. The chapter contributed \$4,992 in materials for the All Hands All Brands for Public Lands project at Derr Meadows in June. Many thanks to all the participants, cooks, donors, and organizer Eric Brown. Chapter members volunteered at Ladies Hunting Camp July 22-25. Our chapter awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program cadets.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Dean Groshong
(541) 377-1227

ohablumountainchapter@gmail.com

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.

Update: Our banquet was canceled, but we are holding raffles to raise funds; call 541-231-4384.

CAPITOL

Erik Colville
(503) 851-8409
ohacapitol.webs.com



OHA's Klamath Chapter and other volunteers in June cleaned up Green Diamond forestland that is open to public hunting, another example of OHA working with landowners who offer public access.



Chapter Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., via Zoom through 2021.

2021 fund-raiser: Held July 21-31 online.

Update: Our chapter worked again with the USFS Prairie City Ranger District June 25-26 repairing fences we constructed in the past. Bucket drawings were held July 27 for three archery packages. We hope to resume in-person general meetings in January.

CHETCO

David Green
(541) 207-4866

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 Clubhouse, Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

Update: We are holding the Les Schwab and Coastal raffles this year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Jordan Hicks
(949) 533-7271

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

2021 fund-raiser: Held June 5.

Update: Our chapter picnic was held July 17, and featured free bow shooting.

EMERALD VALLEY

Tony Hilsendager
(541) 729-0877

EmeraldOHA@live.com

Chapter Meetings: Currently on hold.

Update: The 2021 Charles Anthony Scholarship has been awarded to Blossom Van Kinkle. The chapter is planning for a fund-raising banquet in 2022.

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.

Update: Family Fun Night in June was enjoyed by about 45 folks. Certified member instructors have been presenting adult Learn to Hunt classes via Zoom and in person at Sportsman's Warehouse in Portland. General membership meetings have been held via Zoom. The White River Wildlife Area project was nixed again this year.

JOSEPHINE COUNTY

Cliff Peery
(541) 761-3200

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

Update: In-person chapter meetings resumed in August. Our board voted to support the Minam River Wildlife Area acquisition project, pledging \$10,000 toward OHA's \$100,000 contribution goal. Thanks to all who participated in our successful virtual banquet and helped make this possible. Our chapter family campout at Willow Lake was replaced by a chapter picnic June 26 at Fields Park in Murphy. Our duck box project has concluded for the year, with 23 boxes built and installed.

KLAMATH

Allan Wiard
(541) 884-5773

ohaklamath.webs.com

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

2021 fund-raiser: Held online June 9-13.

Update: Fires permitting, the chapter will put on a BBQ for youth antelope hunters Aug. 20 at Gerber Reservoir; call 541-281-6518. The youth chukar hunt is scheduled for Oct. 23-24; call 541-643-7077. The annual ODFW public meeting, held July 8, replaced our regular chapter meeting. The chapter awarded the 2021 Bob Boring Scholarship to Eric Jackson.

LAKE COUNTY

Larry Lucas

(541) 417-2983

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

2021 fund-raiser: Held online June 19-July 4.

Update: Coastal Farm & Ranch raffle ticket sales end Sept. 5; the drawing will be Sept. 6 at the Lake County Fair Rodeo. Youth Day was rescheduled to Sept. 18 at Juniper RV Resort in Lakeview; call 541-417-2983 or 541-810-1617. Oct. 16 and 23 are duck/goose box project days, and our second guzzler project is on for Oct. 30; call 541-417-1750.

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: Our annual free youth shotgun shoot was held Aug. 7. Though general membership meetings are on hold, our board continues to meet and conduct chapter business.

MID-COLUMBIA

Stanley Walasavage

(541) 296-1022

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

Update: Our July 16 board and membership meeting took place at the Sorosis Park Pavilion. Contact Stan to buy tickets for the Coastal Farm & Ranch gun, a Christensen Arms Mesa Titanium .28 Nosler; swalasavage@gmail.com or 541-296-1022.

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 fund-raiser: Held June 19.

Update: We plan to award a \$1,500 scholarship this year. Email oha.mid.willamette@gmail.com to request an application.

OCHOCO

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: Held May 1-14 online.

Update: Sight-in-Days at Canby Rod & Gun Club are Sept. 18-19 and Sept. 25-26; call 503-710-1233. The Pioneer Chapter Family Campout took place June 18-21. We had a booth at the Molalla Buckaroo July 1-4, and will have one at the Clackamas County Fair Aug. 17-21; call 503-710-1233. We are offering two scholarships this year. Our membership voted to support the Minam River Wildlife Area land acquisition. The chapter will contribute \$5,000, and will raise that to \$10,000 if four other chapters also contribute \$10,000.

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, member meeting at 6, board meeting follows.

2021 banquet: Held June 5.

Update: The Redmond OHA Chapter will donate \$10,000 for the purchase of more than 15,000 acres along the Minam River Wildlife area.

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: Held June 12.

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.

Update: Chapter members gathered at Dean Creek June 12 for shed hunting. We did highway cleanup June 23 on Seven Devils Road. The chapter booth at the Coos County Fair July 20-24 featured a gun raffle and merchandise.

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: Aug. 21, NW Events Center, Hillsboro; call 503-502-0611. We auctioned an A&H statewide deer tag April 10.

Update: Chapter meetings are live again at Prime Time, but attendance is limited, so contact Shelley Kind 503-522-8723 if you'd like to attend.

UMPQUA

Tadd Moore

(541) 580-5660

Chapter Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Update: Chapter meetings have been held via Zoom since February, but the annual chapter picnic was held at Roseburg Rod & Gun Club on July 20.

UNION/WALLOWA COUNTY

Morgan Olson

(541) 786-1283

Chapter Meetings: La Grande Library, next date TBA.

YAMHILL COUNTY

Andy Bodeen

(503) 490-2489

ohayamhill.com

Chapter Meetings: 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., 6:00 p.m. dinner, American Legion Hall, 126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville.

Update: In lieu of a July chapter meeting, we hosted a pint night at Chehalem Valley Brewing. OHAYC awarded a \$1,500 Scholarship to Newberg High School senior Kaden Kruse. The 7th annual youth shotgun shoot took place Aug. 14. Our chapter staffed a booth at the Yamhill County Fair Aug. 4-7.



Wildlife in the fast lane nets Bend teens \$8,000 in fines

An Oregon couple who poached two mule deer bucks, a pronghorn and three Canada geese were recently ordered to pay more than \$8,000 in court fees and restitution. An Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife trooper discovered the crimes following a traffic stop last year.

Trooper James Hayes stopped Justin Borchert, 19, of Bend for traveling 95 mph in a 65 mph zone near La Pine last October. During the stop, Hayes noticed blood on Borchert's jacket and the bed of the pickup.

Hayes asked about the blood, and Borchert said that his passenger in the truck, Tyra Stevens, had shot a deer a few days earlier near Blue River. Stevens, 19, also of Bend, confirmed the story, saying she had used her western Oregon deer tag.

Neither Borchert nor Stevens realized the Blue River area had burned up and was closed after the Holiday Farm wildfire. After further questioning, Borchert and Stevens admitted to taking two buck mule deer out of season. Additional investigative work revealed the two had also poached a pronghorn and three Canada geese.

Lake County Judge David Vandenburg on May 25 convicted Borchert and Stevens of one count each of illegal take of wildlife. Borchert must pay fines and restitution in the amount of \$7,500 to ODFW. Stevens must pay \$1,000 to ODFW, along with \$202 in court fees. Both lost their hunting privileges for three years, remain under bench warrant for one year, and must serve 40 hours of community service.



OHA pays out 23 TIP rewards for \$8,300 in first half of 2021

In the first half of 2021, OHA issued 23 reward checks to informants in 23 cases totaling \$8,300 from our Turn In Poachers (TIP) reward fund.

OHA pays typically about \$20,000 annually to informants in fish and wildlife violation cases through our Turn In Poachers (TIP) Reward Fund. OHA has also helped pass laws for tougher penalties for poaching.

TIP rewards are paid for information leading to the arrest/conviction of person(s) for the illegal possession, killing, taking, and/or waste of game animals and fish, furbearers and game birds. Informants may remain anonymous and still collect a reward.

- \$1,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat and Moose
- \$500 Elk, Deer and Antelope
- \$300 Bear, Cougar, Wolf, Habitat Destruction
- \$100 Game Fish and Shellfish, Game Birds and Furbearers

The TIP program also offers the option of ODFW preference point rewards instead of cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take/possession or waste of big game mammals:

- 5 points in cases involving bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose or wolf
- 4 points in cases involving elk, deer, antelope, bear or cougar

To the Guides and Hunters of Oregon,

We, James Fagan and Kristian Willman, are writing to share with you our recent missteps as professional guides and the consequences that have followed, and to offer our apologies to the hunting community.

On October 4, 2020, in violation of ORS 496.695, three (3) of our clients were hunting outside of our immediate supervision. Two of our clients had non-resident guide tags drawn by us. Another client had a tag drawn by someone else but sold by us. We wrongfully treated these tags as "self-guided" hunts, without the intention of supervising their hunting activities.

It is our strong belief that Wildlife Laws are in place to care for the game we seek and the land on which they thrive, and to protect other hunters, land owners, and local communities. By violating one of these laws, we have done a disservice to all those involved and we offer our sincere apologies. Furthermore, we have entered a guilty plea to formal charges of Aiding in a Wildlife Violation in Harney County, Oregon. We have been fined \$2,000 each and have paid the fees without argument. These monies will go to the Oregon Hunters Associations Turn-In-Poachers Fund and to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

It is our hope that, in sharing our experience, other sportspeople will familiarize themselves carefully with Oregon's Wildlife Regulations, be conscientious in complying with these laws, and work diligently to uphold them. We are dedicated to doing so as we move forward.

Our most sincere apologies,

**James Fagan
Kristian Willman
Bend, Oregon**

PURCHASED PLACEMENT

WIN A GUIDED ELK HUNT

ON THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S FAMOUS

ZUMWALT PRAIRIE PRESERVE!



**1 Hunter and up to 2
non-hunting guests & 1
guide for 3 days in 2022**

Lodging included in updated historic ranch house with solar powered electricity, full indoor plumbing (supplied by local spring) and full kitchens.

Tickets: \$50; 7 for \$300.

500 offered. Value: \$4,900

Drawing: March 17, 2022

Tickets & info: call 541-772-7313

or visit oregonhunters.org/store

3-day guided bull elk rifle hunt for 1 hunter on the 33,000-acre Zumwalt Prairie Preserve in Oregon during the fall 2022 season (dates TBD; likely November), including lodging at a fully functioning facility at the Preserve. Hunter may bring up to 2 guests who do not hunt. Hunting is all on foot and hunters should be in good physical condition. Recent hunter success rate has been close to 100%. Mature bulls are common with trophy potential. The Preserve is part of the largest remaining intact Pacific Northwest bunchgrass prairie in North America. Restrictions: food, beverages, gear, and gratuity not included. Transportation to the Preserve not included (once there, the guide will provide transportation). The elk tag is guaranteed, but the hunter is responsible for license and tag fees. Hunt takes place during the fall 2022 season only. Proceeds benefit OHA projects. Donated by The Nature Conservancy. Drawing: March 17, 2022, 3 p.m., OHA Office, 301 Crater Lake Ave. Suite C, Medford, OR. Need not be present to win.



TACTACAM TRAIL CAM CONTEST



See contest rules and enter your best shots at oregonhunters.org for a chance to win a great prize from Tactacam!

WINNER: OHA member Donovan Haak of Bates bags a Tactacam Reveal trail camera for this photo of a pair of black bears squaring off in Grant County.

HONORABLE MENTION: Jeremi Johnson, OHA member in Eugene, earns honorable mention and an OHA hat for this photo of elk in a misty Metolius Unit.



HONORABLE MENTION: OHA member Justin Lenhardt of Newberg receives honorable mention and an OHA hat for this photo of Trask Unit bulls on St. Patrick's Day.

REVEAL X

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(Not Included)

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Class 10 U3 - (Not Included)

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Use of hunting blinds on federal land: Portable blinds your best bet

The number of hunters using blinds has increased over the last 20 years – resulting in resource damage, more litter, conflicts among hunters, and problems for other land users. With the severe drought this year, BLM and ODFW resource managers in southeast Oregon expect increased conflicts among pronghorn antelope and archery hunters, and want to remind hunters of the rules for using blinds to hunt big game on BLM land. (Note these policies apply to big game blinds; contact BLM for rules regarding game bird blinds.)

The U.S. Forest Service also has rules for use of blinds on national forestland; see below for basic information and contact the forest where you will be hunting for more specifics, as policies may vary.

BLM RULES FOR BIG GAME HUNTING BLINDS

Construction materials

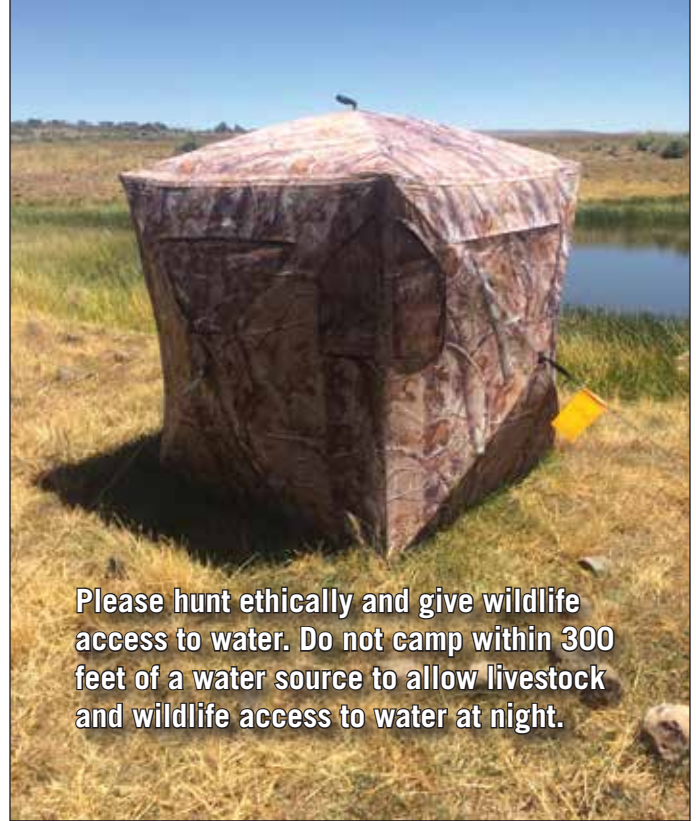
- Portable pop-up blinds are encouraged.
- All construction materials must be removable. Permanent placement of materials is not allowed.
- Wire mesh is prohibited because it can be hazardous to wildlife and livestock.
- No digging, trenching or other surface disturbance is allowed. Digging pits or depressions exposes bare soil, which can lead to soil erosion, allow noxious weeds to establish, or disturb cultural or historical artifacts. That said, some reasonable, minor cutting of live vegetation is allowable, such as to remove a branch that is obstructing a shooting lane or to clear an area inside the blind. You may also use stakes to anchor your blind.
- Blinds may be constructed of plywood or similar materials but must comply with placement/removal dates (see below).

Placement dates

- Blinds may be placed no earlier than 10 days before the beginning of the hunting season for which the hunter has a valid tag.
- Blinds must be removed within 7 days of the close of that hunting season. Blinds found to be in violation of removal requirements will be removed by BLM staff and disposed of.

Labeling

- The hunter's full name and zip code should be attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind. (This helps to ensure that blinds are constructed in compliance and helps with monitoring and enforcement.)
- Blinds may be used by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. Under federal regulations, the placement of a blind on public land does not convey exclusive right of use, so it must be available for use by other hunters. This means that blinds cannot be locked or posted with "no trespassing" signs. Also, blinds



Please hunt ethically and give wildlife access to water. Do not camp within 300 feet of a water source to allow livestock and wildlife access to water at night.

Hunting blinds can only be placed on BLM lands 10 days ahead of a hunting season and must be removed 7 days after the season closes. This blind was yellow-tagged for being set up too early.

must be accessible to law enforcement personnel for inspection. That said, hunters should be respectful of each other's efforts and give the hunter who set up the blind first claim on the blind when they are hunting.

Water or Livestock Developments

- Do not divert water or modify water troughs, reservoirs, springs or other developments. Most water sources have legal water rights associated with them, so tampering with their location or flow is illegal. Also, diverting water sources could reduce their benefit to livestock and wildlife.
- Do not harass livestock or impede their access to water sources.

NATIONAL FOREST RULES FOR HUNTING BLINDS

Only portable stands or blinds are allowed on national forestland. Check with your local ranger district for restrictions and time limits; some forests have a short 1-3 day window for how long blinds can be up.

Hunters cannot maintain a structure without authorization, abandon personal property, damage trees (e.g. nailing into trees) or damage other property (e.g. digging) on forest service land.

GIVE WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK ACCESS TO WATER

Please hunt ethically and give wildlife access to water. Do not camp within 300 feet of a water source to allow livestock and wildlife access to water at night. Also, consider the impact your scent or blind may have on animal use even when you are not there.

NOSLER[®]

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

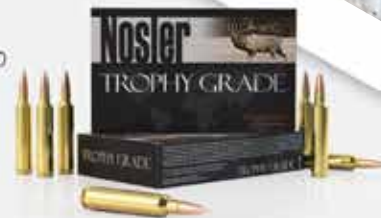
Go to **OHA's website at www.oregonhunters.org** Click on **OHA CONTESTS**. Read the rules, and fill in the required fields. Click **CHOOSE FILE** and attach your photo. Click **SUBMIT**. That's it! You will be entered for a chance to win more great prizes courtesy of Nosler, proud sponsor and OHA supporter 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 Graham Derbyshire of Hermiston claims an OHA Coast knife and entry to the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of himself with a kudu he killed in South Africa.

Justin Gindlesperger, OHA member in Merlin, wins an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of his son Kayden with the turkey Justin bagged this spring in Jackson County.



NOSLER[®] PHOTO CONTEST

YOUTH CATEGORY FINALISTS

OHA member Gail Cutsforth of Sherwood scores an OHA Coast Knife and a spot in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of Lucas Cutsforth with the day's bag of ducks taken near home this past winter.

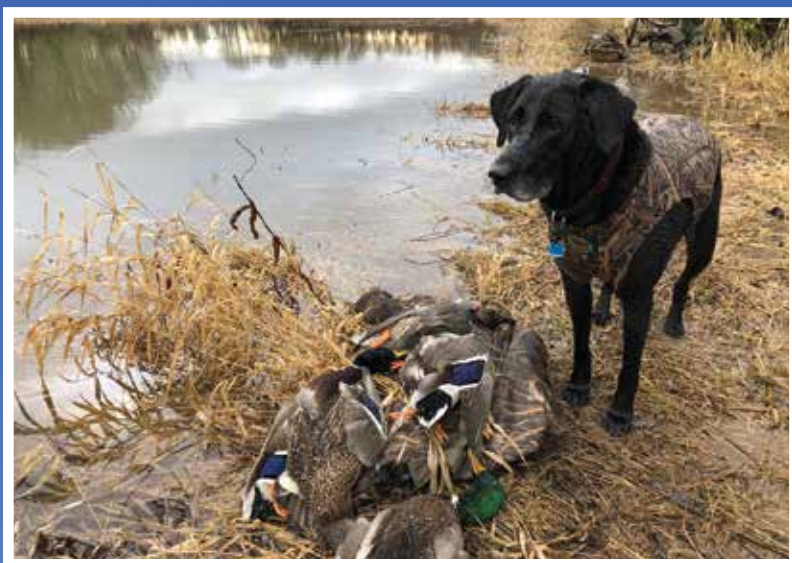


LaPine OHA member Deborah Taylor claims an OHA Coast Knife and a place in the finals of the 2021 Nosler Photo Contest for this photo of her grandson Ayden with his first buck, taken in 2019 on opening day in the Upper Deschutes Unit.

WHEELER COUNTY/DUANE DUNCANNON

NOSLER® PHOTO CONTEST

HONORABLE MENTION



Portland OHA member Darrell Auvil gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of Maggie and a mixed bag of ducks taken at Sauvie Island in January.

OHA member Ken Bastian of Grants Pass collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of a white blacktail in Josephine County.



OHA member Thomas Derbyshire of Pleasant Hill receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of twin brother Graham Derbyshire with one of the four spiral-horned species he claimed with a 7mm-300 Weatherby in the Limpopo Province of South Africa this spring.

OHA Member Tommy Wolff of Heppner gains honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself and Clay Spence with turkeys they called in on the second day of this year's spring season in the Heppner Unit.



Erika Forsythe, OHA member in Terrebonne, receives honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of herself with a bearded hen taken this spring in Jefferson County.



OHA member Josh Scrocca of Prineville collects honorable mention and a Nosler hat for this photo of himself with a Melrose Unit spring turkey.

Fish Lake & Mt. McLoughlin/Duane Dunganon

PARTING SHOTS

By Uncle Geddy

A Pac-12 Pigskin Preview

Please allow me to lead you in a cheer. “Beat ‘em! Bust ‘em. That’s our custom.” Our friend and Irish gun-bearer, O’Jambo, uttered that one on a crisp October morning and it makes sense because fall isn’t fall without hunting, I mean, football.

It came as a bit of a surprise to me to learn that the American football is not made from pigskin as we have been led to believe, but from another introduced species, the common beef which was first brought to the New World by the conquistadors.

I became a pigskin prognosticator the moment a reporter from the City of Working Them Angles rang me up on a Thursday.

We were headed downtown when my cell phone rang. I was at the wheel, so Little Sassy handed the phone to me, which is against the law in our part of the world. I had to tell the guy to hold the phone while I negotiated the intersection.

“We don’t get Blue Tooth around here,” I said. “We got the brown tooth.”

When I had pulled the truck over to the side of the road, the fellow on the other end of the line said he had located a copy of a black bear hunting book I had written and figured I was as qualified as anyone to answer his question, which didn’t seem like high praise. He tried to make me feel at ease before he got down to business.

“I hear you’re a bear hunter. Have you had some close calls?”

I learned early in life if someone wants something from me, I address them as “Young man.” It’s a trick I have been using since my parents got our first telephone. After my voice changed, it worked better.

“Young man,” I said. “I’m sure if there were any close calls, it was the bears that had them.”

He introduced himself as a reporter from a publication called the Metro Mix in Los Angeles.

He was, he said, looking ahead to a game of football to be held between two powerhouse cross-town rivals: the University of Southern California and the University of California Los Angeles; the Trojans and the Bruins.

I was able to help him after I called an emergency session of the Bear Mountain Gang. We met down at Charlie’s Fish & Chips where I posed the query put to me by the reporter. “In a high stakes game between a Trojan and a Bear, which one is likely to come out on top?”

This year, in our pigskin preview, we are going to consider the Pac-12 openers for the Ducks and the Beavers.

DUCKS VS. WILDCATS

The Ducks will enter the fall as two-time defending conference champs, after beating the USC Trojans in the title game last season. The conference title defense begins in Autzen Stadium Sept. 25 with a game against the Arizona Wildcats.

Let’s see how the Ducks stack up against the Wildcats.

The mallard is Oregon’s most ubiquitous duck and is con-



sidered the ancestor of almost all domestic ducks. Mallards are dabblers, which means when they feed, they float on the water, tip themselves forward and put their tailfeathers up in the air. In flight, the mallard is fast, at 55 miles per hour, and can cruise at 10,000 feet. Advantage Ducks.

On the deficit side of the ledger, ducks can be beaten with camouflage and there are two guys named Gunner on the Wildcats roster. If decoys are employed, watch out. And what do we know about wildcats? They eat ducks. Advantage Wildcats. The duck has the advantage on his home turf and in a passing game. If the duck uses strategies that keep the ball in the air, Ducks win. If the duck spends too much time with its butt in the air, advantage Wildcats.

BEAVERS VS. TROJANS

The Pac-12 opener for the Beavers is Sept. 25 against the USC Trojans in Los Angeles. The matchup history shows 11 wins for the Beavs and 63 losses with four ties. The Trojans have home field, but what we really need to analyze is whether the contest is being played in the “streets of Troy” where a beaver would be at a distinct disadvantage or out in the wild where the reverse would be the case.

One must consider the characteristics: a beaver would be excellent at close quarters, where the Trojans would do well with players spread across the field. This translates: a running game versus a passing game. If the Trojans are trying to win on the ground, they are at a disadvantage. If the beaver tries to win in the air, it is going to fail.

One thing we know about beavers is they can be beaten with traps.

Ball security is the big deal for the Trojans. Turnovers could hurt USC, especially in the red zone. USC is good at onside kick recoveries and high offensive yard totals. Look for USC to make big plays in the 4th quarter.

Unlike in other years when the USC Song Girls had names like Helen and Cassandra on the team, we don’t expect the girls in white sweaters to be a big factor this year. The beaver has the advantage on his home ground and against taller adversaries. But if the warrior uses strategies that keep the ball in the air, the warrior will win.

There is a lot of tall timber on that 2021 USC roster. A beaver’s strategy is to cut down trees and build the dam. One thing we know for sure, if USC runs out a couple early touchdowns, the beavers are going to gnaw away at their lead.



Two hundred eighty-eight pounds of any football player is two gross. Contact Gary Lewis at www.garylewisoutdoors.com

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