



OHA TRACKER



ELLIOTT STATE FOREST

JUNE 2017

OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

MAY 31

Turkey, spring bear seasons close

JUNE 3

Klamath guzzler camp weekend
541-591-2452;

OHA youth & family events:
Bend 541-388-7337

Grants Pass 541-846-7437
Redmond 541-771-8383

JUNE 9

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

JUNE 10

E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area Youth Day,
541-745-5334

JUNE 16

OHA Capitol Chapter weekend aspen project, 503-399-1234;
OHA Tioga Chapter youth outdoor ed family camp weekend, 541-267-2577

JUNE 17

Klamath Youth Outdoor Adventures,
541-591-2452



JUNE 20

Controlled hunt results available



Keep up with all the bills affecting Oregon hunters in the 2017 session by visiting www.oregonhunters.org While you're there, sign up for OHA's email alerts.

OHA mentoring age increase becomes law; other hunting-related bills gain momentum

By El Elkins, OHA Lobbyist

As OHA toasted another successful year at its State Convention on May 13, OHA also celebrated the signing of our bill to increase the upper age limit for the Mentored Youth Hunter Program to 16.

Meanwhile, other hunting bills have found traction. Here's a summary.

HB 2566 Mentored Youth Age

This OHA bill expands the upper age of the Mentored Youth Hunter Program to 16. The Governor signed the bill on May 17. The bill passed has passed the House and Senate without a single vote in opposition.

HB 2030 Spring Bear Tag Cap

The purpose of this change is to allow for more bear tags to be sold both to resident hunters and nonresident hunters. The bill to remove the cap passed the floor of the House 39-16 and the Senate 28-1.

HB 2883 Outfitters and Guides

This bill increases penalties for outfitters and guides. It authorizes the Commission to revoke all licenses, tags and permits issued to a person with culpable mental state who is convicted of violations of wildlife laws involving taking or killing of wildlife if that person was an outfitter or guide registered with the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB). The bill prohibits the person from applying for another such license, tag or permit. It increases the length of time OSMB may suspend an outfitter and guide registration from 24 to 60 months. The bill passed the House 57-0. The bill then went to the Senate, where it was scheduled for a hearing to

take place in late May.

HB 3158 Poaching

This bill directs ODFW to set up a rewards program to report poaching. The bill passed the House 56-0 and the Senate 27-3. The bill now goes to the Governor for her signature.

SB 372 Wildlife Salvage Permits

SB 372, introduced by Sen. Hansell (R-Athena) and Rep. Barreto (R-Cove), requires the Commission to adopt rules for issuance of wildlife salvage permits to salvage deer or elk accidentally killed as result of vehicle collision. The bill has passed the Senate and has gone to the House for further consideration. The bill has had one hearing and is scheduled for another hearing in late May.

SB 373 Urban Deer Conflict

This bill requires ODFW to adopt a pilot program for urban deer population control. The bill has passed the Senate and has gone to the House for further consideration. The bill has had one hearing and is scheduled for another hearing in late May.

Dead Bills

SB 6 Modifies Trap Check Requirements
HB 2634 Disabilities Under Wildlife Laws

HB 2487 Deer or Elk Tag Guarantee Bill
HB 2107/2589 Cougar Hunting with Dogs by County Vote

HB 3228 Wildlife Policy

SB 371 Cougar Hunting with Dogs by County Vote

SB 458 Cougar/Dog Controlled Hunt Program

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

Hunters routed 60-13 in Game 2 in Portland

By Jim Akenson
OHA Conservation Director



The May 19 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Portland came as a surprise to me, because I thought hunters – and specifically OHA members – would make a strong showing at this meeting with the primary meeting topic being future wolf management. That translates to: protecting your hunting!

Email comments to the Commission before June 8 for a chance to win some great gear!

Yes, I am on OHA's staff, and that is my job assignment – to engage and testify. I spent considerable time preparing my material to

show the need for bringing more specific “how-to” wolf harvest language into the plan revision, and coordinating with our allies from the agricultural community who did well with their testimonies.

Our staff was diligent promoting the need to testify at this meeting via our usual media, and our state President made phone calls to chapters and handed out buttons that read: “Don’t Cry Wolf, Manage Them!” Our arguments were intended to be logical – and based on experiences observed in northeastern Oregon and Idaho – and in general, to “normalize” this species so they are managed like cougars and black bears.

I’m sure the Commissioners got sick of hearing the monotonous diatribe from wolf protectionists to not allow hunting of wolves, now, later or at any time. They didn’t get sick of hearing our push for wolf management – simply didn’t hear it enough for that to happen.

If you want to protect hunting for your kids and grandkids, you better do better next time – the small handful of us who engage in these battles are about to get steamrolled! There have been two opportunities for oral testimony – in Klamath Falls, where we probably won that game based on logical testimonies and almost matching the opposition in numbers.

However, in the Portland area, where OHA boasts several chapters and thousands of members, we lost 60 to 13 in a big game. The Commission on June 8 will publicly deliberate modifications to the revised Wolf Plan. There will be no oral testimony, but you can go to the Salem ODFW headquarters office and attend, wearing OHA apparel.

Meanwhile, you can submit written testimony – the sooner the better – to: odfw.commission@state.or.us **Copy OHA at ohacomment@gmail.com and be entered to win a Leupold 650 rangefinder, Leupold 3x9x40 rifle scope or a Gerber hunting knife!**

For information about what you should say in your comments, please visit <http://oha-conservation.webs.com> and click on the blog link.

Cascade Siskiyou Monument open for comments

The reach of Executive Order 13792, signed by President Trump on April 26, has been expanded to include the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) in southern Oregon. The order applies to all monument designations over 100,000 acres under the 1906 Antiquities Act provisions designated since 1996. The CSNM was not included in the original order due to confusion about the actual acreage of the monument.

The CSNM was formed and recently expanded by designating the checkerboard of Oregon and California railroad lands in a wide band of mixed ownerships. Our objections, directed to the two

Oregon Senators proposing the designation, were directed at the limited timeline and lack of opportunity to make reasoned comments prior to the designation.

The review process opens the discussion for additional public comment on a limited time basis. Comments must be submitted before July 10, 2017.

Submit written comments online at <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering “DOI-2017-0002” in the search bar and clicking “search,” or by mail to Monument Review, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240.

—KEN MCCALL, OHA RESOURCE DIRECTOR

Elliott Forest will remain public; now the real work starts



By Ken McCall, OHA Resource Director

The three-member Oregon State Land Board (SLB) voted 3-0 to retain the Elliott State Forest as public lands at its May 9 meeting, reversing its last 2-1 vote to sell the forest. The sale protocol was also abandoned with this vote, prompting legal actions by the single bidder, Lone Rock Timber and its tribal partners.

The three SLB members presented three different views of how to retain the lands in public ownership while meeting their constitutionally required financial support for school from the 82,500 acres of common school fund lands.

Governor Brown’s plan separates the older forest and streamside reserve portions from the lands expected to produce timber outputs. This proposal includes a bond sale to replace school income from the reserved lands. The lands managed for timber income generation would be managed through a Habitat Conservation Plan allowing timber removal and protection of endangered species.

State Treasurer Read’s plan is similar to the Governor’s but adds the concept of selling Elliott to OSU to be managed as a working research forest.

Secretary of State Richardson’s plan includes exchanging portions of the Elliott with federal agencies with similar productive forestlands. This ironic approach would reverse the 1930s process that created the Elliott by exchange of scattered “school” sections across Oregon for a manageable block of federal lands.

Any management scenario that includes timber removal and the resulting early stage forage for wildlife risks the endless litigation of the past 25 plus years. OHA will need a seat at the table to protect hunter interests in public access and wildlife habitat in any management approach.