



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Klamath Chapter Newsletter



April 2009

www.klamathoha.org

<i>Chapter President</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasure</i>	<i>Newsletter</i>
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April 16-Thursday-Chapter Meeting-7:00 PM –Showing 2nd tape in the “History of the Gun” - Shasta View Grange at the corner of Shasta Way & Madison St

COMING EVENTS

- April 16-7:00**-Klamath Falls Chapter Meeting
- April 18**, -Lakeview Banquet
- April 25**, -Klamath Falls Chapter Annual Banquet
4:00pm – Dinner 6:00pm
- May 7-6:30**-Klamath Falls Board Meeting
- May 9**, -Hart Mountain
- May 30-31**, -Guzzler Camp Out Contact
Rick Vieira-273-7461
- June 27-28**, -Hidden Valley Cleanup – contact
Jared 273-6208

RIDING YOUR ATV IN OREGON:

New safety laws are now in effect for operating quads, three-wheel ATVs and off-road motorcycles on lands open to public use in Oregon. In order to make training as convenient as possible, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department now offers a free safety, education and certification program on this website: [HTTP://WWW.RIDEATVOREGON.ORG](http://WWW.RIDEATVOREGON.ORG)

THIS IS A SIMPLE THREE STEP PROCESS, Further details are available on the website:

1. Study and pass the online test on this website (one or two hours).
2. A plastic "All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Education Card" will be mailed within 30 days after you pass the test
(You can print a 30-day temporary education card immediately after you get a "pass" confirmation).
3. Carry the ATV safety education card with you.

MANDATORY DATES OF THE NEW LAW:

- Jan. 1, 2009 - Youth 15 and under and adults supervising youth
- Jan. 1, 2010 - 30 and under
- Jan. 1, 2011 - 40 and under
- Jan. 1, 2012 - 50 and under
- Jan. 1, 2013 - 60 and under
- Jan. 1, 2014 - All riders must have an ATV safety education card

Richard K. Vieira, CMSgt, ORANG
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OHA KLAMATH FALLS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President and Vice President are up for Elections due to being appointed. Secretary and Treasures are up for election. Current Secretary and Treasure would like to retire.
Send or call in nominations by May 1, 2009. Mail to OHA - PO Box 8161 – Klamath Falls, Or. 97602, or call Gordon Oldman – 882-6802 or Linda Ward – 880-8966.
Nominations will be on the ballot in the May Newsletter. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasure are two (2) year terms.
Board Member Position 7-8-9 &10 are also up for elections. Board member positions are a three (3) year term.
Those nominated must agree to serve. Chapter members must be 12 years or older to vote.

The Days Inn (Red Lion) has offered a discount for out of town, OHA customers, who will be attending the 2009 Banquet 882-8864.



Klamath Chapter is now offering advertising for businesses in our news letter. Anyone interested, contact Linda Ward at 880-8966 for information. Business card adds.

Oregon Hunters Association
Klamath Chapter
P.O. Box 8161
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97602

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Calendar of Events

April 16-CHAPTER MEETING 7:00 PM – Showing 2nd tape in the “History of the Gun”- Shasta View Grange at the corner of Shasta Way & Madison St.

April 18, 2009-Lakeview Banquet

April 25, 2009-Klamath Falls Chapter Annual Banquet at Fair Grounds

May 7-Klamath Chapter Board Meeting (at new location –Tower Shopping Center-1763 Washburn Way)

May 9, 2009-Hart Mountain

May 21-7:00pm – Chapter Meeting

May 30-31, 2009-Guzzler Camp Out Contact - Rick Vieira-273-7461

June 27-28, -Hidden Valley Cleanup – contact Jared 273-6208

OHA State Offices:

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The OHA TRACKER

April 2009

Hunting bills heat up in Legislature

Many of the important bills related to hunting are starting to see action in the Oregon Legislature. OHA is actively involved in protecting the interests of wildlife and hunters, and pledges to keep its members up to date as the session progresses. Here is a short summary of some of the major issues we are tracking. ODFW Budget Cuts

The legislature is looking to decrease the amount of funds all agencies receive in general funds. So far ODFW has been asked to submit program cuts based on a 30 percent decrease in general funds. We are working with ODFW officials to see what the cuts will mean to the Wildlife Division. Final budget decisions will probably be made sometime in mid-May after the next revenue forecast. Geese Task Force

Senator Betsy Johnson has introduced SB 622, which creates a Geese Control Task Force that will bring all parties to one table to find a solution to goose populations and their impacts. The bill directs ODFW to appoint a nine-member task force representing state and federal, agricultural, conservationist and academic interests. This task force will study issues raised by the increasing number of various species of geese in Oregon and to make recommendations regarding opportunities to control the goose population pursuant to applicable state and federal laws. The bill had a hearing in late March and is expected to move out of committee shortly.

Destination Resorts

HB 2226, HB 2227, HB 3100, HB 3221, HB 3224 all deal with destination resorts in the Metolius River Basin and on or near agricultural lands. HB 2227 has had two hearings, and a work session is scheduled on the bill in late March. OHA is working with Rep. Brian Clem on his bill HB 3100, which establishes criteria on wildlife and habitat that must be met before anything can be constructed in that area. The OHA Board of Directors has voted to support HB 3100. We are currently working with the sponsors and are members of a workgroup formed to help with the passage of this bill.

Invasive Species

There are a number of bills that deal with the subject of invasive species. HB 2221 outlines procedures and outcomes for landowners to rid their property of feral pigs. This bill was heard in early March and is being amended to allow landowners to be notified by ODFW of the options available to them to remove feral pigs from their property. Other invasive species bills address the dreaded aquatic invasive species.

This is a short sampling of some of the bills we are following. For more complete information, see our latest Weekly Legislative Update on OHA's website www.oregonhunters.org

Feral horses overrun Murderers Creek

The feral horse population in Murderers Creek Management Area is out of control. The resulting habitat destruction and resource damage is tremendous. The Malheur National Forest's Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory/Herd Management Area Management Plan states 436 horses were counted in 2006. A BLM report titled Oregon BLM Wild Horse and Burro Population Data (June 17, 2008) estimated the Murderers Creek population at 628 horses. The Forest Service gathered 134 animals in 2008. With the 20 percent recruitment rate indicated in the plan, the population of 494 animals would be back to 592 in 2009. The management plan set the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for Murderers Creek's wild horses at 50 to 140 horses. The plan requires wild horses to be managed within the AML range. Once the population reaches or exceeds 140, the excess animals will be removed down to 50 horses. With the population exceeding the maximum by 450 animals, the Forest Service must remove 540 horses to be in compliance with its management plan. The management plan states "When the herd was around the 200 head level (1979), significant use (and damage) occurred at Vester Meadows and the South Fork of Murderers Creek, while at 100 head few areas of concentrated use were found and no areas of damage were found." Just imagine the damage with the herd at 500 to 600 horses. Murderers Creek Herd Management Area is not alone in having out of control feral horse populations in Oregon. Of 19 wild horse areas listed by BLM, only nine are in compliance with their AML. According to the 2008 BLM report, the total estimated population for the 19 areas was 3,730 horses. The total number of horses allowed by the AML high level is 2,855. That is 875 over the maximum allowed. To bring the total population in compliance with management plans would require removing more than 2,000 horses. To deal with the rapid population expansion, the 1971 wild horse act was amended in 2005 to require the sale of horses over 10 years old or those offered unsuccessfully for adoption three times. The proceeds from selling excess animals are to be used by BLM for costs relating to marketing and adoption of wild horses. Oregon Hunters Association, led by its Redmond Chapter, has invested many thousands of dollars and volunteer hours in habitat improvement in the Murderers Creek area. Over 100,000 shrubs were planted and several miles of fence built or repaired. With a 20 percent recruitment rate, the rapidly expanding feral horse population could destroy all that investment in a few years. Wild horse herds have the potential to double every four to five years. Murderers Creek was selected by ODFW to be one of the first five units in the Mule Deer Initiative. There are many problems to overcome in the recovery of Oregon's mule deer herds. Competition and habitat damage by feral horses are a significant detriment to the mule deer of Murderers Creek. The Forest Service and BLM must bring the herds into compliance with their management plans.



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