



# THE OHA TRACKER

August 2010



Track the latest hunting headlines from Oregon papers at OHA's website: [www.oregonhunters.org](http://www.oregonhunters.org)

## OHA advocates for hunting at Cottonwood Canyon State Park

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is currently acquiring the 8,000 acre Murtha Ranch, near Condon, from the Western Rivers Conservancy. While the land was private property it was only hunted by a few folks who were friends or relatives of the Murtha family. Western Rivers has opened the property to hunting, and OPRD would like to continue that tradition. The agency has enacted a temporary rule that allows hunting, and is working to make the rule permanent.

In addition, OPRD has set up an "advisory committee" of interested parties and recreation interests. OPRD has asked for a representative from the hunting community to sit on the advisory committee. OHA is in the process of selecting a hunter to sit on this committee. The advisory committee will meet on Aug. 16 in Moro. OPRD will hold public meetings on Aug. 16 in Moro, Aug. 17 in Condon, and Aug. 23 in Portland.

## Lawsuit filed against ODFW implementation of Oregon's Wolf Plan

Four environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) over the Oregon Wolf Plan. The lawsuit, which was filed by the La Grande-based Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Wild and the National Center for Biological Diversity, claims

ODFW is violating the wolf management plan by issuing kill permits to Wildlife Services without documentation from the ranchers showing efforts they have taken to avoid livestock depredations through non-lethal means and by authorizing the lethal removal of wolves when circumstances exist that unreasonably attract wolves to the area.

ODFW had no comment on the lawsuit.

The Oregon Hunters Association and agricultural groups are currently exploring legal options to intervene on behalf of the state and federal wildlife managers implementing the state's wolf management plan.

Oregon's wolf population is confirmed to total 18 after images of four pups were captured on a trail camera.

## ODFW braces for axe in state general funds

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a \$311 million budget request for the ODFW for the 2011-13 biennium. The proposed budget will now be submitted to the Governor, who will make the final budget recommendation to the Oregon Legislature.

The budget passed by the Commission anticipates a slight increase in revenue from federal sources; it also outlines possible program cuts that would be made if there are significant reductions in state general and lottery funds.

According to Debbie Colbert, ODFW Deputy Director of Administration, the department submitted a budget that preserves core programs and assumes no general fee increases for at least six years.



Members of the OHA Klamath Chapter recently repaired two water guzzlers on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

## OHA sets wildlife up with a round of drinks

As a wet spring in Oregon gave way to a hot, dry summer, Oregon Hunters Association volunteers worked on guzzler projects to make sure wildlife had water to wet their whistles.

Wildlife guzzlers are structures designed to collect and store water for wildlife and are especially critical for animals inhabiting areas with little or no surface water or during periods of drought. They consist of a flat surface or apron that collects rainwater and funnels it into storage tanks containing a basin out of which wildlife can drink. They often experience some weather damage over the course of the winter, requiring maintenance and repair in the spring when melting snow permits access.

In one such project, nearly 20 members of OHA's Klamath Chapter, with help from Hamilton Metals, spent a summer Saturday fixing two wildlife guzzlers on the Fremont-Winema National Forest near the Williamson River headwaters area so they will once again provide water for wildlife.

## Goose Task Force puts forth recommendations

During the 2009 Legislative Session Senate Bill 622 was introduced to address the concerns over the increasing numbers of geese and the impacts these increasing populations are having on agricultural crops. SB 622 created a Goose Control Task Force to identify problems caused by the goose glut in Oregon and to make recommendations to control goose populations. The task force met four times and concluded discussion on July 13.

Based on their discussions, which included input from the public, the Oregon Goose Control Task Force has recommended the following actions, which are not listed by priority, to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and other state and federal management authorities:

- It is specifically recommended that a working group comprised of affected state and federal wildlife agencies, landowners and hunters be formed to begin discussions with Native Alaskans on reducing the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan's population objective for cackling Canada geese. Discussions with Native Alaskans should begin by the end of 2010.

- ODFW and USFWS should immediately engage Pacific Flyway entities on a review of population objectives with the aim of reducing priority problem goose populations in Oregon. Problem goose populations include but are not limited to cackling Canada geese, white-fronted geese and snow/Ross' geese.

- ODFW and USFWS should work with flyway entities on increasing goose harvest opportunities that can provide assistance to agricultural operators throughout Oregon. Priority areas include the Willamette Valley, coastal areas, Snake River area of Malheur County and the Klamath Basin. Harvest regulations should focus on maximizing hunting days and bag limits, and regulations should be simplified to promote hunter participation and harvest.

- ODFW and USFWS should review hunting regulations pertaining to the Northwest Oregon Permit Goose Season

and look at ways to streamline the process, eliminate unnecessary regulations, and promote more hunter participation to assist landowners with goose depredation. This includes a review of high concentration use areas by dusky Canada geese and the scientific determination used to classify types of Canada geese. This review should be completed so that any potential changes could be incorporated in the 2011 hunting season or as soon thereafter as possible.

- ODFW and stakeholders should discuss options to improve hunter access on private lands that are experiencing agricultural depredation. A review of the past Access and Habitat Program for goose hunter access should be undertaken. Any recommendations for increasing hunter access should be finalized by the end of 2010.

- ODFW and the USFWS should use agricultural practices on lands under their control, which are similar to those used on private agricultural land in the area where geese are causing agricultural depredations.

- The USFWS should issue Migratory Bird Depredation Permits (a.k.a. goose kill permits) to private landowners, or their designees, for the purpose of relieving agricultural depredation caused by geese.

- State legislation should be drafted that directly compensates Oregon landowners for goose depredation losses on agricultural lands.

- ODFW, in coordination with the Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB), should continue to seek federal Congressional funding for the current NW Oregon/SW Washington Canada Goose Agricultural Depredation Control Plan (approximately \$2 million/year) and any subsequent updates.

- The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) should work aggressively with the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies on authorization and use of chemical agents that could assist with goose depredations on agricultural crops.

Note: This is a summary of the recommendations. For the complete recommendations, go to the ODFW website: [www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife)



## Hunters needed at Oct. 1 meeting on blaze orange

The Oregon Hunters Association is asking hunters to appear and speak on behalf of personal choice and the continued voluntary use of blaze orange clothing on Oct. 1 at the ODFW Commission meeting, where the Commission will decide on blaze orange clothing requirements for the 2011 regulations.

The meeting will be held in Bend at the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners, 1300 NW Wall Street, Ste 200.

If you can't attend, please go online and submit your comments at [www.oregonhunters.org/oregonhuntingstand.asp](http://www.oregonhunters.org/oregonhuntingstand.asp)

While submitting written testimony is important, it's vital to pack the room if we are to have any hope of protecting your right to dress yourself as you see fit.

Please be there and be heard!

# OUTDOOR OUTLOOK

**AUGUST 1**

**Bear season opens statewide**

**AUGUST 14**

**Standard antelope season opens**

**AUGUST 21**

**OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter banquet, (541) 928-7676; OHA State Board of Directors meeting, (541) 772-7313**

**AUGUST 22**

**Standard antelope season closes**

**AUGUST 27**

**Archery tag sale deadline**

**AUGUST 28**

**Bow season opens**

**SEPTEMBER 1**

**Season openers for dove, forest grouse and western Oregon quail**