



OHA's State Convention has moved to Seven Feathers Casino on Aug. 7. See all the remaining OHA banquets at www.oregonhunters.org/events

Two OHA bills advance in Oregon Legislature

By Al Elkins & Amy Patrick, OHA Lobbyists
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April brought a new deadline for bills in Oregon's House and Senate chambers. If a bill did not have a hearing or work session scheduled, the bill died in committee. OHA's two bills moved forward. Here is the latest rundown on bill action.

HB 3152 Wildlife Inspection Points

This is an OHA bill. The bill gives ODFW authority to operate wildlife inspection points for purposes of preventing the spread of infections or infestations harmful to wildlife and to further wildlife management efforts.

Update: The bill passed the floor of the House and now goes to the Senate.

HB 3163 Residency Requirements

This is an OHA bill. The bill makes a change in residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags, and permits related to wildlife. Through discussions with law enforcement, it was discovered that prosecuting offenders with dual state residencies had become a concern of Oregon District Attorneys and they had become reluctant to prosecute wildlife offenders that fit into the dual state category. The new language in the bill changes the residency definition that a resident is a person who has physically

resided in Oregon for not less than six consecutive months immediately prior to the date of making application for a license, tag or permit issued by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. It further defines a resident as not someone who merely owns real property or pays property taxes in this state, or who has resident privileges in another state or county for any purpose.

Update: The bill passed the floor of the House and now goes to the Senate.

HB 2548 Wildlife Corridor Funding

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

Update: The bill had a work session in March. A committee has been formed to have further discussions on the bill.

HB 2728 Coyote Contests

It's back! However, this version has an amendment that protects certain aspects of nonprofit contests (Section 5 of the bill lines 17-19). The bill prohibits a person from conducting or participating in a contest, competition, tournament, or derby that has the objective of taking coyotes for cash or prizes. Provides that prohibition does not apply to raffles

conducted by nonprofit organizations if the organization does not award raffle prizes based on number, weight or size of coyotes taken. Punishes violation of prohibition by maximum fine of \$2,000.

Update: The bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

HB 2543 Firearm Transfer Prohibition

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

Update: OHA opposes this bill, which had another hearing in early March and a work session in late March. The bill was passed out of Committee and is now in the House Committee on Rules.

SB 554 Concealed Weapon Laws

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

Update: OHA opposes this bill, which is in the House Committee on Rules, and is scheduled for a hearing in late April.

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



OHA members from three chapters joined forces to build over a half mile of buck & pole fence to protect habitat.

On the last weekend of April, OHA's Bend Chapter built 2,900 feet of buck & pole fence to complete a project to protect the riparian area along Smoke Creek in Lake County from livestock and other damage. The 21 volunteers put in a total of 393 hours and 3,681 miles.

OHA's Redmond Chapter planted 400 shrubs, placed 300 irrigation pipes, removed fencing, and staked cottonwood trees at Priest Hole on the John Day River.

The Pioneer Chapter kicked off OHA's youth event slate with a youth day at the Canby Rod & Gun Club.



Violet was ready to turn violent with those rails.

Commission OKs OHA-supported game bird changes

By Tyler Dunganon, Conservation Coordinator
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OHA testified on April 23 in favor of ODFW staff proposals that would increase game bird hunting in Oregon.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the proposals, including one to allow additional fall turkey hunting opportunity in units that overlap Grant County starting this winter. These units include: Murderers Creek, Northside, Desolation, and the Ritter portion of the Heppner Unit. OHA realizes that these increases are a result of Grant County damage complaints, and OHA applauds ODFW for using hunters as the tool to reduce landowner conflict. Additionally, OHA supports archery hunters having the chance to bag a turkey starting Sept. 1. Staff also proposed to allow Sports Pac holders to select either a General Spring, General Eastern or Western Oregon Fall Turkey Tag as part of their Sports Pac.

The migratory gamebird proposed modification of the Zone 2 season for geese will simplify the complex goose hunting regulations. OHA supports



TYLER DUNGANON

OHA testified in favor of continued science-based sage grouse hunting in Oregon.

proposed changes to the mourning dove season in western Oregon, because they may offer hunters an opportunity to hunt the migratory portion of the population.

OHA applauds ODFW's support for a learn to hunt program for waterfowl.

OHA was the only organization to testify in favor of continued sage-grouse hunting, which OHA supports for several reasons:

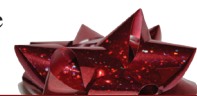

- Sage-grouse hunting does not limit sage-grouse populations in Oregon. Harvest caps are extremely conservative

and are set low enough that sage-grouse populations will not change as a result of legal harvest.

- Hunters provide a considerable amount of funding for sage-grouse conservation when considering that ODFW currently uses more than 50 percent of upland gamebird stamp funds to benefit sage-grouse. Hunters also pay for sage-grouse permits and applications, while hunting organizations (including OHA) frequently contribute large sums to sage-grouse research and conservation.

- Hunting yields complementary vital rate data (via harvested wings) for biologists who are charged with managing the species.

Many factors drive sage-grouse population decline – including predation and habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation – but hunting does not contribute to the decline in Oregon. In the best interest of the bird, sage-grouse must retain their game bird status, because hunters are at the front lines of the effort to conserve this species for future generations.

Coastal

OHA chapter banquets change dates, formats

Some OHA chapters have moved banquet dates and others have gone online. Please call the numbers listed for the latest info.

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| May 1-14 | Pioneer online | ohapioneer.cbo.io |
| TBA | Baker | 541-403-0402 |
| TBA | Blue Mountain | 541-231-4384 |
| 6/19-7/4 | Lake online | ohalakecounty.cbo.io |
| Aug 21 | Tualatin Valley | 503-502-0611 |
| June 5 | Redmond | 541-233-3740 |
| June 5 | Columbia County | 949-533-7271 |
| June 9-13 | Klamath | ohaklamath.maestroweb.com |
| June 19 | Mid-Willamette | 541-971-3351 |
| July 31 | Capitol (online) | 503-851-8409 |
| Aug. 7 | OHA State Convention, Seven Feathers Casino, 541-772-7313 | |

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Maximum tickets offered: 1,000. Drawing: 2 p.m., Dec. 30, 2021, OHA State Office, 804 Bennett Ave., Medford, OR