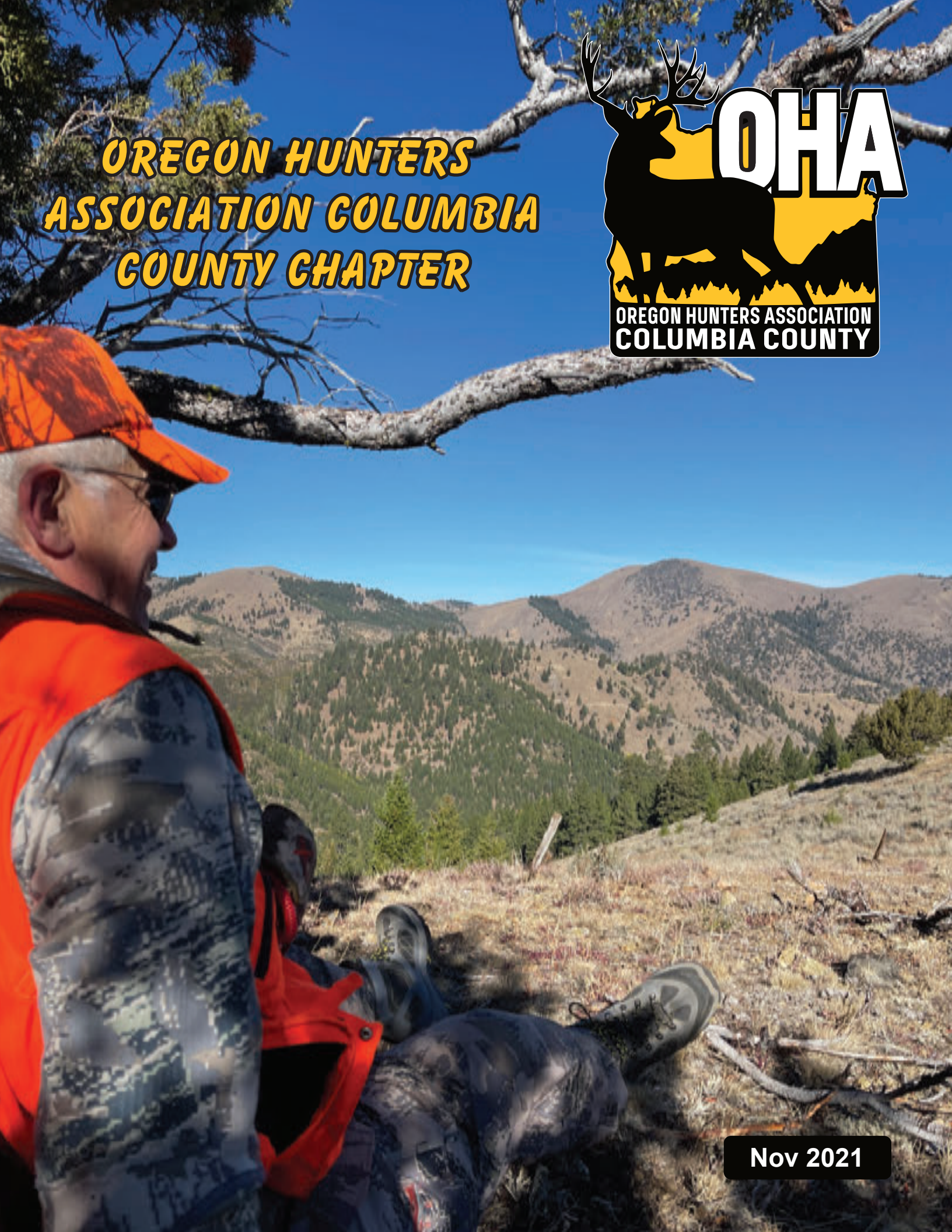
OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION COLUMBIA COUNTY CHAPTER
OHA
OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION
COLUMBIA COUNTY
Nov 2021

Deer Season!

Wildlife
Habitat
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I had the pleasure of meeting Amanda in the woods with her sister and father. She had just taken this beautiful blacktail.

November meeting will be at the Warren Country Inn Tuesday, 9th of November at 7:00. See you all there!

We're Social Follow us on Social media

OHA Columbia County

Poaching.

President's Report;
Jordan Hicks

Poaching is an UGLY Word. Nothing does more harm to the sport both ecologically, and in the public eye as wanton waste of a perfectly good game animal. It paints a broad brush all hunters, regardless of how ethical they are, and it makes the whole population of hunters look like law breaking thrill killers.

In the past week, there have been at least 2 confirmed cases of elk poaching in Columbia county. One was shot in the middle of the night close enough to houses that it woke people up. The second was a very decent sized bull in Mist that would have been quite the prize to anybody legally hunting the area during rifle or archery season. This time, they just took some of the choice bits, and left the rest to waste.

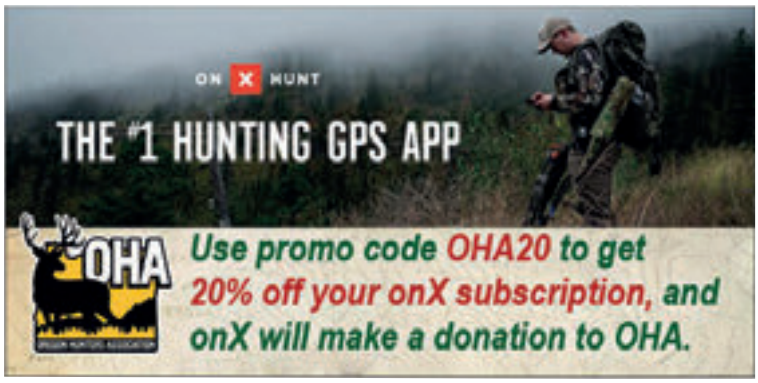
I'm sure we have all been in the situation where you come across a carcass by a gate, and wonder...could this be a poach? Maybe its missing its head, or skull plate.

If you see something, please say something. Call the tip line and let law enforcement know. You never know when one key piece of information can be the difference between bringing charges up or letting the poacher walk for another season.

Becasue of this, and the fact that it is in our home County, We, as a board, have pledged and extra $500 per animal to the tip line on these two cases. In addition, after speaking to Tualatin Valley Chapter, they have also Pledged and additional $500 per animal to solve this heinous crime. This brings the reward for information that leads to an arrest $1500 or $1000 and 4 preference points. In this case, it would be money well spent!

To Reach the TIP Line call:

1-800-452-7888 or*OSP (677)



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Crabs, Crabs and More Crabs!

By: William Hermens

Every year on the calendar, I look forward to October and November. Not only because big game hunting kicks into full gear but crabbing on the Oregon Coast is at its best!

In between rifle deer hunts and chasing waterfowl over the last month, I have been crabbing up and down the Oregon Coast. And has it ever been rewarding! As the old saying goes, any month that ends in an 'r' are the best months to go crabbing. While September was a pretty good month for crabbing this year, October was epic!

On my most recent trip, I hosted my aunt and uncle for a day of crabbing, and I knew it would be good right from the start. On the first pull of the crab trap and a near 7-inch Dungeness crab is in the bottom, you know it's going to be a good day! In only a few hours, we had 38 keeper Dungeness crab with the crabs full of meat and most of them well over 6 ¼ inches (the legal size in Oregon is 5 3/4).

So as deer and elk hunting seasons come to an end, it's time to start chasing ducks. But don't forget about a day or weekend trip to the coast for some crabbing. I saw some of the best October crabbing in recent memory with multiple crab trap pulls of 3 and even 4 keepers!

And if you need some crabbing tips, gear information or different places to go crabbing, check out my YouTube page – Hermens Outdoors – for a bunch of crabbing content. Just remember to bring the crab bait with you crabbing, don't ask me how I know!!

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS, WE WOULD LOVE THEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Columbia County Business Profile

TACTICAL ORDNANCE & AMMUNITION

ST HELENS, OREGON

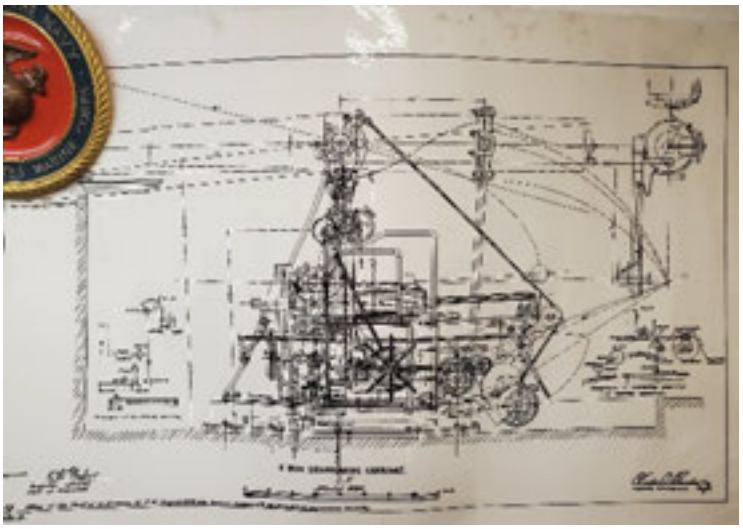
One of the Columbia County Chapters longest supporting businesses is Tactical Ordnance and Ammunition, part of Heller Enterprises in St Helens. Originally founded about 33 years ago as a bearing supply and machine shop for the many local mills that used to be operating here the business grew from a garage to the larger location it operates in today. While the mills that used to operate here in Columbia County have all but vanished from the area Heller Enterprises found new customers and has continued to be successful. Part of that success has come from their second business, Tactical Ordnance, which they have been running for about 10 years. The owner, Rob Heller, has always had an interest in firearms which lead him to start manufacturing gun components and ammunition. They are well known for their custom rifle barrels for AR-15 and AR-10 platforms along with muzzle brakes. While much of their products are self branded they also make barrels for other manufacturers. These components are branded for the company ordering them and would not indicate that they were made here. On the custom side they make barrels for most of the leading firearms available today. Want to lengthen or shorten your barrel, they can build a barrel to your specifications. Add a muzzle break, they can thread your current barrel or make a new one for that special rifle you own. Their machine shop is well equipped to handle the work with both old school manual lathes as well as new CNC machines to do whatever machining is needed. And they are expanding with even more capacity, adding more machines and other processes to their capabilities (more on this later). Tactical Ordnance continues to offer a wide selection of ammunition as well in both rifle and hand gun calibers. Due to the current supply shortages their selection is limited so it would be best to give them a call to find out what they have in stock. They usually carry both new and reload ammunition depending on the type. You can purchase their ammunition directly from their factory, order it for shipping, or purchase at one of their gun shows.

In addition to their current gun components and ammunition offerings Tactical has also acquired the rights to one of the largest gun shows in the Pacific Northwest. Now known as the Portland Shooting Sports Expo, this is a vendor invite only show. By making this change to how vendors are selected the booths will represent only products and offerings that are of real interest to sportsman and gun collectors. No booths selling wax candles or time share vacation rentals will be present. The dates of the next show will be November 20-21st at the Expo Center (see next page for information).

So with all of this going on with the day to day operations of Tactical you would think they are staying busy enough. Well not quite. Tactical has acquired the assets and is in the process of moving another firearm manufacturing company, to

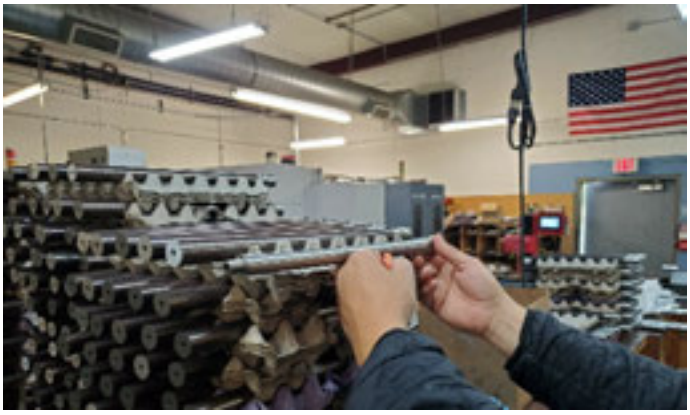
their facility here in St Helens. This will allow them to not only manufacture gun components, they will now be able to offer complete rifles in both semi-auto and bolt action. They are excited about this new opportunity for their customers and for the new jobs they hope to bring to the community.

Other projects that Tactical Ordnance is involved with include restoring an artillery battery at Fort Stevens. Working with the Friends of Old Fort Stevens they are building a working replica of one of the 6 inch disappearing guns for Battery Pratt. All this keeps Rob Heller very busy but he would not have it any other way. He says that he likes to stay busy and finding projects to be involved with. Looks like having things to stay busy should not be a problem for a while.



Original design drawing of the disappearing 6 inch guns used at Fort Stevens. (Above)

Stack of rifle barrel stock waiting to be machined into many different calibers. Note the finished barrel held up for comparison. Once the setup of the new equipment is complete Tactical will have to ability to manufacture all components in house. (Below)



Early Duck Season Recap

By: William Hermens

For every waterf owler in the state of Oregon and Washington, October kicks off the 3 ½ month grind chasing ducks and geese. Early season waterfowl can be hit and miss depending on the location, water levels and of course the weather.

The mild weather to start waterfowl season last year saw a slow start to the season with warm temperatures and low water levels up and down the flyway. With warm days reaching the mid-60s and no rain, the grind was in full effect to get that limit of ducks. This year the weather has been more favorable to start the season.

Since Oregon opening day hunting in zone 1, we have seen more rainy and super windy days than prior years. We need the rain and weather after such a warm and dry summer. The weather has stayed mostly cool over the first few weeks of the season, giving hunters great opportunities to bag a limit (or two).

I had the opportunity for an early season hunt with fellow chapter member Kirk Simons and our friend Jared to chase some ducks on public land. Although we didn't get the fore-casted rain early the day, the few moments when the wind blew moved ducks around, giving us several opportunities, which we capitalized on. Throughout the hunt we saw mallards, wigeon, plenty of pintail, green-winged teal and even a good number of wood ducks working the spread and area we hunted.

And with the long-term weather forecast calling for plenty of rain in November, the duck hunting will only get better from here. At least it's a better start than the last couple of years. Bring on the rain, wind, and stormy days!!!

Oregon Hunters Association Columbia County Chapter

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$500 extra per case
OHA Tualatin Valley is Pledging
$500 extra per case

= $1000
in addition to the $500 or 4 points offered by TIP

Oct 28th, OSP responded to a call of a bull elk shot near Fernhill rd and Cook Rd in Columbia County. The Bull was shot on private property and left to waste in the field approximately 50 yards from the road. Multiple neighbors heard a shot at around 2:30 AM, on the same day.

Oct 23, OSP responded to a report that a bull elk shot near Mist. The bull was located near Lane Creek Mainline, near milepost 21. 4 quarters were taken, but the rest was left to waste. The unlawful take happened between Oct. 22nd and the morning of Oct. 23rd.

Eastern Oregon Mule deer.

By: Jordan Hicks

I have a confession to make. I never hunted the east side. We live in such an amazing County where there are elk and deer just a few minutes drive from my house. Why travel seven hours each way to shoot a deer over there? I Love the way black tails taste, and to me the body mass of a Rosie, is far preferable to the size of the rack.
Also, I have two younger kids at home, and heretofore, my wife was already giving off the hunting widow vibe pretty hard, That has all changed, the kids have gotten older, and my wife has discovered her passion for Elk hunting, suddenly the door has opened and last month, I found myself packing up the truck at 6AM on a Thursday for a long trip to the Beulah unit. Gene, our former secretary, and I traveled in convoy, only stopping to get coffee and gas. We got into the hunting area just behind the other two people in our party. Joe and his son Joey.

We set up camp while the sun was still up high enough, knowing that when we got back, it would be dark. We were up high, over 1600' and when the sun goes down, it would get cold. Not long after camp was set, low scudding clouds appeared and crashed into the mountain side, It dropped chilly rain and sleet, but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm for the evening hunt.

We split up, Gene with me, Joe and Joey down below on a logging road.

Gene and I set up on this long finger of a draw. The views were incredible, and after a bit of glassing, saw a huge doe at the top of the next ridge-line, 500 yards out. We waited, patiently hoping that a male suitor would pop out and say hello. It wasn't meant to be. While scanning every tree and stump with my binoculars, I jumped. A shot rang out and echoed a few times off the walls of the canyons. Scanning to where I though it came from, I see Joe and Joey hiking up to a gray log. It took me a few minutes with my foggy binocular to realize that it wasn't a log at all, but they had got a Buck. Within the first hour of hunting, Joey had tagged out.

That night we made a quick meal of mountain house MREs and hit the hay, while the wind hallowed outside. Filling my tent in great billows like a ship in irons. Flapping shaking and I swear even lifting up into the air.

Morning dawned, and we made a quick meal then headed out to hike a ridge that was known to both Joe and Gene. We made it out there and hiked, and hiked. It was slow going and with the altitude, I was sucking wind more than I would like to admit. There was bear sign, deer and even elk, but alas, a nice big buck eluded us. The Second day was more of the same. Only this time for good measure, the does came out of the woodwork. We would consistently see 30 Plus does a day. Often times in herds of 6-10 Most with Fawns, but other than the one forkie horn that Joey got on his first day, it was a drought.

We were nearly alone in the mountains. There were hardly anyone there. We tried a strategy where we would skip opening weekend, and wait to the end of the season to see if the bucks came back when the pressure was off. It seemed like that wasn't the best idea in hindsight.

Continued next page

On the final day, we came across a local. He said that opening weekend “Sounded like world war 3 up here!”
If that was the case, my guess is that alot of the smaller bucks that hung with all of those does all got shot off the mountain. We found many gut piles that showed there definitely were bucks, but if there were any left, they either moved to the next drainage, on were really bedded down hard. It was a hard heading home empty handed, but my knowledge of a whole different side of Oregon is much greater now. The west side might be just as steep, but those uphills are for a few hundred yards, not half a mile or more. With Sore Knees, a sore back, and some fresh scratches on my truck, we left just as snow was falling in the hills.

I know one thing for certain. Im going to start saving my points for this hunt again. Id never seen so many deer. Just happened to be the wrong gender.
when I draw this hunt again, I think I might just brave the crowds and head there for the season opener!

Congratulations Hunters!

Top left Melody Kind, her buck and support crew Keny Kind, Corey Kind, Joe Kind, Mark Kind and Tony Kind (Brandon Reid taking pic). Top right is Kenadee Obrien and some hogs in Oklahoma. Next is Ed Medley Sr's buck and Elroy Olson's buck. On the next page is Connor Obrien's buck, Jennifer Teters' doe. Kenadee Obrien's buck and Ed Medley Jr's buck.

Thanksgiving turkeys/Troy Rodakowski

OHA-funded poll on IP13 shows positive results

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

OHA continues to actively work with two large coalitions to wage a "NO on IP13" campaign. Initiative Petition 13 would criminalize hunting, fishing and trapping activities and classify them as animal abuse; it also makes it virtually impossible to raise livestock in either a large-scale capacity or simply raising a few animals to be self-sufficient.

Recent polling conducted by one of the coalitions and partially funded by OHA has shown promising responses with a high level of support for protecting the right to hunt and fish in Oregon. We will craft messaging throughout November based on those polling results and will share that information with our membership and several grassroots and social media outlets.

Sportsmen's Caucus slates fund-raiser

The Oregon Sportsmen's Caucus (OSC), made up of legislators, special interest groups and their lobbyists who work to pass legislation that has a positive impact on hunting, fishing, and wildlife in Oregon, will hold a fund-raising event in February and you're invited.

Each year the OSC holds a fund-raising event to help fund OSC activities and staff.

In 2022 OSC will offer a virtual auction and hopefully an in-person wine and cheese fundraiser in February. The online auction will kick off Feb. 1 and end Feb. 10. The tentative in-person event will take place on Feb. 10 in Salem.

OHA invites you to participate in the virtual fundraiser and the in-person event if such an event can be held at that time, so watch for details coming soon.

New laws will go into effect in 2022

HB 3152 Wildlife Inspection Points

This OHA-sponsored 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.

HB 3163 Residency Requirements

This OHA-sponsored 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 so 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.

SB 289 Bias Crime

This bill prohibits a person convicted of a bias crime committed while on state waters or publicly owned outdoor recreation land from entering area under jurisdiction of State Parks and Recreation Department. It gives the State Marine Board authority to revoke certain privileges from a person convicted of a bias crime committed while on state waters or publicly owned outdoor recreation land. The law adds bias crime conviction to circumstances in which court may order State Fish and Wildlife Commission to revoke licenses, tags, and permits.

Extremists petition feds to ban interstate transport of game

Leveraging fear of COVID-19, the Center for Biological Diversity and Natural Resources Defense Council have petitioned the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban all import into the United States and interstate transport within the United States of all wild mammals and almost all birds – including all parts, such as hides and horns, even if properly processed – while also creating a comprehensive chain-of-custody system for all plants and animals imported or exported from the United States.

The petition is seemingly aimed at legal wildlife trade, such as pet stores and other importers of birds and mammals, but would hit hunters by ending the import of all parts, products or carcasses from any country, and prohibiting their transport across state lines within the United States.

–Sportsmen's Alliance (sportsmensalliance.org)

OHA to seed after fire

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

OHA will seed ground this fall on the Metolius Unit property where OHA now holds a conservation easement after the Grandview Fire reached the property in July.

In cooperation with the landowner, OHA will seed all of the fire trails with a mix of local native seed that will provide multiple benefits. It will provide soil stabilization for the exposed ground, provide valuable wildlife forage, and help prevent invasive species from taking over the site. Firefighters stopped the spread of the fire on the property with minimal burn damage.

The landowners and OHA staff worked with members of the Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Team to assess the area and plan for restoring the burned area.

The property owners, David and Pamela Potter, recently received OHA's Citizen Landowner of the Year Award. See the November-December issue of Oregon Hunter for a complete list of the deserving OHA state-level award winners.

OHA expands wildlife crossing efforts to SW Oregon

The number of deer killed on southern Oregon roadways is staggering.

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA actively contributes to efforts to improve wildlife habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions across Oregon, and we are now working as part of the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition (SOWCC) to mitigate negative impacts of Interstate 5 south of Ashland.

Like our involvement with the Oregon Action Team on Ungulate Migration, SOWCC is diverse in composition and includes representation from ODFW, BLM, Southern Oregon University, Trout Unlimited, and many others.

Oregon Department of Transportation has identified several stretches of high wildlife-vehicle collision density between Ashland and the California border. Working with Coalition partners, we have identified six sites with high potential for effective wildlife crossings in this stretch of I-5.

Our next step is to undertake a feasibility study and preliminary design for the most practical and effectual sites to get wildlife across the interstate safely.

POACHING PERSPECTIVE

'Things Will Die'

For a compelling in-depth read about Oregon's poaching problem and the mindset of those responsible, check out the feature "'Things Will Die': The Text Messages That Brought Down a Coast Range Poaching Ring" by Tess Riski in *Willamette Week*. Two OHA state board members are quoted. Some adult language appears in poacher text messages. https://www.wweek.com/news/2021/10/06/things-will-die-the-text-messages-that-brought-down-a-coast-range-poaching-ring

COMMISSION QUESTIONS TRAIL CAMS; ANSWER A POLL ON THEIR USE AT WWW.OREGONHUNTERS.ORG