

CBH-SAA Legislative Update

Elkhorn Slough Recreational Opportunity Limited by MLPA

The following is a copy of a letter sent to Bill Kuehn Legislative Coordinator for CBH-SAA from the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA) reference bowfishing in Elkhorn Slough. Over the last few years, bowfishing in Elkhorn Slough, in Monterey County, has been prohibited due to the Fish and Game Commission designating Elkhorn Slough a State Marine Conservation Area under the Marine Life Protection Act, which limits some recreational activities. Currently, fishing with a hook and line, and clamming are the only approved methods of take.

The Marine Life Protection Act <<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/background.asp>> act was passed in 1999 and requires the Department of Fish and Game to reevaluate all existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and potentially design new MPAs to better protect California's marine resources. Marine protected areas (MPAs <<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/dfes.asp>>) are marine areas designed to protect and conserve marine life and habitat. California Bowman Hunters/State Archery Association (CBH/SAA) and the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA) strongly feel that prohibiting bowfishing in Elkhorn Slough is completely unnecessary given its limited impact on marine life or habitat. Over the next several months, CBH/SAA and COHA will work with the California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Fish and Game Commission to possibly allow bowfishing in Elkhorn Slough to resume. We are asking that everyone who shoots a bow (whether you bowfish or not) please write a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission letting them know that we would like to have the right to bow fish in the Elkhorn Slough again. If COHA can go to the Fish and Game Commission with our letters in hand it will help support their argument. I have been informed unlike in times past where only certain parts of the slough have been restricted from bowfishing the way the regulation is written now there is no open area for bowfishing in Elkhorn Slough. This may not affect you now but as the areas we utilize our bows in are being reduced and restricted who knows where it will end? Please send your letters to:

Bill Kuehn: cbhlegcoor@roadrunner.com or CBH/SAA Secretary

7710 Camino Vista

Shingletown, CA 96088

ATTN: Legislative Coordinator/ Elkhorn Slough Letter

Maury, Warner tag reductions for Mule Deer Initiative: Archery changes proposed for 2010

Contact: Michelle Dennehy (503) 947-6022 / (503) 931-2748 Fax: (503) 947-6009

Date: May 22, 2009

SALEM, Ore. - Rifle deer tags available for hunters may be reduced by 440 tags in the Maury unit and 33 tags in the N. Warner unit for the fall 2009 seasons. Reducing tags in Warner and Maury is one of the strategies being used as part of the Mule Deer Initiative, a new effort to reverse declining mule deer trends in five wildlife management units (Maury, Warner, Steens Mtn, Heppner, and Murderers Creek). ODFW is proposing the following rifle deer tag numbers for the fall 2009 season: 385 tags in Maury (compared to 825 last year) and 32 for N. Warner rifle (65 last year). Buck tags in the Murderers Creek unit are also proposed to be reduced (from 1,100 last year to 950 in 2009) but the reduction is because the buck ratio (bucks per 100 does) is below ODFW's management objective. Statewide, 2009 proposed buck deer tags, antlerless deer tags, elk tags and pronghorn antelope tags are down slightly while bighorn sheep and Rocky Mtn goat tags have increased. Fall 2009 big game tag proposals have been available on ODFW's Web site under Hunting Resources since early May. Hunters that applied for a Maury or Warner deer hunt or any other big game controlled hunt may change their choice until June 1. Call ODFW's licensing division at (503) 947-6101 to make a change or use this form. The Fish and Wildlife Commission will make the final decision on fall 2009 tags during its June 5 meeting in Salem. Archery season changes for 2010 Archery season changes are also proposed for the 2010 season. Currently archery is general season in most units, meaning anyone can purchase a tag, but ODFW will propose controlled archery deer hunts in the Maury, Steens Mtn., and Warner units. A controlled hunt enables ODFW to better control harvest and collect more precise and reliable information about archery hunter pressure and harvest. If the proposed changes are approved, bow hunters that draw one of these controlled tags would not be able to hunt deer in another unit. Also, archery elk hunting will be limited to hunters with a controlled archery deer tag for the unit. Any changes to archery hunting will be decided upon during the Oct. 2 Commission meeting in Salem, when 2010 big game regulations are adopted. About the Mule Deer Initiative The Mule Deer Initiative is a new effort by ODFW to increase mule deer, which have declined across the western United States for a variety of reasons. ODFW is currently working with stakeholders like sportsman organizations and land managers to finalize plans for each of the five units involved in the initial effort. Actions such as habitat, travel, disease and predator management will be considered as part of the effort. For more information about the Mule Deer Initiative, contact Meg Eden (541) 447-5111 or Greg Jackle (541) 575-1167. For questions about Warner unit, call Craig Foster (541) 947-2950.

Oregon Mule Deer Initiative

On Thursday, July 2, 2009 I spoke with Wayne Endicot. Wayne works at the Bowrack in Oregon. He is also the Legislative Coordinator for that state.

He asked me to review the Oregon Fish and Wildlife "Mule Deer Initiative". We spoke about hunter saturation in certain areas of Oregon which seems to have a major impact on the decreasing numbers of deer and elk.

Although it doesn't mention this fact in the initiative I downloaded, Wayne has mentioned that deer and elk tags will become draw tags and part of the reason seems to be high numbers of California archers taking up the majority of the camping in the areas mentioned in the article attached.

This has been upsetting the local hunters there. Several complaints rendered an action by Oregon Fish and Wildlife to take action to reduce the impact in these areas.

Wayne has been working to keep Oregon from going to a drawing for the deer and elk tags and asked for our cooperation and commitment to refrain from saturating the areas that are at risk of being shut down to over the counter tags.

If you enjoy hunting in the targeted areas, contact Wayne (Wayne Endicot/info@thebowrack.com) for information regarding the possibility of hunting in other areas that may not be at risk.

I encourage all to visit the Oregon Fish and Wildlife site and research the "Mule Deer Initiative".

Your cooperation and involvement is key to keeping our hunting in Oregon open and animal numbers up.

Thank you, Bill Kuehn

Thank you to our generous donors!

You have realized how important it is to protect our rich, precious hunting and archery heritage.

Our legislative staff in cooperation with California Outdoor Heritage Association is working diligently to ensure your contributions are used wisely and effectively.

We have made every effort to be certain that the following list is complete and accurate. Please accept our apologies if there are any errors or omissions.

Once again, many thanks for your generosity and continued support of our legislative efforts.

Oranco Bowmen

Orange Belt Field Archers

John Florian	Northwoods, Redwood, San Francisco,
CBH Big Game Club	Sonoma, TAC.
Clarence Legg	Stephen St John
William Leal	Mike Barth
Jim Carreiro	Broken Arrow
Yolo Bowmen	Salinas
Mission Trail Bowhunters Association, Region	El Dorado Hills
56:	California Inland Bowhunters Association,
South Bay Archery	Region 54 \$75.00 / Hit Tag sales
Louis Woelfel	Pete Budding \$235.00/Hit Tag sales.
Sonny McIntyre	
Northern California Field Archery Association,	
Region58: Briones, Diablo Bowmen,	

All donations, any size, are deeply appreciated. To be a donor to the Legislative Defense Fund, send your contribution to:

Terry Mikesell/P.O. Box 491990/Redding, CA 96049-1990 Please make checks payable to: CBH Legislative Defense Fund

Region 1 Legislative Representative: Bill Heins (no report)

Region 2 Legislative Representative: Robert Moore I attended the Taucher meeting 6/23
COHA had a letter for the Commission from the Taucher Committee to support these bills in the legislature.
AB1442, AB979, AB1423, SB589 and ACA11.

I signed the letter for CBH/SAA along with 13 other organizations. COHA had a second letter for Don Koch (DFG Director) on the HSUS partnership. CBH/SAA in on the list with 31 other organizations.

Judd Hanna gave a report or information on the California Game Wardens Foundation. This foundation supports Wardens outside DFG. 50% supports the families and 50% supports training and equipment. CBH/SAA may want to consider a donation to the foundation in the future.

Calif. Game Refuges were discussed. DFG suggests some be eliminated due to no scientific evidence of an advantage. Some were created in the 20's and 30's to protect logging operations and personnel during the hunting season.

More discussion at next meeting. Organizations should check on Forest Service Review Plans. Plans may effect hunting or access. Other items were discussed or presented (fishing). Most will be carried over to next meeting, nothing major.

Region 3 Legislative Representative: Dan Bledsaw

Legislative Report/Conservation Funding Protected

The California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA) and its members and partners have successfully fended off efforts to "borrow" \$30 million dollars from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund-the account into which all

hunting and fishing license monies, all bear tag monies, a significant portion of deer tag funds, and many other hunter/angler generated revenues are deposited

In January, in an attempt to plug budget holes, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed to "borrow" \$30 million dollars from the Preservation Fund. Had the proposal been approved, it would have undermined the Department of Fish and Game's ability to carry out its wildlife conservation mandates, provide adequate enforcement in the field, and negatively impacted hunting and fishing opportunity.

To address this serious concern, COHA - working closely with the United States Sportsmen's Alliance, California Waterfowl and other partners - repeatedly brought our concerns to the attention of members of the California Legislature Outdoor Sporting Caucus and other State Legislators in an effort to protect valuable wildlife conservation funding for the Department. Efforts by DFG, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and COHA to warn the Governor about the potential loss of millions of dollars in federal matching funds was also key to getting it removed from the final state budget.

In other good news, the final state budget maintained millions of dollars in state subventions to counties for the Williamson Act-one of the most successful land conservation programs in California that currently protects about 16.4 million acres of private farmland. The ongoing effort to maintain the Williamson Act has been led by the California Farm Bureau, and COHA was pleased to work with it and many other conservation groups to maintain the financial integrity of the program.

Region 4 Legislative Representative: Alan Meurer (no report)

Region 5 Legislative Representative: Steve Smith (no report)

Region 6 Legislative Representative: Wayne Raupe (no report)