

## SPECIAL NOTE ...

The following statement in the *2003-2004 Oregon Game Bird Regulations* is incorrect:

“Current federally approved non-toxic shot includes lead, bismuth-tin, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron or tungsten-iron-nickel-tin.”

The word “lead” should not appear in that sentence. The correct word is “steel.” The sentence should read:

“Current federally approved non-toxic shot includes **steel**, bismuth-tin, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron or tungsten-iron-nickel-tin.”

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

Toll-Free Number ..... 800-720-6339 (ODFW)  
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Licensing and Controlled Hunts ..... 503-947-6100  
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*Our mission is to protect and enhance  
Oregon's fish and wildlife  
and their habitats  
for use and enjoyment  
by present and future generations.*

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## FAST FACTS ABOUT ... FIREARMS POSSESSION

### **What authority does the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission have related to firearms and hunting seasons?**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has statutory authority to regulate when, where and what types of firearms can be used for hunting. The Commission does not have the authority to restrict a person's ability to possess or carry firearms.

### **What changed with the recent legal ruling related to firearm possession?**

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 166.170 (1) states in part that, except as expressly authorized by state statute, the authority to regulate possession, storage, transportation or use of firearms, including ammunition, is vested solely in the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Before the August 2003 ruling, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, through Oregon Administrative Rules, prohibited the possession of firearms during some hunts, such as when bow hunting, accompanying a youth during a youth hunt, and in a safety zone. These possession rules have been modified to reflect the current understanding of the Commission's authority.

### **What has NOT changed?**

Rules pertaining to hunting have not changed. For example, it remains a violation to hunt with a centerfire or muzzleloading rifle without a valid unused deer or elk tag during many deer and elk seasons. Page 13 of the *2003 Oregon Big Game Regulations* provides a complete list of affected seasons.

### **When can I carry or possess a firearm?**

There are no Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife administrative rules that restrict the right to carry or have in your possession a firearm at any time. You may not hunt with that firearm unless regulations for the area and type of hunt in which you are participating allow you to do so.

### **When can I hunt with a firearm?**

You may hunt with a firearm during seasons authorized by the Commission, providing you have the necessary license, tags, bird stamp validations and other documents and permits, and you comply with any and all other restrictions, such as those noted on page 13 of the *2003 Oregon Big Game Regulations*.

### **Can I possess or carry a firearm during a general or controlled bow season?**

Yes. You may carry or have in your possession a firearm during a general or controlled archery (bow) season. You must use legal archery equipment to hunt animals for which you have an archery tag.

### **Can I carry a centerfire firearm during a muzzleloader-only season?**

Yes. You may carry any firearm during a controlled muzzleloader-only season. However, you must hunt the animal for which you have the muzzleloader tag with a muzzleloader that is legal for the species and season.

### **I will be accompanying my daughter during a youth hunt. Can I carry a firearm?**

Yes. You may carry a firearm when accompanying your daughter or other youth hunter during a youth hunt. However, you may not hunt while you are accompanying a youth on a youth hunt. Only the youth is allowed to hunt.

### **What type of firearm can I carry during a general or controlled deer or elk season?**

You may carry any firearm you wish during a deer or elk season. However, there are restrictions on hunting activities with certain weapon types during certain seasons. You must hunt a deer or elk with the weapon that is legal for the season for which you have a valid unused tag. See page 13 in the *2003 Oregon Big Game Regulations* for more details.

### **Can I shoot a bear or cougar in self-defense with a firearm while in the field at a time when it is not legal for me to be hunting with that firearm?**

Yes. However, you cannot tag or keep any black bear or cougar killed for human safety reasons during a time when it is not legal for you to be hunting.

### **Are there still restrictions on using or carrying lead shot?**

Yes. Restrictions on the use and possession of lead shot are set by federal regulations, and/or regulations put in place by landowners. In both cases, those restrictions remain in place.

### **Can I carry a loaded firearm on an ATV or snowmobile?**

No. A separate statute (ORS 821.240) prohibits carrying a firearm while operating an ATV or snowmobile unless the firearm is unloaded.