



OHA will plant 4,000 more seedlings in a Lake County burn on March 25. For more information and to register, visit www.oregonhunters.org

OHA members step up in call to action for Right to Hunt bill

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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House Joint Resolution 5 (HJR 5), the bill seeking a referral to the 2024 ballot for the constitutional protection for fishing, hunting, harvesting, and gathering, had its first public hearing on Feb. 2 in the House Committee on Rules. OHA members, responding to our Call to

Action, submitted written testimony in support of the bill. The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and Howl for Wildlife issued action alerts and mobilized a large number of supporters.

The bill will now need to be scheduled for a work session so it can be moved to the House floor and, if successful, over to the Senate for further approval.

IP3 gets \$50k gift, will now hire paid signature gatherers

After being relatively dormant for the last five months, the proponents of Initiative Petition 3 (IP3), have begun ramping up their efforts to get on the 2024 ballot. They received a \$50,000 donation and are actively hiring paid signature gatherers. Additionally, they are following our efforts with HJR 5, going so far as to post OHA's legislative testimony to their social media pages.

This influx of funding and the ability to hire paid signature gatherers, not to mention the clear annoyance at our attempt to protect fishing and hunting, are indicators that Oregonians can no longer view this effort as an outlier. The proponents have over 16 months to gather the signatures needed (112,020) to gain the ballot – the threat is real.

Court decisions place Measure 114 on hold until late spring

The Oregon Supreme Court in early February rejected the State's request that the court order Judge Raschio (Harney County) to vacate his two preliminary orders staying M114. The Oregon Supreme Court stated the case is not yet "procedurally ripe" for them to intervene.

This is a big win for the current state cases and also for the remaining lawsuits in federal court. Since the state judge's stay against M114 remains in place indefinitely, the federal lawsuit's preliminary injunction hearing has been canceled and those cases will proceed to trial, likely in May or June of this year.

OHA filed two amicus briefs supporting the lawsuit against Measure 114 by National Shooting Sports Foundation and Oregon State Shooting Association.

OHA's CWD-funding bill gains traction

OHA authored HB 2532, a bill that seeks to appropriate General Fund dollars to ODFW and OSU for the purpose of establishing in-state testing for CWD, as well as increased staffing for CWD-specific sample collection and research.

The bill had its first public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water on Jan. 26. OHA was represented as part of a three-person panel to provide the committee with information on CWD and the urgent need for greater testing and research in Oregon.

Collin Gillin, ODFW Veterinarian, and Kurt Williams, Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Director, provided the additional panel testimony. Representatives from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) were on hand to provide supporting testimony, and a joint letter of support from OHA, RMEF, TRCP, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Deer Association, Oregon Trappers Association, Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited, Fur Takers of America, Oregon Pack Works, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation, and Advocates for Sustainable Animal Populations was submitted into testimony.

The bill was scheduled for a work session and passed out with a "do pass" recommendation. The bill now goes to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for approval due to the financial request.

TO DONATE TO OHA'S HUNTER VICTORY FUND, VISIT [HTTPS://OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/DONATE](https://oregonhunters.org/donate)



OHA will plant 4,000 seedlings in a wildfire burn in Lake County. Join us on March 25!

Round 2 of OHA's Restoring Hope & Habitat planting in Interstate Unit set for March 25

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Coordinator
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OHA will be back in the Interstate Unit on March 25 for Round 2 of sage and bitterbrush planting for the benefit of wintering mule deer.

We're on the hunt for 75 volunteers to plant and cage an additional 4,000 sage and bitterbrush seedlings to restore mule deer habitat recently affected by wildfires in the Interstate Unit. Over a half-million acres burned in this unit in 2021, including the colossal 400,000-acre Bootleg Fire.

OHA planted 6,000 sage and bitterbrush plants in frigid -9° temps in late November. Thank you to all of our hardy volunteers who braved the cold to restore mule deer habitat. This round, the groundhog promised warmer weather, and volunteers will have a chance to win various small prizes.

State OHA and the Klamath Chapter each contributed \$3,000 to the project, while OHA's Lake County Chapter donated \$2,500. OHA conservation staff successfully attained grant funding to make this project possible.

Register at <https://oregonhunters.org/regional-projects/restoring-hope-habitat/> or for more information contact Tyler Dungannon (td@oregonhunters.org).

BLM looks to expand solar farms to Oregon public lands

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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Imagine going to your favorite hunting spot on the high desert and finding that thousands of acres of it are fenced off, eliminating public access and big game habitat.

BLM has announced that it is starting a process for a "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" to consider updates to the Western Solar Plan that was originally done in 2012. This is the formal process to make it easier for the development of utility scale solar development on BLM lands in our state. The BLM states that they are "committed to planning for responsible solar energy development on public land in a responsible way that balances the need for clean energy with protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources."

This process, if completed as planned, would update the existing Western Solar Plan to take into account the new technology that has evolved over the last decade with renewable energy and not only include the six southwestern states, but expand it to include five additional states: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

The expansion of the existing Western Solar Plan is being driven by mandates in the 2020 Clean Energy Act and a presidential executive order (E.O. 14008) which was put in place to tackle the climate crisis at home and abroad. President Biden ordered the Secretary of the Interior to "review siting and permitting processes on public lands" with a goal of increasing "renewable energy production on those lands..."

OHA is committed to protecting wildlife habitat on all public lands. Specific impacts from energy development on public lands will need to be evaluated on a site-by-site basis.



Christine Baird of Eugene won a Sig Cross .308 bolt action.

Latest Gun Calendar winners announced

OHA drew the winners of the 2023 Gun Calendar Raffle on Jan. 4 at the State Office.

Winners are posted every Wednesday on OHA's Facebook page and website. Here are January and February winners:

- Christensen Mesa .28 Nos, Jeffrey Martin, Baker City
- Pointer Acrius O/U, Perry M. DeLapp, Jr., Salem
- Taurus The Judge revolver, Joshua Raby, Portland
- Browning Hells Canyon, Jimmy Borah, Klamath Falls
- Springfield Hellcat 9mm, Christina O'Hearn, Albany
- Sig Sauer Cross .308, Christine Baird, Eugene
- Howa Yote package .223, Pete Sanok, South Beach
- Henry Big Boy .44 Mag, Joe Morse, Unity

Sales of the 2024 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar began in February, at sports shows, participating OHA banquets, and by calling the OHA state office at 541-772-7313 or visiting OHA's website at:

www.oregonhunters.org/store



OHA SPRING BANQUETS

TBD	Emerald Valley	
Mar. 4	Pioneer	SOLD OUT!
Mar. 11	Union-Wallowa	*541-786-1283
Mar. 11	Bend	541-480-9848
Mar. 18	Josephine Co.	541-821-1511
Mar. 18	Yamhill County	SOLD OUT!
Mar. 18	Clatsop County	503-440-9934
Mar. 25	Tualatin Valley	503-502-0611
Apr. 1	Baker	541-403-0402
Apr. 1	Tioga	SOLD OUT!
Apr. 8	Umpqua	541-580-5660
Apr. 15	Mid-Willamette	541-971-3351
Apr. 22	Capitol **	503-851-8409
Apr. 29	Blue Mountain	541-231-4384
Apr. 29	Klamath	541-884-5773
May 6	Tillamook	503-801-3779
May 6	OHA State Convention,***	
	Chinook Winds Casino,	541-772-7313
May 20	Lake County	541-219-0614
June 3	Rogue Valley	541-773-8736

* Oregon Mountain Goat Tag Auction

** A&H Statewide Deer Tag auction

*** A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction