



The OHA Bend Chapter's spring project to fence Monner Springs will help the area rehabilitate and provide quality habitat for upland birds and other wildlife.

Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership proves effective in difficult legislative session

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The Oregon Sportsmen's Conservation Partnership has proven to be an effective coalition so far in the 2023 legislative session. Formed in January of 2022, the Partnership was formed from the initial group of sportsmen's organizations that began fighting the extreme initiative petition IP3, which seeks to criminalize legal hunting, fishing, and trapping, as well as animal agriculture on Oregon's November 2024 ballot.

Since that time, the Partnership has grown to include 36 wildlife and fisheries organizations and engaged on numerous conservation, wildlife, and fisheries topics. With the Partnership's participation on important legislative issues, the voices of Oregon sportsmen and women have been amplified in a new and effectual way.

With OHA lobbying in the Capitol, the mobilization of the Partnership organizations, and their memberships, has made a positive impact in a difficult legislative session. The joint effort has propelled the three bills brought forward by OHA and the Partnership to remain in play and viable deep into the session.

OHA BILLS:

HB 2532: Secures funding for establishment of in-state testing for Chronic Wasting Disease and increased staff for sample collection and research. This bill was passed out of its original committee with a "do pass" recommendation and is currently in the Ways & Means Committee awaiting a public hearing.

HB 3086: Restructures the ODFW Commission statute to replace congressional districts with the more regionally diverse river basin model. This bill has become a battlefield over appropriate representation on the Commission. It was diverted from its original committee and is currently in the House Rules Committee awaiting a public hearing.

HJR 5: Seeks a referral to the 2024 ballot for a constitutional protection to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather. This bill is currently in House Rules Committee where it received a public hearing in February and is awaiting a work session.

GUN BILLS:

HB 2005: This bill now includes components from two other bills and seeks to restrict homemade firearms (with ramifications for custom firearms and muzzleloader kits), an age restriction to 21 years old to own or possess a firearm, and expansion of the ability of public buildings/locations to restrict CHL ability. The bill is in stasis on the House Floor awaiting its scheduled vote in early May.

SB 348: Seeks to institute all of Measure 114 plus an additional 3-day waiting period, raises the age to 21 for PTP, continues the standard capacity magazine ban, makes sheriffs the permitting agents, increased the fees almost threefold from \$65 to \$150, and increases processing time from 30 to 60 days. Contains a provision stating any legal challenge, including the constitutionality, must be filed in the Circuit Court in Marion County. This bill is currently in the Ways & Means Committee.



Join OHA for a weekend regional blacktail habitat project at White River Wildlife Area June 10-11.

OHA slates blacktail project at White River

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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State OHA, Hoodview, and Mid-Columbia Chapters are leading an effort to make Hoodview's annual White River Wildlife Area habitat project even bigger this year on June 10-11. All chapters and individuals are welcome! OHA is hunting for 80-100 volunteers to build buck-and-pole fencing to protect aspen stands, remove invasive weeds, and fell and buck trees to increase deer and elk forage.

Volunteers will be entered for a chance to win prizes from Sig Sauer, Benchmade, Work Sharp, Napier Outdoors and a Howa Carbon Fiber 6.5 PRC with Nikko Stirling Optics donated by Legacy Sports International. Camping is available on the White River Wildlife Area, and food will be provided!

For more information, contact Tyler Dungannon at td@oregonhunters.org

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OHA members returned to a Lake County burn to plant forage seedlings that will benefit mule deer.

OHA returns to the burn; more on horizon for '23

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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OHA, partners, and adults in custody at the Warner Creek Correctional Facility finished planting and protecting 10,000 sage and bitterbrush seedlings in April within the Cougar Peak burn scar, which is key mule deer winter range.

With more funds in the project budget, OHA is working with partners and land managers to set up another bitterbrush planting project farther north on Highway 31, potentially near Hole In The Ground this fall.

OHA comments about public land solar farms

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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Planning for and development of renewable energy facilities is accelerating in our state, including BLM lands.

OHA recently provided comments on the BLM's "Western Solar Plan" expansion into Oregon, outlining specific areas and places that solar farms should not be allowed on BLM lands to protect hunting access and habitat.

OHA is also tracking and commenting on various legislative proposals to address renewable energy siting and processes in the current legislative session.

OHA weighs in on game bird regs

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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OHA was the only organization to testify on game bird regulations at April's ODFW Commission meeting. OHA supported continued conservatively controlled sage-grouse hunting that yields critical population information for wildlife managers, supported new youth pheasant hunting opportunities, new turkey hunting opportunities on EE Wilson Wildlife Area, and thanked ODFW for using hunters to mitigate turkey damage.

Fall turkey season will now open on Sept. 1 in western Oregon, and private-land Grant County turkey hunting opportunity will be abundant. OHA expressed concerns regarding impacts of this change on western Oregon turkey populations that predominantly use public lands, but we will look at the data next year and reassess whether this was a sound science-based decision to maintain quality hunting opportunity on public lands in western Oregon.

OHA has concerns about new regulations' impacts on turkeys on public lands.



SPRING YOUTH EVENTS

April 29: OHA Pioneer Chapter Spring Youth Day, 503-936-4718

May 6: OHA Tioga Chapter Youth Day, 541-267-2577

June 3: OHA Bend Chapter Youth & Family Day, 541-480-7323;
OHA Josephine County Chapter Youth Day, 541-218-2836

June 3-4: OHA Tualatin Valley Chapter Youth Event at Hagg Lake, 503-453-0521

June 24: OHA Lake County Chapter Youth Day, 541-417-2983