



## OHA improves blacktail habitat June 10-11 at White River W.A.

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator  
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Join OHA for a work party weekend at White River Wildlife Area on June 10 and 11, led by State OHA, Hoodview and Mid-Columbia chapters. Volunteers are needed to help build buck-and-pole fencing to protect aspen, fell and buck trees to increase ungulate forage, and remove some existing invasive vegetation. All volunteers, regardless of their OHA chapter, are welcome. Camping for the event will be held along Happy Ridge/Badger Creek Road on White River Wildlife Area (Campsite Coordinates: 45.27322 -121.27789).

Volunteers will be entered to win great prizes from Benchmade, Yeti, Black Rifle Coffee Company, Coast, Work Sharp, Napier Outdoors and the grand prize, a Howa Carbon Fiber 6.5 PRC with Nikko Stirling Optics and Buffalo River bipod donated by Legacy Sports International.

Scan the QR code to register to volunteer. OHA conservation staff will be in touch with more details soon, so please list your email address when registering.

<https://oregonhunters.org/regional-projects/white-river-black-tail-regional-project/>

For more information, contact OHA Conservation Coordinator, Tyler Dungannon ([td@oregonhunters.org](mailto:td@oregonhunters.org)).



## OHA protects SW Cascade meadow, more regional projects on horizon

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator  
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OHA and partners are working to protect and enhance meadow systems in the southwest Cascades for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat and hunters. Meadow systems are important for deer and elk, and across the Cascades, meadows are at risk of loss, degradation, and fragmentation due to conifer encroachment, heavy use by domestic livestock, illegal OHV use, wildfire suppression and other factors.



In April, OHA conservation staff, OHA SW Director Kelly Forney, and volunteers from OHA's Rogue Valley, Umpqua, Bend and Josephine County chapters installed a critical 2,000-foot section of wildlife-friendly fence. The new fence connected two other fences and protected a sensitive southwest Cascade meadow system and watershed headwaters (Whiskey Springs and Fourbit Creek) on USFS land. Our aim with this project was to catalyze an increase in deer and elk forage and improve water quality of the source that provides drinking water to roughly 150,000 people in the Rogue Valley area. As with many of our OHA habitat projects, this work will also benefit numerous other wildlife and species of conservation concern.

Ultimately, OHA and partners will protect three areas in the Cascade Mountains (Willow Prairie, Short Creek, and Whiskey Springs/Fourbit) with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing to restore the resiliency of these mesic systems and provide quality habitat for deer, elk, and other wildlife. OHA conservation staff are working diligently to procure

\$50,000 in grant funds for the remaining meadows associated with this project.

State OHA has initiated an effort to work with chapters to implement regional conservation projects such as the Southwest Cascade Meadow Protection Project on an annual basis across the state. With collaboration of multiple chapters and an open invitation to all OHA members and partners, we have and will continue to implement landscape-scale projects that offer a significant benefit to wildlife.

It is inspiring to see multiple chapters and OHA volunteers from across the state come together to achieve lofty goals that benefit Oregon's wildlife. Using this recently implemented regional project model, in the last 6 months, OHA successfully planted 10,000 sage and bitterbrush plants in the Interstate Unit, and we've begun implementation of a massive meadow protection project in the Cascades. In June, several OHA chapters are enhancing deer and elk habitat on White River Wildlife Area. OHA conservation staff are working out details for another bitterbrush planting effort in a burn scar near Fort Rock, and we have begun conversations regarding a northeast Oregon regional project.

State OHA and OHA chapters have contributed financially to the aforementioned projects, but this regional project model utilizes OHA conservation staff and regional directors to procure external grant funds which will make implementation of these landscape-scale projects feasible into the future.

For more information on any regional OHA project, contact Tyler Dungannon ([td@oregonhunters.org](mailto:td@oregonhunters.org)).

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## Senate disruption causes uncertainty for important bills

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director

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Senate members from the Republican and Independent parties have been absent from the Senate floor since May 3, effectively denying a quorum and therefore stopping all Senate votes. Regardless of the reasoning for the walkout, the move creates uncertainty for a large number of policy bills awaiting a vote from the Senate floor. If the Senate cannot continue to pass legislative measures before the end of the session, those bills will die and must begin anew in the next session.

OHA's bills have, unfortunately, been caught in the political crossfire of the 2023 legislature. Both HJR 5, the referendum to the 2024 ballot seeking a Constitutional protection to fish and hunt, and HB 3086, the restructuring of the Fish & Wildlife Commission, are in the House Committee on Rules. Both have had public hearings and are currently awaiting work sessions. However, should they be passed out of committee and pass the House floor, they would be sent to the now stalled Senate with no guarantee of further action.

HB 2532, the bill seeking funding for increased detection and in-state testing for Chronic Wasting Disease, is currently in the Ways & Means committee and therefore has the most optimistic path forward by being included in the budget bills.

The absent members of the Senate have indicated they will return on the final day of session, June 25, to pass the necessary budget bills and perhaps a few "priority" bills. OHA will continue working to ensure that our bills are included and passed before the last hour of the 2023 session ticks down.

The major gun bills of the session, HB 2005 and SB 348, remain stalled at this time. HB 2005, one of the main reasons for the Senate walkout, remains in the queue on the Senate floor, while SB 348 awaits the budget process in the Ways & Means committee.

## ODFW publishes its Annual Wolf Report

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director

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ODFW released its Annual Wolf Report in late April and covered the details at the April 21 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The report offered no surprises. Wolf packs in Oregon continue to increase, new sightings and groups of wolves continue to increase, wolves continue to expand to new areas in Oregon, and impacts to livestock producers continue to increase. A copy of the 2022 Annual Wolf Report is available at: [https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon\\_wolf\\_program/2022\\_Annual\\_Wolf\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2022_Annual_Wolf_Report_Final.pdf)

At the April Commission meeting, ODFW also outlined a process and timeline for the required "5-year review" of the current Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. ODFW staff told the OHA Board of Directors that the agency will be coming to OHA to solicit our input during the review process.

OHA was successful in keeping future hunting and trapping included as management tools during the last plan review, and wolf protectionists will certainly be on the offensive to strip wildlife managers of those options.

A copy of the current plan is available: [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/2019\\_Oregon\\_Wolf\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/2019_Oregon_Wolf_Plan.pdf)

## SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

**June 17:** 1st Annual Tillamook OHA Youth Trap Shoot, 503-842-7733

**June 24:** Lake County OHA Youth & Family Day, 541-417-2983

**July 29:** Emerald Valley Chapter Youth & Family Day, 623-670-6701

**Aug. 12:** Yamhill Chapter Youth Day, 503-737-9483

**Aug. 18:** Klamath Chapter Gerber Youth antelope hunt BBQ, 541-281-6518