



ERIC BROWN

OHA volunteers helped build beaver dam analogs during the annual All Hands All Brands for Public Lands project in the Ochoco Mountains this summer.

OHA helps build beaver dam analogs to improve habitat in the Ochocos

By Tyler Dungannon & Eric Brown

OHA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, other groups, and agency partners built 68 beaver dam analogs at various locations along Grays Prairie in the Ochoco Mountains in June.

Man-made beaver dam analogs decrease stream temperatures and elevate water levels, which can improve forage conditions for deer, elk and other wildlife. A beaver dam analog emulates the function of a natural beaver dam and can facilitate successful beaver translocations by immediately providing habitat that reduces the risk of predation.

RMEF was the lead brand for the fourth All Hands All Brands for Public Lands event, and as in previous years, OHA volunteers from Bend, Capitol, and Emerald Valley chapters showed up in droves to work for wildlife.

OHA volunteers also worked to maintain 11 guzzlers on the Ochoco National Forest. In total, the project had 68 volunteers who tallied more than 1,000 volunteer hours.

OHA thanks USFS, ODFW, and our conservation partners, RMEF, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership for their continued support of the annual All Hands All Brands event.

The 2024 All Hands All Brands Project will most likely be June 21-23.

Download the new OHA app today!

By Tyler Dungannon & Tristan Henry

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Federal court ruling upholds Measure 114, more challenges await

A federal court ruled in July that gun control Measure 114's prohibition on the sale or manufacture of "large-capacity" magazines and requirements to take a class that does not exist and pay for a permit to purchase guns are constitutional.

U.S. District Judge Karin J. Immergut determined that the Second Amendment does not protect firearm magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

Meanwhile, Measure 114 remains on hold.

The U.S. District Court for Portland heard final closing arguments on the several lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of Measure 114 on June 9. OHA filed an Amicus brief in support of overturning 114. The State of Oregon has spent \$2 million of your state taxes hiring private lawyers to defend this measure.

Paul Donheffner, OHA's Legislative Committee Chair, attended the court session and reported that the legal team fighting for us did an outstanding job. Matt Rowen, the attorney who wrapped up the plaintiffs' case gave a very eloquent and persuasive argument.

While this decision is not what OHA would have preferred, this outcome was not unexpected and only leads to the next step of an appeal at the 9th circuit court.

This ruling does not have an impact on the current court ruling from Harney County that has stayed Measure 114 and its components. That case is expected to be heard in September.



Owyhee protection bill moves forward in US Senate



By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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OHA is a member of the Owyhee Sportsmen Coalition that has been engaged with Senator Ron Wyden and his staff to get legislation introduced to help protect and conserve the Owyhee region in Malheur County.

The bill (S. 1890) was introduced in June in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It includes over 1 million acres of wilderness area designations that will come from the "wilderness study areas" that have been part of the Owyhee landscape and management for many years.

An initial hearing was held on July 12, and now the bill moves to a "mark up" phase. This phase will allow a negotiation of different terms or edits to the bill. The coalition is pressing for flexibility within the designated wilderness areas to allow for management of invasive species and wildfire recovery efforts.

Most roads that are currently "drive-able" will stay that way.

Known for its picturesque landscape, with thousand-foot sheer cliffs and volcanic tuff formations, Oregon's Owyhee canyon country is home to chukar, native redband rainbow trout, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and California big-horn sheep. The Owyhee region is also recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as one of the last remaining strongholds of intact sagebrush steppe habitat which supports Oregon's largest population of greater sage-grouse.

Those who know the Owyhee country are familiar with this stunning landscape, vast canyon areas, solitude, and wildlife. It's a special place that provides unique hunting opportunities.

With energy development exploding across Oregon's landscape and displacing wildlife and hunters, it's more important than ever to keep wild places wild.

For more, visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1890?s=1&r=3>



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