



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Enhancing Habitat – Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

BEND CHAPTER

PO BOX 6618 BEND, OREGON 97708

2023 All Hands All Brands for Your Public Lands

June 23 – 25, 2023

This year's All Hands project was building Beaver Dam Analog's at Grays Prairie in the Ochocos. To say it was a huge success would be an understatement.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was the lead brand this year and RMEF and Bend OHA volunteers started showing up as early as June 20 in order to do preparation work at the BDA site and to inspect and do maintenance on several guzzlers.

Those attending this year were:

RMEF – OHA (Bend, Capital and Emerald) – BHA – NWTF – Western Beavers Coop – TRCP – North American Non Lead Partnership - ODFW (Upland Game Bird Coordinator and a Wildlife Biologist) – USFS (Wildlife Biologists, Botanist and a Hydrologist).

USFS began preparation on the project early in the week by cutting 500 stakes from smaller trees which were placed into the stream bed using a hydraulic hand-held post pounder. These were placed where the dams would be built. In all about 82 locations.

RMEF and OHA helped cut willows for the dams and transport them. We also spent a day cutting smaller juniper trees which were dragged to the sites by ATV and then limbed. Several members were able to get recertified with the USFS Sawyer program thanks to Ross Scrocca.

Six OHA members spent a day doing maintenance on eleven guzzlers on the forest. On Saturday we had 68 volunteers that divided up into teams to build BDA's and plant 2,000 Willows and Grass starts. The lower 18" of the Willow's that had been previously cut were placed into the wet soil for future growth.

Hours for these projects are as follows:

1,004 total hours of which 695 were for the BDS's, 48 for guzzler maintenance and 261 for travel.

Saturday evening was our continued tradition of a potluck with Rich Stutheit from Capital Chapter cooking steaks on his mammoth BBQ. Once again we held a raffle with two rifles being given away. James Metzler from Emerald Chapter won the How 7mm Rem Mag donated by State OHA and Hannah Dinell won a .22 rifle donated by RMEF. There were many more fabulous prizes.

Z21 came up Friday to film and report on the project: [All Hands for Your Public Lands event helps to build beaver dams with 80 volunteers - KTVZ](#)



Getting started – Willow limbs to build BDAs



Judy McClurg, Bend OHA preparing Juniper for the next days build.



Saturday morning instruction before being broken up into teams.



John Bambe & Ayden Marin, Bend OHA members building a dam. Ayden who is 12 jumped into action helping in any way that he could. We gave him special recognition at the potluck.



BDA being constructed



Above Michael O'Casey children taking a break from playing in the mud.



Completed BDA.



Tom Moniot, Emerald Chapter working on a BDA



Mikal Cline ODFW Upland Game Bird Coordinator and Chad Marks-Fife, USFS Wildlife Biologist providing some great entertainment.



Welcome sign



Raffle prize table

This was the 4th year for All Hands with each year growing in numbers and enthusiasm. Our 2024 event will most likely be June 21 – 23.

Eric R. Brown
Bend Chapter OHA Project Coordinator
541-647-0424