



Young hunters afield in November were among the first to enjoy hunting from a waterfowl blind at Tualatin River NWR funded by OHA's Memorial Fund.

OHA Memorial Fund creates new duck blind for public use

By Bryan Cook, OHA Field Director
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Youth hunters tested out a new OHA waterfowl blind at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on Nov. 11. Conditions were perfect, and the kids had a blast with birds working all day.

The blind's steel frame was built by The Tigard High School metal shop class. It was sandblasted, and powder coated before being delivered to the refuge by OHA staff. At 7 feet deep and 12 feet long, this youth/ADA duck blind has plenty of room for four people and allows great wheelchair mobility within the blind.

The project was funded by OHA's Memorial Fund, and a commemorative plaque adorns the inside of the blind.

OHA's Memorial Fund is supported

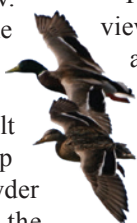
entirely by contributions by individuals in honor of loved ones who loved wildlife. Started in 1997, the fund has now funded three memorial projects.

The initial project was a wildlife viewing kiosk and fishing platform at Denman Wildlife Area not far from the OHA State Office in Medford. OHA's Rogue Valley Chapter and other local donors also contributed to that project.

The second project was a wildlife viewing platform at Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area in La Grande.

To contribute to OHA's Memorial Fund and the next memorial project, call the OHA State Office at 541-772-7313 or visit <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

Contributions to the Memorial Fund honoring loved ones are published in OREGON HUNTER magazine.

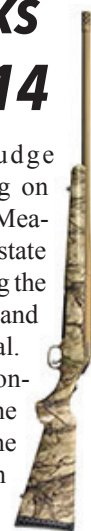


Harney County judge blocks Measure 114

Harney County Judge Raschio issued his ruling on Nov. 21 on the ongoing Measure 114 litigation at the state level, permanently blocking the measure's implementation and ruling it as unconstitutional.

Two major factors contributed to his findings, the permit to purchase scheme of Measure 114 and the ban on the sale, transfer, and manufacture of magazines holding more than 10 rounds.

The State is expected to appeal the ruling, which will likely end up before the Oregon Supreme Court.



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OHA eyes wildlife bills in '24 session

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The 2024 "short" session will begin on Feb. 5 and run for a maximum of 35 days. Though the timeline is abbreviated, the impact of bills brought in the short session can be extensive.

Several bills are anticipated that Oregon's sportsmen and women will be interested in following.

A wildlife omnibus bill is being discussed that would include several wildlife issues in one legislation concept. Potential issues include expanded wildlife crossing policy language, funding for wildlife coexistence efforts, and a return of the Chronic Wasting Disease funding request that OHA put forth in the 2023 session.

Compensation for landowners experiencing chronic elk and deer depredation on crops and infrastructure will likely make its way into the 2024 session, as well. OHA has been involved in preliminary workgroup discussion around this concept and will continue to watch this issue closely as it develops.

As always, OHA will be in the Capitol working on behalf of our membership and all sportsmen and women in the state.

Funding restored to schools with shooting programs

As reported earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Education cut funding to schools with hunting, archery, or sport shooting programs and courses. OHA members, along with many hunters and sport shooters across the country, made their voices heard among our federal lawmakers.

Bipartisan legislation, titled the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, amended the previous language to clarify that school programs "training students in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports" are eligible for federal

funding. The bill passed the House of Representatives with a 424-1 vote, while its companion bill in the Senate was approved unanimously. President Biden signed the bill into law on Oct. 6.

The voices of sportsmen and women around the country were well represented by organizations such as OHA, Safari Club International, Congressional Sportsmen Foundation, and many others.

—AMY PATRICK

OHA to weigh in on Blue Mt forest plan

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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The Forest Plan Revision process has started for the Umatilla National Forest, Malheur National Forest, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in a project titled "The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision." These national forests total 5.5 million acres of public lands that are critical for elk, mule deer, and numerous other species.

OHA has been looking forward to this process for some time, as these are some of our most valuable hunting areas in the state. Staff recently sat in on a public meeting to learn about the revision process, the timelines associated with the process, and where OHA will need to weigh in with our perspective.

The U.S. Forest Service states that "Public input will be integral to the success of the forest plan revision and ensuring that, in the end, we have forest plans that provide for sustainable management well into the future."

Revising a National Forest Plan involves many steps, from public input, assessing the current state of the forests, Wilderness inventories, Wild and Scenic River inventories, developing a list of species of conservation concern and eventually completing the NEPA process. Working through this process for any one forest is complex and difficult. Attempting to cover multiple national forests in one revision process will add to the complexity. This will likely take years to complete.

For more information visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/yubnj5n>

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