



This new 20-foot banner featuring a life-size bighorn ram will serve as a backdrop for OHA booths at sports shows this winter. Stop by and enter our cool raffles!

OHA takes aim at Oregon gun control bills

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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As the 2025 legislative session begins, it is shaping up to be heavily focused on firearms. At the time of this writing, OHA is tracking 20 bills related to firearms ownership, with more expected over the coming weeks.

A few of the bigger bills, so far:

HB 3075 - Measure 114 return. This bill was killed by the Senate Republican walkout in 2023. The bill brings all the components of Measure 114: the permit-to-purchase scheme, the registration of permits, the mandatory training course to qualify for a permit, a waiting period, and other added restrictions, including a

stipulation that any legal challenge can only be filed in Marion County.

HB 3076 - Gun Dealer Licenses study bill. Currently worded as a study bill, but thanks to a press release by the anti-firearms groups, we know that this bill is intended to be a vehicle for greater restrictions on firearms dealers.

SB 429 - 72 Hour Wait Time. This bill requires a background check to be completed, approval number returned to the gun dealer, and a 72-hour wait time before a firearm can be transferred.

SB 697 - Age Restriction for Firearms Ownership. Restricts firearms ownership below the age of 21.

SB 698 - Restricts Concealed Carry.

Enables public buildings to limit the affirmative defense of concealed carry.

While many of these bills would be litigated should they pass, the fight to protect firearm ownership rights and mitigate the impacts to our hunting and sport shooting activities will be ongoing for the next six month of legislative session.

Measure 114 continues to be on hold during the litigation process. The next ruling is due back at any time from the Oregon Court of Appeals as to whether it will continue to uphold the Harney County ruling that the measure's components are unconstitutional.

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Elliott plan favors owls over elk

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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The Oregon Department of State Lands has developed a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas Counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the HCP and released a final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the HCP. The HCP supports forest research and some reduced management activities to support the conservation of ESA listed species and their habitat on the Elliott.

The 83,000-acre Elliott State Forest was managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry for decades under an agreement with DSL, producing timber, jobs, and recreational opportunities for the community. After the northern spotted

owl and marbled murrelet ESA listings in the 1990s, priorities began to change. The new focus of the forest, now called the Elliott State Research Forest, will be toward research and preservation, with more restrictive timber harvesting.

This heavy emphasis on late seral conditions are not favorable for deer and elk, which need strong components of early seral habitat for browse.

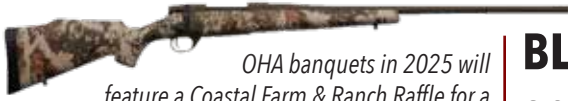
The final EIS is one of the last steps before USFWS decides whether to issue an 80-year incidental take permit to DSL for northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet based on the HCP. A separate decision whether to issue an incidental take permit regarding Oregon coast coho would be made by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

ODF director resigns amid agency turmoil

Cal Mukumoto, Oregon State Forester and ODF Director, has announced his resignation. ODF has been stressed lately with an unprecedented wildfire season in 2024, a contentious planning effort for the more than 700,000 acres of state forests in western Oregon, and ongoing negotiations and work to implement the Private Forest Accord, which addresses management on private forestlands.

Kate Skinner will serve as the interim State Forester during the search to fill the position permanently. Skinner has been with ODF since 1995 and has served as district forester for the Tillamook District since 2014. She has been serving the organization as the interim Deputy State Forester since last summer.

—MIKE TOTEY



OHA banquets in 2025 will feature a Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for a Weatherby Vanguard First Lite Specter .300 WM.

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Enjoy a fun evening among friends and check out auctions and raffles featuring trips, great gear and more at an OHA chapter banquet near you soon.

Watch for 2025 fund-raiser updates at: <https://oregonhunters.org/events-2>

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Yamhill County 503-490-2489

MARCH 22

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MARCH 29

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Chinook Winds Casino, 541-772-7313

🍷 A&H Statewide Deer Tag auction

🍷 A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction

BLM opens 1 million acres in Oregon to solar development

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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The BLM's updated Western Solar Plan expands the area that the BLM considers available for solar development to cover all 11 western states, including Oregon. According to a press release from the BLM, "The updated Western Solar Plan identifies the availability of over 31 million acres of public lands across the 11 Western states for utility-scale solar project applications." This includes over one million acres in Oregon.

While the plan doesn't specifically authorize the development of a solar farm, it does address the growing emphasis to allow more renewable energy development on public lands. OHA and other conservation organizations pushed hard to make sure that any solar development on BLM lands minimized the impact on wildlife and access. For example, specific areas like big game migration corridors will not be made available for development.

The Western Solar Plan EIS is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3jj9yj>

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OHA funds Blue Mountains Elk Initiative projects

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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OHA and ODFW funded the entirety of a Bridge Creek Wildlife Area project that will treat 512 acres of annual grasses through aerial Rejuvra (herbicide) applications. OHA funded \$16,000 toward this project to cover the project cost. The goal of these treatments is to help improve winter range by restoring perennial grasses which should ultimately help retain elk on these public lands and reduce elk damage issues in the Gurdane area.

Mule deer will also benefit from this project.

Across the West, annual grass invasion is reducing the forage quality of once productive landscapes. Invasive ventenata (annual grass) is competing with native perennials on the wildlife area and reducing habitat quality for ungulates and other wildlife. Bridge Creek Wildlife Area and its associated rangelands are critical winter range for many elk in the Ukiah and Heppner units.

OHA also funded the Indian Prairie Aspen Restoration Project with \$10,000 to restore aspen habitat by thinning 51 acres of encroaching conifers and installing fencing to protect 15 acres of aspen. This project will occur in the Ochoco Unit and will benefit elk and mule deer.

Aspen stands provide wallowing areas, lush cover during calving, and a very palatable forage resource. This important habitat type has decreased by as much as 80 percent in Oregon's Blue Mountains. This project aims to restore aspen habitat in large, high elevation meadows, and increasing and protecting this integral habitat should result in more elk on public land.

OHA funds
will help treat
invasive
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aspen.

