



As they teach in Hunter Education: Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. Did you see the deer?

Measure 114 ruled constitutional, appeal pending

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The Oregon Court of Appeals on March 12 ruled Measure 114 does not violate the Oregon State Constitution, a decision which runs counter to the Harney County opinion issued in November 2023. The litigants who brought the initial case against Measure 114 have already indicated their intent to file an appeal with the Oregon Supreme Court within the 35-day appeal time frame.

Measure 114's components, to include the magazine ban, will not immediately go into effect. The Court of Appeals judgment will be held during the 35-day appeal window and then, if the Oregon Supreme Court accepts the appeal and

takes the case, it will likely continue to be held at bay during that process. Should the Court deny the appeal, there is an additional 28-day time frame for the litigants to ask the Court to reconsider.

Considering these time frames, we believe the earliest potential filing date for the Court of Appeals judgment would be mid-May.

This is one of two cases against Measure 114. This case, Arnold vs. Kotek, is the state-level challenge claiming the measure violates the Oregon Constitution. The second case, Eyre vs. Rosenblum, is the federal challenge claiming violation of the U.S. Constitution. The federal case has been paused in the Ninth Circuit while waiting for the decision

on California's magazine ban (Duncan vs. Bonta), which was issued on March 20. That decision, unfortunately, ruled that California's ban against magazines larger than 10 rounds does not violate the constitution. While the ruling will be appealed, perhaps to the U.S. Supreme Court, this ruling may have negative effects on the Oregon challenge.

The litigation team leading the Oregon lawsuit is a local law firm from Canby. With the continued work to appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court, the funding for the lawsuit is running very low. To donate to their efforts to continue fighting the Measure 114 case, go to

https://www.givesendgo.com/State-Court_StopMeasure114

Barrage of firearms bills aimed at Oregon gun owners

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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Approaching the midpoint of the 2025 legislative session, firearms bills are taking center stage in OHA's legislative work. Currently, there are 30 bills that address firearms purchase, possession and ownership.



The most dangerous bills:

- **HB 3075** - Implements Measure 114, along with several additional components, such as increased fees, increased waiting periods, and a requirement of any potential lawsuits to be filed in Marion County Courts only. This bill had a public hearing on March 17 with a large amount of testimony in opposition.

- **HB 3076** - Creates a new sector of the Department of Justice to create and implement a state-level regulation for firearms dealers that would layer new requirements beyond the federal regulations from the ATF. A public hearing for this bill was held on March 20 with a large amount of testimony in opposition.

- **SB 429** - Institutes a mandatory 72-hour waiting period before a firearm transfer could be completed, regardless of amount of time for the background check to be completed.

- **SB 697** - Restricts ownership and possession of firearms for citizens under the age of 21. Current bill language attempts to exempt certain firearms for the pur-

poses of hunting, but continues to restrict semi-automatic firearms in all cases.

- **SB 698** - Restricts certain public spaces from legal concealed carry. Primarily aimed at city halls and other public buildings, there remain several potential ramifications for open spaces.

Many of these bills will have public hearings in early April; watch for OHA Call to Action alerts for ways to engage and provide testimony.

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FOLLOW THESE BILLS AND OTHERS OHA IS TRACKING: [HTTPS://OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/LEGISLATIVE-NEWS](https://oregonhunters.org/legislative-news)

Court upholds corner crossings

Ruling could influence Oregon

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on March 18 in favor of four hunters charged with civil trespass for using the practice of “corner crossing” to access landlocked public land. Corner crossing is the act of stepping from public land to public land where corners intersect with private land without setting foot on the private land.

The case stems from a 2021 incident in which four hunters used an a-frame ladder to gain access to public land. The landowner claimed this constituted trespass, as the hunters temporarily occupied the air space of the private land corners as they crossed, even though they never touched the private land. The hunters were issued criminal trespass citations but later found not guilty by a lower court. The landowner charged them with civil trespass and the case made its way to the Tenth Circuit in 2022.

The ruling provides clarity for the six states within the court’s purview: Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.

Because Oregon is in the Ninth Circuit, this ruling does not automatically provide Oregon with a clear legal pathway for corner crossings.

The Tenth Circuit ruling provides “persuasive authority” for any potential legal case, but ultimately the courts or the legislature will need to provide a definitive legal ruling for Oregon.

OHA seeks treasurer to join State Board

The OHA State Board of Directors seeks a qualified volunteer to serve as OHA State Treasurer. This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about OHA’s mission and who has a record of board leadership.

The board meets four to six times a year virtually for approximately 90 minutes and in person up to three times a year, including the OHA State Conven-

OHA funds projects with Mule Deer Fund

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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In its first year, the OHA Mule Deer Fund provided critical match funds for 5 projects that will be specifically implemented to benefit mule deer. OHA allocated \$61,115 to these projects that seek to leverage \$1,372,000, combined.

🦌 OHA funded a Metolius winter range land acquisition project that will protect 300 acres of prime mule deer winter range and open this area to hunting.

🦌 OHA also funded a bitterbrush planting project in this area that will put 30,000 plants in the ground to improve forage availability for wintering mule deer.

🦌 OHA invested in the Bend to Suttle Lake Wildlife Passage Initiative and funded efforts to benefit the Deschutes mule deer herd by enhancing their movement and migration corridors, restoring habitat connectivity, and reducing deer-vehicle collisions.

🦌 On the Elkhorn Wildlife Area near North Powder, OHA is funding work to protect, restore and enhance aspen stands for the Sumpter herd range. With this contribution from OHA, ODFW will leverage Pittman-Robertson Funds to remove encroaching conifers and construct protective fencing to allow the aspen stands to regenerate. Efforts will also be made to improve water storage in and near these stands.

🦌 The Crescent herd range has experienced the direst population decline in the last five years compared to any other herd range in Oregon. OHA is supporting work to enhance riparian vegetation within the Smoke Creek drainage by reducing conifer canopy cover. By removing encroach-

ing conifers in the riparian area, grass, forb and shrub quantity and quality will improve mule deer transition and winter range habitat for the Crescent herd range.

tion. Hybrid options are available to accommodate special circumstances. Much of the board’s important work takes place during monthly committee meetings.

A position description and expectations of state board members can be found at oregonhunters.org/documents
 For more details about this opportunity, contact Vice President Cindy Rooney at cindyrooneyoha@outlook.com

OHA Mule Deer Fund Project Contributions

Umpqua OHA	\$7,500
Redmond OHA	\$10,000
Central Oregon Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation	\$5,000
Pioneer OHA	\$15,000
Bend OHA	\$10,000
Klamath OHA	\$5,000
Capitol OHA	\$5,000
Josephine County OHA	\$5,000
Mid-Willamette OHA	\$5,000
Ochoco OHA	\$5,000
Lincoln County OHA	\$ 500
Lake County OHA	\$3,000

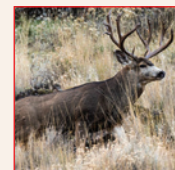


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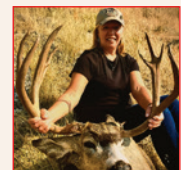
The OHA Mule Deer Fund is financially driven by OHA chapters and coordinated by OHA staff and the OHA deer subcommittee. OHA looks forward to funding more outstanding projects aimed at improving conditions for mule deer again this winter.



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