



Redmond OHA volunteers planted 3,050 cottonwood trees in crucial winter range at Priest Hole on the John Day River the last weekend of March.

Wildlife and gun bills still in play

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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The 2025 legislative session reached the halfway point in early April as bills were required to move out of their chamber of origin and into the second chamber. Many bills, both good and bad, did not make it past the deadline.

Key bills OHA is tracking that have survived the deadline to remain in play for the second half of the session include:

Firearms Bills

HB 3075 - The “Measure 114” bill would institute the bulk of Measure 114 with slight modifications and additions. The bill has a large fiscal impact statement of \$14.6 million from the General Fund in the first biennium. The bill is currently in Ways & Means.

HB 3076 - The “State Regulation of FFLs” bill would create a new sector of the Department of Justice to build and implement a state-level regulatory structure for firearms dealers in addition to the federal requirements. This bill also has a large fiscal impact of \$5.8 million in the first biennium and has joined HB 3075 in Ways & Means.

SB 243 - The “Firearms Omnibus” bill that includes a mandatory 72-hour wait period, a ban on rapid-fire trigger mechanisms, and the ability for local municipalities to determine CHL restrictions for public spaces. This bill originally included the ban on firearms possession for those under 21 but OHA worked successfully to get that component removed from the final version of the bill.

The fiscal impact of this bill is undefined at this time and is awaiting assignment to either Ways & Means or Senate Rules committee.

Wildlife Bills

HB 2167 - Allocates additional funding to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at OSU for continued work on zoonotic disease and chronic wasting disease.

HB 2978 - Increases communication and collaboration between ODOT and ODFW regarding wildlife crossing structure design, location, and implementation.

HB 3596 - An OHA-drafted bill that allocates additional funding to ODFW for continuation of an on-going mule deer survivability study with a third sector specific to the Steens Mountain area.

HB 3932 - A ban on beaver trapping on public lands specific to impaired waterway designation.

SB 777 - Wolf depredation compensation framework for livestock owners.

SB 812 - Removal of the sunset imposed on the Landowner Preference Program.

OHA supports bills that align with our mission of protecting Oregon’s wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage, while opposing bills that would have a negative impact on the hunting community and the State’s wildlife populations.

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Oregon wolves up 15 percent over last year

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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Oregon’s minimum wolf count rose 15 percent to 204 in 2024, according to the annual wolf report shared at the April Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

Most of ODFW’s report covered the three main factors that were prioritized at a wolf workshop in 2023: illegal take of wolves, reducing depredation (specifically in NE Oregon), and improving population monitoring, including the development of a population model.

Wolves continue to expand their range as juvenile wolves disperse into new territory, and as wolves expand into new areas of Oregon, conflict follows.

There is still no population estimate for the total number of wolves in Oregon, which leaves only the “minimum wolf count” for reference to a population, which is essentially useless for overall management of the species.

Missing in the report is any reference to the predation effects on ungulates. Data are nearly impossible to find, and currently we know very little about the impact predation by wolves is causing on their prey populations.

Wolves are managed by the Oregon wolf management plan, and also under the Endangered Species Act in the western two-thirds of the state.

To view ODFW’s 2024 wolf report, visit <http://tiny.cc/ttgh001>

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

Turkey hunting opportunity to increase; OHA requests population monitoring

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted the 2025-26 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations and the new 2025-2030 Upland Game Bird Hunting Season Framework at its April meeting.

Essentially the only thing that is changing from last year is the expansion of turkey hunting opportunity.

Changes for the fall turkey hunting season include combining Western and Eastern Oregon fall turkey tags into one general fall turkey tag, expanding fall turkey hunting opportunities in the Silvies, Malheur River, Juniper and Steens Mountain wildlife management units, and implementing beardless turkey permit hunts in portions of the Fossil, Heppner, Melrose, Applegate, and Evans Creek units.

OHA supported ODFW staff in their efforts to use hunters to address turkey damage complaints rather than using administrative removal.

With this expanded turkey hunting opportunity, and significant expansionary changes implemented in the last

three years, OHA expressed the need for ODFW to stick to the five-year framework and refrain from additional regulation proposals aimed at increasing fall turkey harvest in the coming years until turkey harvest and population data are available to show that the expanded opportunities are not having significant impacts on turkey populations that predominantly use public lands.

Recent efforts to increase turkey harvest are largely driven by damage complaints, and OHA is concerned that implementing broad-scale regulations to increase harvest could result in declining turkey populations that mainly inhabit public lands.

Although essentially the entire country saw a boom in turkey populations in the late 20th century, many midwest and eastern states are now seeing substantial declines as a result of hunting pressure, habitat loss and degradation, and increasing predator populations.

OHA intends to ensure that quality public land turkey hunting opportunity is abundant in Oregon for current and future generations.

2025-26 bag limits increased for pintails, decreased for Northwest Canada geese

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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Adopted migratory game bird hunting regulation changes for the 2025-26 season include an increased bag limit for northern pintail from one to three daily, as well as bag limit and season length reductions for geese in the Northwest Goose Permit Zone.

The Canada goose season in the Northwest Permit Zone will be shortened to 74 days (a nearly one-third reduction in season length), and the limit will be dropped to just two Canada geese for the 2025-26 season.

OHA encouraged ODFW staff and the Commission to maintain the current bag

limit and implement a minima cackling goose sublimit of two birds per day, but ODFW and USFWS were steadfast in reducing the limit in its entirety as a result of declining cacklers.

Goose hunters in the NW Permit Zone already have a shorter season and smaller bag limits on Canada geese than any of the other zones in the state. These rules will reduce the hunting opportunity even further in hopes that the minima and Taverner cackling geese will begin to see a population rebound.

OHA will continue to work with ODFW and the Commission to increase our goose hunting opportunity as we wait for next year's flyway surveys.



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