



Good luck with your tag draws this month, and remember leftover tags go on sale July 1.

OHA-backed bills for wildlife crossings, LOP clear hurdles

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
Amy@oregonhunters.org

While the 2025 legislative session still has a few weeks to go, there have been a few important policy bills that have already passed out of the legislature and moved on to the Governor.

OHA is pushing for funding for chronic wasting disease work.



HB 2978, the bill that increases communication and collaboration between ODOT and ODFW regarding wildlife crossing structure design, location, and implementation, was passed out of the

legislature on May 1. Just a week later, on May 8, the Governor signed the bill into law. OHA has worked with a broad group of stakeholders over the last three legislative sessions to pass this bill.

SB 812 removes the sunset clause on the Landowner Preference Program. The bill moved out of the legislature on May 15 and is currently on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. With the sunset clause removed, the department does not need to come back to the legislature every few years for permission to continue the program. Any necessary changes to the established program may be made

through the rule-making process by the ODFW Commission. Landowners and sportsmen came together to support this bill as it moved through the legislative process.

SB 777, the bill that assigns a multiplied factor for livestock and guard dog compensation due to wolf depredation, has moved through both policy committees in the House and Senate and is currently awaiting a floor vote in the House. OHA joined the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Farm Bureau in supporting this move toward more accurate compensation for livestock producers.

The hundreds of remaining bills with a financial appropriation will need to be approved by the Joint Ways & Means Committee, a process that will take much of the remaining legislative focus. OHA continues to work in support of funding for ODFW and continued financial support to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for chronic wasting disease work, plus funding approval for predator management efforts, invasive species inspection, and agricultural conservation efforts.

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Federal cuts affect some OHA projects

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

There's been a lot of news lately on reductions of staff and funding for federal agencies, and OHA continues to track the potential impacts on our mission.

Many of our projects take place on public lands. Some agencies in those areas where we have ongoing projects have seen significant reductions. This caused OHA to hit the pause button on a couple of projects that we hope to start up again in 2026. Projects on state lands that don't rely on federal funding have largely been unaffected.

But not everything federal has stopped. In early May, OHA staff and board members submitted comments on the 153,000-acre fuels maintenance treatments project planned for the Deschutes National Forest. Earlier comments submitted by OHA on the project helped set the stage for a project that considers impacts to mule deer and elk, while trying to make the forest more resilient and protect communities from wildfire.

On the Willamette National Forest, OHA staff are drafting comments for the Steeple Rock Rigdon Project draft environmental assessment. This project specifically identifies hunting in the proposed action, stating "Implementation of the proposed action alternative would improve hunting opportunities in the area."

These are the types of projects we need to support and see implemented.

CASCADE ELK/RANDY SHIPLEY

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

More about new deer hunt areas; comment at July ODFW meetings

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

Proposed mule deer hunts and tag numbers for the 2026 season will be available in July 2025 and will be presented at ODFW big game public meetings. OHA has worked with ODFW for the past 6 months to ensure these proposals are not set in stone; therefore, Oregon hunters need to be informed and ready to make their voices heard at these upcoming meetings (dates TBA).

This year, the big game public meetings will largely focus on a proposed massive shift in mule deer monitoring and harvest management. In short, ODFW is quickly moving toward monitoring and harvesting mule deer at the herd range scale rather than the historical wildlife management unit scale. As proposed, the following will occur for the 2026 hunting season in eastern Oregon:

➡ **New hunt naming system:** Deer Hunt Areas will use a new alphanumeric system to identify hunt areas within herd ranges. For example, hunt area #1 within the Northeast herd range would be NE-01.

➡ **Larger hunt areas and different hunt boundaries:** Expect new hunting areas that are different and often larger than traditional WMUs. These larger hunt areas will be less affected by emergency closures and allow hunters more flexibility in response to wildfire or hunting pressure.

➡ **Tag adjustments:** In the short term, there may be slight tag changes (likely fewer tags overall) to manage hunter pressure. Adjustments could fluctuate over the next few years as hunters and ODFW adapt to these new hunt areas.

➡ **Some separation of white-tailed deer and mule deer hunts.** Areas with substantial white-tailed deer populations and harvest will see separate hunts for each species (both remain in the 100 series).

Hunter participation at these meetings has dwindled and has opened the door for animal rights activist organizations to grip the tone of these meetings in certain areas. If you have an opinion, please



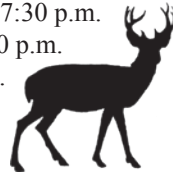
MYODFW.COM

share it and participate in the public meetings. July meeting links will be available shortly. Visit myodfw.com and sign up for ODFW press releases.

For more, scan the QR code or visit <https://tinyurl.com/54tytd2t>

ODFW July Virtual Meetings

- NW - July 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- SW - July 10, 6-7:30 p.m.
- E - July 16, 6-8 p.m.
- NE - TBA.

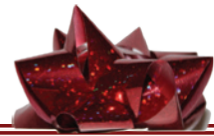


New '25 Gun Calendar winners announced

The latest winners in OHA's 2025 Gun Calendar Raffle have been announced, and the 2026 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar is on sale now! Call 541-772-7313 or visit <https://oregonhunters.org/shop/#raffles>

See weekly winners on OHA's website or download our app, which you can also use to enter OHA contests and get timely notifications.

- ★ **Winchester XPR 7mm-08 Rem**
Cameron Argyle, OHA Pioneer Chapter
- ★ **Howa 1500 Kyrytppek .223**
Art Roberts, OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter
- ★ **Remington 700 ADL 6.5CR**
Milt Smyd, OHA Hoodview Chapter
- ★ **Pointer Acrius over/under 12 gauge**
Debbie Laws, OHA Clatsop Chapter
- ★ **Browning A-Bolt 3 Hunter .30-06**
Ben Kalina, OHA Rogue Valley Chapter
- ★ **Howa 1500 Flag stock .22-250**
Lyric Best, OHA Union/Wallowa Chapter
- ★ **Howa 1500 carbon fiber barrel 6.5 PRC**
Thomas Miller, OHA Pioneer Chapter
- ★ **Stoeger M3000 2023 Max & Camo 12 gauge**
Harold Springs, OHA Bend Chapter
- ★ **Winchester XPR Compact 7mm-08 Rem**
Jim Cain, OHA Capitol Chapter
- ★ **Taurus Judge Stainless .45LC**
Taylor Hanes, OHA Emerald Valley Chapter
- ★ **Ruger American Go Wild Bronze 7mm PRC**
Brad Keesee, OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter
- ★ **Weatherby Badlands .25-06**
David Hampton, OHA Capitol Chapter



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