



LAKE COUNTY/RANDY SHIPLEY

IP28 nets half the signatures required to reach '26 ballot

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

The proponents of Initiative Petition 28 (IP28), have gathered approximately half the signatures needed to place the initiative on the 2026 ballot.

The initiative, which has been called IP13 and IP3 in its previous iterations, would criminalize all hunting, fishing, and trapping in Oregon, as well as animal husbandry practices, raising animals for

food, and even trapping mice and vermin.

IP28 supporters have until July 2026 to collect and submit the required 117,173 valid signatures to gain the ballot.

Two coalitions in opposition have been established, one focused on the farming and ranching community and one made up of sportsmen's organizations. OHA participates on both coalitions and actively monitors the initiative's finances and social media.

ODFW unveils big game changes

By Mike Totey, OHA Conservation Director
mtotey@oregonhunters.org

ODFW hosted a series of virtual public meetings in July to introduce the big game seasons, tag numbers and rules that will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at its September meeting in Ontario. These public meetings are the first step in setting seasons and tag numbers for the 2026 hunting season.

Unfortunately, many of the regional meetings were offered at the same time, which may have contributed to some of the meetings being sparsely attended.

The biggest proposed changes for 2026 that ODFW presented are the mule deer

hunt area and associated tag number changes. Hunting mule deer will now be aligned with the herd ranges that were identified in the latest mule deer plan update. These new mule deer hunt areas will

have a total of 9 percent fewer tags. There is also a proposal to split out white-tailed deer tags from mule deer tags in areas where both species overlap.

All of the meetings were recorded, and comments can be submitted on the proposals both before and at the Commission meeting. For specific information on all of the big game hunt

proposals, look to the ODFW website at:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2025/07_Jul/070325.asp

**Changes will
result in 9%
fewer mule
deer tags
for 2026.**

Women of OHA slate event, seek planner

The Women of OHA program, first established in January 2024, has continued to grow in its second year. From an initial distribution list of 32 women, the program currently communicates monthly with more than 250 women interested in hunting and the outdoors.

After a successful inaugural event in 2024, the second Weekend Away event has been scheduled for Oct. 18-19 near Prineville. The overnight event will feature a chukar hunt hosted in conjunction with the Bend OHA Chapter. Space is limited to 25 hunters and registration is now open: <https://oregonhunters.org/women-of-oha-2025-weekend-away/>

Once registration is full, a waiting list will be established; email Amy at amy@oregonhunters.org to be placed on the list.

In addition to the hunting opportunity, the Weekend Away events focus on building connections among women in the hunting community through learning, mentoring, and creating friendships and future hunting partners.


The program growth has also created a job opportunity. OHA seeks a part-time coordinator who will assist with event planning. The 10-hour per month position will assist the program leadership and act as a consistent point of contact for the program.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Michelle at michelle@oregonhunters.org

—AMY PATRICK

TO DONATE TO OHA'S HUNTER VICTORY FUND, VISIT [HTTPS://OREGONHUNTERS.ORG/DONATE](https://oregonhunters.org/donate)

OHA objects to USFS Umatilla project FEIS

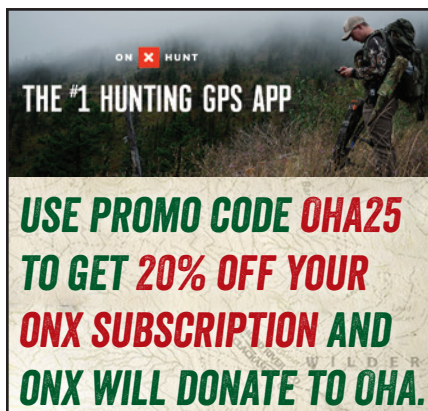
The Ellis Integrated Vegetation Management Project on the Umatilla National Forest has been in the plans since 2018 and has moved at a painfully slow pace. The original purpose of the project was to bring active management to 105,000 acres of Forest Service lands. The objective is to address forest health, wildfire mitigation and resiliency, and improve big game habitat. 

One of the key early communications on the project area was to improve elk forage, habitat and security cover to help address the ongoing concerns of elk damage on nearby private lands, particularly during the wintering period. OHA weighed in early on the project planning in support of the actions to improve habitat and security cover specifically for elk.

In May, the Umatilla National Forest issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) which selected an alternative that was subsequently modified at the last minute and doesn't come close to meeting the needs of elk security, and in fact makes no attempt to improve elk security cover, even though that was a stated objective of the USFS for doing the project.

OHA has entered an official Objection to the FEIS, a step we have seldom used in the past. Other organizations (RMEF, ODFW) have also entered objections. In the end, one of the major needs/objectives of project that the USFS identified themselves is now being ignored. OHA is simply pushing to have the USFS do what they said they would do.


—MIKE TOTEY



ON X HUNT
THE #1 HUNTING GPS APP

**USE PROMO CODE OHA25
TO GET 20% OFF YOUR
ONX SUBSCRIPTION AND
ONX WILL DONATE TO OHA.**

ODFW introduces sage grouse plan update

ODFW has completed an update to the Sage-Grouse Conservation and Assessment Strategy, which addresses the obligations and authorities of the agency as Oregon continues to work on sage-grouse enhancement across southeast Oregon. This is one part of the overall plan in the work that the SageCon network uses to conserve and bolster sage-grouse in Oregon. 

ODFW solidly articulated how hunters and hunting in Oregon are a positive impact on sage-grouse management. Hunters bring dollars (upland game bird stamp, Pittman-Robertson money, etc.) to fund the program, and successful hunters submit wings for analysis and integration into the population model that the agency uses.

The ODFW program and assessment work to benefit sage-grouse wouldn't exist in its current form without hunting. The assessment reiterates that hunter harvest of less than 5 percent of the estimated population has no negative impact on the population.

The assessment now moves to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in August for a final approval. —MIKE TOTEY

Latest 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.

- ★ 6/18/25 - *Sig Sauer P320 M18* 
Jordan Post, Tualatin Valley Chapter
- ★ 6/25/25 - *Stoeger M3000 Max 7 shotgun*
Ashley Spaur, Union-Wallowa Chapter
- ★ 7/2/25 - *Howa 1500 Flag RWB .22-250*
Steve McGee, Rogue Valley Chapter
- ★ 7/9/25 - *Howa M1500 T/C Kryptek Typhon*
Gail Cox, Ochoco Chapter
- ★ 7/16/26 - *Pointer Acris 12 gauge shotgun*
Craig Elhage

**TAKE A SHOT
for a Chance to WIN
1 of 52 GUNS!**



**GUN RAFFLE
CALENDAR**

**OHA will give away
A GUN A WEEK in 2026!**

For \$50 you get:

- 2026 Gun Raffle Calendar.
- Chance to win 1 of 52 guns raffled (\$599-\$1,800).
- 1 Year OHA Membership (Join, renew, gift or \$35 toward life pledge)

Buy yours today!

Call 541-772-7313

or visit

www.oregonhunters.org/store

