

OHA Pioneer Chapter volunteers headed east on Friday the 13th for the chapter's annual weekend guzzler project that provides water for wildlife.

## Key bills still hang in balance

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

As the June 29 ending to the 2025 state legislative session approached, several major bills of importance to Oregon hunters still hung in the balance.

Bills with positive impacts for OHA's mission to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage include:

• HB 2978 increases collaboration between ODOT and ODFW regarding wildlife crossing structure design, location, and implementation. Signed by the Governor.

• SB 812 removes the sunset clause on the Landowner Preference Program. Signed by the Governor.

• SB 777 assigns a multiplying factor for livestock and guard dog compensation due to wolf depredation. Signed by the Governor.

• HB 5009 sets the ODFW agency budget for the next biennium. Passed both House and Senate.

• HB 2342 increases fees for tags and licenses. While the sportsmen's community is never excited about higher prices, OHA has supported this bill due to inflation and maintaining current service level needs. Passed the House and in process in the Senate.

A bill that will negatively impact the sportsmen's community is **HB 3932.** The bill bans beaver trapping on federal and state lands in waterways deemed impaired by the Department of Environmental Quality. The bill sets a troubling precedent of removing wildlife management decisions from the purview of ODFW and the Commission. Headed to the Governor's desk.

Bills that have not been finalized at the time of writing:

• HB 2167 would appropriate \$3.5 million to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory at Oregon State University for chronic wasting disease research and testing. The bill is currently waiting in Ways & Means.

• HB 2977 would increase the state transient lodging tax by 1.25% to fund ODFW programs such as the Statewide Action Plan, wolf compensation funding, wolf biologist, invasive species funding, wildlife stewardship and anti-poaching funding. The bill has passed out of the House and is currently in the Senate.

• HB 3075 seeks to implement Measure 114 plus additional restriction on firearms purchases. The bill has a large fiscal and is waiting in Ways & Means.

• HB 3076 builds a new division of the Department of Justice to create and implement a state-level regulatory system for firearms dealers that are redundant and more restrictive than the federal regulations already in place. This bill has a large fiscal but is currently moving through the Ways & Means process with intention.

• SB 243 bans rapid fire trigger mechanisms and adds new restrictions on concealed carry ability in public spaces and buildings. The bill has a substantial fiscal and is currently moving through Ways & Means with intention.

## State Supreme Court to review M-114

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

The lawsuit against Measure 114 has reached the Oregon Supreme Court.

Measure 114, the gun control ballot measure passed by a narrow margin in 2022, was ruled unconstitutional by Harney County Judge Raschio in November 2023.

Financial

support is

continue

the ongoing

Measure 114.

At that time, the State of Oregon appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals, which took up the **needed to** case and issued a ruling in March 2025 stating the measure did not violate the state challenges to constitution.

The plaintiffs petitioned the Oregon Supreme

Court to review the ruling of the Court of Appeals, which was accepted, and the case is scheduled to begin in November.

Financial assistance in support of the ongoing legal battle can be made via GiveSendGo: https://www.givesendgo. com/StateCourt StopMeasure114



# Public lands up for sale 🔊

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

Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee are pushing to include a major sell-off of public lands as part of the overall budget bill that congress is working on. This has prompted a letter co-signed by OHA and many of our conservation partners to our Oregon delegation to oppose this action. Earlier, the House had considered a similar mandate, but in the end decided to drop that provision.

According to a press release from the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the proposed language includes "the mandate to arbitrarily sell-off at least 2 million acres and up to 3 million acres of federal public lands across 11 western states."

Finding specific information on which lands are being considered to meet this mandate is difficult.

A key difference between the longestablished process and criteria for disposing of federal public lands and what is now being proposed has to do with both the amount of land (massive acreages) and the process used to identify and sell the lands. Currently, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) set clear processes and criteria, including public input, for disposing of, or even trading lands in a land exchange. The proposed bill language would strip most of this away.

Another element of the FLTFA process is that 96 percent of proceeds from the sale of land is reinvested into conservation and access by sending the revenue to an account to be used to acquire higher value lands. As hunters, we might think of this as selling a "low value" piece of federal land (perhaps one that is landlocked and not accessible to the public), and then using the proceeds to buy other lands of higher value. The Senate reconciliation language eliminates this reinvestment into public lands and sends 90 percent of the proceeds from the proposed land sales at hand back to the U.S. Treasury. Submit a CWD sample for a chance to win a Weatherby

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator TD@oregonhunters.org

OHA is offering a drawing for a Weatherby Vanguard 7mm Rem in First Lite Specter (value \$1,150) to hunters who submit chronic wasting disease samples between Aug. 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026. You get one automatic entry for every sample that you submit.

OHA is invested in keeping Oregon a CWD-free state for as long as possible, but early detection of the disease if and when found in Oregon is critical to limit the spread. CWD is a fatal disease capable of drastic negative impacts on deer, elk and moose populations.

It's easy to submit CWD samples at ODFW check stations, ODFW field and district offices, and cooperating taxidermists and meat processors.

A list of current cooperating taxidermists and meat processors can be found at https://tinyurl.com/65dcj2tz

OHA recently sent prizes to two winners who submitted CWD samples in 2024. Thomas Dailey of Stayton won a Howa .223 and scope package, while Kaylyn Hansen of Junction City won a Sig Sauer Whiskey3 rifle scope.

# *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.

★ 5/21/25 - Sig Sauer P320 M18
Dan Cook, Curry Chapter
★ 5/28/25 - Christensen Mesa .300 PRC

Brian Burgess, Rogue Valley Chapter ★ 6/4/25 - Howa 1500 carbon fiber 6.5 PRC Paul Erickson, Columbia County Chapter ★ 6/11/25 - Remington 700 ADL 6.5CR Tom Debrie, Mid-Willamette Chapter ★ 6/18/25 - Sig Sauer P320 M18 Jordan Post, Tualatin Valley Chapter

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



**CALENDAR** OHA will give away <u>A GUN A WEEK in 2026!</u> 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

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