



OHA aims to enhance black-tailed deer management

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
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Umpqua and Tioga OHA chapters have pitched in with State OHA to fund a monumental effort to improve black-tailed deer herd composition and deer density estimates across western Oregon. Our current reliance on inaccurate spotlight surveys to obtain buck:doe and doe:fawn ratios is shifting to a new, well-vetted, and financially sustainable method that uses trail cameras.

In the coming years, ODFW will be able to describe deer density across these units, which refers to the number of deer per unit area (usually per square kilometer), and is crucial for enhancing hunter satisfaction by managing harvest for a sustainable, quality herd. It helps

determine when to increase or decrease harvest, manage sex ratios, and maintain a resilient population that benefits both wildlife and hunters.

In 2025, 318 cameras have been deployed across 8 of the 20 western Oregon wildlife management units, but there will be more in the future as this new monitoring program gains steam. In the near future, there will be up to 600 trail cameras deployed across the 20 western Oregon units, and they will collect data after hunting seasons in the month of December each year.

OHA applauds ODFW for using OHA funds to leverage additional federal Pittman-Robertson funds to benefit black-tailed deer management in western Oregon.



OHA funds will leverage P-R funds for cameras to improve blacktail population monitoring.

Budget shortfall may threaten CWD funds, not gun bills

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director
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Oregon's financial woes remain the primary concern for the 2026 Legislative Session. The state budget remains in a financial shortfall, even with the recent revenue forecast, which legislators will have to decide how to balance.

The revenue forecast posted on Nov. 19 shrank the previous \$373 million deficit to \$63 million. It will be up to legislators how to address the remaining shortfall, whether through agency reductions or by dipping into the two reserve funds the state has kept for such an emergency.

Regardless of the solution, most bill concepts requiring new state funding will have a low probability of success.

While this will likely hinder beneficial concepts like continued funding for chronic wasting disease efforts, it appears it won't have the same effect on costly firearms bills. Bills from the 2025 session intending to enforce Measure 114 and to create a state-level firearms dealer registry appear to be poised for a return in the 2026 session, regardless of the costly ramifications for Oregon taxpayers. These bills have been estimated

to cost Oregonians between \$6 and \$15 million, respectively, to implement – a

high price tag during a session when state agencies are being asked to reduce their budgets to account for the economic shortfall.

In addition to defending against these recurring firearms restriction bills, OHA's legislative priorities heading into the 2026 session remain strongly focused on wildlife and habitat.

While not directly tied to the legislative session, Measure 114 remains an issue to be watched closely. The Oregon Supreme Court heard the appeal case on Nov. 6, but it may take anywhere from 3 months to a year before the ruling is filed.

You can continue to support OHA's ongoing work in the Capitol and on legal issues by donating to the Hunters' Victory Fund: <https://oregonhunters.org/donate>

The Oregon Supreme Court heard the Measure 114 appeal case on Nov. 6, but a ruling may take up to a year.

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

OHA seeks to help rehab Flat Fire burn

By Mike Totey, Conservation Director
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OHA will look for opportunities to join forces with the USFS and other partners to restore critical winter range habitat in the Metolius Unit following this summer's Flat Fire, which erupted on Aug. 21 and quickly spread south. This human-caused fire affected some of OHA's conservation efforts in the area.

The fire covered more than 23,000 acres in an area that is a key wintering ground for migrating mule deer within the Deschutes mule deer herd range.

OHA recognized the importance of this area some time ago and leaned in to help conserve and improve the habitat here as part of a bigger project known as the Metolius Winter Range project. The area is home to an OHA conservation easement and multiple habitat projects.

The USFS is already planning to plant bitterbrush (21,000 plants) this year and more next year. They are also planning to seed portions of the burned area (600-800) with native bunchgrass and forbs before invasive plant species can move in.

Last '25 Gun Calendar winners announced

The latest winners in OHA's 2025 Gun Calendar Raffle have been announced, and the 2027 OHA Gun Raffle Calendar will be on sale soon!

See weekly 2026 winners on OHA's website or download our app, which you can also use to enter OHA contests and get timely notifications.

- ★ **Remington 700 ADL .300 Win Mag**
Bradlee Smith, Emerald Valley Chapter
- ★ **Ruger American Go Wild Bronze 7mm PRC**
Chrissy Black, Mid-Willamette Chapter
- ★ **Browning A-Bolt 3 Composite Stalker Black**
Darin McCarthy, Pioneer Chapter
- ★ **Citadel 1911 RWB Flag .45 ACP**
Troy Laws, Clatsop Chapter



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Watch for 2026 fund-raiser updates at:
<https://oregonhunters.org/events-2>

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| Ochoco | 541-410-5050 |
| FEBRUARY 28 | |
| Redmond | 541-419-7215 |
| MARCH 7 |  |
| Hoodview | 503-314-3090 |
| Pioneer | 503-710-1233 |
| MARCH 14 | |
| Bend | 541-480-9848 |
| Capitol | 503-990-2978 |
| Rogue Valley | 541-773-8736 |
| Yamhill County | 503-490-2489 |
| MARCH 21 | |
| Tualatin Valley | 503-502-0611 |
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| Union-Wallowa | 541-786-1283 |
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Drawing: 3pm 4/1/26, OHA Office, 301 Crater Lake Ave. #C, Medford, OR. Need not be present to win.

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