



RYAN HOEFF

# OHA, state senators introduce key corner crossing legislation

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director  
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Senator Mike McLane (R-Powell Butte) and Senator Anthony Broadman (D-Bend), working with the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), introduced legislation this week to protect Oregonians' access to public lands through "corner crossing."

Corner crossing, or stepping from public land to public land where adjoining corners of public and private lands meet, has been a legal uncertainty in Oregon law. The Senators' legislation provides much-needed clarity to protect public land users from allegations of trespass, as well as landowners from allegations of negligence.

"Legal clarity improves access to public lands and protects landowners," said Senator McLane. "Oregonians deserve common sense from Salem on how and when we can access public resources. Senate Bill 1545 makes Oregonians' access to our lands clearer."

Balancing the public's right to access public land with necessary protections for private landowners, the legislation provides protection against negligence lawsuits. This has long been a troublesome issue for Oregonians who utilize public lands, where corner crossings are

often necessary. This critical legislation will provide more certainty for all parties going forward.

"Our public lands are part of our heritage and who we are as Oregonians," said Senator Broadman. "Senate Bill 1545 will help preserve access for hunters exercising our rights to access federal lands across our state. We also owe it to the Tribes, ranchers, farmers, and timber owners to ensure corner crossing doesn't interfere with working Oregon lands and their stewardship of our state. Our proposal strikes that balance."

The bill has already garnered support from all sides of the political spectrum, including 10 Republican and Democratic legislators from urban and rural districts alike. This diverse support shows that access to public lands is a bipartisan concern that resonates throughout the state.

"Oregon's public lands are incredibly important to hunters, hikers, bird watchers, anglers, and all Oregonians seeking to enjoy the state's natural beauty," said Amy Patrick, OHA's policy rep in Salem. "Providing some level of legal certainty ensures public land access when such access is vital to everything we do. OHA thanks Senators McLane and Broadman for spearheading this critical effort."

The legislation is broadly supported by the conservation, recreation and outdoor communities, including Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation, Oregon Association of Shooting Ranges, Oregon Trappers Association, Oregon United Sporting Dogs Association, and, notably, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers who have long advocated that corner crossing is not a crime.

## OHA raises stakes in support of Blue Mtns Elk Initiative

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director  
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The Blue Mountains hold the vast majority of the elk in eastern Oregon across the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur and Ochoco National Forests. In the past three years, OHA has invested \$108,000 in these forests across eight landscape-scale projects. This year, OHA put its chips on a 5-year project on the Wallowa-Whitman as well as a sizeable project on the Malheur National Forest.

**North Fork Burnt River Watershed Habitat Enhancement Project** will reduce density of mixed conifer stands and increase early seral species important to elk and mule deer diets through commercial and non-commercial thinning. This project will construct new buck and pole fencing around aspen stands with recent conifer thinning to allow the recovery of the aspen stands. Finally, it will enhance meadows and riparian habitats through the removal of encroaching conifers, hardwood planting, and construction of beaver dam analogues on the Wallowa-Whitman in Baker County.

**Magone Juniper Removal** will enhance forage quality on 800 acres of elk and mule deer habitat on the Malheur National Forest that is being suppressed by juniper and conifer encroachment.

OHA chapters that have financially contributed to the Blue Mountains include Bend, Redmond, Capitol, Umpqua, Lake County, Pioneer, Hoodview, Emerald Valley, Blue Mountain, Ochoco, Mid-Willamette, Josephine County, Lincoln County, and Union-Wallowa.

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

# OHA Mule Deer Fund gains steam

10 projects net nearly \$3 million in matching funds

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director  
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OHA is leaning in to help reverse mule deer declines across eastern Oregon. In just two years, the OHA Mule Deer Fund has received a total of 21 landscape-scale project proposal applications with a total request of \$613,115 from OHA.

We were able to fund \$110,115 (18% of funds requested) across 10 projects with more than \$2,900,000 in match funding since the inception of the OHA Mule Deer Fund in 2025. Recently in 2026, OHA funded five projects:

**Lower Deschutes Range Enhancement Project** will treat 5,800 acres of annual grass and invasive weeds, and plant 52,000 shrubs (bitterbrush, sagebrush, and other riparian species beneficial to mule deer) on the ODFW Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area.

**Metolius Winter Range Bitterbrush Planting** will plant 20,000 bitterbrush plants across approximately 500 acres in Jefferson County in addition to the 20,000 bitterbrush plants that the OHA Mule Deer Fund planted in 2025.

**Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area Forage Enhancement** will apply herbicide across 2,000 acres of invasive annual grasses and aerially seed 2,663 acres on the wildlife area in the John Day Watershed.

**USFS Knox Meadow Enhancement** will remove 20 acres of conifer from aspen stands, retrofit 1.5 miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly specifications, remove conifer encroaching on the sizeable meadow, plant 65 acres of mule deer forage, and install new water sources.

**Highway 20 Deer-Vehicle Reduction & Signage** will purchase and utilize three trailer-mounted portable solar-powered message signs, which will be placed in hot-spots for mule deer-vehicle collisions on Hwy 20 in the Juntura and Sagehen herd ranges. Additionally, these signs will be used, for abbreviated periods, during buck deer and rocky-mountain bull elk seasons to notify hunters of the new mandatory CWD check station in Riley.

OHA chapters that have financially contributed to the OHA Mule Deer Fund include Umpqua, Redmond, Pioneer, Bend, Klamath, Capitol, Josephine County, Mid-Willamette, Lincoln County, Ochoco, and Hoodview.

## OHA announces first winners in 2026 Gun Calendar Raffle

The first winners in OHA's 2026 Gun Calendar Raffle have been announced!

The 2027 Gun Raffle Calendar goes on sale in February; 541-772-7313 or <https://oregonhunters.org/shop/#raffles>

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

★ **Sig Cross 6.5 CR**

Scott Shaw, Pioneer Chapter

★ **Browning A-bolt 6.5 CR**

Tim Spencer, Baker Chapter

★ **Pointer O/U 12 gauge**

Molly Hames, Capitol Chapter

★ **Weatherby Vanguard Badlands .270 Win.**

Steven Bloom, Tualatin Valley Chapter

## YOU'RE INVITED TO AN OHA BANQUET NEAR YOU SOON!

Enjoy a fun evening among friends, and check out auctions and raffles featuring trips, great gear and more at an OHA chapter banquet benefitting OHA's mission near you soon.

Banquets are already starting to sell out, so bag your tickets today!

**FEBRUARY 21**

Columbia County 971-225-8013  
Ochoco 541-410-5050

**FEBRUARY 28**

Redmond 541-419-7215

**MARCH 7**

Hoodview  503-314-3090  
Pioneer **SOLD OUT!**

**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

**MARCH 28**

Josephine County 541-761-1852

**APRIL 4**

Baker 541-403-0402

Lake County 541-417-2983

Umpqua 541-430-7324

Union-Wallowa 541-786-1283

**APRIL 11**

Clatsop County 503-440-9934

Tioga 541-294-7912

**APRIL 18**

Mid-Willamette  **SOLD OUT!**

**APRIL 25**

Curry 541-698-0413

**MAY 2**

Tillamook 503-812-3832

**MAY 16**

OHA State Convention,  

Seven Feathers Casino, 541-772-7313

 A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction

 A&H Deer & Elk Tags auction

### WIN A 2026 TROPHY BUCK HUNT

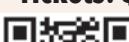
ON ZUMWALT PRAIRIE!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT OHA'S MISSION



**3-day guided hunt for 1 hunter. Value: \$4,900**

**Tickets: \$50 or 7 for \$300.**

 **500 offered.**

**Drawing: 4/22/26, OHA State Office.**

**Tickets & info:**

**call 541-772-7313 or visit**

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