



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, January 14th

→ * 6:00 pm *
Bend VFW

**(come early if you
want to purchase dinner)**

Please turn to *page 2* for *more details* on our upcoming monthly chapter meeting.
We look forward to seeing
YOU there!

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- ◆ Meeting recap
- ◆ Bend Chapter info.
- ◆ Mule Deer Classic Banquet (pg 3)
- ◆ Your Chapter at Work
- ◆ OHA Tracker
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

Thank you, **Eric Brown**,
for the header photo. Where
did he spot this herd of elk?
See page 5 for details.

President's Message

Hello to all our members of the Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.
Our Mission: Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat, & Hunting Heritage

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe & joyous Christmas with your families & friends.

Once again the calendar has turned over for the start of another year. As we look ahead to what this year has in store for us, don't forget to look back to where we have been and remember those that we have lost. The friendships, the camaraderie and the memories of those need to be cherished and shared with the generations that follow in our foot-steps. It's the youth and exhilaration of the next generation and how we present the importance of our traditions to them, that will define how our organization is perceived and allowed to flourish into the future.

This chapter and our OHA family can be proud of what we have accomplished over the past year. Be it the many successful banquets that were held throughout the state whose funds help in the preservation and restoration efforts both local and outside our state lines, to the many local youth and family events that individual chapters sponsor. From a state and region wide conservation project that invites a multitude of NGO's to meet for mutually held conservation efforts, to patrolling a stretch of highway fencing to help save wildlife as well as human lives. The OHA and its chapters can stand tall in the knowledge that what we do is an important part of who we are and what our heritage is.

As always though, there are those that would take away our choices of recreation and pastimes. These fringe groups and influencers don't understand us. Because of the very name we choose to be recognized by, we are automatically targeted as an enemy to wildlife, and not as one of the largest conservation organizations in our state. Educating the electorate of what we do besides hunting will be what aids in turning the tides of misconception that will ultimately culminate in how the upcoming year progresses.

As a reminder, we will be voting on the **Bend OHA Chapter Member of the Year** at our January 14th meeting at the Bend VFW Hall. Meeting starts at 6:00 PM, but all are welcome to come early and enjoy dinner on your own with those of us that start to arrive around 5:00. The nominations are still open until that night. The members who were nominated at the December meeting were; **Doug Stout, Eric Brown, Rex Parks, Calvin Schneider** and **Wendy Borst**. If you would like to nominate an additional member, please contact one of our chapter board members with that member's name and why you believe they deserve to be recognized.

Here's to a Safe, Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Rex E Parks Sr
Bend Chapter President
Oregon Hunters Association

UPCOMING JANUARY MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday January 14th**. Our meeting location is **the VFW Hall** in Bend. Remember to arrive early so you can purchase dinner from a nearby food truck (Midtown Yacht Club) and enjoy it before the meeting. Food is also available onsite at the VFW bar when the food truck in the parking lot is not open. (You are welcome to bring food with you) Arriving early also gives you the chance to visit with old friends or meet some new ones. Doors open at 5:00pm.

START TIME is 6:00pm

GUEST SPEAKER:

Our January guest speaker will be **Larry Ashton**, from the BLM Deschutes Field Office, to discuss Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction while balancing wildlife needs.

Your attendance is important to us and you might even win a prize. (see page 8 for last month's winners)

December Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Dec.10th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Mike List** with Ochoco Shotshells. His hands-on presentation introduced us to his innovative water soluble shotshell wad. He is in the middle of the two year process to secure the patent for his invention. After much trial and error, he has created a consistent product, made from a combination of used coffee grounds and animal based glue. He has had success with lead, bismuth or tungsten, non copper-plated shot. The targets that he displayed showed the consistency and desired pattern using shells with his wad. He passed around a dry wad that he currently molds by hand, and then he passed around a small jar of brown liquid to show how the wad completely dissolves in water. His water soluble shotshell wad is obviously beneficial to waterfowl hunting and the environment. He looks forward to partnering with local coffee companies in the future as a source for the used coffee grounds. Be sure to follow him on Instagram (Ochoco Shotshells).

The Mule Deer Classic Banquet planning meetings have begun. They are held at Abby's Pizza in Bend, in the backroom. See the calendar on page 6 of this newsletter for the upcoming dates. Bill Littlefield and Cristy Ouelette are the co-chairs for the 2026 banquet. See page 3 for more details.

The board voted to grant \$500 to the Bend High Archers to help cover the cost of jerseys and hats.

Upcoming Spring/Summer Projects: June 6-7 Elkhorn Wildlife Area buck & pole fencing; June 19, 20 & 21 All Hands, All Brands: fire rehab from the Crazy Creek Fire—fence & guzzler building; June 26, 27 & 28 Southwest Cascades Meadow project: fence

Nominations were opened for the 2025 Bend Chapter Member of the Year. We'll vote at the January Chapter meeting and the award will be presented at the Mule Deer Classic Banquet on March 14th.

Beginning in January, the volunteer hours will now be reported directly to the state office using their newly implemented system very similar to the one that Bill Littlefield created for our chapter last year. We will discontinue using our chapter's QR code and instead will use the one provided by the state. See page 9 for more details. For your convenience, you can also pick-up a card at our meetings, which shows the QR code and URL.

The end-of-the-year drawing was held at the December meeting. All of the door prize tickets from the whole year were combined in a drawing for \$500 reimbursement for any outdoor item purchase. For this drawing, a ticket is drawn until we have a winner. **Jon Blocker** had the honor of pulling the winning ticket. The first name pulled was **Kalvin Schneider**, who was present to claim the prize. Congrats!

Reminder: We have positions available for you to join the board, let your voice be heard, and help this chapter to remain strong. We also have non-board banquet committee positions open. Come join the fun.

IT IS TIME GATHER DONATIONS FOR THE 2026 BANQUET! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Please share your suggestions for future guest speakers with **Rex**. Perhaps it could even be you.

You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat
and hunting heritage.*



COMING SOON: The Bend Chapter's Mule Deer Classic Fundraiser Banquet

MULE DEER CLASSIC 2026

The Bend Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association announces its
"34th annual Mule Deer Classic"

The banquet/fundraiser will be held at the Bend Riverhouse
Convention Center March 14, 2026

This is the main fundraiser for the year and it enables us to fund
chapter habitat projects, scholarships, youth programs & more.

You can help make it a success with a **donation** or
by **volunteering** at the banquet!

If you have been looking to get involved in chapter activities,
this is a fun and meaningful way to contribute.

Watch for the registration form and more details coming soon in an
email, a separate mailing, or on our website:

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

You don't want to miss this worthwhile and fun event!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Pricing is the same as last year.

The statewide A & H Elk Tag call-in raffle will be at our 2026 banquet.

Banquet planning meetings are 6:00pm at Abby's Pizza on Jan 7 & 21, Feb 4 & 18,
and March 4

Thank you to everyone who gets involved!

Bill Littlefield (541-429-2950) & **Cristy Ouelette** (541-678-1077) are the
Co-Chairs of the 2026 banquet. Thank you both for your dedication!

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR OUR BANQUET

We have begun collecting donations for our annual banquet. Perhaps you have a service or talent or item that you would like to donate. (or you know someone) Or perhaps you would prefer to give a monetary donation or would like to sponsor a gun raffle. We greatly appreciate all donations! Please bring donations to our January and February monthly meetings or banquet planning meetings. Or contact the banquet co-chairs (p.3)



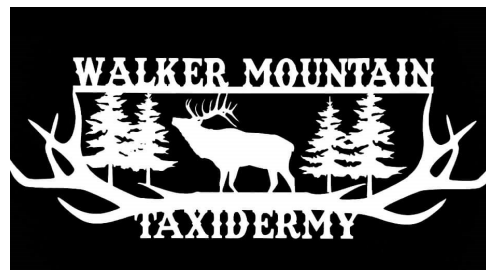
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IMPORTANT:



Staying in touch with members is vital to our mission, so if you have not been receiving Email Alerts and Reports from OHA Bend Chapter once or twice a month, then please scan this QR code or go to <https://oregonhunters.org/bend-membership-update> to **input your email**, phone and mailing address. If you are unable to do this, then call 817-472-4272 where we'll take your information over the phone.

Your Chapter at Work

Enhancing Habitat Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

BEND OHA KEEPS ON GETTING IT DONE!

On December 16 two members of Bend OHA met with the wildlife fence committee that is working on getting a wildlife fence placed along Hwy 20 in the Black Butte Ranch area. The committee of USFS, ODOT, ODFW, State OHA, Central Oregon Land Watch and others met off US 97 at the Sunriver Junction. At Sunriver Jct the fence running to the north is different from the one running to the south. Members of the group wanted to hear from Bend OHA about what we were seeing with regards to maintenance issues and performance results with the two styles of fence. Things like angle bracing vs H bracing, Jump Outs, Single high tensile wire at the top of the fence vs none, Cattle Guards, Tree and Vehicle Damage and Human Caused Vandalism were all topics of discussion. Bend OHA took over the Lava Butte Fence Maintenance in 2017 and then the Gilchrist Fence in 2023. Bend OHA has put in 455 hours of volunteer time and 3,871 miles of travel with vehicles and ATV's. Those 455 hours have a federal volunteer value of \$7,708. Typically the fence is patrolled 3 or 4 times a year unless there has been a wind storm or we receive notification of fence damage. For Lava Butte to Vandevent we normally use three different groups to work three different sections of the fence when we do the patrol. Up to this point members have utilized their own ATV's, chainsaws and other equipment and have paid for their own gas. This work is a labor of love by those volunteers.

What can you do to help? Encourage your friends and fellow hunters or outdoors people to join our chapter. There is strength in numbers and this chapter is looked upon very highly by others around the state and especially those that are involved in future wildlife fence projects.



Wildlife Fence Committee

WILDLIFE FENCE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR - LAVA BUTTE TO VANDEVERT ROAD

On December 30, 6 Bend OHA volunteers (**Jim Steers, Roger Heegard, Roger Points, Bill Littlefield, Greg Petsch & Eric Brown**) used 3 Side by Sides to patrol and repair the fence line. There were 7 trees across the fence with 4 causing major fence wire compression. One section was hit where two rolls of the wire had been attached using the crimps but with this fence, they never bent the wire back after going through the crimp so when struck hard the fence comes apart. We used lots of small wire to put it back together and will follow up later and run a smooth wire across the top for about 3 sections so we can attach the top fence wire to this single. Crews today also spent time cutting out brush along our path so that we are not running over tall brush in the summer.



Jim Steers, Roger Heegard, and Roger Points at Sunriver Jct just after finishing up brush cutting.

In 9 years of doing the fence patrol, today was the first time that our group has encountered a **herd of elk** (see **header photo** on cover) along the fence line. This was on the west side north of Vandevent. The two volunteers that saw this said that the elk had walked along the fence past the tunnel that ran to the east side. The elk finally moved back towards the west away from the fence allowing our crew to pass by without spooking them.

More photos on page 7

OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President **Rex Parks Sr** firelt602@gmail.com (541) 480-0230
 1st VP **Doug Stout** (541) 312-8332
 2nd VP (newsletter editor) **Wendy Borst** (541) 480-0748
 Treasurer **John Bambe** (541) 480-9848
 Secretary **Carlie Holm** (interim)
 At-Large (Media) **position available**
 At-Large (Youth Events) **Kevin Borst** (541) 480-7323
 At Large (Outreach Coord.) **position available**
 Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653
 Volunteer hrs. manager **Don Clark, Bill Littlefield**
 Banquet Co-Chairs **Bill Littlefield, Cristy Ouelette**
 Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions available
 Past President **resigned**

Website:

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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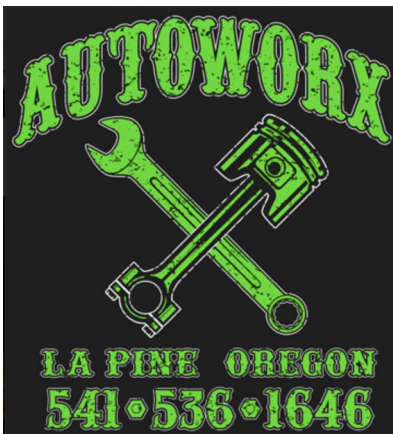
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CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

January 1, 2026	Happy New Year (2026 licenses required)
Jan 7	Banquet planning meeting 6:00 pm Abby's Pizza
Jan 14	Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 21	Banquet planning meeting 6:00 pm Abby's Pizza
Jan 21	*Deadline to submit items for February newsletter*
Jan 28	Monthly Board Meeting?
Feb 4	Banquet planning meeting
Feb 11	Monthly Chapter Meeting
Feb 18 & March 4	Banquet planning meetings
March 14	Mule Deer Classic Banquet (annual fundraiser)

CHECK YOUR OREGON HUNTER'S CALENDAR FOR
 TAG DEADLINES, HUNT END DATES, & EVENTS ACROSS OUR STATE

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Your Chapter at Work

Enhancing Habitat Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

See report on page 5 for more details on the wildlife fence maintenance. Looks like a beautiful day to be outside. Photo on left: Got lucky as tree came to rest on one of the concreted posts. Photo on right shows one of several areas where a tree took out a portion of the fence.



CAME BIRDS OF THE HIGH DESERT

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owner
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CHRIS RICCI
owner
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It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

Congratulations to **Steve Hagan** for winning the door prize at our December meeting.

Enjoy your \$25 Sportsmans gift card!

Scott Shotwell of Bend drew for the Dec. monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but he was not present

Kalvin Schneider won the end of the year drawing—congratulations!



Please help us to
personalize this
informative newsletter:

*Requesting photos of your
successful hunts, wildlife
in your yard or on your
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Send photos to:
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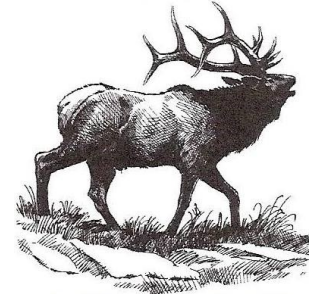
REMEMBER TO RENEW!

When does your membership expire? Check the address label
of your Oregon Hunters magazine for your expiration date.
Welcome to any new members!

In early December, **Doug Stout** (left), **Kevin Borst** (center) and **Kalvin Schneider** (right) attended the Awards & Scholarships dinner at ONGYCP (Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program) to present the scholarships from the Bend Chapter. Cadets from this life-changing program have assisted at our banquet, our Youth & Family Outdoor Day, and on habitat projects. This special partnership has been ongoing for several years.



McLAGAN'S TAXIDERMY



BEND, OREGON

Volunteer Hours:

A new procedure to report them



The OHA State Office liked the online reporting system that Bill Littlefield created, so they now have a new QR code. By scanning the QR code or using the URL below, volunteers can easily complete the online form. The details have been printed on business cards so you can pick up one at the project/event and easily report your volunteer hours on your phone, tablet, or computer. Thanks for your help!

Please report OHA Volunteer Hours

We need the hours reported
for insurance as well as
bragging rights and clout.

<https://oregonhunters.org/volunteer-hour-submission>



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OHA aims to enhance black-tailed deer management

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

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
Amy@oregonhunters.org

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.

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

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>

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
mtotey@oregonhunters.org



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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Drawing: 3pm 4/1/26, OHA Office,
301 Crater Lake Ave. #C, Medford, OR.
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Enjoy a fun evening among friends at banquets benefitting OHA's mission, and check out auctions and raffles featuring trips, great gear and more at an OHA chapter banquet near you soon.

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

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FEBRUARY 28
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MARCH 21
Tualatin Valley 503-502-0611

MARCH 28
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Umpqua 541-430-7324

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➡ A&H Statewide Elk Tag auction
➡ A&H Deer & Elk Tags auction

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\$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
\$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
\$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting
\$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag



ODFW Preference Points rewards

5 Points-Bighorn sheep
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5 Points-Moose
5 Points-Wolf
4 Points-Elk
4 Points-Deer
4 Points-Antelope
4 Points-Bear
4 Points-Cougar



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