



JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP



KEILEY STOLLER

Veterans enjoyed a successful duck hunt hosted by OHA and ODFW at David Sill's waterfowl hunting property Jan. 31 on Veteran's Waterfowl Day.

Walkouts over gas & guns delay hunting-related bills

By Amy Patrick, OHA Legislative Rep
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The shortened legislative session, which happens every even year, is a five-week long sprint meant for balancing the state budget and dealing with emergent issues. However it was meant, the short session has expanded to include bills such as the gas tax referendum, gun control, gender-affirming care, tax reform, and numerous other issues meant for the long-form discussions of a regular six-month session.

These issues become the proverbial wrench in the works when legislators decide to deny a quorum, as they have done recently. Senate Republicans walked out on Feb. 18 to deny a vote on SB 1599, the controversial bill that would move the gas tax referendum from November to May. That bill finally passed the Senate floor on Feb. 23, which sent it to the House floor and prompted, in part, the

House Republicans to walk out of their scheduled floor session that afternoon.

A secondary reason for the House Republican walkout was over the fall-out from the controversial committee vote on HB 4145, the Measure 114 gun control bill. That bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 16. With these issues at play, the outcome of several bills important to the sportsmen's community remain unclear at the time of writing.

HB 4145 now appears to be part of the drama playing out in the House, which makes its prognosis difficult to ascertain.

HB 4134, the 1.25% transient lodging tax increase for additional wildlife conservation funding, has been delayed due the walkout.

SB 1545, the corner crossing bill, has been paused for 2026 and will go into a workgroup process in the off-session time before being brought back for passage in 2027.

Work group calls for wolf reduction in Wallowa County

OHA has been actively participating in a Wallowa County work group to demonstrate the need for broader wolf management as per the Oregon Wolf Management Plan language on "controlled take."

Besides sportsmen representatives, the work group includes a member from the Wallowa County Commission, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, and the Oregon Trappers Association.

The work group produced a resolution approved by the Wallowa County Commission and a pilot project concept that would apply hunting and trapping within targeted areas of affected wildlife management units.

The resolution calls for wolf management to "protect the wildlife population at a level that hunting will continue to be available and to minimize wolf/livestock conflict to a manageable level, and to set management objectives for wolves."

The proposed pilot project would provide the framework for public involvement through controlled hunting and trapping.

Wolves have roamed Wallowa County for many years, and the most recent population estimate states a minimum count of 67, which does not include young of the year.

Wallowa County has basically served as the nursery for the rest of the state's wolf population and has been the focal point of livestock and big game impacts.

—JIM AKENSON

IP28 draws national attention

Initiative Petition 28 has been on the radar of OHA members for the last five years, but now that the latest version of the initiative is nearing the threshold to qualify for the ballot, news media throughout Oregon and the nation have taken notice.

OHA Executive Director Todd Adkins and lobbyist Amy Patrick were interviewed by countless media outlets in February.

IP28, which would criminalize all hunting, fishing, education and research with animals, wildlife management practices, rodeos and exhibitions, and even trapping pests and vermin, has gathered over 100,000 of the 117,173 signatures needed to qualify for the November 2026 ballot.

For the latest IP28 news, including the latest media coverage, go to OHA's IP28 webpage: <https://oregonhunters.org/initiative-petition-28-2/>

Umatilla NF moves Ellis project forward

OHA strongly supports increasing elk security and enhancing forage quality on U.S. Forest Service lands to ensure elk are available for hunters longer and are more reluctant to leave the forest and move to areas where they are not desired.

OHA supported the Ellis Vegetation Management Project that aims to reduce tree density in overstocked stands and improve ungulate forage quality across 110,000 acres on the Umatilla National Forest. However, while OHA supported aspects of this project that should improve habitat for big game, we also supported increasing habitat security.

Project leaders did not support secure areas for elk. Research in Oregon consistently shows Rocky Mountain elk require 30% secure habitat. Initially, USFS proposed an alternative that would provide just 11% secure habitat.

OHA formally objected to the draft record of decision, and though USFS budged, their final record of decision provides just 15% secure acres.

OHA remains hopeful that this project will be an overall benefit for elk and hunters. —*TYLER DUNGANNON*

OHA announces next winners in 2026 Gun Calendar Raffle

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

The 2027 Gun Raffle Calendar is on sale now; call 541-772-7313 or visit <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.

★ **\$1,000 G4 Outdoors gift card**

Pat Clement, Ochoco Chapter

★ **Howa 1500 Green Carbon 6.5 PRC**

Deb Borine, Redmond Chapter

★ **Christensen Evoke Hunter 7mm PRC**

Mike Tarabochia, Clatsop County Chapter

★ **Henry Golden Boy 22 LR**

Richard Denslinger, Mid-Columbia Chapter



OHA banquets in 2026 will feature a Coastal Farm & Ranch Raffle for a Christensen Evoke Mossy Oak Flat Dark Earth Cerakote 7mm PRC! (\$1,049)

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!

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 **SOLD OUT!**

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 combo auction
Call 971-270-3535 in advance to bid



ENTER TO WIN A GUIDED MAINE BEAR HUNT FOR 1 IN 2026!

Lodging, Meals & Airfare from PDX to Bangor included!

Hunt over bait in Maine's backcountry for 4 weekdays in mid-September. Includes transportation to and from cabin, Big Game License & Bear Permit.

Tickets: \$20; 7 for \$100. 500 offered. Value \$4,999. **Drawing: April 1, 2026.**

Drawing: 3pm 4/1/26, OHA Office, 301 Crater Lake Ave. #C, Medford, OR.

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Call 541-772-7313 or visit oregonhunters.org/shop/#raffles

Sponsored by ExpoSure Shows exposureshows.com

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 www.oregonhunters.org/store

