



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 2026

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**Wednesday, February 11th**

➡ \* 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 info & how to register now
- ◆ OHA Tracker
- ◆ Photos & More!
- ◆ The Email to which you can send your photos, articles and other items for the newsletter. Thanks for your help!

**Please bring your banquet donations to a February meeting (see calendar on page 6) or contact the banquet co-chairs or a board member for help in turning in your donations. Thanks for your participation to make this year's banquet a success!**

### 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**

As of January 15th our total **membership** was at **533**. Welcome to our 5 new members. From Sisters, we now have Stephen Fisher and David Jones. Luke French, The Samuel Pyke Family and Sam Slaughter all join us from Bend. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, on a project or any of our other activities soon. Unfortunately, we had 17 whose memberships lapsed the end of December, as well as 13 others that expired in November. That's **30 members that aren't on our current roster**. Some of these members may have already renewed by the time I am writing this. Be sure to check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of your Oregon Hunter magazine. If you aren't sure about your expiration date, feel free to reach out to me with a text and I'll get it for you.

Here it is February and that means the **Early Bird closes February 15th** for our **Annual Mule Deer Classic** that is on Saturday, March 14th. Make sure you get your registration in by the 15th to be included in that drawing. We **sold out again last year**, so there were some folks who didn't get theirs bought in time. You don't want to be one of those.

Our MDC Committee is in full work mode. Our members are out making contacts and collecting donations ahead of the banquet fundraiser. We could always use some more of our members to step up and help out, collecting more donations as well as working the floor the night of our event. If you've been thinking about what you can do to help, it's not too late to come forward and get involved. Our committee meetings for February are being held in the back room at Abby's Pizza on 3rd Street the 4th and 18th. If you can make it, we'd love to have you join us. If you can't make one of the committee meetings then you can always reach out to our banquet co-chairs Bill Littlefield (541-429-2950) or Cristy Ouellete (541-678-1077), to see how and where you can assist.

It looks like Winter hasn't decided if it wants to present us with much of the white stuff yet. We know it'll come eventually, how much and for how far into the spring is the question now. The mountains need it for our summer water supply in the rivers and reservoirs. Snowfall amounts haven't looked too promising yet though.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

**Rex E Parks Sr**  
Bend Chapter President  
Oregon Hunters Association

## **UPCOMING FEBRUARY MEETING INFO:**

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday February 11th**. 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 February guest speaker will be **Brock McCormick**, Wildlife Biologist with the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. He'll discuss how recreation impacts wildlife.

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

## **January Meeting Recap**

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Jan. 14th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Larry Ashton**, a Wildlife Biologist from the BLM Deschutes Field Office. BLM is under the Dept of the Interior and manages oil & gas, mining, pits, as well as programs for grazing, timber, fires & fuels, and wildlife. The BLM also manages caves and some riparian areas. With 1.6 million acres, the Prineville District is the largest in the state. Five National Forests surround this district. The BLM is involved in managing big game winter range and migration corridors. A fun fact he shared with us: if you protect sage grouse, then 350 other species benefit as well. Larry has been instrumental in getting collars for the ODFW elk study. At the beginning of January he was involved with a Big Horn Sheep capture near Maupin. He is happy to report that 17 of the 19 ewes were pregnant. The Millican OHV Trail System is seasonally closed for mule deer winter range and for sage grouse. There are ongoing timber harvest and fuels reduction projects. These fire breaks created by BLM have done their job and stopped fire in various situations. The BLM oversees many habitat management and restoration projects, some of which involve volunteers. Our chapter has been invited to help with habitat projects, such as planting sagebrush & bitterbrush plugs. You can contact Larry at [lashton@blm.gov](mailto:lashton@blm.gov) 541-416-6738

**IT IS TIME TO GATHER DONATIONS FOR THE 2026 BANQUET! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!**  
See page 3 or the calendar on page 6 for dates of the remaining banquet planning meetings.

**Bill Littlefield** informed us that we should continue to use the Bend Chapter's reporting system for your volunteer hours until further notice. See page 9.

**Doug Stout** gave us an update on the progress of installing a flashing Deer Collision Area sign on Cline Falls Road near Tumalo. This area is dubbed "the meat grinder" due to the # of deer killed there each year. The membership voted to pre-approve the project (up to \$6,000), so Doug will continue his research. It is not yet determined if the sign will be on county property or private property (Tumalo Irrigation District).

**Rex** was invited to join the Deschutes Trails Coalition in a conversation about motorized/non-motorized recreation opportunities, trailheads, etc. He (and any other chapter leaders) will also meet the new OHA Executive Director via zoom meetings. He'll give us an update next month.

**Eric Brown** has been researching the replacement of the weathered guzzler signs. He reached out to other chapters to see if they want to help fund the project.

We voted for the 2025 Bend Chapter Member of the Year. The award will be presented at the Mule Deer Classic Banquet on March 14th.

Our condolences go out to Steve Mathers and his family. His wife Jan passed away unexpectedly in early January while on vacation making memories with the family.

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 . . .



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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](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

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

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

**Early Bird Deadline is February 15th!**

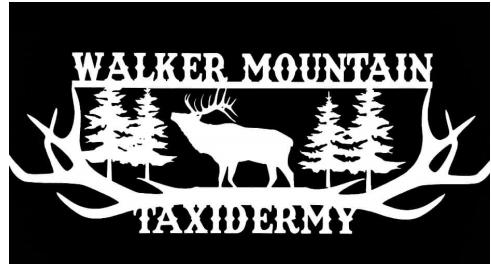
Pricing is the same as last year. You can mail in your reg form or register online  
The statewide A & H Elk Tag call-in raffle will be at our 2026 banquet.

Banquet planning meetings are 6:00pm at Abby's Pizza on Feb 4 & 18, and Mar 4  
Thank you to everyone who gets involved!

**Bill Littlefield** (541-429-2950) & **Cristy Ouellette** (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)



**Send photos to:**  
**wenb.oha@outlook.com**



### **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.

# WANTED ALIVE: PORCUPINES

and their locations



ODFW is conducting a research project regarding porcupines in the Deschutes Watershed. Public reports will help us locate individuals to study!

**Size:**

About 2-3 feet in length, 10-30 pounds

**Identifying Markings:**

Soft guard hairs, sharp quills; rodent face

Coloration: brown, blonde, or black

**Habitat:**

Usually found in trees or rocks. Occasionally found wandering in the open

Photo by teleporting (iNaturalist)



Photo by chelsie9473 (iNaturalist)

## REPORT SIGHTINGS TO:

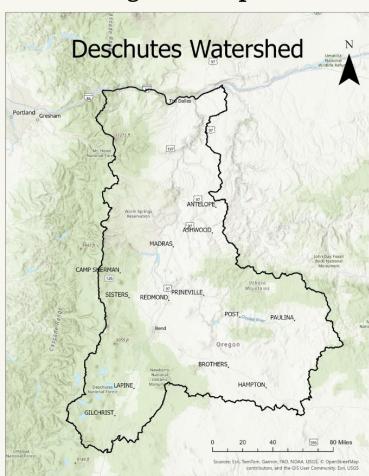
Mikayla Bivona at ODFW: 541-591-1629 or fill out the survey using the QR code →

We are also accepting reports of dead or roadkill porcupines.

Study area runs from The Dalles to south of Gilchrist, and includes areas as far east as Hampton and Suplee



Photo by jnelson (iNaturalist)



## 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 Coor.) **position available**  
Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653  
Volunteer hrs. manager **Don Clark, Bill Littlefield**  
Banquet Co-Chairs **Bill Littlefield, Cristy Ouellette**  
Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions available  
Past President resigned

**Website:**

[oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

End of the Rogue Guide service



**Shaun Carpenter**  
Cell 541-698-8088  
carpentershaun59@gmail.com

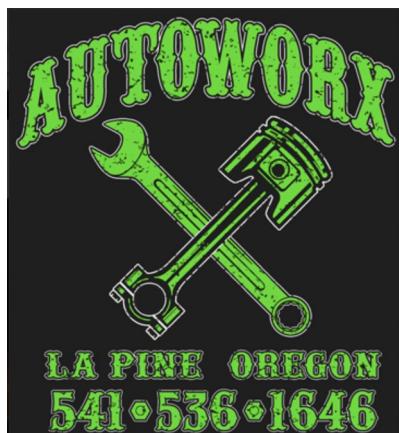
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## CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

Feb 4 Banquet planning meeting 6:00 pm Abby's Pizza  
Feb 11 **Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW**  
Feb 15 Early Bird deadline for banquet registration  
Feb 16 Presidents Day  
Feb 18 Banquet planning meeting 6:00 pm Abby's Pizza  
Feb 21 \*Deadline to submit items for March newsletter\*  
Feb 25 Monthly Board Meeting  
March 4 Banquet planning meeting  
March 8 Daylight Saving begins  
March 11 Monthly Chapter Meeting  
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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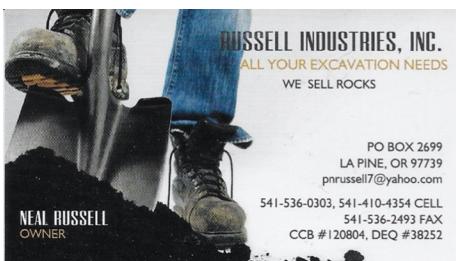
**Send photos to:  
[wenb.oha@outlook.com](mailto:wenb.oha@outlook.com)**

541-389-7867



# Cascade

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## **Have you registered to attend our annual Banquet/fundraiser on March 14th?**

**For more details:**

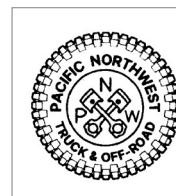
We mailed a **brochure** the week of Jan 19, complete with dinner package options/ reg form & descriptions of the gun raffles available for advance purchase

Check your inbox for an **email** from Bob on Jan. 22, the subject of the email is Mule Deer Classic Banquet Alerts; besides the reg form and QR code, his email also includes the donation solicitation letter for you to print and give to your potential donors

**Early Bird deadline is Feb 15th!**



Event website QR code



## Pacific Northwest Truck & Off-Road

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www.pnwtruckandoffroad.com



***It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:***

Congratulations to **Dan Scofield** for winning the door prize at our January meeting.  
Enjoy your \$25 Sportsmans gift card!

**Jon Duerst** of Peoria, AZ drew for the Jan. monthly membership prize  
(\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but he was not present



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-Michael Waddell



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**wenb.oha@outlook.com**



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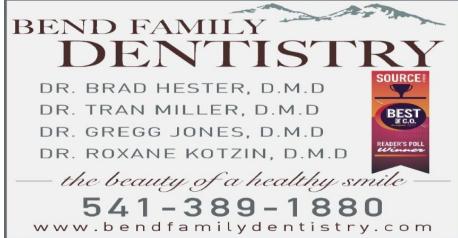
debbie@nbsafaris.com  
www.nbsafaris.com  
+27 82 962 2183

**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!

**Mule Deer Classic Banquet  
Early Bird Registration Deadline  
is February 15th!**

**Don't miss your chance to enter the  
Early Bird Raffle!**

**Complete your registration  
before February 15th!**



**McLAGAN'S  
TAXIDERMY**



## Volunteer Hours:

Continue to use the **Bend Chapter's QR code** to report your volunteer hours until further notice. We are not yet ready to switch to the OHA State Office's link. Sorry for the mix-up!



The QR code and link are also on our chapter website:

[Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

The Beckley Family Scholarship raffle benefits our scholarship fund. If you don't pre-buy your tickets when you register for the banquet, be sure to purchase your tickets at the event. Thanks in advance for your support!

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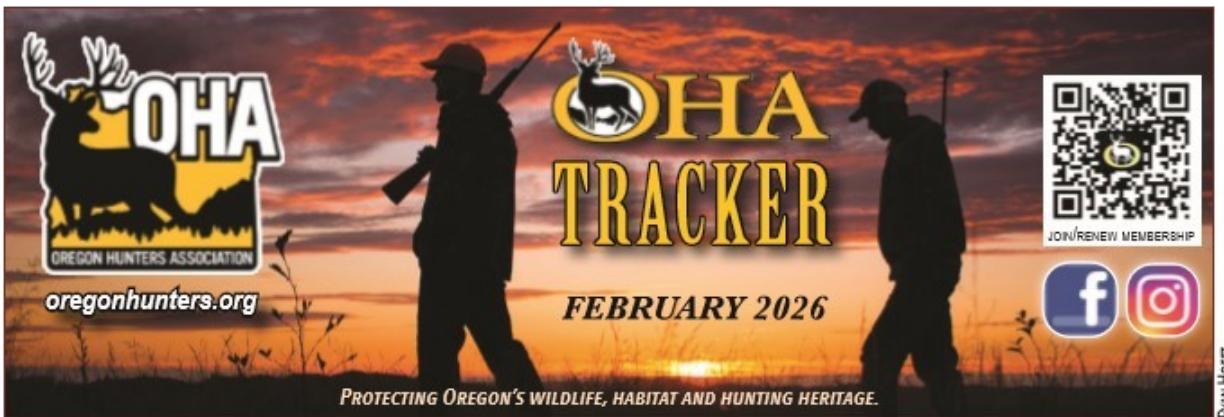
  
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## OHA, state senators introduce key corner crossing legislation

By Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director

[TD@oregonhunters.org](mailto:TD@oregonhunters.org)

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.

### *The bill balances the public's right to access public land with necessary protections for private landowners.*

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

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director  
[TD@oregonhunters.org](mailto:TD@oregonhunters.org)

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  
[TD@oregonhunters.org](mailto:TD@oregonhunters.org)

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.

**Philip 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



**WIN A 2026  
TROPHY BUCK HUNT  
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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](http://www.oregonhunters.org/store)**

## 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

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BEND CHAPTER  
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**Oregon Hunters Association Cash rewards**

\$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose  
\$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope  
\$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  
5 Points-Rocky Mountain goat  
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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