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 **OHA TRACKER**



JACKSON COUNTY/RANDY SHIPLEY

Lodging tax to support Oregon wildlife

By Amy Patrick, OHA Legislative Rep
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The 2026 Oregon Legislative session officially ended on March 6. During this short session OHA tracked several bills with three identified as priority bills. Here is the final outcome of those bills:

HB 4134 - The 1.25% for Wildlife bill that increases the state transient lodging tax by 1.25% and sends those funds to various agencies to fund wildlife-related programs: ODFW will receive approximately \$61 million per biennium for implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan, wildlife connectivity work, establishing a wildlife stewardship program, and funding for the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. Oregon Department of Agriculture will receive approximately \$4 million biennially for the Wolf Depredation Compensation Fund and invasive species control.

Oregon State Police will receive approximately \$3 million biennially for anti-poaching enforcement, while the Department of Justice will get approximately \$450,000 for anti-poaching prosecution efforts. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is allocated approximately \$6 million biennially for the Oregon Conservation Corps Fund.

OHA began the discussions on this concept in 2020 with a diverse group of stakeholders seeking to identify potential sources for long-term sustainable funding for ODFW.

The bill was first brought forward in the 2023 session where it was unsuccessful. It returned in 2025 with a broad coalition in support and almost made it to the finish line before being stalled by a last-minute minority report.

The bill was brought back in 2026, and the coalition in support of the bill grew to nearly 100 organizations from across the spectrum of conservation organizations, plus natural resources organizations such as Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

The bill passed the House and Senate and now awaits the Governor's signature.

This is a milestone bill that now establishes long-term, sustainable funding for ODFW, and the additional agencies, that is not placed on the shoulders of the hunting and fishing communities.

HB 4145 - The Measure 114 rewrite bill would have repealed and then replaced Measure 114 with more egregious language to increase the fees, increase the wait times for permits, and limit any litigation efforts to Marion County courts.

Following several weeks of drama, the bill was amended to remove all aspects of the bill except for the implementation date of January 2028. This stripped version of the bill passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SB 1545 - The corner crossing bill brought by the bipartisan duo of Senators Broadman and McLane sought to define the act of corner crossing and under what circumstances it is not considered trespass, as well as provide protections for private landowners.

This bill garnered strong bipartisan support with the following legislators: Senators Fred Girod (R-Silverton), Jeff Golden (D-Ashland), James Manning Jr (D-Eugene), Todd Nash (R-Enterprise), Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford), and Jaaneen Sollman (D-Forest Grove), joining Representatives Vicki Breese-Iverson

(R-Prineville), Matt Bunch (R-Canby), Emerson Levy (D-Bend), Virgil Osborne (R-Roseburg), Mark Owens (R-Burns), E. Werner Reschke (R-Klamath Falls) and House Majority Leader Ben Bowman (D-Tigard) as bill sponsors.

Broad support for the bill came from Oregon Hunters Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Western Environmental Law Center, Oregon Farm Bureau, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Oregon Recreation & Park Association, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Oregon Wild, Central Oregon Landwatch, Fur Takers of America, Oregon Association of Shooting Ranges, Traditional Archers of Oregon, Oregon Trappers Association, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation, American Sportfishing Association, Oregon Bow Hunters, Howl For Wildlife, Oregon United Sporting Dogs Association, and Oregon Anglers Alliance.

While the bill had support from legislators and stakeholders, several large landowners voiced enough concern over the bill that the chief sponsors conceded to pull the bill from the 2026 session and enter a workgroup process in the interim. Both Senators have assured stakeholders that their intent is to pass the bill in the 2027 session.

Legislative turnover happens each election cycle, but many legislators are not returning this year, which will leave five seats open in the Senate and eight in the House. With 13 open legislative seats, and the potential for IP28 to be on the November ballot, OHA encourages our members to register to vote and participate in Oregon's election process.

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

OHA helps shape Minam Wildlife Area management plan

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director
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OHA worked with ODFW to help shape the recently adopted Minam River Wildlife Area Management Plan for the benefit of wildlife and hunters. The plan aims to 1) protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic connectivity, 2) actively manage for high quality and resilient habitat, and 3) provide access and recreational opportunities, namely hunting and fishing.

Initially, ODFW planned to implement a winter closure of the wildlife area from Dec. 1 to March 31. OHA successfully truncated the duration of the closure to accommodate youth elk and upland game bird hunters wanting to access the wildlife area in December.

Now, hunters will be able to enjoy the wildlife area from April 1 through Dec. 31, and the plan will still accomplish its goal of providing winter refuge for big game and other wildlife. OHA was supportive of primitive camping opportunities for backcountry hunters.

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>

OHA will give away 52 guns valued from \$500 to \$1,800 – one for each week on the calendar. Calendars include a one-year OHA membership, which can be a renewal or applied to a Lifetime Pledge Membership. Each purchase (\$50 for individual members and \$60 for family members) includes one ticket in the drawing.

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

Here are the March 2026 winners:

- ★ **Browning A-Bolt III .300 Win**
Wesley Ham, Bend Chapter
- ★ **Weatherby Vanguard Badlands**
Cameron Cornell, Malheur County Chapter
- ★ **Howa Superlite 7mm-08**
Doug Meredith, Umpqua Chapter
- ★ **Sig Zulu6 HDX 16x42**
Paul Egan, Columbia County Chapter



TODD ADKINS

OHA Tualatin Valley Wall of Dreams made dreams come true for lucky banquet guests on March 21.



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 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

Acquisition adds to Denman Wildlife Area, secures access

By Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director
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Many hunters, even those well acquainted with Denman Wildlife Area and its history, have never realized that currently, an old railroad parcel that many cross to access the wildlife area is privately owned. The owners have generously allowed the public to cross for decades, but that could have changed if the property were to change ownership.

Recently, OHA supported an effort for ODFW to acquire the narrow 5.67 acres of property within the boundary of the wildlife area in Jackson County near Medford. The acquisition will provide habitat connectivity and access for hunters parking at the Agate Road lot for future generations.