



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

March 2026

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

**Wednesday, March 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.
- ◆ How to register for our annual Youth & Family Outdoor Day
- ◆ 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. See page 5 for more details on how you can participate in this year's All Hands, All Brands for Your Public Lands

### 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 February 19th our total membership was at 508. Welcome to our 2 new members, both from Bend. We now have **Courtney Braun** and **Christopher Ehman**. Thanks for joining and we hope to see you at an upcoming meeting, on a project or any of our other activities soon. Again this month we have 30 members that are missing from our current roster due to expirations. We have 15 members whose memberships hadn't been renewed since the end of January and another 15 of the 17 that expired in December. Some of these members may be waiting until our banquet to get their renewals in. Remember to check your membership expiration date that's on the address label of your Oregon Hunter magazine.

**ARE YOU OUT OF TIME?** Time for those of you who haven't already gotten signed up for the upcoming Mule Deer Classic to get it done. Orrrr, is it already too late? We sold out last year during the last couple weeks before our banquet. This year that date for our banquet is March 14th. Your banquet committee has been working hard for months now to continue to keep our event as the one to aspire to. Many thanks to our Banquet Co-Chairs **Cristy Ouellette** and **Bill Littlefield** for taking the lead for the rest of us this year.

March is upon us and with it the promises of spring. This winter has not delivered much as far in the way of our needed snow in the mountains. The lack of snow and its accompanying melting run off will undoubtedly have an impact throughout the summer and into this fall for our farmers and the browse for wildlife.

We have some great speakers for our chapter meetings lined up in the coming months. This month is **Mary Jo Hedrick**, one of our state board of directors. She'll show us what the EFM property area looked like before and since the work that was done these last few years. And maybe to ask for a little more assistance on another small project. **Tyler Duggannon** from the state office will be here in April to tell us what he's been up to and to talk to us about a couple projects that are coming up including one that this chapter is helping to sponsor. May brings in **Trooper Jerome** from OSP Fish and Wildlife's Prineville Office to talk about some interesting cases that he's been involved with. And then in June we'll have **Bill Cogley** with the Trash No Lands Organization. He'll be talking about responsible target practice on our public lands. Hope you can make it to any or all of these meetings.

Stay safe. Hope to see you out there.

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

## UPCOMING MARCH MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday March 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 March guest speaker will be **Mary Jo Hedrick**, a member of the OHA State Board of Directors. She'll show the progress of previous projects we've helped on and inform us of the details/needs of an upcoming project.

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

## February Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Feb. 11th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Brock McCormick**, Wildlife Biologist with the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest. He enlightened us on how recreation impacts wildlife. Before coming to Oregon, Brock worked in Colorado & Arizona. He discovered that demand of recreation use on the forest is a constant problem no matter where you live. Development and increased recreation/disturbance have all contributed to the mule deer decline. These disturbances cause increased stress hormones and increased energy expenditure, and the habitat is also negatively affected by human presence/use. Chronic stress from repeated disturbance can reduce health, impair reproduction, make the animals more susceptible to parasites, illness, etc. An elk study revealed that they are forced to use smaller, less connected habitat when they avoid anything invading their space. It was surprising to learn that there are over 6,000 miles of roads on the Deschutes National Forest, which is equivalent to driving to Florida and back. There are also over 1,000 miles of non-motorized roads/trails on the Deschutes National Forest, so you would need to walk your dog over 46 miles every weekend (May-Sept) just to see it all. In the DNF, 43% of the forest is mapped out as core habitat, which means it is 200 meters from a trail or road. The remaining 57% of the Deschutes National Forest is within 200 meters of a trail or road. In other words, if you were to jump out of a plane anywhere over the DNF, you are apt to land within 200 meters of a trail or road! His final thoughts: Build 'purpose driven' trails, focusing on quality, not

quantity; use quantitative analysis tools to inform win-win solutions for recreation-wildlife issues; manage for blank spots on the map!; goal is to manage recreation in balance with other resource needs.

See page 7 for an update from **Eric Brown** on the replacement of the weathered guzzler signs that have been mentioned at our meetings.

There is concern about the potential cost of the Deer Collision Area signs that were discussed last month. This is still a work in progress and details are being figured out. We will update you when we know more.

In order to save time at the banquet, the 2025 Bend Chapter Member of the Year will be announced at a monthly chapter meeting rather than at the banquet.

**Don't miss it!** **Monty Gregg** informed us of a special screening of the sustainable trails documentary: Follow the Beaten Path. It will be presented **March 10** at the Volcanic Theater in Bend. Doors open at 6:00pm.

It is time for your college student (new or returning) to work on the Beckley Family Scholarship Application. It must be postmarked by April 15th. You can pick up an application at the banquet when you buy your Beckley raffle tickets. The application will also be on our website.

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

*Thank you for ALL of the banquet donations as well as any help with the planning, prep, and behind-the-scenes details. Your dedication will pay off and is greatly appreciated!*

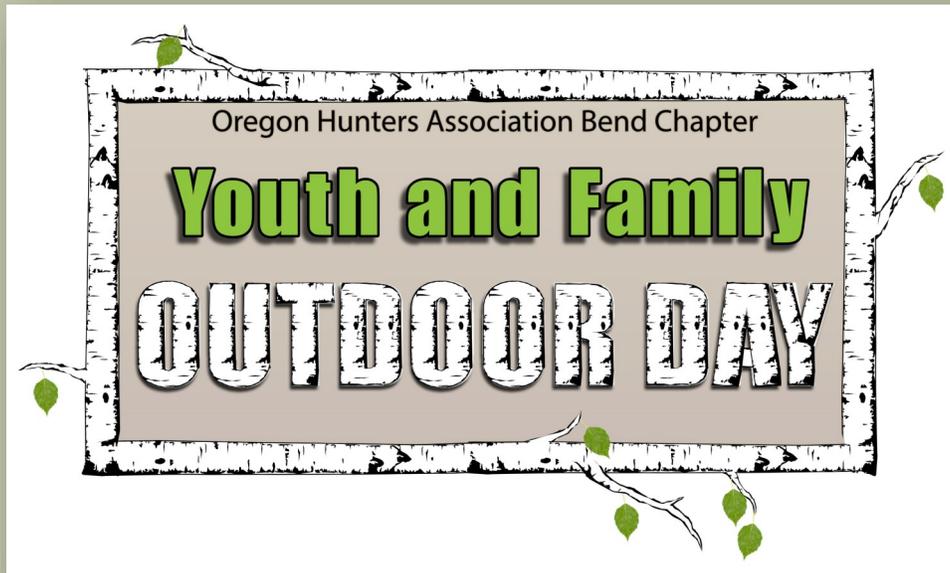
You missed out if you weren't at the meeting! Please join us at a monthly meeting. You might learn something new, have a good time, give us some valuable input . . .



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online April 15 thru Memorial Day: [www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter](http://www.oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter)

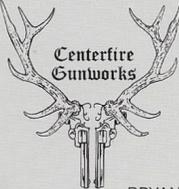
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For more info call the **Bend OHA Youth & Family Activities Coordinator:**  
**Kevin Borst 541-480-7323**

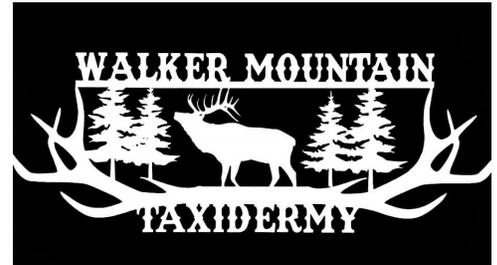
**Upcoming Projects & Volunteer Opportunities:** *May 30* Youth & Family Outdoor Day; *June 6-7* Elkhorn Wildlife Area buck & pole fencing; *June 19, 20 & 21* All Hands, All Brands: fire rehab from the Crazy Creek Fire—fence & guzzler building; *June 26, 27 & 28* Southwest Cascades Meadow project: fence; *4th Saturday in September:* National Public Lands Day; *Oct 17:* Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt; ongoing: wildlife fence maintenance (Eric 541-647-0424)  
**Reminder:** We have positions available for you to join the board, let your voice be heard, and help this chapter to remain strong. More positions opening in July. We also have non-board banquet committee positions open each year. Come join the fun!



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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.

# All Hands, All Brands For Your Public Lands

*Weekend work party in the Ochocos*



**June 19 - 21, Sugar Creek Campground, Ochoco National Forest**

**Join the many organizations and agencies rebuilding fences, guzzlers, and replacing signs destroyed by the 2024 fires.**

**Archery  
Shoot!**



**Celebrate with a potluck dinner, raffle, campfire stories, music, and breakfast Sunday morning.**



**Contacts/RSVP:**

**Eric Brown, Bend OHA @ 541-647-0424 or [ericbrown5112@gmail.com](mailto:ericbrown5112@gmail.com)**

## 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) **Bob Buddenbohn** (817) 470-7018  
 At-Large (Youth Events) **Kevin Borst** (541) 480-7323  
 At Large (Outreach Coord.) **position available**  
 Project Coordinator **Don Clark** (702) 460-3653  
 Banquet Chair **Cristy Ouellette**

Assistants to banquet coordinator: positions always available  
 (thank you to everyone who stepped up to help!)

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](mailto:carpentershaun59@gmail.com)

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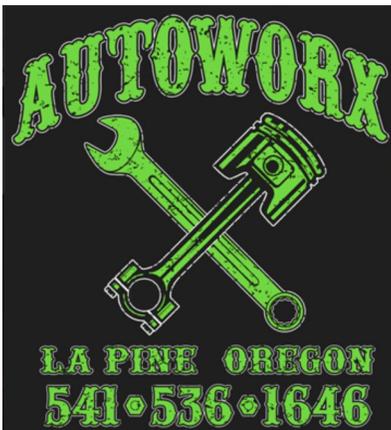


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## CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

March 4	LAST Banquet planning meeting 6:00 pm Abby's Pizza
March 8	Daylight Saving begins
<b>March 11</b>	<b>Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW</b>
March 14	Mule Deer Classic Banquet (annual fundraiser)
March <b>24</b>	*Deadline to submit items for April newsletter*
March 25	Monthly Board Meeting
April 1	Spring Bear opens
April 8	Monthly Chapter Meeting
April 15	Youth & Family Outdoor Day online registration begins Turkey season opens; Beckley Family Scholarship applications postmark due date
May 30	Youth & Family Outdoor Day

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

# MIKE'S FENCE CENTER



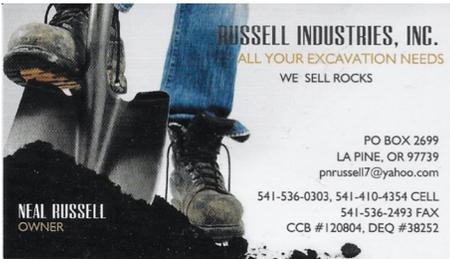
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## SIGN UPDATE

The Bend Chapter Board recently approved the expenditure for printing up new guzzler signs that will be placed throughout Central Oregon at the many active guzzlers. When I first started maintaining guzzlers over 25 years ago, we had a very similar sign that we utilized. **Dave Doran** from ODFW was the guzzler coordinator at that time and at present nobody knows where the signs were printed up or who paid for them. These signs are informational and they make a request to not hunt within 300 feet of the water basin. Over the years we have had several chapter members adopt a guzzler or more and each year they go out and inspect the guzzler for damage and make any needed repairs. **Fred Newton** and I have 9 guzzlers that we maintain, **Don Clark, Kevin Borst, Mark Crisp** and **Darren Bean** also maintain guzzlers. The Bend Chapter also maintains several guzzlers in the Ochocos where we will likely be rebuilding at least one or more this summer during All Hands. We will be sharing these signs with agencies that we partner with that have their logo on the signs. You may wonder about the signs being vandalized and for me personally I have never had a sign damaged in the past 25 years. If you have any interest in adopting guzzlers, contact **Kurt Cundiff** at the local ODFW office in Bend. **Eric Brown**



**HUNTERS!**

This artificial water site is intended for wildlife use. Continued human presence may have an adverse effect on wildlife usage.

The Oregon Hunter's Association asks that you not hunt within 300 feet of the drinking basin and/or inside the fence enclosure.

These sites are maintained by volunteers. Please report maintenance needs to your local agency office.

Please help us maintain this site for its intended use- water for wildlife!

Thank you for your cooperation!  
Bend Chapter, OHA and participating agencies.



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Central Cascades Archery

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

Congratulations to **Greg Petsch** for winning the door prize at our February meeting.  
Enjoy your \$25 Bi-Mart gift card!

**Jason McGuire** of La Pine drew for the February monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but he was not present



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

## ENCOURAGE A FRIEND TO JOIN OHA OR GIFT THEM A MEMBERSHIP

I recently had a conversation with **Bryan Cook**, State OHA Field Director who told me that at the recent Portland Sportsman Show they sold 280 Gun Calendar memberships. Many of those who joined did so due to IP28. Many people are now just learning about the initiative due to the media picking up the story. IP 28 is a proposed 2026 Oregon ballot measure, often called the "[PEACE Act](#)," aiming to criminalize the intentional injury or killing of animals. If passed, it would ban hunting, fishing, trapping, and most animal husbandry (slaughtering/breeding). The extremists pushing for this acknowledge that this has little chance of passing, however they will keep coming back. Joining OHA is a good way to support our Lobbyist and staying informed about current events that may have a vital impact on your way of life. An OHA membership is a great gift to provide. **Eric Brown**

## 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)



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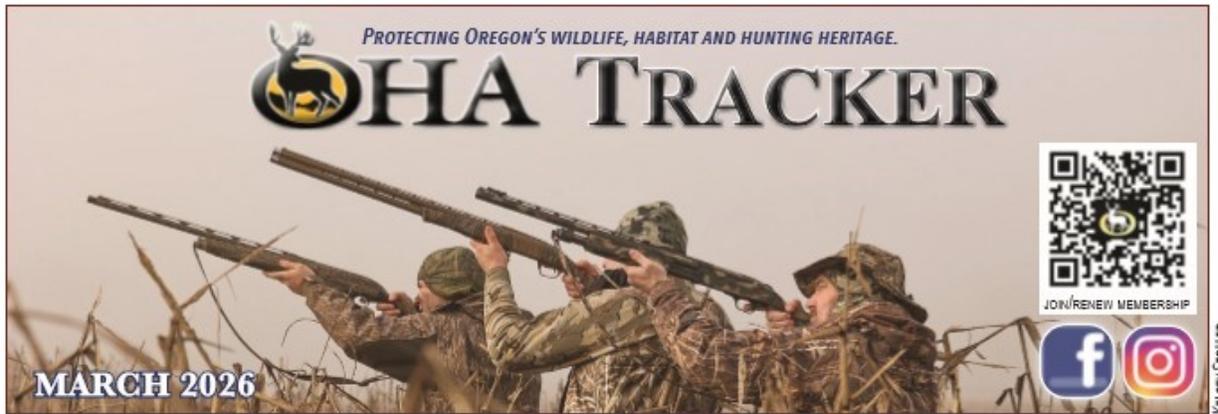
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Veterans enjoyed a successful duck hunt hosted by OHA and ODFW at David Sill's waterfowl hunting property Jan. 31 on Veteran's Waterfowl Day.

## Walkouts over gas & guns delay hunting-related bills

By Amy Patrick, OHA Legislative Rep  
[driftcreekconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:driftcreekconsulting@gmail.com)

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.

## 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/>

## 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

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

## 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

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### 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

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Includes transportation to and from cabin, Big Game License & Bear Permit.

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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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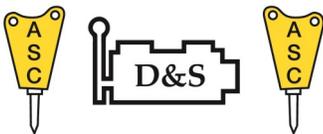
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