



After the latest annual ODFW wolf report showing continued wolf expansion in the state, OHA is calling for controlled take of wolves in Wallowa County.

OHA presses need for controlled take of wolves in NE Oregon

OHA has again asked the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to direct ODFW staff to initiate a wolf management pilot project using controlled take along with a monitoring program within the Wallowa District of the Northeast Region.

“Wolves have prospered in Oregon, and this past year’s 13% minimum population growth is a strong indicator,” said Jim Akenson, OHA State Board member. “It is time to normalize the species and consider other wildlife and social values that wolves are negatively influencing, such as ranching and elk hunting.”

The Wallowa County Wolf Work Group – in which OHA participates – had an opportunity to address the Commission at its April meeting in Lincoln City to inform them on the current impacts of wolves and the need for a pilot project involving controlled hunting of wolves in a specific area.

“We had hoped for the Commission to direct ODFW staff to pursue that,” Akenson said. “We may not have accomplished that objective, but feedback indicates that our message on management need was both clear and urgent. OHA’s request connects to the criteria for applied controlled take in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and meets the conditions of chronic

livestock depredation and elk populations not meeting management objectives.”

All six wildlife management units in the Wallowa District are below elk management objectives, according to 2026 ODFW data. Elk populations in the Wallowa District range from a low of 31% of management objective in the Wenaha Unit to 91% in the Chesnimnus Unit. The three units where livestock depredation is current and persistent are Minam, Chesnimnus, and Sled Springs, which are at 55%, 91%, and 58% of management objective, respectively.

Another key indicator of elk population health is cow-calf ratios, which currently occur at 17 calves per 100 cows for the Minam, Chesnimnus, and Sled Springs units, respectively. These are not adequate ratios, and they are well below a targeted minimum of 30 per 100 desirable to support a healthy elk population.

OHA will continue working to ensure we better understand the impacts of wolf predation on ungulates and that intensive management of wolves occurs for the benefit of deer, elk and moose in Oregon.

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IP28 surpasses signature goal

Measure on pace for November ballot

As of May 20, IP28, also known as the PEACE Act, has reached 120,935 signatures, surpassing the minimum signature threshold of 117,173.

While it is estimated they still need to collect an additional 20,000 signatures to have enough coverage to account for the signature validation process, this signals a definitive milestone for the initiative on its way to qualifying for the November ballot.

“OHA has worked against this initiative, and all its previous iterations, for the last five years,” said OHA lobbyist Amy Patrick. “This is when all of the warnings OHA has provided to our membership come to fruition: it’s time for battle. Should this qualify for the November ballot, we want Oregonians to hand it a historical defeat that echoes throughout the nation and warns others who might think Oregon is an easy mark for these types of efforts.”

The proponents have until July 2 to collect and submit signatures. With good weather and the sizable crowds expected for the 10-day Portland Rose Festival, they are expected to gather enough signatures to qualify for the ballot.

OHA continues to lead the fight against IP28. Visit our website (<https://oregonhunters.org/initiative-petition-28-2>) for additional information and be ready to join the call to action this summer if they qualify.



OHA life member Murphy McHugh of Eugene helps load bags of forage seed donated by Turf Merchants, Inc. and distributed by OHA and ODFW on May 9 at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area.

OHA, ODFW give away forage seed

OHA and ODFW gave away more than 500 bags of free seed to Oregon landowners at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area on May 9. Each bag will cover at least two acres of wildlife habitat.

The seed was provided at no cost, thanks to contributions from OHA and Turf Merchants, Inc. The mix is a cool season blend of species that attract game birds, mammals and other wildlife. It contains grains, grasses, legumes, and brassica that provide critical food sources for animals during fall, winter, and early spring in places where native forage is lacking or has deteriorated.

This mixture is designed to be used on a wide range of revegetation sites, pre-formulated based on seeds per square foot, species establishment and final mixture diversity upon maturation. It is ideal for project sites not requiring continual maintenance.

The seed will be planted on state wildlife areas, as well as private land in more than half of Oregon's counties.

Enhancing wildlife habitat on private land where wildlife winter plays a critical role in sustaining Oregon's native species. Private landowners can enhance habitat with seed mixes that regulations might prohibit on nearby federal lands. Through efforts like this, OHA is working to improve habitat for wildlife.

Meadow project set for June 26-28

OHA is leading a southwest Cascades meadow protection and enhancement project June 26-28 near Butte Falls in the Rogue Unit. The project involves installation of wildlife-friendly fencing and removal of dilapidated fencing.

Dry camping will be available at Beaver Dam and Daley Creek campgrounds south of Short Creek Prairie, where the project will take place.

For more information, contact OHA Conservation Director Tyler Dunganon td@oregonhunters.org

OHA member bags Habitat Raffle rifle

Jerry Walker of OHA's Mid-Willamette Chapter is the lucky winner of a Howa 1500 heavy barrel chassis 6.5 CR Flat Dark Earth cerakote and camo stock with a 4-16x50 Nikko Stirling Silver scope, all donated by Legacy Sports International for OHA's annual Habitat Raffle.

The annual Habitat Raffle funds wildlife habitat enhancement in Oregon.

OHA congratulates Jerry and thanks all who participated to support OHA's mission of protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage.

Latest Gun Calendar winners announced

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.

★ **5/6/26 Sig Zulu6 HDX 16x42 binoculars**

Debbie Judd, Klamath Chapter

★ **5/13 Weatherby Vanguard Badlands .270**

Crystal Gerard, Pioneer Chapter

★ **5/20 Browning A-bolt III Hunter .300 Win**

Eric Strecker, Tualatin Valley Chapter



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