



OHA volunteers from several chapters turned out to help protect a southwest Cascades forage meadow during a weekend project in June.

Oregon Hunters Defeat IP28

OHA now shifts focus to proactive long-term protections

The Oregon Secretary of State's office officially confirmed last Friday that Initiative Petition 28 (IP28) fell short of the required signatures and will not appear on the November ballot. The state's final review verified 104,262 valid signatures, missing the 117,173 threshold needed to qualify by a wide margin. IP28 proponents may try to challenge the decision in court, but because they fell short by more than 13,000 signatures, it's extremely unlikely a court will intervene.

Like its predecessors IP13 and IP3, this egregious petition sought to criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping, livestock production, and common farming practices. Animal extremists continue to fund these attempts because their ideology demands that hunting be stripped from the landscape – a critical reminder that these radical efforts are being driven by a combination of well-funded national organizations and anti-

hunting activists right here in Oregon.

OHA successfully went on a massive media blitz starting back in February, blanketed the airwaves, print, digital news, and podcasts to expose the true dangers of this petition. By aggressively educating the public, we completely shifted the conversation on the ground. As everyday Oregonians learned the destructive reality of the measure, signature gatherers faced overwhelming pushback on the street, making it increasingly difficult – and eventually impossible – for petitioners to advance.

While IP28 is dead for 2026, we know these extremists will be back. To break this cycle, OHA is pivoting from defense to a long-term strategy to permanently protect our hunting heritage. It's time we went on the offense, and in the coming weeks and months, you'll see the rollout of a protective framework designed to secure our future once and for all.

OHA supports NE Oregon at-risk sage-grouse

The Baker Priority Area of Conservation in northeastern Oregon supports one of the most vulnerable greater sage-grouse populations in the state. Recent monitoring estimates the population at approximately 475 birds.

Despite significant habitat restoration and predator management investments, the Baker population continues to decline, indicating demographic limitations – particularly recruitment and retention of breeding females

– are constraining recovery.

State OHA along with OHA's Mid-Willamette and Baker County chapters are financially supporting a new translocation project aiming to increase the number of breeding females that successfully recruit locally within 1 to 2 years post-release.

OHA is the reason that we still have sage-grouse hunting seasons today, and this is yet another example of our commitment to the species' conservation.



OHA welcomes Ellen Condon aboard in new marketing role

OHA is thrilled to announce the hiring of Ellen Condon as our new Brand and Engagement Specialist. Ellen comes to OHA with an impressive background in the outdoor industry, formerly serving in international sales and administration at Bowtech Archery.

A dedicated advocate for Oregon's hunting and conservation community, Ellen brings a deep passion for wildlife conservation, a strategic mindset, and a proven track record of building strong industry relationships.

In her new role, she will lead efforts to elevate the OHA brand, strengthen community partnerships, and drive meaningful engagement with hunters across the state.

OHA welcomes Ellen to the OHA team as we mobilize our community and strengthen our voice for the future of hunting in Oregon.

Big news ahead: OHA partners with Leupold

Get ready for a major announcement in the next issue of OREGON HUNTER magazine! We're proud to officially launch our new Leupold Title Sponsorship, and you won't want to miss what's inside.

The next magazine will share details on how you can score premium Leupold scopes through our brand-new "Gold Ring" memberships. Upgrade your gear while securing the future of Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage!

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

OHA launches new Black-Tailed Deer and Roosevelt Elk Fund

OHA is working to expand its impact on big game and habitat statewide. In 2024, we began our leadership role with Blue Mountains Elk Initiative and have since invested \$128,000 into eight excellent projects in central and northeast Oregon. In 2025, we implemented the OHA Mule Deer Fund, and to date, we have contributed more than \$110,000 across nine projects that are working to improve conditions for mule deer.

Perhaps most importantly, OHA dollars have leveraged substantial private, state, and federal funds in Oregon to support wildlife and habitat projects that have attained millions of dollars in match funding. In order to expand our impact and this funding model across the state, we have developed the new OHA Black-Tailed Deer and Roosevelt Elk Fund.

This new fund will focus on supporting western Oregon projects that improve conditions for deer and elk, such as increasing forage availability, restoring meadows, protecting and enhancing habitat, addressing predation, investing in research, reducing deer and elk vehicle collisions, supporting anti-poaching efforts and more. The OHA Black-Tailed Deer and Roosevelt Elk Fund will allocate \$50,000-\$100,000 annually to projects selected by OHA Conservation Staff and our Deer and Elk Subcommittee. The first fund cycle will take place this winter.

OHA chapters that have contributed to this new effort so far include Umpqua (\$20,000), Yamhill County (\$20,000), Josephine County (\$15,000), Pioneer (\$10,000), Mid-Willamette (\$10,000), and Bend (\$5,000).

OHA to weigh in on Blue Mountains Forest Plan

The U.S. Forest Service has proposed a revision to the Blue Mountains Forest Plan and offered three alternatives for consideration:

Alternative 1 (no change) proposes continuing management under the existing 1990 Forest Plans and subsequent amendments.

Alternative 2 replaces the 1990 plan with a new framework focused on restoring forest resilience through active management. It provides flexibility for vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, and timber harvest to improve forest health and restore desired forest conditions. This plan does not create fixed diameter limit for protecting large trees. It also updates riparian management, wildlife habitat direction, recreation management, grazing standards, and monitoring programs. Under Alternative 2, current designated roadless acres will be opened if the 2001 Roadless Rule rescission is upheld.

Alternative 3 similarly prioritizes active management, but incorporates additional protections, such as permanently establishing the Inventoried Roadless Areas regardless of future changes to the national Roadless Rule. It also recommends approximately 34,000 acres of new Wilderness across the Malheur,

Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This alternative limits the harvest of large trees based on a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 21 or 30 inches, depending on species, and provides additional vegetation protections in riparian areas.

“We are reviewing the draft (Environmental Impact Statement) and are working to ensure the Blue Mountains Forest Plan prioritizes our deer and elk herds, their habitat quality and security, which impacts their availability to hunters in the fall,” said Tyler Dungannon, OHA Conservation Director. “It’s important that we cut trees and open the forest canopy so light hits the forest floor, which will improve forage quality for deer and elk. It’s also imperative that open roads don’t cover the landscape. Without secure acreage on public lands, elk will leave. OHA is working to balance road access with habitat security to retain elk on public land where they are desired.”

A public comment period was opened July 2 and lasts until Sept. 30. To review a draft environmental impact statement and for information on how to comment, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/planning/blue-mountains-forest-plan-revision>

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