



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

August 2026

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, August 12th

→ * 6:00 pm *
Bend VFW

Meet the new OHA Executive Director: Dr. Todd Adkins

(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.
- ♦ Youth Upland Bird Hunt reg
- ♦ Shotgun raffle details
- ♦ IP28 update (good news)
- ♦ OHA Tracker
- ♦ Our generous supporters/donors
- ♦ 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 photos. These are from the mini ORPIC event in conjunction with the Bow Hunter Warm-Up at the Archery Park in La Pine last month. See the report in next column.

Your Chapter at Work

Enhancing Habitat

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

Spreading the Word, Sharing our Passion

Teaching the Next Generation

We received reports from **Eric Brown** after ORPIC and from **Kevin Borst** after the Yow's Hunting Camps last month. They set up Bend Chapter OHA booths at these events. Besides sharing information on what OHA represents and accomplishes, they offered annual memberships for purchase, O/U Shotgun raffle tickets (see page 7 on how you can get your raffle tickets!), and Swag for purchase (at the camps). At ORPIC, they also offered some one-day event specials: calendar raffle memberships for the price of a regular membership (for new members), free gift with new member purchase (OHA license plate frame, Leupold hat, or OHA 3 pack of Game Tags), Leupold hat with 3-ticket gun raffle purchase. These efforts brought in 11 new members (some were family memberships), 18 gun raffle tickets were sold, and 2 OHA Bend Chapter T-shirts were purchased. Thank you to ALL of the volunteers who took the time to promote hunting and share the efforts of OHA.

Other volunteers from the OHA Bend Chapter (I sincerely apologize if I inadvertently missed your name on these lists):

ORPIC: **Eric Brown, Don Clark, Greg Petsch** (ORPIC= Oregon Recreational Partners in Conservation; this mini ORPIC was in conjunction with the Bow Hunter Warm-Up event at the La Pine Archery Park. Thanks to **JR Lorimor** and his team for including us!)

At **Candy & Randy Yow's** Youth Hunting Camp & Ladies Hunting Camp: many volunteers taught hunting skills and shared their knowledge at numerous classes & clinics: **Kevin Borst, Charlie Cookson, Brian & Terri Gainer, Gary Holtz, Norman & Maureen Rogers, Neal & Peggy Russell, Calvin Schneider**. The president from the Ochoco Chapter was also there, as well as many other dedicated hunters.

UPCOMING AUGUST MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday August 12th**. 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 August guest speaker: **Dr. Todd Adkins**, the new OHA Executive Director. Come meet him, hear his plans for the future of OHA, have your questions answered.

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

July Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on July 8th, here are a few highlights:

Our guest speaker was **Yvonne Shaw**, who leads the ODFW TIP Education & Awareness Campaign. (TIP stands for Turn in Poachers). Besides infractions such as harvesting an animal out of season, going over the legal limit, hunting without a license, etc., habitat destruction is also considered poaching. This would include introducing non-native species. There are 128 OSP Fish & Wildlife Troopers and Officers in Oregon. Some poachers try to outsmart the officers: when responding to a TIP call, one officer found the sturgeon hiding in the spare tire well.

Watch for suspicious activity: *at the beach*, emptying clamming bucket in cooler then going back for more, stashing catch in bushes or elsewhere, putting clams in someone else's bucket; *on the water*, taking fish beyond legal limit or out of season, fishing at night or retrieving things from bushes or water after dark; *in fields & forests*, vehicles parked haphazardly (driver got out quickly), vehicles traveling slowly & casting light with a flashlight or spotlight, no visible tag on big game animal.

If you want to report suspected poaching or suspicious activity from your mobile phone call *OSP (which is *677). You can also call 1-800-452-7888 or send an email TIP@osp.oregon.gov Provide as much detail as possible: description of activity; date, time, location; vehicle involved; description and/or name of suspect; type of wildlife. Oregon now has an Anti-Poaching Special Prosecutor to teach/advise/assist DA's and officers on how to properly collect evidence and the special nuances in trying these cases in court.

Check out the back page of this newsletter for OHA's TIP cash reward program. It has been updated. OHA awarded \$46,200 in 2025! If a TIP report leads to an arrest or citation, then the reporter has the choice to receive cash or ODFW hunter preference points.

Yvonne also informed us that onX is now partnering with ODFW to show new units on their maps.

Monty Gregg, USFS wildlife biologist for the Ochoco National Forest, announced that he is building a website for the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative. This is the umbrella under which "All Hands, All Brands For Your Public Lands" and other projects fall. He is seeking to have a link to this new website appear on the websites of the involved organizations, including OHA.

We voted in our newest board member: **Colleen Schneider** is now our new secretary. Welcome to the team! For years you've seen her as a volunteer at our Youth & Family Outdoor Day as well as at our Youth Upland Bird Hunt. She has also recently been joining her husband Calvin at our monthly membership meetings. (He is also a volunteer at our youth events and is now a Hunter Ed instructor) We also officially now have **John Bambe** staying on as Treasurer with **Nancy Doran** his mentor, and **Wendy Borst** has remained our 2nd VP (newsletter editor).

Continued on page 3 . . .

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 . . .



*Protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat
and hunting heritage.*

July Meeting Recap continued

Since the NWTF inflatable BB gun range was not available for our Youth & Family Outdoor Day (and will likely no longer be), we've looked into purchasing one for the chapter. Preliminary research finds that it would cost about \$2,000. Knowing that we would need to use the station more than once a year in order to make the purchase valid, we discussed other events where it could be used, as well as the possibility of partnering with other chapters in making the purchase. **Kevin Borst**, our youth activities coordinator, offered to discuss the ideas with the Ochoco Chapter president when he sees him at the Yow's Hunting Camps. **Norman Rogers** also offered to have he and his wife **Maureen** help run the station at our events, or come up with an alternate system like they've used with the Boy Scouts. Follow up: Kevin was informed that the Ochoco Chapter has had one of these ranges for a couple of years. It was purchased by the OHA state office for the shared use of all 3 Central Oregon Chapters (Bend, Redmond, Ochoco). Well, that was news to Kevin. So, he is happy to report that our dilemma has been solved and now we just need to work out the logistics.

The Finance Committee met and has recommended that we continue our annual \$10,000 pledge to BMEI, and to give \$5,000 each to OHA's Mule Deer Fund and to the new Black-tailed Deer/Roosevelt Elk Fund.

Rex Parks, John Bambe & Barb Wilson will attend the OHA Diamond Lake Summit. They'll give us a report at the August meeting.

FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS

Don't Miss Our Monthly Chapter Meeting

August 12 (this month): **Dr. Todd Adkins**, the new OHA Executive Director

September 9: **Andrew Walch & Zac Kendall**, they'll give us their ODFW Annual Update

October 14: **Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project**; they help make recommendations to the Forest Service for treatment plans on the Deschutes

November 11: TBD

December 9: TBD



Now living in Arizona, Dale Putman is still a Bend Chapter member. Congrats to him for winning the gun calendar raffle in May!

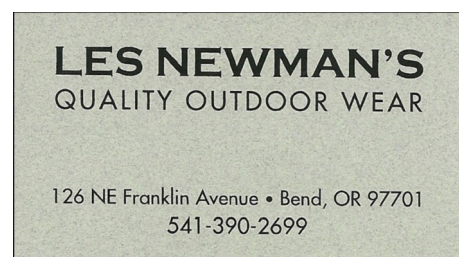
Upcoming Projects & Volunteer Opportunities: *4th Saturday in September:* National Public Lands Day; *Oct 17:* Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt (Kevin 541-480-7323) *ongoing:* wildlife fence maintenance (Eric 541-647-0424) *Spring 2027:* brush piling at the EFM property

Reminder: We have positions available for you to join the board, let your voice be heard, and help this chapter to remain strong. We also have non-board banquet committee positions open each year. Come join the fun!

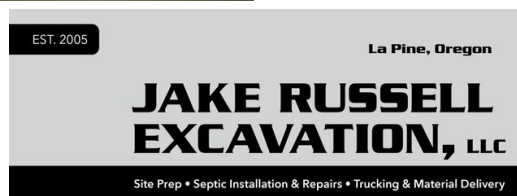
WE NEED YOU!

Remember to thoughtfully consider how you can become more involved in the Bend Chapter. Becoming a board member is an important and *much needed* role. Don't ignore your inner voice nudging you to step up. **UPDATE:** Our most urgent vacant position is President. The Secretary position was filled last month by **Colleen Schneider** (thank you for stepping up and becoming involved!) At the August meeting, we will vote in our new Member at Large, Media position. The Outreach Coordinator position is also vacant.

We need more participation/attendance at our meetings and events/volunteer opportunities. The handful of active members won't be able to keep this chapter strong forever. Thanks for your help! We look forward to seeing you!



Send photos to:
wenb.oha@outlook.com



If you have any Pheasant Tail Feathers to spare, please bring them to our August meeting and give them to Kevin or Wendy Borst. Thank you!!

One of our Youth and Family Outdoor Day volunteers has requested a need, and we would like to fulfill her wishes! Thanks for your generosity!

Thank you to **Gary Lewis** for sharing his recent press release with us:

News from the Oregon Hunters Association

For Immediate Release

July 27, 2026

Contact: Todd Adkins, OHA office, 541-772-7313

www.oregonhunters.org

Oregon Hunters Defeat Anti-Hunting Petition IP28

Group Now Shifts Focus to Proactive Long-Term Protections

The Oregon Secretary of State's office officially confirmed that Initiative Petition 28 (IP28) failed to secure the required signatures to qualify for the November ballot, handing a major victory to Oregon's conservationists, sportsmen, and agricultural communities. The state's final verification counted 104,262 valid signatures, falling well short of the 117,173-threshold needed.

Like its failed predecessors IP13 and IP3, the egregious petition sought to criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping, breeding, livestock production, and common farming practices across the state. The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) engaged in a highly successful public education campaign that ultimately stifled the petition's signature-gathering momentum on the streets.

"This is a massive victory for everyone who values Oregon's wildlife management and outdoor heritage, but we cannot afford to simply celebrate and wait for the next attack," said Todd Adkins, Executive Director of OHA. "Animal extremists continue to fund these attempts because their ideology demands that hunting be stripped from the landscape entirely. This is a critical reminder that these radical efforts are being driven by a combination of wealthy national organizations and local anti-hunting activists right here in Oregon."

Beginning in February, OHA went on a massive media blitz, blanketing the airwaves, print, digital news, and podcasts to expose the true, destructive realities of the measure. By aggressively educating the public, OHA successfully shifted the conversation on the ground. As everyday Oregonians learned what the petition actually did, signature gatherers faced overwhelming pushback on the street, making it increasingly difficult—and eventually impossible—for petitioners to secure the signatures they needed to advance.

While IP28 is officially dead for the 2026 cycle, OHA leadership warns that anti-hunting groups will inevitably return with another iteration of the same ban.

"Our collective defense made all the difference this cycle, but breaking this exhausting, reactionary loop requires a permanent solution," Adkins added. "It's time we went on the offense. In the coming weeks and months, you'll see the rollout of a protective framework designed by OHA to secure our future once and for all."

OHA (oregonhunters.org) is the state's largest Oregon-based pro-hunting organization, with 12,000 members and 26 chapters statewide. Its mission is "protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage."

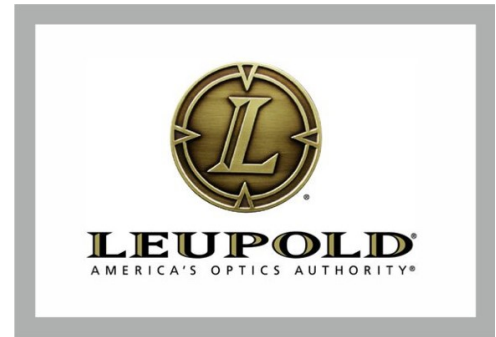
Remember to spread the word about IP 28. It will most likely reappear and with a different #, but the concept will be the same. It is deceptively being presented as a fight to stop animal cruelty. Do not be fooled! Do not sign any petition or you will allow them to get one step closer to taking away your hunting rights, fishing rights, ranchers rights (raising animals for food), etc. If it ever does appear on a ballot, take the time to vote against it. Don't just assume it will never pass.

OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President	<i>vacant</i>	
1st VP	Doug Stout	(541) 312-8332
2nd VP (newsletter editor)	Wendy Borst	(541) 480-0748
Treasurer	John Bambe	(541) 480-9848
	Nancy Doran , mentor	
Secretary	Colleen Schneider	
At-Large (Media)	<i>position will be filled at Aug mtg</i>	
At-Large (Youth Events)	Kevin Borst	(541) 480-7323
At Large (Outreach Coord.)	<i>vacant</i>	
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	Rex Parks Sr	(541) 480-0230

Website:

oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter



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CALENDAR

Check our website for Bend OHA event dates and more details

August 1	Fall Bear Season Opens
August 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting, 6:00 PM Bend VFW
August 24	*Deadline to submit items for September newsletter*
August 26	Monthly Board Meeting
August 29	General archery & most controlled bow seasons open
Sept 1	<i>reg begins for our Youth Upland Bird Hunt; openers for Forest grouse, mourning dove, western Oregon quail & fall turkey in select units</i>
Sept 7	Labor Day
Sept 9	Monthly Chapter Meeting

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



BEND CHAPTER



SHOTGUN RAFFLE

all proceeds support our
youth shooting activities



TICKETS \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Maximum 300 tickets

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- ♦ Turkish Walnut Stock
- ♦ Wide Raised Vent Rib
- ♦ Fiber Optic Front Sight
- ♦ 5 Extended Chokes Included
- ♦ Adjustable Cheek Piece
- ♦ MSRP: \$659.00

Buy your tickets at **Accolades** (behind Hammer Down Firearms)
Accolades business hours: M-Th 9:00-5:30, F 10:00-4:00, Closed weekends



If you prefer to purchase your tickets online:

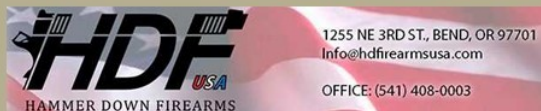
Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

Find the link on our website or use the QR code

For more info. contact the OHA Bend Chapter Treasurer
John Bambe 541.480.9848

Drawing will be held on December 9th at our monthly membership meeting.
(Bend VFW hall, 7:00 pm). You do not need to be present to win.

Special thanks
to:



It pays to attend our monthly chapter meeting:

Congratulations to **Colleen Schneider** for winning the door prize at our July meeting.
Enjoy your Cabela's \$25 gift card! (the guest speaker pulled the ticket)
Terry Whisenhunt from Brownsville drew for the July monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but was not present to win

Mathers Drilling Company
Steve Mathers
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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!

WANTED

GAME BIRD RECIPES:

**YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO
PREPARE CHUKAR & PHEASANT
(TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
YOUTH HUNT RECIPE BOOKLET)**

**PLEASE SEND RECIPES TO:
WENB.OHA@OUTLOOK.COM**

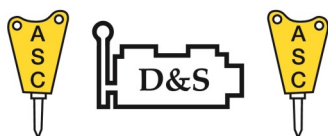
**YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO
PREPARE CHUKAR & PHEASANT
(TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
YOUTH HUNT RECIPE BOOKLET)**

YOUTH:

Registration begins September 1st
at the Bend ODFW office.

Look for your Hunter Ed card now in case you need to order a replacement. You must have the card with you.

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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!



Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter



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Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter's Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt

**YOUTH
MUST HAVE
HUNTER
EDUCATION
CARD!**

Hunt site
is on the
East side of
Powell Butte



Find map
in
Registration
packet

Saturday October 17, 2026

Pre-Registration required:

Bend ODFW Office 61374 Parrell Road (Sept 1—Oct 13; limited space, reg. early!)

\$10 registration fee includes:

BEND CHAPTER



- ♦ Pre-hunt safety instruction
- ♦ Clay pigeons with shells; shooting practice/instruction
- ♦ Field guide with dog; upland birds
- ♦ Bird cleaning station with guidance
- ♦ Recipe booklet AND LUNCH



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



1255 NE 3RD ST., BEND, OR 97701
 info@hdfirearmsusa.com
 OFFICE: (541) 408-0003

Stay Informed

Please go to our chapter website:
oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter
 and find the publications link to
 read past issues of The Tracker.

You can also find the link to the
 digital format of this monthly
 newsletter.



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Thank you to Gary Lewis for sharing Troy's article with us.

Willamette Valley Trout Options

By: Troy Rodakowski @troyoutdoors.com/541-321-3242 / troyoutdoors@hotmail.com

ODFW has an extensive stocking schedule throughout the spring and summer months that allows fresh fish to arrive for anglers looking to wet a line or two. I personally, like to keep an eye on the calendar and coordinate good days with decent weather conditions. I also like to try and miss the main crowds by doing a few weekday trips. *Going online to: Weekly trout stocking schedule | Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (myodfw.com)* will give you a good overview of the Northwest Region of our state. You can select a specific body of water or search an entire region. Places to Go: I like to focus on the Willamette River and its tributaries. The McKenzie and Santiam systems have excellent places to pull over including county parks and waysides to access the water. Many folks use kayaks, rafts and other small watercraft to access islands or sections of water that are tough to walk or wade. Places that are always good bets and are regularly stocked are Dorena Reservoir, Alton Baker Canal, Junction City Pond, Waverly Lake, Timber Linn Lake, St. Louis Pond, Cottage Grove Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Hills Creek Reservoir, Foster Reservoir and Walling Pond. All of these bodies of water are found in the Central or South Willamette zones and are no more than a couple hours apart. Most of these places also have great parking and access for both bank and boat anglers.

When to Go: Of course, planning a trip not too long after a fresh dump of fish is a good idea and will likely produce the best results. I personally, like to fish right before a rain storm or shortly after a storm system moves through. The stocker fish seem to go on the bite better. Last year a good buddy of mine and our kids went down to the Junction City Pond just before a good rain. In fact, it started raining while we were there. The fish were all over the garlic dough bait (green color). We floated it just off the bottom and the kids had a blast catching their limits. We were pretty soaked by the time we left but it's a great time to pack a picnic, load the coolers and take the family or friends out for a day of fishing. Plus, with soaring gas prices these days, most of us are trying to get the biggest bang for our buck. I like to take a diverse tackle box and fly selection along since the first choice isn't always where a person will end up. Keeping an eye on the water levels and weather is also very important if you want to put some fish in the cooler and checking the Guides Forecast can be quite beneficial www.theguidesforecast.com. The Central and South Willamette Valley have a lot to offer and most of the good fishing from Salem to Eugene is less than a couple hours drive from home.

Thank you, Troy, for your insights and valuable information. This sounds like some good family fun for the parents and grandparents to enjoy with the kids, as our Summer comes to an end.
(or keep Troy's hints handy and try them out next Spring or Summer)





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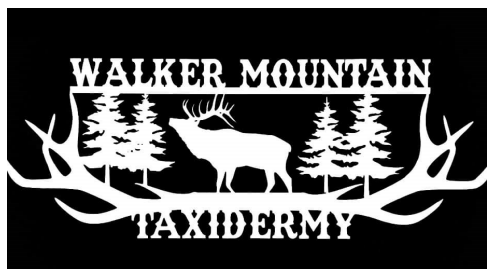


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OHA volunteers from several chapters turned out to help protect a southwest Cascades forage meadow during a weekend project in June.

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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