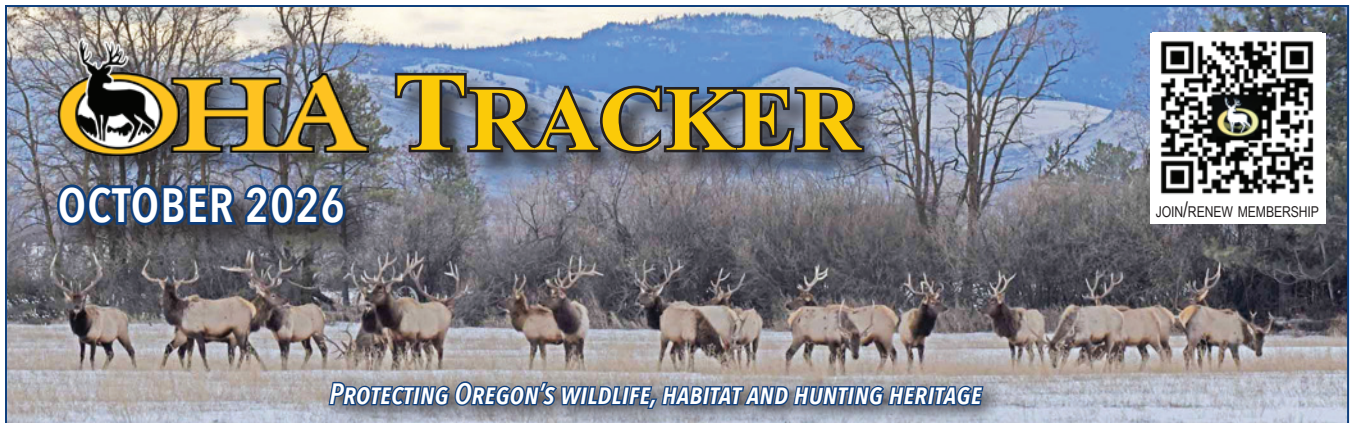




OHA responds to proposed changes to Blue Mountains, road and travel management

The U.S. Forest Service recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) to revise the Blue Mountains Forest Plan and Rescind the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Additionally, the USFS released a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS that will revise the Travel Management Rule and propose “increased access for motorized vehicles, e-bikes and other mobility devices.”

Blue Mountains Forest Plan

Regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plan, OHA is supporting USFS efforts to actively manage the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, and Malheur National Forests by opening the forest canopy, improving wildlife forage and restoring resilient landscapes.

OHA has supported removing arbitrarily designated diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) requirements for tree removal to achieve a mosaic of early seral habitat with intact stands that provide thermal cover and other resource benefits.

OHA believes expanding flexibility surrounding vegetation treatments, prescribed fire, and timber harvest will benefit wildlife and in turn increase hunting opportunity. However, proposed actions in the Blue Mountains Draft EIS fail to address several issues pertaining to habitat security. This trend is consistent with other current USFS efforts; the agency is pushing nationwide changes to inventoried roadless and travel management areas.

Roadless Area Conservation Rule

While the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and its potential rescission have polarized the hunting community, it is important to remember that there are pros and cons associated with such sweeping changes. Over 25 years, habitat for big game on National Forests (including roadless areas) has been severely degraded.

“That’s why OHA is supporting active management in the Blue Mountains and elsewhere,” said OHA Conservation Director Tyler Dungannon. “The fact remains you often need at least temporary roads to manage forests. However, a rescission here could further impact elk herds’ use of public lands and may reduce their availability to hunters in the fall. OHA is seeking a balanced, local-scale approach that provides hunters reasonable road access and addresses habitat security needs of elk and other wildlife.”

Rescinding the Roadless Rule does not allow unregulated logging or road building on National Forests. Activity on these lands is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and local forest management plans. That said, OHA is urging the U.S. Forest Service to uphold the conservation focus provided by current roadless areas while also addressing the need for effective management to restore ecosystem health for the benefit of wildlife. If the Roadless

Rule is rescinded, OHA believes that any new roads developed to actively manage these current roadless areas be temporary, and vehicular access be restricted following forest treatments which could and should provide ideal conditions for wildlife: early seral and secure habitat.

Travel Management Rule

The USFS NOI to revise the Travel Management Rule appears to be completely overlooking the importance of habitat security, wildlife conservation and important hunting opportunity.

We will not know exactly what the USFS intent is on this issue until the agency releases its EIS, but OHA is preemptively cautioning the USFS against amending the

Travel Management Rule to allow an increase in access for motorized vehicles and e-bikes, which should continue to be classified as motorized vehicles. These management plans and rules should promote seasonal closures of roads to protect big game during critical periods, and they must address wildlife, habitat management, and reasonable hunter access.

Effective travel management requires a balance of access, conservation, and local decision-making. OHA encourages USFS to preserve that balance by maintaining locally developed plans, retaining science-based seasonal closures, and integrating travel management with long-term infrastructure needs.

Elk need security.

**Hunters need elk
on public land.**

OHA gears up for legislative session

By Hugh Ady, OHA Lobbyist

The 2027 Oregon Legislative Session is still a few months away, but the work of ensuring Oregon hunters have a strong voice in Salem is already well underway.

Over the past several weeks, I have been meeting with Senators and State Representatives from both sides of the aisle, introducing myself as OHA's new lobbyist and discussing the issues important to our members. I have been encouraged by the reception. Many legislators are enthusiastically supportive of OHA's priorities and eager to work with us during the upcoming session.

We are also working with partners throughout Oregon's hunting and conservation community. Over the next few months, I will work closely with the OHA team, legislators, stakeholders and coalition partners to develop several pieces of legislation that advance OHA's mission.

It is still too early to discuss individual proposals, but our objectives are straightforward: protecting and expanding opportunities for hunters, ensuring public access, conserving Oregon's wildlife and habitat, and protecting the integrity and traditions of hunting.

We know there will be headwinds. Legislation will inevitably be introduced that conflicts with OHA's mission and values. When that happens, OHA will be prepared to lead the fight against it.

Our goal is simple: OHA will be at the table early and often on every major issue affecting Oregon hunters and wildlife.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Achieving that goal requires something beyond good lobbying in Salem. It requires Oregon's hunters to make their voices heard.

With the November election approaching, I encourage every OHA member to vote. Regardless of political party, learn who represents you in the Oregon Legislature and communicate with them.

**OREGON ELECTION
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: OCT. 13**

oregonvotes.gov

The message can be remarkably simple: "I'm a hunter, and I vote."

Tell legislators what hunting means to you and remind them that hunters have long been among Oregon's strongest conservationists. When lawmakers understand who we are, what we contribute to wildlife conservation and habitat, and that we are engaged in the political process, they are more likely to listen when OHA comes through their door.

Hunting, conservation, habitat and public access must not become partisan issues. As OHA's lobbyist, part of my job is ensuring there are open doors for our members throughout the Capitol, regardless of which party occupies an office.

You can help strengthen that voice.

Talk to your friends who hunt about OHA and the work this organization does for them. Encourage them to join us. It is a political reality that as OHA grows, so will our influence in Salem. Every new member strengthens a statewide community of Oregonians fighting for our hunting future and our way of life.

As an Oregonian raised in the hunting tradition by uncles who introduced me to both fowl and big-game hunting, it is an honor to represent OHA members at the Capitol. The 2027 session will bring opportunities and challenges. OHA will be ready for both.

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.

★ **Howa 1500 Black Carbon 6.5 PRC**
Robert McGowan, Rogue Valley Chapter

★ **Christensen Evoke Hunter .300 PRC**

Tom Bosworth, Rogue Valley Chapter

★ **Browning A-bolt III Hunter .300 Win.**

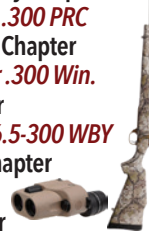
Mark Brown, Ochoco Chapter

★ **Wby Vanguard Badlands 6.5-300 WBY**

Samantha Griffin, Pioneer Chapter

★ **Sig Zulu6 HDX 16x42**

Dylan Stoller, Capitol Chapter



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