

OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BEND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

September 2026

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, September 9th

→ * 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.
- ◆ Youth Upland Bird Hunt reg
- ◆ Shotgun raffle details
- ◆ Benchmade knives special offer
- ◆ 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, **Kevin Borst**, for the header photo. The Three Sisters on a less smoky day.

SUCCESS IN THE FIELD!



Congrats to
Doug Stout
for harvesting
his first
antelope!
It measured 15"!



Congratulations
to
**Carolyn
Lorimor!**
Check out her
nice archery
buck!

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER MEETING INFO:

We look forward to seeing YOU at our next monthly chapter meeting on **Wednesday September 9th**. 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 September guest speakers will be **Larry Ashton**, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM Deschutes Field Office, who will inform us of an upcoming habitat volunteer project; as well as **Andrew Walch & Zac Kendall**, with their ODFW annual update

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

August Meeting Recap

In case you were unable to attend our monthly meeting at Bend VFW on Aug 12th, here are a few highlights:

Thanks to OHA's Executive Director, **Todd Adkins**, for driving over from the valley to be the guest speaker at our August meeting. He began working for the state office in December 2025. He's originally from Michigan and most recently lived in Ohio. Todd says the last 6 months have been very busy. Fund-raising is through the roof and OHA life memberships have increased. He reminded us that we all know a hunter who is not yet an OHA member. (*side note:* you can purchase or renew memberships at our monthly meetings; the gun raffle calendar membership would make a great gift!) Even though Todd's #1 focus is membership, most of his presentation was about what it takes to defeat a measure such as IP28 and keep it out of Oregon. (IP28 did not have enough valid signatures to make the 2026 ballot) He claims that it is a 10 million dollar fight. The wording is being studied by constitutional lawyers to create the language to protect the right to hunt and fish. They are working to ensure that the wording cannot be challenged. If you look at the National Right to Hunt map, none of the states are blue, and the Right to Hunt has never been used in court. A coalition has been formed with various hunting groups, and as expected, there are many opinions as to the best course of action. In Salem, a sister organization to OHA will be formed. It will be a 501(c)(4) so it can support candidates and have no lobbying restrictions. We will keep you updated right here as we receive new information. Better yet, attend our monthly meetings yourself so you can get the info

first-hand. Also, reading your Oregon Hunters magazine as well as emails from our chapter and the state office helps to ensure you stay informed.

Another board member was officially added at the August meeting. **Dan Scofield** was voted in as our new 1st Member at Large, Media. Thank you for stepping up and taking on this position! Welcome to the team!

Past President **Rex Parks** was busy fighting wild-fires, so he and treasurer **John Bambe** will give the OHA July Summit recap at the September meeting. The awards that were presented to our chapter will also be announced at the September meeting.

Kevin Borst announced that registration for our annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt begins at the Bend ODFW office on September 1. (see the flyer on page 10) We have a limited number of spaces, so register early. He'll have flyers and the volunteer sign-up at the September meeting. The hunt will be on Saturday October 17th. If your hunter has not yet completed the Hunters Education course, a final Field Day has been added for September 26. See page 9 for more details.

The new quarterly drawing for volunteers had been postponed from July. Congratulations to **Eric Brown** for being the first recipient of this quarterly prize. (\$200 towards outdoor gear) The number of tickets entered for each volunteer is based on the number of volunteer hours reported each month. Be sure to submit your hours by the 5th of the next month. Find the QR code on page 9 to help with this process.

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.*

August Meeting Recap continued

JR Lorimor enthusiastically announced a new division of Three Rivers Archers (TRA). Through an agreement with ODFW, TRA is now a limited license agent, which enables them to purchase a Youth Sports Pac for hunters under 18 years old. This would include a hunting license, fishing license, deer tag, and elk tag. The brand new Get Oregon's Youth Outdoors fund (GOYO) is used to purchase these licenses and tags for financially challenged youth. There is an application process for eligible youth to obtain their licenses & tags at no cost to them. This generous program was birthed after JR witnessed first-hand the difficulty some families have with being able to afford these required licenses and tags. For details on how you can donate to GOYO and give this new program the funds that it needs, visit: threeriversarchers.com This is also where the application can be found.

Another update on the inflatable BB Gun range: Now that the NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) is no longer represented in Central Oregon, the OHA Bend Chapter has been invited to take over the station at the Central Oregon Sportsman Show, offering the inflatable BB gun range for the young attendees.

The new shotgun raffle is underway! The proceeds will support our shotgun range expenses at the Youth Upland Bird Hunt and the Youth and Family Outdoor Day. When **Doug Stout** looked into buying a 410 shotgun for the smaller participants at our Youth and Family Outdoor Day, the supplier asked to hear more about the Bend Chapter's youth events. He then proceeded to *donate two* 12 gauge shotguns so we could hold two raffles to raise funds to cover the expenses of these fun yet costly events. See the flyer on page 7 for more details and how you can purchase tickets to support our youth events. Tickets are also available for purchase at our monthly meetings. Thank you for your support!

Thanks to **John Bambe** and **Roy Geiger** for giving up some of their pheasant tail feathers to help out one of our dedicated Youth & Family Outdoor Day volunteers. She appreciates your generosity! If YOU have any that you can spare, please bring them to our September meeting. Thanks for your support!

**Send photos, articles,
or reports to:
wenb.oha@outlook.com**



FUTURE GUEST SPEAKERS Don't Miss Our Monthly Chapter Meeting

September 9 (this month): **Larry Ashton**, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM Deschutes County Field Office, will inform us of a volunteer need in November; **Andrew Walch & Zac Kendall** will 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

Spread the word: Please ask your friends if they are receiving the monthly emails from the OHA Bend Chapter, containing the link to this newsletter and the announcements. If not, please suggest that they check their junkmail folder. If you know any hunters who are not yet OHA members (and we all do) then encourage them to join.

Upcoming Projects & Volunteer Opportunities: 4th Saturday in September: National Public Lands Day; **Oct 17:** Bend Chapter Youth Upland Bird Hunt (Kevin 541-480-7323); **Nov:** Sagebrush & Bitterbrush plug planting (to restore a 2024 fire area) Larry 541-416-6738 **ongoing:** wildlife fence maintenance (Eric 541-647-0424) **Spring 2027:** Bend Chapter banquet; Central Oregon Sportsman Show; brush piling at the EFM property (April 24 & 25, May 15 & 16)

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!

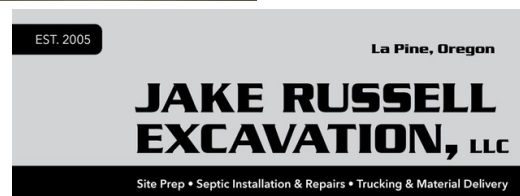
WE NEED YOU!

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 Member at Large, Media position was filled last month by **Dan Scofield** (thank you for stepping up and becoming involved!) 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 September 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!

Thanks to John Bambe & Roy Geiger for already sharing!

Thank you, Gary Lewis, for the article! Members of the Bend Chapter have been involved in several juniper removal projects through the years. It's satisfying to hear that those projects do make a difference.

Juniper Removal and Water for Wildlife

By Gary Lewis

One of the perennial hot topics east of the Cascades is the speculation on how much water an individual juniper tree might use and how that water use would impact stream flow, spring charge and soil moisture. A lot of land managers have noticed more water in seasonal creeks after juniper removal. In Crook County, the Oregon State University extension agent set out to study the impacts of juniper encroachment and the supposed benefits of juniper removal.

In the Camp Creek paired watershed study, Tim Deboodt identified two adjacent watersheds (approximately 260 acres each) to see if the relationships that were identified prior to treatment would change as a result of juniper removal.

After 11 years of monitoring vegetation, groundwater, spring flow and soil moisture, all trees less than 140-years-old were cut in one of the watersheds.

Old growth trees, identified with rounded tops and deeply folded bark were left in place.

Analysis of the data showed an increase in deep soil moisture which moves through the soil and becomes groundwater. One of the wells that went dry each year prior to treatment has not gone dry since the treatment. The number of days in which water was recorded in all wells on the treated property increased an average of 41 days.

The final measure was spring flow, primarily late season flow from mid-July through September. Following the cutting of the trees, spring output increased 3 to 5 gallons per minute during the late season period. The increased late season flow benefited forage management by making water available for both livestock and wildlife.

Through juniper removal and re-establishment of historical native shrubs and grasses, precipitation can be captured by improved soil/water filtration, groundwater recharge and stream flow.



Gary Lewis is a former OHA state board member and full time outdoor writer, TV host and podcaster.

URGENTLY NEEDED:

**Ground elk
for THE Chili that we serve
each year at our
Youth Upland Bird Hunt lunch**

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP & GENEROSITY!

Kevin Borst 541-480-7323

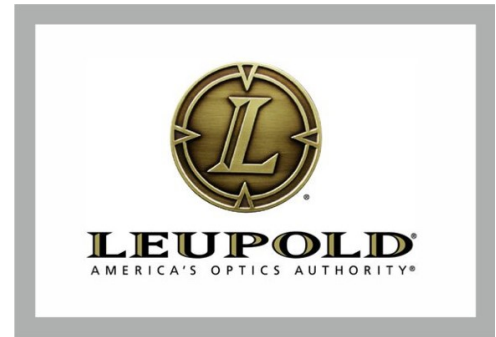
Needed by October 1st

OHA Bend Chapter Officers

President	vacant	
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	(541) 480-8257
At-Large (Media)	Dan Scofield	(330) 391-1138
At-Large (Youth Events)	Kevin Borst	(541) 480-7323
At Large (Outreach Coord.)	vacant	
Project Coordinator	Don Clark	(702) 460-3653
Banquet Chair	Cristy Ouellette	(541) 678-1077
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

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, 6:00 PM Bend VFW
Sept. 24	*Deadline to submit items for October newsletter*
Sept. 30	Monthly Board Meeting
Oct 13	Youth Hunt registration ends (or sooner if it sells out)
Oct 14	Monthly Chapter Meeting
Oct 17	OHA Bend Chapter annual Youth Upland Bird Hunt

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

Unleash Your Inner Adventure

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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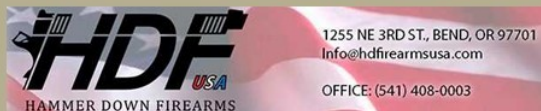
Oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter

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 **Steve Bradbury** for winning the door prize at our August meeting.
Enjoy your \$25 Bi-Mart gift card!

Gene Shands from LaPine drew for the August monthly membership prize (\$500 reimbursement towards any outdoor/hunting item) but was not present to win

Mathers Drilling Company
Steve Mathers
Owner



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(bird dog)*

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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!



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



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LAST CHANCE:
HUNTER EDUCATION FIELD DAY!
September 26, 2026
At COSSA Park, near Bend

Complete your Hunter Ed requirements
and earn your Hunter Ed card!
(just in time to register for our annual
Youth Upland Bird Hunt)
See ODFW website to register

Questions? Call Kevin Borst 541-480-7323



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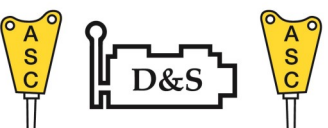
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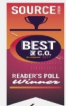
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Oregon Hunters Association Bend Chapter's Wayne Elliott Memorial Youth Upland Bird Hunt

**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



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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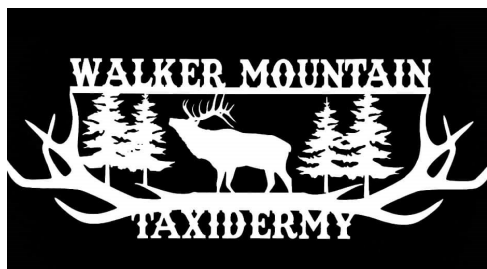


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SEPTEMBER 2026



JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

DENMAN WILDLIFE AREA/RANDY SHIPLEY

ODFW will host youth pheasant hunts in September, and OHA volunteers will help out. To register, visit <https://myodfw.com/workshops-and-events>

Lobbyist Hugh Ady joins OHA's camp

The Oregon Hunters Association has retained Hugh Ady, founder of Statecraft, a government relations firm, as our new lobbyist in Salem. Hugh brings over a decade of experience in state politics, having served as caucus staff at the Capitol, research manager for a public affairs firm, and a statewide association executive over that period.

Beyond his professional government relations credentials, Hugh is a lifelong outdoorsman who shares OHA's commitment to Oregon's wild-



Hugh Ady

life and hunting traditions. He has long volunteered with Ducks Unlimited, giving him a firsthand understanding of the issues that matter most to Oregon's sportsmen and women.

Through Statecraft, Hugh has a proven track record of navigating complex policy environments and moving landmark legislation through both chambers.

He will work directly with OHA staff to ensure our voice is heard in the Capitol.

Please join us in welcoming Hugh to the team.

With our recent victory defeating IP28, we are shifting to a proactive legislative strategy. Hugh's combination of political expertise and personal commitment will be vital to securing our way of life for future generations.

OHA steps up for Oregon elk

Management practices must target management objectives

Currently only 59% (20) of wildlife management units are above population management objective (MO) for Rocky Mountain elk. Meanwhile, on the west side, just 17% (3) of WMUs for Roosevelt elk are meeting their management goals for population size. In these units above population MO, OHA strongly supports abundant antlerless elk hunting opportunity. This is adaptive management; when the resource exceeds our goals, increases in hunting opportunity should follow.

Unfortunately, Rocky Mountain elk are below population management objective (MO) in 41% (14) of the units, and Roosevelt elk are below population MO in 83% (15) of WMUs in Oregon.

There are many factors contributing to elk population trajectories, including but not limited to forage quality and quantity, predation, development, disturbance (e.g., road densities), and to a lesser extent, disease. OHA is working to address all of these limiting factors, but antlerless elk harvest can also have a tremendous impact on elk population sizes. Debates regarding the impacts of various factors on elk populations are warranted and should be part of the equation, but hunters should not elude the fact that increasing antlerless elk harvest is the foremost way to reduce elk population size.



W. CASCADES/RANDY SHIPLEY

Elk numbers and bull ratios are languishing below management objectives in many units. OHA is committed to reversing that trend.

**OHA seeks
a thorough
review of
antlerless tags
for elk herds
below MO.**

While supporting robust antlerless elk hunting in units at or above population MO, OHA is pushing for a thorough review of antlerless elk tag allocation (including general season antlerless elk damage tags) for elk populations currently not meeting MO.

Rocky Mountain elk bull ratios are currently below MO in at least 17 WMUs while Roosevelt elk bull ratios are below MO in at least eight WMUs. OHA is supporting work to address low bull ratios in the coast range, and we are encouraging ODFW to work to address low bull ratios statewide. Above all, OHA is pressing the need to revise Oregon's Elk Management Plan that was published 23 years ago.

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

OHA pushes cougar removal to benefit bighorn sheep

OHA is supporting an effort to remove cougars to benefit bighorn sheep in the Trout Creek Mountains. ODFW plans to translocate bighorn sheep in the near future to augment the existing herd and enhance its genetic diversity.

There are many examples of cougar predation negatively affecting translocation efforts.



In the early 2000s, the Minam River bighorn sheep translocation saw 3 of 17 released sheep killed by cougars within one week, and the second in the Steens, where 5 out of the 10 collared ewes were killed by cougars.

In both instances, the remaining sheep scattered and left the area.

"The science is clear," said OHA Conservation Director Tyler Dungannon. "If you want to successfully translocate bighorn sheep, in most cases, you need to first reduce predator densities and remove individuals that will prey upon the naïve ungulates that are new to the landscape."

OHA believes this effort will greatly improve the success of future bighorn sheep translocations and will benefit the declining population size and genetic diversity in the Trout Creek Mountains.

Though not the primary objective, this effort may also aid the Trout Creek mule deer herd range currently listed as "very high management concern" in the Oregon Mule Deer Management Plan.

OHA protects SW Cascade meadow with fence project

OHA worked with USFS and ODFW this summer to protect 480 acres across three areas in the Cascade Mountains, including Willow Prairie, Short Creek Prairie, and Whiskey Springs with 6.5 total miles of wildlife-friendly fencing. Volunteers also removed nearly as much old, dilapidated fencing.

Meadow systems across the western Cascades are at risk of loss, degradation and fragmentation due to conifer encroachment, heavy use by domestic livestock, wildfire suppression and other factors. Willow Prairie and Whiskey Springs are high-risk groundwater infiltration areas, and these areas provide spring water for the Big Butte Springs Municipal Watershed, which provides drinking water to approximately 140,000 people in the region.

The wet meadow and spring systems provide critical habitat for a suite of species, including deer, elk, neotropical and migratory birds, owls, amphibians, reptiles, pollinators, and small mammals.

Fencing associated with this project should physically prevent illegal off-road driving, which has damaged these mesic systems in the recent past. Fence strand spacing fit wildlife-friendly fence standards to a tee; 16 inches were measured from the ground to the first smooth wire, 6 inches to the first barbed wire, 8 inches to the next barbed wire, and finally the top smooth wires were installed 42 inches from the ground to reduce ungulate entanglements.

OHA tallied more than 1,000 volunteer hours with help from eight OHA chapters.

"This project was a tremendous effort by a number of OHA chapters," said OHA Conservation Director Tyler Dungannon. "More than 100 volunteers shed blood and sweat for the protection of these critical meadows, and bringing so many chapters together exponentially increased our impact."

OHA obtained a \$50,000 grant from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to complete this project.

Nominations now open for OHA State Board

OHA members interested in serving as state president or state vice president should attain a nomination from a chapter or 10 member signatures and submit a position statement of up to 200 words by Sept. 15, 2026. Both are two year positions that will commence on Jan. 1, 2027.

Three-year board positions are also open. No chapter nomination or signatures are needed for board seats; contact

OHA Vice President Cindy Rooney at cindyrooneyoha@outlook.com for an application and instructions. Applications must be received by Sept. 15.

OHA's board and committees meet at least once a month, twice a year in person on Saturdays, with other meetings by Zoom conferences on weeknights.

For more information, call the OHA state office at (541) 772-7313.

OHA announces next Gun Calendar winners

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.

★ *Weatherby Vanguard Badlands 6.5-300* Why Mark Goody, Ochoco Chapter
★ *Christensen Evoke Hunter .300 PRC* Roger Hoegard, Bend Chapter
★ *Sig Sauer P320 M18 Coyote Striker* James Halsey, Union County Chapter
★ *Howa Superlite Walnut 7mm-08* Justin Latham, Bend Chapter
★ *Browning A-Bolt synthetic 6.5 CR* Mike Milner, Josephine County Chapter

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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
\$400 Game Fish & Shellfish
\$400 Snagging/Attempt to Snag
\$300 Habitat Destruction
\$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
\$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
\$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
\$200 Spotlighting



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



Visit our website:

<https://oregonhunters.org/bend-chapter>

End of the Rogue Guide service



Shaun Carpenter
Cell 541-698-8088
carpentershaun59@gmail.com

And our Facebook page:

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