



Umpqua Chapter

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

May 2026

HUNTER'S RIGHTS ⊕ HABITAT ⊕ HUNTABLE WILDLIFE

Hi All-

It feels like summer is here. Spring bear season is underway, spring Chinook are in the river, and the Shad are starting to show up. Lots to do and not much time or money for fuel to get out and enjoy it all.

Between fuel costs and what looks like a very high fire danger this year, hunting season may end up being a little limited for some of us.

Hunting season is coming fast, so don't forget to apply. And if you're like me, it's going to take some research to figure out the new mule deer units. I put in, but I may end up hunting somewhere I didn't originally intend.

Also, don't miss the OSP presentation this month, and start thinking about July's picnic!

Thank You,

Tadd Moore - President

UMPQUA CHAPTER TO NOMINATE BILL JACKSON FOR HERITAGE MEMORIAL WALK

The Umpqua Chapter is going to nominate our past Vice President, Bill Jackson, for the Heritage Memorial Walk. The OHA State Convention on May 16 will host a Heritage Walk memorial to honor those who have made a lasting difference to OHA and our enduring mission. This will be a professional tribute to Bill and will honor all the contributions he has made to OHA.

Meeting Notes

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

At the May meeting, Oregon State Police (OSP) will give an update on current fish & wildlife regulations. New regulations associated with using thermal imaging devices will be discussed. Make sure not to miss this important presentation by attending the meeting on May 19th at 6 pm at Backside Brewing. Here's your chance to interact with your local OSP officers.

AND THE WINNER IS

At the April membership meeting, Garret Weaver gave a great presentation on using and benefiting from onXmaps, an interactive digital mapping and GPS application designed for outdoor enthusiasts.

Garret explained how to view public/private land boundaries, landowner information, and 3D map projections.



Ralph Moore won 2 Stealth Cam Fusion Max 2 trail cameras at the April Umpqua chapter membership meeting.

Congratulations Ralph.

Make sure to attend future meetings for your chance to win.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Stay up to date on special updates, events and more!



 @UmpquaOHA

 @Oha_umpquachapter

Important Information

May 15th is the last day to apply for Oregon limited hunt tags! Make sure to examine the new Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations brochure. There are numerous changes this year that will impact your hunting opportunities. Not only are licenses and tags priced higher (and what hasn't increased in price?) there are 172 new hunt names (areas) just in eastern Oregon deer applications.

You can help! The Umpqua Chapter will be finishing a fencing project in southern Oregon that will protect critical habitat. Free camping at a campground near Butte Falls is being provided and will open Friday 6/19. We will finish the fence around the marsh area on Saturday 6/20 and Sunday 6/21 (until noon). Dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday will be provided.

Second reminder! – the annual OHA Umpqua Chapter July picnic is coming soon – it is a great family event.



Tell everyone about Oregon Initiative Petition 28 (IP28). IP28 did not come from your representatives in Salem, but instead is being pushed by animal rights activists who want to fundamentally change Oregon law regarding treatment of animals. On the surface, IP28 supporters are indicating they are just removing law exemptions and closing loopholes in animal cruelty laws. Sounds ok – right? But in reality IP28 is drastically different! IP28 is attempting to fundamentally change many Oregon lifestyles. It will change farming, ranching, hunting, fishing, and standard animal breeding practices. Even basic pest control (like trapping a mouse in your house) may become illegal. And according to an article by Tyler James, IP28 is about control. “Control over how people live, how they provide for themselves, and ultimately what they are allowed to eat.” “.. once you start telling people they cannot hunt, cannot fish, cannot raise their own food, you are not regulating behavior. You are taking away independence.”

DO NOT ALLOW IP28 to exist in Oregon.

Elk



As you may recall, there was an Elk herd near Tye that was diagnosed with lungworm. The Umpqua Chapter donated medicated food blocks to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife who distributed the blocks in the area used by the elk. A recent update from ODFW indicates 4 blocks have been used by elk with 30-50% of the blocks consumed. ODFW has observed 2 herds near the property and have seen improved body condition with less prevalence of diarrhea and have not observed any recent mortalities. Hopefully, herd health improvements will continue into the calving period.

PARTNERS IN PRESERVING OUTDOOR RECREATION PREPARE TOMORROW'S TURKEY HUNTERS

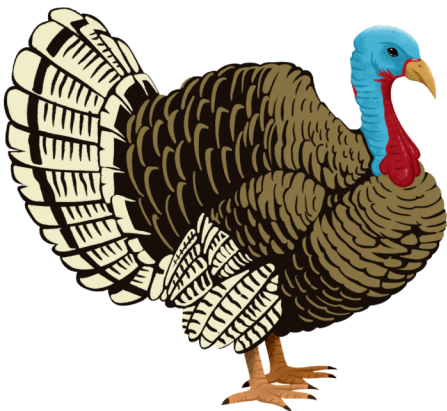
On March 29, 2026, several organizations joined forces to host a comprehensive, hands-on turkey hunting workshop. The event was a collaboration between the OHA Umpqua Chapter, Roseburg Rod and Gun Club, Douglas County Outdoor Awareness, the NWTF's Southern Oregon Buglin' Toms and Oregon Coastal Cutters Chapter, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. This partnership aimed to provide both youth and adults with practical skills and the confidence necessary to enjoy a successful and ethical turkey hunting season. Participants gained essential experience through guided instruction, ensuring they were well-prepared for the upcoming season.

Comprehensive Turkey Hunting Workshop Details

The workshop provided an immersive, all-day experience for both adults and youth, focusing on developing essential turkey hunting skills. Participants were paired with experienced mentors, fostering connections that would guide them through the fundamentals of the sport. The hands-on approach allowed attendees to practice shotgun patterning, understand ethical shooting distances, and learn proper shot placement. Safety requirements were emphasized throughout the day, ensuring that everyone was well-prepared for a responsible hunting season. These objectives formed the core of the workshop's "Turkey Hunting 101," giving future hunters a strong foundation in both practical techniques and ethical practices.

Volunteers played a vital role in enriching the experience, sharing their first-hand knowledge, engaging stories, and enthusiasm for turkey hunting. Their contributions helped inspire and educate participants, making the event memorable and meaningful.

A special highlight of the workshop was the sponsorship from the OHA Umpqua Chapter. Their support enabled one fortunate participant to win a Winchester SXP Turkey Hunter shotgun, adding excitement and incentive to the event.



Acknowledgments and Impact

The workshop's success was made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of several key individuals. State and OHA Umpqua Chapter Board Member Kelly Forney played a significant role in instructing attendees, helping participants develop their skills and knowledge. Mike Axtell and Ralph Moore, also OHA Umpqua Chapter Board Members, contributed by highlighting the advantages of OHA membership, encouraging involvement and engagement within the hunting community.

Steve Granger, founder of Douglas County Outdoor Awareness, emphasized the true value of these events. According to Granger, the experience, safety, and confidence instilled in the next generation of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts are the most important outcomes. With the combined efforts of multiple partners, the workshop ensured that a new group of hunters were well-prepared for a successful and ethical season ahead.

Slow-Cooked Bear Roast

Ingredients

- 3-4 lb bear roast
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and black pepper
- Garlic powder
- 1 onion, sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 3-4 carrots, chopped
- 4 potatoes, chunked
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 cup red wine or dark beer (optional)
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp rosemary
- 1 tsp thyme



Important Prep

Bear meat should always be cooked thoroughly because of the risk of trichinella.

Safe internal temperature is:

$T=160^{\circ}\text{F}$

A slow cooker or braise works great for this.

Instructions

1. Trim as much fat and silver skin as possible from the roast. Bear fat can get strong tasting.
2. Season generously with salt, pepper, and garlic powder.
3. Heat oil in a Dutch oven and sear the roast on all sides.
4. Add onions and garlic and cook a couple minutes.
5. Add broth, wine/beer, Worcestershire, and herbs.
6. Add carrots and potatoes around the roast.
7. Cover and cook:
 - Oven: 300°F for 4-6 hours
 - Crockpot: Low for 8-10 hours
8. Roast is done when it pulls apart easily.

delicious!

Tips

- Spring bear is excellent for roasts, tacos, chili, and breakfast sausage.
- If the meat has a stronger flavor, soak it overnight in buttermilk or saltwater before cooking.
- A little smoke flavor pairs really well with bear.

Bear tacos and smoked bear chili are also favorites if you want more ideas.



A mallard duckling prepares to make the leap of faith from a hen house at Denman Wildlife Area, where OHA and Delta Waterfowl have built hen houses.

NSSF awards OHA \$50,000 to help combat extremism

OHA is pleased to announce a \$50,000 donation from the National Shooting Sports Foundation awarded to support OHA initiatives to protect hunters throughout the state.

As Oregon's largest hunting organization, OHA will use these funds to expand 2026 education projects, including a massive outreach effort planned to inform the public of IP 28, a dangerous and radical ballot proposal that would cancel hunting outright if it passes in this fall's election.

"We are incredibly grateful to NSSF for taking a clear stand against these out-of-state extremists who are hell-bent on destroying our way of life forever," said Todd Adkins, OHA's Executive Director. "IP 28 proponents have one goal, to change Oregon by removing hunters from the landscape once and for all. We can't let that happen."

The NSSF monies will support a variety of OHA initiatives, including digital media, community workshops, and educational materials that highlight the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. This model ensures that wildlife is managed as a public trust for future generations, funded largely by the contributions of hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters.

"This proposal (IP 28) is perhaps the most devastating idea ever conceived to destroy our highly successful model of wildlife conservation in America," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice

President & General Counsel. "Oregon was the recipient of over \$20 million in wildlife restoration funds from excise taxes on firearms and ammunition in 2026, which would be subject to forfeit under IP 28. The damage to Oregon's wildlife would be obvious, immediate, and irreversible."

Since its founding in the early 1980s, OHA has put "boots on the ground" for wildlife, habitat and Oregon's hunting heritage across the state through its network of 26 local chapters. This work includes hundreds of wildlife conservation projects on the ground, protecting hunter access on federal and state public lands, and fighting on behalf of sportsmen and women in the political space, where OHA has been long recognized as the state's leader for hunters.

"OHA has a long track record of advocacy success and is uniquely positioned within Oregon to lead the fight to stop this initiative," added Keane. "No organization is better equipped or more trusted by Oregon's hunting and conservation community to take on this fight."

"We will battle like there is no tomorrow to guarantee our wildlife management remains in the hands of agency professionals and dedicated conservationists, not carpet-bagging ideologues trying to change who and what we are," said Adkins. "The NSSF partnership will help OHA combat animal extremist propaganda and protect hunting long-term."

OHA to host seed giveaway May 9 at E.E. Wilson

OHA will give away more than 500 bags of free seed at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area on May 9. Each bag will cover at least two acres of wildlife habitat. Landowners are encouraged to contact wildlife area manager Shawn Woods at shawn.k.woods@odfw.oregon.gov to reserve seed in advance. Remaining bags will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Seed pickup begins at 7 a.m.

The seed is provided at no cost thanks to contributions from OHA and Turf Merchants, Inc. The mix is a cool season blend of species that attract wildlife, game birds, and mammals. 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.

Enhancing wildlife habitat on private lands where wildlife winter and fawn 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 seed giveaway, OHA is working to improve habitat for wildlife.

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

Two win guided Maine bear hunts

Jacob Dunnivant of Roseburg and Zach Pliska of Portland are the lucky winners of two guided Maine fall 2026 bear hunts co-sponsored by the Oregon Hunters Association and ExpoSure Shows (www.ExposureShows.com).

Dunnivant entered a free drawing at the Newswatch 12 Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show at the Jackson County Expo, one of four Oregon ExpoSure shows where the drawing was offered at OHA booths.

Pliska purchased one of 500 OHA raffle tickets available for the same experience, and his name was drawn at the OHA office on April 1. When contacted, he thought it might be an April Fool's joke.

Sunkhaze Outfitters of Bangor, Maine, will play host to the Oregon hunters. Jeff Fahey and Rob Gould are co-owners of the outfitting business.

The hunt will be out of a traditional Maine hunting camp which is a cabin several drivable miles into Maine's densely wooded backcountry. The hunters will be set up in a tree stand or ground blind at a bait site that is legal in Maine.

OHA thanks all those who visited our booths and entered the free drawings, as well as those who purchased tickets for the raffle and supported OHA's mission.

OHA announces next winners in 2026 Gun Calendar Raffle

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.

★ **4/1 Sig Sauer P320 M18 Coyote Striker 9mm**
Bryan Collman, Klamath Chapter

★ **4/8 Howa 1500 Carbon Fiber 6.5 PRC**
Nathan Fletcher, Hoodview Chapter

★ **4/15 Stoeger M3000 Max 7 camo**
Traci McDonald, Pioneer Chapter

★ **4/22 Christensen Evoke Hunter 7mm PRC**
Kerry Johnson, Klamath Chapter

OHA awards rifle for CWD testing

Melanie Bjerke of Silverton had her mule deer sampled at the ODFW Celilo Park Chronic Wasting Disease check station in 2025, and on April 1, 2026, OHA gave her a Weatherby Vanguard 7mm Rem in First Lite Specter valued at \$1,150. Melanie's name was drawn from a pool of 3,408 hunters who submitted a CWD sample last year. If you submitted a sample at an ODFW CWD check station, ODFW Field or District Office, participating meat processor, or taxidermist, you were automatically entered into this drawing.

Next year, OHA will be offering another prize – a Howa .223. Again, if you submit a CWD sample this upcoming hunting season, you will automatically be entered to win a rifle.

OHA is invested in keeping Oregon a CWD-free state for as long as possible, but early detection of the disease if and when found in Oregon is critical to limit the spread. CWD is a fatal disease capable of drastic negative impacts on deer, elk and moose populations. Currently, the disease has been detected in three of Oregon's four neighboring states (Washington, California and Idaho).

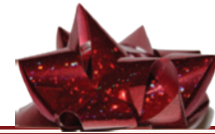
It is easy to submit CWD samples at ODFW check stations, ODFW field and district offices, and cooperating taxidermists and meat processors. A list of cooperating taxidermists and meat processors can be found on ODFW's website <https://myodfw.com/articles/other-ways-get-your-animal-tested-cwd#Cooperating-taxidermists-and-meat-processors>

Two Zumwalt Prairie hunt winners drawn

The winners of OHA's raffle for dream deer and elk hunts on The Nature Conservancy's Zumwalt Prairie, drawn on April 22 at the OHA office, are:

★ **Elk Hunt: Donald Monroe, Klamath Falls**
★ **Deer Hunt: Jon Blocker, Bend**

OHA thanks all who bought tickets to support Blue Mountains habitat work and OHA's mission, as well as TNC for their commitment to conservation.



GREAT MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY GIFTS!



GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR

OHA will give away
A GUN A WEEK in 2027!

For \$50 you get:

- 2027 Gun Raffle Calendar.
- Chance to win 1 of 52 guns raffled (\$599-\$1,800).
- 1 Year OHA Membership (Join, renew, gift or \$35 toward life pledge)

Buy yours today!

Call 541-772-7313

or visit

www.oregonhunters.org/store





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