



Umpqua Chapter

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

August 2026

HUNTER'S RIGHTS ⊕ HABITAT ⊕ HUNTABLE WILDLIFE

Hello, Everyone!

August is here, which means bear season has opened and archery season is just around the corner!

Thank you to everyone who attended our meetings and our year-end picnic this year. We truly appreciate your support and participation. We'd love to see even more members get involved and join us at our events next year.

We also have some great news—**IP 28 did not make the ballot!** Thank you to everyone who stayed informed and supported our hunting community throughout this process.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved with the Oregon Hunters Association, now is a great time. We currently have an open Board position and would love to welcome someone who wants to make a difference. Help us continue to protect our hunting heritage and support Oregon's hunters.

Thank you,

Tadd Moore - President

PRODUCT DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS – get ready for fall hunting season

Benchmade Knives = 40% discount, check page 21 of your July/August OHA magazine

MagView/Warne products = 25% discount, use code OHA25

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Workshop Sharpeners = 20% discount, use code OHA30VIP

Coastal = save \$10 on a \$50 purchase, see page 7 of your July/August OHA magazine

And invest those savings in next year's membership and a 2027 gun calendar to receive a chance to win 1 of 52 gun prizes. That's a gun every WEEK! See page 25 of your July/August OHA magazine.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The Oregon Secretary of State's office officially confirmed that Oregon Initiative Petition 28 (IP28) will not appear on the November 2026 ballot. The controversial petition failed to secure the required signatures to qualify for the November ballot. OHA aggressively fought IP28 by educating the public on its true impacts, and is pleased that it will not be on the 2026 ballot, however leadership warns that anti-hunting groups will return with another iteration of the same ban.

ANNUAL PICNIC A SUCCESS

Members and their families gathered on July 21, 2026 at the Roseburg Rod and Gun Club to participate in the Umpqua Chapter annual picnic. There was a ODFW hunter safety program sponsored .22 rifle training session in conjunction with the picnic. Great food and companionship and some PRIZES.

Youth members that participated in the .22 rifle training were entered into a contest and the James Gugel family scored with a Savage .17 HMR. All youth at the picnic were entered into another drawing and Hunter Applegarth won a Citadel .22 while Steve Granger prevailed in the adult member drawing and acquired a .44 lever action Citadel Levtac.



Steve Granger

Hunter and Father



James Gugel
and Family



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UMPQUA CHAPTER DONATES EQUIPMENT TO OREGON STATE POLICE

In the 2026 Big Game hunting regulations, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife has included thermal devices in its list of prohibited devices for hunting, locating or scouting for the purpose of hunting any wildlife. Oregon State Police (OSP) are attempting to enforce these regulations and the Umpqua Chapter has donated two Sig Sauer Oscar 6 HDX Pro stabilizing spotting scopes, 2 SIG Zulu DMR tripods and 2 Ollin Snapshot Spotter Adapters to aid in that process. The following describes the use of thermal devices:

THE RISE AND DOWNFALL OF THERMAL IMAGING DEVICES BY WARDEN WALLY

Western Oregon has seen a dramatic increase in buck harvest over the past few seasons, with a notable increase in trophy bucks being taken. It is certainly true that recent large-scale fires, later season dates, and adding spikes to the bag limit have contributed to the increase in overall take; but so has the rise of thermal imaging devices being used illegally to “hunt, scout or locate” big game animals. For the last five years, these devices have been decreasing in price, increasing in quality, and unfortunately, exploding in popularity among hunters. During the fall of 2024, Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a rising number of complaints involving thermal imaging device use by conducting a coordinated enforcement operation which led to 16 arrests/citations and subsequent seizures of guns, illegally taken wildlife and literally “a pile” of thermal imaging devices. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) harvest statistics, buck harvest was up a staggering amount, more than 40% from just 10 years ago.

With the scope and scale of this issue becoming clearer, 2025 again saw an exponential increase in thermal imaging arrests/citations and a 53% increase in buck harvest compared to 2014 which had nearly identical season dates (running later into November). That is about 10,000 more bucks harvested than 2014! Another telling statistic; overall harvest success in the most productive units in southwestern Oregon has increased from 35% to 53% since 2014.

In coordination with ODFW and OSP, the Oregon Hunter’s Association has responded to a call to action by spearheading efforts to change/clarify language and statutes that involve the use of thermal imaging devices. OHA has also partnered with SigSauer optics to provide higher quality image stabilizing equipment so that Fish and Wildlife Troopers can better detect, document, and prosecute those using thermal imaging devices.

As a passionate life-long hunter myself, it pains me to see the lack of sportsmanship and respect for “fair chase” hunting ethics being displayed by so many. Unfortunately, if “we” as OHA members and fellow hunters fail to curb the wide-spread use of thermal imaging technology, wildlife managers will be forced to adapt by offering less hunting opportunities for all of us. Thermal imaging devices are not fair chase because they take away the animal's natural ability to use natural cover and hide from hunters. Using these devices gives humans an unfair advantage, similar to playing the game “Where’s Waldo” when Waldo has a lightbulb on his head. This is clearly not a fair game of “Hide and Seek”.

What can we as hunters do? Be a good witness by gathering good clear video/pictures of violations, get good pictures or video of the vehicle/plate/people involved. Report violations ASAP and have a good way to store/transfer data. Discourage use of thermal imaging devices by family, friends, and hunting party members. Also reach out to your legislative representatives, ODFW Commission Members and leadership, to support regulation change. In addition, please support your local OHA chapter by spreading the word, so we can all play a part in the downfall of thermal imaging devices.

Note: Things to look for to detect thermal imaging use; often one-handed use, speed of glassing (large areas in a short amount of time), driving while scanning out the window, transitioning from thermal to standard optics, slowly driving likely hunting areas before daylight.



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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German Rabbit Stew

Chicken thighs would work well here, too, as would pheasant. There is another version of this stew in Germany that uses veal, too. It is a two-step stew, meaning you make the base and "mount" it with sour cream, white wine and capers right at the end. Once you add those final ingredients you are committed, so if you want to make this for dinners or lunches for the week, store just the base (up to Step 4) and add the remaining ingredients when you want to eat.



By [Hank Shaw](#)

September 10, 2012 | Updated July 11, 2022

Prep Time: 30minutes minutes

Cook Time: 2hours hours

Total Time: 2hours hours 30 minutes

Servings: 4 people

- 2 cottontail rabbits, or 1 domestic rabbit, cut into serving pieces
- Salt
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 to 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 onion, sliced root to tip
- Zest of a lemon white pith removed, cut into wide strips
- 2 to 3 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- White wine to taste, at least 2 tablespoons
- Black pepper
- Parsley for garnish

Instructions

- Salt the rabbit pieces well and set aside for 10 minutes or so. Set a Dutch oven or other heavy, lidded pot over medium-high heat. Add a tablespoon of butter. Pat the rabbit pieces dry and brown well on all sides. You may need to do this in batches, so don't crowd the pot and don't rush things. Remove the rabbit pieces once they're browned. This may take 15 minutes or so.
- Add the remaining tablespoon of butter, then the sliced onion and cook until the edges just begin to brown, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle with flour and stir well. Cook, stirring often, until the flour turns golden, about 5 minutes.
- Return the rabbit to the pot and add enough chicken stock to cover. Use a wooden spoon to scrape any browned bits off the bottom of the pot. Add the lemon zest, bay leaves and lemon juice and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook gently until the rabbit wants to fall off the bone, which will take anywhere from 90 minutes to 3 hours, depending on how old your rabbit was.
- This is an optional step, but I prefer it: Turn off the heat, fish out the rabbit pieces and let the cool on a baking sheet. Pull all the meat off the bones and return the meat to the stew. I don't like fiddly stews with bones in them, so I do this. You can leave everything on the bone if you want.
- You can now store the stew for several days. Or you can serve it at once. Turn the heat to low just to make sure the stew is nice and hot. Do not let it simmer. Add the sour cream, capers and as much white wine as you want -- you want the stew to be a bit zingy. Stir in a healthy amount of black pepper and garnish with parsley.



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DeWaine Jackson
541-430-5356



CHAPTER OFFICERS:

President – Tadd Moore
541-580-5660

Vice-President –

Treasurer – Debbie Moore
541-430-7324

Secretary – Christy Hall-Scheufele
541-817-2020
email: OHA.Umpqua-secretary@outlook.com

Newsletter: DeWaine Jackson email: wildjack2@dcwisp.net
541-430-5356

Website: www.umpquaoha.org

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