



Umpqua Chapter

Protecting Our Hunting Heritage

July 2026

HUNTER'S RIGHTS ⊕ HABITAT ⊕ HUNTABLE WILDLIFE

Hi All-

Everyone is invited to our Annual End-of-the-Year Picnic at the Rod & Gun Club on July 21!

The gate will open early, so bring the whole family. We're excited to host our first Youth .22 Shoot at the range, and there may even be a prize or two to win!

We'll provide the meat—just bring your favorite side dish to share and come enjoy a great day of food, fun, and fellowship with fellow members and their families.

We hope to see you there!

Thank You,

Tadd Moore - President

PROTECT OREGON'S HERITAGE

We have discussed Oregon Initiative 28 (IP-28) in this newsletter previously. IP-28 would effectively criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping, farming, raising livestock, and responsible wildlife management....criminalizing our traditions that have sustained our families and economy for generations. A new initiative has been begun that will be a future defensive shield against such attempts. IP-25 will enshrine our very way of living and ability to be self-sustainable into the Oregon Constitution. The petition has been filed and is awaiting release from the Secretary of State, stay tuned.....

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual OHA Umpqua Chapter summer picnic will be July 21– it is a great family event. Lots of good food, comradery and chances to win prizes. What else could you want?

At the June meeting, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Assistant Biologist, Colton Biesley, gave an update on current wildlife surveys and wildlife population trends. He discussed black-tailed deer numbers, elk, bear and cougar, as well as management activities on North Bank Habitat Area.

Dee Forney won the June meeting gun!

Seven members of the Umpqua chapter of OHA joined members from the Rogue and Josephine County chapters along with ODFW and USFS staff to install wildlife-friendly fencing around sensitive habitat on Short Creek Prairie in the Rogue - Siskiyou National Forest in the southern Oregon Cascades.

The wildlife-friendly fencing is smooth wire on the bottom, two barbed wires in the center and smooth wire on top, designed to keep cattle out of the meadow areas. USFS will be letting the fencing down every winter once cattle are off the landscape.

OHA Umpqua chapter member Rochelle Cornielson won a Howa M-110 .22LR rifle with scope in the drawing at the event.

By Kelly Forney



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

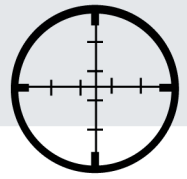


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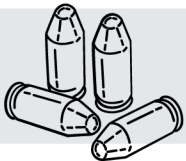
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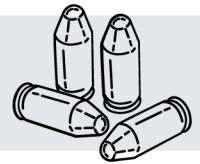
TIME TO SIGHT IN OLD BETSY !



There was a target included in your last issue of the OHA magazine. It's time to use this target to sight in your rifle for the upcoming fall hunting seasons. Regardless of how you hunt, if you put in sufficient effort, there will be an occasion where your quarry suddenly appears but doesn't plan on staying stationary very long. You won't have time to range the animal, turn the dials on your scope or determine wind speed and direction. This is the time when you need a sight in system called Maximum Point Blank Range (MPBR). This system allows you to hold directly on the animal's vital zone if within the MPBR and shoot without determining exact range, "holding over", or dialing your scope. First determine the acceptable size of the vital area (usually 6 inches for deer). The rifle is then zeroed so that the bullet can travel without rising or falling more than a predetermined measurement (3 inches in our example) from point of aim. The distance the bullet falls below the vital zone threshold is the MPBR. There are several on-line ballistic calculators available that will let you determine your MPBR. For most common hunting calibers, it will be around 250 – 300 yards. Remember though, you will have error in your shot groups, called cone of dispersion. If you, your ammo, and your rifle are only capable of shooting a 1-inch group at 100 yards (which is 3 inches at 300 yards), then at MPBR (here 300 yards) you will have a 3-inch shot group centered at the bottom of the 6-inch vital zone, half of which will miss the bottom of your 6-inch circle. The best option here is to initially choose a smaller vital zone area size that will compensate for the cone of dispersion. This will reduce your MPBR but will keep your shots within the vital zone.



SPEAKING OF AMMO



You've likely heard about or read articles on using lead free ammo for big game. There are numerous studies that show when lead core bullets hit an animal during expansion (and fragmentation) small pieces of lead are sent throughout the animal, many lodging in muscles we turn into venison. Using lead free ammo prevents both you and carcass scavengers from ingesting toxic lead. The North American Lead-free Partnership is a leader in promoting lead-free ammo choices. The Partnership's goal is to empower hunters to continue wildlife conservation leadership through voluntary choices that manage lead from hunting ammunition in the food chain. They want to reduce impacts to non-target species, ensure effective harvests, and promote the future of hunting. They currently have several open incentive programs, one being the Oregon-specific "Lead-free Hunting Oregon" where you can apply for rewards for using lead free ammo.

Check out their link: <https://www.leadfreepartnership.org/leadfree-hunting-oregon>



OHA provided \$10,000 and volunteer labor to construct a 2/3-mile buck-and-pole fence to promote aspen regeneration on the Elkhorn Wildlife Area in June.

OHA to meet with DAs, encourage prosecution of wildlife offenses

For decades, the Oregon Hunters Association has stood as the frontline defense for our state's wildlife resources. Through our unwavering financial and promotional support of the Turn In Poachers (TIP) program, OHA members have stepped up time and again. We have put our own dollars on the line, funding cash rewards and generating the vital leads that allow Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Troopers to track down and arrest wildlife thieves.

But our commitment to conservation cannot end when the handcuffs come out.

Enforcement of existing law is not easy, and OSP troopers do the grueling work of catching poachers, with alert citizens providing the tips; yet we also know that cases languish or get downgraded when they reach the local courthouse. Overburdened county systems often treat wildlife crimes as minor property offenses rather than the serious, intentional thefts they truly are.

With all this in mind, OHA is launching a new initiative to guarantee that violators of our existing hunting statutes and regulations face the full weight of the law – that each prosecutor treats game law violators seriously and prioritizes these cases.

“To kick off this initiative, I will travel to counties across Oregon to meet with district attorneys and prosecutors,” said Todd Adkins, executive director of OHA. “We need to find out why these cases fall through the cracks and what we can do to help fix the process.”



OHA typically pays over \$30,000 in TIP rewards. OHA is launching a new effort to ensure the courts are taking poaching cases seriously.

OHA's message to prosecutors is simple: wildlife crime is community crime. Poaching strips economic resources from law-abiding citizens, compromises public safety, and steals legal opportunities from sportsmen across the state.

“We do not need a notebook full of complicated restrictions on the books,” Adkins continued. “We need relentless, unyielding prosecution of the criminals who are breaking our clear, existing game laws. This is our goal with the initiative.”

OHA's strong support of the TIP program proves that the organization is willing to do the heavy lifting to clean up our woods. This new tour of our state's DA offices is the logical next step in that commitment.

OHA funds, installs aspen protection on Elkhorn W.A.

OHA, in partnership with ODFW, recently constructed a 3,500-foot buck-and-pole fence that will promote aspen regeneration and expansion, while improving habitat for wildlife on the Elkhorn Wildlife Area.

OHA's Mule Deer Fund awarded \$10,000 to this project, and ODFW leveraged OHA funds to attain an additional \$30,000, which covered the cost of materials for the project.



The Union-Wallowa OHA Chapter provided volunteer labor and recruited help from local trap shooting teams (Eastern Oregon University and Union and La Grande high schools). The Union-Wallowa OHA Chapter also financially supported these trap shooting teams.

“This project was a great example of how the OHA Mule Deer Fund catalyzes excellent work that will benefit deer, elk and other wildlife,” said OHA Conservation Director Tyler Dungannon. “OHA is fortunate to have chapters that not only financially contribute to our funds and projects, but also rally boots on the ground to implement projects, which exponentially increases our impact.”

This project was one of five excellent projects that were selected for OHA Mule Deer Fund funding in 2025.

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

OHA seeks funds for key species

With the advancement of HB 4134, OHA prioritized a list of species of greatest conservation concern, key habitats, and major conservation issues found within the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). OHA presented the list to ODFW and urged the agency to direct funds allocated to the SWAP toward those priorities. The species of greatest conservation concern include:

Columbian White-tailed Deer historically ranged from Roseburg into Washington, but have declined due to habitat loss and fragmentation. Better monitoring is needed to understand population trends.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep have been restored in limited areas of Oregon, but there are still population gaps in the historic range from which they were extirpated. OHA encourages that a portion of funds generated by HB 4134 be prioritized for a new bighorn sheep management plan, translocation efforts as needed, and improved disease monitoring.

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse historically occupied a range encompassing more than half of the state of Oregon. A tenuous population of reintroduced birds remains in Wallowa County, but it is severely limited by habitat constraints and lack of supplemental project monitoring and implementation. To reestablish this iconic species in our state, it is key that we allocate SWAP funds toward identifying suitable habitats, habitat restoration, and restarting and monitoring translocation efforts.

Within the SWAP, OHA identified barriers to animal movement as its top conservation issue warranting wide-scale funding. Oregon ranks near the bottom of states in terms of its number of wildlife crossing structures. OHA requests additional funds be allocated from the SWAP funding to habitat connectivity and enhancement projects that help facilitate animal movement.

OHA supports all the key habitats within the SWAP and requested that ODFW allocate the majority of the \$55.7 million generated by HB 4134 to habitat improvement projects.

ODFW to present proposals for '27 big game regs

ODFW will host a series of online public meetings in July with district wildlife biologists presenting proposed changes to next year's big game regulations and getting feedback.

Meetings will include a presentation on 2027 proposed regulations, a Q&A and opportunity for public comment.

ODFW encourages people to submit questions in advance of or after the meeting. Questions can also be asked during the Teams meeting by using the chat feature.

Final 2027 Big Game Hunting Regulations are scheduled to be adopted at the September Commission meeting. Remote or in-person testimony will also be taken at the Commission meeting.

Comments can also be emailed to odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

 **NW Public Meeting | July 9, 7-8 p.m.**

<https://tinyurl.com/msbkwwam>

 **SW Public Meeting | July 7, 6-7 p.m.**

<https://tinyurl.com/2n4n533z>

 **NE Public Meeting | July 8, 6-8 p.m.**

<https://tinyurl.com/3nv57rzt>

 **East Public Meeting | July 1, 6-8 p.m.**

<https://tinyurl.com/3zb7x48t>

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.

★ **6/3/26 Howa 1500 Carbon Fiber 6.5 PRC**

Wendy Von Seggern, Clatsop Chapter

★ **6/10/26 Howa Superlite Walnut 7mm-08**

Jade Jennings, Columbia County Chapter

★ **6/17/26 Sig Sauer P320 Coyote Striker 9mm**

Tom Debie, Mid-Willamette Chapter

★ **6/24/26 Stoeger M3000 Max 7 Camo**

James Cox, Prineville

RENEW AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN A GREAT GUN!



GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR

**OHA will give away
A GUN A WEEK in 2027!**

For \$50 you get:

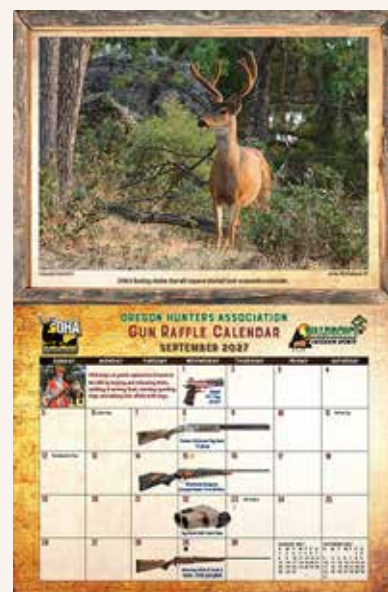
- 2027 Gun Raffle Calendar.
- Chance to win 1 of 52 guns raffled (\$599-\$1,800).
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DeWaine Jackson
541-430-5356



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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