



OHA contributed more than \$118,500 to the fencing that will funnel migrating wildlife safely under Highway 97 at Gilchrist, and OHA is actively working to secure additional funding for more wildlife crossings in Oregon, which lags far behind other states in safe crossing projects.

Wildlife crossing funds make it safely through '22 legislative session

By Amy Patrick & Al Elkins, OHA Lobbyists
Amy@oregonhunters.org

The short 2022 Oregon Legislative Session closed with several good bills receiving funding, while others didn't make it to the finish line. Here's a brief recap of the bills OHA engaged:

- HB 4130 requested \$5 million to fund wildlife crossings projects. The bill itself did not make it through the entire committee process, but the appropriated funding, at an increased amount of \$7 million, was included in the end of session bill.
- SB 1546 established the Elliott State Research Forest and passed with amendments. While the Elliott has been a contentious issue for years, OHA continues to advocate for access, a recreational focus, and a managed forest to benefit local economies and provide wildlife habitat.
- HB 4080 was a continuation of predator control districts in Oregon. It was supported by OHA and other natural resource groups, but it died in committee.
- HB 4127 would have provided additional funding to the state wolf depredation and mitigation fund. OHA offered testimony in support of both the bill and wolf management in Oregon, but it also died in committee.

OTC urged to fund crossings

By Tyler Dungannon, Conservation Coordinator
TD@oregonhunters.org

Via the Infrastructure, Investments, and Jobs Act, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) has \$412 million in flexible funds at its disposal that can be used where needed. OHA has testified on multiple occasions, along with many partners, urging the OTC to use \$10 million of these funds toward implementation of wildlife crossings to reduce vehicle collisions with deer and elk on Oregon's highways.

Representative Ken Helm and 45 state legislators recently signed on to a letter echoing OHA's request. This issue is not partisan, and many Republicans and Democrats signed on to this letter, because it's important to all Oregonians that we mitigate highway impacts with respect to wildlife.

It remains unclear if the OTC will prioritize wildlife crossing projects in its use of IJIA funds, despite a compelling letter from roughly half of the Oregon State Legislature.

Consistent with the Oregon Department of Transportation's mission, wildlife crossings would increase the safety and

reliability of our transportation system, reduce property damage and other costs, and assist wildlife conservation efforts.

Among west coast states, Oregon has been identified as having the highest risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions. The state recorded more than 30,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions between 2017-2021, and with many collisions unreported, the actual number is estimated to be more than twice as large. Wildlife crossings are a proven solution that can reduce these collisions by 80 percent or more, as seen at Oregon's Lava Butte underpass. With only five wildlife crossings, Oregon significantly trails other western states (Colorado has 69, Utah has 50, and California has 50).

OHA spearheaded an effort by the Oregon Action Team on Ungulate Migration to prioritize wildlife crossing projects throughout the state, and these project areas have been informed by data on deer and elk collision hot spots. This recent report is housed on OHA's website, and it identifies \$22-\$35 million in immediate project needs. View it at: <https://oregonhunters.org/documents>

It remains unclear if the OTC will prioritize wildlife crossing projects in its use of funds.



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IP13 reloads for 2024 ballot push

Proponents of IP13, which would criminalize hunting, fishing, trapping and many forms of agriculture in Oregon, are now focusing on the 2024 ballot. They have refiled with the Secretary of State for the 2024 cycle as IP3 and now begin the process of placing their extreme initiative on the ballot all over again.

First, they will need to collect the initial 1,000 signatures needed to qualify for a draft ballot title/summary. At that time there will be a comment period,

which OHA engaged in with IP13 to get the language strengthened and more accurate. After that process, and a potential appeal process, they will be approved to collect the 112,020 signatures needed to place it on the 2024 ballot.

The new language for IP3 is, interestingly enough, even more far reaching than IP13. IP3 keeps everything from IP13 and also adds changes in additional sections within the animal abuse statutes.

—AMY PATRICK

Learn to Hunt program available for chapters

OHA's Learn to Hunt program (LTH) was rolled out to chapters in early February and focuses on online courses and resources, as well as in-person classes, clinics, and events. A second rollout meeting is scheduled for April 25 via Zoom platform.

Members can contact the LTH team at learntohunt@oregonhunters.org for more information. Participating chapters will receive a quarterly contact list of new LTH participants and can provide information for a monthly email sent to all LTH students. —AMY PATRICK



TYLER DUNNANNON

Tia Kroo from Coastal Farm & Ranch presents a Browning Hells Canyon Speed to the CF&R Raffle winner at the OHA Bend Chapter Banquet.

You're invited to an OHA banquet near you

Enjoy a fun evening among friends and check out auctions and raffles featuring trips, great gear and more!

Watch for 2022 fund-raiser updates at: <https://oregonhunters.org/events-2>

OHA SPRING BANQUETS

Thru April 11 Union/Wallowa online at

<https://cbo.io/bidapp/index.php?slug=ohaunionwallowa>

Apr. 2 Baker 541-403-0402

Apr. 2 Blue Mountain 541-231-4384

Apr. 2 Capitol 503-851-8409

Apr. 2 Lake County 541-810-1617

Apr. 2 Tioga 541-267-2577

Apr. 9 Mid-Willamette 541-971-3351

Apr. 9 Umpqua 541-430-7324

Apr. 30 Klamath 541-882-9593

May 14 OHA State Convention, Seven Feathers Casino, featuring A&H Statewide Deer & Elk hunt auction, 541-772-7313

May 14 Columbia Co. 949-533-7271

July 16 Tillamook 503-801-3779

OHA 2023 GUN RAFFLE CALENDAR



OHA will give away a gun a week in 2023!

For \$50 you get:

- 2023 Gun Raffle Calendar.
- Chance to win 1 of 52 guns raffled (\$500-\$1,750).
- 1 OHA Membership (Join, renew, gift or \$35 toward life pledge)

Buy yours today at www.oregonhunters.org/store

You're invited to the
OHA State Convention
May 14 • Seven Feathers Casino

Call 541-772-7313 or visit
www.oregonhunters.org

100+ items
for Auction;
100+ items
for Raffles!