

State Rep. Greg Smith receives OCA's Wrangler Award

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State Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, speaks Nov. 11, 2025, during the Veterans Day Breakfast at the Hermiston Community Center. Smith holds up a canteen his great-great-uncle Thomas Gillian used during his service in World War II. (Michael Kane/Hermiston Herald)

PENDLETON — State Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, was the recipient of the 2025 Wrangler Award at the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Conference in Pendleton.

Smith won the award for his support of funding for wolf depredation and wildfire preparedness in the 2025 legislative session. The conference was Dec. 4-6 at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Through his support of Senate Bill 777, Smith helped pass legislation that supports ranchers in financial and production losses caused by wolf depredation; and House Bill 3940, which established funding for wildfire preparedness.

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“Rep. Smith was an integral part of showing the value of these bills to both sides of the aisle and helped with establishing the funding of the bills,” Oregon Cattlemen’s Association President Matt McElligott said in a press release. “His expertise and passion for helping those in Eastern Oregon is a fundamental reason these bills were passed.”

“I am beyond grateful to receive this distinction,” Smith said in the release. “It’s been an honor to support the folks who feed the world.”

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