

yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Winter 2024

For OHA junior members and children of family members

POSTER
AND TARGET
INSIDE!

IT'S TIME TO PLAN YOUR BIG GAME HUNTS!

It may still be winter, but it's already time to plan your 2024 big game hunts. The 2024 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out, and inside you will find great hunting opportunities for kids, such as youth hunts for deer, elk and antelope. The deadline to apply for big game hunts is May 15, so grab the new regulations and plan your big game hunts now. See the next page for more.

Reanna Ornelas of Baker City drew a youth elk tag and then received permission to hunt Idaho Power property.



TAKE AIM AT A BIG GAME HUNT

Oregon's young guns will get a shot at special big game hunts to aim for in 2024. The new 2024 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out, and they offer many youth hunts for kids only, plus guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing again in 2024.

The Mentored Youth Hunter Program allows kids ages 9-15 who haven't yet passed Hunter Education to hunt under the close

supervision of an adult.

Oregon will offer youth hunts again this coming year for deer, elk, antelope and spring bear. Some of the youth hunts can be harder to draw than adult hunts, so pay attention to how many hunters applied last year. The deadline to apply is May 15.

Oregon's "first-time hunter" program allows a hunter under age 18 who is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for

deer or elk tags to reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a first-time tag.

For more details about Oregon's "First-time hunter program," see the 2024 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

For more information about Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9-15, visit the ODFW website at [MyODFW.com](https://myodfw.com)

YOUNG GUNS BAG THEIR BIRDS AT YOUTH HUNTS

Young Oregon hunters got a chance to be outstanding in the field in September at youth upland bird hunts hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at locations around the state. Wild game birds live in many of the hunt areas, but more pheasants were released before the youth hunts.

The pheasants and chukars are bought with some of the money that hunters pay for their Oregon Upland Game Bird Stamps. The Oregon Hunters Association and other hunting groups also buy some extra pheasants to give young hunters more chances to bag a bird.

At some of the hunts, OHA and other sportsmen's groups cook breakfast and lunch for young hunters and their families, and some of the volunteers go out in the field with kids to help them find birds. Many of the hunts also offer clay target shooting, and OHA members volunteer to help with that, as well.



These happy hunters bagged chukars at a hunt hosted by OHA's Klamath Chapter.

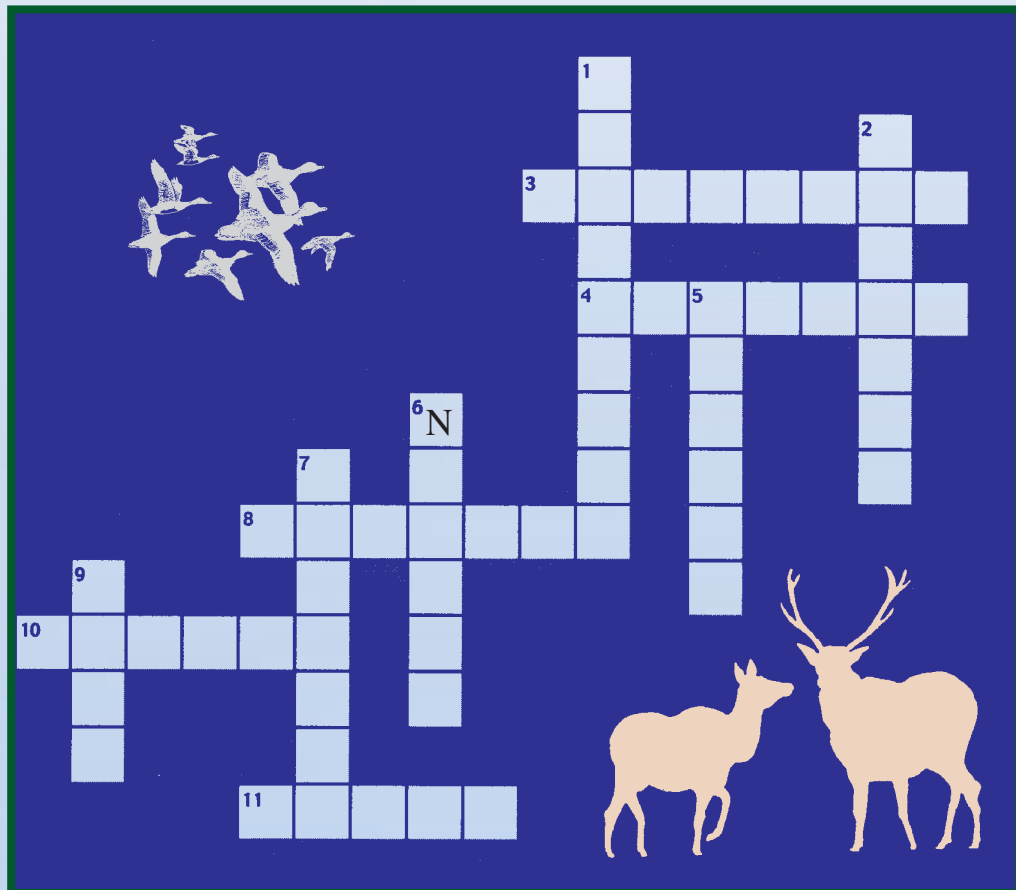




PUZZLE PAGE



When you finish the crossword puzzle, find your answers in the word hunt below.



Across

3. Once game is spotted, sneaking close enough for a shot is called ____.

4. A male pheasant is called a ____.

8. A popular species of duck that is named for its long, pointed tail-feathers.

10. This unprotected mammal likes to howl.

11. A preserved meat, usually smoked or salted.

Down

1. Ducks and geese.

2. A favorite food of turkeys, other birds and small mammals.

5. The best color to wear to be seen while hunting.

6. This animal looks like a small beaver.

7. You must have this to hunt game.

9. The mountain ____ lives only in very steep, rocky, high country.

Do You Know?

1. What two kinds of native quail live in Oregon?

2. What river the Snake River flows into?

3. What goose nests in Oregon?

4. The name for a baby elk?

5. Oregon's tallest mountain?

6. What corner of Oregon has most of the state's antelope?

ANSWERS: 1-mountain and valley quail; 2-Columbia River; 3-Western Canada goose; 4-calf; 5-Mt. Hood; 6-southeast Oregon.

V	H	Z	N	G	O	F	O	W	Z	Q	E
E	P	L	I	A	T	N	I	P	V	K	Z
G	G	A	W	Q	R	Y	T	A	O	G	B
N	N	I	N	O	F	X	K	Z	G	O	E
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R	K	T	N	R	K	R	G	R	E	I	N
O	L	U	S	E	F	E	E	L	S	J	E
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C	T	Q	C	S	A	O	A	M	A	M	I
Q	S	G	T	O	X	Y	M	J	U	W	L
H	C	U	S	O	B	O	G	G	H	O	H
Q	U	Y	W	R	O	C	I	U	E	F	X

WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP POSTER



ELK

The American elk, also called wapiti, is the second largest member of the deer family; only moose are bigger.

Cows usually have only one calf each year, in late spring. The calves can run within a few hours after birth. They also can keep still, when signaled by the mother.

In September, during the rut or mating season, bull elk make a loud sound to impress cows and scare off other bulls. The sound is called bugling.

Elk need large areas of habitat where they can forage for grasses, twigs, leaves and other plant food. They migrate between mountains and valleys as the seasons change. During the winter when elk visit low-lying areas where people live and farm, grazing elk sometimes damage crops and fences. Groups like the Oregon Hunters Association work with farmers, ranchers and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to find ways to provide food for elk and protect private property at the same time.

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Remember to Report Your Hunt Results!

All hunters need to report the results from all their big game or turkey seasons, even if they did not hunt.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to know how many animals are taken, so they can get a better idea of how our big game herds are doing, and can help the animals in areas where it's needed.

If you don't report, you will have to pay a \$25 penalty.

You must report results for your fall tags by Jan. 31 and winter tags by April 15.

To report your harvest, visit the ODFW's website for harvest reporting at myodfw.com or call toll free 1-866-947-ODFW (6339).

HYPOTHERMIA: THE SILENT KILLER OF THE OUTDOORS

Hypothermia happens when your core body temperature becomes colder than it should be – just the opposite of when you are sick and have a fever.

Hunters are at higher risk for hypothermia because they are often outside in cold, wet, and windy conditions. Wet or damp clothes (from rain, sweat, or falling in a stream or lake) increase this risk, particularly if it is windy outside.

Every hunter should know how to prevent hypothermia, recognize its symptoms and treat it.

Hypothermia prevention, symptoms and treatment

Prevention:

- Dress properly – avoid cotton clothing
- Avoid risky weather conditions
- Dry out as quickly as you can when you get wet
- Eat high-calorie foods to produce body heat

Symptoms

- Uncontrolled shivering
- Slow, slurred speech
- Lack of movement, stumbling and/or dropping things
- Memory loss



Winter hunts can get you cold and wet, and that's a dangerous combo.

- Strange behavior (such as removing clothing)
- Sleepiness or unconsciousness

Treatment

- Find shelter immediately – do not wait!
- Replace wet clothing with dry clothing
- Give warm liquids, but no alcohol or caffeine
- Warm with blankets or another's body heat
- Warm with canteens of hot water placed against the body

Sign up now for Hunter Ed



The time to sign up for Hunter Education courses is not when you want to hunt. Classes fill up fast, and it's very hard to find a class by summer, so get in now. Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for first-time hunters under the age of 18.

For information about enrolling in a Hunter Education program, visit MyODFW.com



10 COMMANDMENTS OF SHOOTING SAFETY

- 1. Control the direction of your firearm's muzzle.** Carry your firearm safely, keeping the safety on until ready to shoot. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- 2. Identify your target and what is beyond it.** Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.
- 3. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.**
- 4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions** and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the firearm you are carrying.
- 5. Unload firearms when not in use.** Leave actions open. Firearms should be cased and unloaded while in a vehicle traveling to and from shooting areas.
- 6. Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with a firearm.
- 7. Never climb or jump with a loaded firearm.** Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.
- 8. Never fire a bullet at a flat, hard surface or water.** With targets, be sure your backstop is adequate.
- 9. Store guns and ammunition separately in locked spaces** out of reach of children and careless adults.
- 10. Avoid alcoholic beverages and drugs before or during shooting.**

OHA MEMBER PLEDGE

As an OHA member, I pledge to:

- Respect the environment and wildlife;
- Respect property and landowners;
- Improve my outdoor skills and understanding of wildlife;
- Support wildlife and habitat conservation;
- Know and obey the law;
- Hunt safely;
- Show consideration of nonhunters;
- Abide by the rules of fair chase;
- Hunt only with ethical hunters; and
- Pass on an ethical hunting tradition.

* Adapted from the Hunter's Pledge of the Izaak Walton League of America



YOUNG GUNS BIGHORN TARGET

BIGHORN SHEEP

Bighorn sheep live in some of eastern Oregon's highest and rockiest country. Bighorn sheep were once wiped out in Oregon by settlers and disease spread by their tame sheep. Sportsmen helped bring bighorns back to Oregon.



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DON'T MISS A THING! JOIN OHA TODAY!

When you join OHA as a Junior Member *for just \$10*, you'll get everything adult OHA members get – and **MUCH MORE!**



* You get 6 issues of OREGON HUNTER magazine.

Just \$10 for kids!

* You get an Oregon Hunters Calendar, with 12 colorful game animal pictures, and all the hunting season dates and deadlines!

* You get 4 issues of OHA's junior newsletter *Yearlings*.

* You'll be invited to OHA events where there may even be prizes for kids!

* You'll get your own OHA decal!



OHA Jr. Membership Application

I want to be an Oregon Hunters Association Junior Member! Please sign me up, send my Oregon Hunters Calendar and OHA decal, and start my subscriptions to OREGON HUNTER magazine and the OHA junior newsletter *Yearlings*!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Please enclose one-year dues of \$10

___ Payment enclosed (check or money order)

___ Bill my parent's: Visa / Mastercard / Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

OHA, P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501

Phone (541) 772-7313

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Yearlings is published quarterly for OHA junior members and the children of family members.

GOOD SHOTS FROM OREGON'S YOUNG GUNS



Lincoln Journey and Smith Asla tagged out on turkeys in the McKenzie Unit.



Bre and Mikayla show off a spring bear taken on a mentored hunt in the Powers Unit.



Mason Marcum took his first buck on a mentored youth hunt last fall on the coast.