



Yearlings

OHA Junior
Newsletter

Winter
2026

For OHA junior members &
children of family members



**POSTER
AND TARGET
INSIDE!**



PLAN YOUR BIG GAME HUNT NOW

It's time to plan your 2026 fall big game hunts! The 2026 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 controlled hunts is May 15, so pick up the 2026 Big Game Regulations or visit MyODFW.com and plan your big game hunts now. See the next page for more.

Lucas took this pronghorn on Steens Mountain. To get tags like this, you must apply by May 15.

SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A FALL BIG GAME HUNT!

Young guns in Oregon will get a number of special big game hunts to apply for in 2026. The new 2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations are out, and there are many youth hunts for kids only, plus guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing again in 2026.

Also, the Mentored Youth Hunter Program allows kids who haven't yet passed Hunter Education to hunt under the close supervision of an adult.

OHA helped raise the upper age limit for mentoring to 15.

Oregon will offer fall youth hunts again this coming season for deer, elk and antelope.

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, which OHA helped create, and Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program for kids ages 9 through 15, see the 2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations in outdoor stores or at MyODFW.com



Oregon's youth hunts and the Mentored Youth Hunter Program offer kids great opportunities to hunt big game.

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 deer and elk results, you will have to pay a \$25 penalty when you buy your next license.

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
- Strange behavior (such as removing clothing)
- Memory loss



It's OK to be a cool dude, but there comes a time to get warm and dry.

- 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



PUZZLE PAGE



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

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1 2
3
4 B A L L I S T I C S
5 T I C S
6 S
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11
12
D R O U G H T

Across

1. Container which holds ammunition.
4. The science of bullets.
7. After shooting a big game animal you must put your _ on it.
8. The parts of a firearm which load, fire and eject a cartridge.
10. Wild animals living in their natural habitat.
12. A long period of time with no rain or snow.

Down

2. A game bird with long tail feathers
3. To be inactive or asleep in winter.
5. A tuft of feathers or hair on top of a bird's head.
6. A meat-eating animal is called a ___.
9. Male goat.
11. Initials of a group that helps ducks.

Do You Know?

1. What animal is Oregon's fastest land mammal?
2. What a female bighorn sheep is called?
3. What two kinds of partridges are hunted in Oregon?
4. Where Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep live in Oregon?
5. What duck is called a "can"?

Answers: 1-pronghorn antelope; 2-wee; 3-chukar & Hungarian; 4-northeast Oregon; 5-canvasback.

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







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WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP

Chukars

The chukar is a game bird found in eastern Oregon. Chukars were brought to Oregon from India in 1951.

These birds, which are relatives of partridges, are larger than quail, but smaller than pheasants. They have plump bodies, short tails and short, red beaks for picking up seeds. Their bodies are gray with black and white patches on their faces and wings.

Chukars have round wings and large breast muscles that help them to escape predators with short, fast bursts of flight.

Hunters find that chukars are difficult to hunt because they run uphill and then fly down quickly. Even though chukars are hard to hunt, they are one of Oregon's most harvested upland game birds.

Their favorite food is cheat grass, but they can be seen feeding on waste grain at the edges of planted fields near their habitat.

KIDS BAG BIRDS AT YOUTH HUNTS



OHA members taught shot-gun skills at youth bird hunts.

Oregon youngsters got a chance to earn their wings last fall at youth upland bird hunts hosted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and OHA at locations around the state. Wild birds live at many of the hunt areas, and more birds were released for the youth hunts.

The pheasants are raised and released with money that hunters pay for their state Upland Game Bird Stamps. The Oregon Hunters Association and other hunting groups also buy birds to give kids more chances in the field.

OHA and other sportsmen's groups cook breakfast and lunch for young hunters and their families, and some of these folks and their dogs go out in the field with kids to help them find birds. Besides the pheasants that are released, kids can take wild birds like doves and quail that are in season.



A young man gets ready to clean a chukar he bagged.

Sign up now for Hunter Education!

If you haven't passed Hunter Education yet and you plan to hunt with your own licenses and tags this fall, you need to get in a class now! Oregon's Hunter Education course is required for all first-time hunters under the age of 18. It's hard to find a class by fall, so don't wait! 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 Elk Target

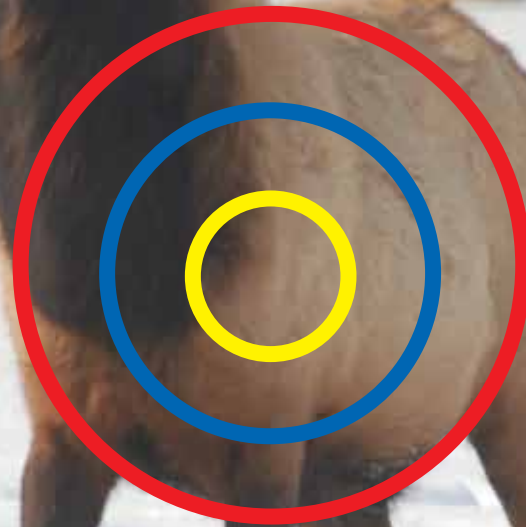


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Elk

Elk are tough and hardy animals that usually get through Oregon's winters just fine. They can get themselves in trouble, though, when they raid farmers' haystacks and wreck their pastures and fences. Sometimes hunting groups like OHA provide feed to lure the elk away from farmland and keep them out of trouble.



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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 Junior Membership Application

I want to be an Oregon Hunters Association Junior Member! Please sign me up, send my Oregon Hunters Calendar, 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 / MC / Amex / Discover

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

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

(541) 772-7313 oregonhunters.org

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GOOD SHOTS FROM OREGON'S YOUNG GUNS



Mason and Logan enjoy the moment after a successful mentored youth turkey hunt in the Aalsea Unit.



Audrey Baker shows a band on the leg of a mallard drake in eastern Oregon.