



Yearlings

OHA Junior Newsletter

Spring 2026



FREE POSTER
AND TARGET
INSIDE!

Turkey Time!

Oregon kids will set their sights on taking a turkey this spring when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife offers kids a head start with the yearly youth turkey weekend April 11 and 12.

Oregon will hold its youth turkey hunting weekend right before the regular turkey season opens on April 15. Youth weekend lets kids enjoy some uncrowded hunting in Oregon's great outdoors.

The chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association will help ODFW offer youth turkey clinics on April 4 at the White River Wildlife Area near The Dalles and Denman Wildlife Area near Medford, where kids and their families learn tips for turkey hunting.

At the clinics, kids get a chance to shoot a 20 gauge shotgun at a paper target that looks like a turkey. Lunch is included with the entry fee. To cap off the event, there is a prize drawing.

The clinics fill up fast. For information, visit <https://myodfw.com/workshops-and-events>



Casey Anderson took this turkey after winning a hunt with OHA member Jeff Heil at the youth turkey clinic at the Denman Wildlife Area.

You're invited to an OHA youth day!



OHA youth events offer activities ranging from archery to wildlife identification.

Chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association will host youth field days for kids around the state this spring and summer. Most of the events are free, while some may charge a small amount to cover the costs of putting on the event. Many of the youth field days offer kids a chance to try outdoor activities and test their skills. Most of the events also offer food kids love to eat.

OHA chapters will kick off the slate of events with yearly youth turkey clinics

on April 4 at the White River Wildlife Area and the Denman Wildlife Area near Medford. The clinics will get kids ready for youth turkey hunting weekend on April 11 and 12.

Youth field days will be hosted by OHA chapters around the state later in the spring and summer.

In September, OHA will help out at youth bird hunts around the state. You can stay up to date on youth events in your area by logging on to www.oregonhunters.org

OHA Youth Events

April 4:

Denman Wildlife Area Youth Turkey Clinic, MyODFW.com;
White River Wildlife Area Youth Turkey Clinic, MyODFW.com

April 25:

Pioneer Chapter Spring Youth Day, 503-936-4718

May 2:

OHA Tioga Chapter Youth Day, (541) 2694-7912

May 9:

OHA Mid-Willamette Chapter Youth Day, (541) 231-8165

May 30:

OHA Bend Youth Day, (541) 480-7323

June 6:

Tualatin Valley Youth Day, 503-701-2852;
Josephine County Youth Day, (541) 218-2836

June 27:

OHA Lake County Youth Day, 541-417-0042

August 15:

OHA Yamhill County Chapter Youth Shoot, (503) 737-9483

August 22:

OHA Ochoco Chapter Celebrate the Outdoors, (541) 408-4816



APPLY FOR YOUR FALL BIG GAME TAGS BY MAY 15TH



Oregon offers some great youth-only hunts for big game.

Now is the time to start planning your fall big game hunts. The 2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations offer youth hunts for kids only, as well as guaranteed first-time tags in the general big game tag drawing. Also, in the Mentored Youth Hunter Program, kids who haven't yet passed Hunter Education can hunt under the close supervision of an adult. OHA helped raise the upper age limit for mentoring to 15.

Planned for 2026 fall seasons are youth buck deer hunts, youth antlerless deer hunts, youth elk hunts, and youth antelope hunts, including a Hart Mountain Refuge hunt.

The deadline to apply is May 15. Results are out on June 12.

In Oregon's "first-time hunter" program, which OHA helped create, a hunter under age 18 who is unsuccessful in the controlled hunt drawing for deer or elk tags may reapply for a controlled hunt having a minimum number of tags and be guaranteed a first-time tag. For information about Oregon's First-time hunter program and Oregon's Mentored Youth Hunter Program see the 2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations at MyODFW.com

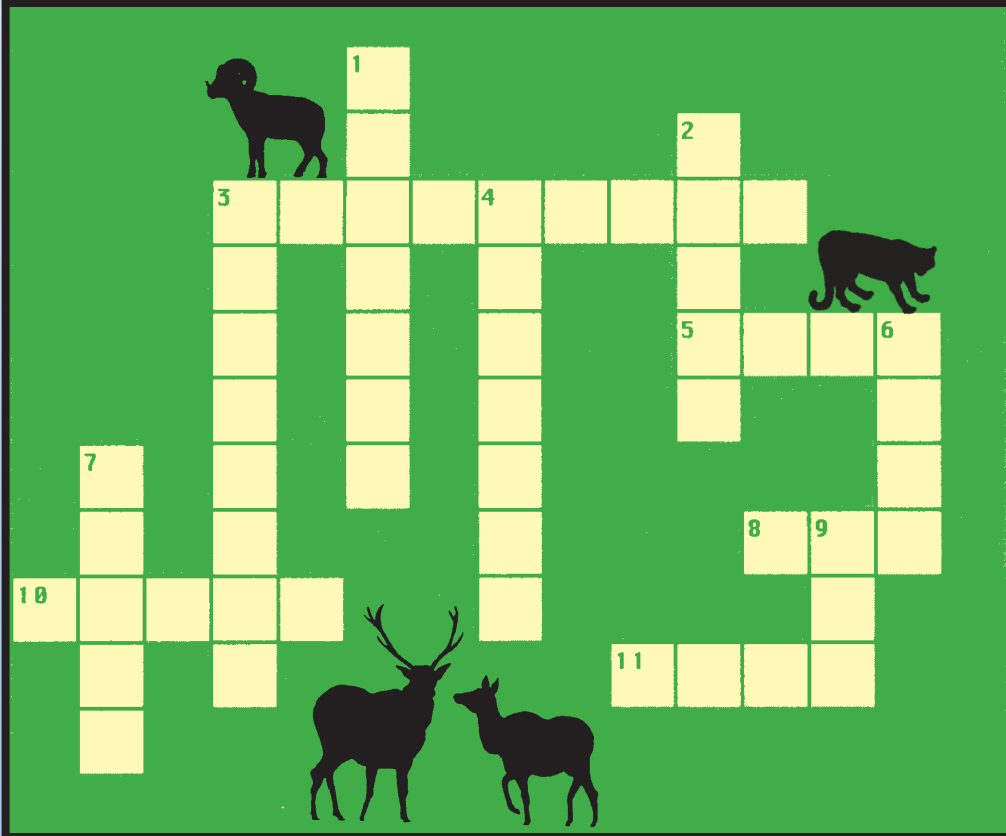




PUZZLE PAGE



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



Across

- 3. Arrowhead used for hunting.
- 5. The opposite of hot.
- 8. A kind of underground animal home.
- 10. Used with a bow.
- 11. Young male turkey.

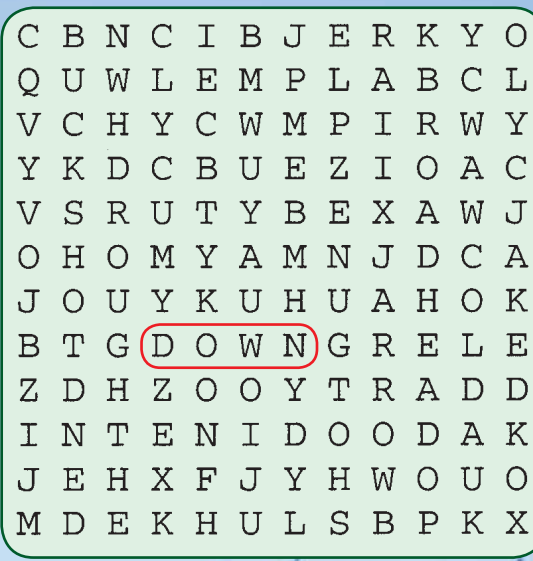
Down

- 1. The only legal fire-arm for hunting spring turkey.
- 2. To emerge from an egg.
- 3. A large size of shot.
- 4. A long period of time with no rain or snow.
- 6. The warmest, softest feathers are called _____. (Used for pillows)
- 7. A tasty dry meat, usually smoked.
- 9. A female sheep.

Do You Know?

- 1. Which big game animal has five toes?
- 2. Which Oregon quail species has a plume standing up or backward?
- 3. Which is Oregon's highest mountain?
- 4. What is Oregon's biggest lake?
- 5. Which run faster, elk or deer?
- 6. What two kinds of white geese pass through Oregon?

Answers: 1 - bear; 2 - mountain quail; 3 - Mt. Hood; 4 - Klamath Lake; 5 - elk; 6 - snow and Ross.





WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP

Mule Deer

Mule deer live throughout the western United States, Canada and Mexico. In Oregon, mule deer live in eastern Oregon.

Mule deer are large deer. Their bodies are usually bigger than blacktails. Mule deer get their name from their ears, which are big, like a mule's. Those big ears, which they can move around like radar dishes, help them listen for dangerous predators like hunters, bears or cougars that might be coming near.

Male deer are called bucks, and they grow antlers that can get very large. A young buck, called a yearling, might only have a spike antler (one point) or a forked-horn (two points). But older bucks can grow huge antler racks. A female, called a doe, usually gives birth to twin fawns each spring.

Mule deer numbers have gone down in recent years. There are many reasons for this, but the biggest problems are that people are taking their habitat and there may be too many predators eating them.

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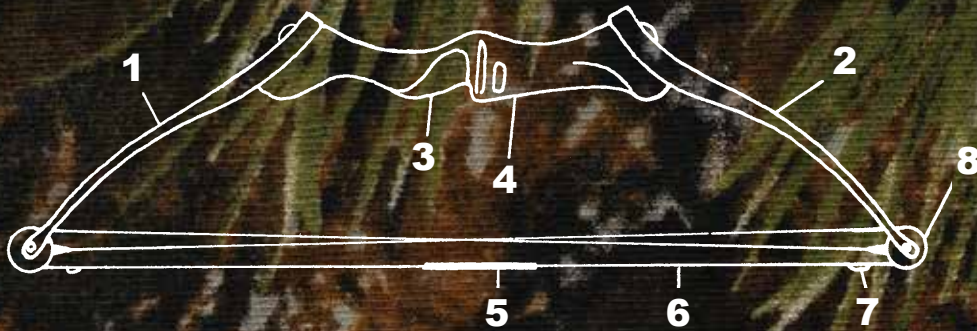


How well do you know your archery?

Find the following parts on this compound bow, and write the names in the right blanks. Then check your answers below.

Cable Anchor
Eccentric Wheel
Grip
Lower Limb

Serving String
Window & Arrow Rest
Upper Limb



ANSWERS: 1-Lower Limb; 2-Upper Limb; 3-Grip; 4-Window & Arrow Rest; 5-Serving; 6-String; 7-Cable Anchor; 8-Eccentric Wheel.

COMPOUND BOW PARTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

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, log on at: 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



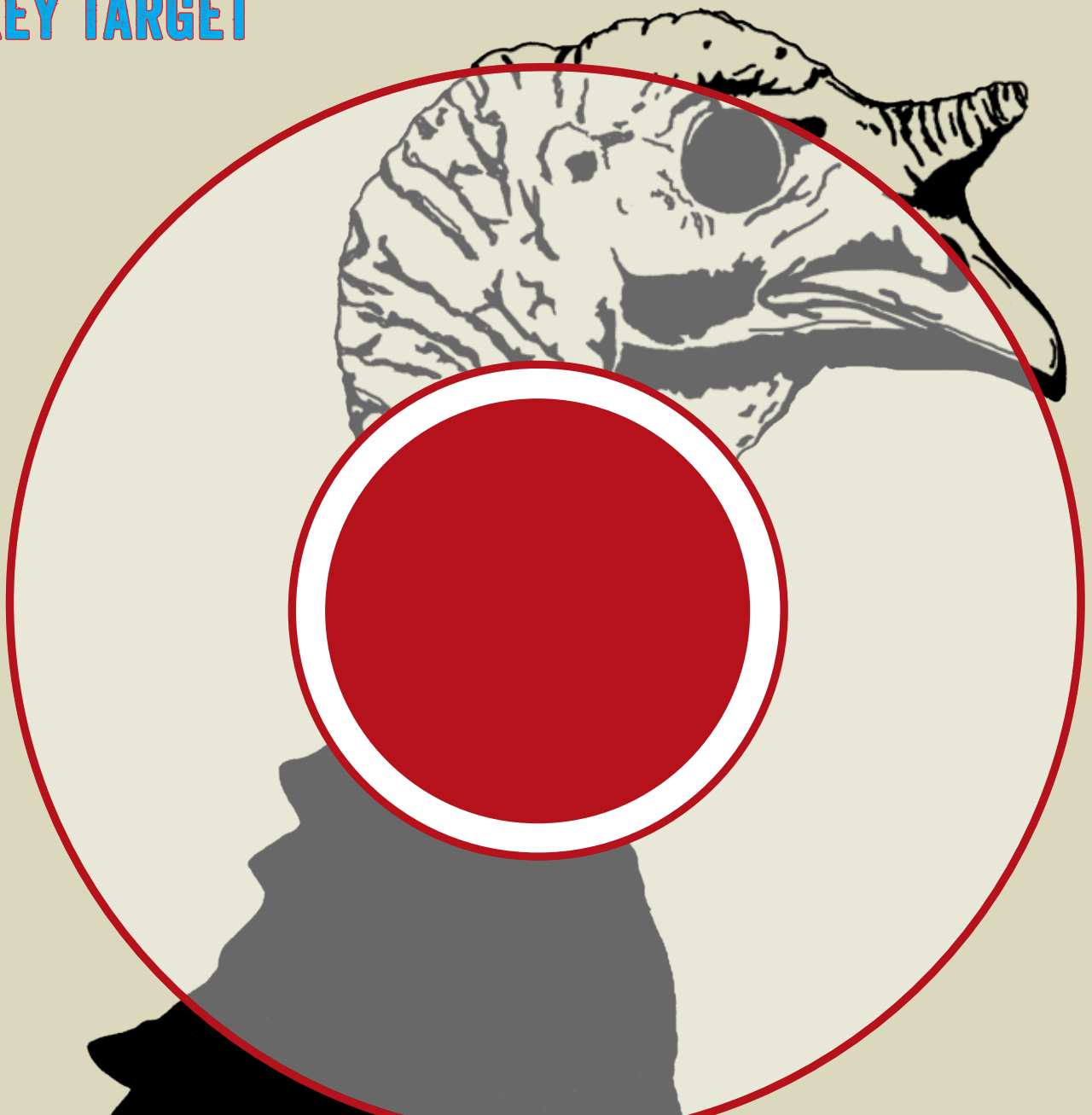
Passport to the Outdoors

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YOUNG GUNS TURKEY TARGET



Pattern your shotgun, and know the limits of you and your gun. When hunting, shoot only from distances from which you can put several shot pellets in the kill zone.

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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!

* 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 an 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 / MC / Discover / AmEx

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ CVV2# on back: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Return to:

OHA, P.O. Box 1706,

Medford, OR 97501 • 541-772-7313

www.oregonhunters.org oha@oregonhunters.org



OREGON HUNTERS
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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



Harding Huber took this whitetail buck last season in northeast Oregon's Willowa County.



Mallory White tagged this cow elk in a Wilson Unit youth hunt last year on Christmas week.



Tristan Faganello bagged this blacktail buck in the Rogue Unit last fall.