



Yearlings


OHA Junior Newsletter

Summer 2026

For OHA junior members and children of family members



**FREE POSTER
AND TARGET
INSIDE!**



Kids carry willows to be planted along streams in the Ochoco Mountains, where the Oregon Hunters Association and other groups meet each year to improve wildlife habitat.

KIDS GET DIRTY TO HELP WILDLIFE

Oregon kids can get as dirty as they like when they and their families go with the Oregon Hunters Association to do wildlife habitat projects around the state.

These projects help make food, water and shelter for wildlife – the three things wild animals need most.

Many of these are projects that kids and their families

can do together with the OHA chapter in their area. Some of the projects are weekend campouts in Oregon's great outdoors, where the families who help out get to camp together and enjoy some good food and good times.

Watch your OHA chapter's newsletter or visit oregonhunters.com for projects near you!

OHA HELPS KIDS BE OUTSTANDING IN THE FIELD



Kids all over Oregon got a chance to try outdoor skills when chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association hosted youth field days for kids this spring and summer. Most of the events were free, while some charged a small amount to cover the costs of putting on the event. Most events provided food kids love to eat.

OHA kicked off the schedule of events with its yearly youth turkey clinics at the White River and Denman Wildlife Areas. The clinics taught turkey hunting knowledge and skills, and got kids ready for youth turkey hunting weekend.

Youth field days were hosted by OHA chapters later in the spring and summer. The OHA Yamhill County Chapter held a youth shotgun skills clinic in August, as it does every year.

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



ABOVE: Kids show off the OHA bird houses they built at an OHA youth field day.

LEFT: A young man tests his archery skills at an OHA youth event.

BELOW: A young gun gets ready to shoot a clay target at an OHA youth day.

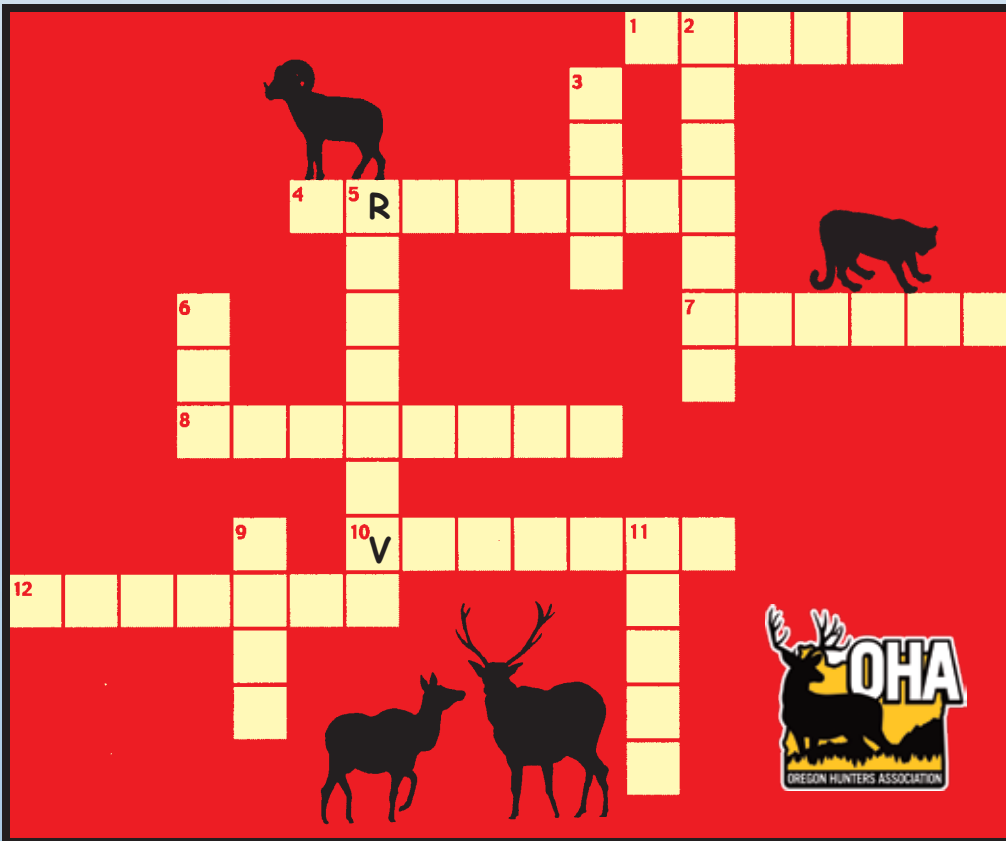




PUZZLE PAGE



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



Across

1. Antelope are the only animals that shed these.

4. ____, who catch beaver and other furbearers, need a furtaker license.

7. Quail are an _____ game bird.

8. Wild animals living in their natural habitat.

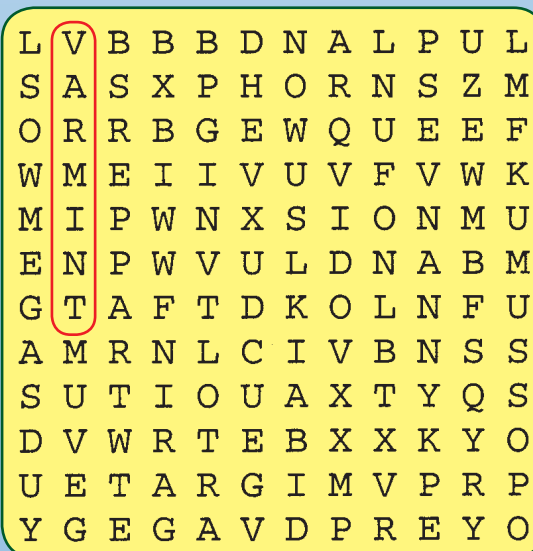
10. A pest that may be hunted (not good to eat).

12. To travel other habitats as the season changes.

Do You Know?

1. What large predator has poor eyes but an excellent nose?
2. What animal has eyes like binoculars that allow it to see great distances in the open places where it lives?
3. What a group of quail is called?
4. The name for a baby bighorn?
5. What a male cougar is called?
6. Where turkeys sleep at night?
7. Oregon's only poisonous snake?
8. What 2 geese are mostly white?

Answers: 1-bear; 2-pronghorn antelope; 3-cove; 4-lamb; 5-tom; 6-in trees; 7-rattlesnake; 8-snow and Ross geese.



Down

2. This varmint hunts for food at night. When it is threatened, it lies very still, "playing dead."

3. Animal hunted or killed for food by other animals.

5. A varmint related to the pigeon.

6. A female bear.

9. The _____ grouse is the second largest upland bird found in Oregon.

11. Female goat.



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Moose

Moose have not always lived in Oregon, but they are moving here from Washington and Idaho. During the past eight years, small numbers of moose have made themselves at home in northeast Oregon. Wildlife managers think about 70 moose now reside in Oregon.

Moose are the largest member of the deer family, and like other species in the deer family, bull moose shed and grow a new set of antlers each year. Antler shedding happens between December and March with new antlers starting to grow by early spring. Adult bull moose in Alaska can weigh over 1,600 pounds, stand 7 feet at the shoulder, and may have antler widths that spread to 80 inches. Moose that live in Oregon are smaller and are the Shira's subspecies, but still stand over 6 feet at the shoulder, weigh up to 1,000 pounds, and can have antler widths close to 60 inches. Because of their long legs, moose can winter in much deeper snow than deer and elk, often spending winters in snow depths of 2 to 3 feet.

Moose use shallow ponds, lakes and marshes during summer months to feed on nutritious water plants. Otherwise, moose feed by browsing on willow and a variety of other deciduous trees and shrubs. In Oregon moose prefer dense conifer forests with openings created by wildfire or logging, where shrub and tree species provide plenty of browse for forage.

Normally cow moose give birth each May or June to single or twin calves.

Despite their large size, adult moose are sometimes preyed upon by cougars or wolves, while young calves often fall prey to coyotes, wolves, black bears, and cougars. There is no hunting for moose allowed yet in Oregon, but if their numbers start growing, that could change.



Summer is time for baby animals: leave 'em alone!

As Oregonians gear up for the start of the outdoor season, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reminds those who come across baby deer, bear, raccoon, and other baby wildlife animals to leave them alone.

“It may or may not be an orphan when you find it, but if you remove any baby animal from the wild, it certainly becomes one and its chances of survival go down quickly,” said ODFW Conservation Planner and Wildlife Biologist Holly Michael. “Our motto is, ‘if you care, leave ‘em there.’”

Michael said that deer, elk and other game animals often hide their babies while foraging for food during the afternoons.

Hikers, bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts each spring encounter what appear to be “orphans” and attempt to rescue the animals by removing them from their habitat. Officials say that, unless the death of the adult animal is seen by you first-hand, no baby animal should be thought to be orphaned.



ODFW

Baby animals like this mule deer fawn are often left by their mothers for a short time, but if you leave them alone, their mothers will come back to them.

“Baby animals need their parents to teach them important survival skills, like finding food and escaping from predators,” Michael said. “Animals raised by people never learn these skills, and are not ready to survive on their own in the wild. They often die shortly after release.”

Wildlife managers offer the following tips for some of the more frequently “rescued” Oregon wildlife species:

• **Baby birds:** Nestlings (baby birds not fully feathered) can be gently and quickly returned to the nest. If the nest is out of reach, place the bird on an elevated branch or fence, out of the reach of children and pets. Leave the area so the parents can return.

• **Deer:** Fawns often are left for several hours at a time, but are well adapted to their surroundings. Unless you see the parent killed, it is safe to believe the doe is nearby. In fact, your presence could be what is keeping the doe away.

• **Raccoons and squirrels:** Animal care centers get overloaded with squirrels and raccoons each spring. Raccoons are a major transmitter of diseases dangerous to people and pets, including a virus that can cause permanent blindness in humans. Both species are highly adaptive animals, and many babies that appear too young to make it on their own are capable of surviving, especially in suburban and urban environments where food is plentiful and predators are few. So leave them alone.

Last call 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: <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunter-education-classes-field-days>



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



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.



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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

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Good shots from Oregon's Young Guns



Hunter Weaver took this Malheur mule buck on a mentored hunt with mom last fall.



Sebastian Menely tagged this Powers Unit cow elk in a youth hunt last August.



Hazel Liner bagged this bull elk Thanksgiving week last year in the Scappoose Unit.