



# Yearlings

**OHA Junior Newsletter**

**FALL 2026**

For OHA junior members and children of family members



**FREE POSTER  
AND TARGET  
INSIDE!**

## SET YOUR SIGHTS ON A YOUTH BIRD HUNT!



Oregon's young hunters will get a chance to earn their wings this fall at youth upland bird hunts all across Oregon. Youth pheasant hunts will be offered around the state in September with shotgun skills clinics available at many of the hunt sites. Members of the Oregon Hunters Association will be on hand at many of these events, cooking food, taking kids afield with dogs, and assisting with the shotgun skills clinics.

Youngsters must have a Hunter Education Certificate, Harvest Information Program validation and a permit for the area they're hunting. Hunters age 14 or older also must have an Oregon juvenile hunting license and an upland bird hunting validation.

The bag limit is two pheasants per day. Kids who are hunting must be with an adult who is not allowed to hunt that day, and the adult can only supervise one young hunter at a time. See the dates for youth bird hunts near you on the next page, and reserve your spot now, because these hunts are very popular.



Pheasants are released on the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area ahead of the annual youth upland bird hunt. Photo by Jessica Moe.

## YOUTH PHEASANT HUNTS FOR 2026

### LOCATION

Fern Ridge  
John Day Area  
Sauvie Island  
Ladd Marsh  
Denman Wildlife Area  
Klamath Wildlife Area  
White River  
Irrigon Wildlife Area  
E.E. Wilson  
Coquille Valley  
Bend OHA Hunt (541-480-7323)  
Miller Island, Klamath

### HUNT DATES

Sept. 12-13  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 19-20  
Sept. 26  
Sept. 26-27  
Sept. 26-27  
Oct. 17  
Oct. 24

For reservations or more information visit [myodfw.com](http://myodfw.com)



This hunter took this buck in the 2025 extended youth deer weekend.

## KIDS GET EXTRA WEEKEND TO HUNT DEER!

Oregon kids who have hunted hard in the western Oregon deer rifle season but have not tagged a deer by the end of the season will get one last shot this fall.

Youths ages 12-17 who have not filled their western Oregon deer tags by the time the season ends on Friday, Nov. 6, may hunt the following two days in the youth western Oregon deer hunt weekend Nov. 7 and 8.

This special weekend hunt was started

in 2007 by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to give kids a weekend to go afield and enjoy a fun weekend with their families without so many adults crowding the woods.

The hunt is open to kids with one of these tags that they have not filled: either a general season Western Oregon deer, or West High Cascade (119A).

The bag limit is one buck that has a visible antler.

## WATERFOWL HUNTS JUST FOR KIDS

Young Oregon hunters will get to hunt certain state wildlife areas this season without crowding by adult hunters. Some state wildlife areas have reserved dates and places just for hunters 17 and under to hunt this fall. An adult over 21 must accompany the youth, and the adult may not hunt.

Hunters over 12 need a state waterfowl validation and hunting license. Those over 16 also need a federal waterfowl stamp.

Registration is required. See Page 28 of the 2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Regulations for more information.

### 2026-27 YOUTH-ONLY HUNTS:

**Fern Ridge:** Nov. 28 and Dec. 28.

**Klamath (Miller Island):** Oct. 24.

**Sauvie Island:** Oct. 31, Nov. 15, Dec. 12, Dec. 28, and Jan. 17.

**Tualatin NWR:** Nov. 7, 15, 21, 29; Dec. 5, 13, 19, 27; Jan. 2. 503-625-5944.



## KIDS GET THEIR OWN WEEKEND FOR WATERFOWL

A statewide youth waterfowl hunting weekend for hunters under age 18 will be held in Oregon on Sept. 26-27.

Daily bag limits, licensing requirements and other regulations apply.

Check Page 28 of the 2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Regulations for more information.

## Hunt chukars in Klamath



These kids got chukars last year in Klamath OHA's Youth Chukar Hunt.

The Klamath Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association will host a special chukar hunt just for kids on Oct. 24-25 in the Klamath Hills area south of Klamath Falls.

There is no charge for the hunt, and kids may take up to two birds a day. Kids must hunt with an adult.

Reservations are required, and only a few kids are allowed to hunt at a time.

To make a reservation, call 541-883-8326.



# PUZZLE PAGE

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



## Across

4. Ducks make this sound

8. American "antelope" are correctly called \_\_\_\_\_.

9. A male bighorn sheep.

11. This puddle duck has green on its head and wing.

12. The western gray \_\_\_\_\_ is the smallest Oregon game mammal.

## Down

1. A type of rabbit with long ears and legs.

2. The only legal firearm for hunting spring turkey.

3. A decorative feather found atop a quail's head, or a hat.

5. A word for an area of land, such as steep \_\_\_\_\_.

6. A mid-elevation forest grouse with a topknot.

7. The seed of cereal grass such as wheat, barley, rice, or oats.

10. Hunters follow these to find animals making them.

## Do You Know?

1. What large predator in Oregon lives up to 30 years?
2. What grouse lives in the desert?
3. What a group of elk is called?
4. Name for a baby mountain goat?
5. What a male turkey is called?
6. Where wood ducks nest?
7. Oregon's highest mountain?
8. What Oregon goose is speckled?

Answers: 1-cougar; 2-sage grouse; 3-herd; 4-kid; 5-tom; 6-in trees; 7-Mt. Hood; 8-white-fronted goose.

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

# **WILDLIFE CLOSE-UP**

## **PRONGHORN ANTELOPE**

The pronghorn, sometimes called antelope, is not really an antelope at all, but more closely resembles that family of animals than any other.

Pronghorns are native to Oregon, but they live only east of the Cascade mountains in Oregon's high desert.

The pronghorn is famous for two things that help it survive: its amazing eyesight that allows it to spot danger from a great distance in the open country where it dwells, and its incredible speed, which can reach 60 miles per hour.

Like deer, male pronghorns are called bucks, females are called does, and young ones are called fawns.

Pronghorns grow true horns – not antlers like deer and elk – but they shed the outer black sheath every year like deer and elk do. Both males and females grow horns, but female horns usually are very short.

Pronghorns have grown in number under controlled hunting, but the herds have been hurt by coyotes, which take many of the newborn pronghorns when coyote numbers are high. It is believed that the pronghorn populations have natural cycles of highs and lows that are affected by predator numbers, as well as the availability of populations of other prey coyotes eat, such as rodents.



*Proudly sponsored by*



**LEUPOLD**



John C. McFarland III



## LET'S MAKE TRACKS! Match the tracks to the animal that made them. Then check your answers.



JIM WARD



JIM WARD



JIM WARD



JIM WARD



JIM WARD



DUANE DUNGANNON



DUANE DUNGANNON



JIM WARD



BRUCE RAMBERG



DUDLEY NELSON



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_



10. \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: 1-Raccoon; 2-Antelope; 3-Turkey; 4-Bobcat; 5-Coyote; 6-Bear; 7-Elk; 8-Goose; 9-Deer; 10-Bear.

## HUNTING SEASON IS FIRE SEASON: DON'T GET BURNED

There's nothing like sitting around a campfire with friends and family, but that cozy campfire can become a force of destruction if it gets out of control. Each year more than 100,000 wildfires are started on our nation's wildlands, burning millions of acres, and destroying wildlife as well as forests, brush and grasslands. Over 90 percent of these fires are caused by careless people.

When building a fire, use common sense. First, build a fire only when and where it is permitted. Open fires are often prohibited in certain areas, especially during dry seasons.

Second, learn how to pick a safe place to build a campfire. Be sure there is nothing above, below, or near your fire site that might catch fire. Avoid steep slopes and gullies where a fire could escape the planned fire area and run uphill. Check wind direction and force, and be sure your fire will not be blown out of control.

Third, build a fire that you can control. Make a fire circle at least 10 feet wide around



Know what the current fire danger level is and what restrictions are in place.

the fire. Remove grass, leaves, needles, sticks, and any other kind of fuel from the circle area. Keep all flames and coals within the fire circle. Do not use flammable liquids like gasoline or white gas to start a fire. Feed the fire with one stick of fuel at a time to control how big the fire gets. Watch your fire closely; don't go off and leave it unattended. If the wind picks up or the fire grows too large, sprinkle the flames with water or soil

to make them smaller.

Fourth, remember to put out the fire completely when you are done. If water is available, use it to put out the fire; otherwise, smother the fire with dirt. Then mix the unburned fuel, dirt and ashes until all steaming and sizzling stops. Carefully feel with your hand for embers among the ashes. If you feel heat, add more water or dirt and stir again until all heat is gone.

TOP: Big fires like this one kill wildlife and destroy habitat. BELOW: A doe looks for food after the fire.



FRED CRAIG

**Life-Size Varmint Target**



SAGE RAT PHOTOGRAPHED BY TYLER DUNGANNON

**NOSLER**  
*Proud sponsor*

## 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.

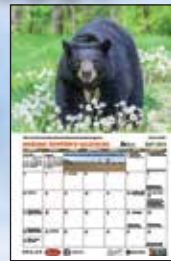
**Just \$10 for kids!**

\* 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](http://www.oregonhunters.org) [oha@oregonhunters.org](mailto:oha@oregonhunters.org)



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

## Good shots from Oregon's Young Guns



Gabe Goodson took his first bull in Douglas County last year in the Cascade elk season.



Brennan Pinther tagged his first archery elk last fall in northeast Oregon's Union County.



Cloee Wilson bagged her first buck last October in Oregon's Columbia Basin.