

2011 Game Animal Population and Hunting Information

Biologist: Bryan Murphie

District/Wildlife Area: District 17

Pheasant: Pheasant hunting should be good at two release sites – Chinook (near Ilwaco) and the Raymond Airport. Nontoxic shot is required on all pheasant release sites.

Quail: California quail occur in low numbers, usually in the farmland areas of the district. Also, timberland areas within the Skokomish GMU (636) and Satsop GMU (651) in District 15 and 17 may offer some good hunting prospects this year.

Forest Grouse: Ruffed and blue grouse occur throughout the district. This year should be an average to below-average year for harvest, as the wet spring and early summer may have negatively influenced juvenile grouse survival. Hunter's may find the most success away from areas with high hunting pressure.

Wild Turkeys: Individual and small groups of turkeys may still be scattered across the district; however, this District does not support a viable wild turkey hunting opportunity. Turkey hunting in this District is limited to spring hunting.

Waterfowl: Waterfowl hunting is exceptional and should continue to be good with the expected winter conditions.

Black Bear: Black bear numbers remain strong in District 17. Bear hunters are likely to find the most successful hunting in the coastal units north of Hwy 12; GMUs 638, 636, 642, and 648. Also, bear hunting has been good in GMUs 658, 660, and 672.

Cougar: Cougar hunting is largely done opportunistically while hunting other species. Cougar harvest is generally low in GMUs within District 17, averaging less than one cat per year in most units. GMU 648 consistently has the highest cougar harvest with a 10-year average of 3 per year, which may be related to accumulation of snow during the winter. Hunters pursuing cougars may find success focusing efforts on areas with persistent snowfall during winter, where tracks can key hunters in on areas of recent activity.

Deer: Provided weather conditions are favorable to hunting, deer harvest in District 17 should remain similar to previous years. Deer harvest is expected to be highest in GMUs 648, 651, 660, 663, and 672 and lowest in the coastal units, 618, 638, 642, 681, and 684.

Elk: As with deer, successful elk hunting is in part dependent upon favorable weather conditions during the hunting season, as well as elk numbers and hunting pressure. Elk hunting should remain popular in the Willapa Hills portion of this District. GMUs 658, 660, 672, and 673, are where elk harvest has been highest in recent years.

Additional Comments: Hunter access is usually highest in GMUs with considerable public land. GMUs 618, 638, and 663 have roughly the highest percentage of public land among GMUs in this District, however most GMUs contain some public land. Weyerhaeuser, Green Diamond Resources, and Rayonier are some of the major, private landowners in this District offering access to hunters. These companies should be contacted to determine access to specific areas. One source for information on land ownership is the WDFW's [GoHunt mapping tool](#), which can be accessed via the Department's website. Also, most counties offer online mapping tools for use by the public that identify land ownership. Consult the county assessor's office/website in the county you plan to hunt for more information.