

2014

DISTRICT 1 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

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DISTRICT 1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 1, in the northeastern corner of Washington, is comprised of seven game management units (GMUs): 101 (Sherman), 105 (Kelly Hill), 108 (Douglas), 111 (Aladdin), 113 (Selkirk), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 121 (Huckleberry) (Figures 1 and 2). The topography is dominated by four mountain ranges that run generally north and south: the Kettle, Huckleberry, Calispell and Selkirk Ranges. There are broad valleys in-between these ranges that are drained by the Kettle, Columbia, Colville, and Pend Oreille Rivers, all within the Columbia River watershed.

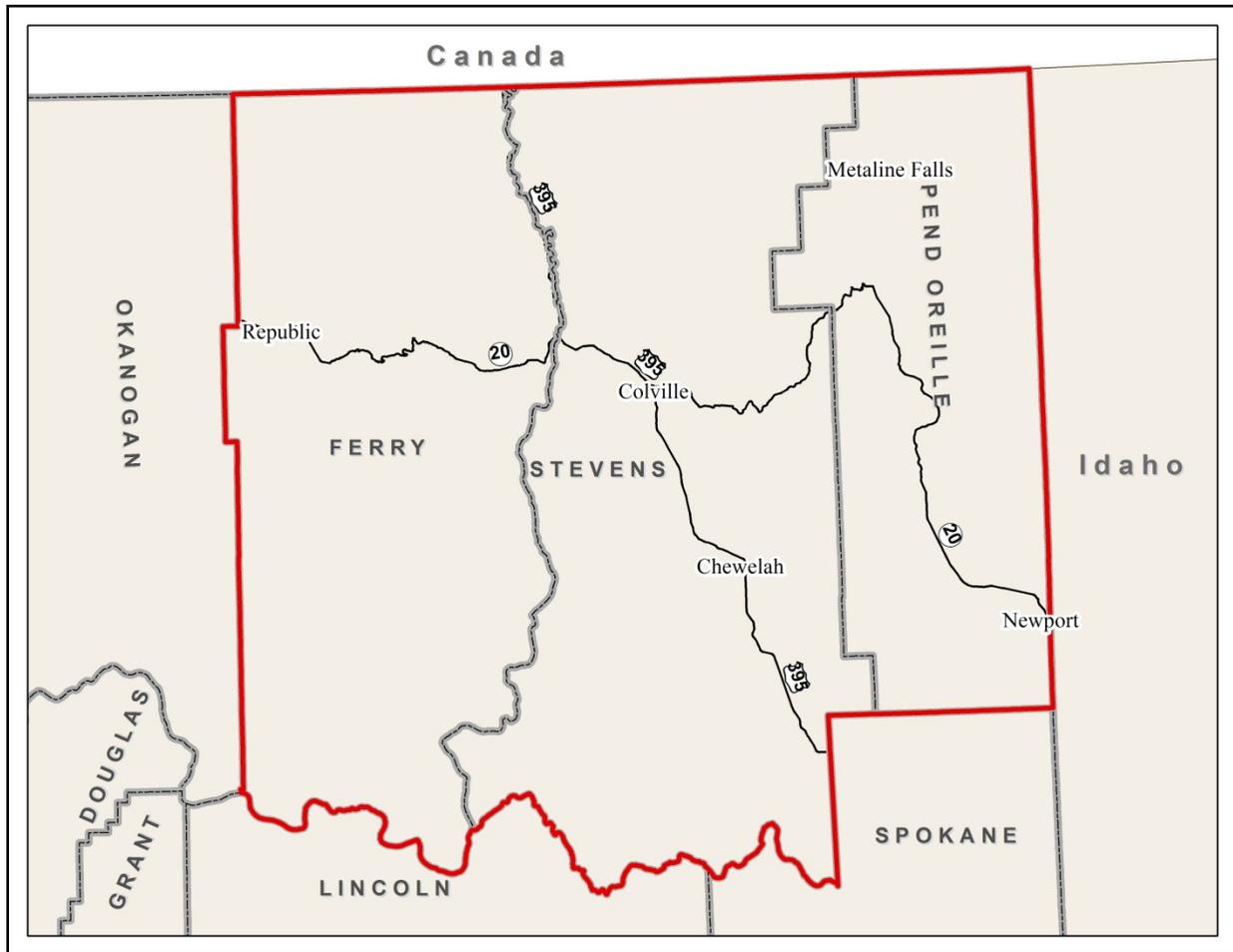


FIGURE 1. DISTRICT 1 IN NORTHEASTERN WASHINGTON INCLUDES FERRY, STEVENS, & PEND OREILLE COUNTIES.

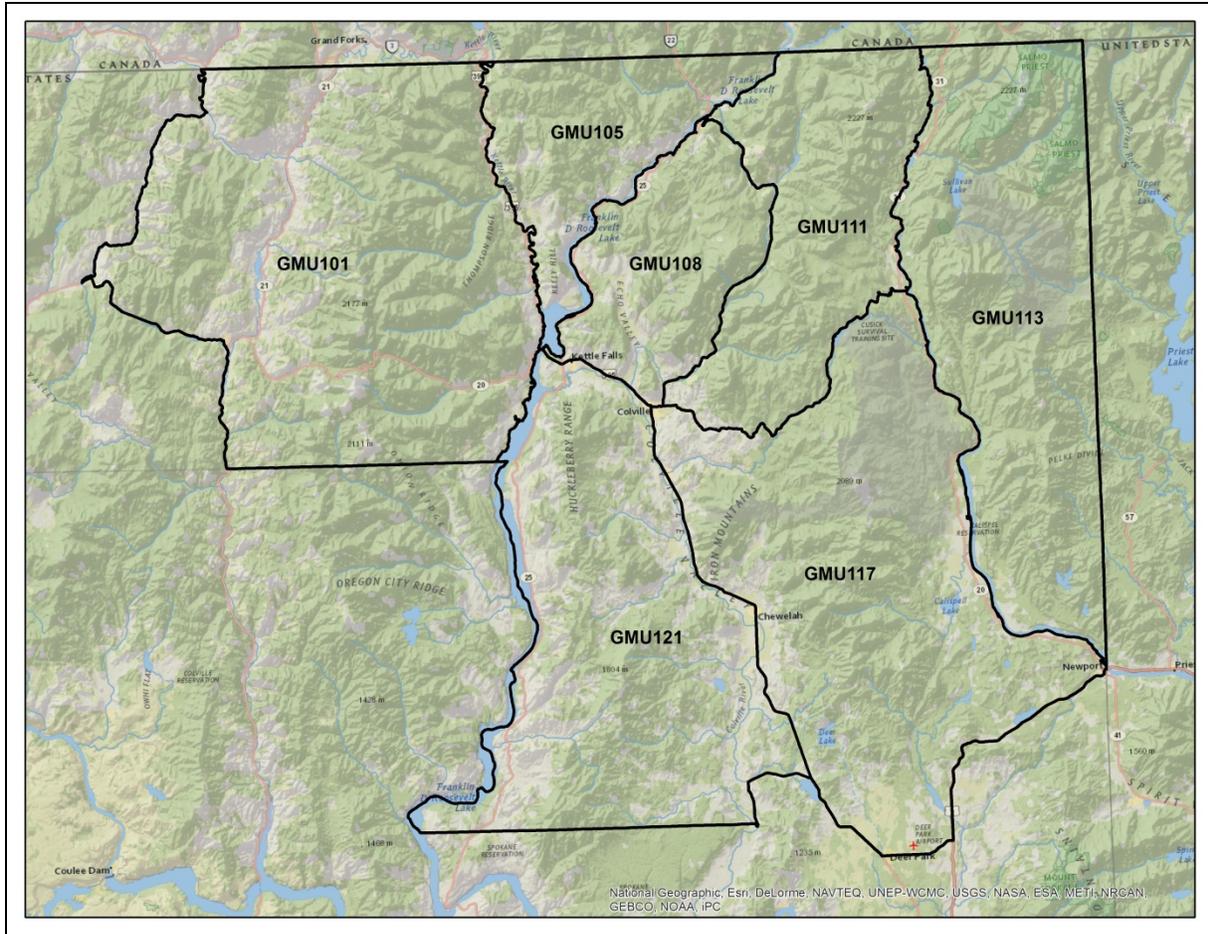


FIGURE 2. GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS (GMUS) WITHIN DISTRICT 1.

Elevations vary from about 1,290 feet at the normal pool level of Lake Roosevelt (Reservoir) to 7,309 feet on Gypsy Peak in the north Selkirk Range. Coniferous forest is extensive within District 1, covering about two thirds or 68 percent of the district’s landscape. Agricultural land, range land, and water features cover most of the balance.

Over one third (37 percent) of the land mass in District 1 is public land, mostly national forest, but also state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Additional public lands include federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and a few other government agencies. Most of the lands outside of Indian reservations are open to public hunting. There are large timber company lands open to public hunting, although not necessarily open to private motorized vehicles.

District 1 is well-known for its white-tailed deer, moose, and turkey hunting opportunities. Quality hunting opportunities also exist for other game species, including mule deer, elk, moose, black bear, forest grouse, and cougar.

Table 1 presents estimates of harvest and days per kill for most game species in District 1 during the 2013 general hunting season and how those estimates compare to the 2012 season and the 5-year average. For more specific information on harvest trends or permit statistics, please refer to the appropriate section in this document.

TABLE 1. HARVEST AND DAYS PER KILL FOR MOST GAME SPECIES FOUND IN DISTRICT 1 DURING THE 2012 AND 2013 HUNTING SEASONS. ALSO INCLUDED IS THE 5-YEAR AVERAGE AND A COMPARISON OF 2013 ESTIMATES TO 2012 ESTIMATES AND THE 5-YEAR AVERAGE.

Species	Harvest					Days/Kill				
	5-yr avg.	2012	2013	% change (5yr)	% change (2012)	5-yr avg.	2012	2013	% change (5yr)	% change (2012)
Elk	228	224	229	0%	+2%	88.7	83.4	88.9	0%	7%
Deer	4774	4745	4971	+4%	+5%	21.3	19.1	19.0	-11%	-1%
Bear	276	339	182	-34%	-46%	79.2	58.8	115.2	45%	96%
Cougar	19	24	34	+79%	+42%	Not available		***	***	
Ducks	8283	10555	11535	+39%	+9%	0.5	0.5	0.5	0%	0%
Geese	1979	1957	2992	+51%	+53%	1.3	1.5	1.1	-15%	-27%
Turkey	1908	1665	1659	-13%	0%	10	10	10	0%	0%
Forest Grouse	19534	10508	12532	-36%	19%	2.9	2.1	2.2	-24%	5%
Mourning Dove	82	178	47	-43%	-74%	0.8	0.4	2.6	225%	550%
Quail	896	1527	861	-4%	-44%	1.4	0.8	1.2	-14%	50%
Pheasant	953	1180	682	-28%	-42%	1.8	0.9	2.7	50%	200%
Rabbits	335	366	187	-44%	-49%	7.9	5.0	11.5	46%	130%

ELK

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

All elk that occur in District 1 are Rocky Mountain elk. There are 10 identified elk herds in Washington, and elk in District 1 are part of the Selkirk Elk Herd. The quality of elk hunting opportunities in District 1 vary from poor to fair depending on the GMU, but in general, opportunities are marginal. Elk are widely scattered in small groups throughout the densely forested region of northeastern Washington. As a consequence, elk in northeastern Washington are difficult to both survey and harvest. Population data are limited, but there is currently no clear indication that bull to cow ratios or opportunities for quality hunting are declining. The best elk hunting opportunities occur in GMUs associated with the Pend Oreille Sub-herd area which include 113 (Selkirk), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 111 (Aladdin). Elk hunter numbers in the Colville District have increased over the last several years. In recent years, WDFW provided increased opportunity or season timing to improve equity among the three hunting method groups. Hunter participation and harvest is now well dispersed across the Colville District through all three hunting methods.

In Washington, elk are managed at the Population Management Unit (PMU) level, while harvest regulations are set at the GMU level. Each PMU consists of several GMUs that collectively define the range of a population that minimizes interchange with adjacent elk populations. Population objectives are set at the PMU level—survey data are summarized at that level as well. The management objective for elk in the Colville District is being met with a sustained annual harvest of a viable and productive elk population with desirable population characteristics. While there are unreliable post-season survey data on bull to cow ratios, the prime bull (6 point +) percentage in the 2013 bull harvest was 24% which is indicative of desirable population characteristics for elk productivity and quality bull hunting opportunities.

Currently, WDFW does not make formal estimates or indices of population size to monitor elk populations in District 1. Harvest levels have been relatively low for the northern Selkirk Herd compared with other regions of Washington State. Consequently, devoting substantial resources to surveying bull to cow ratios has not been a high priority. Instead, trends in harvest, hunter success, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) or its inverse, days per kill, are used as surrogates to a formal index or estimate. WDFW recognizes the limitations of using harvest data to monitor trends in population size and we hope to begin monitoring populations using formal sampling designs in the future.

Increasing hunter harvest, winter and spring surveys, and anecdotal information indicate that elk populations are higher than they have ever been in northeastern Washington. High calf ratios as observed in spring composition surveys support the general observation of a growing elk population. For more detailed information related to the status of Washington's elk herds, hunters should read through the most recent version of the Game Status and Trend Report which is available for download on the Department's website at wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/game/.

WHICH GMU SHOULD ELK HUNTERS HUNT?

Probably the most frequent question we get from hunters is, “What GMU should I hunt?” This is not always an easy question to answer because it depends on what hunting method is going to be used and what type of hunting experience the hunter is looking for. For example, not all GMUs are open to muzzleloader hunters, and archery hunters are not allowed to harvest antlerless elk in every GMU.

Some hunters are looking for a quality opportunity to harvest a mature bull. Although large mature bulls do exist in District 1, they are not very abundant and we usually advise hunters to apply for special permit opportunities in District 3 (Blue Mountains) if they are searching for a better opportunity to harvest a large mature bull.

The ideal GMU for most hunters would have high densities of elk, low hunter densities, and high hunter success rates. Unfortunately, this scenario does not exist in any GMU that is open during the general modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader seasons in District 1. Instead, because of general season opportunities, the GMUs with the highest elk densities tend to have the highest hunter densities as well. For many hunters, high hunter densities are not enough to persuade them not to hunt in a GMU where they see lots of elk. For other hunters, they would prefer to hunt in areas with moderate to low numbers of elk if that means there are also very few hunters.

The information provided in Table 2 provides a quick and general assessment of how District 1 GMUs compare with regard to harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons. The values presented are the 3-year averages for each statistic. Total harvest and hunter numbers were further summarized by the number of elk harvested and hunters per square mile. This approach was taken because comparing total harvest or hunter numbers is not always a fair comparison as GMUs vary in size. For example, the average number of elk harvested over the past 3 years during the general modern firearm season in GMUs 108 (Douglas) and 113 (Selkirk) has been 9 and 23 elk, respectively. Just looking at total harvest suggests a much higher density of elk in GMU 113 compared to GMU 108. However, when harvest is expressed as elk harvested per square mile, we come up with an estimate of 0.03 in both GMUs, which suggests elk densities are probably more similar between the two GMUs than total harvest indicates.

Each GMU was ranked for elk harvested/mi² (bulls and cows), hunters/mi², and hunter success rates for the general season only. Then, the three ranking values were summed to produce a final rank sum (lower rank sums are better). The modern firearm comparisons are the most straightforward because bag limits and seasons are the same in each GMU.

For archery seasons you have to consider that antlerless elk may be harvested in all GMUs in the early season, but only 5 GMUs are open for any bull during late archery seasons. These differences are important when comparing total harvest or hunter numbers among GMUs.

TABLE 2. RANK SUM ANALYSIS THAT PROVIDES A QUICK AND GENERAL COMPARISON OF HOW TOTAL HARVEST, HUNTER NUMBERS, AND HUNTER SUCCESS RATES COMPARE AMONG GMUS DURING GENERAL MODERN FIREARM, ARCHERY, AND MUZZLELOADER SEASONS. DATA PRESENTED ARE BASED ON A 3-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE. AS A GENERALIZATION, THE LOWER THE RANK SUM, THE BETTER THE OVERALL ELK HUNTING OPPORTUNITY IS WITHIN A GMU.

MODERN FIREARM										
GMU	Size (mi²)	<u>Harvest</u>			<u>Hunter Density</u>			<u>Hunter Success</u>		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101	1,103	2	.002	4	104	.09	1	2%	4	9
105	296	6	.02	3	153	.52	3	4%	2	8
108	289	9	.03	2	159	.55	4	5%	1	7
111	455	10	.02	3	322	.71	5	3%	3	11
113	736	23	.03	2	711	.97	7	3%	3	12
117	954	35	.04	1	825	.86	6	4%	2	9
121	796	17	.02	3	368	.46	2	4%	2	7

ARCHERY										
GMU	Size (mi ²)	Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi ²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi ²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101*	1,103	7	.01	3	60	.05	1	11%	1	5
105	296	5	.02	2	63	.21	3	8%	3	8
108	289	4	.01	3	43	.15	2	9%	2	7
111	455	9	.02	2	104	.23	4	9%	2	8
113	736	19	.03	1	274	.37	5	7%	4	10
117	954	30	.03	1	384	.40	6	8%	3	10
121	796	10	.01	3	122	.15	2	8%	3	8
MUZZLELOADER										
GMU	Size (mi ²)	Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi ²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi ²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101	1,103	0	0	2	29	.03	1	1%	6	9
105	296	4	.01	1	50	.17	4	8%	1	6
108	289	2	.01	1	29	.10	3	5%	4	8
111	455	4	.01	1	83	.18	5	5%	4	10
113	736	9	.01	1	220	.30	6	4%	5	12
117	954	12	.01	1	175	.18	5	7%	2	8
121	796	4	.01	1	62	.08	2	6%	3	6

* GMUs bolded in the archery section are open during early and late archery seasons, all GMUs allow for antlerless harvest in the early archery season.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Elk populations typically do not fluctuate dramatically from year to year, but periodic severe winters can trigger substantial die-offs. The 2013-14 winter was moderate and consequently, populations available for harvest are expected to be similar in size compared to the 2012 and 2013 seasons. That said, the total hunter harvest of elk in District 1 is low compared to other WDFW districts, hovering around 250-300 animals a year since 2009.

HOW TO FIND ELK

When hunting elk in District 1, hunters need to do their homework and spend plenty of time scouting before the season opener because it is often difficult to predict where the elk are going to be, especially after hunting pressure increases. Elk within District 1 are scattered in small groups and often stay on the move throughout the year. With a lot of scouting to “pattern” these groups it is possible to increase your chances of harvesting an elk. Many if not most hunters spend great amounts of their time focusing on forest clear-cuts, which makes a lot of sense because elk often forage in clear-cuts and are highly visible when they do. However, there are many elk (especially bulls) that do not frequent clear-cuts during daylight hours. Instead, they spend most of their time during the day in closed canopy forests, swamps, or “reprod”. Moreover, those highly visible elk often attract many hunters and clear-cuts can get crowded in a hurry.

From a landscape perspective, some generalities can be made that will help increase the odds of locating elk. When going to a new area, hunters will benefit by covering as much ground as possible and making note of areas where they are seeing sign along roads and landings. Landings are an especially good place to look for sign because they are often not graveled, which makes it easier to see fresh tracks. This scouting approach will give hunters a good idea of what areas hold elk and where to focus their more intensive scouting efforts.

After those areas with abundant elk sign have been identified, hunters should focus in on higher elevation stands that provide cover and are adjacent to open hillsides and/or clear-cuts. During early seasons when it is warm, these areas often include creek bottoms, river bottoms, or any place that is near water. Once the season progresses and temperatures cool, elk are not as attracted to water and the challenge of finding them becomes more difficult. Hunting pressure also has an effect and will force elk to use areas that provide thicker cover or are more inaccessible to hunters because of topographical features.

Later in the season, it is a good idea to consult a topographic map and find “benches” that are located in steep terrain and thick cover because elk often use these areas to bed down during the day. Any snow cover generally enhances the elk hunters ability to find elk tracks. Hunting right after a fresh snow usually presents a particularly good advantage in tracking down an individual or group of elk, hot on the trail so to speak. Lastly, hunters should not let a locked gate in an otherwise open area (provided that non-motorized access is allowed) keep them from going in and searching for elk. More often than not, these areas hold elk that have not received as much hunting pressure, which can make them less skittish and easier to hunt. A popular approach to

hunting these areas is to use mountain bikes and trailers, which is not difficult given the density of maintained gravel roads that occur on timber company lands.

DEER

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

In northeastern Washington, white-tailed deer are the most abundant deer species. Mule deer are locally common, especially in the higher elevations and throughout Ferry County, but their overall numbers are low compared to white-tailed deer on a district scale. Deer hunting opportunities in District 1 vary from fair to excellent, depending on the GMU. The best opportunities to harvest a mule deer in District 1 generally occur in GMUs 101 (Sherman) and 121 (Huckleberry). All GMUs within the District offer good opportunities to harvest a white-tailed deer.

The white-tailed deer harvest management objective is to provide antlered and antlerless hunting opportunity for all hunting methods whenever feasible. The buck escapement goal is to maintain a ratio of at least 15 bucks per 100 does in the post-hunting season population and allow populations to increase by reducing the amount of antlerless hunting opportunity, while still attempting to maintain some opportunity for all user groups.

Management goals for mule deer are to provide conservative hunting opportunity, maintain a range of 15 to 19 bucks per 100 does in the post-hunting season population, and allow population levels to increase by managing antlerless hunting opportunity.

Surveys for deer in District 1 are conducted before the hunting season. Pre-season ratios come from ground surveys conducted during August (for buck to doe ratio) and September (for fawn to doe ratio). These ground-based surveys provide an estimate of fawn production for the year and buck ratios prior to hunting season (Figure 3).

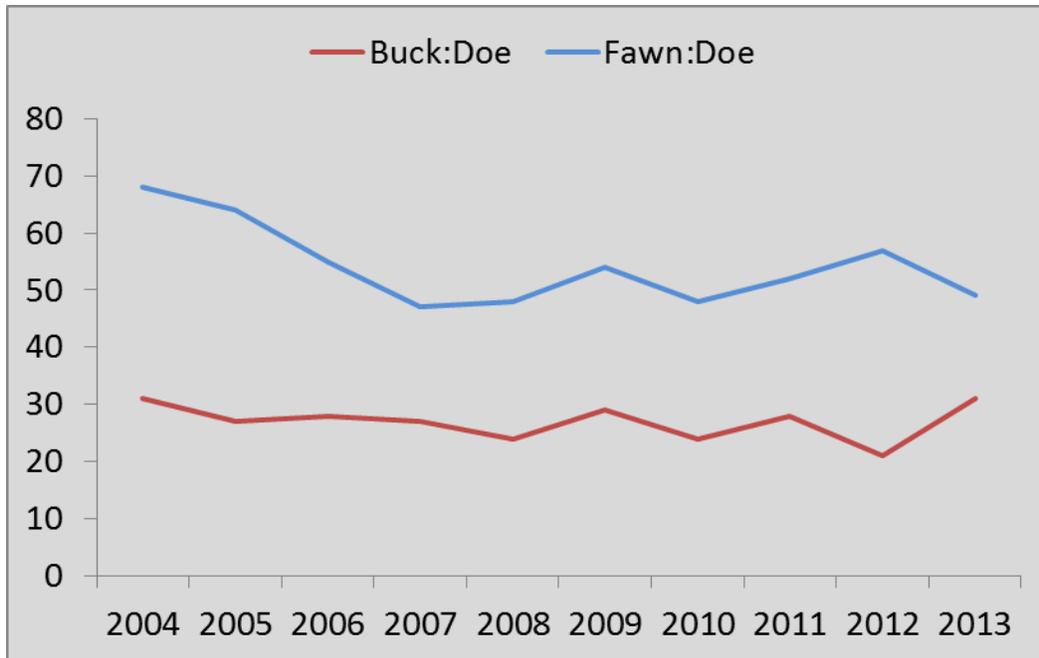


FIGURE 3. PRE-SEASON WHITE-TAILED DEER RATIOS FROM GROUND SURVEYS WITHIN DISTRICT 1. RATIOS ARE EXPRESSED AS BUCKS OR FAWNS PER 100 DOES.

All available harvest and survey data indicate white-tailed deer populations appear to be slightly increasing in all GMUs associated with District 1. Mule deer populations appear to be stable or slightly decreasing. For more detailed information related to the status of deer in Washington, hunters should read through the most recent version of the Game Status and Trend Report which is available for download on the Department’s website or by [clicking here](#).

WHICH GMU SHOULD DEER HUNTERS HUNT?

Probably the most frequent question we get from hunters is, “What GMU should I hunt?” This is not always an easy question to answer because it depends on what hunting method is going to be used and what type of hunting experience the hunter is looking for. Some hunters are looking for a quality opportunity to harvest a mature buck, while others just want to harvest any legal deer in an area with few hunters.

The ideal GMU for most hunters would have high deer densities, low hunter densities, and high hunter success rates. Unfortunately, this scenario does not exist in any GMU that is open during the general modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader seasons in District 1. Instead, because of general season opportunities, the GMUs with the highest deer densities tend to have the highest hunter densities as well. For many hunters, high hunter densities are not enough to persuade them not to hunt in a GMU where they see lots of deer. For other hunters, they would prefer to hunt in areas with moderate to low numbers of deer if that means there are also relatively few hunters.

The information provided in Table 3 provides a quick and general assessment of how GMUs compare with regard to harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader deer seasons. The values presented are the 3-year averages for each statistic. Mule deer and white-tailed deer are combined for this table, but it is a reasonable assumption that in GMUs other than 101, most of the deer harvested are white-tails. Total harvest and hunter numbers were further summarized by the number of deer harvested and hunters per square mile. This approach was taken because comparing total harvest or hunter numbers is not always a fair comparison because GMUs vary in size.

Each GMU was ranked for deer harvested/mi², hunters/mi², and hunter success rates. Then, the three ranking values were summed to produce a final rank sum. Comparisons are pretty straightforward because bag limits and seasons are the same for most GMUs. Differences that are present and should be considered are:

1. GMUs 117 and 121 have a 4-pt. minimum harvest restriction for white-tailed deer during most general seasons.
2. Mule deer have a 3-pt minimum harvest restriction during all general seasons except early archery in GMU 101.
3. Only GMUs 101,105 and 108 are open for any white-tailed deer during the late archery season and GMUs 121 and 117 offer a very short late archery season for 4-point minimum buck or antlerless white-tailed deer.

One of the best opportunities for Youth, Senior, and Disabled modern firearm hunters to take a white-tailed deer is on the first Thursday through Sunday after the October season opener (always on Saturday). For this year, these dates are October 16-19, 2014. During these 4 days these hunters can take either an antlerless white-tailed deer or a legal buck.

TABLE 3. RANK SUM ANALYSIS THAT PROVIDES A QUICK AND GENERAL COMPARISON OF HOW TOTAL HARVEST, HUNTER NUMBERS, AND HUNTER SUCCESS RATES COMPARE AMONG GMUS DURING GENERAL MODERN FIREARM, ARCHERY, AND MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASONS. DATA PRESENTED ARE BASED ON A 3-YEAR AVERAGE. AS A GENERALIZATION, THE LOWER THE RANK SUM, THE BETTER THE OVERALL DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITY IS WITHIN A GMU.

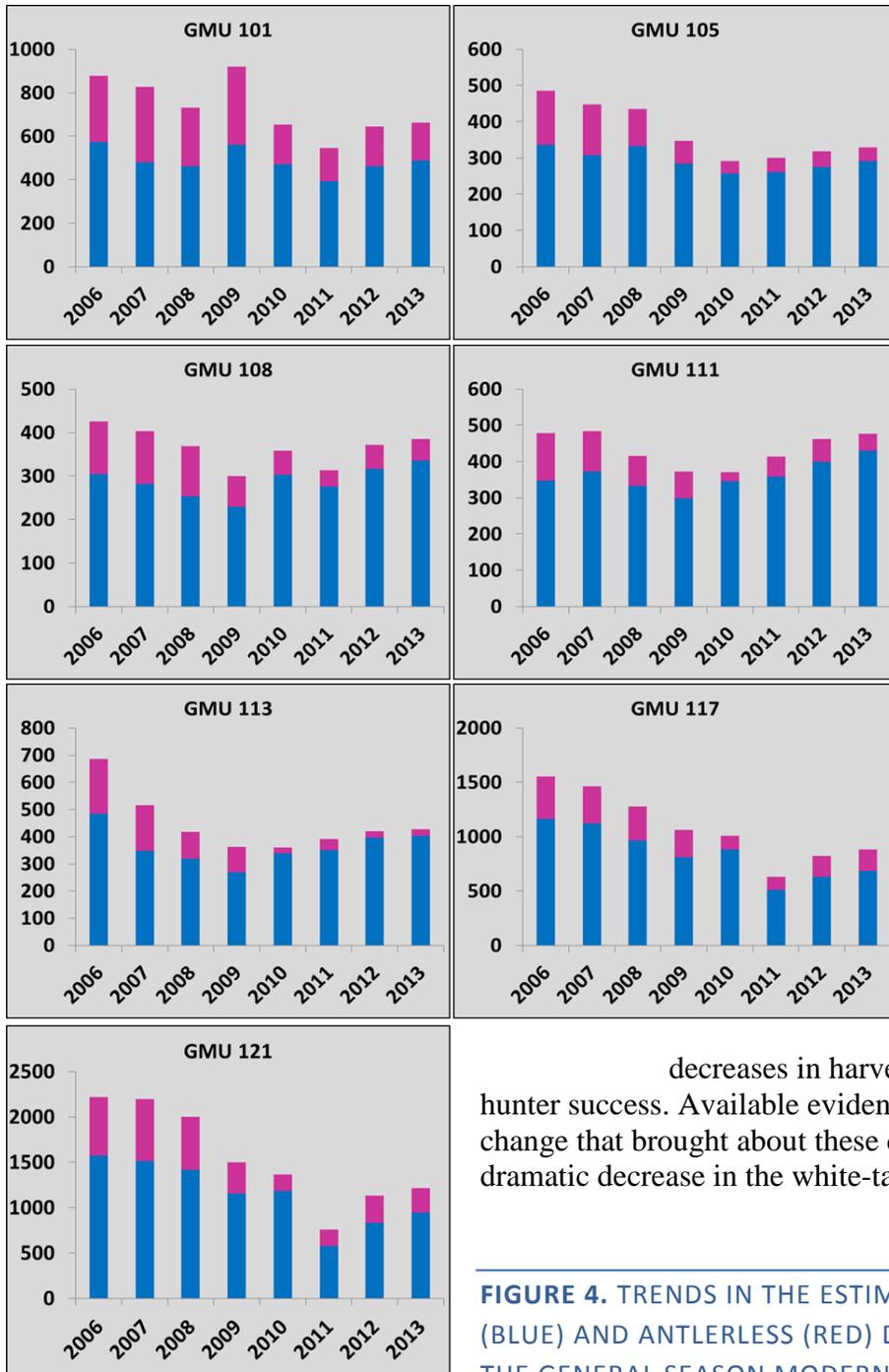
MODERN FIREARM										
GMU	Size (mi ²)	Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi ²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi ²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101	1,103	591	.54	6	2825	2.56	2	21%	5	13
105	296	295	1.0	3	1031	3.48	5	29%	2	10
108	289	335	1.16	2	1046	3.62	6	32%	1	9
111	455	443	.97	4	1515	3.33	4	29%	2	10
113	736	340	.46	7	1640	2.23	1	21%	5	13
117	954	651	.68	5	2994	3.14	3	22%	4	12
121	796	977	1.23	1	3515	4.42	7	28%	3	11

ARCHERY										
GMU	Size (mi ²)	Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi ²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi ²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101	1,103	237	.21	1	806	.73	7	29%	2	10
105	296	26	.09	4	130	.44	4	20%	5	13
108	289	42	.15	2	108	.37	3	39%	1	6
111	455	6	.01	6	55	.12	1	11%	6	13
113	736	12	.02	5	115	.16	2	10%	7	14
117	954	137	.14	3	577	.60	6	24%	4	13
121	796	111	.14	3	444	.56	5	25%	3	11

MUZZLELOADER										
GMU	Size (mi ²)	Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		Rank Sum
		Total	Harvest per mi ²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi ²	Rank	Success	Rank	
101	1,103	49	.04	2	192	.17	6	26%	1	9
105	296	6	.02	3	29	.10	4	21%	3	10
108	289	5	.02	3	24	.08	3	22%	2	8
111	455	10	.02	3	49	.11	5	20%	4	12
113	736	69	.09	1	337	.46	7	21%	3	11
117	954	5	.01	4	59	.06	1	7%	6	11
121	796	10	.01	4	54	.07	2	18%	5	11

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Harvest has been gradually increasing in District 1 over the past two years and we expect this trend to continue. Fall surveys for the past two years also have yielded slightly higher buck to doe and fawn to doe ratios. Recent moderate winters have likely contributed to increased over-winter survival of deer in District 1. While hunter check stations alongside state highways are



not mandatory stops, we experienced an increase in deer checked in 2013, and this could also be an indication of increasing hunter success.

A good predictor of future harvest during general seasons is recent trends in harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) or its inverse, days per kill. Figures 4 and 5 provide trend data for each of these statistics by GMU and are intended to provide hunters with the best information possible to make an informed decision on where they want to hunt in District 1. Keep in mind, that as of 2011, a 4-pt minimum restriction was imposed for white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121 which led to

decreases in harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success. Available evidence points to this regulation change that brought about these decreases and not a dramatic decrease in the white-tailed deer population.

FIGURE 4. TRENDS IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF BUCKS (BLUE) AND ANTLERLESS (RED) DEER HARVESTED DURING THE GENERAL SEASON MODERN FIREARM,

MUZZLELOADER, AND ARCHERY DEER SEASONS COMBINED IN EACH GMU FROM 2006 – 2013. HARVEST TOTALS DO NOT INCLUDE TRIBAL HARVEST OR SPECIAL PERMIT HARVEST.

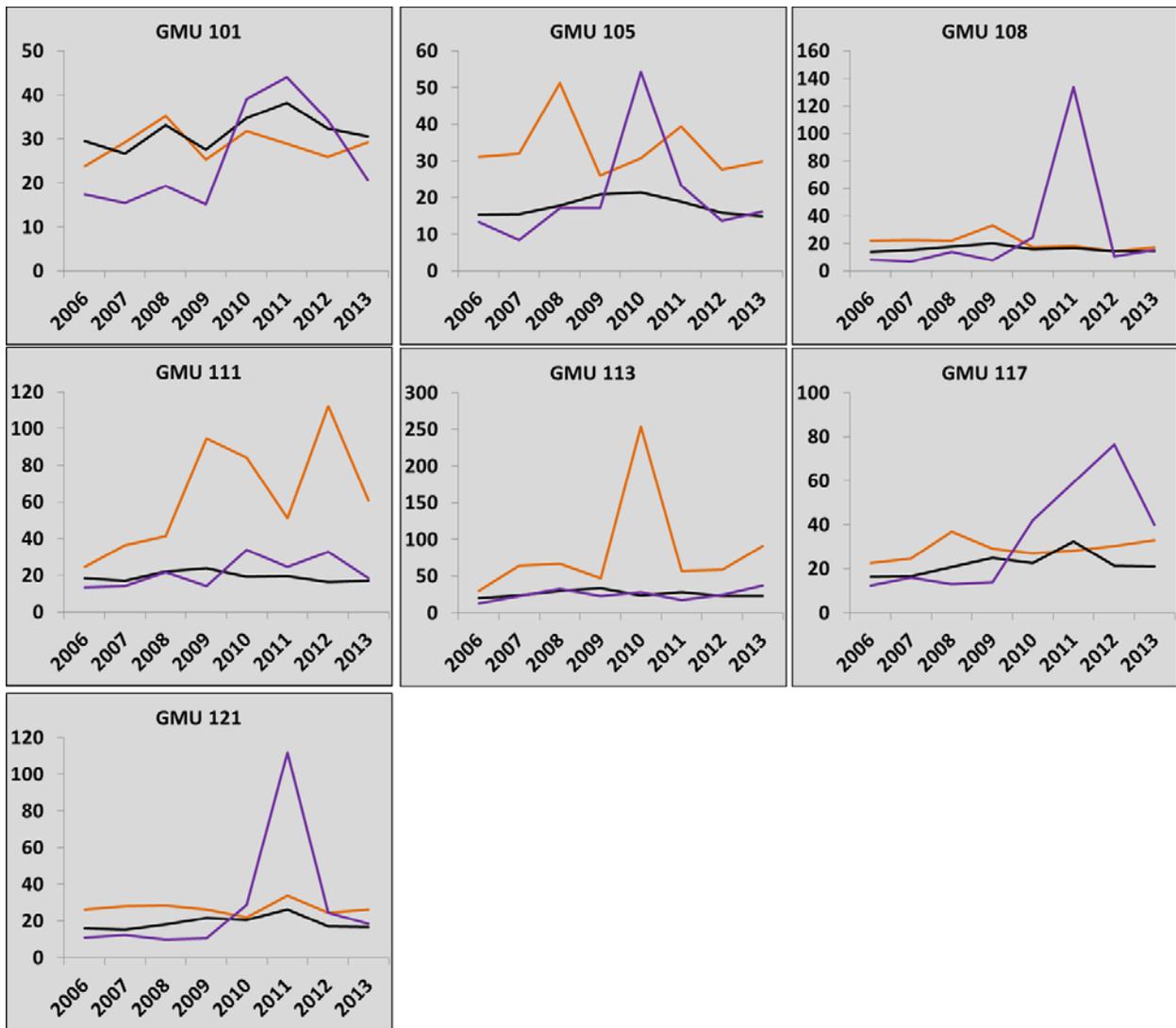


FIGURE 5. TREND IN DAYS PER KILL FOR ARCHERY (PURPLE), MUZZLELOADER (ORANGE), AND MODERN FIREARM (BLACK) DURING THE GENERAL SEASON FOR DEER IN EACH GMU WITHIN DISTRICT 1.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT WHITE-TAILS

As is the case with most game species, the key to harvesting a white-tailed deer in District 1 is scouting. White-tails occur throughout the District and occur in nearly every habitat type that is present. White-tailed deer densities are highest in the valleys and foothill benches bordering the valleys, especially in the farm-forest mosaic within GMUs 105, 108, 117, and 121. GMUs 101, 111, and 113 also have white-tailed deer, but with more localized distributions.

Many hunters you see will be hunting in or adjacent to agricultural fields or recent forest timber harvest areas because when deer are present, they are much more visible than in adjacent habitats. However, the deer know that as well and typically only use these more open areas at night and at dawn and dusk, especially once they have been disturbed by human presence. Therefore, it is advantageous for hunters to seek out areas a short to moderate distance away from these openings which provide more cover because often times, that is where deer are spending the majority of their day.

If a hunter is seeing large amounts of deer sign in an area, then odds are those deer are not far.

The traditional approaches to hunting white-tails generally include the following: Still-hunting, which is where the hunter is moving, but very slowly through a “patch” of habitat, stopping frequently to scan or glass with binoculars the vegetative cover ahead. The hunter looks for parts of a deer, like legs, an antler, or a portion of the body or head, as opposed to the whole deer which is usually not visible through the vegetation. Stand hunting is another technique. This method involves the hunter patiently sitting (rather than standing) in a treestand or on a stump, against a tree trunk, on a ridge rock, etc. in high deer use areas (highly traveled trails, habitat edges, bottlenecks, and funnels, etc.) until the deer show up. A third deer hunting approach is conducting drives. This technique involves at least 2 hunters, but ordinarily even larger groups to maximize its effectiveness. Here the hunters divide into “drivers” and “blockers”. The blockers position themselves in an organized spacing often downwind of a manageably sized patch of deer bedding habitat (thick woods, forested swamp, or heavy brush field). The drivers then slowly hike through the habitat patch alerting the deer and hopefully “pushing” them to the blockers. Sometimes it’s a good idea to post one blocker at the front of the habitat patch behind the drivers in the event that any deer double back to evade the drivers. Although each of these approaches is highly effective, there is another technique that is not as well-known or used as much as it could be. This includes rattling and grunting to simulate two bucks that are fighting over a “hot” doe. This technique is more common with Midwest and eastern white-tailed deer hunters, but can be effective here as well, especially in the days leading up to the rut (deer breeding season) in mid-November. A quick Google search on this topic will yield plenty of evidence to illustrate the effectiveness of this technique when conditions are right.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT MULE DEER

Mule deer occur in District 1, but in lesser abundance than white-tailed deer, especially east of the Columbia River. Although mule deer occur within every District 1 GMU, the highest density is in GMU 101. As is the case with most game species, the key to harvesting a mule deer in District 1 is scouting. The classical western method of hunting mule deer is sometimes called glass & stalk. Here the hunter uses good optics, binoculars and spotting scope, to scan from ridge tops and other vantage points to find the mule deer, pick out suitable bucks, and then stalk them to within shooting distance. Ordinarily the stalk entails a strategic hike and cautious sneak action. Much of District 1 does not offer the open country required for this method of hunting, but in some places, it does, and the effect can be deadly.

DEER AREAS

There are three Deer Areas in District 1. These include Republic (Area 1030), Parker Lake (Area 1031), and the Highway 395 Corridor (Area 1035). These Deer Areas are described in the Big Game Pamphlet in the section on Area Descriptions. They each offer deer hunting by special permit only that go beyond the general season opportunities. Note that the Parker Lake Area (1031) is only open for hunting by special permit.

NOTABLE HUNTING CHANGES

There are no notable hunting changes for the 2014 general hunting season.

BEAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

The goals for black bear management in Washington are to: 1) preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage black bear and their habitats to ensure healthy, productive populations; 2) minimize threats to public safety from black bears, while at the same time maintaining a sustainable and viable bear population; 3) manage black bear for a variety of recreational, educational and aesthetic purposes including hunting, scientific study, cultural and ceremonial uses by Native Americans, wildlife viewing, and photography; and 4) manage populations statewide for a sustained yield. For management purposes, the state is divided into 9 black bear management units (BBMUs). Harvest levels vary between BBMU depending on local population dynamics and environmental conditions.

District 1 consists of GMUs that are part of the Northeastern BBMU, which is one of nine BBMUs defined by WDFW. The current black bear hunting season guidelines for the Northeastern BBMU are designed to maintain black bear populations at their current level, which is not expected to result in increased impacts to big game herds. The metrics used to direct black bear harvest include: proportion of harvested bears that were female, median age of harvested females, and median age of harvested males.

WDFW does not conduct annual surveys to monitor trends in black bear population size. Instead, we use trends in harvest data as surrogates to formal population estimates or indices. Currently, black bear populations are believed to be stable in District 1.

Black bears occur throughout District 1, but population densities vary among GMUs. The best opportunities to harvest a bear likely occur in GMUs 101 (Sherman), 117 (49 Degrees North) and 121 (Huckleberry).

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Although there are hunters that specifically target black bears, we suspect that most bears are harvested opportunistically during general deer and elk seasons. Consequently, annual harvest and hunter success can vary quite a bit from one year to the next. Since 2004, hunter success in District 1 GMUs has varied from 4% to 18%. Hunter success is likely higher, however, for those hunters that specifically hunt bears versus those that buy a bear tag just in case they see one while they are deer or elk hunting.

Overall, annual bear harvest during the general bear season in District 1 showed an increasing trend from 2004 to 2007 before it declined sharply during the 2008 season. Harvest continued to fluctuate up and down, but in 2013 it sharply declined again (Figure 6).

At the GMU level, most black bears will likely be harvested in GMUs 101 (Sherman), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 121 (Huckleberry). Harvest numbers during the 2013 season compared to long-term (10-year) and short-term (5-year) averages suggests that the bear harvest has been decreasing in District 1 (Figure 7).

With only one year of decreasing bear harvest, it is hard to say if this is a temporary trend or a long-term trend. Gauging from the number of observed bears and bear complaints within the District, we expect bear harvest to be higher this year than last year and closer to the 5-year average.

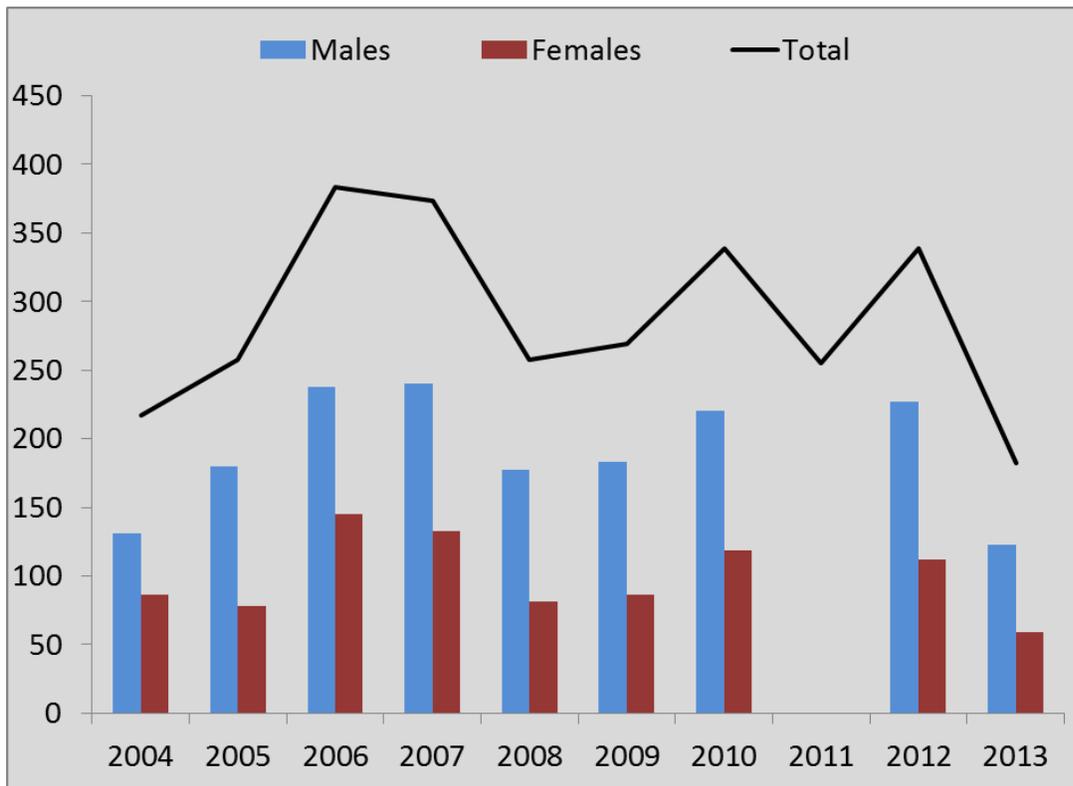


FIGURE 6. TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE BLACK BEARS AND TOTAL NUMBER OF BEARS HARVESTED DURING THE GENERAL BEAR SEASON IN DISTRICT 1, 2004–2013. HARVEST ESTIMATES DO NOT INCLUDE BEARS HARVESTED DURING SPRING PERMIT SEASONS OR BEARS THAT WERE REMOVED BECAUSE THEY WERE CAUSING DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE SEX OF HARVESTED BEARS IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR 2011.

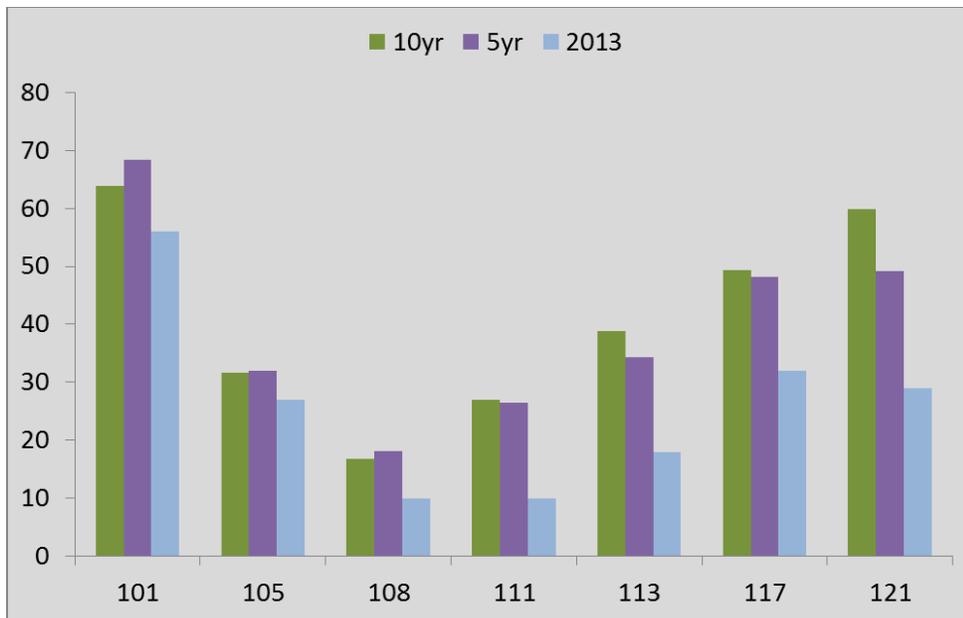


FIGURE 7. THE NUMBER OF BEARS HARVESTED IN EACH GMU DURING THE 2013 GENERAL BEAR SEASON IN DISTRICT 1. ALSO INCLUDED IS THE 10-YEAR AND 5-YEAR AVERAGE FOR TOTAL NUMBER OF BEARS HARVESTED IN EACH GMU.

HOW TO LOCATE AND HARVEST A BLACK BEAR

Scouting is an extremely important factor that hunters should consider when specifically hunting for black bears in District 1. Although black bears are fairly common and occur in some areas at high densities, they are seen infrequently because of the thick vegetation that dominates the landscape.

Black bears can occur in a variety of habitat types so it can be difficult to narrow down where to search for them. In the early fall, hunters should focus their efforts at higher elevations and in open terrain (e.g. open hillsides). Huckleberries ripen throughout the summer, but in the early fall the most berries remaining are typically at higher elevations. A good huckleberry patch yielding lots of fruit would be a good place to hunt.

Bears can also be located in recent timber harvests that contain a large number of berry-producing shrubs including huckleberries, serviceberries, snowberries, soapberries, and thimbleberries. During the fall, hunters need to find openings with these characteristics and hike through them to see if there is any bear sign. If they do find fresh sign, odds are there is a bear in the area that is frequenting that area often. If hunters are patient and sit for extended periods of time watching these areas, they stand a reasonable chance of harvesting that bear. Patience is the key.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

If you are hunting black bears within District 1 and especially within GMUs 105 and 113, we strongly encourage you to complete WDFW's on-line [bear identification program](#). There have been multiple grizzly bear sightings and reports in District 1. Grizzly bears are a federally threatened and state-listed endangered species. Killing one, either unintentionally or intentionally, can bring extremely costly fines and penalties. Just like with other similar looking game species such as elk, moose, caribou, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and others animal groups, Washington hunters are responsible for being able to tell the difference between black and grizzly bears. This knowledge and skill is critical in areas where the ranges of these two bear species overlap (Figure 8).

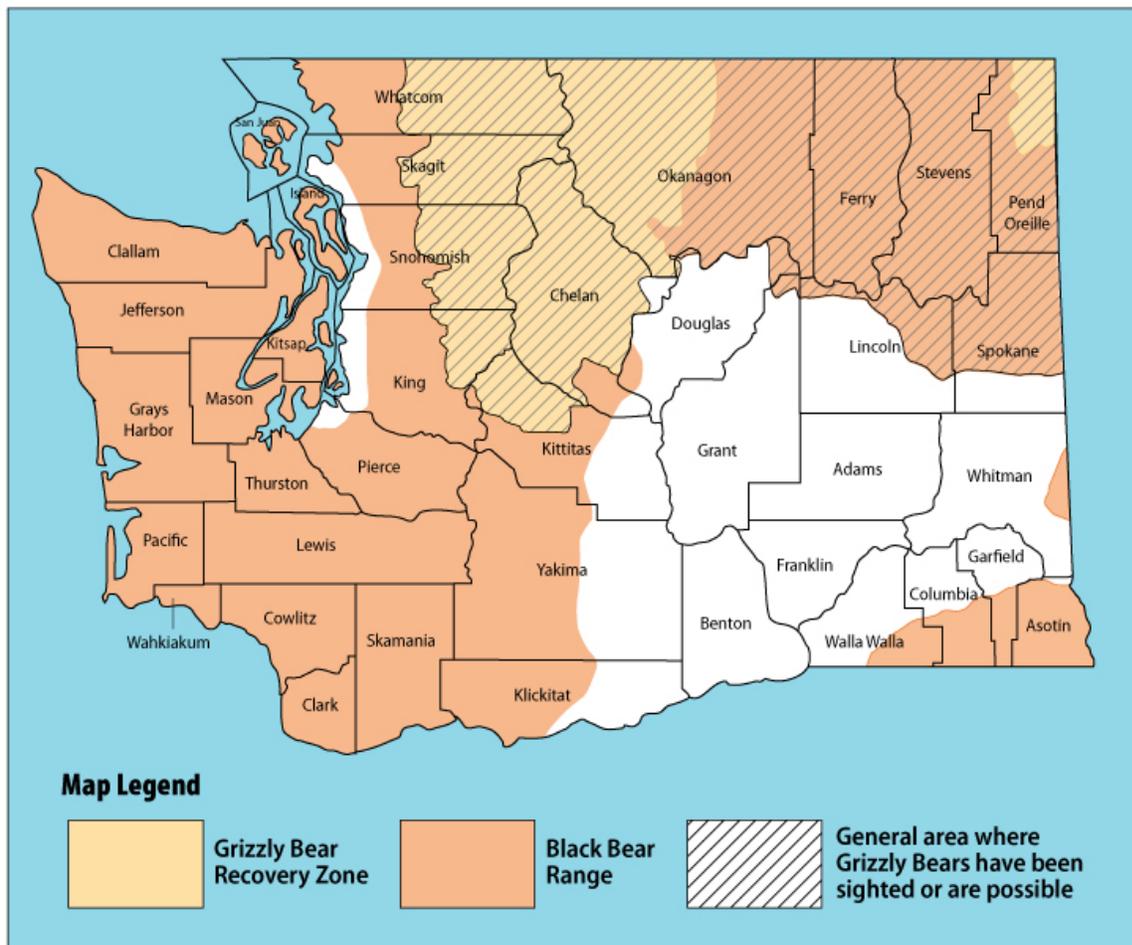


FIGURE 8. BLACK BEAR RANGE AND GRIZZLY BEAR SIGHTING AREAS IN WASHINGTON STATE.

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are no notable changes for the 2014 season.

COUGAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

Cougars occur throughout District 1, but densities likely vary among GMUs. Cougar populations in District 1 are managed with the primary objective of maintaining a stable cougar population. Beginning in 2012, WDFW changed the way it managed cougar harvest in Washington. The biggest change was associated with shifting away from using season length or permit seasons to manage the number of cougar harvested, and instead use a standard liberal season coupled with harvest guidelines. The intent was to have a longer season, without any hunting implement restriction, and only close cougar seasons in specific areas if harvest reached or exceeded a harvest guideline.

To accomplish harvest goals, WDFW established a series of hunt areas with standard season dates of September 1 through March 31. Harvest numbers are examined starting January 1 and any hunt area that meets or exceeds the harvest guideline may be closed. If you desire to hunt cougar after December 31, you need to first confirm that the cougar season is open in the area you intend to hunt. Harvest guidelines for each Hunt Area located in District 1 are provided in Table 4.

For more information related to the new harvest guidelines management approach, please visit the WDFW's website or [click here](#).

TABLE 4. HARVEST GUIDELINES AND 2013 HARVEST LEVELS FOR THE 6 COUGAR HUNT AREAS LOCATED IN DISTRICT 1.

Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	2013-2014 Harvest
101	7-9	5
105	2	2
108, 111	5-6	6
113	4-6	5
117	6-8	12
121	5-6	4

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Cougar harvest in District 1 has been increasing since 2009 (Figure 9). The average age at harvest has been variable for both males and females, but is typically 3 years or younger (Figure 10).

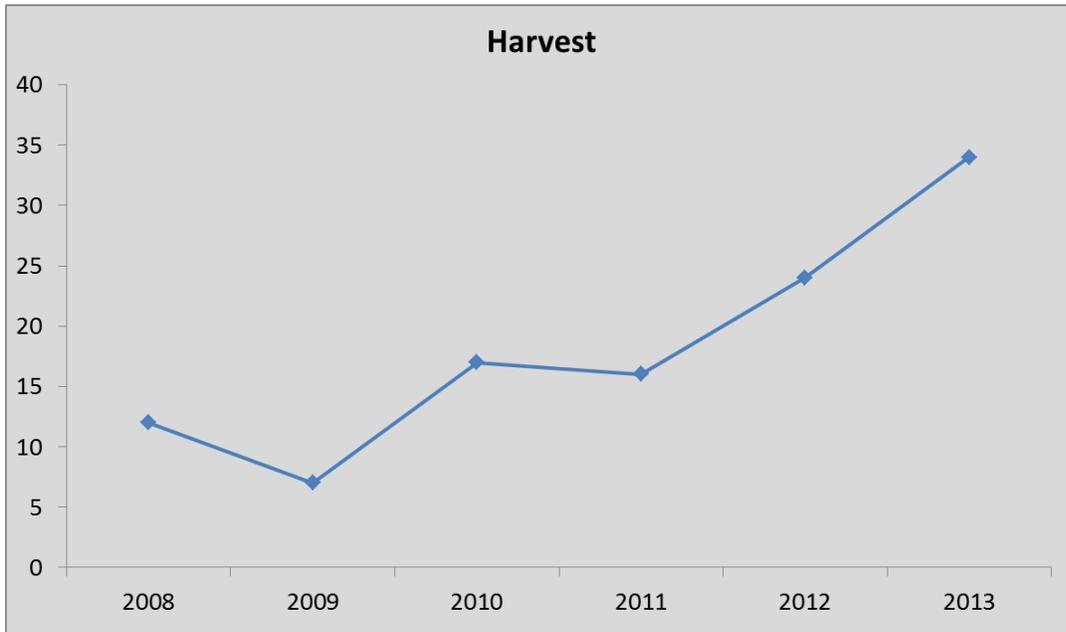


FIGURE 9. GENERAL SEASON COUGAR HARVEST IN DISTRICT 1, 2008-2013.

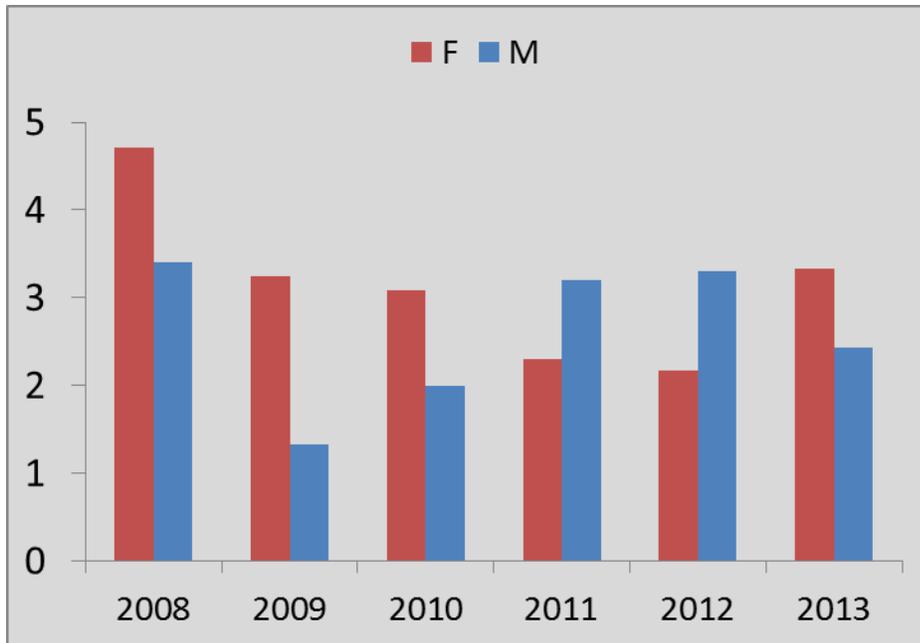


FIGURE 10. AVERAGE AGE OF THE FEMALE (RED BARS) AND MALE (BLUE BARS) COUGAR HARVEST DURING THE GENERAL SEASON IN DISTRICT 1, 2008-2013.

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are no notable changes for the 2014 season.

FOREST GROUSE

SPECIES AND GENERAL HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

There are three species of grouse that occur in District 1-- ruffed grouse, dusky (blue) grouse, and spruce grouse. Ruffed grouse are the most abundant and occur at lower elevations and valley bottoms. Spruce grouse are usually located in lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce stands. In District 1, these habitats are prevalent within Kettle and Selkirk Mountain Ranges. Dusky grouse can be found in habitats that occur at elevations between ruffed and spruce grouse habitat, but overlap does occur.

POPULATION STATUS

WDFW does not conduct any standardized surveys to monitor forest grouse populations in District 1. Instead, we use harvest data trends as surrogates to formal population estimates or indices of population size. Total harvest numbers tend to vary with hunter numbers so catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; birds harvested per hunter day) is the best indicator of population trend. In District 1, grouse populations appear to have declined since 2009 as CPUE has slowly declined from 0.55 birds per hunter day to approximately 0.45 birds per hunter day during the 2013 season (Figure 11).

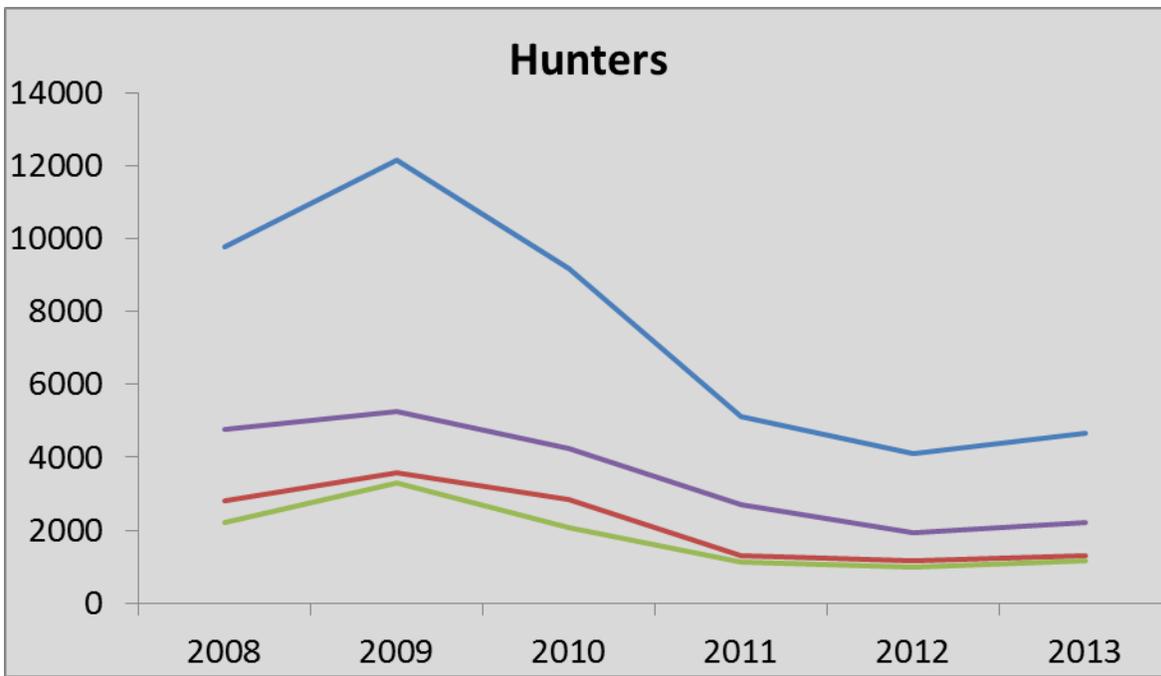
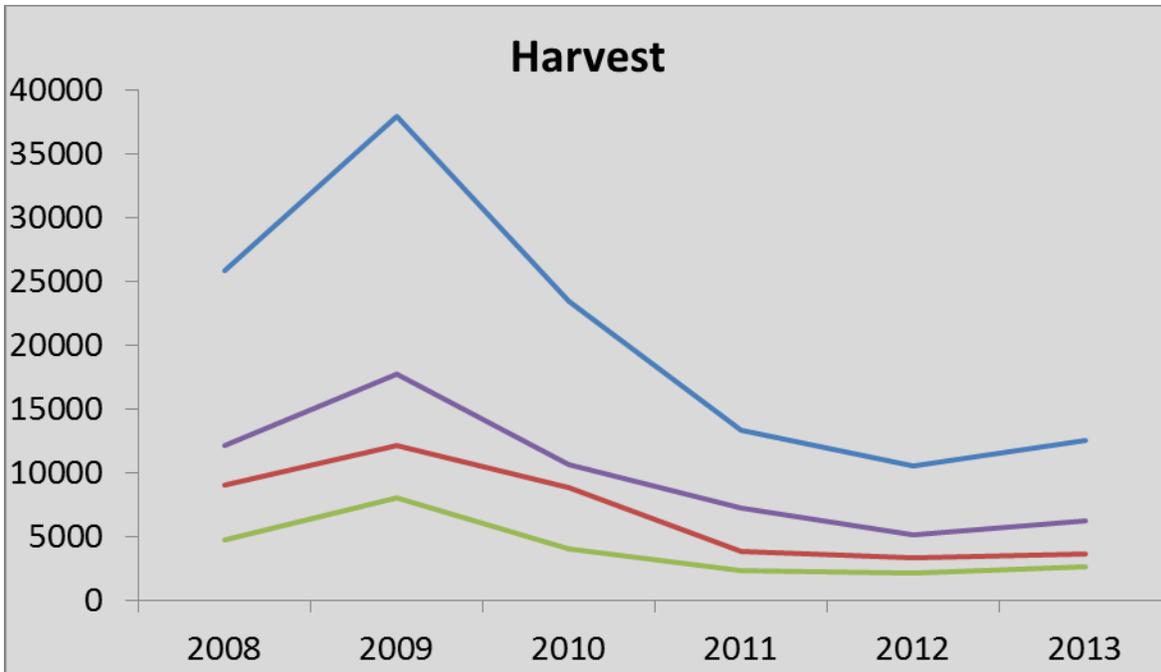
HARVEST TRENDS AND 2013 PROSPECTS

The total number of grouse harvested in District 1 has gradually been declining since 2009. On the other hand, so have hunter numbers, especially over the past few years.

Regardless of where they hunt, hunters could expect to bag somewhere between 0.4 and 0.5 grouse per day hunted.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES AND WHERE TO HUNT

In general, the most effective way to hunt grouse in District 1 is by walking little used forest roads and shooting them as they flush or after they roost in a nearby tree. Grouse tend to occur in higher densities along roads that do not receive much vehicular traffic. Consequently, hunters should target roads behind locked gates and roads that have been decommissioned by the respective landowner. Some forest grouse hunters use trained bird dogs, a team system that can be extremely effective. To learn more about how to hunt Washington's grouse species please visit WDFW's upland bird hunting webpage or [click here](#).



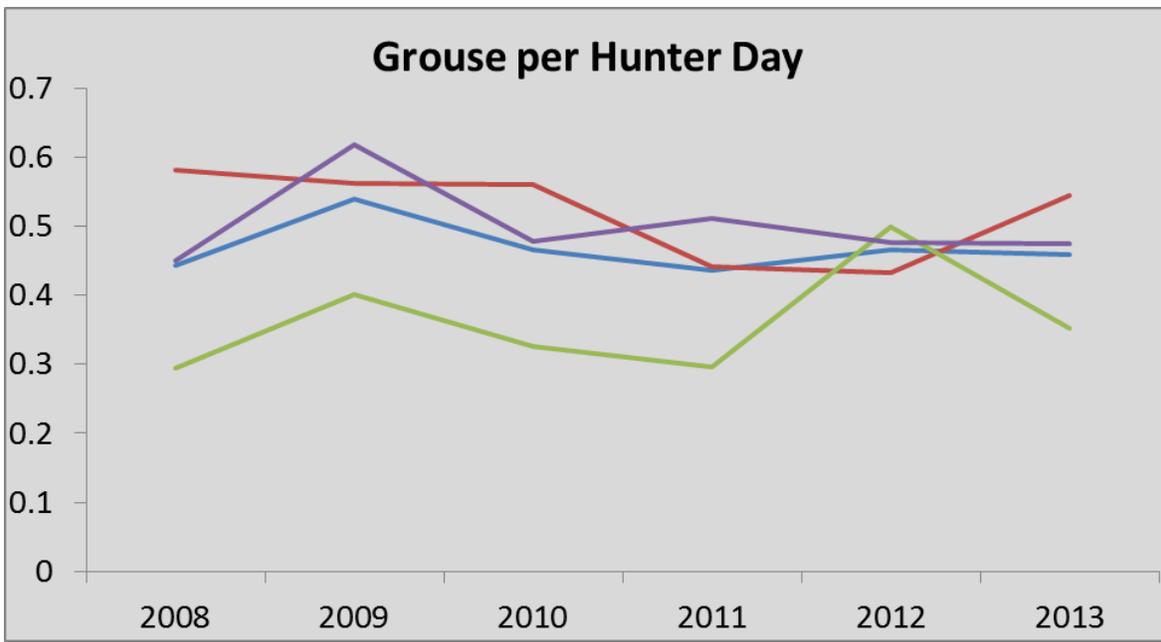
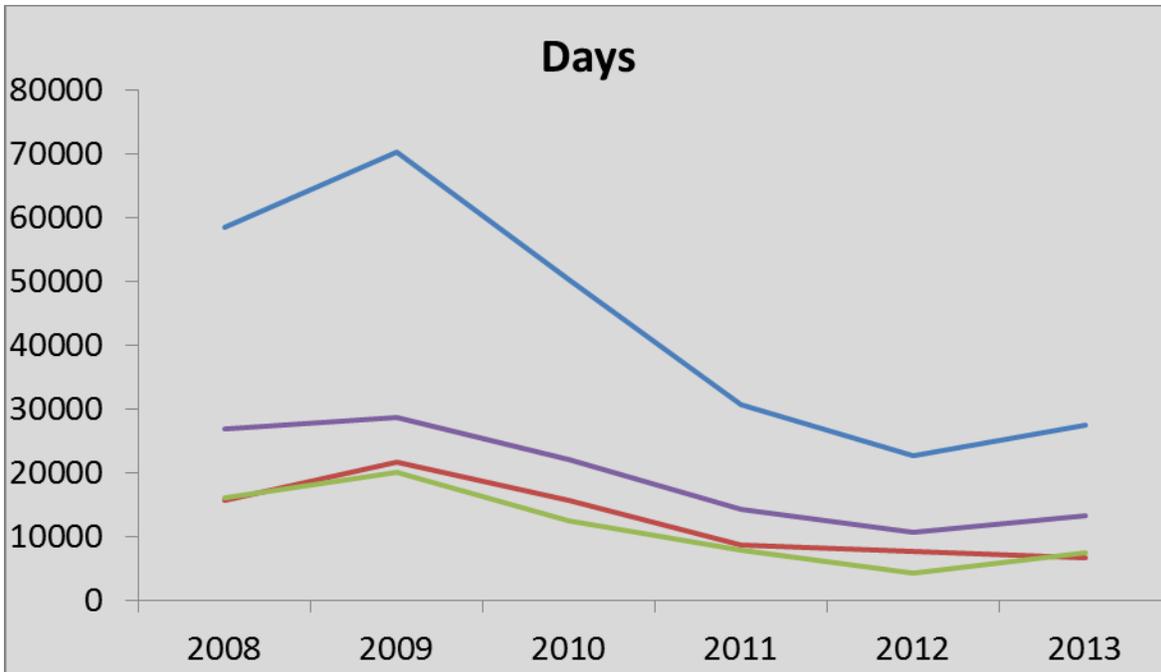


FIGURE 11. TRENDS IN TOTAL HARVEST, HUNTER NUMBERS, HUNTER DAYS, AND FOREST GROUSE PER HUNTER DAY DURING GROUSE SEASONS IN FERRY COUNTY (RED), STEVENS COUNTY (PURPLE), PEND OREILLE COUNTY (GREEN) AND THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 1 (BLUE), 2008–2013.

PHEASANTS

There is only a small, range-limited population of wild pheasants in District 1. Consequently, most pheasant hunting opportunity within District 1 is associated with the Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement and Release Program. The primary intent of this program is to provide an upland bird hunting opportunity and to encourage participation from young and older-aged hunters. Each year, thousands of pheasants are released at 33 sites and one of those sites (Sherman Creek) occurs in District 1. The Sherman Creek Release Site is located in Ferry County on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area (Figure 12).

To protect other wildlife species including waterfowl and raptors, nontoxic shot is now required for all upland bird, dove, and band-tailed pigeon hunting on all pheasant release sites statewide. If you hunt any of these release sites, you may use only approved nontoxic shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading). Possession of lead shot is also regulated on some wildlife areas. See Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Seasons [pamphlet](#) for more information. To learn more about the Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement and Release Program [click here](#).

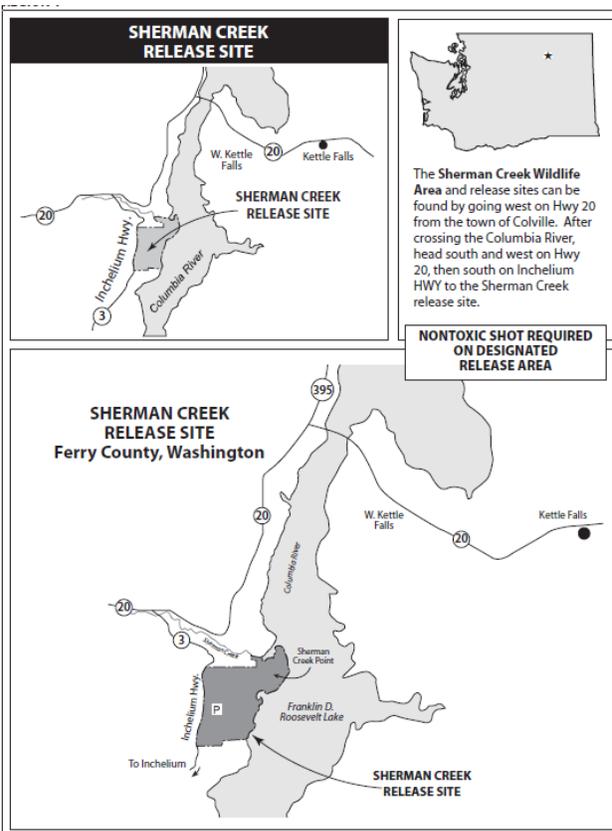


FIGURE 12. MAP OF THE SHERMAN CREEK PHEASANT RELEASE SITE IN FERRY COUNTY.

TURKEYS

The turkeys found in District 1 are Merriam's Wild Turkeys. Merriam's turkeys flourished here after being established in 1961 but then slowly declined. Since a large transplant from South Dakota in 1988-89, this population has steadily expanded its range and density.



FIGURE 13. FALL (RED), SPRING (GREEN), AND TOTAL (BLUE) ESTIMATED TURKEY HARVEST FOR EACH GMU IN DISTRICT 1, 2008 – 2013. DATA FROM 2011 DO NOT HAVE SEPARATE HARVEST ESTIMATES FOR FALL AND SPRING SEASONS.



FIGURE 14. TOTAL NUMBER OF TURKEY HUNTERS (SPRING + FALL) FOR EACH GMU IN DISTRICT 1, 2008 – 2013.

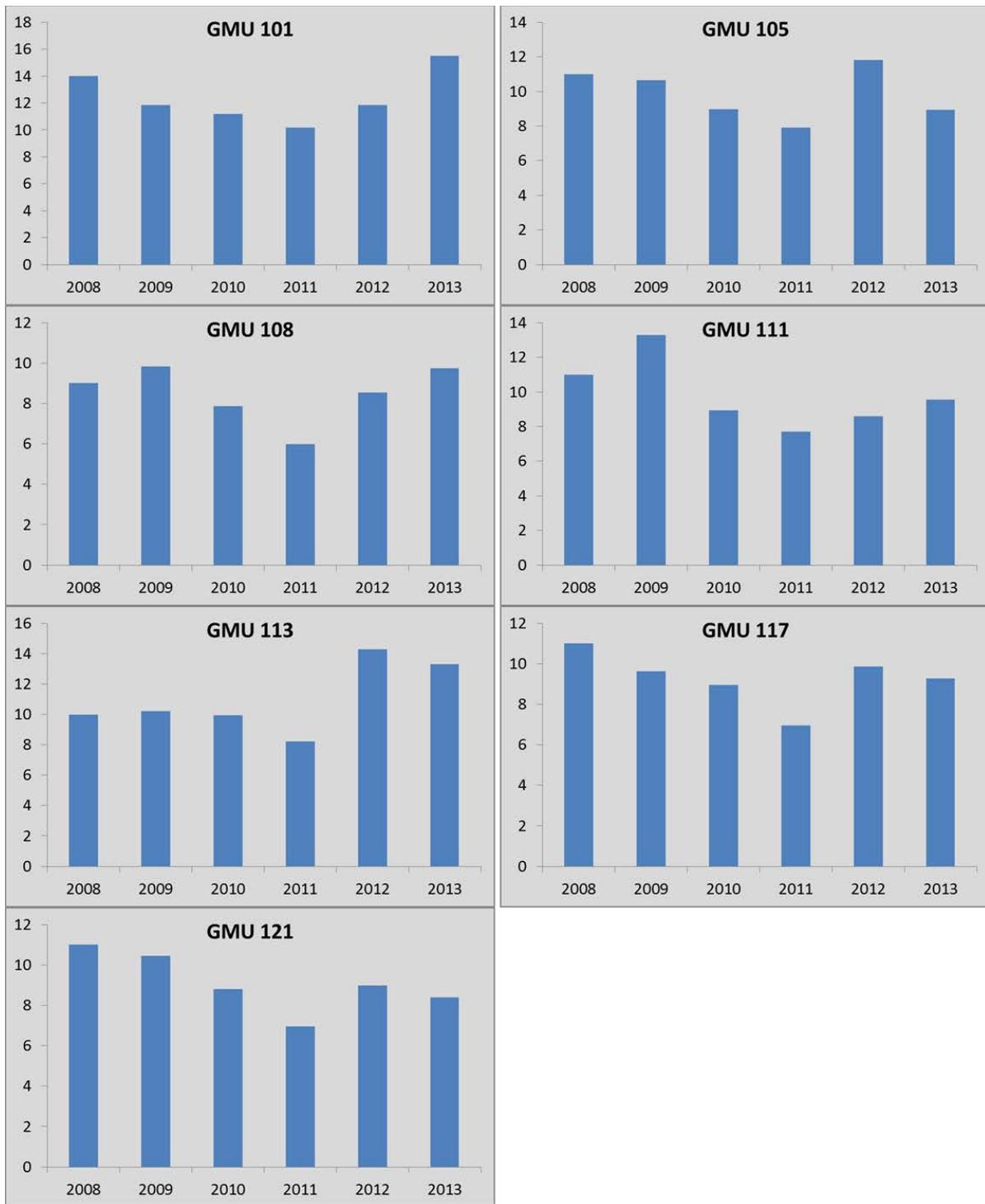


FIGURE 15. TURKEY HUNTER DAYS PER HARVEST FOR EACH GMU IN DISTRICT 1, 2008 – 2013.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT TURKEYS IN THE SPRING

Increasing daylight between late winter and early spring triggers the beginning of breeding season, although unusually prolonged cold, wet, or warm weather may delay or advance it. Gobbling and strutting start well before mating while turkeys are still on their winter range, usually in late March or early April. There are normally two peaks of gobbling—the first when males are calling females not yet nesting, and the second, a few weeks later, when most hens are incubating eggs. Finding these gobbling toms, and moving close enough to call them in without “bumping” (flushing) them is the challenge and excitement to traditional spring turkey hunting.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT TURKEYS IN THE FALL

During fall and winter, the wild turkey’s priorities are food and roosting areas. In the fall, food remains critical for growth of poults (juvenile turkeys) and for adults adding fat reserves, so forest edges that offer seeds, nuts and fruits as well as some green vegetation are sought out. At this time of year, turkeys are at their highest population and widest distribution within northeastern Washington including District 1. Then as autumn wears on and snowfall comes, the turkeys gradually constrict their range to lower elevations. Where agriculture predominates, a mosaic of short grass fields or cropland and forest is generally the best place to find turkeys.

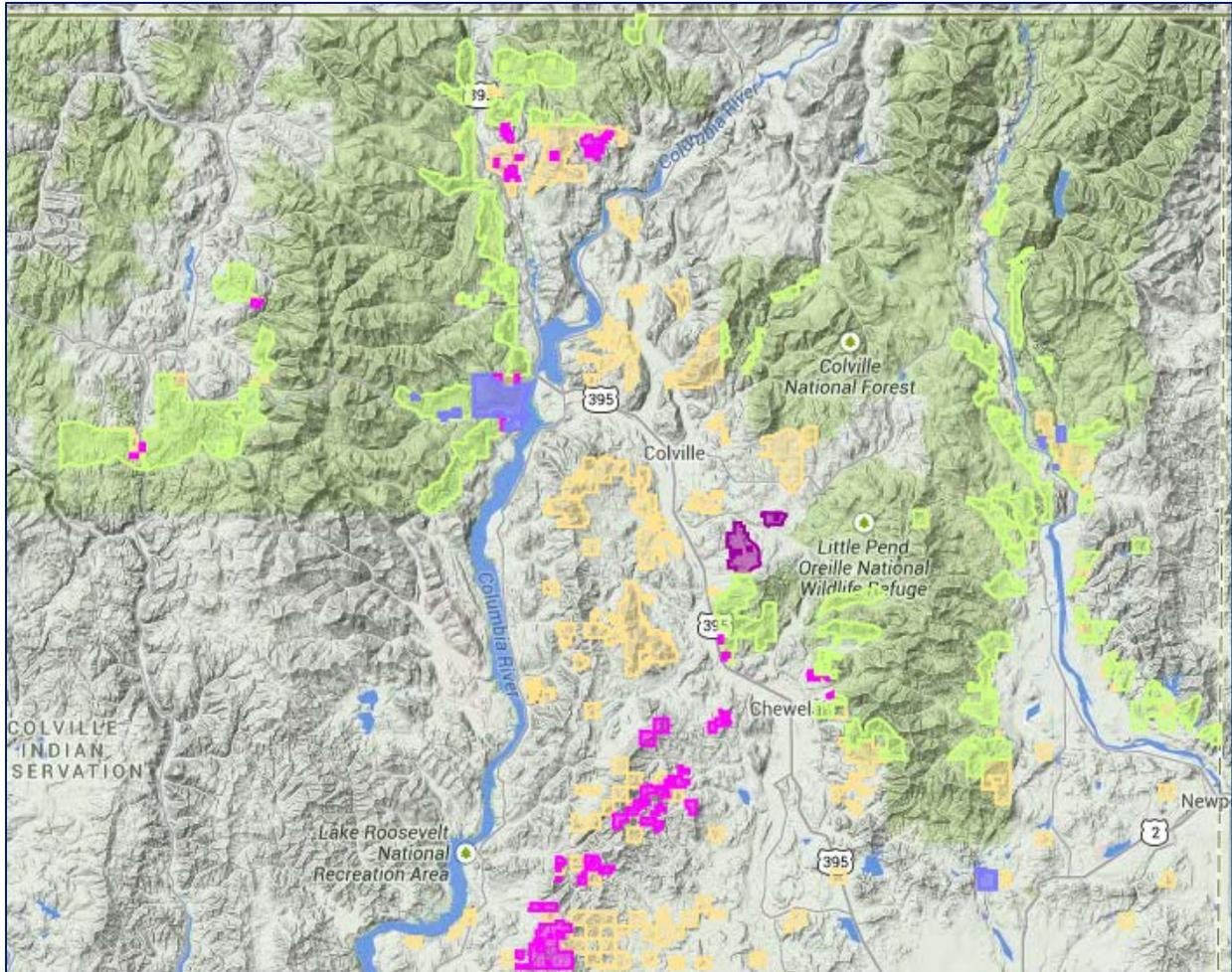


FIGURE 16. MAP DEPICTING PUBLIC LANDS THAT ARE GOOD FOR TURKEY HUNTING. THIS MAP IS PRODUCED BY MAP METRICS AND CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

WATERFOWL

COMMON SPECIES

A wide variety of ducks occur in District 1. Common dabbling ducks include mallard, gadwall, American wigeon, green-wing teal, and northern shoveler. Diving ducks are also present including bufflehead, scaup, ring-necked ducks, redheads, goldeneyes, and mergansers. Nesting wood ducks can be located in the Pend Oreille, Colville, and Kettle River Valleys and can provide a unique hunting opportunity early in the season. Mallards are the most abundant duck species in Washington and constitute the majority of ducks harvested statewide (typically \geq 50%). They are a commonly harvested duck in District 1 as well.

Canada geese are the only wild goose commonly found within District One. They are abundant in the Pend Oreille, Colville, and Kettle River Valleys, especially in the widest valley bottom areas where there is extensive farmland cultivation.

BEST HUNTING AREAS

PEND OREILLE RIVER

The “upper” Pend Oreille River from Newport downstream to Usk probably offers the best general waterfowl hunting opportunity within northeastern Washington. Outside of the east shoreline alongside the Kalispell Indian Reservation most of the river itself is open for hunting along with a number of islands. In most instances a boat is required, either as a hunting blind in itself or for access to islands and sandbars which are open to hunting. There are also Pend Oreille Public Utility District lands as well as U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service refuge lands (the “Cusick” Unit) open to public hunting. These parcels are located near the mouths of Tacoma and Trimble Creeks into the Pend Oreille River.

Dabbling Ducks: -Moderate numbers during migration, mostly gadwall, wigeon, teal, mallards, and some pintails.

Diving Ducks; Moderate numbers with highest densities during peak migration periods.

Geese: Canada geese occur in greatest abundance in this part of District 1.

LAKE ROOSEVELT

Lake Roosevelt up to the 1310 feet elevation contour is mostly federally owned and managed by the National Park Service. Much of the lake shore also borders the Colville and Spokane Indian Reservations, however, and in these areas the tribes manage the shoreline area. As such, where you can legally hunt is somewhat complicated. A telephone call to the National Park Service for clarification would be prudent before hunting. The NPS Office at Kettle Falls, WA can be reached at 509-738-6266.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon and mallards.
Diving Ducks: Relatively few but higher densities during peak migration periods.
Geese: Canada geese have a scattered distribution in this hundred mile long reservoir, and can occur in high numbers during peak migration.

COLVILLE AND KETTLE VALLEYS

Almost all of the valley bottoms are private lands, so obtaining written permission for hunting access is essential. Ducks are most common where there are slow, meandering streams, sloughs, and/or farm ponds. Geese are most common in the agricultural areas.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly mallards.
Diving Ducks: Relatively few, but higher densities during peak migration periods, especially on the Colville River.
Geese: Canada geese are fairly evenly distributed in the Colville Valley. When heavy snowfall covers fields late in the season, however, they tend to migrate south to warmer, snow-free areas.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES

How hunters go about hunting ducks is largely dependent on where they choose to hunt. When hunting inland waters associated with ponds and rivers, or feeding areas, traditional setups work the best and birds are most active during early morning and late afternoon as they move from resting areas to feeding areas. See [“Let’s Go Waterfowling.”](#)

The techniques employed to harvest geese are pretty standard; find agricultural areas where geese are feeding and set up your spread well before daylight in parts of the fields you expect the geese to concentrate. In District 1, agricultural areas where feeding geese congregate generally include hay fields and winter wheat (or other cereal grain crop) fields. Because of this, most goose hunting opportunities occur on private property and require hunters to gain permission before hunting.

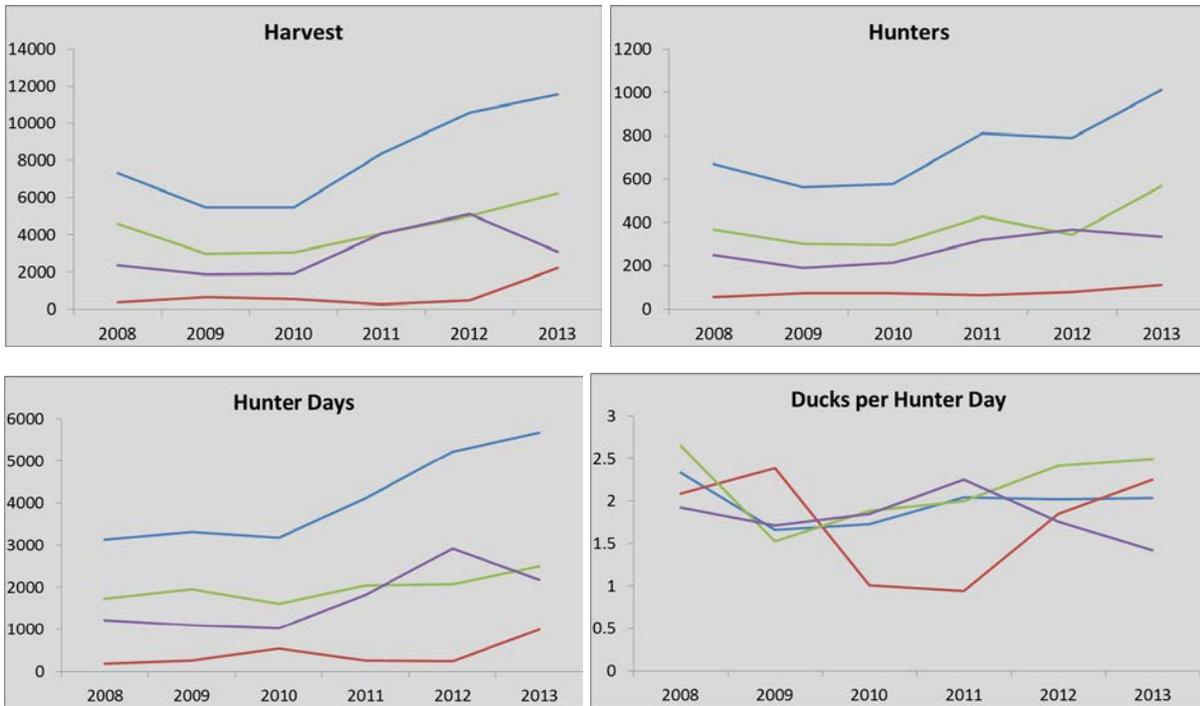


FIGURE 17. TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF DUCK HUNTERS, HUNTER DAYS, TOTAL DUCKS HARVESTED, AND DUCKS HARVESTED PER HUNTER DAY IN FERRY COUNTY (RED), STEVENS COUNTY (PURPLE), PEND OREILLE COUNTY (GREEN), AND THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 1 (BLUE), 2008 – 2013.

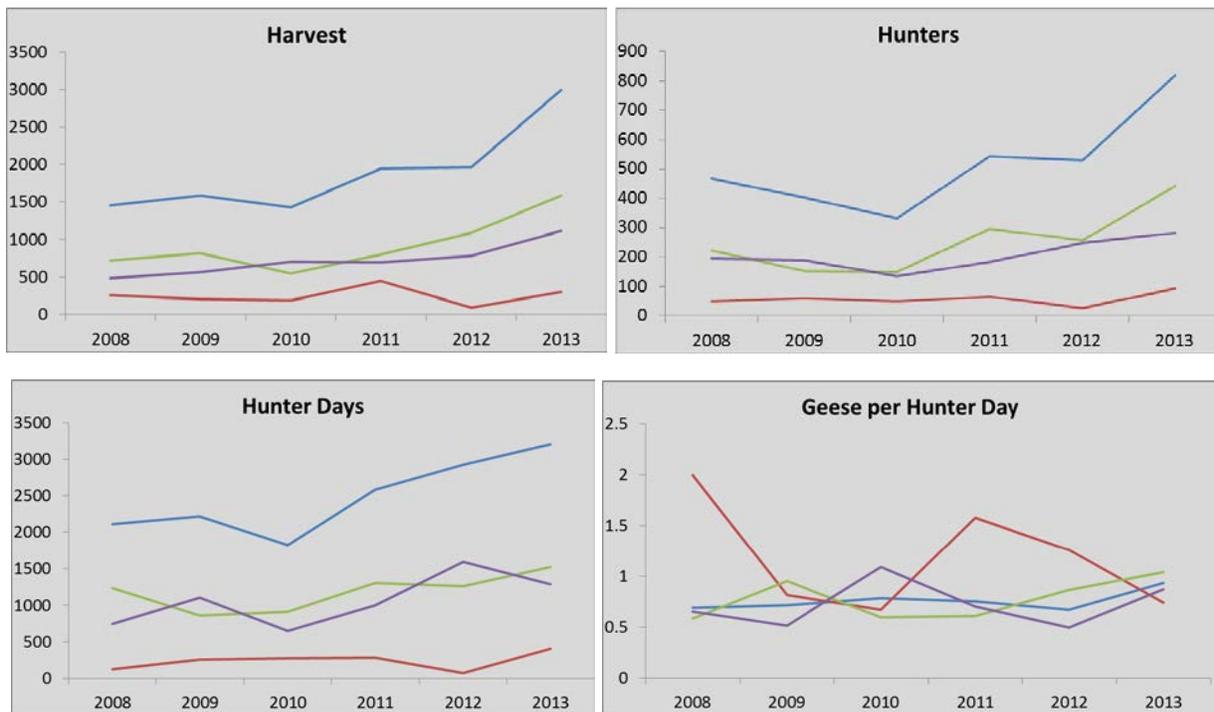


FIGURE 18. TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF GOOSE HUNTERS, HUNTER DAYS, TOTAL GEESSE HARVESTED, AND GEESSE HARVESTED PER HUNTER DAY IN FERRY COUNTY (RED), STEVENS COUNTY (PURPLE), PEND OREILLE COUNTY (GREEN), AND THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 1 (BLUE), 2008 – 2013.

OTHER SMALL GAME SPECIES

Other small game species that occur in District 1 but are not covered in detail include valley quail, Hungarian (gray) partridge, snowshoe hare, bobcat, and coyote. Additional migratory game birds include mourning dove, Wilson’s (common) snipe, and American coot.

MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS

Over a third (approximately 37 percent) of the land mass in District 1 is public, mostly national forest, but also state DNR and WDFW, federal BLM, USFWS, and a few other government agencies. Most of these lands outside of Indian reservations are open to public hunting. The public lands tend to be at higher elevations with steep terrain, a shorter growing season, no row crop agriculture, and in general have a lower density of game animals, especially deer and turkey. GMUs with the most public land include 101 (Sherman), 111 (Aladdin), 113 (Selkirk) and 117 (49 Degrees North).

For more information related to the location of WDFW Wildlife Areas, see Figure 17 and visit the WDFW's hunting access website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/ or by [clicking here](#).

For more information on resources available to locate public lands please see the Online Tools and Maps section below.

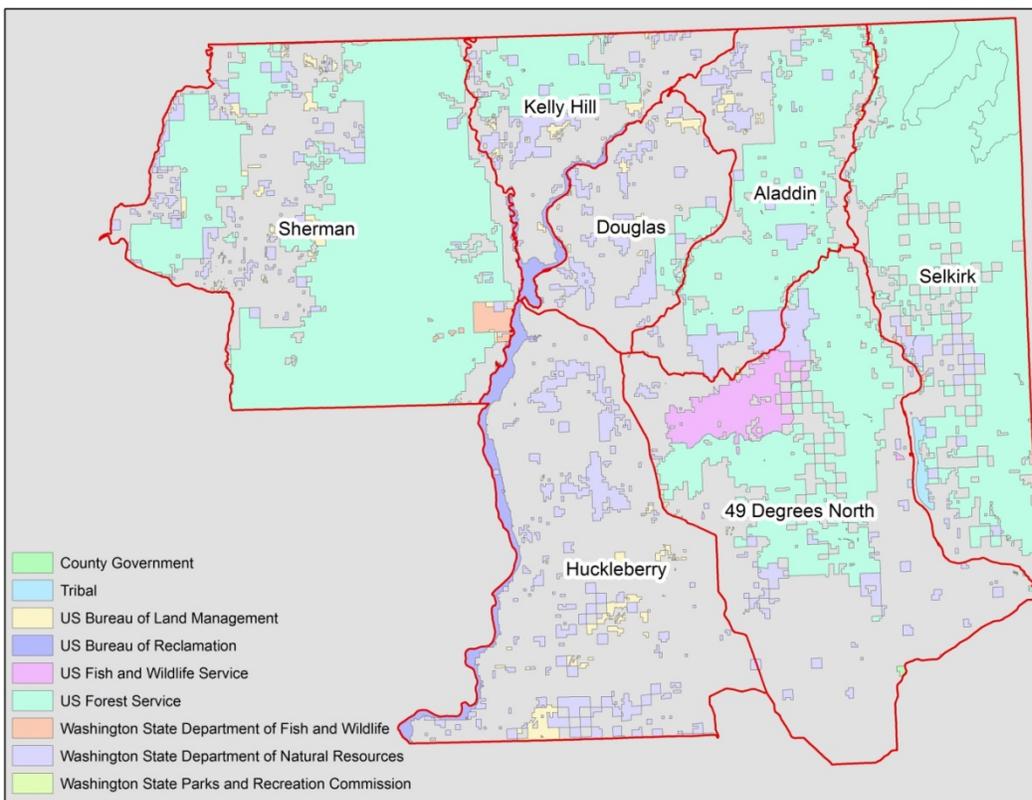


FIGURE 19. MAP DEPICTING THE LOCATION OF PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN EACH GMU COMPRISING DISTRICT 1.

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS

GENERAL INFORMATION

A lot of hunting opportunities, especially for big-game and forest grouse, occur on private industrial forestlands. Timber companies that own large tracts of land and are the most well-known include Hancock, Stimson, and Inland Empire Paper. Hunters should be aware that there are a number of other smaller timber companies that have operations in District 1, but are not mentioned here.

WDFW recognizes that some of the best hunting opportunities occur on private industrial forestlands and works cooperatively with private timber companies to maintain reasonable public access during established hunting seasons. Private industrial forestlands have typically been open for public access, but hunters should always remember they are being granted access to private property and access to that property is a privilege.

Recently, there has been an increasing trend of timber companies restricting public access and shifting towards a permit or “pay-to-play” system to limit the number of hunters that hunt on their lands. One of the primary reasons for access restrictions and loss of access is hunter disrespect of the landowner’s rules. When hunting on private industrial forest lands, WDFW reminds hunters to remember the following.

HUNTING ON PRIVATE LANDS IS A PRIVILEGE, SO TREAT THEM WITH RESPECT

- ✓ **Obey Posted Signs**
- ✓ **Leave Gates As You Found Them**
- ✓ **Do not Damage Trees**
- ✓ **Pack Out Your Trash**
- ✓ **Be Courteous**

BASIC ACCESS RULES

Specific rules related to hunter access on private industrial forestlands vary by Timber Company. WDFW encourages hunters to make sure they are aware of the rules in areas they plan to hunt. Most timber companies provide these rules on their website or will provide them to hunters who call to inquire about access (see below for contact information). However, hunters are encouraged to follow these basic rules if they find themselves in an area they are not familiar with and are in doubt about specific landowners rules. The following are intended to be a general guideline of the basic access rules that are common-place on many private industrial forestlands. Timber companies may have more or less restrictive rules in place and ultimately, it is the hunter’s responsibility to make sure they are familiar with those rules.

- ✓ **Respect the land owner and other users.**
- ✓ **Obey all posted signs.**

- ✓ Drive slow with headlights turned on when driving on roads opened to public access.
- ✓ Avoid areas of active logging.
- ✓ No camping, littering, ORV's, off road driving, target shooting or forest product removals. Exceptions: mushrooms and berries for personal use.
- ✓ An open gate does not mean the road is open to public motorized access.
- ✓ Gate closures apply to all motorized vehicles including motorcycles and quads. This includes vehicles with electric motors.

HEADS UP FOR ARCHERY AND MUZZLELOADER HUNTERS

Private timber companies have traditionally opened their lands to modern firearm hunters during established seasons. Archery and muzzleloader hunters should be aware they may not have full access, and access levels during their respective seasons varies by year and by landowner. Most often, access is influenced by industrial fire classification issued by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Hence, timber lands may be closed during archery and muzzleloader seasons which typically begin earlier in the autumn when there is a greater risk of forest fire. Hunters are urged to respect the landowners by adhering to any access restrictions they have in place.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MAJOR TIMBER COMPANIES

Some landowners have hotlines and/or web sites where hunters can find information about public access. Important to realize, however, is that these companies do not have staff dedicated to answering hunter questions. Therefore, hunters are encouraged to call the WDFW Region 1 office in Spokane (509-892-1001) if there are questions related to public access on private industrial forest lands.

PRIVATE LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM

Since 1948, WDFW has worked with private landowners across the state to provide public access through a negotiated agreement. Landowners participating in a WDFW cooperative agreement retain liability protection provided under RCW 4.24.210. Landowners receive technical services, materials for posting (signs and posts), and in some cases monetary compensation. In addition, lands under agreement are well known by WDFW enforcement staff.

There are several private landowners in District 1 who are enrolled in WDFW's Private Lands Access Program. Specific information, including property locations can be found on WDFW's Hunter Access website located at http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/ or by [clicking here](#). Below is a summary, by GMU, of cooperators and acres currently enrolled in the Private

Lands Access Program. The Feel Free to Hunt Program acres listed are those lands in the Cooperative Road Management Program with private timber companies.

GMU	Hunting Only by Written Permission		Feel Free to Hunt		Hunt by Reservation	
	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres
101 (Sherman)	3	720	1	2,702	1	361
105 (Kelly Hill)			1	240		
108 (Douglas)	2	360	1	800	1	298
111 (Aladdin)			3	6,660	2	515
113 (Selkirk)	2	890	3	51,117		
117 (49 Degrees North)	3	896	4	72,266	1	913
121 (Huckleberry)	2	6,968			1	331

ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

Most GMUs in District 1 are a checkerboard of ownerships and sometimes it can be extremely difficult to determine who owns the land where a hunter wishes to hunt. However, there are several online tools and resources that many hunters do not know about, but provide valuable information that helps solve the landowner puzzle. The following is a list and general description of tools and resources that are available to the general public.

Department of Natural Resources Public Lands Quadrangle (PLQ) Maps

A good source for identifying the specific location of public lands are DNR PLQ maps which can be purchased for less than \$10 on DNR's website ([click here](#)).

Online Parcel Databases

Technology has come a long way and has made it much easier for the general public to identify tax parcel boundaries and the associated landowner. However, because this technology has not been readily available in the past, there are several hunters who are not aware it exists.

Stevens County tax parcels can be searched using the assessor's website at <http://propertysearch.trueautomation.com/PropertyAccess/?cid=0>.

Ferry County tax parcels can be searched using Mapsifter by clicking [here](#).

Pend Oreille tax parcels can be searched using the assessor's website at <http://216.229.170.172/PropertyAccess/PropertySearch.aspx?cid=0>. You will need the address of the property to use this search tool.

WDFWs Go Hunt Tool

WDFW's Go Hunt Tool has been revamped and provides hunters with a great interactive tool for locating tracts of public land within each GMU. The Go Hunt Tool can be accessed on WDFW's Hunting website or by [clicking here](#).

Colville Area Maps

There are a variety of maps showing trails, camping locations, public lands, and popular landmarks available for download on the Colville Chamber of Commerce [website](#).

Other On-line Resources

[Ferry County hunting page](#)

[Colville Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Ferry County Chamber of Commerce](#)

[North Pend Oreille Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Colville National Forest](#)

[LC Sportsmaps, Inc](#)