

2014

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



DISTRICT 2 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Spokane, Lincoln, & Whitman Counties

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DISTRICT 2 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 2 is located in eastern Washington, bordering Idaho, and covers Lincoln, Whitman, and Spokane Counties. Game Management Units (GMUs) in District 2 include 124-Mount Spokane, 127-Mica Peak, 130-Cheney, 133-Roosevelt, 136-Harrington, 139-Steptoe, & 142-Almota (Figure 1). The majority of the district is in private ownership so hunters are highly encouraged to secure access prior to the hunting season or applying for special permits.

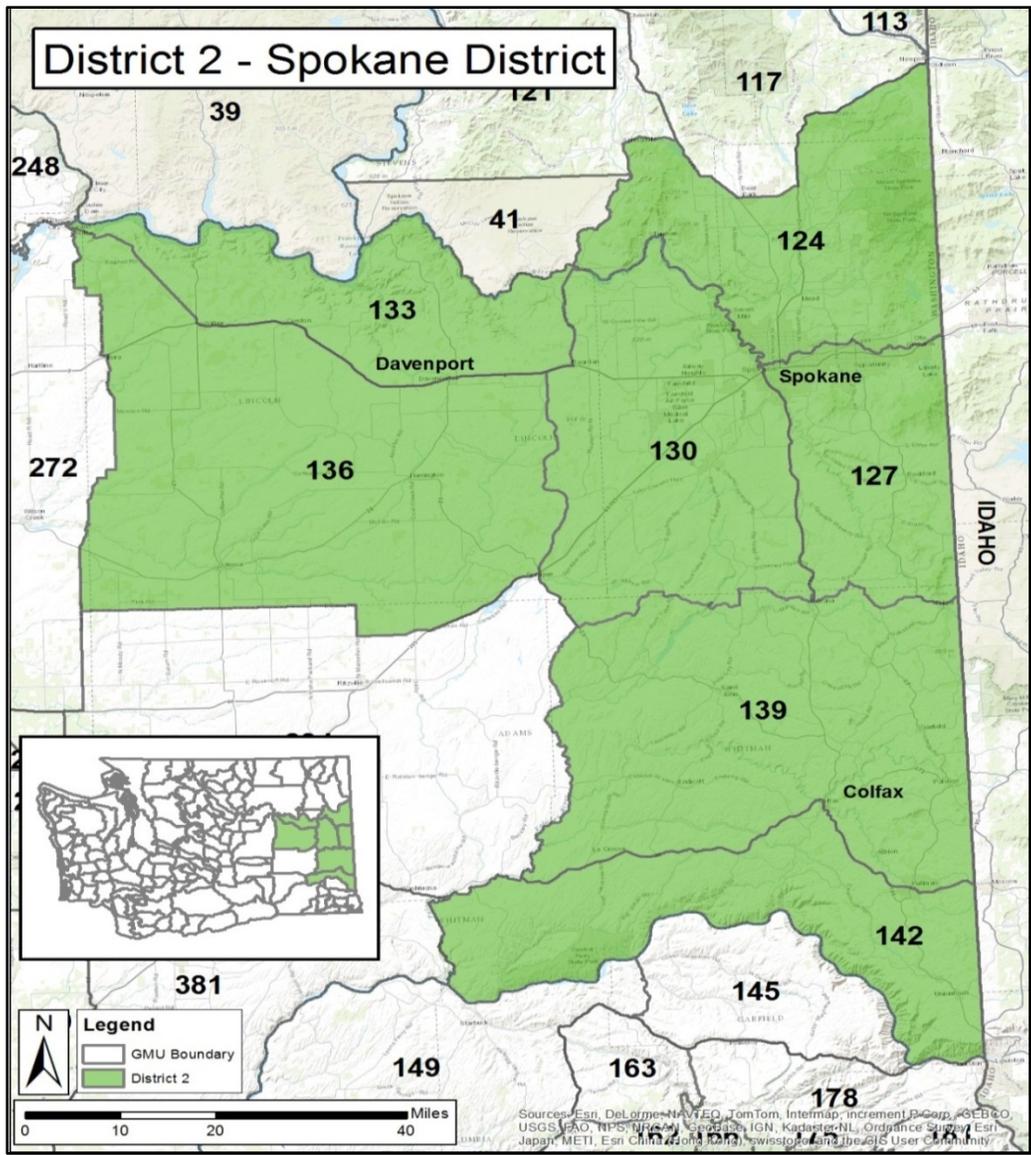


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION AND GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS (GMU) FOR WDFW DISTRICT 2.

The geography of District 2 includes the edge of the Rocky Mountain Range in the east, the Columbia Basin in the west and the Channeled Scablands and Palouse in between. This diverse geography supports a wide range of habitats that include mixed coniferous forests dominated by Douglas fir and larch, dry Ponderosa pine forests, some aspen groves, scabland, sagebrush steppe, grasslands, and extensive agricultural lands. Topography varies from ~500ft above sea level along the Snake River in the south to 5883 foot Mt. Spokane in the north. Dominant river drainages include the Spokane, Palouse, Columbia, & Snake Rivers.

District 2 is most well-known for its deer hunting opportunities: white-tailed deer in the Spokane and the Palouse agricultural lands; and mule deer in the Channeled Scablands and breaks of the Snake River. Quality hunting opportunities also exist for other game species, including pheasant and elk if hunters have secured access to private lands, and moose and bighorn sheep if hunters are selected for these special permit hunts.

ELK

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

The Selkirk herd originated in Pend Oreille County and has expanded its range over the last 40 years to include GMUs 124-142. Elk in District 2 are considered to be the Spokane sub-herd of the Selkirk herd. Elk habitat in District 2 continues to be lost to urban sprawl and agricultural conversion. General hunts in all GMUs are “any elk.” The goal of this harvest strategy is to maintain the population at its current level (roughly 1000-1500 elk) to limit agricultural damage and conflict within urban areas. Given the majority of the land in the district is in private ownership, managing this population without landowner acceptance and cooperation is impossible.

Opportunistic surveys, harvest data (Figures 7-9), sightings, and damage complaints are generally used in place of formal estimates to indicate population trends in most of District 2. The exception is GMU 130 (Cheney), where the majority of the District’s elk harvest (25-50%) occurs. This unit includes Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, and has been regularly surveyed for herd composition for the last 10 years. Our herd composition objective is to maintain a ratio of 15 to 35 bulls per 100 cows pre-hunt and/or 12 to 20 bulls per 100 cows post-hunt. The 2013 pre-hunt aerial survey in GMU 130 found the bull:cow ratio to be at the low end of this management objective. Calf production was a little higher than the previous year, with a calf:cow ratio of 50:100. Harvest data for District 2 over the last 10 years indicates a stable to slightly increasing population trend. For more detail on the status of elk in Washington, take a look at WDFW’s Game Status and Trend Report by [clicking here](#).

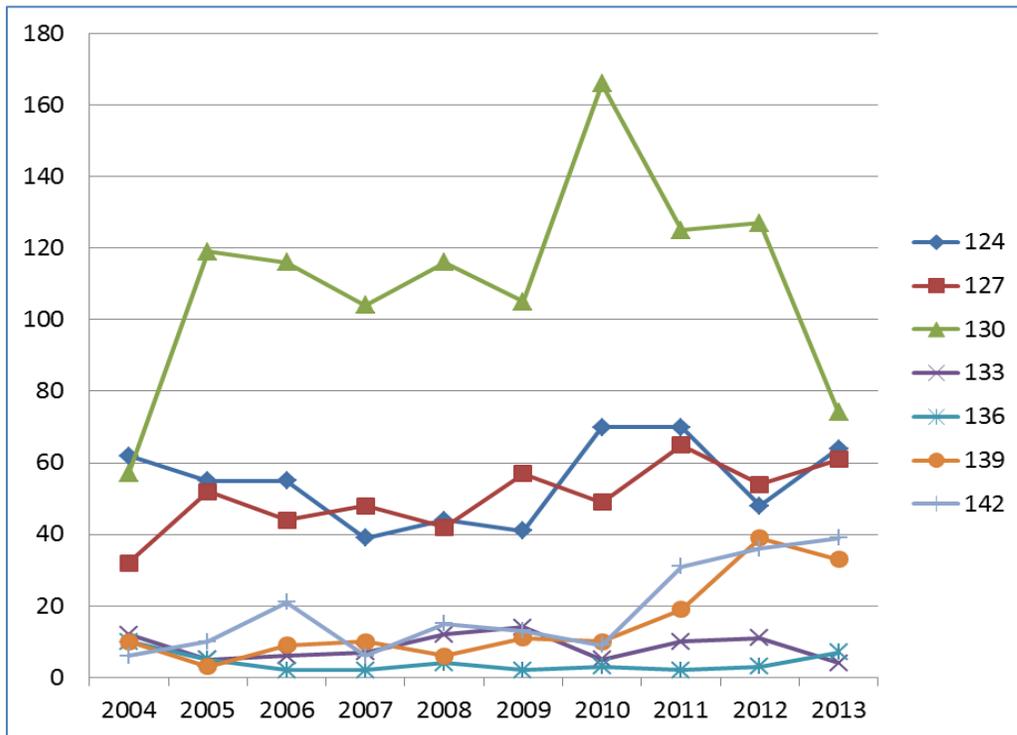


FIGURE 7. ELK GENERAL SEASON TOTAL HARVEST IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

WHICH GMU SHOULD ELK HUNTERS HUNT?

The highest proportion of the elk harvest consistently occurs in GMUs 124, 127, and 130 (Figure 7). However, elk appear to be expanding into new areas and harvest in GMUs 139 and 142 has been on the rise. Some of these appear to be elk that move back and forth between Idaho and Washington, so timing and access to private lands will be the key to successful elk hunting in these GMUs. General hunt participants on private lands in GMU 130 have the highest success (Figure 9), probably benefitting from animals moving on and off Turnbull NWR during the season. With 40% of the hunters in District 2, GMU 124 (Mt Spokane) sustains the greatest hunting pressure. As a result, hunter success is fairly low there (Figure 9), although the unit typically does produce one of the highest number of mature bulls (6⁺ points) in the harvest (Figures 8). Private timber companies, especially Inland Empire Paper, offer ample public access in this unit with a paid permit. See [Inland Empire Paper Company - Recreational Use](#) for their rules and regulations.

For more detailed harvest information, visit:

District 2 - 2012 Game Harvest Statistics:

- [Elk Harvest](#)
- [Elk Special Permits Harvest](#)

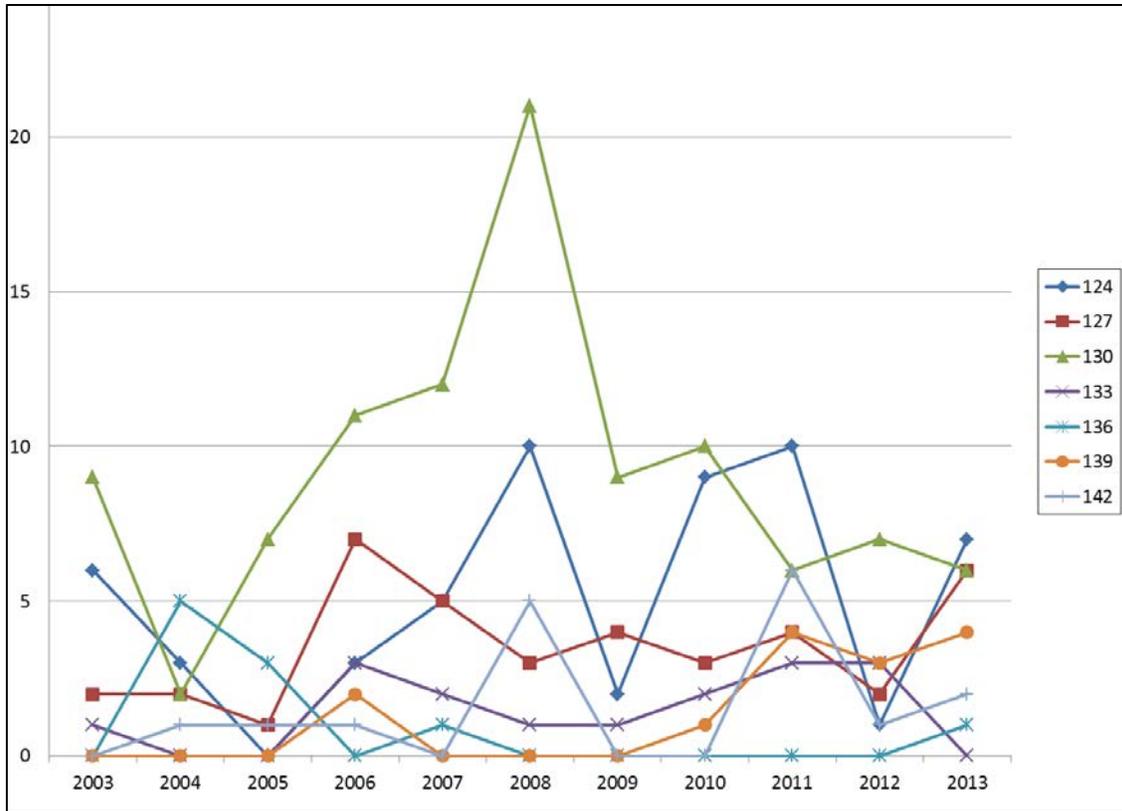


FIGURE 8. NUMBER OF MATURE BULLS (6+ POINTS) HARVESTED BY GMU IN DISTRICT 2.

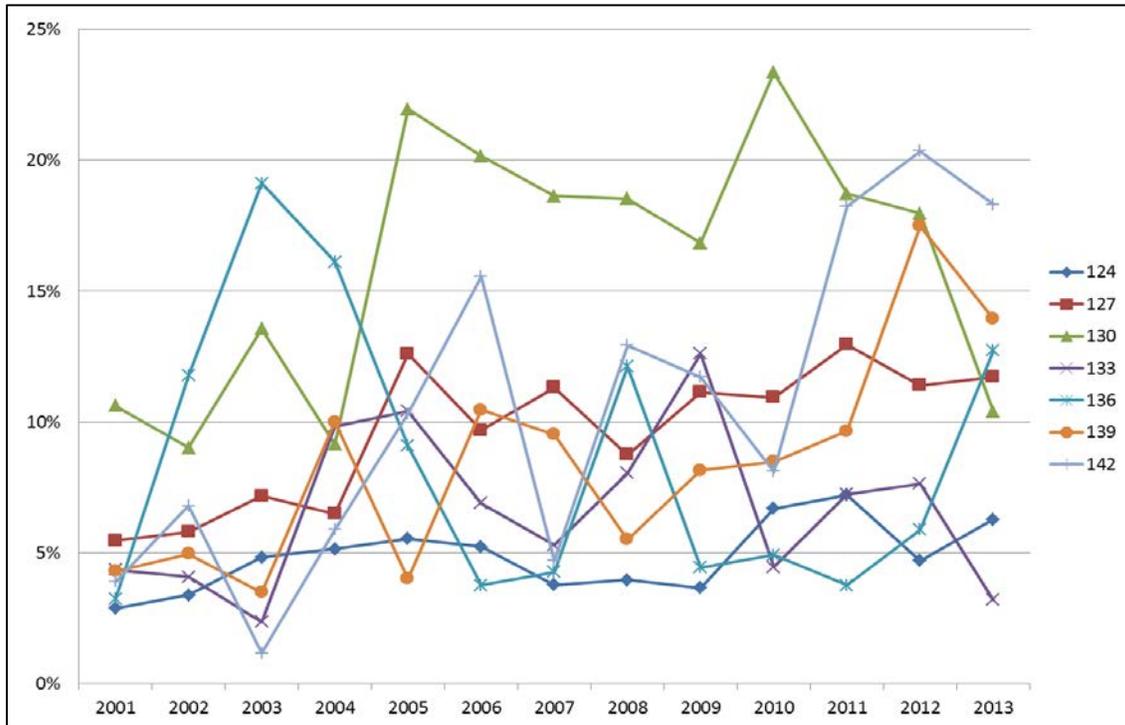


FIGURE 9. ELK GENERAL SEASON HUNTER SUCCESS IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

ELK AREAS

Elk Area 1015 is located within Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Turnbull special permit hunts were created in 2010 to address damage to aspen stands on the Refuge and to address complaints from landowners in the area. These are walk-in hunts in specified portions of the Refuge. For 2014, one bull permit and 62 antlerless permits will again be allocated across several hunts, including each weapon type, Master Hunter only, and Hunter with Disabilities. Turnbull hunters averaged nearly 50% success for antlerless hunts until 2013, when success dropped to 16%. The bull permit has had 100% success each year. For those who missed the permit application deadline, the Turnbull permit hunts should be offered again next year. For more information about TNWR, visit [Home - Turnbull - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). To address winter property damage in the area, there are also several late-season raffle permits and WDFW special permits offered on Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association (CPWMA) properties around Turnbull. See the “Private Lands Program” section for more information on acreage enrolled and [CPWMA website](#) for details on their hunt management.

NOTABLE HUNTING CHANGES

There are no notable changes for 2014 elk hunting in District 2. Across all GMUs, elk hunter success has averaged 10% over the last 10 years, and hunters have spent an average of 48 days hunting per kill. These numbers vary widely by area, as hunter success depends heavily on the work the hunter is willing to put in to obtain access to private property. There are many landowners enrolled in WDFW's private land hunting access programs, so opportunities exist for elk hunters who seek them out. For locations of these properties, visit the [GoHunt](#) website.

DEER

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

District 2 has both white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). White-tailed deer are found predominantly in the north and east portions of the district, in the forest/agricultural interface and along riparian corridors. Mule deer are predominantly found in the west and south of the district, in the shrub steppe, scablands, and farm lands.

Deer population levels are closely tied to severe winters, droughts, and land-use practices. The primary management objective for white-tailed and mule deer in District 2 is to keep the herds stable to slightly increasing and within landowner tolerance. Given the majority of the land in the district is in private ownership, managing this population without landowner cooperation is impossible. Additional management objectives include maintaining herds at 15-19 bucks to 100 does in the post season population.

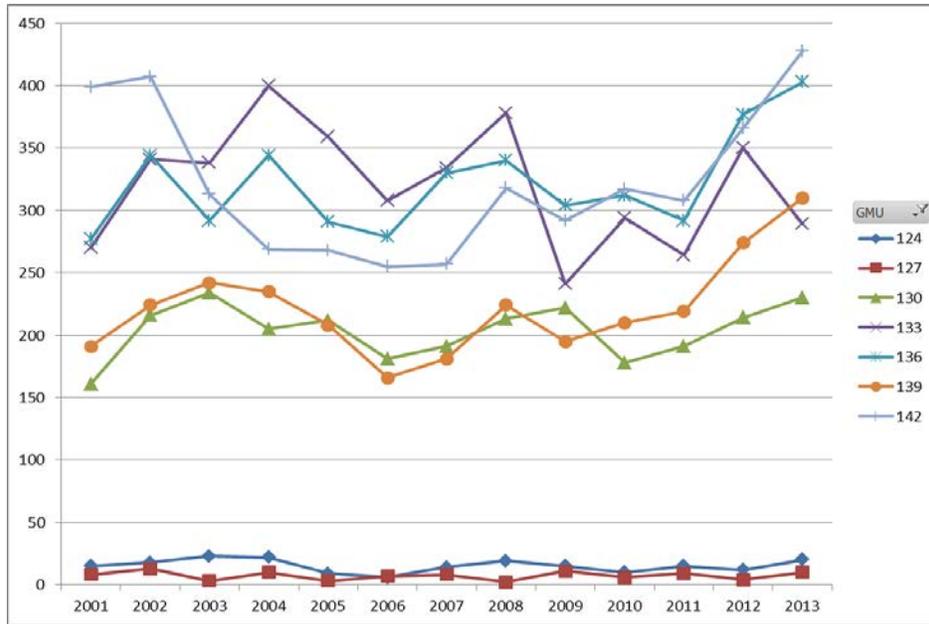


FIGURE 2. MULE DEER GENERAL SEASON BUCK HARVEST IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

Currently, WDFW does not use formal estimates or indices of population size to monitor deer populations in District 2. Instead trends in harvest (Figures 2 & 3), hunter success (Figure 4), days per kill (Figure 5), and pre-season sex and age ratios (Figure 6), are used as surrogates to a formal index or estimate. WDFW recognizes the limitations of using this data to monitor trends in population size and we are currently evaluating new approaches to monitoring white-tailed and mule deer populations.

Harvest of mule deer has remained relatively stable in the district over the past 13 years with an increasing trend over the past four years (Figure 2). White-tailed harvest appears stable overall in the district (Figure 3). The steep decline in 2006 is associated with the implementation of a permit only late season in GMUs 127-142. While harvest has remained relatively stable over the past 13 years, hunter success has increased from an average of 30% in 2001 to an average of 35% in 2013 (Figure 4). Over the same time period, hunter effort (Days/kill) has declined from 13.5 days/kill on average in 2001 to 11 days in 2013 (Figure 5). Pre-season fawn to 100 doe ratios for both species have been in the 50 to 70 range over the past 8 years (Figure 6). Overall harvest data and pre-season ratios taken together indicate white-tailed and mule deer populations appear to be stable to slightly increasing in all GMUs in District 2. 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 here](#).

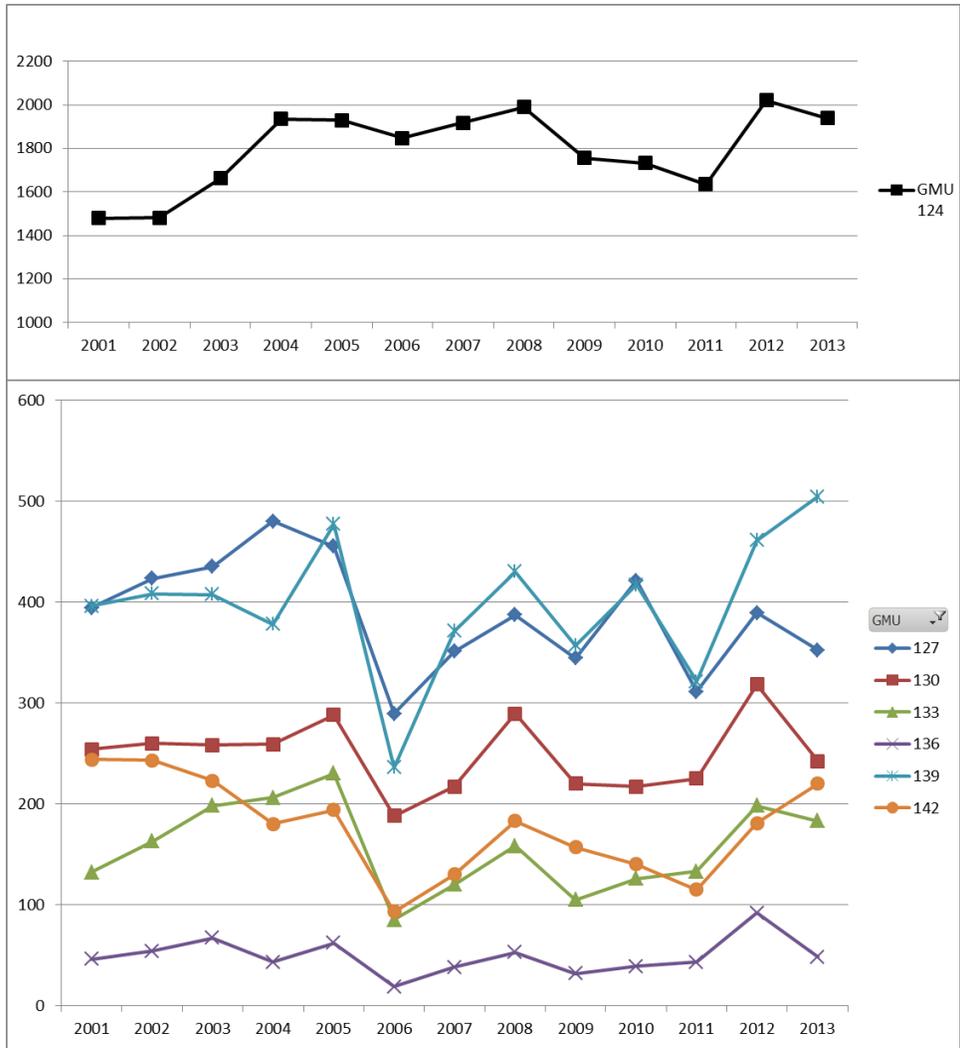


FIGURE 3. WHITE-TAILED DEER GENERAL SEASON BUCK HARVEST IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

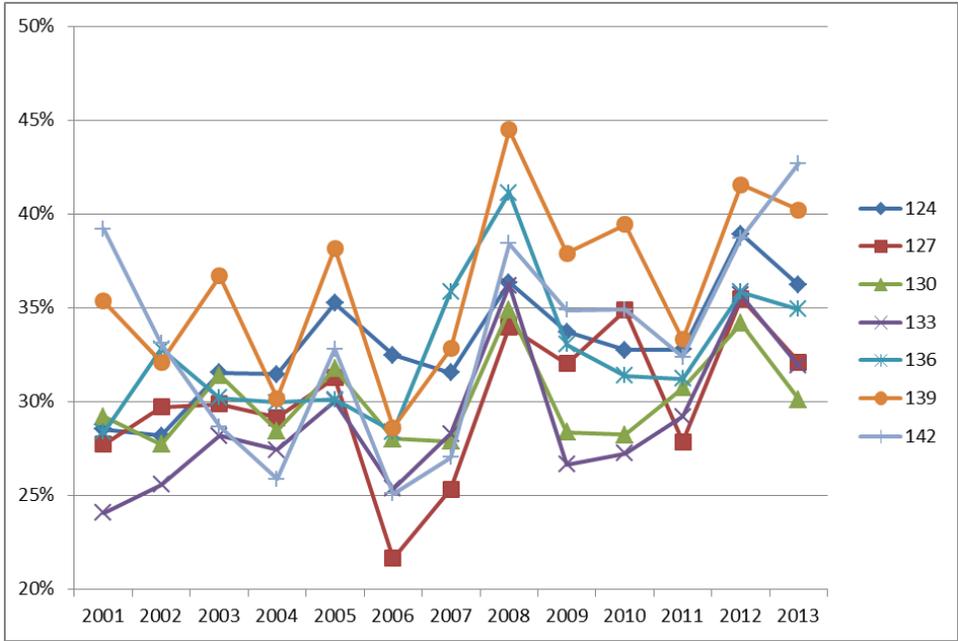


FIGURE 4. DEER GENERAL SEASON HUNTER SUCCESS IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

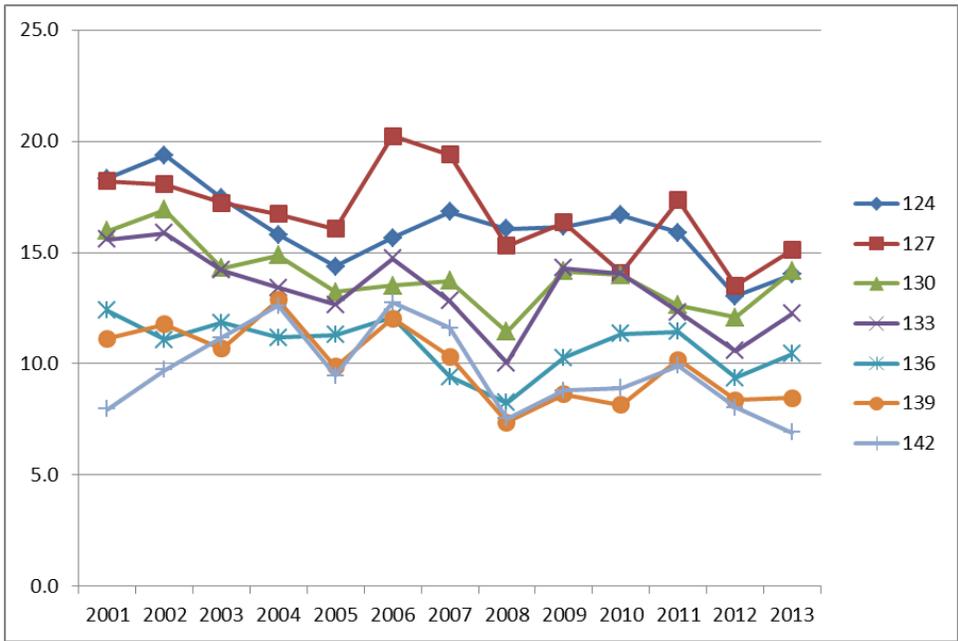


FIGURE 5. DEER GENERAL SEASON DAYS/KILL IN DISTRICT 2 BY GMU FOR ALL WEAPON TYPES COMBINED.

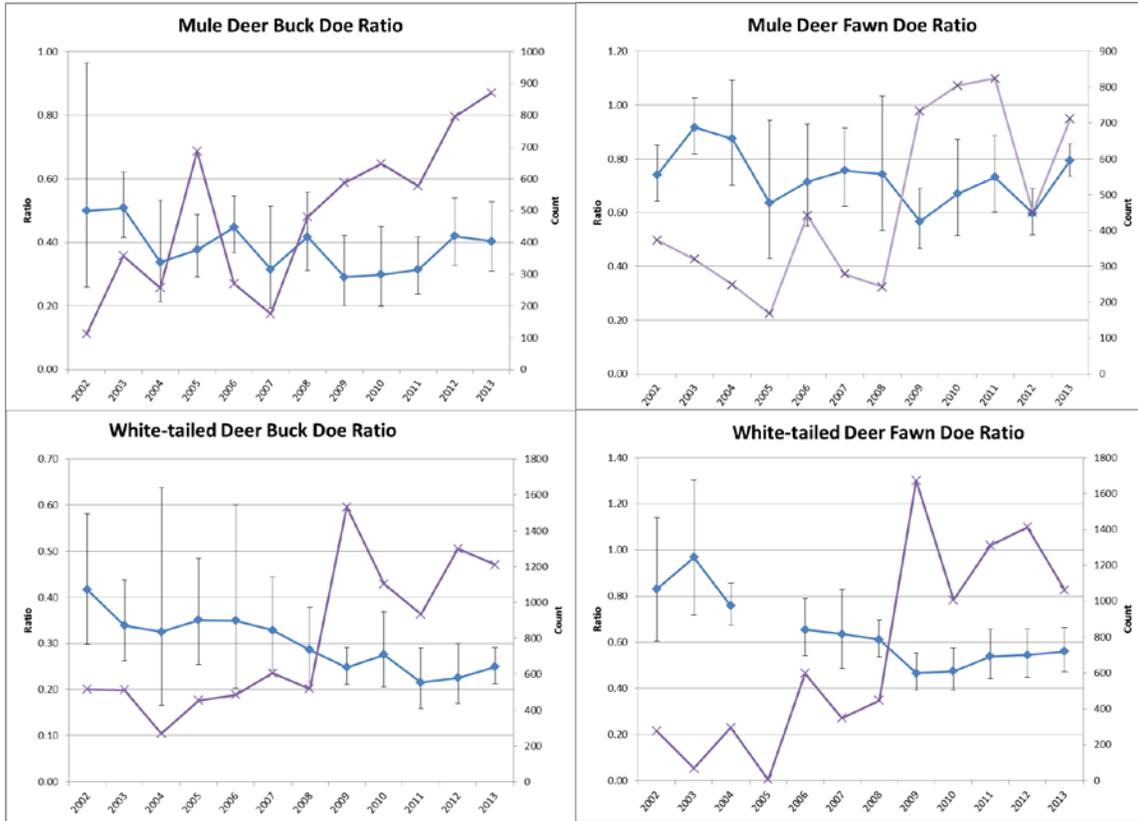


FIGURE 6. DISTRICT 2 PRE-SEASON BUCK TO DOE (AUGUST) AND FAWN TO DOE (SEPTEMBER) RATIOS (BLUE LINES WITH 90%CI) AND TOTAL COUNT (PURPLE LINES) BY SPECIES.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

White-tailed and mule deer hunting opportunities in District 2 vary from marginal to excellent, depending on the GMU and if private land access has been secured. The best opportunities to harvest a mule deer in District 2 occur in GMUs 133, 136, & 142 on private property (Figure 2). The best opportunities to harvest a white-tailed deer in District 2 occur in GMUs 124, 127, & 139 on private property (Figure 3). For archery hunters, GMU 124 & 127 provide the best terrain, whereas the terrain in GMUs 136-142 is better suited for muzzleloader and modern firearm.

High mule deer fawn production in 2013 (Figure 6) and good spring precipitation should combine to produce good survival and recruitment this year. White-tailed deer herds appear to have fully recovered from the hard winters of 2008 and 2009. Average white-tailed deer fawn production in 2013 (Figure 6) and the mild winter should result in good survival and recruitment. The persistent hunter (district average is 13 days per kill) should have ample opportunity to harvest a legal buck.

There is a 3pt minimum regulation in GMUs 127-142 for white-tailed deer and the late white-tailed deer season in GMUs 127-142 is by permit only (Palouse Hunt) as of 2006. Hunter success is on average higher for the Palouse Hunt (56%), with 5+ point bucks making up, on average, a greater percentage of the kill (37%) when compared to the general season 2001 to 2006 average of 24% and the 27% averaged since 2006. There are currently 750 permits offered for the Palouse Hunt.

Mule and white-tailed deer populations overlap in District 2, so please make sure to identify the species before harvesting an animal, since regulations can differ between species with in a GMU. The bulk of District 2 is private land and buck hunters will have to put in the time to get access. Doe hunters should have an easier time given the agricultural nature of this district. We have enrolled many new cooperators in our hunter access program in southeast Washington; see the “Private Lands Program” section below and note that the locations are mapped on the [GoHunt](#) website.

For more District 2 2013 harvest information visit:

- [Deer General Harvest](#)
- [Deer Special Permits Harvest](#)

DEER AREAS

There are suburban/rural areas in District 2 where deer congregate and have the potential to cause landscape/property and agricultural damage. To help address this issue, extended general season opportunities have been created for youth, senior, & disabled hunters to harvest antlerless deer that occur in these areas. Additionally, 975 2nd tags, half of the district’s 2nd tag (doe only) opportunities, are focused in these areas. The remaining 975 2nd tags are primarily offered in the rural GMUs 133-142 to help address agricultural damage. WDFW deer area locations and boundaries are mapped on the [GoHunt](#) website.

BIGHORN SHEEP

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

District 2 is home to one herd of California bighorn sheep, found in GMU 133 north of Highway 2 in Lincoln County (see the [GoHunt](#) website for a map). These sheep can most often be seen in the Lincoln Cliffs just south of the town of Lincoln, and in the cliffs around Whitestone Rock approximately 7 miles downstream from Lincoln. Sheep are also observed occasionally in the cliffs above Sterling Valley between Lincoln and Whitestone.

WDFW has conducted regular aerial surveys to assess the status of the Lincoln Cliffs herd since 2002. We estimate population size based on the count of rams and ewes observed during flights. The population has remained relatively stable, with an increasing trend over the last four years (Figure 10). However, we are still at the low end of our goal of 90-100 animals. Habitat condition, disease threats, and limited harvest will continue to be factors in the management of this population. For more details on the status of bighorn sheep in Washington, take a look at WDFW’s Game Status and Trend Report by [clicking here](#).

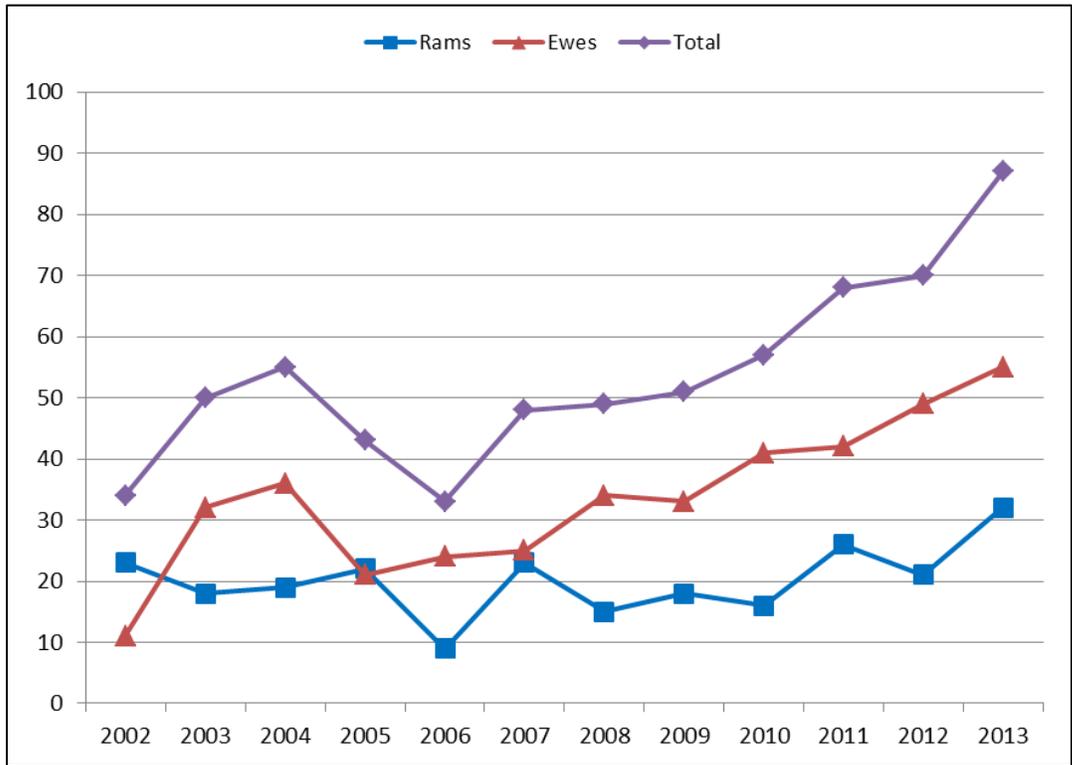


FIGURE 10. LINCOLN CLIFFS MINIMUM POPULATION ESTIMATE BY SEX FOR 2002-2013. ESTIMATED AS THE MAXIMUM COUNT FROM HELICOPTER SURVEYS CONDUCTED EACH YEAR.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Bighorn sheep hunting in Washington requires a special permit. For the Lincoln Cliffs herd, one ram permit has been issued each year since 1997, when the first was offered. For 2014 this has been increased to two permits. The average number of applicants for this hunt over the last five years is 1,471 and hunter success has remained at 100%. The area is mostly private property and permittees will need to obtain permission to access these properties for their hunt.

MOOSE

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

Moose in northeast Washington are Shiras moose (*Alces alces shirasi*). Moose were not believed to be common or widely distributed in the Rocky Mountain States in the 1800's, and it was not until 1908 when explorer George Shiras III found a fairly large population in Yellowstone National Park that this mountain race was described. Shiras moose were only rarely noted in Washington until the late 1950's when distribution began to expand into eastern Pend Oreille County. Moose have dramatically increased in numbers and distribution in the last couple of decades and now are relatively common throughout northeast Washington.

Statewide moose management goals are to: 1) Preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage moose and their habitats to ensure healthy productive populations; 2) Manage for a variety of recreational, educational, and aesthetic purposes; and, 3) Manage statewide moose populations for a sustained yield. The proximity of an expanding moose population near the Spokane metropolitan area adds the challenge of balancing population objectives with the community's tolerance of moose.

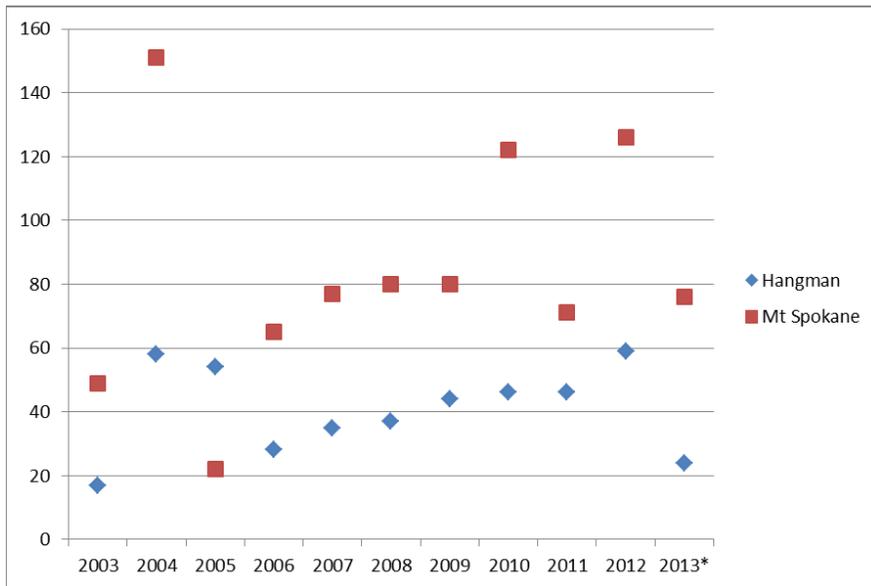


FIGURE 11. MT SPOKANE (MT. SPOKANE NORTH AND SOUTH COMBINED FOR 2012-2013) AND HANGMAN UNITS OBSERVED MOOSE DURING DECEMBER/JANUARY AERIAL SURVEYS FROM 2003-2013.

Currently, WDFW uses a combination of aerial surveys and harvest metrics to monitor and manage moose populations in District 2. From 2002 to 2012 annual aerial surveys have been flown during winter (December-January) by district biologists covering a sub-portion of each hunt unit. General trends in observed moose during aerial survey flights (Figure 11) indicate a stable to growing population in each area. However, there is large variability in the observed count between years, much of which is likely due to movement of moose back and forth across state lines (all hunt units border Idaho). The low count in 2013 is due to a survey methodology change. Though fewer moose are being seen in individual units using the new survey methodology, it allows for a greater proportion of northeast Washington to be covered.

Calf to 100 cow ratios in the hunt units (Figure 12) have been fairly stable year to year and have averaged 50 for Hangman and 47 for Mt. Spokane for the past 10 years, also indicating a stable to growing population. The low calf to 100 cow ratio in 2013 is again likely due to the new survey methodology and low number of moose observed, but will be closely watched over the next couple years, since calf to 100 cow ratios below 30 indicate potential population decline.

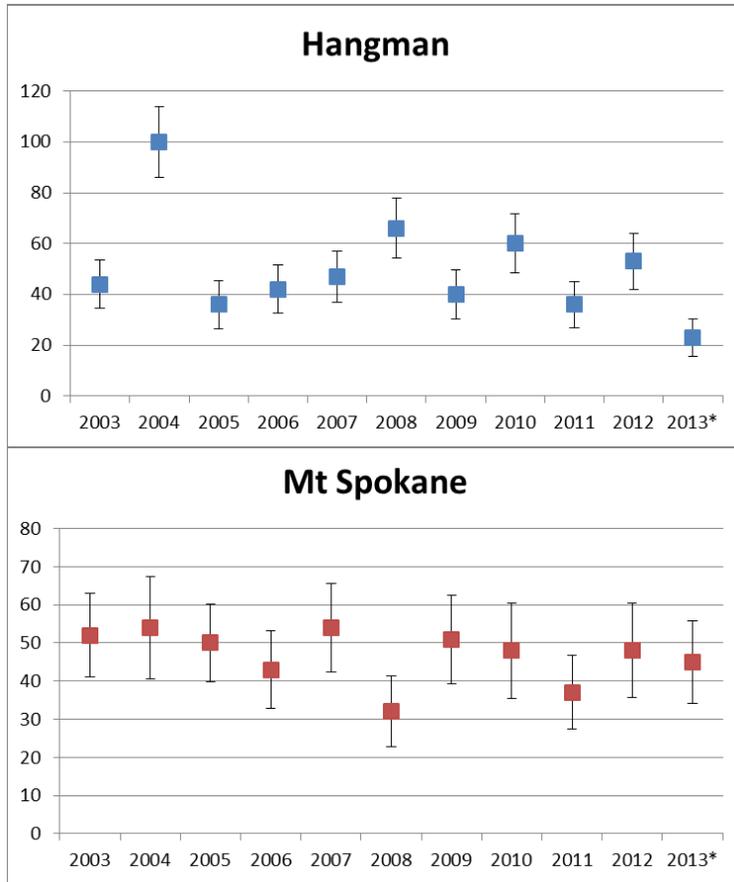


FIGURE 12. MOOSE CALVES TO 100 COW RATIOS FROM AERIAL SURVEY FROM 2003-2013 FOR MT. SPOKANE (MT. SPOKANE NORTH AND SOUTH COMBINED FOR 2012-2013) AND HANGMAN UNITS.

Harvest management emphasizes quality-hunting opportunities through a limited entry permit process. Prior to 2012 District 2 had two moose hunt units; Mt. Spokane and Hangman. In 2012 the Mt. Spokane unit was split into Mt. Spokane North and Mt. Spokane South units ([click here for maps](#)) to help distribute hunters more evenly across the area and increase hunter opportunity. However, the harvest data presented herein combines the two units to allow for easier comparison to previous years.

Hunter success rates for all units over the past 13 years have been consistently high (Figure 13), averaging 95% for Mt Spokane and 97% for Hangman. The drop in success in the Hangman unit in 2013 (2 of the 11 hunters that hunted their permits were unsuccessful) is of concern and will be monitored. Hunter effort (Days/Kill) declined from 2001 to 2006 and since has remained stable around 4 days per kill (Figure 13). Both of these harvest metrics overall indicate a stable to growing moose population in both of these areas. For more detailed information related to the status of moose 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 here](#).

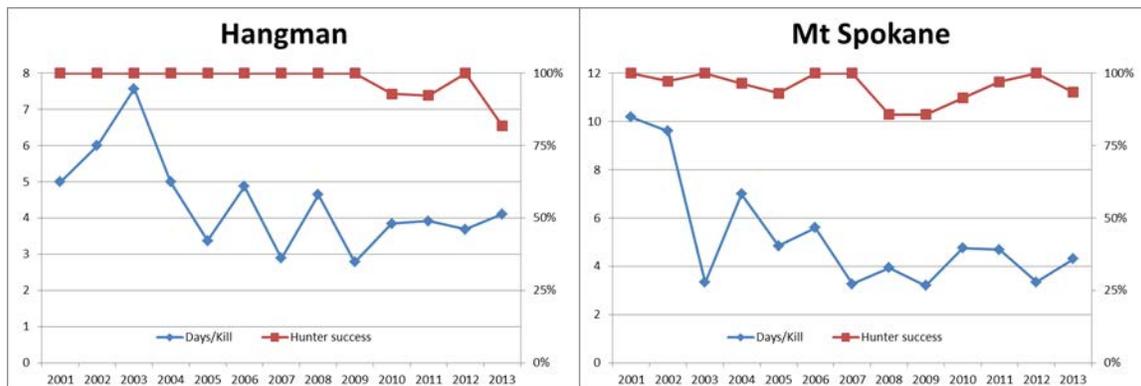


FIGURE 13. MOOSE HUNTER SUCCESS AND DAYS PER KILL FROM 2001-2013 FOR MT. SPOKANE (MT. SPOKANE NORTH AND SOUTH COMBINED FOR 2012-2013) AND HANGMAN UNITS.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2014 SEASON

Moose hunting in Washington is by special permit only, 62 permits (23 Any Moose and 39 Antlerless) are offered in District 2 at this time. The Any moose permits are a once in a lifetime hunt. Success rates for these hunts have been historically stable and high (Figure 13) and with most metrics indicating stable to increasing populations, success rates should continue to be high.

District 2 also has a Master Hunter Only Hunt Coordinated Damage Hunt (10 permits), however, the opportunity to hunt under this permit depends on problem moose occurring in a safe area to harvest. Over the course of this hunt’s existence (started in 2010), there have been only 3 moose harvested.

The largest moose have generally been killed later in the season but early season hunters have been successful as well, and that is the time most of the kills are made. Antler spread of harvested moose has averaged about 3 feet for all units over the past 13 years (Table 1). However, in most years moose in the 3.5 foot range are harvested and in both areas moose with a 50 inch or greater spread have been harvested. Another advantage to hunting early is that there will be no competition or interference from deer or elk modern firearm hunters.

TABLE 1. AVERAGE ANTLER SPREAD FOR HARVESTED MOOSE IN DISTRICT 2 BY HUNT UNIT.

Year	Hangman A			Mt. Spokane A			Mt. Spokane North A			Mt. Spokane South A		
	Harv	Avg	Max	Harv	Avg	Max	Harv	Avg	Max	Harv	Avg	Max
2001	4	42	51	12	32	49						
2002	5	37	45	9	31	40						
2003	4	40	49	9	32	53						
2004	4	33	43	9	35	47						
2005	5	35	43	9	36	40						
2006	4	34	39	9	31	35						
2007	5	32	42	9	39	44						
2008	6	33	41	11	32	41						
2009	7	37	47	11	36	50						
2010	7	43	50	12	39	46						
2011	6	39	44	9	32	42						
2012	7	36	52				8	36	45	7	35	46
2013	5	37	45				7	35	44	8	35	40
Total	69	37	52	109	34	53	15	36	45	15	35	46

Hunters should take note that moose are by nature a solitary animal and are scattered over very wide areas as individuals or in small groups. Early in the season moose are widespread and snow may or may not be available for tracking. This is a good time to learn the country and view clear-cuts, since roads are still open, and many hunters take moose in October. While they can be found at any elevation, they are most likely found between 3,000 to 5,000 feet. In the fall they are looking for deciduous browse, primarily willow brush in clear-cuts or burns that are 15 years old or older. Moose seek out the cooler, moister drainage basins and slopes. North slopes or east flowing drainage basins are generally preferred. Moose are still in the rut in early October and some hunters have been effective with calls. By November snow is common and locating moose tracks and seeing these dark animals with a snow background is much easier. However, by mid to late November there is usually enough snow to be concerned about having only limited access. Experience shows that moose seek out snow rather than avoid it in late fall and early winter. Actual elevation of where you might find moose varies, but on years without much snow we find them right around the top of the mountain. In years with a lot of snow, they move down to the foothill band around the mountain

Moose habitat in the district is largely located on private timber company lands, but smaller private ownerships can also harbor good moose concentrations. Inland Empire

Paper (IEP) is the largest of the timber companies in District 2. IEP does charge an access fee, however they are the only timber company that allows vehicular access, dependent on the area and time of year, see their [website](#) for details and maps. Permit holders should exercise caution and know where they and the moose they are targeting are at all times given the percentage of private land ownership, proximity to Idaho, and non-hunting lands (state & county parks, national wildlife refuge) within the moose hunting units.

WATERFOWL

At the statewide level District 2 is not known for its duck hunting and is not a large duck production area. However, local surveys indicate a better brood production this year than last, with the highest numbers of broods observed being Mallards and American Coots. Other more common waterfowl species in District 2 include Gadwall, Pie-Billed Grebe and Canada Goose. Based on breeding waterfowl surveys, overall duck numbers are increasing in the Channeled Scablands (Potholes) region of Eastern Washington (Figure 18). Canada Goose and American Coot counts show a similar trend. Given the limited number of local nesting ducks, the waterfowl hunting opportunity in this district is mostly dependent upon the number of migrants coming from Canada and Alaska and how long waters remain ice free. For more information on waterfowl hunting, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/waterfowl/index.html> and [Waterfowl Hunting Areas In Region One](#).

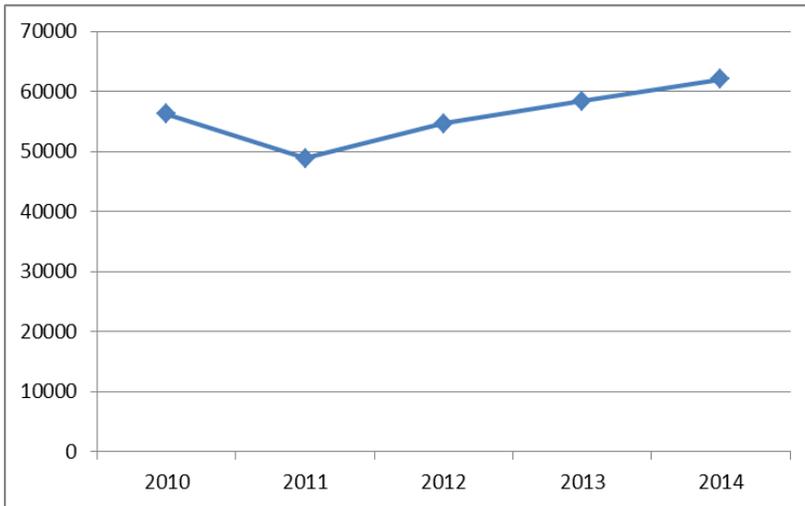


FIGURE 18. TOTAL DUCK ESTIMATES FOR THE POTHoles REGION OF EASTERN WASHINGTON.

PHEASANT

Across the district, crow counts recorded on annual surveys were 7% lower this year than the previous 4 year average. However, counts on the Parvin and St. John routes were up relative to the previous 4 year average (Figure 14). Spring & summer weather was good and should lead to decent production and recruitment. Trends in harvest and hunter numbers, however, continue to decline (Figure 15, top), mirroring statewide trends. Days per hunter have remained fairly stable in the district, while harvest per hunter has declined (Figure 15, bottom). Overall, pheasant population in the district may see some recruitment in the short term, but is experiencing long term declines. This is a trend seen across the country and though the cause of the decline in pheasant populations in Washington is undefined, it likely results from several causes associated with current farming practices and habitat loss.

For more information on harvest statistics see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Pheasant - Statewide and by County](#). For more information on pheasant status in Washington see the most recent [Game Status and Trend Report](#).

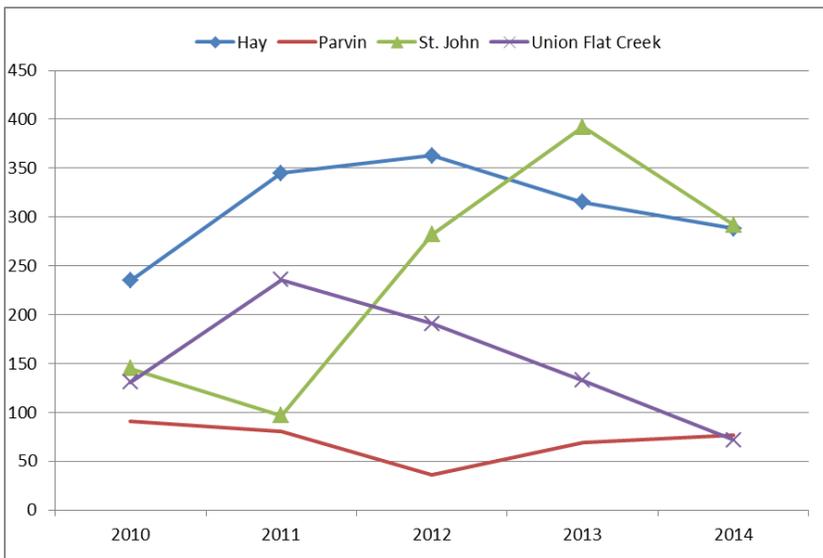


FIGURE 14. MAXIMUM COUNT FROM PHEASANT CROW ROUTES IN DISTRICT 2 FROM 2010-2014.

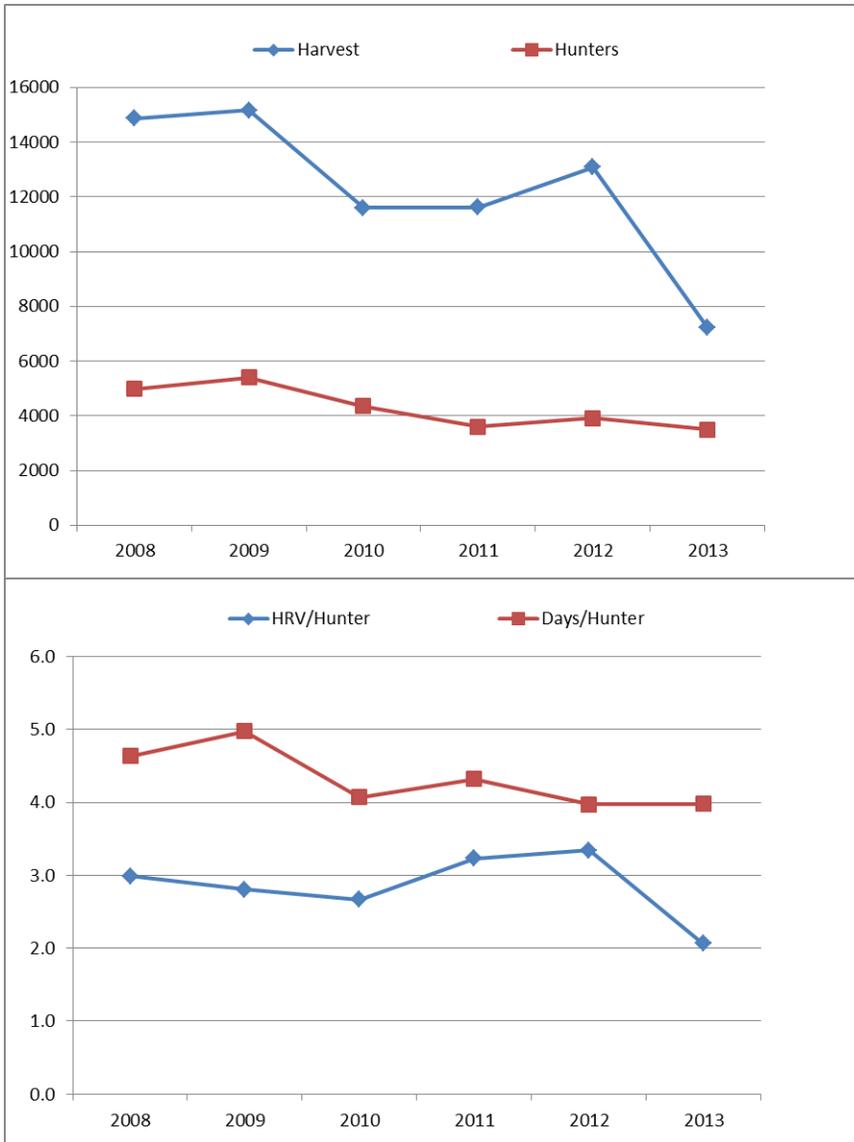


FIGURE 15. TOP GRAPH: PHEASANT HARVEST AND HUNTER NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013. BOTTOM GRAPH: PHEASANT HARVEST AND DAYS HUNTED PER HUNTER FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013.

Since most of the land in this district is private, hunters will need to spend some time “knocking on doors” to get access to the better sites. See the “Private Lands Program” below for private land access program acres by GMU. We have enrolled many new cooperators in our hunter access programs in the last couple years in southeast Washington; the locations are mapped on the [GoHunt](#) website.

We will also be releasing game farm produced roosters once again this fall at the traditional release sites, which are also mapped on the [GoHunt](#) website and the [Eastern](#)

[Washington Pheasant Enhancement Program publication](#). For more information see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Pheasant - Statewide and by County](#).

CHUKAR & GRAY PARTRIDGE

Like quail, nest and brood success for chukars and partridge should be good with decent spring weather leading to good recruitment. 2012 was a bumper harvest, but harvest in 2013 is 42% below the 5 year average (Figure 16). Hunter numbers remain stable, but their effort (Days/Hunter) has declined (Figure 16).

Partridge broods of 10-12 chicks have been kicked regularly during field work in Lincoln County. Partridge are most common in Lincoln and Whitman counties and are most often seen in and adjacent to agricultural fields.

There are very few chukar in District 2, they are predominantly found along the breaks of the Snake River. Terrain is steep and rocky with limited public access from above. There is some access via [US Army Corps of Engineers along the Snake River from below, but not all of the Corps lands allow hunting](#).

For more information on gray partridge and chukar see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Statewide and by County](#) and [the most recent Game Status and Trend Report](#).

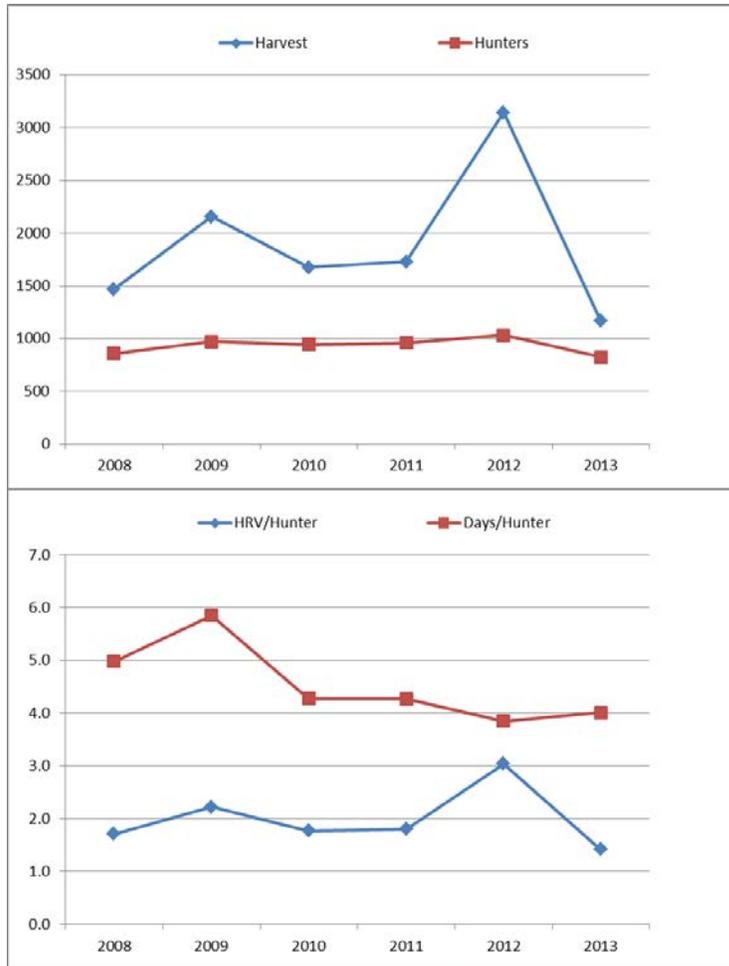


FIGURE 16. TOP GRAPH: CHUKAR & PARTRIDGE HARVEST AND HUNTER NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013. BOTTOM GRAPH: CHUKAR & PARTRIDGE HARVEST AND DAYS HUNTED PER HUNTER FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013.

FOREST GROUSE

The mild winter and decent spring weather should combine to produce good nesting and brood success this year. Populations overall appear to be down in District 2, but it’s still possible to shoot one opportunistically in the forested portions of GMUs 124, 127, and 133. Harvest, hunter number, and hunter effort (Days/Hunter) are all down, but hunter success (harvest/hunter) is showing signs of a positive trend over the last three years (Figure 17).

For more information on forest grouse see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Statewide and by County](#) and [the most recent Game Status and Trend Report](#).

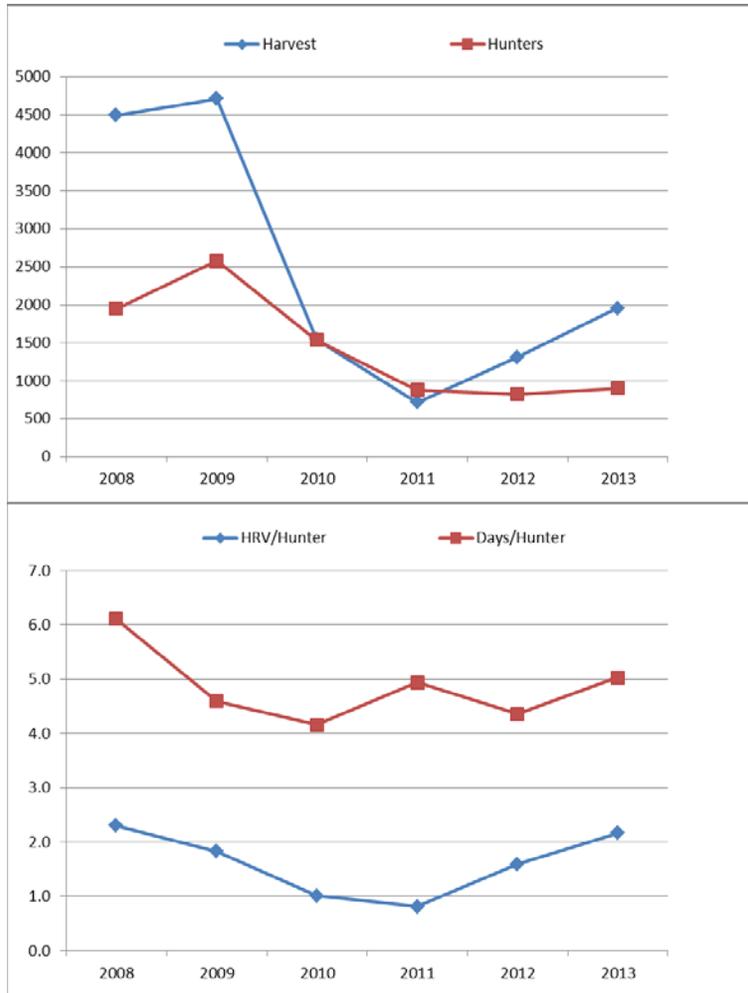


FIGURE 17. TOP GRAPH: FOREST GROUSE HARVEST AND HUNTER NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013. BOTTOM GRAPH: FOREST GROUSE HARVEST AND DAYS HUNTED PER HUNTER FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013.

QUAIL

Quail populations appear to have recovered from the hard winters of 2008 and 2009. Prospects look good with decent spring weather this year for nests and broods. Good brood numbers were seen in south Spokane and Whitman County. There is a negative trend in hunter numbers and harvest. However, harvest and days per hunter have remained stable (Figure 16), indicating a relatively stable population. Access can be a problem, especially with most of the good quail habitat occurring in and around farmsteads and towns. For more information on harvest statistics see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Quail - Statewide and by County](#). For more information on quail status in Washington see the most recent [Game Status and Trend Report](#)

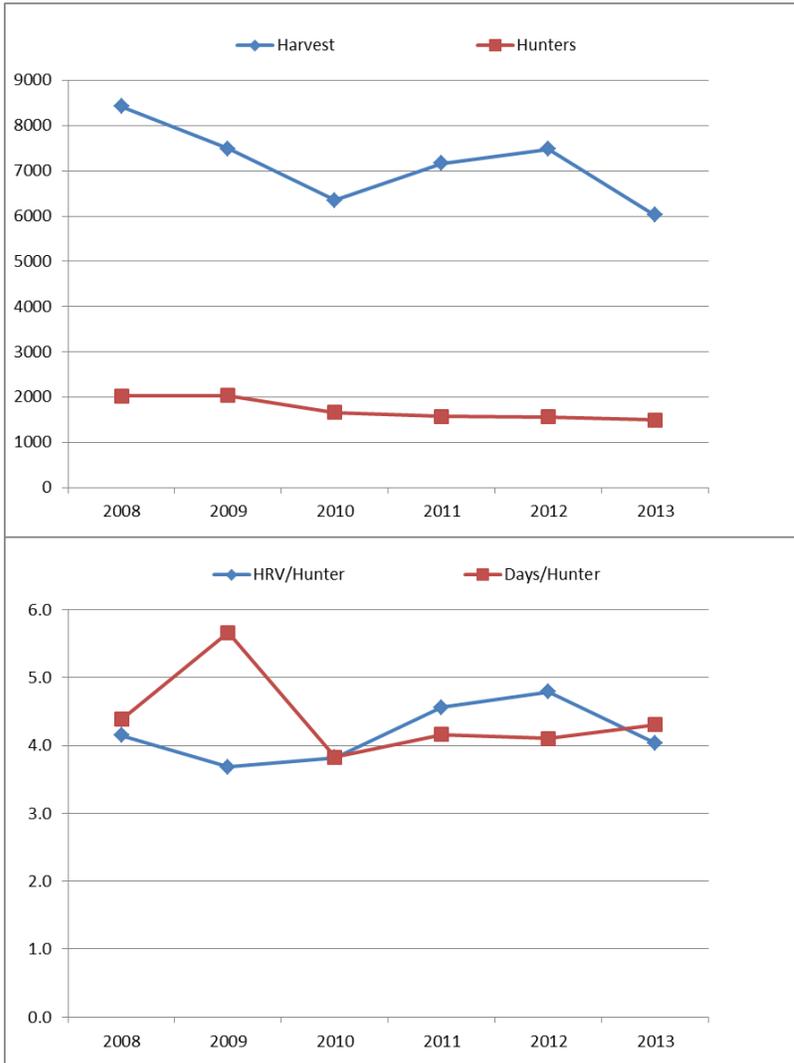


FIGURE 16. TOP GRAPH: QUAIL HARVEST AND HUNTER NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013. BOTTOM GRAPH: QUAIL HARVEST AND DAYS HUNTED PER HUNTER FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013.

TURKEY

Opportunistic observations during field work, public reports, and damage claims all indicate that the turkey population is doing very well in GMUs 124-133 and expanding into GMUs 136-142. Again, the district is predominantly private land and you will need to secure access. Access during the spring hunt can be competitive, but access should be relatively easy to acquire in GMU 124 for the fall seasons.

For more information on turkey in Washington see the [2013 Turkey Game Harvest Statistics](#) and [the most recent Game Status and Trend Report](#).

DOVE

Doves in District 2 occur at low population densities relative to the Columbia Basin and similar regions. As often as not, cool temperatures just prior to or during the dove season push many doves further south out of the District. Hunter harvest metrics indicate a relatively stable population (Figure 19), with harvest averaging ~2500 birds a year by ~300 hunters. Hunter effort (days/hunter) and harvest per hunter show some annual variation, but average 2.5 days per hunter and 8 doves per hunter (Figure 19). It is important to note that eastside hunters have an additional dove opportunity – the Eurasian collared Dove. This dove is an exotic dove that has just invaded most of eastern Washington and can be hunted with a license all year round.

For more information on doves see the 2013 Statewide Small Game Harvest Statistics: [Statewide and by County](#) and [the most recent Game Status and Trend Report](#).

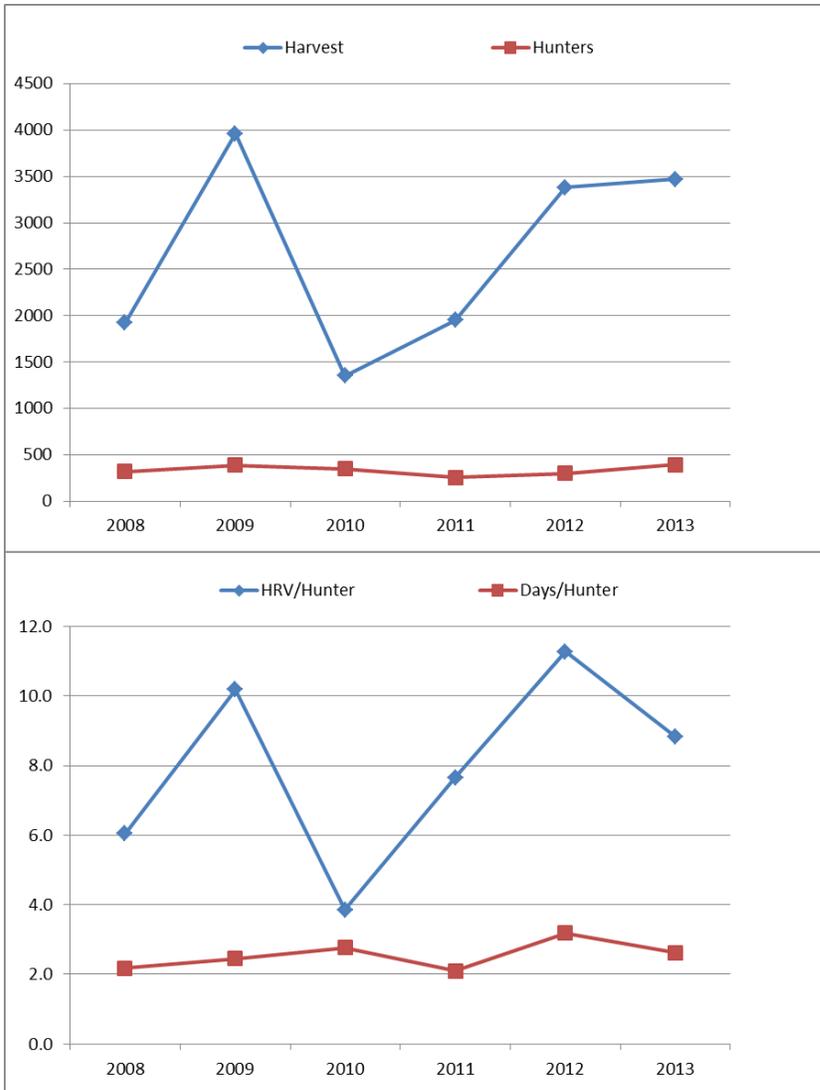


FIGURE 19. TOP GRAPH: FOREST GROUSE HARVEST AND HUNTER NUMBERS FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013. BOTTOM GRAPH: FOREST GROUSE HARVEST AND DAYS HUNTED PER HUNTER FOR DISTRICT 2 FROM 2008-2013.

MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS

The majority of the district is privately owned, however WDFW and BLM own ~60,000 acres in the center of Lincoln County and ~15,000 acres in northwest Whitman County. For more information on BLM property or to order maps, please visit the blm.gov website. For more information on WDFW lands please visit our wildlife area [webpage](#).

The Washington Department of Natural Resources maintains land that is open to the public for recreational purposes. Visitors to DNR land should be aware that a [Discover](#)

[Pass](#) is required for access. Further information regarding recreational opportunities on DNR land can be found [here](#).

The [US Army Corps of Engineers](#) also maintains lands associated with the Snake River that are open to the public for recreational purposes, not all are open to hunting so please research beforehand.

[Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge](#) (TNWR) has a limited entry youth waterfowl hunt (details available through TNWR) and allows elk hunting by permit only (permits allotted via WDFW special permit draw in June).

Riverside State Park and Mt Spokane State Park, along with all county parks in Spokane County are open to public access, but NOT to hunting.

There are several private timber companies that allow hunting in Spokane County; and throughout the district there are private landowners enrolled in WDFW hunt access programs (see “Private Lands Program” below and visit the [WDFW Private Lands Access web site](#)).

PRIVATE LANDS

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.

Currently, the private lands access program includes five basic access agreement types: Hunt by Written Permission (HBWP), Feel Free to Hunt (FFTH), Hunt by Reservation (HBR), Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP), and Register to Hunt (RTH). Total accessible acreage in District 2 is 170,809 acres – 24,892 in Spokane County, 45,324 in Lincoln County, and 100,593 in Whitman County. A summary of these acres by GMU and program are in Table 2 below. The LHP in GMU 130 is managed by the Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association (CPWMA); access is only available through WDFW Special Permitting and CPWMA Raffle Permit Hunts (see WDFW Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations Pamphlet. More information on the other four access programs and where these enrolled lands occur can be found at WDFW's [GoHunt](#) site and at the [WDFW Private Lands Access web site](#).

TABLE 2. ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND ENROLLED IN WDFW ACCESS PROGRAMS BY GMU IN DISTRICT 2.

Game Management Unit (GMU)	Hunt by Written Permission (HBWP)		Feel Free To Hunt (FFTH)		Hunt By Reservation (HBR)		Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP)		Register to Hunt (RTH)	
	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres
124 Mt Spokane	2	298	2	9,228						
127 Mica Peak			1	3,130						
130 Cheney	1	6,246					1	5,990		
133 Roosevelt	18	20,788	1	612						
136 Harrington	12	16,658	7	7,266						
139 Steptoe	15	12,620	7	5,286	22	48,852			2	320
142 Almota	8	12,111	6	3,248	10	18,156				
TOTAL	56	68,721	24	28,770	32	67,008	1	5,990	2	320