

2014

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



DISTRICT 9 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Skamania, Clark, and Klickitat Counties

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DISTRICT 9 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District Nine is located in the Southwest/central part of Washington and is the only district in the state that includes significant amounts of both west and east-side habitats. Game Management Units (GMUs) in District 9 include 554 (Yale), 564 (Battle Ground), 568 (Washougal), 560 (Lewis River), 572 (Siouxon), 574 Wind River), 578 (West Klickitat), 388 (Grayback), and 382 (East Klickitat). Hunters can choose a variety of habitats, including areas covered by west and east side season dates and permit regulations.

The geography of District 9 is dominated by the Cascade Mountain Range that divides the district into west and east sides zones. Topography varies from near sea level along the Columbia River and its lower tributaries to alpine habitats associated with Mt St Helens and Mt Adams in the Cascade Range.

Dominant west-side river drainages include the Lewis, Washougal, and Wind Rivers. Major east-side watersheds include the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers. Rock Creek in eastern Klickitat County is the primary watershed in ponderosa pine/oak and shrub steppe portions of the district. The southern border of the district is bounded by the Columbia River.

District 9 is one of the most diverse habitat areas of the state that includes west side coniferous forests dominated by Douglas fir and western hemlock. These forests give way to Oregon White Oak and Ponderosa Pine as you travel to the east side of the Cascade Mountains. In eastern Klickitat County, pine and oak habitat transition into shrub steppe dominated by grassland and sagebrush.

The majority of the west-side forest land is dominated by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and State land managed by the Department of Natural Resources. These are public lands open to public access. Weyerhaeuser owns a block of land in GMU 568 (Washougal) and typically allows motorized access to this area during the general hunting season. Information about recreational access to Weyerhaeuser land can be found [here](#).

East-side forest and shrub steppe/grassland habitat is primarily in private land ownership with limited public access. Industrial timber company lands are generally open to public hunting, but generally not open to private motorized vehicles. Access to these lands may be impacted during the months of August, September, and in some cases October due to high fire danger. Most timber companies maintain recreational access hotlines where hunters can find out if the land is closed to fire danger prior to hunting. You can find a list of recreational access websites and hotlines maintained by Private Industrial Timber Companies at the end of this document.

Hancock Timberlands in GMU 578 (West Klickitat) are popular for hunting deer, elk, and turkey. More information about hunting on Hancock Klickitat Timberlands can be found at the end of this document. WDFW has a Feel Free to Hunt access agreement with Western Pacific

Timber in GMU 388 (Grayback). This land is popular for deer hunting. More information about hunting on Western Pacific Land can be found at the end of this document. More information about hunting opportunities on private land can be found on [WDFW's Private Lands webpage](#) or at our [Go Hunt mapping](#) site.

ELK

Elk in District 9 are managed as part of the Mt. St. Helens Herd. Please see the [St. Helens Elk Herd Plan](#) available on the WDFW website for more information:

Elk hunting within District 9 is managed under a variety of seasons, so check regulations closely before going afield. Two specific details of elk management include the fact that GMUs 388 (Grayback) and 382 (East Klickitat) require Eastern Washington elk tags while the remainder of District 9 is within the Western Washington Elk tag area. Additionally, GMU 564 (Battle Ground) and 554 (Yale) are Firearm Restriction GMUs.

GMU 560 (Lewis River) offers the most opportunity for elk hunting in District 9. The majority of this area is public land and within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Access during the modern firearm season and hunter success can be dependent upon early season snow levels. GMU 574 (Wind River), 572 (Siouxon), and 578 (West Klickitat) are all good elk units. GMU's 574 and 572 are primarily USFS public lands. GMU 578 is primarily private lands so make sure you have good maps for identifying ownerships.

GMUs 388 and 382 in Klickitat County have very few elk and are more often considered better for deer hunting. GMU 564 in Clark County only has elk in the extreme northern portion of the GMU. This area has a mix of public and private lands and knowledge of ownership is important before planning your hunt in this area.

BACTERIAL HOOF DISEASE

Since 2008, WDFW has received increasing reports of elk with misshapen hooves in Cowlitz, Pacific, Lewis, Clark, Wahkiakum, and Grays Harbor counties, all within the range of the Willapa and Mt. St. Helens elk herds.

Reports have been increasing in number and geographic scope, and hunters are regularly seeing and sometimes harvesting an elk with this condition. It has been noted in both males and females; old as well as very young animals, and in any hoof.

The scientific panel working on the disease agreed that the disease most likely involves a type of bacterial infection that leaves elk with missing or misshapen hooves and that the disease closely resembles contagious [ovine digital dermatitis](#) in sheep. These bacteria (*Treponema* sp.) have

been linked to an increase of hoof disease in sheep and cattle in many parts of the world, but have never before been documented in elk or other wildlife. There is no reason to believe that elk hoof disease is contagious to humans and similar diseases in livestock do not affect humans. Thousands of elk have been harvested in southwest Washington since the disease first appeared and WDFW is not aware of any cases of human disease that have been associated with hoof disease in elk.

Microscopic examination of tissues, including meat, from elk affected by hoof disease has not revealed evidence of infection, inflammation, or any other indication that the meat is unsuitable for human consumption. In all animals inspected to date, the disease has been limited to the hooves, and the meat has been normal. Domestic animals that are severely affected by hoof disease are commonly slaughtered, and hoof disease in domestic animals does not cause federal meat inspectors to condemn the meat as unsuitable for human food. If the meat looks and smells normal, and if common sense and good hygiene are practiced during the harvesting, processing, and cooking; the meat is most likely safe to eat. Please see the Department's website [Wild Game Meat Food Safety](#).

Hunters should be aware to minimize the spread of the disease; the Department has proposed new regulations requiring hunters to leave the hooves of any elk taken in the affected area on site. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is scheduled to hear public comments and take action on this proposal in August, so please check the Department's website for more details on this regulation before your hunt starts this fall.

More information can be found on page 60 in the pamphlet and on the department's [webpage](#). Hunters are encouraged to use the [online reporting tool](#) on that webpage if they observe or harvest elk that are suspected of having this hoof disease.

DEER

Deer populations are generally stable in lower elevation units such as Washougal (568) and Battle Ground (564), as well as the Klickitat County GMU's West Klickitat (578) and Grayback (388). Deer hunting in East Klickitat (382) should not be at potential as post season buck numbers have been poor over the past few years. Expect success rates to stay lower than normal until populations rebound. Deer populations are generally low in the Cascade Mountain GMUs, i.e. Lewis River (560), Wind River (574), and Siouxon (572).

Deer harvest and success is remarkably consistent within District 9 and a general season total harvest of approximately 2,500 bucks representing 15-20% hunter success is again anticipated during the 2014 hunt. Please see both the [Game Harvest Statistics and Game Status and Trend](#)

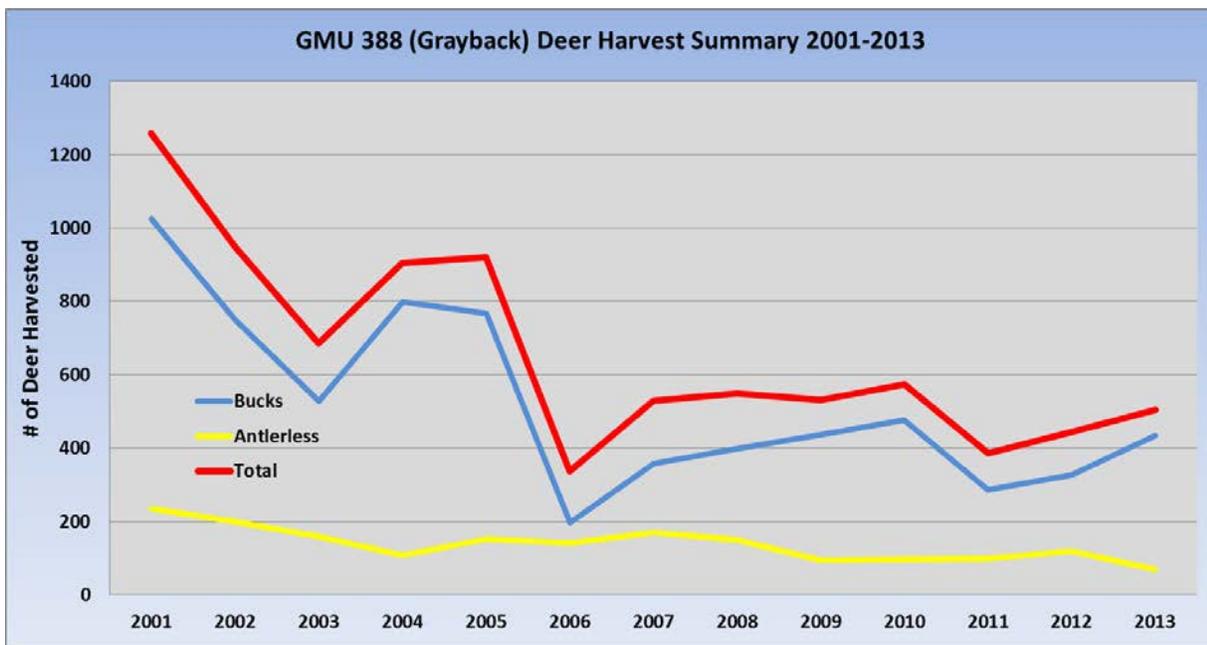
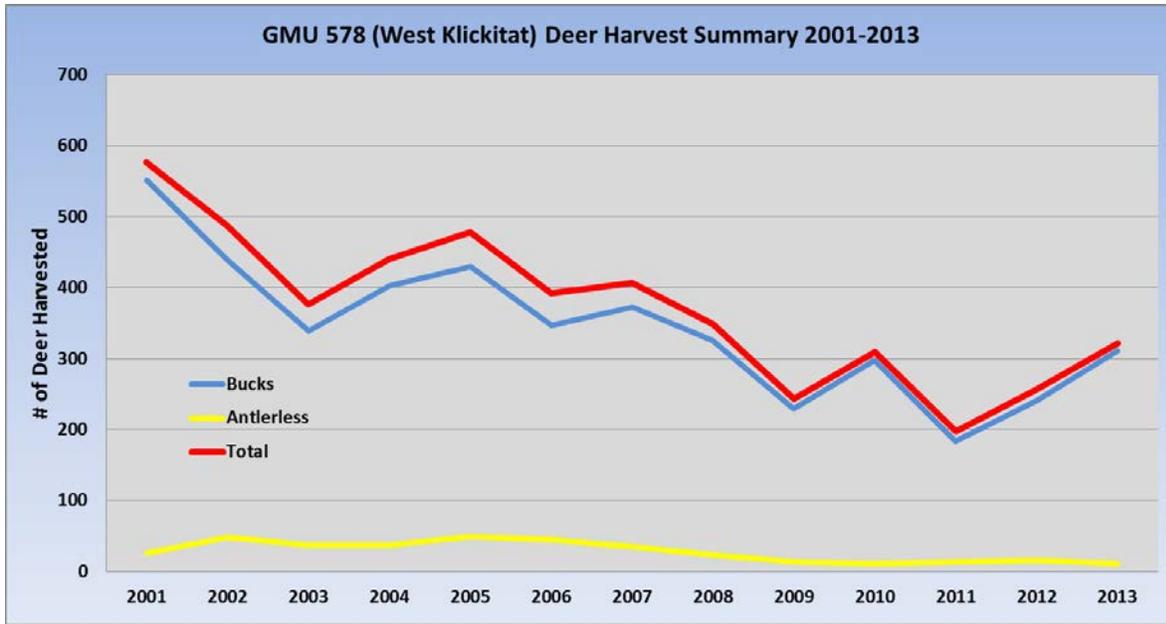
[Reports](#) on the Hunting page of the WDFW website for much more information on deer management in District 9.

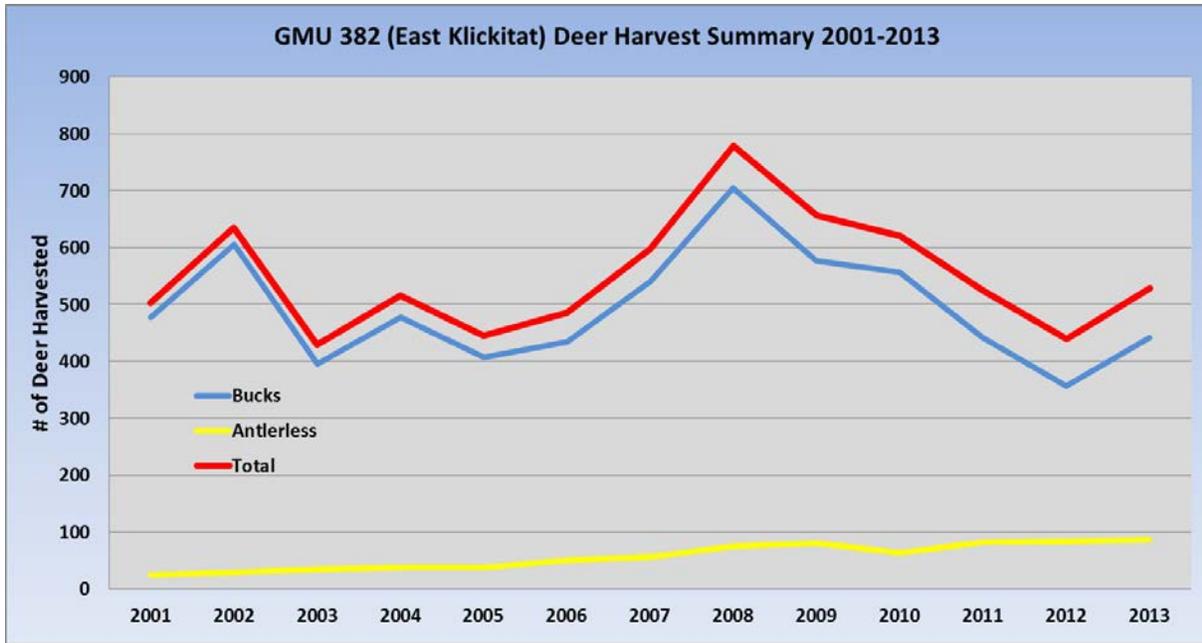
Successful hunting for black-tailed deer is primarily a function of the effort, focus, and energy that hunters put into the hunt. Black-tailed deer thrive in heavily vegetated habitats and are often very nocturnal in nature. This means that successful black-tail hunters must be in position early in the morning and carefully hunt near sources of food and in secure cover.

Bucks travel more during the rut when they cover large amounts of territory searching for does in estrus. This makes bucks more vulnerable as they spend less time hiding and are sometimes found in “open” habitats, i.e., clear-cuts and meadows. Not surprisingly, approximately one-third of the annual buck harvest in Region 5 occurs during the 4-day “late buck” hunt held each November.

Within District 9, GMUs 554 (Yale), 560 (Lewis River), 564 (Battle Ground), 568 (Washougal), and 572 (Siouxon) offer an attractive general-season hunting opportunity. Hunters should note however, the firearm restrictions in GMUs 554 and 564 (see page 83 of the 2014 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations.)

Those interested in a more trophy-oriented deer hunting opportunity might consider any of the Klickitat County Units. GMU 578 (West Klickitat), GMU 388 (Grayback), and GMU 382 (East Klickitat) are all managed under a 3-point or larger antler restriction. Collectively, the Klickitat GMUs support an annual harvest of over 1,000 3-point or larger bucks. Please see the graphics below illustrating the annual harvest in each of the Klickitat Units. Also, please review the deer hunting regulations closely before going afield as the rules differ in each unit and none of the Klickitat GMUs allow general-season late-buck hunting.





BEAR

District 9 is split between two black bear hunt zones for the fall bear hunting season; the South Cascades (GMUs 574, 572, 568, 564, and 560) in which the season runs from August 15- November 15, and the East Cascades (GMUs 578, 388, and 382) which runs from August 1- November 15. Harvest numbers and hunter success for 2013 in the South Cascades and East Cascades zone were 102 (2.6% success) and 184 (4% success), respectively.

All successful bear hunters must submit the premolar tooth in a tooth envelope—see page 64 of the pamphlet for more details.

COUGAR

Cougars are difficult to target and are typically harvested opportunistically by deer and elk hunters. The early cougar hunting season runs from September 1 - December 31. A season harvest guideline system was initiated in 2012, which closes hunt areas after January 1st if the harvest guidelines have been met or exceeded. For more information on these new guidelines and to check if the area you are interested in hunting is closed or not please see the [cougar webpage](#). All cougar pelts must be sealed by WDFW within 5 days of harvest. Contact a WDFW office to make an appointment to have a cougar pelt sealed. In 2013-14, the cougar harvest for District 9 GMUs was as follows: GMU 382- 8, GMU 388- 2, GMU 578- 4, GMU 574- 1, GMU 560- 4, GMU 572- 2, GMU 568- 3.

WATERFOWL

Goose Hunting: Hunters are reminded of the complex goose hunting regulations in area 2A designed to protect wintering populations of the Dusky Canada goose. New hunters and those who had their previous year's hunting authorization invalidated for Goose Management Area 2A need to pass an exam with a minimum of 80% to receive their current year hunting authorization.

Go to the following WDFW web site for additional information on the examination and the details of the hunting season at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/canada_goose/.

Dusky Canada goose populations remain below objectives and liberalization of the hunting season structure is not likely in the near term. Most public goose hunting in Clark County is located in the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Hunter access to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is by reservation.

Very little goose hunting is available in Skamania County. Goose hunting in Klickitat County is limited and primarily associated with private lands. Keep in mind that permission is always necessary for access to these sites. Dusky Canada geese are not generally found in Skamania or Klickitat counties and fall under more liberal goose hunting regulations. Check the [waterfowl pamphlet](#) for more information on season length and bag limits.

Duck Hunting: Duck hunting this fall should be excellent based on breeding season reports from British Columbia and Alaska. A wet spring resulted in abundant habitat for waterfowl production. Like Canada goose hunting, most public access for duck hunting in Clark County is limited to the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

DOVE

Klickitat County has a few areas for dove hunting but the majority of quality areas are found on private hunt clubs. Opportunity is limited as little quality public land exists for dove hunting. Recent surveys in the spring of 2014 indicate a decline in dove numbers and fall hunting should be below average to poor. Some dove hunting opportunity exists in the Vancouver lowlands, i.e. Shillapoo Wildlife Area.

FOREST GROUSE

Grouse numbers should be reduced somewhat in 2014 due to a cooler and wetter spring in the South Cascades. Most grouse harvest in District 9 is associated with general deer and elk hunting seasons as birds are hunted opportunistically. Prospective hunters should focus hunting efforts on brushy riparian zones or overgrown abandoned logging roads for the best chance at

success, especially ruffed grouse. Hunters interested in forest grouse will improve their chances by scouting areas prior to their hunt. In District 9, the predominance of quality grouse habitat is located on USFS lands in Skamania County and select areas of the Simcoe Mountains west of Highway 97 in Klickitat County.

PHEASANT

District 9 has very little wild production of pheasants compared to other areas of eastern Washington. Essentially all hunting opportunities are associated with pen-raised birds and the formalized release sites in Klickitat County (Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Sites) and Clark County (Western Washington Pheasant Release Sites). Additional information about these sites as well as others in the State of Washington can be found at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/upland_birds/pheasant.html

Details about each of the pheasant hunting sites are listed below.

Clark County Pheasant Release Sites

Shillapoo Wildlife Area

The Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release sites are on WDFW owned land and comprise approximately 1,450 acres. To reach both the Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release sites take the Fourth Plain Blvd. exit (exit #1 D) off I-5. Go west on Fourth Plain Blvd. For the Vancouver Lake release site, head north on Fruit Valley Road, then west on La Frombois Road to the site. For the Shillapoo Release site, stay on Lower River Road to the site.

Woodland Bottoms

This 270 acre site is partially owned by DNR and partially privately owned. To find the Woodland Bottoms release site, take the Woodland exit (exit 21) off I-5. Head west on Goerig Road and Davidson Ave. Go around Horseshoe Lake on South Pekin Road to Whalen Road. Travel west on Whalen Road, then south on Kuhns Road to the release site.

Klickitat County Pheasant Release Sites

A total of approximately 400 pheasants are released at three sites in Klickitat County each year. One is located on Department-owned land, and the others are on land owned by a private individual. Please treat the properties respectfully, so that future visitors may enjoy these sites as well. All sites are for day-use only; no overnight camping is allowed. These sites are relatively undeveloped, with primitive road access. Roads may become slippery when wet, and soil will become extremely soft with fall rains and snow. Be cautious in selecting parking places next to

roads in order to avoid becoming stuck. Driving off-road across fields is never allowed regardless of season.

Goldendale Hatchery Pheasant Release Site

This 240 acre site is owned by WDFW. It is bounded by Hill Road on the west side and Fish Hatchery Road on the north side.

Directions: From Goldendale, drive west on Highway 142 approximately 4 miles to the intersection with Hill Road. Drive about 0.5 mile north on Hill Road, across the bridge over Spring Creek, then turn east on a dirt road onto WDFW property. This road goes into the center of the property. Note: The hatchery facilities are located along the east boundary of the parcel. Please stay away from the immediate vicinity of the buildings to protect worker safety.

Gun Club Property

This 480 acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by Rogers Road on the north and Fenton Lane to the east.

Directions: From the intersection with Broadway Street in Goldendale, drive east on the Bickleton Highway 5.6 miles to the intersection with Purvine Road. Turn right (south) on Purvine Road and drive 0.9 miles to the T intersection with Rogers Road. Go either left or right on Rogers Road and look for wire gates accessing the property. There are two gates. Both are marked with signs exhibiting the WDFW logo. Park along Rogers Road, outside the fence, and walk in. Purvine Road may be impassible when wet. For an alternative access go east another 1 mile on the Bickleton Highway, and turn right (south) on Fenton Lane. Follow Fenton Lane south 1 mile to its intersection with Rogers Road. Turn right (west) onto Rogers Road, and drive about 0.1 mile west to a gate and parking area.

Finn Ridge Road Property

This 160-acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by the Finn Ridge Road along the south property line and Ahola Road to the west.

Directions: From Centerville, drive 2 miles west on the Centerville Highway to a 90 degree bend in the highway to the south. Turn right (north) on Erickson Road. Drive 1 mile to the intersection with the Finn Ridge Road. Turn left (west) onto Finn Ridge Road and follow it about 1.5 miles to the first sign marking the corner of the site, on the right. It is marked with green "Feel Free To Hunt" signs.

QUAIL, GRAY PARTRIDGE, AND CHUKAR

Spring conditions have been wetter than normal and landowner reports indicate that upland bird populations in eastern Klickitat County are currently suppressed. Expect upland bird hunting in GMU's 388 and 382 to be less than desirable in this fall. Most access for upland bird hunting is restricted to private lands and hunt clubs in eastern Klickitat County. Hunters interested in hunting this area should seek permission in advance of the season to access upland bird hunting areas. Most hunt clubs have waiting lists for new members so access is difficult without membership.

TURKEY

Wild Turkey populations in Klickitat County continue to be healthy and hunting conditions for the fall of 2014 should be good. Turkeys with broods have been seen in the late spring in western and central Klickitat County. Decent size broods have been seen around the Klickitat Wildlife Area and low elevations around the town of White Salmon.

The majority of quality hunting areas in Klickitat County are below 1,500 ft. Popular hunting areas are generally associated with the Big White Salmon and Klickitat River drainages. East of the Klickitat River, small turkey populations are found in the Simcoe Mountains north and west of the town of Goldendale. Numerous landowners have issues with turkey damage on private property in the lower Klickitat River drainage, from the town of Klickitat south. Private landowners may be willing to provide access to turkey hunters that ask for permission and practice good hunter ethics.

Skamania County turkey populations are located primarily in the eastern part of the County below 1,000 ft. elevation. Clark County offers little to no turkey hunting opportunity.



TURKEYS IN THE KLICKITAT RIVER DRAINAGE

PUBLIC LAND RESOURCES

DNR-Pacific Cascades Office (SW WA)

601 Bond Road
PO Box 280
Castle Rock, WA 98611-0280

Phone: 360-577-2025

pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov

Link to purchase DNR quad maps:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/Maps/Pages/public_land_quadrangle_maps.aspx

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Link to purchase ranger district maps:

http://www.nationalforeststore.com/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=NFS&Category_Code=R6WA

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS

Green Diamond

- Use red dot-green dot system of identifying roads that are open to motorized access and those which are closed
- Fee access program in place on some properties in Mason County
<http://www.greendiamond.com/recreation/FAQ/>

Hancock Forest Management (HFM)

HFM Cathlamet Tree Farm,

- Access hotline 360-795-3653

HFM Klickitat Timberlands

- Generally open to walk-in access with motorized access through property via County roads
- Access hotline (509) 364-3331

Longview Timber

- Access Hotline (360) 442-7619

Pope Resources/ORM

- Generally open to walk-in access

Port Blakely

- Generally open to walk-in access

Rayonier

- Access varies. Includes areas free to the public, permit access and leased parcels. See <http://www.rayonierhunting.com/> for details

SDS (Stevenson Land Company or Broughton)

- Generally open to walk-in access. More info at: <http://stevensonlandcompany.com/recreation-opportunities/>

Sierra Pacific

Ryderwood Tree Farm

- Access hotline 360-623-1299

Weyerhaeuser

- Recreational access hotline-866-636-6531, recreation webpage <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/Businesses/RecreationalAccess/Washington>
- Access varies by tree farm
 - St. Helens Tree Farm
 - Access is primarily permit only. Permits can be purchased on website above. Select blocks are also open for free walk-in access. Please see website for details including maps.
 - Yacolt- Yacolt- Washougal GMU 568
 - Yacolt Burn Club opens and closes gates in morning and evening, beginning early Oct (after fire danger has subsided) until mid-Dec. Rd#s 8200, 8600, & 8500. Don't remain behind gates after sunset, you will be locked in.
 - Vail- Permit and lease access
 - Pe Ell- Permit, lease and some free access
 - 56,000 acres of free public access around Doty/Coyote crest, which is around the north end of the eastern border between Lewis and Pacific Counties.

- Columbia Timberlands (formerly Longview Timber)
 - Generally open to walk-in access with some mainlines open for motorized access.

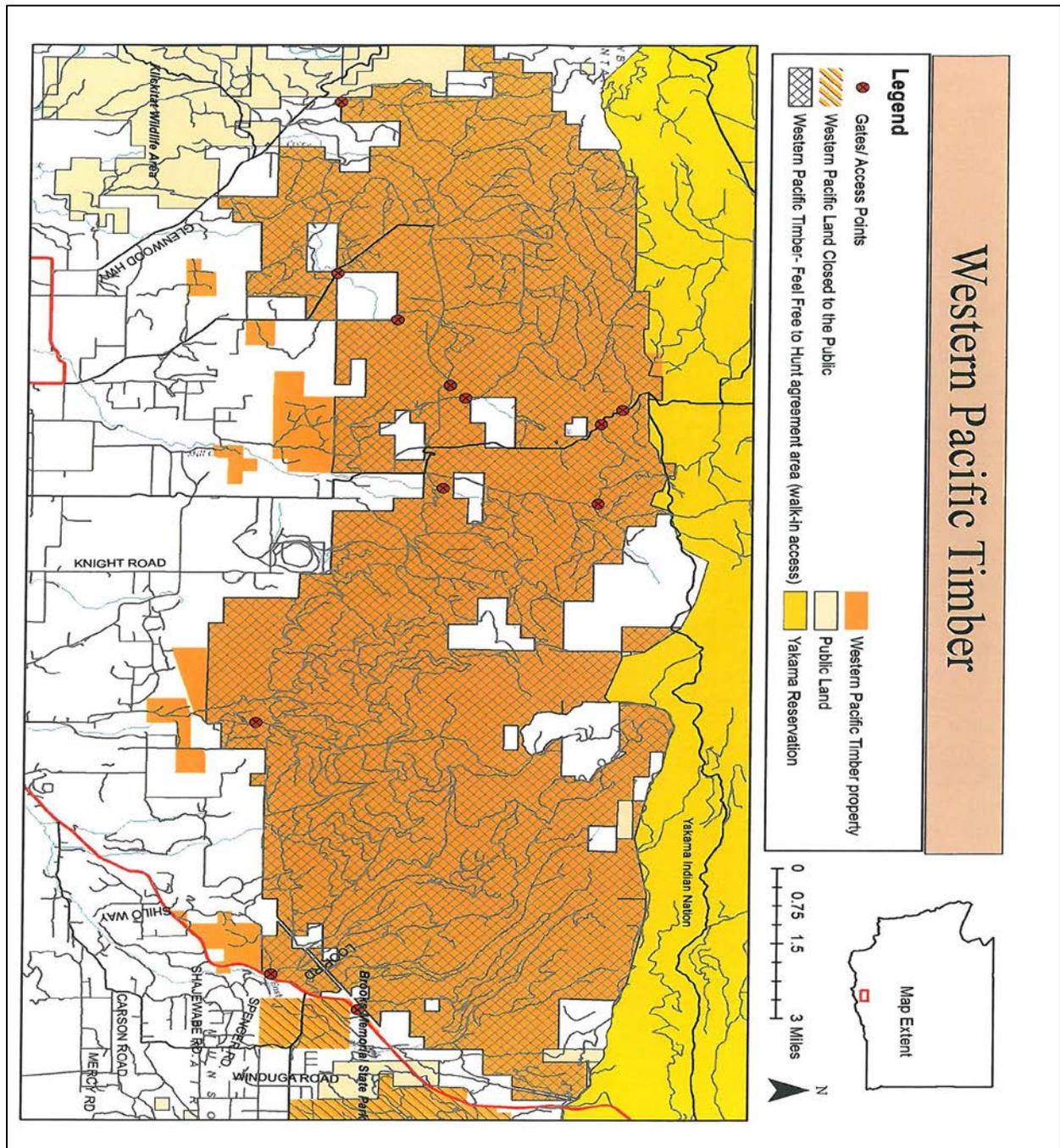
Western Pacific Timber

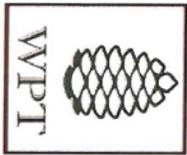
- The majority of these lands are enrolled in WDFW’s Feel Free to Hunt Program (FFTH). The lands are open to walk in access only, with the exception of county roads that run through the property and remain open for motorized access.
- More information can be located at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/private_land/hunt/128/
- Western Pacific lands East of HWY 97 are CLOSED to public access
- Contact WPT Boise office (208) 343-6074 for closure updates

West Fork Timber

- Generally open to walk-in access

INFORMATION ABOUT HUNTING ON WESTERN PACIFIC LANDS





Western Pacific Timber



Welcome to Western Pacific Timber

Western Pacific Timber maintains over 65,000 acres of private land open to the public in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Help us all to maintain access to these lands by being a respectful and courteous visitor. Treat them as you would your own property.

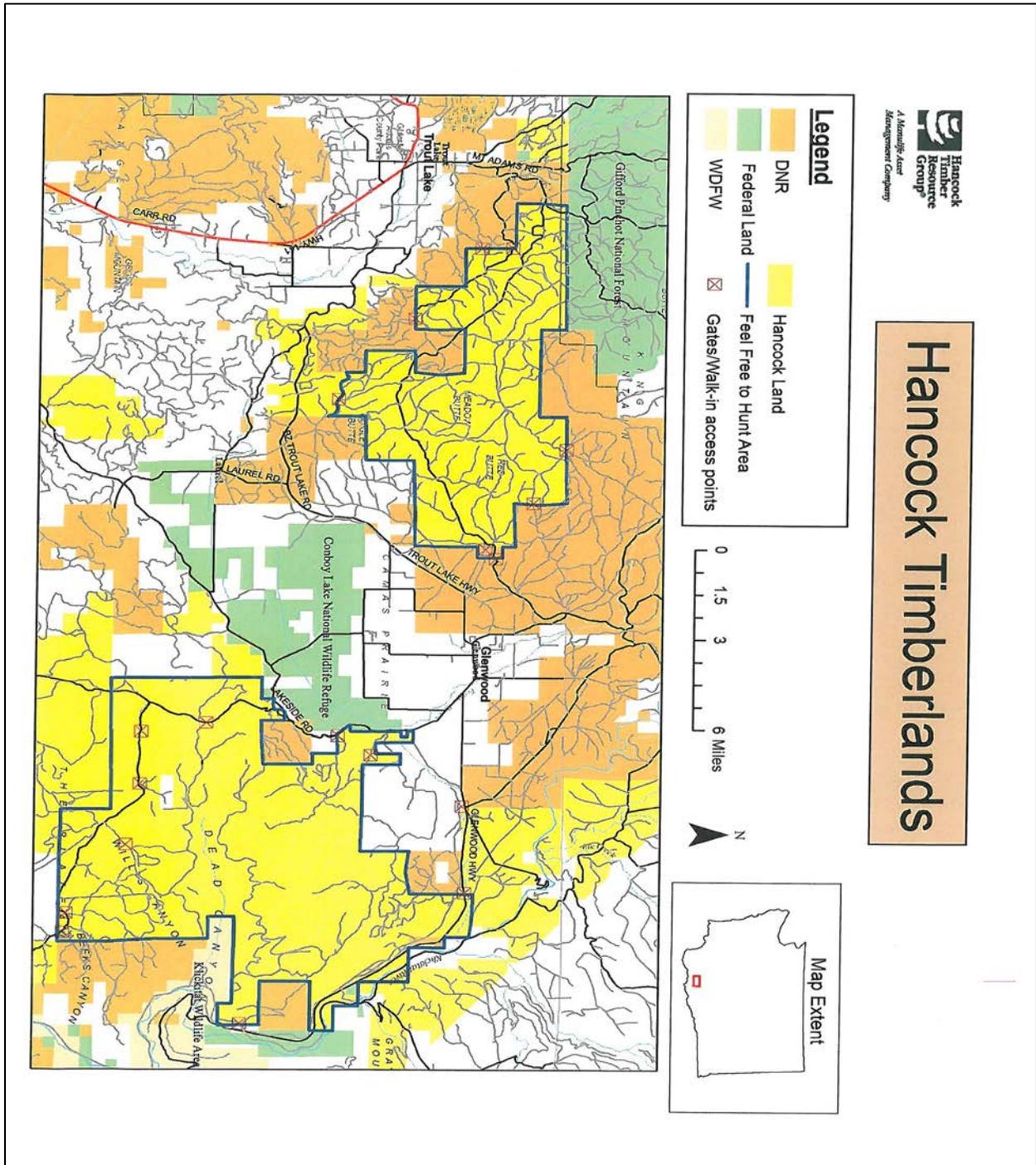
- ***Obey road closures. No vehicles are permitted behind gates. Do not block or obstruct gates.***
- ***No firewood cutting is permitted without a written permit from Western Pacific Timber.***
- ***No campfires or other open fires are permitted.***
- ***No littering or dumping***
- ***If you camp, leave no trace, clean your campsite.***
- ***Do not drive nails into trees or shoot at trees***
- ***Drive roads with caution – watch for log trucks and other traffic.***
- ***Western Pacific lands East of US97 are Closed to public entry.***

Help us by reporting vandalism or other violations. The misdeeds of a few may mean loss of access for everyone! For non-emergency poaching/violations call 1-877-933-9847

For other questions or concerns please call Nicholle Stephens, WDFW, (360) 906-6724

Enjoy your visit to Western Pacific Timber

INFORMATION ABOUT HUNTING ON HANCOCK CLICKITAT TIMBERLANDS:





Welcome to Hancock Timberlands



Hancock Forest Management Klickitat Timberlands maintains over 34,000 acres open to public hunting, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Help us all to maintain access to these lands by being a respectful and courteous visitor. Treat them as you would your own property.

- Obey road closures. No unauthorized motor vehicles behind closed gates. Do not block or obstruct gates.
- No fires permitted between April 15 and November 1 unless otherwise posted.
- Firewood cutting by permit only. Firewood cutting for *campfire* use *only* is allowed without a permit.
- No littering or dumping.
- Camping is limited to 14 days except October 15 to December 15.
- Camping sites must be temporary with no permanent structures. Do not use nails or wire, shoot at trees, or otherwise damage trees.
- Leave clean campsites. Pack it in, pack it out.
- No mushroom picking is allowed on Hancock lands.

Help us by reporting vandalism and other violations. The misdeeds of a few may mean the loss of access for everyone! For non-emergency poaching/violations call 1-877-933-9847

Enjoy your stay on Hancock Timberlands

509-364-3331

In case of emergency, call 911