

2009 Game Animal Population and Hunting Information

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District/Wildlife Area: District Two

Pheasant: Prospects look good, relative to last year, with good spring weather for broods. Pheasant hunters will face access problems since almost all of District 2 is private land; it takes some preparation and “knocking on doors” to get access. The best time of the year to do this is during the winter, or during the early summer before the harvest begins. We will also be releasing game farm produced roosters once again this fall at the traditional release sites, which are mapped on the Go Hunt website -- <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/gohunt/index.html>.

Quail: Prospects look good, relative to last year, with good spring weather for broods. Large broods have been observed throughout the area. Access can be a problem, especially with most of the good quail habitat occurring in and around towns.

Gray Partridge: The prospects this year appear to be the same as they were for 2008.

Chukar: There are very few chukar in District 2, they are predominantly found along the breaks of the Snake River. The population appears to be the same as last year. Terrain is steep and rocky with limited public access.

Forest Grouse: Numbers appear to be down in District 2, but it’s still possible to shoot one opportunistically in the forested portions of the District.

Wild Turkeys: Observations and a few reports indicate that this winter’s deep & prolonged snow cover may not have drastically affected the turkey population in District 2. This, plus the large successful broods that have been observed this summer, will probably result in another year with good turkey opportunity.

Waterfowl: Should be similar to last year, 2008. Abundant water this spring did not appear to have enhanced local production, however, given the limited number of local nesting ducks the waterfowl hunting opportunity is mostly dependent upon the number of migrants coming from Canada and Alaska and how long waters remain ice free.

Dove: Hunting prospects for 2009 should be similar to last year. However, District 2 is not a major dove area, with doves occurring 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.

White-tailed Deer: Impacts to white-tailed deer in District 2 from the record snow fall have been spotty. With some areas showing numbers similar to 2008, while in other areas, the numbers of deer appears to have been reduced. The impacts of winter were offset some by the long warm fall of 2008. However, there was an abnormal high number of road kills this winter immediately following the record snow fall in early January. Overall harvest will probably be lower this year than in 2008, which had the highest antlered harvest and the second highest 4+ point harvest in the past eight years.

Mule Deer: Overall mule deer appear to have weathered these past couple winters better than the White-tailed deer, but have shown the same spotty pattern with some areas showing stable numbers and other areas a decline. Hunting prospects should be similar to 2008.

Elk: There are fewer elk in District 2 relative to District 3. The elk populations do not appear to have been heavily hit by the last two winters. Hunting prospects should be similar to 2008. Hunter access is an issue, since most of our elk herds are found on private land or on Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, which does not allow hunting.

Miscellaneous Comments: