

2009 Game Animal Population and Hunting Information

Biologist: Patrick J. Miller

District/Wildlife Area: District Ten

Pheasant: 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>.

Forest Grouse: We had a dry spring and summer which might help our grouse chick survival. Forestry practices and spring weather are the major influence on grouse production.

Waterfowl: Northern flights provide most of the hunting and we are fortunate to see bag increases in pintail, scaup and canvasback. SW Washington hunters in Goose Area 2A will need to get their permits from a license vendor this year. Dusky numbers are down and quotas have been reduced within the flyway. The Goose check station at Ridgefield Marina will not be operated this year due to budget reductions.

Black tailed deer: Poor fawn numbers last year will translate into fewer spike bucks this fall. Winter conditions were mild and fawn numbers look good so far this summer, our surveys are not yet complete. Deer numbers are tied closely to forest management and recent timber harvest in GMU 530 would suggest that deer may be increasing in that unit.

Elk.: The St Helens herd is still in a reduction strategy and permit hunting this fall will continue WDFW's efforts to balance the population with habitat. The Access Coalition is again working with WEYCO to allow for increased access on the St Helens' tree farm; watch for volunteers and follow their advice on open and closed roads. We still need more volunteers to help with this program, contact the WDFW Region V office if you want more info on how you can help your fellow hunter.