

2009 Game Animal Population and Hunting Information

Biologist: Russell Link

District/Wildlife Area: District 12 (King County)

Pheasant: Game-farm produced pheasants will be released this fall at the traditional release sites, which are mapped on the Go Hunt website -- <http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/gohunt/index.html>.

Quail: There are relatively few quail in District 12 (King County). The population appears to be the same as last year.

Forest Grouse: Populations are likely consistent with recent years. Hunters should contact the local US Forest Service District office for up to date information about road and trail conditions because severe weather in recent years has caused lots of damage to many roads and trails. Hunters should scout their preferred hunting areas well in advance because many state and private timberlands are now gated, with access restricted to non-motorized methods.

Wild Turkeys: A few turkeys exist in District 12 (King County), however, populations are low and distribution is impossible to predict. Many of the turkey sightings reported are domesticated animals.

Waterfowl: Opportunity should be similar to last year. 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 12 (King County) is not a major dove area, with only an average of 29 harvested during the 2004-2008 seasons.

Black-tailed Deer: Hunting prospects should be similar to last year.

Deer in GMU 454 (Issaquah) continue to be managed with liberal seasons designed to prevent road kills and keep damage issues at acceptable levels in highly-developed areas.

This unit is approximately 90% private land and access continues to be a problem for hunters. Sportsman's Club may be trying to accommodate hunters by hooking them up with property owners interested in having a hunter harvest a deer on their property.

Success in this unit and GMU 460 (Snoqualmie) may well depend on getting to know your neighbors and broaching the subject of hunting as a means of protecting their fruit trees and vegetable beds. Firearm restrictions are in place because landowners are concerned about safety. Bow hunters should have an advantage in gaining permission.

GMU 466 (Stampede) is a patchwork of private land, State lands, and Forest Service lands (Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest). It consists largely of second growth timber with some old growth on Forest Service lands. This unit consists of a lot of steep ground, with about 2,500 feet in elevation change. Be prepared for early winter snowfall, which has the potential of standing hunters.

Hunters should scout their preferred hunting areas well in advance because many state and private timberlands are now gated, with access restricted to non-motorized methods.

Annual harvest reports and harvest statistics based on hunter reporting can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/harvest/index.html>

Elk: Hunting prospects should be similar to last year. See above comments for deer. Annual harvest reports and harvest statistics based on hunter reporting can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/harvest/index.html>

Miscellaneous comments:

Tribal Hunting: District 12 (King County) occurs within the ceded area of several Northwest Treaty Tribes and tribal hunting. Tribes set their own seasons and bag limits. Tribal enforcement personnel ensure that tribal hunting regulations, which are sometimes very different from state regulations, are followed.

Firearms Restriction Areas in King County:

Per the Fish and Wildlife Commission decision, centerfire and rimfire rifles are not legal for hunting in the area west of Hwy 203 (Monroe-Fall City), then Fall City-Preston Rd. to I-90, I-90 to Hwy. 18, Hwy. 18 to I-5, I-5 to Pierce-King Co. line; also Vashon and Maury Islands.

King County ordinances, no shooting areas have been established in many areas in the county. Please contact your local sheriff for specific locations.