

2009 Game Animal Population and Hunting Information

Biologist: Greg Schirato

District/Wildlife Area: District 15

Black-tailed Deer: Overall deer hunting throughout the district should be comparable to last year. There is good buck escapement. Green Diamond lands south of the Olympics present some of the best hunting opportunity. Many hunters enjoy hunting the Skokomish GMU 2 point minimum unit. Again Green Diamond lands with industrial clearcuts provide much higher deer densities.

Elk: Elk hunting in this area consists almost entirely of permit only hunts. Success will be down about 50% this year due to low bull escapement.

Waterfowl: Waterfowl hunting should be similar or slightly higher than 2008. Public hunting access exists at the mouth of the Skokomish, Duckabush, Quilcene and Union Rivers. Many of the undeveloped lakes and marshes on the Tahuya Peninsula offer an untapped and remote hunting opportunity for mallards and scaup.

Band-tailed Pigeon: Opportunity should be similar to 2008; no net increase in numbers was apparent during surveys over previous years. Bandtails are most prevalent in the district along marine shorelines near mineral locations or in the higher elevation berry fields.

Grouse: Hunting on the Olympic National Forest provides high success and opportunity for a combination of blue and ruffed grouse. The Skokomish valley is a popular grouse area.