

2018



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

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# **DISTRICT 7 HUNTING PROSPECTS**

Chelan and Douglas counties

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## BE AWARE OF FIRE CONDITIONS

This report was written before the full extent of this year's wildfires in northcentral and northeast Washington was known. Watch for fire condition updates in the monthly Weekender hunting reports, WDFW news releases, or WDFW social media posts.

While the department currently has no plans to close any hunting seasons due to wildfires, access restrictions may be in place on many public and private lands in these areas. Wherever you choose to hunt, be sure to check on fire conditions, access restrictions, and other emergency rules before you head out.

For more information, see:

- [Wildfire status updates](#)
- [Northwest Interagency Coordination Center](#)
- [Chelan County Emergency Management](#)
- [Okanogan County Emergency Management](#)
- [Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest](#)

## DISTRICT 7 GENERAL OVERVIEW

Split in two by the Columbia River and comprised of Chelan and Douglas counties, the Wenatchee District is at the heart of Washington state. From the crest of the Cascade Range to the shrubsteppe of the Columbia Basin, District 7 offers an incredibly diverse range of habitats and hunting opportunities. Hunters in District 7 have access to a variety of small and big game species, with hunting opportunities ranging from agricultural fields and sagebrush to alpine basins tucked away deep in the wilderness.

Douglas County, the eastern half of the district, is a plateau of shrubsteppe, farmlands, and deep basalt coulees. Ownership is mostly private, yet Douglas County offers incredible opportunities to hunt a variety of species. Hunters seeking pheasant, quail, doves, gray partridge, chukar, and mule deer will find ample areas to hunt across the county. Game management units in Douglas County are 248 (Big Bend), 254 (Saint Andrews), 260 (Foster Creek), 262 (Withrow), 266 (Badger), and 269 (Moses Coulee).

Chelan County descends from a high point of 9,500 feet along the Cascade Crest in the west downward to the Columbia River, its eastern boundary. Composed of five mountain ranges (Sawtooth, Chelan, Entiat, Chiwaukum, and Wenatchee) providing unlimited terrain, the county raises less than 800 feet at its lowest point along the Columbia River, roughly 40 miles east.

Home to some of the best mule deer hunting in the state, Chelan County is a destination for many hunters. With its large public land base, the county offers almost unlimited opportunity to find a place of your own. Four of the state's six high deer hunt wilderness areas are in Chelan County, as well as three bighorn sheep herds and an increasing mountain goat population. Game

management units in Chelan County are 243 (Manson), 244 (Clark), 245 (Chiwawa), 246 (Slide Ridge), 247 (Entiat), 249 (Alpine), 250 (Swakane), 251 (Mission).

## **CURRENT SPECIES STATUS**

**Big Game:** Almost all the deer harvested in District 7 are mule deer, with very few white-tailed deer. Lesser known is that there are black-tailed deer in Chelan County, and that the mule deer share more black-tailed genes than hunters realize. Elk are present primarily along the southern edge and central portions of Chelan County. Our elk are the northern extension of the Colockum Herd, centered to the south in Kittitas County. Black bears roam across almost all habitats in Chelan County. Their densities are higher in the wetter timbered habitats in western Chelan County and near the crest of the Cascades, and at somewhat lower densities in drier habitats farther east. Hunters harvest few black bears in Douglas County, but they do occur in small numbers in brush filled riparian draws along the Columbia River and other drainages. Cougars occupy all the habitats where deer and elk are located, and while most cougar harvests take place during deer and elk seasons, the cougar population goes under harvested in most years. Winter conditions and fresh snow determine how easy or difficult a dedicated cougar hunt will be. There are three California bighorn sheep herds in the district, the Swakane, Chelan Butte, and Manson herds. The world's record California bighorn sheep came out of the Swakane herd in Chelan County in 2010, and the Chelan Butte herd has become known for producing trophy class California bighorn rams. Mountain goats occupy most all of the high elevation habitat in Chelan County and numbers are increasing. For now, hunting opportunities for mountain goats are limited to areas bordering Lake Chelan.

**Upland birds:** Upland bird hunting is available across the district. Turkey hunting occurs mainly in Chelan County, but numbers are growing in northern Douglas County, and some newly acquired wildlife areas are expanding opportunities. Hutable grouse species are in forested environments in both counties. Hunters can pursue sooty, dusky, spruce, and ruffed grouse in different parts of the district. The three other grouse species, greater sage grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, and white-tailed ptarmigan, are protected species in Washington. Chukar partridge require hunters to climb steep ridgelines and traverse rocky slopes to bag their quarry. Valley quail, as their name suggests, prefer gentler terrain and usually stay in greater numbers near agricultural areas. Gray partridge, or huns, are found primarily in Douglas County. Doves are hunted in both counties, but most of the success is from Douglas County. There are two ring-necked pheasant release sites in Chelan County (Swakane and Chelan Butte wildlife areas).

**Small Game:** Coyotes are the most widely adaptable species in the state, and as such, found most anywhere. Bobcats are another widely distributed species hunted across a wide range of habitat from high mountains to dry shrubsteppe. Raccoons are almost everywhere, except the highest peaks and the driest desert. Crows are another small game species available, and likely little pursued. Rabbits and hares offer hunting opportunity throughout the district, with snowshoe

hares at higher elevations (mainly in Chelan County) and cottontail rabbits in a variety of habitats in both Douglas and Chelan counties.

**Waterfowl:** Ducks and geese offer opportunities in different portions of the district. The bulk of the waterfowl hunting is along the Columbia River, with ducks being the primary focus. Goose hunts are mainly in Douglas County, but opportunities are also available along the Columbia River. With increased moisture this spring, we expect the pothole lakes in northeastern Douglas County to have good local duck production.

## WILDFIRE

Fire is a natural part of the vegetation communities in eastern Washington and a common occurrence in the Wenatchee District, involving both timbered and shrubsteppe habitats each year. Summer and fall are our primary fires seasons and this reoccurring pattern fire on dry landscapes has shaped the tree, shrub, and grass species that provide habitat for the game we hunt. A range of species as diverse as mountain goats to valley quail can either benefit or suffer from a fire within habitat. Species are also impacted by excluding fire from landscapes where it normally plays a dominate role in maintaining habitat quality.

In 2017 wildfire impacted 63,218 acres of public lands in District 7. High profile fires included both the Sutherland Canyon and the Spartan fires, which collectively burned almost 38,000 acres of shrubsteppe and grassland habitats. Both these areas will take some time to recover and cover for deer and small game is limited, but fall green up may offer a foraging opportunity for deer depending on fall precipitation. Fire-tolerant species, such as basin wildrye, which provide forage for deer, are often among the first perennial grasses to return. Other fires in the district which may impact access during the 2018 hunting seasons include the Uno Peak fire on North Lake Chelan, which burned 8,700 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) timber. A number of recreational sites were impacted and hunters should check with USFS on conditions before heading out. The South Navarre Campground has been reopened, but sustained significant damage. It's important for hunters to note that the Safety Harbor dock and campground are closed due to safety hazards. The Jack Creek fire burned approximately 4,400 acres within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, both in the Jack Creek and Eightmile Creek drainages. In 2017, the fire resulted in closures of a number of popular trails and camping areas. These areas are open for 2018, but may have partial closures, downed logs on trails or other deteriorated conditions.

At the time of this writing, the 2018 wildfire season was well underway in District 7, with a number of roadside fires already having occurred and lightning storms over the weekend of July 28 starting multiple forest fires. The Cougar Creek fire had burned approximately 31,062 acres and was impacting recreational access to the Mad River area and upper Entiat River roads and campsites (GMUs 245 and 247). This fast growing fire prompted numerous evacuation orders and was fueled by downed and standing dead timber from previous fires. Hunters should expect access closures and post-fire conditions to affect black bear, forest grouse, and potentially deer

opportunities in this area. The Rocky Reach fire burned 3,300 acres of arid grassland, shrubs, and timber north of Burch Mountain Road along Highway 97A. This fire impacted parts of the Swakane Canyon Unit of the Chelan Wildlife Area, which is home to the Swakane bighorn sheep herd and provides winter range for mule deer. This fire will affect available vegetation during the fall and winter for both species, and given the steep slopes and rocky soils, recovery will likely be slow.

The dangers of active fires and post-fire conditions make land management and public safety a difficult issue for responsible agencies. Following a fire, many areas have restricted access due to safety and resource concerns, and because fire season precedes and/or overlaps hunting seasons, hunter's plans may be impacted. Even when fires have been contained, or the fire is officially out, the impacts of fire and firefighting can and will restrict access in some areas. Transport heavy equipment, gear, and firefighters during operations degrade roads despite best efforts, and in many instances, are unrepaired before hunting seasons open. Hunters need to expect access restrictions in areas of wildfire activity and plan accordingly.

It is always smart to start making plans early, and to monitor conditions and access by contacting the agencies that manage the area you plan to hunt. Cities, counties, companies, and resource management agencies all can place unexpected access restrictions on roads and hunting lands. Make plans, but also have an alternate plan in your back pocket in case conditions change and your new or favorite hunting area is closed. WDFW sets hunting seasons across the entire state. However, local laws, ordinances, and policies set by landowners and jurisdictions could restrict access to public lands even though WDFW hunting seasons are open.

The good news is that many areas that were closed to access following severe wildfires are open again. Fire is a rejuvenating force on our landscapes, so look to recovering fire areas to provide great hunting, especially this year with the increased moisture last fall and through winter.

### **Resources Management Agency Web Sites**

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/>

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/>

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen/>

Bureau of Land Management

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/index.php>

Chelan County

<http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/>

Douglas County

<http://www.douglascountywa.net/>

### **Fire monitoring resources**

Visit these sites to see where wildfires are active near you favorite hunting spots.

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

<https://www.geomac.gov/viewer/viewer.shtml>

## ELK

Almost the entire harvest of elk in the Wenatchee District comes from part of the Colockum herd along the southern boundary of Chelan County. A few elk harvests are scattered across Douglas County each season, but that harvest is not consistent from year to year. Liberal harvest seasons are in place in Douglas County to keep elk from establishing herds in the farming dominated landscape where their presence is unwelcome. The Colockum Herd has been over its population management objective at an estimated number of 5,500-6,500 elk over the past few seasons. Mortality over the 2016-2017 winter has dropped that number down to or below the objective. While Chelan County elk are the northern extension of the Colockum herd, numbers, if increasing, have not been documented through formal surveys. Anecdotal information suggests that numbers may be increasing in the southeastern portion of the Stemilt Basin north of the Kittitas County line, but in reality, it is more likely the elk have redistributed into the area south of Jumpoff Ridge following reductions in permit seasons.

Hunters harvest roughly 45-55 elk under general seasons in Chelan County each year, and in 2017, only 32 were taken. Antlerless harvest varies year to year, with the amount of harvest focus placed on local elk to combat damage. In 2017, 177 permit opportunities resulted in 60 antlerless elk and six bulls being harvested. Success rates between weapon types and overall success varies from year to year. In 2017, muzzleloader hunters had a 1.6 percent success rate, while archers had a 10 percent success rate and modern firearms hunters were at 3.6 percent. Most of the elk harvested come out of GMU 251, with the remaining few harvested in GMUs 244, 245, and 249, and very small numbers coming inconsistently out of other GMUs. This trend was displayed again in 2017, with few elk harvested outside of GMU 251.

The past change to a true spike rule for the Colockum has shown increases in escapement of yearling bulls. Mature bulls use a portion of Chelan County as security and wintering habitat. Recent research has expanded understanding of the Colockum Herd, and there are plans to look deeper into the ecology of the adult bull portion of the population. As a result of management actions, the number of branch antlered bull permits in the district has increased, and will be seven again in 2018.

Elk in GUMs 245 through 250 occur at low densities and in small-dispersed bands. Local hunters who live and work the area are often the hunters that prove to be most successful in harvesting these elk. Elk hunting in GMU 249 consists of a large block of public land and is within the USFS Alpine Lakes Wilderness. While the GMU offers an opportunity for an over the counter archery tag for a branch-antlered bull, elk are at very low densities and occupy extremely rugged terrain that does not allow the use of motorized vehicles. Hunters participating in the GMU 249 archery season report surprise at the numbers of other hunters chasing their elk. Hunters in 2017 took multiple bulls from this unit. GMU 244 recorded a harvest of two bulls in 2017.

GMU 251 offers elk opportunity throughout the majority of the unit. However, elk density is not very high and varies from place to place. General seasons fall under antler restrictions (true spike) that make harvesting spike elk more challenging. Harvest occurs across the GMU, with the majority of the elk hunting occurring between Blewett Pass to the west, the city of Wenatchee to the east, and the mountainous and timbered habitat south of State Highway 2. The Mission Unit does have a significant amount of private lands and hunters need to know property boundaries when hunting elk near private ownership.

Hunters will again notice the absence of the September general cow elk hunt in former Elk Area 2033, which was discontinued in 2015. This hunt was established to allow orchard owners in a small portion of the district impacted by elk damage to put pressure on the herd during early fall. While the hunt was helpful, the annual harvest, as well as depredation reports, decreased over time. Changes within WDFW have allowed us to place a conflict specialist position in the district. We now have dedicated personnel to work with commercial producers to minimize damage from deer and elk, thereby eliminating the need for a broader depredation focused season.

Figures 12 and 13 (listed in the Figures section) are maps of WDFW Elk Areas 2032 (Malaga) and 2051 (Tronsen). These are the only elk areas in Chelan County, and represent permit opportunities and hunt restrictions for the 2018 season. The Malaga elk unit offers the greatest numbers of permits for antlerless elk, within an objective of reducing elk numbers within and along the boundary of the Stemilt Basin agricultural area.



	<b>Antlerless Harvest</b>	<b>Antlered Harvest</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>1 Point</b>	<b>2 Point</b>	<b>3 Point</b>	<b>4 Point</b>	<b>5 Point</b>	<b>6+ Point</b>
<b>GMU 244</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>GMU 245</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GMU 246</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GMU 249</b>	0	5	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0	2	3
<b>GMU 250</b>	0	2	<b>2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>GMU 251</b>	56	27	<b>83</b>	21	0	0	0	0	6
<b>GMU 266</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>GMU 269</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>

**Table 1.** District 7 2017 Elk Harvest by GMU.

## DEER



Mule deer hunting is the bread and butter of the Wenatchee District. While the district does support a few white-tailed deer, mule deer dominate the attention from hunters. Chelan County has become a destination hunt for many mule deer enthusiasts across Washington, with late season limited entry permits being highly prized. Within District 7, a hunter has the opportunity to pursue deer across a range of habitats, including high alpine basins along the crest of the Cascades or expanses of sagebrush in Douglas County.

The management goal of a minimum of 25 bucks per 100 does postseason in the Chelan County portion of the district has been successful in providing hunters with opportunities for quality bucks over the last 10 years. The combined impacts of an exceptional 2015 harvest, as well as high overwinter mortality in 2016-2017, have pushed post-hunt buck-to-doe ratios down to 18. Hunters should consider the Chelan population to be in a rebuilding phase for the next few years. Survey numbers in Douglas County are encouraging, with overall buck to doe ratios above the objective of 15 bucks per 100 does. Without the diverse cover provided by mountains and forests, buck escapement is lower in the sagebrush, therefore a smaller portion of the bucks surviving are mature. Productivity remains consistent in Douglas County, and even with a somewhat harder winter last year, the herd is stable. Expect to see the Douglas County herd

increase in size, providing excellent hunting opportunity during general and antlerless permit seasons in these sagebrush/agricultural habitats.

Weather conditions have been a major factor in completing aerial surveys each winter. In 2015-2016, we altered our approach to focus on a spring population estimate, where weather is less likely to limit survey opportunities. Surveys flown returned a population estimate of roughly 15,000 deer in Chelan County south of Lake Chelan in spring 2016. These numbers aligned with our previous population estimates of 15,000 and 18,000 deer in the same area. Spring flights were flown again in 2017 and results showed a significant decline in the herd size. Winter is the dominant factor affecting population size in the district, and fawns usually suffer the highest rates of mortality. Over the 2016-17 winter, snowfall covered a larger portion of the winter range in Chelan County, snow depths were greater than in previous years, and the duration of snow cover extended farther into the spring. Those factors combined to reduce the population by 25 percent, down to an estimate of roughly 11,000 deer between 2016 and 2017. Fall survey efforts were interrupted by weather in 2017, therefore a population estimate was not possible. Winter conditions in 2017-18 were more normal. Decreased overwinter mortality should allow the population to start recovering from declines.

In December 2016, WDFW conducted aerial surveys and developed a population estimate for the southern portion of Douglas County (habitat south of State Highway 2). The surveys estimated a southern population of 4,922 deer with a buck to doe ratio of 21/69. In 2017, the survey area was expanded to include all of Douglas County. An estimate of 12,680 deer was returned, roughly double the 2016 estimate for the south half of Douglas County. The buck to doe ratio was a similar 22/54, with 37 percent adult bucks and 63 percent yearling bucks.

The department is transitioning surveys and management toward an ecosystem-based zone management approach, assessing population size and creating management objectives over entire herds, with less focus on districts and counties. This larger area focus will result in a better understanding of factors influencing herds and make management recommendations uniform. The current mule deer management plan is available on the [WDFW website](#).

Within the various mule deer management zones, districts are standardizing survey methodology to develop larger scale population assessments. One of the changes is a standardized late fall/early winter survey period. Weather conditions in Chelan County have proven to be difficult at this time of year for conducting aerial surveys, so we expect to have years where survey efforts are hampered by difficult weather. In 2017, attempts to complete an entire survey were precluded by poor weather. Therefore, we were unable to develop a confident population estimate. Surveys will be reinitiated in fall 2018.

Hunters took 1,591 deer off the district (Chelan and Douglas Counties) in 2017, with harvest composed of 1,284 bucks and 307 antlerless deer. The highest harvest from Chelan County came from GMU 247, with 274 deer (205 bucks and 69 antlerless). The highest harvest from Douglas

County came from GMU 248, with 162 deer (134 bucks and 28 antlerless). Harvest of antlerless deer was consistent between years, which is expected, as permit numbers regulate that component of the deer harvest each year.

Douglas County is a consistent producer of mule deer opportunity, and conditions should be similar in 2018. Unlike Chelan County, lands in Douglas County are mostly in private ownership, and as such, access controls the amount of impact a hunting season has on the population. Douglas County is composed of relatively open habitat with an extensive road network. These factors make deer more vulnerable than in the rugged, closed canopy, mountainous terrain of the Cascades.

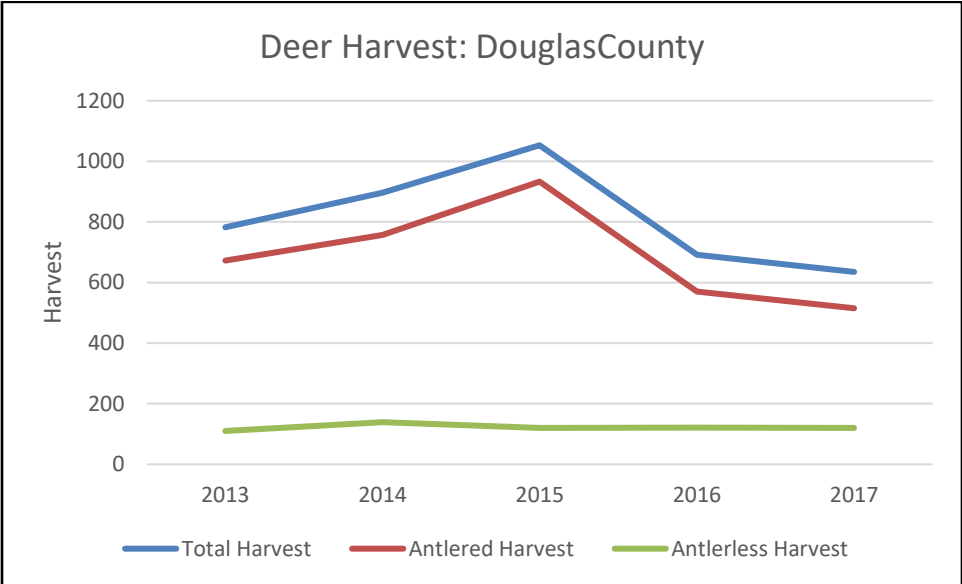
The increased harvest in 2015 was part of a larger trend that included not only eastern Washington, but regionally through portions of Idaho and Oregon as well. Harvests in 2016 were more normal, showing average or slight lower rates by weapon type. Both Chelan and Douglas counties had harvests in 2016 similar to 2014. In 2017, Douglas showed a slight decline following a hard winter, which would be expected, as Douglas County has winters more typical of the Columbia Basin than the Cascades. The 2017 harvest in Chelan County showed the impacts of the hard winter, with overall harvest declining 25 percent. With declines over winter, hunters will have to work a little harder in 2018 to find bucks. The core of the population is stable, and harvest of excess bucks does not change the direction of the population. Reductions in antlerless permits will help overcome winter's effects, and buck permits are adjusted to maintain success rates and promote the quality aspects of late season hunts. Deer populations have the characteristic of responding quickly to favorable conditions, and because Chelan County has not suffered large-scale habitat alteration, buck numbers should bounce back quickly.

When we look at hunter numbers, hunter effort, and success rates, we see that a similar number of hunters spent a similar number of days hunting. These measures indicate that deer were available to hunters in similar numbers to averages in 2016, but lower numbers than 2015. Harvest of older age-class deer should be flatter in 2018, given previous success rates and increased winter mortality. Following the high harvest in 2015, hunter success dropped in 2016 and again in 2017. Hunter numbers were similar between 2015 and 2016, but fewer hunters participated in 2017. Success rates for muzzleloader, modern firearms, and multi-season hunters all declined from 2015 through 2017, while archery success increased again in 2017.

The nature of general season hunts in Chelan County remains unchanged, with fall weather and deer movements ultimately determining harvest success. The 11-day season moves hunting opportunity later into the month, and over the past few years, the change in season dates has proven to benefit hunters.



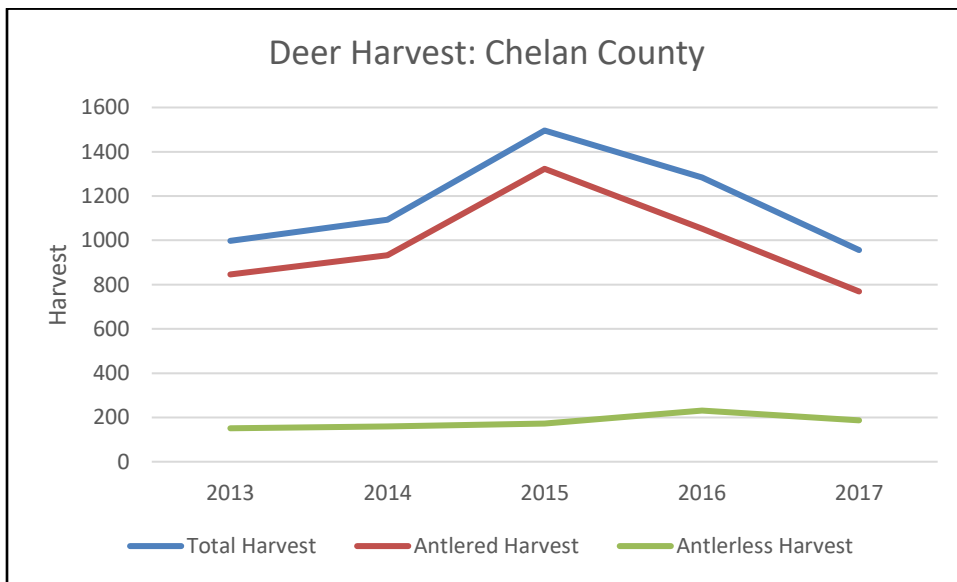
See the [big game harvest data from 1997 through 2017](#) for more information.



Douglas County deer harvest from 2013 to 2017.

### 2017 Douglas County Deer Harvest

	Total Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Antlered Harvest	Antlered Harvest				
				1 Point	2 Point	3 Point	4 Point	5+ Point
<b>GMU 254</b>	106	17	89	0	0	44	31	14
<b>GMU 248</b>	162	28	134	0	0	61	59	14
<b>GMU 260</b>	95	21	74	0	0	41	30	3
<b>GMU 262</b>	88	27	61	0	0	27	29	5
<b>GMU 266</b>	96	16	80	0	0	38	27	15
<b>GMU 269</b>	88	11	77	0	0	37	36	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>55</b>



Chelan County deer harvest from 2013 to 2017.

**2017 Chelan County Deer Harvest**

	Total Harvest	Antlerless Harvest	Antlered Harvest	Antlered Harvest				
				1 Point	2 Point	3 Point	4 Point	5+ Point
<b>GMU 243</b>	128	18	110	0	0	55	37	18
<b>GMU 244</b>	6	0	6	0	0	2	4	0
<b>GMU 245</b>	117	34	83	1	1	39	26	16
<b>GMU 246</b>	93	11	82	0	1	22	42	17
<b>GMU 247</b>	274	69	205	0	0	69	100	36
<b>GMU 249</b>	7	2	5	0	0	0	3	2
<b>GMU 250</b>	213	46	167	1	0	87	55	24
<b>GMU 251</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>123</b>

The general modern firearm seasons seem to have been unseasonably warm and dry over the past several years, making deer hunting tough. This past fall, conditions were noticeably wetter, allowing deer the opportunity to access better forage before entering winter. This fall green-up can be very important to deer, especially during years with tough summer conditions. Under drier conditions, deer push harder to find quality vegetation for forage, possibly altering their normal behavior and distribution on the landscape. In years with a wet fall, production increases and deer have more opportunities. This often results in deer being less concentrated as food is available over a wider range of habitats. The Chelan County mule deer herd is migratory, spending winters on the breaks along the Columbia River, but dispersing into the large expanse of the Cascades during summer. These movements are a strategy used by mule deer to maximize forage quality during summer, and minimize energy expenditure during winter. Some of the Chelan mule deer move as far as 40 to 50 miles while transitioning between summer and winter range.

As early as mid-September, deer start responding to changes in vegetation by moving downward in elevation and occupying north facing slopes where conditions are cooler and wetter and forage is of better quality. From mid-September through the onset of winter, deer respond to changes in the quality of the available forage and utilize those areas that best meet their needs. By mid-November, bucks are in a rut condition and focused on breeding. However, before that time (during our October general season), they focus on food and security, not on breeding.

A typical hillside of mule deer habitat in the Cascades will transition through the seasons from bright green in the spring and summer to light green to yellow, to orange, to red, to brown, then to bare branches. While we see changes in color, mule deer are perceiving changes in forage quality. The summer forage that supports deer and gives them the opportunity to produce young and grow antlers does not retain its high quality all year, so as it changes, so do the habitats that deer occupy.

While hunting on winter ranges is appealing, as hunters can see long distances, the majority of deer will still be in areas of better quality forage and higher security during the general seasons. Most deer will be in thicker cover where the food is better and they have protection. These are usually the brushy north facing slopes or at elevations much higher than typical open mule deer winter range.

Douglas County offers a different situation for deer hunters. Because of the private lands issue, hunters have less opportunity to pursue deer freely across habitats, as they have to pay attention to ownership boundaries. The drier nature of shrubsteppe habitat dictates that deer use those areas where forage quality remains higher longer while balancing the need for security. Optimal hunting areas will include a mixture of sagebrush cover or steep broken rocky terrain and adjacent agricultural fields for forage (mostly winter wheat and canola fields). Large expanses of sagebrush, while not providing the best forage, can give deer the security they need as well. In the broken coulee county, topography becomes security and riparian vegetation provides food resources. Deer in these areas often become experts at living in small, secure habitat pockets where they meet their needs and avoid hunters. While the majority of the county is private, over 95,500 acres are enrolled in WDFW's [Feel Free to Hunt](#), and [Hunt by Written Permission](#) hunter access programs. Start scouting now for deer herds on private lands and opportunities to talk with landowners before the rush of other hunters descend on them days before the season starts. Many farmers are partial to allowing youth hunters in particular.

For more information on WDFW's [Feel Free to Hunt](#), and [Hunt by Written Permission](#) programs, see the WDFW website.

### **High buck hunts**

High buck hunts in the Cascade Range are one of the most popular opportunities provided in the district. Each year, hunters don backpacks and ride pack strings into the heart of wilderness areas

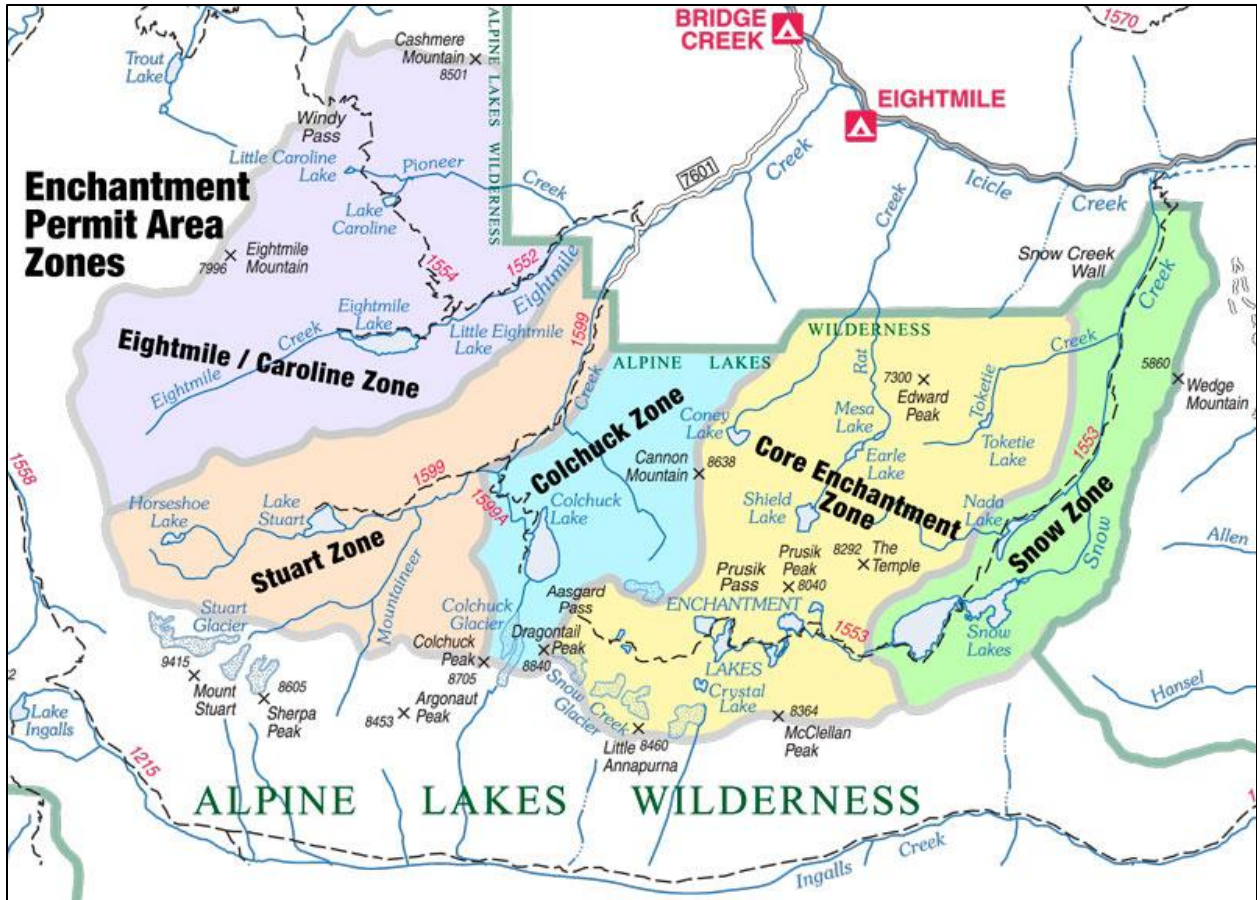


to pursue mule bucks and black bears. Within District 7, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, Glacier Peak Wilderness, and the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area define open high buck hunt units. The administrative boundaries of these wildernesses and the recreation area are the hunt boundaries. One misconception that continues to persist surrounds the Sawtooth Wilderness along the north shore of Lake Chelan. **The Sawtooth Wilderness is closed to high buck hunt** opportunity Sept. 15-25, but open for early archery where it overlaps GMU 243.

It is common to have active fires in wilderness areas during our September hunts. We encourage hunters to keep track of fire conditions and contact local USFS or NPS offices for updates.

Hunters need to be aware of permit requirements in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and the Enchantment Permit Area Zones. Any overnight trips into any of the five zones within the Enchantments require a permit from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Permits are distributed through a lottery drawing system and are highly sought after. In 2018, the Enchantment permit season dates extend through Oct. 31, encompassing archery, muzzleloader, modern firearms, and high buck hunt opportunities. Hunters who have hunted these zones in the past need to be aware that permitting dates have changed. Without a permit, they may not have access to previously hunted areas.

For more information on regulations surrounding use of the Enchantment Permit Area Zones, visit the [Okanogan-Wenatchee web page](#) listed below, or contact the forest directly.



A map of the Enchantment permit area zones within the alpine lakes wilderness on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

## BLACK BEAR

Bear hunters in the Wenatchee District should have good opportunities in 2018. Winter snowpack is important for berry crop production and the winter of 2017/2018 was a good snow year in the Central Cascades, with snow pack reported at 109 percent of normal. Research work being conducted in Chelan County indicates that fall forage availability influences reproduction and survivorship of cubs and yearlings. Bear populations in the district are monitored primarily based on harvest statistics and tooth data. In order to improve our ability to estimate and monitor bear numbers, WDFW’s carnivore section initiated a black bear population study focused on both traditional trapping and collaring home range models based on GPS data and genetic modeling using hair snag data.



The project will help develop much better estimates of bear densities and provide information on the age class and sex structure of the population. As part of the study, hunters from the district are asked to submit a tissue sample along with a pre-molar tooth. The populations appear to be relatively stable within the district, with year-to-year habitat quality remaining constant. During years when huckleberry production is poor, bears will often be found searching larger areas for food. These increased forays expose them to higher rates of harvest when they encounter hunters.

Within the East Cascades Bear Management Unit (BMU 6), the Wenatchee District is normally responsible for a significant amount of the harvest. In 2017, 242 bears were harvested from the East Cascades Unit. This unit is comprised of 23 GMUs along the Central Cascades, and District 7 had 40 percent of the harvest in 2017. An additional thirteen bears were harvested from out of GMU 243, which is included in the Okanogan Unit (BMU 5), bumping up the district total to 109 bears. GMU 245 is consistently a high producer of bears each year, as are GMUs 250 and 251. Since 2008, the East Cascades Unit averages 223 bears per year, with a success rate of five percent, and an average percent of females in the harvest of 33 percent. While success relative to effort fluctuates from year to year, participation is relatively stable, with approximately 4,600 hunters participating each year since 2008.

The vast majority of bears harvested in the district are taken during open deer and elk seasons. Dedicated bear hunters will often hunt early in the season, when bears are foraging on predictable annual berry crops and can be located more easily. The incidental harvest that occurs

during open deer and elk seasons is much more dependent on bear behavior and how widely they will have to travel for food.

There are no notable changes in black bear hunting opportunities for District 7 in 2018.

For more information, see the [statewide black bear harvest statistics for 2017](#).

See Figure 14 for a map of Black Bear Hunt Units and their associated GMUs within District 7.

## COUGAR

Similar to black bears, the population monitoring cougar management comes primarily from harvest data, rather than intensive surveys. In 2017, 13 cougars were harvested in Chelan County during the general season, with another three cougars having been removed under a depredation or other situation. Four additional cougars were harvested out of the District 7 portion of the Columbia Basin. Seven of the cats harvested under general hunting were females.

The opportunity to harvest a cougar in the Wenatchee District expanded under the new season structure in 2012, and remains in place for 2018. In Chelan County, there are four hunt areas, created by combining existing GMUs. Within each of these new hunt areas, a harvest guideline has been established based on ungulate habitat and cougar population biology. These new harvest guidelines increased the number of cougar that can be harvested in the county and across the state, while maintaining the integrity of the population.

A two-part season is in place, allowing harvest during big game seasons under an early cougar season, and a later season for a more focused pursuit of cougar when conditions make hunting easier. If the harvest guideline is reached early, then a decision is made about opening the late season each year. While many cougars are harvested opportunistically during general deer season in Chelan County, during the 2017/2018 general season, roughly 50 percent of the harvest was during the late season, which begins January 1. Based on the harvest history in Chelan County, there is great opportunity to increase hunter participation in this hunt.

Douglas County also offers good cougar hunting opportunities. Most hunters will focus on the breaks of the Columbia River, Moses Coulee, and Rufus Woods Reservoir. This rough country allows cougars access to deer herds while providing them stalking cover. Successful hunters often wait for snow and track cats on foot. Foster Creek (260), Badger (266), Moses Coulee (269), and Withrow (262) have consistent cougar harvest.

There are no notable changes in cougar hunting opportunities for District 7 in 2018. See the [Cougar harvest data for 2017](#) for more information.

## BIGHORN SHEEP



Sheep numbers have increased for both the Swakane and Chelan Butte. The Swakane herd survey accounted for 70 sheep in 2008, and increased to a minimum count of 133 sheep in 2017. The Chelan Butte herd produced a count of 74 sheep in 2008, increasing to a minimum count of 200 sheep in 2017. The Manson herd, which occupies the area along the north shore of Lake Chelan, has been the most difficult to monitor due to the lack of access and the rugged terrain the sheep inhabit. Over the past several years, there have been counts from 89 sheep to 119 sheep. Because population numbers have not swung widely, 120 or more sheep is that herd's minimum count.

Overwinter survival for adult sheep remains high. Mortality of lambs for the year is characteristic of most sheep populations, where lambs suffer the highest rates of mortality during their first year of life, and the highest mortality of the year immediately after birth. With herds stable to increasing, permit numbers should increase in the future, tracking any increases in ram numbers. For 2018, there are seventeen California bighorn limited entry drawing permits issued for Chelan County. Since 2001, nineteen permits have been offered for sheep in the Swakane Unit. In those years, 21 sheep have been harvested (two were due to the inclusion of an auction hunt in 2002 and again in 2016 and 2017). A local resident harvested the world record California bighorn from the Swakane herd in 2010. Since 2005, the Manson Unit has provided two drawing permits per year, and over those nine years, 32 sheep were harvested. The additional sheep were harvested by hunters acquiring auction or raffle tags. The Chelan Butte herd has been hunted

since 2010, and in 2018, four ram permits are offered and four ewe permits. This herd consistently produces high quality ram harvests.

A notable change in bighorn sheep hunting opportunities for District 7 in 2018 is the addition of two more permit opportunities for rams and four more ewe permits for the Chelan Butte herd. In 2018, hunters with disabilities will have additional opportunities at Chelan Butte, with three adult ewe permits and two juvenile ram permits available. Chelan Butte's terrain allows WDFW to offer opportunity for hunters with disabilities in one of the few areas in Washington where access might allow harvest and the population has animals to offer.

Hunters selected under these drawings are encouraged to contact District 7 for additional information. All hunters harvesting a bighorn sheep ram in Washington state are required to have the horn sets measured and plugged by WDFW.



## MOUNTAIN GOATS



While mountain goats occur in many higher elevation areas in Chelan County, they are currently only hunted along Lake Chelan where their population has increased over the years.

Opportunistic road surveys done in portions of the district indicate goats are increasing in number in areas where they were historically hunted. More formal survey efforts are planned to establish numbers and evaluate hunt opportunities.

In the Icicle Creek area, a high count of 57 goats was recorded between 2010 and 2014. In the Tumwater Canyon area, a high count of 33 was recorded. In the Nason Ridge area, there was a high count of 22, and in the White River, a high count of eight.

The Lake Chelan population is surveyed each winter during twelve boat-based surveys by Chelan PUD. Surveys are conducted from late November through March. During the 2016-2017 survey, there was an estimated minimum count of 70 mountain goats on both the north and south shores. Despite this relatively low estimated minimum count, kid:adult ratios have remained stable, hovering around 23 kids/100 adults each year. Year to year counts vary widely due to snow accumulation and weather conditions along the lake. In general, during heavy snow years, goats concentrate in higher densities along the lake to winter, providing a better opportunity to observe them. Due to the available terrain, rugged topography and tree cover, mountain goats

can be incredibly difficult to survey from a boat. For this reason, WDFW is developing plans to conduct aerial surveys of the Lake Chelan populations in the future.

Three mountain goat tags were issued for the Wenatchee District under limited entry drawings this year. Since 2001, 25 drawing permits have been issued for the Chelan North permit hunt, and 18 goats have been harvested. Five of the 18 were female goats. A single permit was offered for the Chelan South permit hunt, with the first goat being harvested in 2013. No goat was harvested in the Chelan South unit in 2017. Every effort is made to educate hunters so they focus their harvest on male rather than female goats. A significant amount of research work done on mountain goats in the United States and Canada indicates that populations with sustained high rates of harvest of females will decline significantly over time.

There are no notable changes in mountain goat hunting opportunities for District 7 in 2018.

Hunters selected under these drawing are encouraged to contact District 7 for additional information and to bring horn sets in to be measured. In addition, hunters will be asked to help collect biological samples from harvested goats this year to form a baseline of knowledge about mountain goat diseases in Washington state.

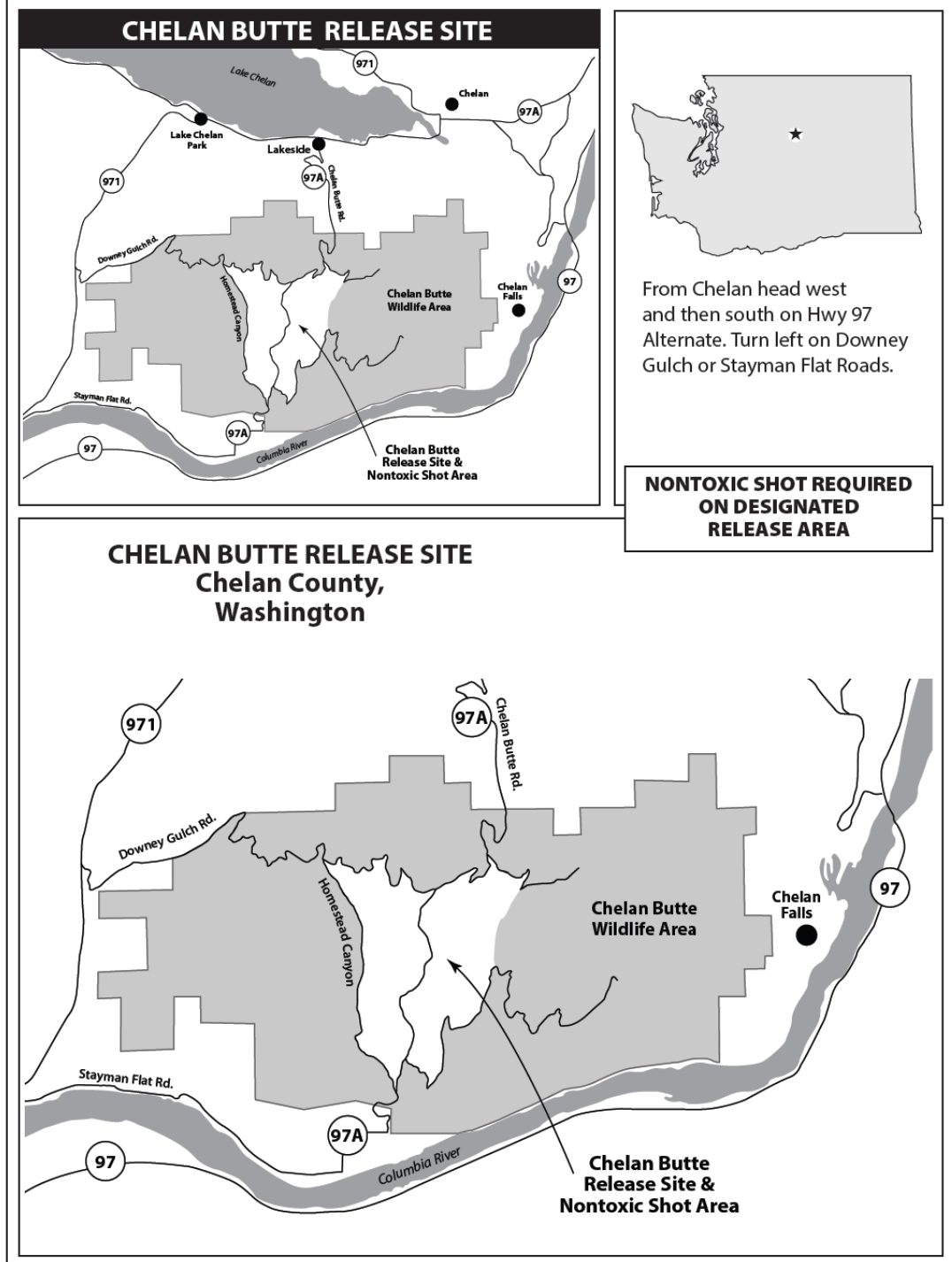
## PHEASANT

The Wenatchee District does not have the reputation as a destination pheasant hunting area in the state, but local hunters have harvested from 1,500 to 3,000 birds each year since 2001. The district did see a decline in 2016. In 2017, the harvest increased again to 1,407 birds. On average, Douglas and Chelan counties produce roughly similar pheasant harvests each year. Douglas County offers a couple of locations where wild populations of pheasants sustain themselves, both on public and private land. Hunters should focus on areas with a mixture of native shrubsteppe habitat, Conservation Reserve Program (appear as grasslands), and wet meadows/wetlands. Your first clue will be weedy and tall vegetation on the roadsides, which provides good cover. Good pheasant hunting can be found in Foster Creek (GMU 260), St. Andrews (GMU 254), and Big Bend (GMU 248).

Hunters interested in hunting pheasant release sites on the Chelan Butte Wildlife Area and the Swakane Wildlife Area should visit the WDFW hunting web site for more information. The Colockum Wildlife Area release site is currently closed while vegetation recovers from the impacts of a recent wildfire. For more information, see the [Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Program](#).

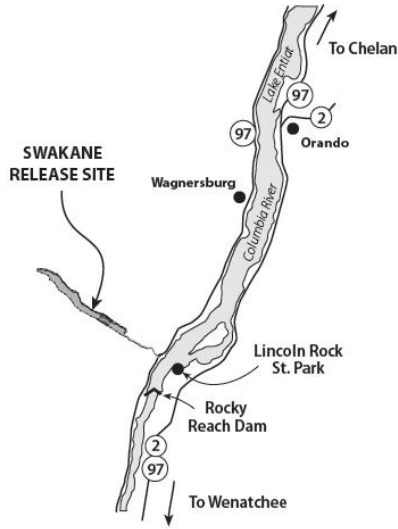


REGION 2



REGION 2

**SWAKANE RELEASE SITE**



To reach the **Swakane Wildlife Area** and release site, travel north from Wenatchee on Alt. Hwy 97. It follows the Columbia River on the west side toward the town of Chelan. To find the release site, head west up the Swakane Creek Road.

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED  
ON DESIGNATED  
RELEASE AREA**

**SWAKANE RELEASE SITE  
Chelan County, Washington**



## QUAIL

District 7 offers some of the best quail hunting in the state. However, harvest in 2017 dropped lower again, with a total harvest of 8,555, down significantly from 2016. Harvest numbers for Chelan County have been consistently higher than Douglas County, on average.

Conditions going into the 2016-17 winter were harder, and overwinter survival of quail in Chelan and Douglas counties may have declined. The amount of insect production this year may have positive effects on broods, as grasshoppers and other insects are important. Production appears good this year and harvest should be similar to last year. There were good fall and summer conditions, especially in Douglas County, but winter was tougher in Chelan County. While no surveys are conducted, field staff members have noted larger and more numerous broods this year, which should make for a promising hunt. Upland birds in eastern Washington appear to handle dry summer conditions without negative impacts, but little research has been gathered on this topic.

Public lands can be tough places to find larger coveys well into the season. To improve success, hunters should seek out those areas without easy access and spend some time seeking permissions from private landowners.

## GRAY PARTRIDGE

2017 proved to be a good year for huns, with 723 birds taken. Since 2007, the harvest high is 723 and the low is 114. Within the district, gray partridges are encountered and harvested more commonly in Douglas County. They occur at low density, with coveys dispersed across larger areas. Look to fields enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program with lots of grass cover extending into draws, these are often a good place to find coveys.

Covering a wide range of cover types is the best way to locate coveys. While most gray partridges are taken while hunting other species, with a little focus and dedication, you can be successful hunting for huns. Visit the [GoHunt](#) application on the WDFW website and find areas in Douglas County enrolled in the hunting access program. Snow depths were normal to heavy in Douglas County over the past winter, but the general indication is that spring production for upland birds is positive this year.

## CHUKAR

More chukar are shot in District 7 than any other district in the state. However, harvest numbers have been declining in recent years. In 2017, hunters harvested 3,177 birds, an increase of 31 percent over 2016. Harvest was also above the five year average, while hunter numbers were much the same.

Winter conditions were more significant over 2016/2017, with heavier snow accumulation in winter habitat, but the 2017/2018 winter was considerably milder. The higher snow levels may affect chukar hunting later in the season by pushing birds down where they are more accessible to hunters. Production appears to be good this spring, with insect production being very good. WDFW staff members report increased numbers on state-owned wildlife areas.

Opportunities for chukar hunting are numerous within the district due to the large amount of habitat that falls under public ownership. The breaks of the Columbia River provide the majority of the chukar habitat, along with areas adjacent to Banks Lake and Moses Coulee. On the Chelan County side of the Columbia River, BLM, USFS, WADNR, and WDFW all control lands that provide chukar hunting opportunities. Along the Douglas County breaks, almost all the appropriate chukar habitat falls under private ownership, and landowner permission is required.

Chukar hunting falls into two distinct seasons: without snow and with snow. While trying to negotiate chukar habitat with snow and ice on the ground can be hazardous, there is no doubt that birds become concentrated following the accumulation of snow. There should be an increase in chukar numbers in the district, helped along by fall forage productivity and positive spring conditions.

## FOREST GROUSE



Harvest dropped in 2017 to a low of 1,840 grouse, a reduction of over 1,000 birds. Hunter numbers also declined from 1780 to 1355 between 2016 and 2017. Harvest had ranged from 2,200-2,900 birds in recent years, but has declined by half since 2007. Three species of forest grouse occupy the Wenatchee District: blue grouse, spruce grouse, and ruffed grouse. There are a few areas in Douglas County where forest grouse are regularly found. However, their densities are relatively low and few hunters concentrate on them specifically. The majority of harvest is incidental during other hunting.

Within Chelan County, forest grouse occupy habitat dominated by coniferous and riparian forests. Ruffed grouse can be found in healthy riparian forests and aspen stands at the margin of timbered habitat, and blue grouse will use timbered stringers that extend down as far as the shrubsteppe. Spruce grouse are restricted to higher elevation conifer forests, usually above the distribution of ponderosa pine.

Hunters interested in forest grouse will improve their chances by searching out areas where fewer hunters concentrate. Popular road systems can provide early season hunting. However, due to the numbers of hunters and the vulnerability of hatch-year birds, they often dry up quickly. Chelan County has a relatively limited road system within grouse habitat, and dedicated hunters know where they are, so hunters can increase the productive length of their season by hunting areas on foot away from roads and the bulk of the other hunters.

## DOVE

Hunting success will be similar to the past several seasons within the district. Success rates were increasing over the past few seasons then decreased again last year. The harvest was down again last fall, with 1,134 doves taken by 142 hunters. Dove count routes have shown declines over time, with numbers down again this year. Return rates on dove banding are lower this year and tract the reduced harvest rates of the past year.

Hunters should secure hunting opportunities by contacting growers and getting permission. Look to areas near wetlands, agricultural fields, and orchards where birds find both roosting cover and food later in the season. The amount and distribution of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) fields has increased in Douglas County over the past few years, with new seed mixes providing more diversity in forage within stands. Scouting for these habitats can be a productive way to find new unexploited hunting areas. It may take some extra work and require ranging a little farther from home this fall to find birds.

## TURKEY

Turkey densities in the district are relatively sparse, but populations appear to be increasing in the northern portions of Douglas County, and harvest in Chelan County is improving as well. The heavier accumulation of snow and increased persistence over the past winter impacted

turkey numbers in Chelan County, but numbers are rebounding. Surveys over the past three to four years indicated that turkey numbers were stable prior to the heavy winter. A low level of harvest occurs on public lands, with local hunters being the most successful, as densities are low and finding seasonal habitat is important. Overall, harvest in the district is up, with 398 hunters harvesting 123 turkeys and spending 1483 days in the field.

In Chelan County, the number of turkeys the landscape can support is determined primarily on the amount and availability of wintering habitat under typical snow depths. When winter snow depths reach 20 inches or more, wild turkeys have a difficult time making it through the winter. In areas where turkey can utilize ranches, barnyards, and farms of winter forage, they can show significant survival over winter. Chelan County is limited in its availability of such habitat, and as such, the number of turkeys in the county seems to remain at a stable level.

Hunters should have a more productive season in several of the more consistent turkey producing areas, such as the Colockum Wildlife Area. The Stemilt Basin outside of Wenatchee, canyons off the Wenatchee River from the Columbia River, and west through the town of Plain have low densities of turkeys. In Douglas County, GMU 248 has been producing an increasing number of turkeys. Most of these areas are private down low, but hunters can head up forest roads onto USFS land to find good turkey hunting opportunities. Remember to scout early and get permission to hunt private lands.

## WATERFOWL



Local production of waterfowl is up from previous years based on annual surveys. Hunters should have good opportunities in traditional areas and where permission to access ponds and lakes can be secured. Hunting along the Columbia River is usually consistent, but dictated by local weather patterns.

Most of the harvest in Chelan County (4,024 ducks for 2017) is focused along the Columbia River. In Douglas County, the Columbia River is the primary waterfowl hunting area as well. However, northern Douglas County has a concentration of small lands and ponds that hold waterfowl. The county produced a harvest of 6,600 ducks in 2017, similar to the 2016 harvest. As in most years, the success of the season depends on the timing of migration through the area. This year, indicators point to good production and better opportunities during the fall migration.

Local production of Canada goose has increased recently, leading to the re-establishment of the September season. In 2017, the season dates are Sept. 8-13. Regular season hunting harvest has been declining, with numbers since 2002 normally under 2,000 geese harvested, and since 2008, under 1,500. Expect a similar season production in 2017.

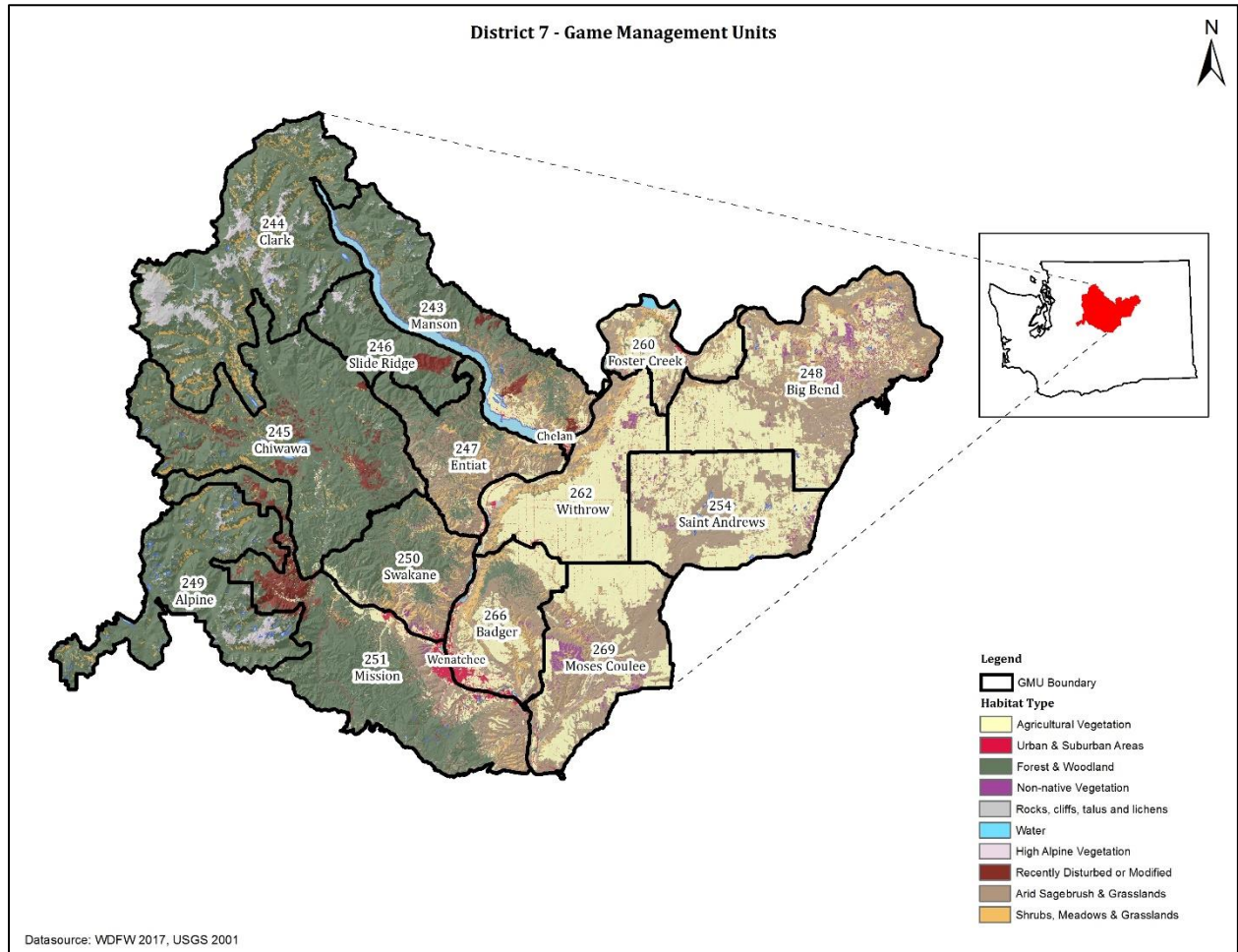
For an excellent introduction to waterfowl hunting, see [Let's Go Waterfowling](#).

Species	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters	Harvest	Hunters
Quail	12,494	1,450	13,491	1,356	12,577	1,431	11,775	1,374	8,555	1,103
Chukar	999	781	1,783	760	4,638	995	3,342	733	4,425	868
Mourning Dove	4,058	318	3,337	296	2,854	233	1,926	189	1,134	142
Forest Grouse	2,320	1,284	2,284	1,181	2,707	1,210	2,900	1,708	1,840	1,355
Pheasant	956	731	1,350	671	1,024	601	880	620	1,407	787
Gray Partridge	438	253	549	270	1,084	317	608	207	723	278
Duck	14,451	1,136	13,877	981	14,113	914	11,565	979	10,624	768
Canada Goose	1,340	626	1,419	408	1,786	431	2,330	411	1,969	373
Sept Canada Goose	531	66	269	103	71	57	152	88	177	74
Cottontail Rabbit	469	153	237	173	294	80	111	58	38	34
Snowshoe Hare	109	66	11	11	11	34	57	68	0	13
Snipe	0	0	196	11	62	8	0	0	0	0

**Table 3.** District 7 (Chelan and Douglas Counties) upland and small game harvest, and hunter participation, 2013 through 2017.

## GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS

The 14 Game Management Units in District 7 run from the Crest of the Cascade Range to Moses Coulee and Banks Lake. Units in west and central Chelan County are high, rugged, and timbered. Eastern Chelan County grades into low elevation dry habitat that winters its mule deer herd. The eastern half of the district lies above the Columbia River and is comprised of six GMUs in Douglas County. Shrubsteppe and grasslands comprise native habitat in Douglas County and agricultural lands offer some of the best upland bird opportunities in the district.



On the pages below you will find a map and descriptive statistics for each of the 14 GMUs in District 7. Each GMU is unique in character and offers a different experience for hunters. GMUs 242 and 249, for example, are formal wilderness areas administered by the USFS. There are no roads and they do not allow the use of motorized vehicles for any type of recreation. In turn they offer exceptional hunting experiences for those willing to go it on foot or horse. GMU 262 is the heart of Douglas County’s wheat production, and while not wilderness, has great upland bird hunting and offers great open county mule deer hunting where access is granted. GMU 269 is the



dramatic coulee habitat in the district with stunning landscapes and a variety of hunting. GMU 260 is in the center of rangeland, with big ranches and big views.

Each map shows the GMU boundaries and configuration, along with the location of the major public lands in the unit. The background of the map displays the ruggedness and topography of the GMU, highlighting the peaks, valleys, and ridgelines and giving you an idea of what's in store during a hunt.

The descriptive summary presents the physical features of GMUs in the form of miles and acres. It highlights the public ownership by agency, acres of private lands, and towns/cities. The miles of road type give an idea of access, and a list of the major lakes highlights water in the unit. The tables also break down the GMU by its major habitat types, allowing you to compare alpine habitats amounts for the high buck hunt and grasslands habitat for pursuing huns, or the cliffs and breaks for chasing chukar.

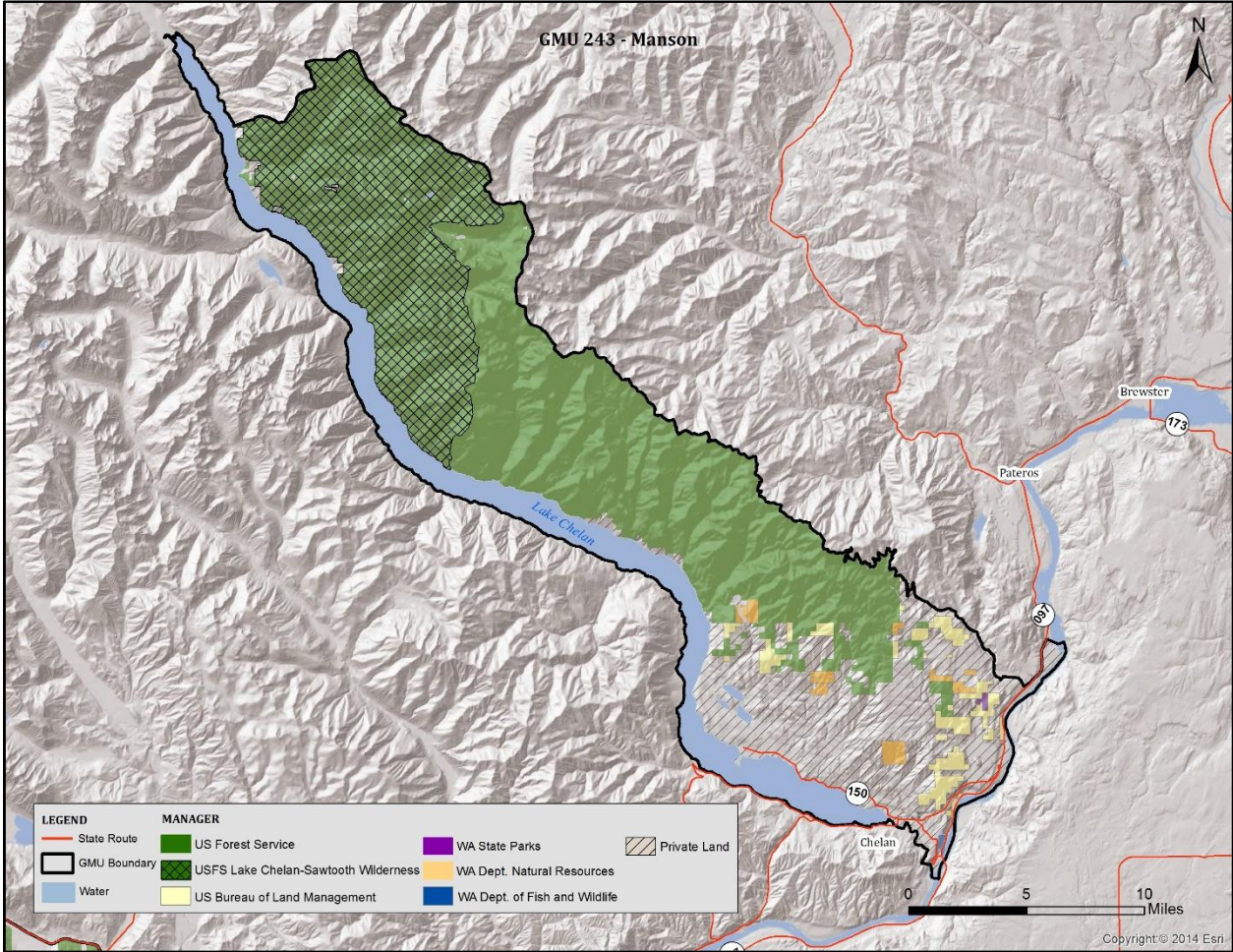
Once you have a GMU in mind, refine your scouting efforts by using the websites below to identify detailed locations, hunt areas, WDFW wildlife areas, and private lands offering hunting.

- WDFW's GoHunt website is a great place to start planning: <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/gohunt/>
- The Public Lands website offers multiple ways to search out and identify different public lands in Washington: <http://publiclands.org/?plicstate=WA>
- WDFW Hunting Regulations Webmap tells you what season are open and when: <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/huntregs/>
- The WA Dept. of Natural Resources even offers LIDAR images if you really need detailed topographic information: <http://lidarportal.dnr.wa.gov/#47.60443:-120.14992:12>



LIDAR image of the Chelan Butte Wildlife Unit and surrounding areas.

# GMU 243 - Manson



**GMU 243 - Manson****Total Acres**

227,646

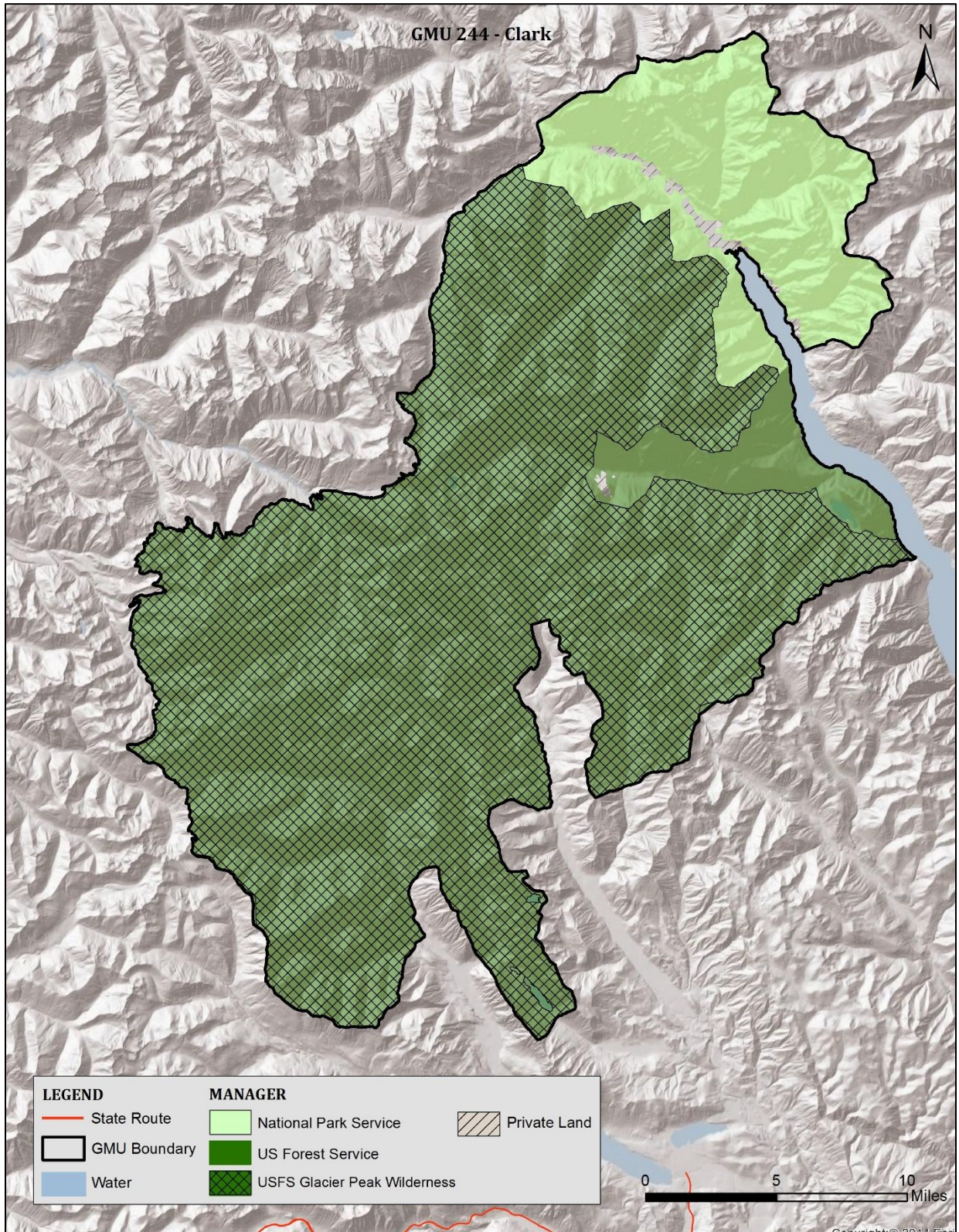
<b>Land Managers</b>	<b>Acres</b>
City or Municipality	56
County	24
National Park Service	2,283
US Bureau of Land Management	5,957
US Forest Service	96,785
US Forest Service Wilderness	56,861
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	183
WA State Parks	172
WA Dept. of Natural Resources	2,389
Private Lands	62,937

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	114,978
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	11,042
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	37,816
High alpine vegetation	2,356
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	3,434
Agriculture	13,983
Non-native vegetation	500
Recently Disturbed	6,643
Open Water	33,479
Urban and Suburban areas	3,211

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	49
UNIMPROVED	172
UNPAVED ROAD	461

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Antilon Lake	77
Dry Lake	83
Lake Chelan	32,359
Roses Lake	178
Wapato Lake	199

# GMU 244 – Clark



**GMU 244 - Clark****Total Acres**  
366,215

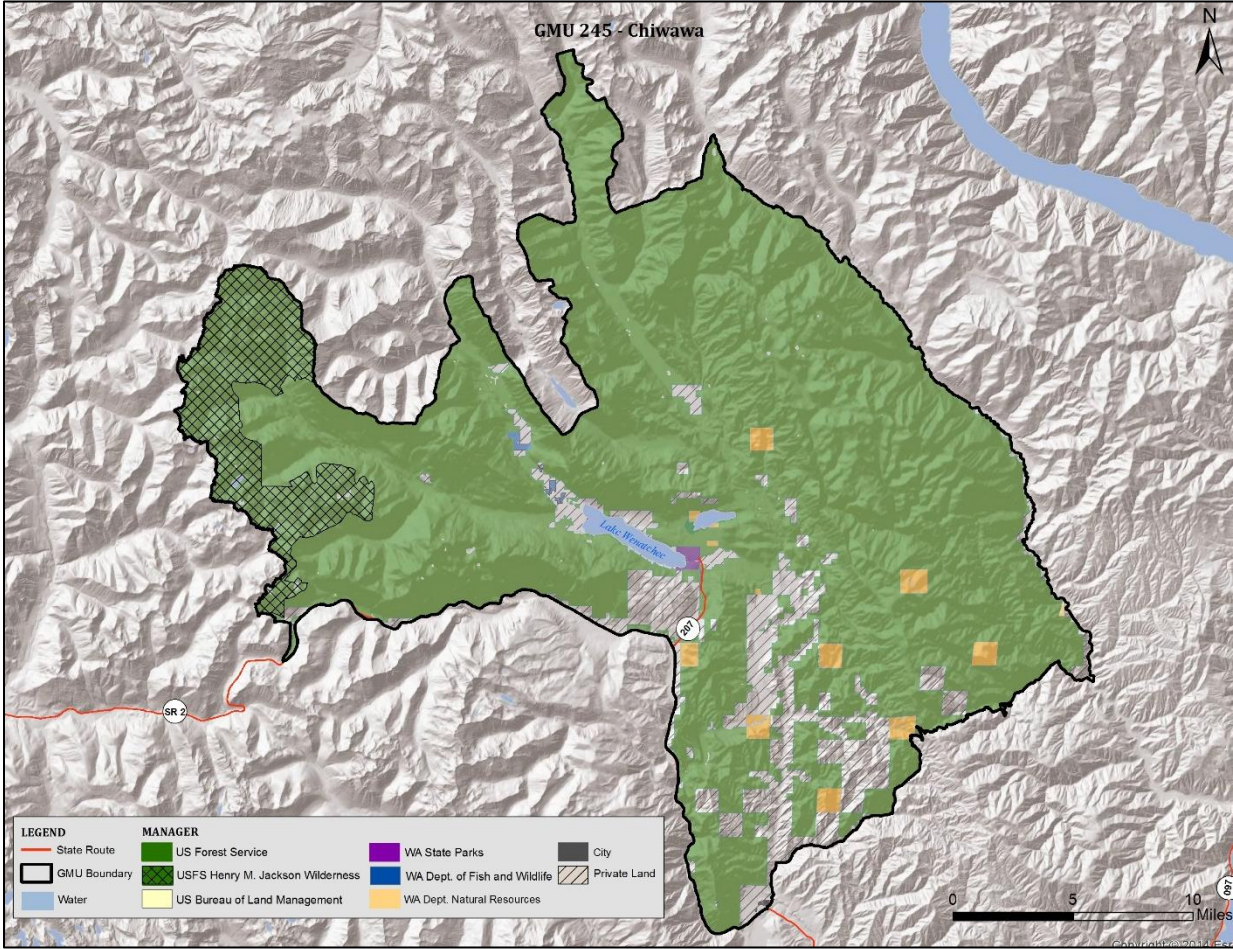
<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
National Park Service	56,996
US Forest Service	17,333
US Forest Service Wilderness	289,976
Private Lands	1,911

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	11
UNIMPROVED	11
UNPAVED ROAD	11

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	278,006
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	31,788
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	555
High alpine vegetation	18,338
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	35,670
Agriculture	21
Non-native vegetation	0
Recently Disturbed	24
Open Water	1,374
Urban and Suburban areas	58

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Domke Lake	272
Hart Lake	32
Ice Lakes	75
King Lake	11
Lake Chelan	175
Twin Lakes	254

# GMU 245 – Chiwawa



**GMU 245 - Chiwawa****Total Acres**

371,598

<b>Land Managers</b>	<b>Acres</b>
City or Municipality	53
US Bureau of Land Management	84
US Forest Service	296,080
US Forest Service Wilderness	28,237
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	401
WA State Parks	495
WA Dept of Natural Resources	7,332
Private Land	38,916

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	33
UNIMPROVED	439
UNPAVED ROAD	887

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	316,511
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	15,627
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	5,635
High alpine vegetation	301
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	3,378
Agriculture	2,071
Non-native vegetation	1
Recently Disturbed	21,825
Open Water	3,443
Urban and Suburban areas	2,533

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Fish Lake	496
Glasses Lake	22
Heather Lake	86
Lake Wenatchee	2409



# GMU 246 - Slide Ridge



**GMU 246 - Slide Ridge**      **Total Acres**  
101,297

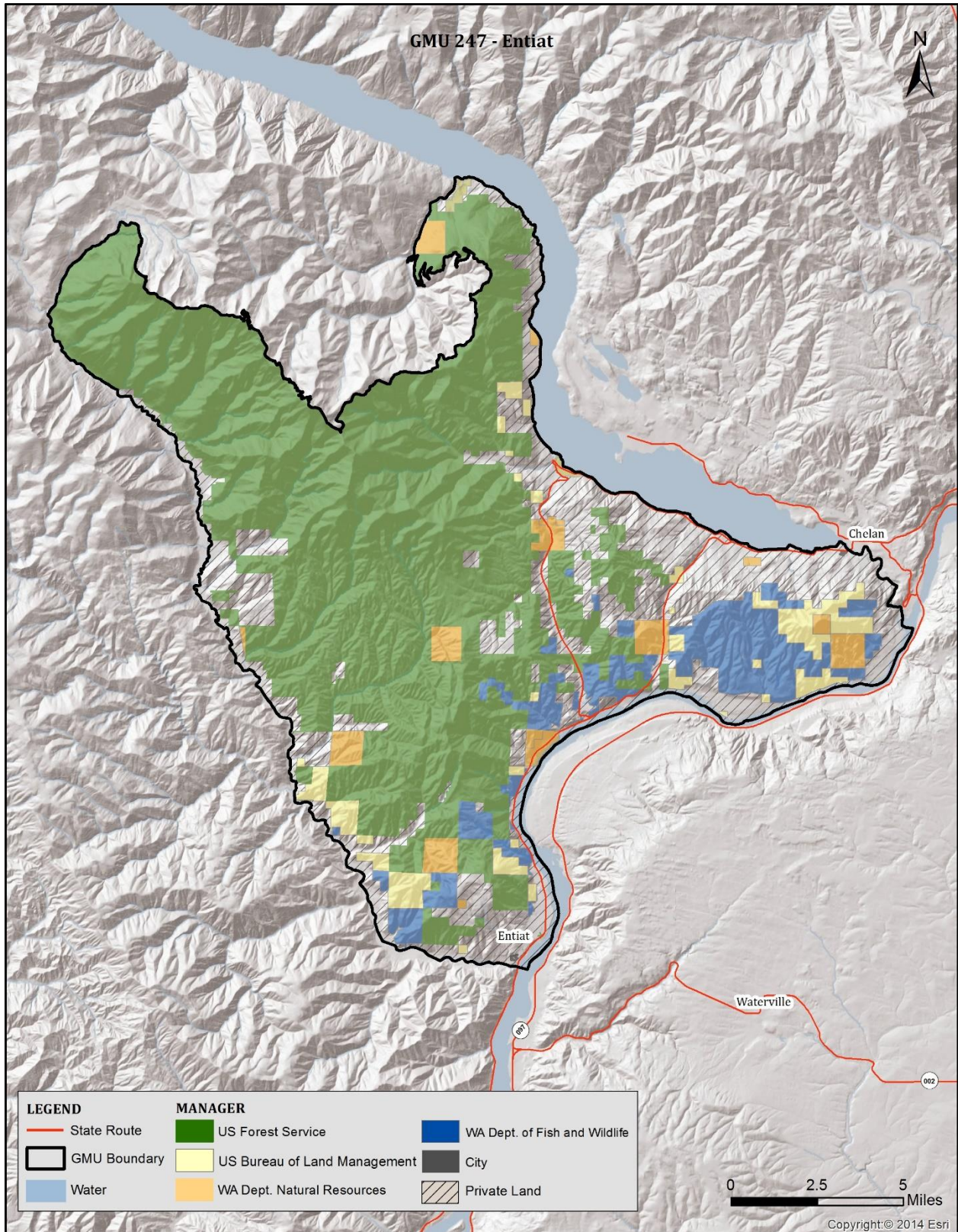
<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
US Forest Service	100,569
Wa Dept of Natural Resources	126
Private Land	601

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	0
UNIMPROVED	62
UNPAVED ROAD	100

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	86843
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	299
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	3488
High alpine vegetation	2452
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	1758
Agriculture	160
Non-native vegetation	0
Recently Disturbed	5741
Open Water	103
Urban and Suburban areas	364

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Fern Lake	17
Lower Pawn Lake	7

# GMU 247 - Entiat



**GMU 247 - Entiat****Total Acres**

142,311

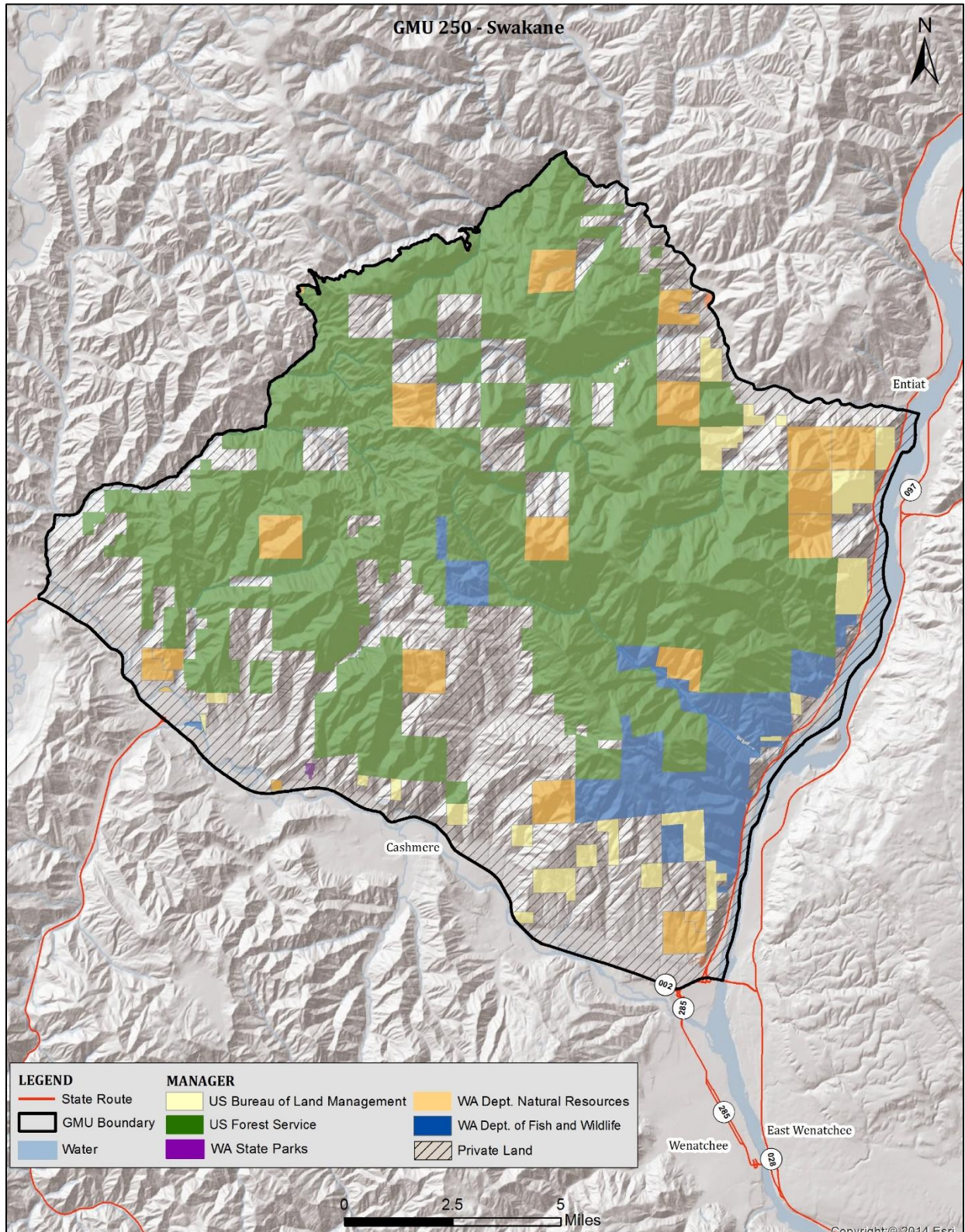
<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
City or Municipality	35
US Bureau of Land Management	5,871
US Fish and Wildlife Service	3
US Forest Service	85,005
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	11,421
WA State Parks	366
WA Dept of Natural Resources	5,700
Private Land	33,909

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	57
UNIMPROVED	146
UNPAVED ROAD	560

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	49,743
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	12,589
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	63,502
High alpine vegetation	34
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	1,797
Agriculture	9,646
Non-native vegetation	1
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	1,853
Urban and Suburban areas	2,261

<b>Major Bodies of Water</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Lake Chelan	119

# GMU 250 – Swakane



**GMU 250 - Swakane****Total Acres**

138,779

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
County	17
US Bureau of Land Management	4,776
US Fish and Wildlife Service	31
US Forest Service	69,077
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	8,308
WA State Parks	35
WA Dept of Natural Resources	9451
Private Lands	47,084

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	28
UNIMPROVED	243
UNPAVED ROAD	637

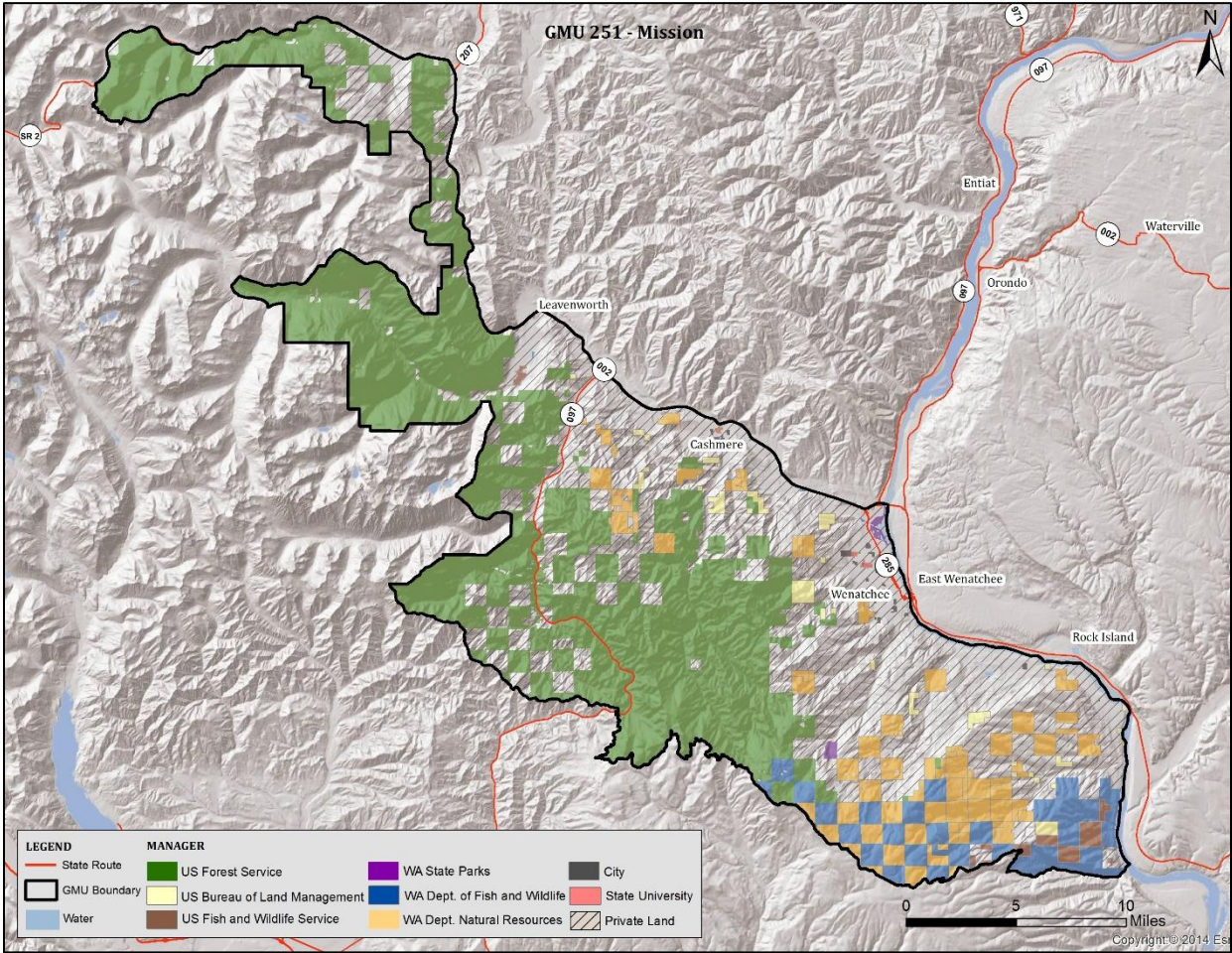
<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	76,278
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	12,708
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	30,999
High alpine vegetation	14
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	2,031
Agriculture	9,208
Non-native vegetation	2,716
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	1,829
Urban and Suburban areas	2,915

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
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\*Columbia River borders GMU 250 to the east

\*Includes approximately 11 miles of Wenatchee River to the south

# GMU 251 – Mission



**GMU 251 - Mission****Total Acres**  
333,458

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
City or Municipality	403
County	33
State University	97
US Bureau of Land Management	3,918
US Fish and Wildlife Service	2,335
US Forest Service	146,913
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	17,031
WA State Parks	490
WA Dept Natural Resources	28524
Private Lands	133,713

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	207,500
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	10,485
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	54,178
High alpine vegetation	63
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	3,501
Agriculture	18,206
Non-native vegetation	1,787
Recently Disturbed	23,931
Open Water	2,618
Urban and Suburban areas	11,022

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	69
UNIMPROVED	709
UNPAVED ROAD	847

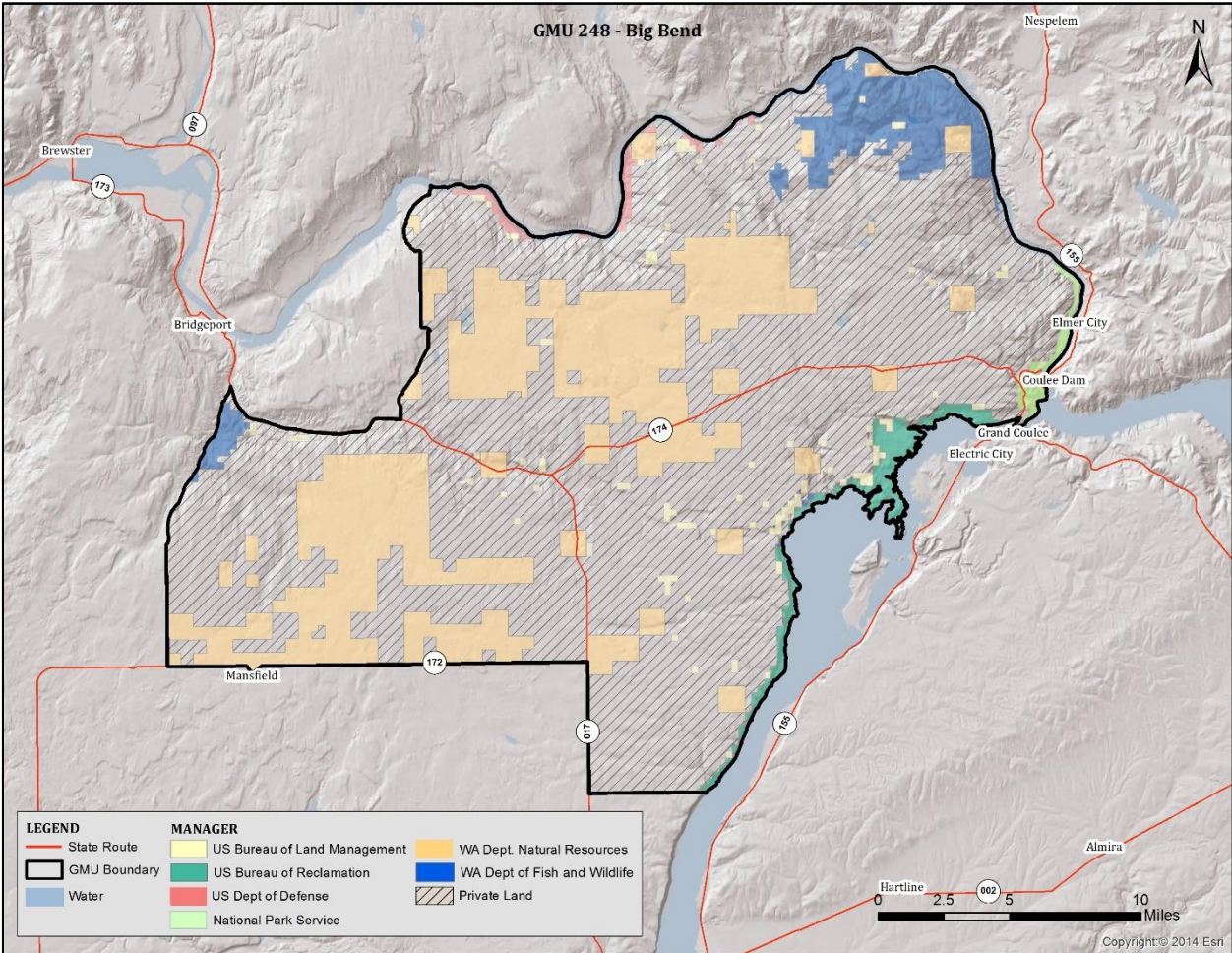
<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Beehive Reservoir	13
Clara Lake	2
Clear Lake	4
Lake Cortez	35
Lily Lake	14
Marion Lake	1
Meadow Lake	36

\* GMU 251 bordered by approximately 24 miles of Columbia River

\* **Includes approximately 12 miles of the Wenatchee River**



# GMU 248 – Big Bend



**GMU 248 - Big Bend**

**Total Acres**

330,386

<b>Land Manger</b>	<b>Acres</b>
WDFW State Lands	23,761
DNR State Lands	78,655
Wa. State Parks	12
BLM Federal Lands	4354
Nat. Park Service Federal Lands	1848
Bureau of Reclamation Federal Lands	6254
US Dept. of Defense	1906
Private Lands	213,596

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	53
UNIMPROVED	218
UNPAVED ROAD	325

<b>Private Lands Hunting Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Feel Free to Hunt	2,244
Hunt By Written Permission	57,452

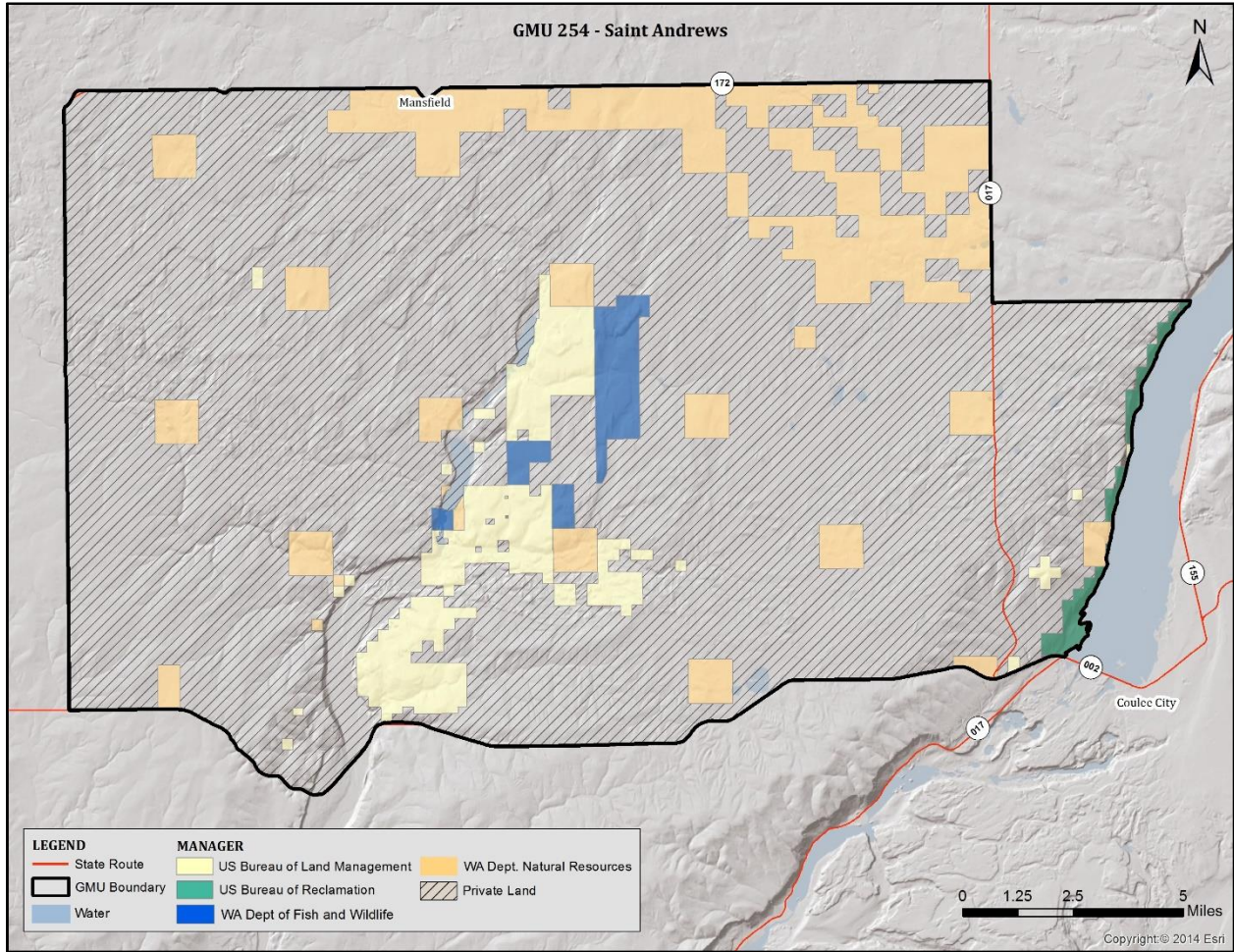
<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	1402
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	29,292
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	142142
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	903
Agriculture	131,966
Non-native vegetation	17,580
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	3,687
Urban and Suburban areas	3,191

<b>Major Bodies of Water</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Banks Lake	88
Sims Corner Reservoir	57

\* GMU 248 has a number of pothole reservoirs which may have seasonally available water.

\* GMU 248 is bounded to the north by the Columbia River

# GMU 254 - St. Andrews



**GMU 254 - St. Andrews**

**Total Acres**

209,076

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
US Bureau of Land Management	10,774
US Bureau of Reclamation	1,337
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	3,216
WA State Parks	5
WA Dept Natural Resources	24556
Private Lands	169,188

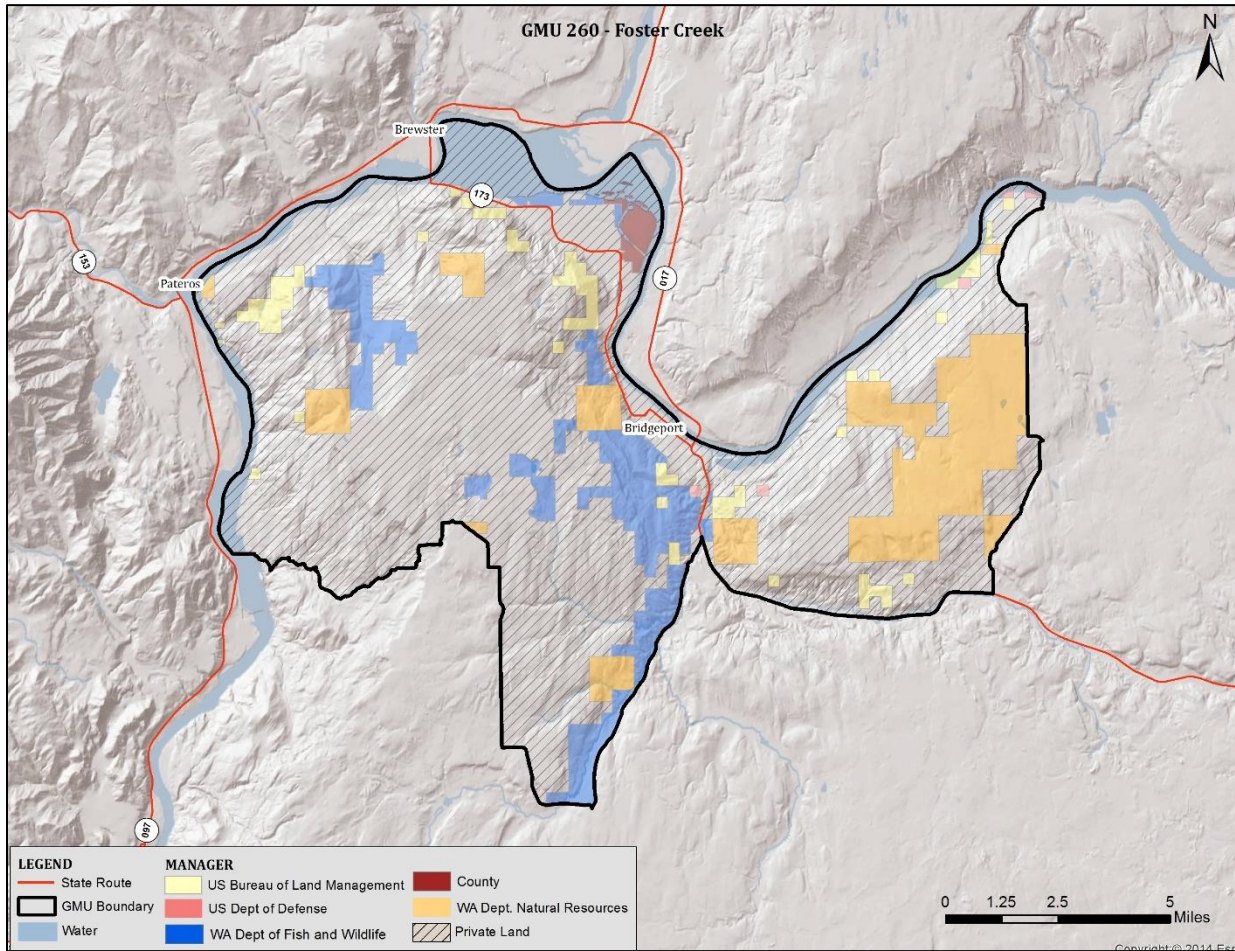
<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	52
UNIMPROVED	124
UNPAVED ROAD	281

<b>Private Lands Hunting Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Feel Free to Hunt	7,017
Hunt By Written Permission	49,406

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	91
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	4,224
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	71,290
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	515
Agriculture	125,792
Non-native vegetation	3,563
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	829
Urban and Suburban areas	2,635

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Atkins Lake	133
Banks Lake	12
Bennett Lake	44
Grimes Lake	187
Haynes Lake	50
Jameson Lake	457

# GMU 260 – Foster Creek



**GMU 260 - Foster Creek      Total Acres**  
89,022

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
County	631
Tribal Govt	1
US Bureau of Land Management	3,078
US Dept of Defense	193
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	8,213
WA Dept Natural Resources	10925
Private Land	65,981

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	25
UNIMPROVED	54
UNPAVED ROAD	149

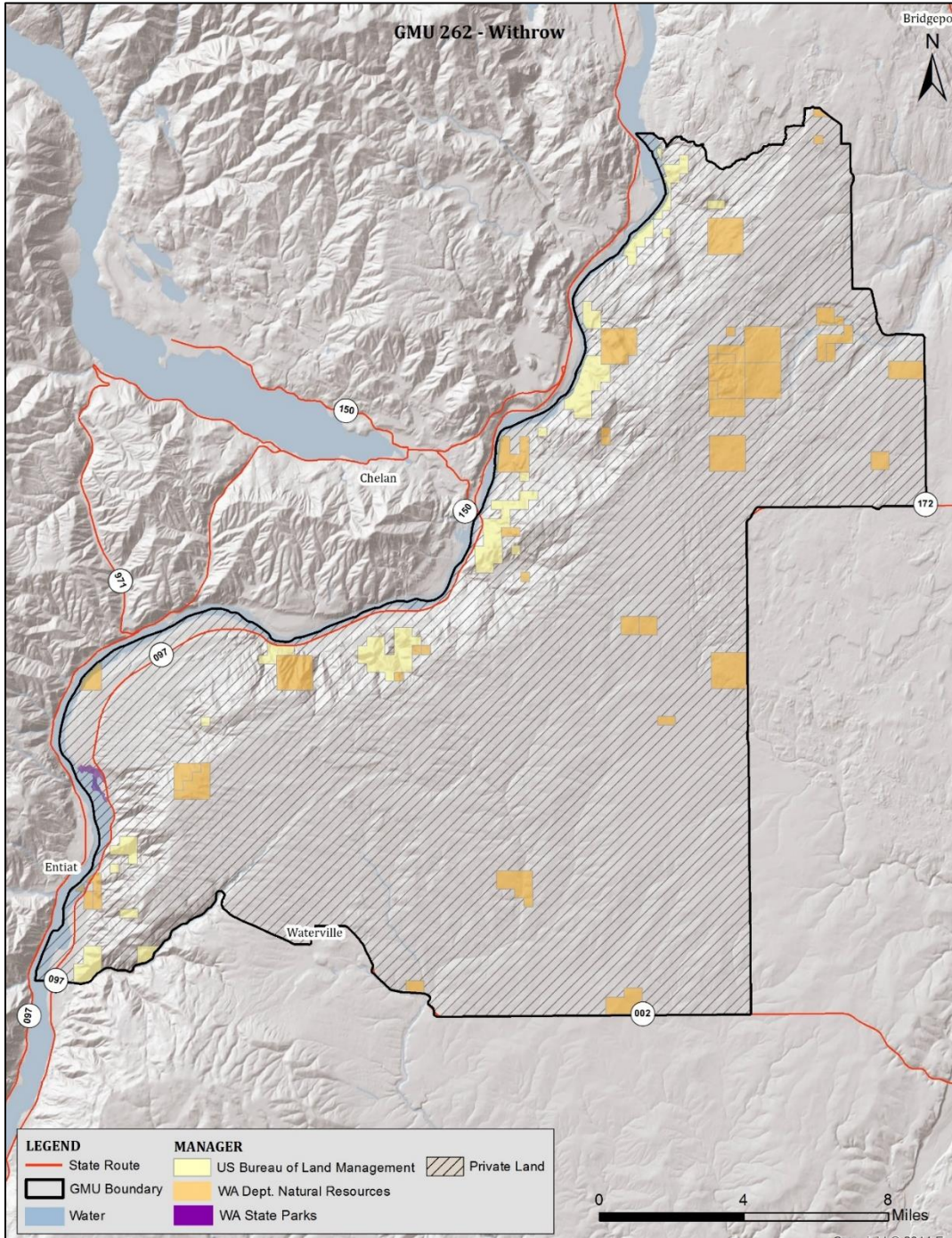
<b>Private Lands Hunting Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Hunt by Written Permission	8,302

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	1,350
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	7,622
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	29,821
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	152
Agriculture	40,804
Non-native vegetation	1,608
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	5,827
Urban and Suburban areas	1,764

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
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- \* GMU is bounded by approximately 40 miles of the Columbia River
- \* GMU includes Lake Pateros and Bridgeport Bar

# GMU 262 – Withrow



**GMU 262 - Withrow****Total Acres**  
190,047

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
US Bureau of Land Management	4,802
WA State Parks and Recreation Commission	127
WA Dept Natural Resources	10125
Private Land	174,993

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	105
UNIMPROVED	147
UNPAVED ROAD	312

<b>Private Lands Hunting Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Feel Free to Hunt	321
Hunt by Written Permission	9,986

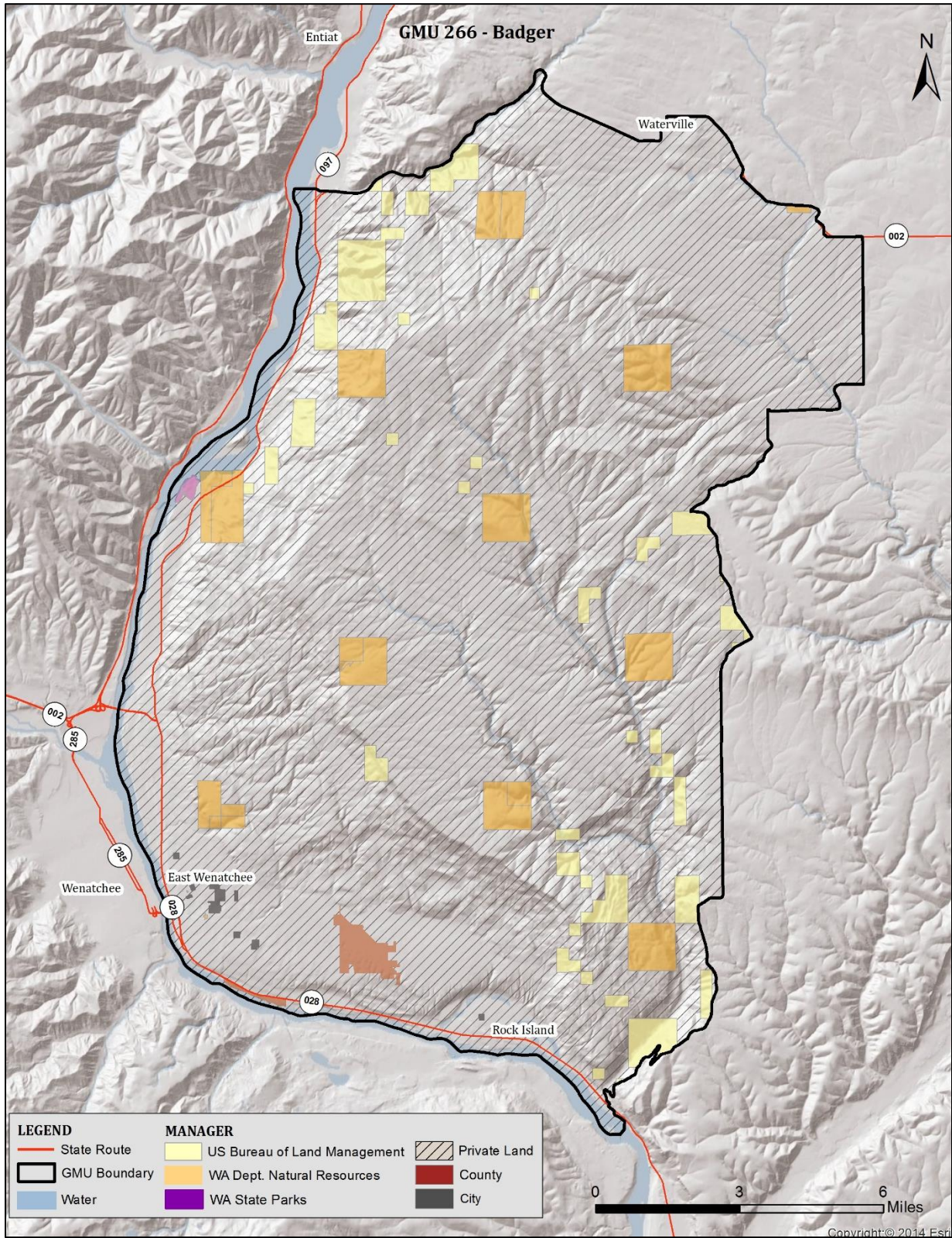
<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	2,763
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	17,419
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	28,131
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	708
Agriculture	130,229
Non-native vegetation	3,300
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	3,436
Urban and Suburban areas	3,928

<b>Major Water Bodies</b>	<b>Surface Acres</b>
Cornehl Lake	18

\* Approximately 37 miles of Columbia River



# GMU 266 – Badger



**GMU 266 - Badger****Total Acres**

139,537

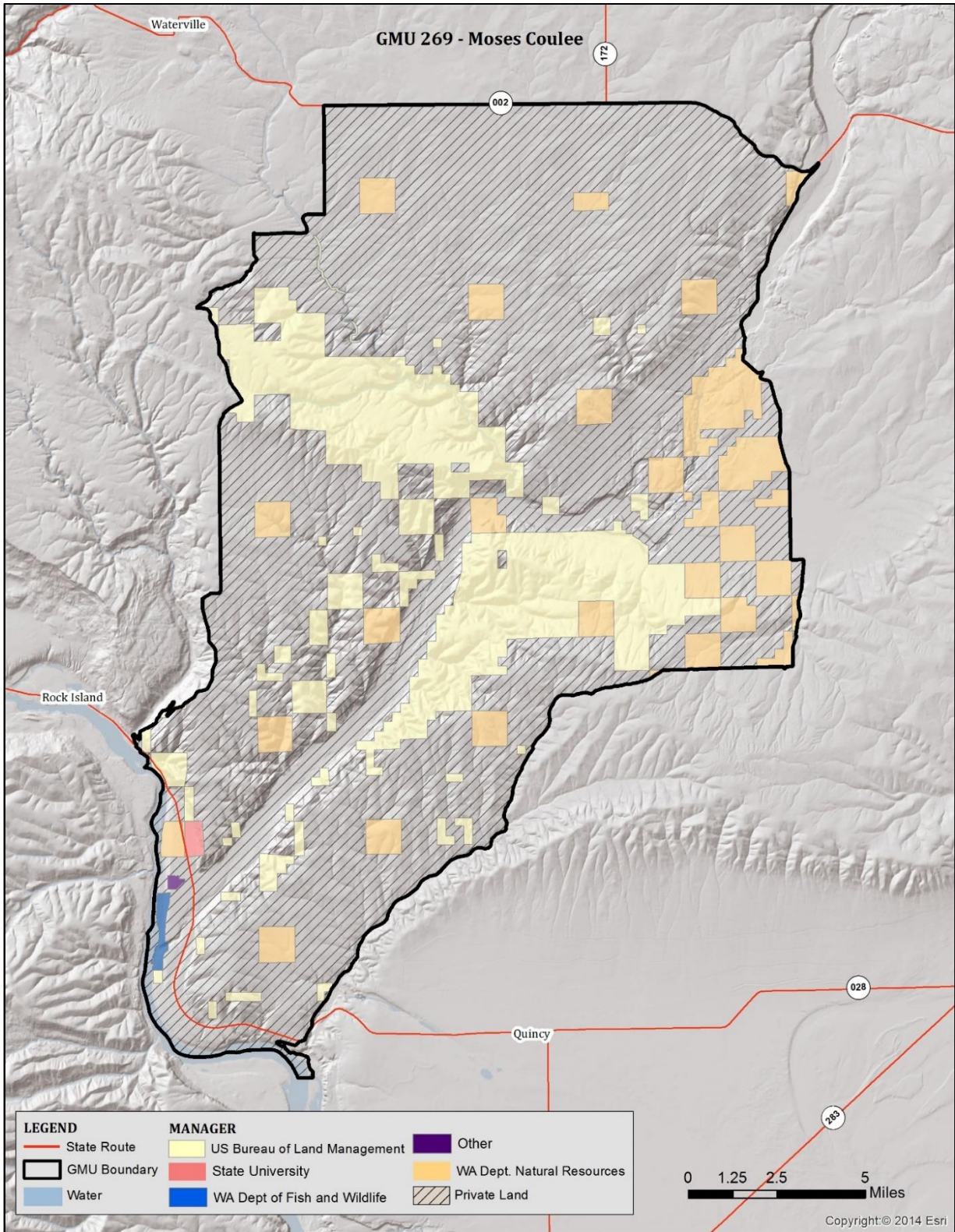
<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
City or Municipality	169
County	716
US Bureau of Land Management	5,870
WA State Parks	98
WA Dept. Natural Resources	6460
Private Land	126,225

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	145
UNIMPROVED	142
UNPAVED ROAD	204

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	12,622
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	14,433
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	49,452
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	344
Agriculture	49,987
Non-native vegetation	1,382
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	2,847
Urban and Suburban areas	8,295

\*GMU borders approximately 30 miles of Columbia River, including Rock Island Pool

# GMU 269 – Moses Coulee



**GMU 269 - Moses Coulee**      **Total Acres**  
210,033

<b>Land Manager</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Other	97
State University	329
US Bureau of Land Management	37,869
WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	403
WA Dept Natural Resources	18478
Private Lands	152,855

<b>Road Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
PAVED ROAD	41
UNIMPROVED	131
UNPAVED ROAD	247

<b>Private Lands Hunting Access</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Feel Free to Hunt	6,660
Hunt by Written Permission	55,853

<b>Habitats/Landcover</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest & Woodlands	1,218
Shrubs, meadows and prairies	10,267
Arid sagebrush and grasslands	100,513
High alpine vegetation	0
Rocks, cliffs, talus and lichens	1,754
Agriculture	83,618
Non-native vegetation	9,194
Recently Disturbed	0
Open Water	1,373
Urban and Suburban areas	1,997

\*GMU is bounded on the south by approximately 12 miles of Columbia River

## HUNTER ACCESS

Hunter Access Program lands in District 7 are predominately in Douglas County, where the majority of rural private lands occur. Chelan County, while having great public land opportunity, does not offer as much in the form of private lands hunting. WDFW lands personnel work closely with agricultural producers to provide access for hunting. As a result, thousands of acres in Douglas County can be hunted throughout the season. Access lands are marked with signs displaying contact information, and many areas are listed on WDFW’s GoHunt mapping program.

	Douglas County	Chelan County
Feel Free to Hunt	9,122	0
Hunt By Written Permission	86,389	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,511</b>	<b>0</b>

Acres of private lands enrolled in WDFW’s Hunting Access Program in District 7 for 2018.

- **Private Lands Hunting Access:** [http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting\\_access/private\\_lands/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/private_lands/)
- **Manual for Hunting Access:** <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01808/wdfw01808.pdf>
- **WDFW's GoHunt:** <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/gohunt/>

## ADDITIONAL ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

### Washington Department of Natural Resources

Southeast Region  
 713 Bowers Road  
 Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301  
 509-925-8510  
 509-925-8522  
[southeast.region@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:southeast.region@dnr.wa.gov)  
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov>

*Public Lands Information Available*

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### U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Wenatchee Office  
 915 N. Walla Walla  
 Wenatchee, WA 98801  
 509-665-2100  
[BLM\\_OR\\_WN\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_WN_Mail@blm.gov)  
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/index.php>

*Public Lands Information Available*

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### Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters

215 Melody Lane  
 Wenatchee, WA 98801  
 (509) 664-9200  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen/>

*Public Lands Information Available*

**Chelan Ranger District**  
 428 W. Woodin Avenue  
 Chelan, WA 98816  
 (509) 682-4900

**Entiat Ranger District**  
 2108 Entiat Way  
 Entiat, WA 98822  
 (509) 784-4700

**Wenatchee River Ranger District**  
 600 Sherbourne  
 Leavenworth, WA 98826  
 (509) 548-2550

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**National Park Service**

Lake Chelan Nat'l Recreation Area and North Cascades National Park

Golden West Visitor Center

Stehekin, WA

509-699-2080 ext. 14

<https://www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm>

*Public Lands Information Available*

# FIGURES

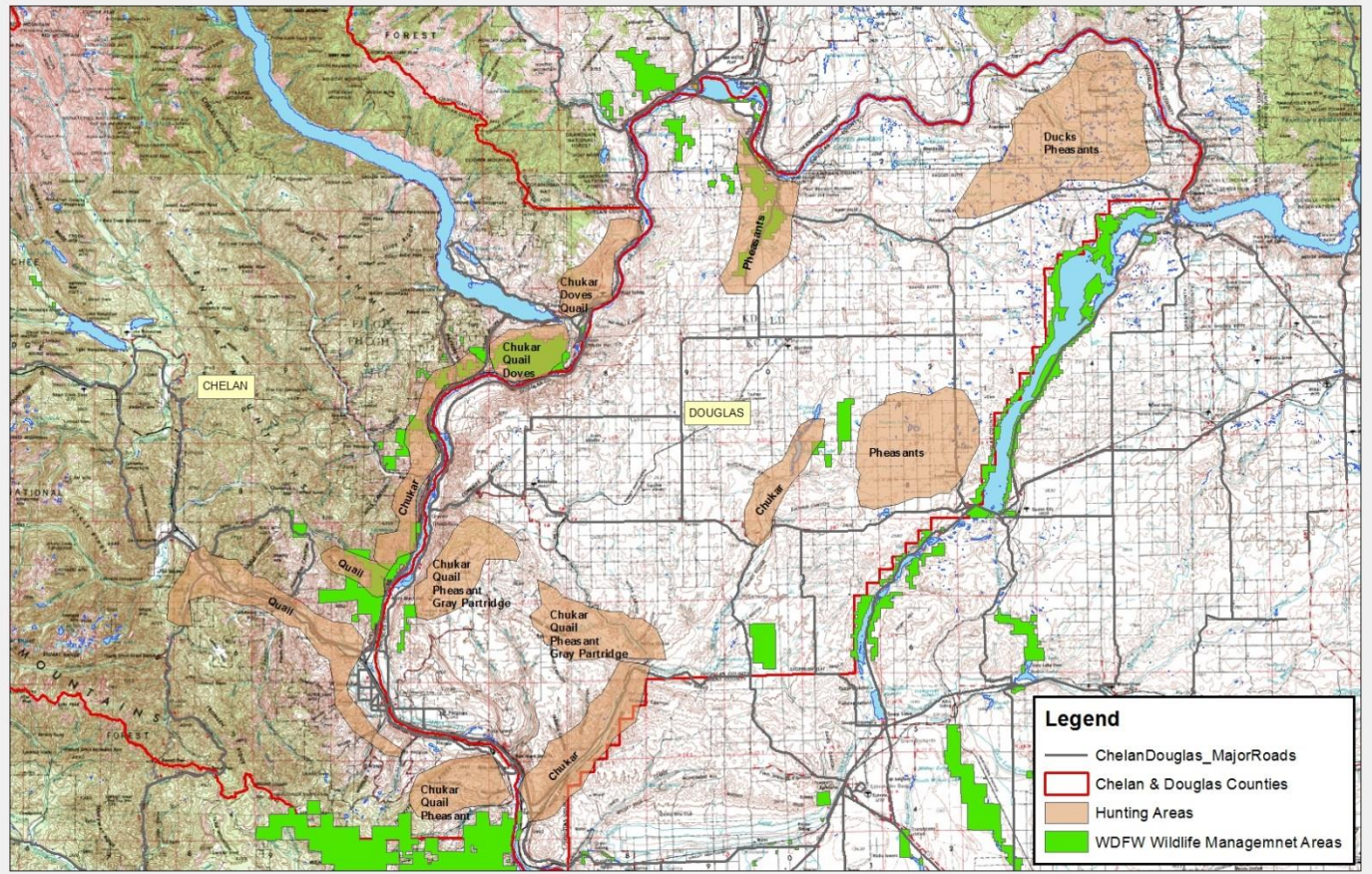


Figure 1. Upland game hunting areas in the Wenatchee District.

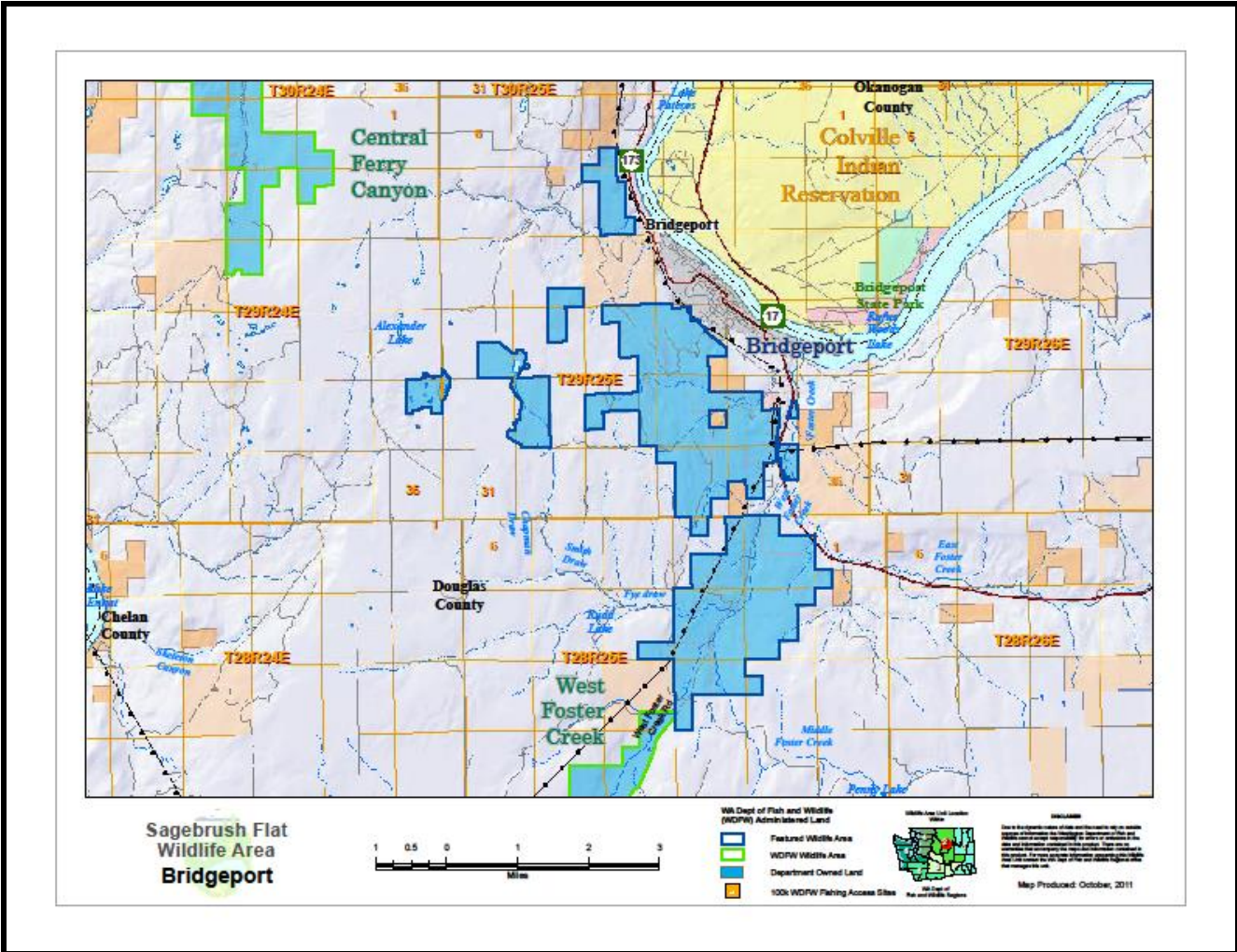


Figure 2. Map of the WDFW Bridgeport Unit, Douglas County.



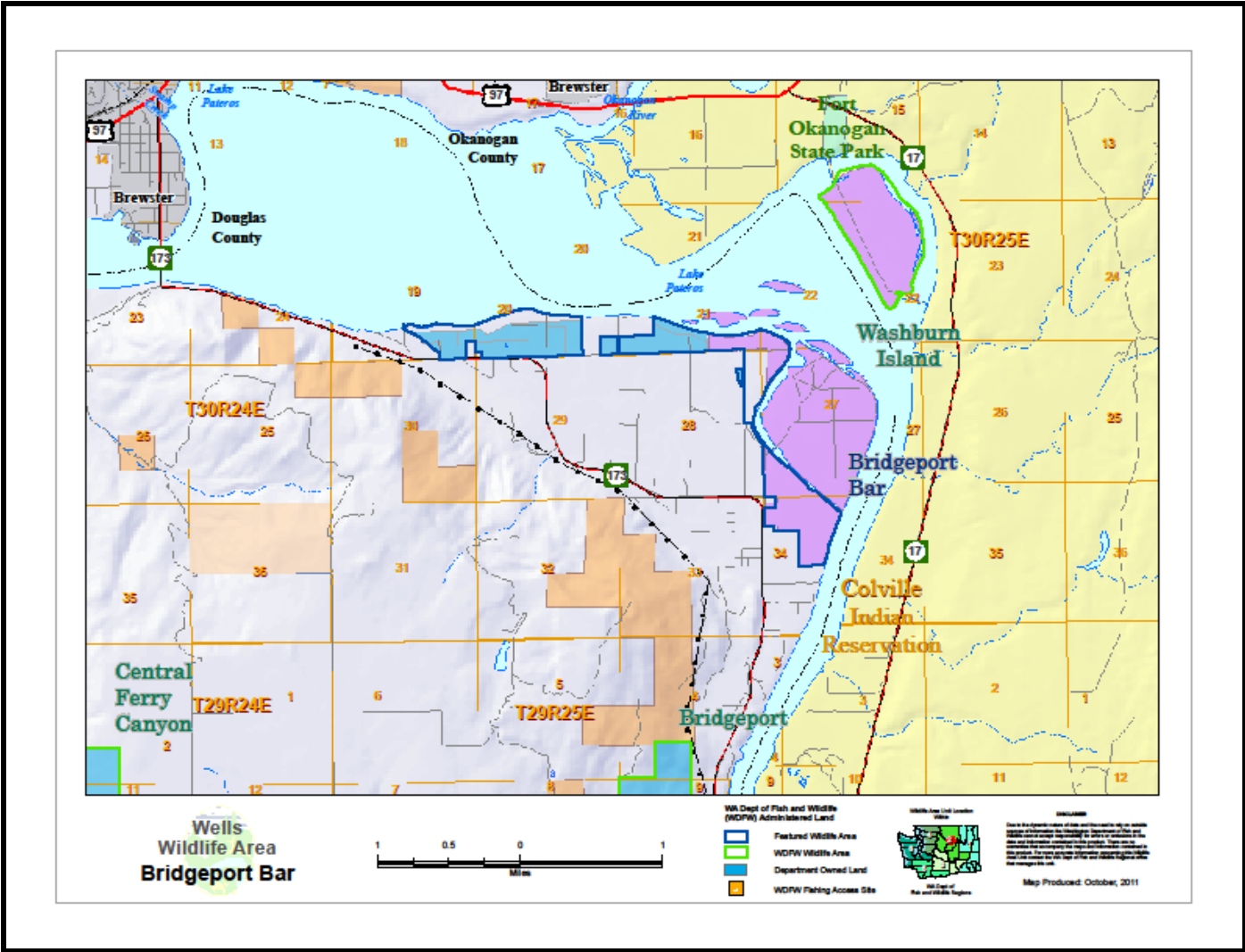


Figure 3. Map of the WDFW Bridgeport Bar Unit, Douglas County.

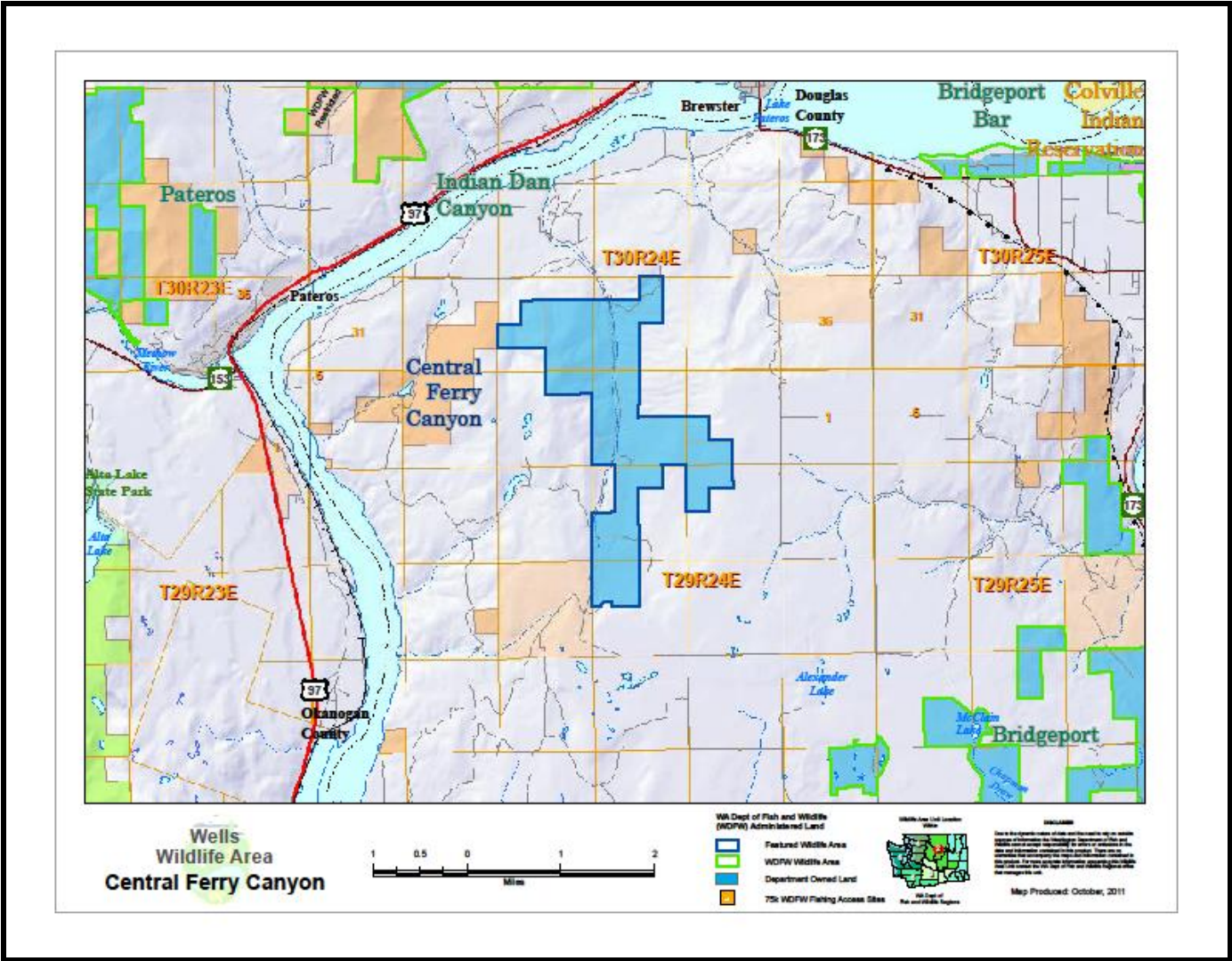


Figure 4. Map of the WDFW Central Ferry Canyon Unit, Douglas County (extensive habitat loss due to wildfire in 2012).

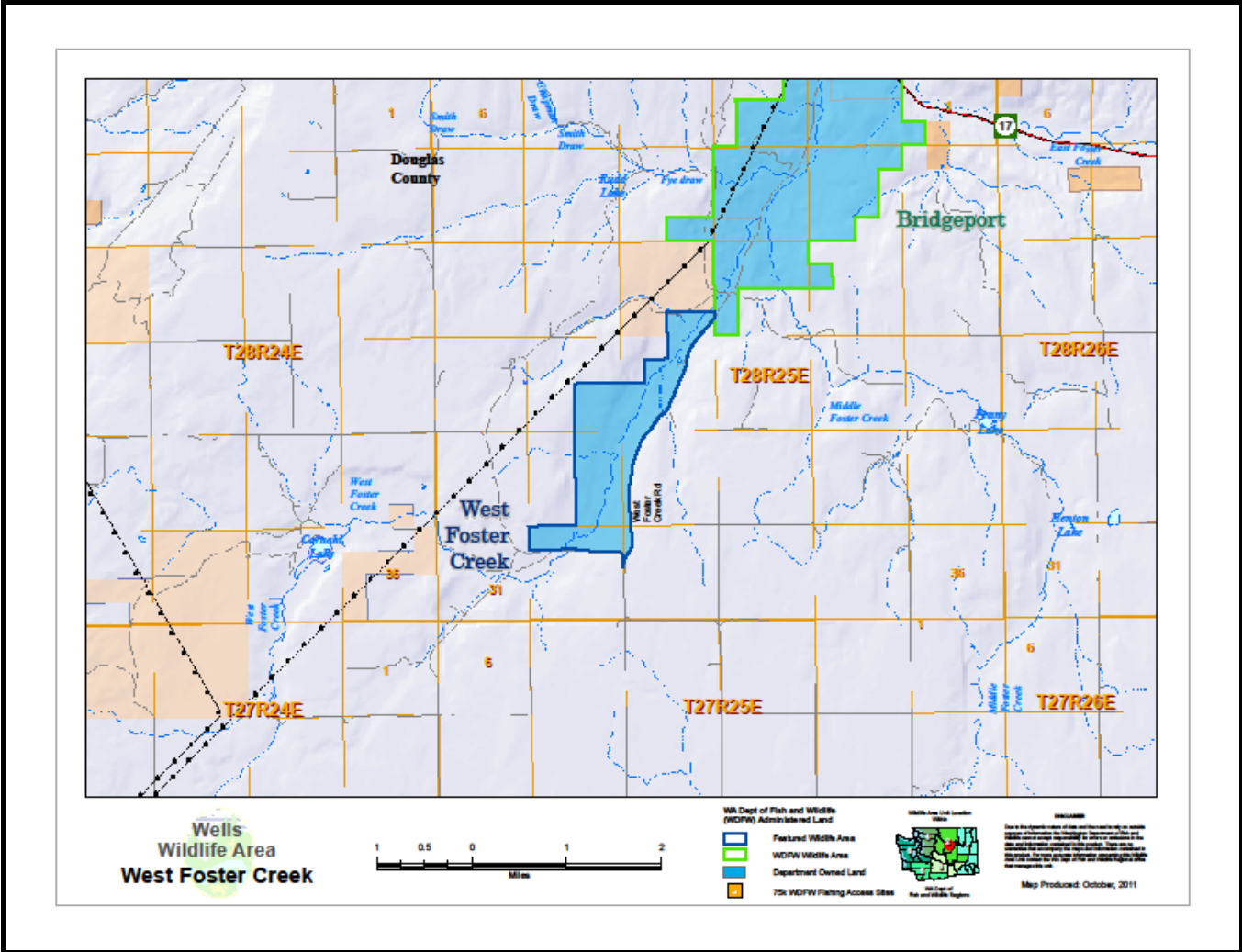


Figure 5. Map of the WDFW West Foster Creek Unit, Douglas County.

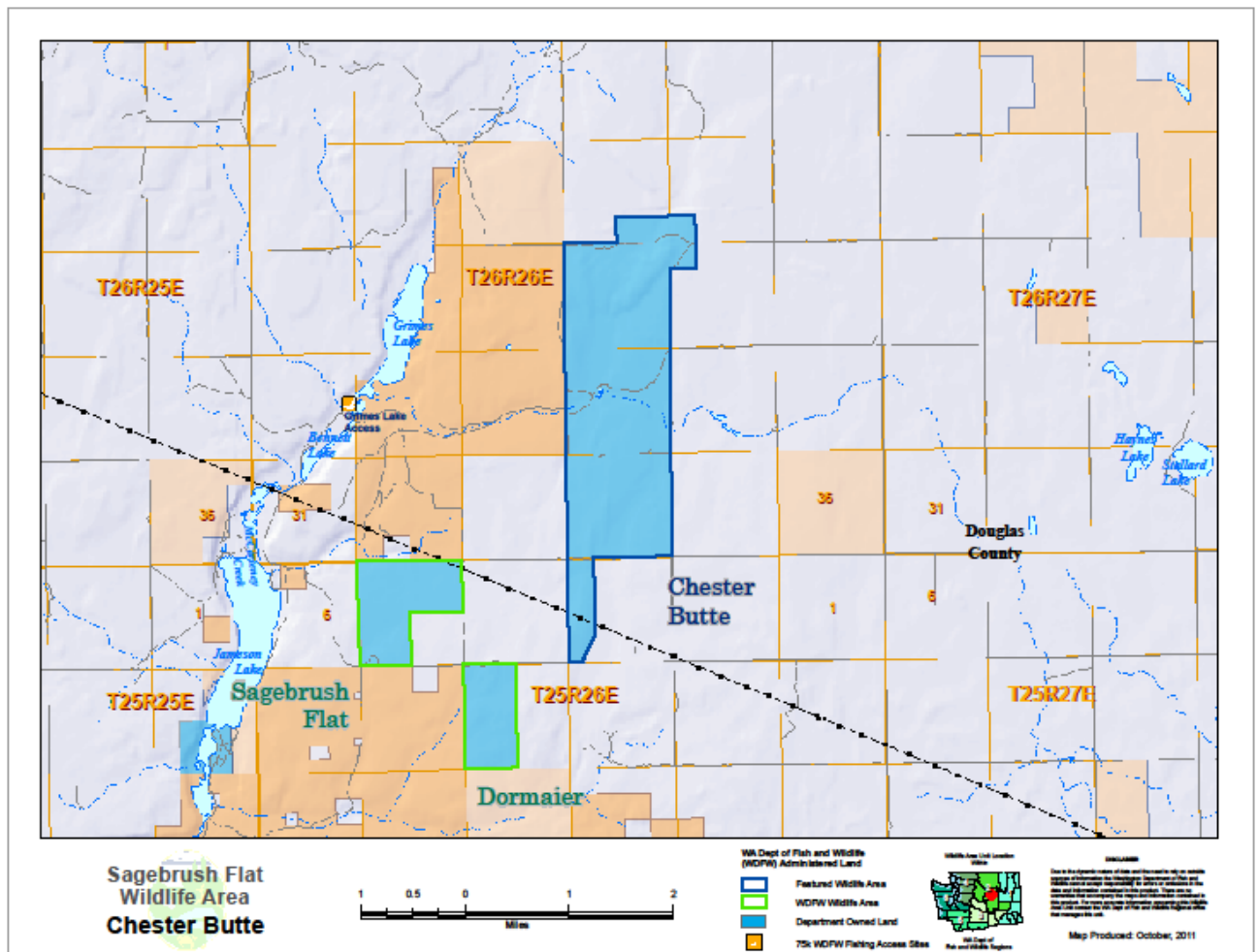


Figure 6. Map of the WDFW Chester Butte and Dormaier Units, Douglas County.

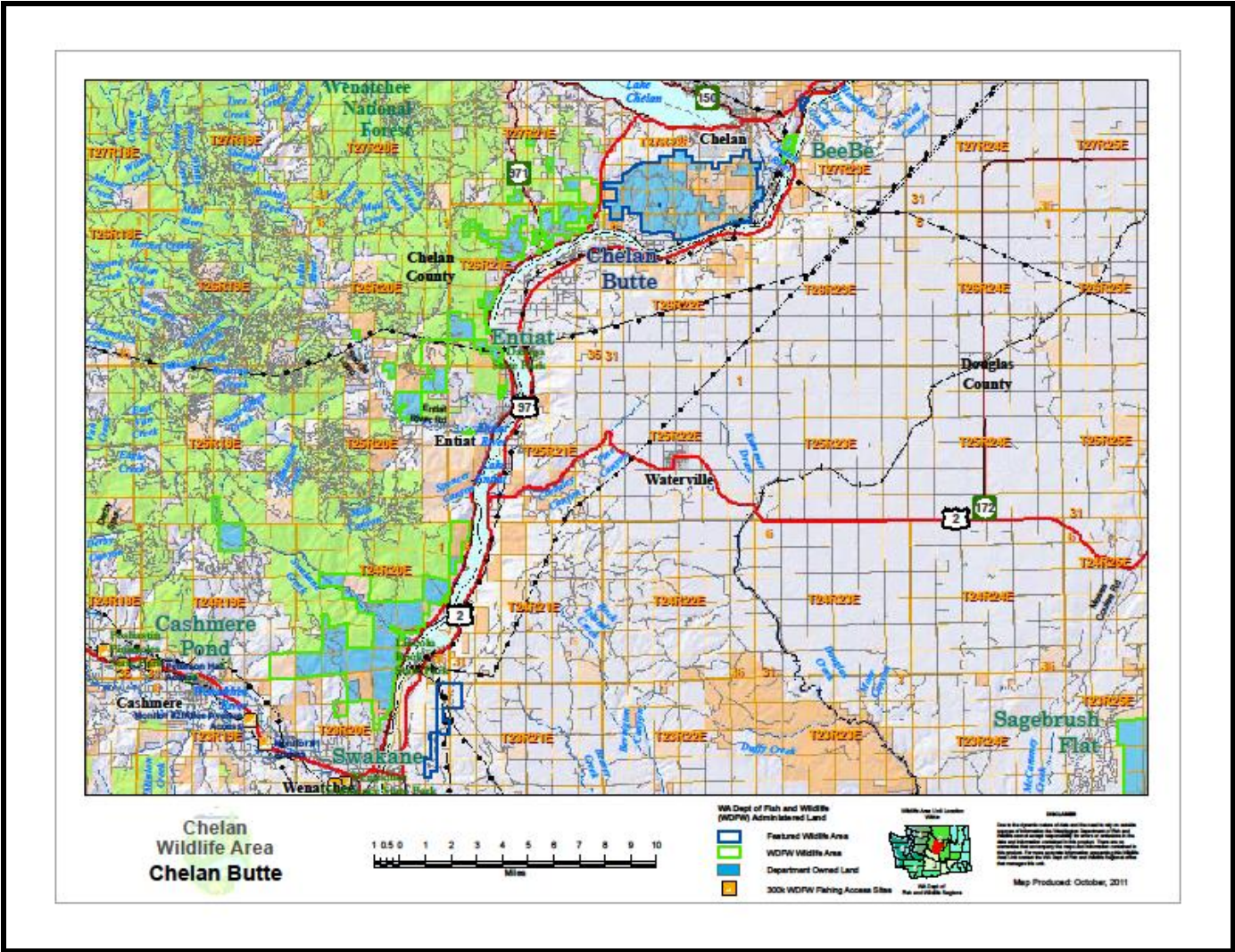


Figure 7. Map of the WDFW Chelan Butte Unit, Chelan County.

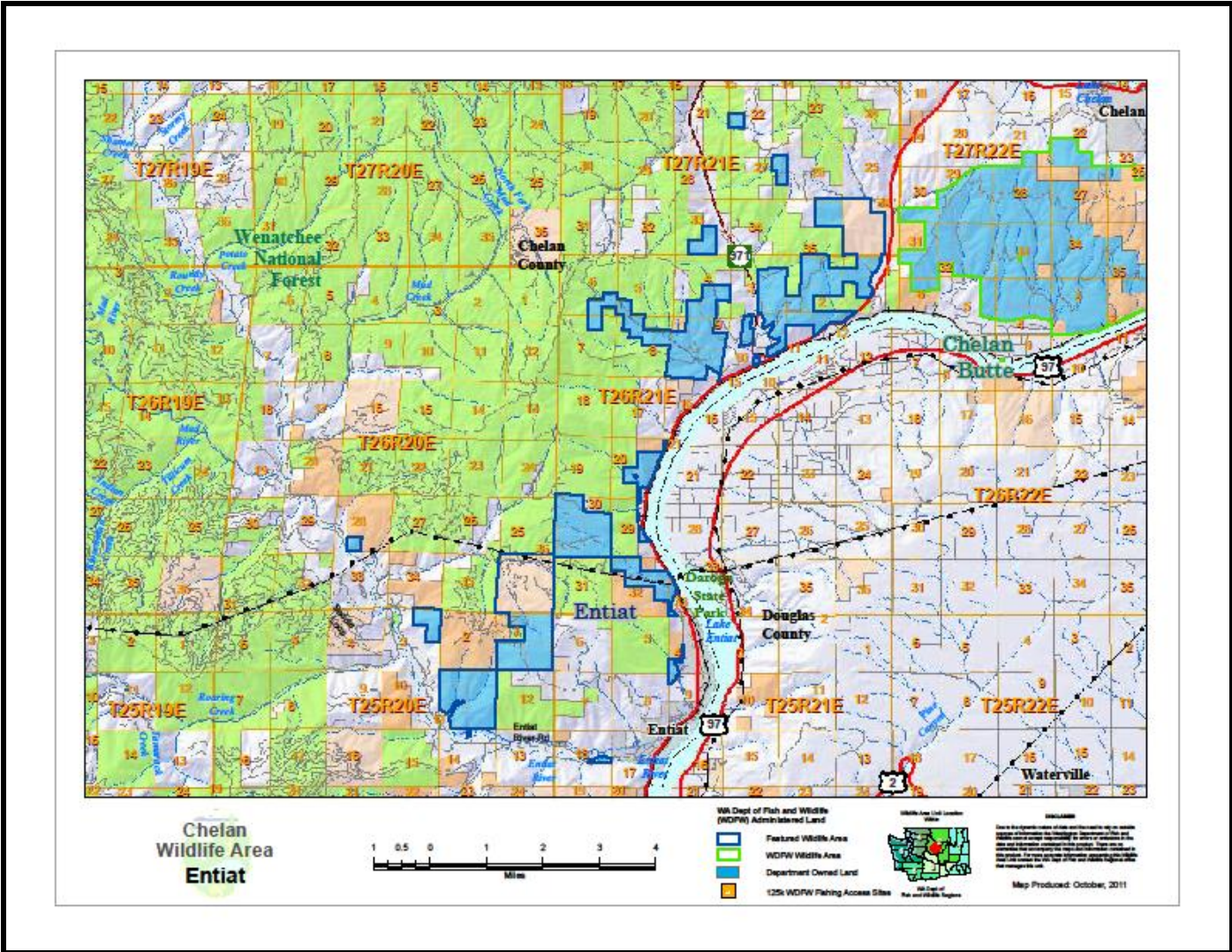


Figure 8. Map of the WDFW Entiat Unit, Chelan County.

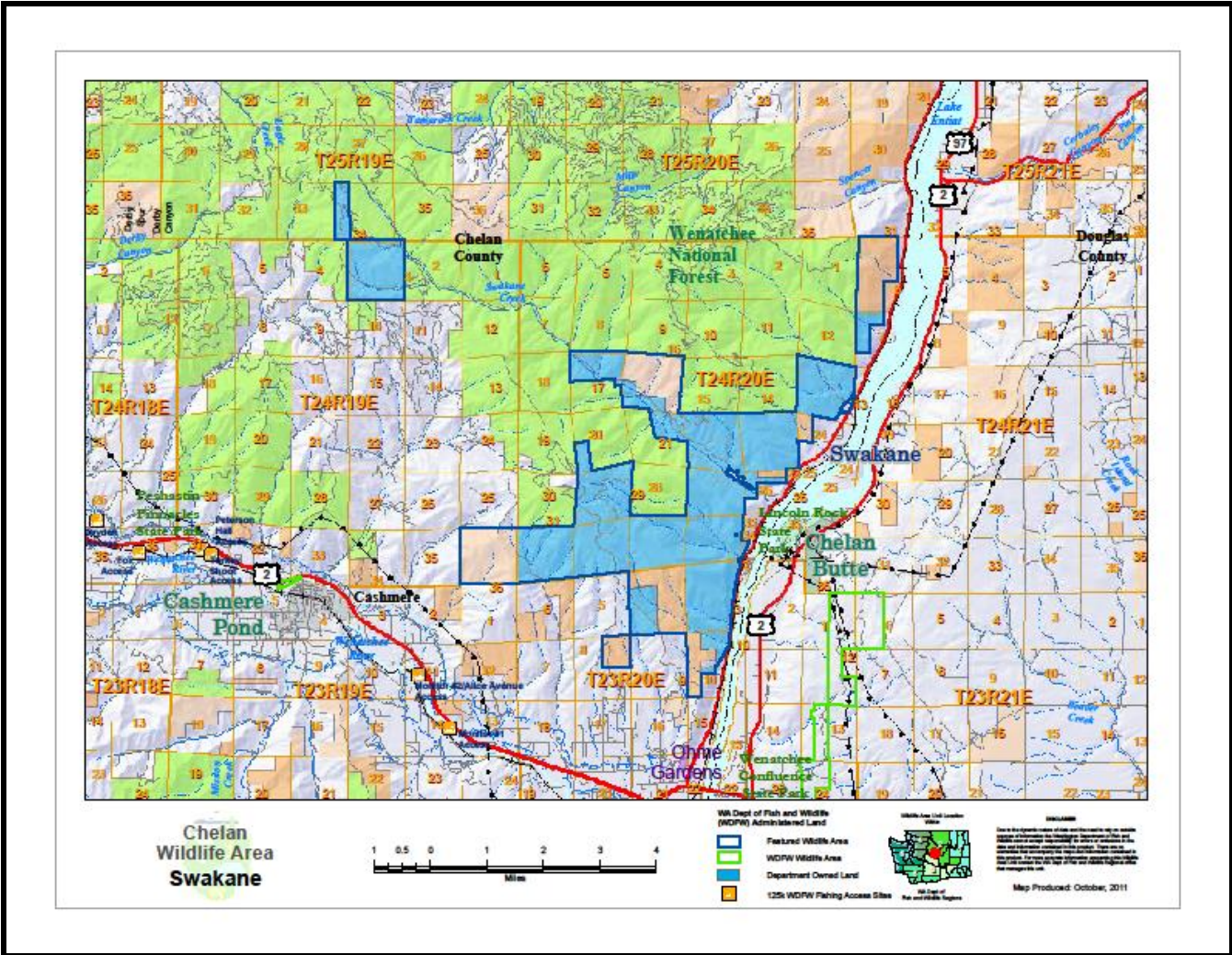


Figure 9. Map of the WDFW Swakane Unit, Chelan County.

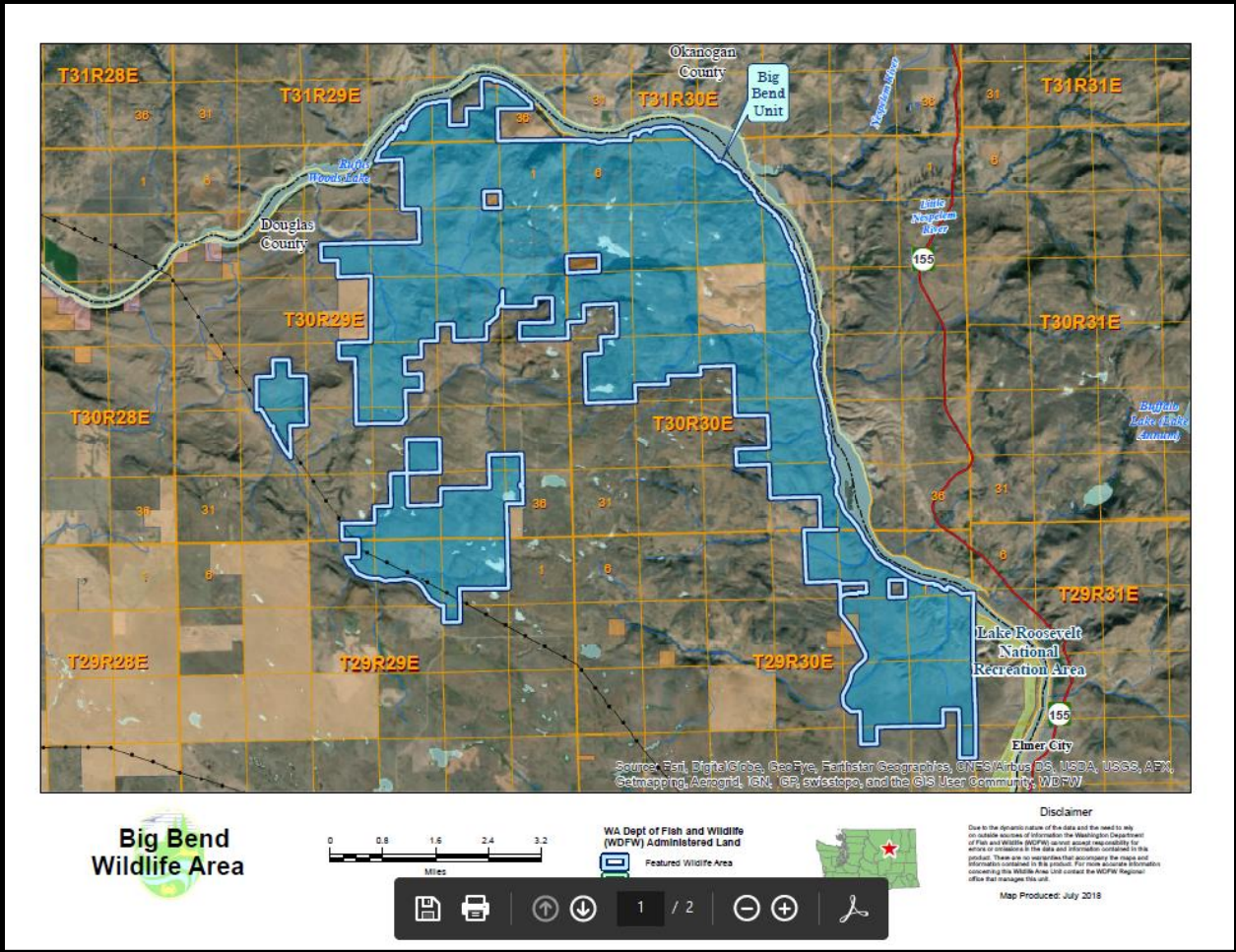
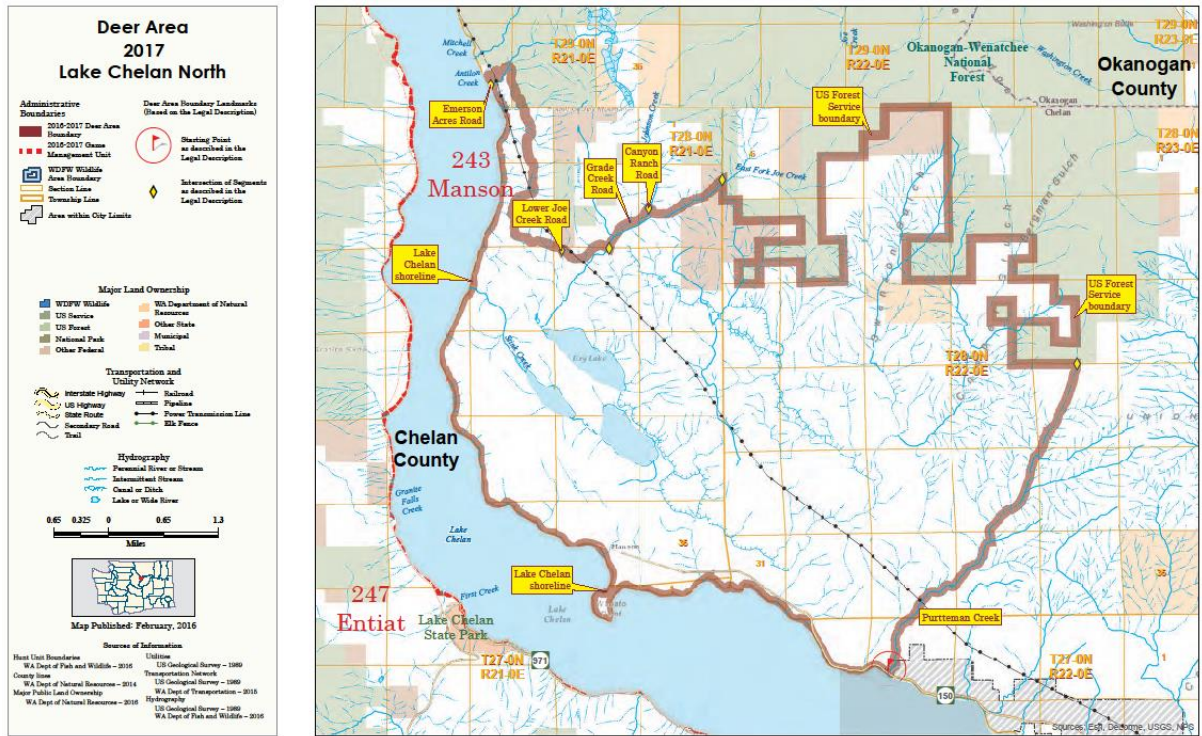


Figure 10. Map of the WDFW Big Bend wildlife Area, Douglas County





1:57,670

Figure 11. Map of the WDFW Deer Area 2017, Lake Chelan North, Chelan County.

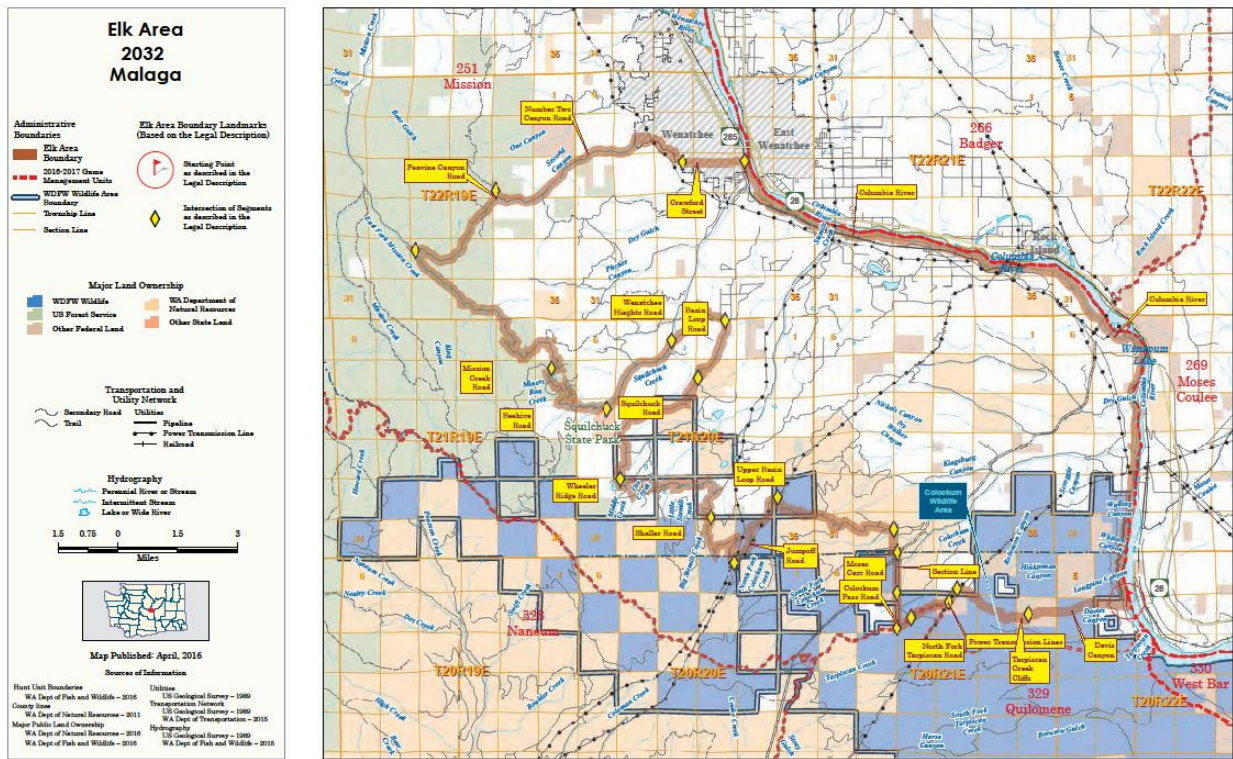


Figure 12. Map of the WDFW Elk Area 2032, Malaga, Chelan County.

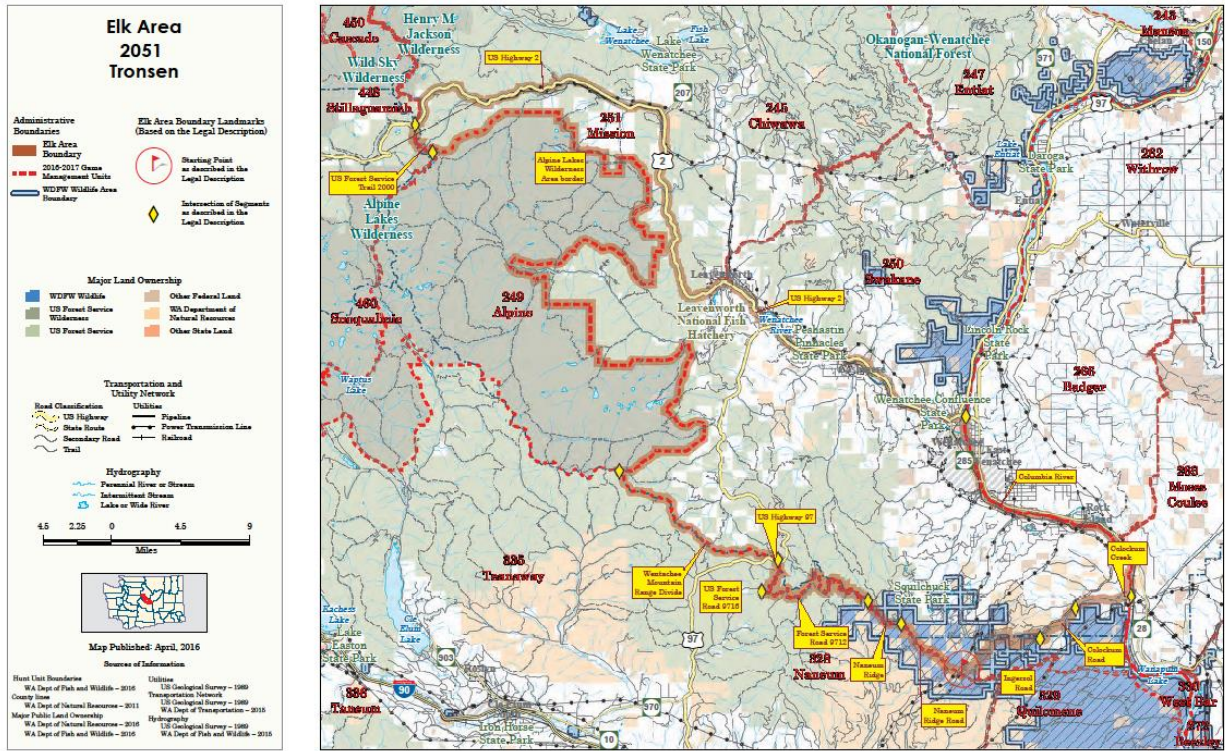


Figure 13. Map of the WDFW Elk Area 2051, Tronsen, Chelan County.

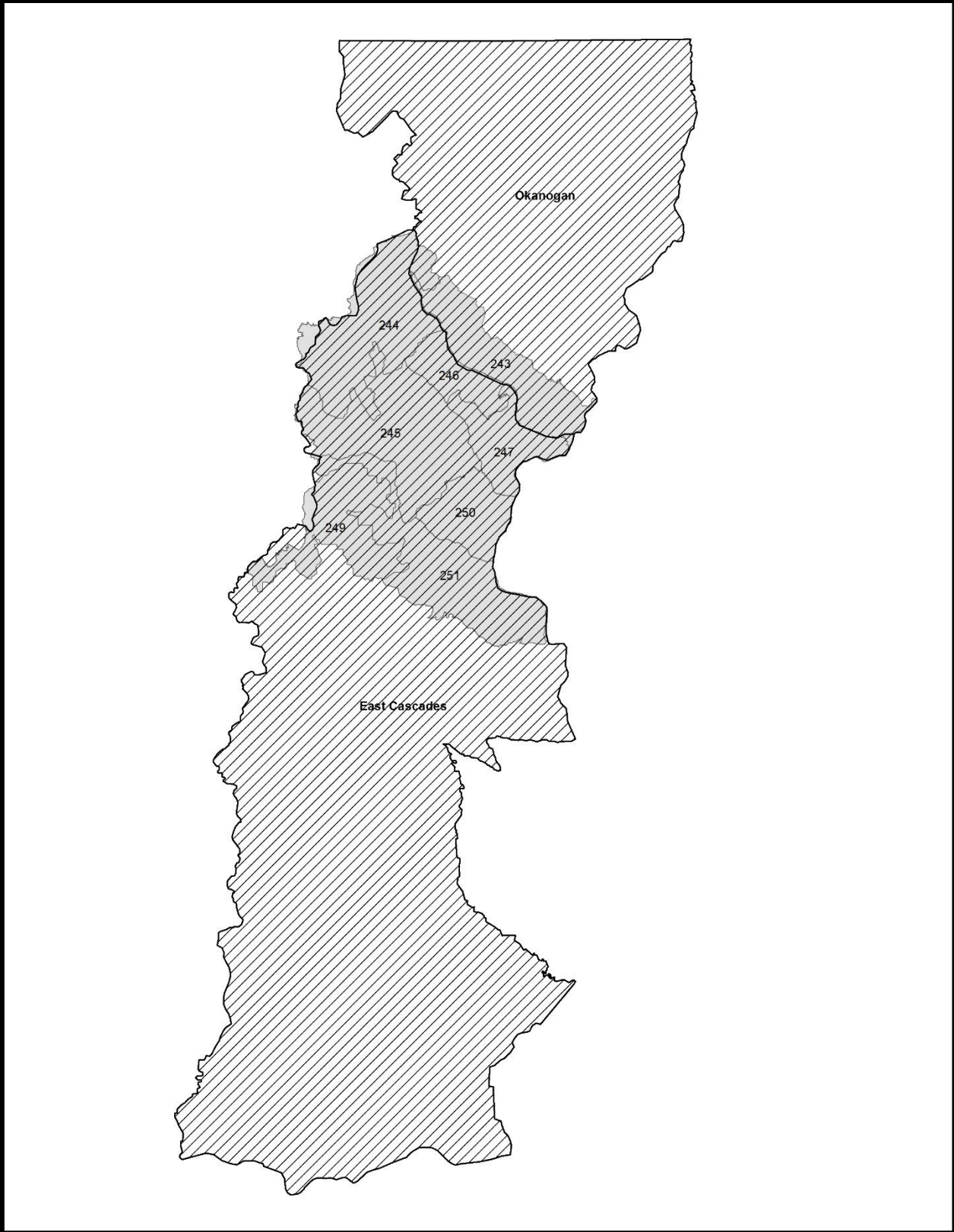


Figure 14. Map of East Cascades and Okanogan Black Bear Hunt Units and their associated Game Management Units in District 7