2019

ANNEMARIE PRINCE, District Wildlife Biologist
BEN TURNOCK, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

DISTRICT 1 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties

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DISTRICT 1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 1 is in the northeastern corner of Washington, and includes Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Ferry counties (Figure 1). District 1 is comprised of seven game management units (GMUs): 101 (Sherman), 105 (Kelly Hill), 108 (Douglas), 111 (Aladdin), 113 (Selkirk), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 121 (Huckleberry) (Figure 2). The topography is dominated by four prominent mountain ranges that run north and south: the Selkirk, Calispell, Huckleberry, and Kettle mountain ranges. There are broad valleys between these ranges drained by the Pend Oreille, Colville, Columbia, and Kettle rivers, all within the upper Columbia River watershed.

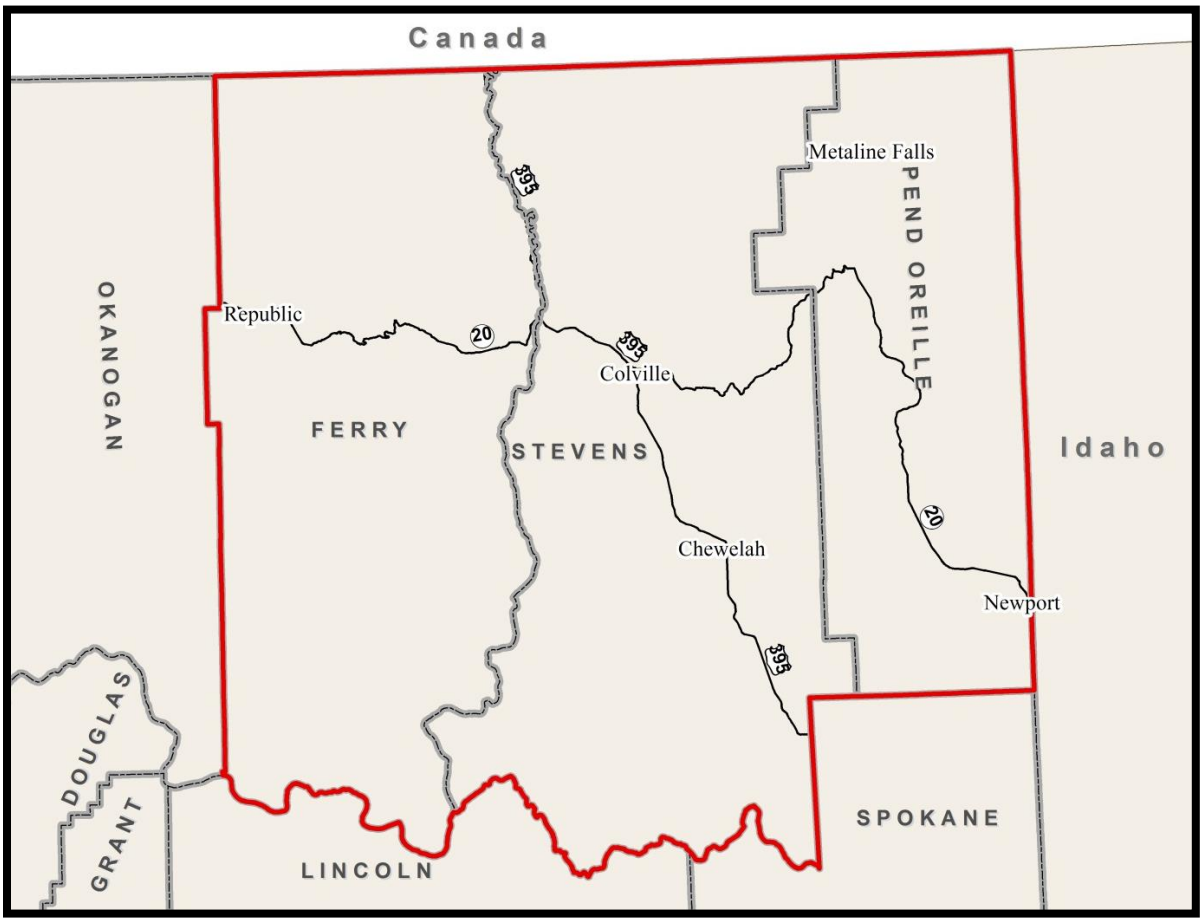

Figure 1. District 1 in northeastern Washington includes Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Ferry counties.

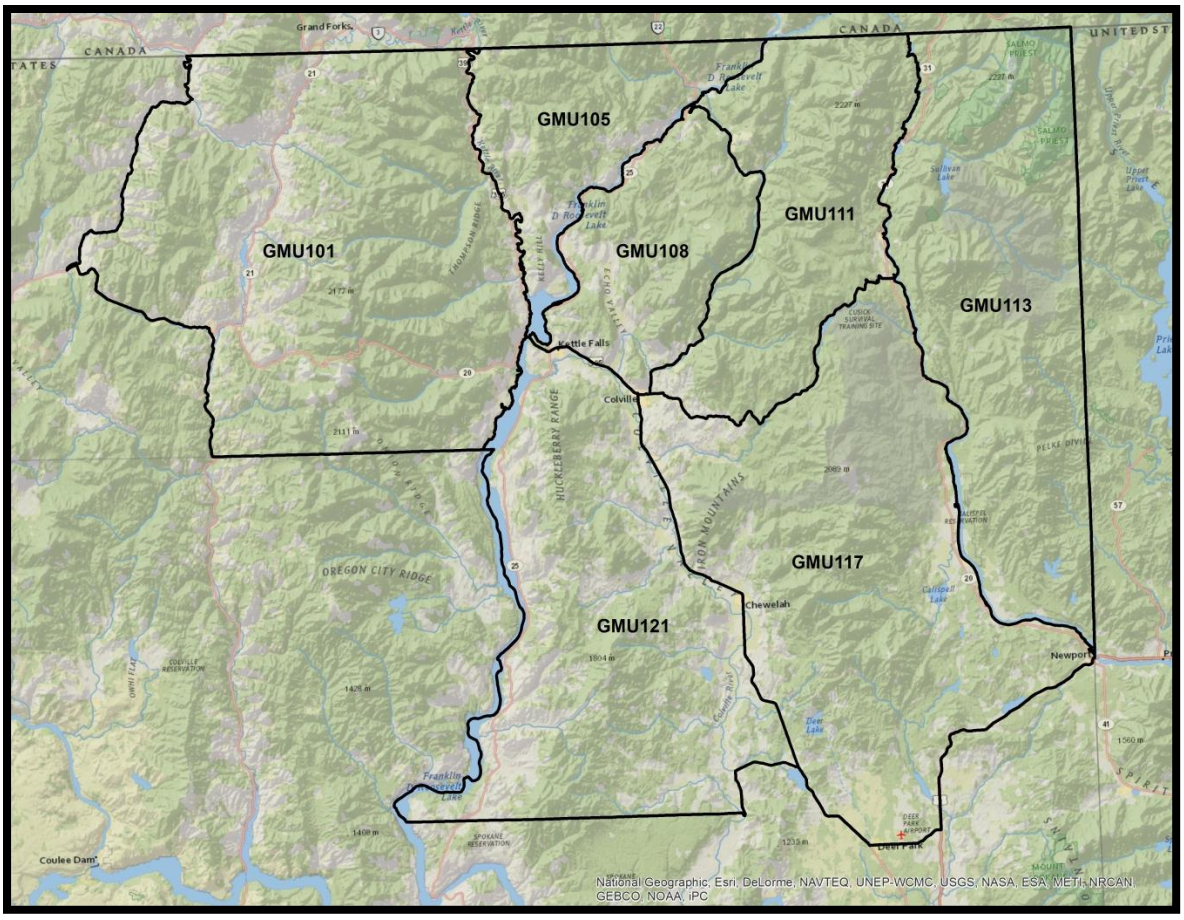

Figure 2. Game Management Units (GMUs) within District 1.

Elevations vary from about 1,290 feet at the normal pool level of Lake Roosevelt (Reservoir) to 7,309 feet on Gypsy Peak in the north Selkirk Range. Coniferous forest is extensive within District 1, covering about two thirds, or 68 percent, of the district's landscape. Agricultural land, range land, and water features cover most of the balance.

Over one third (37 percent) of the land mass in District 1 is public land. It is mostly national forest, but state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands are also present. Additional public lands include federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and a few other government agencies. Most of the public lands outside of Indian reservations are open to public hunting. There are large timber company lands open to public hunting, although not necessarily open to private motorized vehicles. Private lands are typically only open to hunting by first gaining written permission from the landowner or manager.

District 1 is well-known for its white-tailed deer, moose, and turkey hunting opportunities. Quality hunting opportunities also exist for other game species, including mule deer, black bear, forest grouse, and cougar.

Table 1 presents estimates of harvest and days per kill for most game species in District 1 during the 2018 general hunting season, and how those estimates compare to the 2017 season and the 5-year average. For more specific information on harvest trends or permit statistics, please refer to the appropriate section in this document.

Table 1. Harvest and days per kill for most game species found in District 1 during the 2017 and 2018 hunting seasons. Also included are the 5-year average and a comparison of 2017 estimates and 2018 estimates and the 5-year average.

Species	Harvest					Days/Kill				
	5-yr avg.	2017	2018	% change (5yr)	% change (2017)	5-yr avg.	2017	2018	% change (5yr)	% change (2017)
Elk	220	222	204	-7%	-7%	119	82.3	82	-33%	-27%
Deer (both species)	5882	5034	4668	-21%	-7%	23	19.0	24	5%	-12%
Black Bear	296	262	181	-39%	-31%	80	84.3	116	45%	29%
Cougar	46	50	50	8%	0%	Not available				
Ducks (all species)	8907	7012	9780	10%	39%	0.5	0.5	0.5	0%	0%
Geese (Canada)	2614	3006	2662	2%	-12%	1.2	1.1	1.2	0%	8.5%
Merriam's Turkey *	2503	2676	2966	18%	11%	8.4	8.8	9	7.5%	5.5%
Forest Grouse	14523	15633	8222	-43%	-48%	2	1.6	3	44%	88%

*Includes fall and spring turkey harvest within GMUs 101-121.

ELK

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

All elk that occur in District 1 are Rocky Mountain elk. There are ten identified elk herds in Washington, and elk in District 1 are part of the Selkirk Elk Herd. The quality of elk hunting opportunities in District 1 varies from poor to fair depending on the GMU, but in general, **opportunities are marginal and harvest success is very low**. Elk are widely scattered in small groups throughout the densely forested region of northeastern Washington. As a consequence, elk in northeastern Washington are difficult to both survey and harvest. Population data are limited, but there is currently no clear indication that bull to cow ratios or opportunities for quality hunting are declining. The best elk hunting opportunities occur in GMUs associated with the Pend Oreille sub-herd area, which includes GMUs 113 (Selkirk), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 111 (Aladdin). Elk hunter numbers in the Colville District have increased over the last several years. In recent years, WDFW provided increased opportunity or season timing to improve equity among the three hunting method groups. Hunter participation and harvest is now well dispersed across the Colville District through all three hunting methods. **However, hunting elk successfully within District 1 is no small challenge**.

The management objective for elk in the Colville District is being met with a sustained annual harvest of a viable and productive elk population with desirable population characteristics. The prime bull (6 point or more) percentage in the 2018 bull harvest (all weapon types) was 25 percent.

Currently, WDFW does not make formal estimates or indices of population size to monitor elk populations in District 1. Harvest levels have been relatively low for the northern Selkirk Herd compared with other regions of Washington. Consequently, devoting substantial resources to surveying bull to cow ratios has not been a high priority. Instead, trends in harvest, hunter success, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) or its inverse, days per kill, are used as surrogates to a formal index or estimate. WDFW recognizes the limitations of using harvest data to monitor trends in population size and hopes to gain the resources necessary to begin monitoring populations using formal sampling designs in the future.

Increasing hunter harvest, documented expansion of elk distribution, and anecdotal information indicate that elk populations are stable and possibly increasing in northeastern Washington. For more detailed information related to the status of Washington's elk herds, hunters should read through the most recent version of the Game Status and Trend Report and/or the Selkirk Elk Herd Plan.

WHICH GMU SHOULD ELK HUNTERS HUNT?

Probably the most frequent question from hunters is, "What GMU should I hunt?" This is not easy to answer because it often depends on access to private land, the hunting method, and the type of hunting experience desired. For example, not all GMUs are open to late archery hunters.

Many if not most hunters are looking for a quality opportunity to harvest a mature bull. Although large mature bulls do exist in District 1, they are not very abundant, and hunters are usually advised to apply for special permit opportunities within District 3 (Blue Mountains) if they are searching for the best opportunity to harvest a large mature bull elk on public land in Region 1.

The ideal GMU for most hunters would have high densities of elk, low hunter densities, high hunter success rates, and be mostly if not entirely comprised of public land that's open to hunting. Unfortunately, this scenario does not exist in any GMU that is open during the general elk modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader seasons in District 1. Instead, because of general season opportunities, the GMUs with the highest elk densities tend to have the highest hunter densities as well. For many hunters, high hunter densities are not enough to persuade them not to hunt in a GMU where they see lots of elk. Other hunters prefer to hunt in areas with moderate to low numbers of elk if that means there are also fewer hunters.

Table 2 provides a quick and general assessment of how District 1 GMUs compare with regard to harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons. The values presented are the three-year averages for each statistic. Total harvest and hunter numbers were further summarized by the number of elk harvested and hunters per square mile. This approach was taken because comparing total harvest or hunter numbers is not always a fair comparison, as GMUs vary in size. For example, the average number of elk harvested over the past three years during the general modern firearm season in GMUs 105 (Kelly Hill) and 113 (Selkirk) has been seven and 26 elk, respectively (Table 2). Just looking at total harvest suggests a much higher density of elk in GMU 113 compared to GMU 105. However, when harvest is expressed as elk harvested per square mile, it is an estimate of 0.03 and 0.04 respectively, which suggests elk densities are probably more similar between the two GMUs than what the total harvest indicates.

Each GMU was ranked for elk harvested/mile^2 (bulls and cows), hunters/mile^2, and hunter success rates for the general season only. The three ranking values were then summed to produce a final rank sum (lower rank sums are better). The modern firearm comparisons are the most straightforward because bag limits and seasons are the same in each GMU.

For archery seasons, consider that antlerless elk may be harvested in all GMUs in the early season, but only five GMUs are open for any bull during late archery seasons. These differences are important when comparing total harvest or hunter numbers among GMUs.

Table 2. Rank sum analysis that provides a quick and general comparison of how total harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success rates compare among GMUs during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons. Data presented are based on a three-year running average. As a generalization, the lower the rank sum, the better the overall elk hunting opportunity is within a GMU.

MODERN FIREARM

		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU	Size (mi^2)	Total	Harvest per mi^2	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi^2	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	3	0.00	4	104	0.09	1	2.5%	6	**11**
105	296	7	0.03	3	118	0.38	2	5.2%	3	**8**
108	289	13	0.05	1	172	0.6	4	8.8%	1	**6**
111	455	9	0.03	3	298	0.65	5	3.5%	5	**13**
113	736	25	0.04	2	612	0.8	6	4.1%	4	**12**
117	954	28	0.03	3	763	0.83	7	3.1%	4	**14**
121	796	27	0.04	2	460	0.56	3	6.3%	2	**7**

ARCHERY

		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU*	Size (mi^2)	Total	Harvest per mi^2	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi^2	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	3	0.00	3	71	0.07	1	7.5%	3	**7**
105	296	5	0.02	1	67	0.22	4	2.9%	6	**11**
108	289	5	0.02	1	59	0.20	3	19%	1	**5**
111	455	10	0.02	1	106	0.24	5	17.6%	2	**8**
113	736	14	0.02	1	249	0.31	6	6%	4	**11**
117	954	16	0.01	2	325	0.34	7	6%	4	**13**
121	796	13	0.01	2	159	0.19	2	5%	5	**9**

MUZZLELOADER										
		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU	Size (mi^2)	Total	Harvest per mi^2	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi^2	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	0	0.00	2	27	0.03	1	0%	5	**8**
105	296	1	0.00	2	31	0.1	3	0%	5	**10**
108	289	1	0.00	2	29	0.1	3	0%	5	**10**
111	455	6	0.01	1	75	0.17	4	9.9%	1	**6**
113	736	7	0.01	1	155	0.21	6	2.7%	4	**11**
117	954	16	0.01	1	165	0.18	5	8.1%	3	**9**
121	796	5	0.01	1	62	0.07	2	8.8%	2	**5**

* GMUs bolded in the archery section are open during early and late archery seasons. All GMUs allow for antlerless harvest in the early archery season.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2019 SEASON

Elk populations typically do not fluctuate dramatically from year to year, but periodic severe winters can trigger substantial die-offs. The 2018-19 winter was moderate and no die-offs were detected. Populations available for harvest are expected to be similar in size compared to the 2017 and 2018 seasons. The total hunter harvest of elk in District 1 is low compared to other WDFW districts, hovering around 200-300 animals per year since 2009.

HOW TO FIND ELK

When hunting elk in District 1, hunters should research areas and spend plenty of time scouting before the season opener, because it is often difficult to predict elk location, especially after hunting pressure increases. Elk within District 1 are scattered in small groups throughout the district, but some drainages hold more elk than others. Many, if not most, hunters spend great amounts of their time focusing on forest clear-cuts, which makes a lot of sense because elk often forage in clear-cuts and are highly visible when they do. However, there are many elk (especially bulls) that do not frequent clear-cuts during daylight hours. Instead, they spend most of their time during the day in closed canopy forests, swamps, or young forest. Moreover, those highly visible elk often attract many hunters to open clear-cuts, and these areas can get crowded in a hurry.

From a landscape perspective, some generalities can be made that will help increase the odds of locating elk. When going to a new area, hunters will benefit by covering as much ground as possible and making note of areas where they see sign along roads and log "landings." Log landings from past timber harvest operations are an especially good place to look for sign because they are often not graveled, which makes it easier to see fresh tracks. This scouting approach will give hunters a good idea of what areas hold elk and where to focus their more intensive scouting efforts.

After those areas with abundant elk sign have been identified, hunters should focus in on higher elevation stands that provide cover and are adjacent to open hillsides and/or clear-cuts. During early seasons when it is warm, these areas often include creek bottoms, river bottoms, or any place that is near water. Once the season progresses and temperatures cool, typically by late October, elk are not as attracted to water and the challenge of finding them becomes more difficult. Hunting pressure also has an effect and will force elk to use areas that provide thicker cover or are less accessible to hunters because of topographical features.

Later in the season, it is a good idea to consult a topographic map and find "benches" located in steep terrain and thick cover. Elk often use these areas to bed down during the day. Any snow cover generally enhances the ability to find elk tracks. Hunting right after a fresh snow usually presents a particularly good advantage in tracking down an individual or group of elk. Lastly, provided that non-motorized access is allowed, hunters should not let a locked gate in an otherwise open area keep them from going in on foot, horseback, or bicycle to search for elk. More often than not, these areas hold elk that have not received as much hunting pressure, which can make them less skittish and easier to hunt. A popular approach to hunting these areas is to use mountain bikes or fat-tire bikes, which is not extremely difficult given the network of maintained gravel roads that frequently occur on timber company lands.

DEER

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

In northeastern Washington, white-tailed deer are the most abundant deer species. Mule deer are locally common, especially in the higher elevations and throughout Ferry County, but their overall numbers are low compared to white-tailed deer on a district scale. Deer hunting opportunities in District 1 vary from fair to excellent, depending on the GMU. The best opportunities to harvest a mule deer in District 1 generally occur in GMUs 101 (Sherman) and 121 (Huckleberry). All GMUs within the district offer good opportunities to harvest a white-tailed deer.

The white-tailed deer harvest management objective is to provide antlered and antlerless hunting opportunity for all hunting methods whenever feasible. The buck escapement goal is to maintain a ratio of at least 15 bucks per 100 does in the post-hunting season population and allow populations to increase by limiting the amount of antlerless hunting opportunity. This is all while still attempting to maintain opportunity for all user groups.

Management goals for mule deer are to provide conservative hunting opportunity, maintain a range of 15 to 19 bucks per 100 does in the post-hunting season population, and allow population levels to increase by managing antlerless hunting opportunity.

Surveys for deer in District 1 are conducted before the modern firearm hunting season. Pre-season ratios come from roadside surveys conducted during August (for buck to doe ratio) and September (for fawn to doe ratio). These ground-based surveys provide an estimate of buck ratios prior to the modern firearm hunting season (Figure 3).

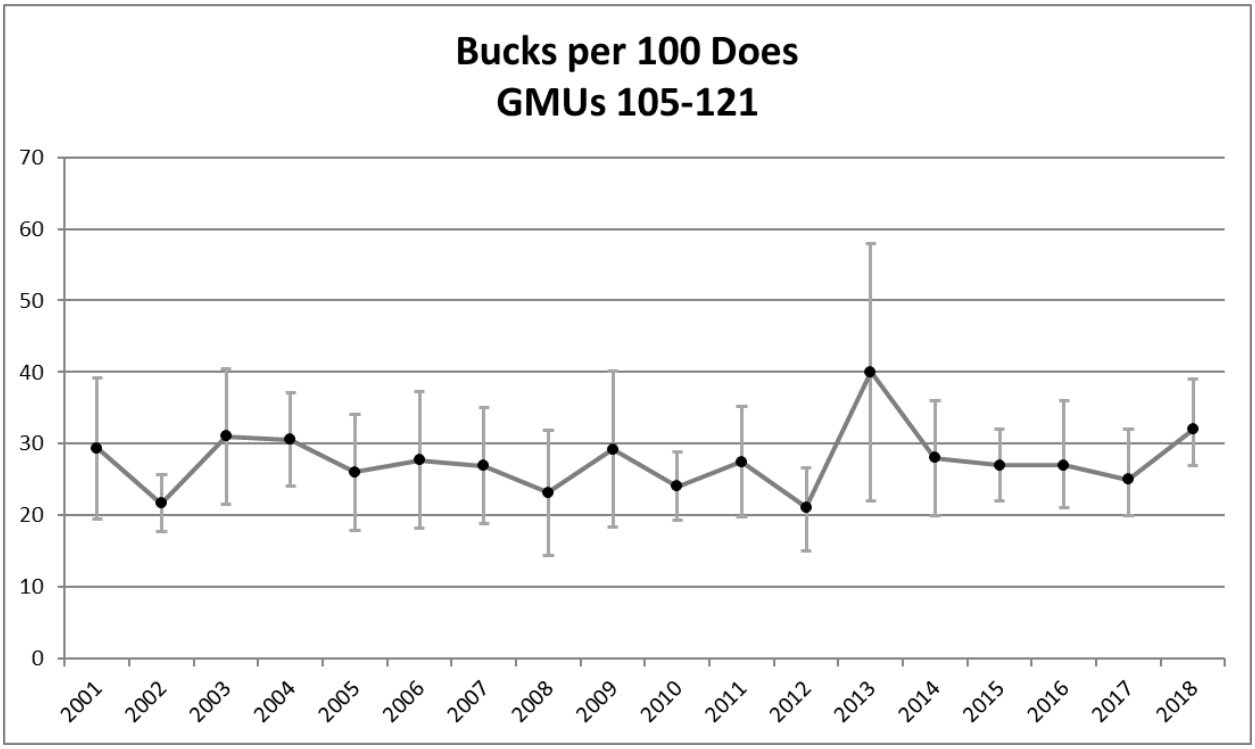

Figure 3. Pre-season white-tailed deer ratios and 90 percent confidence intervals from ground surveys within District 1.

All available harvest and survey data indicate white-tailed deer populations appear to be reasonably stable in all GMUs associated with District 1. Mule deer populations appear to be stable or slightly decreasing. For more detailed information related to the status of deer in Washington, hunters should read through the most recent version of the Game Status and Trend Report, which is available for download on the department's website. For more information, hunters could also look at the White-tailed Deer Management Plan and the Mule Deer Management Plan.

WHICH GMU SHOULD DEER HUNTERS HUNT?

Probably the most frequent question from hunters is, "What GMU should I hunt?" This is not easy to answer because it depends on the hunting method and the target hunting experience. Some hunters are looking for a quality opportunity to harvest a mature buck, while others just want to harvest any legal deer in an area with few hunters.

The ideal GMU for most hunters would be entirely or mostly comprised of public land, have high deer densities, low hunter densities, and high hunter success rates. Unfortunately, this scenario does not exist in any GMU that is open during the general modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader seasons in District 1. Instead, because of general season opportunities, the GMUs with the highest deer densities tend to have the highest hunter densities as well. For many hunters, high hunter densities are not enough to persuade them not to hunt in a GMU where they see lots of deer. Other hunters prefer to hunt in areas with moderate to low numbers of deer if that means there are also relatively few hunters.

The information in Table 3 provides a general assessment of how GMUs compare with regard to harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader deer seasons. The values presented are the three-year averages for each statistic. Mule deer and white-tailed deer are combined for this table, but it is a reasonable assumption that in GMUs other than GMU 101, the vast majority of the deer harvested are white-tailed deer. Total harvest and hunter numbers were further summarized by the number of deer harvested and hunters per square mile. This approach was taken because comparing total harvest or hunter numbers is not always a fair comparison, as GMUs vary in size.

Each GMU was ranked for deer harvested/mile^2, hunters/mile^2, and hunter success rates. The three ranking values were then summed to produce a final rank sum. Comparisons are pretty straightforward because bag limits and seasons are the same for most GMUs.

When choosing a species to hunt or a GMU to hunt in, differences that should be considered are:

1. Mule deer have a 3-point minimum harvest restriction during all general seasons.
2. The late archery season in 101 runs longer than other GMUs.
3. There is no late archery season in GMUs 111 or 113.
4. There is a late muzzleloader season in GMU 113.

Table 3. Rank sum analysis that provides a quick and general comparison of how total harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success rates compare among GMUs during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader deer seasons. Data presented are based on a three-year average. As a generalization, the lower the rank sum, the better the overall deer hunting opportunity is within a GMU.

MODERN FIREARM										
		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU	Size (mi^2)	Total	Harvest per mi^2	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi^2	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	541	0.54	6	2671	2.46	2	21.9%	7	**15**
105	296	256	0.89	4	822	2.82	3	31.4%	3	**10**
108	289	362	1.28	2	1084	3.78	5	33.8%	2	**9**
111	455	354	0.86	5	1455	3.12	4	27.5%	5	**14**
113	736	270	0.43	7	1383	1.88	1	23%	6	**13**
117	954	919	1.12	3	3637	3.97	6	28%	4	**13**
121	796	1500	1.98	1	4506	5.76	7	34.4%	1	**9**

ARCHERY										
		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU	Size (mi²)	Total	Harvest per mi²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi²	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	226	0.22	1	832	0.78	7	28%	1	**9**
105	296	24	0.07	5	99	0.32	3	22.7%	5	**13**
108	289	30	0.08	4	105	0.36	4	22.9%	4	**12**
111	455	15	0.03	6	75	0.16	2	17.4%	6	**14**
113	736	14	0.02	7	119	0.15	1	12.9%	7	**15**
117	954	151	0.16	3	640	0.68	6	23.5%	3	**12**
121	796	152	0.18	2	529	0.64	5	27.6%	2	**9**
MUZZLELOADER										
		Harvest			Hunter Density			Hunter Success		
GMU	Size (mi²)	Total	Harvest per mi²	Rank	Hunters	Hunters per mi²	Rank	Success	Rank	Rank Sum
101	1,103	64	0.04	3	254	0.22	6	19.4%	5	**14**
105	296	6	0.02	5	27	0.09	1	22.4%	3	**9**
108	289	12	0.03	4	38	0.12	3	24.3%	2	**9**
111	455	17	0.02	5	59	0.11	2	17.8%	6	**13**
113	736	75	0.09	1	333	0.44	7	21.5%	4	**12**
117	954	30	0.02	5	135	0.13	4	14.3%	7	**16**
121	796	50	0.05	2	137	0.15	5	30.8%	1	**8**

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2019 SEASON

Harvest has remained stable or decreased in District 1 over the past two years, an expected trend based on regulation changes. In 2015, muzzleloader and archery hunters could harvest any deer, whereas in 2016 and 2017 this was changed to any buck, requiring a slight increase in hunter effort to harvest a deer. **In 2019, hunters of any user group or weapon type will *not* be able to harvest a doe**, this regulation change was enacted to protect the reproductive component of the population. Pre-season surveys for the past three years yielded stable buck to doe and fawn to doe ratios.

District 1 runs voluntary check stations on select weekends during the modern firearm season. Check stations allow biologists to collect important biological information that informs management. This may include teeth to determine the age structure of a population, detailed information about the size of bucks being harvested, tissue samples to test for diseases like chronic wasting disease, and body condition score for harvested animals. Aside from collecting biological information, check stations allow biologists an opportunity to interact with the hunting community, answer questions, and receive immediate feedback on how the season is going. The number of deer checked went down in 2018 from the year before, but harvest success remains reasonable.

If you pass a check station, we encourage you to stop. Planned 2019 District 1 check station locations are below. Additional check stations may be operated during the early or late modern firearm deer season.

- Weigh station south of Clayton, north Spokane County
- WSDOT Gravel Pit on Hwy 395 and Sand Canyon Rd, Chewelah

A good predictor of future harvest during general seasons is recent trends in harvest and catch per unit effort (CPUE) or its inverse, days per kill. Figures 4 and 5 provide trend data for each of these statistics by GMU and are intended to provide hunters with the best information possible to make an informed decision on where to hunt in District 1. Remember from 2011-2014, a 4-point minimum restriction was imposed for white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121, which led to decreases in the overall harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success. Available evidence shows this regulation change brought about these decreases and not a dramatic increase in the white-tailed deer population. With the retirement of the 4-point rule within GMUs 117 and 121, the deer harvest increased substantially in 2015 (Figure 4).

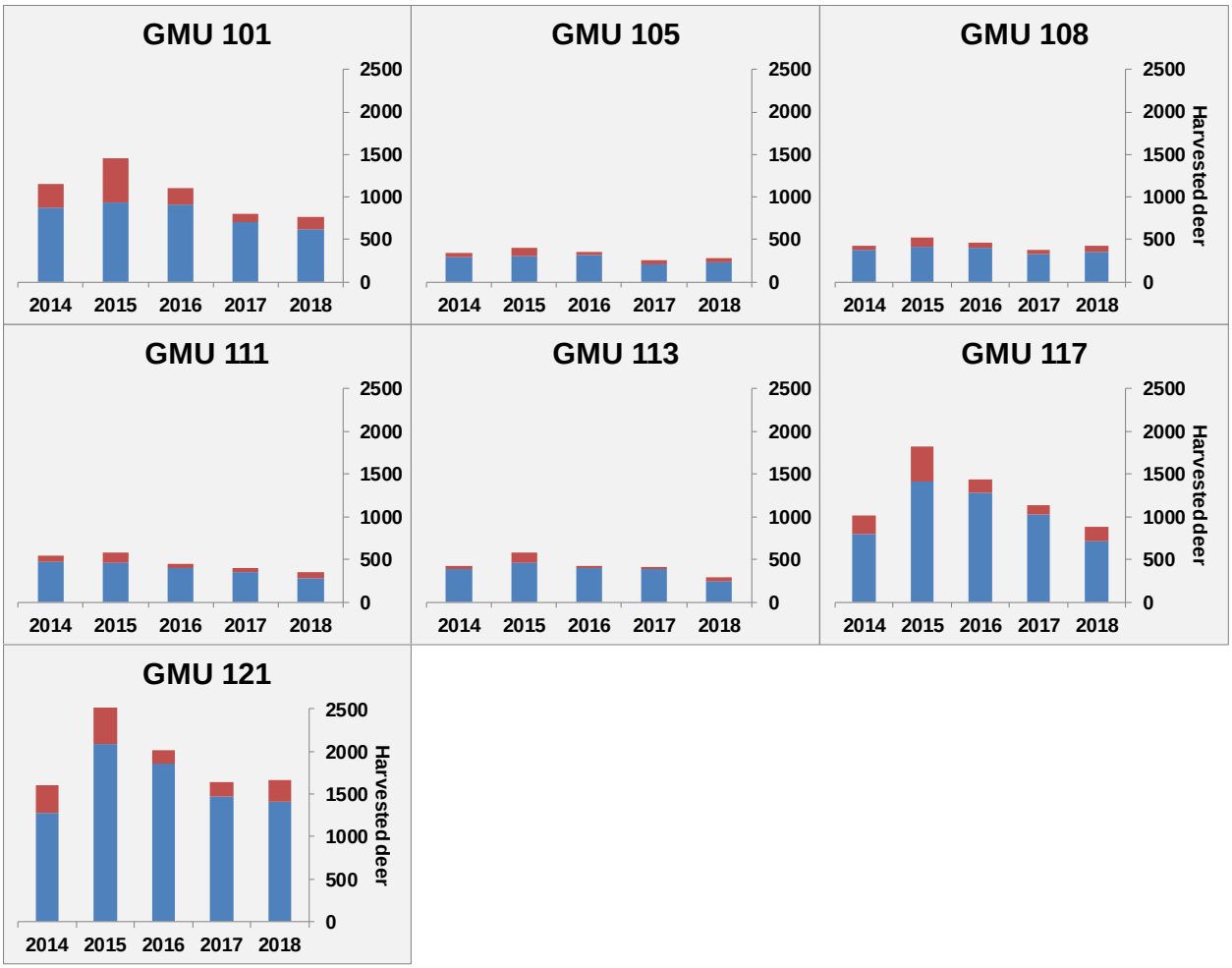

Figure 4. Trends in the estimated number of bucks (blue) and antlerless (red) deer harvested during the general season (all weapons combined) in each GMU from 2014-2018. Harvest totals do not include tribal harvest or special permit harvest.

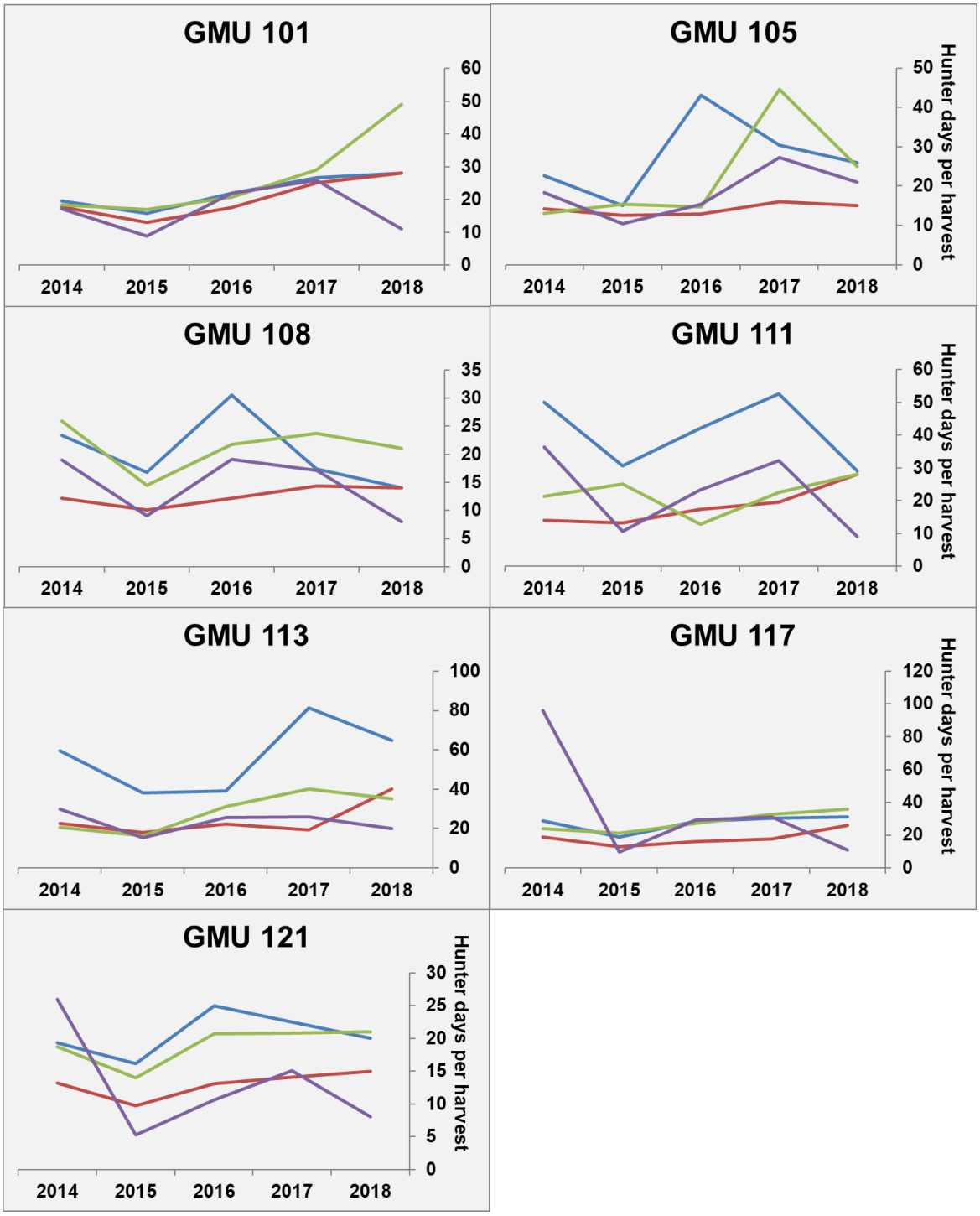

Figure 5. Trend in days per kill for archery (blue), muzzleloader (purple), multiple weapon (green), and modern firearm (red) during the general season for deer in each GMU from 2014-2018 within District 1.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT WHITE-TAILED DEER

As is the case with most game species, the key to harvesting a white-tailed deer in District 1 is scouting. White-tailed deer occur throughout the district and in nearly every present habitat type.

White-tailed deer densities are highest on private lands in the valleys and foothill benches bordering the valleys, especially in the farm-forest mosaic within GMUs 105, 108, 117, and 121. GMUs 101, 111, and 113 also have white-tailed deer, but with more localized distributions, again with the highest densities typically on private lands.

The majority of hunting is done in or adjacent to agricultural fields or recent forest timber harvest areas. When deer are present, they are much more visible than in adjacent habitats. However, deer typically use these more open areas at night, dawn, and dusk, especially once they have been disturbed by human presence. Therefore, it is advantageous for hunters to seek out areas a short to moderate distance away from these openings, which provide more cover where deer are spending more time. If a hunter is seeing large amounts of deer sign in an area, odds are those deer are not far away.

The traditional approaches to hunting white-tailed deer generally include several methods. The first is still-hunting, where the hunter is moving, but very slowly through a patch of habitat, stopping frequently to scan or glass the vegetative cover ahead with binoculars. The hunter looks for parts of a deer, like legs, an antler, or a portion of the body or head, as opposed to the whole deer, which is usually not visible through the vegetation. Stand hunting is another technique. This method involves the hunter patiently waiting in a tree stand, on a stump, against a tree trunk, on a ridge rock, etc. in high deer use areas (highly traveled trails, habitat edges, bottlenecks, funnels, etc.) until deer show up. A third deer hunting approach is conducting drives. This technique involves at least two hunters, but larger groups maximize its effectiveness. The hunters divide into "drivers" and "blockers." The blockers position themselves in an organized spacing, often downwind of a patch of deer bedding habitat (thick woods, forested swamp, or heavy brush field). The drivers then slowly hike through the habitat patch, alerting the deer and hopefully pushing them to the blockers. Sometimes it's a good idea to post one blocker at the front of the habitat patch behind the drivers in the event that any deer double back to evade them. Although each of these approaches is highly effective, there is another technique that is not as well-known or used as much. This includes rattling and grunting to simulate two bucks fighting over a doe. This technique is more common with mid-western and eastern white-tailed deer hunters, but can be effective here as well, especially in the days leading up to the rut (deer breeding season) in mid-November. A quick internet search on this topic will yield plenty of evidence to illustrate its effectiveness when conditions are right. More information on deer hunting can be found by following this link to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT MULE DEER

Mule deer occur in District 1, but in much lower abundance than white-tailed deer, especially east of the Columbia River. Although mule deer occur within every District 1 GMU, the highest density is in GMU 101. As is the case with most game species, the key to harvesting a mule deer in District 1 is scouting. The classical western method of hunting mule deer is sometimes called spot and stalk. The hunter uses good optics, binoculars, and spotting scopes to scan from ridge tops and other vantage points to find the mule deer, pick out suitable bucks, and stalk them to within shooting distance. Ordinarily, the stalk entails a strategic hike and cautious sneak action. Much of District 1 does not offer the open country required for this method of hunting, but where it does, it can be effective. More information on deer hunting can be found by following this link to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

DEER AREAS

There is one deer area in District 1, Parker Lake (Deer Area 1031). This deer area is described in the Area Descriptions section of the Big Game Pamphlet. Hunting is by special permit only within the Parker Lake area.

NOTABLE CHANGES

Antlerless white-tailed deer opportunity for archery and muzzleloader, and modern firearm youth and disabled hunters is no longer available; all legal harvest is buck only for all user groups. This change was enacted to conserve the reproductive portion of the population. Only 3-point minimum mule deer bucks may be taken during the early archery season within GMU 101.

INFORMATION ABOUT EHD/BLUETONGUE AND DEER

During the late summer of 2015, agency staff members documented a largescale bluetongue outbreak in District 1. In certain areas, WDFW received many reports of large numbers of dead deer. The extraordinary bluetongue outbreak in 2015 was brought about by the severe drought in northeast Washington. No outbreak was detected in 2016, 2017, or 2018, and it is hard to predict what may happen in 2019. More information about bluetongue can be found here.

BLACK BEAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

The goals for black bear management in Washington are to: 1) preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage black bear and their habitats to ensure healthy, productive populations; 2) minimize threats to public safety from black bears, while at the same time maintaining a sustainable and viable bear population; 3) manage black bear for a variety of recreational, educational, and aesthetic purposes, including hunting, scientific study, cultural and ceremonial uses by Native Americans, wildlife viewing, and photography; and 4) manage populations statewide for a sustained yield. For management purposes, the state is divided into nine black bear management units (BBMUs). Harvest levels vary between BBMU depending on local population dynamics and environmental conditions.

District 1 consists of GMUs in part of the Northeastern BBMU. The current black bear hunting season guidelines for the Northeastern BBMU are designed to maintain black bear populations at a level which would not increase impacts to big game herds. The metrics used to direct black bear harvest include the proportion of harvested bears that were female, the median age of harvested females, and the median age of harvested males.

WDFW does not conduct annual surveys to monitor trends in black bear population size. Trends in harvest data are used instead as population surrogates or indices. Currently, black bear populations are believed to be stable in District 1.

Black bears occur throughout District 1, but population densities vary among GMUs. The best opportunities to harvest a bear likely occur in GMUs 101 (Sherman) and 117 (49 Degrees North), mainly on account of abundant public land that is open to hunting.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2019 SEASON

Although some hunters specifically target black bears, most bears are harvested opportunistically during general deer and elk seasons. Consequently, annual harvest and hunter success can vary quite a bit from one year to the next. Since 2004, hunter success in District 1 GMUs has varied from 4 percent to 18 percent. The success rate is likely higher for hunters who specifically hunt black bears versus those who buy a bear tag just in case they see one while deer or elk hunting.

Overall, annual black bear harvest during the general bear season in District 1 showed a stable trend from 2014 to 2016 before declining sharply in the last two years (Figure 6). Harvest may continue to fluctuate up and down.

At the GMU level, most black bears will likely be harvested in GMUs 101 (Sherman), 117 (49 Degrees North), and 121 (Huckleberry). Harvest numbers, during the 2018 season and compared to long-term (ten year) and short-term (five year) averages, show a decrease in harvest in District 1 (Figure 7). Based on the past 3-years of harvest, it is hard to predict what black bear success may be in 2019.

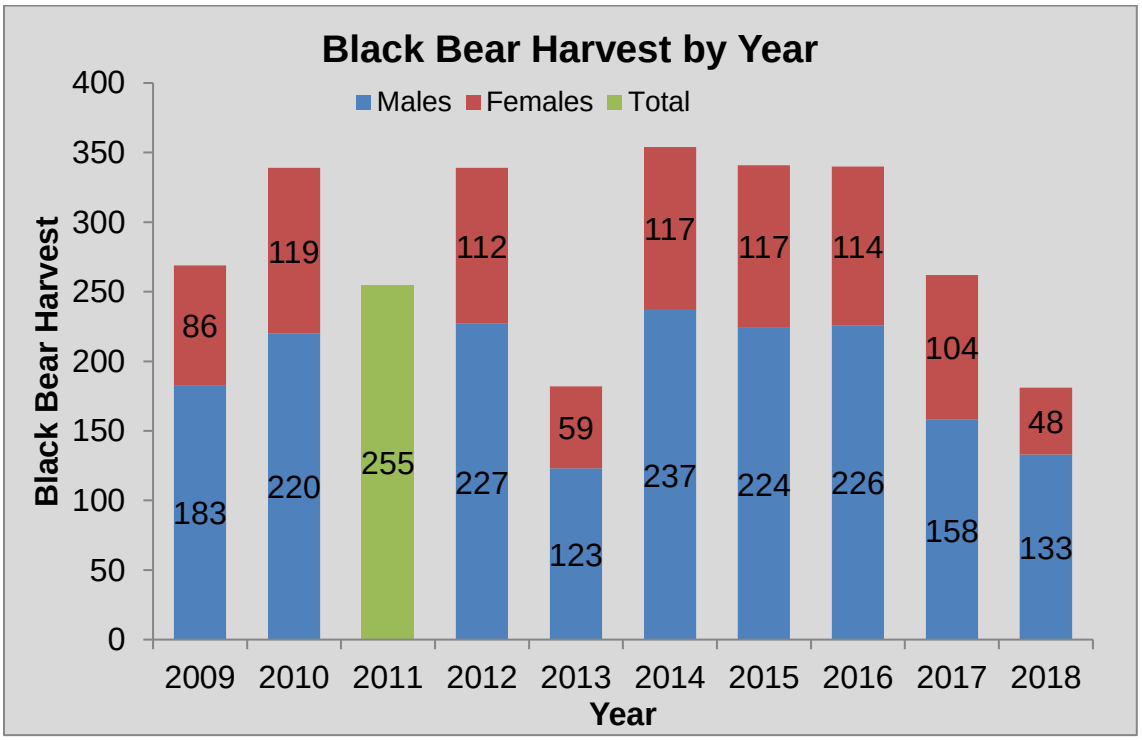

Figure 6. Trends in the number of male and female black bears harvested during the general bear season in District 1 (GMUs 101-121), 2009–2018. Harvest estimates do not include bears harvested during spring permit seasons or bears removed because they were causing damage to private property. The sex of harvested bears is not available for 2011.

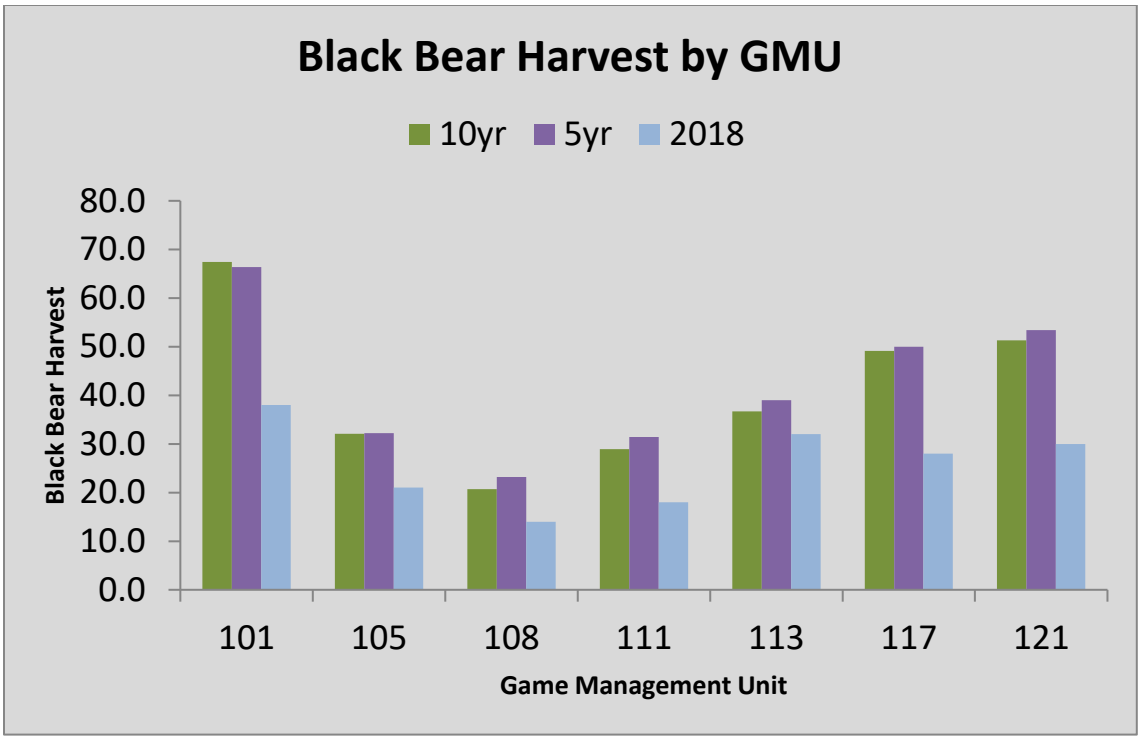

Figure 7. The number of black bears harvested in each GMU during the 2018 general bear season in District 1. Also included are the 10-year (2009-2018) and 5-year (2014-2018) average for the total number of bears harvested in each GMU.

HOW TO LOCATE AND HARVEST A BLACK BEAR

Scouting is an extremely important factor that hunters should consider when specifically hunting for black bears in District 1. Although black bears are fairly common and occur in some areas at high densities, they are seen infrequently because of the thick evergreen conifer forest and other vegetation that dominates the landscape.

Black bears can occur in a variety of habitat types, so it can be difficult to narrow down where to search for them. In the early fall, hunters should focus their efforts at higher elevations and in open terrain (e.g. open hillsides). Huckleberries ripen throughout the summer, but in the early fall prior to heavy frost, the most berries remaining are typically at higher elevations. A large huckleberry patch yielding lots of fruit would be a good place to hunt.

Bears can also be located in recent timber harvests that contain a large number of berry-producing shrubs, including huckleberries, serviceberries, snowberries, soapberries, and thimbleberries. During the fall, hunters need to find openings with these characteristics and hike through them to see if there is any bear sign. If they do find fresh sign, odds are there is a bear frequenting the area. If hunters are patient and sit for extended periods of time watching these areas, they stand a reasonable chance of harvesting a bear. Patience is the key.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Black bear hunters in GMUs 101 – 117 are required to complete WDFW's online bear identification test each year and carry proof that they have passed. Prep for and take the test at Bear Identification Program.

There are consistent sightings and known resident grizzly bears in District 1. Grizzly bears are a federally threatened and state-listed endangered species. Killing one, either unintentionally or intentionally, can bring costly fines and penalties, and even worse, set back recovery efforts for grizzly bears. Just like with other similar looking game species such as elk/moose/caribou, mule deer/white-tailed deer, bobcat/lynx, and other animal groups, Washington hunters are responsible for being able to tell the difference between black bears and grizzly bears. This knowledge and skill is critical in areas where the ranges of these two bear species overlap (Figure 8). In addition, hunters within GMUs 113 and 105 are STRONGLY encouraged to carry bear spray while hunting. Information about bear spray and how to use it can be found here.

Bear hunters are urged not to shoot sows with cubs. Sows may be accompanied by cubs in the fall that tend to lag behind when traveling, so please observe and be patient before shooting.

WDFW requires the submission of a tooth from successful black bear hunters. Hunters are encouraged to submit teeth by December 1 of the current hunt year. Biologists use this information to better monitor black bears, make management decisions, and evaluate the impacts of harvest on the population. In addition, black bear hunters that submit a tooth can find out the age of their harvested bear by entering their Wild ID here. Just be aware that it takes about 6 months after the close of all bear seasons to receive the ages back from the lab, so there is a delay in this information being available. Hunters can pick up a tooth envelope at WDFW regional and district offices and some sporting goods stores. If available, a biologist can pull the tooth for you if the skull is not frozen. A helpful instructional video for pulling a tooth can be found here.

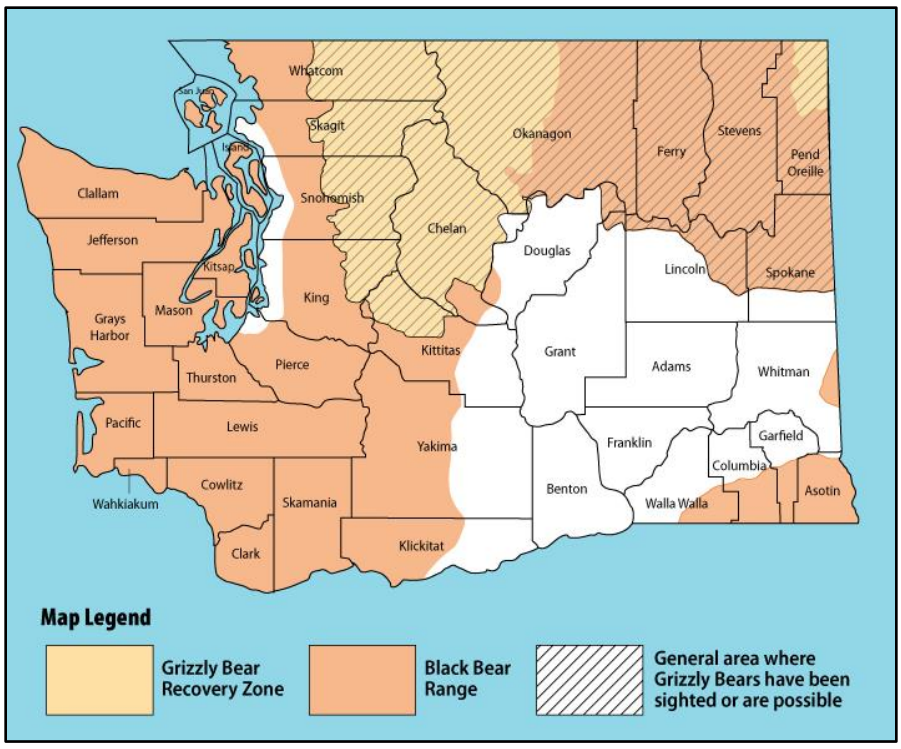

Figure 8. Black bear range and grizzly bear sighting areas in Washington.

NOTABLE CHANGES

District 1 black bear hunters (GMUs 101 – 117) are required to complete WDFW's online bear identification test each year and carry proof that they have passed. Bear identification information can be found on the Bear Identification Program website. Fall black bear season dates have been extended and bag limits have increased in eastern Washington, hunters now have the opportunity to start hunting August 1 throughout the state and the bag limit has increased to two bears. Hunters must purchase a second bear tag to harvest a second bear. Spring permit levels for 2020 will be announced in the winter of 2019.

COUGAR

GENERAL INFORMATION, MANAGEMENT GOALS, AND POPULATION STATUS

Cougars occur throughout District 1, but local densities can vary among GMUs. Cougars in District 1 are managed with the primary objective of maintaining a stable cougar population.

Beginning in 2012, WDFW changed cougar harvest management throughout Washington. The biggest change was shifting away from using season length or permit seasons to manage the number of cougar harvested, and instead using a standard liberal season coupled with harvest guidelines. The intent was to have a longer season, without any hunting implement restrictions, and only close cougar seasons in specific areas if harvest reached or exceeded a harvest guideline.

Beginning in the 2015 hunting season, cougar season dates were extended through April 30. **However, to hunt cougars after March 31 in a unit open for cougar harvest, hunters need to purchase a 2019 hunting license and cougar tag.** Harvest numbers are examined starting January 1 and any hunt area that meets or exceeds the harvest guideline may be closed. **Hunting cougar after December 31 requires first confirming that the cougar season is open in the intended hunt area by calling 1-866-364-4868.** Harvest guidelines for each hunt area located in District 1 are provided in Table 4. All hunters must report their kills via the cougar hotline within 72 hours (1-866-364-4868, press 3 after greeting), and kills must be sealed by WDFW within five days. Skulls and hides (with proof of sex attached) must not be frozen when presented to WDFW for sealing.

Table 4. Harvest guidelines and 2017-18 harvest for the six cougar hunt areas located in District 1.

Hunt Area (GMU)	2019-2020 Harvest Guideline	2018-2019 Harvest
101	7 - 9	9
105	2	2
108,111	5 - 6	12
113	5 - 6	6
117	6 - 8	12
121	5 - 6	9

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE 2019 SEASON

The number of cougars harvested in District 1 in 2018 was the same as in 2017 (Figure 9). The average age at harvest is variable for both males and females, but is typically three years old or younger (Figure 10).

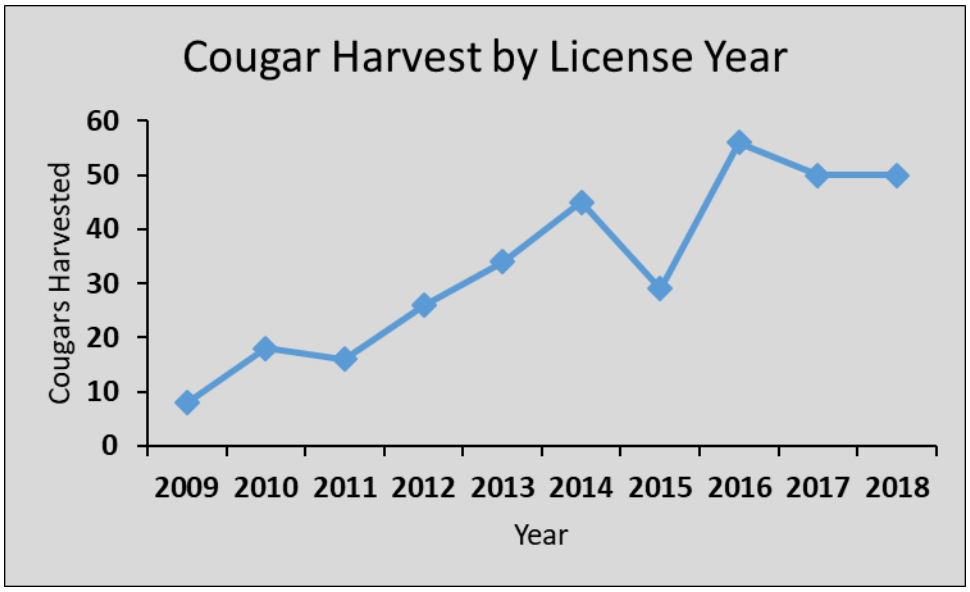

Figure 9. General season cougar harvest in District 1, 2009-2018.

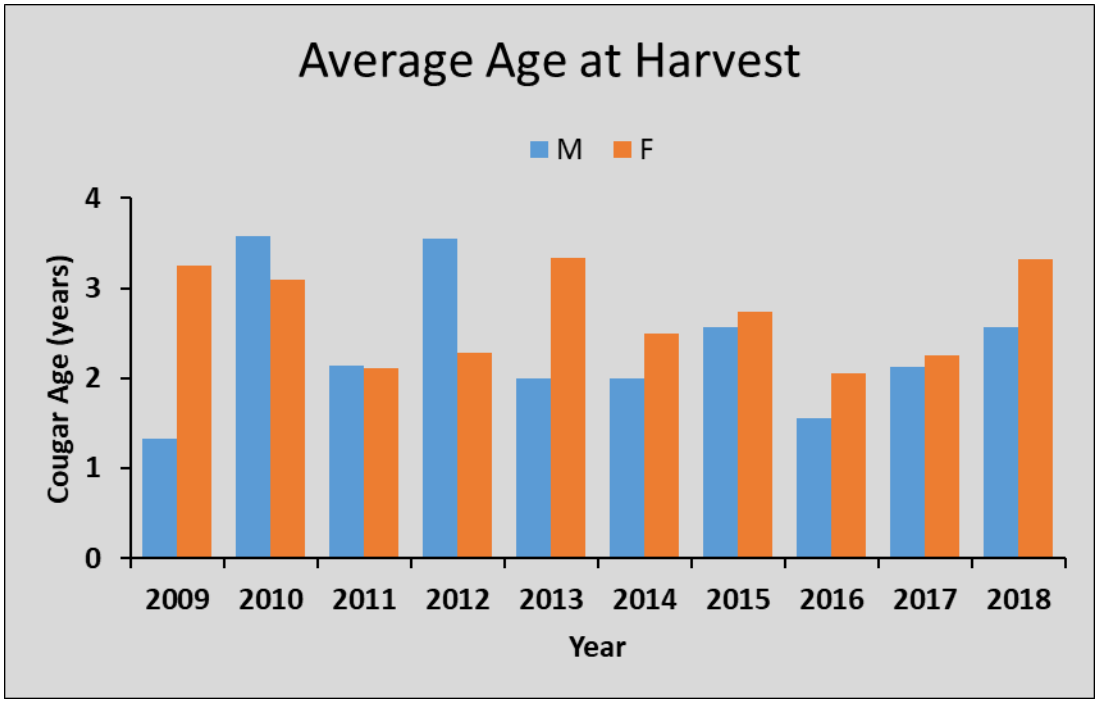

Figure 10. Average age of female (orange bars) and male (blue bars) cougar harvested during the general season in District 1, 2009-2018.

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are no notable changes in District 1 for 2019. Season dates will still be extended until April 30 unless harvest guidelines are met within the GMU. However, to hunt cougars after March 31 in a unit open for cougar harvest, hunters need to purchase a 2020 hunting license and cougar tag.

FOREST GROUSE

SPECIES AND GENERAL HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

There are three species of grouse that occur in District 1: ruffed grouse, dusky (blue) grouse, and spruce grouse. Ruffed grouse are the most abundant and occur at lower elevations and valley bottoms. Spruce grouse are usually located in high elevation forest comprised of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and/or Engelmann spruce. In District 1, these habitats are prevalent within the Kettle and Selkirk mountain ranges. Dusky grouse can be found in habitats that occur at elevations between ruffed and spruce grouse habitat, but overlap does occur.

POPULATION STATUS

Trends in harvest data are generally used as surrogates for estimating a population or indices of population size. Total harvest numbers tend to vary with hunter numbers, so catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE), or birds harvested per hunter day, is the best indicator of population trends. In District 1, forest grouse populations appear to have declined since 2009. However, 2015 was a very good year, with CPUE of 0.72 birds/day. Last year was a better than average year for forest grouse hunters, and the CPUE was 0.64 birds/day (Figure 11).

HARVEST TRENDS AND 2019 PROSPECTS

The total number of forest grouse harvested in District 1 gradually declined from 2009-2014. However, 2015 and 2017 had higher than average harvest. We anticipate 2019 harvest to be similar to previous years.

The average number bagged amongst hunters could fall between 0.4 and 0.6 forest grouse per hunting day.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES AND WHERE TO HUNT

In general, the most effective way to hunt forest grouse in District 1 is by walking little used forest roads and shooting them as they flush or after they roost in a nearby tree. Forest grouse tend to occur in higher densities along roads that do not receive much motor vehicle traffic. Consequently, hunters should target roads behind locked gates and roads that have been decommissioned by the respective landowner. Some forest grouse hunters use trained bird dogs,

a team system that can be extremely effective. To learn more about how to hunt each of Washington's grouse species, see WDFW's upland bird hunting webpage.

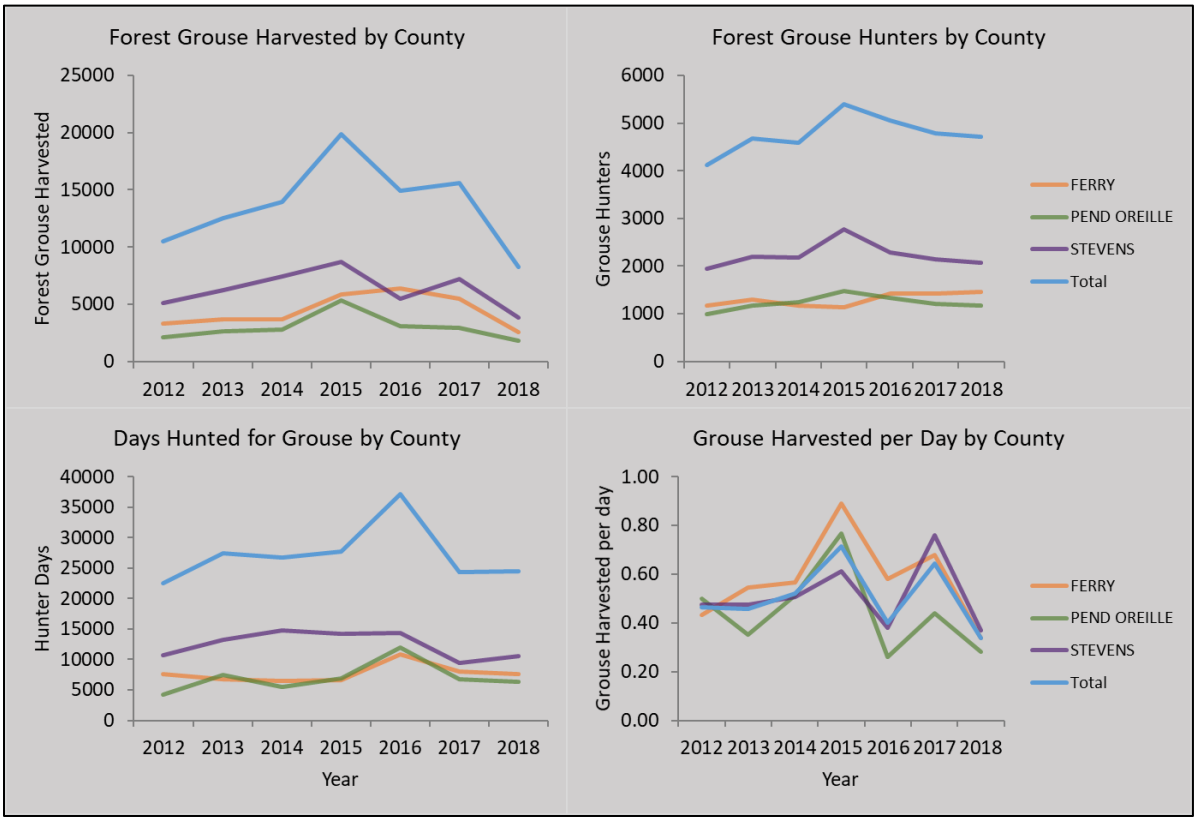

Figure 11. Trends in total harvest, hunter numbers, hunter days, and forest grouse harvested per hunter day during forest grouse seasons in Ferry County (orange), Stevens County (purple), Pend Oreille County (green) and throughout District 1 (blue), 2011–2017.

NOTABLE CHANGES

Bag limits for forest grouse changed in 2015. Bag and possession limits are as follows:

Bag limit: four grouse with no more than three of any one species.

Possession limit: 12 grouse with no more than nine of any one species.

WDFW will have wing barrels distributed throughout District 1 in 2019. **If you drive by a barrel, please follow the instructions at the barrel and deposit one wing and tail from each forest grouse harvested using the paper bags provided**. This information helps biologists determine the distribution of species, age, and sex in the harvest.

PHEASANTS

There is only a small, range-limited population of wild ring-necked pheasants in District 1. The population occurs almost entirely on private lands within the Colville Valley. Consequently, most pheasant hunting opportunity within District 1 is associated with the Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement and Release Program. The primary intent of this program is to provide an upland bird hunting opportunity and encourage participation from young and older-aged hunters. Each year, thousands of captive-reared ring-necked pheasants are released at 33 sites, and one of those sites (Sherman Creek Wildlife Area) occurs within District 1. The Sherman Creek Release Site is located in Ferry County south of the headquarters to Sherman Creek Wildlife Area between the Inchelium Highway and Lake Roosevelt (Figure 12).

To protect other wildlife species, including waterfowl and raptors, nontoxic shot is now required for all upland bird, dove, and band-tailed pigeon hunting on all pheasant release sites statewide. At these release sites, hunters may use only approved nontoxic shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading). Possession of lead shot is also regulated on some wildlife areas. See the Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Seasons pamphlet for more information. Visit

the [Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement and Release Program] website to learn more about pheasant releases.

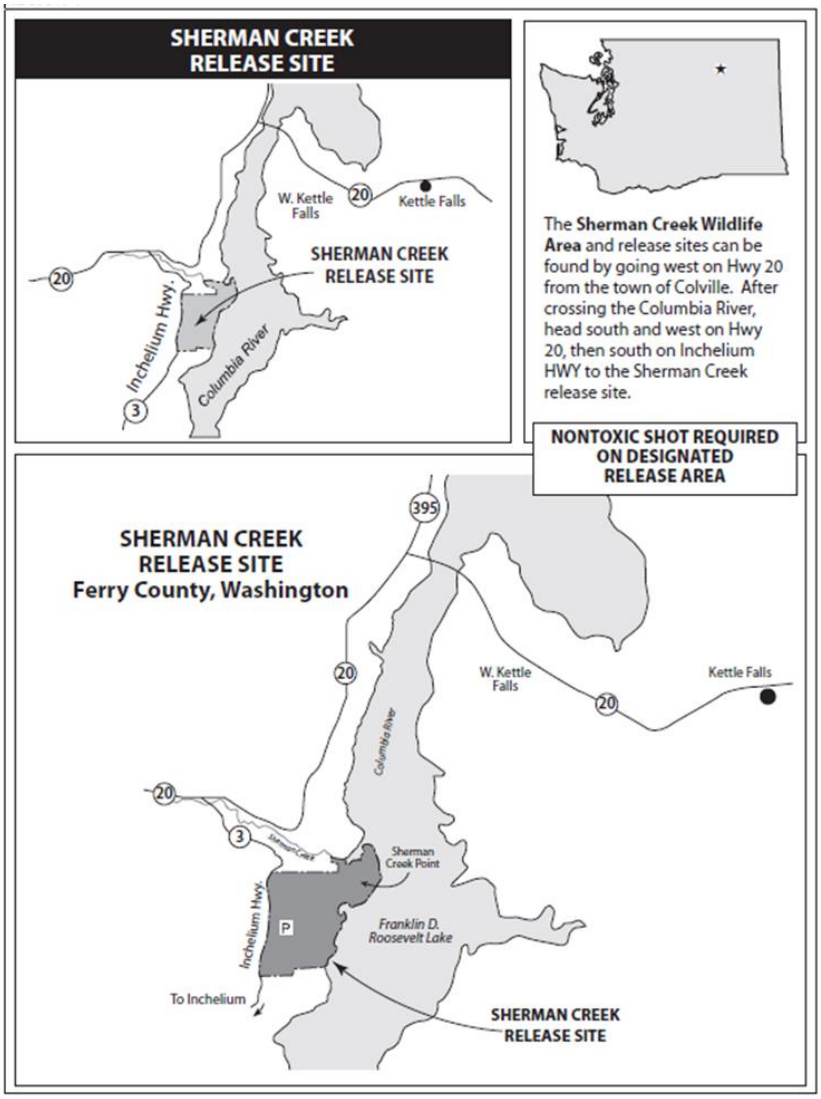

Figure 12. Map of the Sherman Creek Pheasant Release Site in Ferry County.

WILD TURKEYS

The turkeys found in District 1 are Merriam's wild turkeys. Merriam's turkeys flourished in the district after being introduced in 1961, but then slowly declined. Since a large transplant from South Dakota in 1988-89, this population has steadily expanded in both range and abundance.

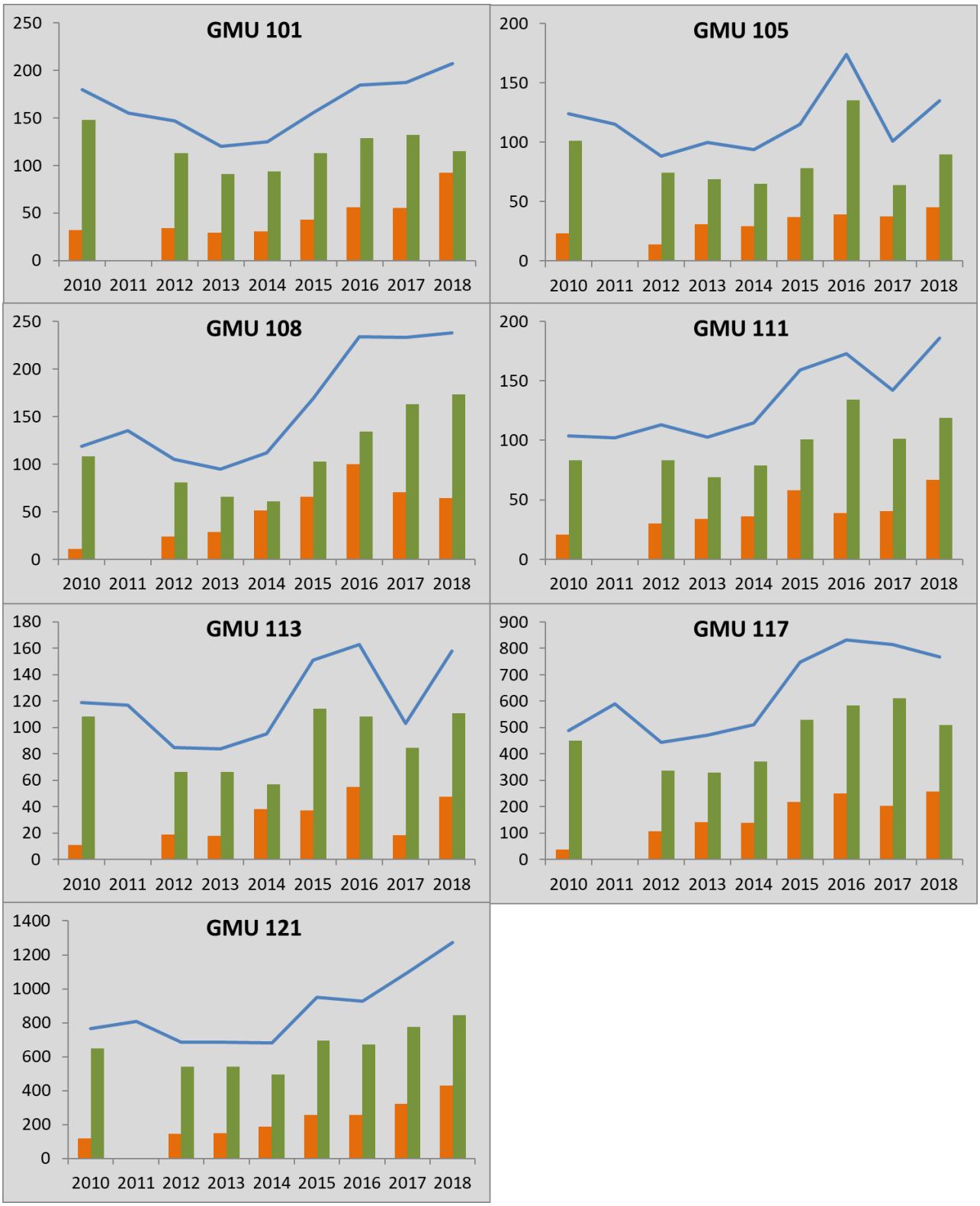

Figure 13. Fall (orange), spring (green), and total (blue) estimated turkey harvest for each GMU in District 1, 2009 – 2017. Data from 2011 do not have separate harvest estimates for fall and spring seasons.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT TURKEYS IN THE SPRING

Increasing daylight between late winter and early spring triggers the beginning of breeding season, although unusually prolonged cold, wet, or warm weather may delay or advance it. Gobbling and strutting start well before mating, when turkeys are still on their winter range in late March or early April. There are normally two peaks of gobbling. The first occurs when males call and females are not yet nesting, and the second occurs a few weeks later, when most hens are incubating eggs. Finding these gobbling toms and moving close enough to call them in without bumping (flushing) them is the challenge and excitement to traditional spring turkey hunting.

HOW TO FIND AND HUNT TURKEYS IN THE FALL

During fall and winter, wild turkey priorities are food and roosting areas. In the fall, food remains critical for growth of poults (juvenile turkeys) and for adults adding fat reserves. Forest edges that offer seeds, nuts, and fruits, as well as some green vegetation, are used the most. At this time of year, turkeys are at their highest population and widest distribution within northeastern Washington, including District 1. As autumn wears on and snowfall comes, the turkeys gradually constrict their range to lower elevations. Where agriculture predominates, a mosaic of short grass fields or cropland and forest is generally the best place to find turkeys.

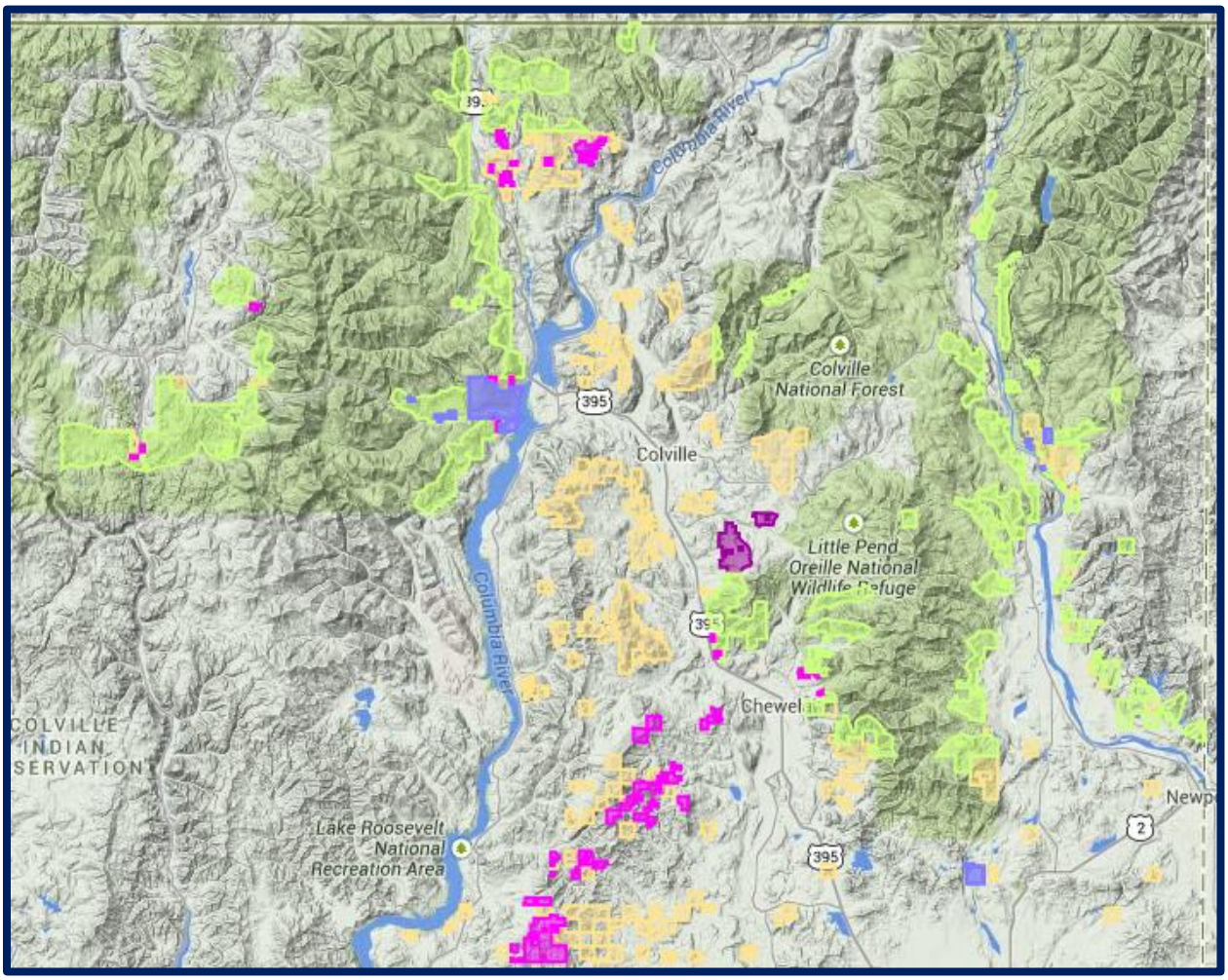

Figure 14. Map depicting public lands good for turkey hunting. This map is produced by map metrics.

WATERFOWL

COMMON SPECIES

A wide variety of ducks occur in District 1. Common dabbling ducks include mallard, gadwall, American wigeon, green-wing teal, and northern shoveler. Diving ducks are also present, including bufflehead, scaup, ring-necked ducks, redheads, goldeneyes, and mergansers. Nesting wood ducks can be located in the Pend Oreille, Colville, and Kettle River valleys, and can provide a unique hunting opportunity early in the season. Mallards are the most abundant duck species in Washington and constitute the majority of ducks harvested statewide (typically ≥ 50 percent). They are a commonly harvested duck in District 1 as well.

Canada geese are the only wild goose commonly found within District 1. They are abundant in the Pend Oreille, Colville, and Kettle River valleys, especially in the widest valley bottom areas where there is extensive farmland cultivation.

BEST HUNTING AREAS

Pend Oreille River

The upper Pend Oreille River, from Newport downstream to Usk, probably offers the best general waterfowl hunting opportunity within northeastern Washington. Outside of the east shoreline, alongside the Kalispell Indian Reservation, most of the river itself is open for hunting, along with a number of islands. In most instances a boat is required, either to serve as a hunting blind or for access to islands and sandbars open to hunting. There are also Pend Oreille Public Utility District lands, as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge land (the Cusick Unit) open to public hunting. These parcels are located near the mouths of Tacoma and Trimble creeks, into the Pend Oreille River.

Dabbling ducks: Moderate numbers during migration, mostly gadwall, wigeon, teal, mallards, and some pintails.

Diving ducks: Moderate numbers with the highest densities during peak migration periods.

Geese: Canada geese occur in the greatest abundance in this part of District 1.

Lake Roosevelt

Lake Roosevelt up to the 1310 feet elevation contour is mostly federally owned and managed by the National Park Service. Much of the lake shore also borders the Colville and Spokane Indian Reservations, however, and in these areas the tribes manage the shoreline. As such, where you can legally hunt is somewhat complicated. Hunters should call the National Park Service in Kettle Falls at 509-738-6266 for clarification before hunting.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly wigeon, and mallards.

Diving Ducks: Relatively few, but higher densities during peak migration periods.

Geese: Canada geese have a scattered distribution in this hundred-mile long reservoir and can occur in high numbers during peak migration.

Colville and Kettle Valleys

Almost all of the valley bottoms are private lands, so obtaining written permission for hunting access is essential. Ducks are most common where there are slow, meandering streams, sloughs, and/or farm ponds. Geese are most common in the agricultural areas.

Dabbling Ducks: Low to moderate numbers during migration, mostly mallards.

Diving Ducks: Relatively few, but higher densities during peak migration periods, especially on the Colville River.

Geese: Canada geese are fairly evenly distributed in the Colville Valley. When heavy snowfall covers fields late in the season, they tend to migrate south to warmer, snow-free areas.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES

Duck hunting methods are largely dependent on location. When hunting inland waters associated with ponds and rivers or feeding areas, traditional decoy setups work the best. Birds are most active during early morning and late afternoon as they move from resting areas to feeding areas. See Let's Go Waterfowl Hunting for more information.

The techniques employed to harvest geese are standard. Find agricultural areas where geese are feeding and set up decoy spreads well before daylight where geese are expected to concentrate. In District 1, agricultural areas where feeding geese congregate generally include hay fields and winter wheat (or other cereal grain crop) fields. Because of this, most goose hunting opportunities occur on private property and require hunters to gain permission before hunting.

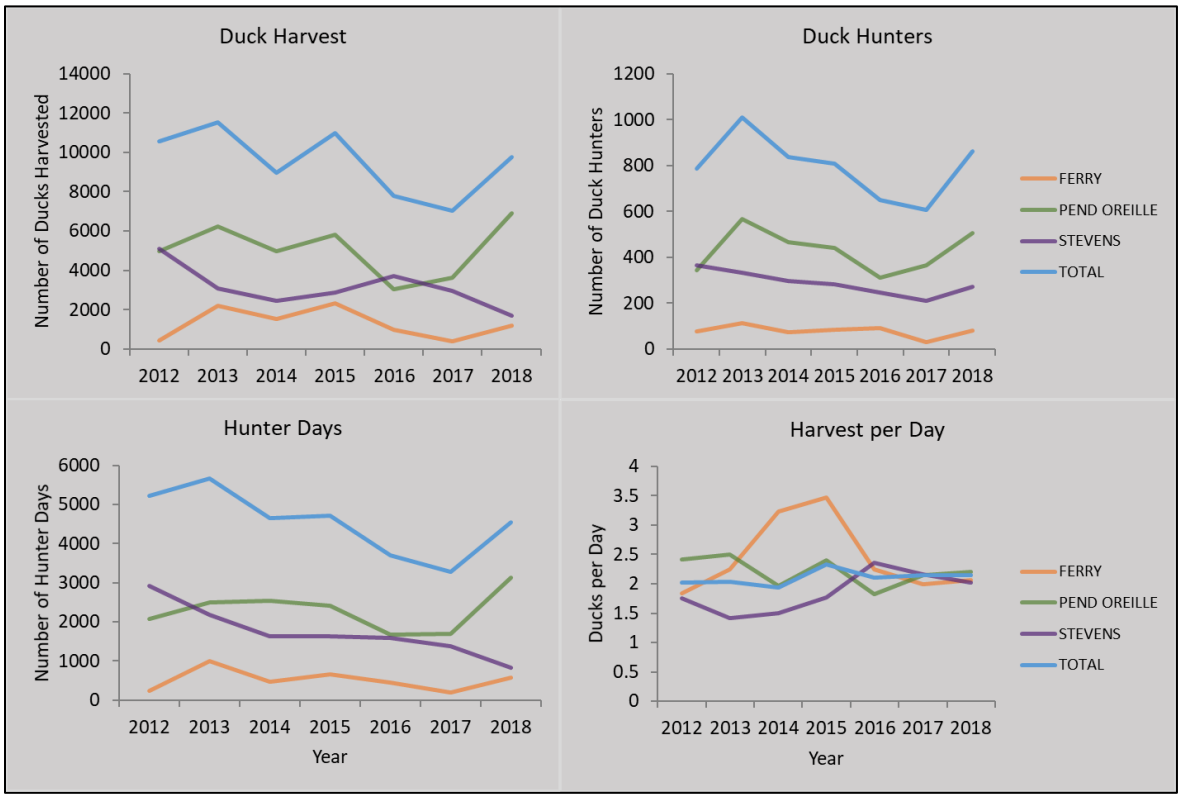

Figure 15. Trends in the number of ducks harvested, duck hunters, duck hunter days, and ducks harvested per hunter day in Ferry County (orange), Stevens County (purple), Pend Oreille county (green), and throughout District 1 (blue), 2012 – 2018.

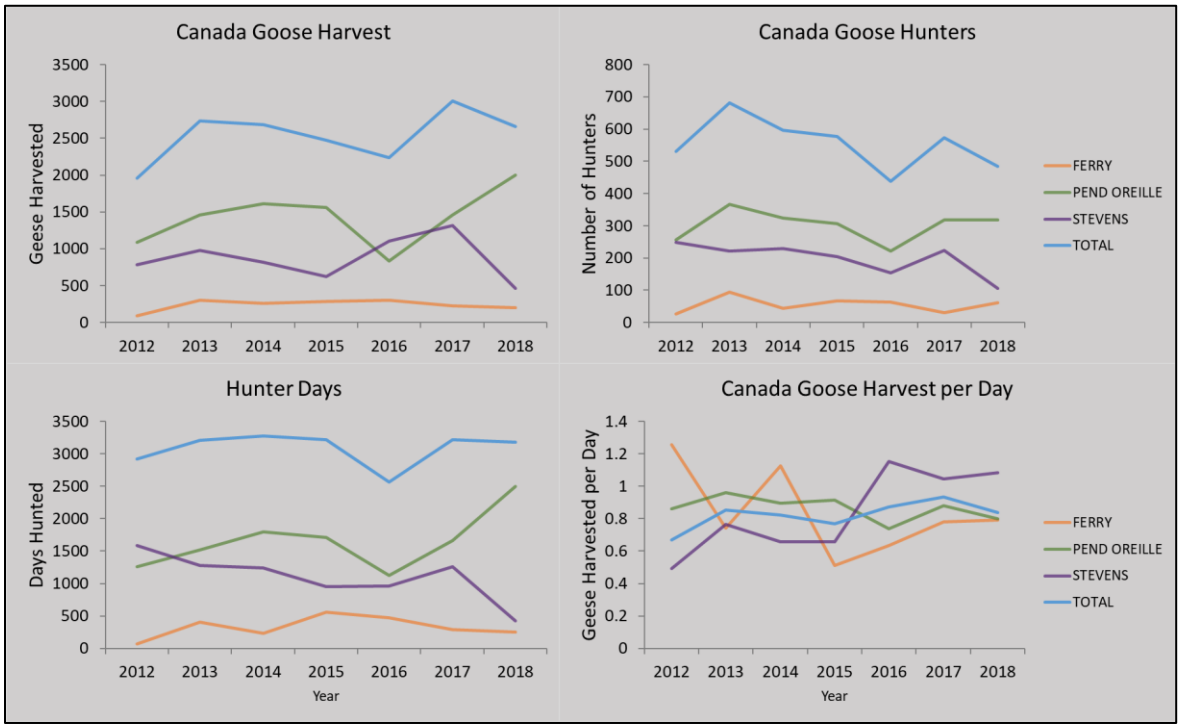

Figure 16. Trends in the number of geese harvested, goose hunters, hunter days, and geese harvested per hunter day in Ferry County (orange), Stevens County (purple), Pend Oreille County (green), and throughout District 1 (blue), 2012 – 2018.

OTHER SMALL GAME SPECIES

Other small game species that occur in District 1 but are not covered in detail include California (valley) quail, Hungarian (gray) partridge, snowshoe hare, bobcat, and coyote. Additional migratory game birds include mourning dove, Wilson's (common) snipe, and American coot.

MOOSE – SPECIAL PERMIT ONLY

The moose in northeast Washington are Shiras moose (*Alces alces shirasi*), which is the smallest of the four subspecies of moose in North America. Shiras moose are named after George Shiras III, an ardent conservationist, explorer, and U.S. Congressman in the early 1900s. This subspecies is native to the northern Rocky Mountains and apparently migrated on its own accord into eastern Pend Oreille County in the 1950s. The first official state documentation of moose in Washington occurred in 1954. In the decades since, moose have dramatically increased both in numbers and distribution, and are now common throughout much of northeast Washington.

Moose may only be hunted by limited special permits that are available by lottery drawing every year. Permit hunters should take note that while moose are fairly common, they are by nature a solitary animal, and occur only individually or in small groups scattered over wide areas. They tend to select habitats based on forest successional stage and local climatic conditions. Moose can be found at any elevation in northeast Washington but are most likely found in the 3,000 to 5,000-foot elevation band. In the fall they seek deciduous browse, primarily willow, serviceberry, *ceanothus*, and other shrubs in logged over areas or burns approximately 15 years old or older. Moose are drawn to north slopes or east flowing drainages, which are cool and moist. Late fall and early winter snowfall does not seem to deter moose in any way.

Moose rut from mid-September to early October, and some hunters have been effective with calls. Hunters using calls should stay on stand for at least one hour or longer, as bulls come to the call from long distances. Early in the season, moose are widespread and snow is generally not present for tracking. Nevertheless, road and hiking access is good in October. Usually by some time in November snow is common and locating moose tracks, as well as seeing these dark animals against a white background of snow, becomes much easier. However, by late November there is frequently deep enough snow to be concerned about having only limited road access into high elevation moose range. Inland Empire Paper Company and other private timber companies may close their roads to motor vehicle traffic depending on weather conditions.

Forest Service Ranger Stations located at Newport and Colville are good sources of information on moose, weather, camping, and forest road conditions or restrictions. The Washington

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also sells maps and has a regional office located in Colville.

Kettle Range – GMU 101, GMU 105, GMU 204

Moose continue to expand their range in the Kettle Range moose unit, but currently the most productive locations for hunting are in two general areas. The first is within GMU 101 and includes the South Fork Sherman Creek drainage, the upper Barnaby Creek drainage, and the east slope of the Kettle Crest under Snow Peak, Sherman Peak, Barnaby Buttes, and White Mountain. There also tends to be a lot of moose sign on the west side of White Mountain up Hall Creek Road, but the dense timber makes sighting them difficult. The second area is in GMU 105 near the Canadian border in the vicinity of Churchill Mountain and Lead Pencil Mountain. The creek drainages may be most productive, including Sheep Creek, Crown Creek, and Flat Creek. The Little Boulder Creek drainage west of the Kettle River in Ferry County seems to be an area moose have recently expanded into as well.

Selkirk – GMU 113

Good areas to hunt in the western portion of the Selkirk Mountains Unit include Skookum Lakes to South Baldy, along with the LeClerc Creek, Harvey Creek, upper Sullivan Creek, and Slumber Creek drainages. On the east side of the unit, the West Branch Priest River, Flat Creek, Goose Creek, Kalispell Creek, South Fork Granite Creek, Cache Creek, Willow Creek, and Gold Creek drainages can be productive.

Douglas – GMU 108

Moose are frequently seen in the vicinity of Harrier Creek, VanStone Mine, and Rogers Mountain. Moose have also been commonly found in the headwaters area to Onion Creek.

Aladdin -- GMU 111

Moose are more frequently seen in the south and central portion of GMU 111, but some hunters have had luck in the northern portion of the GMU as well. Some specific areas that generally harbor moose in GMU 111 include Big Meadow Lake, Seldom Seen Mountain, Bon Ayre Ridge, North and South Forks Mill Creek, Amazon Creek, and Clark Creek.

49 Degrees North – GMU 117

The 49 Degrees North GMU is divided by a mountain range into east and west drainages. The areas near the crest of the divide or the drainages on the east side have the most moose activity. In the southern portion, good areas would be Boyer, Nelson, and Chewelah mountains, along with the Calispell, Tenmile, and Gletty creek drainages. In the north portion of GMU 117, Winchester, Small, Ruby, and Flodell creek drainages, along with Tacoma, Dirty Shirt, Little Calispell, Calispell, Goddards, and Olson mountain peaks, tend to hold significant numbers of moose. There are many recent and older harvest units in 117, which allow ample opportunity to glass hillsides from a ridgeline or road.

Parker Lake – GMU 117 – NO PERMITS IN 2019

The Parker Lake Hunting Closure area is approximately 21,000 acres, and is very similar to the surrounding forest, with a blend of timber harvest, mature stand forests, and reproduction/burn

units. From approximately September through May, the U.S. Air Force (USAF) Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Training (SERE) School is present in either the Tacoma, Cusick, or Ruby Creek watersheds. Training typically occurs 24 hours/day from Saturday through Thursday of each week, except for an approximate three-week period during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. To aid hunters in their planning and to assist in establishing a pattern of avoidance, deer or moose special permit holders will receive a map of the SERE School area of operation from the USAF Training Area Manager. Moose are found throughout the Parker Lake Closure, but seasonal timing will dictate elevations, population densities, and hunting opportunities. There are quite a few small ponds and swampy areas where moose can be found. Northern slopes and eastern drainages between 3,000 feet and the crest of Timber Mountain should provide ample opportunities. The SERE School conducts little activity above 3,500 feet in elevation.

Huckleberry – GMU 121

Good areas to hunt in the Huckleberry Range are the mountains extending north and south of the Springdale - Hunters Pass off the Springdale - Hunters Highway. The east side of the pass has the majority of the moose habitat, especially the headwaters of the forks of Chimokane Creek and Deer Creek. Moose sightings are also common east of the Fruitland area with access to the mountains through the Fruitland Valley or up the "O-Ra-Pak-En" Creek drainage.

HARVEST TRENDS

Moose hunting in Washington is regulated through a permit system. Hunters are required to return their hunt report to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Permit availability, and therefore moose hunting opportunity, has increased in Washington in the last 10 years. For more information about harvest trends, see the most recent status and trend report.

ACCESS

Sherman – GMU 101

The majority of GMU 101 is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. All of the Kettle Range has good but somewhat limited road access for automobiles. In GMU 101, there are roads leading up to the Kettle Crest from both the east and the west, but only three that cross over, including two paved and maintained roads, Sherman Pass and Boulder Pass, and one unpaved road, Little Boulder. During the late hunt, some access may be limited in the higher elevations if there is snow. A four-wheeled drive vehicle is recommended in the late season if there is a possibility of snow. A Colville National Forest map is also recommended.

Kelly Hill – GMU 105

Much of the northern portion of GMU 105 is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Largely in the southern portion of the GMU, there are lands owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), industrial timber companies (mainly Hancock Forest Management), and other private lands. The eastern portion of the GMU also has some private timber company ownership. Road access is good throughout the unit. A Colville National Forest map is recommended.

Douglas – GMU 108

The majority of GMU 108 is private, but there are a few sizeable blocks of Colville National Forest and DNR land. Road access is good in this GMU. A Colville National Forest and/or Department of Natural Resources map is recommended.

Aladdin – GMU 111

Access is best either from Colville north on the Aladdin Road, from Highway 20 between Colville and Tiger (south of Ione), or west of Highway 31 between Ione and Metaline. GMU 111 has good driving access south of Smackout Pass, and the majority of land throughout this GMU is owned by the U.S. Forest Service (Colville National Forest) with a lesser amount owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. In the northern portion of the GMU, there are fewer roads with more opportunities for walk in, bike, and/or horse access, as well as cross-country travel. Throughout the GMU, there are closed or decommissioned roads to get off of the main road system. A Colville National Forest map is recommended.

Selkirk – GMU 113

The northern half of GMU 113 is mostly within the Colville or Idaho Panhandle National Forest, but many of the roads are gated or retired, which limits vehicle access. The southern half of GMU 113 is a mix of private timber company, private property, national forest, and Washington Department of Natural Resources. Most timber company gates are locked year-round, as well as some national forest roads. If hunting the eastern portion of GMU 113, it may be easier to access the area through Idaho. The higher elevations in GMU 113 may likely have some snow during the late hunt. A four-wheeled drive vehicle is recommended if there is a possibility of snow. A Colville National Forest map is also recommended.

49 Degrees North – GMU 117

49 Degrees North is a mix of private property, Colville National Forest, the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, and private industrial timber company land. Road access on national forest land is fairly good, but most access on industrial timber company land is restricted to non-motorized. In some of the southern portion of GMU 117, all motorized access is restricted within the Buck Creek Road Closure Area, which includes Boyer Mountain and Nelson Peak. The Colville National Forest travel map is recommended. The Washington Department of Natural Resources map is also recommended, especially for the southern portion of the unit.

Huckleberry – GMU 121

The majority of GMU 121 is in private ownership, but there are scattered sections or small blocks of Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. Hancock Forest Management owns much of the private forest land in this area. Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maps are recommended.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hunters with permits to harvest antlerless moose are requested to refrain from taking cows with calves in their immediate vicinity. Some moose cows in Washington do not produce calves in all years, or may have already lost them by hunting season. WDFW requests that hunters with antlerless moose permits avoid harvesting cows with calves.

All successful moose hunters are required to submit a tooth within 60 days of harvest in the envelope provided with your informational packet. Tooth samples allow WDFW to get an overview of the age structure of the moose population and make better management decisions based on this information. Extra tooth envelopes are available at most WDFW Regional offices. To find out the age of you harvested moose, visit the following website: https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/harvest-reporting/tooth-lookup

MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS

Over one third (approximately 37 percent) of the land mass in District 1 is public, consisting of mostly national forest, but also state DNR and WDFW, federal BLM, USFWS, and a few other government agencies. Most of these lands outside of Indian reservations are open to public hunting. The public lands tend to be at higher elevations, with steep terrain, a shorter growing season, no row crop agriculture, and in general a lower density of game animals, especially deer and turkey. GMUs with the most public land include 101 (Sherman), 111 (Aladdin), 113 (Selkirk), and 117 (49 Degrees North). If you plan to hunt on DNR land, you will need to purchase and display on your vehicle a Discover Pass. For hunting on WDFW wildlife areas, you will need to display a WDFW Vehicle Access Pass (free with hunting or fishing license purchase) or a Discover Pass.

For more information related to the location of WDFW wildlife areas, see Figure 19 and see [WDFW's hunting access website]. For more information on resources available to locate public lands, please see the Online Tools and Maps section below.

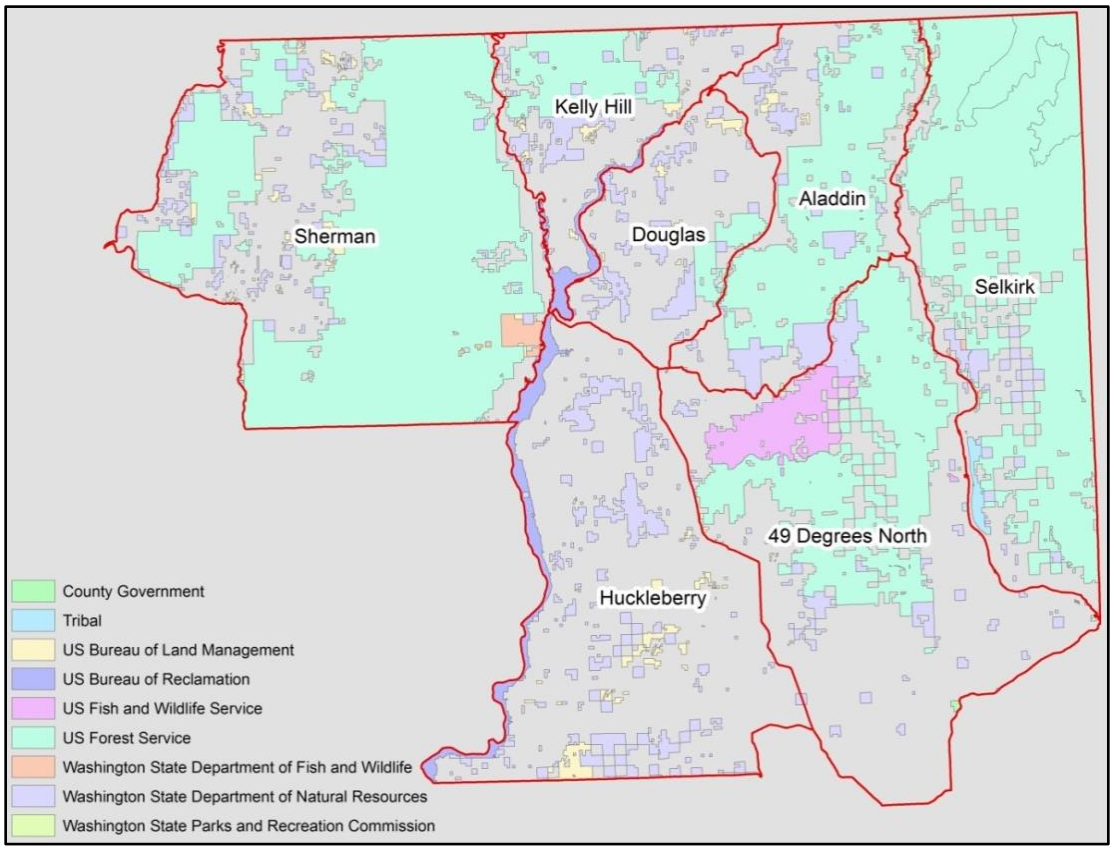

Figure 17. Map depicting the location of public lands within each GMU comprising District 1.

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Much hunting opportunity, especially for big game and forest grouse, occurs on private industrial forest lands. Timber companies that own large tracts of land and are the most well-known include Hancock, Stimson, and Inland Empire Paper. Hunters should be aware that there are a number of other smaller timber companies that have operations in District 1 but are not mentioned here.

WDFW recognizes that some of the best hunting opportunities occur on private industrial forest lands. WDFW works cooperatively with private timber companies to maintain reasonable public access during established hunting seasons. Private industrial forestlands have typically been open for public access, but hunters should always remember access granted to private property is a privilege.

Recently, there has been an increasing trend of timber companies restricting public access and shifting towards a permit system to limit the number of hunters who hunt on their lands. One of

the primary reasons for access restrictions and loss of access is disrespect of the landowner's rules. WDFW reminds all wild land recreationists to treat this privilege with respect and follow basic access rules.

BASIC ACCESS RULES

Specific rules related to hunter access on private industrial forest lands vary by timber company. WDFW encourages hunters to make sure they are aware of the rules in areas they plan to hunt. Most timber companies provide these rules on their website or will provide them to hunters who call to inquire about access (see below for contact information). However, hunters are encouraged to follow these basic rules if they find themselves in an area they are not familiar with and are in doubt about specific landowner rules. The following are intended to be a general guideline of the basic access rules that are commonplace on many private industrial forest lands. Timber companies may have more or less restrictive rules in place and ultimately, it is the hunter's responsibility to be familiar with those rules.

- ✓ Respect the landowner and other users.
- ✓ Obey all posted signs.
- ✓ Drive slow with headlights turned on when driving on roads opened to public access.
- ✓ Avoid areas of active logging.
- ✓ No camping, littering, ORVs, off road driving, target shooting, or forest product removals. Exceptions: mushrooms and berries for personal use.
- ✓ An open gate does not mean the road is open to public motorized access.
- ✓ Gate closures apply to all motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and quads. This includes vehicles with electric motors.
- ✓ Help prevent forest fires.

HEADS UP FOR ARCHERY AND MUZZLELOADER HUNTERS

Private timber companies have traditionally opened their lands to modern firearm hunters during established seasons. Archery and muzzleloader hunters should be aware they may not have full access, and access levels during their respective seasons varies by year and by landowner. Most often, access is influenced by industrial fire classifications issued by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Hence, timber lands may be closed during archery and muzzleloader seasons, which typically begin earlier in the autumn when there is a greater risk of forest fire. Hunters are urged to respect the landowners by adhering to any access restrictions they have in place.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MAJOR TIMBER COMPANIES

Some landowners have hotlines and/or websites where hunters can find information about public access. It is important to remember, however, that these companies do not have personnel dedicated to answering hunter questions. Therefore, hunters are encouraged to call the WDFW Region 1 office in Spokane (509-892-1001) if there are questions related to public access on private industrial forest lands.

PRIVATE LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM

Since 1948, WDFW has worked with private landowners across the state to provide public access through a negotiated agreement. Landowners participating in a WDFW cooperative agreement retain liability protection provided under RCW 4.24.210. Landowners receive technical services, materials for posting (signs and posts), and, in some cases, monetary compensation. In addition, lands under agreement are well known by WDFW Enforcement.

There are several private landowners in District 1 who are enrolled in WDFW's Private Lands Access Program. Specific information, including property locations, can be found on WDFWs Hunter Access website. Below is a summary, by GMU, of cooperators and acres currently enrolled in the Private Lands Access Program. The Feel Free to Hunt Program acres listed are those lands in the Cooperative Road Management Program with private timber companies.

Table 7. Cooperators and acres currently enrolled in the private lands hunting access program within District 1.

GMU	Hunting Only by Written Permission		Feel Free to Hunt		Hunt by Reservation	
	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres
101 (Sherman)	6	2,506	1	2,702		
105 (Kelly Hill)			1	240		
108 (Douglas)	3	462	1	800		
111 (Aladdin)			2	6,660	1	238
113 (Selkirk)	1	120	2	51,117		
117 (49 Degrees North)	2	544	4	72,500	2	1019
121 (Huckleberry)	10	2,910	2	36,000	0	0

ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

Most GMUs in District 1 are a checkerboard of ownerships and sometimes it can be extremely difficult to determine who owns the land where a hunter wishes to hunt. However, there are several online tools and resources many hunters do not know about, but provide valuable information that helps solve the landowner puzzle. The following is a list and general description of tools and resources that are available to the general public.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PUBLIC LANDS QUADRANGLE (PLQ) MAPS

A good source for identifying the specific location of public lands is DNR PLQ maps, which can be purchased for less than $10 on DNR's website.

ONLINE PARCEL DATABASES

Technology has come a long way and has made it much easier for the general public to identify tax parcel boundaries and the associated landowner. However, because this technology has not been readily available in the past, many hunters are not aware that it exists.

Stevens County tax parcels can be searched using the assessor's website at http://propertysearch.trueautomation.com/PropertyAccess/?cid=0.

Ferry County tax parcels can be searched using Mapsifter at http://ferrywa.mapsifter.com/Disclaimer.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fdefault.aspx.

Pend Oreille tax parcels can be searched using the assessor's website at http://216.229.170.172/PropertyAccess/PropertySearch.aspx?cid=0. You will need the address of the property to use this search tool.

WDFW'S ONLINE MAPPING TOOLS

WDFW's Hunting Webmap has been revamped and provides hunters with a great interactive tool for locating tracts of public and private land hunting opportunities within each GMU.

COLVILLE AREA MAPS

There are a variety of maps showing trails, camping locations, public lands, and popular landmarks available for download on the Colville Chamber of Commerce website.

OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

Ferry County hunting page

Colville Chamber of Commerce

Ferry County Chamber of Commerce

North Pend Oreille Chamber of Commerce

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge

Colville National Forest

LC Sportsmaps, Inc