

2020



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

RUTH MILNER, District Wildlife Biologist
MATT HAMER, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist



Photo by Doug Harms

2020 DISTRICT 13 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Snohomish, San Juan, and Island counties; Skagit County
Islands

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISTRICT 13 GENERAL OVERVIEW	1
Snohomish County.....	2
San Juan and Island counties	3
ELK	4
DEER.....	6
Black-tailed Deer GMU 448.....	6
Black-tailed Deer Island Units.....	7
GMUs 410-419	8
GMU 420 (Whidbey Island) and 421 (Camano Island).....	10
BEAR	11
COUGAR	11
MOUNTAIN GOAT	11
PHEASANT	13
BAND-TAILED PIGEON.....	14
GROUSE	14
WATERFOWL.....	16
Snohomish County.....	17
Port Susan Bay.....	19
Whidbey Island.....	20
Camano Island	21

DISTRICT 13 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 13 contains all of Snohomish, Island, and San Juan counties, along with the islands of Skagit County. This includes Game Management Unit (GMU) 448 (Stillaguamish), the southern section of GMU 450 (Cascade), and the southern section of GMU 407 (North Sound) in Snohomish County. The islands of the San Juan Archipelago and Island County are divided into several GMUs, including GMUs 410 (Islands-primarily Henry and Stuart Islands), 411 (Orcas), 412 (Shaw), 413 (San Juan), 414 (Lopez), 415 (Blakely), 416 (Decatur), 417 (Cypress), 419 (Guemes), 420 (Whidbey), and 421(Camano).

The cool and wet weather that we have experienced so far this summer may reduce the risk of wildfires later this summer and into the fall. However, hunters will still want to pay close attention to all rules on public lands and watch for any closures that might be implemented at the last minute if fire dangers get too high.

Remember to be a good hunting and outdoor recreation steward. Be respectful of others. Don't hunt areas where there is heavy, regular recreation use. Please pick up after yourself and don't leave a gut pile out in the open – cover, bury, or hike it out and dispose of properly.

Annual harvest reports and harvest statistics based on hunter reporting for various species and game management units are available online at [Game Harvest Reports](#).

WDFW's Private Lands Access Program partners with landowners to provide the public with hunting access on private property. District 13 Private Lands Access Program sites are focused on providing waterfowl hunting opportunity through the Waterfowl Habitat and Access Program, and WDFW is also working on providing deer hunting access in District 13. We are negotiating deer hunting access to some private properties in San Juan and Island counties. WDFW will post sites as they become available [online](#). Hunters interested in waterfowl and deer hunting access should check the website regularly for updates.



Map of District 13 in Washington state

Snohomish County

In Snohomish County, a great online mapping tool called [SCOPI](#) can help hunters determine property ownership and boundaries.

Much of the eastern part of District 13 is public land, managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Two USFS ranger districts will have information on [road and trail conditions](#) for GMUs 448 and 450: the Darrington Ranger District (360-436-1155 – north county) and the Skykomish Ranger District (360-677-2414 – south county). Many roads have been decommissioned or are not maintained regularly; visitors should check the status of roads before heading to the National Forest. Trail conditions also vary, and information on specific trails, as well as many useful maps, are on the [Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Recreation webpage](#).

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Northwest Region (360-856-3500) manages the rest of public land open for hunting in Snohomish County. Hunters should be aware that many access roads to DNR lands have gates, and they should contact DNR to get the

latest information about gates, available access routes, and road conditions. DNR land at Ebey Hill near the Jim Creek Naval Station is surrounded by private property, and therefore for all practical purposes, is not accessible to the public. Additional contact information is on the [DNR Recreation webpage](#).

Designated camping sites on DNR land in District 13 are hike-in facilities that are not accessible by car. Hot and dry summer conditions may result in some campfire restrictions on state-managed lands. Contact DNR or USFS for updated fire information.

Several private industrial timberland owners also manage land in GMU 448 (Stillaguamish). Their ownerships are shown on the Snohomish County Assessor's maps (SCOPI). Many of their roads are closed to motorized vehicle traffic, but some allow free walk-in or bike-in access. Hunters should scout their areas early and be aware that parking at access gates may be very limited. Never block gates or drive beyond any open gate unless certain the gate will stay open when you return. Active logging is happening in some areas, so gates may be open in the morning, but closed and locked later in the day. Some access gates on private industrial timberlands will have signs that specify ownership and the rules that apply to the property. Hunters should follow No Parking signs, as local landowners will tow vehicles found on their property.

Weyerhaeuser Corporation charges a fee for access through individual permit sales. Walk-in and drive-in permits are sold, as well as maps of ownership, and are available on their [recreational website](#).

Early scouting is always important, particularly in District 13. If fire danger is extraordinarily high, public access may close for all activities. If this happens, notices will be posted at property gates.

Much of the Snohomish County portion of GMU 407 (North Sound) is dominated by homes on small acreages or farms. Hunters should get permission from landowners to hunt on private land and should be very mindful of where houses, livestock, and outbuildings are in relation to where hunting will take place. Portions of the GMU west of Highway 9 and Highway 203 are under firearm restrictions. Hunters should research land ownership and understand firearm limitations prior to hunting. A complete description of firearm restricted areas is on page 90 of Washington's 2020 [Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet](#). A map showing no shooting areas and shotgun only areas within Snohomish County is available [online](#).

SAN JUAN AND ISLAND COUNTIES; SKAGIT COUNTY ISLANDS

Very little public land exists within San Juan or Island counties or the islands of Skagit County, and firearm restrictions are in place in each jurisdiction. Ownership maps for San Juan County are available online from the [county assessor's office](#).

Hunting within San Juan County requires written permission from the landowner by county ordinance. In the San Juan Archipelago, access to islands not served by the Washington State Department of Transportation ferry system is by private boat or commercial water taxi. Private boat owners should check in advance on ownership and rules that may apply to docks and landings within the San Juan Archipelago, as most are privately owned. San Juan County owns and maintains eight docks with floats and eight boat ramps, and leases two outer island moorage docks. The San Juan County Visitor's Bureau provides a variety of road and dock maps [online](#).

Small groups of feral mouflon sheep have moved to Stuart Island. Mouflon are classified as harmful exotic wildlife (WAC 220-640-200). European rabbits may occur on Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez islands; however, a recent disease outbreak appears to have reduced their number considerably. European rabbits are feral domestic mammals and thus are not under the authority of WDFW. WDFW does not regulate hunting mouflon or European rabbits. If people get written landowner permission and follow all local ordinances, these species may be hunted at any time, and there is no bag limit; however, firearm restrictions still apply.

Ownership maps for Island County are available through the [Island County assessor's office](#).

Ownership maps for Skagit County islands are available [online](#).

ELK

District 13 does not have an established elk herd within GMU 448 (Stillaguamish) or GMU 450 (Cascade) boundaries. Individual elk are occasionally in the eastern part of Snohomish County. Small bands occur infrequently along Highway 2 at the south end of GMU 448. These groups typically range between the towns of Baring and Grotto, but sometimes move west as far as Sultan.

Elk also sometimes come south of GMU 437 (Sauk) onto the Sauk Prairie and areas west of Darrington and east of Highway 9 in the north end of GMU 448. Their presence is occasional and unpredictable.

Forty-four hunters reported hunting in GMU 448 in 2019, but no elk were harvested. Hunters planning to hunt in GMU 448 should plan on careful scouting and be aware that elk in the unit are presumed to be tied to the North Cascades elk groups to the north and the North Bend groups to the south and are thus only present sporadically in GMU 448.

GMU 450 is not open for elk hunting, although small groups may spend some time at the higher elevations found in the GMU, most likely in summer months.

DEER



BLACK-TAILED DEER GMU 448

District 13 includes GMU 448 (Stillaguamish) and portions of GMU 450 (Cascade) and 407 (North Sound). In 2019, 1,180 people reported hunting during the general deer seasons in GMU 448. They had a 16.5% success rate and harvested 174 animals. Among the 12 late buck permit hunters, only 6 permit holders reported, five said they hunted during the permit season, and three deer were harvested. Hunters who take the time to scout and learn the area will increase their likelihood of success. People should plan and familiarize themselves with local conditions well in advance of hunting season.

Much of GMU 448 is forest, with trees in a 30 to 60-year age class on federal public lands. This results in tightly stocked stands where seeing deer may be challenging. On private timberlands and some DNR properties, clear-cutting created forest openings. However, food may be limited in clear cuts, so deer may be harder to find. For hunters who enjoy walking or hiking in uncrowded conditions, GMU 448 offers a very rewarding opportunity to get outside and enjoy the season.

Parking and walk-in access to DNR and private forest land is available at the intersection of Menzel Lake Road and the P-5000 Road. This gate is 4.6 miles south of the intersection of Alder Place and Menzel Lake Road in Granite Falls. Parking may be limited at other gated access areas in this general area. Hunters need to obey No Parking signs, as these signs say private property and owners may tow vehicles found on their property.

At the south end of GMU 448, walk-in access is off the Sultan Basin Road. This area has mixed public and private ownership, and hunters should pay close attention to signs showing areas where it is not allowed to shoot firearms. Access to DNR lands requires a Discover Pass, as noted on signs. DNR properties are gated, and shooting is allowed only during legal hunting seasons.

Vehicle access is available on USFS roads around Snohomish County, but hunters should consult the [USFS website](#) for information on road conditions and closures.



Typical DNR signs

GMU 450 includes portions of Districts 13 and 14. In 2019, 101 people reported hunting in the unit, and six deer were harvested. GMU 407 includes portions of Districts 12, 13, and 14. In 2019, 2,137 hunters harvested 573 deer from GMU 407 resulting in a 27% success rate. Most of the unit is private land and some areas are firearm restricted. In Snohomish County, hunters should consult page 90 of Washington’s 2020 [Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations](#). [The Snohomish County map](#) shows county ordinance no shooting areas and shotgun-only areas.

BLACK-TAILED DEER ISLAND UNITS

Beginning in 2013, WDFW divided GMU 410 into several new units assigned to individual islands to provide more accurate harvest information and assist with the development of management strategies for individual islands. GMU 410 is made up of those few remaining islands that were not assigned to a specific number, such as Stuart and Henry islands. Islands in GMU 410 are not accessible by ferry, and some do not have deer or are privately owned and prohibit hunting. The correct GMU numbers for each island are as follows.

GMU 411—Orcas Island	GMU 412—Shaw Island
GMU 413—San Juan Island	GMU 414—Lopez Island
GMU 415—Blakely Island	GMU 416—Decatur Island
GMU 417—Cypress Island	GMU 419—Guemes Island
GMU 420—Whidbey Island	GMU 421—Camano Island

Although accurate reporting for the island GMUs is improving, we believe some hunters continue to misreport their hunt unit. This makes it extremely difficult to assess accurate harvest numbers for each island. We ask that hunters carefully review their harvest reports prior to submitting them. Accurately reporting the correct island GMU will advance our understanding of harvest on each island so that we can improve deer management.

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS 410-419

Public access on islands within the San Juan Archipelago (San Juan and Skagit counties) is extremely limited. Deer on the islands are plentiful but typically smaller than their mainland cousins. Most hunting occurs on private property. In San Juan County, by county ordinance, written landowner permission is needed to hunt on private property.

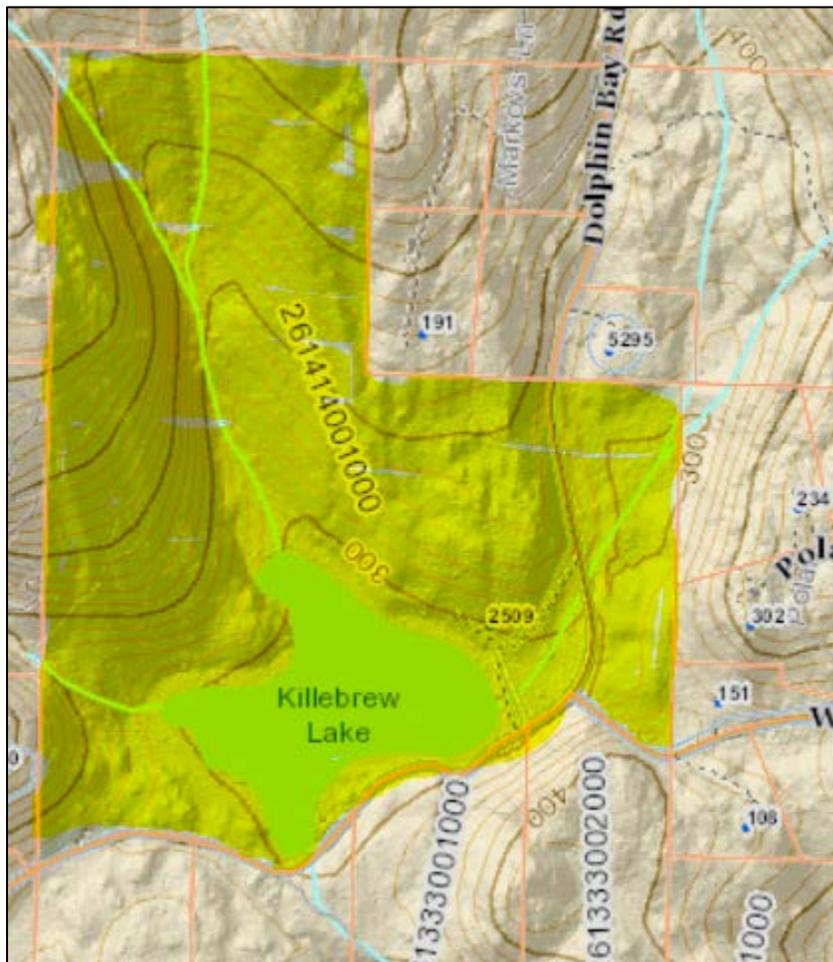
WDFW is negotiating hunting access on some islands and will post properties as they are enrolled. We anticipate having at least seven properties available on Orcas and San Juan islands in 2020. Enrolled properties will be open for the modern firearm season and running through the late muzzleloader and late archery seasons. Available sites will be posted by mid-September. Sites will include Mt. Grant on San Juan Island, owned by the San Juan County Land Bank. All sites except Mt. Grant will be Hunt by Reservation. The Hunt by Reservation system offers a quality hunt experience by limiting the number of days a site is hunted while guaranteeing the site will be available to the reservation holder. To make a reservation and see available sites, visit the [WDFW hunting access link](#), create an account, choose a hunting site that is in the Hunt by Reservation category, and book the reservation. Reservations become available two weeks prior to the hunt day at 8 a.m. A fast internet connection improves the chances of securing a reservation. For questions about the Private Lands Access Program (PLAP), contact Rob Wingard, WDFW Private Lands Access Program biologist, at 360-466-4345, extension 240.

Small parcels of public land are open to hunting on Lopez Island (GMU 414) and Stuart Island (GMU 410) on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within the San Juan Islands National

Monument. Hunters should call Skeet Townley 360-468-3754 or Marcia deChadenedes 360-468-3051 for information.

The San Juan County Land Bank manages Lopez Hill on Lopez Island, which continues to allow limited hunting. Lopez Hill will be open for hunting from Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. More information is on the [Lopez Hill website](#) and the [San Juan County Land Bank website](#). For questions and county-required written permission, contact Lopez Steward Amanda Wedow at amandaw@sjlandbank.org.

WDFW owns about 157 acres around, and including, Killebrew Lake on Orcas Island (GMU 411). Much of the ownership is made up of the lake itself or associated wetlands. Hunting is allowed on this property, but hunters should be aware of property boundaries and stay within WDFW ownership. Parking is limited to a small pull-off area on Killebrew Lake Road.



WDFW Killebrew Lake Ownership Highlighted in Yellow

Overnight camping is not allowed in the National Monument or at Lopez Hill or Killebrew Lake. Please check [Washington State Parks](#) and [San Juan County Parks](#) for camping information.

Cypress Island (GMU 417) is mostly owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but some parcels are privately owned. Deer hunting is permitted on the DNR-owned land but hunting for other species is prohibited. Maps, trails, and access rules are [online](#). Cypress Island is not serviced by a ferry. Boat moorage and camping is available at several DNR maintained sites. Additional information is available on DNR's [website](#). DNR also owns a relatively small parcel at Cattle Point on San Juan Island (GMU 413); hunting is prohibited at this site.

GMU 420 (WHIDBEY ISLAND) AND 421 (CAMANO ISLAND)

Deer are abundant, but very little public land is available for hunting on either Whidbey or Camano islands. Hunters should get permission from landowners before hunting on private property. [The Island County Public Works Department](#) owns a few small parcels that make up most of the public hunting lands on Whidbey and Camano islands. Hunters should contact them directly for maps and restrictions at 360-679-7331.

WDFW partnered with Whidbey Camano Land Trust to allow deer hunting on the Trillium Community Forest property. The Trillium Community Forest is open to hunting for the modern firearm, late modern firearm, late archery, and late muzzleloader seasons. The Trillium Community Forest is closed to other recreational activities when it is open to hunting. Hunters should contact the [Whidbey Camano Land Trust](#) for additional information regarding maps and more information.

Deer hunting at Naval Air Station Whidbey (WNAS) is open for archery only to military personnel and their guests. All hunters (military and civilian) need to buy the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Deer hunters access the area by entering the Sea Plane Base (SPB) gate, and non-military guests must be in the same vehicle as the military hunter. For more information, contact WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at 360-257-4024.

BEAR



About 8% of hunters in GMU 448 and 12% of hunters in GMU 407 were successful last year, taking 45 animals from GMU 448 and 50 from GMU 407. Twenty-five percent of hunters were successful in GMU 450, with 19 bears harvested.

In Region 4 (Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties), WDFW gives special spring black bear permit hunts to help timberland managers lessen tree damage caused by bears peeling tree bark. In the past, District 13 provided a spring bear hunt in the Monroe area north of State Highway 2. However, bear tree damage has declined so a special permit hunt is not planned for the 2021 spring season.

COUGAR

GMUs 448 and 450 are hunt areas with a harvest guideline of nine to 13 animals. In these GMUs, the Director may close the cougar late hunting season after Jan. 1 if cougar harvest meets or exceeds the guideline. Cougar hunters may hunt from Jan. 1 until the hunt area harvest guideline is reached and the GMU is closed by the Director, or until April 30, whichever occurs first. Each cougar hunter must verify if the cougar late hunting season is open or closed in GMUs 448 and 450 by calling the toll free cougar hunting hotline at 1-866-364-4868 or visiting the [website](#). The hotline and website will be updated weekly beginning Jan. 1, 2021. Last year, the cougar harvest did not exceed the guideline and the units remained open throughout the season. Hunters need a 2021 cougar tag to hunt cougars in April 2021.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

One mountain goat special permit is available in the Boulder River North goat hunt area, which is within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The terrain in this unit is steep and rugged. Prospective hunters should contact the trail and recreation specialist at the Darrington Ranger District office at 360-436-1155 to get the most current information on trail conditions and access routes. We recommend consulting with the U.S. Forest Service prior to applying for this hunt to discuss trail and road conditions and alternative access routes. Trails within the Boulder River Wilderness are on the [Mount Baker-Snoqualmie website](#).

All goat permit holders in the six years the unit has been open have been successful. Although permit holders may legally take a nanny (female) goat, we ask that hunters avoid shooting nannies as mountain goat populations are very sensitive to the removal of adult females. Permit holders will receive materials that describe ways to tell the difference between male and female goats. Hunters should review these materials before scouting and hunting and focus their efforts on harvesting a billy (male) goat. Several excellent guides to distinguish between sexes are available online, including [this one from Montana](#). In 2018, 2019, and 2020 hundreds of mountain goats were moved from Olympic National Park and released into the North Cascades. These goats are wearing radio collars, and some may move into the Boulder River North unit. We ask hunters to not shoot a collared animal.

Permittees may receive a request to help WDFW with biological sampling, in which case directions and sampling kits will be sent via mail. Successful hunters must present the head with horns attached for inspection within 10 days to a WDFW regional or district office, or a location chosen by a department representative. Contact information for WDFW regional offices are on page 3 of the 2020 [Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations](#) and the [WDFW website](#). Hunters should be prepared to give their Wild ID number and location and date of kill at the inspection. After inspection, the head and horns of a lawfully harvested mountain goat in Washington may be kept for personal use.



Photo by Greg Green

PHEASANT

Game farm produced pheasants will be released this fall on release sites, which are mapped in the [Western Washington Pheasant Program booklet](#).

In Snohomish County, public pheasant and waterfowl hunting is available on the Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. There are three access sites on the Ebey Island Unit. The primary access site is off Home Acres Road just off Highway 2 (marked 'Middle Parking Lot' below). The eastern portion of the unit may be accessed through a gate under State Highway 2. Limited parking is allowed near the east gate, follow the dike south to access the unit. The west side of the property can be accessed through the WDFW parking lot near the intersection of Home Acres Road and 43rd Street SE. Pheasants will be released on both the west and east parcels of the unit. The Crescent Lake Unit has two parking areas along Crescent Lake Road. The Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units will each get 35-45 birds. They will be released on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on a varied schedule for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. All pheasant release sites on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area will be open and follow the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. hunting hours. The Ebey Island Unit is closed to public access during the non-hunting season and bird dog training is not permitted. Bird dog training is allowed on the Crescent Lake Unit at designated sites.



Parking and pheasant release areas available at Ebey Island

Leque Island was converted to intertidal conditions in 2020. Consequently, pheasant hunting no longer occurs there.

In Island County, pheasant release sites on Whidbey Island include Bayview, Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville, and Sea Plane Base (SPB) sites. WDFW partners with private landowners to provide pheasant release sites at Arnold Farm and Zylstra Road. Hunters should check [online](#) for the location of specific sites. Fifteen to 20 birds will be released on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, except for Bayview, where releases will be Saturday and Sunday mornings. The Bayview pheasant release site is only open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays.

The SPB (Upper and Lower Game Ranges) and OLF Coupeville on the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station will be open this year. Access to the SPB pheasant release site is open to all hunters. All hunters (military and civilian) need to buy the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Check in at the Torpedo Road gate and sign in and out of the logbook for the Sea Plane Base and at the logbook in the parking lot for OLF Coupeville. Civilian hunters will need to submit to a background check before hunting Navy property. As a result, people should plan well in advance and all hunters should check with WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at 360- 257-4024 for updated rules and requirements and to be sure that no sites are closed for safety and security reasons during the pheasant season.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Hunters can harvest band-tailed pigeons in late September. A migratory bird authorization card is required, and the daily bag limit is two birds. The birds are in managed forest lands with mixed conifer age classes that provide feeding areas next to roosting areas. These types of habitat are often on private timberlands or DNR lands, so expect the same gated conditions described above. Band-tailed pigeons have strong affinities for the same areas, so scouting before your hunt is important.

GROUSE

Ruffed grouse is the most common grouse species in District 13, with sooty (blue) grouse found at higher elevations. Ruffed grouse are found at elevations below 2,500 feet. Both species favor mixed timber habitats, often near water. Hunters should look for mixed conifer and hardwood areas, especially in riparian areas, to find grouse. Abandoned or low use logging roads are good places to look for grouse as well.

In 2019, WDFW's Region 4 (North Puget Sound) began collecting the wings and tail fans of harvested grouse. From the collected wings and tail fans, biologists can infer the sex, age, and species of the harvested grouse. This information will increase our understanding of grouse

harvest trends and will be used to inform future grouse management decisions. Hunters are encouraged to voluntarily submit wings and tail fans at collection sites (pictured below). Collection site locations are listed on WDFW's [website](#).



Ruffed Grouse



Grouse Wing Collection Site

WATERFOWL



Photo by Greg Green

For an excellent introduction to waterfowl hunting, see [Let's Go Waterfowl Hunting](#). WDFW recently published a [web map application](#) depicting the abundance of marine birds throughout Washington's Salish Sea waters. The application also details abundance trends for game and non-game focal species. Hunters may find the application valuable when planning future outings.

Annual breeding waterfowl surveys did not occur during the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19, however, local breeding conditions were favorable as a result of the cool, wet spring.

As always, weather conditions during the fall and winter will influence where birds congregate and how the waterfowl migration progresses. Waterfowl hunting in District 13 should be productive if weather conditions are favorable. Typically, we see a slow start to the hunting season. During mild winters, ducks tend to stay in more northerly areas of British Columbia. However, as colder fronts move in and conditions become colder and wetter, hunters can expect increasing numbers of waterfowl to arrive in District 13.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Public waterfowl hunting is available on the Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. There are two access sites on the east side of the Ebey Island Unit. The first access site is under State Highway 2 on the northeast side of the property. The second access site is off Home Acres Road near Highway 2. Access will be open on the west side of the property in the WDFW parking lot near the intersection of Home Acres Road and 43rd Street SE. During pheasant hunting season, waterfowl hunters may only enter and hunt the Ebey Island Unit from 8a.m. to 4p.m. The Crescent Lake Unit has two parking areas along Crescent Lake Road that provide access. The Ebey Island Unit is closed to public access during the non-hunting season and bird dog training is not permitted. Bird dog training is allowed on the Crescent Lake Unit at designated sites.

The Spencer Island Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area will provide boat and walk-in access this year. Parking for the Spencer Island Unit will be a quarter mile back from the bridge to the island near the sewage treatment facility buildings.

The Leque Island Tidal Restoration project was completed during the fall of 2019 and the unit is open again for waterfowl hunting. Hunters with small boats that can be hand-launched should access the unit from the western parking lot south of SR 532 along Davis Slough. There is an additional parking lot and walking path along the eastern edge of the unit, but hunters should not access the unit through this area. Hunters must also observe the No Shooting Safety Area along the eastern walking path. The City of Stanwood plans to build an additional boat launch at Hamilton Landing Park that will provide access to the unit for larger boats.

At this time, we have tentative agreements with landowners for 14 Waterfowl Habitat and Access Program units, located primarily in the Stillaguamish Delta. These sites are all found on private lands enrolled in the Private Lands Access Program. Two waterfowl quality hunt units will be Hunt by Reservation and four of these units were planted with barley. More units may be added in the fall. More information about individual sites as they are finalized, including maps and access rules, are on the [WDFW Hunting Access website](#). Waterfowl Habitat and Access units on private lands will open as crop harvests are completed and other conditions are met, so not every unit will be available on opening day. We expect all units will be open by mid-November. For questions about the Private Lands Access Program (PLAP), contact Rob Wingard, WDFW Private Lands Access Program biologist, at 360-466-4345, extension 240.



The Hunt by Reservation program offers a quality hunt experience by limiting the number of days a site is hunted while guaranteeing the site will be available to the reservation holder. To make a reservation, visit the [WDFW hunting access link](#), create an account, choose a hunting site that is in the Hunt by Reservation category, and book the reservation. Reservations become available two weeks prior to the hunt day at 8 a.m.

A fast internet connection improves the chances of securing a reservation.

Robust numbers of snow geese coming into Washington are likely this winter. In addition to the traditional high concentrations in the Stanwood area, snow geese are expanding in Snohomish County and we expect that at least 5,000 to 10,000 birds will spend some time in the Snohomish River system. The 2020-21 snow goose season is Oct. 17 – Nov. 29; Dec. 12 – Jan. 31; and Feb. 13-23. However, Leque Island and that portion of Snohomish County east of Interstate 5 will be closed Feb. 13-23, 2021. Hunters should consult page 24 of the [Washington State Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game pamphlet](#) for additional closures on state-managed lands and should check the [WDFW Hunting Access website](#) for potential additions to snow goose sites that may be added to the Private Lands Access Program.

The Port Susan Game Reserve, which restricted Canada goose hunting, was eliminated in 2016.

PORT SUSAN BAY

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) allows hunting over tidelands under their ownership at Port Susan Bay. However, the restored area and a 150-yard buffer around it is off-limits to hunting, and there is no hunting access from TNC property (see map below). For further information regarding hunting TNC ownership, contact the TNC Puget Sound Stewardship Coordinator at 360-419-3140 or washington@tnc.org.



Map of restricted hunting area owned by The Nature Conservancy

WHIDBEY ISLAND

Access to public lands on Whidbey Island is extremely limited. Hunters should be aware that Deer Lagoon is closed to hunting by a county ordinance that restricts the discharge of firearms. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust owns parcels at Crockett Lake and Dugualla Bay, and their ownerships are closed to hunting. Land Trust Dugualla Bay parcels are shown below. Hunters should contact the [Whidbey Camano Land Trust](#) with any questions about boundaries and ownership at Crockett Lake.



Whidbey Camano Land Trust parcels (in blue and green) at Dugualla Bay

Waterfowl hunting on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is open to military personnel and their guests. All hunters (military and civilian) need to buy the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Access the duck blinds by entering the Sea Plane Base (SPB) gate. Non-military guests must be in the same vehicle as the military hunter. For more information, contact WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at 360-257-4024.

CAMANO ISLAND

Iverson Spit Preserve is managed by Island County Parks, within the Island County Public Works Department. Hunting is allowed at Iverson Spit outside of the dike in the intertidal area. Questions about the preserve should be directed to the Island County Public Works Department at 360-679-7331.



Iverson Spit Preserve park boundaries

The tidelands near English Boom County Park on the north end of Camano Island include some privately-owned parcels. Hunters wanting to access tidelands in this area must obey all signs showing private ownership, no trespassing, or no hunting. These signs are legitimate and legal and show which parcels are privately owned and therefore not open to the public.