

**2020**

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Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



Deer in GMU 568 – Photo courtesy of Randy Lawffer

# **DISTRICT 9 HUNTING PROSPECTS**

Skamania, Clark, and Klickitat counties

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## DISTRICT 9 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 9 is in the southwest/central part of Washington and is the only district in the state that spans the Cascade Crest. Game management units (GMUs) in District 9 include 554 (Yale), 564 (Battle Ground), 568 (Washougal), 560 (Lewis River), 572 (Siouxon), 574 (Wind River), 578 (West Klickitat), 388 (Grayback), and 382 (East Klickitat). Hunters can choose from a variety of habitats, including areas covered by west- and east-side season dates and permit regulations.

The Cascade Mountain Range dominates the geography of District 9, which divides the district into west- and east-side zones. Topography varies from near sea level along the Columbia River and its lower tributaries to alpine habitats associated with Mount St. Helens and Mt. Adams in the Cascade Range.

Dominant west-side river drainages include the Lewis, Washougal, and Wind rivers. Major eastside watersheds include the White Salmon and Klickitat rivers. Rock Creek in eastern Klickitat County is the primary watershed in ponderosa pine/oak and shrub-steppe portions of the district. The Columbia River bounds the southern border of the district.

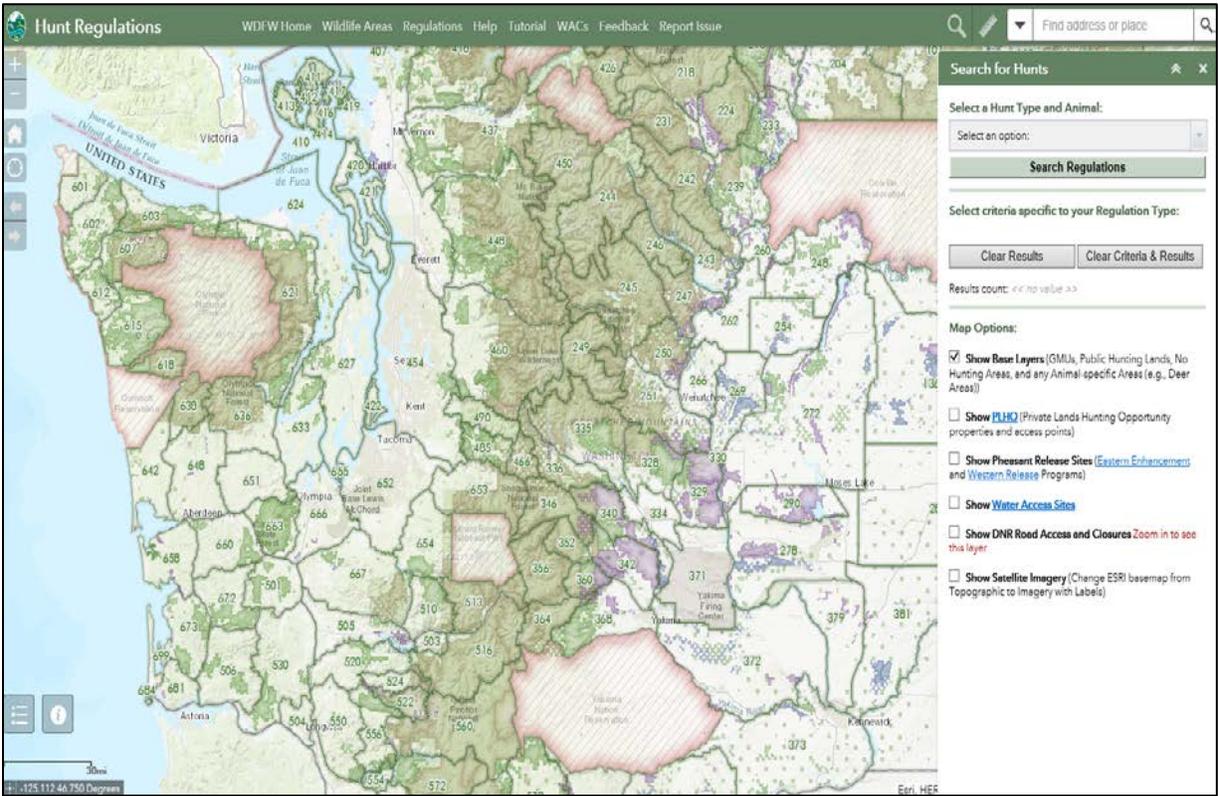
District 9 is one of the most diverse habitat areas of the state and includes west side coniferous forests dominated by Douglas fir and western hemlock. These forests give way to Oregon white oak and ponderosa pine as you travel to the east side of the Cascade Mountains. In eastern Klickitat County, pine and oak habitat transition into shrub-steppe dominated by grassland and sagebrush.

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands make up the majority of the west side forestland. These lands are open to public access. Weyerhaeuser owns a block of land in GMU 568 (Washougal) and scattered lands throughout GMU 578 (West Klickitat). Hunters must have permits or leases to access this land and can find more information about recreation on Weyerhaeuser property [here](#).

Eastside forest and shrub-steppe/grassland habitat is primarily privately owned with limited public access. Most industrial timber company lands are open to public hunting but generally are not open to motorized vehicles. Due to high fire danger during August, September, and October, access to these lands may be restricted. Most of these timber companies maintain recreational access hotlines where hunters can find out if the land is closed before hunting. You can find a list of recreational access websites and hotlines maintained by private industrial timber companies at the end of this document.

Hancock timberlands in GMU 578 (West Klickitat) are popular for hunting deer, elk, and turkey. You can find more information about hunting on Hancock Klickitat timberlands at the end of this document. Stevenson Land Company also owns scattered timberlands throughout GMUs 574 (Wind River) and 578, and you can find information about recreation on their land [here](#). The

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has a Feel Free to Hunt access agreement with Western Pacific Timber in GMU 388 (Grayback). This land is popular for deer hunting. You can find more information about hunting on Western Pacific Timberland at the end of this document. You can find more information about hunting opportunities on private land on [WDFW's Private Lands webpage](#). The [Hunt Regulations webpage](#) has useful layers like GMU and elk/deer area boundaries, roads, Wildlife Areas, and different base maps (aerial photos, topography).



## ELK



WDFW manages elk in District 9 as part of the Mount St. Helens Herd, described in the [Saint Helens Elk Herd Plan](#) on the WDFW website. You can find more information on elk management in District 9 in the [Game Harvest Statistics](#) and [Game Status and Trend Reports](#).

Elk hunting within District 9 is managed under a variety of seasons, so check regulations closely before going afield. Hunters should be aware that GMUs 388 (Grayback) and 382 (East Klickitat) require Eastern Washington elk tags, while the remainder of District 9 is within the Western Washington elk tag area. Additionally, GMU 564 (Battle Ground) and 554 (Yale) are Firearm Restriction GMUs.

GMU 560 (Lewis River) offers the most opportunity for elk hunting in District 9 in terms of size. Most of this area is public land within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. PacifiCorps also offers non-motorized access to their lands on the north side of Swift Reservoir. Early-season snow levels can affect hunter access and success during the modern firearm season. GMUs 574 (Wind River), 572 (Siouxon), and 578 (West Klickitat) are also all good elk units. GMUs 574 and 572 are primarily public U.S. Forest Service and WA State DNR lands, while GMU 578 is primarily private land with some Washington state DNR land; so make sure you have good maps to identify ownership in this area.

GMUs 388 and 382 in Klickitat County have very few elk and are generally considered better for deer hunting. GMU 564 in Clark County only has elk in the northern and eastern portions of the GMU. This area has a mix of public and private lands, and it's important to know about ownership before planning your hunt in this area.

Some areas may be closed to both motorized and non-motorized access. Even in familiar areas, we recommend extra scouting because elk distribution may have changed, and normal hunting lands may be closed due to fire danger.

## **ELK POPULATION INFORMATION**

Elk populations in the game management units comprising the Mount Saint Helens elk herd area are down from historic high levels during the mid-2000s. This population reduction was implemented per the objectives of the [Saint Helens Elk Herd Plan](#). Liberal antlerless elk hunting opportunity, combined with several years of late winter and spring storms, reduced the elk population in these GMUs. The winter of 2016-17 was unusually severe, with early snowfall and persistent cold, wet conditions throughout the winter. Severe winters have a larger impact when animals are in relatively poor condition entering the winter. Elk within the Saint Helens herd typically lack large fat reserves to help with long, hard winters.

Reflecting on these challenging conditions, the 2017 spring survey of elk in the monitored portions of the Saint Helens herd showed a 30-35 percent reduction from 2016 numbers. The winters of 2017-18 and 2018-19 were mild however hoof disease continues to impact survival and reproduction in this herd. Survey efforts conducted during the spring of 2018 and 2019 indicate that the Mount St. Helens elk herd has stabilized at this lower population level (surveys were not conducted in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions). These indicators point toward an elk population that is below objective and well below historic highs. Therefore, hunters should expect a generally less productive elk hunting season during the 2020 hunt. WDFW has reduced antlerless hunting opportunity accordingly.

## **ELK HOOF DISEASE (TAHD)**

Since 2008, reports of elk with deformed, broken, or missing hooves have increased dramatically in southwest Washington, with sporadic observations in other areas west of the Cascade Range. While elk have long suffered from "hoof rot," a relatively common livestock disease, the rapid spread, and severity of this new affliction was something completely different.

Scientific tests commissioned by WDFW in 2013 found that these abnormalities were strongly associated with treponeme bacteria, known to cause digital dermatitis in cattle, sheep, and goats. Although this disease has plagued the dairy industry for decades, the treponeme bacteria had never been documented in elk or any other wildlife species until 2013.

Since then, WDFW has continued to work with scientists, veterinarians, outdoor organizations, and others to develop management strategies for elk infected by treponeme-associated hoof disease (TAHD).

Several aspects of TAHD in elk are clear:

- **Vulnerability:** The disease appears to be highly infectious among elk, but there is no evidence that it affects humans. TAHD can affect any hoof in any elk, young or old, male or female.
- **Hooves only:** Tests show the disease is limited to animals' hooves and does not affect their meat or organs. If the meat looks normal and if hunters harvest, process, and cook it practicing good hygiene, it is probably safe to eat.
- **No treatment:** Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the disease, nor are there any proven options for treating it in the field. Similar diseases in livestock are treated by cleaning and bandaging their hooves and giving them foot baths, but that is not a realistic option for free-ranging elk.

### Counties with confirmed cases of TAHD

As of July 2020, WDFW confirmed cases of elk with TAHD in 17 Washington counties, primarily in the southwest region of the state. The April 2018 discovery of TAHD in the Trout Lake Valley in western Klickitat County was the first documented case east of the Cascades. Since then, WDFW has documented cases in the Blue Mountains of Washington and Kittitas County. Since 2015, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has also confirmed TAHD in elk populations in both western and eastern Oregon. The disease has also been confirmed in Idaho and recently in California.

### How you can help

- **Leave hooves:** Scientists believe that treponeme bacteria are associated with moist soil and spread to new areas on the hooves of infected elk. For that reason, WDFW encourages hunters to remove the hooves of any elk taken in affected areas and leave them onsite.
- **Report elk:** Hunters can help WDFW track TAHD by reporting observations of both affected and unaffected elk on the department's [online reporting form](#).

- **Clean shoes and tires:** Anyone who hikes or drives off-road in a known affected area can help minimize the risk of spreading the disease to new areas by removing all mud from their shoes and tires before leaving the area.

WDFW is currently studying the effects of the disease on Washington elk populations and has partnered with Washington State University to monitor and research the disease. For more information on TAHD, please see pages 65-66 of the [Big Game Hunting pamphlet](#) and the [WDFW hoof disease webpage](#).



Example of elk hooves deformed by TAHD

## DEER



Deer in GMU 564 – Photo courtesy of Daren Hauswald

Deer populations are generally stable in lower elevation units such as Washougal (568) and Battle Ground (564). Deer harvest in West Klickitat (578), Grayback (388), and East Klickitat (382) was slightly higher in 2019 than in recent years, which is hopefully an indication of a recovery for these populations. Deer populations are generally low in the Cascade Mountain GMUs, including Lewis River (560), Wind River (574), and Siouxon (572). The extreme winter of 2016-17 hurt deer populations throughout District 9 from which they are still recovering. December 2019 surveys indicate a slight increase in the population and recent spring surveys show that fawn survival is back to its historic average. Success rates in fall 2019 increased slightly over recent years, which is another encouraging sign for District 9 deer populations.

Deer harvest and success is remarkably consistent within District 9, where hunters are expected to harvest approximately 2,000 bucks during the 2020 general season, representing a success rate of 20-25 percent. You can find historical information on deer harvest trends in District 9 on the WDFW website under [Game Harvest Statistics](#) and [Game Status and Trend Reports](#).

Successful hunting for black-tailed deer is primarily a function of the effort that hunters put into the hunt. Black-tailed deer thrive in heavily vegetated habitats and are often very nocturnal. Successful black-tailed deer hunters must be in position early in the morning and carefully hunt near sources of food and secure cover.

Bucks travel more during the rut, covering large amounts of territory searching for does in estrus. This makes bucks more vulnerable, as they spend less time hiding and you can sometimes find them in open habitats such as clear-cuts and meadows. Not surprisingly, approximately one-third

of the annual buck harvest in Region 5 occurs during the four-day late buck hunt held each November.

Within District 9, GMUs 554 (Yale), 560 (Lewis River), 564 (Battle Ground), 568 (Washougal), and 572 (Siouxon) offer an attractive general season hunting opportunity. Hunters should note, however, the firearm restrictions in GMUs 554 and 564 (see page 90 of the [2020 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations](#)).

Those interested in trophy-hunting opportunities for deer might consider any of the Klickitat County units. GMU 578 (West Klickitat), GMU 388 (Grayback), and GMU 382 (East Klickitat) are all managed under a 3-point or larger antler restriction. Collectively, the Klickitat GMUs support an annual harvest of around a thousand three-point or larger bucks. Hunters are advised to carefully review the regulations before going afield, as the rules differ in each unit and none of the Klickitat GMUs allow general season late buck rifle hunting. GMU 382 is mainly private land and deer hunting is by permit only on the Simcoe Mountains Unit of the Klickitat Wildlife Area (Deer Area 5382). The main units of the Klickitat Wildlife Area are located in GMU 388 and provide good deer hunting opportunities. GMU 578 has some blocks of WA State DNR land as well as private industrial forestlands that are open to non-motorized access.

Some areas may be closed to both motorized and non-motorized access. Hunters are advised to do extra scouting even in familiar areas because deer distribution may have changed, and normal hunting lands may be closed for fire danger.

WDFW is interested in collecting teeth from harvested black-tailed deer bucks. If you are successful, please remove one of the incisor teeth as shown in the diagram on the tooth envelope below. All regional offices will have tooth envelopes to pick up. You can also contact the Region 5 office at 360-696-6211, and they will mail you a tooth envelope. Once the tooth has been analyzed, you can check the WDFW website [here with your WILD ID number](#) to see the age of your deer.

**THIS ENVELOPE FOR DEER AND ELK ONLY**

Species: Mule Deer \_\_\_\_\_ W-T Deer \_\_\_\_\_ B-T Deer \_\_\_\_\_ Elk \_\_\_\_\_ Transport Tag Doc.# \_\_\_\_\_

Kill Type: General Season \_\_\_ Special Permit \_\_\_ Depredation \_\_\_ Landowner \_\_\_ Poached \_\_\_ Roadkill \_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Wild ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Kill (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Hunter's Name (Last, First, Middle Initial): \_\_\_\_\_

Weapon Type: Modern Firearm \_\_\_\_\_ Archery \_\_\_\_\_ Muzzleloader \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

GMU of Kill: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Kill: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Kill: (drainage, road, or other specifics): \_\_\_\_\_

Sex of Kill: Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Age Class of Kill: Fawn/Calf \_\_\_ Yearling \_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_

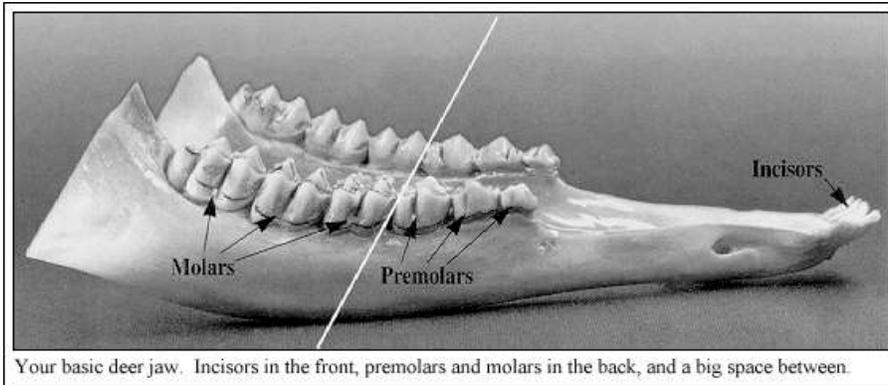
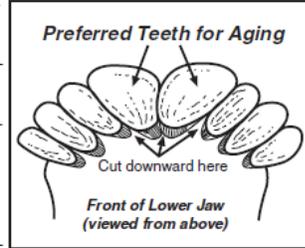
Number of Antler Points (points include eye guards at least 1" long): LEFT \_\_\_ RIGHT \_\_\_ Incisor teeth collected: Yes No

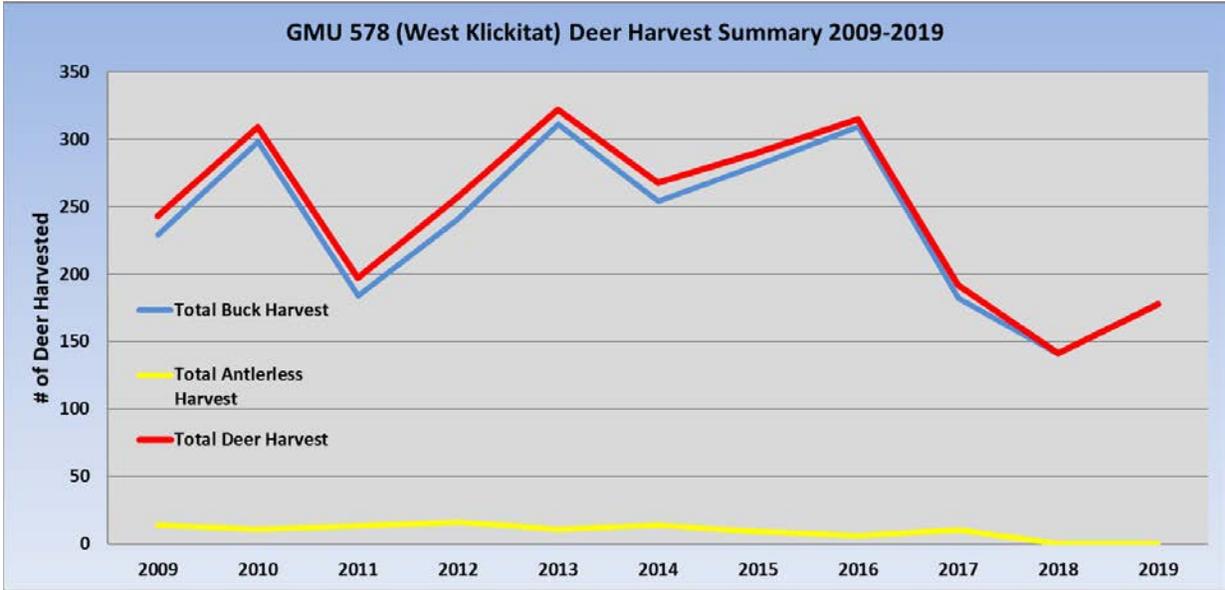
Tissue Sample Collected for DNA Analysis? Yes No Vial Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CWD Sample collected: Yes No Jar Number \_\_\_\_\_

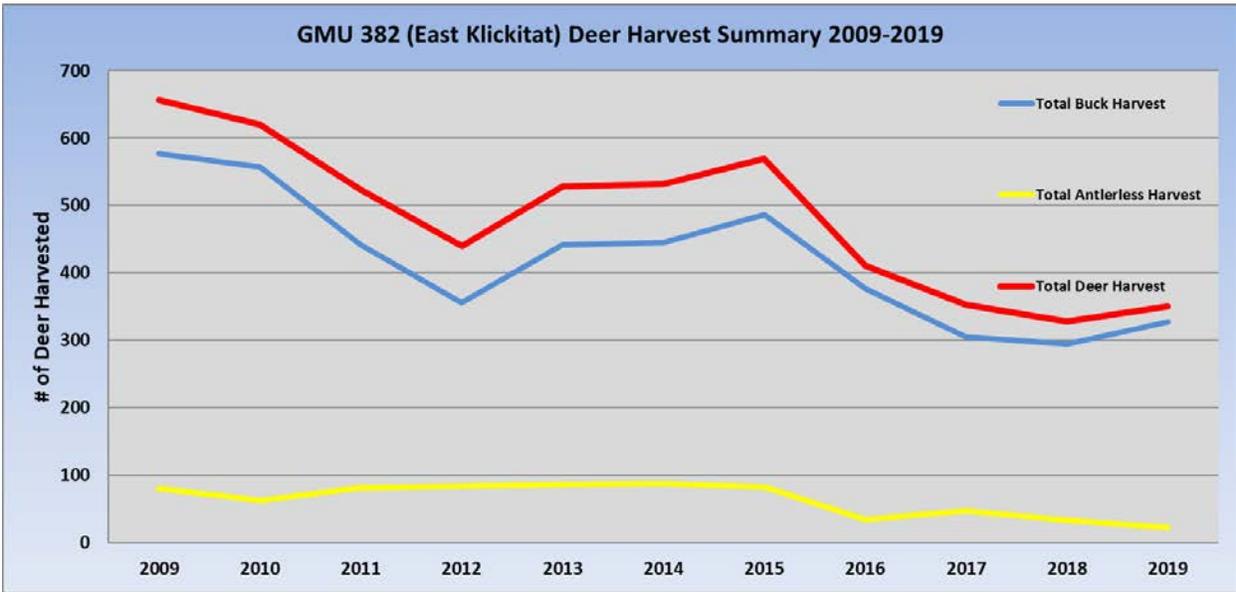
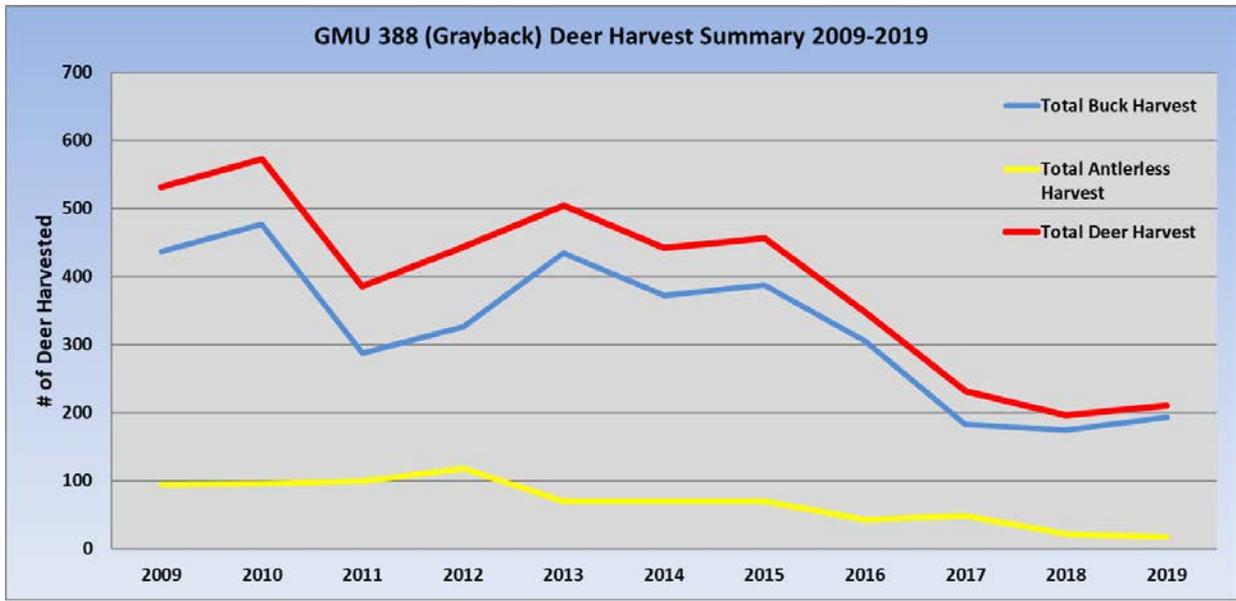
Did the animal have an ear tag (or a hole in the ear)? (please circle one): Yes No Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the animal have a radio-collar? (please circle one): Yes No Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer / Biologist \_\_\_\_\_







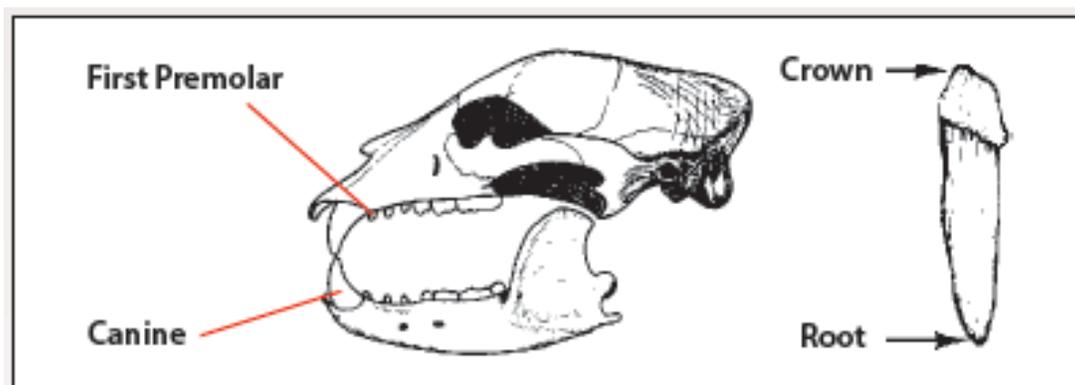
## BEAR



©TOM KOGUT

District 9 makes up part of both the South Cascades and Eastern Cascades black bear hunt zones for the fall bear hunting season. In 2020, both the South Cascades zone (GMUs 574, 572, 568, 564, and 560) and the East Cascades zone (GMUs 578, 388, and 382) are open from Aug. 1-Nov. 15. The bag limit is now two black bears per license year statewide. In 2019, hunters harvested 303 bears in the South Cascades (9 percent success rate) and 370 in the East Cascades zone (9 percent success rate). These success rates are just below the statewide average (10 percent). Currently, no spring black bear hunts are available in District 9.

All successful bear hunters are **required** to submit the premolar tooth in a tooth envelope by December 1, 2020. See page 68 of the [Big Game Hunting](#) pamphlet for details.





## COUGAR



Cougars are difficult to hunt, and deer and elk hunters typically harvest them opportunistically. The early cougar hunting season runs from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31. In 2012, a season harvest guideline system was initiated, which closes hunt areas after Jan. 1 if the harvest guidelines have been met or exceeded. The late hunting season is from Jan. 1 to Apr. 30 or when the harvest guideline is reached, whichever comes first. For more information on these guidelines and to check if the area you are interested in hunting is closed, see the [cougar webpage](#). All successful cougar hunters must report their harvest to the hotline (866-364-4868, press 3 after the recording) within 72 hours, and all cougar pelts must be sealed by WDFW within five days of harvest (skull and hide unfrozen with proof of sex attached to the pelt). Contact a [WDFW office](#) to make an appointment to have a cougar pelt sealed.

## WATERFOWL



Goose Hunting in Clark County – Photo courtesy of Derek Kluksdahl

### GOOSE HUNTING

The majority of goose hunting opportunities in District 9 occurs in Clark County, which is a part of Goose Management Area 2 - Inland. Hunters are reminded of the complex goose hunting regulations designed to protect wintering populations of the dusky Canada goose. New hunters and those whose hunting authorization was invalidated for Area 2 (Coast or Inland) during the previous year, need to pass an exam with a minimum of 80 percent to receive authorization for the current year. Please visit our [Goose Identification](#) page for more information.

Very little goose hunting is available in Skamania County. Goose hunting in Klickitat County is limited and primarily associated with private lands. You must always have permission before accessing these sites. Check the [2020 Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulations pamphlet](#) for more information on season length and bag limits. As in previous years, the daily bag limit is 20 geese per day; which includes up to four Canada geese of any subspecies (except dusky geese), up to six white geese (Snow and Ross's geese), and up to ten Pacific white-fronted geese.

A successful season in Clark County relies on sufficient precipitation in the fall and early winter to fill the wetlands, and cold weather in the northern portions of the migratory route to push the geese south. Monitor weather forecasts and scout your hunting areas ahead of time to ensure geese have arrived and are congregating in areas that allow hunting.

## **RECENT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO AREA 2 GOOSE HUNTING**

Goose hunting in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties is subject to the additional restrictions of Goose Management Area 2 - Inland. These restrictions are in place to protect the dusky subspecies of the Canada goose. We encourage goose hunters to review the different subspecies of Canada geese in southwest Washington and remind you that the ability to identify the different subspecies is necessary for a productive and enjoyable goose hunting season.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved the following regulations for the 2020-21 southwest Washington goose season in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states of Oregon and Alaska:

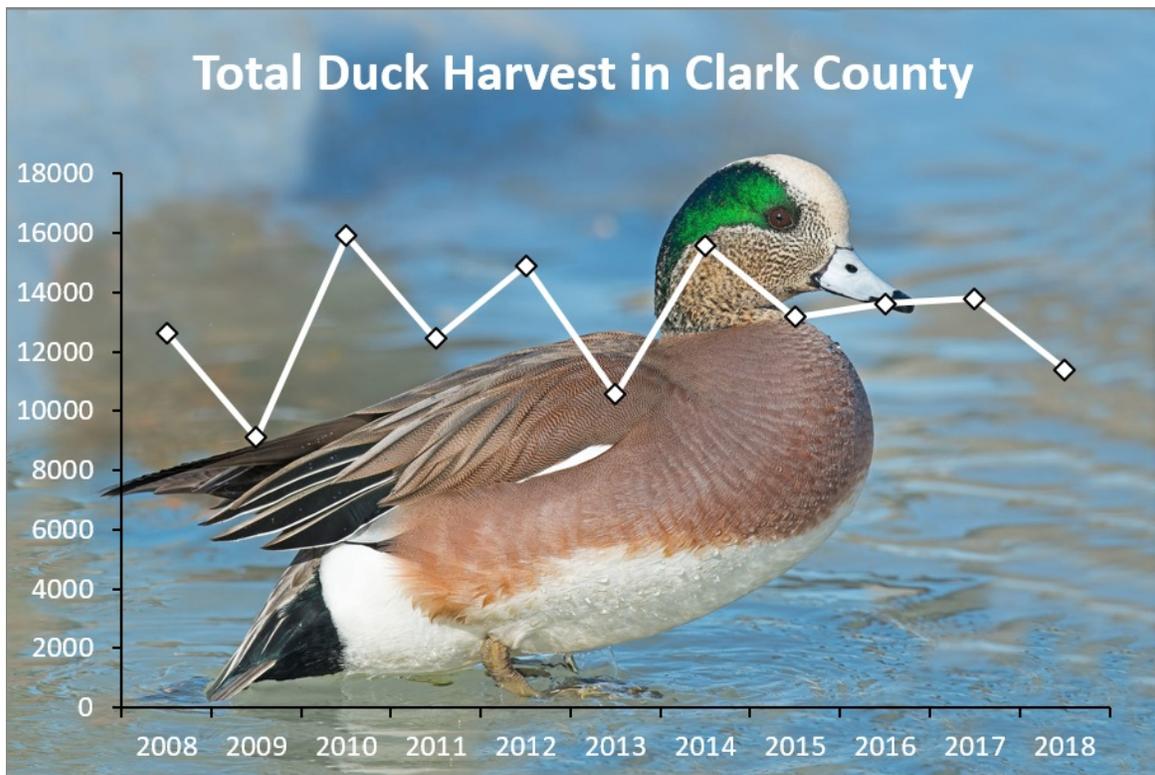
- The season for dusky Canada geese is **closed**. If a hunter takes a dusky Canada goose or does not comply with field check requirements, that hunter's authorization will be invalidated, and the hunter will not be able to hunt geese in Goose Management Area 2 for the rest of the season.
- Goose hunting hours extended to 30 minutes after the start of official waterfowl hunting hours to 30 minutes before the end of official waterfowl hunting hours (same as other goose hunting areas of the state).
- Hunters are required to record harvest on a harvest card that they get when they buy their license. Immediately after taking a goose, you must fill out your harvest card in ink. You are required to report the information on your harvest card to WDFW by using the online reporting system at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/), or by mailing the cards to: WDFW, Wildlife Program – Waterfowl Section, PO Box 43141, Olympia WA 98504. The reporting deadline is March 20, 2021.
- Goose Management Area 2 is split between the Coast (Pacific County and a portion of Grays Harbor County west of Highway 101) and Inland Areas (Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties, and a portion of Grays Harbor County east of Highway 101).
- General season-ending dates are extended into March (late season discontinued). All hunters can now participate in the February-March season, but hunting will not be allowed on National Wildlife Refuges or WDFW Wildlife Areas during this season.
- The goose hunting season will be open every day from Sept. 5-13 as well as Oct. 17-Nov. 1, 2020.

Hunters are advised to review the revised goose identification [training program](#) before hunting this season and check the [2020 Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulations pamphlet](#) for more information. Wildlife managers are relying on southwest goose hunters to make this season format successful, so goose hunting can remain open in permit zones.

Most public goose hunting in Clark County is in the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Hunter access to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is by reservation. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 goose harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”

## DUCK HUNTING

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved a liberal duck hunting season of 108 days (two-day youth hunt, one-day youth, veteran and active military hunt, and a 105-day general hunt), and a daily bag limit of seven ducks. Please note the reduced daily bag limit for scaup in the [2020 Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulations pamphlet](#). Like Canada goose hunting, most public access for duck hunting in Clark County is limited to the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 duck harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”



The following sources provide excellent information on North American waterfowl populations:

<http://flyways.us/>

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/bird-watching/waterfowl-identification.php>

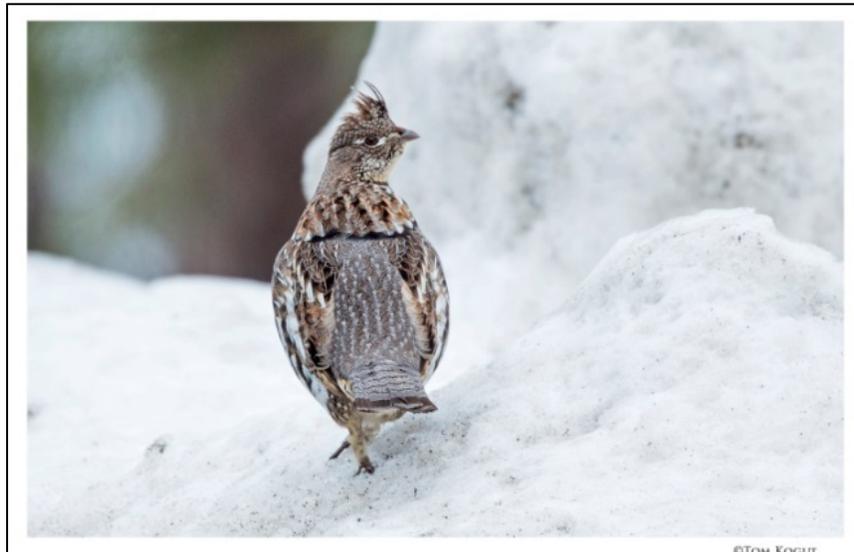
<https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications/population-status.php>

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species.php>

## DOVE

Dove hunting in District 9 is primarily associated with Clark and Klickitat counties. In Clark County, dove hunting opportunity exists on WDFW lands in the Vancouver lowlands, including the Shillapoo Wildlife Area. Most of the hunting opportunity in Klickitat County is associated with private hunt clubs in the eastern part of the county. The majority of Klickitat County is privately owned, so please be sure to secure permission from private landowners before you hunt on private land. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 dove harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”

## FOREST GROUSE



Grouse season in Washington runs from Sept. 1 – Dec. 31. Skamania County, which is predominately public land, provides hunters with the most opportunity in the district. In District 9, the majority of quality grouse habitat is on USFS lands in Skamania County and certain areas of the Simcoe Mountains west of Highway 97 in Klickitat County.

Most grouse harvest in District 9 is associated with general deer and elk hunting seasons, when birds are hunted opportunistically. Prospective hunters should focus hunting efforts on brushy riparian zones or overgrown abandoned logging roads for the best chance at success, especially

for ruffed grouse. Hunters interested in forest grouse will improve their chances by scouting areas before their hunt. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 grouse harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”



Young hunter in Skamania County – Photo courtesy of Pete Nelson

In 2019, District 9 began collecting the wings and tails of hunter-harvested forest grouse intending to collect more data to help track population trends of each species. Grouse hunters can help by depositing one wing and the tail of grouse harvested into wing collection barrels that are located around the district. Paper collection bags and instructions are available at each barrel location. Please use one bag for each bird and do not deposit wings in a plastic bag. The barrel locations for each district can be found here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/upland-birds/grouse-wing-tail-collection#barrel-locations>. The barrel locations are subject to change before or during the grouse season.

## PHEASANT



Pheasant hunting in Clark County – Photo courtesy of Brad Cady

District 9 has very little, if any wild production of pheasants, especially compared to areas of eastern Washington. Essentially, all hunting opportunities are associated with pen-raised birds that are released at specific locations in Klickitat County (Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Sites) and Clark County (Western Washington Pheasant Release Sites). In Clark County, most pheasant hunting is associated with the Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release areas. In Klickitat County, most pheasant hunting occurs on three release sites near Goldendale or the surrounding private properties (with landowner permission). Please read more about our [Western Washington Pheasant Release Program](#) (for Clark and Skamania counties) and [Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Program](#) (for Klickitat County) on our website, which includes maps of the release sites. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 pheasant harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”

You can find details about each of the pheasant hunting sites below.

## **CLARK COUNTY PHEASANT RELEASE SITES**

### **Shillapoo Wildlife Area**

The Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release sites are on WDFW-owned land and comprise approximately 1,450 acres. To reach both the Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release sites, take the Fourth Plain Blvd. exit (exit #1D) off I-5. Go west on Fourth Plain Blvd. For the Vancouver Lake release site, head north on Fruit Valley Road, then west on La Frombois Road to the site. For the Shillapoo release site, stay on Lower River Road to the site. Keep in mind that these areas are extremely popular on Saturdays, with typically more than 100 vehicles at the Shillapoo release sites.

## **KLICKITAT COUNTY PHEASANT RELEASE SITES**

WDFW releases approximately 350 pheasants at three sites in Klickitat County each year. One is located on department-owned land and two are on privately-owned land enrolled in the “Feel Free to Hunt” access program. Please treat the properties respectfully so future visitors may enjoy these sites as well. All sites are for day-use only, and no overnight camping is allowed. These sites are relatively undeveloped, with primitive road access. In early fall, there is usually a high fire risk so please take necessary precautions. Roads may become slippery and muddy after fall rains and snow. Be cautious when choosing parking spots next to roads to avoid getting stuck. Driving off-road is not allowed, regardless of the season. The use of non-toxic shot is required within designated release areas.

### **Goldendale Hatchery Pheasant Release Site**

WDFW owns this 240-acre site. It is bounded by Hill Road on the west side and Fish Hatchery Road on the north side.

From Goldendale, drive west on Highway 142 approximately four miles to the intersection with Hill Road. Drive about a half-mile north on Hill Road, across the bridge over Spring Creek, then turn east on a dirt road onto WDFW property. This road goes into the center of the property.

Additional parcels of private land adjacent to the Goldendale Hatchery release site are usually enrolled in a WDFW “Hunt by Reservation access program. Please consult the [WDFW Private Lands Access page](#) for more information on access and temporary closures of these sites, as well as to make a reservation for hunting access on these adjacent parcels.

Note: The hatchery facilities are located along the east boundary of the parcel. Please stay away from the immediate vicinity of the buildings to protect workers.

### **Gun Club Property**

This 480-acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by Rogers Road on the north and Fenton Lane to the east.

From the intersection with Broadway Street in Goldendale, drive east on the Bickleton Highway 5.6 miles to the intersection with Purvine Road. Turn right (south) on Purvine Road and drive 0.9 miles to the T intersection with Rogers Road. Go either left or right on Rogers Road and look for wire gates accessing the property. There are two gates. Both are marked with the WDFW logo. Park along Rogers Road, outside the fence, and walk in. Purvine Road may be impassable when wet. For alternative access, go east another mile on the Bickleton Highway, and turn right (south) on Fenton Lane. Follow Fenton Lane south one mile to its intersection with Rogers Road. Turn right (west) onto Rogers Road and drive about 0.1 miles west to a gate and parking area.

### **Finn Ridge Road Property**

This 160-acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by the Finn Ridge Road along the south property line and Ahola Road to the west.

From Centerville, drive two miles west on the Centerville Highway to a 90-degree bend in the highway to the south. Turn right (north) on Erickson Road. Drive 1 mile to the intersection with the Finn Ridge Road. Turn left (west) onto Finn Ridge Road and follow it about 1.5 miles to the first sign marking the corner of the site, on the right. It is marked with green Feel Free to Hunt signs.



Pheasant release in Klickitat County with a Mount Adams view – Photo by Carly Wickhem

## QUAIL, GRAY PARTRIDGE, AND CHUKAR



In District 9, upland game birds are almost exclusively hunted within Klickitat County, with quail being the most successfully hunted of the three species by far. Most access for upland bird hunting is restricted to private lands and hunt clubs in eastern Klickitat County. Hunters interested in hunting this area should seek access permission in advance of the season. Most hunt clubs have waiting lists for new members, and access is difficult without membership for those lands. As of the writing of this document, the 2019 upland game bird harvest numbers were not available. Once the data is finalized, it will be available [here](#), under the heading “Small Game.”

## TURKEY



First Turkey– Photo courtesy of Randy Lawffer

Wild turkey populations in Klickitat County continue to be very healthy, and hunting conditions for fall 2020 should be typical for this area. The 2020 fall season in Klickitat County is open to

general season hunting, which means no special permit is required. Fall hunt dates are Sept. 26 to Oct. 16, 2020, and the bag limit is one either sex turkey. Please refer to page 32 in the [2020 Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Regulations pamphlet](#) for more information.

In fall 2019, 149 turkeys were harvested in the District 9 fall general season (includes GMUs 382, 388, 568-578) with a success rate of 40 percent. That was up from 94 turkeys and 34 percent success in fall 2018, which was the first year of a fall general season in District 9.

The majority of quality turkey hunting areas in Klickitat County are below 1,500 feet. Popular hunting areas are generally associated with the White Salmon and Klickitat River drainages. East of the Klickitat River, you can find turkeys on the Klickitat Wildlife Area and also in the Simcoe Mountains to the north and west of the town of Goldendale. Most of the land in and around the Simcoe Mountains is owned by private timber companies. Please refer to the “Private Industrial Forestlands” section below for details on hunting access and be sure to have good maps that correctly identify ownership if you are planning to hunt in these areas. Some landowners in Western Klickitat County complain of turkey damage on their property and may be willing to provide access to turkey hunters that ask for permission and practice good hunter ethics.

Outside of Klickitat County, there is less opportunity for turkey hunting within the district. In Skamania County, turkey populations are located primarily in the eastern part of the county between the Wind River and Underwood and below 1,000 feet in elevation, although flocks of turkeys have been reported as far west as Beacon Rock. In most cases, hunters interested in this area will need to contact private landowners. Clark County offers little to no turkey hunting opportunity.



Turkeys in the Klickitat River drainage

## PUBLIC LAND RESOURCES

### **DNR-Pacific Cascades Office (SW WA)**

601 Bond Road  
PO Box 280  
Castle Rock, WA 98611-0280  
Phone: 360-577-2025  
[pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov)

### **DNR-Southeast Region Office (Klickitat County)**

713 Bowers Road  
Ellensburg, WA 98926-9301  
Phone: 509-925-8510  
[southeast.region@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:southeast.region@dnr.wa.gov)

Link to purchase DNR quad maps: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/node/506>

### **Gifford Pinchot National Forest**

Mapping Resources: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/giffordpinchot/maps-pubs>

## PRIVATE LANDS

There are private lands of various sizes that are open to hunting for different game species. Private Lands Access is available through different types of access:

- [Feel Free to Hunt](#)
- [Register to Hunt](#)
- [Hunt by Written Permission](#)
- [Hunt by Reservation](#)

You can search for lands by GMU or county here:

[https://privatelands.wdfw.wa.gov/private\\_land/search.php](https://privatelands.wdfw.wa.gov/private_land/search.php)

## PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLANDS

**\*\*NOTES:** Private industrial forestlands are often closed to all recreation from mid-late summer through early fall because of fire danger. Be sure to check on the status of these lands before scouting or hunting. Also, private timberland is often bought-and-sold between timber companies, so be sure to have updated ownership maps. \*\*

### **DGS Timber LLC (American Forest Management)**

- Generally, allows non-motorized access. Please abide by any signs posted at access points.
- Mainly GMUs 578 and 388.

### **Hancock Forest Management (HFM)**

- Generally, allows non-motorized access. Please abide by any signs posted at access points.
- Access hotline (509) 364-3331
- Mainly GMUs 578 and 388.

### **PacifiCorp**

- Own over 15,000 acres within the Lewis River basin that are managed for fish and wildlife and are generally open to non-motorized access.
- See their website for hunting access maps and more information:  
<https://www.pacificorp.com/community/recreation/washington/lewis-river-hunting-access.html>
- Mainly GMUs 554 and 560

### **SDS (Stevenson Land Company or Broughton Lumber)**

- Generally open to walk-in access, please abide by any posted signs. More information at <http://stevensonlandcompany.com/recreation-opportunities/>
- Mainly GMUs 574 and 578
- Hunters should be aware that certain blocks of SDS lands are now closed to access without written permission from SDS. Additional parcels, particularly around the White Salmon and Snowden areas, are closed to hunting with certain weapon types.

### **Weyerhaeuser**

- Recreational access hotline 866-636-6531 or online: <https://recreation.weyerhaeuser.com/>
- Access varies by tree farm
  - Yacolt (Columbia River East)
    - Access is by permit only and permits can be purchased at the website above. Please see the website for details, including maps.
    - GMU 568

- Klickitat County
  - Access is by Recreational Lease only. Please see the website for details, including maps.
  - GMU 578

### **Western Pacific Timber**

- The majority of these lands are enrolled in WDFW’s “Feel Free to Hunt” access program. The lands are open to walk-in access only, except for county roads that run through the property and remain open for motorized access. More information at <http://wptimber.com/about/rules-recreation-policy/>
- Contact the WPT Boise office (208) 343-6074 for closure updates.
- Please refer to the [WDFW Private Lands Access page](#) for more information on hunting on Western Pacific Timber property.
- GMU 388



## Western Pacific Timber



Western Pacific Timber (WPT) maintains more than 65,000 acres of private land open to the public, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Help us all maintain access to these lands by being a respectful and courteous visitor. Public access to WPT's land is a privilege, not a right. Please treat their lands with respect so this privilege can continue.

### Western Pacific Timber, LLC Rules & Recreation Policy

- All WPT lands in Klickitat County east of Highway 97 are closed to public entry.
- WPT land in Klickitat County, west of Highway 97 is open to non-motorized recreation and snowmobiling. Vehicles are permitted on roads outside of the gated area unless otherwise posted.
- From time to time it is necessary to close areas to public entry due to forest operations; this is for the safety of the public and their contractors/employees. Please respect these temporary closures.
- During periods of extreme fire danger, WPT will close their lands to all public entry. Closures are listed on their website, posted at all gates, and notification is given to the local newspapers.
- Motorized vehicles are not allowed behind any gate, **whether it is open or closed.**
- Do not block gates.
- Camping is allowed for a maximum of 14 consecutive days.
- Please pack out all trash.
- **The following are strictly prohibited:**
  - Fires of any kind
  - Incendiary devices i.e. fireworks, exploding targets, etc.
  - Dumping
  - Commercial gathering of forest products
  - Firewood cutting
  - Damage of any kind to standing timber, existing structures, or roads
  - Mudding

### **Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law**

Help us by reporting vandalism or other violations. The misdeeds of a few may mean loss of access for everyone! For non-emergency poaching/violations call 1-877-933-9847. For poaching in progress and other emergencies, dial 911.