Western Washington Pheasant Release Program
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SMALL GAME HUNTERS

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. If you hunt any of these release sites, you may possess and use only approved nontoxic shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading). Some of these sites have further restrictions. See Game Bird and Small Game Regulations for more information.
The number of pheasants released on each site is based on several factors, including the estimated numbers of hunters using those sites.

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The purpose of the pheasant program in western Washington is to provide upland bird hunting opportunity. This program encourages participation from new, young and seasoned hunters.

Naturally sustained pheasant populations are limited in western Washington due to the cool wet climate and the lack of grain farming. Each year 35,000 to 40,000 pheasants are released on approximately 25 release sites. The majority of release sites remain the same from one year to the next. Maps to current sites are enclosed.

**Hunting Seasons and Regulations**

The general western Washington hunting season lasts from late September to November 30 each year (see [hunting regulations](#) for details). Hunting is allowed from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day. Some areas may not release birds throughout the season due to flooding or other conflicts.

To protect other wildlife species including waterfowl and raptors, [nontoxic](#) shot is required for all upland bird, dove and band-tailed pigeon hunting on all pheasant release sites statewide.

**Required Licenses and Bag Limits:**

A western Washington pheasant license is required to hunt pheasants in western Washington. A small game license is not required to participate. The western Washington pheasant license costs $84.50 for adults and $40.50 for youth (under 16). The bag limit is two pheasants of either sex per day. A three-day permit is also offered for $40.50 for residents.

**Parking and Safety at Release Sites:**

Generally, release sites have established parking areas or access points. These areas are open to all users. Any restrictions associated with use of the release sites other than those noted in the hunting pamphlet, will be posted at the access points.

There are several safety issues that hunters should be aware of while hunting on release sites. The sites are usually fairly crowded and often relatively close to houses or other types of recreation. Hunter orange must be worn by hunters using release sites. Be aware of Safety Zone signs and stay away from areas posted as such. Other instructions and information will be posted at release sites.

**Additional Points:**

While it is always important to be courteous to other hunters, it is especially important while hunting crowded release sites. A few courtesy rules include:

1. Don't trail or otherwise position yourself to take advantage of other hunters, you may end up in their line of fire!

2. Racing out ahead of other hunters to beat them to birds is unethical and dangerous. Please respect others and allow time and space.

3. If you see other hunters that may not be familiar with hunting the release site, invite them to join your group. This is especially important for young hunters and those without dogs. By promoting safe, ethical hunting you help ensure the continuation of recreation for yourself and for future generations.

**Western Washington Regional Offices:**

- **Region 4**
  (425) 775-1311
  16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
  Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296

- **Region 5**
  (360) 696-6211
  5525 S 11th Street
  Ridgefield, WA 98642

- **Region 6**
  (360) 249-4628
  48 Devonshire Rd.
  Montesano, WA 98563
On several popular release sites hunters must choose to hunt on either odd-numbered or even numbered weekend days, from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. Youth and senior hunters may hunt on either day. These sites include: Lake Terrell (including British Petroleum and Intalco), Snoqualmie (including Stillwater, Cherry Valley, and Crescent Lake segments), Skagit, wildlife areas, and all sites on Whidbey Island.

Nontoxic shot must be used on all release sites statewide. Other instructions and information may be posted at release sites.

**Reminder:** At least 400 square inches of Hunter Orange must be worn by all upland bird hunters.

Typically, birds are released on these sites at least three times per week, mainly on weekends. The two main release sites on Whidbey Island are on the Naval Air Station (OLF and Seaplane Base). In order to hunt on these sites, hunters must obtain a NAS Whidbey Island Upland Game Hunting Permit from the Environmental Bldg. 113 on Ault Field. Please call (360) 257-1009 for additional information.

**Region 4 Office:**
(425) 775-1311
16018 Mill Creek Blvd.
Mill Creek, WA 98102-1296
Lake Terrell is located Northwest of Ferndale. Take exit 262 off I-5. Go west on Main St. into Ferndale. Continue on Main St. as it changes into Mountain View Rd. Turn north onto Lake Terrell Road and follow signs to parking areas.

Total acreage: ~2700 Ac

A portion of the BP release site will be closed due to a large scale wetland restoration enhancement project. Pheasants will still be released on the remaining open area.
To reach the Samish Unit from Interstate 5, go west on Highway 20 to the Bayview-Edison Road. Turn right (north) and follow the Bayview-Edison Road through Bayview, past the state park and down onto the Samish Flats until the road ends at a "T" intersection. Turn left onto Samish Island Road and proceed until the 90-degree turn to the north. The parking area is straight ahead at the corner.

**Total acreage: ~400Ac**

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**

**Releases will only occur once prior to both youth and senior seasons.**
All of the release sites on Whidbey Island are adjacent to Highway 20 and Highway 525. Prior to hunting at SeaPlane Base or OLF Coupeville, please contact the Naval Air Station at (360) 257-1009.

**Total acreage: ~600 Ac**

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**

Be Advised:
The Lower Game Range on the Sea Plane Base will not be released for the 2021 season due to a restoration project.
The **Zylstra Road** pheasant release site is located on Whidbey Island, near Oak Harbor. From Interstate 5 take WA-20 west to Arnold Road. Go west on Arnold Road and take your first right onto Zylstra Road. The hunting site and parking lot will be on your left hand side. Please park in the designated parking area, as indicated by parking lot signage. Vehicles are not allowed in any other area of the site except the designated parking area. This site can only accommodate a fixed amount of vehicles. Therefore, when the parking lot is full, the site will be at maximum capacity and no more hunters are allowed access until a vehicle leaves. Parking on the road or any other location to access the site is not allowed.

**Special Notes:** This site is subject to ongoing farming operations. As a result, upon notification, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the Landowners/Contract Managers may choose to close access to the site in order to allow these operations to proceed without hindrance. For example, cattle are rotationally grazed on this property and may be rotated into the site for grazing purposes. In the event that this occurs, WDFW personnel will remove signs, close the area to hunting by posting signs and reallocate the distribution of pheasants released at the site to nearby pheasant release sites. On Whidbey Island, Youth Hunts will occur at the Upper Seaplane Base, and Senior Hunts will only occur at Zylstra Road and the Upper Seaplane Base. Please contact the Region 4 Private Lands biologist for information and details pertaining to questions about this site.

**Total acreage:** ~172 Ac
From Highway 525, go west on Bayview Road .8 miles. Turn right on Gabelien/Becker Road. Bear to the right down Gabelien Road and park in the field next to the farm's equipment storage area.

**Total acreage: ~50 Ac**

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**

**Site will be open for public access on weekends ONLY.**
REGION 4
WHIDBEY ISLAND
RELEASE SITES
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

All of the release sites on Whidbey Island are adjacent to Highway 20 and Highway 525. Please contact the Naval Air Station at (360) 257-1009. Non-toxic shot is required on entire area.

Total acreage: ~600 Ac

Station at (360) 257-1009. Please contact the Naval Air Station at (360) 257-1009. All of the release sites on Whidbey Island.

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED
ON ENTIRE AREA
The Crescent Lake Unit of Snoqualmie Wildlife Area is located between Duvall and Monroe on S.R. 203. The release site may be found by turning at the State Reformatory Farm #2 and traveling west onto Crescent Lake Road.

Total acreage: ~360 Ac

Nontoxic shot required on entire area
The Cherry Valley Unit is located north of Duvall on State Route 203. The parking lot is marked with a sign on State Route 203.

Total acreage: ~386

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA
From I-5, take Hwy. 2 east to Homeacre Rd. (1st exit). There are two parking areas. The main lot is at the corner of Homeacre Road and is available year round. The west lot is at the corner of Homeacre Rd and 43rd Ave SE and is only open during the hunting season.

**Total acreage:** ~1,237

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**
The Stillwater Unit is located on State Route 203, north of Carnation. Parking lots are accessed directly from State Route 203.

Total acreage: ~486

Nontoxic shot required on entire area
Several of the pheasant release sites in Region Five have been supported by volunteers. One of the most active groups is the Vancouver Wildlife League. They are associated with many wildlife projects in the Vancouver area and handle most of the pheasant releases on the Shillapoo and Vancouver Lake sites. These sites receive very high use because of their popularity and proximity to Vancouver.

Such sites as Lincoln Creek and Woodland Bottoms receive lighter pressure, these sites do receive some mid-week releases early in the hunting season. The remaining sites are used by fewer hunters overall and releases mainly occur on the weekend.

Although, Klickitat County’s fish and wildlife programs are managed through WDFW’s Region 5 office in Ridgefield, Klickitat County is considered an eastern Washington county. Therefore, license requirements for Klickitat County are the same as other eastern Washington counties. For Klickitat County, refer to Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Program pamphlet.
To find the Lincoln Creek release site, head west from exit 82 off I-5 to Galvin Road. Proceed west on Lincoln Creek Road to Lepisto Road. The release site is located one mile down Lepisto Road and will be on the north side. The Lincoln Creek Site is approximately 300 acres.
The Kosmos release site is part of the Cowlitz Wildlife Area and may be found by traveling east of Morton on Hwy 12.

Turn south to town of Glenoma and follow signs to County Park. Release site boundary is marked by signs.

**Total acreage: ~325 Ac**
To find the **Woodland Bottoms** release site, take the Woodland exit (exit 21) off I-5. Head west on Gorge Road and Davidson Ave. Go around Horseshoe Lake on South Pekin Road to Whalen Road. Travel west on Whalen Road, then south on Kuhns Road to the release site. The Woodland Bottoms Release Site is approximately 270 acres.

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**
To reach both the Vancouver Lake and Shillapoo release sites take the Fourth Plain Blvd. exit (exit #1 D) 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. Total acreage is approximately 1450 acres.
Volunteers play a significant role in the pheasant release program in Region Six. The Peninsula Bird Hunters handle the Belfair sites and individual volunteers release birds on the Hunter Farms (private property), Skookumchuck, and Chinook sites.

Fort Lewis, Scatter Creek, Skookumchuck, and Belfair receive the most hunting pressure and the highest number of released pheasants. Pheasants are released during the middle of the week on these areas.

Nontoxic shot is required on all release sites statewide.

At the Scatter Creek release site, hunters must choose to hunt on either odd numbered or even numbered weekend days from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. Youth and senior hunters may hunt on either day.

Region 6 Office:
(360) 249-4628
48 Devonshire Road
Montesano, WA  98563
To reach the Hunter Farms Release Site, travel north on Hwy 101 out of Shelton. Take Purdy Cutoff Road to the east. The release site is at the intersection of Hwy 101 and Purdy Cutoff Road. The release site is located at the east Purdy Cutoff Road to the east. To reach the Hunter Farms Release Site, proceed north on Hwy 101.

Legend:
- Hunting Perimeter
- Parking Areas
- Safety Zone
- Sept & Nov hunting allowable area
- 1000 ft N ➤ ➤ N
- Hunter Family Farms Store Site
- Hunter Farms Release Site
- Non-toxic shot required on entire area.
From I-5 go west on Hwy 12. After crossing Satsop River turn left at Brady onto Monte-Brady Rd. Go south and west on the Monte-Brady Rd. to Foster Rd. Go 1.6 miles on the Foster Rd. and Brady Loop Rd. to the release site.

Total acreage: ~250 Ac

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA
Access for pheasant release sites on JBLM are managed through the Northwest Adventure Center (253-967-8282/7744). Hunters must initially register at the Northwest Adventure Center or Skeet and Trap Range. Registration will require watching a safety video, valid hunting license, proof of vehicle registration/license number, proof of insurance and registration of firearms used. Once registered an automated call in system is used to sign in and out of training areas (1-253-967-8260).

Total acreage: ~1850 Ac

For all regulations, download the Rules Of Hunting off the Joint Base Lewis Mcchord MWR web site at https://jblmmwr.com/index.html.

Nontoxic shot required on entire area.
To reach Scatter Creek release sites, take I-5 to US 12 West (Exit 88). Turn west on US 12, then turn right at the first stoplight onto Elderberry St. SW. At the "T" turn right on 193rd Ave. SW. Follow the road to the left as it becomes Guava Street SW. At the next "T", turn right on 183rd Ave. SW. To access Release Site #1, take the next left onto the northerly continuation of Guava Street SW. To access Release Site #2, continue east on 183rd Ave. SW, turn left on Case Rd. SW, and continue north to the site.

At the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck release sites between the hours of 8:00 am and 10:00 am hunters must choose to hunt either odd numbered or even numbered days. Youth and seniors may hunt on either days.

**Total acreage:** ~1,000 Ac
To reach the Skookumchuck release site, take I-5 to US 12 West (Exit 88). Turn east to Old Hwy 99 toward Tenino. Turn right on SR 507 toward Bucoda. Turn left on 184th Ave SE, which becomes Skookumchuck Rd. after 0.6 mile. Continue east on Skookumchuck Rd. to the release site.

At the Scatter Creek and Skookumchuck release sites between the hours of 8:00 am and 10:00 am hunters must choose to hunt either odd numbered or even numbered days. Youth and seniors may hunt on either days.

**Total acreage: ~250 Ac**

**NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIRED ON ENTIRE AREA**
The Belfair site is located north of the intersection of Bear Creek-Dewatto Rd and Tahuya-Blacksmith Rd.

**Mason Lake (formally Sgt. Mak) Pheasant Release Site at the East end of Mason Lake**
(This site replaces the Grapeview Release Site on Hwy. 3)

From Hwy. 3, east of Allyn, head north on Mason-Benson Rd. E for 2.6 miles. Take a right on Mason Lake Rd. and go east for 1.1 miles. Take a left on E. Mason Lake Dr. West and go 0.1 mile to the gate on the right.

On Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri, park at gate and walk to the hunting area.
On Wed, Sat and Sun, proceed through the gate and drive to the parking area in the gravel pit.

The gate is open from 8 AM to 5 PM. All other side roads are off limit to vehicles. Be out by 5 PM or risk being locked in for the night.

Hunting site provided by Green Diamond Resource Company. Pheasants planted, locks operated and property maintained by The Peninsula Birdhunters Association.
Trask Lake Pheasant Release Site is south of Lake Trask off of Lake Trask Road.

From Hwy. 3, turn North West on E Mason Lake Rd and follow it for approximately 6.2 miles. Turn left onto East Mason Lake Drive West and follow for .75 miles. Turn Left onto Lake Trask Rd. and follow for .75 miles to reach the parking area on the left.

Hunting site provided by Green Diamond Resource Company. Pheasants planted, locks operated and property maintained by The Peninsula Birdhunters Association.

Nontoxic shot required on entire area.
The Chinook Release Site is located on the south shore of the Chinook River between the towns of Chinook and Ilwaco in Pacific County. The release site can be accessed from Lingerfelter Road and Chinook Valley Road off of Highway 101.

**NOTE:** Boundary is not always on the roads!

**Total acreage:** ~800 Ac