

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunting Report

by ODFW

Ochoco Wildlife District

General: Snow is present at higher elevations, and conditions can be icy and treacherous. Hunters need to be equipped to handle unpredictable winter conditions. Hunters are reminded the motorized access restrictions associated with the South Boundary Green Dot Travel Management Area (TMA) in the Ochoco unit remain in effect year around. Maps are available at portal signs as you enter the TMA, or from local ODFW and forest service offices. Additionally areas on the Ochoco National Forest and Prineville BLM have motorized access restrictions which went in effect on Dec. 1 to prevent soil damage and protect wintering antelope, deer, and elk. Maps of these areas are available from forest service and BLM offices in Prineville. Prineville Reservoir Wildlife Management Area

The area is open to non-motorized access only to protect wintering deer and elk and prevent soil damage. Non-motorized access from hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts is welcome.

Cougar: Deer have been moving to lower elevation winter ranges and cougar can be expected to follow. Winter ranges include private lands and hunters need permission prior to hunting.

Valley quail: Numbers appear strong, with the best opportunities on agricultural private lands throughout Crook and Jefferson Counties. Springs, stream areas, and other rangelands with cover and water on the Crooked River National Grasslands and BLM lands would also be good area to check.

Chukar are more limited in distribution, with areas along the Crooked, Deschutes, and John Day Rivers offering the best opportunities. Much of this involves private lands where permission from the landowner is needed.

Waterfowl: Recent storms have brought some migratory birds to the region. Access is a challenge as most of the better hunting is on private lands. There are limited opportunities on public land around Prineville Res., and along the Crooked River.

The Dalles Wildlife District

Hunters wishing to pursue cougar should focus their efforts in areas where big game populations are found. The boundary between the White River Wildlife area and the Mount Hood National forest can provide good

opportunity.

Grouse wing barrels are scattered around the White River and Hood units to collect wings of blue and ruffed grouse and mt. quail. We ask each successful hunter to contribute a wing and tail off of each harvested bird.

Waterfowl season is now open within the district. The majority of waterfowl hunting opportunities are present on private lands, with a few exceptions along the Columbia and Deschutes rivers.

Upland game birds are found throughout the district. Bird production was fair in the area this year, with populations being at or near the ten year average. Hunters wishing to target pheasant and quail should focus on areas in and around streams or near agricultural areas. Public access can be found on the Lower Deschutes and White River Wildlife areas, as well as BLM property in the Deschutes and John Day canyons. Hunters should be aware that bird hunting is prohibited within ¼ mile of the John Day River from the Columbia upstream to Thirtymile Creek.

Open: Pheasant, chukar, duck, forest grouse (closes Nov. 25), California quail, mt quail (open in Wheeler, Hood Rvr and Wasco counties) cougar, bear, crow

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