Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunting Report

by ODFW

OCHOCO DISTRICT

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR WMA: The western length of the North Side access road was closed Nov. 15. The remainder of the road will close Dec. 1 when all access becomes non-motorized to protect wintering big game.

LATE ANTLERLESS ELK HUNTS: Late hunts opened on Nov. 18 in portions of the Maury and across the entire Ochoco unit and will continue through Nov. 26. Snow accumulations of a foot or more were present at higher elevations, with muddy conditions at lower elevations. Hunters need to be equipped for both wet and cold winter conditions. Elk appear scattered across public and private lands, at all elevations. In the Ochoco Unit motorized access restrictions are in effect in the Rager and South Boundary Travel Management Areas.

COUGAR: Cougar are reported regularly in the Maury, Ochoco, and Grizzly units, at all elevations and habitat types. Areas to consider include the Alkali Butte and Sanford Creek (Maury WMU); Bridge Creek, Sunflower Creek, and Lookout Mountain (Ochoco WMU); and Green Mountain, Mill Creek, and Marks Creek (Grizzly WMU). As winter progresses areas frequented by concentrations of wintering elk and deer will be areas to scout for cougar sign.

BEAR: Populations are limited with the better opportunities in the denser forested portions of the Ochoco National Forest in the Ochoco and Grizzly units. Suggested areas to consider include the northern portion of Ochoco unit in Bridge Creek, Pisgah Mountain, Keeton Creek, and Rock Creek; and Bear and Trout Creeks in the Grizzly unit.

GAME BIRDS: Blue/Ruffed Grouse: Forest grouse will be at higher elevations in the denser forested portions of the Ochoco and Grizzly units. Season closes Nov. 26.

Valley Quail and Chukar: Opportunities are limited for chukar, with the best chances on steeper canyon areas associated with the John Day, Crooked, and Deschutes Rivers. Valley quail are present in all three units, particularly in more agricultural areas around streams, ponds, and other wet areas. Concentrations of birds will generally be near or on private lands where permission from the landowner is necessary.Ducks/Geese: At this time most birds are resident birds using local reservoirs, ponds, and water bodies. Most birds are around private land where permission from the owner is needed.