Central Oregon Hunting Report 02-29-08

by ODFW

OCHOCO WILDLIFE DISTRICT

Recent warmer and spring like weather has melted some of the snow accumulations at lower elevations. Unless plowed, most roads at higher elevations on the Ochoco National Forest remain impassable. Recreational users should expect difficult driving conditions, and should check with local authorities regarding road conditions. Motorized access restrictions associated with the South Boundary Green Dot Travel Management Area (TMA) in the Ochoco unit remain in effect year-round. Maps are available at portal signs as you enter the TMA, or from local ODFW and forest service offices. Additional areas on the Ochoco National Forest and Prineville BLM have seasonal winter motorized access restrictions effect 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. Walk-in hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts are welcome.

Cougar â€“ Deer, pronghorn, and elk remain on winter ranges and cougar can be expected to be nearby. Winter ranges include private lands where permission for access is needed.

Coyote - Look for concentrations of wintering deer and pronghorn, and coyotes are likely nearby. Wintering deer and pronghorn are concentrating at lower elevations, including BLM lands in both the Ochoco and Maury units. Coyote hunters should keep a watchful eye out for cougars which also respond to predator calls.

The Dalles Wildlife District

Hunters pursuing mountain lions will find the best opportunities at lower elevations, near wintering big game herds.