

by ODFW

OPEN: Cougar, coyote

Don't forget to report your hunt results. Anyone who purchases a big game or turkey tag must report hunt results online or by phone. Reporting is required even if you did not fill your tag or go hunting. More information.

Remember there is a youth (age 17 and under) TURKEY hunt April 11-12; see the Game Bird Regulations for more details. General spring turkey season opens April 15. See this PDF online brochure for more information about turkey hunting in Oregon.

PRINEVILLE/OCHOCO WILDLIFE DISTRICT

Snow accumulations are receding, but drifts are present at mid and high elevations blocking some roads across the Ochoco National Forest. Outdoor enthusiasts should be prepared for rapidly changing weather and be equipped for difficult driving. Dress and be equipped to for walking and/or driving through everything from dry surfaces, to mud and snow. Deer, elk and pronghorn are moving to higher elevations as the spring thaw progresses.

COUGARS are tied to deer, elk, and pronghorn and will be following dispersing animals as they move to higher elevations. Remember cougars must be checked in at an ODFW office within 10 days after harvest; please bring them in thawed and with mouths propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

TURKEY: Parents taking youth hunters out this weekend are reminded to consult with local BLM and Ochoco National Forest offices regarding access as motorized travel may be restricted to avoid soil damage

and protect wildlife habitat.

COYOTE are plentiful throughout the district, but the Maury and Ochoco units offer better opportunities on public land. Hunters should scout at lower elevations for concentrations of deer or pronghorn as coyotes will likely be present as well.

GROUND SQUIRRELS are active in hay fields and pastures. The best hunting will be on private lands, particularly along the Crooked River between Prineville and Paulina. Having permission from landowners is a must before hunting.

THE DALLES WILDLIFE DISTRICT

The LOWER DESCHUTES WILDLIFE AREA is accepting comments on its draft management plan through April 17, 2009. More information. For hunters wishing to pursue COUGAR, the best opportunity will be in areas where deer and elk are congregating. One of the better areas is generally around White River Wildlife area, where both deer and elk are present in fair numbers. As spring conditions continue to show themselves, deer and elk are spending more time on open hillsides taking advantage of green-up. Cougar will be in close proximity. Successful cougar hunters, remember check-in is mandatory; please bring them in thawed and with mouths propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

Those wishing to pursue COYOTE will find the best success near agricultural lands. Be sure to ask permission to hunt private lands. Limited opportunities may also be found at White River Wildlife area.

California Ground SQUIRRELS, or gray diggers, are very active with the recent warming trends in the area. The best hunting opportunities for squirrels are generally found on private agricultural ground, but good opportunity also exists on White River Wildlife area. Make sure to ask permission to hunt on private lands.

Now is a good time to begin scouting TURKEYS. Toms are actively strutting, and birds continue to move to higher elevation as the snow gradually recedes. Remember there is a youth (age 17 and under) hunt April 11-12; see the Game Bird Regulations for more details.

Spring bear hunting opens April 15; see the forecast for what to expect.

WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA

COYOTE and COUGAR hunters can find success in open areas along the eastern perimeter of the wildlife area. Please take caution to reduce disturbances to wintering wildlife in the area. Remember cougars must be checked in at an ODFW office within 10 days after harvest; please bring them in thawed and with mouths propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

The wildlife area is a vehicle regulated use area. Open roads have a green dot on them. Hunters bringing their ATVs are reminded that all vehicles are to stay on roads; cross country travel is prohibited. The roads for through vehicle travel have been closed for the winter and most of the roads will reopen April 1, 2009. Please use caution even on open roads, as spring moisture can create hazardous conditions. If a road appears too wet for travel, please find an alternate route.

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