

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunting Report

by ODFW

**OCHOCO DISTRICTGENERAL:** Hunters should be prepared for cold, and wet or icy conditions. Snow accumulations are generally below average, but should be expected above 4000 feet elevation. Off road motorized travel should not be attempted without proper equipment and checking with local BLM and Forest Service officials regarding motorized access restrictions in effect to protect wintering big game.

**PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR WMA:** The entry gates for the North Side Access Road have been shut closing the WMA to motorized access for the protection of wintering big game. The area is open to foot traffic and other non-motorized access.

**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. **GAME BIRDS:** 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. **Geese:** Smaller ponds and edge areas of reservoirs and Crooked River are iced up. Birds are concentrating on remaining open water areas, which are mostly on private lands where access may be difficult.