

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunting Report

by ODFW

ODFW and OHA-mid Columbia Chapter will sponsor a youth turkey hunting clinic at the White River Wildlife Area in The Dalles on March 31. For more information and to register, call ODFW tel. (503) 947-6028 or OHA 541-980-2503. Cost of event is \$10 and space is limited to 30 participants. **GENERAL:** Spring has arrived early and recreationalists should be prepared for unseasonably mild and muddy conditions. Snow accumulations are below average, with wet and crusted snow present 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 north side access road will open April 13. The WMA remains closed 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. Deer, elk, and pronghorn have moved off of wintering areas and are scattered at higher elevations across transition and summer ranges. Cougar will be following them and be harder to find as big game move on to the more expansive summering areas on the Ochoco National Forest. **GROUND SQUIRRELS:** Squirrels are emerging and are increasing active in agricultural fields and pastures. Best opportunities are on private lands where permission from landowners is a must before hunting.