

District 9

Skamania, Clark, and Klickitat Counties

David Anderson - District Wildlife Biologist

Eric Holman – Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

Nicholle Stephens – Private Lands Biologist

District Nine is located in the southwest/central part of Washington and is the only district in the state that includes significant amounts of both west and east-side habitats. Game Management Units (GMUs) in District 9 include 554 (Yale), 564 (Battleground), 568 (Washougal), 560 (Lewis River), 572 (Siouxon), 574 Wind River), 578 (West Klickitat), 388 (Grayback), and 382 (East Klickitat). Hunters can choose a variety of habitats including areas covered by west and east side season dates and permit regulations.

The geography of District 9 is dominated by the Cascade Mountain Range that divides the district into west and east sides zones. Topography varies from near sea level along the Columbia River and its lower tributaries to alpine habitats associated with Mt St Helens and Mt Adams in the Cascade Range.

Dominant west-side river drainages include the Lewis, Washougal, and Wind Rivers. Major east-side watersheds include the White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers. Rock Creek in eastern Klickitat County is the primary watershed in ponderosa pine/oak and shrub steppe portions of the district. The southern border of the district is bounded by the Columbia River.



Hunters on horseback on Hancock lands

District 9 is one of the most diverse habitat areas of the state that include west side coniferous forests dominated by Douglas fir and western hemlock. These forests give way to Oregon White Oak and Ponderosa Pine as you travel to the east side of the Cascade Mountains. In eastern Klickitat County, pine and oak habitat transition into shrub steppe dominated by grassland and sagebrush.

The majority of the west-side forest land is dominated by the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and state land managed by the Department of Natural Resources. These are public lands open to public access. Weyerhaeuser owns a block of land in GMU 568 (Washougal) and typically allows motorized access to this area during the general hunting season. Information about recreational access to Weyerhaeuser land can be found [here](#).

East-side forest and shrub steppe/grassland habitat is primarily in private land ownership with limited public access. Industrial timber company lands are generally open to public hunting, but generally not open to private motorized vehicles. Access to these lands may be impacted during the months of August, September, and in some cases October due to high fire danger.

WDFW maintains Feel Free to Hunt access agreements with Hancock Timberlands in GMU 578 (West Klickitat). These lands are popular for hunting deer, elk, and turkey. More information about hunting on Hancock Klickitat Timberlands can be found at the end of this document.

WDFW also has a Feel Free to Hunt access agreement with Western Pacific Timber in GMU 388 (Grayback). This land is popular for deer hunting. More information about hunting on Western

Pacific Land can be found at the end of this document. More information about hunting opportunities on private land can be found on [WDFW's Private Lands webpage](#) or at our [Go Hunt mapping](#) site.



Hancock Timber Gated Access – Klickitat County

PHEASANT: District 9 has very little wild production of pheasants compared to other areas of eastern Washington. Essentially all hunting opportunities are associated with pen-raised birds and the formalized release sites in Klickitat County (Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Sites) and Clark County (Western Washington Pheasant Release Sites). Additional information about these sites as well as others in the state of Washington can be found at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/upland_birds/pheasant.html

A total of approximately 400 pheasants are released at three sites in Klickitat County each year. Clark County pheasant release sites occur on the Shillapoo Wildlife Area managed by WDFW and in Woodland on a block that is partially owned by DNR and partially privately owned. The Klickitat County access sites are listed below.

Klickitat County Pheasant Release Sites

There are three pheasant release sites served by Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife in Klickitat County. One is located on department-owned land, and the others are on land owned by a private individual. Please treat the properties respectfully, so that future visitors may enjoy these sites as well. All sites are for day-use only; no overnight camping is allowed. These sites

are relatively undeveloped, with primitive road access. Roads may become slippery when wet, and soil will become extremely soft with fall rains and snow. Be cautious in selecting parking places next to roads in order to avoid becoming stuck. Driving off-road across fields is never allowed regardless of season.

Goldendale Hatchery Pheasant Release Site

This 240 acre site is owned by WDFW. It is bounded by Hill Road on the west side and Fish Hatchery Road on the north side.

Directions: From Goldendale, drive west on Highway 142 approximately 4 miles to the intersection with Hill Road. Drive about 0.5 mile north on Hill Road, across the bridge over Spring Creek, then turn east on a dirt road onto WDFW property. This road goes into the center of the property. Note: The hatchery facilities are located along the east boundary of the parcel. Please stay away from the immediate vicinity of the buildings to protect worker safety.

Gun Club Property

This 480 acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by Rogers Road on the north and Fenton Lane to the east.

Directions: From the intersection with Broadway Street in Goldendale, drive east on the Bickleton Highway 5.6 miles to the intersection with Purvine Road. Turn right (south) on Purvine Road and drive 0.9 miles to the T intersection with Rogers Road. Go either left or right on Rogers Road and look for wire gates accessing the property. There are two gates. Both are marked with signs exhibiting the WDFW logo. Park along Rogers Road, outside the fence, and walk in. Purvine Road may be impassible when wet. For an alternative access go east another 1 mile on the Bickleton Highway, and turn right (south) on Fenton Lane. Follow Fenton Lane south 1 mile to its intersection with Rogers Road. Turn right (west) onto Rogers Road, and drive about 0.1 mile west to a gate and parking area.

Finn Ridge Road Property

This 160-acre site is privately owned. It is bounded by the Finn Ridge Road along the south property line and Ahola Road to the west.

Directions: From Centerville, drive 2 miles west on the Centerville Highway to a 90 degree bend in the highway to the south. Turn right (north) on Erickson Road. Drive 1 mile to the intersection with the Finn Ridge Road. Turn left (west) onto Finn Ridge Road and follow it about 1.5 miles to the first sign marking the corner of the site, on the right. It is marked with green "Feel Free To Hunt" signs.

A separate 160-acre private site, located just to the east, allows hunting by written permission, and is marked with yellow "Hunt by Written Permission" signs. The pheasant release site has

one gate on Finn Ridge Road, and one gate on Ahola Road. Park outside the gates and walk in. Use care when driving on Ahola Road, which can become impassible when wet.

QUAIL, GRAY PARTRIDGE, and CHUKAR: Spring conditions have been generally favorable compared to the 2012 hunting season for upland bird populations in Klickitat County. Fall hunting prospects should be average for most areas in central and eastern Klickitat County. Most access for upland bird hunting is restricted to private lands and hunt clubs in eastern Klickitat County. Hunters interested in hunting this area should seek permission in advance of the season to access upland bird hunting areas. Most hunt clubs have waiting lists for new members so access is difficult without membership.

FOREST GROUSE: Grouse numbers should be average in 2013 due to mild winter conditions and favorable spring weather in the South Cascades. Most grouse harvest in District 9 is associated with general deer and elk hunting seasons as birds are hunted opportunistically. Prospective hunters should focus hunting efforts on brushy riparian zones or overgrown abandoned logging roads for the best chance at success, especially ruffed grouse. Hunters interested in forest grouse will improve their chances by searching out areas where fewer hunters concentrate. In District 9, the predominance of quality grouse habitat is located on USFS lands in Skamania County.

WILD TURKEYS: Wild Turkey populations in Klickitat County continue to be healthy and hunting conditions for the fall of 2013 should be good. Turkeys with broods have been seen throughout traditional turkey areas of Klickitat County. Decent size broods have been seen around the Klickitat Wildlife Area and low elevations around the town of White Salmon.

The majority of quality hunting areas in Klickitat County are below 1,500 ft. Popular hunting areas are generally associated with the Big White Salmon and Klickitat River drainages. East of the Klickitat River, small turkey populations are found in the Simcoe Mountains north and west of the town of Goldendale. Numerous landowners have issues with turkey damage on private property in the lower Klickitat River drainage. Private landowners may be willing to provide access to turkey hunters that ask for permission and practice good hunter ethics.

Skamania county turkey populations are located primarily in the eastern part of the county below 1,000 ft. elevation. Clark County offers little to no turkey hunting opportunity.



Turkeys in the Klickitat River Drainage

WATERFOWL:

Goose Hunting: Hunters are reminded of the complex goose hunting regulations in area 2A designed to protect wintering populations of the dusky Canada goose. New hunters and those who had their previous year's hunting authorization invalidated for Goose Management Area 2A need to pass an exam with a minimum of 80% to receive their current year hunting authorization.

Go to the following WDFW web site for additional information on the examination and the details of the hunting season at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/canada_goose/.

Dusky Canada goose populations remain below objectives and liberalization of the hunting season structure is not likely in the near term. Most public goose hunting in Clark County is located in the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Hunter access to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge is by reservation.

Very little goose hunting is available in Skamania County. Goose hunting in Klickitat County is limited and primarily associated with private lands. Keep in mind that permission is always necessary for access to these sites. Dusky Canada geese are not found in Skamania or Klickitat counties and fall under more liberal goose hunting regulations. Check the [waterfowl pamphlet](#) for more information on season length and bag limits.

Duck hunting: Duck hunting opportunity is dependent on the arrival of migratory birds pushed southward from northwestern Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. Like Canada goose hunting, most public access for duck hunting in Clark County is limited to the Vancouver lowlands and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

DOVE: Klickitat County has a few areas for dove hunting but the majority of quality areas are found on private hunt clubs. Opportunity is limited as little quality public land exists for dove hunting. Recent surveys in the spring of 2013 indicate a decline in numbers and fall hunting should be below average to poor. Some dove hunting opportunity exists in the Vancouver lowlands, i.e. Shillapoo Wildlife Area.

DEER: Deer populations are generally stable in lower elevation units such as Washougal (568) and Battle Ground (564), as well as the Klickitat County GMUs, i.e. West Klickitat (578), Grayback (388), and East Klickitat (382). However, deer populations remain suppressed in the Cascade Mountain GMUs, i.e. Lewis River (560), Wind River (574), and Siouxon (572).

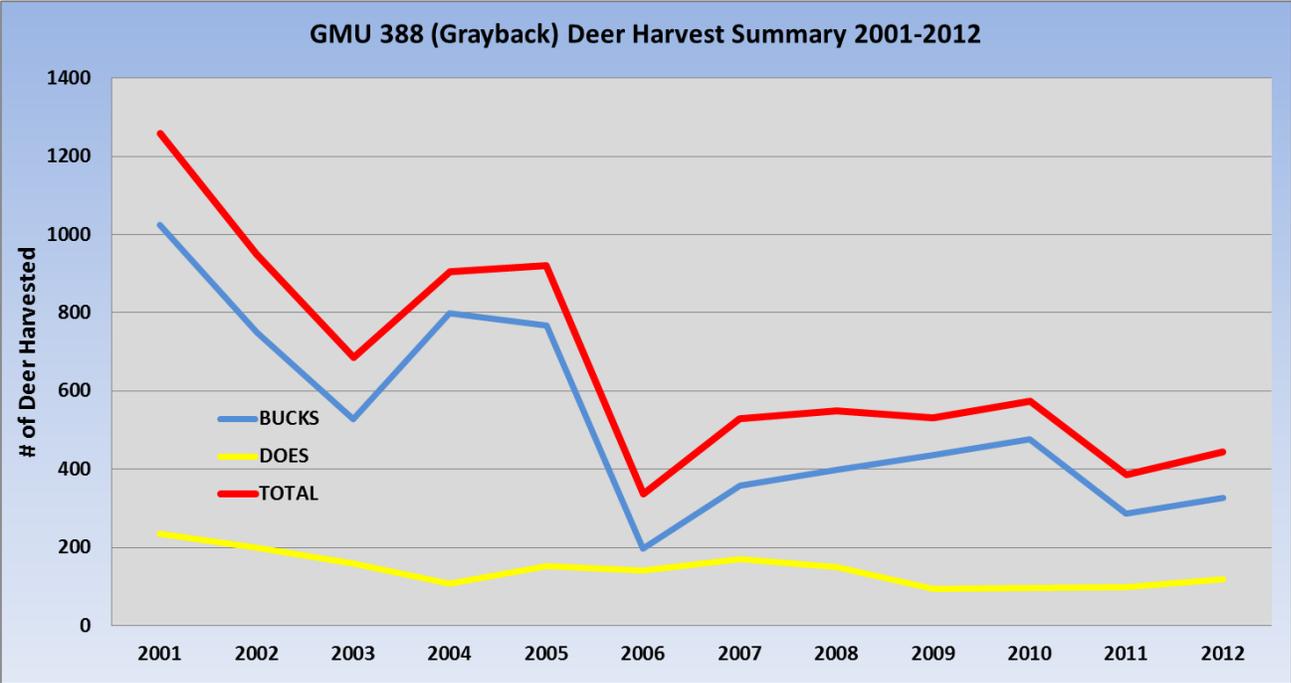
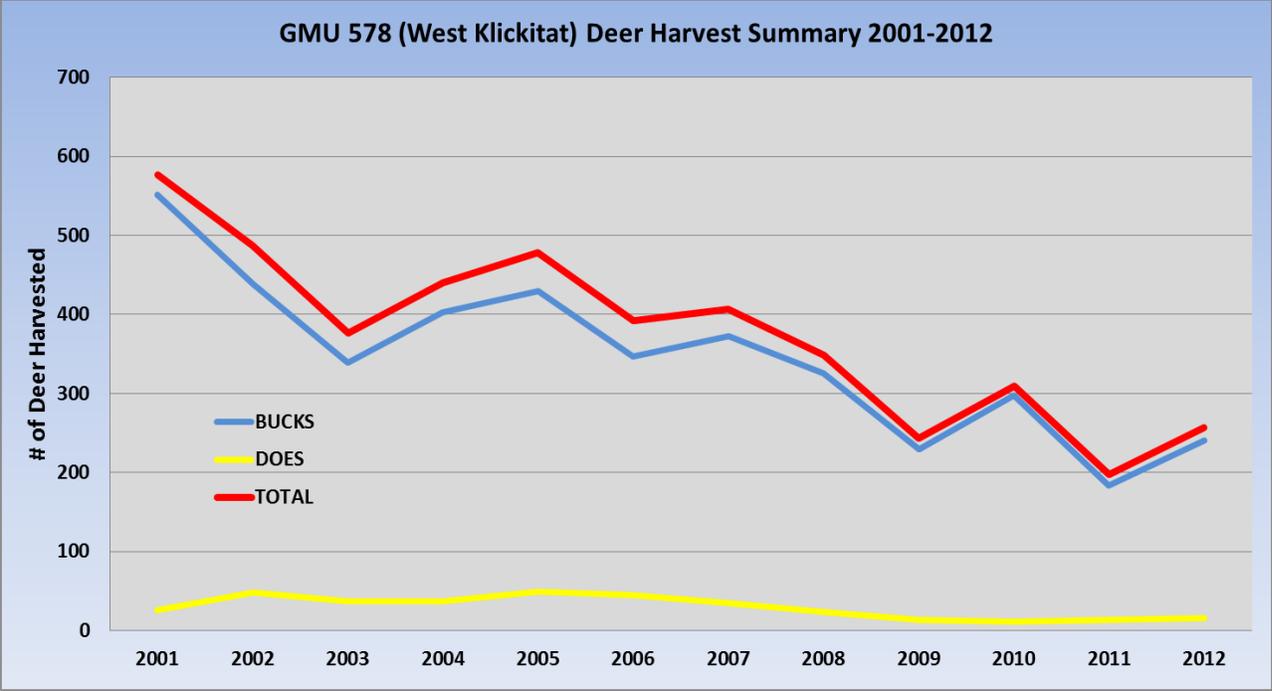
Deer harvest and success is remarkably consistent within District 9 and a general season total harvest of approximately 2,500 bucks representing 15-20% hunter success is again anticipated during the 2013 hunt. Please see both the [Game Harvest Statistics and Game Status and Trend Reports](#) on the Hunting page of the WDFW website for much more information on deer management in District 9.

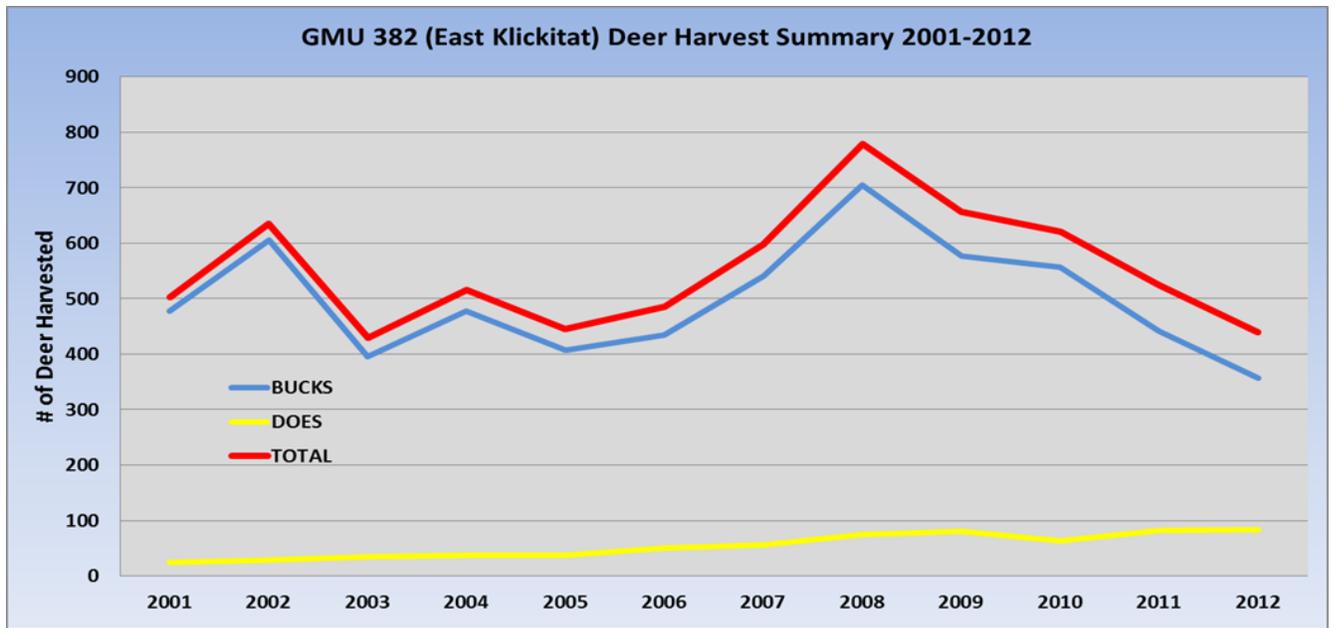
Successful hunting for black-tailed deer is primarily a function of the effort, focus, and energy that hunters put into the hunt. Black-tailed deer thrive in heavily vegetated habitats and are often very nocturnal in nature. This means that successful black-tail hunters must be in position early in the morning and carefully hunt near sources of food and in secure cover.

Bucks travel more during the rut when they cover large amounts of territory searching for does in estrus. This makes bucks more vulnerable as they spend less time hiding and are sometimes found in “open” habitats, i.e., clear-cuts and meadows. Not surprisingly, approximately one-third of the annual buck harvest in Region 5 occurs during the 4-day “late buck” hunt held each November.

Within District 9, GMUs 554 (Yale), 560 (Lewis River), 564 (Battle Ground), 568 (Washougal), and 572 (Siouxon) offer an attractive general-season hunting opportunity. Hunters should note however, the firearm restrictions in GMUs 554 and 564 (see page 81 of the 2013 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations.)

Those interested in a more trophy-oriented deer hunting opportunity might consider any of the Klickitat County Units. GMU 578 (West Klickitat), GMU 388 (Grayback), and GMU 382 (East Klickitat) are all managed under a 3-point or larger antler restriction. Collectively, the Klickitat GMUs support an annual harvest of over 1,000 3-point or larger bucks. Please see the graphics below illustrating the annual harvest in each of the Klickitat Units. Also, please review the deer hunting regulations closely before going afield as the rules differ in each unit and none of the Klickitat GMUs allow general-season late-buck hunting.





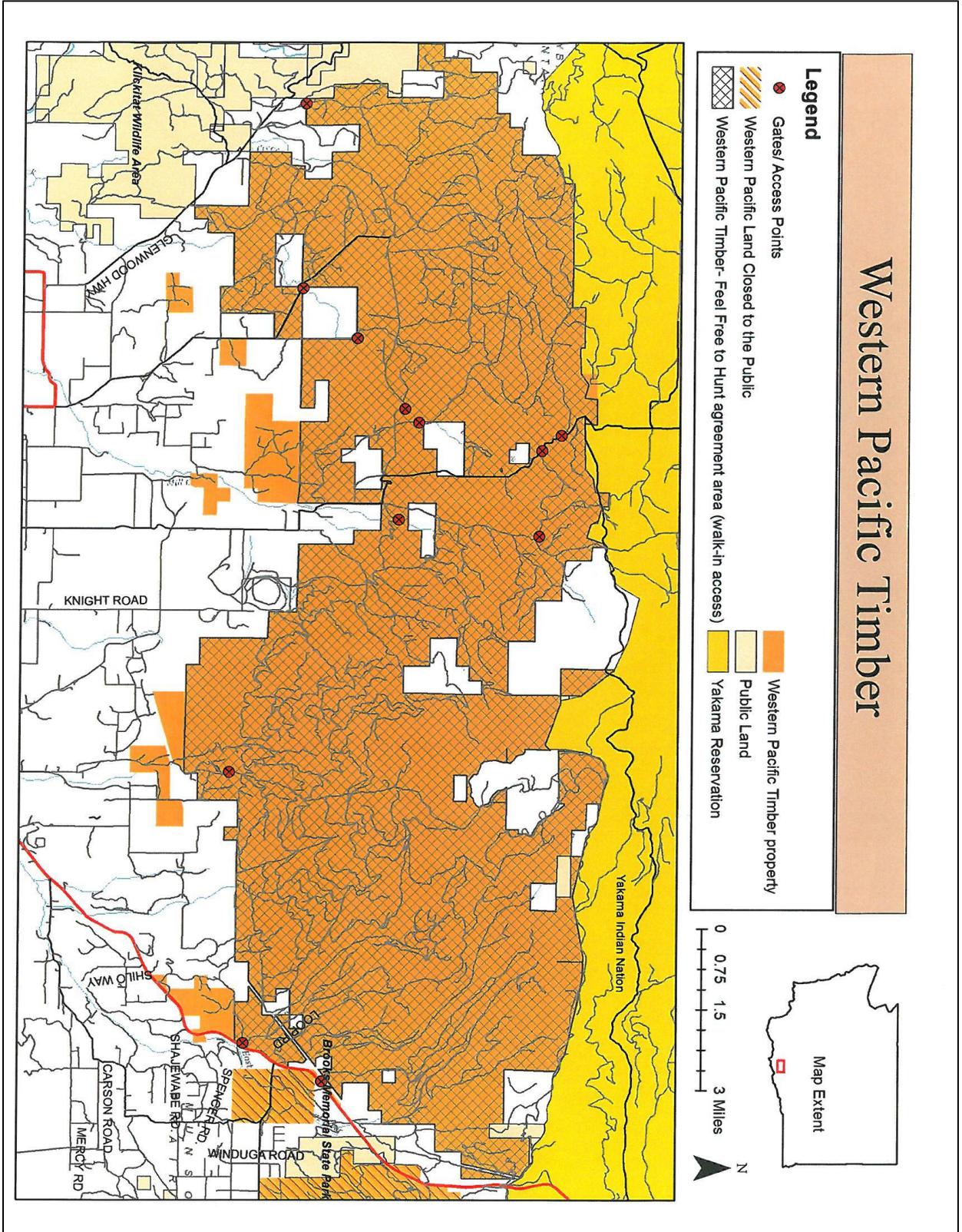
ELK: Elk in District 9 are managed as part of the Mt. St. Helens Herd. Please see the [St. Helens Elk Herd Plan](#) available on the WDFW website for more information:

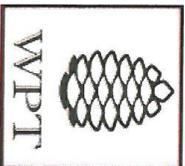
Elk hunting within District 9 is managed under a variety of seasons, so check regulations closely before going afield. Two specific details of elk management include the fact that GMUs 388 (Grayback) and 382 (East Klickitat) require Eastern Washington elk tags while the remainder of District 9 is within the Western Washington Elk tag area. Additionally, GMU 564 (Battle Ground) and 554 (Yale) are Firearm Restriction GMUs.

GMU 560 (Lewis River) offers the most and possibly the best elk hunting in District 9. The majority of this area is public land and within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Access during the modern firearm season and hunter success can be dependent upon early season snow levels.

GMUs 388 and 382 in Klickitat County have very few elk and are more often considered better for deer hunting. GMU 564 in Clark County only has elk in the extreme northern portion of the GMU. This area has a mix of public and private lands and knowledge of ownership is important before planning your hunt in this area.

Information about hunting on Western Pacific Lands





Western Pacific Timber



Welcome to Western Pacific Timber

Western Pacific Timber maintains over 65,000 acres of private land open to the public in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Help us all to maintain access to these lands by being a respectful and courteous visitor. Treat them as you would your own property.

- ***Obey road closures. No vehicles are permitted behind gates. Do not block or obstruct gates.***
- ***No firewood cutting is permitted without a written permit from Western Pacific Timber.***
- ***No campfires or other open fires are permitted.***
- ***No littering or dumping***
- ***If you camp, leave no trace, clean your campsite.***
- ***Do not drive nails into trees or shoot at trees***
- ***Drive roads with caution – watch for log trucks and other traffic.***
- ***Western Pacific lands East of US97 are Closed to public entry.***

Help us by reporting vandalism or other violations. The misdeeds of a few may mean loss of access for everyone! For non-emergency poaching/violations call 1-877-933-9847

For other questions or concerns please call Nicholle Stephens, WDFW, (360) 906-6724

Enjoy your visit to Western Pacific Timber

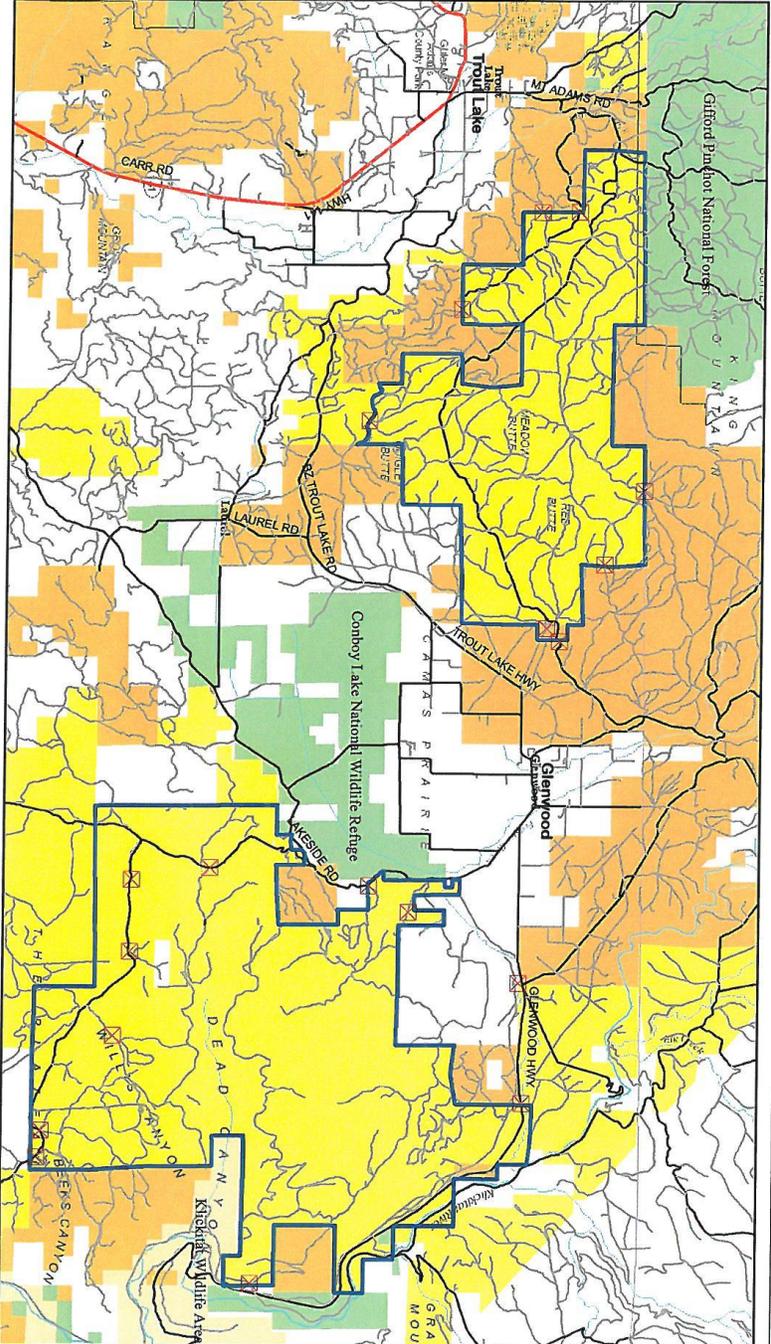
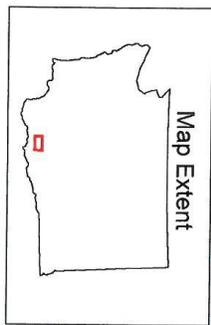
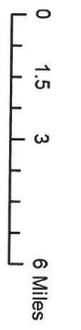
Information about hunting on Hancock Klickitat Timberlands:



Hancock Timberlands

Legend

- Hancock Land
- DNR
- Federal Land
- WDFW
- Feel Free to Hunt Area
- Gates/Walk-in access points





Welcome to Hancock Timberlands



Hancock Forest Management Klickitat Timberlands maintains over **34,000 acres** open to public hunting, in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Help us all to maintain access to these lands by being a respectful and courteous visitor. Treat them as you would your own property.

- Obey road closures. No unauthorized motor vehicles behind closed gates. Do not block or obstruct gates.
- No fires permitted between April 15 and November 1 unless otherwise posted.
- Firewood cutting by permit only. Firewood cutting for *campfire use only* is allowed without a permit.
- No littering or dumping.
- Camping is limited to 14 days except October 15 to December 15.
- Camping sites must be temporary with no permanent structures. Do not use nails or wire, shoot at trees, or otherwise damage trees.
- Leave clean campsites. Pack it in, pack it out.
- No mushroom picking is allowed on Hancock lands.

Help us by reporting vandalism and other violations. The misdeeds of a few may mean the loss of access for everyone! For non-emergency poaching/violations call 1-877-933-9847

Enjoy your stay on Hancock Timberlands
509-364-3331
In case of emergency, call 911