

The Basics of Deer Hunting in Washington



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Program
Hunter Education Division

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Introduction

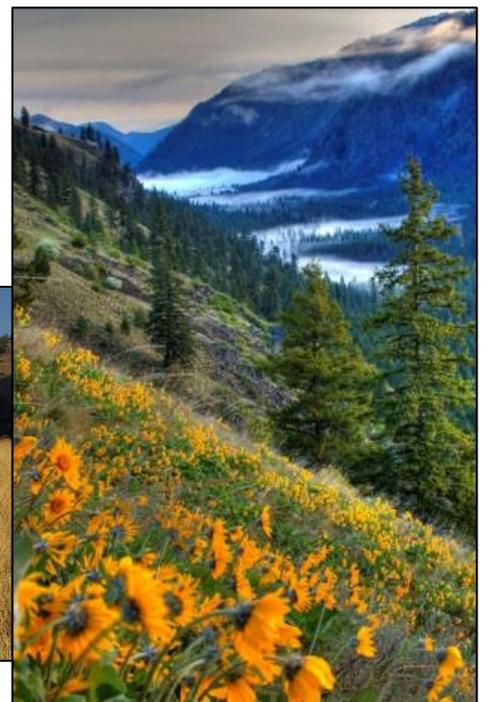
Welcome to deer hunting! This course should provide you with basic knowledge about deer hunting in Washington State and give you a general guide to be successful. It should also serve to help you in your hunting pursuits. The information contained in this manual will give you overviews of each species of deer currently legal for harvest in Washington. There is a fourth species of deer, the Columbian white-tail, which is listed as an endangered species and not legal to hunt.

This guide will also help teach you about game recovery, game handling, hunting implement regulations and choices, correct shot placement, and hunter reporting. These topics will help make you a more successful hunter and help ensure the animals you harvest become great table fare.

One thing to remember when hunting any animal is that it is called hunting for a reason. You may not be successful in harvesting an animal every day, or every season. If you look at the harvest statistics for deer hunters in 2014, you can see that the majority were unsuccessful.

- Archery success rate – 26.5%
- Muzzleloader success rate – 28.2%
- Modern Firearm success rate – 28.2%
- Total 2014 success rate – 27.9%

Hunting shouldn't be all about the harvest of animals. It should be about the experience and time spent afield. Like bonding with family members and friends over a great trip, getting to see the sunrise over the mountains on a crisp fall morning, seeing a pheasant flush and catch the light so he glows, and being able to have stories that excite all of those you tell.



License and Tag Choices

There are many different licenses you can choose that give you the privilege to hunt for deer. All but one of the license choices gives you the ability to hunt other animals as well. You can always add other licenses to your deer license, but you would have to pay the price of that license item itself. If you purchase a license package, you receive a slight discount. You will need a transport tag for deer as well. In Washington, you have to decide whether you are going to hunt deer with a rifle (modern firearm), bow and arrow (archery), or muzzleloader. The implement choice on your tag limits you to the specific rules for that season and which hunting implements you can use. Archery season only allows archery, Muzzle loading allows Muzzleloaders and archery, Modern Rifle allows all three. Be sure to review the regulation pamphlet for additional restrictions and regulations

License choices are as follows:

- Deer License
 - Allows you to hunt deer as well as unclassified animals such as coyote.
- Deer License W/discounted Small game license
 - Allows you to hunt deer, unclassified animals, and small game animals like upland birds.
- Deer + Elk License
 - Allows you to hunt deer, elk, and unclassified animals.
- Deer + Elk License W/discounted Small game license
 - Allows you to hunt deer, elk, unclassified animals, and small game animals.
- Deer + Elk + Bear + Cougar License
 - Allows you to hunt deer, elk, bear, cougar, and unclassified animals.
- Deer + Elk + Bear + Cougar License W/discounted Small game license
 - Allows you to hunt deer, elk, bear, cougar, unclassified animals, and small game animals.

Tag choices are:

- Modern Firearm
 - Allows you to use modern firearms, archery, crossbow, and muzzleloader implements during modern firearm hunting season dates
- Muzzleloader
 - Allows you to use archery and muzzleloader implements during muzzleloader season dates
- Archery
 - Allows you to use archery implements during archery hunting season dates
 - Crossbow may be used during archery season IF you are a disabled hunter and have a disabled hunter crossbow permit.

Deer Species

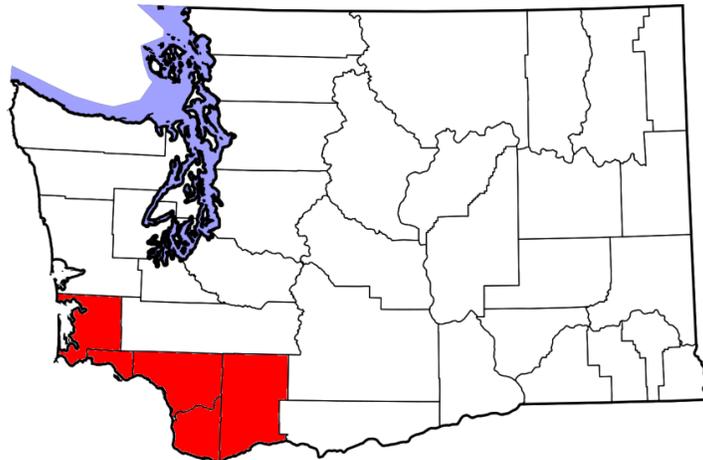
Washington State is home to four subspecies of deer. Of those four, hunters are able to hunt three. These are black-tail, white-tail, and mule deer. The fourth is the Columbian white-tail deer, which is currently on the endangered species list.

Columbian white-tailed deer

Since the Columbian white-tail deer is not a species that can be hunted, they are not covered in this booklet. To learn more about this subspecies, you can find the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife annual report at,

http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/species/columbian_white-tailed_deer.pdf.

The Columbian white-tail deer shares portions of its range with the black-tail deer in western Washington. When hunting in those areas, be sure of your target. Below is a map of the Columbian white-tails range.

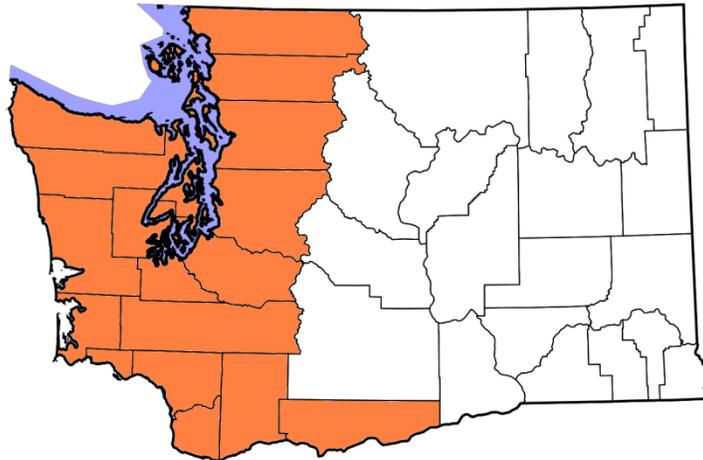


Black-tailed deer

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. Black-tailed deer hunting is often best near the end of the general season, as conditions in the heavily vegetated west-side improve for stalking and moving through the woods quietly. The best opportunity often occurs during the late buck hunt, when favorable stalking and weather conditions combine with the breeding season or rut. The most successful

hunters study the area carefully and move very slowly, constantly searching for deer. 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, like clear-cuts and meadows.

Here is a map of where you may expect to see these deer:



- Species description
 - Black-tail deer occur from the crest of the Cascades west to the Washington coast, preferring brushy, logged lands and coniferous forests.
 - The tail is broader and the backside of the tail is covered with dark brown hair that grades to black near the tip.
 - Adult black-tailed deer bucks weigh 140 to 200 pounds and adult does weigh 90 to 130 pounds.
 - The antlers have a main beam that forks
 - Dark colored belly
 - Grey to brown face
- Shelter and range needs
 - Black-tailed deer normally reside within a ½ to 3 square-mile area; in mountainous locations, they migrate to lower elevations for the winter.
 - Deer numbers differ among habitat types and the highest deer densities are associated with five to seven-year old clear cuts. These young tree stands provide large amounts of both cover and food.
 - Those areas with cover are more likely to contain deer for the majority of the day.
- Hunting Techniques
 - The traditional approaches to hunting black-tails include stand hunting or still-hunting in high use areas (clear cuts, highly traveled trails, funnels, etc.) until the deer show up.
 - Sitting in a blind or tree stand can be a very effective way to hunt black-tails
 - Hunt the edges

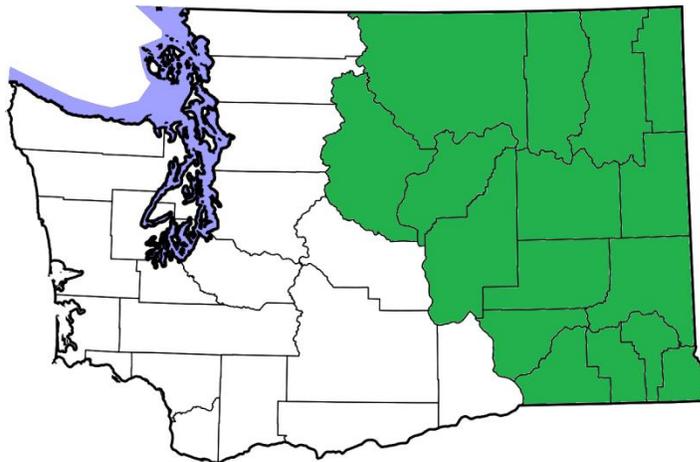
- Watch edges of tree lines and fields. Deer like to hug these areas for quick escapes and movement into cover.
- Spot and stalk can work when hunting large clear cuts. This technique is generally not an efficient way to hunt black-tails in areas with very thick undergrowth and brush.

White-tailed deer

White-tailed deer are generally found in the eastern third of Washington. Look for whitetails along stream drainages and in other areas with riparian vegetation or thick cover. White-tails actively use edge habitats where denser cover abruptly transitions into more open meadows. Many white-tail hunters will wait patiently at a stand along an obvious game trail or the forest edge, often employing the use of a blind or tree stand. The majority of hunting success is near or adjacent to agricultural fields or recent forest timber harvest areas where deer are present and much more visible than in adjacent habitats. However, deer typically use these more open areas at night, dawn, and dusk, especially if they have been disturbed by human presence. Therefore, it is advantageous for hunters to seek out areas some distance away from these openings, where there is more cover available since the deer are spending more time there. If a hunter is seeing large amounts of deer sign in an area, then odds are those deer are not far. White-tailed deer densities are highest along the valleys and foothill benches bordering valleys in the farm-forest mosaic. These areas are highly productive both in crops and deer production.



Here is a map of the white-tail deer's distribution in Washington:



- Species Description
 - White-tailed deer coats are usually reddish tan in summer and brownish gray in winter. They derive their name from their broad, 10 to 11 inch long tail. When

alarmed, white-tailed deer raise their flag-like tail, displaying the white underside.

- Adult White-tailed bucks weigh 150 to 200 pounds and adult does weigh at 110 to 140 pounds.
- Antlers have one main beam with tines extending vertically in most cases.
- White facial markings
- Light colored belly
- Shelter and range needs
 - White-tailed deer are found across a wide variety of landscapes in eastern Washington, from low land riparian areas along water courses to high elevations in the mountains.
 - The highest densities are associated with agricultural lands at lower elevations. Whitetails are present near populated areas.
 - White-tailed deer home ranges vary considerably in size in eastern Washington. Some annual home ranges are relatively small (3 sq miles) or quite large in seasonal migratory whitetail populations.
- Hunting Techniques
 - The traditional approaches to hunting white-tails include stand hunting or still hunting in high use areas (clear cuts, highly traveled trails, funnels, etc.)
 - Sitting in a blind or tree stand is a very effective way to hunt White-tails
 - Rattle and grunt calls to simulate two bucks fighting over a doe is more common with Midwestern and eastern white-tailed states, but can be effective here as well, especially in the days leading up to the rut (deer breeding season) in mid-November.
 - Hunt the edges
 - Watch edges of tree lines and fields. Deer like to hug these areas for quick escapes and movement into cover.
 - Spot and stalk can be an efficient way to hunt white-tails where the habitat is more open.

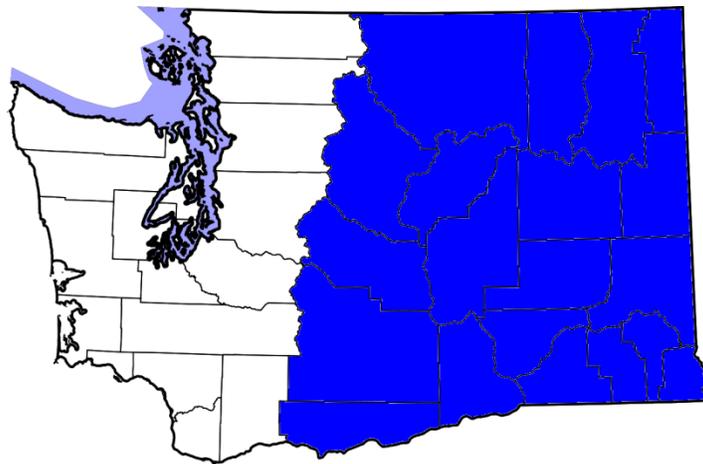


Mule deer

Mule deer are present across most of eastern Washington. Mule deer populations in eastern Washington exhibit a variety of seasonal movement patterns, with migratory herds moving up to 50 straight line miles between summer and winter ranges to resident animals with annual home ranges similar in size to resident whitetail populations. Migratory mule deer are often at high elevations in remote locations as long as succulent vegetation is available. Although mule deer will use a variety of habitat types, they will often forage well into fairly open environments, particularly at dawn and dusk. As

a result, they can often be glassed and stalked from considerable distance. A typical hillside of mule deer habitat in the Cascades over the growing season and through the fall will change from bright green in the spring and summer to light green or yellow, to orange, to red, to brown, then to bare branches. While we see changes in color, mule deer are perceiving changes in forage quality. The summer forage that supports deer and gives them the opportunity to produce young and grow antlers does not retain its high quality all year. As it changes, so do the habitats that deer occupy. Even large expanses of sagebrush can give deer the security they need as well. In the broken coulee county, topography becomes security and riparian vegetation provides food resources. Deer in these areas often become experts at living in small, secure habitat pockets where they meet their needs and avoid hunters.

Mule deer hunters can expect to find mule deer in the following areas:



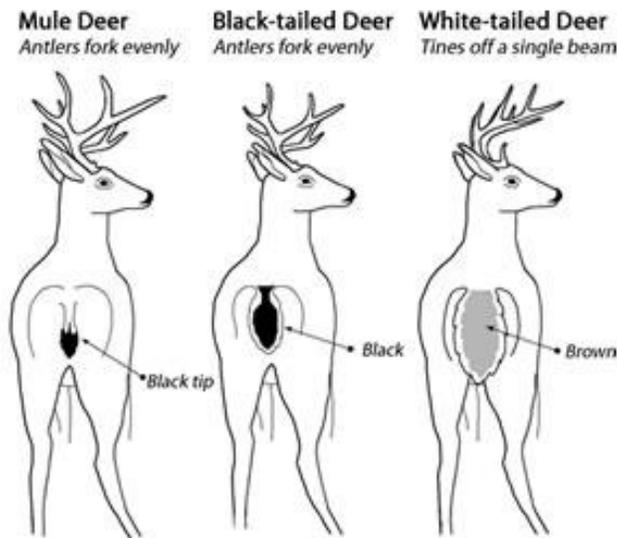
- Species Description
 - During the summer, mule deer coats are tan to light brown. During winter, they are a salt-and-pepper gray.
 - They have large, dark-edged ears, from whence they derive their name.
 - The 7 to 8 inch ropelike tail of a mule deer is white, except for a black tip.
 - Adult mule deer bucks weigh up to 250 pounds and adult does weigh 110 to 200 pounds.
 - The antlers have a main beam that forks
 - Face is greyish in color
 - Darker colored belly
- Shelter and range needs
 - They occur in eastern Washington at all elevations.
 - Mule deer generally move long distances during spring and fall migrations to avoid mountain snow. Mule deer summering in the Cascades migrate as far as 50 miles to reach adequate winter range.
- Hunting Techniques
 - The classical western method of hunting mule deer is called spot and stalk. Here the hunter uses good optics, binoculars, and spotting scopes to scan from ridge tops and other vantage points to find the mule deer, pick out suitable bucks, and

then stalk them to within shooting distance. Ordinarily the stalk entails a strategic hike and cautious sneak action.

- Some mule deer hunters employ stand or still hunting techniques
- Hunt the edges
 - Watch edges of tree lines and fields. Deer like to hug these areas for quick escapes and movement into cover.

Tail and Antler Structure

Below is a picture of the tails and antlers of each of the legal deer species. This should help hunters to quickly identify deer. The tails will help identify the species of deer when they are a doe or a two point buck. Make sure to clearly identify if a deer is legal before harvesting.

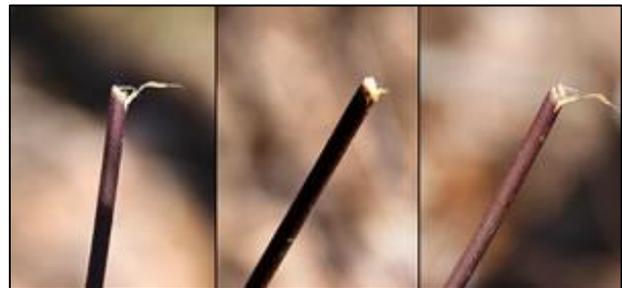


General Deer Information

Deer are creatures of habit, so knowledge of deer habits and movement patterns are valuable to hunters in finding deer during different times of the day and season. Deer are most active during the early morning and late afternoon-evening.

Food and Feeding Habits

Deer tend to feed before dawn, and if undisturbed, continue until several hours after sunrise. After feeding, deer will bed down for most of the middle hours of the day. However it is common for bedded deer to get up and feed for 30 to 60 minutes around noon, then bed down again. Deer will return to feeding late in the afternoon and continue until after sunset.



Examples of bushes browsed by deer

A browse
line



Deer eat a wide variety of plants, ranging from newly sprouted grasses and forbs in the spring to fir needles during the winter. In general, deer tend to be browsers, eating the growing tips of trees and shrubs. In late winter and early spring, deer eat grass, clover, and other herbaceous plants. Deer also eat fruit, nuts, acorns, fungi, lichens, and farm and garden crops if available.

Different species of deer consume different browse, which is likely a reflection of the plant species that make up their habitat. Look for areas that seem to have a line of missing limbs/leaves from the ground to about deer height. This may mean that deer are using this area as a feeding area. If you have a good vantage point, this may be a spot to try during the season. See the table below for species specific food usage information.

Table 1. Food Plants used by Pacific Northwest Deer		
Mule Deer	Black-tailed Deer	White-tailed Deer
Trees and shrubs		
Serviceberry , <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Sagebrush , <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> Deer brush , <i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i> Snowbush , <i>Ceanothus velutinus</i> Rabbitbrush , <i>Chrysothamnus</i> spp. Red twig dogwood , <i>Cornus sericea</i> Winterfat , <i>Eurotia lanata</i> Juniper , <i>Juniperus</i> spp. Mock orange , <i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> Ninebark , <i>Physocarpus capitatus</i> Ponderosa pine , <i>Pinus ponderosa</i> Bitter cherry , <i>Prunus emarginata</i> Douglas fir , <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Bitterbrush , <i>Purshia tridentata</i> Golden current , <i>Ribes aureum</i> Wild rose , <i>Rosa</i> spp. Thimbleberry , <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> Willow , <i>Salix</i> spp. Snowberry , <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Vine maple , <i>Acer circinatum</i> Red alder , <i>Alnus rubra</i> Serviceberry , <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Snowbush (<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.) Deer brush , <i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i> Hazelnut , <i>Corylus cornuta</i> Hawthorn , <i>Crataegus columbiana</i> Salal , <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> Douglas fir , <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Oak , <i>Quercus</i> spp. Cascara , <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> Blackberry , <i>Rubus</i> spp. Thimbleberry , <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> Salmonberry , <i>Rubus spectabilis</i> Willow , <i>Salix</i> spp. Elderberry , <i>Sambucus</i> spp. Western red cedar , <i>Thuja plicata</i> Red huckleberry , <i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Serviceberry , <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> Sagebrush , <i>Artemisia tridentata</i> Deer brush , <i>Ceanothus integerrimus</i> Crabapple , <i>Malus</i> spp. Bitter cherry , <i>Prunus emarginata</i> Douglas fir , <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Bitterbrush , <i>Purshia tridentata</i> Willow , <i>Salix</i> spp. Western red cedar , <i>Thuja plicata</i>
Forbs and Legumes		
Balsamroot , <i>Balsamorhiza</i> spp. Prickly lettuce , <i>Lactuca serriola</i> Twinflower , <i>Linnaea borealis</i> Alfalfa , <i>Medicago sativa</i> Burnet , <i>Sanguisorba</i> spp. Dandelion , <i>Taraxacum</i> spp. Clover , <i>Trifolium</i> spp. Trefoil , <i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Creeping Oregon grape , <i>Mahonia repens</i> Alfalfa , <i>Medicago sativa</i> Burnet , <i>Sanguisorba</i> spp. Dandelion , <i>Taraxacum</i> spp. Clover , <i>Trifolium</i> spp.	Pearly everlasting , <i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> Balsamroot , <i>Balsamorhiza</i> spp. Fireweed , <i>Epilobium angustifolium</i> Cat's ear , <i>Hypochaeris</i> spp. Alfalfa , <i>Medicago sativa</i> Clover , <i>Trifolium</i> spp. Vetch , <i>Vicia</i> spp.
Grasses and Others		
Wheatgrass , <i>Agropyron</i> spp. Oats , <i>Avena fatua</i> Cheatgrass , <i>Bromus tectorum</i> Bluegrass , <i>Poa</i> spp. Wheat , <i>Triticum aestivum</i> Lichen Mushrooms and other fungi	Wheatgrass , <i>Agropyron</i> spp. Orchard grass , <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> Fescue , <i>Festuca</i> spp. Lichen Mushrooms and other fungi	Oats , <i>Avena fatua</i> Deer fern , <i>Blechnum spicant</i> Bluegrass , <i>Poa</i> spp. Sword fern , <i>Polystichum munitum</i> Wheat , <i>Triticum aestivum</i> Lichen Mushrooms and other fungi



Tracks

Deer have regular routes they travel throughout their home range. These travel corridors may become well-worn trails that look a little like narrow human footpaths. The trails may be clear of low vegetation, but are not bare unless they are in shade or are heavily used by deer and other mammals. These trails are also known as game trails. Looking at muddy areas of the trails will help you identify the animals using the trail. Sandy areas generally do not hold tracks well. Dirt areas generally hold a track better than sand but not nearly as well

as slightly moist mud.

Deer tracks are easy to identify. In a normal hoof print, the two roughly teardrop-shaped halves print side by side to form a split heart. When a deer is walking on a slippery surface, such as mud or snow, its hooves are likely to be spread into a V, which helps keep the deer from sliding forward. Deer tracks are 1½ to 3¼ inches long. The smallest prints belong to fawns and the largest to adult deer. The small dewclaws shown here on a mule deer track may not register.



Droppings

Looking for deer droppings is another way of determining if deer are present and using a particular area. Deer droppings vary greatly in size and shape, but are easy to identify. Most of the year they are deposited in a group of 20 to 30 dark cylindrical pellets with one flat or concave end and one pointed end. Individual pellets are ½ to ¾ inch long and individual piles are 4 to 6 inches in diameter. When deer are feeding on moist vegetation, the pellets stick together and form clumps. New droppings have a shiny, wet appearance for a few days and then lighten in color as they age. Droppings in eastern Washington tend to turn a chalky white after several days because they dry out faster. Western Washington droppings will stay brown longer because they generally stay wetter. Just because you see droppings does not necessarily mean that there are animals in the area unless the droppings are fresh. However, seeing a lot of droppings indicates animals are using the area frequently as a feeding area or travel corridor away from a feeding area.

Bedding areas

Deer seek areas that provide security from disturbance when bedding. An area of flattened vegetation 3 to 4 feet long and 2 to 3 feet wide indicates where a deer has bedded down. Deer sleep in dense cover or tall grasses and may return to the same spot over many days. Since deer often travel in small groups, there may be several “deer beds” in the same vicinity. During winter, similarly sized depressions in the snow, often littered with old hairs, characterize bed-sites. If you know about these sites, it can be effective to set up near the site and watch for deer coming back to bed down after feeding.

Rubs

Bucks rub off some of the velvet covering their antlers by rubbing them against young trees and shrubs. These rubbing sites also communicate their presence and breeding readiness to other deer. This communication has several facets: the visual sign left by the buck’s rubbing, chemical signals left from glands on the buck’s face, and the sound of the buck thrashing branches of the tree on which it is rubbing. Although antlers are bone white when the velvet is first removed, they become stained various shades of brown as plant compounds accumulate through constantly being rubbed by brush and trees. The color results from a chemical reaction of the plant compounds with the air, in a process known as oxidation.



Scrapes

Bucks make scrapes during the pre-rut period by scraping the ground with their hooves near the base of a tree or under lower hanging branches. Bucks commonly urinate on scrapes and rub their orbital glands located just below their eyes on any branches that hang over a scrape. Scrapes serve several functions, including marking a buck’s territory, providing a signpost of their presence, and advertising

a place for does to find bucks during the rut.

General Deer Hunting Techniques

There are four basic hunting techniques used in deer hunting: stand hunting, still hunting, spot and stalk, and driving.

Stand hunting is best described as waiting in ambush, where a hunter gets in position at a place along a trail, feeding site, or other deer use area and waits for a deer to present itself. Ground blinds or tree stands are commonly employed in stand hunting. Although many stand hunters just lean against a tree or sit on a stump near a likely area or travel corridor.

Still hunting requires the hunter to move very slowly and quietly through deer habitat in hopes of seeing a legal deer before the deer reacts to the hunter's presence. Although all forms of deer hunting are challenging, still hunting is perhaps the most challenging. Successful still hunters move at a snail's pace, taking 3 or 4 steps at a time, and then stopping to look and listen. It is important that the hunter move into or across any prevailing wind so as not to be smelled by a deer.

Spot and stalk hunting is where a hunter surveys areas likely to be used by deer, usually aided by binoculars or a spotting scope. Once a legal deer is spotted, the hunter then sneaks to within range of the deer in hopes of getting a shot. Spot and stalk is commonly used in more open deer habitats where deer can be spotted at a distance. It can also be used when deer have been observed by a hunter and the hunter has not been detected by the deer.

Driving is a combination of stand hunting and still hunting. It requires a group of hunters that are divided into drivers and blockers. The blockers are positioned at locations where deer are likely to move through when the drivers have been detected. The drivers advance toward the blockers through likely deer habitat in hopes of seeing deer or moving deer toward the blockers. This technique is commonly used in the upper mid-west United States when hunting white-tailed deer but can be applied in variant forms to hunting any of the deer found in Washington.

Hunting Equipment

Clothing and Concealment

When archery or muzzleloader deer hunting, you can wear camouflage clothing to help conceal yourself from the deer. The number of camouflage patterns and manufacturers is dizzying. Just remember to look for a pattern that looks similar to what kind of habitat you are going to hunt in. And if all else fails, you can use the old style of green, brown, and black camo that is common in popular culture. When hunting the modern firearm deer seasons, you have to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of florescent hunter orange exterior clothing. A hat, by itself, does not meet the hunter orange requirement. Hunter orange that also has a camo pattern to it is acceptable.

Ground blinds are becoming more and more popular. These blinds are designed to pop up and provide total concealment on the ground. Just popping this blind up does not guarantee concealment, so try to place brush and cover around the blind to help conceal it. Make sure to keep the windows in the back zipped up so as to not silhouette yourself to the deer. Ground

blinds should be set out in advance of your hunt, if possible, so the deer become accustomed to the blind.

Blinds can also be constructed with burlap, 1 x 1's, spray-paint, and some string. Cut the 1 x 1's to about a four foot section. Drill holes in the 1 x 1's and lace the burlap to them. Spray paint the wood to be a dark color and put streaks of green, black, and tan on the burlap. You will then have your own blind that is easy to transport.

Tree stands are very popular with some deer hunters. These attach to a tree to bring you up from ground level and provide a bird's eye view of the landscape. Some tree stands require you to use a ladder to place it on a tree. But some are called climbing tree stands because it allows you to climb the tree.

Remember that if you are on private lands to make sure to check with the landowner prior to placing ground blinds or tree stands if it is ok with them and if you are on public land to check the regulations of the agency who owns the land.

Calls to use

Calls have generally not been used extensively for deer hunting in Washington. However the use of calls or other sounds associated with deer are gaining popularity in Washington and in other areas of the country. A less well-known or utilized calling technique is rattling and grunting to simulate two bucks fighting over a doe in estrus. The rattling technique is more common with Midwest and eastern white-tailed deer hunters, but can be effective, particularly during the pre-rut period or where buck to doe ratios are high. Also a grunt tube can be used to signify that a buck is challenging the dominant buck. A doe in estrus call can also be effective during and near the rut.

Grunt tube – This call produces a grunting noise that dominant bucks use to let other bucks know who is in the area. This can be used in association with rattling calls for maximum effectiveness.



Rattling Calls – These calls are used to imitate two bucks fighting over a receptive doe. This is great to use in conjunction with the grunt call. This method of calling is used very extensively in the Texas and the mid-west.

Doe Bleat – This call mimics a doe in heat call. This can be used where the buck to doe ratio is high. Bucks will come to this call because this noise indicates that a doe is receptive.



Optics

High quality optics, especially binoculars, may be one of the most useful pieces of equipment you can have in your deer hunting toolbox. These pieces of equipment can be a great asset in locating and harvesting your deer. They allow you to search vast stretches of habitat without having to hike. Optics will also allow you to verify the deer is legal before harvesting.

You will notice optics have a designation similar to 8 x 42. These numbers correspond to the construction. The first number is magnification. In the 8 x 42 example, the image is magnified 8 times. The second number is the diameter of the objective lens of the optic. In the 8 x 42 example, the objective lens is 42mm wide. The higher the objective lens, the bulkier the optics can be. However, the larger the objective lens, the clearer the image will be, due to more light entering. You may want to go into a sporting goods store and test out some of the optics before deciding on a specific size or model.

Knives

There are about as many knives available in today's sporting goods stores as there are people to buy them. They have many different shapes, uses, designs, and materials. One thing to keep in mind is a sharp knife is a good knife. Any knife can be used to care for your game. However, some are designed specifically for different jobs. When picking a knife, you will want to find something that works for you. Keep a knife sharpener in your pack for touching up the blade when field dressing the animal. Also, if you are hunting big game, you may want a bone saw. It will help when field dressing animals and cutting through the animals pelvis.

Hunting Implements

Legal hunting implements for deer are as diverse as the companies that create and sell them. There are huge books that have been written about all the different types and what their uses are. Since we only have limited space and time, some of the favorites for deer hunters will be discussed here. The regulations behind the hunting implements will also be discussed. This section details legal hunting implements at the time of the writing of this booklet.

Archery equipment

Archery equipment consists of many types of bows that are commercially available today. All of these bows have to meet the following criteria to be used to hunt big game in Washington State.

- Mechanical broadheads are legal to use for all archery hunting.
- It is unlawful for any person to carry or have in his possession any firearm while in the field archery hunting, during an archery season specified for that area, except for modern handguns carried for personal protection.
- Modern handguns cannot be used to hunt big game or dispatch wounded big game during an archery, big game hunting season.

- It is unlawful to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s) **except for illuminated nocks**, attached to the bow or arrow while hunting.
- It is unlawful to shoot a bow and arrow from a vehicle or from, across or along the maintained portion of a public highway.
- It is unlawful to use any device secured to or supported by the bow for the purpose of maintaining the bow at full draw or in a firing position.
- It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead, and the broadhead blade or blades are less than seven eighths inch wide.
- It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with any bow equipped with a scope.
- Rules pertaining to long bow, recurve bow, and compound bow archery:
 - It is unlawful for any person to hunt big game animals with a bow that does not produce a minimum of 40 pounds of pull measured at twenty-eight inches or less draw length.
 - It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow measuring less than 20 inches in length or weighing less than 6 grains per pound of draw weight with a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains.

Bows can generally be placed in one of two categories, compound or traditional. Compound bows are the most popular hunting bow because of their ease of use. The mechanics of the bow allow for the shooter to more easily draw and hold than the traditional bows. The compounds have what is called let off. At a certain point in the draw, the draw weight is reduced by as much as 85%. These bows are always strung and ready to go.

Traditional bows are either Long Bows or Recurve Bows. There is no mechanical let off when holding these bows at full draw. However, these bows are just as effective at harvesting animals as compound bows (if you are proficient with them). These bows have to be strung before use because if you kept the bow strung it would lose power by forming to the strung position.

There are several types of arrows available for hunters, generally constructed of wood, aluminum, or carbon fiber. Refer to the manufacturers table to determine which arrow type and size fit your bow and shooting conditions best. If you are unsure of the arrows to purchase, consult with an archery retailer and they can help determine which is appropriate for your bow.



Broadheads need to be used when hunting big game with archery equipment. These also come in many different shapes and sizes. Make sure the broadhead you are purchasing and using is at least 7/8" in diameter. You may want to purchase the same weight broadhead as the field points you are using for target practice to minimize sight adjustment in your bow.

Crossbows can be used in archery season IF you are a disabled hunter and have been approved for a special use permit through WDFW's ADA program. Please see the crossbow information within the Modern Firearm Equipment section since it is considered a modern firearm in regards to hunting in Washington.

Muzzleloader equipment

As with archery equipment, muzzleloaders come in all makes and models. No matter who manufactures the muzzleloader, it has to meet the following criteria to be legal to hunt big game in Washington State:

- Muzzleloader: A firearm that is loaded from the muzzle and uses black powder or a black powder substitute as recommended by the manufacturer for use in all muzzleloading firearms.
- A muzzleloading firearm shall be considered loaded if a powder charge and a projectile, either shot or single projectile are in the barrel and the barrel or breech is capped or primed.
- It is unlawful to hunt wildlife using a muzzleloading firearm that does not meet the following specifications:
 - A muzzleloading shotgun or rifle must have a single or double barrel, rifled or smooth-bored.
 - A muzzleloading shotgun or rifle used for deer must be .40 caliber or larger. Buckshot size #1 or larger may be used in a smoothbore of .60 caliber or larger for deer.
 - A muzzleloading shotgun, rifle, or handgun used for all other big game must be .45 caliber or larger.
 - Persons lawfully hunting small game with a double barrel, muzzleloading shotgun may keep both barrels loaded.
 - A muzzleloading handgun must have a single or double barrel of at least eight inches, must be rifled, and must be capable of being loaded with forty-five grains or more of black powder or black powder substitute per the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - A muzzleloading handgun used for big game must be .45 caliber or larger.
 - A handgun designed to be used with black powder, including black powder percussion revolvers, can be used to hunt forest grouse, cottontail rabbits, and snowshoe hares.
- In addition to the above requirements, it is unlawful to participate (hunt) in a muzzleloading hunting season using a firearm that does not meet the following specifications for a muzzleloader. As in the past, sabots are allowed. Any type of projectile is allowed.

- Ignition is to be wheel lock, matchlock, flintlock, or percussion using original style percussion caps that fit on the nipple and are exposed to the weather. "Exposed to the weather" means the percussion cap or the frizzen must be visible and not capable of being enclosed by an integral part of the weapon proper. Primers designed to be used in modern cartridges are not legal.
- Sights must be open, peep, or of other open sight design. Fiber optic sights are legal. Telescopic sights or sights containing glass are prohibited.
- It is unlawful to have any electrical device or equipment attached to a muzzleloading firearm while hunting.
- Those persons lawfully hunting big game with a double barrel muzzleloader may only keep one barrel loaded.
- Muzzleloading firearms used during a modern firearm season are not required to meet ignition, sight, or double barrel restrictions.



Muzzleloaders are a great way to hunt with an implement that has been around for hundreds of years with the ability to shoot to distances of 100 yards or more. This implement is the least utilized by hunters in Washington State, but it may be because they are unaware of how accurate and fun muzzleloader hunting can be. The good news, if you choose to become a muzzleloader hunter, is that this means the woods are not nearly as crowded as they are for archery and modern firearm deer seasons.

Currently any projectile fired from a muzzleloader is legal as long as it meets the caliber restrictions mentioned above. This is good news because of the advancements in projectiles can help with accuracy and lethality. You should explore the new options and determine the right combination for you and your rifle. Also, if you are shooting a smooth barreled muzzleloader, you can shoot buckshot as long as the muzzleloader is .60 caliber or larger.

With muzzleloaders, make sure you use a black powder or black powder substitute that is rated for your muzzleloader. If you use the incorrect powder, it could be disastrous. Some other helpful safety hints include:

- Never fill the muzzleloader directly from the powder can as it could spark and ignite the powder in the can.
- Mark your ramrod when the muzzleloader is empty so you can make sure it is empty upon storage.

- Be sure to seat the wad and shot directly on top of the powder charge.
- Store powder and percussion caps in separate dry and cool places.

Beware a hang fire. This happens when the trigger is pulled, the percussion cap ignites, but the firearm may not go off. Make sure to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction for at least 30 seconds. If it still does not fire in that 30 seconds, put on another cap or re-prime the pan, and fire again. Make sure the nipple is clean on percussion locks.

Modern Firearm Equipment

Modern firearm seasons are the most popular deer hunting seasons in Washington. This may have to do with the ability of modern rifles to be able to shoot very accurately at very long distances or because the timing of the season is closer to the deer rut. There are several different types of hunting implements that are classified as modern firearm equipment. They are Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, and Crossbow. Below are listed the regulations on the modern firearm hunting implements by type:

- **Rifles**
 - Big game, except cougar, must be hunted with a minimum of .24 caliber (6mm) centerfire rifle. Cougar may be hunted with .22 caliber centerfire rifle. Rimfire rifles are not legal for big game.
- **Handguns**
 - Big game, except cougar, may be hunted with handguns with a minimum barrel length of 4 inches per manufacturer's specification, and fire a minimum .24 caliber centerfire cartridge. The minimum for cougar is a .22 caliber centerfire handgun. Rimfire handguns are not legal for big game.
 - A modern handgun may be carried for personal protection. Modern handguns cannot be used to hunt big game (except as described above), or dispatch wounded big game during a big game hunting season for muzzleloading firearms.
- **Shotguns**
 - Deer, bear, and cougar may be hunted with 20 gauge to 10 gauge shotguns shooting slugs or #1 or larger buckshot. Other big game may be hunted with a 10 or 12 gauge shotgun using slugs.
- **Crossbows**
 - It is illegal to hunt big game with a crossbow outside of a modern firearm season. Crossbows cannot be used during an archery season.
 - It is unlawful to hunt big game with a crossbow with a draw weight less than 125 pounds and a trigger safety that doesn't work properly.
 - It is illegal to hunt big game with any arrow or bolt weighing less than 350 grains.
 - It is illegal to hunt big game with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead and the broadhead blade or blades are less than seven-eighths inch wide.
 - It is unlawful to discharge a crossbow from a vehicle or from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway.

There are so many rifle calibers available that will work for deer hunting it can be overwhelming. Some of the more popular hunting calibers for big game like deer and elk are .243, .270, 7mm mag, .308, 30-06, and any of the .300 magnums. These rifles and ammunition are generally available at most sporting goods stores since they are so popular. Animals are harvested by proper shot placement into the vitals, so the best deer rifle for you is one that you can shoot accurately and safely with confidence. The rifles can fire many different bullets that have different weights and are made from different



materials. The weight of a bullet is measured in grains. The more the bullet weighs, the more energy is transferred to the target. For deer hunting, a bullet that is 100-150 grains that will mushroom on impact is good. If you are planning on hunting elk as well, you may want to move up to a 180 grain bullet. The bullet makeup and design will cause it to act differently when striking a target. A bullet that has a polymer tip may be designed to mushroom faster and wider than a bullet with a lead tip. When hunting for big game animals, like deer, you want a bullet that expends its energy in the target.

While hunting with a handgun is legal, it is not as popular as other methods. If this is something that you choose to do, make sure that the bullet is effective for the job you are asking it to do. Make sure that you are taking into consideration the weight of the bullet and that it will deform enough to cause a humane hit on an animal.

Shotgun hunting for deer is generally done within firearm restriction areas. However shotgun manufacturers do make rifled barrels for some shotguns that provide increased accuracy when using rifled slugs for deer. Remember not to shoot shot out of a rifled barrel as it could damage the rifling. Buckshot from a smooth shotgun barrel can also be effective when harvesting deer.

Crossbows were made legal to hunt with as a modern firearm in 2015. These implements are gaining popularity amongst hunters because of their accuracy and speed. They are also as quiet as a bow when fired.

Where to Go

Finding hunting access on private lands in Washington State is becoming more of a challenge. However, there are still a number of options available to hunters on public land. WDFW's

wildlife areas are good places to start. WDFW also has a lot of private landowners who have signed up to allow public hunting access on their lands. These lands can be found on the WDFW website as part of the Private Lands Hunting Access program.

Also on the website is an online mapping tool called “GoHunt.” This system allows hunters to print their own maps and use them in the field, and also breaks down the hunting success of several species into a visual map. This tool can be found online at <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/gohunt/>.

If hunters want to gain access to private property, they should do some scouting of their desired area and locate lands they might want to hunt. Once a hunter has located properties to hunt, he or she can knock on the door of the landowner. If the hunter can't locate a house, landowner contact information can be obtained from the county tax assessor office. Landowners may refuse to grant permission. If they do refuse access, make sure to thank them for their time. Hunters who are persistent in their search will most likely gain access to some lightly hunted areas and make new friends along the way. Other options include hunt clubs and hiring a guide who has access to private farms and ranches.

The department's website contains annual hunting prospects that detail WDFW biologist's expectations for hunting for the current year's seasons. These prospects are broken into 17 districts that mark where a particular biologist is responsible. Hunters can find the hunting prospects online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/prospects/>.

Hunting Ethics

All hunters should be hunting ethically. There are many interpretations on ethics and what they mean, but before starting your hunt, think of what you believe is ethical and put it against what the public as a whole may think is ethical. Being ethical hunters will improve public perceptions of hunting and will benefit the sport. WDFW encourages you to raise your ethical bar to the highest level.

Some things that are considered un-ethical in regards to hunting are:

- Shooting at birds when they are outside your hunting implement's effective range.
- Shooting birds while on the land, water, or foliage
- Hogging all of the shots from your hunting party
- Shooting a deer or elk at 1000 yards
- Using a hunting implement that is not properly sighted in

Shot placement

Shot placement is crucial when trying to harvest an animal. As ethical sportsmen and women, we should strive to only take good shots and make the most humane kill. This can be achieved by only shooting when you are 100% confident in the shot. Part of being confident is practicing

with your hunting implement before the hunt. Another way to be confident would be to know exactly where to put the shot. Also be sure to note if there are any obstructions between you and the deer when shooting. A branch or twig can significantly impact a projectile's trajectory. Below are the shots that may present themselves when you are in the field. The dots on the pictures show where the shot will be most effective. When taking the following shots from a tree stand, remember to aim slightly higher on the animal than indicated due to the angle that the projectile will take.

Broadside

This is by far the best shot that you can have. Since the vital organs are easier to hit with this shot, most inexperienced hunters should wait until this shot presents itself. The projectile will most likely go through both lungs and possibly the heart when taking this shot.



Quartering away

This shot is also fairly effective for harvesting but can be a challenge for some hunters. The object of this shot is to hit the tail end of the lung that is towards you and the middle or front of the lung that is away from you. Aim for the opposite shoulder of the animal.

Quartering to

This shot is getting more difficult because there are more bone areas that can be hit. Archers probably should not take this shot as the probability of hitting a rib or shoulder is increased. Also the animal may see you draw and release and "jump the string." This refers to when the animal moves when the bowstring is released and can change the point of impact of your arrow. Muzzleloader and rifle hunters may not have an issue since the bullet should go through bone.



Head on

This shot shouldn't generally be taken. The chance of hitting vital organs is considerably less than the above three shots. The only really viable shot would be a heart shot. However, a shot from this angle would also most likely rupture the intestines, stomachs, and other areas of the deer that have digestive juices or worse. Archers should not take the shot because the sternum will most likely deflect the arrow.

Rear end

This shot shouldn't be taken. The chance of hitting vital organs is considerably less than broadside, quartering to, and quartering away shots. A shot from this angle would also most likely rupture the intestines, stomachs, and other areas of the deer that have digestive juices or worse.



Tracking

This is probably the most difficult skill to learn on the fly. However it is a necessary skill to be successful in retrieving big game animals. At some point, every big game hunter has an animal hit well but run off into the brush and they lose sight of the animal. You will have to be able to follow a blood trail to find your big game animal. Give the animal about 30 minutes after the shot to lie down and expire. Watch and listen for any indications the animal may be down. Go to the spot where the animal was standing at the time of impact. If there are two hunters, have one stay at the spot that you shot from and have the other go to the spot of impact. Look for any blood or hair in the immediate area. Once you find some blood, examine it to see what kind of hit the animal took. If you are an archer, look at the arrow to help determine what kind of hit it was. Bubbly blood means a shot to the lungs. Dark red blood means a heart shot. Black blood means a liver shot.

Slowly make your way towards the last place you saw the deer running but keep your eyes on the ground sweeping left to right looking for blood. If you cannot find any, you can walk in slow circles until you find some blood. There are lighted tools that will make the blood stand out better, but they will only work at night. Mark the spot of last blood or have one hunter stay there and make a slow circle at about 10 feet. If you cannot find blood at 10 feet, adjust your distance. Remember that this is SLOW and METHODICAL tracking. Continue on until you find the animal. If while you are tracking you hear the animal gets up and run off again, wait another 30 minutes before starting to track the animal again. When you find the animal, approach it from behind and make sure to poke it with a stick or your hunting implement to verify it has expired. If not, dispatch the animal as humanely as possible.

Tagging

When you do retrieve your animal, you will want to make sure to notch and affix your transport tag to it. Immediately after any big game animal has been killed, the appropriate tag of the person who has taken the animal must be validated by cutting out and completely removing the month and day of kill. The month and day must be completely removed. A slit is not acceptable. Then the tag must be securely attached to the carcass in a visible manner. A favorite way to attach the tag is with electrical tape on the antler. However the Washington tags have little holes in the right hand side of the tag. This is a good spot to stick a zip tie through and attach to an antler or an ear.

STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATIONAL
WILD ID: 5002-582-6269

TRANSPORT TAG

15 ELK
WESTERN WA
MOD FIRE

1 DEER * HUNTER 16
2 Doc #: 23465023582934 Dealer ID: 2345 17
3 Issue Date: 10/23/2015 18
4 Valid (From/To): 10/23/2015 - 03/31/2016 19
5 20
6 Immediately upon kill, cut out (remove) month and day 21
7 of kill and attach tag to animal. All hunters must report 22
8 their hunting activity by January 31, 2016 whether they 23
9 report within 10 days of the kill. Successful hunters should submit a hunter 24
10 report within 10 days of the kill. Make reports either by 25
11 calling toll free 1-877-945-3492 or by visiting the 26
12 internet website Fishand.wa.gov. Attach this tag to 27
13 the animal with a string threaded through the hole circle 28
14 opening near the right edge. 29
15 30
16 Hunter: dlw.wa.gov or E-mails at: licensing@dlw.wa.gov 31
17 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Dec

Field Dressing

Field dressing is removing the internal organs from the animal. This should be done as soon as practical after the animal is recovered. Doing this sooner decreases the chances that the intestines, stomachs, and other areas of the deer that have digestive juices or worse may rupture and come in contact with the meat. There are many valid ways in which to field dress deer. Below you will find a prescribed way to field dress. For other ways to field dress deer, search for deer field dressing videos online.

- Roll the deer onto its back.
- Find the bottom of the ribcage.
- Insert your knife just below the bottom of the ribcage angled towards the head.
- Cut up the sternum towards the head, splitting the breastbone to the base of the neck.
- Return to the bottom of the ribcage.
- Place the knife in-between your index and middle fingers while keeping the blade tip covered
- Slowly cut down the belly to the base of the anus.
 - You can also use a knife with a Gut hook if you have one.
 - Make sure to leave proof of sex naturally attached to the carcass.
- Cut around the anus and pull it out slightly.
- Tie the anus in a knot or use some string around the exposed lower intestine to make sure no droppings get on your meat.
- Cut into the meat to expose the pelvis.
- Using a bone saw or sharp hatchet, carefully split the pelvis where the lower intestine goes through the bone.
- Move back up to the neck area.
- Sever the windpipe as high as you can.
- Tie this into a knot or close it with string.
- If you want to keep and eat the heart, move down to the chest cavity and remove it.
 - The heart and liver are eaten by some hunters. Place these organs into a game bag to keep them clean and cool.
- Slowly cut the diaphragm that separated the heart and lungs from the intestines and stomach making sure not to puncture any organs.
- Move along the spine and detach the innards as close to the backbone as possible.
- Gently pull the lower intestines out from between the split bone.
- If you want to keep the liver, collect it from the entrails now.
- Once all connections are severed, roll the animal on to its side and slide the entrails out.

Skinning

Skinning the animal will help cool the meat faster. You can decide to skin the animal on the ground, or you can hang it and skin it while it is hanging. You can purchase a gambrel and pulley to hoist the animal up but you do not have to.

- Make small vertical cuts in the hind legs just below the ankle area inside the ligament that controls the lower leg.
- Put your gambrel hooks through those cuts.
- Hoist the animal up.
- Make a cut in the skin but not into the meat around the hind leg just below the point the deer is hanging. Go slow and make sure not to cut that tendon.
- Make a cut from the previous step to the pelvis area where the meat is exposed.
- Make little cuts along this line to create a flap you can hang on to.
- Pull the skin away from the meat and cut the connective tissue. Try not to cut into the meat.
- Once you have skinned the entire leg, repeat the previous four steps for the second hind leg.
- If you are skinning at home you can now cut the tail off.
- Pull down on the skin to help separate it from the meat.
- While holding downward pressure, cut the connective tissue sometimes referred to as silver skin. Just run the knife along the edge where the meat and skin meet as you pull.
 - If you are going to want the skin tanned, try not to nick the hide.
- Start working around the carcass and making the cuts as needed.
- Once you get to the front legs, cut around the knee joint.
 - There is very little meat in the lower leg.
- Once you have severed the tendons, if you bend the leg to the side it becomes easier to remove.
- Do this on the other leg as well.
- Now that the legs are off, continue skinning down the legs and onto the neck.
- Skin down to about 4 inches from the skull.
- Use your bone saw to cut through the spine just above where the skin is still attached to the carcass.
 - A hack saw could also be used but make sure it is a clean blade.
- At this point you can process the carcass yourself or you can check with a local butcher shop that may be able to process game animals for a fee.

Processing

Processing the carcass is the final step before you can enjoy some of the deliciousness that waits. To process the carcass, you can break it down yourself or you can take it to local butcher shop that processes game animals. There is a fee to have the carcass processed by the butcher shop, but it is cut just like beef.

If you process it yourself, you may not get the beautiful steaks and roasts that come out of a butcher shop. Videos of how to process deer can be found on you tube or can be purchased at local sporting goods stores and online stores. However, if you do choose to process yourself, remember that the meat has to be protected from the freezer and freezer burn. A vacuum sealer is a great way to make your game last for many months to come.

Hunter Reporting

Hunter reporting is an integral part of hunting any animal that requires a tag. It allows WDFW staff to accurately measure the harvest and coupled with winter surveys of the animal species

will help with setting the next year seasons. Since the information is necessary for WDFW to effectively manage the game animals, this is a mandatory report even if you did not harvest. If you fail to report by the deadline of January 31 then you will be subject to the \$10 administrative penalty.

Below is a step by step process to report your tags. If you have trouble with the online system, you can also call 877-945-3492 and report by phone.

- Go to fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov
- Under the "I want to Submit" section on the left hand side (Highlighted in Orange), Select "Hunter Report".
- Select the "Submit Report" Box in the top left hand corner of the page.
- Enter all customer information fields. Then click "GO".
- If an error occurs, "customer not found, please try your search again." Verify the information that was entered.
- Select the first species under the "Choose a tag to report on:" section.
- Answer all questions that are on the screen. The questions will change based on the answers provided.
- When completed, the report will issue a message that says, "You have finished the hunter report. Click FINISH to save all of your answers. Click "FINISH" when completed.
- A confirmation page will come up that will show the report has been submitted successfully.
- Write down the submittal date and the confirmation number, this information may need to be referenced at a future date.
- When completed use the Back button on the screen and it will take you back to the page that shows which tags need to be reported on or have been reported.
- Repeat the process for all tags with an outstanding report.
- This information is used to set future hunting seasons in conjunction with WDFW field staff population surveys.

What kind of Deer am I?

1.



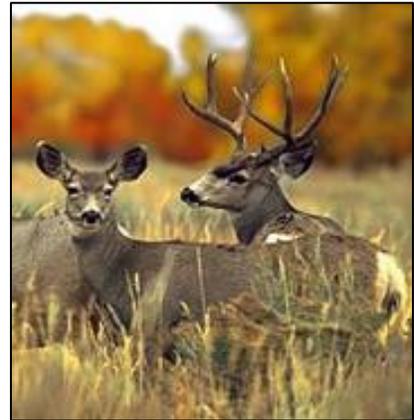
5.



2.



6.



3.



7.



4.



8.



1. White-tail, 2. Mule, 3. Black-tail, 4. White-tail, 5. White-tail, 6. Black-tail, 7. Mule, 8. White-tail.

Ten Basic Safety Rules

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and under control.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire. Use your safety, but remember that safeties sometimes fail.
4. Be sure of your target and what lies beyond before firing.
5. Never place or carry a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.
6. Never use a firearm unless you are familiar with how it works. If you need an owner's manual, write to the manufacturer.
7. Never cross a fence, climb a tree, cross a stream or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
8. Never point at anything you do not want to shoot.
9. Unload firearms when not in use. Store firearms and ammunition separately.
10. Never use alcohol (or drugs) before or during shooting.

Learn More about WDFW's Hunter Education Program

Website

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/>

Email

huntered@dfw.wa.gov

Regional Offices

Region 1 Spokane Office: (509) 892-1001
Region 2 Ephrata Office: (509) 754-4624
Region 3 Yakima Office: (509) 575-2740
Region 4 Mill Creek Office: (425) 775-1311
Region 5 Vancouver Office: (360) 696-6211
Region 6 Montesano Office: (360) 239-4628
Headquarters Olympia Office: (360) 902-8111

More Information

For more information about the Hunter Education Program, contact our staff in Olympia at (360) 902-8111.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and provides equal access to its programs, services, activities, and facilities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.

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If you need further assistance or information, please contact the Olympia office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: (360) 902-2349, or Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), (360) 902-2207.