

2014

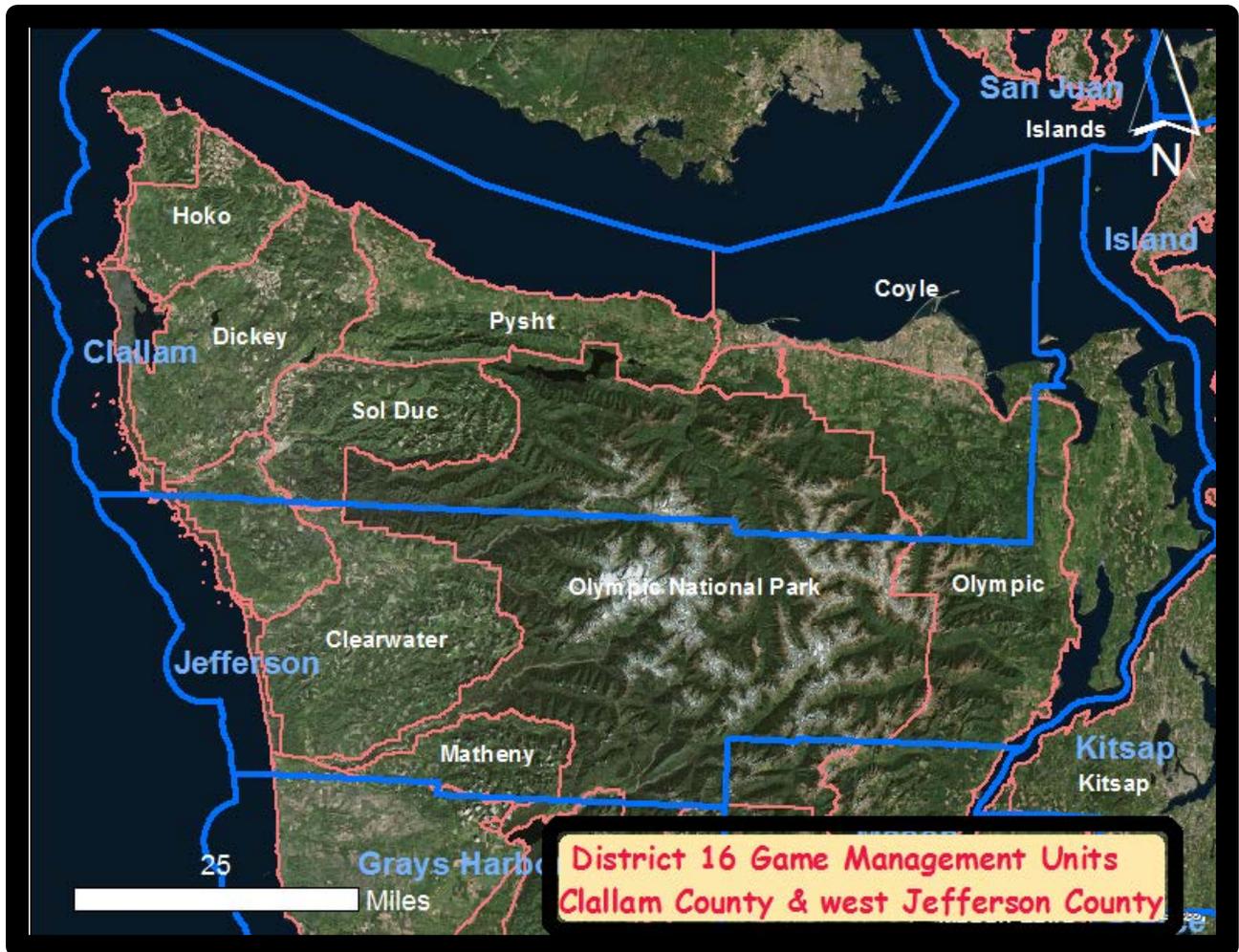
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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

DISTRICT 16 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Clallam and west Jefferson Counties



WELCOME TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

DISTRICT 16 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 16 includes Clallam County and the western portion of Jefferson County on the Olympic Peninsula. There are eight Game Management Units (GMUs) in District 16, all bordering Olympic National Park and/or a Tribal Reservation, except for GMU 624-Coyle (see maps below). GMU 624 (Coyle) and GMU 621 (Olympic) extend into District 15 (Mason, Kitsap & East Jefferson County). Here is a link to a [Washington Map of Wildlife Districts with Biologist Contact Information](#). We encourage you to choose District 16 for some or all of your scouting and hunting this season. Please share with us stories and photos of your adventures in District 16 for us to include in future Prospects (anita.mcmillan@dfw.wa.gov)

Each GMU in District 16 has its own unique mix of land ownerships: private residential, private agricultural, private industrial forest, state and federal forest, and park lands. Most higher-elevation forest lands are in public ownership (U.S. Forest Service and Olympic National Park (ONP)). Lower elevation foothills are generally Private industrial forest lands and lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).



East District 16: The eastern ¼ of the District is in the Dungeness Basin (western Coyle and northern Olympic GMUs). The Basin offers a rich diversity of habitats from high elevation, rain-shadow Mountains to lower watershed with plentiful wetland habitats dispersed amidst a mix of riparian and bygone prairie/oak forest. The prairie has now been transformed into a rural mix of small and large farms with scattered developments. In the lower basin there are some choice private duck hunting club ownerships and a few well enjoyed public waterfowl hunting areas. Waterfowl hunting opportunities have been expanded in the eastern portion of the district in recent years. The Dungeness Basin and the smaller watersheds east of the Elwha are areas where deer are in such high numbers there are frequent complaints by the rural and urban residents. The high visibility of deer in the Coyle and Olympic GMUs extends into the forestlands where there is an ideal ratio of forest openings. The availability of deer for harvest is enhanced within Deer Area 6020 where harvest of “any deer” during regular seasons is allowed. The main “problem” with hunting in eastern District 16 is the high amount of private ownership, so time needs to be invested into arranging for hunting access on the target private lands.

West District 16: The “West End” (Hoko, Dickey, Sol Duc, Goodman, and Clearwater) has the bulk of the elk in the District, while the deer are sparse in these same GMUs. Various sub-herds of elk are located within District 16. Many elk herds are year around residents that remain in lower elevation habitats. There are some herds that make regular migrations into the higher elevations, typically being within Olympic National Park (ONP) habitat. There are opportunities to harvest elk as they migrate out of ONP high country and follow river drainages to low elevations during the hunting season. The eastern portion of the Clearwater (GMU 615) is in DNR ownership and contains higher-elevation areas bordering ONP.

Varied hunting opportunities exist within District 16, from waterfowl hunting on designated shoreline and wetland areas along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to forest grouse, deer, elk, bear, and cougar hunting on private commercial and public forest land. Both state (DNR) and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands provide hunting opportunities for a variety of species within the district.

General Access: With the mixed ownership come the complexities of access rules by various governmental and private entities. Make sure you have acquired the necessary permits to drive on public and private land in the area you have decided to explore.



[Discover Pass](#) for State –DNR & WDFW



[US Forest Service-Interagency Access Pass](#) for US Forest Service.

Keep in mind that many public lands on the Olympic Peninsula are not open to hunting, including Olympic National Park, most all Washington State Parks, & Clallam County Parks. Private timberlands have various access and road closure procedures, so it is prudent to determine current ownership for a target location and the requirements to obtain permission to hunt. One company that has retained a consistent access program over the years is Merrill & Ring Pysht Tree Farm in the Pysht (GMU 603). Their permits provide access during most (but not all) hunting seasons. Several other forest industry ownerships have other access systems in place. See more in the [Private Industrial Forestland](#) section. **Hunters are encouraged to scout the areas they are considering hunting and pay close attention to the signs on all roads. Signs are often the landowner’s primary method of informing the public on which areas are open to hunting.**

Firearm Restrictions: These diverse mixtures of ownerships and jurisdictions also present different combinations of firearm restriction regulations and ordinances. The three main firearm restriction regulations that are most relevant to hunters are the following:

- WDFW – The portion of the Coyle (GMU 624) in Clallam County. More information can be found on page 83 in [Washington's 2014 Big Game Hunting Seasons & Regulations](#) pamphlet.
- Clallam Co. Code - [Clallam County Firearms Discharge Restrictions](#)
- Jefferson Co. Code - [Jefferson County NO SHOOTING AREAS](#)

BIG GAME

BLACK-TAILED DEER

Black-Tailed Deer: District 16 staff are actively involved in black-tailed deer research. Assignments conducted by District staff for this research includes collaring and tracking of the deer, and locating collared deer mortalities to identify mortality causes. The following links represent some of the collaring in Clallam County:

- [Cliff Rice releasing collared doe.](#)
- [Black-tailed Deer Western Washington Study using GPS collars.](#)

During the capture portion of the study deer were easier to find east of the Elwha. According to Dr. Cliff Rice, the lead Researcher, some of the largest does captured in western Washington were captured east of the Elwha on the lower foothills in a mix of DNR & Private land. Black-tailed deer populations are tracked by evaluating harvest and hunting effort, as well as gathering data on survival, recruitment, and mortality rates using collared deer studies.

WESTERN DISTRICT 16: Western District 16 is generally sparse of deer. This area includes GMUs 601 (Hoko), 602 (Dickey), 603 (Pysht), 607 (Sol Duc), 612 (Goodman), and 615 (Clearwater). Biologists, Enforcement Officer Observations, and published reports indicate that deer population numbers and density are generally down throughout the District west of the Elwha. Following is a link to current research in the Hoko GMU: [Black-tailed Deer Research in Hoko GMU](#). “The Makah and Quileute tribes agreed to curtail harvest of antlerless deer in the wake of a study that led biologists to believe that the Olympic Peninsula's black-tailed deer population is declining,” the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission reported.

EASTERN DISTRICT 16: Eastern District 16 includes the northwestern portion of GMU 621 (Olympic) and the northern portion of GMU 624 (Coyle), which extend east and south into District 15 (eastern Jefferson County). Because the data on harvest is recorded by GMU, the harvest figures presented here include all of GMU 621 & 624, extending into District 15. The portion of District 16 east of the Elwha River has black-tailed deer populations that are readily observed (presumably due to higher densities), and in many areas these populations can be observed in groups, especially at low to mid-elevations. In these areas the deer are often perceived to be a nuisance by property owners and agricultural operations, especially in GMU 624 (Coyle). Deer Area 6020 was established years ago to allow harvest of does to help curb the trend of too many deer, encompassing the area north of Highway 101 between Port Angeles and eastern Miller Peninsula. Doe harvest is allowed within Deer Area 6020 during the general seasons. This area is primarily private land, but it is worth inquiring with landowners about hunting access. Note that much of the state land on Miller Peninsula, within this Deer Area 6020, is State Park land where hunting is not allowed. The key to a successful harvest is securing the appropriate permission to hunt on private land and scouting the area prior to the hunting season. Hunters who intend to target deer in developed areas would be well advised to check

with local jurisdictions regarding firearm restrictions.

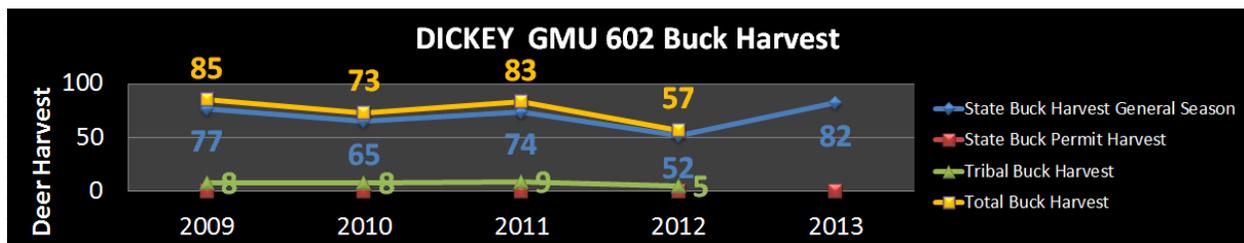
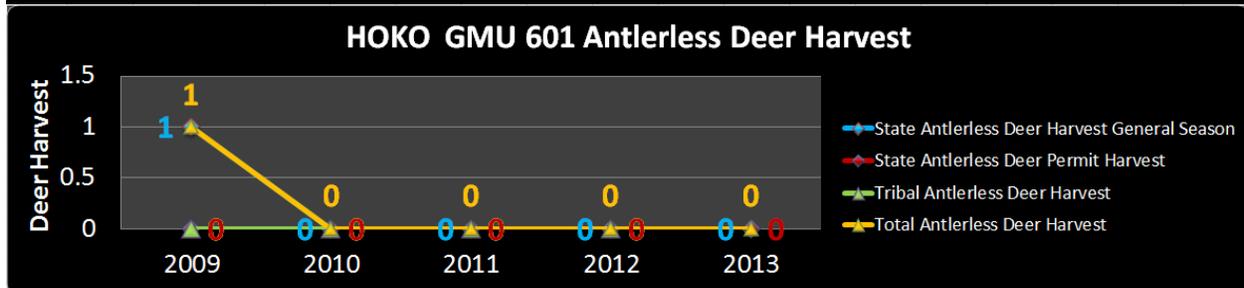
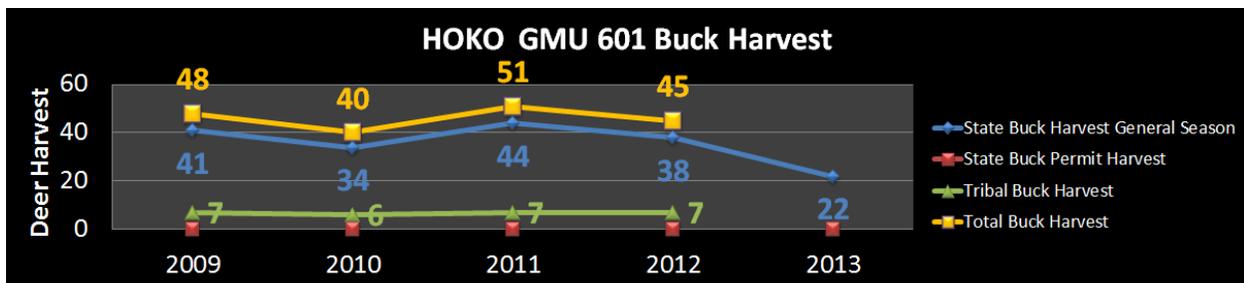
The mid and lower elevations of GMU 621 (Olympic) have high densities of deer as well, with some scattered blocks of DNR ownership that offer hunting on public land. Private industrial timber lands and property managed by DNR are largely gated due to timber theft, dumping, vandalism, and other problems. However, many of these roads can be accessed on foot or with mountain bikes, giving those willing to do the work access to deer that don't get as much hunting pressure. Be sure to check with the appropriate land owner or manager and obey all posted rules and regulations.

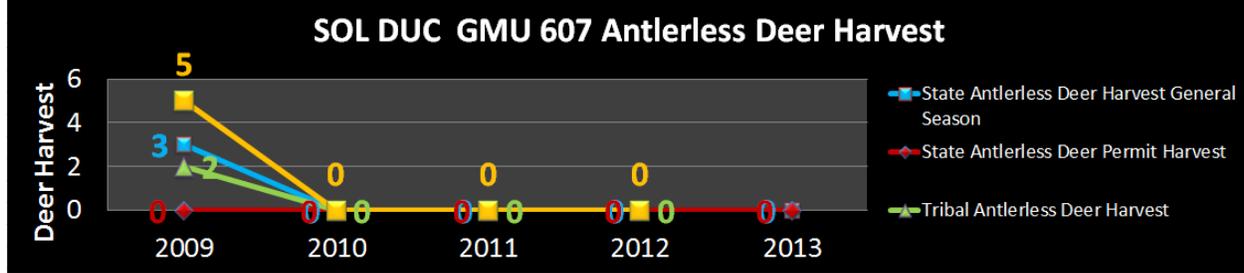
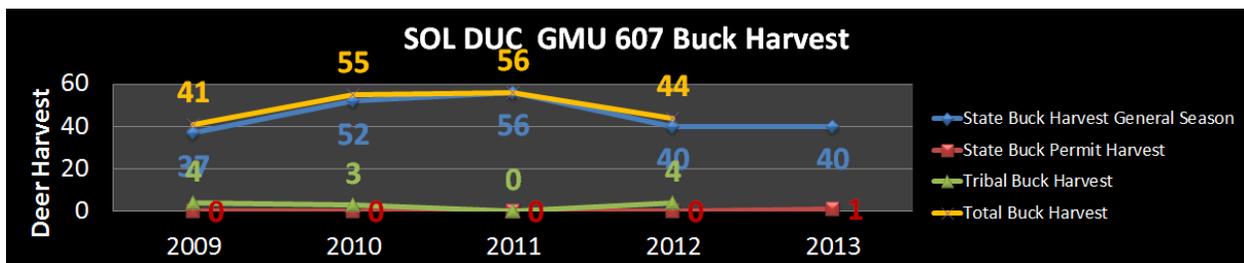
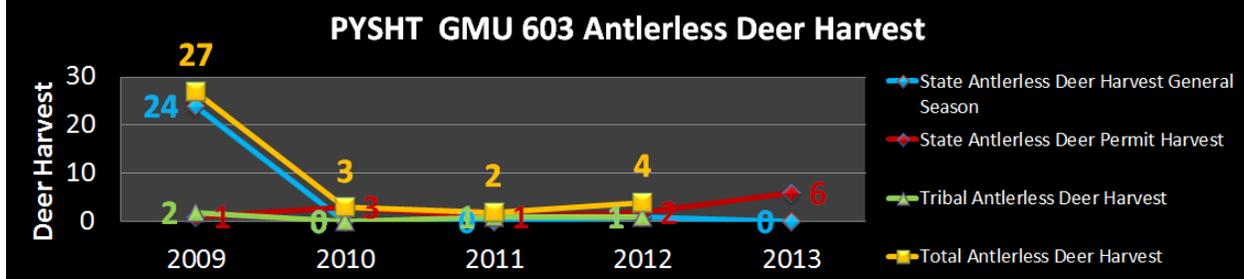
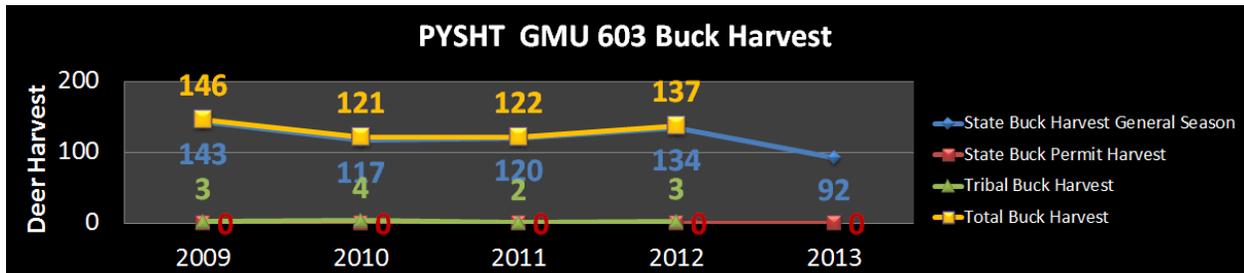
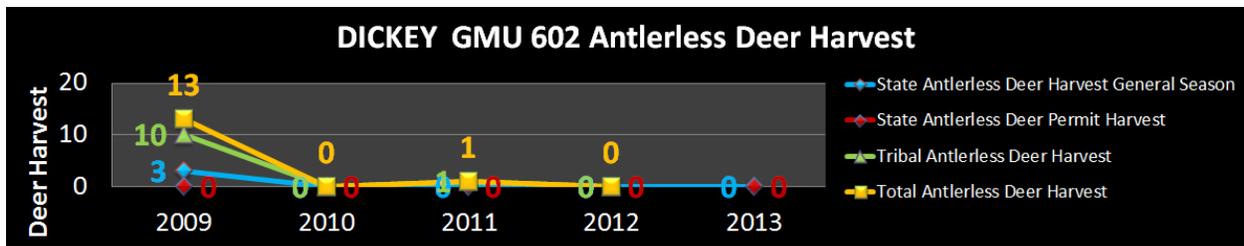
[Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for deer based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

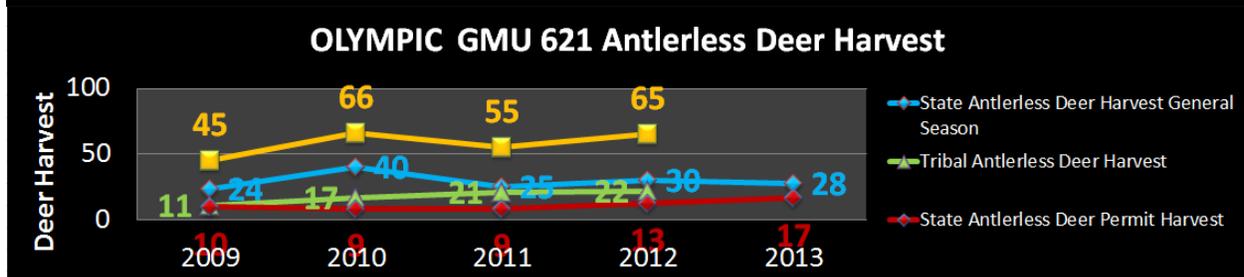
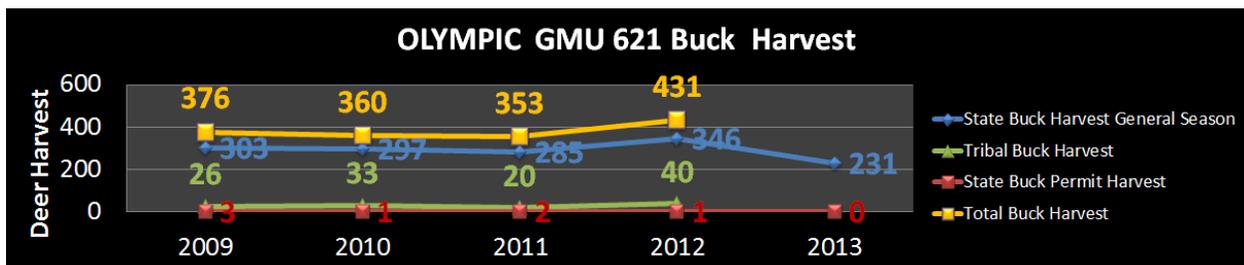
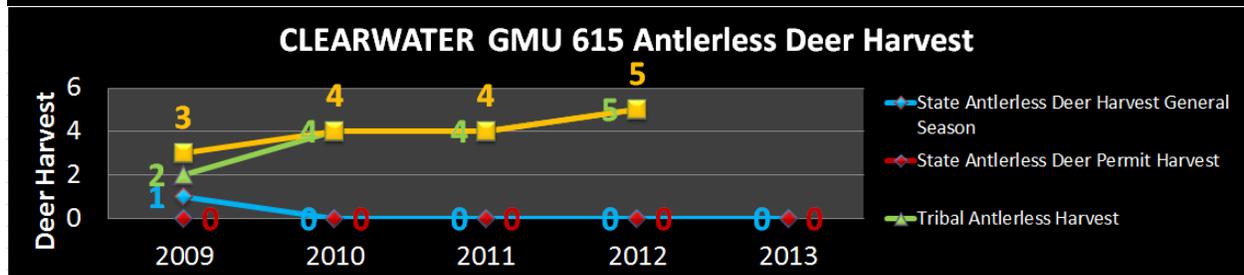
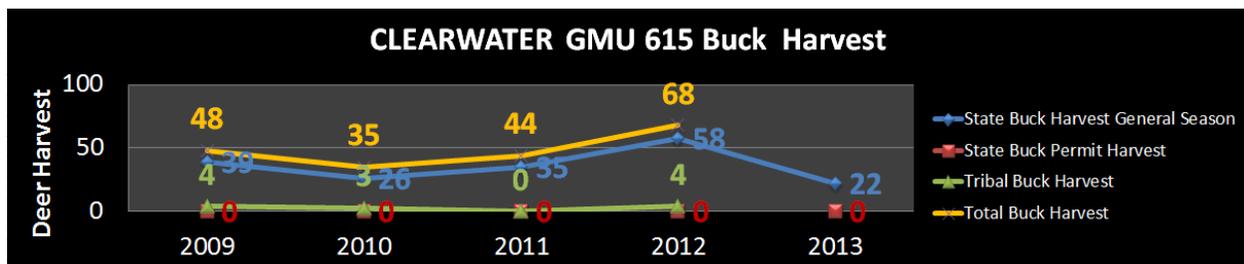
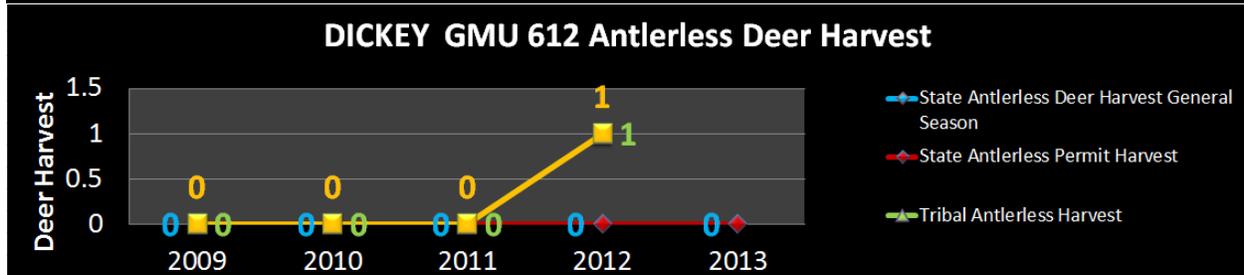
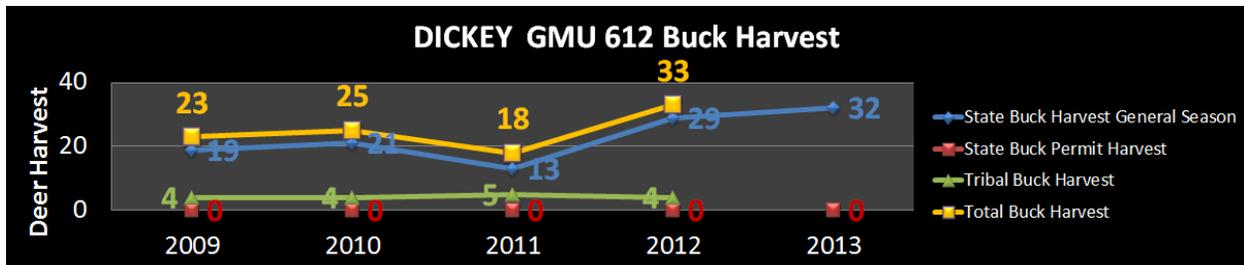
See District 17 Hunting Prospects Deer - Information on Page 13 for an explanation of WDFW's current monitoring of deer population trends.

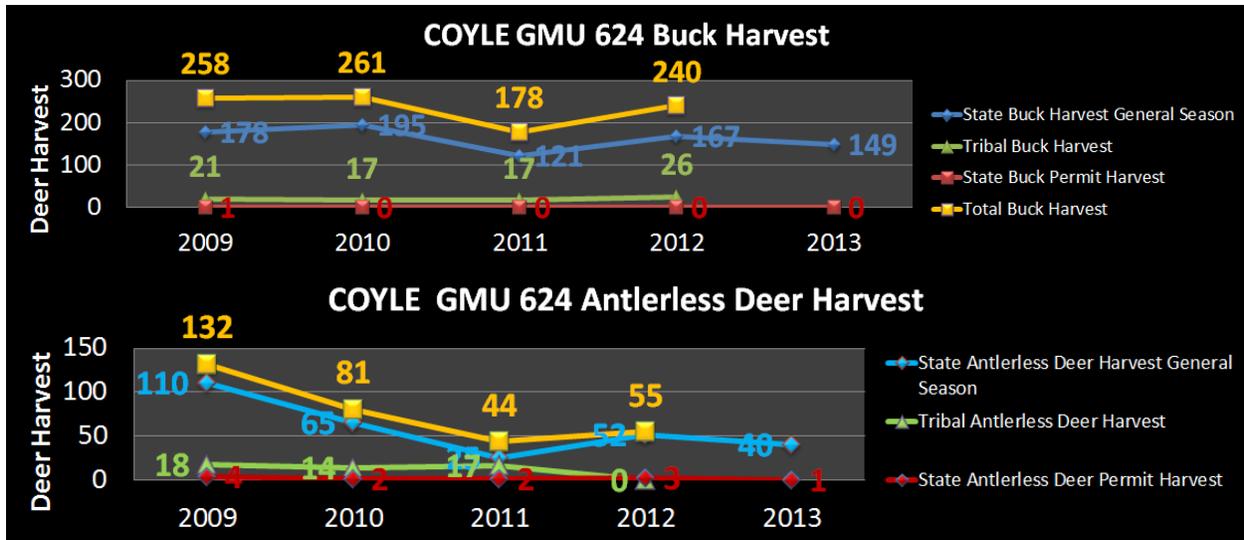
See District 15 Hunting Prospects for more information on GMU 621 (Olympic) and GMU 624 (Coyle).

Following are Harvest Records for GMUs in District 16:









ELK

Elk: The elk within District 16 are Roosevelt elk. There are many cow elk throughout the District with Ear Tags and radio transmitter collars that are used for population monitoring studies. It is possible that you will observe an elk that has a radio collar, and if you see one in an unusual location, or possibly even find a collar, you are encouraged to share that information with the District Biologist.

District 16 contains various sub-herds of the Olympic Elk Herd, one of 10 herds identified in the state. The elk are an important resource that provide significant recreational, aesthetic, cultural, and economic benefits to the people of the state. Based on historical harvest information, elk numbers peaked in the late 1970s with a conservative estimate of about 12,000 elk outside of Olympic National Park. In 2000, the estimated population was approximately 8,600 across all Game Management Units (GMUs) surrounding Olympic National Park. The current estimated population of the Olympic Elk herd is likely lower.

Much of the elk hunting for GMU’s located within the District is restricted to a limited-entry 3pt minimum bull-only harvest. These successfully managed hunts have been producing quality bulls and high hunter success rates. Some elk herds migrate down from high alpine meadows in Olympic National Park (ONP) to lowland winter range. Public lands and private commercial timberlands bordering the park are good prospects. Hunters are encouraged to scout for elk that may leave ONP and travel along major river drainages. Law Enforcement Officers convey that they are getting reports that elk groups in GMU 603 (Pysht) have increased slightly in the past few years.

Hunting seasons have been established to provide recreational opportunity and to be used as a tool for managing elk populations. The eastern District rarely has a report of elk harvest from the general season in GMU 624. Harvest within Elk Area 6071 is limited to Damage Control Hunts using the Master Hunter Elk Hunt Region 6 Special Permits. These hunts are administered by a WDFW designated Hunt Coordinator. Check the [WA Big Game Hunting Pamphlet](#) or the

WDFW website for more information. The eastern District elk harvest in GMU 621 (Olympic) is limited to permit and tribal harvest.

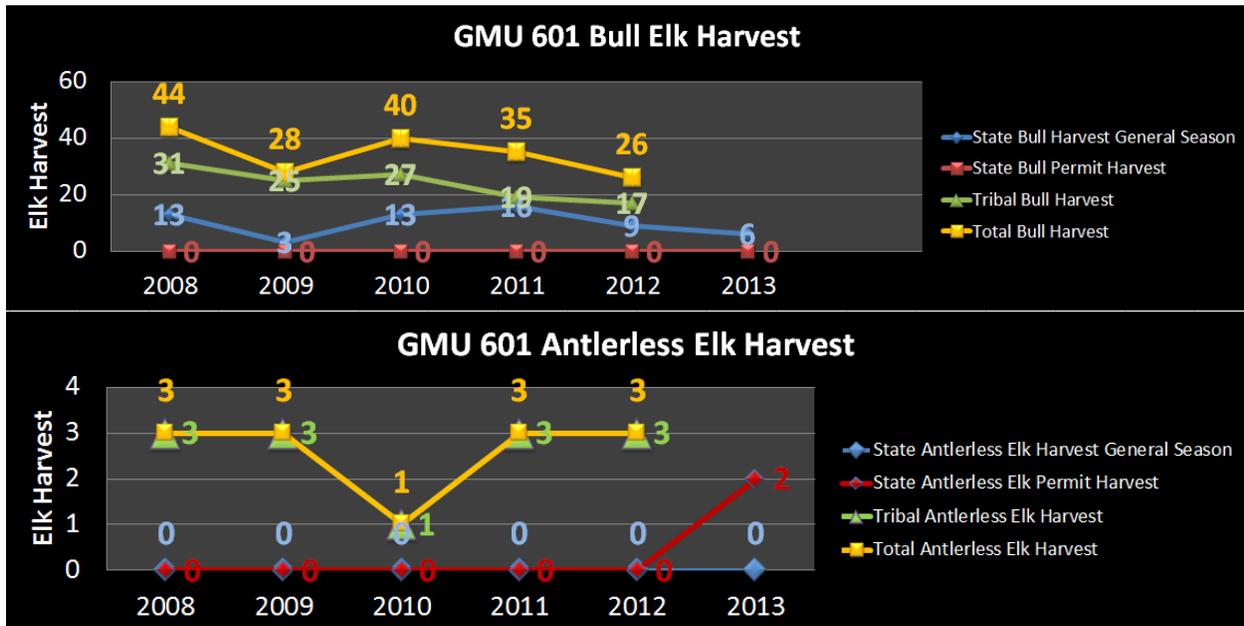
GMU 615 (Clearwater), GMU 602 (Dickey), and GMU 607 (Sol Duc) have the highest elk harvest in District 16. These units contain the largest portion of public land without restricted access.

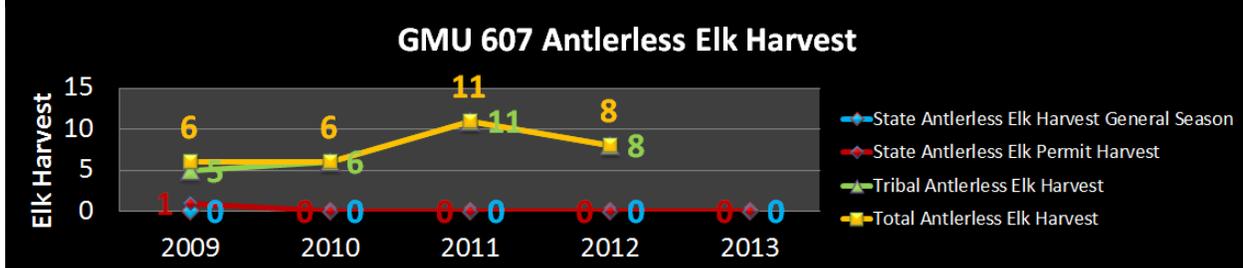
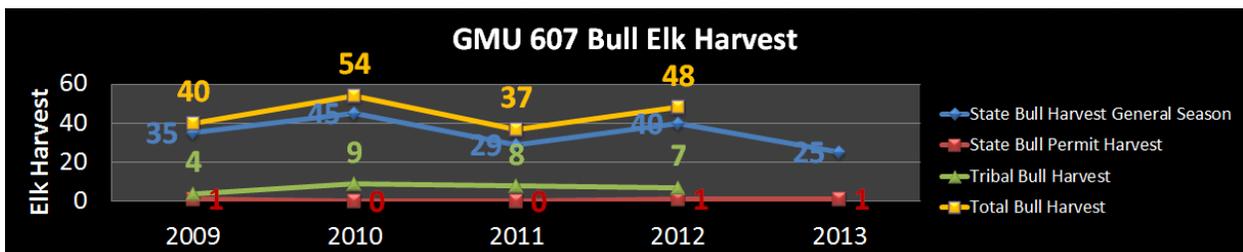
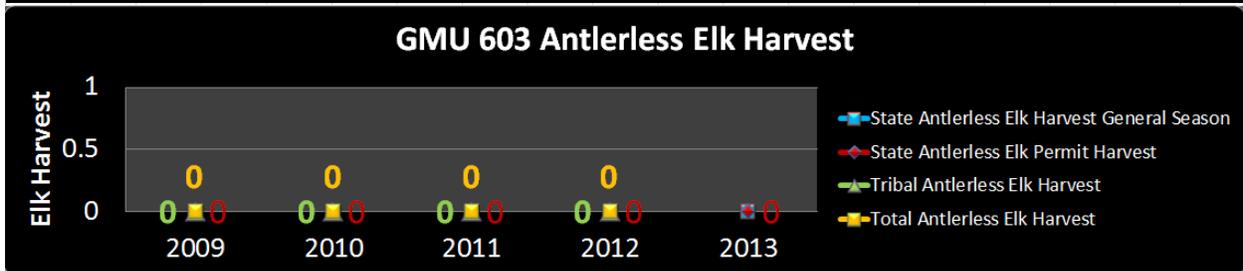
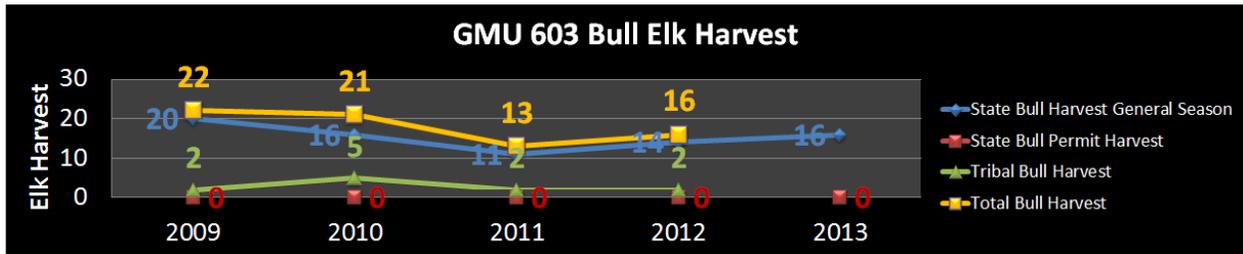
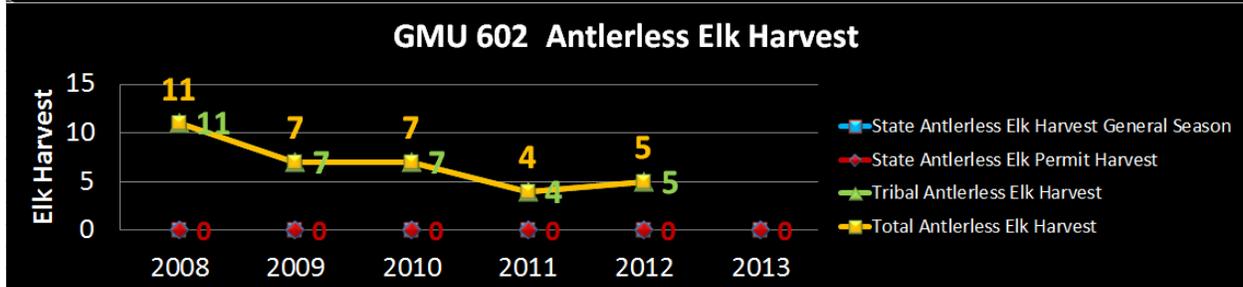
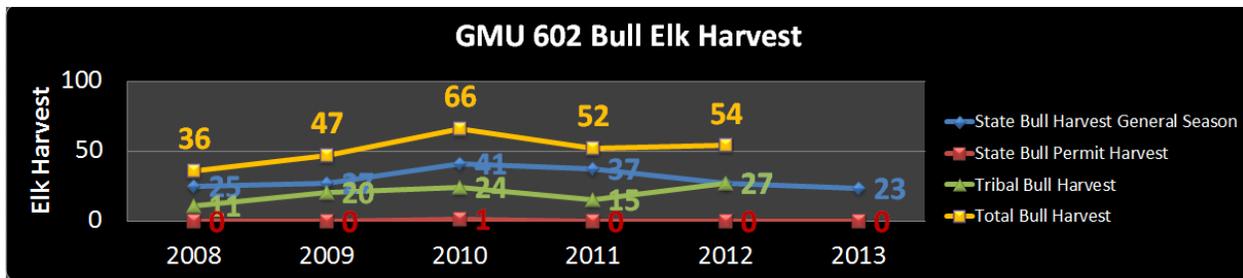
GMU 601(Hoko), GMU 603 (Pysht), and GMU 624 (Coyle) have very limited opportunities for General Season hunters. Most of these units contain private land, and many of the roads on timber lands are gated. Hunting on DNR lands, U.S. Forest Service lands, and private timber lands in other GMU’s within the District can yield good results. However, it is important to note that there are several areas where vehicular access is limited. Hunters would need to obtain permission to hunt on private lands and must obey all posted signs and regulations.

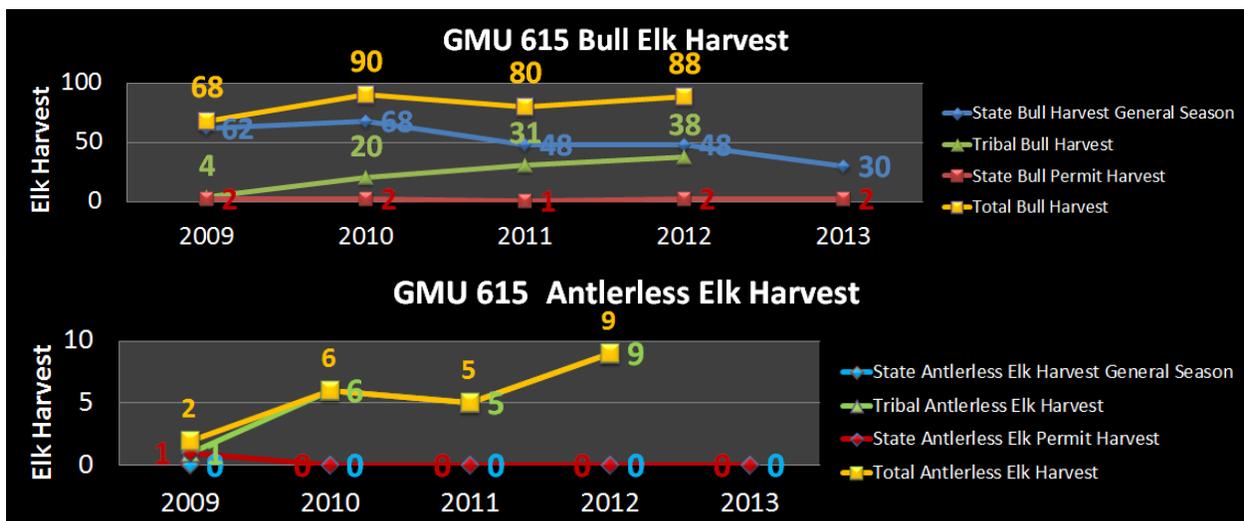
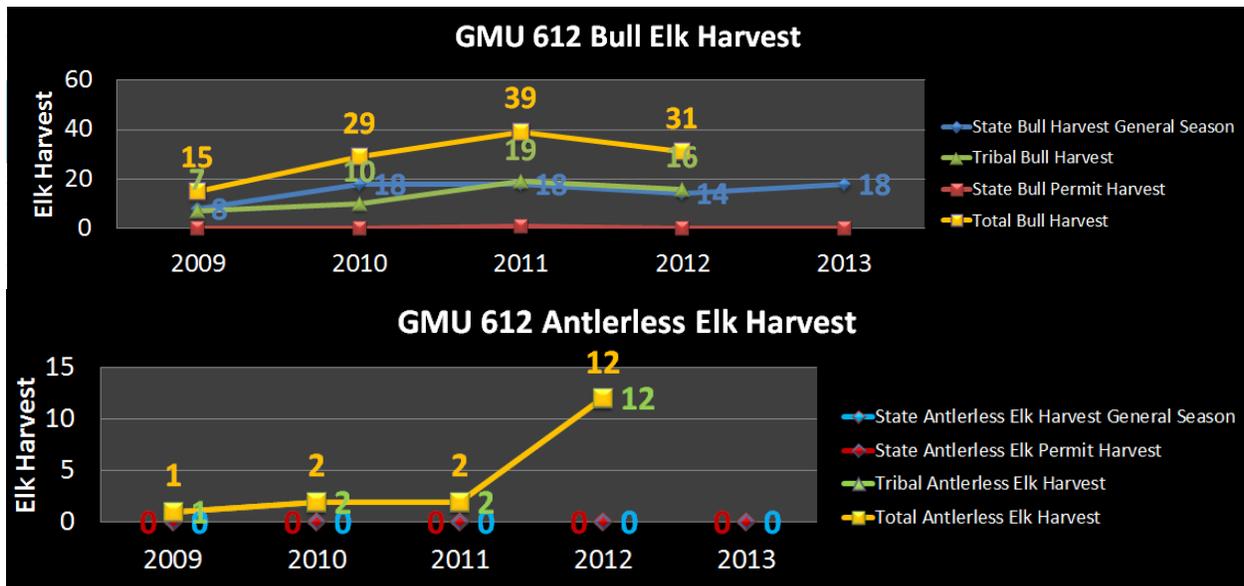
[Annual harvest reports](#) and harvest statistics for elk based on hunter reporting can be found on the WDFW website.

See District 15 Hunting Prospects- Elk information to get information on GMU 621 and GMU 624.

Following are Harvest Records for GMUs in District 16:







BLACK BEAR

Black Bear: District 16 is located nearly entirely within the designated Coastal Black Bear Management Unit. There is, however, a small portion of GMU 624 (Coyle) that is within the Puget Sound Black Bear Management Unit. This area is mostly private land with firearm restrictions. There is no spring bear permit hunt season within the District. The fall black bear hunting is allowed in all GMU’s within the District. The prospects for harvesting a black bear in District 16 remain good to excellent. Low elevation berry production has been good.

State DNR and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands continue to provide the best availability for bear hunting within the District. Hunters are encouraged to scout sign (scat and tree bark peeling) in regenerating timber stands. Similar to deer, access behind gated roads is largely

available to those willing to walk or mountain bike, and there are ample numbers of clear cuts/younger age class regeneration units that will attract bears. At higher elevations, those willing to hike in-pack out can pursue bears in classic environments where spot-and-stalk opportunities await. The use of hounds and/or bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

COUGAR

Cougar: In 2012, WDFW implemented a change in the cougar hunting season design choosing a standard liberal season coupled with harvest guidelines. Cougar seasons will run from September 1 to December 31 for any weapon. After January 1st, if the harvest guidelines have been exceeded, the season may close. Hunters should check to see if the season is still open after January 1. See the [WA Big Game Hunting Pamphlet](#) or WDFW website for more information regarding cougar hunting in specific GMU's within the District. Cougars are widespread in the forest lands of District 16. Areas supporting high numbers of deer and elk provide great opportunity for hunting cougar. Law Enforcement Officers in the District report low cougar hunting pressure in most GMU's.

UPLAND BIRDS

PHEASANTS

District 16 does not have viable populations of wild pheasant and there are no longer any pheasant release sites in the District. Due to changes in management direction from Clallam County Parks & Recreation, hunting pheasants at the Dungeness Recreation Area ended with the 2012 season. WDFW continues to seek a suitable release site within District 15 or 16. Please contact [District 15 & 16 Biologists](#) if you have any suggestions. For information on current pheasant release sites check this link to the [Western Washington Pheasant Release Program](#).

QUAIL

There is a fair abundance of California (Valley) quail in the eastern portion of District 16. They are quite common in the Dungeness Valley but hunting opportunities can be challenging due to predominately private ownership. Quail, like the deer, thrive in the Dungeness habitats that include a mix of open grass, shrubland, and forest. Some quail hunting opportunities can be found on public lands located in the lower foothills in clearcuts or any early successional habitats. Reported harvest of quail is low in District 16: 24 hunters harvested 167 quail in 2013.

FOREST GROUSE

Hunting within any of the forest lands throughout District 16 should offer good opportunities for harvesting grouse. Prime forest grouse hunting may be found on DNR and U.S. Forest Service lands within the district. The harvest of grouse in Clallam County rivals all other counties within Region 6. Participation in grouse hunting in District 16 has declined since 2009, when Clallam County harvest peaked at 6350 by 1202 hunters and Jefferson County harvest peaked at 3839 grouse by 1502 hunters. Annual harvest totals for Clallam County has increased since 2011 when only 1610 were reported harvested. For 2013, the harvest was 2942 by 887 hunters. Jefferson County harvest continues to drop with 889 harvested by 628 hunters in 2013. Success continues to be fairly stable, as harvest per day hunted remains between 0.4 and 0.5 grouse.

Ruffed and sooty (formerly classified as blue) grouse are present throughout the public and private forest lands in District 16. The prospects for harvesting sooty grouse go up with increasing elevation. Hunters can expect the greatest success along trails and ridgelines above 2,000-3,000 feet, within timber stands with huckleberry, grouse whortleberry, and other forage plants. Hunters targeting ruffed grouse should focus on elevations below 2,500', particularly in riparian forest habitats, early seral forests (5-25 years old), and deciduous-conifer mixed forest types.

WILD TURKEYS

District 16 is not managed for wild turkeys and the species remains relatively rare to non-existent here. Some turkeys were transplanted in the Dungeness drainage 30 – 40 years ago but there is no harvestable population present. WDFW receives occasional reports of individuals or small groups of turkeys within GMU 603 (Pysht). They are likely domestic turkeys that escaped from a farm that raised turkeys in the Joyce area. There are no prospects for hunting wild turkeys in the District.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

DOVE

Dove: District 16 has not been a major dove hunting area, although eastern Clallam County has a larger dove population. In the last few years participation has begun to increase with a report of 16 hunters harvesting 176 dove in 2013. Following is a link to the Dove Status Report: [USFWS Mourning Dove Population Status 2014 Report](#)

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Band-tailed Pigeon: Band-tailed pigeons were abundant in District 16 in years past. Local hunters reported seeing “clouds of them” in drainages, such as McDonald Creek, on the east side of the District back in the 1950’s.

Band-tailed pigeons are most prevalent in the district along marine estuaries, shorelines, and open forest roads where they are foraging on berries. Hunters are encouraged to search for areas with elderberry and cascara shrubs present. Band-tail pigeons often congregate around food sources.

The reported harvest of band-tails in this District is relatively low, but the resource is available throughout the District in good numbers. WDFW Enforcement Officers remind hunters that they must have all required hunting licenses, along with the special migratory bird authorization with a band-tailed pigeons harvest card. It is mandatory to report all harvest to improve management of the species. You can find out more about the population monitoring and harvests in the following [2014 USFWS Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status Report](#).

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl: The majority of the waterfowl hunting opportunity in District 16 is east of Port Angeles, centered in the Lower Dungeness Basin. The basin has a high density of wintering waterfowl and holds 7% of the Western Washington Breeding Waterfowl population. District biologists have focused on documenting areas with high waterfowl concentrations in Clallam County during the last several years, mapping high use areas during breeding and wintering periods. The Dungeness Basin has proven to be an area of consistently high waterfowl concentrations, even amidst the scattered developments.

Concentrations of waterfowl in freshwater habitats diminish drastically west of the Elwha and Lyre Rivers.

Waterfowl Population Status: Midwinter waterfowl survey counts in District 16 showed a drop from 14,282 in 2012 to 11,611 in 2013. Mild winter weather conditions may have resulted in migratory waterfowl not moving into and filling these habitats last season. Midwinter populations include resident and migratory populations. The migrant populations that breed in Alaska & northwestern Canada showed a drop of 5-26% in 2013 compared to the 2012 estimates. The following link and map show the flyways:

[Four Flyways April 2012 Updated Map](#) :



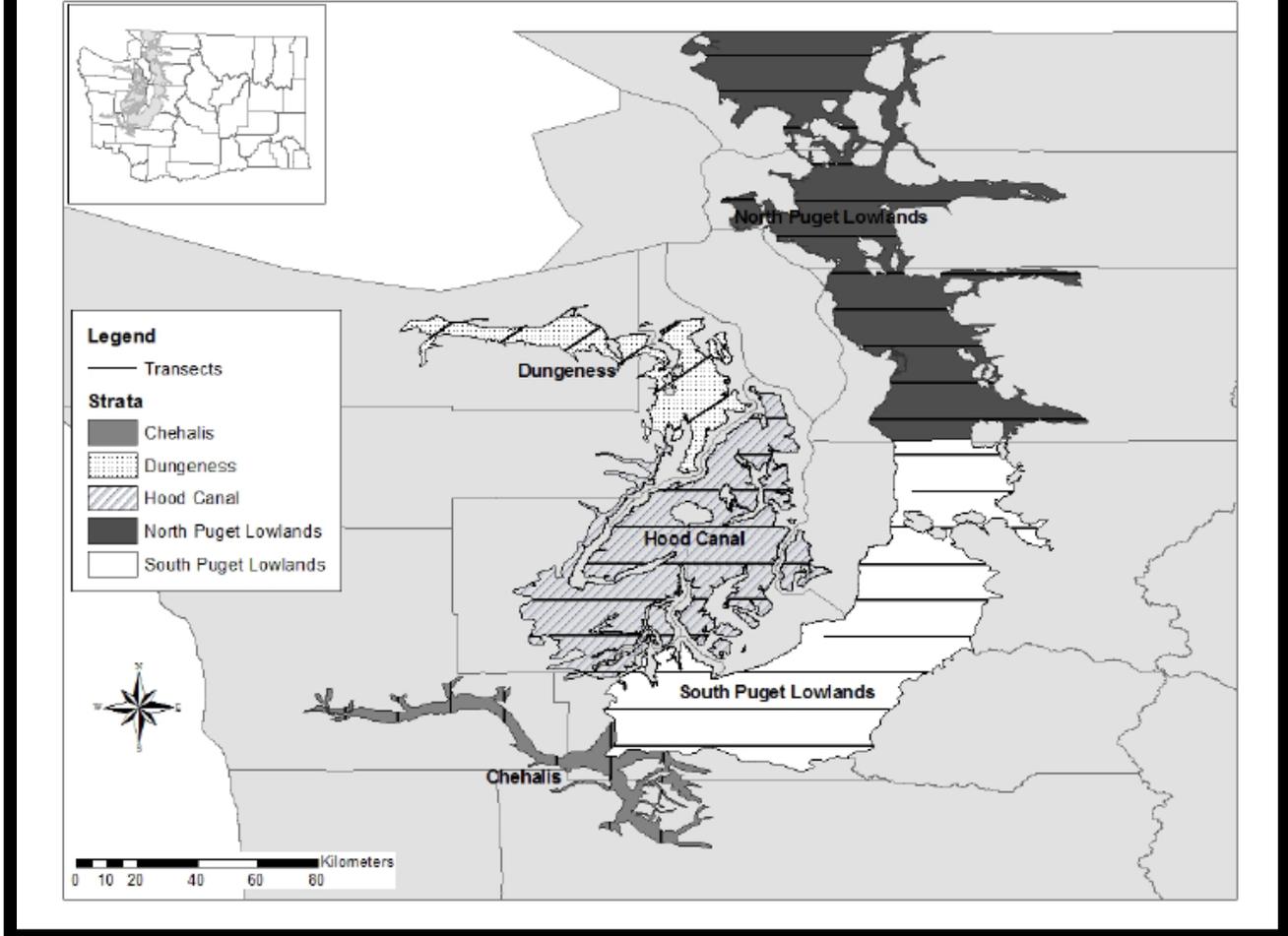
Four North American Migratory Bird Flyways

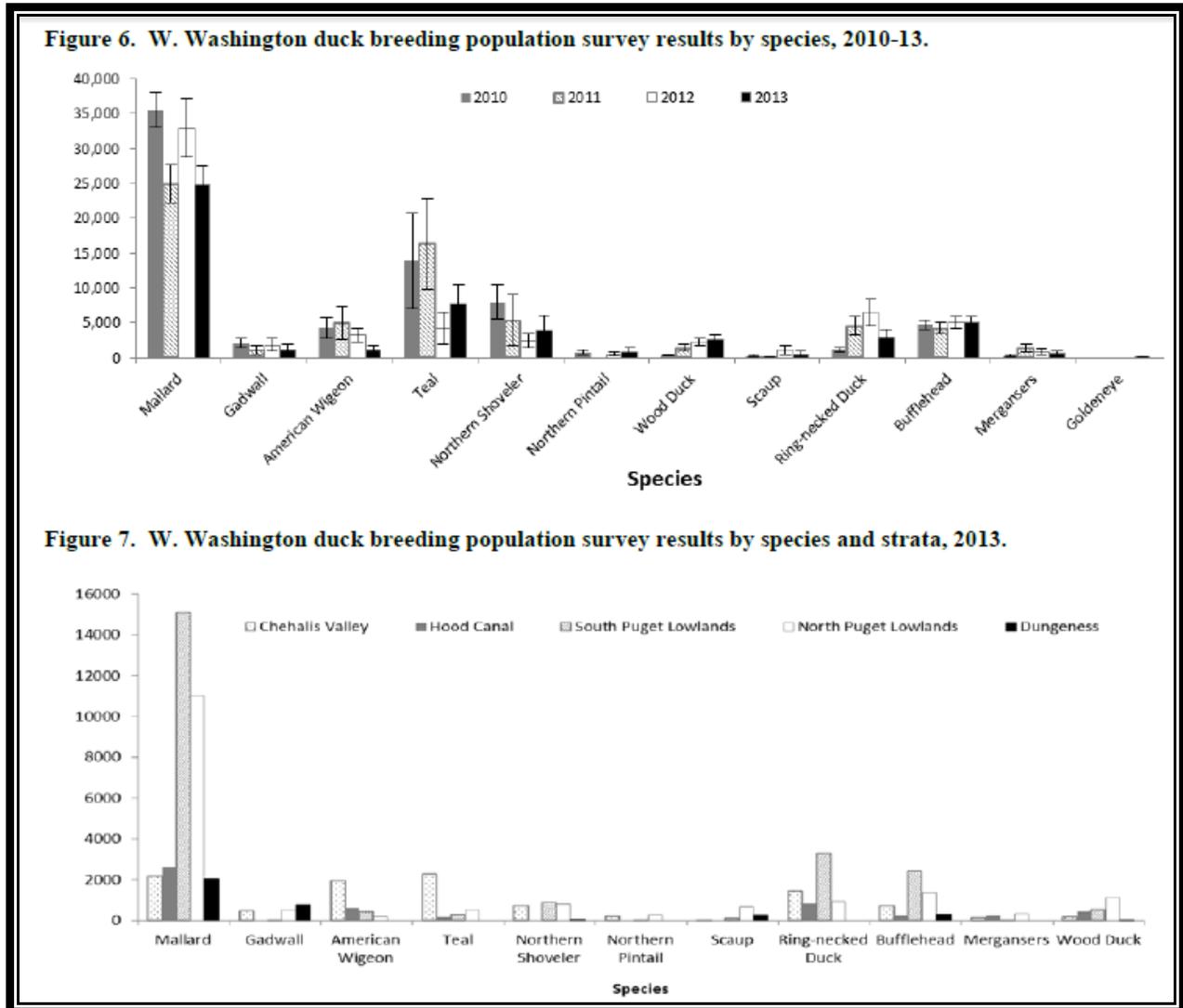
The local Olympic Mountain snowpack was 88 percent of normal for the 2013-2014 winter, which after the trickledown effect will result in fair water levels this fall in the many wetlands used for wintering habitat. The greatest factor influencing brood production in the District continues to be loss of habitat to development at water bodies and human presence. Waterfowl numbers are expected to remain moderate in District 16. Unfortunately, there is limited access to where you can hunt waterfowl in the District. Some locals in the western portion of the district conduct some “jump shooting” in pools and side channels of the West End rivers, along with other small ponds and flooded gravel pit areas. The five year average for ducks bagged by hunters in Clallam County is 7,775 ducks. The five year average for Jefferson County is 2,790 ducks.

Breeding population trends in Western Washington show some declines in recent years. In 2011, new methods were adopted for Western Washington Breeding waterfowl surveys, shifting from ground counts to conducting aerial surveys. Final Counts during these aerial surveys were similar for 2011 and 2012 ([2012 Game Status & Trend Report](#) , page 225-226). Washington Breeding Waterfowl population estimates for 2013 are found in [2013 Game Status & Trend Report](#) , page 228-229, with these figures demonstrating the transects and data results:

Waterfowl Status and Trend Report 2013 • Wehland

Figure 3. Western Washington aerial breeding waterfowl survey transects flown in 2013.





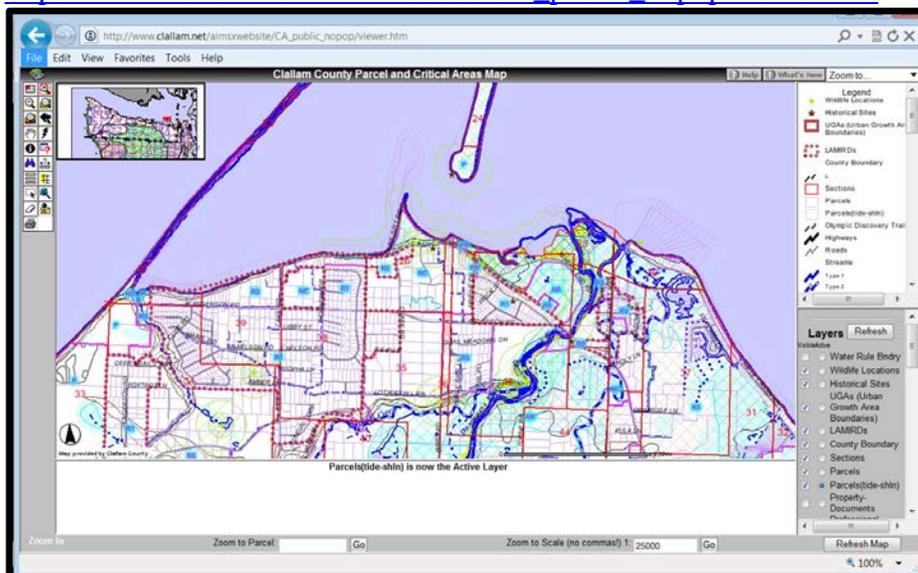
Hunting Opportunities: Most all freshwater waterfowl hunting areas in the Dungeness Basin are on private lands. Public land hunting opportunities include the newly established Lower Dungeness Unit at the mouth of the Dungeness River. Some hunters find hunting opportunities in the near-shore areas of bays and along the shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, both on foot and by boat. Hunting violations remain a concern on small water bodies and along the saltwater shorelines in the District. Hunters are urged to obey all hunting regulations at sites near residential areas to avoid potential future closures. Be sure to check [the 2014 Migratory Waterfowl Regulation Pamphlet](#) for additional requirements before hunting sea ducks (long-tailed ducks, scoter, harlequin, and goldeneye) in Western Washington. The local Seaduck populations have been studied for many years and the Sea Duck Management Strategies publication has just been made available: [Washington Sea Duck Management Strategies. Trends in Duck Breeding Populations 1955-2014](#)
[USFWS Waterfowl Population Status 2014](#)

Waterfowl Hunting Challenges: Public saltwater hunting opportunities are more numerous than freshwater options in District 16, albeit more difficult in many ways. The regulations and landownerships, including tideland ownerships, make it necessary for the hunter to have their plan well thought out. Another complication includes the US Fish & Wildlife Service Dungeness Wildlife Refuge. Hunting is not allowed on the Refuge and some of the Refuge boundaries are difficult to determine in the field.

BOAT - When hunting from a boat make sure you do not have your anchor down on private tidelands without permission. You must not go onto private land to retrieve any waterfowl you shoot without prior permission. So if a hunter on a boat shot a duck and it landed on private land or where they weren't able to retrieve it (because of where & how they were hunting or if they were without a suitable method of retrieval) the hunter would have violated the wastage law. The Local Enforcement Sargent emphasizes that boat hunting is generally not feasible because of these complications and Enforcement staff will be enforcing these laws.

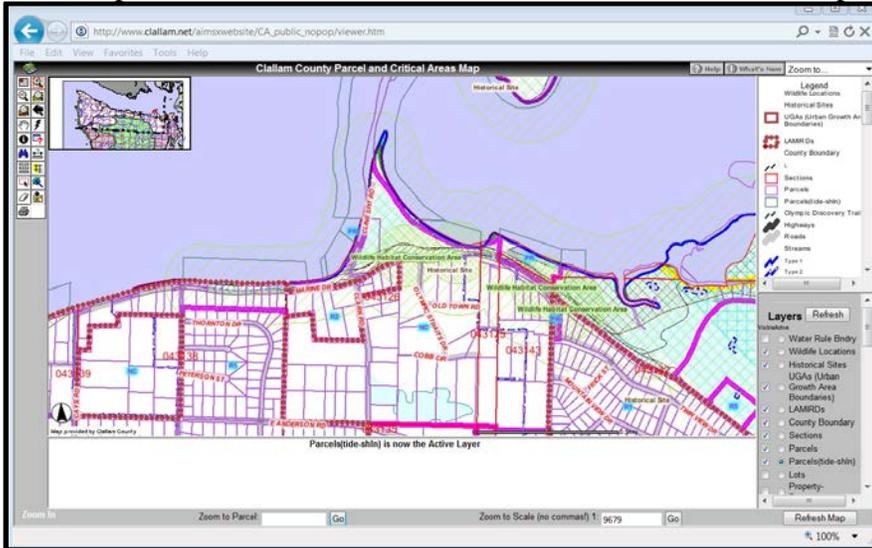
SHORELINE/TIDELANDS - There are some private landowners that allow limited hunting access along the saltwater shoreline. Typically local signage refers to a phone number or contact information, and in some cases the signage spells out the conditions of access. Because these vary from year to year the hunter must make a tour of the area and find out the current arrangements. Tideland ownership (state or private) can be found on the DNR maps referred to later in this Prospects report. Assessors maps can be retrieved on the internet using these websites below. Clallam County tideland ownership can be retrieved, while Jefferson County does not display tideland parcel ownership. Do make sure you will have the ability to retrieve your ducks, keeping in mind the ownerships where you set up and have permission to have your hunt and the adjacent ownership where you don't.

CLALLAM COUNTY: <http://www.clallam.net/maps/>
http://www.clallam.net/aimsxwebsite/CA_public_nopop/viewer.htm

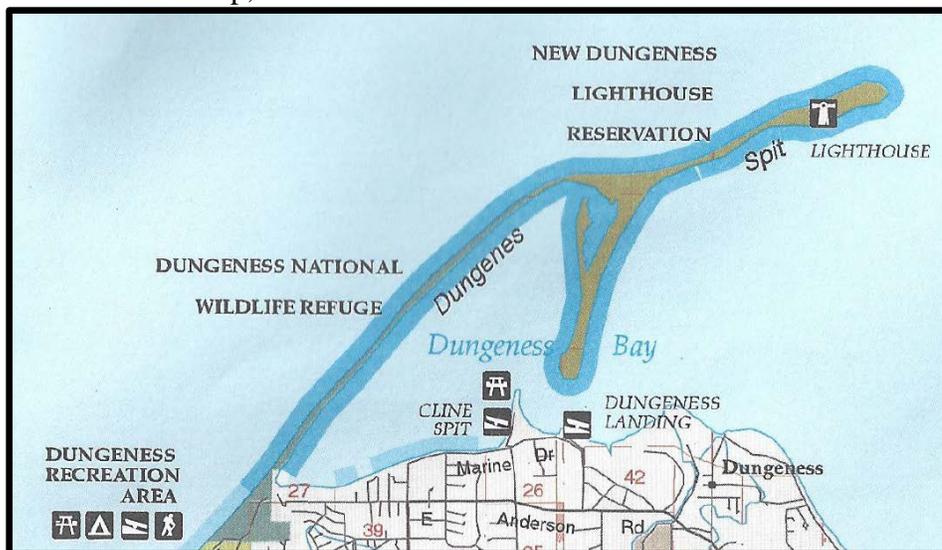


Make sure you have the Parcels(tide-shln) layer checked and Active circle dotted, and scale set at 1 : 25,000 or less.

Use the icons on the top left to zoom in and choose the lightning bolt icon, then select tideland parcels and click on them. The information on ownership should come up.



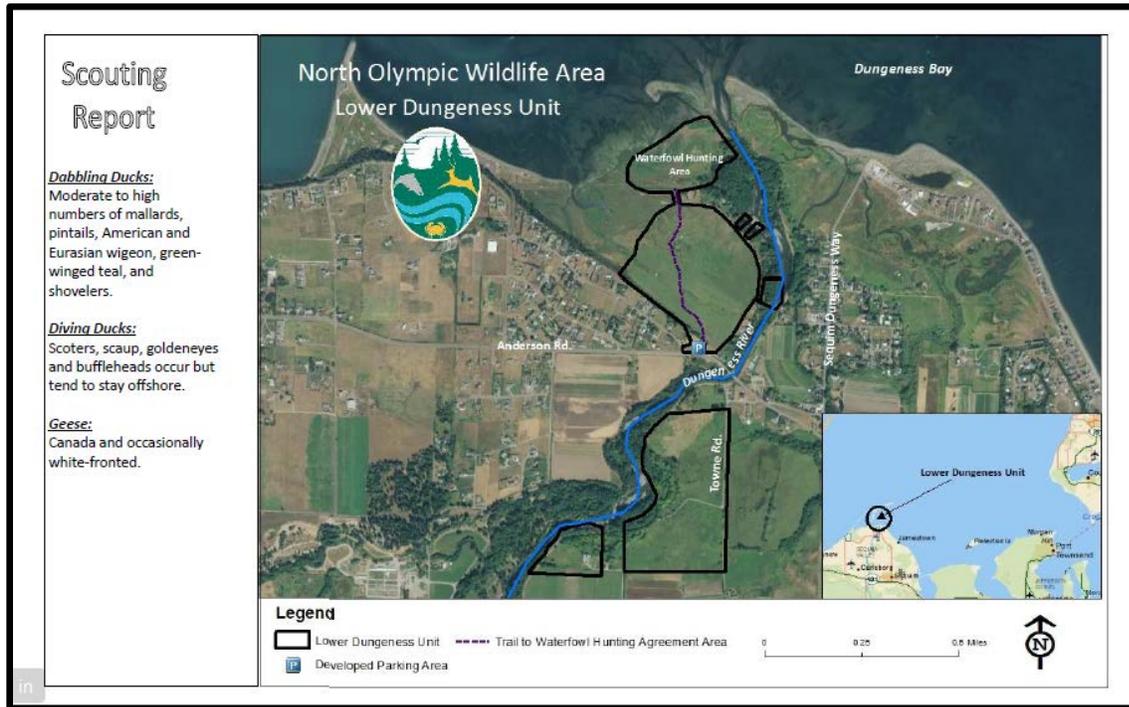
These records along with the DNR maps referenced at the end of this Prospects (example below, where state tidelands are highlighted) can be used to make sure you are aware of the land ownership, whether on the shoreline or in a boat over tidelands.



JEFFERSON COUNTY: <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/idms/mapserver.shtml> maps show ownership of parcels, with the exception of tideland ownership. Again you could use the DNR maps reference (and shown above) to identify state tidelands.

The Lower Dungeness Unit is 150 acres in size and is located about 5 miles north of Sequim within Coyle GMU 624. A small parking area is located off of Anderson Road adjacent to the Dungeness River. There is an informational kiosk and bathroom for hunters located at this site with rules and conditions for use of the area. There are freshwater ponds located in the main field below the parking area; however, the main hunting area for this unit is located on the tidelands of Dungeness Bay, adjacent to the river’s mouth. Hunters are required to “walk-in” to

the main hunting area. Rivers End road is a privately owned road and cannot be used to access the tidelands. It is approximately ½ mile to reach the main hunting areas on this unit. Hunting is permitted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays on this unit throughout the regular waterfowl season. This unit can get crowded and hunters are encouraged to arrive early to secure a quality spot. There is room for 2-3 decoy sets on the tidelands associated with this unit. A variety of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and geese have been documented at the unit.



Western Washington - Region 6 Waterfowl Hunting Areas (Lower Dungeness Unit can be found on page 12-13)

The 2014 USFWS Waterfowl Status Report can be used to better understand the waterfowl resource throughout North America: [USFWS Waterfowl Status Report 2014](#)

Trumpeter swan numbers have increased in the Dungeness valley in the past five years, and they have been documented near the river mouth. All waterfowl hunters are encouraged to know all identification features for trumpeter swans and snow geese. It is illegal to shoot trumpeter swans, and snow goose hunters should be aware that a special snow goose hunting authorization and harvest record card is required.

The Dungeness Recreation Area County Park no longer allows hunting.

Canada Geese: Typical participation of hunting Canada geese in District 16 has been 100-200 hunters. The harvest totaled about 400+ geese. The population of Canada geese on the east side of the District has been increasing in recent years. Most of the hunt opportunities are on private agricultural lands in GMU 624 (Coyle) that contain barley. No “pass shooting” is possible. Local hunters were quite successful in previous seasons using a decoy spread and blinds. Permission to hunt on private lands would need to be obtained and all firearm regulations must

be followed. Many agricultural fields have residential properties in the vicinity so hunters must be aware of all safety concerns.

OTHER SMALL GAME

SNOWSHOE HARE & COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Snowshoe Hare & Cottontail Rabbit: Most all of the rabbits encountered on the Olympic Peninsula will be snowshoe hare (see range maps below). Snowshoe hare are readily observed along forested roads in the western half of District 16, and will be found throughout the District, usually along forested edges. Annual District harvest is erratic, ranging from zero (~450 hunt days, 2011 report) to over 300 (~800-1200 hunt days, 2005 & 2008 report). The opportunity is always there, with a harvest per unit effort expected to range between 0.25-0.70/day. More information on the snowshoe hare can be found at these websites:

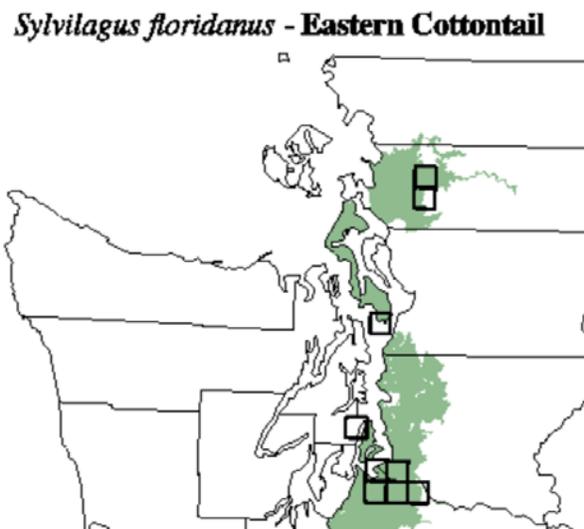
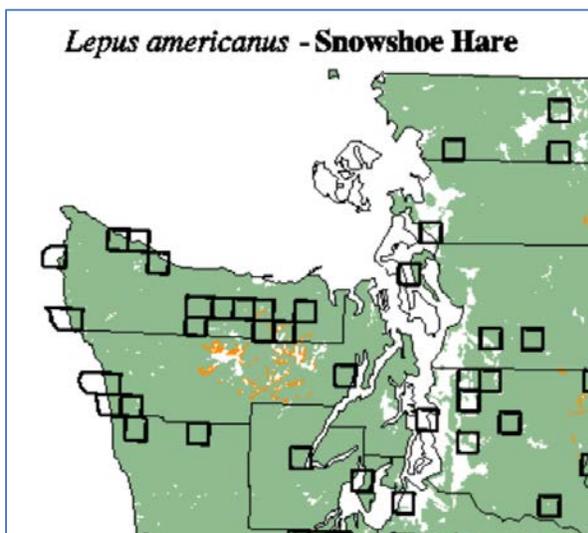
<http://www.hww.ca/en/species/mammals/snowshoe-hare.html>

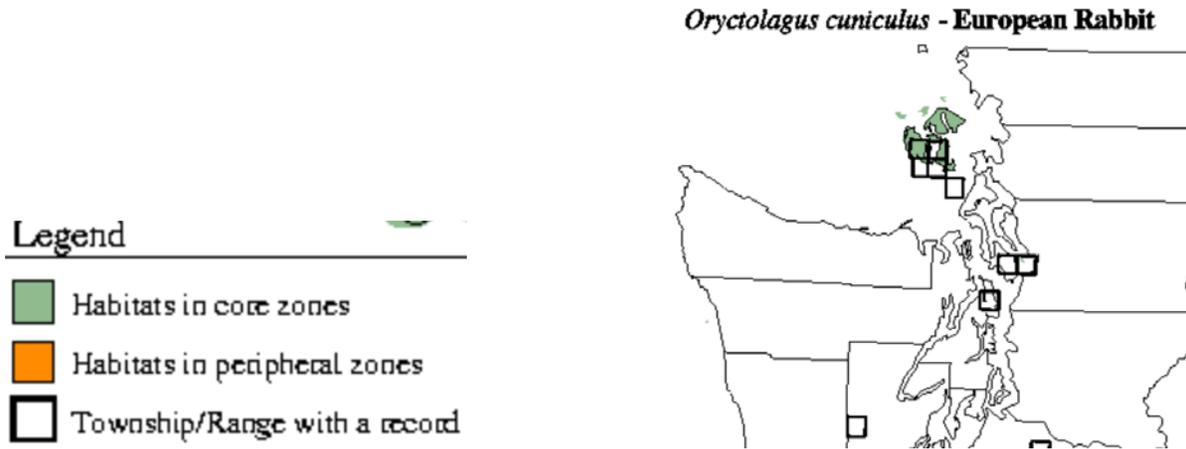
http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_snowshoe_hare.html

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_eastern_cottontail.html

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_european_rabbit.html

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/maps/wa/mammals/WA_nuttalls_cottontail.html





TRIBAL HUNTING

Tribal Hunting: District 16 is within the ceded area of numerous treaty tribes on the Olympic Peninsula. The WDFW and tribes are co-managers for wildlife populations. Tribal hunting often occurs concurrent with WDFW hunting seasons. Tribes set their own seasons and bag limits. Tribal enforcement personnel are responsible for ensuring that tribal hunting regulations, which may differ from state regulations, are followed. You can find more information about tribal hunting on the WDFW website at:

wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/tribal.

Tribal big game harvest reports are available at [Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Big Game Harvest Reports](#).

HUNTER ACCESS - PRIVATE & PUBLIC LAND

PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL FORESTLAND

Some Private Forest Industry Links

Rayonier Inc

<http://www.rayonier.com/>

IFP Office (360) 452-1351

Forks Office (360) 374-6565

Port Angeles (360) 457-2329

Western Washington Rayonier map:

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_General%20Access_Map.pdf

Pysht GMU 603 – Rayonier ownership Deep Creek:

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DeepCreek_Map.pdf

Dickey GMU 602 – Rayonier ownership Dickey

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_DickeyPermitArea_Map.pdf

Clearwater GMU 615 – Rayonier ownership Kalaloch Ridge:

http://property.rayonierhunting.com/CreateDocument/PermitMapImages/2014_KalalochRidge_Map.pdf

Information on Access Permits:

<http://property.rayonierhunting.com/Permits/PermitsHome.aspx>

<http://property.rayonierhunting.com/AvailableAreas/FindProperties.aspx>

Green Crow

<http://www.greencrow.com/contact-us/locations/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-3325

Merrill & Ring

<http://www.merrillring.com/contacts/>

Port Angeles (360) 452-2367

Email: contact@merrillring.com

Cascade Timberlands

<http://www.cascadetimberlands.com/>

OTHER MAJOR LANDOWNERS

Other Landowner Links

Hoh River Trust

<http://hohrivertrust.publishpath.com/Websites/hohrivertrust/Images/webmap.jpg>

ONLINE TOOLS AND MAPS

WDFW'S GO HUNT TOOL

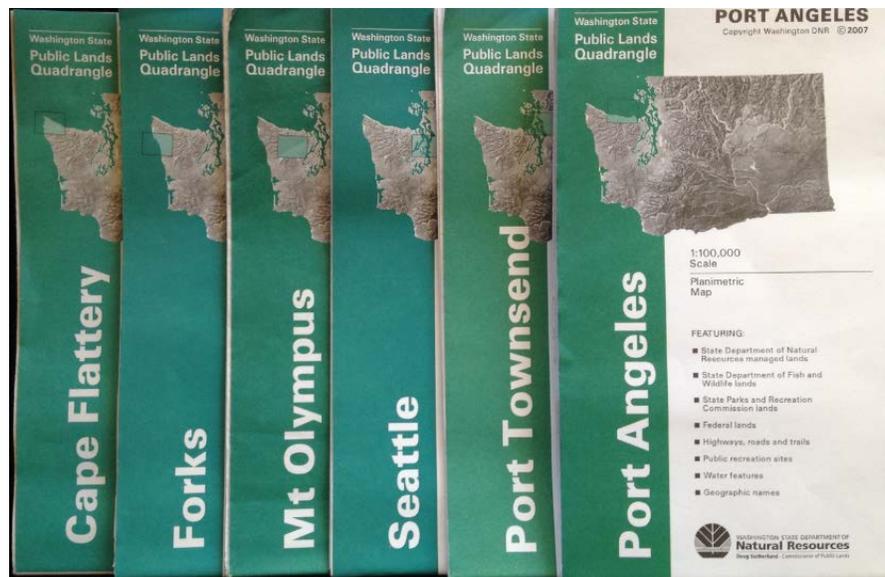


Get started with WDFW's GoHunt by [clicking here](#) or entering <http://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/gohunt/>

MAPS

Maps for District 16: Because the land ownership can be very confusing, District Biologist McMillan recommends a set of these DNR maps, which you can order online at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/Maps/Pages/public_land_quadrangle_maps.aspx



Often these DNR maps are available to buy at Swains & Browns in Port Angeles, or at Thriftway in Forks.

These DNR maps have the best combination of land ownership and current roads.

Other maps that can be helpful for select areas include:

Forest Service Quadrangle Maps can be obtained free online at

http://data.fs.usda.gov/geodata/rastergateway/states-regions/states_zoom.php?stateID=wa

The Forest Service also sells Forest District Maps that are very useful

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/olympic/maps-pubs/?cid=stelprdb5195398>

The map for the east end of WDFW District 16 is the Hood Canal Ranger District/North End map.

The maps for the west end of WDFW District 16 are Pacific Ranger District/North End & South End maps.

Hood Canal Ranger District/North End	14484	\$5.00
Hood Canal Ranger District/South End	14483	\$5.00
Pacific Ranger District/North End	14482	\$5.00
Pacific Ranger District/South End	14481	\$5.00