# WDFW WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091 wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

September 18, 2019

# WDFW cancels Woodland Bottoms pheasant hunt

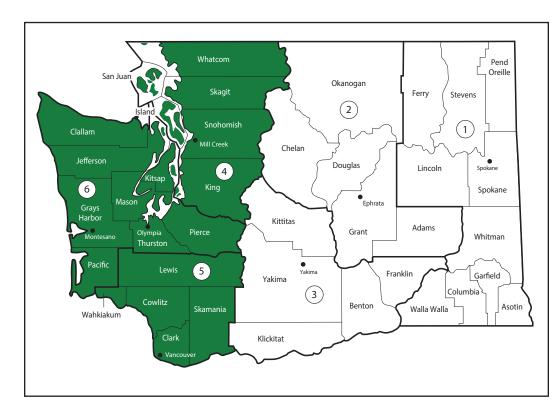
WDFW recently became aware that the Port of Woodland acquired a large portion of the Woodland Bottoms pheasant release site in Southwest Washington. Because the Port does not allow any hunting on their property, the Department is cancelling the Woodland Bottoms hunt until further notice and no birds will be released at the site.

Hunters have opportunities to hunt pheasants in other areas of the southwest region including Lincoln Creek (Lewis County), Kosmos (Lewis County), and Shillapoo Wildlife Area on the South and Vancouver Lake Units (Clark County). Hunters can find more information about these sites in this publication.

We understand that this is a difficult situation for you, but the Department is looking at options to continue to provide pheasant hunting opportunities in this region.

Thank you for your support, interest, and participation in hunting in Washington.

# Western Washington Pheasant Release Program

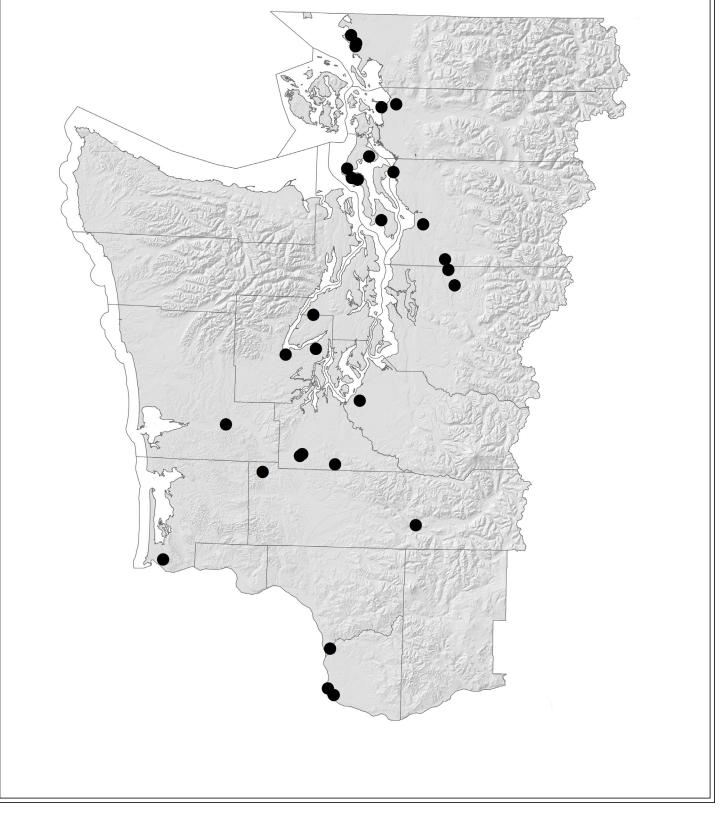






# **IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SMALL GAME HUNTERS**

To protect other wildlife species including waterfowl and raptors, **nontoxic** shot is now required for all upland bird, dove and band-tailed pigeon hunting on **all pheasant release sites statewide**. If you hunt any of these release sites, you may possess and use only approved nontoxic shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading). Some of these sites have further restrictions. See <u>Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game</u> <u>Seasons pamphlet</u> for more information.



# WESTERN WASHINGTON PHEASANT RELEASE PROGRAM



Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

The purpose of the pheasant program in western Washington is to provide upland bird hunting opportunity. This program encourages participation from new, young and seasoned hunters.

Naturally sustained pheasant populations are limited in western Washington due to the cool wet climate and the lack of grain farming. Each year 35,000 to 40,000 pheasants are released on approximately 25 release sites.

The majority of release sites remain the same from one year to the next. Maps to current sites are enclosed.

## Hunting Seasons and Regulations

The general western Washington hunting season lasts from late September to November 30 each year (see <u>hunting pamphlet</u> for details). Hunting is allowed from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day. Some areas may not release birds throughout the season due to flooding or other conflicts.

To protect other wildlife species including waterfowl and raptors, **nontoxic** shot is required for all upland bird, dove and band-tailed pigeon hunting on **all pheasant release sites statewide**.

**Required Licenses and Bag** 

#### Limits:

A western Washington pheasant license is required to hunt pheasants in western Washington. A small game license is not required to participate. The western Washington pheasant license costs \$84.50 for adults and \$40.50 for youth (under 16). The bag limit is two pheasants of either sex per day. A three-day permit is also offered for \$40.50 for residents.

# Parking and Safety at Release Sites:

Generally, release sites have established parking areas or access points. These areas are open to all users. Any restrictions associated with use of the release sites other than those noted in the hunting pamphlet, will be posted at the access points.

There are several safety issues that hunters should be aware of while hunting on release sites. The sites are usually fairly crowded and often relatively close to houses or other types of recreation. Hunter orange must be worn by hunters using release sites. Be aware of Safety Zone signs and stay away from areas posted as such. Other instructions and information will be posted at release sites.

#### **Additional Points:**

While it is always important to be courteous to other hunters, it is especially important while hunting crowded release sites. A few courtesy rules include:

1. Don't trail or otherwise position yourself to take advantage of other hunters, you may end up in their line of fire!

2. Racing out ahead of other

hunters to beat them to birds is unethical and dangerous. Please respect others and allow time and space.

3. If you see other hunters that may not be familiar with hunting the release site, invite them to join your group. This is especially important for young hunters and those without dogs. By promoting safe, ethical hunting you help ensure the continuation of recreation for yourself and for future generations.

## Western Washington Regional Offices:

#### Region 4

(425) 775-1311 16018 Mill Creek Blvd. Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296

#### **Region 5**

(360) 696-6211 5525 S 11th Street Ridgefield, WA 98642

#### **Region 6**

(360) 249-4628 48 Devonshire Rd. Montesano, WA 98563

# Western Washington Pheasant Release Program

The number of pheasants released on each site is based on several factors, including the estimated numbers of hunters using those sites.

County	Site
Clark	Shillapoo
	Vancouver Lake
Cowlitz	Woodland
Grays Harbor	Chehalis River
Island	Sea Plane Base
	OLF-Coupeville
	Zylstra Road
	Bayview
	Arnold Farm
King	Cherry Valley
	Stillwater
Lewis	Lincoln Creek
	Kosmos
Mason	Belfair
	Hunter Farms
	Sargeant Mac
Pacific	Chinook
Pierce	Fort Lewis
Skagit	Samish (Youth, Hunters 65 and older and Disabled Only)
Snohomish	Crescent Lake
	Ebey Island
Thurston	Fort Lewis
	Scatter Creek
	Skookumchuck
Whatcom	Lake Terrell
	BP
	Intalco

# **REGION FOUR PHEASANT HUNTING INFORMATION**

On several popular release sites hunters must choose to hunt on either odd-numbered or even numbered weekend days, from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. Youth and senior hunters may hunt on either day. These sites include: Lake Terrell (including British Petroleum and Intalco), Snoqualmie (including Stillwater, Cherry Valley, and Crescent Lake segments), Skagit, wildlife areas, and all sites on Whidbey Island.

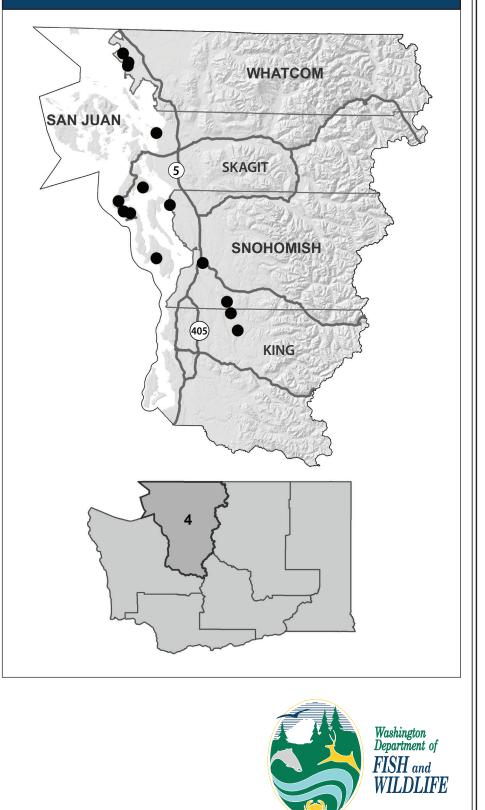
Nontoxic shot must be used on all release sites statewide. Other instructions and information may be posted at release sites.

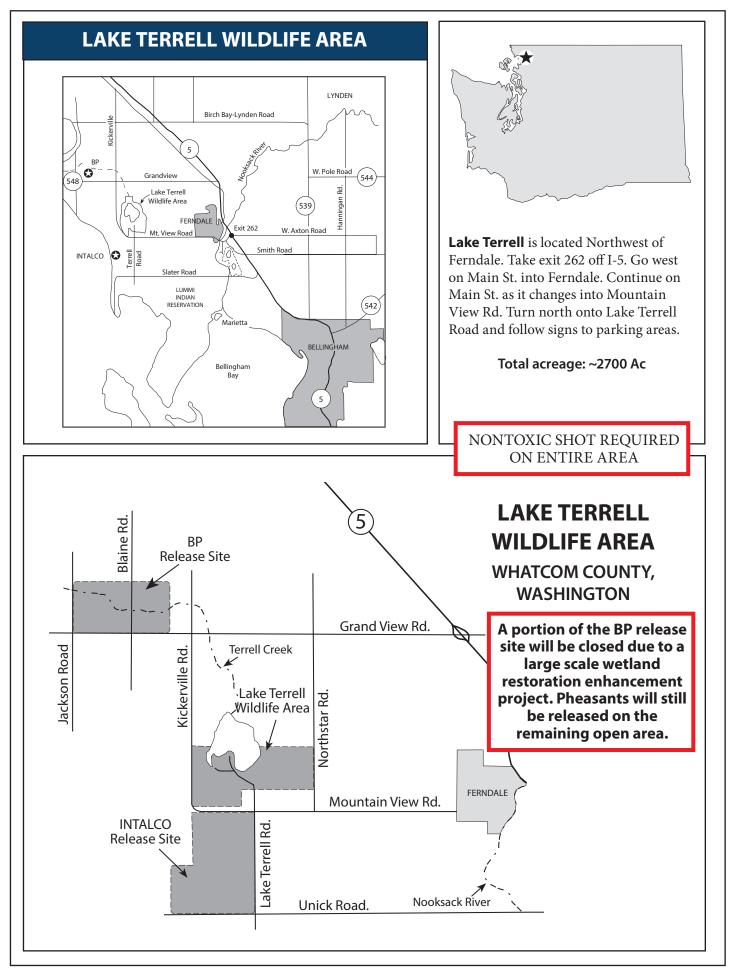
**Reminder:** At least 400 square inches of Hunter Orange must be worn by all upland bird hunters.

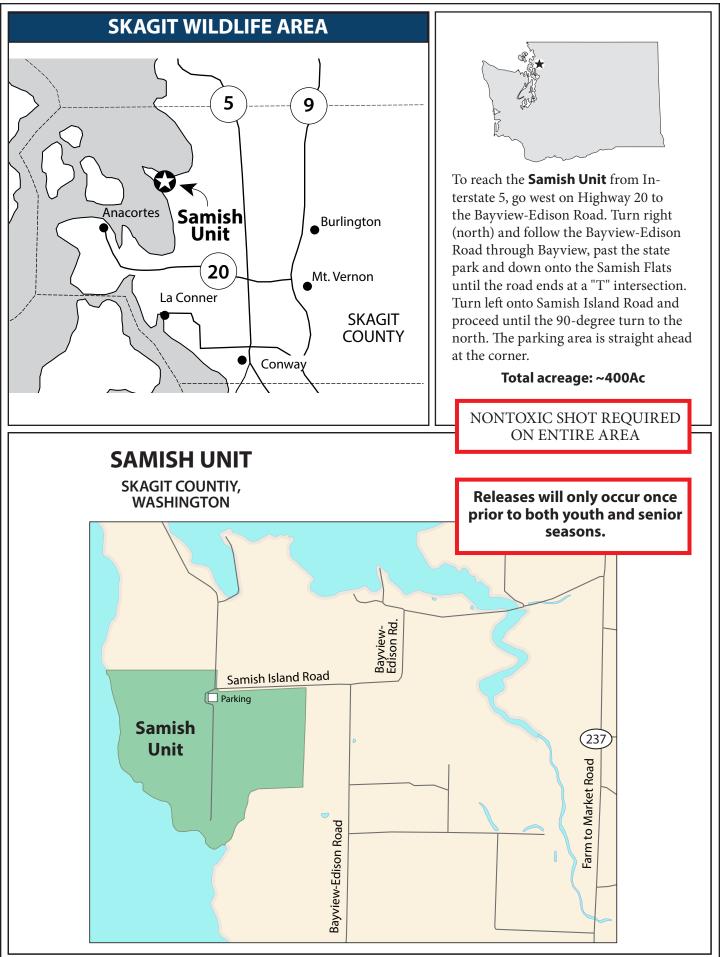
Typically, birds are released on these sites at least three times per week, mainly on weekends. The two main release sites on Whidbey Island are on the Naval Air Station (OLF and Seaplane Base). In order to hunt on these sites, hunters must obtain a NAS Whidbey Island Upland Game Hunting Permit from the Environmental Bldg. 113 on Ault Field. Please call (360) 257-1009 for additional information.

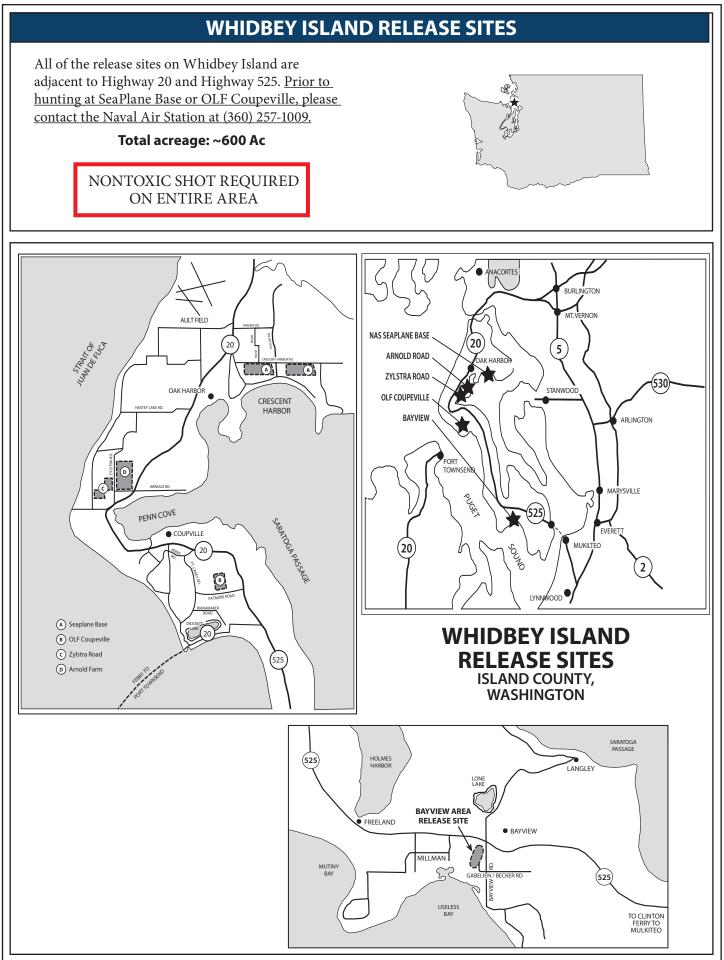
> Region 4 Office: (425) 775-1311 16018 Mill Creek Blvd. Mill Creek, WA 98102-1296

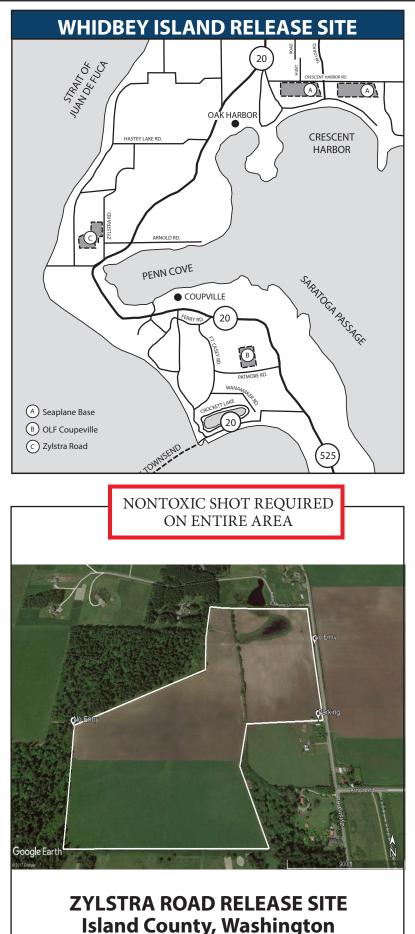
# **REGION FOUR**









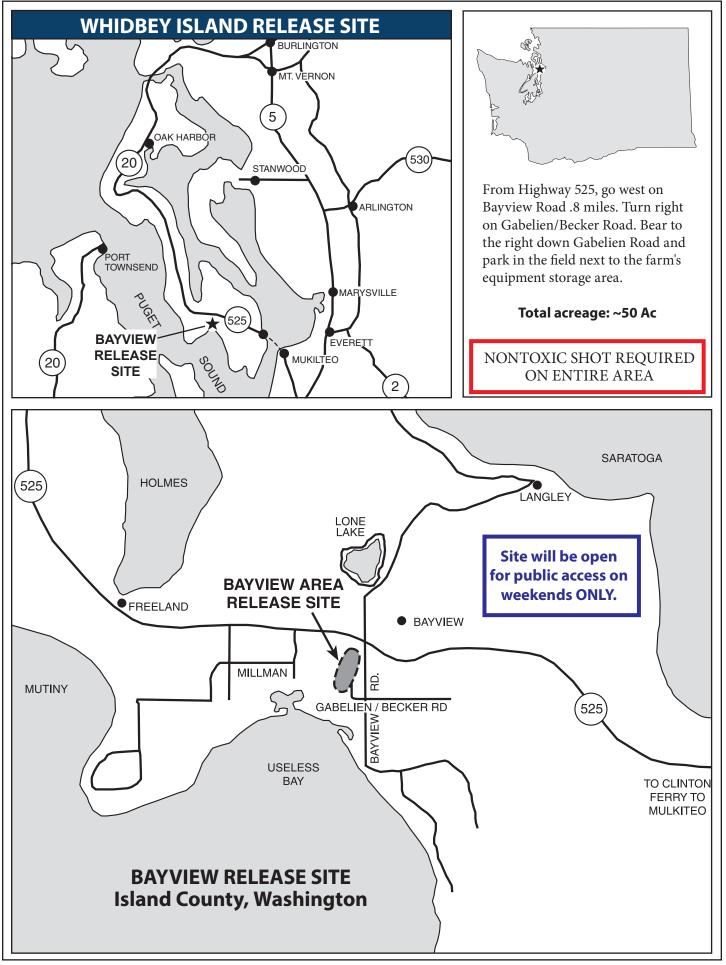


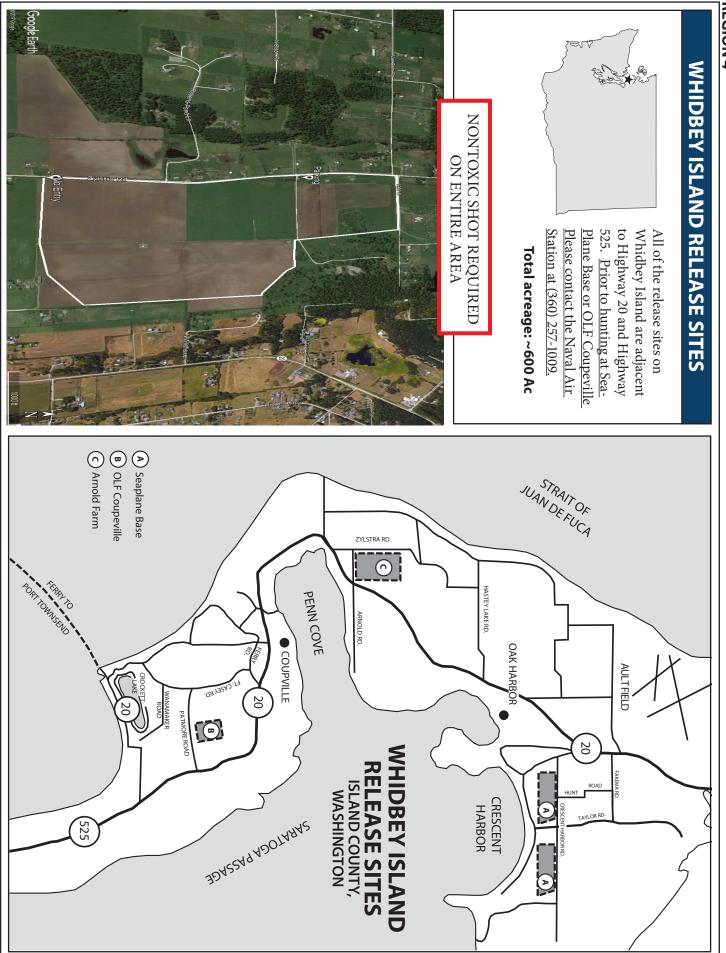


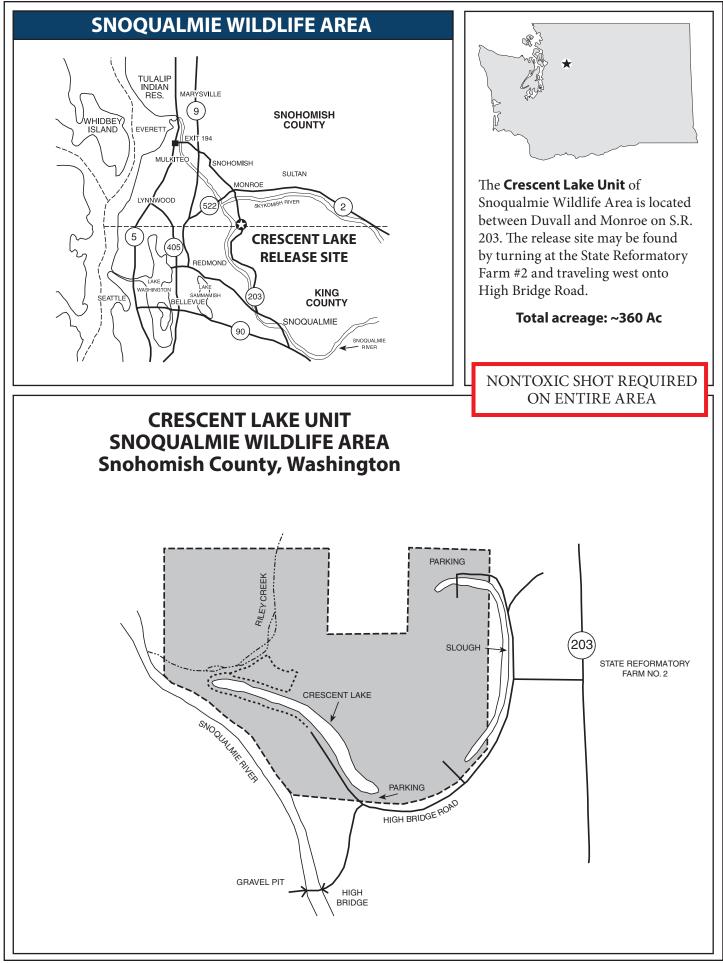
The **Zylstra Road** pheasant release site is located on Whidbey Island, near Oak Harbor. From Interstate 5 take WA-20 west to Arnold Road. Go west on Arnold Road and take your first right onto Zylstra Road. The hunting site and parking lot will be on your left hand side. Please park in the designated parking area, as indicated by parking lot signage. Vehicles are not allowed in any other area of the site except the designated parking area. This site can only accommodate a fixed amount of vehicles. Therefore, when the parking lot is full, the site will be at maximum capacity and no more hunters are allowed access until a vehicle eaves. Parking on the road or any other location to access the site is not allowed.

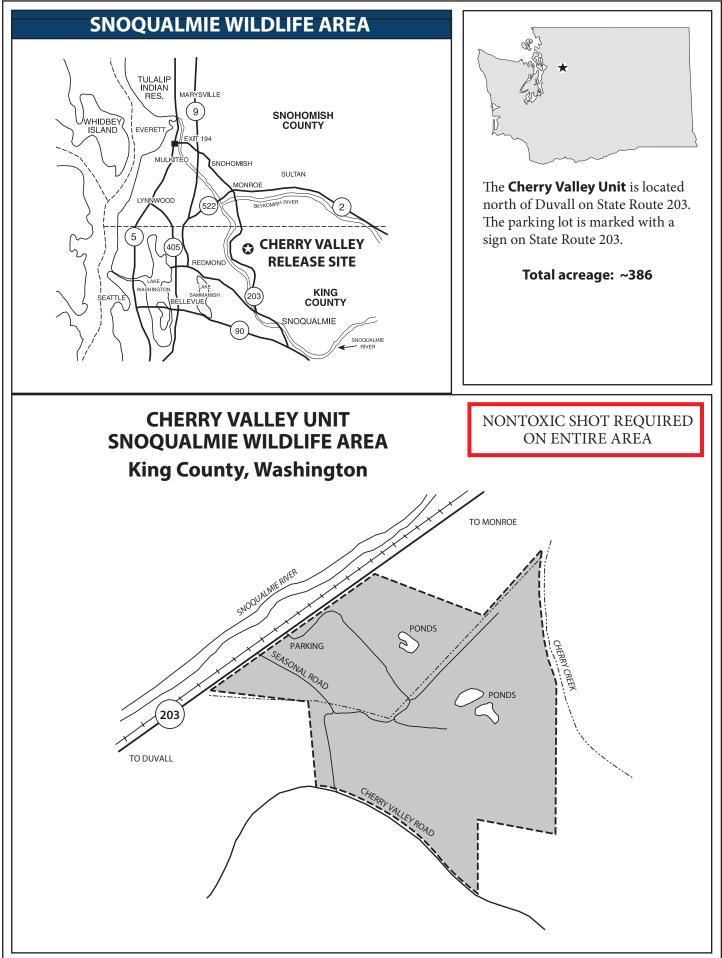
**Special Notes:** This site is subject to ongoing farming operations. As a result, upon notification, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the Landowners/ Contract Managers may choose to close access to the site in order to allow these operations to proceed without hindrance. For example, cattle are rotationally grazed on this property and may be rotated into the site for grazing purposes. In the event that this occurs, WDFW personnel will remove signs, close the area to hunting by posting signs and reallocate the distribution of pheasants released at the site to nearby pheasant release sites. On Whidbey Island, Youth Hunts will occur at the Upper Seaplane Base, and Senior Hunts will only occur at Zylstra Road and the Upper Seaplane Base. Please contact the Region 4 Private Lands biologist for information and details pertaining to questions about this site

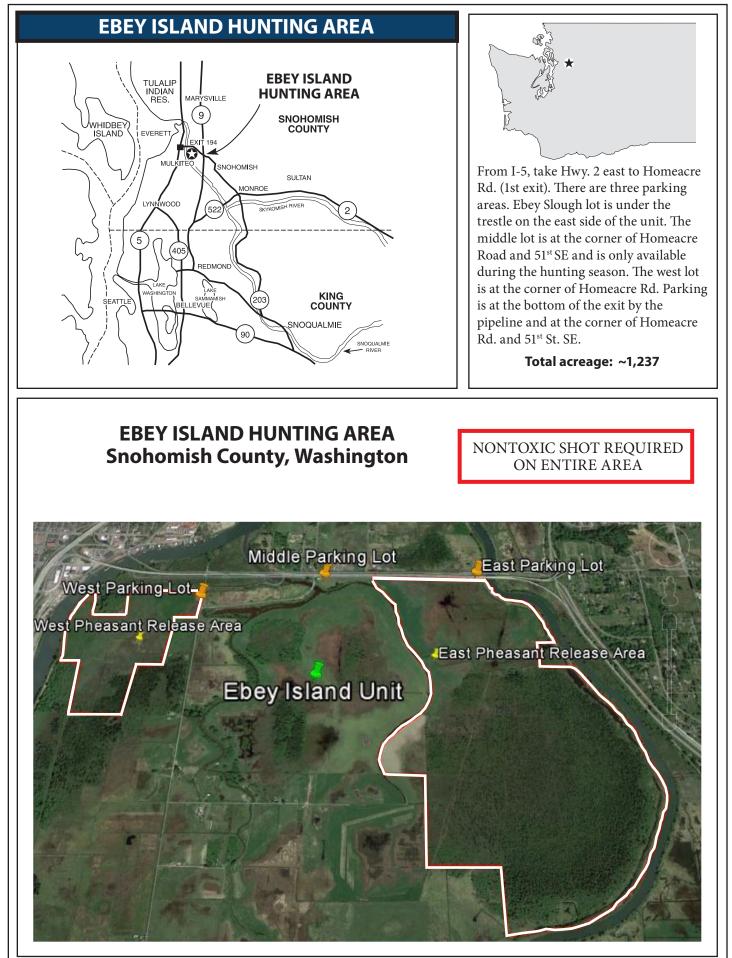
Total acreage: ~172 Ac

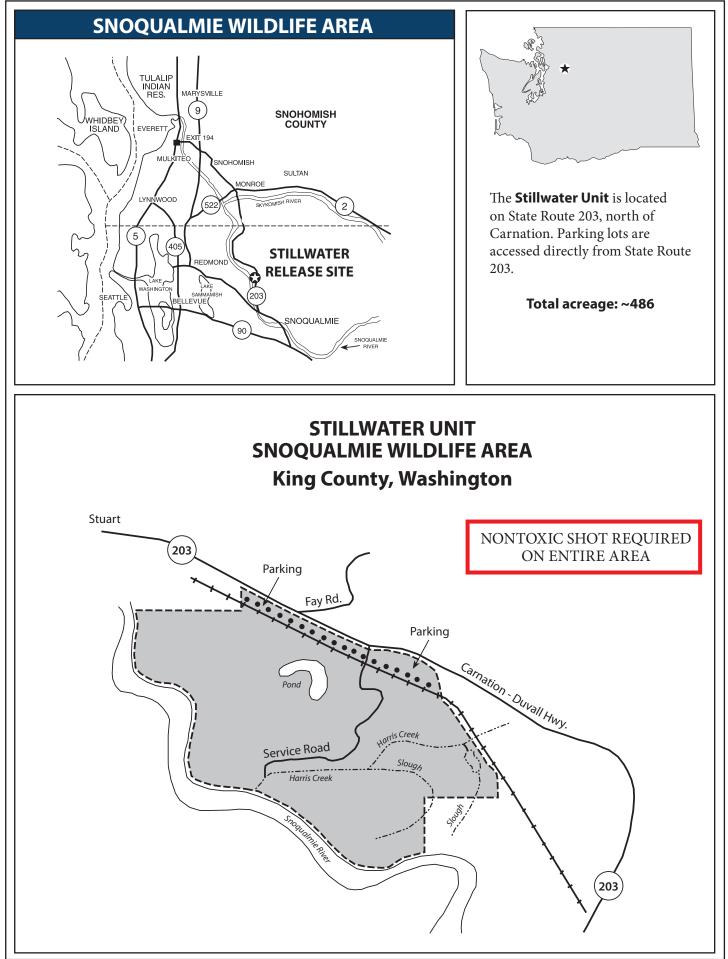






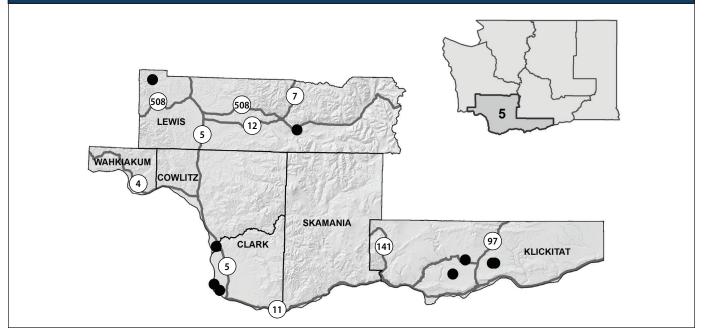






# **REGION FIVE PHEASANT HUNTING INFORMATION**

## **REGION FIVE**

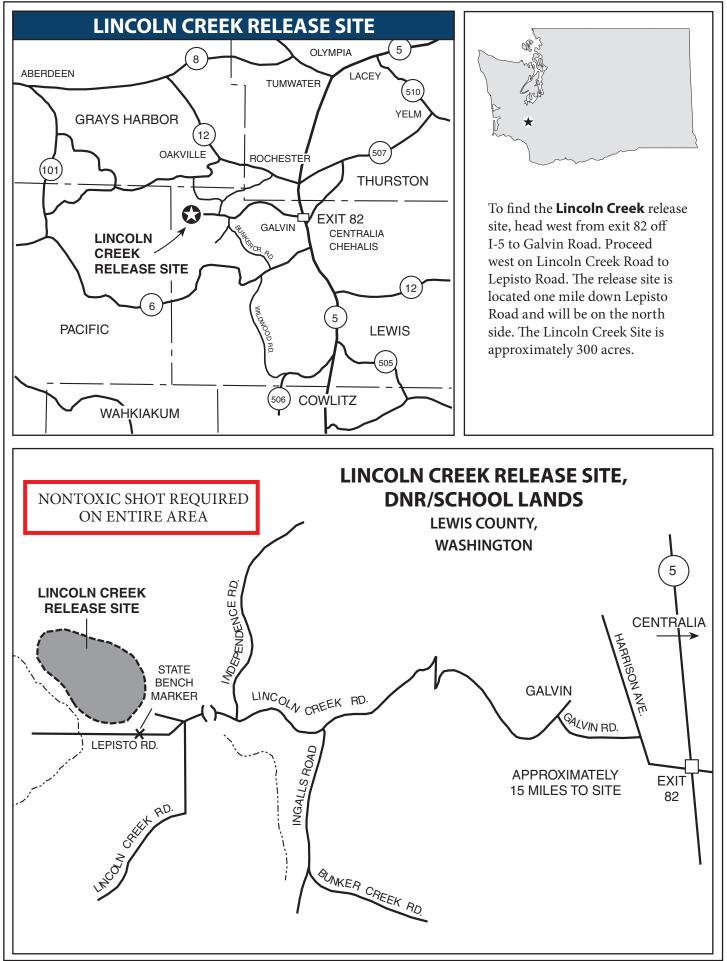


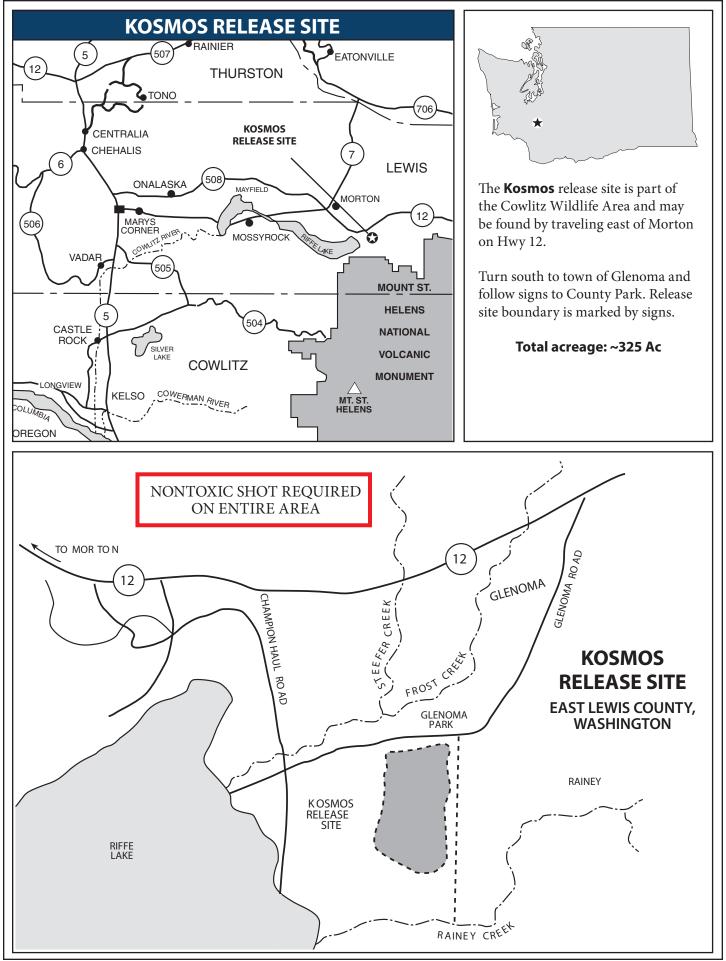
Several of the pheasant release sites in Region Five have been supported by volunteers. One of the most active groups is the Vancouver Wildlife League. They are associated with many wildlife projects in the Vancouver area and handle most of the pheasant releases on the Shillapoo and Vancouver Lake sites. These sites receive very high use because of their popularity and proximity to Vancouver.

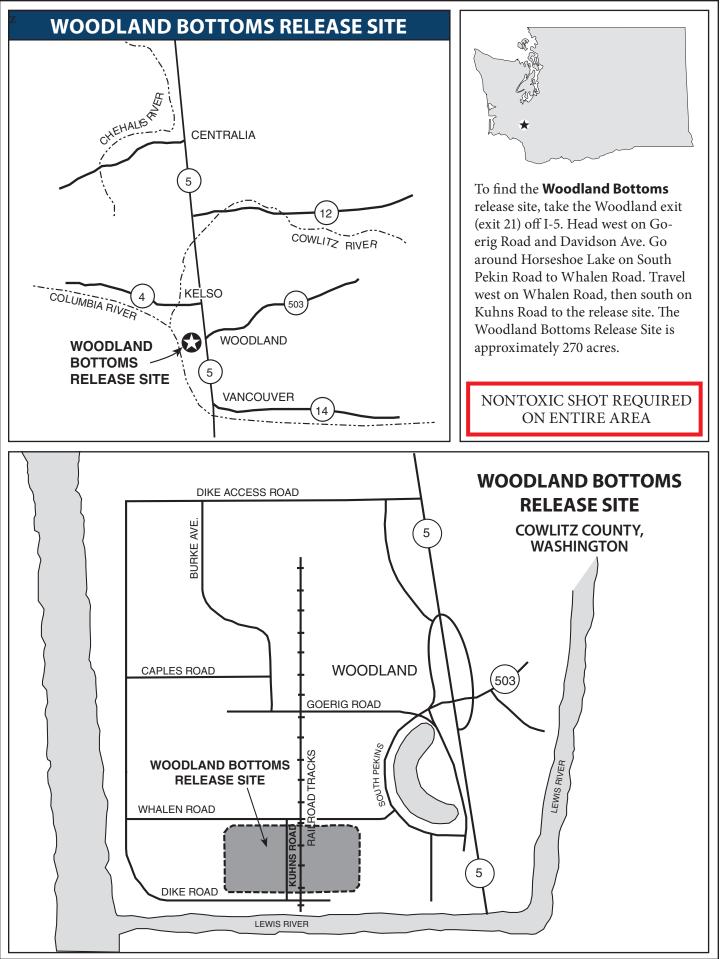
Such sites as Lincoln Creek and Woodland Bottoms receive lighter pressure, these sites do receive some mid-week releases early in the hunting season. The remaining sites are used by fewer hunters overall and releases mainly occur on the weekend.

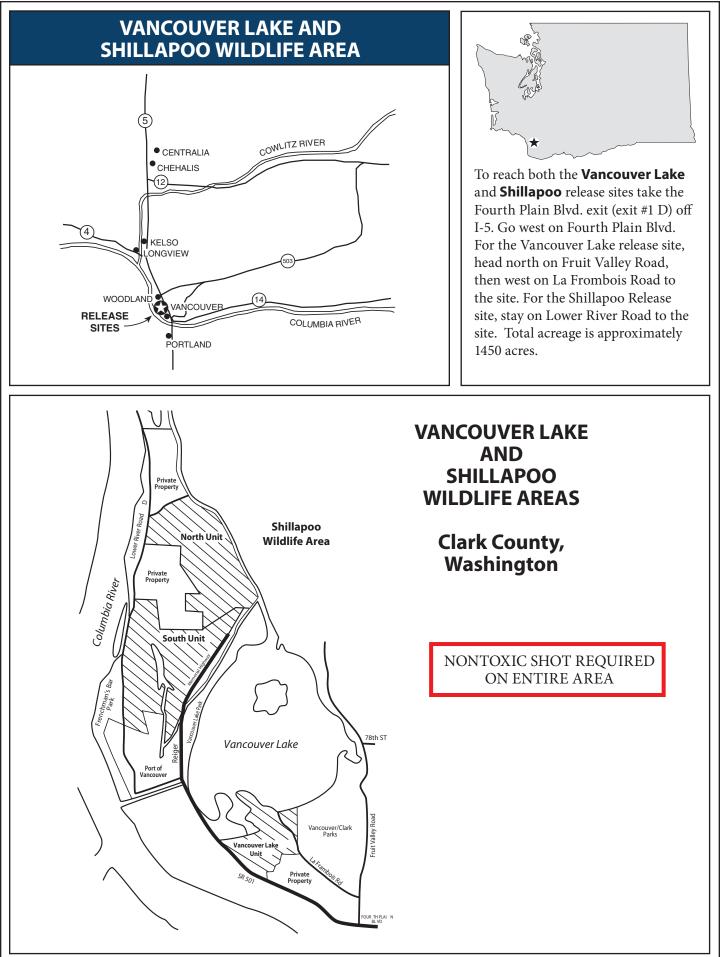
Although, Klickitat County's fish and wildlife programs are managed through WDFW's Region 5 office in Ridgefield, Klickitat County is considered an eastern Washington county. Therefore, license requirements for Klickitat County are the same as other eastern Washington counties. For Klickitat County, refer to Eastern Washington Pheasant Release Program pamphlet. Region 5 Office: (360) 696-6211 5525 S 11th Street Ridgefield, WA 98642











# **REGION SIX PHEASANT HUNTING INFORMATION**

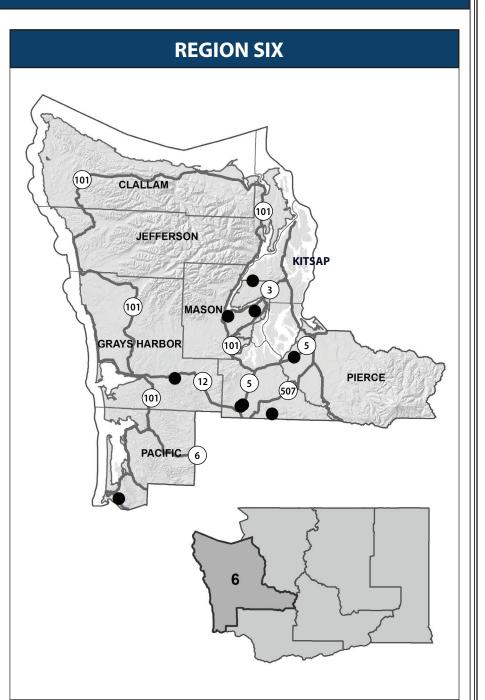
Volunteers play a significant role in the pheasant release program in Region Six. The Peninsula Bird Hunters handle the Belfair sites and individual volunteers release birds on the Hunter Farms (private property), Skookumchuck, and Chinook sites.

Fort Lewis, Scatter Creek, Skookumchuck, and Belfair receive the most hunting pressure and the highest number of released pheasants. Pheasants are released during the middle of the week on these areas.

Nontoxic shot is required on all release sites statewide.

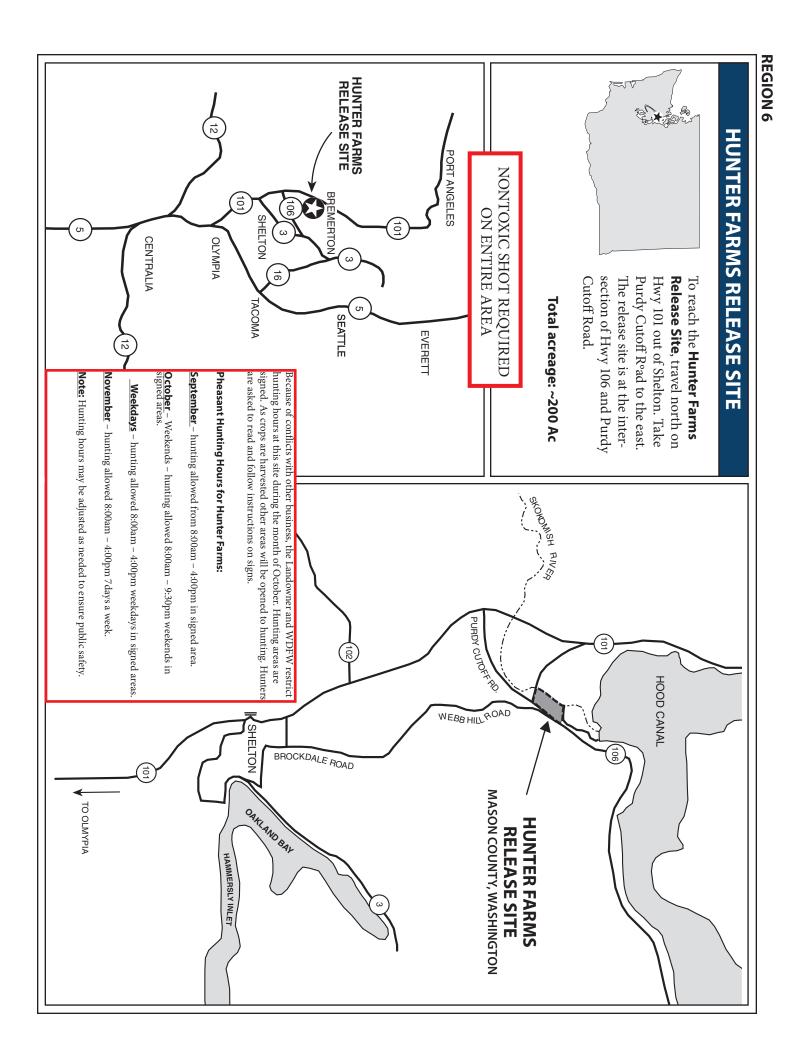
At the Scatter Creek release site, hunters must choose to hunt on either odd numbered or even numbered weekend days from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. Youth and senior hunters may hunt on either day.

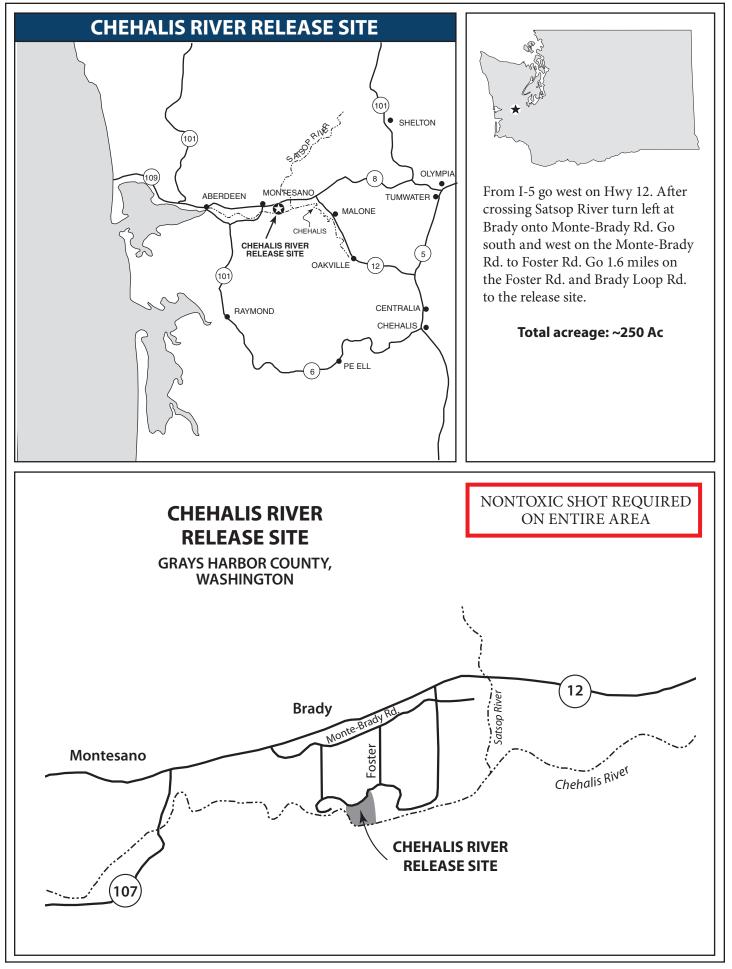
> Region 6 Office: (360) 249-4628 48 Devonshire Road Montesano, WA 98563



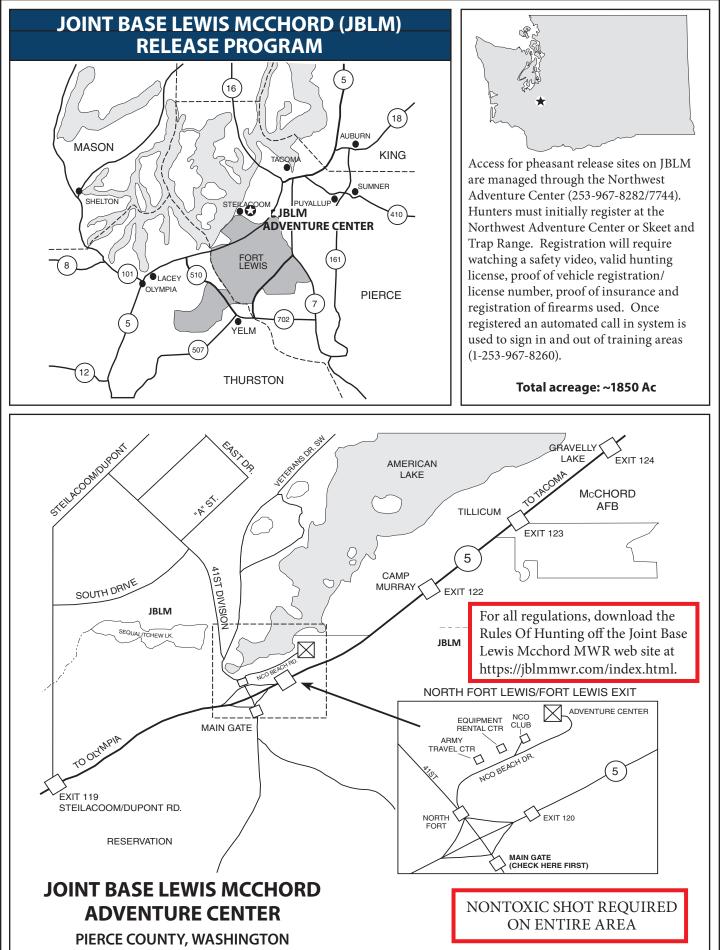


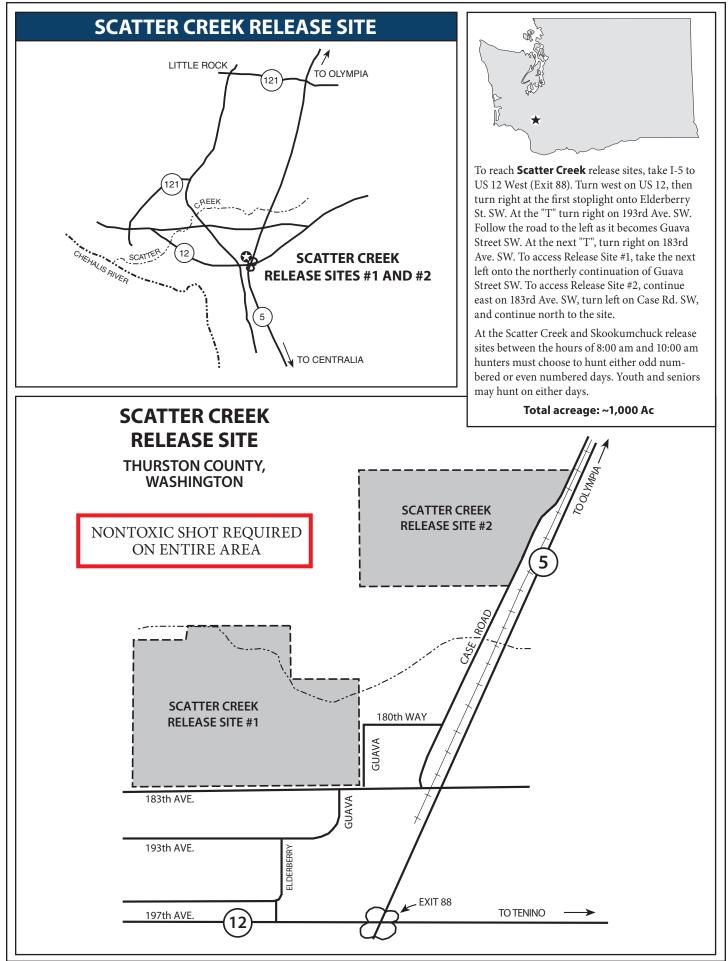
Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

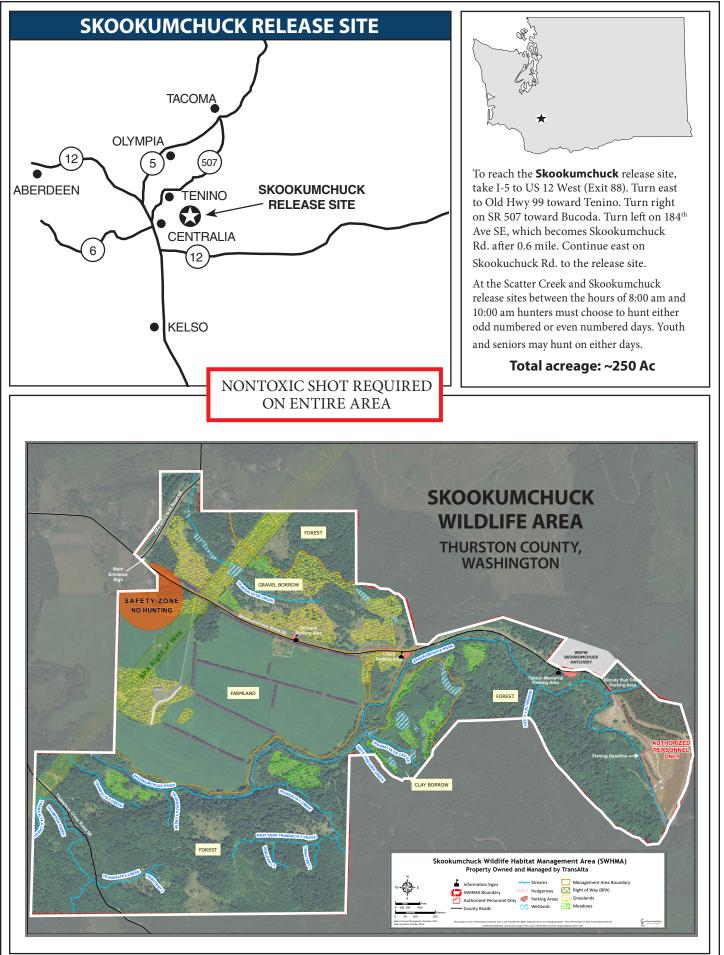




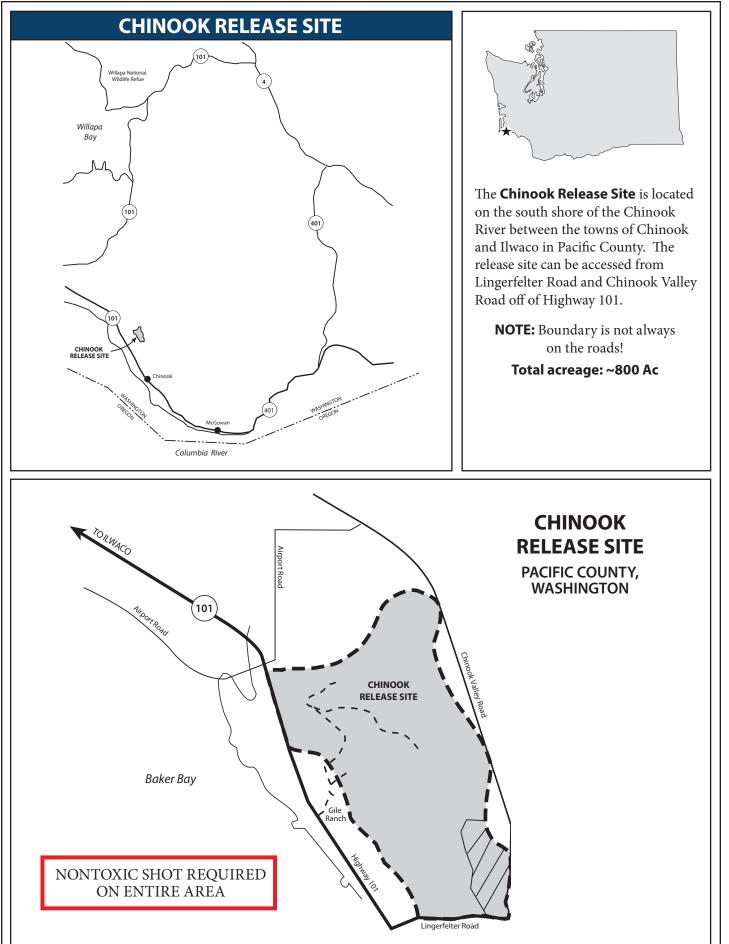








#### **BELFAIR AND MASON LAKE (formally Sgt. Mac) RELEASE SITES** The Belfair site is located north of the intersection of Bear Creek-Dewatto Rd and Tahuya-Blacksmith Rd. Mason Lake (formally Sgt. Mak) Pheasant Release Site at the East end of **Mason Lake** (This site replaces the Grapeview Release Site on Hwy. 3) From Hwy. 3, east of Allyn, head north on Mason-Benson Rd. E for 2.6 miles. Take a right on Mason Lake Rd. and go east for 1.1 miles. Take a left on E. Mason Lake Dr. West and go 0.1 mile to the gate on the right. On Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri, park at gate and walk to the hunting area. On Wed, Sat and Sun, proceed through the gate and drive to the parking area in the gravel pit. The gate is open from 8 AM to 5 PM. All other side roads are off limit to vehicles. Be out by 5 PM or risk being locked in for the night. Hunting site provided by Green Diamond Resource Company. Pheasants planted, locks operated and property maintained by The Peninsula Birdhunters Association. BELFAIR PHEASANT RELEA **BELFAIR and MASON LAKE** (formally Sgt. Mac) **RELEASE SITES** HUNTING SITE ROVIDED BY POPE **RESOURCES LP** MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON OF DIRT ROAD Jefferson Camp Union Mason BEAR CREEK-NO SHOOTING WITHIN 00 OF ROAD OR SOUTI DEWATTO RD 101 100 Crosby Kits Holly OF PARKING LOT Eldon Kitsap Kitsap PARKING LOT TAHUYA-BLACKSMITH RD Mason Mason ARNING: SCHOOL BUSES USE THE PARKING LOT TO PIC & DROP OFF KIDS. NO SHOOTING TOWARDS PARKING LO Lilliwaup BELFAIR PHEASANT Belfair RELEASE SITE NO LITTERING IN PARKING LOT OR HUNTING FIELDS (106) loodsport **MASON LAKE** Kit (formally Sqt. Mac) PHEASANT RELEASE SITE z **MASON LAKE** ETEPEE JOBES CT (formally Sgt. Mac) Mason Lake (formally PHEASANT RELEASE SITE Sgt: Mak) Pheasant E CREST DR **Release Site** P E. Trails Rd. 8 Parking GD 2340 e ETACOMA POWERLINE RD 8 250 RD E. Mason Lake Dr. West ĠD 2270 Gate Mason Lake **Mason Lake Rd**



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Website: http://www.wa.gov/

Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Larry Carpenter, Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

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