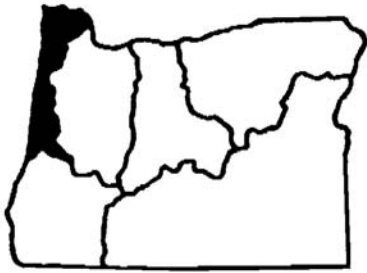


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**NORTHWEST ZONE**

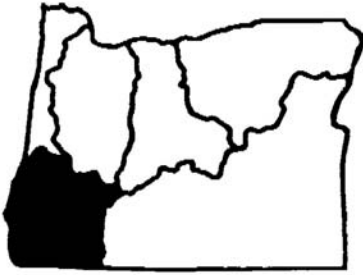
**North Coast**

Effort looked to be fairly high for the first weekend of deer season in the Trask and Wilson units. Many hunters were taking the opportunity to get out of their vehicles and hunt on foot into the various travel management areas during the generally mild weather. The weather, however, was generally not conducive to hunting success; being cold and clear at night - with an almost full moon - and warm and dry during the daytime. Many hunters reported seeing deer, but few bucks appeared to be taken as is somewhat usual for the opener.

**Mid Coast**

Last weekend's deer opener was relatively slow compared to previous years. ODFW and OSP did not observe many deer hunters and no harvested deer were checked. Weather conditions for hunting were better than previous years; it was mild with rain showers.

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**SOUTHWEST ZONE**

**Coos County**

Weather conditions were very good for the opening of the season. Most hunters contacted were seeing deer and many saw legal bucks but got no shots. Hunting pressure seemed heavier than most other seasons. About 25 hunters were checked. Hunting success is expected have been good for the opener compared to most years.

**Douglas County**

The hunting pressure seemed lower than average years and few hunters were actually out of their vehicles. The district does not have very many "campers" who hunt deer opening weekend; most people hunting for the day drive up to the forest in the morning and return to home in the afternoon/evening. No harvested bucks were checked all Saturday but reports are that a few bucks were taken.

**Jackson, Josephine, Curry Counties**

Favorable weather conditions produced above average success in most areas in Jackson and Josephine counties. Higher elevations saw snowfall of 2-6 inches, and moderate rainfall at mid-lower elevations.

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**WILLAMETTE ZONE**

Western Oregon General Rifle DEER season hunters had mixed success over the opening weekend. Weather conditions were ideal for black-tailed deer to be out and moving and those hunters that had pre-season scouted filled their tags or had opportunities to fill their tags. Several hunters that were checked had followed previous advice and positioned themselves along escape trails used by black-tails to fill their tags opening day. With the opening day hunter pressure, bucks have slipped into the heavier timber and brush so hunters will need to get out in the brush and conduct drives or still hunt clear cuts that are 8-12 years old. Hunters that headed to the north Cascades found bucks hard to locate in the heavy brush and trees of the Mt. Hood National Forest. Success was higher in the lower elevation private timberlands.

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**CENTRAL ZONE**

**GENERAL:** Hunter checks were conducted opening weekend in West Biggs, White River, Hood, Maupin, Maury, Ochoco, Grizzly, Wagontire, Paulina, Fort Rock Upper Deschutes, and Metolius units. At lower elevations to the north, opening day was windy and rainy with up to 6 inches of snow on Saturday night. In the central Oregon units, snow fell Friday night and then all night Saturday night and intermittently on Sunday. Snow depth was 3 inches at valley floors with depths exceeding 10-16" at higher elevations by Sunday morning. In these units, many hunters elected to stay near camp or in vehicles, and hunting efforts were reduced.

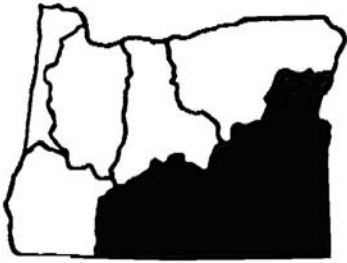
**HUNTER SUCCESS:** For the Ochoco, Maury and Grizzly units, 445 hunters with 24 bucks were checked compared to 420 hunters with 34 bucks checked last year. This year's 5% success rate was just above half of last years 8% success rate. For the Wagontire, Paulina, Fort Rock, Upper Deschutes and Metolius units, 545 hunters with 32 bucks were checked compared to 742 hunters with 68 bucks in 2008. This year's success rate was 6% compared to last year's 9% for opening weekend. In the West Biggs, White River, Hood and Maupin units, 99 hunters were checked with 13 deer.

**HARVEST COMPOSITION:** Ochoco, Maury and Grizzly units: 19 (79%) of the bucks were yearlings (spike or forked) which is an increase over last years 71% rate. Wagontire, Paulina, Fort Rock, Upper Deschutes and Metolius units: 71% spike and fork, 24% mature.

**COMPLIANCE:** A variety of citations were issued for violations of road closures, OHV violations, no tag in possession, and western tag (wrong unit). The highest number of violations occurred in the Metolius unit with several confiscated deer, lots of citations and 2 confiscated rifles.

<b>WMU</b>	<b>HUNTERS CHECKED</b>	<b>HARVEST</b>	<b>% SUCCESS</b>
MAURY	28	2	7
OCHOCO	339	15	4
GRIZZLY	78	7	9
Wagontire	25	2	8
Paulina	171	9	5
Fort Rock	168	5	3
Upper Deschutes	121	5	4
Metolius	60	10	17
West Biggs	14	6	43
White River	75	6	8
Hood	10	1	10
Maupin	0	0	0

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**SOUTHEAST ZONE**

**Harney Watershed District**

Weather conditions provided very favorable hunting conditions during the opening weekend. High temperatures ranged from the upper 30s to low 40s with light to moderate winds. Intermittent showers provided enough moisture to settle the dust and create quiet hunting conditions. Snow accumulated up to 2-3 inches in the higher elevations above 6,000 feet.

Opening weekend hunter success as measured on the second day of the season varied depending upon the area. Many unsuccessful hunters reported seeing some yearling bucks, but were holding out for something larger. Weather also hampered hunting efforts in some areas as low cloud cover and snow flurries limited visibility at higher elevations. Hunter success by unit is shown in the table below is shown in the table below.

Unit	Hunters	Bucks Harvested	Percent Success	CWD
Silvies	65	15	23%	2
Malheur R	87	10	11%	0
Steens Mt.	30	4	13%	2
<b>District Tot.</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4</b>

Very few spikes were seen in the harvest indicating habitat conditions over the summer were favorable. The following table shows the composition of bucks checked over the entire opening weekend.

Unit	1 pt.	2 pt. Yearling	2 pt. Adult	3 pt.	4 pt.	5 pt. +	Total	Percent Yearling
Silvies	2	6	0	4	2	1	15	53%
Malheur R.	0	7	1	3	2	1	14	50%
Steens Mt.	0	6	2	3	0	0	11	55%
<b>District Tot.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53%</b>

**Klamath Watershed District**

Weather patterns in the district included abnormally cold temperatures with mixed flurries of rain and snow. Snow accumulations of up to 4 inches were reported for the higher elevations, but no accumulation was noted at lower elevations. The Lakeview District reported very windy conditions with substantial snow accumulation at higher elevations.

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Success rates were fair to low with portions of the Interstate Unit being the notable exception. Good fawn recruitment across the watershed resulted in a high proportion of yearling bucks in the harvest.

Hunters in the Interstate and Keno Units reported seeing a good number of deer, however information gathered in adjacent units was in disagreement. It is likely that weather patterns in the area had a large impact on the number of deer observed. Additionally, weather may have impacted the number of hunters actively hunting from vehicles on roadways, reducing the number of deer observed. In the Keno, Silver Lake, and Ft. Rock Units, a combined 12% of vehicles encountered were parked with the remainder of vehicles transporting active hunters.

OSP conducted both roadside checks and decoy operations in the Keno Unit as part of an action plan. Roadside checks performed by OSP and ODFW indicated a high degree of compliance. In contrast, decoy operations were highly successful with a majority of citations being related to shooting from within a public right-of-way. Total hunters contacted and citations issued are not yet available.

Outreach efforts by both ODFW and OSP related to [enforcement effort](#) in the Keno Unit appears to have been highly successful. Most contacts indicated awareness of increased enforcement presence as a result of media releases and word of mouth. Many hunters also commented on a reduction of hunting pressure over the weekend, which they surmised was the result of western Oregon tag holders staying within their prescribed boundaries.

The following summary was provided by Sgt. Randall Hand, Klamath Falls OSP:

"The Klamath Falls team (Sgt Hand, Senior Troopers Niehus and Randall) was joined by Lieutenant Gifford, Senior Trooper Harris, and Trooper Cliff Barden to carry out the Keno Unit Action Plan. The Keno Unit Action Plan was developed to address an estimated 25 to 40% non-compliance in deer tags. Prior to the season, a state wide press release was made advising of an increased enforcement effort. Signs were developed and placed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel along unit boundaries and at main entrance points into the unit. Finally three teams of Oregon State Police officers were deployed over opening weekend to operate Wildlife Enforcement Decoys throughout the unit. Twenty-two operations were conducted resulting in 58 hunters contacted. Of the 58 hunters, 9 did not have valid deer tags for a non-compliance rate of 15.5%. This rate is well below the previously estimated rate (25-40%). The lower rate is attributed to the press release and the increased number of signs. The lower rate is somewhat confirmed through numerous comments by hunters about the reduced hunting pressure."

CWD samples were again collected, although total samples collected were low as a result of low success and deer being hung by the head in camps.

### Summary of deer season checks

Unit	Hunters	Doe	Spike	2 pt	3 pt	4 pt +	Success

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Interstate	99						27%
*Note: Interstate checks performed by OSP. 27 deer checked, but no data on age or antler points.							
Klamath Falls	0		0	0	0	0	0%
Sprague	0		0	0	0	0	0%
Fort Rock	93		1	5	0	0	6%
Silver Lake	130		1	7	2	0	8%
Keno	89		4	2	0	1	8%
Warner	3		0	1	0	0	33%
<b>Watershed Totals</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6%</b>

No antlerless harvest authorized for PDP hunters in all south-central deer units in 2009.

**Malheur Watershed District**

Weather conditions were excellent with the first good storm of the season arriving Friday. Temperatures dropped 30 plus degrees from the week before with rain and snow falling Saturday night through Monday morning. Weather conditions were bad enough Sunday to keep many hunters in camp most of the day. The ones who did venture out were finding success.

The good range conditions created by May, June, and August rains were evident in the Beulah Unit. As a result body condition and antler growth on the yearling bucks was much greater than seen in recent years and no spikes were observed in the harvest. Most hunters in the Beulah reported seeing good numbers of deer with many holding out for an opportunity at a larger buck.

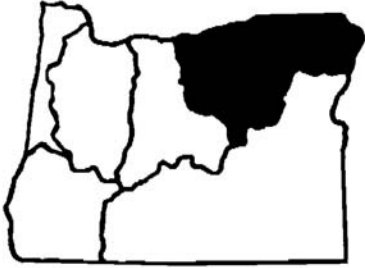
The Owyhee and Whitehorse Units were slower but district staff checked more deer than in recent years.

Unit	Day Checked	Hunters	Spike	2 pt	3 pt	4 pt	Success	CWD
Beulah	Saturday	68	0	6	2	1	12%	8
Malheur R	No Data							
Owyhee	Sunday	29	0	0	1	2	10 %	1
Trout Cr. Mts.	No Data							

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Whitehorse	Sunday	10	1	1	0	0	20%	2
<b>District Tot.</b>		<b>107</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11</b>

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**NORTHEAST ZONE**

**BAKER DISTRICT**

**District Wide**  
**2 day hunt stats for Baker District Only**

139 hunters checked  
5 harvested  
3.6% success

**Keating**

69 hunters checked  
5 deer harvested  
3x3(2), 4x4(2), 7x8 non-typical  
7.2% success

**Lookout**

4 hunters checked  
0 deer harvested  
0% success

**Sumpter**

66 hunters checked  
0 deer harvested  
0 success

**Pine Creek**

0 hunters checked

**VIOLATIONS:**

Tagged deer in Keating Unit with Western Oregon General Deer Tag  
Unlawful Take (grouse without an upland bird validation)

**WEATHER CONDITION:** Wet and cold. Opening day snow, accumulations of 1-2" at low elevations, 4-6" at mid elevations, and 6-12" at high elevations. Second day of the season rain and more snow and higher elevations, dense fog in some areas.

**Comments:**

Hunter effort appeared to be low due to poor visibility and wet conditions. Keating hunters that braved the weather harvested some nice bucks; including a 7x8 non-typical buck that a first-time hunter shot in his first few hours of deer hunting. Lookout Mtn. hunters struggled with road conditions that were poor or impassible. Monday morning weather conditions are sunny and forecasted to stay the same the rest of the week.

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**GRANT DISTRICT**

**District Wide**

226 hunters checked

40 bucks harvested

17% success

(75% yearlings)

**Murderers Creek Unit**

72 hunters checked

15 bucks harvested

21% success

(66% yearlings 10 yearlings, 5 adult)

**Northside Unit**

104 hunters checked

14 buck harvested

13% success

(85% yearlings - 12 yearling, 2 adult)

**Desolation**

50 hunter checked

11 harvest

22% success

(72% yearlings: 8 yearling, 3 adult)

**COMMENTS:** Opening weekend weather was cold and wet. Rain and snow showers were received throughout the weekend. Hunting conditions were difficult because of poor visibility and deer were inactive because of the storm. Many hunters were staying in camp because of the weather.

**CITATIONS**

Loaning and borrowing	1
Operating an ATV on a closed road	1

**WARNINGS:**

Hunting without a valid tag	2
Improper validation of a tag	1
Camping more than 300 feet from an open road in a TMA	1

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**HEPPNER DISTRICT**

**District Wide**

315 hunters checked  
42 bucks harvested  
13% success

**Columbia Basin**

8 hunters checked  
0 bucks harvested  
0% success

**Fossil Unit**

114 hunters checked  
15 bucks harvested  
13% success  
4 spikes, 6 forks, 3 – 3pts, 2 – 4pts.

**Heppner Unit**

193 hunters checked  
27 bucks harvested  
14% success  
15 forks, 6 - 3pts, 4 - 4pts, 1 - 5pt, 1 - 6pt.

**COMMENTS:** Snow on the opening weekend slowed success throughout the District. Snow, cold, and windy conditions keep many hunters in camp for most of the weekend. With warmer conditions predicted for the rest of the week, success should improve throughout the District. OSP issued two citations and sized one rifle.

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**UMATILLA DISTRICT**

**District Wide**

147 hunters checked  
15 bucks harvested  
10 % success

**Columbia Basin**

6 hunters checked  
3 bucks harvested  
50% success

**Ukiah Unit**

108 hunters checked  
7 bucks harvested  
6% success

**W. Mt. Emily**

28 hunters checked  
5 bucks harvested  
18% success

**Walla Walla Unit**

5 hunters checked  
0 buck harvested  
0% success

**COMMENTS:** Success appears to be depressed due to the extreme weather experienced by hunters over the weekend. Field effort was depressed and resulted in fewer animals being taken. Success was quite good for hunters braving the weather. One would be inclined to estimate higher success as the week wears on with better weather in the near future, but hunters were abandoning the hunt and returning home.

**WARNINGS**

Failure to validate tag	2
No valid tag in possession	1

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**UNION DISTRICT**

**District Wide**

303 hunters checked  
17 bucks harvested  
6% success

**Starkey Unit**

180 hunters checked  
12 bucks harvested  
7% success

**E. Mt Emily Unit**

59 hunters checked  
1 bucks harvested  
2% success

**Wenaha Unit**

7 hunters checked  
1 buck harvested  
14% success

**Catherine Creek Unit**

16 hunters checked  
1 bucks harvested  
6% success

**W. Mt. Emily**

9 hunters checked  
0 bucks harvested  
0% success

**Ukiah**

13 hunters checked  
1 buck harvested  
8% success

**Minam**

19 hunters checked  
1 buck harvested  
5% success

**COMMENTS:** Cold and wet weather with snowfall at most elevations provided excellent hunting conditions. Fog and weather hampered hunters until Sunday afternoon. Hunters complained of few deer. Hunter conduct was generally good.

**CITATIONS**

Shooting from the roadway

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**WALLOWA DISTRICT**

**District Wide**

678 hunters checked  
62 bucks harvested  
9% success

**Chesnimnus Unit**

108 hunters checked  
16 bucks harvested  
15% success

**E. Sled Springs Unit**

81 hunters checked  
8 bucks harvested  
10% success

**Imnaha Unit**

125 hunters checked  
5 bucks harvested  
4% success

**W. Sled Springs Unit**

177 hunters checked  
13 bucks harvested  
7% success

**Minam Unit**

11 hunters checked  
2 bucks harvested  
18% success

**Snake River Unit**

80 hunters checked  
5 bucks harvested  
6% success

**Pine Creek Unit**

1 hunters Checked  
0 bucks harvested

**Wenaha Unit**

96 hunters checked  
13 bucks harvested  
14% success

**Citations issued and pending**

Road Closure	1
Taking waterfowl closed season, waste	2
Trespassing	1
Taking chukar during closed season	1
Aiding in wildlife violation (shooting from highway)	1

Working opening weekend: 5 ODFW employees and 3 OSP officers.

Saturday was very storm with snow above 3,500 feet, especially heavy around the Wallowa Mountains. Sunday was windy and storming in the afternoon with snow above 4,500 feet. The weather resulted in a much reduced opening weekend harvest: 7 whitetails and 55 mule deer, for a success rate of 9%, down from 12% in 2008. Snow depths of 14 inches were found in the Imnaha Unit at Salt Creek Summit and much deeper in the high country of the Wallowa Mountains. Many hunters left the area.