The Columbia Basin is home to a robust population of game birds like pheasants, quail, chukar and waterfowl.

The area’s private farms and ranches provide much forage and habitat for game birds. However, access to private lands for hunting opportunities can be limited.

But thanks to several special programs funded mostly by hunter dollars, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and its partners have opened tens of thousands of acres of private land to hunting in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Add six state wildlife areas and several national wildlife refuges to the mix, and hunters have access to 250,000 acres of land to bird hunt in the Columbia Basin.

This brochure explains the various programs that provide public hunting access in the Columbia Basin:

- **STATE WILDLIFE AREAS** – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife-managed properties that provide wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. Funded through federal excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition plus hunting license dollars.

- **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES** – A national network of federal lands for wildlife conservation and management. Refuges are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- **REGULATED HUNT AREAS (RHAs)** – Cooperative program between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and landowners that allows regulated hunting on private lands. Some RHAs are funded through the Access and Habitat program.

- **ACCESS AND HABITAT (A&H)** – Program that opens private land to hunting, funded by $4 surcharge on hunting licenses plus auctions and raffles of special big game tags.

- **UPLAND COOPERATIVE ACCESS PROGRAM (UCAP)** – Private lands open to upland bird hunting. Program funded by hunting license dollars.

**What makes private land in the Columbia Basin such great habitat for upland birds?**

Birds nest and forage in the hundreds of thousands of acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a USDA Farm Service Agency program that compensates farmers for lands left idle to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Agricultural activities like dryland wheat farming also provide food and shelter for birds.
STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

COLUMBIA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS (WAs)

(Coyote Springs, Irrigon, Power City, Willow Creek)

• All four wildlife areas are located in the Columbia Basin Unit.
• Open 7 days a week; no entry permit required to hunt.
• No entry between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. except in designated parking areas.
• Federally approved non-toxic shot only except for deer hunters using slugs or buckshot. No big game hunting at Coyote Springs WA.
• No leaving decoys out overnight (10 p.m. through 4 a.m.) or placing waterfowl hunting sites closer than 200 yards apart.
• No open fires from April 1-Nov. 30.
• Camping is permitted only in the designated parking area of Willow Creek WA and Pleasant View Rd. on Irrigon WA.
• More information: www.oregonhuntingmap.com for map of Coyote Springs, Irrigon, Power City and Willow Creek; Oregon Game Bird Regulations; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Pendleton field office, 73471 Mytinger Lane, tel. 541-276-2344.

Coyote Springs (part of Columbia Basin WA) (Map on page 4)

• 160 acres of agricultural, grassland, shrub, and seasonal wetlands with some open water at times. Centrally located within the Port of Morrow Regulated Hunt Area boundary.
• Species to hunt: California quail, pheasant, duck, mourning dove. No big game hunting allowed.
• Walk-in access. Motor vehicle use restricted to public access road and parking area.
• No restrooms or ADA facilities.
• Directions: I-84 to exit 165. North on Laurel Rd. Go east on Columbia Ave for about 1/2 a mile and then southeast on Rippee Rd for less than a mile to WA entry sign and only access road.

Irrigon (part of Columbia Basin WA) (Map on page 3)

• 979 acres along south shore of the Columbia River spanning from the City of Irrigon to the Umatilla River.
• 7 miles of riparian habitat along the Columbia River shoreline plus upland habitats of sagebrush-steppe, shrub, grassland, and small agricultural food/cover plots. Scattered wetlands (perennial and seasonal) within the interior of the WA.
• Species to hunt: California quail, pheasant, duck, geese, mourning dove, deer.

Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area (Map on page 5)

• 8,500 acres in Biggs Unit along the Deschutes River, running from a quarter mile from the confluence with the Columbia River upriver 17 miles.
• Species to hunt: chukar and California quail most popular; also pheasant, duck, geese, deer. Hunting allowed above the cable crossing (rivermile 1).
• Open year-round 7 days a week.
• No discharge of firearms outside hunting seasons.
• Walk-in and boat access.
• Camping allowed; restrooms at area; no ADA facilities.
• Directions: I-84 to Celilo-Wasco Hwy exit. Travel approximately 3 miles. Turn right into the Deschutes River State Recreation Area.
• More information: www.oregonhuntingmap.com for map; Oregon Big Game and Game Bird Regulations; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife The Dalles, 3701 West 13th Street, tel. 541-296-4628.
Columbia Basin Overview

Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas Features and Ownership

Figure 1.1 - Columbia Basin Wildlife Areas Features and Ownership
Figure 1 - Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area Features and Ownership

- Wildlife Area Boundary
- Parking Lot
- Rapids
- Public Access Points
- Water Tower
- Highways
- Minor Roads
- Major Roads
- Recreation Trail
- Railroad

Land Ownership:
- Bureau of Land Management
- OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- OR Parks and Rec. Dept.
- Private

Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area 51 miles from Maupin
WHITE RIVER WILDLIFE AREA  
(Map on page 7)

- 30,000 acres of sagebrush and grasslands along with pine, oak, and Douglas fir habitats across different parcels in White River Unit.
- Species to hunt: big game (deer, elk), upland birds (turkey most abundant, also mountain and California quail, pheasant, forest grouse, mourning dove).
- Open year-round 7 days a week, with some restrictions.
- Camping allowed. No restrooms or ADA facilities.
- Directions: From The Dalles, travel 34 miles south on Hwy 197 to the blinking light at Tygh Valley. Turn right into Tygh Valley and follow the signs to Wamic on Wamic Market Rd. Continue straight ahead on Dodson Rd (rather than following the sharp curve). Continue on Dodson Road through three 90º turns. Turn left on the gravel road 1/4 mile past the last curve, and continue 1.5 miles to the cattleguard and area signs. The WA headquarters is located a half mile past the cattleguard.
- More information: www.oregonhuntingmap.com for map; Oregon Big Game and Game Bird Regulations; White River Wildlife Area, 78430 Dodson Road, Tygh Valley, tel. 541-544-2126.

WANAKET TRIBAL WILDLIFE AREA  
(Map on page 8)

- 2,700 acres of wetland and upland habitat managed by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in the Columbia Basin Unit.
- Species to hunt: geese, duck, coot, snipe, pheasant and California quail. No big game hunting allowed.
- Hunting is allowed only on Wednesdays and Saturdays during authorized seasons.
- Waterfowl hunting permitted by daily drawing held one hour before published shooting hours.
- Upland bird hunting allowed only after noon; no drawing but upland bird hunters must possess and return self-serve permit.
- Shotguns only; use and possession limit of 25 shells per day; non-toxic shot only.
- Walk in and restricted motor vehicle access. No boats allowed.
- No camping or fires. ADA accessible blinds available. No restrooms.
- Directions: Located 2 miles east of junction of Hwys 730 and 395. Hunter check station is located on the south side of Hwy 730 just past beach access road.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
Maps, regulations and other information can change from year-to-year on wildlife refuges. Be sure to see the area’s website for the latest information.

COLD SPRINGS NWR (Map on page 10)
- 3,117 acres in Umatilla County near Hermiston.
- Species to hunt: quail, pheasant, waterfowl, snipe; all other species of wildlife are protected; upland bird hunting allowed only after noon on designated hunt days.
- Open for hunting Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays plus holidays Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day during the state waterfowl season.
- Refuge opens 1.5 hours before and after hunt times.
- Shotguns only, use and possession limit of 25 shells per day; federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
- Non-motorized boats allowed. No camping, fires or alcoholic beverages.
- Directions: I-84 East to exit 182. Left at OR-207 N/Hermiston Hwy. Right at County Rd 1200/W Highland Ave. Slight left at County Rd 1200/Experiment Station Rd/E Loop Rd and go about 5 miles. Left at Reservoir Rd. Cold Springs NWR is on the left.

Memorial Marsh Unit (Map on page 10)
- Assigned blind hunt area with 8 blind sites near water. No free roaming or jump shooting for waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters in the unit must park and access the unit from parking lot F (see map) and on a first-come, first-serve basis in the numbered parking space matching the blind number where they are hunting. Two of the eight blind sites (#1 and #7) have alternative blind locations (1b and 7b). All are located in or near water. Hunters must remain within 100 feet (30 m) of the blind/stake unless retrieving birds. Hunt parties limited to 4 persons per blind. Upland bird hunters and waterfowl hunters using the reservoir are not allowed to use parking lot F.
- Reservoir Hunting – Hunting is allowed on the remaining designated areas of the refuge (see map).
- Temporary Blinds – Portable blinds may be used. Temporary blinds may be constructed of natural material, but shall be available for general use on a first-come, first-serve basis. Digging or using pit blinds is not permitted. Waterfowl hunting parties are required to space themselves no less than 200 yards apart.

Umatilla NWR (Map on page 11)
- Popular hunting destination with 29,000 acres of prime waterfowl and upland bird habitat in Morrow County. Special regulations for the McCormack Unit and the Boardman Unit.
- More information: Oregon Game Bird Regulations; Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 64 Maple Street Burbank, WA, tel. 509-546-8300, hunter hotline 541-922-HUNT (4868); www.fws.gov/umatilla/ and click under Regulations and Hunting Maps.

McCormack Unit (Map on page 11)
- Species hunted: waterfowl, snipe, pheasant, quail, deer by special permit; all other species of wildlife are protected.
- Open for hunting Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays plus the holidays Thanksgiving and New Years Day during the state waterfowl season.
- Refuge open 1.5 hours before shooting times until 1.5 hours after hunt time.
- Shotguns only, use and possession limit of 25 shells per day; federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
- No boats, camping, fires or alcoholic beverages.
- Waterfowl hunting: Waterfowl hunting is by assigned blind though stand-by hunting is allowed. There are 50 blind/hunt sites available. Blind selection priorities are determined through a lottery system prior to the start of the waterfowl season each year. After all on-time hunters with a lottery pick have selected blinds any stand-by hunters may select blinds based upon a drawing held at the check station along Paterson Ferry Rd, north of Hwy 730 near Irrigon. See www.fws.gov/umatilla for how to apply and Regulations and Hunting Maps for special regulations in this unit.
- Upland bird hunting: Pheasant and quail hunting allowed in McCormack Unit from noon until the end of state shooting hours during legal Refuge waterfowl hunt days. Check in at check station prior to hunting (Paterson Ferry Road in Irrigon, check station open 1.5 hours before legal hunt time until 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Maximum of 15 permits issued daily. Check out when finished hunting. Advanced registrations required for the first two weekends of upland bird season.
- Vehicles & Parking - All hunters are required to park in designated parking lots. Parking lots are lettered A-O with trails leading from parking lot to each blind site. There is no boating access from Parking Lot I. Consult
map to find which parking lot to use according to your blind choice. Vehicles are allowed only on designated routes of travel.

- Directions: I-84 east or west to exit 168. Merge onto US-730 E/Columbia River Hwy. Left at County Rd 930/Paterson Ferry Rd. Travel almost 3 miles, turn left into NWR.

**Boardman Unit (no map):**

- Adjacent to the east end of the Columbia River RHA.
- Species hunted: quail, pheasant, waterfowl, snipe; all other species of wildlife are protected.
- Open daily for hunting during state upland bird and waterfowl seasons. Upland bird hunting allowed only after noon until the end of state shooting hours.
• Shotguns only, use and possession limit of 25 shells per day; federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
• Temporary Blinds – Portable blinds may be used. Temporary blinds may be constructed of natural material, but shall be available for general use on a first-come, first-served basis. Digging or using pit blinds is not permitted. Waterfowl hunting parties are required to space themselves no less than 200 yards apart.
• Directions: I-84 to exit 159. North on Tower Rd. Cross the railroad tracks and turn right (east) on access road. Continue east to the parking area west of Refuge fence.

McKay Creek NWR
(See map on this page)

- 1,837-acre refuge near Pendleton overlays McKay Creek Reservoir, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation storage facility, serving the irrigation needs of the Umatilla River Basin.
- Species hunted: waterfowl, snipe, pheasant, quail.
- South end of refuge open for hunting Oct. 1 through end of regulated seasons on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- Access for hunting is from two parking lots off Shaw Rd on east side of refuge.
- Federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
- Directions: I-84 East to exit 209. Right/south on Hwy 395/John Day Hwy. Travel about 5 miles and turn left, McKay NWR on the right.
**ACCESS AND HABITAT (A&H) PROGRAM**

A&H provides grants that open private land to hunting and improve wildlife habitat for game animals. Created in 1993, the program is funded by a $4 surcharge on hunting licenses and the annual auction and raffle of special deer and elk tags.

It offers two kinds of hunting opportunities on private land: “Welcome to Hunt” access where no permission is required and “By-Permission” areas where hunters must contact the landowner or ODFW staff for permission or to make a reservation.

The A&H website (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/AH/hunting/) lists “Welcome to Hunt” opportunities statewide. Each August, the program produces a “Private Land Hunting Opportunities” packet with detailed information about all properties enrolled, including printed maps for “Welcome to Hunt” properties. Contact the A&H program at ODFW’s Salem Headquarters (503-947-6087 or 503-947-6317) for a copy of the packet or see the Oregon Hunting Map (www.oregonhuntingmap.com) for A&H properties.

A&H currently funds two large “Welcome to Hunt” Regulated Hunt Areas (RHAs) in the Columbia Basin.

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**REGULATED HUNT AREAS (RHAs)**

RHAs are cooperative programs between Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and private landowners that offer regulated hunting on private lands. Each RHA has special regulations so be sure to check them before hunting. (See under More Information for relevant regulations.)

**COLUMBIA RIVER RHA (NO MAP)**

- South shore of Columbia River from Arlington to the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge in the Columbia Basin Unit.
- Boundary runs from eastern city limits of Arlington, then east on I-84 to Threemile Canyon (mile post 151); north to north side of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way; east on the railroad right-of-way to the boundary of the Umatilla NWR Boardman Unit, north to Oregon/Washington state line.
- Species to hunt: upland game bird, waterfowl, rabbit.
- Open year-round 7 days a week, no entry permit required.
- Federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
- Camping permitted at Quesnel Park (Threemile Canyon, mile post 151).
- More information: Oregon Game Bird Regulations; Heppner office tel. 541-676-5230, 54173 Hwy 74.

**PORT OF MORROW RHA (NO MAP)**

- Located adjacent to the Coyote Springs Wildlife Area in Columbia Basin Unit near Boardman; boundaries may change from year to year.
- Species to hunt: game bird hunting only.
- Open 7 days a week; see Oregon Game Bird Regulations for open dates; no entry permit required.
- Federally-approved non-toxic shot only.
- Directions: I-84 E to exit 165. North on Laurel Rd then ½ mile east on Columbia Ave and southeast on Rippee Rd.
- More information: Maps available at RHA entrance; Oregon Game Bird Regulations; Heppner office, 54173 Hwy 74, 541-676-5230.
HEPPNER RHA

• Nearly 40,000 acres of grassland, rangeland and timberland up the Willow Creek drainage from Heppner in the Heppner and Fossil units.
• Species to hunt: pheasant, California quail, gray partridge, forest grouse, mourning dove, turkey, deer, elk, bear, cougar.
• Open year-round 7 days a week.
• No open fires or camping. Closed to motor vehicle use unless posted otherwise.

• Directions: I-84 E, exit at 147, turn right on OR-74 Heppner Hwy. Follow to Heppner, approx 46 miles. Continue through Heppner heading south, turn left at Willow Creek Rd. Follow until within RHA boundary.
• More information: www.oregonhuntingmap.com for map; current Oregon Game Bird and Big Game Regulations; Heppner office, 54173 Hwy 74, tel. 541-676-5230.
Lost Valley Ranch RHA

- More popular for big game than game bird hunting; only about a quarter of the property is upland game bird habitat.
- 6,336 acres of forested mountains, grassland foothills, open meadows and tilled agricultural fields located 20 miles southeast of Condon in the Fossil Unit.
- Species to hunt: deer, elk, small game, limited pronghorn, chukar, California quail, turkey, gray partridge.
- Open 7 days a week, Aug. 1 – Jan. 31.
- No open fires, camping or horses. Motor vehicle use restricted unless posted otherwise.
- Directions: From Condon, take Hwy 206 E, go south on Lone Rock Rd to Lost Valley Rd.
- More information: www.oregonhuntingmap.com for map; Oregon Big Game Regulations; Heppner office, 54173 Hwy 74, tel. 541-676-5230.
Upland Cooperative Access Program (UCAP)

UCAP was created in 1996 to increase hunter access to private lands and provide a quality hunting experience in the Columbia Basin (Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow counties). In 2009, 110,784 acres of private property were enrolled in the program.

There are two types of UCAP access: Welcome to Hunt and Hunting with Written Permission.

**Welcome to Hunt** means anyone can walk on and hunt. These lands are heavily used. To locate these properties, contact the district ODFW office in the area you wish to hunt for general information and directions or use the map on the next page. Please note that these properties change from year to year and pay close attention to signage.

- Heppner Field Office (Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam counties)
  54173 Hwy 74, tel. 541-676-5230
- The Dalles Field Office (Wasco and Sherman counties)
  3701 W 13th Street, tel. 541-296-4628
- ODFW Headquarters
  3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, tel. 503-947-6323

**Hunting with Written Permission** requires prior written permission. Most UCAP landowners (about 85%) use this type of access because they believe hunters who make the extra effort to contact them are more responsible and ethical. Crowding and over-hunting is rare on these properties because landowners can control hunter numbers. Also, fewer hunters are willing to take the initiative to locate these properties.

For “Hunting with Written Permission” properties, use the map and the name on the UCAP sign to either 1) visit the landowner’s home to ask for permission; or 2) use the local phone book to contact the landowner by telephone and schedule a hunt.

**UCAP Hunting Regulations**

In addition to general game bird hunting regulations, it is unlawful to do the following on UCAP properties:

- Hunt or enter any posted area without a valid permission slip unless the area is posted “Welcome to Hunt.”
- Use a motorized vehicle on fields, trails, and posted roads.
- Hunt any posted safety zone or enter any posted “No Public Access” area.
- Build or use open fires without landowner permission.
- Use rifles, handguns, or shotguns with slugs on any hunt area unless specific authorization has been given by the landowner.

**Why Should Landowners Participate in UCAP?**

Landowners are compensated up to $1 per acre of huntable land. ODFW provides all signs and booklets of permission slips and also patrols UCAP properties and enforces program rules. Landowners determine the number of hunters they can accommodate at any one time and issue permission slips.

More information: Contact the ODFW Heppner Field Office tel. 541-676-5230, The Dalles Field Office tel. 541-296-4628 or ODFW’s Upland Game Bird Coordinator tel. 503-947-6323

**Report fish and wildlife violations 1-800-452-7888**

The TIP program awards about $10,000 annually for information on fish and wildlife violations.

- $100 game fish
- $100 upland birds
- $250 deer, bear, antelope, and cougar
- $500 elk, bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goat
HUNTERS PLEASE NOTE: Due to the limitation of the map scale not all roads can be shown. Hunters wishing to participate in UCAP must locate individual land ownerships using the map as a general guideline.
**THE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO BIRD HUNTING**

### LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

See the current *Oregon Game Bird Regulations* for more information. Most licenses and tags can be purchased online or at a license sales agent; see [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us). Discounts for youth hunters (age 17 and under).

- **Hunting License** - $29.50 annually for Oregon residents
- **HIP (Harvest Information Program) validation** - Free

**Upland birds (forest grouse, chukar/Hungarian partridge, pheasant, California quail, mountain quail):**
- Upland game bird validation: $8.50 for Oregon residents
- **Turkey tag:** $22.50 for Oregon residents

**Waterfowl (duck and goose):**
- Resident waterfowl validation (if 14 years or older): $11.50 for Oregon residents
- Federal waterfowl stamp (if 16 years and older): $15, available at most sporting goods stores and ODFW offices that sell licenses, but not online.

### WHEN TO HUNT

See the current *Oregon Game Bird Regulations* for season dates, but generally Columbia Basin upland game bird seasons begin in October and run through the end of January. Fall duck and goose seasons open on the same day in October and run through middle to late January, with some closed days in between. An additional Canada goose-only season occurs in September in most areas.

### UPLAND BIRD HUNTING TECHNIQUES

**Pheasants** – Some of Oregon’s best pheasant hunting is in eastern Oregon agricultural areas like the Columbia Basin. Look in idle fields and fence rows near grain production; pheasants will also use wild seeds from weeds. These birds will run and sometimes sneak back around you; keep your eyes open and looking around as you walk to find them.

**Chukar** – One of Oregon’s most challenging birds to hunt due to the rocky, rugged habitat chukars prefer and their ability to run uphill (and fly downhill) very fast. Good chukar hunting areas include the lower Deschutes and John Day Rivers. Chukar are usually associated with the weedy annual grass known as cheatgrass—they consume its seed, and graze on new green growth. The best way to get within range of a chukar is to approach from above or on a contour. Look near water sources in the early season/when conditions are dry. Good boots, a water bottle and sufficient food and shells to stay afield all day are necessary to be successful at chukar hunting. Binoculars are also helpful.

**Hungarian partridge** – Huns are usually hunted incidentally to pheasants or chukars. Look for them in bunchgrass and sagebrush foothills adjacent to wheat and other farmlands. Like chukar, huns are swift and challenging to hunt. One of the best partridge populations in eastern Oregon exists in the Columbia River basin.

**California (Valley) quail** – One of Oregon’s most widely distributed game birds, California quail are very adaptable and can be found in agricultural or urban areas and riparian habitats located miles from human habitation. They need a combination of brushy escape cover, adequate roosting areas (off the ground) and more open areas for feeding. They are seldom found far from water. California quail are often detected by their distinctive call which seems to say “Chicago”. They are a covey-loving bird and wintering groups may number over 100. Because they live in such brushy environments, a good dog is an especially useful companion for hunting California quail.

**Mountain quail** – Mountain quail are challenging to hunt due to the brushy and often steep nature of their habitat and their tendency to run in heavy cover. Look for them in brushy and diverse riparian habitat. Closely check regulations as mountain quail hunting is closed in some areas and bag limits can vary.
### Upland Bird Hunting Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Shotguns</th>
<th>Chokes</th>
<th>Lead Shot</th>
<th>Steel Shot</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pheasant</strong></td>
<td>12, 16, 20 gauge</td>
<td>modified</td>
<td>#6 or #5</td>
<td>#3 or #4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Quail</strong></td>
<td>12, 16, 20, 28 gauge</td>
<td>open</td>
<td>#8, or # 7½</td>
<td>#7 or #6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partridge (Chukar and Hun)</strong></td>
<td>12, 16, 20, gauge</td>
<td>open to modified</td>
<td>#6</td>
<td>#4 or #6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Waterfowl Hunting Equipment

Hunters usually wear drab or camouflage clothing because waterfowl have excellent eyesight. Hip boots and chest waders, though not necessary, are ideal for retrieving birds that have fallen in water. Retrieving dogs can also be beneficial for locating and retrieving ducks which fall in water or heavy vegetation. Use any shotgun you like; 12 and 20 gauge are the most popular. Realize your gun will be exposed to mud, water and other elements. Also, state and federal law mandates that non-toxic shot be used for all waterfowl hunting. Steel is the most popular and least expensive of the non-toxic shot available for hunting.

### Dressing your bird

Remember wildlife laws require that you leave one wing or the head of the bird attached during transport. Leave it until you get your bird home (so the bird’s sex can be identified).

1. Pluck feathers on lower breast and abdomen
2. Cut through the belly skin at base of breast.
3. Bend bird backwards and remove all entrails.
4. Pluck feathers or remove feathery cape.

Dry bird and keep it cool until you get it home; then refrigerate until cooking.

### Hunting safely

Always know the location of your fellow hunters, including your dog, and follow these safety precautions when hunting:

- Keep your firearm’s muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.
- Wear blaze orange when upland bird hunting. Hunters age 17 & under are required to wear orange hat or vest.
Hunting supports the local economy

“We count on sportsmen stopping by our community to get gas, shop, eat or get a license or tag—it really does make a difference to our local economy. Hunters that visit will find we are very friendly and accommodating.” Sheryll Bates, Heppner Chamber of Commerce

A 2009 study by Dean Runyan Associates found that hunting in Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler counties generated more than $8 million in travel and recreation expenditures for local economies.

Landowners: Get involved

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff can help you find the right state, federal or private program to improve wildlife habitat or provide hunting access.

- Access and Habitat Program (grants to open hunting access or improve wildlife habitat on private land) - 503-947-6087
- Upland Game Bird Program Coordinator - 503-947-6323
- Heppner District Office (Gilliam, Morrow, Wheeler counties) - 541-676-5230
- The Dalles District Office (Wasco and Sherman counties) - 503-296-4628

This publication is only a guide and not a substitute for the Oregon Game Bird or Big Game Regulations or a particular property’s rules. It is every hunter’s responsibility to know the land ownership and regulations of the area he or she intends to hunt.

Find Great Hunting in Oregon

Oregonhuntingmap.com

ODFW has a new hunting map to help you find your next spot. With new features you can:

- Search by species
- Search by location
- Show landownership
- Show property boundaries
- Find Lat/Long coordinates
- Show wildlife management units
- And more!

Because the map is based on Google Maps, you’ll be able to scout areas for habitat and terrain. Before heading out to the field, check out Oregonhuntingmap.com

This publication is only a guide and not a substitute for the Oregon Game Bird or Big Game Regulations or a particular property’s rules. It is every hunter’s responsibility to know the land ownership and regulations of the area he or she intends to hunt.