



Recreation report

last updated: 05/20/2009

Reports by Zone

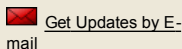
- Northwest Zone
- Southwest Zone
- Willamette Zone
- Central Zone
- Southeast Zone
- Northeast Zone
- Snake Zone
- Columbia Zone
- Marine Zone

Take it with you...



download the report for easy printing:

word or pdf



Related Links

- ODFW Home
- License \$ at Work
- Spring Fishing Forecast
- Fishing Resources
- Winter Steelhead Forecast
- 2009 Fishing Regs
- 2009 Reg Changes
- Trout Stocking
- Hunting Resources
- Hunting Forecast
- Viewing Resources
- Access: Oregon

Welcome to the ODFW Recreation Reports Southwest Zone



[Fishing](#) | [Hunting](#) | [Viewing](#)

FISHING

Weekend opportunities:

- Many area rivers and streams open for trout fishing on May 23. Look for good cutthroat trout fishing on the Chetco, Elk and Sixes rivers. Or try out one of the two new fisheries opening on Hunters and Lobster creeks. As always, be sure to check the 2009 Sport Fishing Regulations before hitting the water.
- Spring chinook fishing remains good on the lower Rogue River.
- There has been good clamming in several areas within Coos Bay.



Cutthroat Trout
-Washington Fish & Wildlife -

APPLEGATE RESERVOIR: trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass

Applegate Reservoir will be stocked again this week with 9,000 legal-sized and 500 larger rainbow trout. Trout fishing has been fair, but should improve once the fish are stocked. Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair as well.

APPLEGATE RIVER: steelhead, rainbow trout

The Applegate River will reopen to trout angling this Saturday, May 23. Anglers will be allowed to retain up to two adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout per day, with an 8-inch minimum length.

[Applegate River flows at Wilderville](#)

ARIZONA POND: rainbow trout

Located approximately half way between Gold Beach and Port Orford, Arizona Pond is an excellent place to take kids trout fishing. ODFW stocks the lake regularly and anglers can expect good fishing. The best time to fish the pond is in the morning or evening when the fish are actively feeding. Flies, spinners, or a worm under a bobber all work really well. Angling is limited to youth 17 and under.

BEN IRVING RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, bass

Ben Irving Reservoir, west of Winston, has been stocked with 4,000 trout so far.

BURMA POND: rainbow trout

Burma Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

CHETCO RIVER: cutthroat trout

Opens May 23 for trout. Cutthroat trout fishing is always good in the Chetco and anglers should do well throughout the river. The mornings or late evening are usually the best. Fly-fishing or tossing small spinners are regular producers.

[Chetco River flows near Brookings](#)

COOPER CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout

Cooper Creek has been stocked with about 8,050 trout to date. About 50 of these were trophy trout. Bass fishing at Plat I is now open to harvest. The limit is 5 per day with only 3 over 15 inches per day. Plat I has been stocked with 3,500 trout to date.

COOS COUNTY LAKES: rainbow trout, warmwater fish

Powers Pond, Empire Lakes, Tenmile Lakes, Bluebill Lake, Eel Lake, Saunders Lake, Sru Lake, Johnson Mill Pond, and Bradley Lake were all stocked earlier this month with legal-size trout. Still fishing with your bait near the bottom or under a bobber is an effective technique for catching trout. Another way to catch trout is by trolling a flasher or a worm. For those that like to flyfish, there are midges, mayflies and caddisflies hatching on the area lakes. Trout have been stocked in the Millicoma Pond at the Millicoma Interpretive Center and fishing is excellent. Millicoma Pond is set aside for kids fishing only and is a great chance for them to hook into fish. Please call before traveling to Millicoma Pond to make sure the gates are open. The phone number is (541)267-2557.

Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegills is starting to pick up in the area lakes. Largemouth bass are starting to spawn in most lakes and bluegills are staging near the shallow shorelines and should start spawning in a couple of weeks. To catch bluegills use a piece of worm on a small hook or small jig under a bobber. For catching largemouth bass use jigs, plastic worms, crankbaits, or spinners. Concentrate your fishing near structure or weedlines to catch largemouth bass and bluegills.

COOS RIVER BASIN: trout, sturgeon, shad, rockfish, Dungeness crab, clamming

Trout fishing will open in Coos Bay and the rivers on Saturday, May 23.

Sturgeon fishing in Coos Bay has been slow. There are new sturgeon regulations for 2009. See the [2009 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations](#) for the most current regulations.

There have been no reports of shad in the Millicoma River or South Fork Coos River. There have been poor shad returns to Coos Bay for the past few years. Last year the shad were in the Millicoma and South Fork Coos rivers in mid to late June.

Fishing for rockfish and lingcod in the lower Coos Bay estuary has been good. Fish near submerged rock piles for the best success and use sand shrimp or a jig and twister tail.

Harvest of bay clams was very good this past week in Coos Bay. The strong negative tides made for some great days of clamming. Harvest of empire/gaper clams has been good at the North Spit and Clam Island. Within Coos Bay, the best harvest areas are Empire/Charleston along Cape Arago Highway, and within Charleston, north and south of the Charleston Bridge. Butter, gaper, and cockle clams are abundant in these areas. If you have never dug razor clams in the Coos Bay area, this may be the year to make the effort. Harvest reports have come in from the North Spit, Bastendorf, and north of the Seven Devils Wayside beaches. Before any shellfish harvest trip, make sure to check the Oregon Department of Agriculture website for any [recent shellfish closures](#).

Recreational crab harvest showed some improvement this past week, with several boats checked with better harvests. Crab harvest at the Charleston and Empire docks remains slow, with catches of mostly red rock crab. The best time to crab is a few hours before high tide and the preferred baits to use are fish, chicken, or turkey legs.

COQUILLE RIVER BASIN: trout, sturgeon, shad, striped bass

Trout fishing will open in the Coquille estuary and rivers on Saturday, May 23.

Sturgeon fishing in the Coquille River has been slow. There are new sturgeon regulations for 2009. See the [2009 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations](#) (pdf) for the most current regulations.

We have not heard any reports of shad in the Coquille River but they should be showing up soon.

Striped bass fishing was good before the big rains the area received earlier in the month. Fishing for stripers should start to pick up soon. The new minimum length limit on striped bass in freshwater is 24 inches.

DIAMOND LAKE: rainbow trout

Diamond Lake opened to angling April 25. Last year's fingerlings were about 12-inches long, while other fish stocked last year were 16 to 20 inches long. The largest checked this year was six to seven pounds. Overall, fishing was fair to good. Diamond Lake won't be mentioned in the SW Region Trout Stocking Schedule this year since the lake will only be stocked with fingerling trout this summer. However, we anticipate nearly 140,000 catchable sized trout in the lake this year from the 200,000 fingerlings released in 2008 plus another 25,000 catchable fish leftover from last year's stocking. As of Tuesday, the road around the lake is snowed in, but the boat ramp at the lodge is open and the North campground boat ramp will open at noon on Friday. The lake is ice free. Diamond Lake Resort for up to date information (800) 733-7593.



Rainbow Trout
- Oregon Fish and Wildlife -

DUTCH HERMAN POND: rainbow trout

Dutch Herman Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

ELK/SIXES RIVER: cutthroat trout

Opens for trout on May 23. Cutthroat trout fishing should be excellent on both rivers. Anglers will want to fish early morning or late evening for the best fishing. Small spinners or flies will work equally well.

EMIGRANT RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie

Emigrant Reservoir has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Trout have been biting on power bait and worms. Bass and other warmwater fish have moved into the shallows and fishing for them has been good.

Anglers should be aware that a health advisory has been issued recommending limits on consumption of all fish from Emigrant except rainbow trout. Information on the Emigrant Reservoir advisory, along with [general information on mercury and fish](#) can be found on the DHS Web site.

EXPO POND: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill

Expo Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Night crawlers are the bait of choice. Fish bait either from a bobber or on the bottom with weight. Fishing for bass, bluegill and crappie has been good.

FISH LAKE: rainbow trout

Fish Lake was stocked with legal and larger-sized rainbow trout last week. Brook trout are also available. Fishing for trout has been good, with a number of larger fish being landed. The boat ramps at the resort and Forest Service campground are open. Cabins and camping facilities are available at the Fish Lake Resort (541-949-8500). Information about the Forest Service campground can be obtained by contacting the Butte Falls Ranger District (541-865-2700).

FLORAS LAKE: rainbow trout

The lake is located a few miles south of Langlois. Bank access is limited, but there is a boat ramp at Boice Cope County Park. Fly fishing or slow trolling wedding ring spinners can work really well. Anglers should keep an eye on the weather as it can be very windy.

GALESVILLE RESERVIOR: rainbow trout, bass

Galesville Reservoir is open to angling year-round. Galesville was stocked with 8,000 catchable trout in 2008, plus 25,000 2007 sub-legals that became legal size in 2008. The reservoir was also stocked with about 55,000 adipose-clipped hatchery coho which are now legal size. In Galesville Reservoir, all landlocked salmon are considered trout. Thus, there is a five per day trout limit, with only one trout over 20 inches in length allowed for harvest. The 2009 stocking season has begun and so far about 6,500 trout have been stocked. Angling from the bank and from a boat has been slow to fair for 11 to 13-inch coho. Anglers are reminded all bass between 12 and 15 inches must be released, and only one bass over 15 inches may be taken per day. Galesville does have a campground.

GARRISON LAKE: rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, bass

Fishing continues to be good for trout, but anglers will need to start fishing deeper as water temperatures climb. The best way to fish is by boat, but there is some bank access at the State Park or ODFW's access site on 12th street. Fly fishing or slow trolling wedding ring spinners are regular producers. Anglers should keep an eye on the weather, as the lake can be very windy.

HERBERT'S POND: rainbow trout, warm water fish

Herbert's Pond is a small pond just east of Canyonville on Tiller Highway. The pond has a good warm water fishery for kids including bluegill, crappie, and bass. The pond has very good bank access. Through March, the ODFW will occasionally recycle a hatchery steelhead into Herbert's Pond. These fish will be adipose marked and have an additional mark identifying it as a recycled steelhead. Only one of these fish can be harvested per day. The pond was stocked in March with 250 legal-sized trout and will be stocked again in June for Free Fishing Weekend.

HOWARD PRAIRIE RESERVOIR: trout, bass

Fishing has been good for recently stocked legal-sized rainbow trout, as well as for larger trout from last year's stockings. ODFW stocked 7,000 legal-sized rainbow trout last week. Anglers have reported good catch rates while still fishing with PowerBait and while trolling. Fishing is improving for largemouth and smallmouth bass.

HUNTER CREEK: cutthroat trout

A new fishery on upper Hunter Creek was opened this year to cutthroat fishing. All zone regulations apply and anglers are reminded that Hunter Creek is open only upstream of the confluence with the North Fork Hunter Creek. Fly-fishing or tossing small spinners should produce well for cutthroat up to 12 inches.

HYATT RESERVOIR: trout, bass

Trout fishing should be good. Hyatt Reservoir was stocked with 5,000 legal-sized rainbow trout last week. Plus, there are a good number of larger trout left over from last year's stocking. Hyatt Lake has an abundance of largemouth bass. Although small, they offer the opportunity to catch a lot of fish. This makes Hyatt Lake a good destination for beginning anglers.

ILLINOIS RIVER: steelhead, trout

The Illinois River will reopen to trout and steelhead angling on Saturday, May 23. Few steelhead will be in the river at that time; however, some resident trout will be available for catch and release angling.

[Illinois River flows at Kerby](#)

LAIRD LAKE: rainbow trout

LAIRD LAKE: rainbow trout

Located about 30 miles up Elk River, Laird Lake is an excellent place to catch a few trout. Laird Lake will be stocked this week for Memorial Day weekend. The lake is small and filled with lots of downed timber. Bank access is pretty good. Elk River Hatchery is located on the road to Laird and is good place to stop and take a quick tour.

LAKE MARIE: rainbow trout

Lake Marie is at Umpqua Lighthouse State Park near Winchester. About 2,500 trout have been stocked this year.

LAKE SELMAC: trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie

Selmac will be stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout this week. Trout fishing has been good on worms and PowerBait. Casting and retrieving or trolling lures or flies has also been effective. Largemouth bass and panfish have moved in along the shoreline and angling for them has been good. Bluegill and crappie can be caught by suspending a worm or jig under a bobber.



Bluegill
-U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-

LEMOLO RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, brown trout

Opened April 25 and angling is fair to good for Brown trout with a few rainbows mixed in. Starting April 27 the reservoir water height may change up or down a half foot per day until May 17. The lake has been stocked with 3,500 legal-sized trout. The resort boat ramp was open to provide access to the lake. Poole Creek boat ramp is open for launching boats. The lake is ice free now.

LOBSTER CREEK: trout

A new fishery on Lobster Creek was opened this year to trout fishing. Anglers are reminded to check the regulations before heading out. Special regulations apply to Lobster Creek, with only adipose clipped trout greater than 8 inches and under 16 inches legal to keep. Fly-fishing or tossing small spinners should produce well for trout.

LOON LAKE: rainbow trout

Loon Lake was stocked with about 7,000 catchable trout plus some trophy trout in 2008. Loon Lake was stocked with 7,000 trout so far in 2009.

LOST CREEK RESERVOIR: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass

Lost Creek Reservoir will be stocked with 20,000 legal-sized rainbow trout and 500 larger rainbow trout this week. Trout fishing has been fair and should improve with the additional stocking. Boat anglers should try trolling a variety of depths with wedding ring lures, worms, or spinners, while bank anglers should do well using PowerBait near the Takelma Boat Ramp. The surface temperature of the lake is over 60oF, and the bass angling has been fair.

MEDCO POND: rainbow trout, bass, panfish

Medco Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout, and trout fishing has been good. Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill has been good as well. Fishing a worm just off the bottom, casting lures, and trolling have all been productive technique.

PACIFIC OCEAN AND BEACHES: bottomfish, surf perch

When the ocean has been "calm" fishing for rockfish, greenling and lingcod has been good. Fishing for rockfish and greenling has been decent fishing from shore. Concentrate your fishing near rocky outcroppings and drop-offs. The daily bag limit for rockfish, greenling and cabezon will increase to 7 fish in aggregate on May 1.

Fishing for surfperch is good. The best time to fish for surf perch is during an incoming tide. While fishing ocean beaches for surfperch concentrate your fishing efforts on steeper beaches near areas with a drop-off/ledge or rip tides. Sand shrimp and sand worms are great baits to use for catching surfperch. Use a weight heavy enough to hold your bait in one spot, depending on the size of the surf this could be 3 oz. – 6 oz. weight.

REINHART POND: rainbow trout, warm water fish

Reinhart Pond (formerly All Sports Pond) in Grants Pass was recently stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout. Fishing has been good. Anglers should try fishing with nightcrawlers or casting small spinners or spoons. Fly anglers may want to try casting leech or wooly bugger-type streamers. Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill has been good as well.

ROGUE RIVER, LOWER: spring chinook

Spring chinook fishing continues to be good. Anglers are picking up fish from Elephant Rock to Foster Bar on anything from spinners to straight anchovies. Anglers are reporting a high proportion of wild fish in the catch. Wild fish need to be released and anglers are reminded to not remove wild fish from the water and, if possible, not to net the fish.

Rogue River flows

ROGUE RIVER, MIDDLE: chinook salmon, steelhead

The flow at Grants Pass on May 18 was 4,900 cubic feet per second and the water temperature was 57oF. Spring chinook numbers continue to increase in the Grants Pass area, and fishing for them has been improving. Back-bouncing bait and back-trolling sardine-wrapped plugs have been productive techniques. Anglers are reminded that only adipose fin-clipped chinook may be retained at this time.

The Rogue River will reopen for trout angling on Saturday, May 23.

ROGUE RIVER, UPPER: chinook salmon, steelhead

Angling for spring chinook has been slow, but should improve as more fish pass over Gold Ray Dam. Anglers have had best success early or late in the day. As of May 12, 5,929 winter steelhead and 1,522 spring chinook have been counted at Gold Ray Dam. On May 18, the flow out of William Jess (Lost Creek) Dam was 4,130 cfs and the water temperature was 48oF. The flow at Gold Ray Dam, was 4,900 cfs. Anglers are reminded that only adipose fin-clipped chinook may be retained at this time.

The Rogue River will reopen for trout angling on Saturday, May 23.

ROGUE RIVER, ABOVE LOST CREEK RESERVOIR: trout

This week, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will begin its weekly stocking of legal-sized rainbow trout at several locations in the Rogue River and some of its tributaries along Hwy 62 above Prospect. In addition to the stocked rainbow, brook trout and a few brown trout are available to anglers as well. This early in the season, anglers should be prepared for high flows and cool water temperatures.

SODA SPRINGS RESERVOIR: brown and rainbow trout

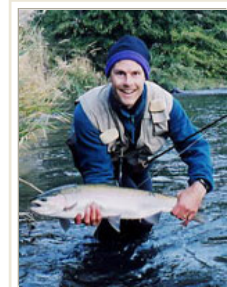
Soda Springs Reservoir and the tributaries upstream of Soda Springs are open to trout angling. There is no limit on brook trout taken in addition to catch limits for other trout.

SMITH RIVER: striped bass, trout, fall chinook, steelhead

Open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead from mouth to Spencer Creek and North Fork from mouth upstream to Johnson Creek May 23. Trout season closed until May 23. Check fishing regulations for bait and trout restrictions. Striped bass season is open year-round, two fish per 24 hours, 24-inch minimum size. The North Fork is open from mouth to Johnson Creek for strippers.

SOUTH COAST STREAMS: trout

Trout season in the Umpqua tributaries, Smith River, South Umpqua, North Umpqua tributaries below Soda Springs Reservoir and Cow Creek basins is closed until May 23. The mainstem Umpqua and mainstem North Umpqua to Soda Springs Dam are open year-round for catch and release trout. North Umpqua tributaries remain closed until May 23.



Steelhead
-Oregon Fish and Wildlife-

SPAULDING POND: rainbow trout

Spaulding Pond has been stocked with legal-sized rainbow trout.

TENMILE LAKES: largemouth bass, rainbow trout

Largemouth bass are starting to spawn and will be found in shallow water. Largemouth bass are hitting a variety of lures including topwater, jigs, crankbaits, and spinnerbaits.

Tenmile Lakes was stocked earlier this month with legal-sized rainbow trout. The best way to catch these fish is by trolling a flasher or a worm. For those that like to fly-fish, there are lots of midges hatching in the evenings at Tenmile Lakes along with a few big caddisflies. There are also a few holdover trout from last year's stocking in Tenmile Lakes. These holdover trout are averaging 17 inches.

TOKETEE LAKE: brown trout

Fishing is open in Toketee year-round, and the best fishing occurs early in the morning. The lake has both good bank and boat access throughout.

UMPQUA ESTUARY: sturgeon, bass, chinook,

Both sturgeon and striped bass fishing have been slow in the lower Umpqua. Striped bass have started becoming more active. Crabbing has been slow to fair. Note change in measuring sturgeon on page 19 of the 2009 Angling Regulations booklet.

UMPQUA HIGH LAKES AND FOREBAYS: trout

Clearwater Forebay #2 has been stocked with 2,500 trout this year. Other high lakes such as Maidu, Bull Pup, Connie, Skookum, Calamut, Fuller, Wolf, Cliff, Buckeye, Linda, and Big Twin Lakes were stocked with brook trout in 2008. Many of these lakes are still inaccessible due to snow on roads.

UMPQUA RIVER MAINSTEM: steelhead, spring chinook, smallmouth bass

Umpqua Basin Note:

Due to high mortality of hatchery steelhead, smolt releases in 2007 were much lower than normal. Consequently, fewer hatchery steelhead will be returning to the Umpqua basin this winter. Angling opportunity and catch rates throughout the basin will still be good due to the strong wild steelhead population, however only hatchery steelhead can be harvested.

Mainstem:

There are reports of Chinook being caught every day in the lower sections of the river, and even a few stories of 40+ lb fish landed. The Chinook are averaging 16 to 22 lbs. Striped bass are beginning to become active in the lower Umpqua. Anglers will start seeing a lot of smolts moving through since Rock Creek recently released its spring chinook and summer steelhead smolts. Remember to release the smolts! A few shad have been reported in the Yellow Creek area. Remember the main stem Umpqua is closed to wild steelhead harvest, but remains open year-round for adipose fin-clipped steelhead.

[Umpqua River flows near Elkton](#)

UMPQUA RIVER, NORTH: steelhead

The final count across Winchester Dam for winter steelhead was 7,831 and as of the 8 of May 884 chinook have been counted. Boat fishing activity has increased in the section below the dam along with chinook harvest numbers. Fishing in the Rock Creek area for chinook is fair to good. The fish are actively moving now with the increased flows and warmer water. Remember that only adipose fin-clipped steelhead can be harvested on the North Umpqua. The North is open to catch and release trout fishing from the mouth upstream to Soda Springs Dam.

[North Umpqua River water levels at Winchester Dam](#)

UMPQUA RIVER, SOUTH: winter steelhead

The South Umpqua is closed to all angling. The South will reopen to trout and bass angling May 23.

[South Umpqua River water levels near Riddle](#)

WILLOW LAKE: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, bullhead

Willow Lake will be stocked with legal and larger-sized rainbow trout this week. Anglers should try using floating bait or worms. Casting or trolling lures or flies can also be effective. Bass and panfish are getting more active, and fishing for them should be good.

WINCHESTER BAY: sturgeon, coho, chinook

Fishing for sturgeon is slow. Note new sturgeon measuring method in the 2009 Angling Regulations. Crabbing has been slow to fair.

MOST RECREATIONAL SHELLFISH IS OPEN

The entire Oregon coast is open for recreational shellfishing. In addition, only the adductor muscle of scallops are safe to eat; consumption of whole scallops from the recreational fishery is not recommended.

Always check for health advisories by calling the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Shellfish line at 1-800-448-2474 for updates.

[Razor clams and current status of particular areas](#)

Crabbing has been a little slow but picked up recently. Crabbers are encouraged to return soft crabs with little meat back to the water. Crabbing from public docks or boat if available is a great opportunity for families to catch a delicious dinner. Kids often enjoy sorting out the smaller crab that can be abundant. Public crabbing docks can be found in Winchester Bay, Bandon, Charleston, and Empire.



Clam Digging
-Oregon Fish and Wildlife-

Clamming effort in Coos Bay has slowed down but there are still lots of clams available. A couple of areas to try are Pigeon Point off the Cape Arago Highway and the Charleston Flat south of the Charleston Bridge.

- Always check for health advisories by calling the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Shellfish line at 1-800-448-2474 for updates.
- [Razor clams and current status of particular areas](#)

[Bay clams](#)

[Back to the top](#)

HUNTING

OPEN: Spring turkey, controlled spring bear, cougar, coyote

Spring turkey, spring bear, and some cougar seasons close May 31.

Controlled hunts deadline extended until June 1

Deadline was extended due to license sales system slowdown, believed due to high volume of sales activity in last few days leading up to deadline. New for this year, hunters can apply online. Or apply by fax, mail order, at a license agent (pdf) or an ODFW office. See big game tag proposals under Hunting Resources.

Don't forget to report your hunt results. Anyone who purchases a big game or turkey tag must report hunt results online or by phone. Reporting is required even if you did not fill your tag or go hunting. More information

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Controlled Spring Bear

The SW controlled bear season closes in a few weeks on May 31. Bear numbers are good with the highest numbers at lower elevations in the coast range with lower numbers elsewhere in the coast range and Cascades. Hunters can focus on open meadows early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Successful bear hunters are now required to check in the skull within 10 days of the kill.



Turkey

The spring turkey season ends on May 31. Many gobblers have been taken so far this season. A lot of the hunting pressure has dropped off so now is a good time to find your turkey since few hunters are still afield. In general, most turkeys are found on or adjacent to low-mid elevation private lands associated with oak savannah habitat. Hunters are reminded to obtain permission before hunting on private lands. In addition, turkey hunters are being asked to collect crops of harvested wild turkeys and submit them along with the hunters name, address, date and location of harvest and sex of the turkey to district and regional ODFW offices for a new food habitats study OSU is conducting.

Cougar

Hunters can expect an average year. Cougars are abundant throughout with indicators pointing to stable or increasing numbers. Hunting cougar is a challenge because these animals are very secretive, but harvest success is greatest adjacent to private land with high deer populations using a predator call.

Coyote

Numbers are strong throughout Douglas County. Using predator calls to lure them in can be an effective method for harvesting coyotes. Try calling in early morning and late afternoon. Be sure to ask permission before hunting on private land.

COOS COUNTY

SPRING BEAR season continues through May 31. Remember the new rule this year: successful bear hunters checking-in must present an *unfrozen* skull; otherwise tooth collection and measurement is difficult. Biologists recommend propping the bear's mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring. Bears are not very active at this point in the spring but with warmer weather they will become active. Hunters interested in hunting this early in the season should plan on being meticulous with their glassing. Bears will be found most often around clear cuts and in naturally occurring forest openings like slides.

TURKEY season is now open. Many of the hens have been bred by this time. As a result toms become active looking for those hens still interested in breeding. Therefore, toms are responsive to calls. Hunters should spend their time hunting near agricultural lands. Be sure to get permission to access private land before doing so.

COYOTE populations are good in Coos County and they will respond to calls. However, calling coyotes on the coast range is challenging due to brush. Since specific license and tag requirements exist for hunting some of these animals new hunters should contact local ODFW offices to learn more about hunting these animals before they start.

COUGAR are abundant throughout with indicators pointing to stable or increasing numbers. Hunting cougar is a challenge because these animals are very secretive, but harvest success is greatest adjacent to private land with high deer populations using a predator call. Remember check-in is mandatory for successful hunters; please bring cougar in thawed and with mouth propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

JACKSON, JOSEPHINE, CURRY COUNTIES

SPRING BEAR hunting is open through May 31. SW Oregon tags are sold out. This year's bear season should be average; numbers are high in most areas. At this time of year bears will be feeding in open grassy meadows and busy turning rocks. Focus on early mornings and late evening south facing hill sides. Remember the new rule this year: successful bear hunters checking-in must present an *unfrozen* skull; otherwise tooth collection and measurement is difficult. Biologists recommend propping the bear's mouth open with a stick after harvest; it makes for easier tooth collection and measuring.

TURKEY season is open thru May 31. Turkey numbers appear to be

TURKEY season is open thru May 31. Turkey numbers appear to be above average with most turkeys in low-mid elevation of oak and conifer mix forests with there associated meadows and clearings. They will be feeding on green grasses and insects. Use locator calls before light or at dusk to locate roosting trees then set up in an area of their travel and begin call as light approaches. Hunters are being asked to collect crops of harvested wild turkeys and submit them along with the hunters name, address, date and location of harvest and sex of the turkey to district and regional ODFW offices for a new food habitat study OSU is conducting.



Wild Turkey
- National Wild Turkey
Federation -

COYOTES are abundant in our area. Spring is calf and lambing season; ranchers will have concerns with coyotes, hunters should contact ranchers for permission to hunt on private lands. Hunters will have great response to calling. Focus on areas of known prey base and use calls based on that.

General COUGAR season is open. Cougar populations continue to be abundant. Predator calling has been an effective method for some hunters. Locating deer migration trails that lead back to the higher elevations of the cascades can be helpful as cougars use these areas in search of prey. Hunters are also reminded that they must bring their cougar into an ODFW office within 10 days to be checked and tagged, refer to regulations for details. Hunters are asked to bring in cougars thawed and mouths propped open for easier tissue sampling, teeth collection and tagging.

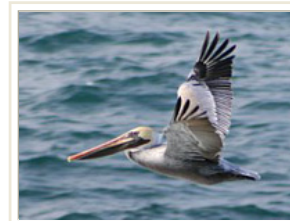
WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL is now open only in a portion of the Rogue unit; refer to regulations for more detail. It is open there year-round with no bag limit.

[Back to the top](#)

VIEWING

On the coast

Brown pelicans can be seen on the Oregon coast. Watch for them flying single file and following the leader: when the lead pelican begins to glide on a thermal, the next pelican does the same and so on down the line. Brown pelicans can also be seen diving for fish in a similar manner.



Brown Pelican
- Photo by Kathy Munsel -

Coos County

Commonly in Coos Bay and the lower Coquille River sea ducks like surf scoters and black scoters are present. These birds can be fun to watch as they dive along the shore line for mollusks that they feed on. Also, Loons and several species of grebes are present for viewing presently. Point Adams, located near the Charleston boat basin is a good place to see these birds and others that are moving in and out of South Slough.

Bears are becoming very active as the days lengthen and weather warms. Viewers should watch clearcuts and natural forest openings during the last few hours and the first few hours of the day. Bears will be attracted to green grass, areas with boulders to roll over where grubs may be living and brushy areas where they can feed on the growing tips of branches.

Often in early spring some of the first migrating birds begin to appear in the Coos Bay area. Small groups of shore birds are already appearing along local beaches and inland bays. Look for these birds around mud flats at low tide. Their numbers will increase as the spring progresses.

Presently, waterfowl numbers are very good in Coos Bay and other coastal bays. Many of the diving ducks are late migrants. Good places to look at waterfowl are along Cape Arago Highway near Barview. Numbers of bald eagles and other raptors generally increase with increasing waterfowl numbers. Good places to see these birds are the Coos Bay North Spit, east side of Coos Bay, the Coquille Valley and the lower Umpqua.

Douglas County

Common Nighthawk

The first nighthawk's have arrived from their wintering areas in South America. The nighthawk is a darkish colored bird 9.5 inch long with long pointed wings and white wing patches. Nighthawks are commonly observed flying high in the evening sky catching insects on the wing emitting a nasal *peent* call. This migratory bird can be seen and heard in Western Oregon from cities and towns to woodlands and forests.



Common Nighthawk
- Photo by Greg Gillson -

Bullock's Oriole

The Bullock's (Northern) oriole has now arrived, and is commonly seen and heard around the Umpqua Valley. Look for their colorful orange and black bodies that are 8 in. long. The Bullock's oriole is our only oriole in Western Oregon found nesting in woodlands, orchards, riparian areas and farmland in tall shade trees like cottonwood. Their diet is insects (spiders), snails and nectar. Remember if you have an oriole feeder that you can make your own oriole food, similar to hummingbirds, 4 parts water to 1 part sugar ratio but always make sure the sugar goes completely into solution before hanging up for use.

Stewart Park Wildlife Trail

The Stewart Park ponds and nature trail system next to Fred Meyer in Roseburg is a great place to enjoy numerous wildlife species. Ducks, geese, turtles, herons, pigeons, nutria, swallows, sparrows and swifts are some of the common wildlife seen in the area. The nature trail has many interpretative signs to read along the way besides great viewing opportunities in this unique wildlife mitigation area.

Purple Martin

Purple Martins have arrived so look for them around Plat I Reservoir, Cooper Creek Reservoir and Ten Mile Lake. Purple Martin is our largest swallow in North America and is uncommon & mainly found in Western Oregon communally nesting usually near a large water body.

Vaux Swift and Swallows

The first Vaux's swifts and various species of swallows have arrived so look for them around local reservoirs and water bodies.

Turtles and other reptiles

Western Pond Turtles can be seen on warm sunny days and afternoons at all local reservoirs plus Stewart Park Pond in Roseburg. Springtime is a good time to run across snakes and lizards since they are coming out of hibernation as the temperature warms up. Most all snakes in Western Oregon are non-venomous with the only poisonous snake being the Western Rattlesnake. Some common snakes in our area are: Sharptail, Ringneck, Common King, Gopher and Garter (4 species). The most common lizards in our area are: Alligator Lizard (2 species), Western Fence and Western Skink.



Western Pond Turtles
- Photo by Don Vandenberg -

Fish Passage

Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook migrating upstream passing through Winchester dam fish ladder on the N. Umpqua River which is free and open to the public. To view the migrating Steelhead go to exit 129 on I-5, proceed southeast on 99 to the fish ladder on the north side of the river.

Deer

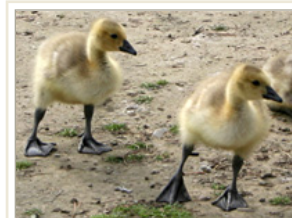
Fawns soon will be seen in our area so keep in mind that almost all fawns are not abandoned. Please do not pickup or move the fawns since the doe is probably foraging in the vicinity. Contact the local ODFW office or reference the ODFW website if you have fawn questions.

Jackson, Josephine, and Curry counties

Denman Wildlife Area

This is the time of year when the Wildlife Area greens up with variety of flowers and wildlife. Goslings are starting to be seen on the wildlife area, and ducklings will hatch in the next few weeks. Also, the ospreys are back and currently building their nest near Whetstone pond.

A covered viewing station on the Denman Wildlife Area provides a good opportunity to view waterfowl, egrets, raptors and songbirds. The structure was built by the Oregon Hunters Association and is accessed by a paved, ADA-accessible pathway. It is on Whetstone Pond, just north of the ODFW Rogue Watershed Field Office in Central Point.



Canada Goslings
- Photo by Kathy Munsel, ODFW -

Many people are visiting the area for fishing opportunities where bass, blue gills and bull head cat fish are caught. School and scout groups are scheduling appointments where Area staff has provided presentations and tours of the area.

Directions to the Ken Denman Wildlife Area: 1495 E. Gregory Road, Central Point (541) 826-8774

From I-5: Take exit 33 at Central Point. Travel east on Pine Street to Table Rock Road. Turn left (north) on Table Rock Road to E. Gregory Road. Turn left at the wildlife area headquarters sign.

From Hwy. 62: Turn onto Agate Road. Take the first left (E. Gregory Road). Proceed one mile to the wildlife area. [More information about the wildlife area](#)

On the Coast

Shorebirds are currently migrating north and can be observed on area beaches and the Rogue Bay. Ospreys are actively fishing in the Rogue estuary and also nesting on the Lower Rogue. Several nests are observable from the Jerry Flat Road along the Rogue River.

Harbor seals can be observed in estuaries throughout the South Coast. Look for sandy haul out sites. Remember, spring is puping season so please observe these animals from a distance. If you find pups on the beach, leave them where you found them—mother knows where they are.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

3406 Cherry Avenue N.E. :: Salem, OR 97303 :: Main Phone (503) 947-6000 or (800) 720-ODFW :: www.dfw.state.or.us

Questions? Contact odfw.web@state.or.us