

Hot Fires,
Hot Summer!
Hot Hunting?

By Dennis Heinz, Fruitland, WA



If you are a deer hunter then you already know it's that time of year. Deer hunting prospects in District 1, which include Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties look good this year. Even with the devastating fires that occurred over the summer many animals escaped harm.

Only 37 percent of the land in District 1 is public, and most of that is national forest, but also (DNR), (WDFW), (BLM) and (US-FWS) are the owners of vast properties in this district. Do your homework; be aware of restrictions in some of these areas. Most of the public lands outside of Indian reservations are open to public hunting.

All available harvest

data indicate the white-tailed deer populations appear to be slightly increasing in all of the GMUs in District 1 according to the state. Here in Northeastern Washington, white-tailed deer are the most abundant deer species. Mule deer are available, especially in the higher elevations, but overall not many. Deer hunting opportunities in District 1 vary of course, depending on the GMU. GMU 101 (Sherman) consistently produces a good harvest and 121 (Huckleberry) is also a good unit to hunt. The burn at the Carpenter Road Fire in Stevens County did not seem to affect the deer as the fire burned in a patchwork design leaving "safe" places for the deer to escape. All GMUs within the district however, do offer some good opportunities to harvest a healthy white-tailed deer. Keep in mind that the 4 pt. minimum rule has now been replaced with any buck for GMU 121.

So, what makes for a successful hunt? A successful hunt includes doing your homework, scouting, and asking the landowner for permission to hunt. There are many large pieces of private property in District 1. Just because there is a road does not mean you can park and go

hunting. Whether you hunt from a stand, like to tramp through the woods, or prefer a group effort in a field, please have some respect for land owners and "get permission." Set up your stand and know the surroundings. These things will make for a better, more successful hunt. Deer check points are randomly set up throughout District 1; so, make sure your animal is properly tagged.

IMPORTANT!
There has been no measurable rain for nearly 5 months in these areas. FIRE RESTRICTIONS are still in place for most all of Eastern Washington. Be careful with cigarettes and anything flammable. Gas BBQs are allowed but not charcoal. If you start a fire, even by accident, it could cost you plenty!!!!

Here's to a great season and successful hunting!

Fall Food
Preservation

Tomatoes, potatoes, corn and peas....apples and berries as far as one sees. Whether they are ripe from your garden or bought from the local grocer or farmer's market, fall

is a time of plenty and a time of preservation. Food can be preserved in many different ways including refrigeration, freezing, canning and dehydrating. The key is to follow trusted publications and recipes that have been lab tested to ensure its safety for your family. WSU Extension offers publications with the

latest and best methods of preservation and the proper steps, times and ratio of ingredients to ensure a high quality and safe product. Publications on food preservation can be downloaded from the WSU Lincoln-Adams County Extension webpage: <http://ext100.wsu.edu/lincoln-adams/healthy-families/>

or directly from the WSU Publication site: <https://pubs.wsu.edu/>.



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