

Tonasket & Okanogan County Hunting Information

Click Here to view:

- [2020 Okanogan Hunting Report](#)
- [Big Game Hunting Guide](#)
- [Sport Fishing Guide](#)
- [Game Bird & Small Game Guide](#)

Okanogan County is in North Central Washington Region 2, District 6 Tonasket falls under Game Management Unit (GMU) 204 - Okanogan East

- 50% of Washington is huntable public lands. Public hunting lands include the Bureau of Land Management, WDNR Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and WDFW Lands.

The Okanogan hosts high numbers of butterflies, birds, and mammals.

More than 200 species of birds, from sage thrashers in the shrub-steppe to ptarmigans in the alpine areas, spend some part of their lives in the Okanogan. Waterways offer quality habitat for harlequin ducks, ospreys, and eagles.

The Pasayten Wilderness, in the ecoregion's northwestern corner, still retains its full complement of large herbivores, such as moose, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep.

Its more carnivorous inhabitants include wolves, grizzly bears, wolverines, and lynx. Small populations and a dwindling gene pool raise conservation concerns for these and other mammals.

A broad range of amphibians and reptiles, among them western rattlesnakes, painted turtles, and Great Basin spade foot toads, can also be found in the Okanogan.

Populations 2020 (A few examples):

- **32 mil** White Tailed Deer
- **44 mil** Ducks/Waterfowl
- **1 mil** Rocky Mountain Elk
- **7 mil** Wild Turkeys
- **1.1 mil** Pronghorn Antelope

District 6

District 6 supports perhaps the largest migratory mule deer herd in the state, and Okanogan County has long been prized by hunters for its mule deer hunting opportunity.

The district also supports significant numbers of white-tailed deer, particularly in GMUs 204 and 215

- Deer success rates: Modern – 17 %, Muzzleloader – 21 % Archery – 25 %, and Multiple – 28 %.

Okanogan Climate

Hot, dry summers and cold, snowy winters distinguish the Okanogan from its neighboring ecoregions.

In the west, the Okanogan Valley lies under the Cascade Mountains' rain shadow. Annual precipitation measures less than 12 inches. On the ecoregion's eastern edge, precipitation roughly doubles as storm fronts bump up against the rise of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

In the summer, hot air flows northward from the Columbia Plateau, driving daily highs into the 90s and even the triple digits.

In the winter, cold, dense Arctic air can stream out of Canada. In 1968 this dropped temperatures to -48° F at Mazama and Winthrop, a record for Washington State.

Geology

Geologically, the Okanogan ecoregion is a complex story of plate tectonics, volcanic eruptions, and ice age sculpting. The Okanogan was once its own micro-continent.

This micro-continent collided 100 million years ago with the mass of North America, resulting in the highlands of today. Some of Washington's oldest Precambrian metamorphic and sedimentary rock underlies the eastern part of the Okanogan.

Over the following tumultuous eons, Cambrian sandstone and limestone have layered over the region. They've left it rich in minerals such as gold, lead, zinc, and quartzite.

How To Get A Tag

Click Here to view:

- [Big Game Hunting Licenses](#)
 - [Waterfowl and Upland Game Licenses](#)
 - [Fishing Licenses](#)
- All hunters in Washington, regardless of age, must have in their possession a valid hunting license and any required tags, permits, or stamps to hunt wildlife. Youth -- defined as anyone under 16 years of age at the time of license purchase -- are eligible for reduced license fees.

- There is no minimum or maximum age to be eligible to hunt in Washington, but anyone purchasing a license who was born after Jan. 1, 1972 must show proof that they have completed a [hunter education class](#). A one-time deferral option is available. Students 8 years of age and younger are required to complete an in-person field skills evaluation prior to certification. Military and Peace officers can be exempt. (Online Class costs \$24.95)
- Federal and state law require everyone 15 and older to provide their social security number before purchasing a license, whether buying in person, online, or by phone. Prospective hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972 must also show proof of hunter education training.
- Veterans with disabilities and persons who are blind, in a wheelchair, or developmental disabilities can get reduced rates or residential rates for licenses.

Hunting Seasons GMU 204

For specific species hunting seasons view the guides.

- Multi Hunting Season Permits available - Sep 1 - Dec 31

Deer

Modern Rifle White Tail: Oct 17th - 27th

Archery White Tail: Sep 1st - 25th

Archery Mule Deer: Sep 1st - 15th & Sep 16th - 25th

Archery Late Season White Tail: Nov 25th - Dec 15th

Black Bears

Aug 1st - Nov 15th

Cougars

Early hunting season: Sept 1st - Dec 31st

Late hunting season: Jan 1st - Apr 30st

Moose Special Permit

Oct 1st - Nov 30th

Elk

Modern Rifle: Oct 31st - Nov 8th

Archery: Sep 12th - 24th

Birds General Bird Season (see guide for specific birds) Sep - Mar

Okanogan County is in Goose Management Area 4 (Eastern Washington)

Migratory Game Bird General Season: Sep 5th - Mar

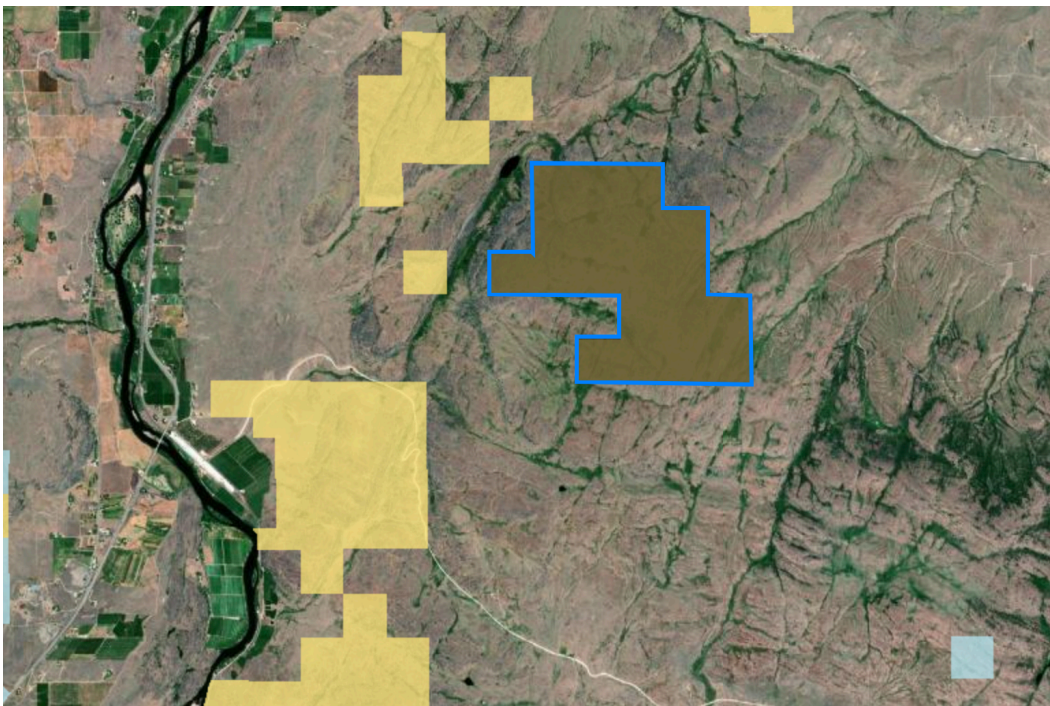
Goose Management Area 4: Sep 5th - 6th

Other Small Game Season (fox, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, beaver, rabbits)

Sep 1st - Mar 15th

Hunting On BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Land

These Tonasket mountain properties available for sale have direct access to 768 acres of BLM land. We've spotted over 50 white tail deer on our properties.



America's shared public lands provide habitat important for big, upland, and small game, furbearers and waterfowl and other game birds.

The BLM manages 43 million acres of elk habitat, 131 million acres of mule deer habitat and 23 million acres of bighorn sheep habitat. BLM-managed lands are home to over 3,000 species, including big game, upland game birds and waterfowl. Numerous wildlife species occur nowhere else in the country, except on public lands.

Unless specifically prohibited, public lands managed by the BLM are open to hunting. Always check with your local BLM office in the region you plan to visit to inquire about closures, restrictions and safety tips before you plan your trip.

It is extremely important to hunt only on lands where it is legally allowed. Private land is open to hunting only if you have the permission of the land owner. If you do not have permission to hunt, you are trespassing and can be prosecuted. Crossing private lands to access public lands is not permitted, unless you first obtain permission from the private landowner.

The BLM provides public information, such as brochures and maps, through online and physical public rooms. Find a public room in your state [here](#).

All hunters on public lands must have the required state license(s). States are responsible for managing wildlife within their borders for the trust and benefit of their residents, even if the hunting occurs on federal lands.