Harney County

Typically hunting is best in late fall and early winter on agricultural lands. Be sure to get landowner permission before hunting private lands. Portions of Malheur National Wildlife Area are open to waterfowl hunting (see the Game Bird Hunting Regulations) though hunting success and access to hunting areas is dependent on water levels in Malheur Lake. As for the latest updates, Malheur Lake is experiencing relatively high-water levels at this time of year, which should provide a better opportunity for hunters looking to target waterfowl.

Malheur County

With above-average winter precipitation many of the desert ponds have filled. Ponds that held water through the summer had fair duck and goose production. Desert ponds are also a good opportunity for early season jump shooting. Jordan Valley provides an excellent opportunity for September Canada goose hunting. Hunters need to get permission to hunt private lands.

Fair waterfowl hunting is available in the Treasure Valley (agricultural areas near the Snake River in the vicinity of Ontario, Adrian and Nyssa) most of the season and improves significantly during cold weather events. Cold weather events reduce open water, concentrating birds and increasing the time waterfowl spend foraging. Field hunting for both geese and ducks can be good for hunters willing to spend the time and effort to secure access to private land.