

South Central Area -- UPLAND

In Klamath and Lake counties, water on the landscape was fair despite winter snowpack 30% of average. Periodic spring and summer rains helped bolster vegetation and insect production resulting in the counties being in good shape. Brood observations indicate another good upland hunting year similar to last season.

Forest grouse: The best areas for forest grouse are in the Cascades on Fremont-Winema National Forest or private timberland that are open to public access. Look for blue grouse along ridge tops in more open forest habitats in both Klamath and Lake counties, and ruffed grouse along riparian areas in the Cascade Mountains. Places in Lake County such as the Warner Mountains and Winter Rim can hold blue grouse. There are very few ruffed grouse in Lake County.

Sage-grouse: Seasons for sage-grouse throughout Lake County are offered through a controlled permit draw similar to big game tags. Due to above-average annual precipitation, sage-grouse numbers have increased over the past two years. Warner and Beatys Butte both saw increases in populations this spring during lek counts, with reports of good brood success as well. Locating water sources with sage-grouse signs can be a great way to target birds for those lucky to draw a permit. Remember successful hunters are HIGHLY encouraged to [submit wings](#) to assist managers with population data collection. Data obtained from hunter harvested wing samples is critical to understanding population performance. Please contribute!

Quail: In Lake County, California quail appeared to have had a good year. Most birds occur on private lands throughout the valleys, but many riparian zones throughout the county can hold quail. Brood counts are strong in most of the valleys within Lake County. Klamath County brood observations indicate good nesting success. There is a two-bird bag limit for mountain quail in eastern Oregon. California quail production was fair on Summer Lake Wildlife Area and should provide good hunting opportunities. The northern portions of the wildlife area along Thousand Springs Lane (Lake Co. Road 4- 17) up towards Lake View Lane (Lake Co. Road 4- 18) and homestead sites such as Turner Place are the best places to find quail. California quail production within the wildlife area was very good this year, thanks to mild weather during and after peak hatching time.

Dove: Mourning dove numbers appeared to be better than last year based on the number of juveniles observed and overall numbers during this year's banding efforts. Hunters should focus around agricultural areas and forest openings where food sources are abundant. Ask permission to hunt private lands. Be sure of identification before you hunt these birds, which are smaller and darker than the Eurasian collared dove. Identify this species and its habitat. Eurasian collared doves are expanding throughout Lake and Klamath counties. These birds have no protection in Oregon, so there are no closed seasons or limits to their harvest. A hunting license is required on public land. Hunters should focus around agricultural areas and forest openings where food sources are abundant. Be sure of identification before you hunt these birds, which are larger and lighter than mourning doves with a distinctive band around the back of the neck. Identify this species and its habitat.

Chukar: In Lake County, the best chukar hunting opportunities are along the desert rims such as Abert, Coleman, Diablo Mountain, and Coglan Buttes in the southeast portion of the county. Chukar reproduction is fair this year with above average observation of second effort nesting. Despite an average or slightly below average production year, populations remain strong, and hunters should expect similar covey encounter rates

to last year. Many places that have historically held chukar in the county are holding water this year, which will help distribution and numbers. Most small canyons throughout the county can hold chukar.

Turkey: Wild turkeys are distributed throughout the southern portion of the Keno Unit. Several transplants and natural production have resulted in an increase of birds on the landscape in recent years available for the spring turkey season. There is no fall turkey season in Klamath or Lake County. In Lake County, turkey numbers are very low and many of the birds are located on private lands.

Pheasant: Wild pheasant numbers remain at extremely low levels. Unlimited Pheasants will be releasing birds at [Klamath Wildlife Area](#) and selected private lands open to the public. There will be a special youth-only upland hunt at the Miller Island Unit on Sept. 19-20. The Summer Lake Wildlife Area doesn't release pheasants, and wild pheasant populations in the wildlife area, already very low, appear to be down this year with very few broods having been observed this past summer. [Summer Lake Wildlife Area](#) ([Summer Lake WA Map](#) pdf)