

Southeast Area -- WATERFOWL

Typically hunting for waterfowl in Harney County is best in late fall and early winter on agricultural lands. Be sure to obtain landowner permission before hunting private lands. Portions of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are open to waterfowl hunting although some parts are currently closed due to wildfire that occurred in the summer months. As for hunting success and access to hunting areas, this is dependent mainly on water levels in Malheur Lake. As for the latest updates, Malheur lake is experiencing lower water levels than the previous year, which may make it more difficult to access the water's edge this season, and hunters should be ready to pack in their gear to have a successful hunt.

Although winter precipitation was low, a wet April and average summer rains have kept water sources more available than anticipated in the northern half of Malheur County. The Whitehorse WMU landscape is very dry with most water holes unfilled. Existing desert ponds offer 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.