

April 2020

DALY CREEK

Habitat Management Area

Youth Hunts Update

Results of 2019 Youth Hunts

Most of the Daly Creek Habitat Management Area (DCHMA) was open for youths to hunt deer, elk, upland birds, cougar, and bear at various times during the fall. This program is outlined on the Idaho Power [Daly Creek Youth Hunt](#) website.

There were 50 access permits available in 2019. Fifty-eight individual applicants applied, and 38 permits were issued, to 35 separate youths determined by random draw. Some youth hunters obtained permits for multiple hunts. Youths obtaining permits for deer or elk hunting were also allowed to hunt for cougar and bear during their hunt. Not all youths issued permits hunted on DCHMA. Some hunted on other lands in the Lookout Mountain unit. Most youths who hunted on the DCHMA reported seeing game and had a quality hunting experience.

Type of Permit	Access Dates	Number of Applicants	Permits Available	Harvest
One Buck Deer Archery	Aug. 24–Sept. 22	6	3	1
164 Buck Rifle	Sept. 28–Oct. 9	2	3	1
One Elk Archery	Aug. 24–Sept. 22	6	6	1
264X One Elk	Oct. 23–27	17	3	3
264Y One Elk	Nov. 2–10	17	3	3
264A1 Antlerless Elk	Nov. 12–30	0	5	N/A
264A2 Antlerless Elk	Dec. 8–31	5	5	0
Early 264T Antlerless Elk	Aug. 1–15	3	4	3
Late 264T Antlerless Elk	Nov. 17–Dec. 31	8	8	3
Upland Bird	Oct. 11–16, Nov. 27– Dec. 2, Dec. 20–31	11	5	0
Cougar	While hunting deer and elk	N/A	Up to 40	0
Bear	While hunting deer and elk	N/A	Up to 40	0

Deer Hunting—Six youths applied for three access permits during the general bow season. Three youths hunted DCHMA, and one 2x2 buck was taken. There were two applications for three access permits for the Rifle Deer Season. Two youths hunted on DCHMA and one harvested a mature 4x4 buck.

Elk Hunting—Six youths applied for six access permits during the general bow season. All six hunters hunted on DCHMA. One hunter harvested a 6x7 bull elk. Three youths applied for one of four Early 264T access permits. Two of the three hunters harvested an antlerless elk on Daly Creek, the third harvested

one on adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Seventeen youths applied for three permits during the first rifle season (264X). Three youths hunted on DCHMA and harvested bulls; two spikes and one 5x5. Seventeen youths applied for three permits during the second rifle season (264Y). All three access permit holders hunted on DCHMA and harvested bulls; one 5x5, one 5x6 and one 5x7. No youths applied for any of the five antlerless elk hunt access permits for Hunt 264A1. Five youths applied for the second season antlerless season (265A2). Out of the three hunters who hunted on DCHMA, none successfully harvested elk. Eight youths applied for eight entry permits for the Late 264T hunt. Seven of the eight youths hunted on Daly Creek HMA, with three harvesting antlerless elk.

Upland Bird Hunting—There was a change in the Upland Bird Hunt in 2018. One specific accompanying adult could hunt with the youth. Those adults also accounted for a hunting access permit, so each applying youth was counted as two permits. Eleven youths applied for 5 access permits. No youths opted to hunt upland game birds on DCHMA during 2019.

Cougar and Bear Hunting—Historic hunter surveys found that most youth hunters possessed a cougar or bear tag and would opportunistically harvest one during their elk or deer hunt. No cougars or bears were observed by hunters.

2019 Observations

The youth hunts appeared to go well in 2019. Few if any issues developed during the hunts.

- Elk numbers were good during bow and early rifle seasons, but the herds were scattered in November and December during the antlerless elk hunts. Many of the elk gravitated towards the southern portions of DCHMA, around Cow Camp and the 1200 Pasture.
- Information gathered from youth hunting groups indicated most youths participating in 2019 hunts saw game, many had opportunities to harvest game, and all had a good or excellent experience.
- Rather than competing with other concurrent Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife seasons, access permits were staggered so generally only one type of hunting occurred on DCHMA at a time. Spacing out the hunts over the year allowed for a higher-quality hunting experience.
- The random draws were conducted at the Hitching Post Grocery in Richland and were live-streamed on the Hitching Post's Facebook page.

Changes for 2020

- The draw for access permits will be at 2:00 p.m. Pacific time on July 6 and Aug. 5 respectively at the Hitching Post in Richland, OR and live streamed on the Hitching Post's Facebook page.
- Lengthen the access for the early 264T season from 15 to 23 days.
- Add one week of access for hunt 264A1 from Oct. 17 to Oct. 23.
- Access for the 264A2 season may be extended into the month of January if conditions allow.
- Increase the number of access permits for 264A2 from five to eight.

Future Plans

After a new license is received from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Hells Canyon Complex, Idaho Power staff expects to develop a public-access program for DCHMA in consultation with agencies and the public as directed by FERC. Information gained during these youth hunts will assist in developing the program.