

March 2025

## DALY CREEK Habitat Management Area 2024 Youth Hunt Results

Most of the Daly Creek Habitat Management Area (DCHMA) was open for youths to hunt deer, elk, game birds, cougar, and bear at various times during the fall. This program is outlined on the Idaho Power website at [idahopower.com/recreation/fishing-and-hunting/daly-creek-youth-hunt/](https://idahopower.com/recreation/fishing-and-hunting/daly-creek-youth-hunt/).

There were 54 access permits (59 including adult Game Bird access participants) available in 2024. A total of 69 individual applicants applied, and 49 permits were issued to 42 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 if they possessed the proper big game tag. Not all youths issued permits hunted on DCHMA. Some hunted on other public or private 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	Access Permits Available	Harvest
Spring Turkey 1	4/13 – 4/23	5	1	1
Spring Turkey 2	4/24 – 5/15	2	1	1
Spring Turkey 3	5/16 – 5/31	1	1	0
164R Buck Deer Archery	9/2 – 10-1	3	3	0
164 Buck Rifle	10/7 – 10/18	29	3	1 buck
One Elk Archery	9/2 – 10-1	16	6	1 bull
264X One Elk	11/1 - 11/5	11	3	1 bull
264Y One Elk	11/11 - 11/19	13	3	2 bulls
264A1 Antlerless Elk	10/21 – 10/26 and 11/20 - 11/30	3	5	3
264A2 Antlerless Elk	12/1 - 12/20 and 1/1 - 1/31/24	5	8	1
264A3 One Elk	12/21 - 12/31	9	3	1 bull, 1 antlerless
Early 264T Antlerless Elk	8/15 - 8/27 and 11/20 – 12/20	11	4	2
Late 264T Antlerless Elk	11/20 – 12/20	8	8	2
Game Bird	10/27 – 10/29, 11/22 – 11/26, 1/1-1/15/2024	13	5 (10 with adult)	0
Cougar	While hunting deer or elk	n/a	Up to 40	0
Bear	While hunting deer or elk	n/a	Up to 40	0

**Spring Turkey** — This was the first year for Spring Turkey hunting access. Eight youth applied for three access permits during this season. Two youth successfully harvested a bearded turkey.

**Deer Hunting** — Three youths applied for three access permits during the controlled bow season. Two youths hunted DCHMA, and no deer were harvested. There were 12 applications for three access permits for the Rifle Deer Season, down from 29 the previous year. Two youths hunted on DCHMA and one harvested a mature 4x4 buck.

**Elk Hunting** — Ten youths applied for six access permits during the general bow season. Five hunters hunted on DCHMA. One hunter harvested a 5x6 bull elk. Seven youths applied for four Early 264T access permits. Two of the four hunters hunted and both harvested an antlerless elk. Eleven youths applied for three permits during the first one-elk rifle season (264X). Three youths hunted on DCHMA and one harvested a 1x2 bull. Nine youths applied for three permits during the second one-elk rifle season (264Y). Three of the permit holders hunted on DCHMA and harvested one spike and one 4x6 bulls. Four youths applied for the five antlerless elk hunt access permits for Hunt 264A1. Three youth hunted and each harvested an antlerless elk. Four youth applied for the second season antlerless season (264A2). One youth hunted and harvested an antlerless elk. Nine youths applied for eight entry permits for the Late 264T hunt. Two youths hunted on Daly Creek HMA and harvested one antlerless elk each. Six youth applied for access during the 264A3 one-elk rifle hunt. Three access permits were issued. Three youth hunted and one harvested an antlerless elk and one harvested a 4x5 bull.

**Game Bird Hunting**—There were 23 youth that applied for five access permits. No youth participated in game bird hunting in 2024.

**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. None were harvested.

### **Observations**

The youth hunts appeared to go well in 2024 despite the effects of the Coyote Fire. Approximately 7,500 acres on the Daly Creek HMA burned in late July. Few if any issues developed during the hunts.

- Elk were utilizing habitat in the lowlands at night and would return to the burned areas to loaf during daylight, making hunting challenging.
- 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 livestreamed on the Hitching Post's Facebook page.

### ***Changes for 2025***

- Deadline for Spring Turkey hunt access applications will be April 1, 2025, with a random draw on or about April 3.
- The draw for the rest of the access permits is planned after the July 1 and August 1 deadlines at the Hitching Post Grocery Store in Richland, Oregon, and livestreamed on the Hitching Post's Facebook page.

### ***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.