

DALY CREEK

Habitat Management Area

2022 Youth Hunt Results

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 website at idahopower.com/recreation/fishing-and-hunting/daly-creek-youth-hunt/.

There were 53 access permits available in 2022. Eighty-one individual applicants applied, and 44 permits were issued to 37 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 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
164R Buck Deer Archery	Aug. 27–Sept. 25	3	3	0
164 Buck Rifle	Oct. 1–12	28	3	3
One Elk Archery	Aug. 27–Sept. 25	8	6	1 bull, 1 antlerless
264X One Elk	Oct. 26–30	23	3	3 bulls
264Y One Elk	Nov. 5–13	12	3	1 bull, 1 antlerless
264A1 Antlerless Elk	Oct. 15–21 and Nov. 14–30	3	5	1
264A2 Antlerless Elk	Dec. 24–Jan. 31, 2023	2	8	2
Early 264T Antlerless Elk	Aug. 15–21 and Nov. 14–Dec. 31	8	4	2
Late 264T Antlerless Elk	Nov. 15–Dec. 31	13	8	6
Upland Bird	Oct. 14–17, Nov. 23–30, Dec. 16–Jan. 3, 2023	13	5 (10 with adult)	5
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—Three youths applied for three access permits during the general bow season. Three youths hunted DCHMA, and no deer were harvested. There were twenty-eight applications for three access permits for the Rifle Deer Season, up from twenty the previous year. Three youths hunted on DCHMA and two harvested mature 4x4 bucks and one harvested a mature 4x3 buck on DCHMA.

Elk Hunting—Eight youths applied for six access permits during the general bow season. Five hunters hunted on DCHMA. One hunter harvested a 6x6 bull elk and one hunter harvested an antlerless elk. Eight youths applied for four Early 264T access permits. Two of the four hunters hunted and both harvested an antlerless elk on Daly Creek. Twenty-three youths applied for three permits during the first rifle season

(264X). Three youths hunted on DCHMA and harvested bulls; one 6x5 and two 5x5s. Twelve youths applied for three permits during the second rifle season (264Y). Two of the three access permit holders hunted on DCHMA and harvested one 5x5 and one antlerless elk. Three youths applied for the five antlerless elk hunt access permits for Hunt 264A1. Three youth hunted and one harvested an antlerless elk. Two youths applied for the second season antlerless season (265A2). Both successfully harvested an antlerless elk. Thirteen youths applied for eight entry permits for the Late 264T hunt. Eight youths hunted on Daly Creek HMA with six harvesting antlerless elk.

Upland Bird Hunting—There were three youth hunters and associated adults who participated in the game bird hunting program on DCHMA. Two parties hunted and harvested four chukar, two quail, one Hungarian partridge, and one wild turkey.

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. One bear and one cougar were sighted by youth hunters this year. None were harvested.

2022 Observations

The youth hunts appeared to go well in 2022. Few, if any, issues developed during the hunts.

- Elk numbers were consistent throughout all seasons and were available on the landscape.
- Information gathered from youth hunting groups indicated most youths participating in 2022 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 (ODFW) 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, Oregon, and were livestreamed on the Hitching Post’s Facebook page.
- Although no one harvested cougar or bear during 2022, one cougar and two bear were sighted by youth hunters.

Changes for 2023

- There are plans for a youth spring turkey access program for 2024.
- A late one-elk hunt (264A3) is planned by ODFW from December 21–31.
- The draw for access permits will be at 3 pm Pacific time on July 10 and August 9, respectively, at the Hitching Post Grocery Store in Richland, Oregon, and live streamed 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.