

News Release



Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
26208 Finley Refuge Road
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
Phone: 541/757-7236
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/William_L_Finley/

Date: September 10, 2026

Contact: Eddy Pausch, Refuge Manager

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge (Snag Boat Bend Unit) 2026-2027 Black-tailed Deer and Waterfowl Hunts

Black-tailed deer and waterfowl hunting will be allowed at designated portions of the Snag Boat Bend Unit (a unit of the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge in Linn County, OR). Hunting seasons include several opportunities during late August 2026 through late February 2027. See refuge maps at the website link below.

Deer Hunting

The Snag Boat Bend (SBB) Unit will provide deer hunting opportunities for archery and short-range firearms, as per the regulations below. Season dates follow those published in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's *2026 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulation* for Willamette Unit 15. Hunters must possess a valid Oregon state General Archery, Willamette Unit 615, or General Any Legal Weapon tag to hunt deer on the SBB Unit.

Archery-only tag:

- With a General Archery deer tag, archery hunting is allowed in SBB **Zones 1 and 2** from August 29th through September 27th and November 21st through December 13th. One deer of either sex may be harvested.

Firearms ("Any Legal Weapon") tag:

- In **Zone 1**, short-range firearms (shotgun with slugs, muzzleloader) and archery hunting are allowed with a Willamette Unit 615 tag from September 1st, 2026, through February 28th, 2027, and with a General Any Legal Weapon deer tag from October 3rd through November 8th.
 - buckshot and centerfire/rimfire weapons are **NOT** allowed for hunting
- In **Zone 2**, hunters with Willamette Unit 615 or General Any Legal Weapon deer tags are limited to **archery hunting ONLY**, within the season dates specified above for Zone 1. Zone 2 includes the areas adjacent to the Observation Blind and private residence at the northeastern corner of the refuge property.
- One deer of either sex may be harvested with a General Archery or Willamette Unit 615 tag. Only deer with one visible antler may be harvested with a General Any Legal Weapon deer tag.

Waterfowl Hunting

The SBB Unit will provide waterfowl hunting opportunities for ducks, coots, and geese in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Zone 1 (ducks) and Northwest Permit Zone (geese). Season dates and other regulations follow those published in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's *2026-27 Oregon Game Bird*

Hunting Regulations. Hunters must possess all appropriate, valid Oregon state licenses and validations, as well as a valid Federal Waterfowl Stamp.

- Waterfowl hunting is allowed only in SBB **Zone 1**.
- Walk-in waterfowl hunting generally is limited to the banks of the Willamette River and adjacent backwaters. When Willamette River levels are high, intermittently flooded forests in the western portion of SBB Zone 1 may provide occasional hunting opportunities.

A self-service hunt kiosk is located at the west side of the main Snag Boat Bend parking lot. Maps and regulations are posted at the hunt kiosk and on the Refuge website:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/William_L_Finley/

Hunters are permitted on refuge one hour before and one hour after legal hunting time. Hunters under 18 must have their hunter safety card on their person. All hunters must visit the Refuge website or one of the self-service hunt kiosks on or before their first hunt day to read the most up-to-date Refuge hunt regulations. Hunters may use portable or climbing deer stands. Overnight camping and after-hours parking are prohibited on the Refuge.

Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with Refuge regulations.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov --FWS--



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
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2026-2027 HUNT INFORMATION

SNAG BOAT BEND UNIT

(A UNIT OF THE WILLIAM L. FINLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE)

**HUNTING IS ALLOWED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OREGON STATE REGULATIONS, AND
SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS for the SNAG BOAT BEND UNIT

- Hunting is allowed for **black-tailed deer** and **waterfowl** during specified seasons (see Hunt Calendars).
- Except as modified below, all deer and waterfowl hunting at the Snag Boat Bend Unit follows the regulations published by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). See:
 - *2026 Oregon Big Game Hunting Regulations* and
 - *2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations*
- **Deer Hunting @ Snag Boat Bend Unit:**
 - Deer may be harvested with appropriate state-issued tag:
 - General Archery (one deer), General Any Legal Weapon (one deer with visible antler), or Willamette Unit 615 (one deer)
 - Unless the dates are listed as archery only, all refuge hunting is restricted to archery, shotguns using slugs, and muzzleloaders
 - **No** buckshot ammunition or centerfire / rimfire rifles or handguns are allowed
 - Hunters are limited to one (1) portable hunting stand or blind on the refuge at any time. Hunters may erect their stand one (1) day prior to their permitted refuge hunt and must remove it the last day they hunt. Hunters must permanently affix the owner's name, address, and phone number to stand or blind. Stands and blinds not in full compliance with these regulations will be removed. The Refuge is not responsible for personal property.
- **Waterfowl Hunting @ Snag Boat Bend Unit:**
 - "Waterfowl" includes ducks (incl. mergansers), coots, and geese
 - Waterfowl may be harvested with appropriate state-issued license, validations, and Federal Waterfowl Stamp
 - Duck and Coot Hunting is within ODFW's 'Zone 1' and 'Zone 1 Scaup'
 - Goose Hunting is within ODFW's 'Northwest Permit Zone'
 - all goose hunters must have a valid 2026-27 Northwest Goose Permit during the Northwest Permit Season (**Oct 24, 2026 varies thru Feb 14, 2027** [see calendar below])
- **Deer and Waterfowl Hunting (General):**
 - Hunting is permitted seven days a week. Normal Refuge hours are dawn to dusk daily.
 - Hunters are permitted on refuge one (1) hour before and one (1) hour after legal hunting time. You must contact a refuge law enforcement officer to retrieve a wounded animal after hours.
 - Hunters under 18 must have their hunter safety card on their person.
 - Hunters must visit the Refuge website or self-service hunt kiosks on or before their first hunt day to read the most up-to-date Refuge hunt regulations.
 - Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on national wildlife refuges must comply with all provisions of State and local law.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Overnight camping
- After hours parking
- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to a tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter
- Cutting or removing trees and other vegetation
- The use of flagging, paint, blazes, tacks, or other types of markers
- The use of dogs to hunt or track wounded game (except for retrieving waterfowl)
- The use of trail cameras
- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances

SELF-SERVICE HUNT KIOSK and REFUGE WEBSITE INFORMATION

- A self-service kiosk is located on the Snag Boat Bend Unit at the main Parking Area. Please see the current ***Hunting Zone*** map for kiosk location.
- **FOR MORE REFUGE HUNTING INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE REFUGE WEBSITE:**
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/William_L_Finley/

**Please Respect
Adjacent Private Lands
and Landowners**

2026-2027 Snag Boat Bend Unit Hunt Calendars

Deer (Black-tailed)

Tag Required	Dates							Weapons Allowed	
	2026					2027			
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Zone 1	Zone2
General Archery*	29 	27		21 	13			Archery Only	Archery Only
Willamette Unit 615*		1 					28	Archery, Shotgun with slugs, Muzzleloader	
General Any Legal Weapon**			3 	8					

*General Archery and Willamette Unit 615 tags: one (1) deer either sex

**General Any Legal Weapon season: one (1) buck deer with visible antler

Waterfowl (Ducks [incl. mergansers], Coots, and Geese#)

Season	Dates							Weapons Allowed	
	2026				2027				
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Zone 1	Zone2
<u>Ducks and Coots:</u>								Shotguns w/ approved non- toxic shot, Archery	No Waterfowl Hunting Allowed
ODFW Zone 1 *		17 1	5		31				
ODFW Zone 1 Scaup (½ hour before sunrise to sunset)			7		31				
<u>Geese:</u>									
ODFW Northwest Permit Zone ** (sunrise to sunset)	12 20	24 1	21	8	30	14			
Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunt (Feb 1, 2027) ***						1			

* DUCKS AND COOTS:

- The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is seven (7). Within the daily bag limit, you may not have more than: two (2) scaup (during open season), two (2) hen mallards, three (3) pintail, two (2) redheads, two (2) canvasbacks, and one (1) harlequin duck.
- The season for coots is concurrent with the Zone 1 Duck season. Daily bag limit is 25 coots.
- The possession limit is triple the daily bag limit.

** GEESE:

- Within the ODFW Northwest Permit Zone, the season for dusky Canada geese is **CLOSED**.
 - A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted (Munsell 10 YR color value 5 or less) Canada goose with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters.
- During the September Canada goose season (Sep 12 - 20, 2026), the daily bag limit is five (5) Canada/cackling geese.
- During the Northwest Permit Season, daily bag limits of geese are: two (2) Canada geese (**except dusky Canada geese which are closed to harvest**), six (6) white-fronted geese, and twenty (20) white geese.
- The possession limit is triple the daily bag limit.

*** VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL WATERFOWL HUNT: see 2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Regulations (p.18) for details.

The term "Canada Goose" is defined as: any Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) or cackling goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) including but not limited to the following subspecies; western (*B. c. moffitti*), Vancouver (*B. c. fulva*), dusky (*B. c. occidentalis*), lesser (*B.c. parvipes*), Taverner's (*B. h. taverneri*), Aleutian (*B. h. leucopareia*), and cackling (*B. h. minima*).

The term "White Goose" is defined as: Snow goose (*Anser caerulescens*) and Ross' goose (*A. rossii*).

**Shooting Times for Goose Hunting
during the 2026-27
Northwest Permit Season**

Northwest Permit Goose Shooting Hours		
DATES	AM	PM
Oct. 24 - Oct. 31	7:43 AM	6:09 PM
Nov. 1	6:52 AM	4:59 PM
Nov. 2 – Nov. 10		—
Nov. 11 - Nov. 13	7:01 AM	4:51 PM
Nov. 14 – Nov. 20	7:10 AM	4:44 PM
Nov. 21 – Nov. 27	7:19 AM	4:38 PM
Nov. 28 - Dec. 4	7:27 AM	4:35 PM
Dec. 5 - Dec. 11	7:35 AM	4:33 PM
Dec. 12 – Dec. 18	7:41 AM	4:34 PM
Dec. 19 – Dec. 25	7:45 AM	4:37 PM
Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, 2027	7:47 AM	4:42 PM
Jan. 2 – Jan. 8	7:47 AM	4:48 PM
Jan. 9 – Jan. 15	7:45 AM	4:56 PM
Jan. 16 - Jan. 22	7:42 AM	5:05 PM
Jan. 23 – Jan. 29	7:36 AM	5:14 PM
Jan. 30 – Feb. 5	7:29 AM	5:23 PM
Feb. 6 – Feb. 12	7:20 AM	5:33 PM
Feb. 13 – Feb. 14	7:10 AM	5:43 PM

Shooting Times as published in the 2026-27
Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations (p.18)

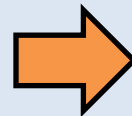
Shooting Times for Waterfowl Hunting
 (except geese during the Northwest Permit Season)

2026-27 Game Bird Shooting Hours			
ZONE A - WESTERN OR			
	DATES	AM	PM
Daylight Saving Time (DST)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 4	6:05 AM	7:48 PM
	Sept. 5 - Sept. 11	6:13 AM	7:35 PM
	Sept. 12 - Sept. 18	6:22 AM	7:22 PM
	Sept. 19 - Sept. 25	6:30 AM	7:09 PM
	Sept. 26 - Oct. 2	6:38 AM	6:56 PM
	Oct. 3 - Oct. 9	6:46 AM	6:44 PM
	Oct. 10 - Oct. 16	6:55 AM	6:31 PM
	Oct. 17 - Oct. 23	7:03 AM	6:20 PM
	Oct. 24 - Oct. 31	7:13 AM	6:09 PM
Standard Time	Nov. 1 - Nov. 6	6:22 AM	4:59 PM
	Nov. 7 - Nov. 13	6:31 AM	4:51 PM
	Nov. 14 - Nov. 20	6:40 AM	4:44 PM
	Nov. 21 - Nov. 27	6:49 AM	4:38 PM
	Nov. 28 - Dec. 4	6:57 AM	4:35 PM
	Dec. 5 - Dec. 11	7:05 AM	4:33 PM
	Dec. 12 - Dec. 18	7:11 AM	4:34 PM
	Dec. 19 - Dec. 25	7:15 AM	4:37 PM
	Dec. 26 - Jan. 1	7:17 AM	4:42 PM
	Jan. 2 - Jan. 8	7:17 AM	4:48 PM
	Jan. 9 - Jan. 15	7:15 AM	4:56 PM
	Jan. 16 - Jan. 22	7:12 AM	5:05 PM
	Jan. 23 - Jan. 29	7:06 AM	5:14 PM
	Jan. 30 - Feb. 5	6:59 AM	5:23 PM
	Feb. 6 - Feb. 12	6:50 AM	5:33 PM
	Feb. 13 - Feb. 19	6:40 AM	5:43 PM
	Feb. 20 - Feb. 26	6:29 AM	5:52 PM
	Feb. 27 - Mar. 5	6:17 AM	6:02 PM
	Mar. 6 - Mar. 10	6:05 AM	6:11 PM

Shooting Times as published in the 2026-27 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations (p.8)

Hunters:

- ➔ The Snag Boat Bend Unit is open to limited deer and waterfowl hunting during the 2026-2027 season
- ➔ Details concerning hunting locations, season dates, weapon restrictions, and other important information are available at this Hunt Kiosk and the Refuge website
- ➔ **NOTE:** The daily harvest of Canada / cackling geese during the 2026-2027 Northwest Permit Season is **two (2)**
- ➔ If you're successful at harvesting deer or waterfowl, or just want to tell us about your hunt, we encourage you to fill out a Harvest & Comments card:
 - Please let us know:
 - what you harvested – e.g., the deer's age & sex, or the species & #'s of waterfowl
 - the date, time, and location of your harvest(s)
 - general comments
 - You can use the cards provided at this Kiosk and drop them off in the slot to the right
 - This information will be very helpful to us in planning for future hunting opportunities



Thank You!!

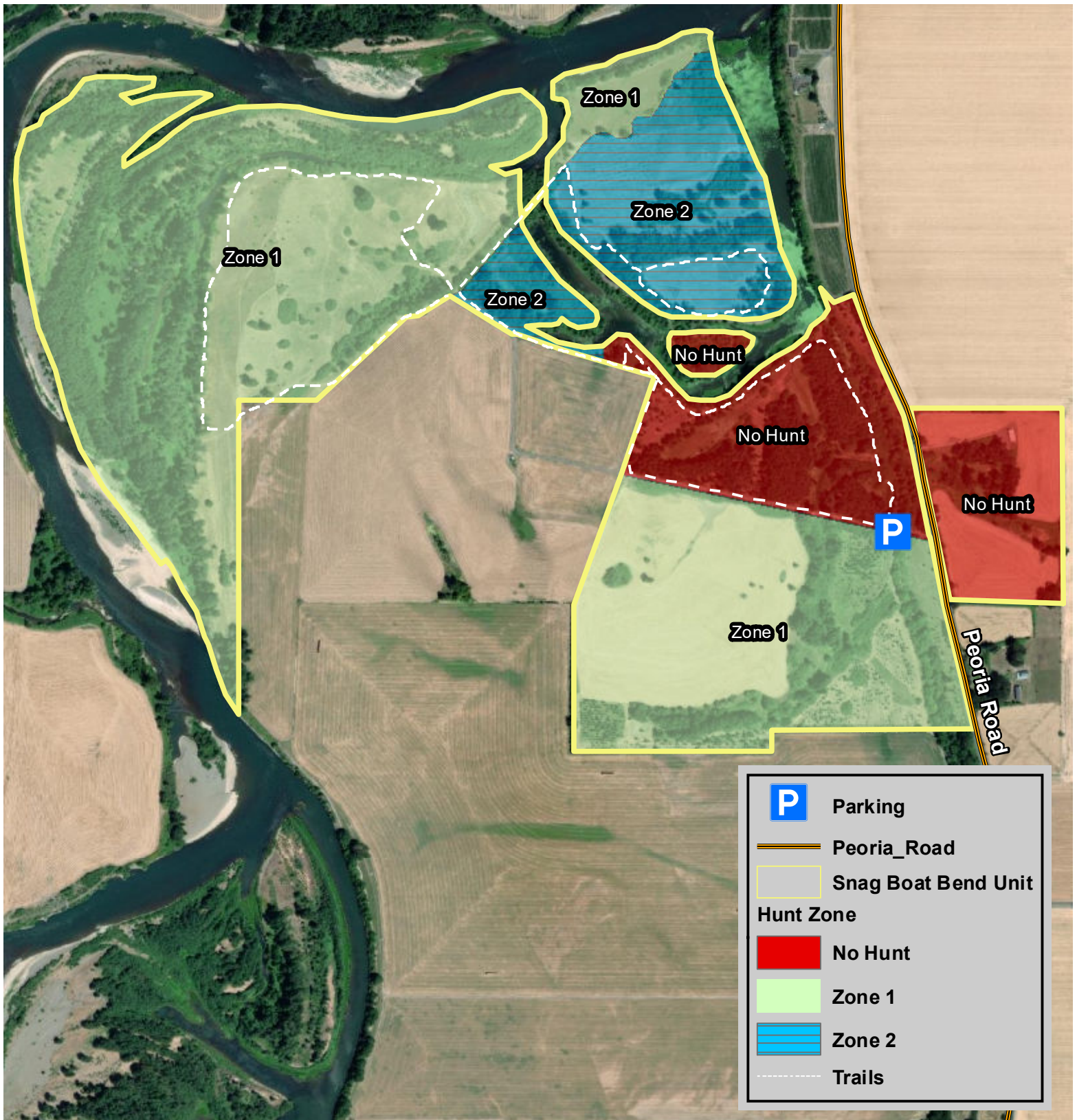


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge Snag Boat Bend Unit

Linn County, Oregon

2026-2027 Hunting Zones



ZONE 1: Deer and Waterfowl Hunting
ZONE 2: Deer Hunting -- ARCHERY ONLY
ODFW Hunting Licenses and Tags Required

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

