

HUNTING on the

DESCHUTES
National
Forest

TOP 10 TIPS FOR YOUR NEXT HUNTING TRIP

1. Private property is often interspersed with National Forest lands. Bring a map and remain alert to whether or not you're still on public lands that are authorized for hunting.
2. Check weather and road conditions before you leave.
3. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
4. Pack plenty of water, food, warm clothes, first aid kit and other basic survival items to ensure that you can make it through an unexpected night in the forest.
5. Dress in hunters' safety orange to ensure that you are distinguishable to other hunters. This includes your furry friends—please ensure your
6. Don't rely on your cell phones. While they can be great tools, you may not get service. Bring a detailed map and compass.
7. Treat your fire arm as if it is loaded at all times, even if it isn't.
8. Be certain of your target before firing to help avoid accidents and injuries.
9. Be mindful of other recreationists using the forest.
10. Understand hunting rules and regulations before heading out. If you aren't sure about something you can visit the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's website

KNOW BEFORE YOU

Check the weather: National Weather Service (www.weather.gov)

Check road conditions: Oregon Department of Transportation (www.tripcheck.com)

Check for prescribed fire: Central Oregon Fire Management Service Interactive Map (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/deschutes/home>)

(www.dfw.state.or.us) to learn more.





Frequently Asked Questions

CAN I SHOOT GAME IN MY CAMPSITE?

- » No, it is illegal to discharge a firearm in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreational area or occupied area. 36CFR 261.10 (d)

CAN I TARGET PRACTICE ANYWHERE ON THE NATIONAL FOREST?

- » Due to public safety we advise that target practicing be done at crater pits or rock quarries. In addition, it is illegal to discharge a firearm in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreational area or occupied area. 36CFR 261.10 (d)
- » It is illegal to use exploding targets on National Forest lands. 36CFR 261.16
- » Firing incendiary ammunition is prohibited. 36CFR 261.5

CAN I USE NATURAL FEATURES, SUCH AS ROCKS OR TREES, OR MAN-MADE STRUCTURES AS TARGETS?

- » It is illegal to damage natural resources and/or structures, including signs. It is also illegal to disturb or damage pre-historic, historic or archeological sites by using elements of them for target practicing. 36CFR 261.9 (a)(g)

CAN I TARGET PRACTICE ANYTIME ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS?

- » Please check with local officials if you are unsure whether or not shooting is allowed in a specific location or if there are any closures in effect.

CAN I BUILD A RACK TO HANG BIG GAME?

- » Game racks are allowed, providing no nails, screws, or other materials are used to bore into trees. Racks must be removed before departure from site. 36CFR 261.16 (f)

CAN I HUNT FROM MY VEHICLE?

- » No, discharging a fire arm of any kind across a National Forest System road is prohibited. However, those who possess a valid "Oregon Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Permit" are eligible to hunt from a PARKED motor vehicle. 36CFR 261.10 (2)

CAN I USE MY OFF-ROAD VEHICLE TO RETRIEVE MY GAME?

- » You must remain on open and existing roads when operating vehicles on any National Forest lands. Before visiting the Forest, obtain an up-to-date Motor Vehicle Use Map from your local Forest Service office. Also, check with local officials to find out if there are any closures in effect, such as the *Winter Range Cooperative Closure*, where you are headed. 36CFR 261.13 (h) (i)



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CAN I BUILD A BLIND ON PUBLIC LANDS?

- » Building and maintaining a structure of any kind on National Forest property without a special use permit is prohibited. CFR261.10

ARE THERE ANY AREAS OF THE DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST WHERE I'M NOT ALLOWED TO HUNT?

- » Yes, certain areas of the Deschutes River area and Metolius Wildlife Refuge are closed to hunting. Please check with *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife* officials if you are unsure whether or not hunting is allowed in a specific location.

CAN I GET MY HUNTING LICENSE OR GAME TAGS THROUGH THE DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST?

- » No, we do not license hunters. All licenses and game tags must be obtained through the *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT WHAT GAME IS IN SEASON?

- » Please check with *Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife*.

IS DISPERSED CAMPING ALLOWED?

- » Camping is generally permitted on National Forest lands for a maximum stay limit of 14 days, in developed or non-developed camping areas. Upon the 14th day, you are required to move two air miles to continue camping.
- » Dispersed camping is allowed, providing (36CFR 261.16):
 - The site is only being occupied for recreating purposes.
 - Campfire is maintained within a fire ring that has proper



clearance. 36CFR 261.5

- It is illegal to possess, discharge or ignite fireworks and other explosive devices.
- All personal camping equipment and property must be removed upon vacating the site.
- Waste and trash must be removed from the site and disposed of properly.



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ARE DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS AVAILABLE?

» Yes there are many developed campground options across the Forest. You can check our website to find a campground in your desired area: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/activity/deschutes/recreation/camping-cabins>. Please remember the following when utilizing a developed site (36CFR 261.16):

- Campfires must be contained in provided campfire ring.
- Cleaning or washing personal property, fish, animals, or food at faucets not designated for this purpose is prohibited. This includes bathing.
- Sites designated for “day use only” may not be occupied between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- At least one person must occupy your campsite during the first night after set up of camping equipment. Site cannot remain unattended for more than 24 hours following this first night.
- Animals must remain on a leash or otherwise controlled while in campsite. Pack animals are not permitted unless specifically noted.
- Vehicles and trailers may only be driven and parked in developed areas or designated places.

WHERE CAN I FIND MAPS OF THE AREA I WILL BE HUNTING IN?

» You can find a variety of Forest maps online or at your local Forest Service office.

CAN I HAVE A CAMPFIRE?

» Campfires are allowed providing following restrictions are observed (36CFR 261.5):

- Carelessly discarding any ignited substance or other material that may cause a fire is prohibited.
- Do not leave your campfire **unattended** without completely extinguishing.
- Causing a fire and failing to maintain control of it is prohibited.
- Building, attending, or maintaining a campfire without removing all flammable material around the campfire to prevent its escape is prohibited.

Please check with the Deschutes National Forest regarding any seasonal campfire restrictions.

CAN I CUT WOOD TO MAKE A CAMPFIRE?

» You may collect a reasonable amount of wood debris, trees that have already fallen and are dead, in order to build a campfire.

