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A fly angler on the Metolius River.

Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Not too late to wet a line

BY MARK MORICAL • The Bulletin

Rain, snow and freezing temperatures are on their way to Central Oregon, but that does not mean it's time to put away the fishing gear. Autumn is an ideal time for wetting a line on the High Desert, as many river and lake opportunities remain for anglers throughout the fall and winter.

Here are a few options for fishing in Central Oregon this time of year.

Deschutes River upstream of Bend

During the fall, the section of the Deschutes River just below Benham Falls can offer productive fly-fishing for anglers looking to land rainbow trout, brown trout and whitefish. And anglers can often have the water virtually to themselves.

The river above Benham Falls closed to

FISHING

fishing on Sept. 30, but the section from Benham Falls downstream to Bend remains open year-round and offers incredible scenery in addition to the angling.

The trout in that stretch of the Deschutes range from about 6 to 12 inches, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, but many fish in the 14- to 18-inch range also live there.

See **Fishing** / B9

Paulina Lake is known for its brown trout fishing. This one was hooked with a worm and bobber.

Bulletin file photo

Chukar, Huns and quail on A&H lands

Plenty of bird hunting, elbow room in Eastern Oregon

BY GARY LEWIS
For The Bulletin

Want to walk the ridgelines for miles with a good dog and a shotgun where you probably won't see another hunter?

Private lands in the Malheur River, the Steens, the Beulah, the Owyhee offer opportunities for hunting chukar, Hungarian partridge and quail all season long. The first time I hunted above the Alvord Ranch, we came down out of the hills, footsore and tired but the German shorthair flagged a pair of Huns in the grasslands near where the parking area. I bagged a bonus Hun and was as proud of that partridge as any limit of chukar.

Want elbow room?

There are close to 80,000 acres of private land open through the Access & Habitat program in Southeast Oregon in some of our favorite units.

How many times have you flushed a covey of chukar or quail while stalking mule deer under a rimrock? If those red-legged partridges caused your old pump to palpitate, it's time to plot the paybacks.

HUNTING
Inside

The Bulletin asked readers to submit their favorite hunting and fishing photos. Contest winners on **B10**

The Access & Habitat Program was created in 1993, establishing a mechanism to provide grants to landowners, timber and ag corporations and other groups for projects designed to increase hunting access to private lands and/or improve wildlife habitat.

Southeast area properties include the Kueny Ranch (4,276 acres), Jenkins (13,233 acres), Otley (16,734 acres), the Alvord Ranch (10,100 acres) and the Mackenzie (11,029 acres). Some properties provide drive-thru access to public land, opening up more habitat for chukar, Huns and quail hunters. Go to myodfw.com/articles/hunting-private-lands-access-habitat-program for a list of private lands. Scroll down to the Malheur Council.

Each listing includes management unit, location, huntable species and the access period, which usually runs from August to the first of March. Special regulations are listed for each property and can range from walk-in only to motorized travel on roads posted as open; leave the gates like you found them.

■ Gary Lewis is an award-winning outdoor writer and television host. Contact Lewis at garylewisoutdoors.com

Gary Lewis/For The Bulletin

Hungarian partridge numbers have bounced back in Southeast Oregon in places where wildfire scoured junipers.