

Hunters to flock to Phillips Co. for pheasant hunting

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Expect an influx of visitors to northeastern Colorado as hunting season for pheasants opens Saturday, Nov. 9. Highly regarded for ideal hunting locations, avid outdoor sportsmen make their way to the corner of the state every fall.

Phillips and Sedgwick counties district wildlife manager Aimee Ryel noted that overall pheasant numbers are down by about one-third compared to last year.

Ryel stated the low numbers can be attributed to a noticeably smaller chick population due to a lack of insects for the chicks to eat. In an average year, around 8-11 eggs from a clutch will hatch. By the end of the summer it is common to see five-seven chicks with a hen but this year only two-three chicks have been spotted with hens as there just wasn't enough sustenance for chicks.

Daily bag limits for pheasants are set at three roosters while hens are off limits. The possession limit is set at nine cocks.

Hunting licenses in Phillips County can be found at Deaver Hardware in Holyoke and the Grainland C-Store in Haxtun. Licenses can also be purchased by calling 1-800-244-5613 or at www.wildlife.state.co.us. To purchase a license, a current and valid identification must be presented along with a proof of hunter education, habitat stamp and proof of residency.

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