

The Werst Hunting and Fishing

Werst Ranch • Wallowa County, Oregon • 127± Acres

A highly enjoyable sporting ranch in the heart of Wallowa County

Set along the Wallowa River in the heart of Wallowa County, Oregon, Werst Ranch pairs everyday wildlife enjoyment with real sporting substance across a genuinely manageable 127± acres. A resident elk herd moves through at dawn, whitetail and turkey sign turn up along the river bottoms, and 4,220 feet of live water sit just steps from the door. Set within the respected Minam Hunting Unit, Werst Ranch offers meaningful big-game relevance and highly usable fishing water well beyond its size — an uncommon combination in an ownership this easy to enjoy.

127± Ac. TOTAL ACREAGE	Wallowa Co. OREGON COUNTY	Minam Unit HUNTING UNIT	4,220 Ft. RIVER FRONTAGE
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Hunting

Minam Hunting Unit — Wallowa County, Oregon. Werst Ranch sits within the Minam Hunting Unit, long favored by Oregon big-game hunters for its rugged high country and strong regional reputation for elk and deer — a pedigree that adds real credibility to ownership here.

Archery Bull Elk — Eagle Cap Hunting Zone. Archery bull elk opportunity in this area ties to the Eagle Cap Hunting Zone, connecting the ranch to a respected archery tradition across the Wallowa Mountains. 2025 first-choice demand (1,016 applicants) ran well below the 1,795 tags available — a pattern that favors buyers seeking a genuinely relevant elk opportunity.

Landowner Preference — A Brief, Honest Note. At 127± acres, benefits under Oregon's Landowner Preference Program are naturally limited — this is a lifestyle and recreation property first, and the draw dynamics below make a more compelling case anyway.

The Real Advantage — Favorable Unit-Wide Draw Odds. The stronger story for Werst Ranch is qualitative: unit-wide controlled-hunt draw odds in this corner of Oregon have generally run more favorable than in many higher-demand units statewide. Both 2026 Minam Unit bull elk hunts (260X and 260Y) carried 495 tags against just 153 and 182 first-choice applicants in 2025 — well below available tags. Results vary by hunt and applicant history and are never guaranteed, but the regional odds picture makes ownership here a smart complement to a broader Oregon big-game strategy.

Deer — A Simple Choice in NE-01

The relevant deer hunt area is NE-01. Starting in 2026, Oregon groups eastern-Oregon deer hunting by Deer Hunt Area rather than by individual unit, and NE-01 is the area covering Werst Ranch. Hunters simply choose between two straightforward options: NE101 for mule deer, or NE101-1 for whitetail only. Because this is a new structure, 2026 draw numbers aren't established yet — useful 2025 reference points come from the former Minam Unit 160 mule deer hunt (530 applicants for 495 tags) and the former Imnaha Unit 161 (773 applicants for 825 tags). As always, buyers should confirm current season dates and rules directly with ODFW.

Wildlife Profile

Ownership here comes with wildlife built into daily life. A resident elk herd moves through the property on a regular basis, whitetail deer are a frequent, almost expected sight along the river corridor, and wild turkeys add movement and sound to spring and fall mornings alike. Paired with the pull of the river itself, Werst Ranch is a place where wildlife viewing, quiet mornings, and sporting opportunity blend into one continuous experience — not something reserved for hunting season alone.

Hunting Seasons, Dates & Draw Context

A practical bonus for buyers who want both lifestyle and opportunity — big-game and upland-bird seasons relevant to *Werst Ranch*, the *Minam Unit*, and the *NE-01 deer hunt area*, with 2025 ODFW draw context shown where available.

Species / Opportunity	Season Dates	Tag / Hunt	Draw Context	Notes
Archery Bull Elk	Aug. 29 – Sept. 27, 2026	Eagle Cap Zone (253R1)	2025 first-choice demand was below available tags (1,795 tags / 1,016 first-choice applicants).	Relevant archery bull elk opportunity for the ranch area.
Bull Elk — Minam Unit No. 1	Oct. 28 – Nov. 1, 2026	260X	2025 first-choice demand was well below available tags (495 / 153).	Unit-wide controlled elk hunt tied to the Minam Unit.
Bull Elk — Minam Unit No. 2	Nov. 7 – Nov. 15, 2026	260Y	2025 first-choice demand was well below available tags (495 / 182).	Unit-wide controlled elk hunt tied to the Minam Unit.
Youth Elk	Aug. 15 – Dec. 31, 2026	260T	2025 draw context was tighter (10 / 16).	Youth antlerless elk opportunity in the Minam Unit.
Mule Deer	Controlled hunt dates vary in 2026	NE101 (NE-01)	New Deer Hunt Area structure; predecessor context includes 2025 Minam 160 (495 / 530) and Imnaha 161 (825 / 773).	In 2026, NE101 is the mule deer choice for this area.
Whitetail Deer	Controlled hunt dates vary in 2026	NE101-1 (NE-01)	New whitetail-only hunt, so direct historical draw history is still developing.	In 2026, hunters choose the whitetail-only option rather than a general deer hunt.
Fall Turkey	Oct. 10 – Nov. 30, 2026 and Dec. 1, 2026 – Jan. 31, 2027	Fall Turkey	No draw required.	Private-land opportunity by permission from Dec. 1–Jan. 31.
Spring Turkey	Apr. 15 – May 31, 2027	Spring Turkey	No draw required.	Statewide spring opportunity.

New for 2026: NE-01 splits deer hunting by species — choose NE101 for mule deer or NE101-1 for whitetail only. Confirm current season dates and rules with ODFW.

Why This Ranch Stands Out

- Meaningful hunting relevance without the burden of a large ownership footprint
- Daily wildlife enjoyment with a resident elk herd and frequent whitetail and turkey activity
- 4,220 feet of highly usable Wallowa River frontage for year-round fishing appeal
- A rare blend of sporting credibility, scenic water, and manageable size

Fishing

4,220 Feet of Wallowa River Frontage. This is the ranch's signature amenity — a substantial, easily accessible run of live water that shapes daily life here as much as it does the fishing calendar.

Year-Round Trout Water. Under current Northeast Zone rules, the Wallowa River stays open for trout all year, so owners can fish from the property in every season, not just a short summer window.

Hatchery Retention, Wild Release, Seasonal Steelhead. Per current Northeast Zone regulations, hatchery rainbow trout may be kept within posted limits, wild rainbow trout are released to protect the fishery, and a seasonal hatchery steelhead run adds another reason to be on the water.

Weaver Pond — A Bordering Stillwater Bonus. Weaver Pond sits along the property line, adding a quiet stillwater option that complements the river and rounds out the ranch's recreational appeal.

Werst Ranch was never meant to be the biggest hunting property in Wallowa County — and that's exactly its appeal. Its value lies in being genuinely usable: meaningful river frontage, a bordering pond, a resident elk herd, abundant deer and turkey, and a place inside a respected big-game unit with favorable regional draw dynamics. For a buyer who wants scenery, wildlife, and sporting relevance in a size that's easy to own and enjoy, that combination is hard to find.

PLEASE VERIFY BEFORE YOU APPLY, HUNT, OR FISH

All seasons, hunt structures, draw dynamics, tag availability, Landowner Preference eligibility, access, and fishing regulations are subject to change and should be independently verified with current Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) materials before applying, hunting, or fishing.

SOURCES & REFERENCES
ODFW Minam Unit information · NE-01 deer hunt area materials · Oregon big game regulations · ODFW point summary / draw reports · Oregon Landowner Preference Program materials · Oregon game bird regulations. Prepared by U.S. LAND CO. for general marketing purposes; not a substitute for official ODFW guidance.