

WAC 220-415-080

2020 Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Anis Aoude
Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

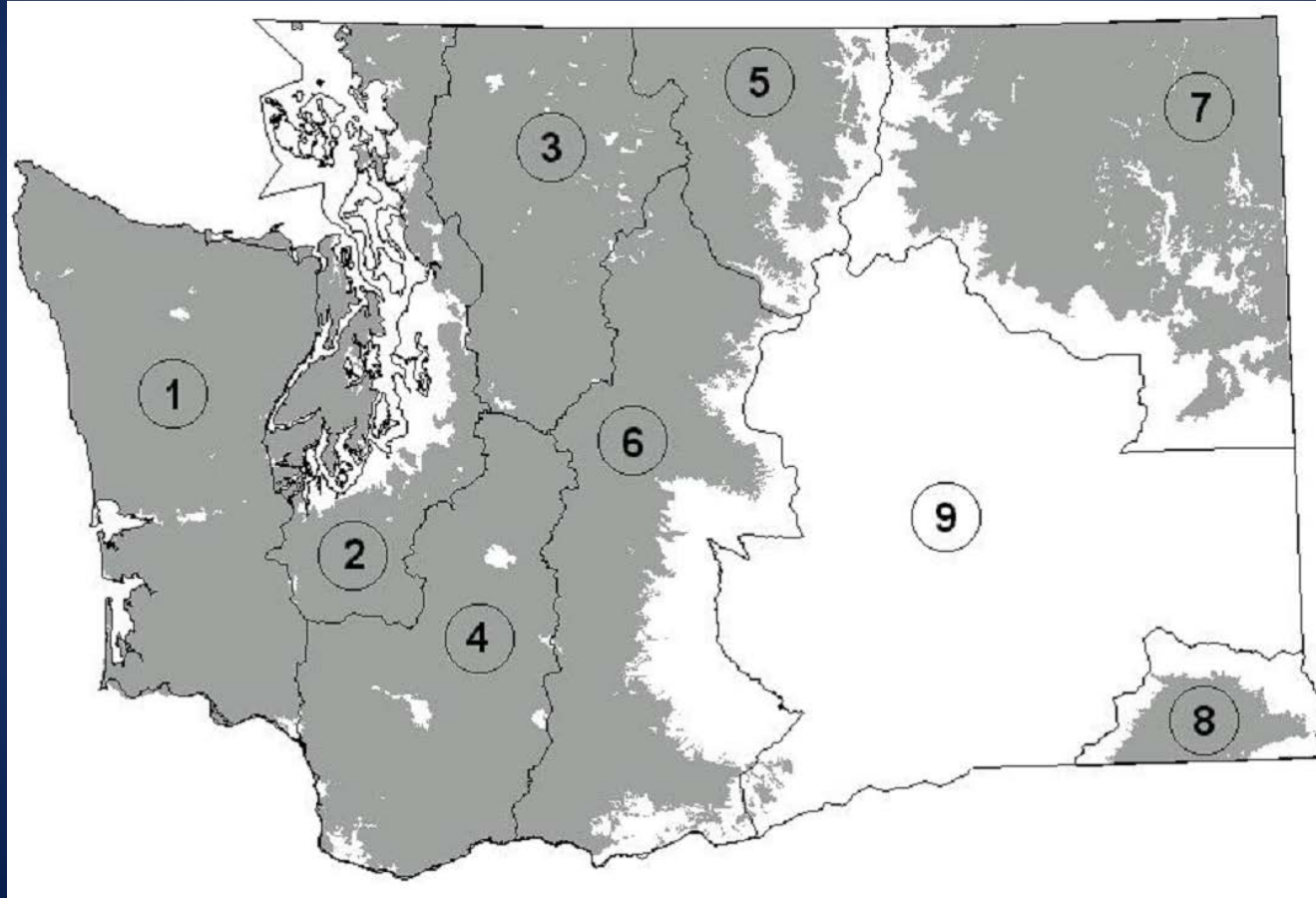
WAC 220-415-080

2019-2020 Spring black bear special permits

- Summary: Outlines the requirements related to participating in spring special permit hunts for black bear; successful harvest applies towards the annual 2 bear bag limit.



Black Bear Management Units



Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Adjust season dates to reflect 2020 season and adjust the title to 220-415-080 2020 Spring black bear special permits.
- **Changes:** Remove Kapowsin hunt area. **-150** permits



Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Technical edit to list GMU 648 prior to GMU 638 under the Copalis Hunt Area to clarify that GMU 638 is where the U.S. Forest Service lands are excluded.
- **Rationale:** Correctly identify season dates and locations.



Proposed Changes

WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Added language to adjust the numbers of permits offered in:
 - Blue Creek, GMU 154 from 15 to 18 permits **+3**
 - Dayton, GMU 162 from 15 to 18 permits **+3**
 - Wenaha, GMU 169 from 45 to 60 permits **+15**
 - Mt. View, GMU 172 from 15 to 24 permits **+9**
 - Lick Creek, GMU 175 from 15 to 18 permits **+3**
- **Changes:** Added a Peola hunt area, GMU 178 with 5 permits **+5**

Proposed Changes

WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

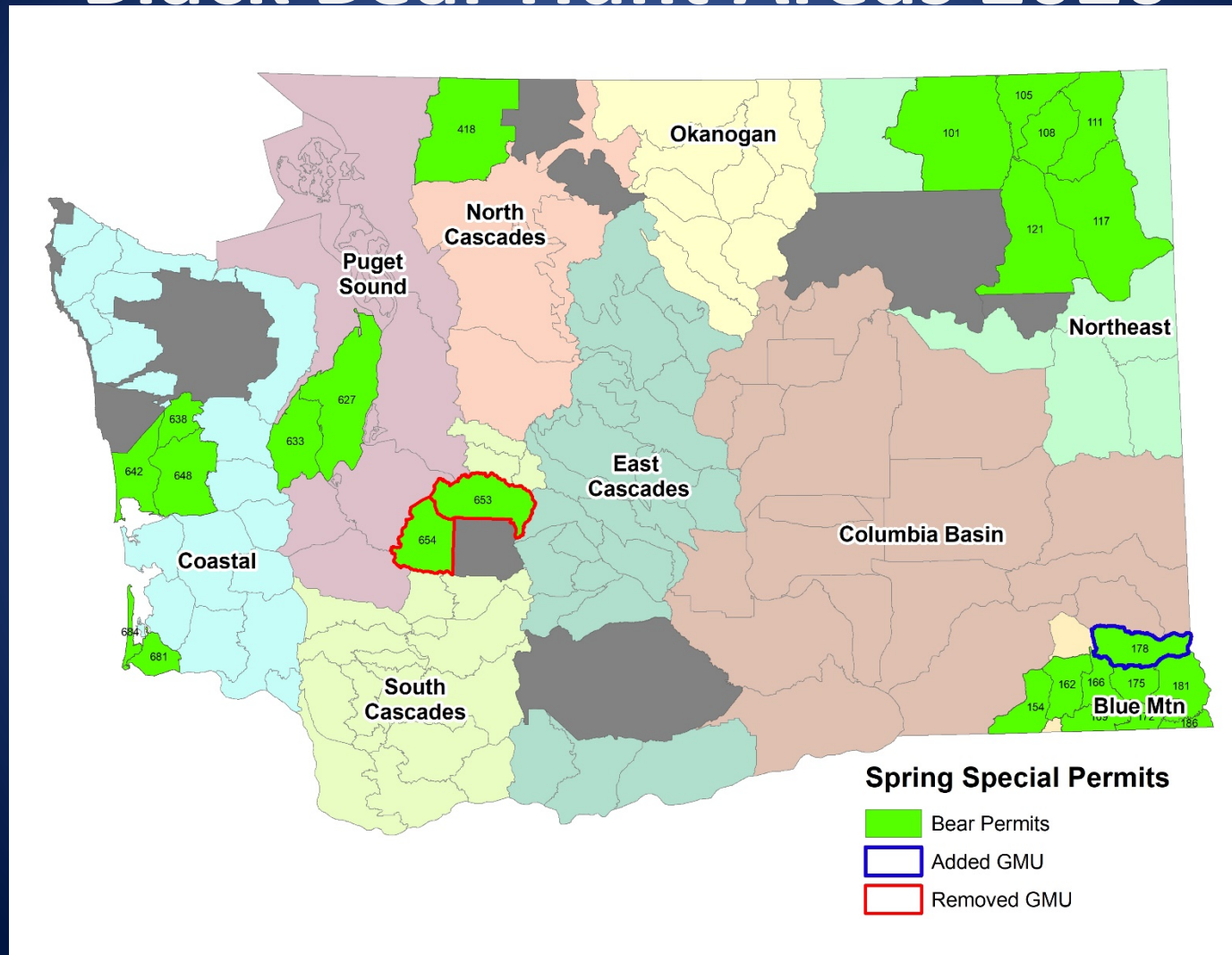
- **Rationale:** 38 additional permits to distribute hunters in areas where ungulate survival is of concern.
 - Intended to have hunters focus on bears in elk calving areas, which may be beneficial to early elk calf survival.
 - Based on the 5-year average harvest rate/permit/GMU expect approximately 7 additional bears harvested under the special permit hunt.
 - An increase in permits is not expected to negatively affect bear populations or stability in the area.

Summary of permit changes

- Kapowsin -150 permits
- Blue Creek + 3 permits
- Dayton + 3 permits
- Wenaha + 15 permits
- Mt. View + 9 permits
- Lick Creek + 3 permits
- Peola + 5 permits

Total -112

Proposed Spring Special Permit Black Bear Hunt Areas 2020



Proposed Changes

WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Added language to include a mandatory reporting of harvest within 72 hours of kill and mandatory pelt check, with evidence of sex, for sealing within five days of notification of kill.



Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080 Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Rationale continued:** Pelt sealing is expected to:
 - a) improve harvest reporting,
 - b) improve the quality of the harvest data, and
 - c) provide a better understanding of the sex and age classes harvested during the spring special permits



Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Rationale:** Pelt sealing, with evidence of sex, will allow the department to monitor the number and reproductive status of female bears harvested; which will improve the decision-making for future spring bear permit seasons.



Public Comments

- 139 comments received
 - (138 online and 1 letter)
- 42 Support
 - General support;
 - 18 provided additional comment: 5 oppose pelt seal, 13 expressed interest in more opportunity, other areas, and dissatisfaction for loss of Kapowsin hunt area
- 11 Neutral
- 66 Opposed
 - Reasons provided: oppose mandatory pelt check, loss of opportunity on west side, potential for orphaning cubs, potential to lose hunters, request for outreach on salvaging harvested meat.

Questions?

