

WAC 220-413-200

Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease- Unlawful Transport of Elk Hooves



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

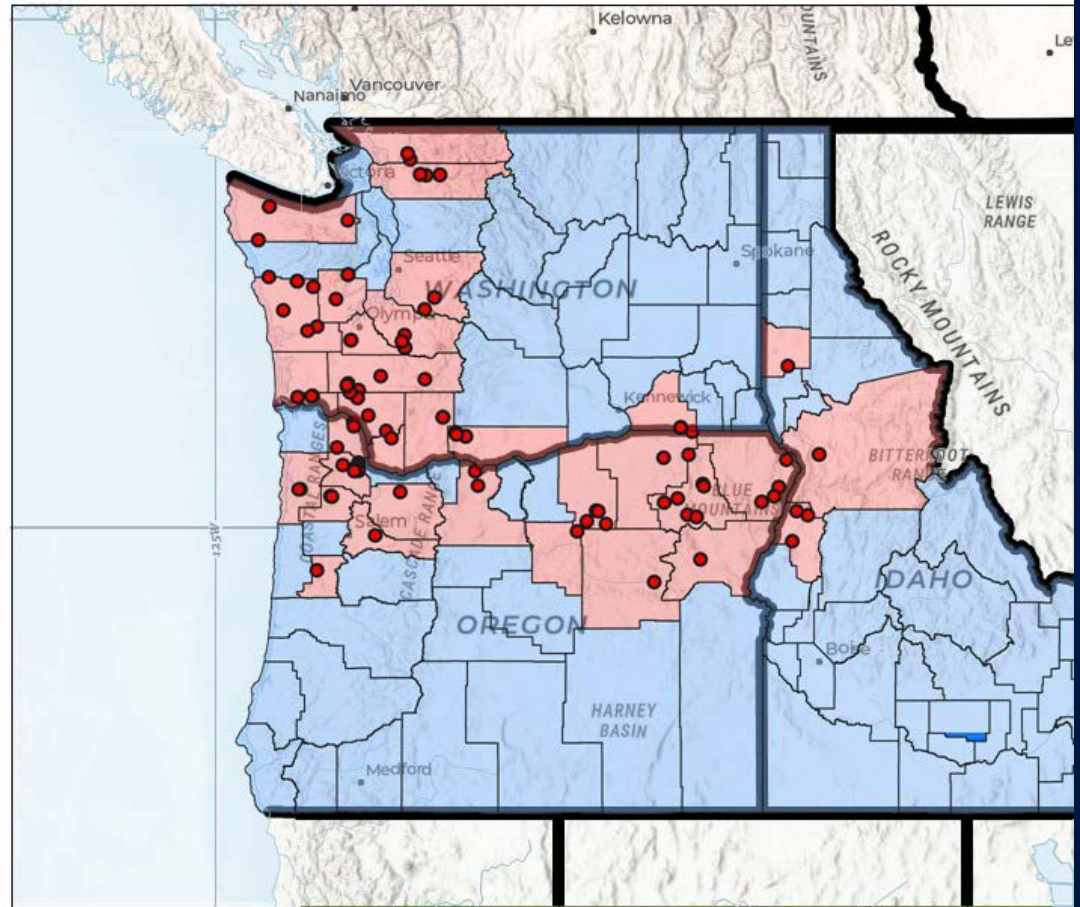
Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

Background

- This rule was initially adopted in 2014 and restricts the transport of elk hooves from those GMUs where treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD) has been confirmed in elk.
- The intention of the rule was to reduce the potential for spreading TAHD to new locations.
- WAC 220-413-200 was most recently updated in September 2018.
- Since that time, the disease has been confirmed on the Olympic Peninsula, in southeast Washington, and in Idaho.
- The continued expansion of TAHD appears to indicate this rule was not effective.

- Counties in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho where the presence of TAHD has been confirmed.
- An additional sample from Kittitas County in 2020 was highly suspect, but findings were inconclusive.

Elk Hoof Disease Distribution



January 6, 2020

Legend

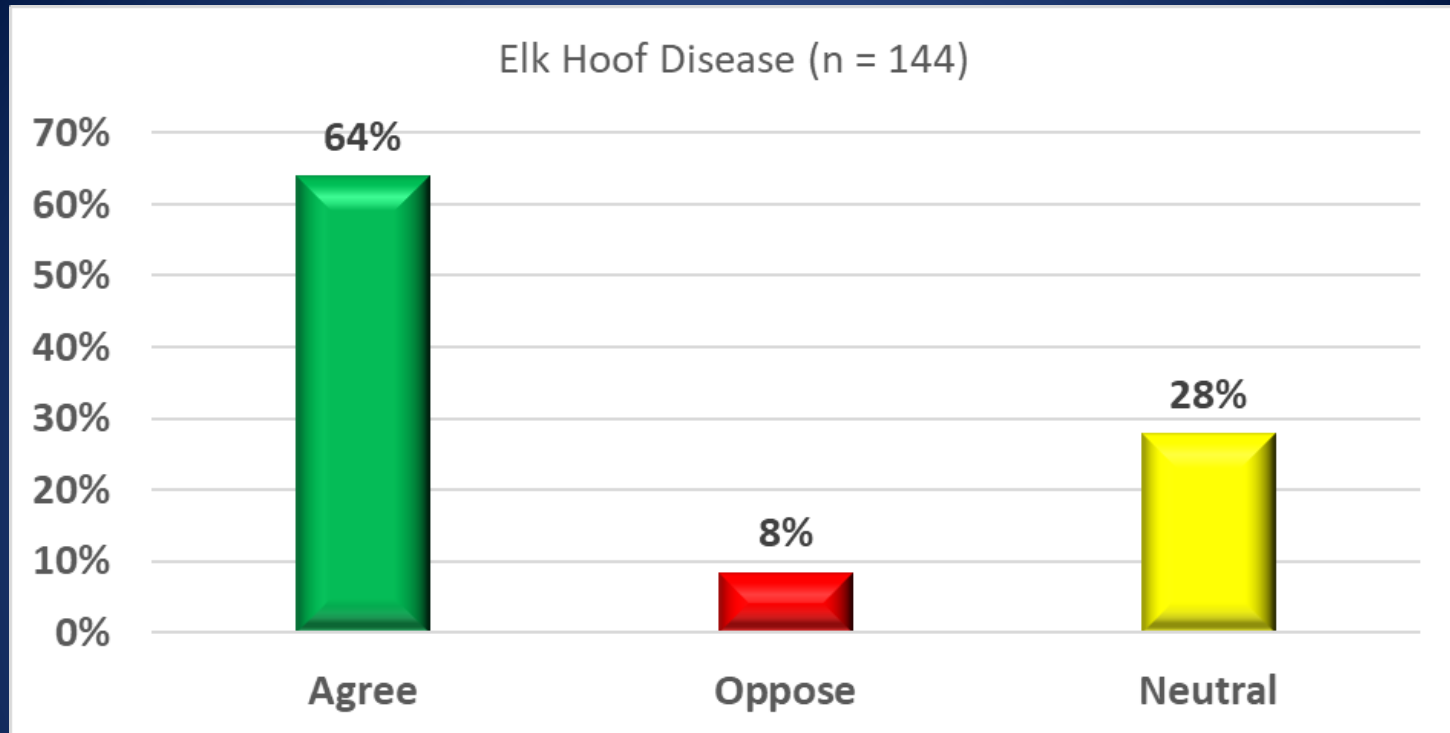
- Confirmed case
- County where elk hoof disease has not been detected
- County with confirmed case of elk hoof disease
- State where elk hoof disease has not been detected

Source

The Department is proposing to abolish WAC 220-413-200 for the following reasons:

- For surveillance purposes, we want to encourage elk hunters in eastern Washington to submit suspicious hooves.
- The Department is working to develop management strategies that would incentivize elk hunters to target limping elk, but would also require that hooves be submitted to the Department for inspection.
- The current rule is not being enforced, but rather used by Enforcement as an educational opportunity.
- We have no scientific evidence that supports implementation of this rule.
- Neighboring states (Idaho and Oregon) do not have a similar rule.

Public Comment



- Most comments were not directly related to the proposal
- Some expressed support for using hunters to help manage the disease

Questions?

