

**WAC 220-412-050**

# Landowner Raffle Hunts



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*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# Landowner Raffle Hunts

- This WAC outlines the requirements for landowners that operate their own raffle opportunities for big game species.
- Largely pertains to a few select Landowner currently enrolled under the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program WAC 220-412-100.

# Recommended Changes and Rationale

- Extend the required submission date for the annual report from December 31 to May 1.
- Annual reports include raffle award information, harvest numbers and participant information.
- The rationale for this adjustment is to align all reporting submission dates with the new requirements under the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) WAC 220-412-100 which is May 1.

# Public Comment

## Landowner Raffle Hunts

- 147 Total Responses
  - 68 Generally Agreed
  - 63 Neutral
  - 16 Generally Disagreed
- General Comment Summary:
  - Concern over the privatization of wildlife
  - Advertising of Raffles should be required
  - Landowner Raffles should not be allowed
  - Wildlife belongs to the public – landowners shouldn't be allowed to manage/sell hunting rights to wildlife

# Questions?



# WAC 220-412-100

## Landowner Hunting Permits



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# History of the LHP Program

- Began as a way to provide public access to larger private land parcels that were otherwise inaccessible by the general public.
- New way to incentivize landowners to allow public hunting access.
- Conflict mitigation was a secondary benefit.

# Private Lands Program - Overview

- The LHP program is just one of the access opportunities under the broader Private Lands Program.
- Other opportunities:
  - Feel Free to Hunt
  - Register to Hunt
  - Hunt by Written Permission
  - Hunt by Reservation (Online)



# Program Statistics for the 2018-19 Hunting Seasons

Feel Free to Hunt		Hunt by Reservation		Register to Hunt		Hunt by Written Permission		Landowner Hunt Permit	
Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres
149	660,970	97	103,074	37	24,706	245	574,930	5	115,393

**Total Acreage Statewide: 1.47 million**

**Percentage LHP: 7.8% of total acreage**

**Most popular program: HBWP (46% of our landowners are in this program)**

Statewide Totals	
Cooperators	Acres
533	1,479,073

# LHP Commission Policy

## Commission Policy C-6002:

- LHP Permits authorized only by the Commission.
- Customized Seasons.
- Permit Allocation:
  - 50% of antlerless
  - 25% of bull or buck
  - Exceptions only by Commission
- Equal opportunity for all hunters with permits.
- Owners charging access fees waive damage claims.

# LHP Commission Policy

## Commission Policy C-6002:

- Landowners shall make provisions for significant public benefit.
- General hunting season opportunity is encouraged.
- Landowner incentives may include the following:
  - Customized hunting seasons
  - Second tag opportunity
  - Technical services to the landowner

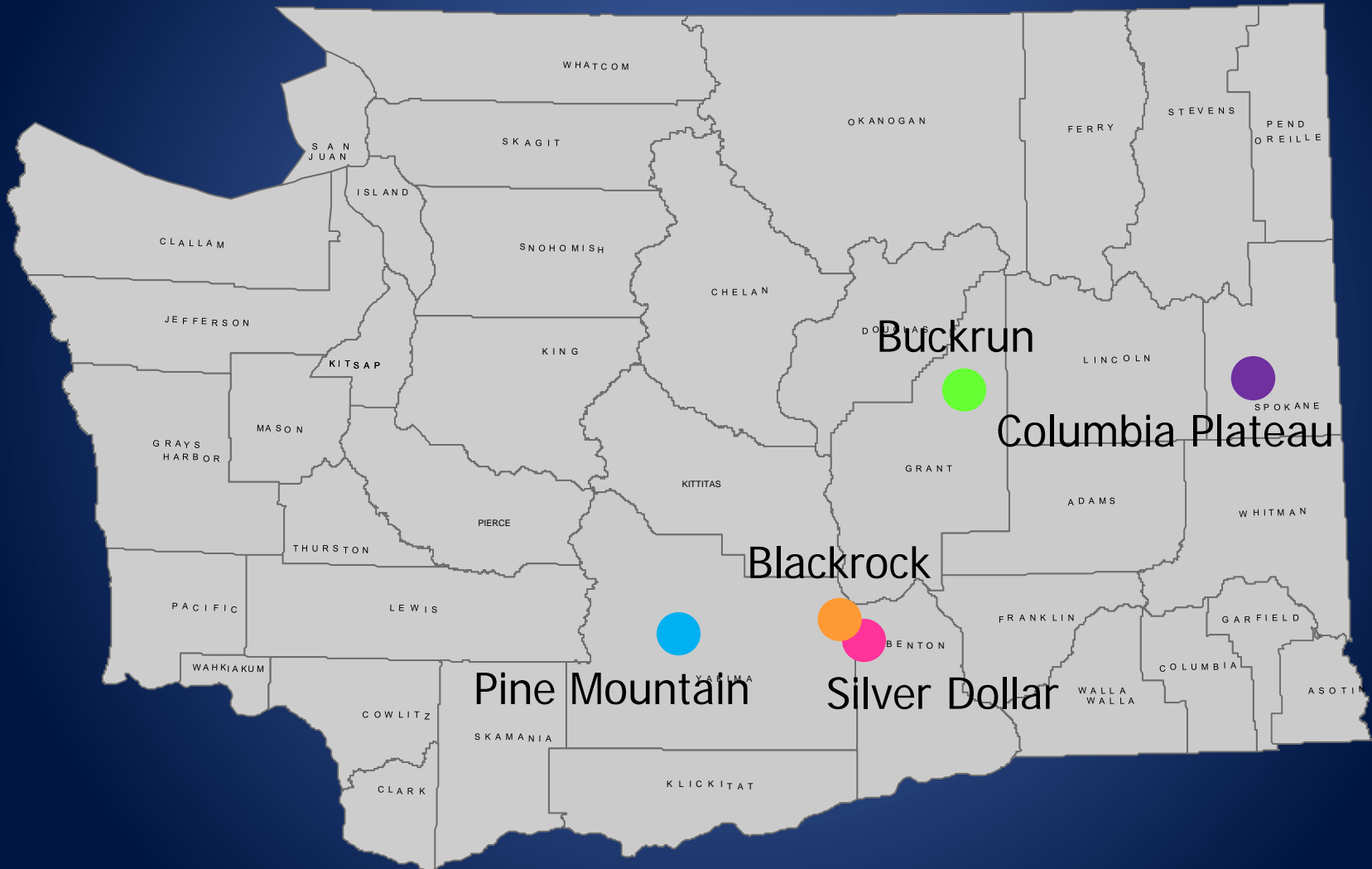
# LHP Program Revision Process

- In late 2018, WDFW staff requested permission from the Commission to undergo an extensive program revision process for the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. This revision process consisted of the following:
  - Landowner meetings
  - Public meetings
  - Internal staff meetings
- This has resulted in a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and significant changes to the WAC.
- The LHP Program is directly tied to Commission Policy C-6002.
- No changes to the Commission Policy are recommended at this time.
- All changes made to the SOP and the WAC remain consistent with the Commission Policy.

# Current LHP Properties

- In order to align the updated application process to the 3-year season setting cycle, the five currently enrolled properties will be granted a one year extension to their current contracts which will end in March 2021.
- All applicants (new or current) will be required to apply using the updated application process during the upcoming 3-year season setting cycle.
- All applicants will also be required to adhere to the new Standard Operating Procedure and WAC requirements.

# Current LHP Properties - MAP



# No Changes proposed during the 1-year extension period

- No changes to dates or permit numbers.
- Permit numbers and hunt dates will be re-evaluated after the first application process during the upcoming three season setting process.

# Recommended Changes to the WAC; Acceptance Guidelines

- Landowners must provide one or both of the following:
  - Hunting opportunity that otherwise wouldn't exist
  - Hunting opportunity that aids with chronic crop damage
- Landowners must provide “substantial public benefit”.
  - Additional “no-fee” general public access
- Only two LHP contracts can be active within a district.
- Landowners may only participate in one (1) LHP statewide.
- Landowners will be required to identify property changes annually through the annual report.
- Minimum requirement of 1,000 huntable acres.
  - Contiguous properties can span GMU boundaries
  - Non-contiguous properties have to reside in the same GMU



# Recommended Changes to the WAC; Program Guidelines

- No LHP permits for elk will be issued where branch-antlered bull elk hunting is by Quality or Bull Elk Special Permits only.
- No LHP permits for deer will be issued where antlered deer hunting is by Quality or Buck Deer Special Permits only.
- All lands in an LHP contract will be identified on the WDFW website.
- All LHP permits will be tied to the 3-year season cycle.
- LHPs shall not be prioritized in any areas where other access opportunities may be jeopardized.
- WDFW at its discretion may deny any LHP application for biological or social reasons.
- Annual Reports will be required for all LHPs by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

# Expected Outcomes from Program Revision

- Improved...
  - Program Management – Statewide
  - Application Process
  - Structure and Transparency
  - Public perception
  - Accountability
  - Reporting (Landowners) and Tracking (WDFW)
  - Access opportunities

# Public Comment

- 139 Total Responses
  - 53 Generally Agreed
  - 73 Neutral
  - 13 Generally Disagreed
- General Comment Summary:
  - Concern over the privatization of wildlife
  - Concern over lack of outreach to non-hunters
  - Terminate this program – too many special interests involved at the landowner level
  - Appreciation towards WDFW for performing a review
  - LHP has no public benefit – Available Landowner permits vs. WDFW permits are weighted towards landowners. Program should be abandoned and resources used elsewhere.
  - General comment against fee hunting
  - Concern over permits being given to friends and family only
  - Permits should be prioritized to individuals who are in close proximity of LHP property
  - Support of changes made to the equitability between public and landowner

# Next Steps

- Maintain the five currently enrolled LHP Properties.
- By August of 2020, develop an online application option for new potential LHP properties.
- By August 2020, develop a marketing/advertising campaign for the LHP Program (may be included in a broader Private Lands Access Program Marketing campaign). This campaign is dependent upon program funding.
- Monitor and assess the new SOP and requirements.

# Questions?

