

**Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.
WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary Sheet.....	1
WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.....	2
Summary of Written Comment	3
WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage	4
Recommended Adjustment	11
Summary of Written Comment	12
CR-102	13

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds - **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on recommended changes:

- WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds
- WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

We propose removing the depredation language from WAC 220-416-040, pertaining to killing crows and magpies depredating crops and damaging private property. This language already exists in WAC 220-440-060.

We made the necessary recommended changes to WAC 220-440-060 to align it with the federal rule pertaining to crows and magpies. The reason for the change is to make our rule consistent with the federal rule.

Staff recommendation:

Recommend adoption of the new language in both rules.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

This will clarify the rules, align them with the federal rule and remove redundant language in multiple rules.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds. (1) HUNTING PREDATORY BIRDS:

(a) It is unlawful to hunt (~~for or take~~) predatory birds without a hunting license except as allowed under RCW 77.36.030.

(b) (~~Crows and magpies: It is permissible to take crows during~~) It is unlawful to hunt crows outside established hunting seasons (~~and crows or magpies when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance provided that none of the birds, or their plumage, be offered for sale~~).

(c) All other predatory birds except magpies may be hunted throughout the year.

(2) SALE OF PREDATORY BIRDS: It is permissible to sell starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, and rock doves for the purposes of falconry and lawful to sell rock doves and Eurasian collared doves for the purposes of bird dog training.

(3) POSSESSION OF PREDATORY BIRDS: It is permissible to take from the wild and possess live starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, and rock doves for purposes of falconry and Eurasian collared doves and rock doves for purposes of bird dog training.

(4) RELEASE OF LIVE PREDATORY BIRDS: It is permissible to release Eurasian collared doves and rock doves for the purposes of bird dog training or falconry without a permit.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds

Written Supporting Comments:

We received 133 online comments. Ninety one percent (69) of the non-neutral respondents said that they generally agree with the rule change.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

We received 133 online comments. Ten percent (7) of the non-neutral respondents generally did not agree with the rule change. Only two provided written comment that did not apply to the proposed rule changes. One suggested a change to the rule pertaining to eurasian collared dove and the other suggested more predator control in general.

Forty-three percent of all the respondents (57) remained neutral on this issue.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

None of the comments received in opposition pertained directly to the suggested rule changes.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-05-112, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17)

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property

damage. The fish and wildlife commission is authorized to classify wildlife as game, and/or as endangered species or protected wildlife, and/or as a predatory bird consistent with RCW 77.08.010 and 77.12.020. The commission is also authorized, pursuant to RCW 77.36.030, to establish the limitations and conditions on killing or trapping wildlife that is causing damage on private property. The department may authorize, pursuant to RCW 77.12.240 the killing of wildlife destroying or injuring property.

The conditions for killing wildlife vary, based primarily on the classification of the wildlife species, the imminent nature of the threat to damage private property, the type of private property damage, and the preventive and nonlethal methods employed by the person prior to the damage event. Additional conditions defined by the department may also be important, depending on individual situations. Killing wildlife to address private property damage is subject to all

other state and federal laws including, but not limited to, Titles 77 RCW and 220 WAC.

(1) It is unlawful to kill protected wildlife or endangered species (as defined in RCW 77.08.010) unless authorized by commission rule or with a permit from the department, with the following additional requirements:

(a) Federally listed threatened or endangered species will require federal permits or federal authority, in addition to a state permit.

(b) All migratory birds are federally protected and may require a federal permit or federal authority, in addition to a state permit.

(2) Killing wildlife causing damage to a commercial crop or to livestock.

It is permissible to kill unclassified wildlife, predatory birds, and game animals that are in the act of damaging commercial crops or attacking livestock or other domestic animals, under the following conditions:

(a) Predatory birds other than crows and magpies (defined in RCW 77.08.010) and unclassified wildlife that are in the act of damaging commercial crops or attacking livestock or other domestic animals may be killed with the express permission of the crop, livestock, domestic

animals, or property owner at any time on private property, to protect domestic animals, livestock, or commercial crops.

(b) ~~Subject to and consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation "Depredation order for blackbirds, cowbirds, crows, grackles, and magpies," published at 50 C.F.R. Sec. 21.43, it is permissible to take crows or magpies to protect livestock or commercial crops.~~ It is unlawful to take crows or magpies in violation of requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 21.43.

(c) If an owner has attempted nonlethal damage control techniques and acquires verbal or written approval from the department, they may kill an individual (one) deer or elk during the physical act of damaging commercial crops within a twelve-month period. The owner must notify the department within twenty-four hours of kill. The department will document animals harvested under this subsection and will ensure harvest is consistent with herd management objectives developed cooperatively with comanagers where available.

~~((e))~~ (d) Multiple deer or elk may be killed if they are in the act of damaging commercial crops if the owner, owner's immediate family member, agent of the owner, or owner's documented employee is

issued damage prevention or kill permits and the owner has a valid, written damage prevention cooperative agreement with the department.

~~((d))~~ (e) An owner may kill an individual (one) black bear or cougar during the physical act of attacking livestock or domestic animals with or without an agreement or permit within a twelve-month period. The owner must notify the department within twenty-four hours of kill.

(3) Killing wildlife causing damage or killing wildlife to prevent private property damage.

(a) Predatory birds other than crows and magpies (as defined in RCW 77.08.010~~((+39))~~), unclassified wildlife, and eastern gray squirrels may be killed by the owner of private property, owner's immediate family, agent of the owner, or the owner's documented employee with the express permission of the private real property owner at any time, to prevent private property damage on private real property.

(b) ~~Subject to and consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation "Depredation order for blackbirds, cowbirds, crows, grackles, and magpies," published at 50 C.F.R. Sec. 21.43, it is permissible to take crows or magpies to prevent property damage.~~ It is unlawful to take crows or magpies in violation of requirements

published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 21.43.

(c) Subject to subsection (7) of this section, the following list of wildlife species may be killed by the owner of the property, owner's immediate family member, agent of the owner, owner's documented employee, or licensed hunters/trappers in a lawful manner with the express permission of the private real property owner, when causing damage to private property: Raccoon, fox, bobcat, beaver, muskrat, mink, river otter, weasel, hare, and cottontail rabbits.

~~((e))~~ (d) The department may make agreements with landowners to prevent private property damage by wildlife. The agreements may authorize permits to remove animal(s) to abate private property damage.

~~((d))~~ (e) Landowners are encouraged to allow general season hunting and trapping on their property to help minimize damage potential and concerns.

(4) Wildlife control operators may assist property owners under the conditions of their certification or permits to remove animals causing damage.

(5) Tribal members may assist property owners under the conditions of valid comanagement agreements between tribes and the

department. Tribes must be in compliance with the agreements including, but not limited to, adhering to reporting requirements, possession, and harvest restrictions.

(6) Hunting licenses and/or associated tags are not required to kill wildlife under this section unless the killing is pursuant to subsections (2)(c) and (3)(b) of this section. Hunters and trappers participating in harvesting wildlife under this section must comply with provisions of each permit. Tribal members operating under subsection (5) of this section are required to meet tribal hunting license, tag, and permit requirements.

(7) Except as specifically provided in a permit from the department or a rule of the commission, people taking wildlife under this rule are subject to the laws and rules of the state.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), amended and recodified as § 220-440-060, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.150, 77.15.245, and chapter 77.36 RCW. WSR 16-04-066 (Order 16-18), § 232-36-051, filed 1/28/16, effective 2/28/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.240, chapter 77.36 RCW, and 2013 c 329. WSR 13-22-056 (Order 13-282), § 232-36-051,

filed 11/4/13, effective 12/5/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.36.120. WSR 13-05-003 (Order 13-19), § 232-36-051, filed 2/6/13, effective 3/9/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.36.030. WSR 10-23-026 (Order 10-291), § 232-36-051, filed 11/8/10, effective 12/9/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, and 77.04.055. WSR 10-13-182 (Order 10-156), § 232-36-051, filed 6/23/10, effective 7/24/10.]

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The department recommends the following adjustments since the Code Reviser filed (CR-102). The adjustments are included in your notebooks.

Pages 6-8

- Change: (b) It is unlawful to take crows or magpies in violation of requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 21.43.

Rationale: This language is clearer as to the intent.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage

Written Supporting Comments:

We received 135 online comments. Eighty-nine percent (75) of the non-neutral respondents said that they generally agree with the rule change.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

We received 135 online comments. Eleven percent (9) of the non-neutral respondents generally did not agree with the rule change. Only two provided written comment. One comment did not pertain to the proposed rule changes. One disagreed with the ability to kill wildlife causing property damage.

Thirty-seven percent of all the respondents (51) remained neutral on this issue.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

One person disagreed with the premise of killing wildlife for property damage. This rule only applies to a small subset of wildlife and the rule change proposed actually decreases the likelihood of crows and magpies being killed by requiring the landowner to try non-lethal methods first.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 05, 2020

TIME: 9:19 AM

WSR 20-04-091

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 20-01-123 on December 16, 2019 ; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) The department seeks to adopt rules concerning the 2020-2021 season setting.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region five.

WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region six.

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

WAC 220-412-090 Multiple season big game permits.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease—Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-415-100 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Cougar.

WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-416-010 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.

WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

Hearing location(s):

Date: **Time:** **Location:** (be specific) **Comment:**

March 13-14, 2020	8:00 a.m.	Red Lion Columbia Center 1101 N. Columbia Center Blvd. Kennewick, Washington 99336	
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Date of intended adoption: April 10-11, 2020 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program

Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA. 98504

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162

Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/season-setting>

By (date) February 26, 2020

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Dolores Noyes

Phone: (360) 902-2349

Fax:

TTY: (800) 833-6388

Email: dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov

Other:

By (date) March 6, 2020

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

WAC 220-410-050 Game management unit (GMU) boundary descriptions—Region five.

The purpose of this proposal is to correct any errors in the boundary descriptions for game management unit 506.

WAC 220-410-060 Game management unit (GMU) boundary descriptions—Region six.

The purpose of this proposal is to correct any errors in the boundary descriptions for game management unit 673.

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts.

The purpose of this proposal is to alter the adjustment of annual report submission date requirements from December 31 to May 1, to coincide with WAC 220-412-100. This also allows enrolled landowners to submit all required reports at the same time.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

This proposal adds game management units (GMUs) 186 and portions of GMU 181 (south of the line made by starting at Montgomery Ridge Road and Highway 129, to the Sherry Grade Road, to the Couse Creek Road, to the Snake River) to the legal hunt area for the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle Permit.

WAC 220-412-090 Multiple season big game permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify language.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to further develop the standard operating procedure for the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. The Landowner Hunting Permit WAC has been adjusted to reflect the new proposed requirements for the LHP program, as outlined in the standard operating procedure. The revised standard operating procedure anticipates better management, monitoring, and an improved experience for the general public, while recreating on properties enrolled in the Landowner Hunting Permit.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

The proposed administrative changes remove the reference to “wooden towers” from the description for the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area. Corrections are made to the spelling of Newberry (from Newbury) Hill Road for the Firearm Restriction Area in Kitsap County.

WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease—Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

The purpose of this proposal is to abolish the rule.

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunities for 2020. It also aims to balance the hunting opportunities between user groups. The proposal also increases opportunities when deer populations allow and reduces opportunities when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit for deer hunting opportunities for 2020. It also balances hunting opportunities between user groups, increases opportunities when deer populations allow, and reduces opportunities when declining deer numbers warrant a change. Lastly, it adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one deer, except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one deer hunt category.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The purpose of the proposed changes would eliminate Elk Area No. 1011 (Columbia County), Elk Area No. 1012 (Asotin County), and Elk Area No. 1082 (Asotin County).

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of the proposed change is to retain general season elk hunting opportunities for 2020. It also balances hunting opportunities between user groups, increases opportunities when elk populations allow, and reduces opportunities when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

The department will not develop specific recommendations regarding opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during the early archery general elk seasons in the Colockum (GMUs 328, 329) and Yakima (GMUs 336, 340, 352, 356, 364) elk herd areas until population surveys are completed in February and/or March. If population surveys indicate it is warranted, the department may also consider reducing opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk during the late archery general elk seasons, and reducing modern firearm, and muzzleloader special permit opportunities. A general overview of the recommendations that may be considered dependent of herd status are provided below. Recommendations developed in response to surveys indicating a population decline will also depend on the severity of the decline.

Colockum Elk Herd: (GMUs 249, 251, 328, 329, 330, 334, 335)

<u>Herd Status</u>	<u>General Overview of Recommendation</u>
Decline	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during archery seasons, except for those associated with addressing damage issues, and in areas where the department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 334, 335). Also, reduce opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Stable	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during archery seasons, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 334, 335). Replace some of the lost opportunities with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. Retain opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Increase	Retain current general and special permit seasons.

Yakima Elk Herd: (GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346, 352, 356, 360, 364, 368, 371, 372)

<u>Herd Status</u>	<u>General Overview of Recommendation</u>
Decline	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMUs 371 and 372). Replace some of the lost opportunities with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. If warranted, also reduce opportunities during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Stable	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 371 and 372). Replace some of the lost opportunities with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. Retain current opportunities during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Increase	Retain current general and special permit seasons.

WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunities for 2020. It also balances elk hunting opportunities between user groups, increases elk hunting opportunities when elk populations allow, and reduces opportunities when declining elk numbers warrant a change. Lastly, it adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one elk, except where otherwise allowed by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one elk hunt category.

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

This proposal adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one moose, except where otherwise allowed by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one moose hunt category. It also adjusts moose hunt permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest.

WAC 220-415-100 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Cougar.

The proposed changes are designed to give the Commission four options to choose from relating to recreational cougar harvest guidelines. The non-status quo options are intended to extend seasons in areas where harvest has been historically high, and where cougar human conflict is also high. The intended result of the longer season is to shift a proportion of the cougar removal, currently carried out by agency personnel, to hunters:

- The first option is status quo with one caveat, the density we used to set the guideline is the median of five research projects that were conducted in Washington. The median is a better measure because it is not affected by outliers in the data. In the past we used the mean.

- The second option also uses a median density that is calculated using only adult cougars that are 24 months or older. This option reduces the guideline slightly, but sub-adult cougars harvested under this option would not count toward the guideline for season closure.
- The third option adjusts the guideline upward for units that exceeded the guideline by December 31 at least once in the past five years. The new guideline is based on the highest harvest in the past five years. In this option there is the assumption that density is higher in these areas. In two PMUs, the guidelines in this option were adjusted, so they did not exceed an assumed density 4.15 cougars per 100 square kilometers. This was intended to keep the density within an acceptable range based on research conducted in the western United States. This guideline includes adults and sub-adults.
- The fourth option is like option three, but only uses a density based on adult cougars and only counts adult cougars towards the guideline.

WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

This proposal adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one bighorn sheep, except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one bighorn sheep category. It also adjusts bighorn sheep hunt permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest. Lastly, this proposal creates separate permit opportunities for adult ewes and juvenile rams in the Selah Butte, Mount Baldy, and Umtanum hunt areas (collectively referred to as the Yakima Canyon herd).

WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

This proposal adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one mountain goat, except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one goat hunt category. It also adjusts mountain goat hunt permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest.

WAC 220-416-010 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

The purpose of this proposal is to increase the number of hunter education incentive turkey permits from two to four.

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.

Removes the depredation part of the rule because it already exists in WAC 220-440-060.

WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

The proposal amends the rule to specify legal season dates, and bag limits for the 2020-2021 season.

Changes include:

- Adjusting season dates relative to 2020-2021 calendar dates.
- Maintain one-pintail per day bag-limit and associated possession limit per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy.
- Lowering scaup bag-limit to two-scaup per day and associated possession limits, while keeping an 86-day season length by the optimal regulatory alternative described in the Adaptive Harvest Management protocol.
- Shifting seven-days from the beginning of the first season segment to the end of the third season segment for white geese in Goose Management Area 4 (Columbia Basin).

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

The proposed amendment to the rule intends to make our rule consistent with federal rules that pertain to crows and magpies.

Reasons supporting proposal:

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region five.

The proposed change will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters.

WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region six.

The proposed change will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters.

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts.

This proposal simplifies the requirements for landowners that operate raffle drawings. It also aligns annual report submission dates with WAC 220-412-100.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

Bighorn sheep populations have increased in these areas, which warrants an expansion of the hunt area.

WAC 220-412-090 Multiple season big game permits.

The proposal clarifies the language and reduces hunter confusion regarding this rule.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

Over the past year, the department has held public meetings and active stakeholder/landowner meetings to assess the current views of the program. These comments have been taken into consideration as well as input from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff which has resulted in the development of the new standard operating procedure for the landowner hunting permit (LHP) program. The proposed changes reflect the comments received from the public, WDFW staff and landowners. Historically, there haven't been many changes to the LHP program. However, due to the lack of consistency and the expansive variation in management styles across the state, this program has proven to be difficult to manage at a program level. These reasons were the main driving factor behind taking the appropriate steps to revise and make changes to the program.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

The "wooden towers" referenced in the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area boundary description were torn down recently. As such, they could no longer be used as a discernable landmark to describe the boundary. Correcting the spelling of Newberry Hill Road will eliminate confusion for hunters.

WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease—Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

This rule, originally adopted in 2014, attempted to reduce the risk of inadvertently spreading the causative agents of treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD) in elk. Since that time, however, TAHD has been confirmed throughout western Washington, east of the Cascade Mountains near the town of Trout Lake, and in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington. The continued expansion of this disease appears to indicate this rule was ineffective at preventing disease expansion. Other reasons for supporting this rule are:

1. For surveillance purposes, we want to encourage elk hunters in eastern Washington to submit suspicious hooves.
2. The current rule is not being enforced, but rather used by Enforcement Officers as an educational opportunity.
3. We have no scientific findings that support the implementation of this rule.
4. The Department is working on developing management strategies that will be proposed during the next 3-year season cycle, which would incentivize elk hunters in western Washington to target limping elk but would also require them to submit their hooves to the Department for inspection.
5. Neighboring states (Idaho and Oregon), where TAHD has been detected, do not have a similar rule.

Although the Department is proposing to abolish this rule, we would still encourage hunters to leave hooves from the elk they harvest on site.

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.

This proposal provides recreational deer hunting opportunities and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2020. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

This proposal provides recreational deer hunting opportunities and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2020. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language does not specify a bag limit, some hunters interpret this to mean they can shoot one deer per permit or one deer in addition to their general season harvest, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

All three elk areas were created to address issues related to elk causing damage to agricultural crops. Damage issues in all three areas have declined following the substantial declines in elk numbers. As such, these elk areas are no longer needed and there is not an anticipated need in the foreseeable future.

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

Overall, the proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunities, helps address elk agricultural damage problems, and provides elk population control when needed. The department is postponing the development of specific recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. These two herds have experienced substantial declines since 2015, with late-winter surveys in 2019 showing the Yakima herd was approximately 13% below objective and the Colockum herd approximately 8% below. Declines have been the result of increased antlerless harvest, severe drought and winter conditions, and depressed recruitment of calves. Moreover, preliminary counts of elk on feed sites for the Yakima elk herd in January 2020, show calf recruitment rates are likely to be lower than normal for the fourth consecutive year. The department is concerned about the status of both herds and plans to develop recommendations that are likely to promote population growth.

WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunities and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunities for 2020. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language does not specify a bag limit, some hunters interpret this to mean they can shoot one elk per permit or one elk in addition to their general season harvest, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language shows the bag limit is one moose, some hunters interpret this to mean one moose per permit, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

Permits for 'Any Antlered Bull Moose' in Spokane West A were increased because surveys showed a good bull to cow ratio. Permits for 'Antlerless Only' were reduced in Mt Spokane South B, Mt Spokane North B, and Mica Peak because surveys showed calf recruitment rates and the overall number of moose biologists observed were lower than normal.

WAC 220-415-100 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Cougar.

The proposal gives the Commission biologically sustainable options for the cougar hunting seasons.

WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language indicates the bag limit is one bighorn ram, except in designated adult ewe hunts the limit is one bighorn adult ewe, some hunters interpret this to mean one sheep per permit, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

The department is proposing to develop unique permit opportunities for adult ewes and juvenile rams for the Yakima Canyon herd. This proposal is in association with our efforts to reduce the size of the herd and eliminate *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. Ovi.) from this herd. The department first implemented these permits during the 2019 season with special restriction identified as an Adult Ewe or Juvenile Ram, but most resulting harvest consisted of rams, including rams that were not juveniles. As such, very few ewes were harvested as intended, which calls for the proposed change.

WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language shows the bag limit is one adult goat of either sex with horns four inches or longer, some hunters interpret this to mean one adult goat per permit, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

WAC 220-416-010 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

This change increases the incentive for hunter education instructors without harm to turkey populations.

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.

Reduces redundancy and simplifies the rule.

WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Migratory waterfowl and other gamebird (coot, dove, band-tailed pigeon, and snipe) seasons and regulations are developed based on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes waterfowl seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the migratory waterfowl resources of Washington.

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

This proposal makes our rule consistent with federal rule.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

Statute being implemented: RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Private
 Public
 Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement:	Steve Bear	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2373

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Other:

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Other:

No: Please explain:

Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025 (4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary:

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. _____

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

Date: February 5, 2020

Name: Jacalyn Hursey

Title: Rules Coordinator

Signature:

