

WAC 220-415-080

2021 Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Anis Aoude
Game Division Manager
Wildlife Program

WAC 220-415-080

2021 Spring black bear

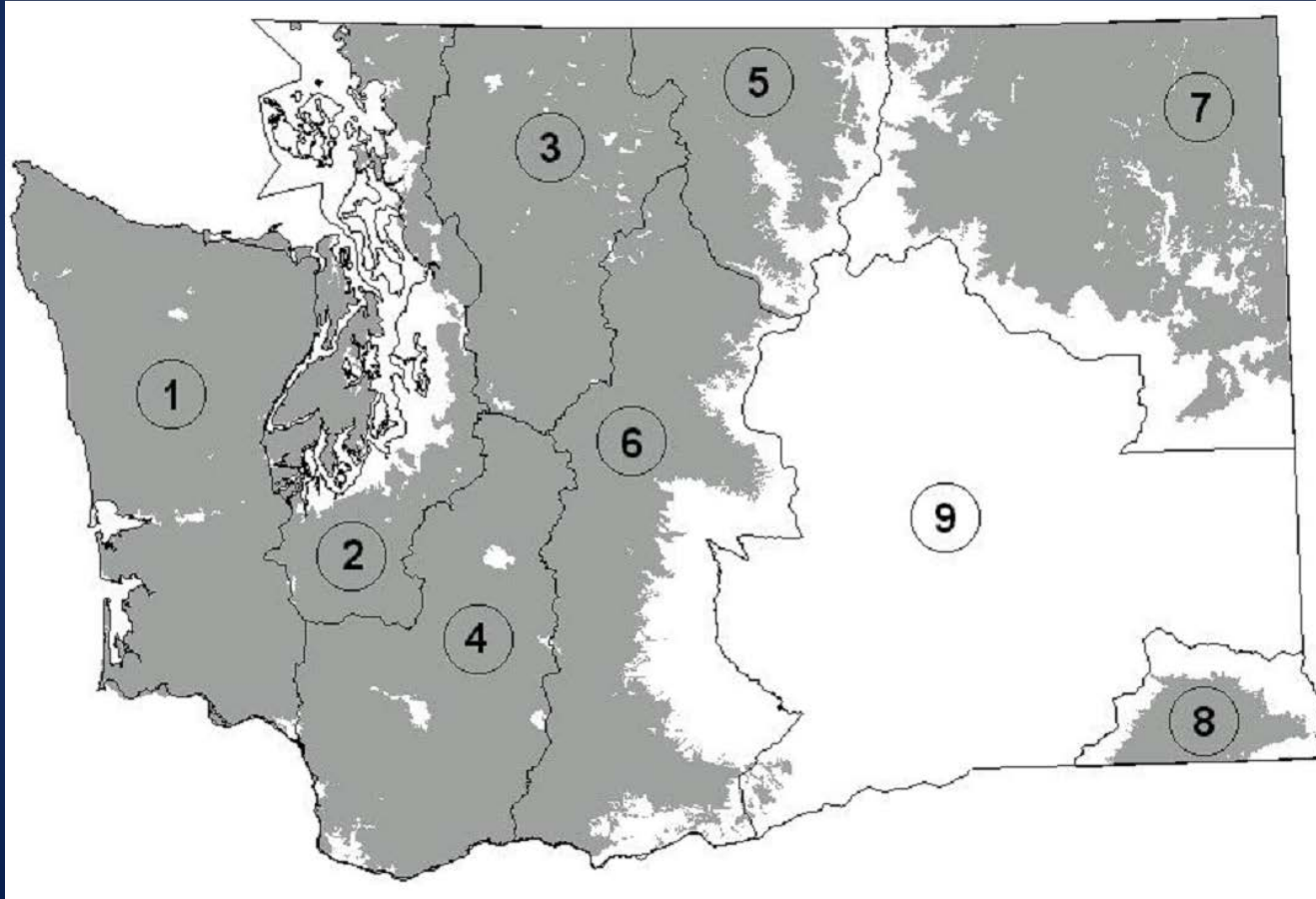
- Summary: Outlines the requirements related to participating in spring special permit hunts for black bear; successful harvest applies towards the annual 2 bear bag limit.



Spring Bear Permit Seasons

- Excerpt from GMP: Spring hunts are designed to address emerging management needs, such as bear damage to trees in commercial timberlands, bear-human conflict, or to more evenly distribute harvest compared to fall seasons.

Black Bear Management Units



Bear Harvest Guideline

	Harvest		
Parameter	Liberalize	Acceptable	Restrict
% Female in the harvest	< 35%	35-39%	> 39%
Median Age of harvested females	>6 years	5-6 years	< 5 years
Median ages of harvested males	>4 years	2-4 years	<2 years

Percent Female Mortality

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	10-yr Avg	5-yr Avg
BBMU 1	36	N/A	30	32	28	27	29	35	36	28	31	31
BBMU 2	44	N/A	36	42	39	34	43	35	33	29	37	35
BBMU 3	35	N/A	36	32	38	31	42	26	40	28	34	33
BBMU 4	39	N/A	31	31	44	24	37	35	40	30	35	33
BBMU 5	31	N/A	33	27	32	27	32	36	38	31	32	33
BBMU 6	36	N/A	27	30	34	34	35	31	34	30	32	33
BBMU 7	35	N/A	33	31	33	34	32	37	33	26	33	33
BBMU 8	39	N/A	35	29	29	38	37	29	43	40	35	37

Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Standardize season dates and adjust to reflect 2021 season
- **Changes:** Clarify language associated with bear check-in



Proposed Changes WAC 220-415-080

Spring Black Bear Season and Regulations

- **Changes:** Remove Weyerhaeuser-Columbia Timber Lands from the North Skagit Hunt area because they are not allowing access.
- **Changes:** Reduce permit numbers on the Long Beach hunt by 2



Public Comments

- 835 comments received (328 online survey, 3 emailed letters and 504 form emails)
 - 44% (146) of survey respondents had a neutral stance or failed to provide a stance on the rule change.
 - 63% (114) of survey respondents who specified their stance were in general support
 - 37% (68) of survey respondents who specified their stance generally opposed

Public Comments

Common themes from the online survey

- Would like a general spring bear season (15)
- Would like to see more permits (17)
- Would like more GMUs included in the spring bear season (5)
- Would like more free access to private timber lands (4)
- Oppose spring bear hunting (6)
- Oppose bear hunting (6)

Public Comments

We received 3 email delivered letters from 2 organized groups and one member of the public All 3 opposed spring bear hunting. The reasons they gave include:

- Not enough bear population information
- Possible cub orphaning
- No evidence that these hunts are having the desired effects
- The general public may not agree with these hunts

Public Comment

All 504 form emails said the following:

“Bears are highly sentient and deserve not to be harassed by hunters, particularly during the fragile time when females with cubs are emerging from their dens. A springtime hunt would subject bears, including nursing mothers, to the stress of being chased and harassed while they are in poor physical shape--a hunt that would be unthinkable for other big game species such as deer and elk. Trophy hunters often unknowingly kill nursing mothers, which orphans cubs leaving them to suffer from starvation, predation, or exposure.

Washington bears should be safeguarded, not hunted. They should be allowed the chance to grow and recover from hibernation not hunted.

Please do not allow trophy hunting of black bears during the spring. ”



Questions?