

# Bighorn Sheep, Moose, and Mountain Goats

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## **WACs:**

- 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.**
- 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.**
- 220-415-070 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**
- 220-415-120 2021 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.**
- 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.**

# 1. Special Hunting Season Permits

# 2. Moose

- Status, recommendations, public comment

# 3. Mountain Goat

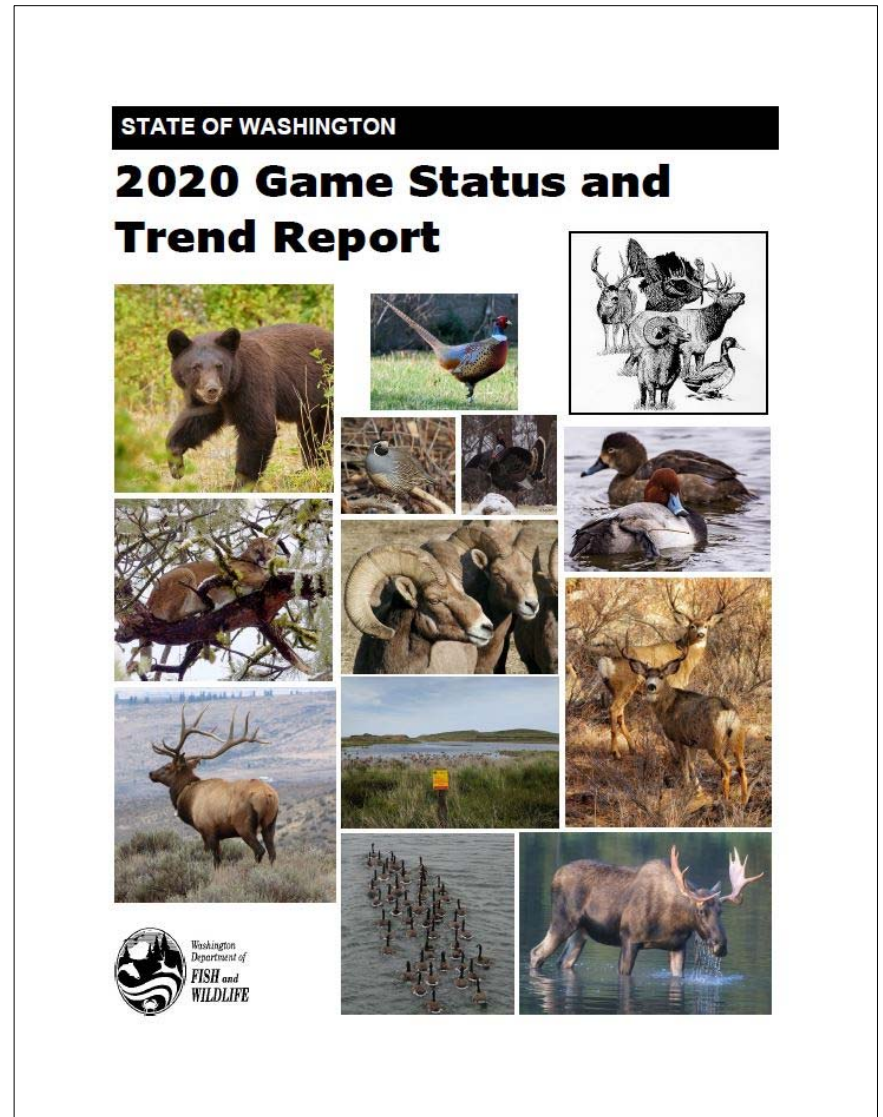
- Status, recommendations, public comment

# 4. Bighorn Sheep

- Status, recommendations, public comment

# 5. Questions

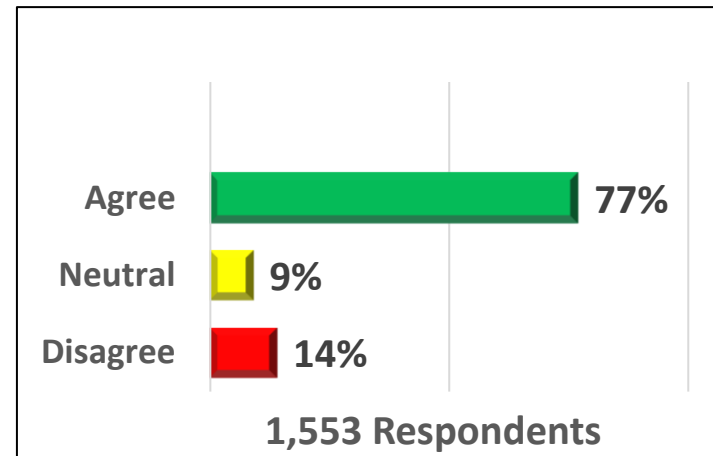
# Content



# SPECIAL HUNTING SEASON PERMITS

## WAC 220-412-080

- Allow successful applicants for all big game special permits to return their permit to the Department for any reason two weeks prior to the opening day of the season and to have their points restored
- Remove the “once-in-a-lifetime” restriction for Mountain Goat Conflict Reduction special permit category



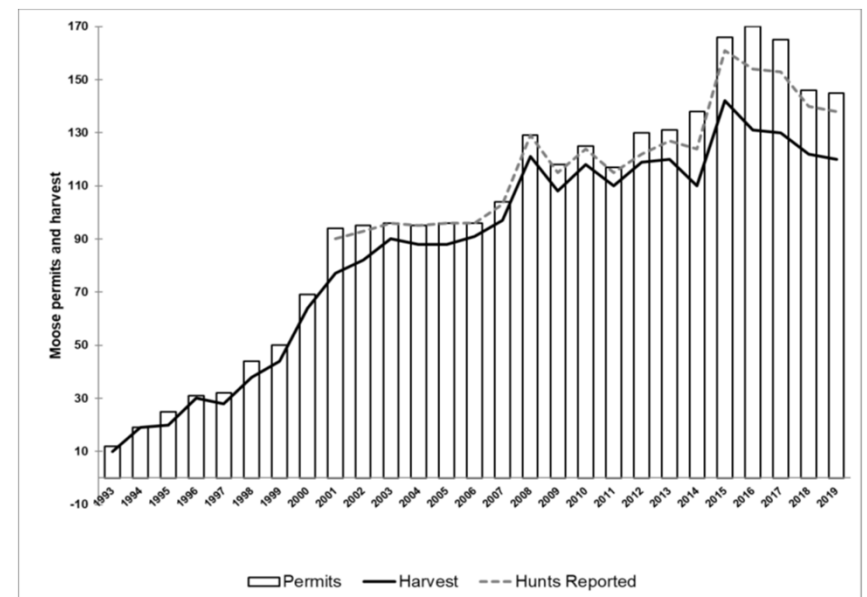
### Public Comment

- 223 comments, 1 email/letter
- General (90 agree, 26 disagree)
- Reissue permit (67)
- >2 weeks (21)
- No change (12)



# MOOSE

- Primarily occur in NE and north-central Washington
- Most recent estimate in 2016 indicated ~5,000 moose in NE
- Annual surveys to estimate age and sex ratios (snow dependent)
- Recent studies (2014-2018) in GMUs 117 and 124 indicated populations were declining
  - Poor body condition (adult female)
  - Poor calf survival
  - Wolf predation
  - Tick infestations
- Substantial reduction in antlerless permits in 2018



# MOOSE RECOMMENDATIONS

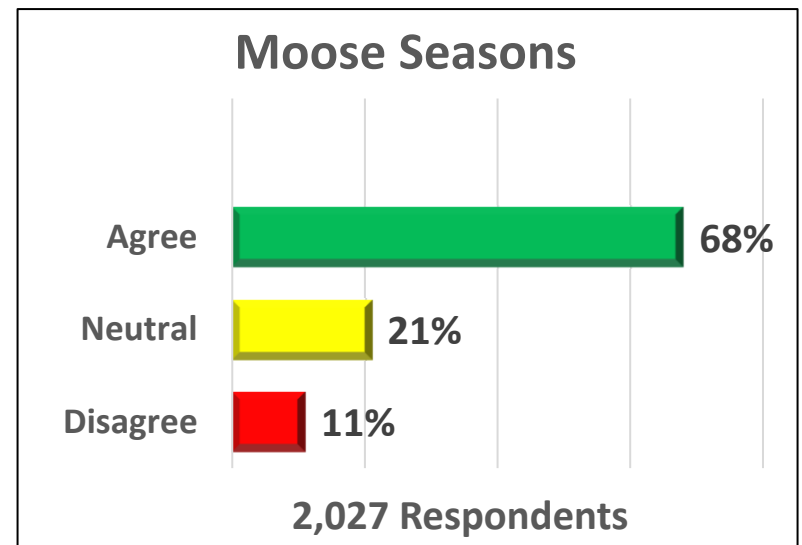
1. Administrative changes to remove unnecessary hunt notes
2. Increase bull permits in GMU 108
3. Reduce antlerless permits in GMUs 117 and 121
4. Remove the Hunter Education Incentive Permit
5. Change legal animal for Auction/Raffle permits from Any Moose to Any Bull
6. Expand the hunt area for Raffle Permits

Hunt Name	Hunt Unit	Legal Animal	2020	2021
Douglas A-Early	GMU 108	Bull	3	4
Douglas A-Late	GMU 108	Bull	3	4
49 Degrees North B	GMU 117	Antlerless	4	2
49 Degrees North (65+)	GMU 117	Antlerless	2	1
49 Degrees North (Disabled)	GMU 117	Antlerless	3	1
Huckleberry B	GMU 121	Antlerless	10	8
<del>Hunter Education</del>	<del>GMU 101-121</del>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>4</del>	<del>0</del>



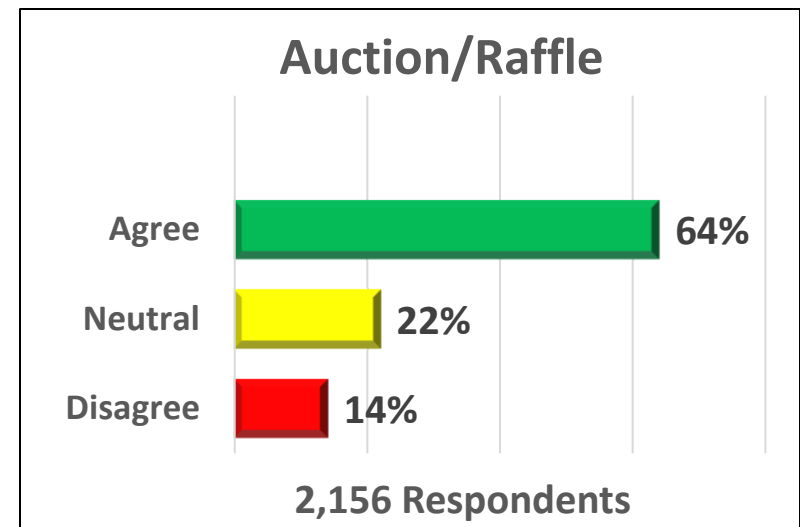
# MOOSE SEASONS PUBLIC COMMENT

- 223 comments
- General (36 agree, 4 disagree)
- Predators (125)
- Reduce antlerless (6 agree, 3 disagree)
- Bull permits in GMU 108 (6 disagree)
- HE Incentive permit (2 agree, 7 disagree)
- Need more research and monitoring (5)
- More Y, S, D opportunity (5)



# AUCTION-RAFFLE PUBLIC COMMENT

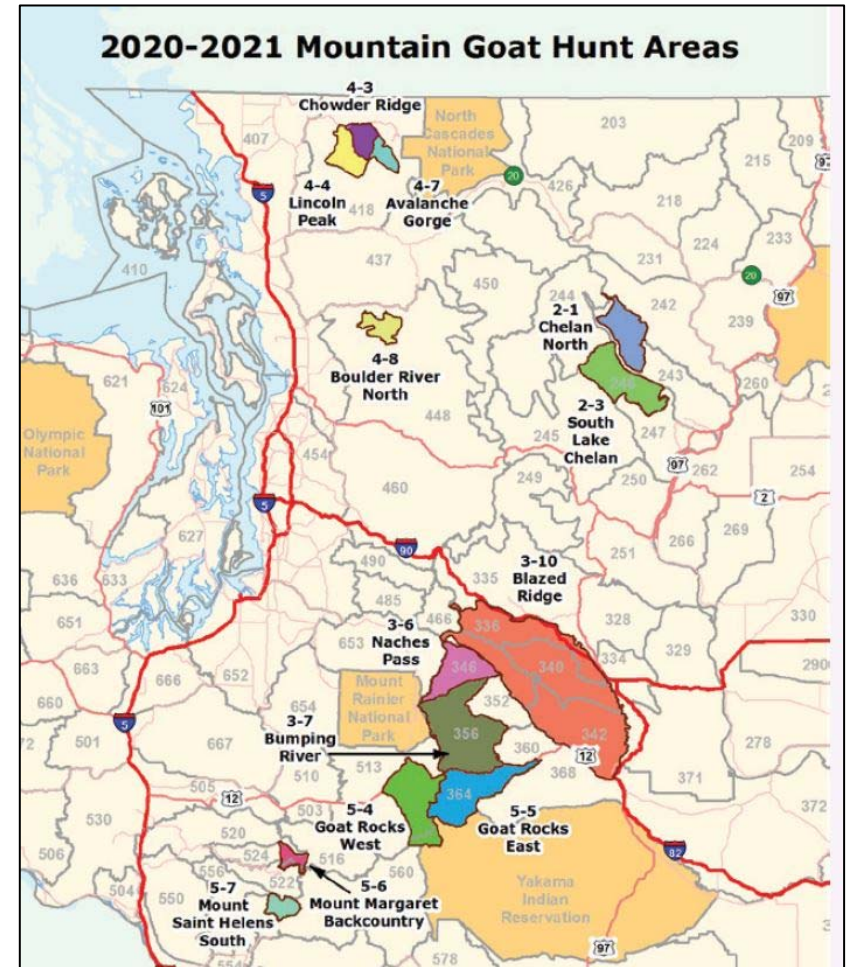
- 201 comments
- General (25 agree, 8 disagree)
- Predators (65)
- Opposed to auction raffle or permit should be reduced (20)
- Don't remove antlerless (12)
- Agree with removing antlerless (9)
- Expand hunt area and/or permits (7)
- Don't expand hunt area (6)
- Tribal (3)





# MOUNTAIN GOAT

- Most recent estimate in 2008 of 2,400-3,200 goats
- Populations must have >100 goats for a hunt to occur
- Total harvest should be  $\leq 4\%$  of the estimated population that is >1 year old
- Nanny harvest should not exceed 1.2% of the estimated nanny population
- Offer hunts in 12 of 15 mountain goat hunt areas
- Bi-annual surveys in most areas



# MOUNTAIN GOAT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Several administrative changes to reduce unnecessary footnotes and standardize naming convention for hunt areas

## Permit Adjustments

Hunt Area	2020	2020
Naches Pass	2	1
Bumping River	2	1
Goat Rocks West	2	1



- Most recommendations are associated with efforts to assist with the removal of mountain goats from the Olympic Peninsula



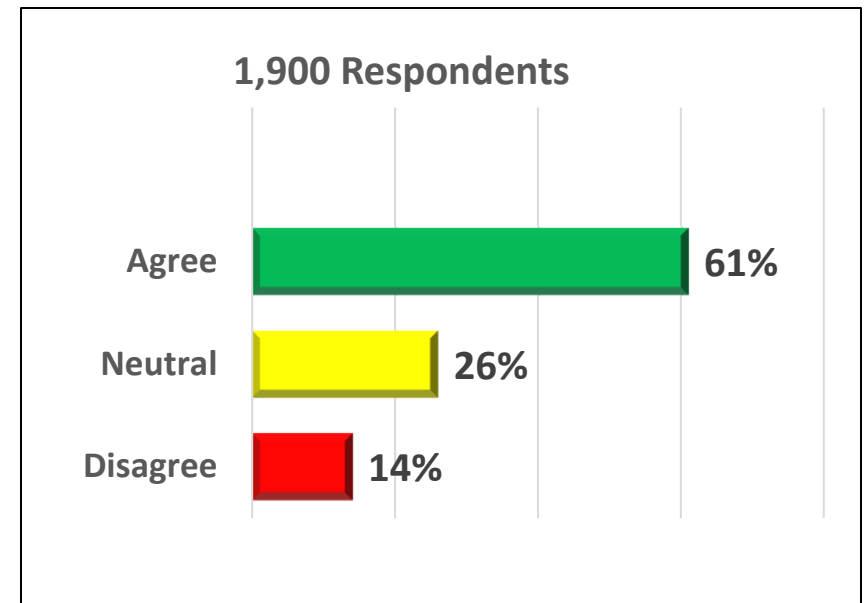
# OLYMPIC PENINSULA REMOVAL EFFORTS

- Lethal aerial removals will begin in Summer 2021
- <80 goats are thought to remain within areas outside ONP
- Reinstated Conflict Reduction category
- Removed OIL restriction
- Bag limit will be 2 goats of any sex or age
- Will not require gender identification test
- Hunt area will consist of GMUs 621, 636, and 638
- 3 hunts
  - Sep. 1-26; 5 permits
  - Sep. 27-Oct. 22; 10 permits
  - Oct. 23-Nov. 30; 10 permits



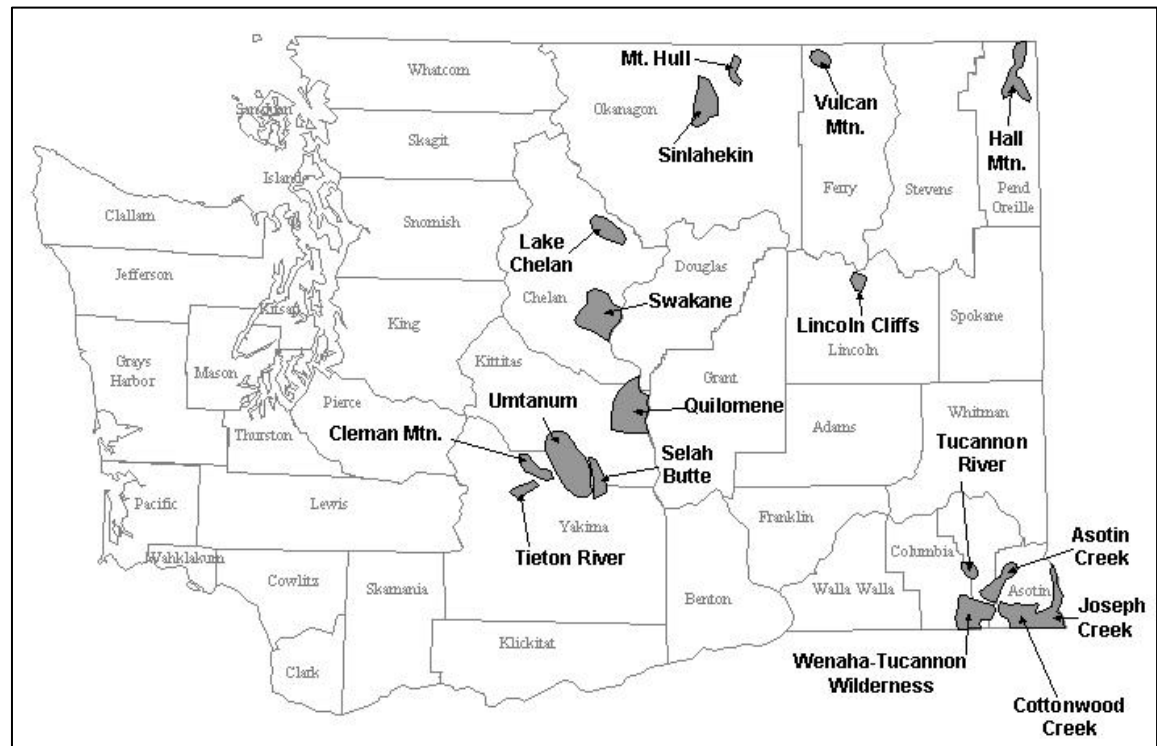
# MOUNTAIN GOAT PUBLIC COMMENT

- 167 comments, 3 emails/letters
- Generally agreed (57)
- Generally disagreed (63)
- Improve survey methodology (10)
- Opposed to removing OIL (15)
- Agrees with removing OIL (7)
- Increase opportunity or open more areas (6)
- Tribal (3)
- Predators (2)
- Open season in August (2)



# BIGHORN SHEEP

- 16 herds
- Monitoring varies with local conditions and resources
- Annual surveys for most herds
- Most recent estimates indicate 1,600 bighorn sheep
- *M. ovi* is greatest management concern
  - Yakima Canyon
  - Mt. Hull
  - Cleman



# BIGHORN SHEEP RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Several administrative changes to improve readability of the WAC
  - Ordered by hunt area number
  - Removed unnecessary footnotes
  - Added Youth and Hunters w/ Disabilities categories
2. Added language to the definition for juvenile ram to clarify all reference points are based on viewing the ram directly from a 90-degree angle
3. Add 1 Ram permit for Vulcan
4. Add 1 Ram permit in Wenaha (GMU 169)
5. Add 1 Ram permit in Mountain View (GMU 172)
6. Reduced Ram permits in Cleman from 5 to 4
7. All other recommendations related to test-and-remove efforts in Yakima Canyon herd



# YAKIMA CANYON TEST-REMOVE

- Includes the Umtanum and Selah Butte herds
- Initial *M. ovi*. Outbreak in 2010
- Chronically depressed lamb recruitment
- Have been trying to reduce herd to increase likelihood Test-Remove is successful
- Initiated capture and marking efforts in February 2021
- Herd estimated at 130 bighorn
- Captured 80 bighorn (7 pos., 1 ind.)
  - Developed recommendations with objective of reducing herd size and removing as many unmarked bighorn as possible



# YAKIMA CANYON TEST-REMOVE

- Presented as recommended adjustments
- Also adjusted season dates to minimize hunter numbers and overlap with ram seasons
- Hunters will be encouraged to harvest unmarked bighorn

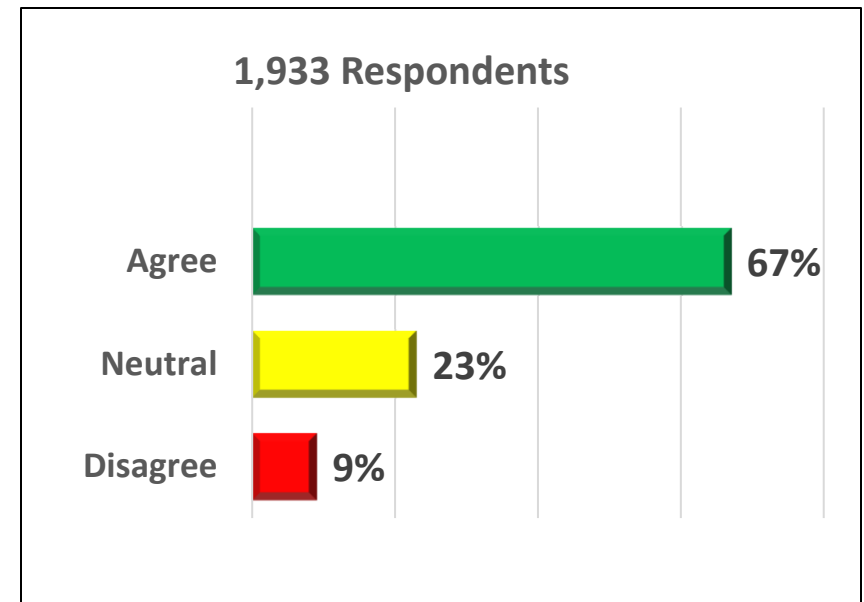
2020 (35 ewe, 7 juvenile ram)		
Legal Animal	Hunt Unit	Permits
Ewe	Unit Specific	27
Youth-ewe	Unit Specific	8
Juvenile ram	Unit Specific	7
2021 (35 ewe or juvenile ram, 2 juvenile ram)		
Legal Animal	Hunt Unit	Permits
Ewe or juvenile ram	Herd Specific	34
Juvenile ram	Herd Specific	2
Youth-ewe or juvenile Ram	Herd Specific	10





# BIGHORN SHEEP PUBLIC COMMENT

- 119 comments
- Generally agreed (37)
- Generally disagreed (26)
- Remove juvenile ram permits (7)
- Improve juvenile ram identification criteria (6)
- *M. ovi* (5)
- Tribal hunting (4)
- Predators (3)
- No ewe hunts (3)
- No bighorn hunts (3)



# Questions?

