

Deer General Seasons and Special Permits

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WACs:

- 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.

1. Public comment
2. Recommendations not specific to a management zone
3. Status update, recommendations, and comments by zone
 - Black-Tailed Deer
 - Mule Deer
 - White-Tailed Deer
4. Questions



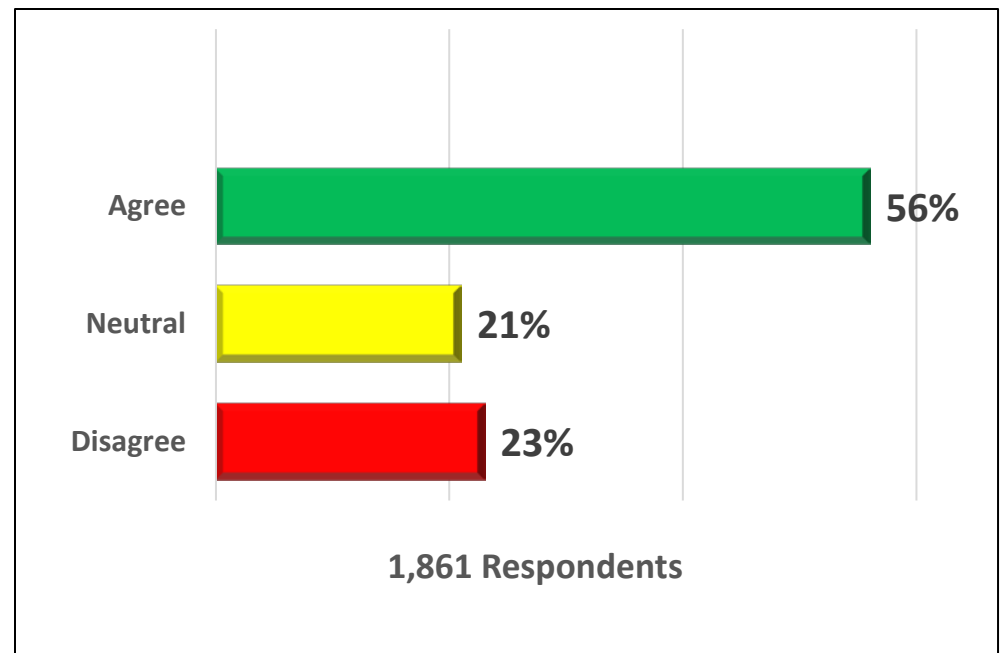
PUBLIC COMMENT

GENERAL SEASONS

- 370 Comments, 13 emails/letters

Major Themes

- APRs for WTD in NE (91)
- Predators (73)
- Length of late WTD season in NE (50)
- Antlerless Harvest (40)
- GMUs 127-142 (16)
- GMU 124 (15)
- More opportunity (13)



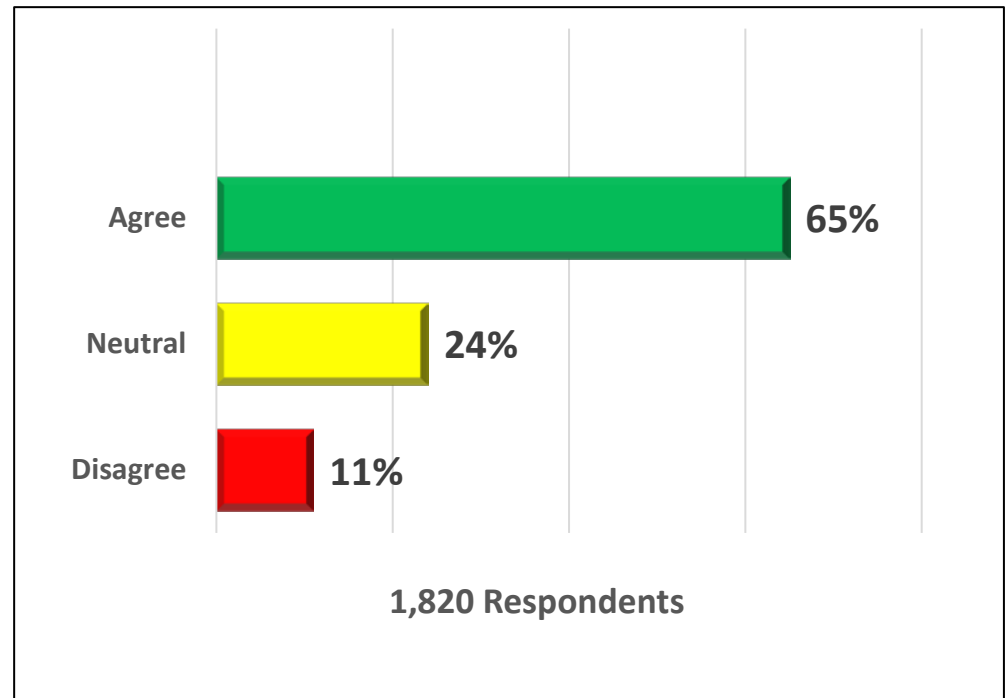
PUBLIC COMMENT

SPECIAL PERMITS

- 147 Comments, 3 emails/letters

Major Themes

- Access on Islands (29)
- GMUs 127-142 (14)
- Antlerless harvest (13)
- Increase opportunity (13)
- Decrease opportunity (13)
- Y, S, D opportunities (11)
- Predators (9)



Deer General Seasons

WAC 220-415-020

- Adjusted season dates to align with calendar year
- Removed references to deer species in the legal deer description to eliminate redundancies and simplify WAC table
- Administrative change to clarify GMU 157 (Mill Creek Watershed) is closed to deer hunting
- Open GMUs 247, 254, 262, 266, and 269 during the early white-tailed deer muzzleloader season for Any Buck
 - [1 comment in opposition](#)



Deer Special Permits

WAC 220-415-030

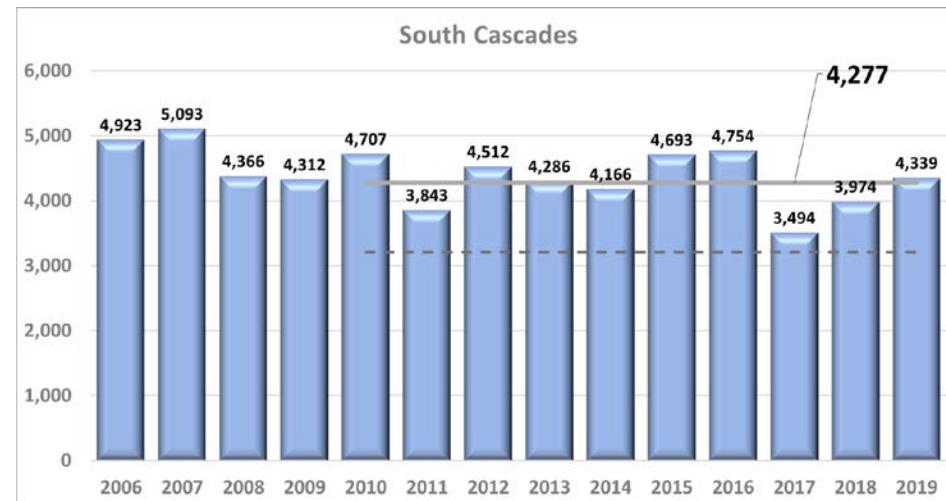
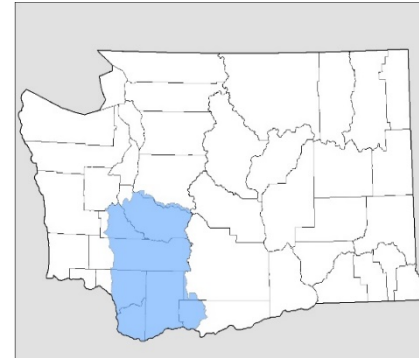
1. Adjusted season dates to align with calendar year
2. Adjusted special permit numbers via special permit allocation formula
 - Done for hunts where the only opportunity is via special permit
 - Quality and Buck categories (8 GMUs, 24 hunts)
 - Presented as recommended adjustments (10 hunts)
3. Created a new Quality permit (5 permits) for modern firearm hunters in GMU 136 for a 3-pt. min mule deer or white-tailed deer with season dates of Nov. 1-24
 - 4 pt. APR in 136 (1), Opposed (2), Should be Buck category (1)
4. Reduced the number of Master Hunter permits for Designated Areas in Region 1 from 20 to 10



BTD-SOUTH CASCADES

Special Permits

1. Replace the 5 modern firearm Hunters with Disabilities permits for Any Buck in GMU 485 with 5 Youth permits (**rec. adjustment**)
2. Reduce the number of modern firearm Youth permits for antlerless deer in GMU 554 from 5 to 3
3. Increase the number of modern firearm Youth permits for antlerless deer in GMU 556 from 10 to 15
4. Reduce the number of Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits for Any Deer in 500 series GMUs from 4 to 3



No public comments



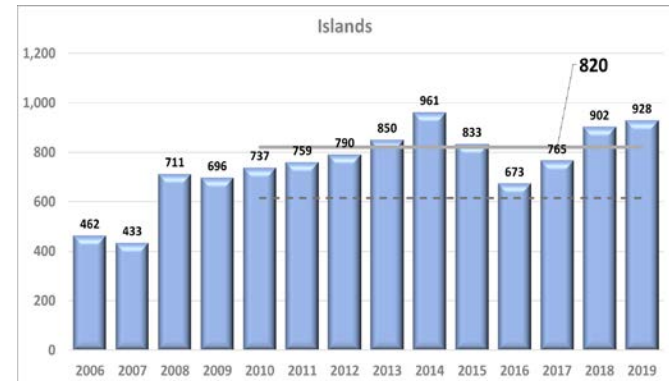
BTD-ISLANDS

General Seasons

1. Establish early and late general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons for Any Deer in newly created GMUs 423 (Henry Island) and 424 (Stuart Island)

Special Permits

1. Combine modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader 2nd Deer permits for antlerless deer within GMUs 411 (Orcas), 412 (Shaw), 413 (San Juan), 414 (Lopez), 415 (Blakely), and 420 (Whidbey) into a single permit opportunity within each GMU for Any Weapon with season dates of Aug. 1-Dec. 31
2. Reduce the number of modern firearm 2nd Deer permits for antlerless deer in GMU 655 (Anderson Island) from 40 to 30



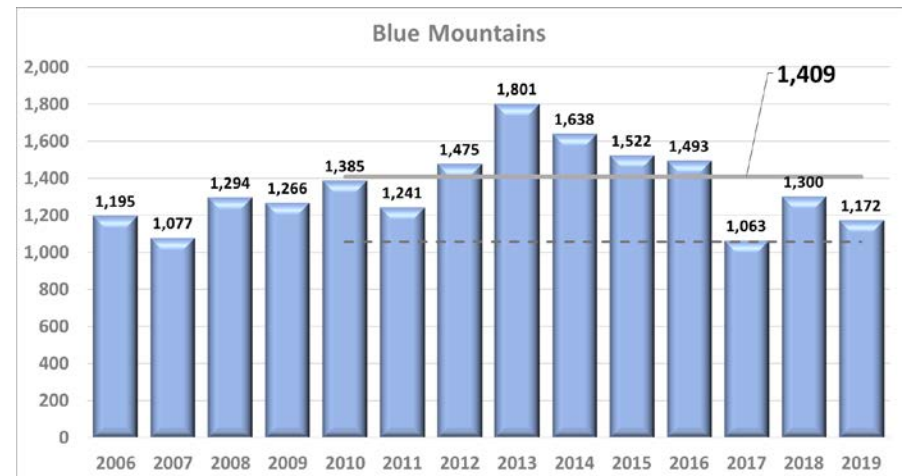
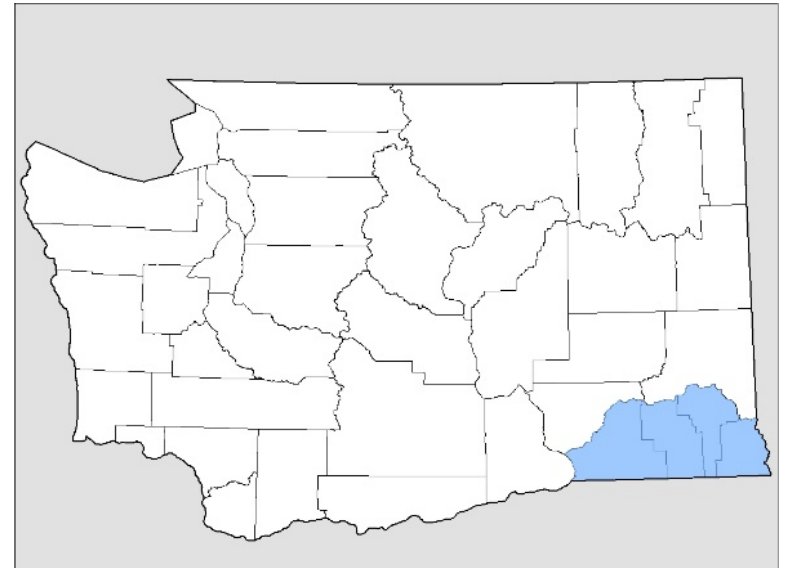
Public comment

- 8 agree
- Concerns about access to private land (18)
- Don't open Aug 1. (1)
- Concerns about using modern firearms on islands (1)
- Make OTC 2nd Deer



MD-BLUE MOUNTAINS

- Most recent estimates indicate 15,000-22,000 mule deer
- Population has increased slightly and been stable after experiencing a decline in 2016
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have consistently been similar to the long-term average (~55-60:100)
- Developed recommendations with the objective of reducing antlerless harvest



BLUE MOUNTAINS-RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove all hunts and references to Deer Areas 1021 (Clarkston) and 1040 (4-O Wildlife Area) since those Deer Areas are being eliminated

General Seasons

1. Remove opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless deer during the early archery season in GMUs 154 and 162

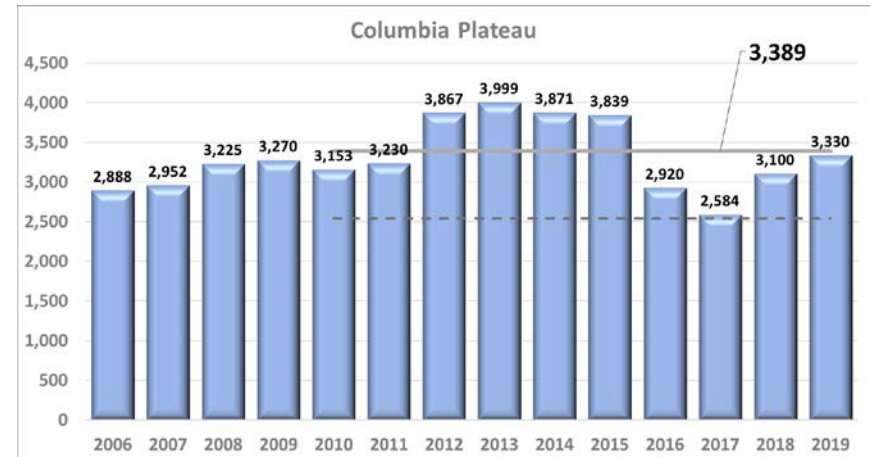
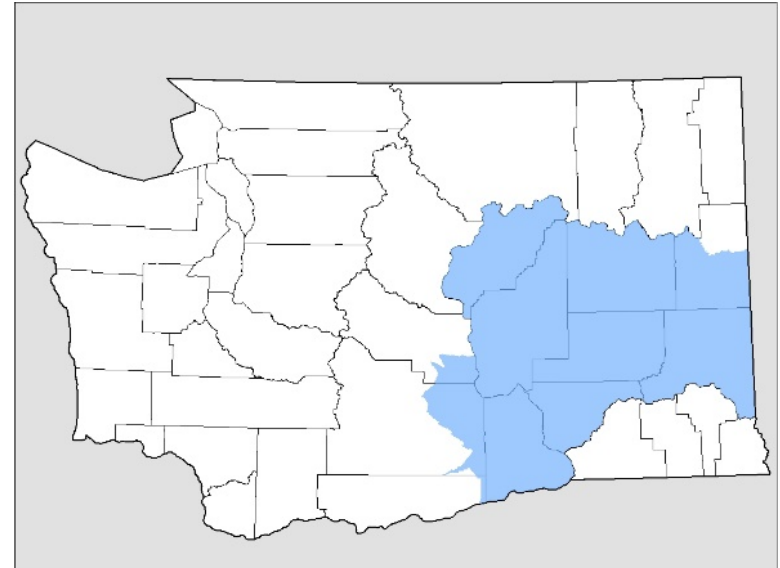
Special Permits

1. Remove modern firearm Antlerless permits in GMU 181
2. Add a muzzleloader Antlerless permit hunt in GMU 145 with 15 permits



MD-COLUMBIA PLATEAU

- Most recent estimates indicate 30,000-45,000 mule deer
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have been similar to the long-term average (~65-70:100)
- Overall, the population has been increasing following declines in 2015 and 2016, but deer numbers within the eastern portion of the zone have not fully recovered
- Developed recommendations with the objective of promoting population growth in eastern portion of the zone



COLUMBIA PLATEAU-RECOMMENDATIONS

General Seasons

1. Remove opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless deer during the early season in GMUs 127, 130, 133, and 136
2. Eliminate the late muzzleloader season for antlerless deer in GMU 130

Special Permits

1. Increase the number of modern firearm Youth permits for antlerless deer in GMU 290 from 8 to 12

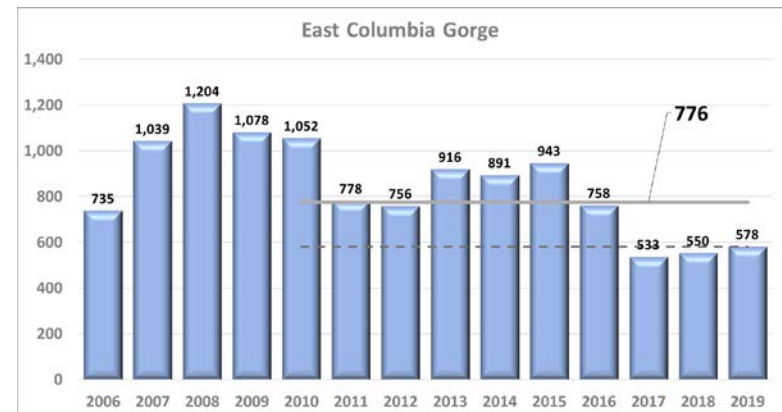
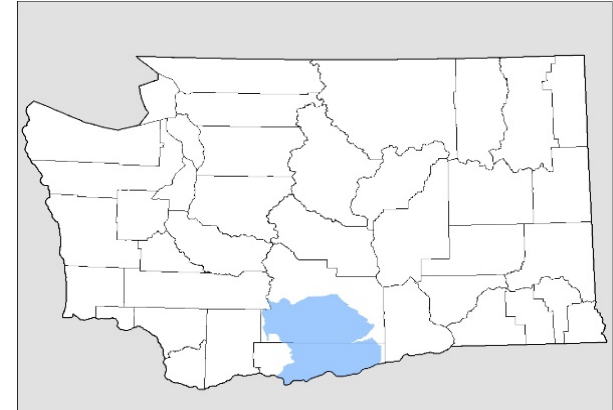
2nd Deer (Antlerless)

2. Reduce the number of modern firearm permits across the eastern portion of the management zone that can be used to harvest a mule deer from 775 to 610
3. Reduce the number of permits in GMU 127 for archery hunters from 75 to 5, but add 70 permits for mule deer across the eastern portion of the management zone to offset some of the opportunity lost with the removal of general season opportunities
4. Reduce the number of muzzleloader permits across the eastern portion of the management zone that can be used to harvest a mule deer from 75 to 30
5. Remove special permits for Hunters with Disabilities in GMU 284 for antlerless deer



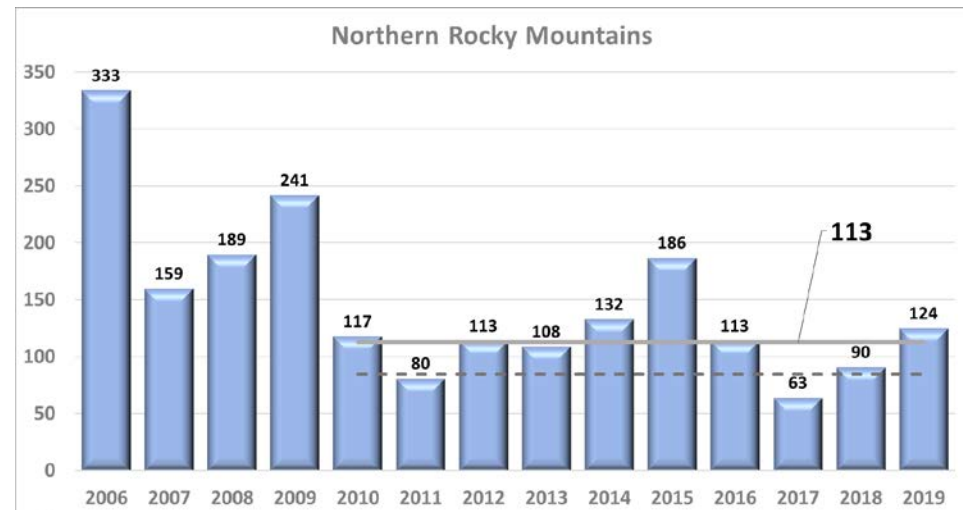
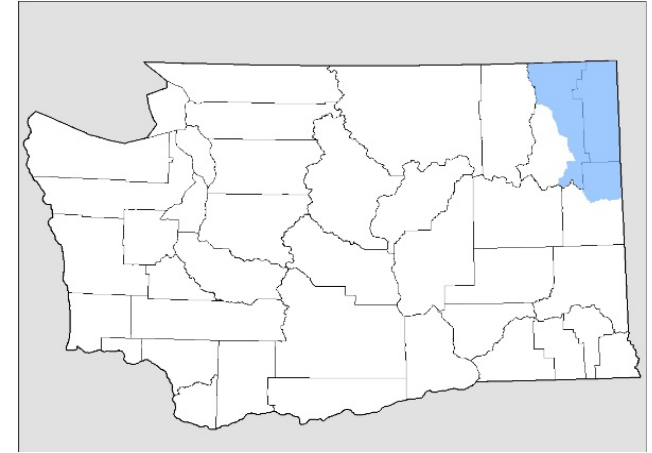
MD-EAST COLUMBIA GORGE

- No formal estimates of abundance
- Population has remained stable following declines in 2015 and 2016
- Meets the criteria of an “At-Risk” ungulate population
- Radio-collared 80 adult females in February 2020
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have been stable (~60:100)
- **Only recommendation is to eliminate opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless deer during the early general season in GMUs 382 and 388**



MD-NORTHERN ROCKIES

- Mule deer occur throughout the zone, but in low numbers
- White-Tailed deer are management priority
- No formal surveys for mule deer
- **Only recommendation for mule deer in this zone is to remove opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless mule deer in GMU 124 during the early general season**



Questions?

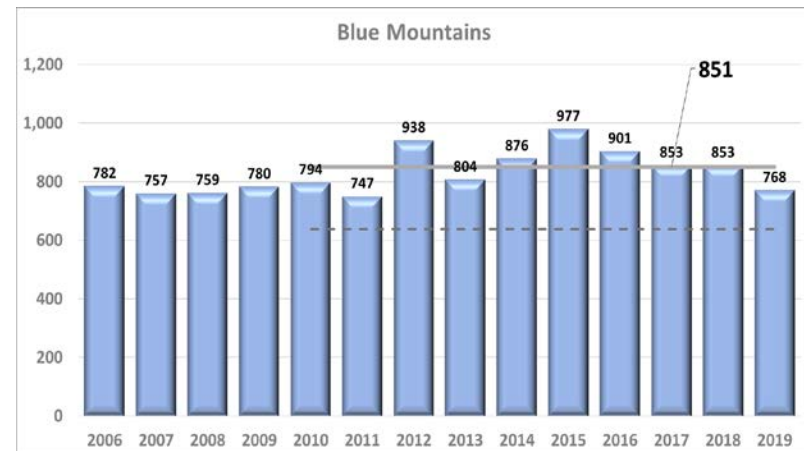
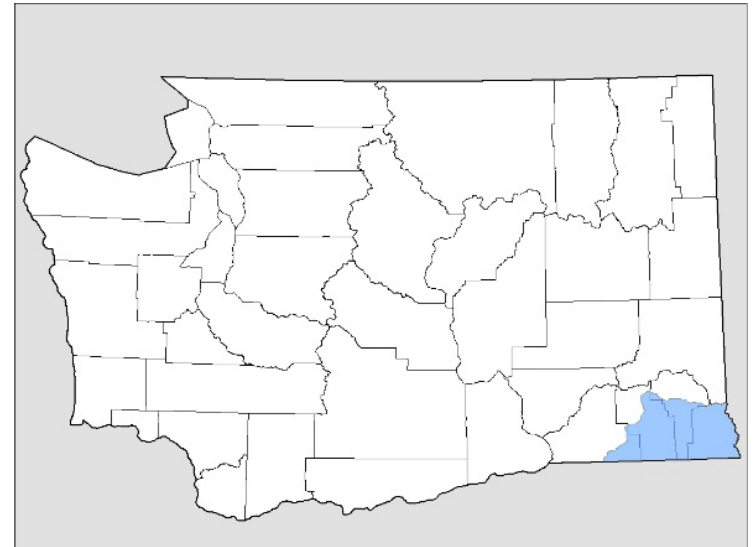


WTD-BLUE MOUNTAINS

- Pre-hunt ground surveys
- Buck:Doe ratios are at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios vary widely from year to year, but have been similar to the long-term average of 51:100
- No recommended changes for general seasons

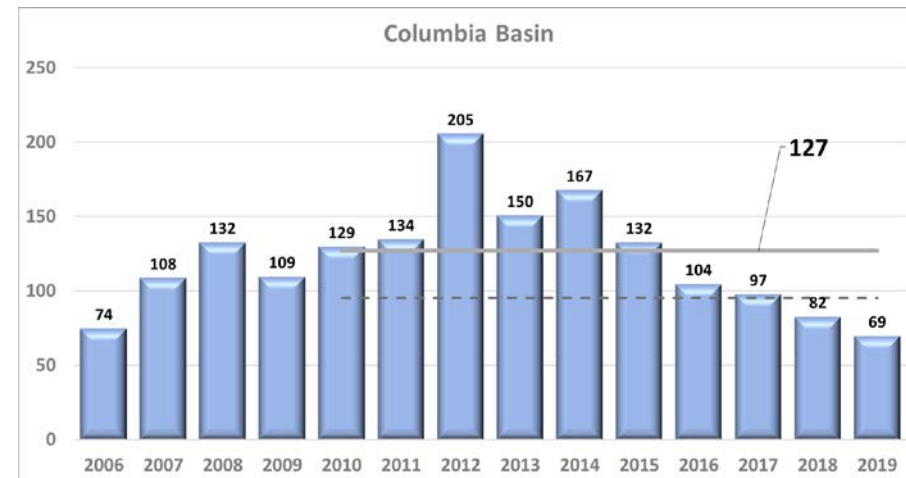
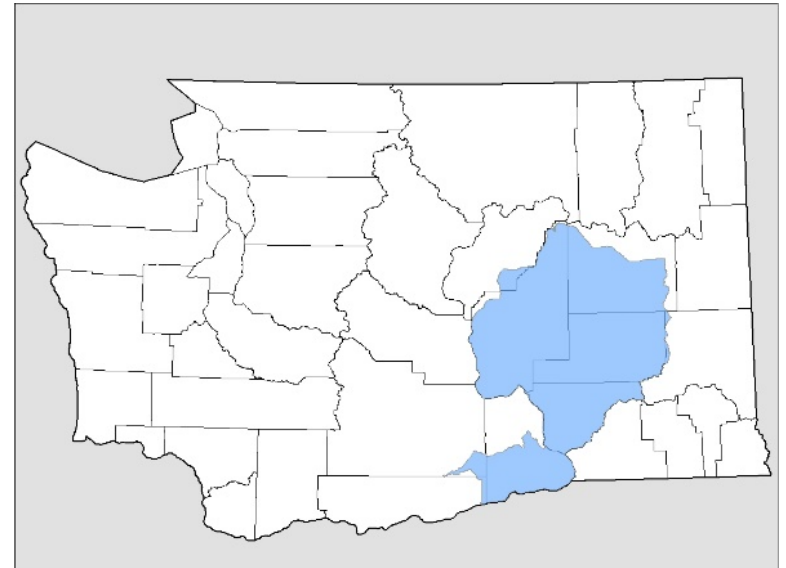
Special Permits

1. Remove special permit hunts that were associated with Deer Area 1040
2. Remove modern firearm 2nd Deer antlerless permits for white-tailed deer in GMU 154
3. Remove modern firearm 2nd Deer permits for antlerless deer in Deer Area 1010



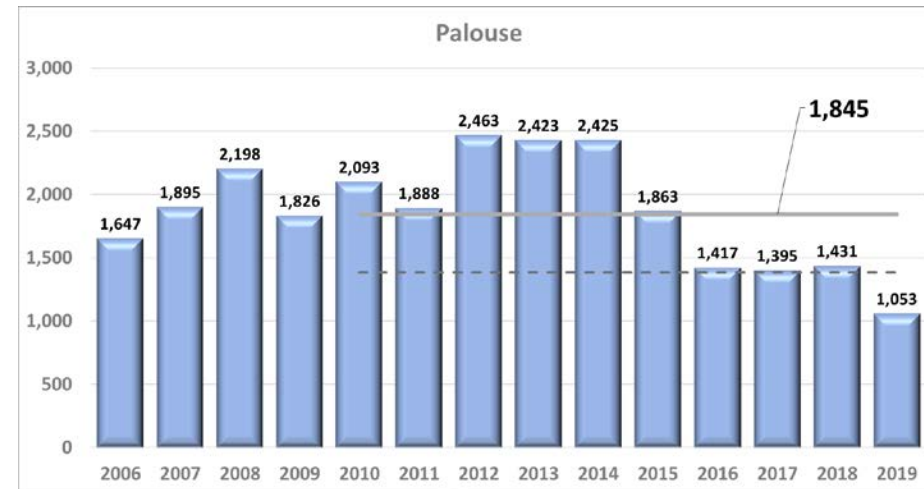
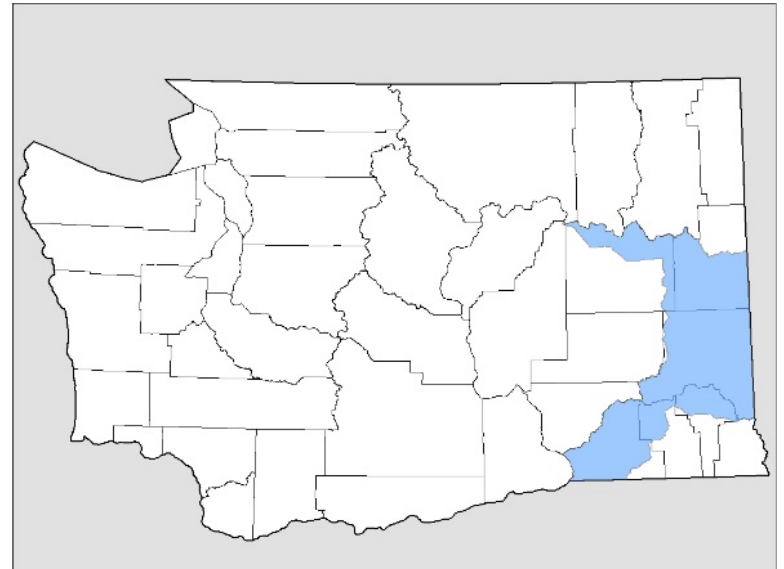
WTD-COLUMBIA BASIN

- White-Tailed deer occur in very low numbers
- Meets the criteria of an “At-Risk” ungulate population, but mule deer are the management priority
- No formal surveys
- **Only recommendation is to change the season dates for the late general archery season for white-tailed deer in GMU 373 to Nov. 20-Dec. 8 (Recommended Adjustment)**
- No public comment



WTD-PALOUSE

- Managed as 2 subherds (North and South)
- Declines in 2014, 2015, and 2018
- Mule deer are priority south of the Snake River
- North of Snake River (Ground Survey)
 - Buck:Doe ratios at objective
 - Fawn:Doe ratios have been similar to long-term average (~50:100)
- Developed recommendations with the objective of promoting recovery



PALOUSE-RECOMMENDATIONS

General Seasons

1. Remove opportunities for senior and disabled hunters to harvest antlerless deer during general modern firearm seasons in GMUs 127-142
2. Retain general season opportunities for youth to harvest antlerless deer in GMUs 127-142, but shorten the season length to 7 days
3. Remove opportunities for archery and muzzleloader hunters to harvest antlerless deer during the early general season in GMUs 127-142

Special Permits

Quality and Buck

1. Reduce the number of Buck special permits in GMUs 127-142 from 750 to 650

Antlerless

2. Remove modern firearm and muzzleloader permits for antlerless deer in GMUs 145 (25) and 149 (20)

2nd Deer (Antlerless)

3. Reduce the number of modern firearm permits across the zone that can be used to harvest a white-tailed deer from 790 to 90



PALOUSE-RECOMMENDATIONS

Special Permits Cont'd

2nd Deer (Antlerless) Cont'd

4. Reduce archery permits in GMU 127 from 75 to 5, but add 35 permits across GMUs 130-142
5. Reduce muzzleloader permits across the zone that can be used to harvest a white-tailed deer from 85 to 30

Senior and Disabled (Antlerless)

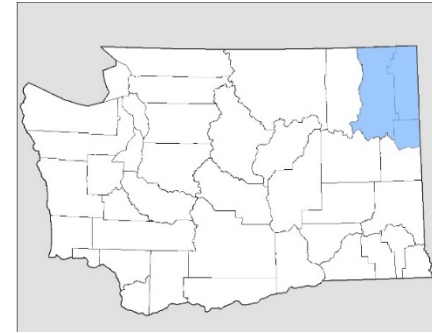
6. Add special permits across the management zone for senior (35 permits) and disabled hunters (35 permits)

Public Comment

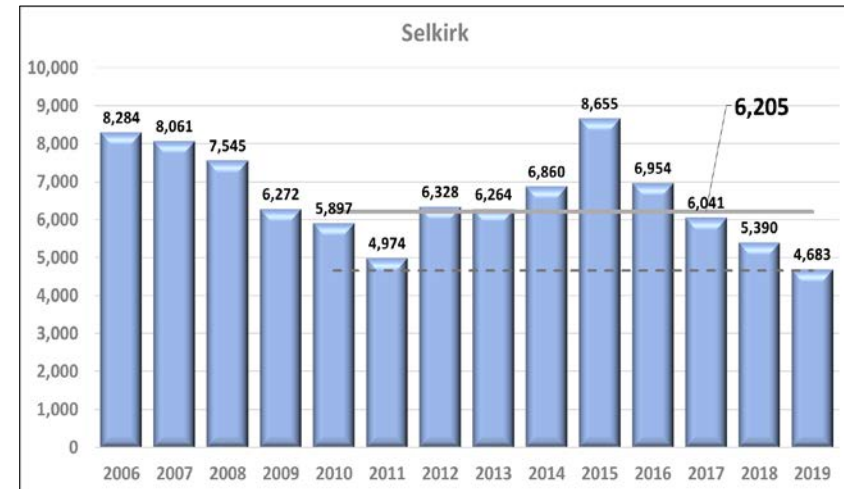
- Comments limited to GMUs 127-142
- 14 agree, 12 opposed
- Don't remove antlerless in GMU 127 (1 comment)
- Remove all antlerless harvest (3 comments)
- 4 pt. APR in GMU 139 (1 comment)



WTD-SELKIRK



- GMUs 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, & 124
- Pre-season ground surveys
 - Buck:Doe ratios consistently range 25-30
 - 2020 F:D ratio in 105-121 was 60:100
 - 2020 F:D ratio in GMU 124 was 54:100
- Deer numbers have declined across the zone
- Removed recreational antlerless harvest in GMUs 105-121 in 2019
- Recommendations focused on:
 1. Addressing hunter's interest to manage for more mature bucks in GMUs 105-121
 2. Reducing antlerless harvest in GMU 124 to promote population recovery



SELKIRK-RECOMMENDATIONS

General Seasons

1. Shorten the general late modern firearm season in GMUs 105-121 to a standard 9-day season with season dates of Nov. 11-19

Year	Season Dates	Hunt Days
2021	Nov. 6-19	14 days
2022	Nov. 5-19	15 days
2023	Nov. 11-19	9 days

2. Remove opportunities for senior and disabled hunters to harvest antlerless deer during general modern firearm seasons in GMU 124
3. Remove opportunities to harvest antlerless deer during the archery and muzzleloader seasons in GMU 124

Special Permits

1. Reduce the number of 2nd Deer permits for antlerless deer in GMU 124

Weapon	2020	2021
Modern Firearm	350	5
Archery	100	5
Muzzleloader	125	5

2. Add special permits for senior and disabled hunters to harvest antlerless deer to offset some of the opportunity lost by removing general season opportunities



SELKIRK-PUBLIC COMMENT

GMUs 105-121

- 158 comments
- Agrees with 9-day season (3)
- Opposed to 9-day season (44)
- Remove late season (2)
- Increase season length (1)
- Implement APRs (64)
- Don't implement APR (27)
- Remove doe harvest (15)
- Reinstate doe seasons (2)

GMU 124

- Agree (3)
- Disagree (13)
- Retain 65+ season (1)

Recommended Adjustment

Retain current late season dates that close the season on the 19th and ensure 2 full weekends

Year	Season Dates	Hunt Days
2021	Nov. 6-19	14 days
2022	Nov. 5-19	15 days
2023	Nov. 11-19	9 days



Questions?

