

Wildlife Program 3-year season Setting WAC Update

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Summary

- In April the Department pulled several of the proposed WAC changes from the 3-year season setting process and evaluated options for how to proceed.
- Information was provided to the Commission on May 24, 2021, and is now being presented to the public.



General Overview

- The Department's will address the majority of the WACs during the next annual cycle along with any new WAC recommendations that are generated through that process.
- That public process begins in December and the Department would present those rules that are selected to move forward at the March 2022 Commission meeting for potential adoption in April.
- Any adopted rules would then be in place for the 2022 hunting season.



Details by WAC

The Department will not be recommending changes to **WAC 220-400-020 Classification of wild animals** and **WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping**, based on public and commission comments. These rules changes would have allowed for the trapping of rabbits and the department does not feel that this additional opportunity is worth pursuing at this time.

The Department plans to file an Emergency rule for **WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls**, to allow the use of electronic calls for the white goose only season in February 2022. This will put us in lock step with the federal rule. The Department will follow up with normal rule making on this rule to make that change permanent.



Details by WAC

We do not want to implement any rule changes that create a restriction in the middle of a hunting season (**WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements, WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas, and WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex –Definitions**).

The Department plans to modify **WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms**, to remove allowing the use of rimfire rifles for turkey. Because this proposal had mixed reviews, we will need more work with user groups on this matter.



Details by WAC

WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions (use of dogs to track lost game) is likely to generate significant public comment requiring considerable Commission discussion during a time that is not normally dedicated to hunting WACs. We do not consider it to be urgent and this can wait for the next annual rulemaking cycle.



Summary

There are some rule changes that are permissive, meaning a hunter would simply have another option available to them (e.g. using a red dot scope). We do not see any of those changes as urgent, although some have strong constituent support.

The Department evaluated the permissive and less controversial WACs for applicability late in the season (e.g. December on) and while those WACs would provide for some additional opportunity this season, they do not warrant prioritizing the rulemaking process over other work and will be addressed in the next annual cycle.



Details by WAC

- By January 2022 - File CR-101
- February 2022 - File CR-102 with open comment period 21 days
 - The SEPA checklist comment period would run concurrent with rule making public comment 21 days
- March 2022 - Commission public hearing
- April 2022 - Commission decision and filing of CR-103
- May 2022 - Rules go into effect 31 days after filing CR-103 (in time for 2022 season)



Questions?

