

WAC 220-412-100

Landowner hunting permits.

Briefing and Public Hearing

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Proposed Changes:

Recommend for adoption:

- Slight changes to season dates for a single property enrolled in the Landowner Hunting Permit Program.
- Proposed wording change to the SOP/WAC that addresses identified discrepancies between the WAC language and Commission Policy C-6002.

If adopted, the proposed changes will align and re-establish the language.



History of the LHP Program

- Provides public access to larger private land parcels that were otherwise inaccessible by the general public.
- New way to incentivize landowners.
- Conflict mitigation was a secondary benefit.
- Historically, there has never been more than seven properties in the LHP program statewide. Currently, we have five.
- Many properties offer additional opportunities for youth, disabled and senior hunters.
- LHP portion of Commission policy C-6002 was added in 2005. Commission policy C-6002 covers the broader Private Lands Program but has a specific LHP component.



Additional Information...

- In 2018, program staff requested from the Commission to commence with a revision of the LHP Program. That revision was completed in late 2019 and the first application period under the revised program was completed in August 2020. It was determined that a review and/or changes to the Commission Policy was not necessary at that time.
- All potential LHP properties/landowners were required to re-apply to the program following the revision that occurred during 2018-2019.
- Currently we are in the middle of the 3-year cycle for LHP properties. The next application period will be in 2023 for the 2024-2026 seasons.
- 2021-2023 will involve assessment and monitoring of the revisions made in 2019. Further revisions may be required as we continue to monitor program success.



Additional Information...

- Commission Policy C-6002 can be found on the Commission website at the link below:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/policies/private-lands-access>

- A copy of the current LHP Standard Operating Procedure and the corresponding appendices, including the initial application packet can be found on our website at the link below and by scrolling to the bottom of the page under "Landowner Hunting Permit Application":

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/locations/private-lands#>



Excerpt from Policy C-6002:

- LHP Permits authorized only by the Commission.
- Customized Seasons.
- Permit Allocation:
 - ❖ 50% of antlerless
 - ❖ 25% of bull or buck
 - ❖ Exceptions only by Commission
- Equal opportunity for all hunters with permits.
- Owners charging access fees waive damage claims.
- Landowners shall make provisions for significant public benefit.
- General hunting season opportunity is encouraged.
- Landowner incentives may include the following:
 - ❖ Customized hunting seasons
 - ❖ Second tag opportunity
 - ❖ Technical services to the landowner



Private Lands Access Program – An Overview

- The LHP program is just **one** of the access opportunities under the broader Private Lands Program
- Other hunting opportunities:
 - ❖ Feel Free to Hunt
 - ❖ Register to Hunt
 - ❖ Hunt by Written Permission
 - ❖ Hunt by Reservation (Online)
- Similar opportunities also exist for fishing and other wildlife related recreation



LHP Property Locations for 2021-23



WAC Permit Changes

Buckrun:

- No changes to permits or season dates.

Silver Dollar Association:

- No changes to permits or season dates.

Blackrock Ranches:

- No changes to permits or season dates.

CPWMA:

- No changes to permits or season dates.



WAC Season Date Changes

Centralia Mine:

No changes to permits.

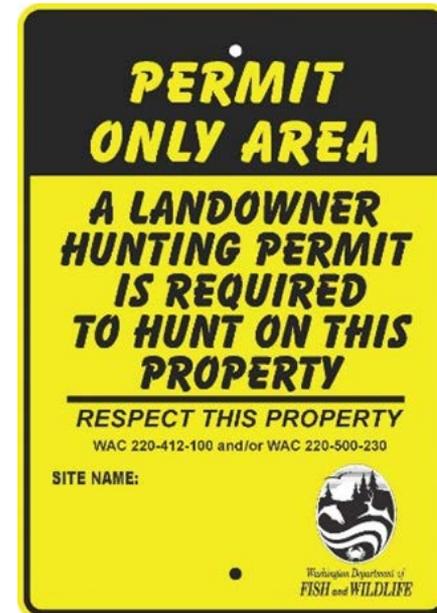
Public portion of the permits – date changes only.

- ❖ 5 Antlerless Elk permits designated as Senior only for Sept. 3-11.
- ❖ 5 Antlerless Elk permits designated as Disabled only for Sept. 17-25.
- ❖ 1 Any Bull permit designated as Youth only during Oct. 1-9.
- ❖ All hunts will be granted on a single weekend during the hunt dates listed.



WAC Language Changes

- Program Guidelines (4)(d) Landowners may sell access associated with the landowner LHP portion of the permits, but then must ~~may~~ ~~be required to~~ waive the right to claims to all for wildlife damage that may occur on their lands.
 - ❖ Justification: Changed to align with language in the Commission Policy (C-6002).



Questions?

