

Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Briefing and Public Hearing

WAC 220-415-070, WAC 220-415-120, and WAC 220-415-130

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Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

March 18, 2022

Agenda item:

Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Briefing and Public Comment

Presenter(s):

Kyle Garrison, Acting Statewide Ungulate Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Department staff will brief the Commission on:

- WAC 220-415-070 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The specific amendments associated with this proposal are:

1. A change is proposed to exclude Parker Lake from hunt area 49 Degrees North. The excluded area is undergoing a large-scale timber harvest that will negatively impact hunt quality. The excluded area will likely be restored in the future.
2. A change to the hunt area of the Hangman and Cheney B hunts that expands the hunt area to include GMU 139.

- WAC 220-415-120 2022 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The specific amendments associated with this proposal are:

1. Changes to bighorn sheep permit availability (i.e., permit levels) are proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status. Elimination of Selah Butte and Umtanum adult ewe, juvenile ram, and youth permits are proposed due to a recent outbreak of bighorn sheep pneumonia in the Yakima population.
2. An adjustment of hunt dates is proposed that increase or maintain the number of open days for some hunts.
3. Modification of the hunt area for the Mountain View – Black Butte hunt is proposed to increase the hunt area to include GMUs 186 and portions of GMU 181.

- WAC 220-415-130 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
 1. A one-permit reduction in mountain goat permit availability of the Goat Rocks East hunt is proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status.
 2. Suspension of “conflict reduction special permits” are proposed. These permits are in association with a depopulation effort on the Olympic Peninsula. In summer 2022, aerial removal efforts will continue in the current hunt areas. As a result, few, if any, mountain goats are anticipated to remain in the hunt area and hunting opportunity will be poor quality. Future permit opportunity may be reinstated after the aerial removal has concluded if mountain goats remain in accessible locations in the hunt area.

Staff recommendation:

Briefing and public comment only.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

None.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

On February 1, 2022, WDFW filed a CR-102, initiating public comment. The public was asked to provide input on the 2022 hunting season proposed changes via the department's website. Public comment period remains open through the Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting on March 18, 2022, closing on March 19, 2022. The department has emailed over 40,000 subscribers notifying them of the website survey and encouraging them to participate. Also, the department issued a news release and postings on social media.

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the upcoming March 18, 2022, commission meeting online.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Department staff will hear and consider public comment. On April 18, 2022, department staff will present recommendations and seek adoption.

Draft motion language:

Briefing and public hearing only.

Post decision communications plan:

Briefing and public hearing only.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-14-022, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21)

WAC 220-415-070 ((2021)) 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas. (1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Moose Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:**

(i) **Any antlered bull moose category:** An individual may only harvest one moose under the "any antlered bull moose" or "any moose" category during his or her lifetime. Applications will not be accepted from hunters having previously harvested a moose in the "any moose" or "any antlered bull moose" category.

(ii) **Antlerless only, youth antlerless, over-65 antlerless, disabled-antlerless, hunter-education antlerless, auction moose, raffle moose:** Anyone may apply.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One moose except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one moose hunt category.

(c) **Weapon Restrictions:** Permit holders may use any legal weapon.

(d) **Submitting moose teeth:** Successful moose hunters must submit an incisor tooth from the lower jaw, either in person at a WDFW office, or via the postage-paid envelope supplied, no later than sixty days after harvest.

(e) **Any antlered bull moose seasons:** Open only to the taking of moose with visible antlers (bull calves illegal).

Hunt Name	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
Any antlered bull moose			
Kettle Range-East Okanogan 101, 105, 204	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10
Douglas A - Early	Oct. 1-31	GMU 108	4
Douglas A - Late	Nov. 1-30	GMU 108	4
Aladdin A - Early	Oct. 1-31	GMU 111	3
Aladdin A - Late	Nov. 1-30	GMU 111	3
Selkirk 113	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 113	15
49 Degrees North A - Early	Oct. 1-31	GMU 117 (<u>except Parker Lake</u>)	12
49 Degrees North A - Late	Nov. 1-30	GMU 117 (<u>except Parker Lake</u>)	12
Huckleberry A - Early	Oct. 1-31	GMU 121	10
Huckleberry A - Late	Nov. 1-30	GMU 121	10
Spokane West A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 w of Hwy 395	2
Mt Spokane South A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	8
Mt Spokane North A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	8
Hangman	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 127 ((&)) , 130, <u>139</u>	4
Antlerless only -			
Douglas 108 B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 108	2
Aladdin 111 B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 111	2
49 Degrees North B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117 (<u>except Parker Lake</u>)	2
Huckleberry B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 121	8
Spokane West B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 w of Hwy 395	2
Mt Spokane South B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within	2

Hunt Name	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
		124)	
Mt Spokane North B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	2
Mica Peak	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 127	2
Cheney B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 130, <u>139</u>	2
Youth Only - Antlerless			
Mt Spokane South Y	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	1
65 Year and over - Antlerless			
49 Degrees North V	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117 (<u>except Parker Lake</u>)	1
Huckleberry V	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 121	2
Disabled hunter - Antlerless			
49 Degrees North D	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117 (<u>except Parker Lake</u>)	1
Mt Spokane North D	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	1

Note: Moose Area 3 (Parker Lake) is closed to all moose hunters, except those with a Parker Lake special permit.

(3) **Moose Areas:**

(a) **Moose Area 1:** South Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, S on Hwy 395 to Spokane River, E on Spokane River to Idaho-Washington state line, N on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(b) **Moose Area 2:** North Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, N on Hwy 395 to Deer Park-Milan Rd, E on Deer Park-Milan Rd to Hwy 2, N on Hwy 2 to Idaho-Washington state line, S on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(c) **Moose Area 3:** Parker Lake (GMU 117, Pend Oreille County): All lands south of Ruby Creek Rd (USFS Road 2489), north of Tacoma Creek Rd (USFS Road 2389), and west of Bonneville Power Administration power lines.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-14-022 (Order 21-61), § 220-415-070, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21; WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-070, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-070, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-

061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-070, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-070, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-273, filed 4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-273, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-273, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-273, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12; WSR 11-11-013 (Order 11-86), § 232-28-273, filed 5/6/11, effective 6/6/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-273, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-28-273, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. WSR 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-273, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; WSR 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-273, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-273, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 05-11-022 (Order 05-89), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/05, effective 6/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-273, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.655, 77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-273, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-11-137 (Order 00-50), § 232-28-273, filed 5/23/00, effective 6/23/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 99-10-102 (Order 99-40), § 232-28-273, filed 5/5/99, effective 6/5/99; WSR 98-10-005 (Order 98-58), § 232-28-273, filed 4/22/98, effective 5/23/98.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-14-022, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21)

WAC 220-415-120 ((2021)) 2022 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas. (1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) Bighorn Sheep Permit Hunts

(a) **Who May Apply:** Anyone may apply, EXCEPT those who previously harvested a bighorn sheep in Washington state. An individual may only harvest one bighorn ram during his or her lifetime. However, this restriction is waived for hunters who have previously harvested a bighorn sheep under a ewe-only, juvenile ram, raffle, or auction permit, as well as for applications for a ewe-only, juvenile ram, raffle, or auction permit.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One (1) bighorn sheep except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one bighorn sheep hunt category.

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Any ram				

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
((Vulcan Mountain	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 2	Any Legal Weapon	1))
Selah Butte	Oct. ((4-31)) <u>1-31</u>	Sheep Unit 4	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>2</u>
Umtanum	Oct. ((4-31)) <u>1-31</u>	Sheep Unit 5	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>2</u>
Cleman Mountain	Oct. 1-31	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>3</u>
Lincoln Cliffs	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 12	Any Legal Weapon	2
Quilomene	Oct. 1-31	Sheep Unit 13	Any Legal Weapon	((5)) <u>3</u>
Swakane	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 14	Any Legal Weapon	2
Manson	Nov. 9-30	Sheep Unit 16	Any Legal Weapon	2
Chelan Butte A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon	2
Chelan Butte B	Oct. 11 - Nov. 15	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon	2
Wenaha	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	GMU 169	Any Legal Weapon	1
Mountain View - <u>Black Butte</u>	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	GMU 172, <u>portions of GMU 181, GMU 186</u>	Any Legal Weapon	1
Adult ewe				
((Selah Butte A	Sept. 7—Oct. 3	Sheep Unit 4	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	5
Selah Butte B	Nov. 1-21	Sheep Unit 4	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	6
Selah Butte C	Nov. 22—Dec. 19	Sheep Unit 4	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	6
Umtanum A	Sept. 7—Oct. 3	Sheep Unit 5	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	5
Umtanum B	Nov. 1-21	Sheep Unit 5	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	6
Umtanum C	Nov. 22—Dec. 19	Sheep Unit 5	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	6))
Cleman Mountain A	Oct. ((11-31)) <u>10-31</u>	Sheep Unit 7	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	10
Cleman Mountain B	Nov. ((8-28)) <u>7-27</u>	Sheep Unit 7	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	8
Lincoln Cliffs Whitestone Unit	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 12 west of Mount View Rd	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1
Chelan Butte	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 18	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	4
Juvenile ram^a				
((Selah Butte	Sept. 7—Oct. 3	Sheep Unit 4	Juvenile ram only^a Any Legal Weapon	1

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Umtanum	Sept. 7—Oct. 3	Sheep Unit 5	Juvenile ram only ^a Any Legal Weapon	4))
Youth				
((Selah Butte	Nov. 1—Dec. 19	Sheep Unit 4	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	5
Umtanum	Sept. 7—Oct. 3	Sheep Unit 5	Adult ewe or juvenile ram Any Legal Weapon	5))
Cleman Mountain	Nov. ((8-28)) <u>7-27</u>	Sheep Unit 7	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	2
Hunters with Disabilities				
Chelan Butte A	Oct. 11-31	Sheep Unit 18	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	3
Chelan Butte B	Oct. 11-31	Sheep Unit 18	Juvenile ram only ^a Any Legal Weapon	2

See subsection (3) of this section Bighorn Sheep Units for detailed legal descriptions of these hunt area boundaries.

^a A juvenile ram is defined as a male bighorn sheep having at least one "unbroomed" horn that does not extend past an imaginary line beginning at the point on the animal's forehead where the front of the horn base adjoins the skull, and continuing downwards and in a posterior direction through the posterior edge of the eye. All reference points are based on viewing the ram directly from a ((~~ninety~~)) 90 degree angle from which the head is facing. A "broomed" horn is defined as a sheep horn that has been broken, splintered, frayed or rubbed in the wild, thus shortening its length and disrupting its natural taper.

(3) Bighorn Sheep Units:

(a) **Sheep Unit 2 Vulcan Mountain:** Permit Area: Ferry County north of the Kettle River near Curlew.

(b) **Sheep Unit 4 Selah Butte:** Permit Area: That part of GMU 340 east of the Yakima River.

(c) **Sheep Unit 4A Selah Butte North:** Permit Area: That part of GMU 340 east of the Yakima River and north of Lmuma Creek.

(d) **Sheep Unit 4B Mount Baldy:** Permit Area: That part of GMU 340 east of the Yakima River, south of Lmuma Creek and north of Burbank Creek.

(e) **Sheep Unit 4C Selah Butte South:** Permit Area: That part of GMU 340 east of the Yakima River and south of Burbank Creek.

(f) **Sheep Unit 5 Umtanum:** Permit Area: Those portions of GMU 340 west of the Yakima River and GMU 342 north of Wenas Creek.

(g) **Sheep Unit 5A Umtanum North:** Permit Area: Beginning at the Powerline Crossing the Yakima River in Section 11 of T17N, R18E; then south down the Yakima River to Roza Creek; then west up Roza Creek to the powerline; then north along the powerline to the point of beginning.

(h) **Sheep Unit 5B Umtanum South:** Permit Area: Beginning where Roza Creek enters the Yakima River, then down the Yakima River to the powerline crossing in Section 17 of T14N, R19E; then north on the

powerline to Roza Creek; then east down Roza Creek to the point of beginning.

(i) **Sheep Unit 7 Cleman Mountain:** Permit Area: GMU 346 and that part of GMU 342 south of Wenas Creek.

(j) **Sheep Unit 10 Mt. Hull:** Permit Area: That part of Okanogan County within the following described boundary: Beginning at Oroville; then south along U.S. Highway 97 to the Swanson's Mill Road (old Mt. Hull Road) near Lake Andrews; then east to the Dry Gulch Road; then north to the Oroville-Toroda Creek Road (Molson Grade Road); then west to Oroville and the point of beginning.

(k) **Sheep Unit 12 Lincoln Cliffs:** Permit Area: That part of Lincoln County north of Highway 2.

(l) **Sheep Unit 13 Quilomene:** Permit Area: GMUs 329, 330, and that part of 251 east of Squilchuck Creek and south of Colockum Creek.

(m) **Sheep Unit 14 Swakane:** Permit Area: GMU 250.

(n) **Sheep Unit 15 Tieton:** Permit Area: GMU 360.

(o) **Sheep Unit 16 Manson:** Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Granite Falls Creek on the south shore of Lake Chelan, E across Lake Chelan to Willow Point; NW along the shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Stink Creek; E along Stink Creek to the intersection with Green's Landing Road; along Green's Landing Road to Manson Boulevard;

E on Manson Boulevard to Lower Joe Creek Road; NE on Lower Joe Creek Road to Grade Creek Road; NE on Grade Creek Road to US Forest Service Road 8210; NE on US Forest Service Road 8210 to intersection with US Forest Service Road 8020; W on US Forest Service Road 8020 to Fox Peak; NW along Sawtooth Ridge (Chelan-Okanogan County Line) to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary; S along the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary to shore line of Lake Chelan; W across Lake Chelan to the mouth of Riddle Creek on the South Shore; SE along South Shore of Lake Chelan to the point of beginning.

(p) **Sheep Unit 18 Chelan Butte:** Permit Area: Beginning at the intersection of State Hwy 971 and US Hwy 97A, S to the W shoreline of the Columbia River, N along the W shoreline of the Columbia River for 21 miles to the mouth of Antoine Creek, W up Antoine Creek to where it crosses Apple Acres Rd, W on Apple Acres Rd to the intersection with Washington Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 8135), N on Washington Creek Rd to its end and then follow Washington Creek, W on Washington Creek to where it crosses US Forest Service Rd 8010, S on US Forest Service Rd 8010 (transitions into Purtteman Creek Rd) to Purtteman Gulch, S into Purtteman Gulch to the N shoreline of Lake Chelan, S along the shoreline to the S shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of First

Creek, S up First Creek to the intersection of State Hwy 971 (Navarre Coulee Rd), S on State Hwy 971 to the point of beginning.

(q) **Sheep Unit 19 Sinlahekin:** Beginning at the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness border and the US-Canadian border; E on the US-Canadian border to the border station on Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568); SE on the Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568) to the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425); E on the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425) to US Hwy 97 in Oroville; S on US Hwy 97 to 12th Ave; W on 12th Ave (it curves S and changes to Old Highway 97); S on Old Highway 97 to US Hwy 97; S on US Hwy 97 to the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410); W on the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410) to Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290); W on Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290) to South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), along the south shore of Fish Lake; SW on South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), to the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015); SW on the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015), along the north shore of Conconully Lake, to the Salmon Creek North Fork Rd (Co. Rd 2361), at the town of Conconully; N on US Forest Service Rd 38 (Salmon Creek North Fork Rd, Co. Rd 2361) to US Forest Service Rd 3820; N on US Forest Service Rd 3820 over Lone Frank Pass, to US Forest Service Rd 39; N on US Forest Service Rd 39 to the US Forest Service Rd 300 at Long Swamp trailhead; W on the US Forest Service Rd 300 to US Forest Service Trail 342; N on US Forest Service

Trail 342 to US Forest Service Trail 343; E on US Forest Service Trail 343 to US Forest Service Trail 341; E on US Forest Service Trail 341 to US Forest Service Trail 375; E on US Forest Service Trail 375 to the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness Area; N on the Pasayten Wilderness Area boundary to the US-Canadian border and the point of beginning.

(r) **Whitestone Unit:** Starting at the intersection of Mount View Rd and US Highway 2; W on US Highway 2 to the Lincoln County Line; N on the Lincoln County Line to the Lincoln County Line in the Columbia River; E up the Columbia River to Halverson Canyon; S and W up Halverson Canyon to Mount View Rd; S on Mount View Rd to US Highway 2 and the point of the beginning.

(s) **Lincoln Unit:** Starting at the intersection of Mount View Rd and US Highway 2; E on US Highway 2 to the Lincoln County Line; N on the Lincoln County Line to the Lincoln County Line in the Spokane River; W down the Spokane River to the Columbia River; W down the Columbia River to Halverson Canyon; S and W up Halverson Canyon to Mount View Rd; S on Mount View Rd to US Highway 2 and the point of the beginning.

(t) **Mountain View - Black Butte:** GMUs 172, 186; portions of GMU 181 (south of the line made by starting at Montgomery Ridge Road and

Highway 129 to the Sherry Grade Road to the Couse Creek Road to the Snake River).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-14-022 (Order 21-61), § 220-415-120, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21; WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-120, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-120, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-120, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-120, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-622, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-622, filed

4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047,
77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-622,
filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-
28-622, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-14-022, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21)

WAC 220-415-130 ((2021)) 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas. (1) Hunters must comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Mountain Goat Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:**

(i) **Mountain goat special permit category:** Anyone may apply, except those who harvested a mountain goat in Washington state after 1998. An individual may only harvest one mountain goat during his or her lifetime. However, these restrictions are waived for hunters who have previously harvested a mountain goat under an auction, raffle, or conflict reduction permit, as well as for applications for an auction, raffle, or conflict reduction permit.

(ii) **Conflict reduction special permit category:** Anyone may apply.

(b) **Bag Limit:**

(i) **Mountain goat special permit category:** One (1) adult goat of either sex with horns 4 inches or longer, except where otherwise permitted by department rule even if permits are drawn for more than one mountain goat hunt category.

(ii) **Conflict reduction special permit category:** Two (2) goats of either sex. No minimum horn length or age requirements.

(c) It is unlawful for a person who kills a mountain goat in Washington to fail, within (~~ten~~) 10 days after acquisition, to personally present the horns attached to the head for inspection at a department office or location designated by a departmental representative. After inspection, the head/horns of a mountain goat lawfully killed in Washington may be kept for personal use. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.280 (1)(b).

(d) Applicants drawn for a permit may only purchase their license after successfully completing the WDFW mountain goat gender identification training (online or at a participating WDFW office). However, this requirement is waived for applicants drawn for a permit in the conflict reduction special permit category.

Goat Hunt Area Name (Number)	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Permits
Mountain goat special permits			
North Lake Chelan (2-1)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	2 <u>1</u>
South Lake Chelan (2-3)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Naches Pass (3-6)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Bumping River (3-7)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1

Goat Hunt Area Name (Number)	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Permits
Boulder River North (4-8a)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Chowder Ridge (4-3)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Lincoln Peak (4-4)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	2
Avalanche Gorge (4-7)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	3
Goat Rocks West (5-4)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Goat Rocks East (5-5)	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>1</u>
Mt. Margaret Backcountry (5-6)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
Mt. St. Helens South (5-7)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	1
((Conflict reduction special permits			
East Olympic Mountains A (6-1)*	Sept. 1-26	Any Legal Weapon	5
East Olympic Mountains B (6-1)*	Sept. 27—Oct. 22	Any Legal Weapon	10
East Olympic Mountains C (6-1)*	Oct. 23—Nov. 30	Any Legal Weapon	10

~~* The conflict reduction special permit category is reinstated.~~

~~Points previously accrued for the conflict reduction special permits will apply. Points accrued or spent on this hunt do not apply to other mountain goat hunts.))~~

(3) **Mountain Goat Hunt Area Descriptions.** The following areas are defined as mountain goat hunt areas:

Chelan North 2-1: Beginning at the mouth of Fish Creek on Lake Chelan (Moore Point); then NE up Fish Creek and USFS Trail 1259 to the Sawtooth crest near Deephole Spring; then SE along the Sawtooth crest, which separates Chelan and Okanogan counties, to Horsethief Basin and the headwaters of Safety Harbor Creek; then S along Safety Harbor Creek to Lake Chelan, then NW along the north shore of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Fish Creek at Moore Point and the point of beginning.

Methow 2-2: Begin at Twisp, W along Twisp River Rd (County Rd 4440) to Roads End; W up Twisp Pass Trail 432 to Twisp Pass and Okanogan County line; N on Okanogan County line through Washington Pass to Harts Pass; SE down Harts Pass (Rd 5400) to Lost River; along Lost River-Mazama Rd to Mazama; SW to State Hwy 20; SE on State Hwy 20 to Twisp and point of beginning.

South Lake Chelan 2-3: GMU 246

Naches Pass 3-6: Beginning at Chinook Pass; then N along the Pacific Crest Trail to Naches Pass; then E to USFS Road 19 and continuing to State Highway 410; then W along State Highway 410 to Chinook Pass and point of beginning.

Bumping River 3-7: Beginning on US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) and SR 410 at Chinook Pass; NE on SR 410 to US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd); SW on the US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd); SE on US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd) to the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek; SE down the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek to US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd); SE on US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Rd 1500; S on US Forest Service Rd 1500 to US Hwy 12; W on US Hwy 12 to US Forest

Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) at White Pass; N on the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) to SR 410 at Chinook Pass and the point of beginning. (Lands within the boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park along the Pacific Crest Trail are not open to hunting.)

Blazed Ridge 3-10: Beginning at the mouth of Cabin Creek on the Yakima River; then W along Cabin Creek to the headwaters near Snowshoe Butte; then S along the Cascade Crest separating the Green and Yakima River drainage to Pyramid Peak; then SE along the North Fork, Little Naches, and Naches River to the Yakima River; then N along the Yakima River to the mouth of Cabin Creek and point of beginning.

Chowder Ridge 4-3: Beginning at the confluence of Wells Creek with the North Fork Nooksack River; then up Wells Creek to the confluence with Bar Creek; then up Bar Creek to the Mazama Glacier; then SW on Mazama Glacier to the summit of Mount Baker; then NW between Roosevelt Glacier and Coleman Glacier to the headwaters of Kulshan Creek; then down Kulshan Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then down Grouse Creek to the confluence with Glacier Creek; then down Glacier Creek to the confluence with the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Wells Creek and the point of beginning.

Lincoln Peak 4-4: Beginning at the confluence of Glacier Creek and the North Fork Nooksack River; then up Glacier Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then up Grouse Creek to the confluence with Kulshan Creek; then up Kulshan Creek to headwaters; then SE between Coleman and Roosevelt glaciers to the summit of Mount Baker; then SW on Easton Glacier to Baker Pass; then W on the Bell Pass Trail (USFS Trail 603.3) to the intersection with Ridley Creek Trail (Trail No. 696); then W on Ridley Creek Trail to Ridley Creek; then down Ridley Creek to the Middle Fork Nooksack River; then down the Middle Fork Nooksack River to the confluence with Clearwater Creek, then up Clearwater Creek to the confluence with Rocky Creek, then up Rocky Creek to the Washington DNR boundary; then along the National Forest-Washington DNR boundary to Hedrick Creek; then down Hedrick Creek to the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Glacier Creek and the point of beginning.

Avalanche Gorge 4-7: Beginning on Baker Lake Road and Park Creek; then up Park Creek to headwaters and beginning of Park Glacier; then NW and SW on Park Glacier to Mount Baker summit; then N on the Mazama Glacier to Bar Creek, then down Bar Creek to the confluence with Wells Creek; then SE up Wells Creek to its headwaters; then E about 1 mile to an unnamed peak (indicated elevation 5,831 ft, just W of Ptarmigan Ridge

Trail (Trail No. 682.1) (See referenced 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm)); then NE to the headwaters of the first tributary of Swift Creek encountered; then SE down said unnamed tributary to the confluence with Swift Creek; then down Swift Creek to the Baker Lake Road (USFS Road 394); then SW along the Baker Lake Road to Park Creek and point of beginning. (Refer to 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm).

Boulder River North 4-8a: That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 (to Boulder Falls), then E along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Squire Creek, then southward along the Squire Creek to Squire Creek Pass, then SW up Squire Creek Pass to the headwaters of Copper Creek, then SE down Copper Creek to the unnamed tributary to Copper Creek which heads W up to Windy Pass, then W up said tributary to its headwaters in Windy Pass, then W across Windy Pass to the headwaters of Windy Creek, then W down Windy Creek to the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then N along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 and the point of the beginning.

Goat Rocks West 5-4: Beginning at US Hwy 12 at the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail); S on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to Lewis County line at Cispus Pass; S and

W on the Lewis County line to Johnson Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 21); N on Johnson Creek Rd to US Hwy 12; E on US Hwy 12 to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the point of the beginning.

Goat Rocks East 5-5: GMU 364

Mt. Margaret Backcountry 5-6: Beginning at the junction of USFS 99 Rd and USFS 26 Rd; S on USFS 99 Rd to junction of USFS 99 Rd and USFS Trail 227 at Independence Pass trailhead; N on USFS Trail 227 to junction of USFS Trail 227 and USFS Trail 1; W on USFS Trail 1 to junction of USFS Trail 1 and USFS Trail 230; NW on USFS Trail 230 to junction of USFS Trail 230 and USFS Trail 211; NE to Minnie Peak; W to the USFS property boundary in the SE 1/4 of Section 20, T10N, R5E; N along the USFS property boundary to the Green River; E up the Green River to USFS Rd 2612; E on USFS 2612 to the junction of USFS Rd 2612 and USFS Rd 26; S on USFS Rd 26 to the junction of USFS Rd 26 and USFS Rd 99 and point of beginning.

Mt. St. Helens South 5-7: Beginning at the junction of USFS Trail 234 and USFS Rd 83; W on USFS Rd 83 to the junction of USFS Rd 83 and USFS Rd 81; NW on USFS Rd 81 to the junction of USFS Rd 81 and USFS Rd 8123; N on USFS Rd 8123 to USFS Trail 238 at Blue Lake; N on USFS Trail 238 to USFS Trail 216; N on USFS Trail 216 to the South Fork

Toutle River; Up the South Fork Toutle River to Mt. St. Helens crater's edge; E along Mt. St. Helens crater to Ape Canyon Creek; Down Ape Canyon Creek to USFS Trail 216; E on USFS Trail 216 to USFS Trail 234; SE on USFS Trail 234 to USFS Rd 83 and point of beginning.

East Olympic Mountains 6-1: GMUs 621, 636, and 638.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-14-022 (Order 21-61), § 220-415-130, filed 6/28/21, effective 7/29/21; WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-130, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-130, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-130, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), amended and recodified as § 220-415-130, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-623, filed 4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. 2/01/2022 12:09 PM [9] NOT FOR FILING OTS-3586.2

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-623, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-623, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

WAC 220-415-130 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The following adjustments have occurred since the notebook material deadline.

Page 20

- Change: Change the permit level for the North Lake Chelan mountain goat hunt from 2 to 1.

Rationale: Surveys conducted after filing the CR102 warrants conservative harvest in this hunt unit.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 01, 2022

TIME: 12:43 PM

WSR 22-04-103

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 21-24-092 on November 30, 2021 ; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject)

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.

WAC 220-415-070 2021 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-415-120 2021 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-416-060 2021-2022 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
March 18, 2022	8:00 a.m.	Webinar	This meeting will take place by webinar. The public may participate in the meeting. Registration is required to testify at the public hearing. Registration deadlines and registration forms are available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings or contact the Commission office at (360) 902-2267.

Date of intended adoption: April 8, 2022 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program

Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia WA. 98504

Email: 2022HuntingSeason102@PublicInput.com

Fax: Voicemail Public Comment: 855-925-2801 project code 2331

Other: <https://publicinput.com/2022HuntingSeason102>

By (date) March 19, 2022

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator

Phone: 360-902-2349, TTY (711)

Fax:

TTY:

Email: Title6@dfw.wa.gov

Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>

By (date) March 19, 2022

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to recommend for adoption slight changes to permit allocations and season dates for properties enrolled in the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. In addition, staff proposes wording changes to the WAC that addresses identified discrepancies between the WAC language and Commission Policy C-6002. Proposed changes will align and re-establish the language in the Commission Policy if adopted.

WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.

The Department sets deer general seasons in accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012. Proposals for major changes to general seasons are considered at a three-year cycle (most recently completed in 2021). Minor proposed changes are considered on an annual basis or due to emerging needs. Proposed changes for 2022 include:

1. A change to black-tailed deer early archery 2022 general season dates is proposed to fix an error in the 2021-2023 season setting process that inadvertently lengthened the early archery season and created overlap with elk muzzleloader special permits in the same hunt areas. The change avoids season overlap and potential conflict among different weapon-type hunters in the same hunt area, minimal other effects are anticipated.
2. A change in the list of GMUs for western Washington black-tailed deer early muzzleloader season is proposed to fix a minor error (GMUs listed out of order). This change clarifies open GMUs and no effects are anticipated.
3. A change in the 2022 and 2023 late archery mule deer general season for GMUs 209, 215, 233, 243, 250 is proposed to fix an error in the 2021-2023 3-year season setting process which had inadvertently shortened the season without public input. This change is anticipated to restore season length and hunting opportunity to previous levels.

WAC 220-415-030 2022 Deer special permits.

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain deer special permit opportunity in 2022 in accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012. Changes to deer special permit availability (i.e., permit dates, permit levels) are proposed to balance hunting opportunity among user groups with deer population status (i.e., increased hunting opportunities when populations allow, reduced opportunities when declining numbers warrant reduction), and to retain consistency in season timing (e.g., open/close day of week). Notable proposed changes include:

1. Reductions in permits in the antlerless, youth, 2nd deer, and hunter with disability categories are proposed to assist population recovery of white-tailed deer and mule deer. These changes are proposed in response to hemorrhagic disease outbreaks in eastern Washington during late summer of 2021, which reduced local population abundance. Reductions in Region 2 are also warranted due to concern over poor population productivity. Anticipated effects are a reduction in white-tailed deer and mule deer special permit hunting opportunity, in units/hunts where outbreaks occurred, to facilitate population rebound.
2. Reductions in permits in the quality and buck categories are proposed to balance hunter opportunity with population status (i.e., the number of bucks on the landscape) for white-tailed deer and mule deer. These changes are proposed in response to hemorrhagic disease outbreaks in eastern Washington during late summer of 2021, which reduced local population abundance. Anticipated effects are a reduction in white-tailed deer and mule deer special permit hunting opportunity in units/hunts where outbreaks occurred.
3. Moving Skokomish Quality deer permit opportunity to the Buck category; reductions in permit numbers in Buck, Antlerless, Senior, and Hunter with Disability categories in GMU 636 in response to harvest trends that indicate population decline in the unit. Anticipated effects are a reduced permit draw opportunity in GMU 636.
4. Reductions in Antlerless deer permits in North River (GMU 658), Minot Peak (GMU 660), Capitol Peak (GMU 663), and Williams Creek (GMU 673) and reductions in Youth, 65+ Senior, and Hunters with Disabilities permit levels for North River (GMU 658) and Capitol Peak (GMU 663) in response to harvest trends (i.e., total harvest, success, ratio of bucks to antlerless animals harvested) that indicate potential population decline, motivating conservative target harvest levels.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

1. An elk area (3911) boundary change is proposed to exclude an area of non-agricultural land. Under the current boundary, elk in the unincorporated WDFW property are frequently pressured onto neighboring private property by hunting activity, occasionally creating conflict with landowners. Neighboring landowners have requested the change as they believe elk are being pressured onto private crop fields. A new boundary fence may be constructed in the near future in cooperation with the irrigation district. Anticipated effects are the reduction in neighboring private landowner conflict with elk, other effects are anticipated to be minimal.
2. An elk area (1054) is proposed in GMU 154. WDFW anticipates a better ability to mitigate elk damage in GMU 154 by concentrating hunting activity where damage is most prevalent, while preventing additional harvest of antlerless elk in other areas of GMU 154 where population growth is a priority.

WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The Department sets elk general seasons in accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012. Proposals for major

changes to general seasons are considered at a three-year cycle (most recently completed in 2021). Minor proposed changes are considered on an annual basis or due to emerging needs. Proposed changes for 2022 include:

1. A change to the eastern Washington archery and muzzleloader general season open GMUs is proposed to exclude deer area 5382. This change is anticipated to eliminate overlap between elk general season hunters and deer special permit holders in deer area 5382, thereby maintaining hunt quality for deer special permit holders and minimizing potential conflict between elk general season hunters and deer special permit hunters. A minor reduction in open hunt area for general season elk hunters is anticipated (i.e., Deer Area 5382).

WAC 220-415-060 2022 Elk special permits.

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit opportunity in 2022 in accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012. Specific changes to elk special permit availability (i.e., permit dates, permit levels) are proposed to balance hunting opportunity among user groups against elk population status (i.e., increased hunting opportunities when populations allow, reduced opportunities when declining numbers warrant reduction), to retain consistency in season timing (e.g., open/close day of week), or to avoid overlap among big game special permits and general seasons (e.g., overlap of seasons with different legal weapon types). Notable proposed changes include:

1. Reduction in permit levels for Quality Elk permits in some of the Blue Mountains elk herd area (Blue Creek, Tucannon, Wenaha East, Mountain View, Peola) in response to reduced elk abundance in this population. Anticipated effects are a reduction in draw opportunity for the above hunts.
2. Elimination of the Mt. Adams 'quality' elk special permit hunt is proposed. This permit opportunity has declined in quality (i.e., hunter success, satisfaction) and has caused conflict among hunters of different weapon types due to overlapping deer general seasons. Anticipated effects are a reduction in quality draw opportunity (5 permits).
3. Elimination of the Carlton and West Goat Rocks special permit hunts is proposed. This permit opportunity has declined in quality (i.e., hunter success, satisfaction) and is sensitive to land closures (e.g., because of wildfire) because of the restricted hunt areas. The Department is proposing to offset the loss of Quality Elk opportunity in this area by increasing permit opportunity in the South Rainier and Packwood hunts, which offer more flexibility to an individual hunter in hunt area. Anticipated effects are a decreased Quality Bull permit opportunity (reduction in 10 permits), albeit offset by an increase in permit opportunity within the same area (i.e., South Rainier and Packwood hunts).
4. Increased permit levels for Skokomish Bull elk permits. Anticipated effects are an increase in Bull Elk permit opportunity.
5. Reduction of permit levels for Antlerless elk permits in the Mount St Helens elk herd area (Winston, Coweeman, Lewis River, Washougal, Siouxon, Wind River, West Klickitat) in response to population declines. Anticipated effects are a reduction in Antlerless elk permit opportunity.
6. Elimination of the Forks 65+ Senior antlerless elk special permit is proposed. The hunt is designed to address conflict elk, but the number of hunters has created crowding and associated landowner complaints. Anticipated effects are a reduction (by 10 permits) of 65+ Senior Antlerless elk special permit draw opportunity.
7. New "incentive" special permits are proposed that are associated with the Department's pilot program to incentivize the harvest of elk that display signs of treponeme-associated hoof disease. Anticipated effects are an additional permit opportunity (19 permits) for hunters that participated in the Department's Elk Hoof Disease Incentive program (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/diseases/elk-hoof/incentive-permits>).

WAC 220-415-070 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

1. A change is proposed to exclude Parker Lake from hunt area 49 Degrees North. The excluded area is undergoing a large-scale timber harvest that will negatively impact hunt quality. The excluded area will likely be restored in the future. No substantial impact to harvest opportunity is anticipated.
2. A change to the hunt area of the Hangman and Cheney B hunts that expands the hunt area to include GMU 139 is proposed. Anticipated effects are expanded hunting opportunity while assisting the Department in addressing moose that occasionally cause conflict.

WAC 220-415-120 2022 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

1. Changes to bighorn sheep permit availability (i.e., permit levels) are proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status. Elimination of Selah Butte and Umtanum (Yakima bighorn herd) adult ewe, juvenile ram, and youth permits are proposed due to a recent outbreak of bighorn sheep pneumonia. Anticipated effects are a reduction in special permit hunting opportunity for bighorn sheep in the two hunt areas.
2. An adjustment of hunt dates is proposed that increase or maintain the number of open days for some hunts. The anticipated effect of this proposal is a maintenance or increase in hunt opportunity as measured by hunting days.
3. Modification of the hunt area for the Mountain View – Black Butte hunt is proposed to increase the hunt area to include GMUs 186 and portions of GMU 181. Anticipated effects are expanded hunting area for this permit, otherwise no effects are anticipated.

WAC 220-415-130 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

1. A one-permit reduction in mountain goat permit availability of the Goat Rocks East hunt is proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status. The anticipated effect of this proposal is a minor reduction in mountain goat special permit opportunity.
2. Suspension of "conflict reduction special permits" are proposed. These permits are in association with a depopulation effort on the Olympic Peninsula. In summer 2022, aerial removal efforts will continue in the current hunt areas. As a result, few, if any, mountain goats are anticipated to remain in the hunt area and hunting opportunity will be poor quality. This change is anticipated to avoid poor hunt quality, at the expense of reduced mountain goat draw opportunity. Future permit opportunity may be reinstated after the aerial removal has concluded if mountain goats remain in accessible locations in the hunt area.

WAC 220-416-060 2021-2022 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Migratory game bird seasons and regulations are developed based on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes migratory game bird seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the migratory game bird resources of Washington.

The proposed changes, if adopted, will:

1. Adjust season dates relative to 2022-2023 calendar dates;
2. Maintain the "liberal regulatory alternative" as prescribed by the Western Mallard Adaptive Harvest Management Protocol for season length and bag-limit for ducks (107 days, up to 7 duck bag-limit, including no more than 2 female mallards);
3. Maintain one-pintail per day bag-limit and associated possession limit per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy;
4. Maintain two-scaup per day bag-limit and associated possession limits, while maintaining an 86-day season length per the optimal regulatory alternative described in AHM protocol;
5. Evaluate sea duck harvest estimates in relation to the most recent PSAMP aerial survey results for consistency with the WDFW sea duck management strategies of less than 5% of the winter index.
6. Decrease the Canada goose (including cackling geese) daily bag-limit in Goose Management Area 2-Coast and Goose Management Area 2-Inland to three Canada geese per day bag-limit and associated possession limits during the regular season;
7. The brant season in Skagit County will start closed as the most recent 3-year winter index has fallen below 3,000 brant;
8. Adjusts the nine-day band-tailed pigeon season dates to start and end on a weekend, and;
9. Clarifies that mandatory harvest reporting information must be recorded within the designated spaces provided on the harvest record card.

Reasons supporting proposal:

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

The proposal, if adopted, would adjust the Landowner Hunting Permit WAC to reflect the new proposed permit allocations and season dates for the enrolled properties in the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. Date changes and permit allocations are proposed to allow opportunities where populations can handle increased recreational hunting. In addition, proposed adjustments to wording would align language between the WAC and Commission Policy C-6002. In reviewing the WAC and Policy language, staff realized that there were some discrepancies that could prompt confusion. The Landowner Hunting Permit Program is currently outlined in Commission Policy C-6002. Portions of the language in the current version of the WAC deviates from the language within the Commission Policy and may create confusion among the public and enrolled landowners. Aligning and re-establishing the language to be consistent with the Commission Policy should provide the necessary clarity and minimize the potential for confusion among the public and enrolled landowners.

WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.

This proposal, if adopted, would provide clarity in the WAC to further the Department's mandate to provide sustainable recreational hunting opportunities. Date changes are proposed to avoid overlap of hunters of different species/weapon types, avoiding potential hunter dissatisfaction and conflict; or to restore season length to previous levels (i.e., levels set during the preceding 3-year cycle). Proposed changes to the GMU list for western Washington black-tailed deer early muzzleloader season is proposed to clarify open units, but no change in open units are proposed.

WAC 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.

This proposal, if adopted, would provide special permit deer hunting opportunities at levels that avoid overharvest to maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities in 2022 and in the future. The proposal would help address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed. Reductions in permit levels in Region 1 and Region 2 in the antlerless, youth, 2nd deer, and hunter with disability categories are proposed to assist population recovery of white-tailed deer and mule deer. These changes are proposed in response to hemorrhagic disease outbreaks in eastern Washington during late summer of 2021, which reduced local population abundance. Reductions in Region 2 are also warranted due to concern over poor population productivity. Reductions in Regions 1 and Region 2 Quality or Buck category permit levels are in response to the hemorrhagic disease outbreaks that occurred in late summer 2021, which

reduced deer abundance. Reductions are warranted to assist population recovery and to maintain hunt quality (e.g., success, satisfaction). Reductions in permit levels in GMU 636s, 658, 660, 663, and 673 are in response to harvest trends that indicate potential population decline, warranting conservative harvest levels. Inversely, permit increases are in response to harvest statistics that indicate populations that can sustain increased harvest levels or in an effort to address wildlife-landowner conflict issues.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The proposed boundary change to elk area 3911, if adopted, would allow for continued wildlife-conflict mitigation while addressing concerns from neighboring landowners. The proposed elk area 1054 would help address elk agricultural damage by concentrating harvest pressure where damage is most common, while avoiding harvest of antlerless elk in areas where population growth is desired.

WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The proposed, if adopted, would eliminate overlap between elk general season hunters and deer special permit holders in deer area 5382, thereby maintaining hunt quality for deer special permit holders and minimizing potential conflict between elk general season hunters and deer special permit hunters.

WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.

This proposal, if adopted, would provide special permit elk hunting opportunities at levels that avoid overharvest to maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities in 2021 and in the future. The proposal would help address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed. Reductions in permit levels in the Blue Mountains elk herd area (Blue Creek, Tucannon, Wenaha East, Mountain View, Peola) in the Quality and Antlerless categories are in response to reduced population abundance (population estimate was ~35% below objective in 2021). The proposed elimination of the Mt. Adams, Carlton, and West Goat Rocks 'quality' elk special permit hunt is in response to a decline in hunt quality and negative hunter feedback regarding hunt satisfaction. Reduction of permit levels for Antlerless elk permits in the Mount St Helens elk herd area (Winston, Coweeman, Lewis River, Washougal, Siouxon, Wind River, West Klickitat) are proposed because of a documented population decline in the last decade and conservative antlerless harvest is warranted until population surveys indicate increased abundance. The proposed elimination of the Forks 65+ Senior antlerless elk special permit is in an effort to mitigate hunter crowding and associated landowner complaints. The new "incentive" special permits are associated with the Department's pilot program to incentivize the harvest of elk that display signs of treponeme-associated hoof disease. This program is designed to reduce the prevalence of elk hoof disease in western Washington. The proposed 2022 incentive permits, if adopted, would be awarded via random draw to eligible hunters that participated in the program during the 2021 elk hunting seasons.

WAC 220-415-070 2021 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

In accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012, this proposal, if adopted, would provide special permit moose hunting opportunities at levels that avoid overharvest to maintain sustainable general moose hunting season opportunities in 2021 and in the future. Exclusion of Parker Lake from hunt area 49 Degrees North is due to a large-scale timber harvest operation, which will disturb moose from that area and could result in poor hunt quality for this once-in-a-lifetime hunt. An expanded hunt area in Hangman and Cheney B permit hunts is warranted due to a growing moose population in GMU 139 and a need to help address occasional human-moose conflict.

WAC 220-415-120 2021 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

In accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012, this proposal, if adopted, would provide special permit bighorn hunting opportunities at levels that avoid overharvest to maintain sustainable general bighorn hunting season opportunities in 2021 and in the future. The proposed elimination of Selah Butte and Umtanum (Yakima bighorn herd) adult ewe, juvenile ram, and youth permits are due to a recent outbreak of bighorn sheep pneumonia. These permits were created in 2019 and modified in 2020 to assist in population reduction as part of a new novel effort to eliminate *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, the pathogen that causes pneumonia. Unfortunately, an outbreak of pneumonia occurred in 2021 and management efforts must be put on hold until the impact of the outbreak are understood.

WAC 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

In accordance with the Department's mandate to provide recreational hunting opportunity and preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage wildlife populations, RCW 77.04.012, this proposal, if adopted, would provide special permit mountain goat hunting opportunities at levels that avoid overharvest to maintain sustainable general mountain goat hunting season opportunities in 2021 and in the future. A reduction of the Goat Rocks East mountain goat permit hunt is warranted due to concerns of population decline. The "conflict reduction special permits" were originally created to assist a mountain goat depopulation effort on the Olympic Peninsula. In summer 2022, aerial removal efforts will continue in the current hunt areas and few, if any, mountain goats are anticipated to remain in the hunt area, resulting in poor quality hunting opportunity. Future permit opportunity may be reinstated after the aerial removal has concluded if mountain goats remain in accessible locations in the hunt area.

WAC 220-416-060 2021-2022 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Migratory gamebird season frameworks are established through ongoing interagency management programs involving U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and flyway organizations, including input from Canada, Russia, and Mexico. Federal frameworks include maximum bag limits, season lengths, season timing, and other regulations. Pacific Flyway season frameworks follow harvest strategies and management plans that have been developed cooperatively by USFWS and the Pacific Flyway Council. All states adopt waterfowl seasons within federal frameworks, and in many cases, they are more restrictive to address regional conservation needs. Management agencies utilize Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) to establish duck season frameworks. AHM relies on annual survey information and population models to prescribe optimal regulation packages each year. The population of ducks in the western part of North America is managed separately from the eastern flyways, as part of the models developed for western mallard AHM. Western mallard AHM uses results from breeding surveys and other information from western areas rather than from the Canadian prairies, recognizing differences in Pacific Flyway breeding areas. The season packages proposed for western mallard AHM are the same as developed under mid-continent mallard AHM (liberal, moderate, and restrictive), although different models are used to prescribe annual packages. No surveys of the breeding waterfowl were conducted due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, however assessments of duck populations based on the most recent trends recommended status quo in season dates and bag-limit structure to those offered during the 2021-22 migratory gamebird seasons. Northern pintail status remained below population objective, maintaining a daily bag limit of one pintail per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy. Additionally, based on the most recent scaup status, the optimal regulatory alternative described in AHM protocol, requires a restrictive regulatory alternative, maintaining the daily bag limit to two scaup per day, but maintains the 86-day season length. Since June 2013, prescriptive guidelines inform sea duck harvest strategies with harvest rate targets of less than 5% or less of the winter index as measured by aerial surveys (PSAMP) conducted by WDFW. Updated information from this aerial survey will be available in late-February for current assessment of harvest rates. The Pacific Flyway Council's management plan for cackling goose (*Branta hutchinsii minima*) directs impacted states to implement regulatory actions to regain the population objective, when the 3-year average population index falls below 225,000 geese. The most recent 3-year average for this population is 206,763 prompting Washington, Oregon and Alaska to recommend reduced bag limits in high harvest regions of the Pacific Flyway to regain the objective. In Washington, Goose Management Area 2-Coast and Goose Management Area 2-Inland account for the highest harvest of cackling goose (*B. h. minima*). The mandatory harvest report cards provide improved estimates of total harvest for species and harvest effort in discrete or limited zones of Washington, where traditional methods are not capable of producing reliable or precise estimates of harvest. Harvest record cards are designed to improve how harvest reporting information is recorded and for the enforcement of the harvest restrictions in these specific cases. Specifying harvest must be recorded in the designated spaces on the card clarifies intent and reduces potential confusion by users.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

Statute being implemented: RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

Is rule necessary because of a:

- Federal Law? Yes No
- Federal Court Decision? Yes No
- State Court Decision? Yes No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Private Public Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	360-902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	360-902-2515

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

No: Please explain: This proposal does not require a cost benefit analysis under RCW 34.05.328.

Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: Proposed rule does not affect small businesses.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. _____

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

Date: February 1, 2022

Name: Annie Szvetecz

Title: Agency Rule Coordinator

Signature:

