

Elk General Seasons and Special Permits - Decision

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WACs:

220-415-040 Elk Area Descriptions.

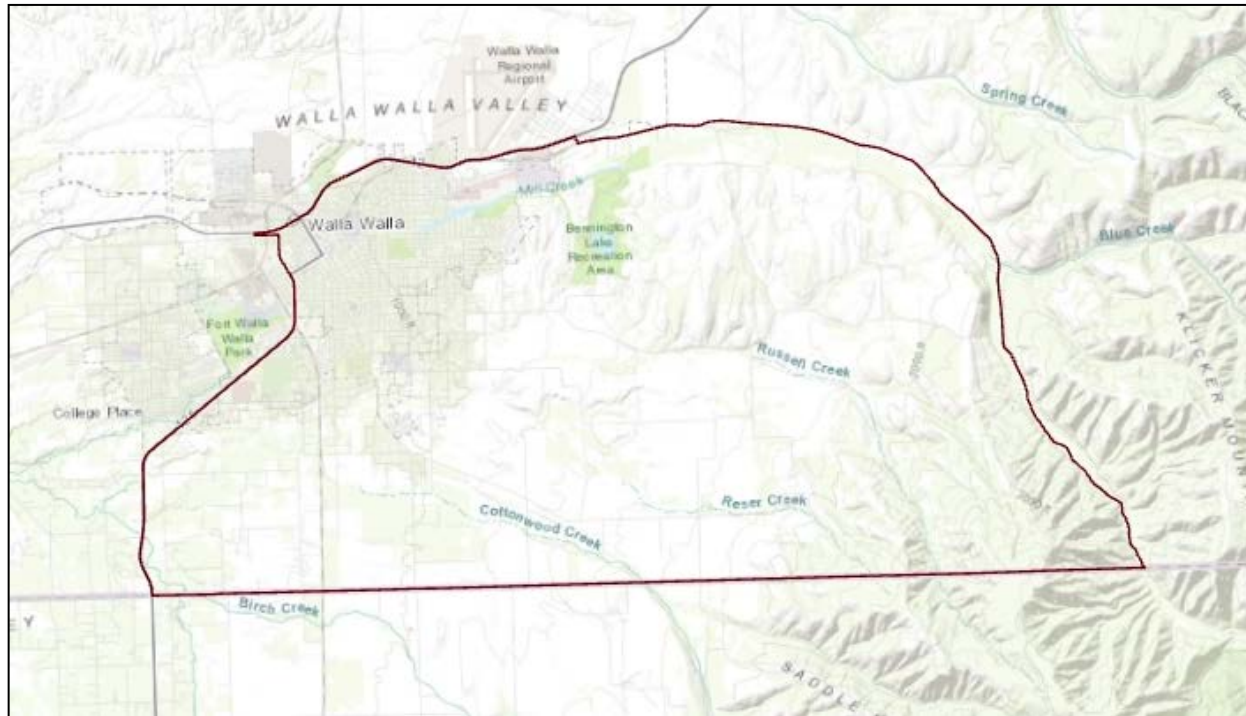
220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.

220-415-060 2022 Elk special permits.

Elk Area Descriptions – WAC 220-415-040

Proposed Changes

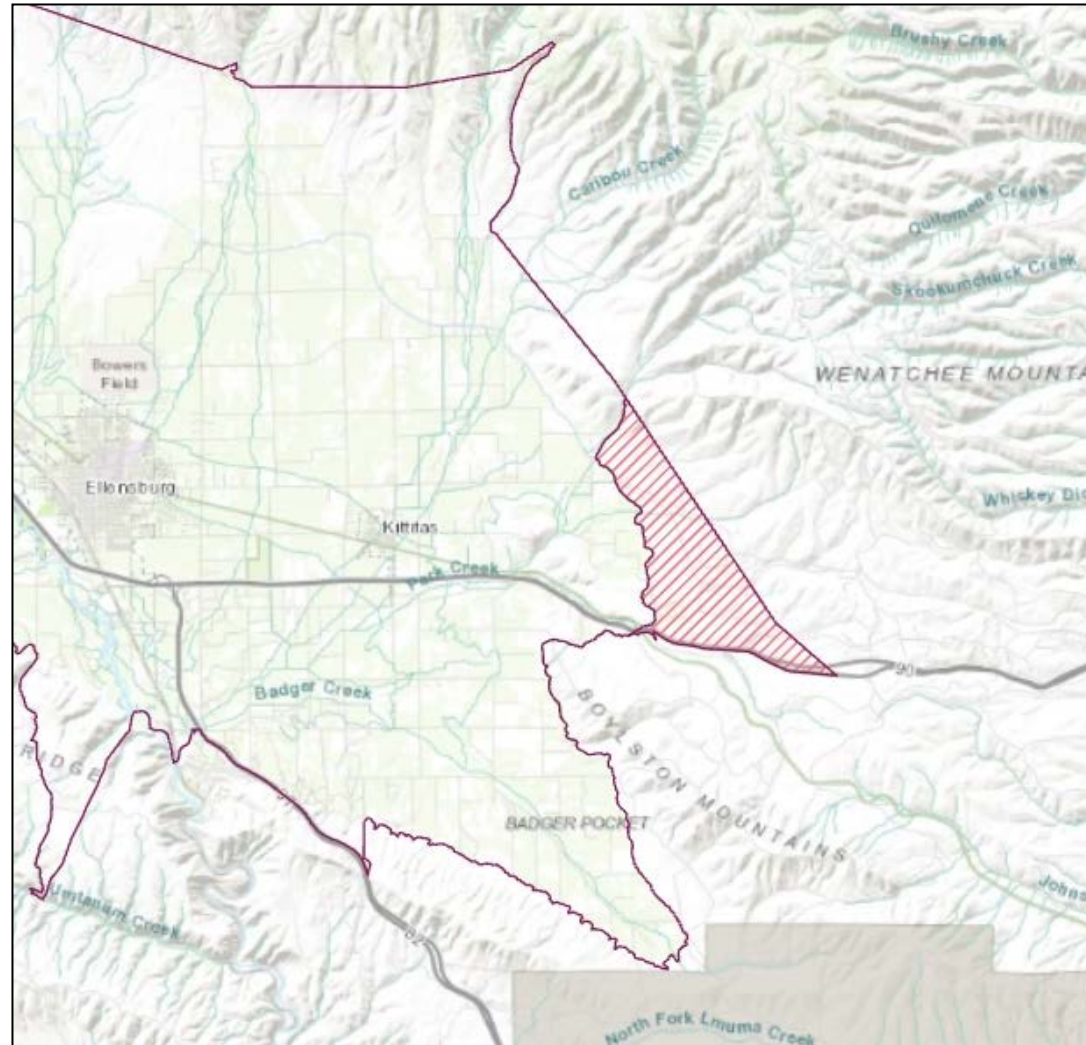
1. Create an Elk Area (1054) in GMU 154



Elk Area Descriptions – WAC 220-415-040

Proposed Changes

2. Modify Elk Area 3911 boundary



Public comments

Common themes:

- General support for proposed changes
- General disagreement with proposed changes
- Request to engage non-profit or other groups to assist with elk area fencing
- Request to allow landowners to receive tags and address conflict near elk areas
- Request to prevent private landowner tags
- Desire to allowing public access on private lands to address damage
- Concern over private landowners dictating ungulate management

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes



Elk General Seasons – WAC 220-415-050

Proposed changes

1. Modify elk eastern Washington archery early and late seasons in GMU 382 to exclude Deer Area 5382
 - This change eliminates overlap between elk general season hunters and deer special permit hunters in Deer Area 5382
 - Ensures hunt quality for deer special permit holders



Public comments

Common themes:

- General agreement with proposed changes
- General disagreement with proposed changes
- Dislike of spike/true spike (antler point restriction) regulations
- Desire to have elk hunting by draw only
- Concern over impact of predators
- Concern regarding tribal hunting
- Requests to expand archery season
- Requests to allow crossbow in archery
- Request for more muzzleloader seasons
- Desire for more late seasons
- Concern over land access
- Request to improve hunt quality

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes



Elk Special Permits – WAC 220-415-060

Proposed changes

1. Adjust hunt dates to align with calendar year
2. Adjust permit levels to balance opportunity with population characteristics (e.g., abundance)
 - Reduction of antlerless permits in Mount St Helens herd area
 - Reduction of permit levels in the Blue Mountains elk herd area
 - Increase of antlerless permits in the Yakima elk herd area
3. Elimination of the Mt. Adams, Carlton and West Goat Rocks “Quality” special permit hunts
4. Creation of hoof disease “incentive” permits
5. Recommended changes:
 - Some special permits in the “Quality” and “Bull” category are set by an allocation formula (32 affected hunts)
 - Adjustment of “Green River” special permit hunts
 - Adjustment of hunt dates to reflect 2022 license year (3 affected hunts)



Public comments

Common themes:

- General support for proposed changes
- General disagreement with proposed changes
- Mention of antler point restrictions (e.g., spike only regulation)
- Dislike of permit reductions
- Concern over tribal hunting
- Concern over predation impacts to ungulate populations
- Request for date or season changes on specific hunts
- Request for antlerless hunting by special permit only
- Request for increased antlerless opportunities
- Concern over lost opportunity
- Preference for adjusting permit dates rather than eliminate permits
- Desire to go to special permit (draw only) seasons
- Support for disease management

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes



Motion Language:

I move to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff.

Is there a “second”?

