

Chronic Wasting Disease – Decision

WAC 220-413-030

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CR-1028



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

April 8, 2022

Agenda item:

Chronic Wasting Disease – Decision

Presenter(s):

Kyle Garrison, Acting Statewide Ungulate Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Department staff briefed the Commission on:

- WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

The Department has made proposed amendments to this WAC for the purpose limiting the exposure of deer, elk, moose, and caribou in Washington State to a fatal disease called chronic wasting disease (CWD). This disease is highly transmissible and can spread through ungulate carcasses.

The proposed amendments add caribou to the list of species with restricted importation rules and broadens the restriction on importing or possessing deer, elk, moose, and caribou carcasses or parts that originate from outside Washington to prevent the introduction of CWD. This change, if adopted, will restrict the importation and possession of caribou, deer, elk, or moose carcasses or parts from any out of state origin, except when specific criteria for processing of carcasses or parts are met as outlined in the current rule language.

Staff recommendation:

Recommend adoption of the rule as presented by Department staff.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

The changes to the rule above were discussed in the March FWC meeting.

Expected outcome of rule change:

- Broadened restrictions on the importation of specific species carcasses or parts
- Minimizing the likelihood of introducing chronic wasting disease into Washington via importation of caribou, deer, elk, or moose carcasses or parts

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 remained open through the Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting on March 18, 2022, closing on March 19, 2022. The department emailed over 40,000 subscribers notifying them of the website survey and encouraged them to participate. Also, the department issued a news release and postings on social media.

Notification was made to individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation amendments. At the March 18, 2022, commission meeting online, the Commission and Department staff held public comments.

Please see the associated public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Recommend adoption of the rule as presented by Department staff.

Draft motion language:

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

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for the motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion, amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Website
New Release
Hunting Regulation Pamphlet

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response: (Note: one WAC per page)

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

The Department received public comment through online survey (48), SEPA comment (14), email and public comment submissions for the Commission briefing. The comments represented both those in favor and those oppose to the proposed rule change.

Common themes to public comment:

- General support
- General disagreement
- Lack of belief that CWD can be prevented from establishment by this rule change
- Concern over onerous requirements regarding harvest processing
- Concern that out of state hunting becomes more difficult
- Concern that the rule won't be effective or enforceable
- Sentiment that existing rules work and a change is unnecessary
- Concern over feeding and baiting
- Concern over the impacts of predation on ungulates
- Confusion over the proposal (comments about bait ban)

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-23-037, filed 11/8/21, effective 12/9/21)

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife. (1) It is unlawful:

(a) To import or possess dead wildlife, taken in another state or country, into Washington unless such wildlife was acquired lawfully. Proof of legal acquisition must be retained during the period of retention of the carcass or edible parts.

(b) For a person who imports a dead bighorn sheep, mountain goat, cougar or bear to fail to report such importation to the department in writing within ~~((ten))~~ 10 days of the importation. The report must contain the name and address of the importer, the location where the dead wildlife is being stored, and general information describing where and how the wildlife was obtained.

(c) To import or possess deer, elk, ~~((or))~~ or caribou, or parts thereof, harvested ~~((in Alberta, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah,~~

~~Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming~~) outside Washington state, with the following exceptions:

(i) Meat that has been deboned in the state or province where it was harvested and is imported as boned-out meat;

(ii) Skulls and antlers, antlers attached to the skull plate, or upper canine teeth (buglers, whistlers, ivories) from which all soft tissue has been removed;

(iii) Hides or capes without heads attached;

(iv) Tissue imported for use by a diagnostic or research laboratory; and

(v) Finished taxidermy mounts.

(2) Violation of subsection (1) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.290 Unlawful transportation of fish or wildlife—
Penalty.

(3) It is unlawful for an importer or receiver of deer or elk to fail to notify the department within (~~twenty-four~~) 24 hours if a state or province alerts the importer or receiver that a harvested animal has tested positive for chronic wasting disease. Violation of this subsection is an infraction punishable under RCW 77.15.160
Infractions.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 21-23-037 (Order 21-247), § 220-413-030, filed 11/8/21, effective 12/9/21. 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), § 220-413-030, 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), § 220-413-030, 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), recodified as § 220-413-030, 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, § 232-12-021, 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 15-10-035 (Order 15-97), § 232-12-021, filed 4/28/15, effective 5/29/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-12-021, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 11-23-083 (Order 11-299), §

232-12-021, filed 11/16/11, effective 12/17/11. Statutory Authority:
RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.210, and C.F.R.
Title 50, Part 21, Subpart C, Section 21.29; Migratory Bird Treaty
Act. WSR 10-18-012 (Order 10-214), § 232-12-021, filed 8/20/10,
effective 9/20/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020,
77.12.570, 77.12.210. WSR 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-12-021, filed
5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-
02-063 (Order 05-271), § 232-12-021, filed 1/3/06, effective 2/3/06;
WSR 05-02-046 (Order 04-327), § 232-12-021, filed 1/3/05, effective
2/3/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.030. WSR 93-04-040 (Order 583),
§ 232-12-021, filed 1/27/93, effective 2/13/93. Statutory Authority:
RCW 77.12.040. WSR 82-04-034 (Order 177), § 232-12-021, filed 1/28/82;
WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-021, filed 6/1/81. Formerly WAC
232-12-060.]



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: 12:50 PM

WSR 22-04-104

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 21-24-080 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 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

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: 2022CWD102@PublicInput.com

Fax: Voice Mail Comments – 855-925-2801 project code: 2482

Other: <http://publicinput.com/2022CWD102>

SEPA Comments: Website: <https://publicinput.com/2022CWDSEPA> Email: 2022CWDSEPA@PublicInput.com

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: The purpose of this proposal is to limit the exposure of deer, elk, moose and caribou in Washington State to a fatal disease that can spread through ungulate carcasses. The proposed amendments would add caribou to the list of species with restricted importation rules, and would broaden the restriction on importing or possessing deer, elk, moose, and caribou carcasses or parts that originate from outside Washington to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease, a fatal neurologic disease of cervids. This change, if adopted, will restrict the importation and possession of caribou, deer, elk, or moose carcasses or parts from any out of state origin, except when specific criteria for processing of carcasses or parts are met.

Reasons supporting proposal: Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurologic disease of cervids that is not currently known to be present in Washington. There is no cure for CWD and once established within a free ranging population, the disease threatens cervid population sustainability. The best management practice available is the prevention of CWD emergence in new areas. Currently, importation of deer, elk, or moose, harvested outside of Washington is restricted for only those states and provinces where CWD was previously known to occur. Unfortunately, CWD has recently been detected in additional states, including neighboring Idaho, and many states and provinces have insufficient surveillance practices to detect CWD early, which may result in the inadvertent importation of CWD into Washington.

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? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Federal Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| State Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

| |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 |
| Enforcement: | Steve Bear | 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501 | 360-902-2373 |

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:

- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b) (Internal government operations)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c) (Incorporation by reference)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d) (Correct or clarify language)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e) (Dictated by statute)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f) (Set or adjust fees)
- 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 because it applies to recreational hunting.

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: 2/1/2022

Name: Annie Szvetecz

Title: Agency Rule Coordinator

Signature:



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:

