

AGENDA ITEM 6

Multiple Season Hunting Permits

February 3, 2012 WDFW Commission
Presentation

Multiple Season Permits

- ▣ Permit application and sales
- ▣ Hunter Support/Comment
- ▣ Permit Success Rate and Comparison
- ▣ Crowding Issue
- ▣ Recommendation from Department

License Sales History

| Hunter Licenses /Tags Sold | 1985 | 2010 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deer Tags/Licenses | 180,614 | 156,481 |
| Elk Tags/Licenses | 78,407 | 102,350 |

Hunter Crowding

| 2010 Hunter Licenses /Tags Sold | Archery | Muzzleloader | Modern |
|--|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Deer Tags/Licenses | 24,220 16% | 9,989 6% | 122,272 78% |
| Elk Tags/Licenses | 21,891 21% | 12,938 13% | 67,521 66% |

Permit Applications and Sales

| Year | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Deer Applications | 5447 | 1494 | 8431 | 4105 | 8560 | 7460 |
| Elk Applications | 6187 | 1776 | 9319 | 4600 | 9643 | 8690 |
| Deer Permits Sold | 1109 | 1392 | 1352 | 1598 | 1450 | 2200 |
| Elk Permits Sold | 436 | 523 | 523 | 537 | 586 | 680 |
| | | | | | | |

Hunter Support Multiple Season Permit

- ▣ Hunters have been supportive over time
- ▣ Expanded archery and muzzleloader opportunity
- ▣ Crowding issues have declined
- ▣ Harvest impacts are manageable

Hunter Comments

- Great opportunity for those who have the time
- Too expensive
- Just a way for WDFW to increase revenue
- Creates crowding
- Ideas about how to make it more attractive
- General support for the expansion

Multiple Season Deer Success

| Year | 2009 | 2010 |
|----------------------|------|---------------|
| Multi-season Permits | 38% | 37% |
| Permit Hunters | 46% | NA Categories |
| General Hunters | 22% | 24% |
| | | |

Multiple Season Elk Success

| Year | 2009 | 2010 |
|----------------------|------|---------------|
| Multi-season Permits | 28% | 21% |
| Permit Hunters | 38% | NA Categories |
| General Hunters | 7% | 6.7% |
| | | |

Multiple Season 2010 GMU Deer Hunter Distribution

| GMU | 117 | 124 | 224 | 388 | 520 | 667 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Multi-season Permit Holders | 53 | 50 | 20 | 32 | 50 | 56 |
| General Hunter Numbers | 3218 | 4636 | 1198 | 1594 | 2029 | 2580 |
| Percent of Multi/General | 1.6 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.2 |
| | | | | | | |

Multiple Season 2010 GMU Elk Hunter Distribution

| GMU | 162 | 328 | 346 | 368 | 520 | 673 |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Multi-season Permit Holders | 3 | 17 | 23 | 22 | 60 | 15 |
| General Season Hunter Numbers | 909 | 1584 | 2048 | 1911 | 3132 | 1186 |
| Percent of Multi/General | .3% | 1% | 1% | 1.2% | 2% | 1.3% |

Crowding???

Swakane (2010) GMU 250

| Tag Types | Hunter Numbers | Harvest | Success Rate | Days/Kill |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Modern Firearm | 618 | 87 bucks 39 (4+) | 14% | 24.7 |
| Archery | 644 | 67 bucks 47 (4+) 4 does | 11% | 44.4 |
| Muzzleloader | 29 | 3 bucks 2 (4+) | 10% | 36 |
| Multi-Season | 41 | 10 bucks 7 (4+) 1 doe | 27% | 20.2 |

Crowding???

Swakane (2010) 41 Multi-Season Permit Holders

| Tag Types | Season Hunted | Percent of Hunters | Season of Kill | 2009 License Purchased |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Modern Firearm | 17 | 2.8% | 4 | 22 54% |
| Archery | 32 | 5% | 5 bucks 1 doe | 14 34% |
| Muzzleloader | 8 | 28% | 1 | 1 2.4% |

Multiple Season Impacts to Harvest

- ▣ Summary:
- ▣ Crowding does not seem to be very significant
- ▣ Harvest rates of multi-season hunters are manageable
- ▣ Continue to monitor the results by the District Biologists
 - Recommend changes as appropriate

Recommendation

- ▣ Increase the number of permits drawn to 8500 for deer and 1250 for elk
- ▣ This should result in sales of 4600 deer permits and 1000 elk permits
- ▣ Continue to work with the Governor's office and the Legislature to authorize the expenditure of new money to fund the expansion of Wildlife Conflict Specialists and free up Officers to enforce the fish and game laws

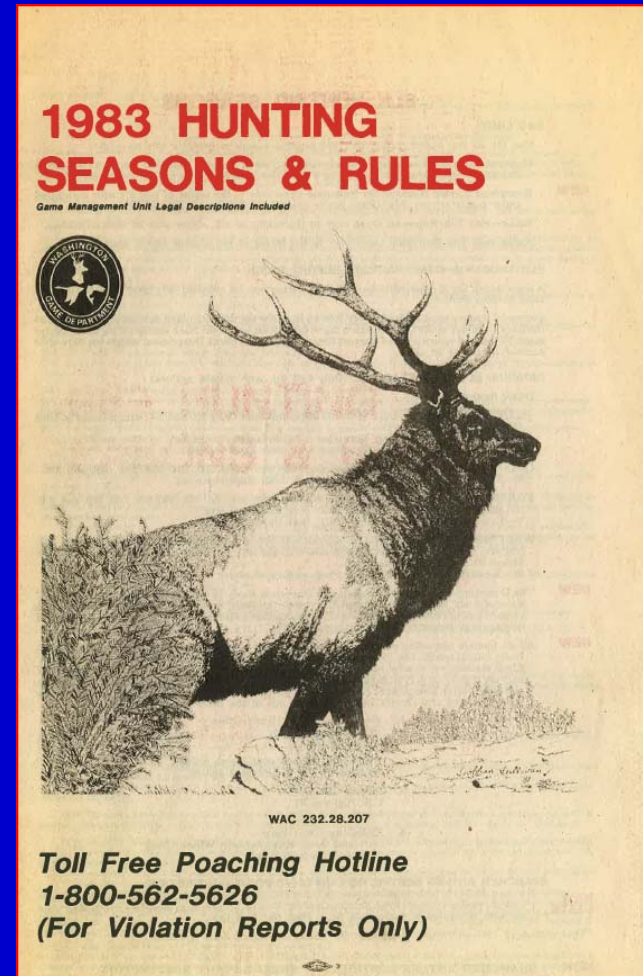


QUESTIONS???

February 2012 WDFW Commission
Presentation

Season History

- ▣ 1983 - a few archery only areas, but limited special seasons for archers & muzzleloaders
- ▣ 1984 - created archery and muzzleloader deer & elk seasons
- ▣ 1989 - we initiated the choose your weapon restriction



Season History

- ▣ 1990's – added more and more GMUs for both archers and muzzleloader hunters
- ▣ 2011 – currently provide early and late seasons in the majority of GMUs for both archery and muzzleloader hunters

**Washington's 2011 Big Game
Hunting Seasons & Regulations**
Effective April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012



Special Permit Application Deadline: May 18, 2011

Multiple Season 2010 GMU Deer Hunter Success

| GMU | 117 | 124 | 224 | 388 | 520 | 667 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Multi-season Permits | 21% | 26% | 30% | 22% | 14% | 16% |
| General plus Permit Hunters | 27% | 38% | 15% | 25% | 16% | 23% |

Multiple Season 2010 GMU Elk Hunter Success

| GMU | 162 | 328 | 346 | 368 | 520 | 673 |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|
| Multi-season Permits | 67% | 0% | 8.7% | 9% | 17% | 6.7% |
| General plus Permit Hunters | 7% | 6.3% | 7.5% | 8.7% | 12% | 14% |