

21. 2012-2014 ELK GENERAL AND SPECIAL PERMIT SEASONS – RULE ACTION

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: April 13-14, 2012

Agenda Item 21: Elk General and Special Permit Seasons and Regulations – **Rule Action**

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Presented By: Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

The Commission will act on the proposed repeal of WAC 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions and WAC 232-28-356 2011 Elk special permits; and the proposed adoption of WAC 232-28-358 2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions and WAC 232-28-360 2012 Elk special permits.

The issues brought before the public and the Commission include the following:

- Manage for more elk in GMUs 101, 105, 108, 121, and 204 by shifting from “any elk” to “any bull” hunting seasons and restricting antlerless harvest by permit.
 - Propose increasing the western Washington modern elk season by one day. This is the final step of a commitment made six years ago to westside elk hunters to incrementally increase the former nine-day season to a twelve-day season. The proposed change will meet the twelve-day goal. The Department will continue to monitor elk populations for the coming three years to confirm western elk populations can tolerate the hunting pressure.
 - Propose adding some antlerless elk hunting opportunity in the Colockum. The Colockum elk herd has been at or above objective for three years. Proposed antlerless opportunity is in the form of special permits in GMUs 328 and 329, as well as archery general seasons in GMUs 328, 334, and 335. Propose retaining Colockum bull special permits at the lower 2011 level, in response to concerns about low bull numbers.
 - Propose increasing antlerless hunting opportunity in most of the Yakima units. Survey data and initial indications in preliminary harvest data suggest that the antlerless harvest in 2011 was below intended levels. Surveys indicate the herd is above objective and showing recruitment that would suggest continued population growth.
 - Propose changing the late, either sex, Master Hunter hunts in GMUs 127-142 that occur through most of December. The late hunt in GMUs 127 and 130 will be continued, but will be antlerless only. Population control doesn’t need to be as intensive. Damage complaints can be minimized through other available tools, including Master Hunter special permits.
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Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Continue sustainable hunting seasons for elk.
 - Adjust elk special permits in response to elk population changes and damage complaints.
 - Retain the elk special permit system as it currently functions. The issue of eliminating the eastside/westside restriction on special permit applications was evenly split among the elk hunting public. The Department is not recommending this change.
 - Manage for more elk in the northeast (Selkirk elk herd).
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) was briefed on the seasons and special permits. GMAC voted unanimously against a change to the eastside/westside elk special permit

system.

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2012-2014 hunting season recommendations. In early August, an email was sent to over 50,000 hunters announcing that the Department was beginning the development of the 2012-2014 hunting season package. The email also informed them of the opportunity to provide their comments via an online issue scoping survey and invited them to attend one of the public meetings being held statewide. Six public meetings were held with approximately 150 people in attendance and nearly 4,000 responses were received on the scoping survey. In February, a postcard was mailed to approximately 600 organizations and individuals informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulations. These organizations and individuals were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the March Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

Adopt WAC 232-28-358 2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions and WAC 232-28-360 2012 Elk special permits; and repeal WAC 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions and WAC 232-28-356 2011 Elk special permits, as presented.

Draft motion language:

I move to adopt WAC 232-28-358 and 232-28-360 and repeal WAC 232-28-352 and 232-28-356 as proposed.

Justification for Commission action:

These changes meet the approved criteria established by OFM as a result of the Governor's Executive Order 11-03 Extending Executive Order 10-06 Suspending Non-critical Rule Development and Adoption by satisfying one or more of the following conditions:

- Required by federal or state law or required to maintain federally delegated or authorized programs.
 - Necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare or necessary to avoid an immediate threat to the state's natural resources.
 - Beneficial to or requested or supported by the regulated entities, local governments, or small businesses that it affects.
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Communications plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

NEW SECTION

WAC 232-28-358 2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits except as described below. Violations of this section are punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

Bag Limit: One (1) elk per hunter during the license year, except where otherwise permitted by fish and wildlife commission rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the fish and wildlife commission will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

Hunting Method: Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods (modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader).

Elk Tag Areas: Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

Any Bull Elk Seasons: Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers (bull calves are illegal).

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long measured on the longest side.

Branch: A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

Spike Bull Antler Restrictions: Bull elk taken in spike only GMUs
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must have at least one antler with no branches originating more than four inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

Spike Only GMUs: 145-154, 162-186, 249, and 336-368.

True Spike--Bull Antler Restrictions: Bull elk taken in these units must have both antlers with no branching originating more than four inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true spike restriction, the taking of an elk that has two points on one side or has antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination, is an infraction under RCW 7.84.030. All other types of violations of the true spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments under RCW 77.15.410 and 77.15.420.

True Spike GMUs: 251, 328-335.

3 Point Antler Restrictions: Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side with at least 2 antler points above the ear. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

3 Point GMUs: All of Western Washington except for GMUs 454, 564, 568, 574, 578, 652 for archers, 666, 684, and Elk Area 4941.

Permit Only Units: The following GMUs are closed during general seasons: 157, 371, 418, 485, 522, 524, 556, 621, 636, 653, and Elk Area 3068.

GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting: 437 (except for Elk Area 4941) and 490.

Elk Tag Areas

Eastern Washington: All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs except permit only for all hunters in GMUs 157 and 371. Modern firearms are restricted in GMU 334.

EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag

EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Western Washington: All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs except closed in GMU 437 (except for Elk Area 4941), 490, and modern firearm restrictions in portions of GMU 660. GMU 554 is open only for early archery and muzzleloader seasons. Elk Area 6064 in GMU 638 (Quinault) is open to master hunters only. Elk hunting by permit only in GMUs 418, 485, 522, 524, 556, 621, and 636.

WA - Western Washington Archery Tag

WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: Valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2012 Dates	2013 Dates	2014 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 204	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2	Any bull

		145 through 154, 162 through 186, 249, 336 through 368	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2	Spike bull
		251, 328, 329, 334, 335	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 26 - Nov. 2	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722*	Sept. 8-23	Sept. 7-22	Sept. 6-21	Antlerless only
		124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Oct. 25 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Elk Area 2033	Sept. 4-30	Sept. 3-30	Sept. 2-30	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2013	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2014	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2015	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**	Nov. 10 - Dec. 16	Nov. 9 - Dec. 15	Nov. 8 - Dec. 14	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911** 2nd tag.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 26	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Antlerless only
		<u>Master Hunters Only: 127, 130</u>	<u>Dec. 9-31</u>	<u>Dec. 9-31</u>	<u>Dec. 9-31</u>	<u>Antlerless only</u>
		<p>*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property, hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.</p> <p>**Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only one (1) <u>antlerless</u> elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911 <u>unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit</u>. Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 2526, 2012, August 1 - October 2925, 2013, and August 1 - October 2824, 2014. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.</p>				
Western Washington	WF	407, 460, 466, 503, 505 through 520, 530, 550, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627 through 633, 638 through 652, 654 through 684. Except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064.	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 1-12	3 pt. min.
		501, 504	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 1-12	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 564, 666	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 1-12	Any elk
		454	Nov. 3-14	Nov. 2-13	Nov. 1-12	Any bull

Archery General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: Valid archery elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

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Hunting Method: Bow and arrow only as defined under WAC 232-12-054.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054). Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2012 Dates	2013 Dates	2014 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 243, 247, 249, 250, 373, 379, 381, 388	Sept. 4-16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	Any elk
		162, 166 through 172, 186, 352, 356	Sept. 4- 16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	Spike bull
		328, 329, 335	Sept. 4-16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	True spike bull
		145, 149, 154, Elk Area 1010, Elk Area 1013, 163, 175, 178, 181, 334, 336, 340, 346, 364	Sept. 4- 16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	448, 454, 564, 652, 666	Sept. 4- 16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	Any elk
		407, 501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 624, except for Elk Area 6071, Elk Area 6061, 654, 660, 667 through 673, 681, 684, 699	Sept. 4- 16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 530, 601, 602, 603, 607, 612 through 618, 627, 633, 638 through 648, 651, 658, 663. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064.	Sept. 4-16	Sept. 3-15	Sept. 2-14	3 pt. min.
Late Archery General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204	Nov. 24 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 26 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull
		124, 127, 373, 388	Nov. 24 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 26 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 1010, 163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2013	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, 2014	Dec. 9 - Jan. 20, 2015	Antlerless only
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange.	Oct. 21 - Nov. 15	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2013	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2014	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2015	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 Nov. 10-Dec. 16	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 Nov. 9-Dec. 15	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 Nov. 8-Dec. 14	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911** 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 26	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Antlerless only

		328, 334, 335	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 26 - Dec. 8	True spike bull or antlerless
		336, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 26 - Dec. 8	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	407, 503, 505, 667, 672, 681, and 699. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638.	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 454, 564, 666	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		603, 612, 615, 638, 648	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		506, 520, 530	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	Antlerless only
		*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property, hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access. **Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only one (1) <u>antlerless</u> elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911 <u>unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit</u> . Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 25 <u>26</u> , 2012, August 1 - October 24 <u>25</u> , 2013, and August 1 - October 23 <u>24</u> , 2014. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.				

Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons

License Required: A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

Tag Required: Valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader as defined under WAC 232-12-051 or bow and arrow as defined under WAC 232-12-054.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons. Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	2012 Dates	2013 Dates	2014 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	101 through 121, 247	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	Any bull
		124 through 142, 245, 250	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	Any elk
		172, 336 through 342, 352 through 360, 368	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	Spike bull
		335, Elk Area 2051	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	True spike bull
Western Washington	WM	448, 454, 564, 666, 684	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	Any elk

		460, 513, 530, 554, 568, 574, 578, 602, 603, 607, 627, 633, 638 except Elk Area 6064, 642, 660, 663, 672	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 652, except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless, 654, 667	Oct. 6-12	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 4-10	3 pt. min. or antlerless
Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons						
Eastern Washington	EM	130 through 142	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		<u>204</u>	<u>Oct. 27-Nov. 15</u>	<u>Oct. 26-Nov. 15</u>	<u>Oct. 25-Nov. 15</u>	<u>Any bull</u>
		203, <u>209</u> through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange.	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15	Oct. 26 - Nov. 15	Oct. 25 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: 371, Elk Area 3912. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2013	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2014	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, 2015	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911**. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 <u>Nov. 10-Dec. 16</u>	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 <u>Nov. 9-Dec. 15</u>	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 <u>Nov. 8-Dec. 14</u>	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Area 3911* 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 26	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	501, 503, 504, 505, 652 except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless.	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Nov. 27 - Dec. 8	Nov. 26 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		448, 454, 564, 666, 684	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		568, 574, 578	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 27-30	Nov. 26-30	3 pt. min.
		550, 601, 618, 658, 667	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 27 - Dec. 15	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		*Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used. Only one (1) <u>antlerless</u> elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911 <u>unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit</u> . Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October 25 <u>26</u> , 2012, August 1 - October 24 <u>25</u> , 2013, and August 1 - October 23 <u>24</u> , 2014. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.				

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RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are already included in your notebook.

Pages 4, 6, and 7

Under modern firearm, archery and muzzleloader modify the footnote that pertains to Elk Area 3911 to read as follows:

- ** Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Only one (1) **antlerless** elk may be taken from Elk Area 3911 **unless drawn for an antlerless elk special permit**. Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1- October **26**, 2012, August 1-October **25**, 2013, and August 1-October **24**,2014. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.

This change more specifically spells out the recommended rules and restrictions that will apply to Master Hunters participating in this hunt.

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Under modern firearm, eastern Washington:

- Restore the Dec. 9-31, Master Hunter only hunt in GMUs 127 and 130, but for antlerless elk only. The original recommendation was to eliminate this hunt entirely, but after receiving input from the Master Hunters the recommendation was changed. The antlerless only hunts recommended are more in keeping with the intent of the Master Hunter program and dealing with damage issues.

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Under late archery general seasons:

- For GMUs 101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204, 124, 127, 373, and 388, change the date to a standardized start date of Nov. 25. This provides a predictable start and end date for this season. The change also eliminates an overlap between archery and modern firearm special permit hunts.

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- For Master Hunters only, Elk Area 3911, antlerless only, change the dates to Nov. 10-Dec. 16 for 2012; Nov. 9-Dec. 15 for 2013; and Nov. 8-Dec. 14 for 2014. This change corrects a typographical error and makes the season consistent with the modern firearm and muzzleloader seasons, as well as continuing the approach used last year.

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Under late muzzleloader general seasons:

- Shift GMU 204 out of the “any elk” season and move it to the “any bull” season. This change corrects a typographical error and is consistent with the changes made in GMU 204 for modern firearm and archery.
- For Master Hunters only, Elk Area 3911, antlerless only, change the dates to Nov. 10-Dec. 16 for 2012; Nov. 9-Dec. 15 for 2013; and Nov. 8-Dec. 14 for 2014. This change corrects a typographical error and makes the season consistent with the modern firearm and archery seasons, as well as continuing the approach used last year.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-28-358 "2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions"

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>By now you may have heard that the floating starting date for the early archery elk season is not popular among many of us it affects. This is for a variety of reasons and they are the very same reasons that were cited when we lobbied for and succeeded in getting the season dates set at September 8-21 in the first place: 1) competition with holiday campers for campsites, 2) private land gate closures due to fire danger when it is hot and dry, 3) increased risk of meat spoilage when temperatures are high, and 4) other western states allow archery hunting in the latter part of September and their herds haven't suffered. Let those of you who were around when the September 8-21 dates were first established remember, and those of you who are newer to the commission understand, the Department's position back then. We had been told that hunting in the last half of September "will never happen". But after the Commission said "Let's try it and see", and after the September 8-21 dates had been in place for a few seasons, our success rate for the first time ever matched our user group size ratio. The data that was shared with us showed that on the East-side where the opportunity to harvest older bulls is tightly controlled by permit all of the user groups took their correct proportion of "mature" bulls in spite of the season timing; it was a success! I believe it was the inclusion of westside bull harvest that made the statewide "mature" bull harvest by archers appear to be too heavy. Several factors influence West-side harvest of bulls: Dense West-side vegetation makes hunting with long range weapons more difficult but is very conducive to hunting with a close-range weapon. Antler point restrictions of four-point minimum in some GMU's makes the West-side the only good non-draw opportunity for hunting an older bull in the state and so experienced hunters who choose to limit themselves to only hunting a mature bull will gravitate to the West-side (if not another state). And when all that can be harvested is a bull of at least four-points it stands to reason that much of the harvest will consist of five-points-or-better bulls.</p> <p>Please, let us get all those rag-horns out of the data, and by doing so follow the department's own Game Management Plan definition of a mature bull (at least four and a half years old, generally having six points or more on one side), so that we can know whether there truly was any real justification for implementing a floating start date for the early archery elk season; and if there wasn't let's change it back to the way it was and restore the successful balance to the harvest of elk.</p>	<p>Early archery hunting season dates were the most commented on topic for the 3-year package.</p> <p>For the last three-year package 2009-2011, the Department believed the number of mature bulls being taken by archers as compared to other user groups was disproportionate. So in the last three-year package two changes were made. One was to create a very small number of prime time special permits for modern firearm hunters in the last week of September ending before the beginning of muzzleloader deer season. The other was to move archery general seasons to start the Tuesday after Labor Day. Because this date floats with the changing calendar, the start date does sometimes start early in September. Initially the proposal was to return early archery seasons to the Sept. 1-15 time period. But that was unacceptable to archery representatives, so the negotiated compromise was to start the Tuesday after Labor Day.</p> <p>With the creation of the multiple categories special permit system in 2010, the concept of quality special permits was expanded to all user groups within the limits of available calendar dates.</p> <p>Disproportionate mature bull archery harvest in western Washington was the issue in the last three-year package. It was disproportionate whether we looked at five point or better or six point or better bulls.</p> <p>Success rates for eastern Washington early archery branch-antlered bull permits have been consistent by hunt regardless of start dates. This is largely because bull permits are allocated by a formula that considers the user group's proportion of all hunters and their success rate.</p> <p>There are no 4 pt. minimum antler restrictions for elk in western Washington. The units in western Washington that have antler restrictions are 3 pt. minimum units. The Department is not considering a 4pt. minimum antler restriction for elk in western Washington nor have we received many requests from the public to do so.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>BY the WDFW continually moving the archery season closer to the beginning of September the latter becomes more impossible to do with temperatures in the mid 80s to low 90s. Even with a perfect shot, losing meat is almost impossible to do. This is unethical in my eyes and should be in the eyes of the WDFW. Why is archery the only hunt group that there season never opens on a set Saturday as do modern firearms and muzzleloader? By the end of this next cycle archery will be opening on Labor Day which means more people in the hills that may not care to have their children witness the killing and gutting of an elk. There should be no issue with making the archery opener on the Saturday following Labor Day.</p> <p>My second issue is with the way the antlerless permits were divided up between user groups in GMU 328 and 329. WDFW has proposed 40 permits to modern firearms, 20 to muzzleloaders and zero special permits to archery. In order for the WDFW to balance this they have proposed to open late archery season to an antlerless or true spike season. Sounds like a great deal to archers only one thing. WDFW will be putting archery hunters into harm's way because we will need to be down where the master hunters will be hunting due to the weather being too bad for the animals to be in the regular ground. The elk if you look at your tracking collars information will prove to WDFW that the animals will be in or headed for winter ground at the end of November early December. I spend enough time as a master hunter in the BMGR meetings held in Ellensburg to know this. I brought this up to an employee of the WDFW at the Yakima sportsman show and he intern validated this by telling me that we would be able to get to elk in the first creek area which is in the master hunter area.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing us to put in our input and I hope you change your thinking about these issues. I will be at the meetings in Moses Lake on March 9th and 10th to make public comment.</p>	<p>Warm weather can be an issue throughout the entire month of September and into early October. Weather impacts every aspect of hunting regardless of the month. Hunters need to plan accordingly. The real issue is hunters wanting to be hunting closer to the breeding season when bulls are more vulnerable.</p> <p>If we continue with this system of opening the Tuesday after Labor Day, the opener in 2015 will be Sept. 8, the opener in 2016 will be Sept. 6, and for 2017 it will be Sept. 5.</p> <p>The Department offers a wide variety of hunting seasons. Some of them open on Saturdays and close in Sundays but many do not.</p> <p>In regards to the second issue, Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC. Very little of GMU 328 is included in the Elk Area 3911 where Master Hunters may hunt.</p>
<p>I specifically object to four main areas.</p> <p>The Archery Coalition of Washington (made up of board members from the WSAA, WSB and the TBW) wrote to you previously on these same issues and I am writing to you to show my support of their position.</p> <p>The issues are: 1. Change the early archery elk season back to a fixed time frame of September 8th to the 21st as it was prior to the 2009-2011 seasons and add our 1 day back that was taken away in 2009. Archery is a hard sport and one that does not need further handicaps. By limiting us to 13 days afield and starting as early as September 2nd (2014) makes a difficult sport much, much harder. We are forced to compete with the Labor Day hiking/camping crowd plus deal with potential fire closures that most frequently happen during the first week of September. For example, last year the private timber companies shut down their land during the first week of archery elk season and it started on the 6th. Imagine how many days we would have lost if the season started on the 2nd! In addition, compared to most other western states (Idaho, Oregon, & Montana) our archery elk season is only half as long (13 vs. 30 days). Another fact to</p>	<p>For the last three-year package 2009-2011, the Department believed the number of mature bulls being taken by archers as compared to other user groups was disproportionate. So in the last three-year package two changes were made. One was to create a very small number of prime time special permits for modern firearm hunters in the last week of September ending before the beginning of muzzleloader deer season. The other was to move archery general seasons to start the Tuesday after Labor Day. Because this date floats with the changing calendar, the start date does sometimes start early in September. Initially the proposal was to return early archery seasons to the Sept. 1-15 time period. But that was unacceptable to archery representatives on the GMAC, so the negotiated compromise was to start the Tuesday after Labor Day.</p> <p>With the creation of the multiple categories special permit system in 2010, the concept of quality special permits was expanded to all user groups within the limits of available calendar dates.</p> <p>Disproportionate mature bull archery harvest in western</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>consider is that the current proposed modern firearm season for western Washington elk season is 12 days, only 1 day shorter! I strongly urge you to please reconsider and reestablish the fixed season of September 8th to the 21st. Change the early archery elk hunt in the Bumping GMU 356 from spike only to antlerless and spike, as calf recruitment is back at department goals. The decision to change this from spike or antlerless to spike only was made prior to the 2010 season (after the 2009-2011 seasons were set) and was made without public input on the issue. The department also continued to offer cow permits to the modern firearm and muzzleloader groups during the 2010 and 2011 seasons while no permits were offered to the archery user group. Further, cow permits are once again being offered to these user groups in the current proposal while archery is recommended to once again be spike only. I have hunted this unit since 2002 for early archery elk and my anecdotal experience is that the elk population has been very stable in the unit specifically in the William O'Douglas Wilderness area of the unit. I strongly urge you to change the early archery elk season in GMU 356 back to spike or antlerless.</p> <p>Add a late Archery elk hunt in the Quilomene for antlerless/spike. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and for the work you do for our state. However, I strongly urge you to consider making these changes prior to approving the next three year package. We as bowhunters are not asking for much, but rather a return to what we had as a user group as recently as 2008. The 2006 to 2008 seasons were much more equitable between all user groups than this current proposal. I am a life resident of Washington State, I am currently 32 years old and I have been hunting since I could walk. As soon as I could legally be afield with my own license I was and I have been bow hunting from day one. I love this sport and this state and I am only asking that we get an equitable piece of the pie. I look forward to hearing your response and witnessing your action.</p>	<p>Washington was the issue in the last three-year package. Success rates for eastern Washington early archery branch-antlered bull permits have been consistent by hunt regardless of start dates.</p> <p>The proposal does include a 12 day modern firearm season in western Washington. But there is no late modern firearm season. Late archery season in all units that are open lasts for 25 days in 2012.</p> <p>Warm weather and fire danger can be an issue throughout the entire month of September and into early October. Weather impacts every aspect of hunting regardless of the month. Hunters need to plan accordingly. The real issue is hunters wanting to be hunting closer to the breeding season when bulls are more vulnerable.</p> <p>If we continue with this system of opening the Tuesday after Labor Day, the opener in 2015 will be Sept. 8, the opener in 2016 will be Sept. 6, and for 2017 it will be Sept. 5.</p> <p>Fifty (50) antlerless special permits are being proposed for archers in GMU 356 this year. For modern firearm and muzzleloader the antlerless permits in this unit are 25 and 30 respectively. Region 3 staff will meet with archery representatives for the 2013 season to determine how additional antlerless opportunity will be proposed if the elk population trends continue.</p> <p>There are 50 antlerless permits for archers that are being proposed in GMUs 328 and 329 (Quilomene) and a late archery general opportunity for true spikes and antlerless in 328, 334, and 335 but the Department is not currently recommending any general season late opportunity in Quilomene.</p>
<p>I don't feel it is fair to have a 4 day season you have been shorting it for years now and now you make it 3 point only and 4 days it is ridicules' to soy the less. This is for unit 574 late muzzle'</p>	<p>In the last three years and the coming three years for GMUs 568, 574 and 578, the late muzzleloader season shifts with the calendar and the Thanksgiving holiday. The opener is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the closer is always Nov. 30.</p>
<p>For elk hunting season is there any way that there could be more units opened up for muzzle loaders to hunt like 572, 560, more late season hunts would be great thanks for taking the time to look this over have a great day.</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for additional opportunity that can be offered. The Recommendations start at the district level and are then forwarded up to the Regional level. At this time the Region feels it is recommending all the opportunity it can. Visiting with the District Biologist and the Regional Wildlife Manager might be in order to explore any possible increased opportunities in future years.</p>
<p>I have always believed that our license fees were for insuring growth of herds and opportunity to hunt game and provide food for our families. You have got to be kidding us, we currently only have an 8 day Bull only season. The Projected 2013 season is only 4 days long? It is not worth setting up Elk camp for what is a weekend hunt. Hunters will just not</p>	<p>In the last three years and the coming three years for GMUs 568, 574 and 578, the late muzzleloader season shifts with the calendar and the Thanksgiving holiday. The opener is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the closer is always Nov. 30.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>show up for so little hunting opportunity. We have been cut down from a 21 day Elk season in the past and with the bull only requirement our success rate has dropped to almost nothing, we should be getting more days of hunting, not less. In years past in unit 574 the harvest numbers for Modern fire arm have been really high, but there has been little done to equally change rules for all. Instead we have seen muzzle loading days diminish. I have a young son who relies upon the game meet due to food allergies. If you continue to set hunting rules that hinder the harvest of animals for human consumption I will choose my family over your regulations.</p>	
<p>(For 574 muzzleloader)... I hear it is proposed to drop the season to four days. You have already destroyed this great hunted that has existed for about two decades. With the change to a bull only in this area the success rate is nearly zero. The few that happen to draw a cow tag have the only realistic chance of success. If you don't draw a cow tag you are likely just donating the funds of the elk tag to a near zero chance elk hunt.</p> <p>On top of this, if you go to only four days it is not worth the fuel or time to go to the area to hunt. If you haven't noticed a very large number of people already quit muzzleloader elk hunting and went back to modern rifle season.</p>	<p>In the last three years and the coming three years for GMUs 568, 574 and 578, the late muzzleloader season shifts with the calendar and the Thanksgiving holiday. The opener is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the closer is always Nov. 30.</p>
<p>Recommend same amount of hunting days for late Archery Elk both eastern and western Washington. Modern firearm and muzzle loaders loose 1-2 days where as Archery looses 5-6 days FOR 2013 AND 2014 THIS IS NOT FAIR TO CHANGE ONE GROUP AND NOT ALL EQUALLY.</p>	<p>The Department offers a wide variety of hunting seasons. Some of them open on Saturdays and close in Sundays but many do not.</p> <p>Some of the hunts shift with calendar dates and are also tied to holidays. We have proposed some shifts in starting dates that would provide predictable and consistent dates year after year rather than shifting with calendar adjustments. Hope it helps.</p>
<p>I see antlerless permits for GMU 328, for EF (40) and EM (30) on the website. Nothing for EA.</p> <p>Are there any antlerless permits for early archery (4-16th.sept.) in GMU 328?</p> <p>I know that you want bull to cow at 1-10. If bull permits were increased by 2 -4 permits in 328, is NOT going to decimate the herd. I live in 328. I see what is in the Nanuem herd year around.</p> <p>Now if the game department put up a 1/2 mile zone around the Colockum game reserve with a few permits, that only permit holders can hunt, that would help to eliminate some of the problems by the reserve. LIKE a hunter behind every tree or fencepost. That is what ethical hunters call B.S. It would help the elk in that area</p> <p>Please respond.</p>	<p>Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>
<p>Fewer restrictions might retain and add hunters to hunting license purchases. I'm just wondering does the DFW make up for the lost revenue in license purchases through the permit revenue? It would appear so, because we keep getting more restrictions through permits and not considering the hunters dropping out. Something to think about when your adding more restrictions, (I'm guessing from hunters success reports). That when there were more hunters and less</p>	<p>The Department only proposes restrictions that we feel are necessary. The sale of elk licenses has increased over the past twenty years and we now sell more than at any time we have been tracking them.</p> <p>The data collected through mandatory reporting is critical to better managing the hunted populations. Having that knowledge often allows us to recommend more opportunity.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>restrictions no mandatory reporting, over 10 years ago and further back, that the elk herds weren't decimated to a point of all these restricted permits. I think the newest restrictions are going to be on the GMU's above Spokane because 2010 reports were around 500 elk harvested.</p>	<p>The restrictions we are proposing for NE elk are intended to create more opportunity for the long term.</p>
<p>Make an any weapon and side east/west tag. Just raise the price of that tag. This way everyone wins. There is a good point to be made, when you hunt bow season and don't get an elk or deer. Then the season is still going on. Then you cannot buy a gun tag. There is also a good point in the limited area you can hunt. East or West side the state is not that big really. Alaska doesn't even have a regulation like this. It is has 3 mountain ranges and is a 1/4 the size of the united states. Their regs are one tag any weapon and anywhere in the state; just one tag per hunter. It is possible to add the price of what it would cost to buy a gun, bow, east, and west side and combine the price and lower it 25%. It is still only one elk and deer. But this tag will come with options which I think most hunters would like to see. You can keep the same tags on the billet and just add one. This way the die-hards for just bow or gun can get a cheaper tag. But truly hunting should be state wide. I understand the management thing but I think an open tag at a raised price. Would possible bring in more money to the state conservation. Make hunters happy with options. I don't think there would be a problem with a raised price. If you keep the old tags available. Some will complain about the state wide thing. But I think they just don't want you hunting in their area. It's still only one Elk and deer per hunter. I do not know about the herds with an any sex tag. But if the herds look good maybe it's an option. Really most working people can only hunt on the week end. So they won't travel very far from home. So I think only about 25% of the hunter out there know will travel from east to west. But I would still like the option to and free will. But I do think 75% of the hunter would buy an any weapon tag even at a raised price. Thank you for your time and thanks for allowing the citizens to voice their opinion about the regulations</p>	<p>The multiple season permits already provide what you are requesting. You have until March 31 to apply for Multiple season permits.</p>
<p>Just wanted to add, seeing were the meetings a being held I think that Everett should be added to the list. I've hunted in this state for a long time and each year the archers take it in the shorts. We need to change this back to where we had a chance. I hunt in GM unit 328 and think this true spike only has to go</p>	<p>Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>
<p>I have a comment on the proposed 2012 cow elk allocation for the 328 area. Specifically for archery hunters. It makes little sense to allow cow tags only in the late archery season, even though it is an unlimited number. I have hunted this area for 30 years or more, early and late seasons. I have harvested 1 cow in the late season in this period. In many cases the elk have already migrated east and are totally out of the area. If they are in the area, they are down low in the sage areas. Anyone that is a serious archery hunter knows that it is almost impossible to get within 30 or 40 yards of an elk in open country for an effective ethical shot. Looking at past years hunter success reports shows that</p>	<p>Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>archers had a success rate of about 15 percent, when cows were allowed to be harvested in the early season. The percentage has dwindled now that it is a true spike area. It doesn't make sense to me to allow a given number of cow tags for rifle and muzzle loaders that will have a success rate of over 80 percent , and yet allow cow tags only in the late season when very few will even be accessible to harvest. Why not allow a number of permits for archery in the early season that would allow a comparable harvest to the other user groups?</p> <p>I know this is not an easy task to satisfy all user groups and I appreciate your efforts. I hope you might consider any thoughts that I may have.</p>	
<p>If you give the west side one extra day, you should give the east side an extra day for elk hunting. They should not be a west or east side, we are all Washington residents...and should be able to hunt either west or east without buying a east tag or west tag</p>	<p>The history of the east side west side designations for elk tags is rooted in the need to reduce hunter crowding. As for the department's response to the east/west designation as it relates to applying for special permits, see the elk special permit comment-response document.</p>
<p>I am a western Washington bow-hunter. My passion is elk hunting during the rut. As a bow-hunter I realize the challenge it is to take an elk with archery equipment. I have been unsuccessful several times. My suggestion is that in the 3 point minimum or antlerless, and the 3 point minimum units, the antler restriction should change to 5 point minimum respectively. I think antlerless animals should still be able to be taken, but I think the rut hunt could be improved while more cows get bred. With a 5 point minimum the competition to breed cows would increase, and there would be much more escapement for bulls that are mature enough to breed. Hunters would experience better calling opportunities as well because there would be more satellite bulls instead of there being one herd bull that was a spike in the previous year. It would only take a couple of years before the likelihood of killing a 5 point was as good as killing a 3 point, and I believe a healthier elk herd would be the result.</p>	<p>Your suggestion would be a very restrictive rule change that most elk hunters would not be in support. The Department does not see the need for such a restrictive rule, reduction in harvest, and reduction in opportunity at this time.</p>
<p>I'm an avid archery hunter that currently hunts the southwestern portion of Washington state. I'm writing in regards to the proposed season changes for early westside archery elk. As you may or may not be aware, archery season has been based around the idea of hunting during the rut. For a variety of reasons, it appears the rut has been occurring later in the month of Sept. /early Oct. In the past four to five seasons due to the short length of Washington's archery season and a variety of factors, the rut in essence has barely been in "swing" during season. This lack of rutting has made archery hunting more difficult to say the least. Big bulls bugling in the Washington timber is why I hunt archery elk, it's why my father hunts archery elk, and why the other four individuals in our camp hunt archery elk. This proposed change would move the season even farther away from potential/ historical rut dates. This is NOT an acceptable season change. Please do not follow through with the proposed change. LEAVE the season dates as they are/ or move them back to the latter part of September/ or extend the archery season. This proposed change has brought up much</p>	<p>The details of your request are provided in the first three responses of this document.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>debate by six die hard archery hunters. If this change was to pass through and it becomes effective, it's been agreed unilaterally that all members of our hunting party will NOT be purchasing Washington licenses and will be taking our money and time and investing it in either Oregon or Idaho. This will further reduce revenue for the already "depleted funds" and budget faced in these hard economic times. Please do not change the season dates for archery elk.</p>	
<p>Please do not have Muzzleloader elk end the day before modern deer in eastern WA. We liked it better with a week or at least a few days between these hunts. I am a Master Hunter and my party hunts the elk season and then moves to Twisp for the deer season. There is no down time between these hunts as there has been in the past.</p>	<p>There are so many requests by the user groups to have more time to hunt that the calendar in most years is filled. There is little room to shift or provide week long gaps as you request.</p>
<p>Archery Elk Seasons - set it back to the 2009 dates and make the dates fixed. Sept. 8-21. There is no need to have the season keep moving away from the rut. With less rut activity and hotter weather, this really works to limit your chances of success. Muzzleloader Elk Season - these dates should be fixed also. October 1-7 was fine. The department only gives muzzleloaders 1 weekend anyhow (which is BS since all late seasons hunts are absolute garbage, at least on the East side) so what does it matter if the weekend falls in the middle of the season? These two issues are what I have noticed so far. I'm not sure what the department's reasoning is for having unfixed dates but it is getting old. We wait years and years to finally get a good season and then it bumps back up (Muzzleloader) or down (Archery) and gets worse all over again. It doesn't make any sense. Please consider adjusting these season dates.</p>	<p>The details of your first request are provided in the first three responses of this document. Like most hunters, muzzleloaders prefer their opening day to be a Saturday. Although we can't always accommodate a Saturday opener, in this case we can.</p>
<p>I moved here to WA eight years ago. I have archery hunted for elk all but one year and cannot understand why the commission keeps moving the season back for archery as well as the removal of one day from the length of the season during that time. WA is the only western state that does not allow the archery season to go until later into September when archery hunters actually might have a chance to hunt during some prime rutting time. Archery hunters have the most difficult hunt (even if it's during the rut) then either MF or ML as their weapons can reach out well beyond that of a bow. The MF hunters are getting more days and now have permit hunts during the prime late September rut period. ML hunters are now getting their season moved further back INTO the prime rutting period of early October. There is absolutely no reason why the Archery season could not start on the 8th or 10th even and run until the 21st or 23rd (preferably). It would not increase the harvest of elk anywhere near what the changes to the ML and MF seasons will !!!</p>	<p>The details of your request are provided in the first three responses of this document. Modern firearm hunters on the west side get 12 days; archers get 13 in the early seasons. There are no late seasons for modern firearm elk but there are many units open for lat archery. Muzzleloader seasons shift with the first Saturday of October and that will vary from year to year.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>These changes obviously have nothing to do with the amount of elk harvested.</p> <p>Can you please explain what the reasons are for moving the archery seasons?</p> <p>Can you explain the reasons why we are the only state that does not allow archery season to go later into September (like all the other states)?</p>	
<p>I really would like to see a late rut season or a special tag given out for the 121 unit for muzzleloader season. A 9 day season would be really nice.</p>	<p>The early muzzleloader, general season opens on the first Saturday of October and runs for 7 days including in GMU 121. There is still rut activity taking place at this time in most years.</p>
<p>I was just reviewing the proposed early archery elk seasons and noticed the dates are really early this upcoming cycle. It appears that the season is starting following the Labor day weekend which was later the last few years. I spent the last two early seasons hunting elk in Montana and didn't notice that in 08 and 09 the date moved earlier each of those years. I would prefer to see the start of this season on a set date of Sept 8-21 like it used to be before the last 3 year cycle. I know that with budget cuts there are not supposed to be major rule changes but this would be just a change in start date, it would be in line with what the 06-09 seasons were and close to this last cycle dates.</p>	<p>That is correct the early archery opener is the Tuesday after Labor Day.</p> <p>The details of your request are provided in the first three responses of this document.</p>
<p>My input is on modern rifle general season have it start on Thursday instead of ending on Tuesday.</p> <p>Make the special hunts by permit more attractive by adding more tags; the way it looks now is like you are just trying to get more money.</p>	<p>The Department tries to recommend as much opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the elk populations.</p>
<p>-Early Archery season keeps getting moved closer to the first of the month, I propose starting the season at least 4 to 7 days later, the woods are closed usually during the first part of Sept for fire danger and the bulls aren't usually actively rutting yet. This gives us a disadvantage. OR add 4- 7 days to the season, so we can actually hunt vocal bulls!</p> <p>-Make late archery season units 520 and 530 include 3 pt. bulls or cows</p>	<p>The details of your first request are provided in the first three responses of this document.</p> <p>We are trying to achieve more antlerless harvest in GMUs 520 and 530 so the bull opportunity is being offered in the early season when bulls are also more vulnerable.</p>
<p>I would like to make a comment on a closing date conflict with the forest service gate.</p> <p>The forest service locks and closes the Evans Creek gate on Dec 15 at 12:01 am. You cannot hunt in Evans Creek ORV, but you can use it for access.</p> <p>That area late Muzzleloader GMU 654 has a closing date of Dec 15 at sunset. That is 12 hrs after the gate is locked. Why can't they close it at the same time as the closing date?</p> <p>This robs us of one day access of a very limited muzzleloader area to begin with.</p> <p>I spoke to Forest service "user meetings" twice in over a two years period with no help. His reply was we have a hunting biologist that is suppose to take care of that.</p> <p>By closing that gate 24hr or even 12hr later isn't going to cause anymore expense or trouble in their part that I can think of. I'll even volunteer to lock it.</p>	<p>The Department is having Region 6 staff look into this matter.</p>
<p>I believe the elk season should be extended 1 day. For me it makes sense because I only hunt deer during the western late buck season which occurs after elk season. I hunt the western elk season and late buck in the same GMU; for me it makes</p>	<p>Thanks for your support on our proposal.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>it more affordable. If I can take time off from work the second weekend of elk season and continue hunting through the last day of late buck I do not have to make separate trips to and from my hunting area at 3.60 per gallon of fuel while hauling all required supplies. It just makes sense to do. Thank you for proposing this. What makes more sense is just going back to how it was back in the late 1980s and early 1990s when elk season was 2 full weeks with late buck the last 4 days of elk season.</p>	
<p>Thank you for letting me and fellow hunters comment. Hunting for big game in Washington is to say the least very discouraging. Our seasons for Elk way to early it would be nice to go back to a start date in November, like it was when I started to hunt in the 1980's when I was 13. We definitely saw more animals and we enjoyed our time in the woods more. In the last 2 seasons I have seen 4 elk combined in the woods. As for Deer hunting I really don't go much anymore for the same reasons. Elk season for us has just turned into a family vacation where we carry our guns in the woods and hope we just see something. The one thing that we do enjoy most is Turkey hunting which has pretty much replaced our Elk hunting trips and that's due to the season being appropriately set. Sorry to ramble on but it's very discouraging to waste my time and money to support an agency that doesn't look after its supporters and that would be hunters. Two more big game seasons in WA for my family and I then we will be in Idaho where we can hunt and actually be successful.</p>	<p>You didn't indicate whether you hunted elk on the east side or west side but we're assuming east. The reason hunting seasons are earlier on the east side is that our biologists in the eastern Districts determined that hunting later makes elk more accessible and more vulnerable to hunting because they are often moving down in elevation in response to weather events. It became a choice of continuing to offer some level of general season hunting during an earlier time frame or completely shifting to a permit only type of season. Washington hunters have indicated on several occasions that general season elk hunting is an important value that they want to retain so we offer the hunting seasons at the earlier time.</p>
<p>If the changes to the Regulations pertaining to changing legal elk in the 204 GMU, AND cutting the season length in half as is proposed, well then the communities in this area can COUNT ON not getting any business from us, since our group would venture into the 204 for the week after general eastern bull since the 204 was open any elk for a week longer. The East Okanagan unit is not Selkirk, so please leave it alone. I would like to see the 101 left alone also.</p>	<p>The proposed changes are intended to manage for more elk and create more opportunity in the long run. To do that GMUs 101 through 121 and 204 need to be managed consistently.</p>
<p>I would like the Packwood and Lewis River areas opened up for Muzzleloaders... There is no good reason why these two Game Units 516 and 560 aren't open for Muzzleloaders. Thanks!</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for additional opportunity that can be offered. The Recommendations start at the district level and are then forwarded up to the Regional level. At this time the Region feels it is recommending all the opportunity it can. Visiting with the District Biologist and the Regional Wildlife Manager might be in order to explore any possible increased opportunities in future years.</p>
<p>Remember if anyone takes an elk anywhere near where I hunt you don't see the herd the rest of the season. I have only for the last couple of years been confident I would ever get an elk. I started to see cows in my area in GMU 108 but never see them when the season opens. I hunt for meat not for horns and bulls eat horrible most of the time. I'm not for this new rule!</p>	<p>The proposed changes are intended to manage for more elk and create more opportunity in the long run. To do that GMUs 101 through 121 and 204 need to be managed consistently.</p>
<p>The 2013 & 2014 season is only 2 ½ weeks long because Thanksgiving is on the last week of November. In the past you have opened season a week early if this happened, how come not this time? Not sure it will be worth buying a license for. I'm also not a fan of the length of cow season</p>	<p>Many of our late season muzzleloader hunts have floating dates that key off of the Thanksgiving holiday. Typically the average elk hunter is only able to hunt 3 to 5 days so you still might be able to find enough hunting opportunity in 2 ½ weeks.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>should you be lucky enough to draw a tag. Some day the Fish & Game will catch up with the rest of the country and allow the use of scopes. I'm 63 years old and disabled.</p>	<p>The Department is not planning on proposing scopes for muzzleloaders. As a disabled hunter you may qualify to use a scope if you have certain vision restrictions. Check with the Department's ADA coordinator for the details.</p>
<p>Generally speaking, Eastern Washington modern firearm elk hunters appear to get the fewest hunting opportunities and greatest restriction of any group. With this in mind, please ALWAYS consider having the modern firearm elk season, in any EF tag area with spike only restrictions, one week later than is currently planned. You took our season away from us years ago, why not give it back every once in a while. Thank you.</p>	<p>The reason hunting seasons are earlier on the east side is that our biologists in the eastern Districts determined that hunting later makes elk more accessible and more vulnerable to hunting because they are often moving down in elevation in response to weather events. This was translating into a higher harvest than could be sustained over time. It became a choice of continuing to offer some level of general season hunting during an earlier time frame or completely shifting to a permit only type of season. Washington hunters have indicated on several occasions that general season elk hunting is an important value that they want to retain so we offer the hunting seasons at the earlier time.</p>
<p>You currently have dates proposed that include a national holiday (Labor Day). This is a huge mistake! The campgrounds and forests are packed full of citizens that are not there to hunt. Not only is this a safety issue but it reduces the quality of the hunt to those in the field to do so. A better series of dates for 2012 would be Sept 5th – 19th. This is a Wed to Wed plan. I would recommend that you continue this process for the three year period.</p>	<p>That is an interesting proposal for the coming three years, but in 2015 and 2016 you would overlap with the holiday. In 2017 you'd be back to the Tuesday after the holiday. So from our standpoint the proposal lacks the consistency that most hunters prefer.</p>
<p>We have not been able to find out how to report an elk kill in unit 3911. We shot an elk on Dec. 30th last year but could not find where to report that kill. I don't remember how we reported it but would like to know. There is nothing showing that unit when we report on our success. Also I would like to see no change to that season. I see that you're considering a shorter season in unit 3911, there are not many of us that hunt in late Dec. but have enjoyed that last two weeks in Dec. Have also been able to help a couple of ranches that time of year, finding their cattle while hunting. Sometimes they are still trying to locate cows before winter. We saved one rancher many hours this last year because we found a small herd of 12 they could not find. So we were able to give the rancher the location of his cows. We have a group of 14 to 15 guys that help fence the area around Kitittas in April. We have put in many hours for at least 7 different ranches in the last few years.</p>	<p>Hunting activity reporting is done by GMU so you must determine which GMU you hunted in to successfully report.</p> <p>The proposals do include shortening the season to mid-December which is based on the Regional staff's assessment of the need to harvest antlerless animals to mitigate damage.</p>
<p>Elk Season - Area GMU 560 Not open for General Muzzleloader Season, Open only for Special Permits Open for General Archery Season for 3pt or Better/Antlerless and Special Permits Open for General Modern Firearm Season for 3 pt or Better and Special Permits I understand that Muzzleloaders can hunt during the General Modern Season but must have a Modern Tag. This does not allow Muzzleloaders the opportunity to apply for Muzzleloader Permits for GMU 560 or the opportunity to hunt during Muzzleloader Season. Allowing Muzzleloaders a General Season in GMU 560 for 3 pt or better, would allow us the opportunity to hunt in the GMU even if we don't draw</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for additional opportunity that can be offered. The Recommendations start at the district level and are then forwarded up to the Regional level. At this time the Region feels it is recommending all the opportunity it can. Visiting with the District Biologist and the Regional Wildlife Manager might be in order to explore any possible increased opportunities in future years.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>a Permit for the GMU. This allows us the opportunity to learn and hunt the GMU each year. This enables Muzzleloaders to be become more familiar with the area and improving their hunting experience. Thank You for considering my request.</p>	
<p>Why don't you want archery to harvest bulls? I oppose changing season to early Sept. I'm upset that we can't hunt bulls late season GMU 530\520\506 bout ready to stop hunting WA.</p>	<p>The details are provided in the first three responses of this document. We are trying to achieve more antlerless harvest in GMUs 520, 506, and 530 so the bull opportunity is being offered in the early season when bulls are also more vulnerable.</p>
<p>I'm sure you've heard it already but I have a complaint about the 3 point minimum for elk in the Clearwater area. I'm a rifle hunter and I live in Clearwater. The tribe hunts here year round and pretty much kills whatever is available with no regard for the rest of us. I know you can't do much about that. But you could remove your 3 point min. as it is doesn't seem fair for the licensed hunter and resident who is paying the bill both through license fees and loss of hay crop production to have very little chance of getting an elk. Nor am I interested in conserving for the wolf population or those who pay nothing. If the present management practices are to be continued I think I will not hunt in this state anymore and take my license fees somewhere else. If you have a good solution to the problem I would like to hear it</p>	<p>The 3-pt. min. antler restriction is used consistently throughout western Washington. The restriction provides enough of a level of bull escapement to meet post-hunt bull objectives while still allowing general season hunting.</p>
<p>Why are you trying to eliminate the elk in western Washington? Make bull elk 5pnt or better in western Washington and deer 3 pt. or better just like the eastside, put your books down and get out of your chair and do some real research in the woods. YOU are going to destroy hunting in Washington because you don't know S#@T! And you don't listen to the public!!!!</p>	<p>Your suggestion would be a very restrictive rule change that most elk hunters would not be in support. The Department does not see the need for such a restrictive rule, reduction in harvest, and reduction in opportunity at this time.</p>
<p>I am an avid hunter and have been one for the last 23 years. My father, his friends, and I have hunted in the Wenas, Manashtash areas every year since before I could legally carry a rifle. If I could make one change to the hunting regulations it would be moving the hunting days back to later in the season. As of now it is too warm, and the elk that we are suppose to be hunting have not come down from the upper mountains. Hunting in that area has become increasingly worse every year and any elk that are seen are usually local herd. Moving the hunting seasons back a week or two would allow for better hunting, and a sense that the game department cares about the hunters paying a hundred dollars a hunting season. Thank you for your consideration, I would really like a response to my email if at all possible</p>	<p>The reason hunting seasons are earlier on the east side is that our biologists in the eastern Districts determined that hunting later makes elk more accessible and more vulnerable to hunting because they are often moving down in elevation in response to weather events. It became a choice of continuing to offer some level of general season hunting during an earlier time frame or completely shifting to a permit only type of season. Washington hunters have indicated on several occasions that general season elk hunting is an important value that they want to retain so we offer the hunting seasons at the earlier time.</p>
<p>Thank you for reducing antlerless elk harvest in NE Washington; this will hopefully allow our herds to grow.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support.</p>
<p>Lastly, the idea that for the next several years the general elk season in western WA will be 12 days is ludicrous. We should be shortening the seasons.</p>	<p>After implementation, Department staff will continue to monitor populations. We don't anticipate any problems but time will tell.</p>
<p>Under the proposed 2012-2014 elk hunting seasons, muzzleloader hunters would be allowed to harvest any elk in Game Management Unit 204 during the Late Muzzleloader General Elk Season, while modern firearm and archery</p>	<p>You are right this was a typographical error. Thank you for pointing it out. The error has been corrected in the Recommended Adjustments.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>hunters are restricted to harvesting only bull elk within that same game management unit. I do not know if there was some kind of typo when creating this particular season, but, under the proposed season, Late Muzzleloader General Elk Season hunters are allowed to harvest any elk in GMU's 203 through 248 (which would include GMU 204). If this was some kind of a typo or oversight that happened while creating the new regulations, then I would like to point it out to the rule making committee. However, if it is the department's intent to completely exclude Modern Firearm and Archery elk hunters from being allowed to harvest Cow elk within GMU 204 (while at the same time allowing Muzzleloader hunters to do so) then I would like to voice my opposition to this proposed change to the elk hunting regulations</p>	
<p>I would like to add GMU 652 to the late Archery season as it is available for Muzzleloader but not archery.</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for additional opportunity that can be offered. The Recommendations start at the district level and are then forwarded up to the Regional level. At this time the Region feels it is recommending all the opportunity it can. Visiting with the District Biologist and the Regional Wildlife Manager might be in order to explore any possible increased opportunities in future years.</p>
<p>Regarding the northern herd: If the herd is on the increase then why eliminate the either-sex season? If the goal is to increase the herd faster, then that would make good sense to eliminate the either-sex season.</p>	<p>Yes that is the intention behind the proposed rule change, to allow the herd to grow at a more rapid pace.</p>
<p>I noticed that the late archery elk season in the northeast corner including unit 117 is now any bull. What is the justification in taking away opportunity for archery hunters in the late season? It is hard enough finding elk up there let alone picking out one, trying to stalk it through loud crunchy snow, and now we are forced to shoot bulls only? This is unbelievable. Coupled with the 4 point minimum for deer this is really putting a damper on the late season hunting in the NE corner. Of the 60 antlerless elk harvested in district 1 last year, how many were in the late season archery? Are we expected to believe the herd is being over harvested? I'm all for preserving our game herds in the northeast corner, but what scientific data is there that suggests we even more limitations for archery? Please consider changing this back to normal.</p>	<p>The intention behind the proposed rule change is to allow the herd to grow at a more rapid pace. In the long run this should provide more elk hunting opportunity.</p>
<p>One proposal I would like to suggest: I have witnessed for many years that during modern firearm elk season in the Lewis unit (the old marble unit), that there are numerous mushroom hunters in the same area/woods as rifle hunters I am aware of the reason of the hunter orange requirement and agree with it but what I don't agree with is the fact that the mushroom hunters in the exact same area as a rifle hunter are not required the orange as is a hunter I believe this is a simple rule change that should require any persons in the woods during a rifle season be required to wear orange</p>	<p>That is an interesting safety proposal, however, the Fish and Wildlife Commission only has authority over things like the time, place, and manner in which the elk hunting you described is conducted unless it is on lands owned/managed by WDFW. They do not adopt rules pertaining to mushroom collection.</p>
<p>I strongly feel GMU 673 should be open for late archery season.</p>	<p>GMU 673 is open for early archery for 3 pt. min. and antlerless elk. At this time the Region feels it is</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
	recommending all the opportunity it can. Visiting with the District Biologist and the Regional Wildlife Manager might be in order to explore any possible increased opportunities in future years.
I am against the proposal to add a twelfth day to the modern firearm elk season. I have lobbied for more liberal Westside muzzleloader seasons. You not only have made very few minor improvements in those seasons, but six years ago you added a tenth day, three years ago added an eleventh day and now you want to add another day to the modern firearm elk season. I propose to take the two days you added and the one day you want to add and let the muzzleloader hunters have those three days, and maybe add a couple more and let them hunt in the same areas that are open to the modern firearm hunters. This hunt would be after the modern firearm season. It would go a long way toward trying to make all the user groups more equal in the time everyone gets to hunt. They would also end up shooting fewer bulls than the modern firearm hunters.	<p>You are correct. The addition of days to the west side modern firearm seasons was a commitment that the Department made to modern firearm elk hunters through the Game Management Advisory Council.</p> <p>Adding the 12th and final day for the 2012-2014 three-year package completes that commitment. This ongoing experiment has been to add a day to the season and then monitor the results for three years. Negative impacts were not observed in the first or second three-year time periods so we continued recommending adding an additional day to the season.</p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor populations and harvest for the 2012-2014 time period. It is uncertain whether any additional muzzleloader opportunity for elk can be added after that.</p>
Moving early muzzleloader later into Oct. from the 1st to the 6th makes no sense. Leave it on the 1st. In the 300 hundred units, the number of bulls is at an all time high with the number of large mature bulls making up a huge portion.	Early muzzleloader season starts on the first Saturday of October and runs for 7 days. In 2012 the first Saturday is the 6 th of October.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-28-358 2012 - 2014 Elk General Seasons and Definitions and WAC 232-28-360 2012 Elk Special Permits .

Master Hunter Season Proposals

I support the expanded opportunities for MH and increased involvement of the Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG). The benefit of all the volunteer hours outweighs the costs to the agency to manage volunteers. I have recently been appointed to the MHAG.	Welcome to the Advisory Group and thank you for your commitment.
I became a Master Hunter (MH) to cultivate relationships with landowners around the Turnbull Refuge. I have established good relationships and they provide me with access in exchange for the help I give them throughout the year. The landowners I work with don't feel that they have a problem with elk. I don't support the loss of the December Master Hunter season in GMU 130 and don't want to be placed on a list to hunt some property where I may not even know the landowner.	<p>It sounds like you have done a great job of addressing an important part of the Master Hunter (MH) Program which is to improve landowner relationships. Because of the number of comments received in opposition to the proposed change, the Department has modified our recommendation so that it continues the MH December hunt for antlerless elk in GMUs 127 & 130.</p> <p>However, there are also either sex elk seasons beginning in September and running into early December depending on the tag you possess (archery, muzzleloader, or modern). You are encouraged to continue your relationships with landowners and hunt during these time frames as well.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>What is the Department looking for with the MH program? If the incentive hunts are eliminated, many hunters will drop out of the program and the Department will lose out on their volunteer hours. Is the Department trying to phase out the MH program?</p>	<p>The MH program is very important to the Department. What we have found however, is that some hunters were mainly motivated to join the program because of the hunts. We are looking to strengthen the program with hunters more motivated to giving back; retention of our hunting heritage; and improving landowner relations.</p> <p>Therefore the types of incentives used to motivate hunter's to be part of the MH program need to be re-aligned with that philosophy. It was never the intent to trade special hunting opportunities for volunteer work.</p>
<p>I would just like to say giving all the quality elk hunting time around the Turnbull area to Master Hunters is not right or fair to the rest of us. I think some adjustments need to be made.</p>	<p>The main intent of the MH hunts is to address damage problems and landowner concerns. However, we recognize that the harvest of elk by MH around Turnbull includes many bull elk. There are either sex elk seasons for all hunters beginning in September and running into early December depending on the tag you possess (archery, muzzleloader, or modern). Therefore you are encouraged to develop relationships with landowners and hunt during these time frames. The proposed MH general season in this area would run from December 9 to 31.</p>
<p>I have been drawn for MH permits before and never received a call by a hunt coordinator to participate in a hunt. Is this how the ranked lists will work?</p>	<p>The ranked lists will be developed using the permit drawing system. We recognize that many were frustrated with some of the "on-call" hunts in the past and we eliminated those from our recommendation. In addition, we recently modified our recommendation to set what we feel are more realistic with our estimate of how many hunters might be needed to address damage problems within a geographic area. However, it is very important for MH to remember that there is no guarantee and we will only call on hunters once we receive a complaint from a landowner.</p>
<p>Can the Department let MH know their position on the ranked list? How do we know that the hunt coordinator is not just picking their friends to participate in the hunts?</p>	<p>We will look into developing a tool that allows us to provide that information. Hunt coordinators must follow written protocols for selecting hunters from the ranked (permit) list. These protocols were developed by the MHAG and will be posted on the Department's MH website.</p>
<p>The Department has proposed an "unlimited" number of hunters selected for several hunts in the deer and elk MH categories. If very few of these hunters are called to participate, they will be unhappy with the proposed system.</p>	<p>We agree; part of the rationale for these "unlimited" pools was to ensure that most MH's were drawn every year; thereby eliminating the need or use of points in the selection process (it would merely be random each year for all applicants). Many hunters will not understand or agree with the rationale and so we will change our recommendation to estimate the number of permits that we think will be needed or we have eliminated the hunt choice.</p>
<p>Why do I lose my points when selected for a hunt but don't get called and don't get to hunt?</p>	<p>The point system was designed to improve the odds of being drawn for those who applied year after year, but weren't drawn for a permit. That is important for those hunts that are difficult to draw. That is not the case with MH permits (1975 MH certified; 800 elk applicants; 500 permits). If you apply for several permit choices, you will be drawn regularly. Therefore you will not be competing with folks who have a lot of points for very long. This is just a carryover from the change in application categories in 2010. Many have suggested eliminating the use of points for MH categories.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Why weren't MH more involved with the recommendations for changes to the MH hunts earlier in the process? Communication efforts were poorly executed.</p>	<p>The standard process for public involvement with our hunting season recommendations includes general public scoping, consultation with Advisory Groups, development of options, development of proposals, and then comment and testimony during the formal Commission regulation adoption process. We followed that process with our development of changes to the MH seasons as well. One significant difference is that by Commission policy the MH Advisory Group does not support or oppose agency recommendations for MH hunts. We did involve them in December to help us develop guidelines for hunts. We feel that our original proposals followed those guidelines, but recognize that this was a big change for some folks and needed to be more of a phased approach.</p>
<p>As a landowner and MH, I support keeping the MH December hunt in GMU 127 for antlerless; that is better than closing down the hunt. The ranked list concept is okay as long as it's fair and the same people don't get called all the time to hunt. Landowners who ask for damage complaint hunts and other relief should not receive it unless they open their land to hunters. They also should not be allowed to select the hunters for these damage hunts nor charge a fee.</p>	<p>We appreciate your perspective and your support for our modified proposal to keep GMUs 127 & 130 open for MH in December. The ranked lists will be developed using the permit drawing system. Hunt coordinators will all be using a standard set of procedures for who gets called to participate. We recognize that many were frustrated with some of the "on-call" hunts in the past and we eliminated those from our recommendation. In addition, we recently modified our recommendation to set what we are more realistic with our estimate of how many hunters might be needed to address damage problems within a geographic area. However, it is very important for MH to remember that there is no guarantee and we will only call on hunters once we receive a complaint from a landowner.</p>
<p>The MH hunts requiring a hunt coordinator should be eliminated and those permits should be re-allocated to the three user groups (archers, muzzleloaders, modern firearms). The MH general season hunts should be eliminated because they are either-sex and are not depredation hunts.</p>	<p>The MH hunts requiring a coordinator are the best example of depredation hunts. The permit holder doesn't even get to hunt unless a landowner asks to have someone come out and remove an animal that is causing problems. The Department's recommendation has been changed to reflect antlerless only for the MH general season hunt in December in GMUs 127 & 130.</p>
<p>The decision to remove MH hunter incentive hunts is not the right one. If MH are merely skilled assassins, then you don't need 2000 volunteers to do that. A primary goal should be to increase awareness of ethical hunting behavior. This objective is also stated in WAC 232-12-073. The Department needs to promote this MH program to compel its members to be ambassadors, role models, and mentors. So providing incentive hunts to encourage enrollment in the program will increase hunter awareness and improve ethical behavior.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, we have modified our recommendation to provide an antlerless elk season in GMUs 127 & 130 for MH during the December time frame. While many might agree with your perspective about encouraging ethical behavior, our experience with the program does not indicate that the curriculum necessarily can change someone's core values or behavior. We are attempting to attract a core of hunters that already have high ethical values to model and mentor that standard to others. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to become a MH, but we feel that the primary motivation should be something besides a special hunting opportunity. We will continue to seek the right balance with hunting opportunities for MH.</p>
<p>We support the MH permits for Region 4, but recommend setting permit levels rather than unlimited ranked lists. We have been successfully using the MH program and hunt coordinators to manage the elk population around North Bend. We recommend that this system be expanded to other areas.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support. Our revised recommendation establishes permit levels and eliminates the unlimited pools.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>The Department is phasing out the MH in the area around the Turnbull Refuge and allowing the Columbia Plateau Wildlife group to administer the hunting program. I have been working with landowners to repair fences, cut firewood, and help them hay. In return I get to hunt their property. If we lose the December MH hunt, I will lose out on the relationship that I built up.</p>	<p>It sounds like you are doing a good job promoting hunter/landowner relations. The Columbia Plateau Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program proposal for the area near Turnbull is not connected to the MH hunt proposal. The LHP program is designed to increase hunter access on private land and this proposal attempts to do that. We understand that many hunters in the Spokane area went through the MH program to be able to hunt the December hunt. So we modified our proposal to retain the December hunt for antlerless elk in GMUs 127 & 130.</p>
<p>I think you should allow MH to hunt elk on both sides of the state, especially for the 3911 and 3912 hunts.</p>	<p>We have done that quite a bit in the past and only recently began to limit it. We began to make the change because we have been spreading more MH permit hunts across the state so hunters had more opportunities closer to home. The restriction was also designed to address crowding issues in 3911 and other general season MH hunts.</p>
<p>We have been successfully managing the hunts in the Sequim area for many years; I don't think the pool of MH hunters will work as well.</p>	<p>We appreciate your help for all these years, but with the elk herd now much smaller, we think an on-call pool of MH will be able to address any damage issues. If this doesn't work out, we can adjust in the future.</p>
<p>Make sure the MH hunts allow hunters to participate from both sides of the state. I buy an eastern Washington elk tag, but can't get on any land in 3911. They keep it to locals only.</p>	<p>We recognize that landowners may feel more comfortable allowing hunter access to those they know (locals). However, our program generally allows anyone to apply or participate regardless of where they live. The concern is that for the permit hunts managed by hunt coordinators, the landowner wants hunters there when the elk are present, so hunters on these lists need to be available quickly. That may not work for everyone and we ask that folks make sure they can be available quickly if they commit to one of these permit hunts.</p>
<p>I support the Department's recommended change in GMUs 127 & 130 to antlerless only.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>I support the MH permit hunts that use a hunt coordinator; this has worked out well for several western Wash. Hunts.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>Thank you for asking MH to participate in the planning stage for the next couple year's hunts. I support using MH as a tool and not take opportunities away from general hunters.</p>	<p>You are welcome, thank you for commenting and for your support.</p>
<p>I am not sure I like the proposed changes for the Turnbull area, but currently it is a good ole boy hunt. Only those who know a landowner get to hunt. Maybe we need a limit on how many elk a MH can kill in these hunts year after year. I like the MH orientation that occurs for the 3911 hunt and recommend expanding that system.</p>	<p>We will give the current proposal a chance to see how it works in the Spokane area. The 3911 hunt is pretty unique and works well and many other MH hunts managed by hunt coordinators do require an orientation before a hunter can participate.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I have found that the best way to get permission to hunt on private land is to hide the fact that I am a Master Hunter. I have been denied access to land solely because I am a MH. The 3911 hunt is no longer worth paying the cost of a second tag; there just aren't enough elk in the area. WDFW should recognize that most folks who take the MH course are interested in extending the hunting opportunity not understanding the biology or conservation history. WDFW should increase the hunting opportunities, success, and quality of animals harvested. The emphasis of the MH program should shift to the ability to shoot, track, identify, and hunt safely. You should also use the Wyoming system of paying a landowner if a hunter harvests an animal on his property.</p>	<p>We appreciate your comments, but our perspective on what we are looking for in the MH program is different than yours.</p>
<p>I would classify myself as a disillusioned Master Hunter. I completed the requirements and became a MH in 2009 in order to take advantage of additional hunting opportunities. This program has not opened up any additional lands or opportunities. You should just cancel the MH program.</p>	<p>We are attempting to attract a core of hunters that have high ethical hunting values to model and mentor that standard to others. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to become a MH, but we feel that the primary motivation should be something besides a special hunting opportunity. We will continue to seek the right balance with hunting opportunities for MH.</p>
<p>After reviewing the entirety of changes, I want to note that the program truly seems to be growing and developing in a positive direction.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support.</p>
<p>Please do not change the boundary of 3911 and also consider extending the general season through December 31.</p>	<p>The boundary of the 3911 hunt seems to change fairly regularly, however we are not proposing a change for 2012. We have been fairly successful with reducing the damage concerns in the Ellensburg area and would like to reduce the number of elk killed for damage reasons. The transition timing of the general season to a permit season is based on these objectives. The Department's current harvest and management objectives are to shift some of the antlerless elk harvest from damage mitigation to the recreational season.</p>
<p>I stopped hunting the MH seasons in the Cheney area due to low property access. When I did get access, I was given a specific area to hunt while the family and friends got the primo spot.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>I received a pumice plains permit last year and harvested a cow, but saw some trophy class bulls. Would it be possible to add a bull tag or two in Pumice Plains?</p>	<p>At this point, the USFS objectives are to reduce impacts to this natural area. Harvesting cows is the best way to reduce elk numbers and their impact on the habitat.</p>
<p>My partner and I have tried to get access in the area of GMUs 127 & 130. Some of the ranches are leased out, some save it for themselves, and some for family only. This hunt needs to go to a permit drawing only.</p>	<p>We are trying to develop a balance between landowners and those currently gaining access with others who would like a chance to hunt in this area. We have modified our recommendation to retain an antlerless general season hunt in December for GMUs 127 & 130 and MH permits that would be called on when a landowner has a problem they would like help with.</p>
<p>I definitely agree with the proposed changes "on-call" lists and plan to get on the Region 5 & 6 lists. I have had a good experience in the past, though I had to work pretty hard and be available for many days in order to be successful.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>I agree with the Toledo hunts except I think the December hunt has too many tags. This herd has been significantly reduced. The on-call system may be okay, but it needs to be implemented fairly.</p>	<p>We will continue to use a number of hunts to help us manage the population level of the Mt. St Helens elk herd and their impact on private property. The planned reduction of this herd is not completed yet. We do plan to use a set of procedures to ensure that the on-call permits are fair to everyone.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
Proposing changes to the hunts available to MH on the deadline of the application process is wrong. Many applicants may have chosen to not enroll had they been aware of the changes.	The timing of the application period and the hunting season recommendations is just co-incidental.
Establish permit seasons and dates for MH permits gives the hunter more flexibility and allows for better planning of time off from work etc. than Regional pools.	We recognize that trying to balance the seasons and dates and potential for being called at any time are all considerations that hunters must deal with. Balancing the needs of landowners with damage problems and hunters is challenging. We try to provide a mix of options for both.
Why are you suggesting limiting the 3911 hunt to modern firearm only?	As a practical matter, the terrain is pretty open and most hunters use modern firearms in this area.

SUMMARY OF ORAL PUBLIC INPUT
 Taken at the Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
 March 9, 2012

WAC 232-28-358 “2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions.”

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I am a landowner and a Master Hunter living adjacent to Turnbull NWR in GMU 130. I am concerned about the changes to the late Master Hunter general elk hunt.</p> <p>I am mad and my neighbors are mad. I ask that you vote no to eliminate the master hunter hunts in GMUs 127 and 130. It’s working just fine the way it is.</p>	<p>The Department feels the Master Hunter “Any elk” hunts in GMUs 127-142 are not consistent with the Master Hunter objective.</p> <p>We are proposing to retain a modern firearm Master Hunter “Antlerless” opportunity during the same December timeframe in GMUs 127 and 130, which should meet the agricultural damage mitigation needs of you and your neighbors.</p>
<p>I’ve been a Master Hunter for a long time. First, we pay for some exceptional biologists and they do a great job on the biology. They don’t get to work with the landowners and landowner relationships, the Master Hunters do that. If we’re going to make political decisions disregarding the biologists then we don’t need to have biologists. The Selkirk Plan says the herd south of the Spokane River is increasing, the harvest is increasing, and the number of hunters is stagnant and damage claims have been reduced. The Master Hunter Program in those 6 units has been extremely successful. I support recommending status quo in the 6 GMUs mentioned.</p>	<p>Department biologists work with landowners on a constant basis.</p> <p>The Department feels the Master Hunter “Any elk” hunts in GMUs 127-142 are not consistent with the Master Hunter objective.</p> <p>There are general season, “Any elk,” hunting opportunities for modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader that will provide opportunity for all elk hunters and provide adequate harvest pressure that will be consistent with the Selkirk Elk Herd Plan. If Master Hunters have developed good relationships with landowners they should still be able to hunt during those early and late general season timeframes.</p> <p>We are also proposing to retain a modern firearm Master Hunter “Antlerless” opportunity during the late December timeframe in GMUs 127 and 130. That too will be consistent with the Selkirk Elk Herd Plan and will allow Master Hunters to continue to assist private landowners.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I am opposed to the closing of cows in NE Washington. Looking at table 9 and 13 in the Selkirk plan, both these tables prove the elk herd is growing, so the question is: “Are we having a growing elk herd, but we want it to grow more?” We don’t have any problems right now as far as rancher complaints. So why? We were told it’s because sportsman’s groups wanted it. Do we want them for wolves? If it is just for more elk, we’re already doing that. We’re killing more elk every year and it is taking less man-days to do it. I don’t understand why we’re going to bulls only. It’s not going to do any good for wolves. When you’ve got wolves, you’re not going to have elk. Your answers are across the border in Idaho.</p>	<p>The proposed changes are intended to manage for a limited increase in elk numbers to create more hunting opportunity in the long run. To do that GMUs 101 through 121 and 204 need to be managed consistently. We are also recommending a few antlerless permits in this area.</p> <p>As wolves continue to expand, they may have an impact on elk populations. If so, we will have to adjust hunting seasons to deal with that. Recent data from Idaho indicates that of 29 elk herds, nine are above objective and nine are below objective. Of the nine below objective, four or five are impacted by wolves. However, several of the nine herds that are above objective also have healthy wolf populations. It is just not a clear-cut relationship.</p>
<p>I am going to approach this from a government to government standpoint. Stevens County has something that we hate and that is the Growth Management Act. There’s an RCW for state agencies for dealing with plans that they have to comply with any comprehensive plan that the county develops. That includes agriculture and natural resources and wildlife. The Selkirk Elk Herd Plan doesn’t do that. I am against going to an any bull season north of the Spokane River. There will be an increase of 1,500 elk, and they will all be in the agricultural valleys.</p>	<p>The Department appreciates your perspective as a County Commissioner. We are not aware of any of the proposed hunting seasons being in conflict with any RCWs. The Growth Management Act mainly addresses the impacts of development, and we understand that state agencies are required to comply with county policies on proposed developments, including those that might impact agriculture, natural resources, or wildlife. The Selkirk Elk Herd Plan is considered a step-down plan under the overarching Game Management Plan, which has undergone the SEPA process. In addition, the Selkirk Elk Herd Plan was vetted through a series of public meetings and through a public comment period open to all of the citizens of Washington. The proposed hunting season changes are intended to manage for more elk and create more hunting opportunity in the long run. To do that GMUs 101 through 121 and 204 need to be managed consistently.</p>
<p>I have been in the Master Hunter Program since its inception. I am against the changes proposed for Elk Area 3911 in the Kittitas area. The season should start right after the general season closes rather than waiting until Nov. 10. I ask that you consider not approving the change.</p>	<p>Regional staff feel that the general season closing on Sunday, Nov. 4 and then the Master Hunter season opening the following Saturday, Nov. 10 and running until Dec. 16, will provide adequate pressure. There will be additional special permits available after these late general seasons close, if additional effort is needed.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>The Colockum herd has been below objective for several years despite what WDFW has done to improve things. The Department is now proposing to offer cow permits. We fail to see how killing cows is going to help. Antlerless permits will also result in some bull calves being killed. It is not good management to harvest more cows from this herd. The range is not overgrazed, although there are some opportunities for habitat improvement. The lack of mature bulls is a result of Yakama Nation members take. Concerns have been expressed about the commercialization of elk parts; I don't consider this subsistence hunting. There must be a way to negotiate with this tribe. A partial solution that might be to trade damage control permits in exchange for their not killing mature bulls before breeding season.</p> <p>We also believe that the Colockum elk herd would benefit from reduced disturbance by humans. Gating and signing more roads to restrict public travel during times of the year when elk are sensitive to human trespass would not only reduce this disturbance but help control poaching.</p> <p>And, of course, another threat to the Colockum herd is the recovering wolf population. The Teanaway pack is already feeding on Colockum elk, and they will produce more packs. They will not only prey on elk, but drive these elk into areas where they will interfere with agriculture, thus requiring more damage control permits and further deplete the herd.</p>	<p>The Department and the Fish and Wildlife Commission are committed to exploring the proposals you are suggesting.</p> <p>Many of our efforts have been successful and the elk herd has grown to the point that it is exceeding our objectives. That is why we are recommending antlerless harvest.</p> <p>We continue to work at improving bull escapement because we are not meeting our bull:cow ratio objectives. The "true spike" rule was implemented three years ago and is showing good promise. We expect to see improved bull ratios, but remain committed to seeking better road management and will continue to work with the Yakama Tribe as well.</p> <p>At this point, it is difficult to speculate on what the wolf impacts will be on the Colockum herd, but we will be closely monitoring both elk and wolves.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>The Colockum elk herd has a problem. Lots of habitat, but it's not meeting our management needs. We could put a lot more elk in there. Killing cows to bring your bull:cow ratio into alignment only looks good on paper. The Colockum Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation thinks there should be a lot of road closures. There needs to be a lot of road closures. During winter elk need to be left alone, and during spring when calving. They also need to be left alone during pre-rut and rut seasons. We should allow them to stay where they belong and that would cause less agricultural damage. There are too many people recreating where the deer and elk are. Signs don't work; you have to have gates.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestions. Both the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Commission are committed to exploring the proposals you are suggesting.</p>
<p>I'm here to talk about Colockum elk. I spent thousands of hours watching elk. It used to be that you could see lots of elk in the summer, because of the fire danger closures they wouldn't let people in there. So there were plenty of deer and elk in there. But they don't do that anymore because some judge said it wasn't legal. With spike only season we've got a lot of branch antlered bulls and that was great. But then the Indians discovered and started taking the branch antlered bulls, and now we don't have enough branch antlered bulls. There used to be a lot of hunting camps in there in the fall, and last year I only saw three. I second most of what Norm said, I think he's got some good ideas there.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestions. Both the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Commission are committed to exploring the proposals you are suggesting.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I wanted to talk about the changes in archery. I am an archer and a Master Hunter. I am an ethical hunter and am teaching my kids to be ethical hunters. The archery season keeps moving closer and closer to the first of September. When that happens we're going to be hunting at times when people are up in the mountains camping during the Labor Day weekend, and that is wrong and unethical. The weather is too warm and it is too difficult to keep the meat from spoiling. It is completely unethical. Also modern firearm and muzzleloader seasons both open on a Saturday. Archery is the only one that doesn't open on a Saturday. It should open the Saturday after Labor Day.</p>	<p>For the most part, what you describe is the result of calendar date adjustments.</p> <p>Warm weather can be an issue throughout the entire month of September and into early October for deer, elk, and bear. Weather impacts every aspect of hunting regardless of the month. Hunters need to plan accordingly. The real issue is hunters wanting to be hunting closer to the breeding season when bulls are more vulnerable.</p> <p>If we continue with this system of opening the Tuesday after Labor Day, the opener in 2015 will be Sept. 8, the opener in 2016 will be Sept. 6, and for 2017 it will be Sept. 5.</p> <p>The Department offers a wide variety of hunting seasons. Some of them open on Saturdays and close on Sundays, but many do not.</p> <p>For the last three-year package 2009-2011, the Department believed the number of mature bulls being taken by archers in western Washington as compared to other user groups was disproportionate. It was disproportionate whether we looked at five point or better, or six point or better, bulls.</p> <p>Success rates for eastern Washington early archery branch-antlered bull permits have been consistent by hunt regardless of start dates. This is largely because bull permits are allocated by a formula that considers the user group's proportion of all hunters and their success rate. So, in the last three-year package two changes were made. One was to create a very small number of prime time special permits for modern firearm hunters in the last week of September, ending before the beginning of muzzleloader deer season. The other was to move archery general seasons to start the Tuesday after Labor Day. Because this date floats with the changing calendar, the start date does sometimes start early in September. Initially the proposal was to return early archery seasons to the historical Sept. 1-15 time period, but that was unacceptable to archery representatives, so the negotiated compromise was to start the Tuesday after Labor Day.</p>

NEW SECTION

WAC 232-28-360 2012 Elk special permits. It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits except as described below. Violations of this section are punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

Special Elk Permit Hunting Seasons (Open to Permit Holders Only)

Hunters must purchase an elk hunting license prior to purchase of a permit application. Hunters may only apply for permits consistent with the tag required for the hunt choice; however, Multiple Season Permit holders may apply for Eastern or Western Washington archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm permit hunts. Applicants must have purchased the proper tag for these hunts. The elk tag prefixes required to apply for each hunt are shown in the following table. Hunters drawn for a special permit hunt must comply with weapon restrictions, dates, and other conditions listed for the hunt.

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Turnbull	EA, EF, EM	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 24	Any bull	Elk Area 1015	1
CPWMA	EA, EF, EM	Any	Jan. 1-30, 2013	Any bull	CPWMA	4
Prescott	EF	Any	Sept. 21-24 24-28	Any bull	GMU 149	1
Prescott	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 149	24
Blue Creek	EF	Any	Sept. 21-25 24-28	Any bull	GMU 154	1
Blue Creek	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 154	65
Watershed	EA, EF, EM	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	3 pt. min. or antlerless	GMU 157	45

Dayton	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 162	4726
Ten Ten	EF	Any	Sept. 21-24 24-28	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	1
Ten Ten	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	4412
Tucannon	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 166	4314
Wenaha West	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	4315
Wenaha East	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	4621
Mountain View	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 172	4320
Lick Creek	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 175	410
Peola	EF	Any	Sept. 21-24 24-28	Any bull	GMU 178	1
Peola	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 178	42
Couse	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 181	33
Mission	EF	Any	Sept. 17-21	Any bull	GMU 251	1
Colockum	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 335	2727
Colockum	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 335	1
Teaway	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMU 335	1
Peaches Ridge	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	1
Observatory	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMUs 340, 342	1
Little Naches	EF	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 346	710
Goose Prairie	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	1
Bethel	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMU 360	1
Rimrock	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMU 364	1
Cowiche	EF	Any	Sept. 24-28	Any bull	GMU 368	1
Nooksack	WF	Any	Oct. 8 - Nov. 16	Any bull	GMU 418	4
Green River	WF	Any	Nov. 12-18	Any bull	GMU 485	6
Wahkiakum	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	GMUs 506, 530	1
Packwood	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	GMU 516	1
Margaret	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30 and Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 524	4
Margaret	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 524	50
Toutle	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30 and Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 556	4
Toutle	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 556	209129
Lewis River	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	GMU 560	2
Siouxon	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	GMU 572	2

Carlton	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	Elk Area 5057	5
West Goat Rocks	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	Elk Area 5058	5
Mt. Adams	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30	Any bull	Elk Area 5059	5
Mudflow	WF	Any	Nov. 3-9	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	5
Peninsula	WF	Any	Sept. 16-20	3 pt. min.	GMUs 602, 607, 612	1
Clearwater	WF	Any	Oct. 8-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 615	2
Matheny	WF	Any	Oct. 1-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 618	3
Quinault	WF	Any	Sept. 16-20	3 pt. min.	GMU 638	5
Wynoochee	WF	Any	Oct. 8-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 648	1
Satsop	WF	Any	Oct. 8-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 651	1
Dungeness	WF	Any	Oct. 8-12	3 pt. min.	Elk Area 6071	2
White River	WF	Any	Sept. 16-20	Any bull	GMU 653	1
Prescott	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 149	2
Blue Creek	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 154	43
Dayton	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 162	714
Ten Ten	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	78
Tucannon	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 166	78
Wenaha West	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	45
Wenaha East	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	611
Mountain View	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 172	811
Lick Creek	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 175	311
Peola	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 178	1
Couse	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 181	1
Colockum	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 335	2626
Peaches Ridge	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	81101
Observatory	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMUs 340, 342	89130
Goose Prairie	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	7065
Bethel	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMU 360	2529
Rimrock	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMU 364	8597
Cowiche	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMU 368	4119
Klickitat Meadows	EA	Any	Oct. 11-21	Any bull	Elk Area 3068	1
Nooksack	WA	Any	Sept. 1-23 and Dec. 1-31	Any bull	GMU 418	2

Margaret	WA	Any	Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15	Any bull	GMU 524	23
Toutle	WA	Any	Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15	Any bull	GMU 556	42480
Mudflow	WA	Any	Sept. 5-11	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	5
Olympic	WA	Any	Sept. 4-16	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	5
White River	WA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Any bull	GMU 653	13
Prescott	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 149	1
Blue Creek	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 154	21
Dayton	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 162	35
Ten Ten	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	36
Tucannon	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 166	3
Wenaha West	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	23
Wenaha East	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	23
Mountain View	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 172	48
Lick Creek	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 175	42
Peola	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 178	1
Couse	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 181	1
Mission	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 251	1
Colockum	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 335	1
Peaches Ridge	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	2026
Observatory	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMUs 340, 342	4721
Goose Prairie	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	4315
Bethel	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 360	4314
Rimrock	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 364	4713
Cowiche	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 368	610
Klickitat Meadows	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	Elk Area 3068	1
Nooksack	WM	Any	Sept. 24 - Oct. 7 and Nov. 24-30	Any bull	GMU 418	2
Margaret	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	GMU 524	13
Toutle	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	GMU 556	4628
Mudflow	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	5

Bulls						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits

Prescott	EF	Any	Nov. 17-30	Any bull	GMU 149	2
Prescott	EF	Any	Dec. 1-15	Any bull	GMU 149	2
Prescott	EF	Any	Dec. 16-31	Any bull	GMU 149	2
Grande Ronde	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 186	1
Mission	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 251	1
Teanaway	EF	Any	Dec. 17-31	Any bull	GMU 335	810
Peaches Ridge	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	120
Observatory	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMUs 340, 342	6364
Goose Prairie	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	7774
Bethel	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 360	6463
Rimrock	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 364	44120
Cowiche	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMU 368	4722
Klickitat Meadows	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	Elk Area 3068	1
Alkali	EF	Any	Oct. 13 - Nov. 2	Any elk	GMU 371	20
Nooksack	WF	Any	Oct. 8 - Nov. 18	Spike only	GMU 418	6
Margaret	WF	Any	Sept. 17-30 and Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 524	4
Margaret	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 524	50
Upper Smith Creek	WF	Any	Oct. 20-16	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	2
Mount Whittier	WF	Any	Oct. 20-26	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Olympic	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	4420
Skokomish	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	3
White River	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Any bull	GMU 653	3024
Grande Ronde	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	GMU 186	1
Teanaway	EA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 8	Any bull	GMU 335	408
Alkali	EA	Any	Sept. 1-22	Any bull	GMU 371	5
Nooksack	WA	Any	Sept. 1-23 and Dec. 1-31	Spike only	GMU 418	2
Margaret	WA	Any	Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15	Any bull	GMU 524	29
Upper Smith Creek	WA	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	2
Lewis River	WA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 4	3 pt. min.	GMU 560	5
Siouxon	WA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 4	3 pt. min.	GMU 572	5
Skokomish	WA	Any	Sept. 4-16	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	42
Grande Ronde	EM	Any	Oct. 1-12	Any bull	GMU 186	1

Teanaway	EM	Any	Dec. 9-16	Any bull	GMU 335	616
Alkali	EM	Any	Sept. 23 - Oct. 12	Any bull	GMU 371	10
Nooksack	WM	Any	Sept. 24 - Oct. 7 and Nov. 24-30	Spike only	GMU 418	2
Margaret	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	GMU 524	14
Upper Smith Creek	WM	Any	Oct. 13-19	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	2
Mount Whittier	WM	Any	Oct. 13-19	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Yale	WM	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.	GMU 554	15
Olympic	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	5
Skokomish	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	1
White River	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Any bull	GMU 653	3

Antlerless Elk						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
North Half	EF	Any	Oct.22-Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10
Stevens	EF	Any	Oct. 22-Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMUs 108, 121	10
Aladdin	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 111	15
Selkirk	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 113	20
49 Degrees North	EF	Any	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4 and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 117	20
Turnbull	EF	Any	Oct. 23-28	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	6
Turnbull	EF	Any	Oct. 30 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	6
Turnbull	EF	Any	Nov. 6-11	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	6
Mayview-Peola	EF	Any	Oct. 13-21	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	10
Mayview-Peola	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	40
Prescott Blue Creek	EF	Any	Oct. 13-21	Antlerless	GMU 149 154	10
Prescott	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 149	20
Blue Creek	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 154	25
Marengo-Dayton	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 163 and Elk Area 404 1010	75
Mountain View	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	Elk Area 1013	5
Dayton	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	Elk Area 1016	40
Lick Creek	EF	Any	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 175	15
Couse	EF	Any	Oct. 2-12	Antlerless	GMU 181	30
Malaga	EF	Any	Sept. 12-22	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	10

Malaga	EF	Any	Nov. 5 - Dec. 31	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	30
Colockum	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329	40
West Bar	EF	Any	Oct. 27-31	Antlerless	GMU 330	5
West Bar	EF	Any	Nov. 1-4	Antlerless	GMU 330	5
Teanaway	EF	Any	Dec. 17-31	Antlerless	GMU 335	5030
Taneum	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 336	150200
Manastash	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 340	250275
Umtanum	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 342	200250
Little Naches	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 346	150250
Nile	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 352	520
Bumping	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 356	525
Bethel	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 360	520
Rimrock	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 364	200250
Cowiche	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 368	200250
Alkali	EF	Any	Oct. 13-Nov. 2	Antlerless	GMU 371	20
Klickitat Meadows	EF	Any	Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	Elk Area 3068	5
North Bend	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	7
Mossyrock	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 505	50
Willapa Hills	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 506	35
Winston	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 520	150
Winston	WF	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 520	200
Margaret	WF	Any	Nov. 21-30 and Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 524	140
Ryderwood	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 530	100
Coweeman	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 550	240
Coweeman	WF	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 550	200
Toutle	WF	Any	Nov. 21-30 and Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 556	240
Lewis River	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 560	100
Washougal	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 568	75
Siouxon	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 572	30
Wind River	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 574	75
West Klickitat	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	GMU 578	150
Toledo	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	50

Green Mt.	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 5051	10
Boistfort	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 5054	75
Wildwood	WF	Any	Jan. 16-30, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5061	50
Upper Smith Creek	WF	Any	Oct. 20-26	Antlerless	Elk Area 5064	4
Mount Whittier	WF	Any	Oct. 20-26	Antlerless	Elk Area 5065	2
Mudflow	WF	Any	Nov. 7-13	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	10
Raymond	WF	Any	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	10
Raymond	WF	Any	Jan. 1-20, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	5
Raymond	WF	Any	Feb. 1-28, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	5
North Minot	WF	Any	Oct. 20-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 6067	5
Hanaford	WF	Any	Nov. 3-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5
North River	WF	Any	Nov. 6-11	Antlerless	GMU 658	10
Deschutes	WF	Any	Jan. 10-20, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 666	10
Williams Creek	WF	Any	Nov. 6-14	Antlerless	GMU 673	50
Turnbull	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	14
Dayton	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	Elk Area 1016	20
Malaga	EA	Any	Sept. 1-7	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	15
Colockum	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	GMUs 328 and 329	50
Nile	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	GMU 352	50
Bumping	EA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	GMU 356	50
Klickitat Meadows	EA	Any	Oct. 11-21	Antlerless	Elk Area 3068	2
Alkali	EA	Any	Sept. 1-22	Antlerless	GMU 371	5
North Bend	WA	Any	Sept. 4-16	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	10
Margaret	WA	Any	Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	GMU 524	70
Toutle	WA	Any	Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	GMU 556	100
Upper Smith Creek	WA	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 5064	4
Mudflow	WA	Any	Sept. 5-11	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	10
Lewis River	WA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 4	Antlerless	GMU 560	15
Siouxon	WA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 4	Antlerless	GMU 572	5
Wynoochee	WA	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	GMU 648	150
North Half	EM	Any	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10
Stevens	EM	Any	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	GMUs 108, 121	10

Aladdin	EM	Any	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	GMU 111	10
Selkirk	EM	Any	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	GMU 113	10
49 Degrees North	EM	Any	Oct. 1-7 and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 117	20
Turnbull	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	9
Turnbull	EM	Any	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	9
Dayton	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 1016	25
Blue Creek	EM	Any	Dec. 9 - Jan. 20, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 154	40
Mountain View	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 1013	5
Lick Creek	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 175	10
Mayview-Peola	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	20
Couse	EM	Any	Dec. 1-31	Antlerless	GMU 181	30
Couse	EM	Any	Jan. 1-20, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 181	30
Malaga	EM	Any	Oct. 13-26	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	35
Colockum	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329	30
West Bar	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 330	5
Taneum	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 336	100
Manastash	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 340	100
Umtanum	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 342	250
Nile	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 352	\$20
Bumping	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 356	\$30
Bethel	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 360	\$20
Cowiche	EM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 368	200250
Alkali	EM	Any	Sept. 23 - Oct. 12	Antlerless	GMU 371	10
Teanaway	EM	Any	Dec. 9-16	Antlerless	GMU 335	€10
Klickitat Meadows	EM	Any	Oct. 1-10	Antlerless	Elk Area 3068	5
North Bend	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	5
Stella	WM	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	GMU 504	75
Toledo	WM	Any	Dec. 8-20	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	60
Mossyrock	WM	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5052	15
Boistfort	WM	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5054	75
Willapa Hills	WM	Any	Dec. 8- 20	Antlerless	GMU 506	15
Green Mt.	WM	Any	Jan. 1-16, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5051	30

Wildwood	WM	Any	Jan. 1-15, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5061	50
Mudflow	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	10
Winston	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 520	90
Margaret	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 524	70
Ryderwood	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 530	50
Coweeman	WM	Any	Nov. 21- Dec. 15 ³⁰	Antlerless	GMU 550	90
Yale	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 554	40
Yale	WM	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	GMU 554	35
Toutle	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 556	100
Lewis River	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 560	50
Washougal	WM	Any	Nov. 21-30	Antlerless	GMU 568	50
Siouxon	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	GMU 572	15
Wind River	WM	Any	Nov. 21-30	Antlerless	GMU 574	100
West Klickitat	WM	Any	Nov. 21-30	Antlerless	GMU 578	150
Upper Smith Creek	WM	Any	Oct. 13-19	Antlerless	Elk Area 5064	4
Mount Whittier	WM	Any	Oct. 13-19	Antlerless	Elk Area 5065	2
North Minot	WM	Any	Oct. 6-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 6067	10
Mashel	WM	Any	Jan. 1-15, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6054	25
North River	WM	Any	Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	GMU 658	20

Youth - Only youth hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
North Bend	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Nov. 3-9	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	5
Toledo	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Aug. 1-7	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	20
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Nov. 19-25	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	3
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Nov. 19-25	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	4
Dungeness	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Nov Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	Any bull	Elk Area 6071, north of HWY 101	10 ^{HC}

65+ Senior - Only hunters 65 and older may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Aladdin	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 111	5
Northeast	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4 and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMUs 113, 117	10

Prescott	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 149	5
Blue Creek	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 154	5
Dayton	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMUs 162, 163	10
Lick Creek	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 175	5
Peola	EF	65+	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	GMU 178	5
Taneum	EF	65+	Oct. 31 - Nov. 11	Antlerless	GMU 336	45 25
Manastash	EF	65+	Oct. 31 - Nov. 11	Antlerless	GMU 340	20 25
Umtanum	EF	65+	Oct. 31 - Nov. 11	Antlerless	GMU 342	20 25
Cowiche	EF	65+	Oct. 31 - Nov. 11	Antlerless	GMU 368	45 25
Alkali	EF	65+	Oct. 13 - Nov. 2	Antlerless	GMU 371	5
Margaret	WF, WM, WA	65+	Nov. 21-30	Antlerless	GMU 524	20
Toledo	WF, WM, WA	65+	Aug. 15-21	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	20
Centralia Mine	WF	65+	Oct. 20-21 Jan. 5-6, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6011	34
Centralia Mine	WF	65+	Oct. 27-28 Jan. 12-13, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6011	34
Hanaford	WF, WM, WA	65+	Jan. 1-15, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5
Hanaford	WF, WM, WA	65+	Jan. 16-30, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5

Hunters with Disabilities - Only hunters with disabilities may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Turnbull	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 14-21	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	6
Observatory	EF, EM	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 22 - Nov. 4	Any bull	GMUs 340, 342	5
Little Naches	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 1-10	Any bull	GMU 346	5
Little Naches	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 31 - Nov. 11	Antlerless	GMU 346	5
Alkali	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 13 - Nov. 2	Any bull	GMU 371	5
Corral Canyon	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Sept. 23-30	Any bull	Elk Area 3721	2
Toledo	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Aug. 8-14	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	20
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 22-30	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	4
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Sept. 17-23	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	4
Centralia Mine	WF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 6-7	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Elk Area 6011	34
Centralia Mine	WF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 13-14	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Elk Area 6011	34

Master Hunter - Only master hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt. Additional weapon restrictions may be conditioned on local situation for each hunt. For those hunts allowing the purchase of a second tag, only one elk may be killed in the unit under the authorization of the permit.						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Turnbull	Any elk tag	Master Hunter	Dec. 10-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	6
Region 1 North	EF, EA, EM 2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated areas in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties	10 ^{HC}
Region 1 Central	EF, EA, EM 2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated areas in Spokane and Lincoln counties	20 ^{HC}
Region 1 South	EF, EA, EM/ 2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated areas in Whitman, Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin counties	10 ^{HC}
Region 2	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 2	50 ^{HC}
Fairview	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Nov. 1 - Feb. 28, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in GMUs 328-368	40 ^{HC}
Region 3	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 3	Unlimited ²⁰⁷⁵ _{HC}
Rattlesnake Hills	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1 - Feb. 28, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in GMU 372	20 ^{HC}
North Bend	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 15 – March 31	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Elk Area 4601	25
Skagit River	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 15 – March 31	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Elk Area 4941	15
Region 4 North	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Whatcom and Skagit counties	Unlimited ²⁰ _{HC}
Region 4 South	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in King and Snohomish counties	Unlimited ¹⁰ _{HC}
Green Mt.	Any elk tag	Master Hunter	Jan. 17-30	Antlerless	Elk Area 5051	20
Mossyrock	Any elk tag	Master Hunter	Jan. 17-30	Antlerless	Elk Area 5052	10
Pumice Plains	Any elk tag	Master Hunter	Oct. 13-19	Antlerless	Elk Area 5063	2
Pumice Plains	Any elk tag	Master Hunter	Oct. 20-26	Antlerless	Elk Area 5063	5
Toledo	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 22-28	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	20
Toledo	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Dec. 21-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 5029	50
Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Dec. 15-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	3
Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Jan. 1-14, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	3
Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Jan. 15-30, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	3
Region 5	Any western elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated areas in Region 5	20 40 ^{HC}
North River	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Dec. 16, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in GMU 658	10 ^{HC}
Raymond	Any elk tag/2nd tag	Master Hunter	Oct. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	5 ^{HC}
Region 6	WF, WA, WM /2nd tag	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, 2012 - Mar. 31, 2013	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 6	4050 ^{HC}

** May only hunt on privately owned lands. Must use only archery or legal shotgun (10 or 12 gauge; slugs only).

HC This is a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator. Successful applicants will be contacted on an as-needed basis to help with specific sites of elk damage on designated landowner's property. Not all successful applicants will be contacted in any given year depending on elk damage activity for that year.

Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special elk permits will be allocated through a random drawing to those hunter education instructors that qualify. - Permit hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons, muzzleloader equipment or archery equipment during muzzleloader seasons, and any legal weapon during modern firearm seasons. Hunter orange is required when using modern firearms to hunt. - Qualifying hunter education instructors must be certified and have been in active status for a minimum of three consecutive years, inclusive of the year prior to the permit drawing. - Instructors who are drawn, accept a permit denoted with (*) below, and are able to participate in the hunt, will not be eligible for those specific incentive permits for a period of ten years thereafter. - Permittees may purchase a second license for use with the permit hunt only. - Qualified hunter education instructors may only receive one incentive permit each year. 				
Area	Dates	Restrictions	GMUs	Permits
Region 3	All general season and permit seasons established for GMUs included with the permit. Not eligible for seasons and permits for auction hunts; raffle hunts; and hunts for master hunters, youth hunters, hunters with disabilities, hunters 65 years and older, unless the hunter education instructor legally qualifies for such hunts	Any elk	GMUs 336-368	2*
Region 5		Any elk	All 500 series GMUs EXCEPT GMU 522	4*
Region 6		3 pt. min.	GMUs 654, 660, 672, 673, 681	1*

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RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are already included in your notebook.

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Under the Quality category:

- Remove the CPWMA hunt. This hunt appears in the Landowner Hunting Permit WAC and does not need to be in the special permit WAC.
- Change the date for Prescott from Sept. 21-24 to Sept. 24-28. This change avoids an overlap between modern firearm and archery seasons.
- Change the number of permits for Prescott, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 2 permits to 4 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the date for Blue Creek from Sept. 21-25 to Sept. 24-28. This change avoids an overlap between modern firearm and archery seasons.
- Change the number of permits for Blue Creek, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 6 permits to 5 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

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Under the Quality modern firearm category:

- Change the number of permits for Dayton, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 17 permits to 26 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the date for Ten Ten from Sept. 21-24 to Sept. 24-28. This change avoids an overlap between modern firearm and archery seasons.
- Change the number of permits for Ten Ten, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 14 permits to 12 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Tucannon, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 13 permits to 14 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Wenaha West, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 13 permits to 15 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

- Change the number of permits for Wenaha East, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 16 permits to 21 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Mountain View, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 13 permits to 20 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Lick Creek, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 4 permits to 10 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the date for Peola from Sept. 21-24 to Sept. 24-28. This change avoids an overlap between modern firearm and archery seasons.
- Change the number of permits for Peola, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 1 permit to 2 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Couse, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 2 permits to 3 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Colockum, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 2 permits to 7 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Add GMU 335 to Colockum, Sept. 24-28. This change would make the GMUs open on the September rifle hunt consistent with the other Colockum special permit hunts.
- Change the number of permits for Little Naches, Oct. 1-10, from 7 permits to 10 permits. This change is the result of more bulls available for harvest based on the February aerial surveys.
- Move the two modern firearm Margaret hunts from the Quality category to the Bulls category. Because of private land access issues, these hunts no longer meet the criteria for Quality.
- Change the number of permits for Toutle, Nov. 3-14, from 209 permits to 129 permits. This change is intended to reduce overcrowding during the quality hunt, but still maintain the level of harvest in 2010.

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Under the Quality archery category:

- Change the number of permits for Blue Creek, Sept. 1-19, from 4 permits to 3 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Dayton, Sept. 1-19, from 7 permits to 14 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Ten Ten, Sept. 1-19, from 7 permits to 8 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Tucannon, Sept. 1-19, from 7 permits to 8 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

- Change the number of permits for Wenaha West, Sept. 1-19, from 4 permits to 5 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Wenaha East, Sept. 1-19, from 6 permits to 11 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Mountain View, Sept. 1-19, from 8 permits to 11 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Lick Creek, Sept. 1-19, from 3 permits to 11 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Colockum, Sept. 4-16, from 2 permits to 6 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Peaches Ridge, Sept. 4-16, from 81 permits to 101 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Observatory, Sept. 4-16, from 89 permits to 130 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Goose Prairie, Sept. 4-16, from 70 permits to 65 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Bethel, Sept. 4-16, from 25 permits to 29 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Rimrock, Sept. 4-16, from 85 permits to 97 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Sept. 4-16, from 11 permits to 19 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows, Oct. 11-21, hunt with 1 permit. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt but upon further deliberation, changed their position.

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Under the Quality archery category:

- Move the archery Margaret hunt from the Quality category to the Bulls category. Because of private land access issues this hunt no longer meets the criteria of Quality. Change the number of permits for Margaret, Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15, from 23 permits to 29 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula, and at the same time, keeping hunter crowding down.
- Change the number of permits for Toutle, Sept. 8-23 and Dec. 1-15, from 124 permits to 80 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary

user groups using the permit allocation formula, and at the same time, keeping hunter crowding down.

Under the Quality muzzleloader category:

- Change the number of permits for Blue Creek, Oct. 1-12, from 2 permits to 1 permit. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Dayton, Oct. 1-12, from 3 permits to 5 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Ten Ten, Oct. 1-12, from 3 permits to 6 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Wenaha West, Oct. 1-12, from 2 permits to 3 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Wenaha East, Oct. 1-12, from 2 permits to 3 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Mountain View West, Oct. 1-12, from 4 permits to 8 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Lick Creek, Oct. 1-12, from 1 permit to 2 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Peaches Ridge, Oct. 1-10, from 20 permits to 26 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Observatory, Oct. 1-10, from 17 permits to 21 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Goose Prairie, Oct. 1-10, from 13 permits to 15 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Bethel, Oct. 1-10, from 13 permits to 14 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Rimrock, Oct. 1-10, from 17 permits to 13 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Oct. 1-10, from 6 permits to 10 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows, Oct. 1-10, hunt with 1 permit. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt but upon further deliberation, changed their position.
- Move the muzzleloader Margaret hunt to the Bulls category. Because of private land access issues this hunt no longer meets the criteria for Quality. Change the number of

permits for Margaret, Oct. 6-12, from 13 permits to 14 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula, and at the same time, keeping hunter crowding down.

- Change the number of permits for Toutle, Oct. 6-12, from 46 permits to 28 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula, and at the same time, keeping hunter crowding down.

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Under the Bull modern firearm category:

- Change the number of permits for Teanaway, Dec. 17-31, from 8 permits to 10 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Observatory, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 63 permits to 64 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Goose Prairie, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 77 permits to 74 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Bethel, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 61 permits to 63 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Rimrock, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 114 permits to 120 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, from 17 permits to 22 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, hunt with 1 permit. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt, but upon further deliberation, changed their position.
- Remove Alkali, Oct. 13-Nov. 2, Any elk, 20 permits. This hunt was converted to an antlerless only hunt.
- Change the number of permits for Olympic, Nov. 3-14, from 14 permits to 20 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for White River, Nov. 3-14, from 30 permits to 24 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

Under the Bulls, archery category:

- Change the number of permits for Teanaway, Nov. 21-Dec. 8, from 10 permits to 8 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.
- Change the number of permits for Skokomish, Sept. 4-16, from 1 permit to 2 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

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Under Bulls, muzzleloader category:

- Change the number of permits for Teanaway, Dec. 9-16, from 6 permits to 16 permits. This change is the result of allocating special permits to the three primary user groups using the permit allocation formula.

Under Antlerless, modern firearm category:

- Add North Half, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, 10 permits. This new hunt is designed to provide limited antlerless opportunity to replace general season either sex opportunity.
- Add Stevens, Oct. 22-Nov. 4, 10 permits. This new hunt is designed to provide limited antlerless opportunity to replace general season either sex opportunity.
- Change the first Prescott hunt, Oct. 13-21, to Blue Creek, GMU 154. This corrects an error and prevents duplication of another hunt.
- For Marengo-Dayton, Oct. 27-Nov. 4, change the Elk Area from 1011 to 1010. This change corrects a typographical error.

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Under Antlerless, modern firearm category:

- Change the number of permits for Teanaway, Dec. 17-31, from 50 permits to 30 permits. This change is in response to decreasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Taneum, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 150 permits to 200 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Manastash, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 250 permits to 275 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Umtanum, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 200 permits to 250 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Little Naches, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 150 permits to 250 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Nile, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 5 permits to 20 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Bumping, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 5 permits to 25 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Bethel, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 5 permits to 20 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Rimrock, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 200 permits to 250 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Oct.31-Nov. 4, from 200 permits to 250 permits. This change is in response to increasing antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Add Alkali, Oct. 13-Nov. 2, Antlerless, 20 permits. This hunt was converted to an antlerless only hunt from any elk.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows, Oct. 31-Nov. 4, hunt with 5 antlerless permits. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt but upon further deliberation, changed their position.

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Under Antlerless, archery category:

- Add Colockum, Sept. 4-16, 50 antlerless permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Add Nile, Sept. 4-16, 50 antlerless permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Add Bumping, Sept. 4-16, 50 antlerless permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows and change the date to Oct. 11-21, with 9 antlerless permits. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt, but upon further deliberation, changed their position. The date change corrects an oversight/error.

Under Antlerless muzzleloader category:

- Add North Half, Oct. 1-7, 10 permits. This new hunt is designed to provide limited antlerless opportunity to replace general season either sex opportunity.
- Add Stevens, Oct. 1-7, 10 permits. This new hunt is designed to provide limited antlerless opportunity to replace general season either sex opportunity.

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Under Antlerless muzzleloader category:

- Change the number of permits for Nile, Oct. 6-12, from 5 permits to 20 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Bumping, Oct. 6-12, from 5 permits to 30 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Bethel, Oct. 6-12, from 5 permits to 20 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Oct. 6-12, from 200 permits to 250 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Teanaway, Dec. 9-16, from 6 permits to 10 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Reinstate the Klickitat Meadows, Oct. 1-10, hunt with 5 antlerless permits. Region 3 anticipated removing this hunt, but upon further deliberation, changed their position.

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Under Antlerless, muzzleloader category:

- Change the dates for Coweeman from Nov. 21-Dec. 30 to Nov. 21-Dec. 15. This change corrects a typographical error.

Under the Youth category:

- Change the dates for Dungeness from Nov. 1-Dec. 31 to Oct. 1-Dec. 31. More time was recommended for this hunt by Region 6 to better accommodate elk movements and elk distribution.

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Under the 65+ Senior category:

- Change the number of permits for Taneum, Oct. 31-Nov. 11, from 15 permits to 25 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Manastash, Oct. 31-Nov. 11, from 20 permits to 25 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Umtanum, Oct. 31-Nov. 11, from 20 permits to 25 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the number of permits for Cowiche, Oct. 31-Nov. 11, from 15 permits to 25 permits. This change is in response to an increasing number of antlerless elk available for harvest.
- Change the date on Centralia Mine from Oct. 20-21 to Jan. 5-6, 2013, and change the number of permits from 3 permits to 4 permits. These changes are negotiated each year with the mining facility.
- Change the date on Centralia Mine from Oct. 27-28 to Jan. 12-13, 2013, and change the number of permits from 3 permits to 4 permits. These changes are negotiated each year with the mining facility.

Under the Hunters with Disabilities category:

- Change the permits for Centralia Mine, Oct. 6-7, from 3 permits to 4 permits. These changes are negotiated each year with the mining facility.
- Change the permits for Centralia Mine, Oct. 13-14, from 3 permits to 4 permits. These changes are negotiated each year with the mining facility.

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Under the Master Hunter category:

- For Region 3, change the number of permits from 20^{HC} to 75^{HC}. These permits will potentially be used for Master Hunter Antlerless hunts on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (Hanford). The USFS has not finalized their decision on whether a hunting opportunity would be allowed on Hanford this fall. That decision is likely to come after the Fish and Wildlife Commission establishes regulations for the 2012 seasons. Previously, the number of permits for this hunt was changed from Unlimited^{HC} (as reflected on the CR102) to 20^{HC}. That change was intended to address concerns expressed by Master Hunters and Enforcement.
- Reinstate North Bend, 2nd tag, Aug. 15-March 31, 25 permits. This hunt was reinstated when the decision was made to not use and unlimited pool of hunters for Region 4.
- Reinstate Skagit River, 2nd tag, Aug. 15-March 31, 15 permits. This hunt was reinstated when the decision was made to not use and unlimited pool of hunters for Region 4.
- For Region 4 North, change the number of permits from Unlimited^{HC} to 20^{HC}. This change addresses concerns expressed by Master Hunters and Enforcement.
- For Region 4 South, change the number of permits from Unlimited^{HC} to 10^{HC}. This change addresses concerns expressed by Master Hunters and Enforcement.

Under the Master Hunter category:

- For Region 5, change the “weapon/tag” designation to Any western elk tag/2nd tag, and change the permits from 20^{HC} permits to 40^{HC} permits. This change gives Region 5 more flexibility when using this tool to mitigate damage.
- For Region 6 change the permits from 10^{HC} to 50^{HC}. This change gives Region 5 more flexibility when using this tool to mitigate damage.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-28-360 “2012 Elk special permits.”

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Make the early muzzleloader permit season in Toutle season go through Sunday and not end on Friday of the first week in October.</p> <p>Implement a late bull season, even if it is 10 tags in the Coweeman (Quality Hunt).</p> <p>Increase the number of opportunities for Muzzleloader antlerless in Coweeman.</p>	<p>The early muzzleloader season ends on Friday because the modern firearm deer season begins on Saturday. Whenever possible the Department tries to avoid overlaps between weapon groups. A late season quality hunt in Coweeman would likely have a high success rate which would impact the number permits issued during the early season. Muzzleloader antlerless opportunity in Coweeman is one of the highest in the southeast especially when you consider that muzzleloaders make up 12.9% of the elk hunting population.</p>
<p>Unit 574 Late muzzle loader season. Why are you taking more time away? If anything you should add three days, because of the economy!</p>	<p>The special permits for GMU 574 are consistent with the general season dates. In the last three years and the coming three years for GMUs 568, 574 and 578, the late muzzleloader season shifts with the calendar and the Thanksgiving holiday. The opener is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the closer is always Nov. 30. The Department does not recommend additional days to hunting season based on the performance of the economy.</p>
<p>I was just curious about the justification for so many cow permits for modern and muzzleloader in the 328 unit. As an avid archer and lifelong hunter in that particular unit I cannot believe there are 0 for archery. What in world is going on and have the objectives suddenly changed. I could care less about the late hunt in that unit. The animals are long gone most years by then. Is the game dept going to make any statement on this, there are a lot of riled up hunters over this particular change. I am asking for the department to shed some light on this, it would really be appreciated.</p>	<p>Regional staff’s recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>
<p>I am a land owner just outside the city of Packwood. Recently we have noticed more and more damage caused by the number of spike and cow elk that migrate through our property. Fences have proven to be worthless, and nothing seems to deter them from the area. Apparently our grass is just irresistible. We purchased the property with the hopes of getting closer to nature, and over the past few years, we have received just that.</p> <p>Through my observations I have noticed that there are an overwhelming number of cow elk concentrated in the Packwood area. I was interested to research hunting regulations thinking that there would be substantial amount of hunting permits available. Currently the general hunting season allows for 3 pt minimum elk to be taken. I agree with the general hunting season consisting of this limitation. However, there are no special permits, excluding the one saved for master hunters, to hunt the large number of cow elk that seem to flood into the Packwood region. I would like to suggest and request a special permit allocated to cow elk in unit 513. It is not unusual to see hundreds of elk within the city limits, most of which consist of spike and cow elk.</p> <p>I appreciate any consideration this letter may receive.</p>	<p>Elk in and around the town of Packwood have been a problematic issue for a number of years. The first step in addressing your problem is to contact your local WDFW Enforcement Officer. They will be very familiar with the issues and will be able to explain the various non-lethal and lethal tools that are available to try to mitigate the problem. Although we don’t currently have any special permits that are consistent with your request, we have recommended 40 Master Hunter permits that can be used as needed anywhere in Region 5. After viewing your property and discussing the various options the WDFW Enforcement Officer will be able to determine if those are an appropriate tool to use in your situation.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Requested Rule Change for the 2012-2014 Seasons: Reestablish the Goose Prairie Unit as a spike and antlerless season for early archery and reinstate the 53 bull permits lost during the 2009 and 2010 adjustments of the three year management plan.</p>	<p>The Goose prairie hunt includes GMUs 352 and 356. There are 50 antlerless archery permits recommended for GMU 352 and 50 antlerless archery permits recommended for GMU 356.</p> <p>Region 3 staff will meet with archery representatives for the 2013 season to determine how additional antlerless opportunity will be proposed if the elk population trends continue.</p> <p>Bull permits for the Goose Prairie hunt are calculated using the special permit allocation formula that was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in about 1998. Permits are calculated based on the total bull harvest desired (harvest targets), participation rates, and success rates. Although the permits in a number of special permit hunts went up for GMUs associated with the Yakima herd, the number of permits for the Goose Prairie hunt went down slightly for archery and modern firearm and went up slightly for muzzleloader.</p>
<p>Eliminate east/west designation and go to statewide draw system for modern rifle elk. West side elk units in this state are extremely over-populated with hunters and hunt quality is poor. I have hunted Washington state since 1979 as a resident and also out of state and I can honestly say that the elk hunting in other western states is much better, both in quality and success. I and others in my hunting circle are considering only hunting out of state now until this is addressed by a draw system to at least split the number of hunters in half for each unit. The larger units in Washington number between 1000-3000 modern rifle hunters-why not split the numbers in half with an early/late hunt with a weeklong rest period in between these hunts to give the elk a break. Look at the facts: Winston Unit- 2300 hunters, 7% success, Coweeman Unit- 2100 hunters 6% success and Lewis River Unit- 2800 hunters 4% success! Nearby states that have a modern firearm draw system have larger units with half or less the number of modern rifle hunters per individual season and success rates are 15 to 30%! Removing the east/west tag choice alone will not improve success rates or hunt quality unless a draw system is implemented in this state.</p>	<p>The Department has polled Washington elk hunters, several times and they consistently tell us they want to maintain a general season elk hunting opportunity. The hunting seasons that we recommend keep that value in mind and try to maintain the general season opportunity whenever possible.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I would like to see the elk hunting permit process or opportunity changed. Now when you buy your license and tags you have decide whether you are going to hunt eastern WA or western WA, modern firearm archery or muzzle loader. I would like to see that changed to where you wouldn't have to declare choice of weapon or east or west till after the permit drawing. Thus letting people of the state put in for the special permit opportunities across the entire state without losing opportunity. For example I live in western WA but would like to rifle hunt the quality bulls of eastern WA if I were lucky enough to draw a permit, but if commit to that tag and don't get drawn the best I can hope for is a spike. If the process were changed I would be able to apply for some really great units and not be penalized if I didn't draw because I could then go pickup my western WA archery elk tag before season started. I see it as a win-win for the state and the sportsmen, the state still gets there tag money the people have more options for elk hunting. The state would probably see a jump in the permit application sales</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>
<p>I need to ask a simple question. Why are there no cow elk permits in the Colockum?? I see you gave some to the rifle hunter and the muzzleloader hunters. I have been waiting for years hoping that we would be able to hunt cows again. What is the reason we are getting shafted?</p>	<p>Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>
<p>I noticed the WM antlerless elk season for the 550 Coweeman has been shortened by 2 weeks this year. Wondering if this is a miss print since MF season stays the same with 440 permits? So it can't be because of a harvest reduction.</p>	<p>Yes, you are right, this was a typographical error. Thank you for catching the error. A correction has been made in the Recommended Adjustments.</p>
<p>My comments are on the number of proposed elk permits for 2012. I would suggest you LOWER the number of elk permits for the west end of Winston (Toledo) Unit. In the last 3 years there are about 1/3 the elk. I hunt this Unit as I live next to it and I don't want to see all the gone from here. Also, the 3 active cougars working there in the SW section of this Unit, and the number of elk limping--about 1/2--will trim the herds here, too.</p>	<p>There are a number of antlerless special permits recommended for Toledo in the Antlerless, Youth, Senior, and Hunters with Disabilities categories. These hunts are specific to Elk Area 5029 and are designed to mitigate chronic damage problems in that area.</p>
<p>I have worked diligently to participate in this three year planning package on behalf of Goose Prairie archers. I attended the first meeting and raised my questions and concerns about this issue. Subsequently and upon your request, I sent a copy of this request for information and desired action on the issue, to every person involved in the package planning process. I realize that this is a complex process that involves a myriad of issues and participants. I also understand that due to the Governors moratorium the process has been limited in size and over-all scope of the issues. That being said, this is a very important issue to the 1500 archers that utilized this unit for their hunting opportunity prior to the closure.</p>	<p>Bull permits for the Goose Prairie hunt are calculated using the special permit allocation formula that was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in about 1998. Permits are calculated based on the total bull harvest desired (harvest targets), participation rates, and success rates. Although the permits in a number of special permit hunts went up for GMUs associated with the Yakima herd, the number of permits for the Goose Prairie hunt went down slightly for archery and modern firearm and went up slightly for muzzleloader.</p> <p>The Goose prairie hunt includes GMUs 352 and 356. There are 50 antlerless archery permits recommended for GMU 352 and 50 antlerless archery permits recommended for GMU 356.</p> <p>Region 3 staff will meet with archery representatives for the 2013 season to determine how additional antlerless opportunity will be proposed if the elk population trends continue.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I'm a MH and I am against the no restrictions on special elk hunt apps not having to be region specific. If you buy an east tag than you should hunt in the east and same for west. If you want to remove that fact than remove it all together, allow anyone to hunt anywhere with just a "state" elk tag.....no east or west designation. I became a MH for several reasons, the main one being to promote hunters in a "better light" to the non-hunting citizens of the state. To help protect the wildlife and the public and private lands of the state. But now with the changing rules to allow general hunters more access and taking away from MH the "perks" of the work involved to become a MH is wrong. Where is the incentive to become a MH and to promote the policies of the MH program if the general hunters get the same or very close to the same "perks"? I have to admit, the better hunting opportunities was a factor in getting me to become a MH. But it isn't the only one. Sometimes political correctness has to stop. The goal of the MH is to promote more people into the program and helping its causes..... Taking away incentives doesn't do that. If there are areas needing to decrease elk populations than make special permits for MH's, you can also give a few extra to the general hunters but promote the MH's first. We did the work to join the cause, not just ride the coat tails of others.</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p> <p>The MH program is very important to the Department. What we have found however, is that some hunters were mainly motivated to join the program because of the hunts. We are looking to strengthen the program with hunters more motivated to giving back; retention of our hunting heritage; and improving landowner relations.</p> <p>Therefore the types of incentives used to motivate hunter's to be part of the MH program need to be re-aligned with that philosophy. It was never the intent to trade special hunting opportunities for volunteer work.</p>
<p>In regards to deer and elk hunting: I would like to see changes made to allow hunters to purchase a tag for the species to be hunted and then the hunter is allowed to hunt by any means (archery, muzzleloader, modern rifle) until the tag is filled. I am aware that you have a limited number of special permits to allow this but the cost is prohibitive. Why not manage the species and not the hunter? California manages their wildlife and hunting seasons in this manner</p>	<p>You are correct, the multiple season permits already provide what you are requesting. Because they are highly valued it also provides a source of revenue for the Department. Although the price at \$180.50 is somewhat high, with a little advance planning most interested hunters seem to be able to budget for the cost. You have until March 31 to apply for multiple season permits.</p>
<p>It is my understanding that the rules for hunting are about to be finalized. In reference to Elk Hunting I was wondering why the WDFW doesn't allow a hunter to purchase as many Special Permits, both eastside and westside as they wish and after the drawing results the hunter would then be required to purchase either an eastside or westside license/tag depending on their drawing results. I believe this would generate more funds for special permits and still have the same outcome. If I wasn't drawn for a special permit I would like to hunt early archery westside and late archery eastside, so removing the eastside/westside requirement would be my preference.</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>
<p>I'll be hunting more in Idaho and paying 250/275 per tag to hunt big bulls and any deer using any weapon, and paying 250 for my hunting license .But Washington state could offer me the same deal and special hunts like Hanford big bulls, and bring in the money instead of other states.</p>	<p>The multiple season permits already provide what you are requesting for deer. Although the price at \$180.50 is somewhat high, with a little advance planning most interested hunters seem to be able to budget for the cost. You have until March 31 to apply for multiple season permits.</p> <p>It has been the intent of the Department for a number of years to facilitate an elk hunting season on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. We are still pursuing that outcome.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I just wanted to give you my opinion on one of your proposals for the next hunting period. I am firmly against the idea of allowing west side elk tag holders to apply for east side special permits. The new draw system was designed to improve hunter odds of drawing a permit, if this change goes through the odds will dramatically go way down. An example is what I apply for, east side muzzy in the Tucannon and Wenaha. Currently there is an average of 101 people putting in for 3 or 2 tags, if you allow the guys who just buy Westside permit apps to apply I can imagine the number of applicants could go up to at least 500 or more. I've been applying for years and that's with now up to 16 points, with the flood of guys who will add to the pool. There is very little chance of drawing before I turn 100 years old. Please don't let this go through this year or ever. Thanks for reading our comments.</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>
<p>Is there any truth to the rumors I'm hearing that in a year or two Margaret will be made a general area? If so, that is such a mistake. Keep it a permit only area, if the numbers are getting to big increase the number of bull tags, you already have a lot of cow tags in that area, between bow, muzzleloader, and rifle. We need a few areas that we can still find nice bulls in without fighting thousands of hunters for a spot to sit and watch a clearing. I am 64 and a disabled hunter, I have tried Winston creek area for a few years, but the number of hunters is alarming. If they open Margaret unit, all at once there will be massive amounts of hunters, probably over 2000 to 3000 all at once shooting bull all over and someone will get shot, in the process. I must not be the only person with concerns, please respond with something disproving or confirming rumors I have heard. Thank you.</p>	<p>The Department receives a number of requests every year to open both the Margaret and the Toutle units to general season hunting opportunity.</p> <p>Although there have been some discussions, the Department is not recommending such a change at this time.</p> <p>A major change like shifting the Margaret unit to a general season elk hunting opportunity would require multiple public meetings and a great deal of public involvement before a final recommendation could be developed.</p>
<p>After reviewing the new proposals to the hunting seasons and permits, I noticed that the antlerless season for the 550 unit for ELK muzzle loader will only run from Nov 21 to Nov30 for the next three years. Is this a mistake or is it planned? If it is planned I can see why all the cow tags for that unit last year. NOT A VERY GOOD CHOICE.</p> <p>Also I noticed the planned season for 2013 and 2014 for the same area. 550 Late muzzleloader is only going to be 2.5 weeks. Why not do like the last times Thanksgiving fell on the last week in Nov? Start season a week ahead.</p> <p>I believe these proposals need to be rethought and re-edited.</p>	<p>Yes, you are right, this was a typographical error. Thank you for catching the error. A correction has been made in the Recommended Adjustments.</p> <p>In the last three years and the coming three years for GMUs 550, the late muzzleloader season shifts with the calendar and the Thanksgiving holiday. The opener is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the closer is always Dec. 15. Hopefully within that 2 ½ week time period which encompasses the Thanksgiving holiday you will be able to schedule some muzzleloader elk hunting.</p>
<p>I support making a change for the special permits. The special permits are designed for a quality hunting opportunity. I live on the west side but want an east side quality hunt. Something always has to give. The area I hunt or the permit opportunity. Please make this change</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I strongly oppose changing the regulation that requires hunters to apply to only special elk permits that is consistent with their elk transport tags. Changing this regulation would mean that the best units east and west would have a huge increase in the number of applicants. It is hard enough to draw these units. It seems that the only purpose to change this regulation is to get more money from the application process.</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>
<p>Please allow Elk tags to be used East OR West, not one or the other. Thanks.</p>	<p>At the public meetings that were conducted this summer, as well as follow up surveys that the Department conducted, elk hunters were evenly split on whether the current system should be retained. Elk hunters that were opposed to a change expressed concerns about the potential for increased crowding and concerns about the potential for the odds of drawing special permits deteriorating. There wasn't enough support for changing the system to move forward with a recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.</p>
<p>You need to rethink the quality elk hunt in unit 368 for the muzzle loaders. Currently you have the season set during the cattle roundup for the federal land. There are many of the ranchers with their dogs and horses in all of the areas that the elk are in, they round up cattle almost all of the first part of the muzzle season. I know you are working to provide the best hunting for everyone but it doesn't work for the hunters with the ranchers out trying to get there cows in.</p>	<p>The Department has no control over the timing of cattle movement on federal lands. The muzzleloader bull permits in this Region have been the 1st week of October since the inception of bull permits in the mid 1990's. This is the first complaint about the timing of cattle conflicting with elk hunting. Elk move for various reasons. Most of the telemetry work done on the Yakima elk herd shows movement that coincides with the start of hunting seasons. The elk do not go far. Muzzleloader hunters have generally had good success rates over the last decade.</p>
<p>I waited 12 years to get a cow tag for the Margaret GMU. When I finally got it last year, the place was DOA because of the hunt season lasting about 5 months out of the year. There is a balance between fair rules for permit hunting and deriving revenue for the state. The best place in the Margaret was closed except for "buddies with keys to the gate" because it is now the Noble Tree Farm. Please find a better way to make the wait for a quality hunt worth it. Thanks in advance.</p>	<p>The Region 5 personnel are aware of the access issues that have developed in the Margaret unit when key pieces of real estate changed hands. They will continue to work on best options in an attempt to maintain the quality of the hunt.</p>
<p>I would like the board to consider adding and antlerless elk special permit for the 328,329,335 GMU. They have added 40 permits for Modern Firearm, but not included any for archery. Please add special permits for archery hunters for this hunt.</p>	<p>Regional staff's recommendation for antlerless opportunity in the late archery general season is for GMUs 328, 334, and 335. There are also 50 antlerless, special permits for archery in GMUs 328 and 329 for the early archery time period. See the special permit WAC.</p>
<p>The options for muzzleloaders are very limited on the east side of the state. It would be beneficial if more options/opportunities were added, such as special tags for cow elk in the Tucannon unit.</p>	<p>We will take that request under advisement and see if there is any room for that kind of opportunity in the future.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I read a negative piece about the cow elk late hunt in the Longview paper. I agree with the decisions made by the WDOFAW because hopefully you folks have all the info and the cow elk hunt was necessary.</p> <p>I was able to harvest my first elk in many years of hunting for I am disabled and 71 years old. It was good that the lumber company left many of the gates open to help harvest the animals.</p> <p>My thoughts are if you had that hunt or hunts like that for disabled and hunters over the age of 65 you would less grief from the general public and it sure would help the old and crippled guy like myself have a pretty good hunt</p> <p>Thanks for listening and if this is the wrong place to send this email can you please forward it on to the proper folks</p>	<p>Thank you for the supportive comments. The Department does try to recommend opportunity for hunters with disabilities, senior hunters, and youth hunters whenever possible. We will continue to look for those opportunities in your area.</p>
<p>In order to maximize the opportunities of the Washington State elk hunter and also maintain the financial posture to manage our herds, I would strongly recommend that the hunter be able to, at purchase, declare east or west (as we do now) and at that time have the opportunity to add the opposite state portion to the tag for an additional 50% of the original elk tag cost.</p> <p>This is of tremendous importance for locations such as Packwood and Randle, where for example, the Bumping unit is easy to access from the west but opposite the east west line. Increasing the available land mass for those who choose to purchase the option would be an outstanding win for all demographics and the wildlife economy.</p> <p>If there is something I'm missing, such as fear of high hunter densities in the central cascades, I posit that the increased cost would maintain the balance while increasing funding for the future of the hunt.</p>	<p>The multiple season permits already provide what you are requesting. Because they are highly valued it also provides a source of revenue for the Department. Although the price at \$180.50 is somewhat higher than you recommend, with a little advance planning most interested hunters seem to be able to budget for the cost. You have until March 31 to apply for multiple season permits.</p>
<p>Stop these late cow hunts, it's no sport and darn near criminal. Fair chase what a crock. These animals are hungry and are vulnerable this late in the year. There is NO overabundance of elk in the units you are targeting. NO winter kill except for the area you mismanaged for decades and have kept closed up in the Toutle Valley to Coldwater. Leave the Coweeman, Ryderwood cows alone. Give more permits during regular seasons, not late Dec - Jan</p>	<p>Not quite sure if you want us to leave the elk alone or harvest more during the general season. The Department is trying to reduce the Mount St. Helens elk herd and all of our survey information from the 5 core GMUs suggest there are still more elk than the landscape can support. Some of the later antlerless permits are in response to complaints of too much crowding during the general season.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of cow elk permits in the Winston unit. A total of 570 cow permits (including the Toledo elk area) is absolutely ridiculous for a unit the size of the Winston. I have seen the decline in the unit; having hunted it since 2000. I no longer hunt the unit due to the lack of elk and extreme pressure which results in a very poor hunting experience; and for the record I typically travel seven to twelve miles in behind closed gates on a mountain bike before I start hunting in the morning. Only allow archers to harvest cow elk in the late season. If a heard in a particular unit is over capacity extend the archery season or issue more modern and muzzleloader tags later in the year.</p>	<p>The Department is trying to reduce the Mount St. Helens elk herd and all of our survey information from the 5 core GMUs, including the Winston Unit, suggest there are still more elk than the landscape can support. Some of the later antlerless permits are in response to complaints of too much crowding during the general season.</p>

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| WAC 232-28-272 | 2009 Black bear and 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations. |
| WAC 232-28-287 | 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 Cougar permit seasons and regulations. |
| WAC 232-28-295 | Landowner hunting permits. |
| WAC 232-28-351 | 2009-2011 Deer general seasons and definitions. |
| WAC 232-28-352 | 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions. |
| WAC 232-28-355 | 2011 Deer special permits. |
| WAC 232-28-356 | 2011 Elk special permits. |



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)
Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 11-24-102 on 12-07-11 ; or
- Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or
- Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- Original Notice
- Supplemental Notice to WSR _____
- Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)
Hunting Seasons and Regulations – See Attachment A

Hearing location(s):
Moses Lake City Hall
321 S. Balsam
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 764-3701

Date: March 9-10, 2012 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date of intended adoption: April 13-14, 2012
(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia WA 98501-1091
e-mail Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov
fax (360) 902-2162

By: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact: Tami Lininger by March 5, 2012

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

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

See Attachment A

Reasons supporting proposal:

See Attachment A

Statutory authority for adoption: 77.12.047

Statute being implemented: 77.12.047

Is rule necessary because of a:

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

If yes, CITATION:
CFR Part 20.21

DATE
February 1, 2012

NAME
Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE
Lori Preuss

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: February 01, 2012
TIME: 11:43 AM

WSR 12-04-098

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None

Name of proponent: (person or organization)

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

- Private
 Public
 Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(306) 902-2693
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
Enforcement.....Bruce Bjork	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2373

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____

fax () _____

e-mail _____

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.
These rules do not directly regulate small business.

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 () _____

e-mail _____

No: Please explain: Not hydraulics rules.

ATTACHMENT A

WAC 232-12-047 Unlawful methods for hunting.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposed amendment is intended to further the discussion on what should be allowed for crossbow use during modern firearm seasons.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal facilitates public discussion of new technologies and consideration of acceptable fair chase and ethical standards for hunting.

WAC 232-12-054 Archery requirements - Archery special use permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposed amendment is intended to further the discussion on allowing illuminated nocks for archery equipment.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal facilitates public discussion of new technologies and consideration of acceptable fair chase and ethical standards for hunting.

WAC 232-12-063 Hunting at night – regulations – penalties.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposal would clarify how a hunter can hunt small game and unclassified wildlife at night and would complement existing night hunting rules.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposal would provide greater certainty for officers in determining whether a hunter is lawfully hunting at night.

WAC 232-12-243 Public safety cougar removals.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of the proposed WAC amendment is to identify when public safety cougar removals are warranted for the protection of public safety and private property. The proposed WAC changes remove the use of “cougar sighting events” or “nuisance behavior” to trigger a public safety cougar removal. The proposed WAC also renames the program from “cougar management removal” to “public safety cougar removal.”

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal better aligns the WAC language and actions with the terms used in the RCW authority.

WAC 232-12-257 Use of decoys and calls.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposed amendment is intended to further the discussion on the use of electronic technology for waterfowl hunting.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal facilitates public discussion of new technologies and consideration of acceptable fair chase and ethical standards for hunting.

WAC 232-12-264 Baiting of game birds – Unlawful.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposed amendment is intended to clarify the existing rule on baiting of game birds, and align the rule with current federal regulations on baiting of migratory game birds.

Reasons supporting proposal: This amendment was requested by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, subsequent to a Commission presentation in September 2009, to facilitate consistent enforcement of state and federal baiting rules by the Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed WAC changes amend seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat. Winter surveys indicate moose populations are stable. The Department recommends minor permit level adjustments based on recent survey results. The Department also recommends redefining Mt. Spokane moose hunts in GMU 124 into two moose areas, Mt. Spokane North and Mt. Spokane South, and increasing permit levels slightly in those areas to control population levels. Based on the recommendation, statewide permit levels would change from 140 to 152. The anticipated effect is stable moose populations in core areas with more control on moose population growth in areas surrounding Spokane. Hunter opportunity will increase slightly.

All bighorn sheep populations that we are currently hunting either meet or exceed total population objectives. However the number of adult rams fluctuates and we are recommending reductions in ram harvest for several units consistent with the population thresholds in the Game Management Plan (2008). Based on the recommendation, statewide permit levels would change from 41 to 31. The anticipated effect is stable bighorn sheep populations in all hunted areas. Hunter opportunity will decrease slightly.

Mountain goat populations are managed for stable-to-increasing populations in all hunted areas. Changes in permit levels are based on annual survey counts and tend to be conservative, given the sensitivity of goats to overharvesting. The Department recommends status quo delegated authority for existing hunt area permit levels, plus the addition of two hunt areas each with 1 permit. Under that authority the Department will be rotating and reducing hunting pressure in the goat units surrounding Mt. Baker, based on recent survey results. With the delegated authority, statewide permit levels would change from 15 to 17. The anticipated effect is stable mountain goat populations in all hunted areas. Hunter opportunity will increase slightly.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal incorporates permit level changes based on the population thresholds and criteria in the Game Management Plan (2008).

WAC 232-28-286 2013, 2014, and 2015 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed rule amendments establish the 2013, 2014, and 2015 spring black bear seasons. The purpose is to: 1) reduce tree damage by bears in western Washington; 2) disperse harvest geographically and reduce female harvest in southeastern Washington; and 3) reduce nuisance and damage activity in northeastern Washington, while maintaining long-term sustainable populations in each Black Bear Management Unit (BBMU) --except Puget Sound and Columbia Basin BBMUs. The anticipated effects of the rule are continued recreational harvest opportunities similar to 2009-2011 levels and long-term sustainable bear populations.

Reasons supporting proposal: Spring bear opportunity is provided to address management needs rather than solely for the purpose of providing recreational opportunity. This is due to the public's sensitivity to hunting bears while adult females are accompanied by the young of the year. The Department did not receive any requests for additional spring bear harvest to address the management needs listed above, except for additional bear harvest in northeastern Washington to address nuisance bear issues. Based on the population thresholds outlined in the Game Management Plan, hunting may be impacting the bear population in northeastern Washington; that is, the "median age of harvested females" indicator suggests bear harvest may be impacting the regional bear population. As such, any additional spring bear harvest in the area would require equivalent reductions to fall bear harvest to offset any additional population impacts. During the scoping phase of this WAC, survey data indicated

respondents preferred status quo spring seasons rather than adding harvest opportunity in the spring coupled with reductions in the fall season.

WAC 232-28-288 2012-2014 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed rule establishes the 2012, 2013, and 2014 fall black bear seasons. The purpose is to provide recreational harvest opportunities for black bear, while maintaining long-term sustainable populations in each BBMU --except Puget Sound and Columbia Basin BBMUs. The anticipated effects of the rule are to maintain recreational harvest trends similar to 2009-2011 levels. The anticipated effect to the bear population is a long-term sustainable bear populations statewide.

Reasons supporting proposal: The parameters used as population indicators by the Department to evaluate the impacts of hunting on the bear populations are either stable or trending in the right direction. Therefore, no significant changes are recommended at this time.

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to expand the number of special hunting opportunities available on private lands for hunters. The recommended changes would add two additional cooperators in eastern Washington.

Reasons supporting proposal: The Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available for hunting to the general public several years ago. One of the programs that was authorized under their authority is the Landowner Hunting Permit program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

WAC 232-28-297 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of the proposal is to establish the 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 cougar hunting seasons. The proposal establishes hunt areas and associated harvest guidelines for the entire state (except Columbia Basin and Puget Sound Cougar Management Units). The harvest guideline represents a sustainable 12-16 percent harvest rate for each hunt area. The anticipated effects to the cougar population are to maintain a stable population and to maintain an adequate age structure for cougar populations equally distributed across the state.

Reasons supporting proposal: Recently published studies suggest that a 12-16 percent harvest rate of a local cougar population is the maximum harvest rate that still has a high probability for maintaining a stable cougar population along with stable adult male territorial behavior. Harvest rates in excess of 16 percent can result in declines in core populations of breeding females, and excessive male harvest rates result in the loss of adult male territorial behavioral, which acts as a regulatory mechanism for local male cougar numbers.

WAC 232-28-337 Deer and elk area descriptions.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The proposed language eliminates one elk area and creates three new deer areas. Deer and elk areas help direct hunters when a scale smaller than the Game Management Unit (GMU) is needed. Deer and elk areas help staff deal with wildlife damage problems.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed language allows the Commission to distribute hunters more favorably during quality hunts. Proposed language also helps delineate when state authorized deer

hunting is and is not allowed at a smaller scale within the GMU. Proposed language eliminates an elk area that is associated with a special permit elk hunt that is no longer being conducted.

WAC 232-28-342 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 Small game seasons.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This amendment proposes calendar date adjustments to most small game seasons, expands the wild turkey season in eastern Washington, reinstates the September Canada goose season in eastern Washington, and shifts the crow season one month earlier.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for the continuation of hunting seasons on small game species to provide recreational opportunity and depredation control.

WAC 232-28-357 2012-2014 Deer general seasons and definitions.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between user groups, increase opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change. The proposal would repeal the old deer general seasons for 2009-2011 and adopt the new deer seasons for 2012-2014.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2012 through 2014. The proposal helps address deer damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-358 2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between user groups, increase opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change. The proposal would repeal the old elk general seasons for 2009-2011 and adopt the new elk seasons for 2012-2014.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2012 through 2014. The proposal helps address elk damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-359 2012 Deer special permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity that is above and beyond what is offered for general seasons. The proposal would repeal the old deer special permit seasons for 2011 and adopt the new deer special permit seasons for 2012. The proposal adjusts special permits for deer for 2012 in response to deer population changes and damage complaints. The proposal would help reduce or minimize agricultural damage and provides for population control of deer where needed.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposal continues to provide recreational deer hunting opportunity while protecting deer from overharvest and helps minimize deer agricultural damage.

WAC 232-28-360 2012 Elk special permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit elk hunting opportunity that is above and beyond what is offered for general seasons. The proposal would repeal the old elk special permit seasons for 2011

and adopt the new elk special permit seasons for 2012. The proposal adjusts special permits for elk for 2012 in response to elk population changes and damage complaints. The proposal would help reduce or minimize agricultural damage and provides for population control of elk where needed.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposal continues to provide recreational elk hunting opportunity while protecting elk from overharvest and helps minimize elk agricultural damage.

WAC Sections Proposed for Repeal:

WAC 232-28-272	2009 Black bear and 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.
WAC 232-28-287	2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 Cougar permit seasons and regulations.
WAC 232-28-295	Landowner hunting permits.
WAC 232-28-351	2009-2011 Deer general seasons and definitions.
WAC 232-28-352	2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions.
WAC 232-28-355	2011 Deer special permits.
WAC 232-28-356	2011 Elk special permits.