

9. Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas

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- Amend WAC 232-28-273 (moose)
- Adopt WAC 232-28-622 (bighorn sheep, formerly part of 232-28-273)
- Adopt WAC 232-28-623 (mountain goat, formerly part of 232-28-273)
- [Propose these 3 species split into separate WACs for clarity]

232-28-273



- WAC now covers moose only
- Revise language to clarify intent of exception to the “one moose/lifetime” rule
 - Existing language leaves unclear whether or not somebody who’d previously harvested a moose under and antlerless, master-hunter, raffle, auction could later apply for an “any” (quite possibly bull) moose
 - Revision make clear that ‘exception’ works both ways (i.e., ‘once/lifetime only applicable for regular, ‘any moose’ permits)

232-28-273

- Reduce master hunter permits (Mt. Spokane) from 20 to 10
 - Not sufficient need to justify 20
 - Some master hunters disappointed
(having drawn permit but never getting the call)



232-28-622



- New WAC for only bighorn sheep only
- Revise language to clarify intent of exception to the “one ram/lifetime” rule
 - Similar revision as for moose
 - Intent is to clarify that hunters previously having harvested a ram may still apply for a ewe permit, and/or under raffle/auction

232-28-622

- Reduce ram offtake in Asotin population (Blue Mtns metapopulation) from 2 to 1
 - Temporarily do away with 1 special draw
 - Retain the Rocky Mountain bighorn raffle (which allows harvest from Asotin)
 - Reflects resource concern:
 - Declining population due to pneumonia



232-28-622

Floor change

New recommendation

Region 3, District 8

– Change ram permits in

Cleman Mtn bighorn herd from 12 to 10 (5 in each of 2 temporally separated seasons)

– Reduce ram permits in Tieton bighorn herd from 6 to 5 (3 in 1st season, 2 in 2nd)



232-28-622

New recommendation

Region 3, District 8

Justification:

- New data from 2013 show Clemans Mtn rams declined from ~ 88 to 60
- New data from 2013 suggest some Tieton rams have emigrated to Clemans
- For past few years, ram permits in both herds have been temporarily > objective/plan because transplants of ewes from these herds (to other parts of the state) have generated an imbalanced ram/ewe ratio
- *(Problem with “too many” rams is risk of excessive wandering, contact with domestic animals and/or conflicts with private lands)*
- The imbalanced sex ratio is now being corrected (as evidenced by the recent data), so now appropriate to revise ram permit limit toward long-term sustainable number



232-28-623

- New WAC for only mountain goat only
- Revise language to clarify intent of exception to the “one ram/lifetime” rule
 - Similar revision as for moose, sheep
 - Intent is to clarify that hunters previously having harvested a mountain goat may still apply for a permit under raffle/auction



232-28-623

- Revises and clarifies hunt area boundaries in Mt Baker
 - Better reflects goat movements across older boundaries
 - Still allows for sufficient 'fine-tuning' of harvest by geographic area

