

14. LANDOWNER HUNTING PERMITS– RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary Page	<i>i</i>
WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits	1
Recommended Adjustments WAC 232-28-296	11
Summary of Written Public Input.....	12
CR 102	14

Summary

Meeting: March 1, 2013

Agenda Item 14: Landowner Hunting Permits– **Rule Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presented By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

The Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program, WAC 232-28-296, is primarily designed to increase hunter access to private lands. The program is also used to help address chronic deer and elk damage issues. When the Commission's Hunter Access Policy C6002 was developed, the intent was to create several options and incentives for landowners to allow recreational access to the public. The LHP program was specifically designed to allow landowners to directly recover the cost of providing public access rather than having the Department function as an intermediary. The guidelines in place allow for customized seasons and a split of permits (hunting opportunity) between the landowner and the public (through the Department).

The Department recommends amending the permit levels and hunting opportunity with existing cooperators at their request. The opportunity shared between the landowner and the public (through the Department) for deer and elk hunting opportunity is within the guidelines established in Commission Policy C6002.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Modifying permit and harvest levels consistent with Department objectives and landowner desires.
-

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In February, a postcard was mailed to over 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):

Conduct a public hearing and take comment on these proposals. The Commission will consider adoption at its April 12-13, 2013 meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

To provide hunting opportunities on private lands.

Communications plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 12-70, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12)

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits. (1) A landowner may enter into a contract with the department and establish boundaries and other requirements for hunter access consistent with commission policy.

(2) It is unlawful for hunters to participate in landowner-permit hunts unless the hunters possess both an access permit from the landowner and a hunting permit from the department for the species covered under the landowner's contract. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

~~(1)~~(3)(a) **Buckrun**

Buckrun is located in Grant County, near the town of Wilson Creek. Hunting on Buckrun is managed for a quality experience by scheduling hunt dates and keeping the number of hunters in the field low. Hunters with limited flexibility for hunt dates may experience scheduling problems. Hunters can generally expect one--day hunts during the permit seasons with written authorization from the Buckrun manager. All hunters must check in and out on hunt day. Hunts will be scheduled on a first--come basis by calling 509-345-2577 in advance.

Deer

(b) Buckrun Llandowner Hhunting Ppermits

The Buckrun's manager ~~of Buckrun~~ will distribute ~~these Buckrun's~~ landowner hunting permits. Buckrun may charge Aan access fee ~~may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits, but not ~~. No access fee will be charged~~ for the winning raffle permits winners. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for permits on Buckrun's properties. Contact the manager at 509-345-2577 for additional information.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any White-tailed Deer	Buckrun
Buckrun	30	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun
Buckrun Raffle	10	Oct. 26 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun

Deer

(c) Buckrun Sspecial Hhunting Ppermits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these Buckrun's special hunting~~ permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for ~~Buckrun these~~ special permits. All hunters must check in and out. Hunts should be Sscheduled ~~hunts~~ in advance by calling 509-345-2577.

Deer

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any White-tailed Deer	Buckrun

(2)(4)(a) Silver Dollar Association

The Silver Dollar Association is located in Yakima and Benton counties, on the western edge of the Hanford Reservation. A legal

description of the property is in the contract between the Silver Dollar Association and the department.

(b) Silver Dollar Association Landowner Hunting Permits

The Silver Dollar Association's manager ~~of the Silver Dollar Association~~ will distribute ~~these~~ the association's landowner hunting permits. The association may charge ~~An~~ access fee ~~may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	24	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar	8	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Silver Dollar

(c) Silver Dollar Association Special Hunting Permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these~~ the Silver Dollar Association's special hunting permits. ((The landowners have requested changing the application criteria to eastside elk tags only.))

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	8	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	6	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	2	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Persons of Disability Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar

~~(3)~~(5)(a) Blackrock Ranches

Blackrock Ranches is located in Yakima County, west of the Hanford Reservation. A legal description of the property is in the contract between Blackrock Ranches and the department.

(b) **Blackrock Ranches L~~andowner~~ H~~unting~~ P~~ermits~~**

The ~~Blackrock Ranches'~~ manager ~~of Blackrock Ranches~~ will distribute ~~these the ranches'~~ landowner hunting permits. Blackrock Ranches may charge Aan access fee ~~may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	6	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	2	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Blackrock Ranches

(c) **Blackrock Ranches S~~pecial~~ H~~unting~~ P~~ermits~~**

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these Blackrock Ranches'~~ special hunting permits. To apply, hunters must have an ~~The landowners have requested changing the application criteria to eastside elk tags only.~~

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	1	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	<u>EA, EF, EM</u>	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches

(4)(6)(a) **Pine Mountain Ranch**

The Pine Mountain Ranch is located in Yakima County, 14 miles west of Yakima. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Pine Mountain Ranch and the department.

(b) Pine Mountain Ranch Landowner Hunting Permits

The Pine Mountain Ranch's manager ~~of the Pine Mountain Ranch~~ will distribute ~~these~~ the ranch's landowner hunting permits. Pine Mountain Ranch may charge An access fee ~~may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. ((5)) <u>4</u> - Dec. 31	Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	((Nov. 5)) <u>Aug. 1</u> - Dec. 31	Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	August 1 - Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u>	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

(c) Pine Mountain Ranch Special Hunting Permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these~~ Pine Mountain Ranch's special hunting permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. ((5)) <u>4</u> - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	((Nov. 2)) <u>Aug. 1</u> - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Aug. 1 - Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u>	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

~~(5)~~ (7)(a) **4-0 Ranch**

The 4-0 Ranch is located in Asotin County (GMU 172) 7 south of Asotin. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the

4-0 Ranch and the department.

(b) 4-0 Ranch landowner Hunting Permits

The 4-0 Ranch's manager ~~of the 4-0 Ranch~~ will distribute ~~these~~ the ranch's landowner hunting permits. The 4-0 Ranch may charge An access fee ~~may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	4	Oct. ((13-16)) <u>12-15</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	2	Nov. ((12-16)) <u>11-15</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((East-B)) <u>C</u>	1	Nov. ((16-19)) <u>15-18</u>	White-tailed, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	2	Sept. ((17-21)) <u>16-20</u>	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	1	Oct. ((22-25)) <u>21-24</u>	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
((4-0 Ranch C	1	Nov. 5-8	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch))
4-0 Ranch ((D)) <u>C</u>	4	Oct. ((27-30)) <u>26-29</u>	Spike Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((E)) <u>D</u>	8	Sept. ((27-30)) <u>26-29</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((F)) <u>E</u>	2	Oct. ((27-30)) <u>26-29</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((G)) <u>F</u>	6	Nov. ((22-25)) <u>21-24</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
((4-0 Ranch H))				

(c) 4-0 Ranch special Hunting Permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these~~ the ranch's special hunting permits. Hunters must have need an Eastside Elk tag to apply for ~~the~~ 4-0 Ranch's elk permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
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4-0 Ranch A	1	Oct. ((17-21)) <u>16-20</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	1	Nov. ((17-21)) <u>16-20</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch C	1	Nov. ((26)) <u>25</u> - Dec. ((2)) <u>1</u>	Whitetail, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	2	Sept. 22-26	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
((4-0 Ranch B))	4	Nov. 9-12	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch))
4-0 Ranch ((C)) <u>B</u>	1	Oct. ((31)) <u>30</u> - Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u>	Spike Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((D)) <u>C</u>	4	Oct. ((5-8)) <u>4-7</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((E)) <u>D</u>	2	Oct. ((31)) <u>30</u> - Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch ((F)) <u>E</u>	2	Nov. ((29)) <u>28</u> - Dec. ((2)) <u>1</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch

~~(6)~~(8)(a) **ZMI Ranch**

ZMI Ranch is located in northern Walla Walla County near Lyons Ferry (GMU 149).

Deer

(b) **ZMI Ranch Landowner Hunting Permits**

~~The ZMI Ranch's manager of ZMI Ranch will distribute these the ranch's landowner hunting permits. ZMI Ranch may charge An access fee may be charged in order to utilize for~~ these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
((ZMI A))	2	Oct. 22-28	Antlerless, Mule Deer or White-tailed Deer	ZMI))
ZMI ((B)) <u>A</u>	2	Oct. ((22-28)) <u>21-27</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI
ZMI ((C)) <u>B</u>	4	Nov. ((17)) <u>16</u> - Dec. ((9)) <u>8</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI

Deer

(c) **ZMI Ranch Special Hunting Permits**

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife

for ~~these~~ ZMI Ranch's special hunting permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for ZMI special permits. Hunters must call ZMI Ranch's manager to schedule a hunt time. All hunters must check in and out ~~and have them provided a scheduled time by the manager~~ on the day they hunt.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
((ZMI A	<u>2</u>	<u>Oct. 8-12</u>	Antlerless, Mule Deer or	<u>ZMI))</u>
ZMI ((B)) <u>A</u>	2	Nov. ((2-5)) <u>1-4</u>	White-tailed Deer 3 pt. min	ZMI

(7)(9)(a) Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association

The Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association (CPWMA) ~~LHP~~ landowner hunting permit area is located in Spokane County (GMU 130) ~~7~~ near Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. ~~Hunting Landowner permit hunts are~~ is primarily ~~a damage damage~~ hunts but are managed for a quality experience by keeping the number of hunters in the field low. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the CPWMA and the department.

(b) Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association Landowner Hunting Permits

~~The CPWMA's~~ manager ~~of the CPWMA~~ will distribute ~~these~~ the association's landowner hunting permits. CPWMA will not charge an ~~No~~ access fee ~~will be charged~~ for ~~the~~ raffle permit winners. Only hunters possessing an elk tag are eligible for permits on CPWMA's properties. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from ~~the~~ CPWMA's manager and must check in and out at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates.

Successful applicants will receive a packet of ~~required~~ information with forms to fill out and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants information must ~~be filled~~ fill out the forms and ~~returned~~ return them ~~prior to~~ before Sept 30. Applicants ((may)) should see CPWMA's web site at www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA	2	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 1	2	Jan. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 2	2	Jan. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 3	3	Feb. 1-14	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 4	2	Feb. 15-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 5	2	Mar. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 6	2	Mar. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 7	2	Jan. 1-31	Any bull	CPWMA

(c) Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association ~~S~~special ~~H~~unting ~~P~~ermits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ~~these~~ CPWMA's special hunting permits. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from ~~the~~ CPWMA's manager and must check in and out at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates. Successful applicants will receive a packet of required information with forms to fill out and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants must fill out the forms and return them ~~Information must be filled out and returned prior before~~ ~~to~~ Sept 30. Applicants ((may)) should see CPWMA's web site at

www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA 1	3	Jan. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 2	2	Jan. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 3	((3)) <u>2</u>	Feb. 1-14	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 4	((2)) <u>3</u>	Feb. 15-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 5	3	Mar. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 6	2	Mar. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 7	1	Jan. 1-31	Any bull	CPWMA

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-296, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner Hunting Permits.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

Pages 1-10

- Several technical amendments were made throughout this section to improve the clarity and accuracy of the rule.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-12-296 “Landowner Hunting Permits.”

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Too often I hear of these permits being given to friends and family members then to the “general hunter.” I am worried this is only going to increase that from happening. “Ability to generate funding to offset the cost” what happened to allowing someone to hunt on your land after they ask. Are we going to turn into a state full of leased only land. I just recently saw at the sportsmen show Rayonier timber selling leases to hunting land. Some of these areas went for upwards of \$5,000. Is that the general hunter who can afford that? I am in support of timber companies giving access to only a certain number and having names and possibly deposits or smaller fees for a key to access for the year. I think I am getting away from the true meaning of this amendment being smaller ranchers and farmers. This takes away opportunity for a hunter to go talk to a landowner to gain access for hunting when that landowner knows they can get money for the access. What is to stop people from buying land just to sell landowner tags? I am not for this idea unless it can be regulated so the general hunter actually has an opportunity to draw one of these permits.</p>	<p>The idea behind this program is that the permits are shared between the landowner and the hunter. Half of the antlerless permits and twenty-five percent of the antlered deer or elk permits are drawn by WDFW and do not require an access fee.</p>
<p>I cannot in support the continual increase of private land hunts. This is getting out of control for the little access we gain. Also, legal boundary descriptions for these areas need to be published in the hunting pamphlet to avoid the rampant abuse.</p>	<p>We are not recommending any increases in LHP cooperators for 2013. In order to qualify, landowners must post their boundaries.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I do not feel that customized hunting season on specific private lands is the best opportunity for the general public. I have not personally experienced one of these opportunities, so my understanding may not be complete, but can see how a great concept (more land for public access) can become corrupt by individual landowners who use this system improperly. I know of several families who regulate usage of their land through personal guiding opportunities and don't see how this proposed amendment will better increase the public's access to hunting properties.</p>	<p>Surveys conducted by participating landowners of hunters who drew permits have been overwhelming supportive and appreciative of their hunts.</p>



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2012)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 12-19-007 on 9/6/12; WSR 12-20-084 on 10/3/12; and WSR 12-23-013 on 11/9/12; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1).

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)

The subject of this proposed rule-making effort is the amendment of hunting seasons and regulations for 2013-2014, archery equipment regulations, and rules governing the importation of dead non-resident wildlife for the purposes of disease control. See Attachment A for a complete listing of rules.

Hearing location(s):
 Moses Lake Civic Center
 401 S. Balsam
 Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Date: March 1-2, 2013 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Submit written comments to:
 Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
 Address: 600 Capitol Way North
 Olympia, WA 98501-1091
 Fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) February 15, 2013

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact
Tami Lininger by February 22, 2013
 TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: on or after April 12, 2013
 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

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: RCWs 77.12.047; 77.12.150; and 77.12.240

Statute being implemented: RCWs 77.12.047; 77.12.150; and 77.12.240

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law? Yes No
 Federal Court Decision? Yes No
 State Court Decision? Yes No
 If yes, CITATION:

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: **January 23, 2013**
TIME: **11:05 AM**

WSR 13-03-152

DATE
January 23, 2013

NAME (type or print)
Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

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

When filing the permanent rule-making order (CR-103P), the WAC sections containing rule amendments will be consolidated into one or two Order Typing Service (OTS) documents.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 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 or has a school district fiscal impact statement been prepared under section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 2012?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement or school district fiscal 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: This proposal is not related to hydraulics rules.

ATTACHMENT A

WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

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

The states and provinces listed in this WAC have confirmed chronic wasting disease (CWD) in their wild, free-ranging populations of cervids. This proposal would add the states of Texas and Missouri to those states where additional processing of deer, elk, and moose carcasses is required before they can be brought into Washington.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposal reduces the risk of CWD being imported into Washington State via carcasses of animals harvested in other states. Reducing disease risk helps in sustaining deer, elk, and moose hunting opportunities in Washington.

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 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This proposed amendment is part of the effort to streamline, reorganize, and update rules in the WAC Overhaul Project currently underway. Anticipated effects are minimal; this project involves merely rewording and clarifying a rule already in existence.

Reasons supporting proposal: The department needs these changes to increase efficiency, functionality, and clarity of the rules within its Administrative Code.

WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose seasons and permit quotas.

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

This amendment clarifies that the exemption from the once-in-a-lifetime moose restriction is also applicable if the hunter applies in the future for a hunt in the permit categories of antlerless moose: raffle, auction, or master hunter. Additionally, this amendment reduces the number of master-hunter moose permits.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed change in language reduces ambiguity regarding who may apply for a moose permit. The reduction in master hunter moose permits reflects the expected number of hunters needed in 2013 and beyond, based on the experience of recent years.

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 purpose for amending the 2013-15 spring black bear hunting seasons is to expand opportunity in the north Puget Sound. These spring seasons are mainly established to address damage caused by bears to commercially grown trees. The hunt utilizes recreational hunters to harvest black bears in areas where

chronic tree damage and other property damage has been documented and allows the department to disperse harvest geographically and target male bears. This strategy helps ensure long-term sustainability in the black bear population and provides recreational opportunity for hunters.

Reasons supporting proposal: Spring bear hunting helps address commercial tree damage issues and provides recreational hunting opportunity. In the past, most black bear damage was addressed using depredation permits where the landowner would contract with a hunter using dogs to kill multiple bears near areas with tree damage. Depredation permit hunters were taking an increasing number of bears each year, and over 150 bears were being killed annually. The spring black bear season allows recreational hunters to better target the areas receiving damage and allows hunters rather than contractors to harvest bears.

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 and to maintain the number of cooperating landowners.

Reasons supporting proposal: Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs that was authorized 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 232-28-334 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions -- Region four.

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

This proposal changes the management area designation of the Puget Sound Islands from Deer Areas to Game Management Units (GMUs). The proposed amendments will allow the Department to better track harvest removals specific to the islands.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal will allow the Department to better track harvest removals specific to the Puget Sound Islands rather than having those removals lumped with mainland GMUs.

WAC 232-28-336 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions -- Region six.

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

The purpose of the proposal is to designate Anderson Island as a Game Management Unit rather than a Deer Area. The proposed language will allow the Department to better track harvest removals specific to the island.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed changes will allow the Department to better track harvest removals specific to the Anderson Island rather than having those removals lumped with a mainland GMU.

WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is to separate Elk Area descriptions from Deer Area descriptions. The proposal also removes one Elk Area that is no longer needed and adjusts the boundary of two other Elk

Areas to make them more effective in dealing with wildlife conflict. Additional language modifications have been made to improve clarity.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Elk Areas help direct hunters at a scale smaller than the GMU when needed. Elk Areas also help staff address local wildlife conflict problems. Some of the language modifications in this proposed amendment are part of the effort to streamline, reorganize, and update rules in the WAC Overhaul Project currently underway.

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

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

The purpose of this proposal is to add GMU 145 to the late fall turkey season. This GMU was inadvertently omitted during the three-year season-setting process. This proposal also modifies bag-limit language pertaining to fall turkey permit seasons. The change to the bag-limit language clarifies that hunters who kill a turkey during the permit seasons may still participate in the other fall seasons open to all hunters.

References to the western Washington Dungeness pheasant release site are also removed under the western Washington pheasant seasons.

Reasons supporting proposal:

GMU 145 is surrounded by other GMUs open during the late fall season. The intent was to include this unit in the three-year proposal. The department supports providing opportunity in this unit.

Turkey populations are healthy or increasing in areas where fall general seasons are in place, and the department is encouraging additional harvest and recreational opportunity in these areas. Allowing harvest during the general seasons by those who draw permits poses no concern for the population.

Clallam County owns the Dungeness release site and has decided to no longer allow use of the area for upland bird hunting. For this reason, removing references to this site is appropriate.

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. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups; increase opportunity when deer populations allow; and reduce opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed amendment provides recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The amendment would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2013; address deer damage problems; and provide 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. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups; increase opportunity when elk populations allow; and reduce opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposed amendment would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season

opportunities for 2013; address elk damage problems; and provide for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-359 2013 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. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups; increase opportunity when deer populations allow; and reduce opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposed amendment would maintain sustainable deer special-permit hunting season opportunities for 2013; address deer damage problems; and provide for deer population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-360 2013 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. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups; increase opportunity when elk populations allow; and reduce opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposed amendment would maintain sustainable elk special-permit hunting season opportunities for 2013; address elk damage problems; and provide for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-622 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

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

Hunters may apply for a bighorn sheep permit even if they've previously harvested a bighorn sheep in Washington if the earlier harvest was a bighorn sheep killed under a ewe-only hunt permit, a raffle permit, or an auction permit. Language in this amendment clarifies whether the exemption from the once-in-a-lifetime bighorn sheep restriction is also applicable if the hunter applies in future for a hunt in these categories.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations in the Blue Mountains area of south-eastern Washington have been reduced in past years due to the lingering effects of pneumonia outbreaks. Pneumonia was detected in the Asotin herd in 2012, and biologists expect this herd to decline over the next few years, although a few older rams remain in this herd.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The change in language reduces ambiguity regarding who may apply for a bighorn sheep permit. The reduction in hunting permits for the Blue Mountain area will reduce pressure on a herd that is experiencing a disease problem, and increase the chances for a high quality ram taken from this herd by the winner of the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle.

WAC 232-28-623 2012-2014 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

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

Language in this amendment clarifies whether the exemption from the once-in-a-lifetime mountain goat restriction is also applicable if the hunter applies in future for a hunt in these categories.

The proposed amendment also clarifies the names and descriptions of mountain goat hunt areas in Region 4, around Mt. Baker, and establishes legal descriptions of open mountain goat hunt areas.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Changes in language reduce ambiguity regarding who may apply for a bighorn sheep permit; remove inconsistency between the WAC, pamphlet, and instructional letters sent to permit holders; and clarify hunting unit boundaries for mountain goats in the Mt. Baker area.

WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is to separate Deer Area descriptions from Elk Area descriptions to improve the clarity of these rules. The proposal also removes the Puget Sound Islands that were previously described as Deer Areas. The Department is proposing that those islands be described as Game Management Units (GMUs) in the future. Additional language modifications have been made to improve clarity.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Deer Areas help direct hunters at a scale smaller than the GMU and help staff address wildlife conflict problems. Some of the language modifications in this proposed amendment are part of the effort to streamline, reorganize, and update rules in the WAC Overhaul Project currently underway.