

Agenda Item 14

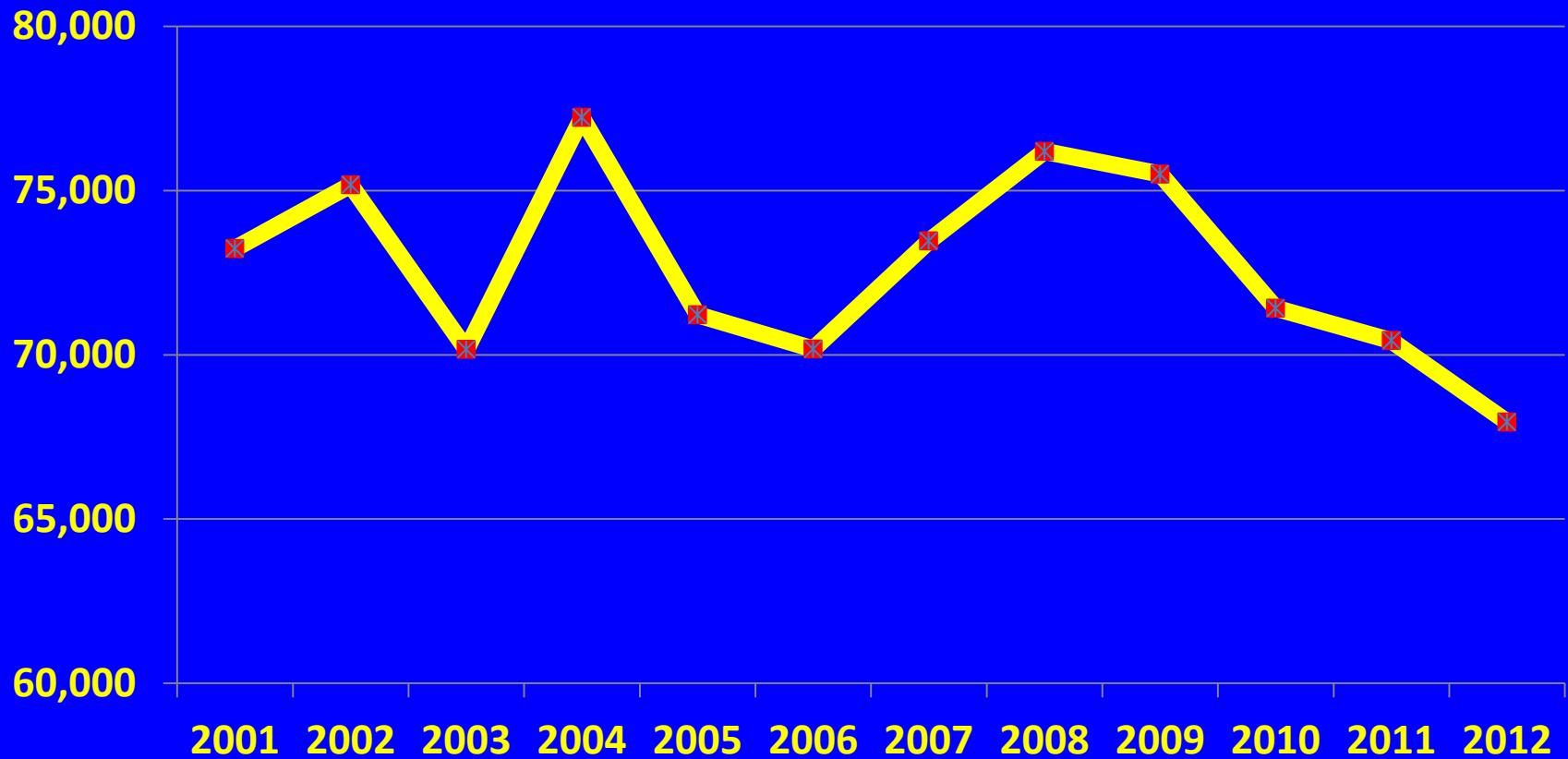
**2012 – 2014 Elk General Seasons
and
2013 Elk Special Permits**

WAC 232-28-358

WAC 232-28-360

Rule Adoption

Statewide Elk Hunter Estimates

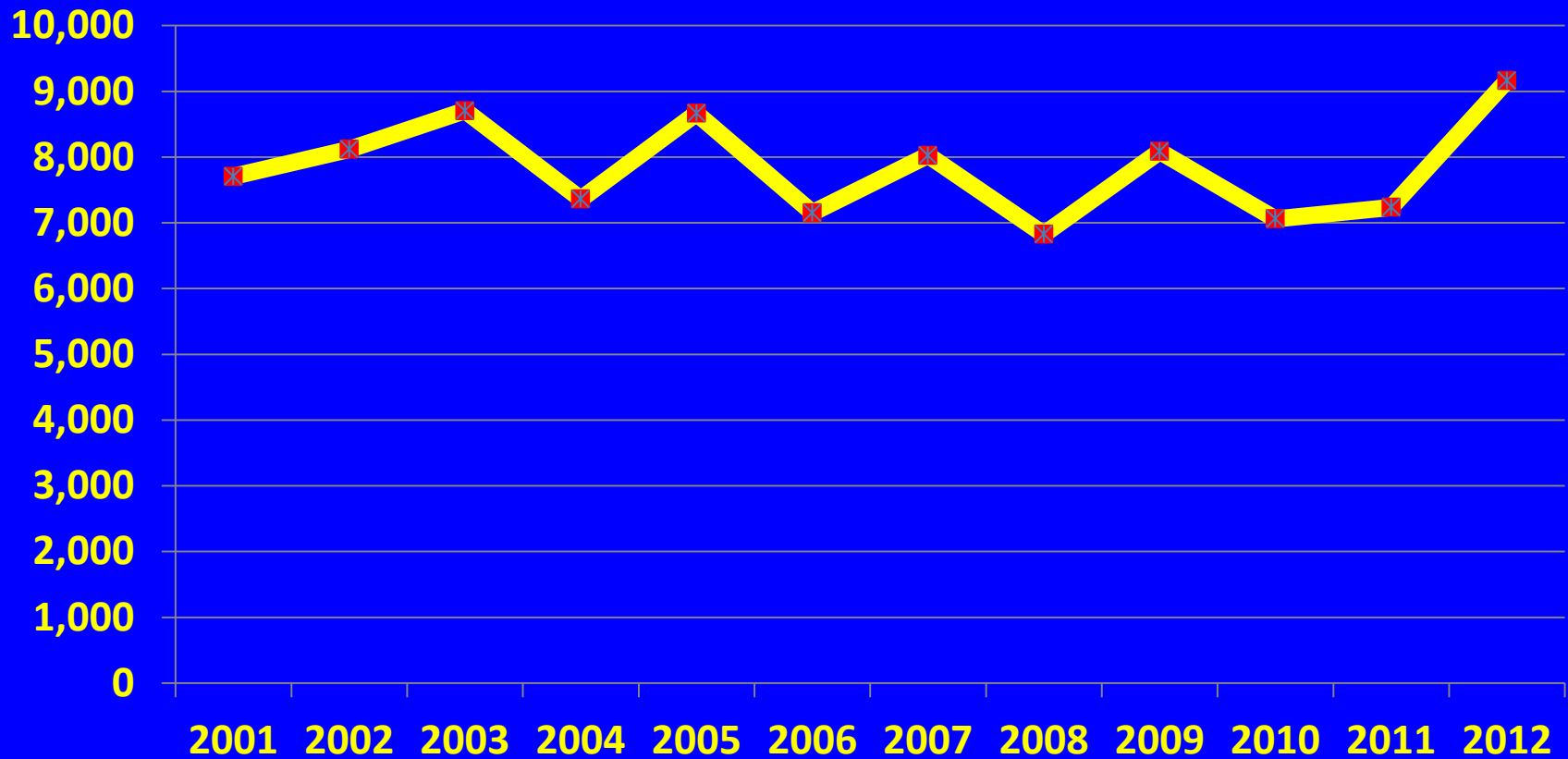


 Total Elk Harvest



Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Information subject to change and
amendment over time.

Statewide Elk Harvest Estimates

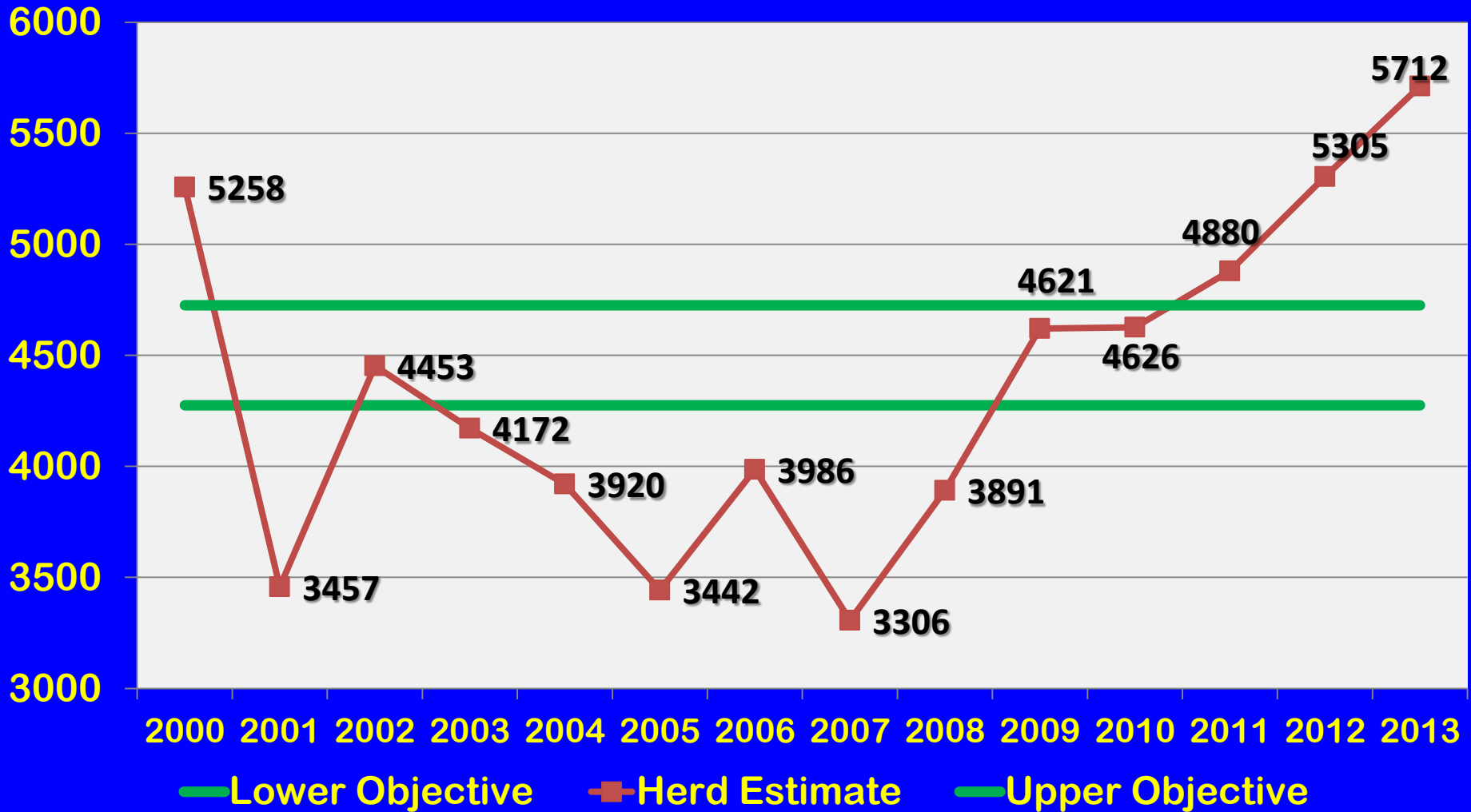


 Total Elk Harvest

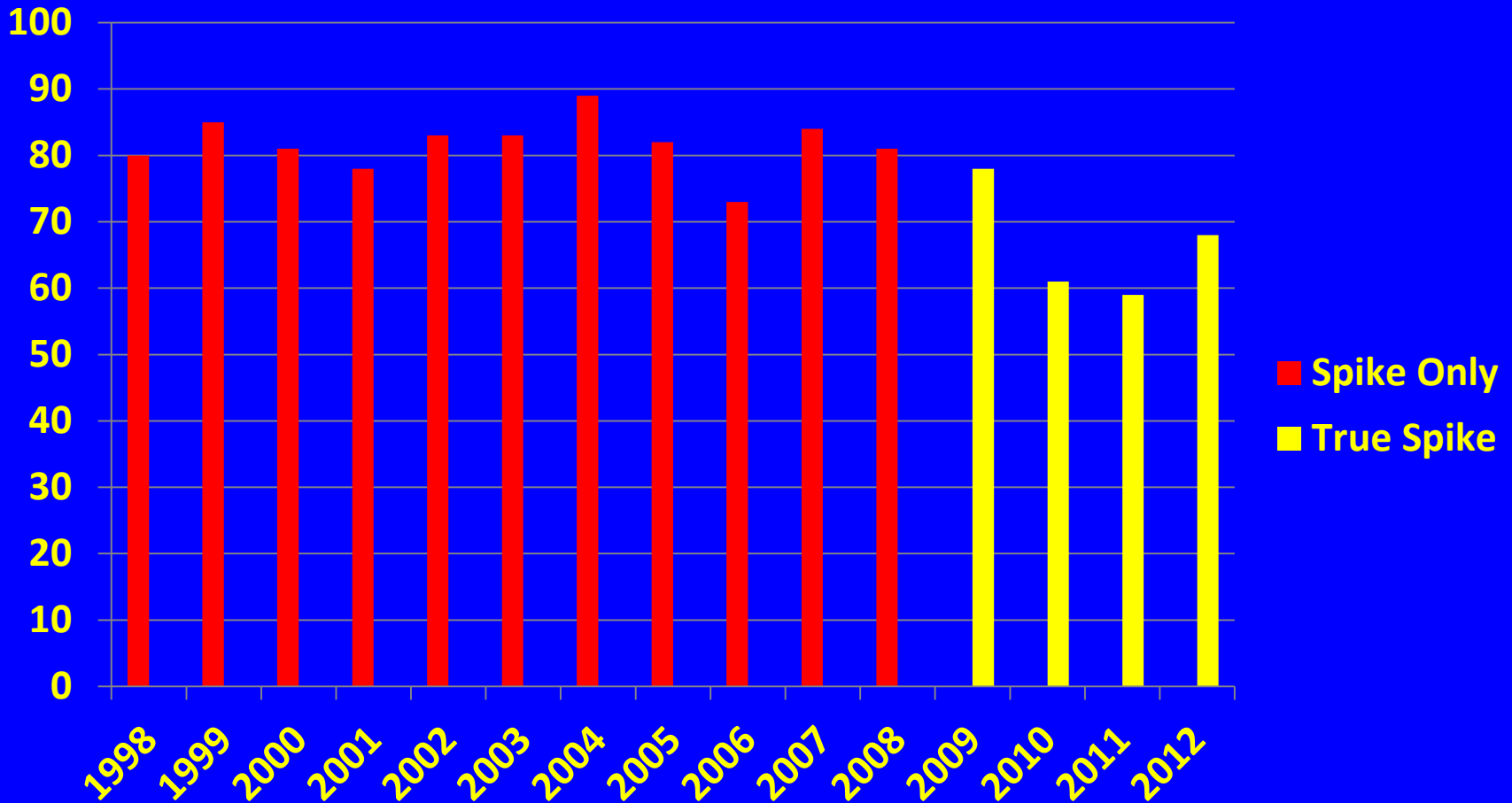


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Colockum Elk Herd



Colockum Percentage of Yearling Bulls Harvested



Elk Hoof Disease in Southwest Washington



Hoof Disease

- Dozens of hoof diseases
 - All have different causes (infectious, metabolic, toxic, nutritional, physical), and different modes of transmission, prevention, treatment, prognoses, etc.
 - The type observed in SW WA elk does not appear to match with any known hoof diseases in domestic or wild animals
 - Does not seem to be affecting domestic livestock in the area
- Males and females affected
- All ages affected
- Any hoof



Elk Hoof Disease Investigations

- **Elk collections completed Feb-Mar 2013**
 - 9 from affected area (5 Lewis Co., 4 Cowlitz Co.)
 - 3 from unaffected area on west side (Pacific Co.)
 - 4 from unaffected area on the east side (2 Kittitas Co., 2 Yakima Co.)

Elk Hoof Disease Investigations

- **Assistance from Veterinary Personnel from Multiple Agencies**
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Washington State University
 - University of Washington
 - Oregon State University
 - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - University of Wisconsin
 - Tufts University

Sampling and Testing of Hooves

- **Routine bacteriology at Washington State University (WSU)**
 - ✓ **Completed, no significant findings**
- **Radiology at Colorado State University (CSU)**
 - ✓ **Completed, no significant primary lesions**
- **Specialized bacteriology at University of Liverpool, CSU, possibly University of Sydney**
 - **Pending, results later this summer**
- **Virology at University of Wyoming**
 - **Pending, results end of April**
- **Histology (microscopic examination) at CSU**
 - **Pending, results end of May**
- **Multiple hoof biopsies collected and stored at WDFW Wildlife Health Laboratory**
 - ❖ **Possible future studies**

Additional Sampling and Testing

- **Histology (microscopic examination) of Organs and Tissues, including Muscle (meat) at WSU**
 - ✓ **Completed**
 - **No evidence of significant inflammation or infection above hooves, even in severely affected individuals**
- **Trace Minerals at University of Idaho**
 - ✓ **Completed**
 - **Low selenium and copper, as expected - possible impacts on general health and immunity**
- **Parasitology at WSU**
 - ✓ **Completed**
 - **Similar parasite loads in all 3 groups**
- **Serology (infectious agent exposure) at WSU and USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory**
 - **Pending**
- **Multiple tissues and other samples collected and stored at WDFW Wildlife Lab**
 - ❖ **Possible future studies**

Human Health Implications

- **Multiple tissues, including muscle (meat) examined microscopically for evidence of inflammation, infection, or other abnormalities that might indicate threat to human health**
 - **None found, even in individuals with severe hoof disease**

Elk Season Recommendations

- **Status Quo for Most Seasons**
- **Restore Archery General Antlerless Opportunity in GMUs 352, 356**
- **Reduce Blue Mountain Bull Permits**
- **Adjust $\uparrow\downarrow$ Special Permits via Special Permit Allocation Formula**
- **Adjust Antlerless Special Permits to Address Agricultural Damage Issues**
- **Adjust Special Permits in Response to Elk Population Numbers (e.g., stabilize MSH)**

Floor Changes- Elk

- Page 5, under Early Archery, Western Washington remove GMU 407 from the “3 pt. min. or antlerless” section; and create a new line as follows:

GMUs	2012	2013	2014	Legal Elk
407	N/A	Sept. 3-27	Sept. 2-26	Any elk

- Intended to address increasing damage problems.

Floor Changes- Elk

- Page 6, under Late Archery, Western Washington delete GMU 407 from the “3 pt. min. or antlerless” section; and add to the “Any elk” line.
- Intended to address increasing damage problems.

GMUs	2012	2013	2014	Legal Elk
<u>407</u> , 448, 454, 564, 666	Nov. 21- Dec. 15	Nov. 27- Dec. 15	Nov. 26- Dec. 15	Any elk

Floor Changes- Elk

- Page 7, under Early Muzzleloader, Western Washington, create a new line as follows:

GMUs	2012	2013	2014	Legal Elk
407	N/A	Sept. 28- Oct. 11	Sept. 27- Oct. 10	3 pt. min. or antlerless

- Intended to address increasing damage problems.

Floor Changes- Elk

- Page 7, under Late Muzzleloader, Western Washington, create a new line as follows:

GMUs	2012	2013	2014	Legal Elk
407	N/A	Nov. 27- Dec. 15	Nov. 26- Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless

- Intended to address increasing damage problems

Floor Changes- Elk

- Page 23, for Special Permits, under the Quality category, Green River, WF, change the dates from Oct. 27-Nov. 2 to Nov. 9-15. These dates are negotiated with the watershed land managers controlling access and therefore need to be adjusted.
- Page 24, for Special Permits, under the Quality category, Quinault, WF, change the dates from Sept. 16-20 to Sept. 23-27. This change avoids an overlap between modern firearm and archery deer.

Questions

