

# Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Rules, Hunting Restrictions, and Official Hunting Hours

232-12-242, 232-12-288, and 232-28-342

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## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** March 20-21, 2015

**Agenda item:** Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules, Hunting Restrictions, Official hunting hours

**Presenter:** Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, Wildlife Program

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### **Background summary:**

This proposal establishes dates, bag limits and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting seasons for the next three years in WAC 232-28-342 that are needed in order to maintain recreational hunting opportunities for the public. Recommended changes are based on harvest trends and public input received over the past three years and surveys conducted by the department. Many of the proposals represent no changes from prior years with the exception of calendar date adjustments.

Notable changes include:

- Modifying the bag limit for forest grouse to include no more than three of any of the three species per day but retaining the daily bag limit of four.
- Specifying that an adult must accompany youth hunters during the youth turkey season which addresses an inconsistency with other youth seasons.
- Allowing the harvest of fox in GMUs 407 and 410.
- Ending the eastern Washington Pheasant season on the Martin Luther King Day holiday each year.
- Increasing the mourning dove bag limit from ten to fifteen and increasing the season length by 30 days.

Some hunters have expressed concern that the current bag limit for forest grouse is too high and concerns also exist, based on harvest trends, that grouse populations have declined. While hunting is not considered to be a major limiting factor of grouse populations, a somewhat more conservative harvest strategy is appropriate. The proposed split limit also will encourage hunters to learn to identify the various grouse species which will be a benefit when or if a more restrictive bag limit is needed to protect populations of one or more of the species.

Requiring an adult mentor during youth turkey seasons will help young hunters get a safe and successful start to their hunting experience.

Fox occurring in GMU 407 and 410 are an introduced population and there is not a biological rationale to continue to prohibit harvest of this species in this area. The native cascades red fox, which is a species with depressed populations, does not occur in this vicinity and will not be affected by this proposal.

The change to the Pheasant season to end on a holiday weekend will provide additional hunting opportunity without affecting populations as only males are allowed to be harvested.

Increases in mourning dove bag limits and season lengths are prescribed by the national mourning dove harvest strategy, adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council in 2013. Based on band returns, harvest rates of mourning doves are low and expanded seasons are sustainable. The harvest strategy relies on yearly monitoring of both harvest rate and population size.

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Should harvest rates increase to a level deemed harmful or population size declines below established thresholds, the strategy reduces harvest of mourning doves.

The provisions regarding migratory bird hunting authorization requirements and reporting are removed from WAC 232-28-342 and will be moved to WAC 232-28-299 as a technical adjustment.

Changes are also proposed to hound hunting and hunting hour restrictions in WACs 232-12-242 and 232-12-288 that are intended to ease hunting restrictions for raccoon and bobcat which currently apply any time an area could have modern firearm deer and elk hunting occurring. The changes would result in the current restrictions only applying during modern firearm deer and elk general seasons. Easing this restriction, or other forms of increased opportunity, has been requested by individual raccoon hunters over the past several years that have cited increasing deer and elk special permit seasons that have affected their seasons. The rationale behind the current rule is that it reduces the potential for conflicts with deer and elk hunters and reduces the potential for hunters to pursue big game with dogs or at night using another form of hunting as a defense. Some concern has been voiced that this change could open the door to abuse. However, the primary time period this concern exists is during the general seasons when more hunting occurs.

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

Continuing recreational hunting opportunities for small game.  
Changing end dates of the pheasant season will result in longer seasons in some years.  
Adoption of a more complex and conservative bag limit for forest grouse.  
Increasing hunting opportunity for mourning dove, raccoon and fox.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2015-2017 hunting season recommendations. This summer, two online issue scoping surveys were made available to the public. The first survey laid out major issues of concern. The second survey was a follow-up based on the public response received from the first survey. The department also held six public meetings, three on each side of the state. Both the surveys and the meetings were publicized via news release, WDFW's website and an email to hunters from the last five years. Also, a request for comment was sent to over 9000 individuals and organizations through the rulemaking process. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 20-21, 2015 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

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**Action requested:**

Briefing and public hearing only.

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**Draft motion language:**

Briefing and public hearing only.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A

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**Communications Plan:**



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-10-019, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14)

**WAC 232-12-242 Hunting restrictions.** (1) It is unlawful to hunt wildlife during any modern firearm deer or elk season with any firearm 240 caliber or larger, or containing slugs or buckshot, unless the hunter has a valid license, permits and tags for modern firearm deer or elk seasons are in his or her possession.

(a) This subsection does not apply to people hunting bear, cougar, mountain goat, mountain sheep, or turkey.

(b) A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 or 77.15.430, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife at night or wild animals, except rabbits and hares, with dogs (hounds) during the month(~~s~~) of (~~September~~) October(~~)~~) or November (~~in any area open to a~~) during the dates established for eastern and western Washington modern firearm deer or elk general seasons. During the modern firearm deer and elk general seasons the hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. A violation of this

subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.430, Unlawful hunting of wild animals—Penalty.

(b) It is unlawful to use hounds to hunt black bear, cougar (EXCEPT as pursuant to RCW 77.15.245), coyote, and bobcat year-round. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty, or RCW 77.15.430, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-12-242, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 13-02-043 (Order 12-290), § 232-12-242, filed

12/21/12, effective 1/21/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 93-04-074 (Order 593), § 232-12-242, filed 1/29/93, effective 3/1/93.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-02-043, filed 12/21/12, effective 1/21/13)

**WAC 232-12-288 Official hunting hours for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse.** (1) The following tables show the lawful hunting hours (1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset) for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse (ruffed, blue, spruce) during established seasons.

(2) Exception(~~(s)~~

~~(a) Bobcat and raccoon are exempt from hunting hour restrictions during established bobcat and raccoon seasons. However, when the area is open to modern firearm hunting of deer or elk, hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.~~

~~(b))~~: Hunting hours for falconry seasons (except for migratory game bird seasons) are exempt from these hunting hours, except on designated pheasant release sites.

(3) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON SUNDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.		
				Daylight Savings Time				
Sun.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 8	6:00	8:15	5:45	8:00
Mon.	Sept. 9	-	Sun.	Sept. 15	6:10	8:00	6:00	7:45
Mon.	Sept. 16	-	Sun.	Sept. 22	6:20	7:45	6:10	7:30
Mon.	Sept. 23	-	Sun.	Sept. 29	6:30	7:30	6:20	7:15
Mon.	Sept. 30	-	Sun.	Oct. 6	6:40	7:15	6:30	7:05
Mon.	Oct. 7	-	Sun.	Oct. 13	6:50	7:00	6:40	6:50
Mon.	Oct. 14	-	Sun.	Oct. 20	7:00	6:50	6:50	6:35
Mon.	Oct. 21	-	Sun.	Oct. 27	7:10	6:35	7:00	6:25
Mon.	Oct. 28	-	Sat.	Nov. 2	7:20	6:25	7:10	6:20
				Pacific Standard Time				
			Sun.	Nov. 3	6:20	5:25	6:10	5:20
Mon.	Nov. 4	-	Sun.	Nov. 10	6:30	5:15	6:20	5:00
Mon.	Nov. 11	-	Sun.	Nov. 17	6:40	5:05	6:30	4:50
Mon.	Nov. 18	-	Sun.	Nov. 24	6:50	4:55	6:40	4:45
Mon.	Nov. 25	-	Sun.	Dec. 1	7:00	4:50	6:50	4:40
Mon.	Dec. 2	-	Sun.	Dec. 8	7:10	4:50	7:00	4:40
Mon.	Dec. 9	-	Sun.	Dec. 15	7:15	4:50	7:05	4:40
Mon.	Dec. 16	-	Sun.	Dec. 22	7:20	4:50	7:10	4:40
Mon.	Dec. 23	-	Sun.	Dec. 29	7:25	4:55	7:10	4:45
Mon.	Dec. 30	-	Sun.	Jan. 5	7:25	5:00	7:15	4:45
Mon.	Jan. 6	-	Sun.	Jan. 12	7:25	5:05	7:15	4:55

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.	Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Mon.	Jan. 13	-	Sun.	Jan. 19	7:20 5:15	7:10 5:05
Mon.	Jan. 20	-	Sun.	Jan. 26	7:15 5:25	7:05 5:15
Mon.	Jan. 27	-	Fri.	Jan. 31	7:10 5:35	7:00 5:25

(4) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON MONDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.	Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Daylight Savings Time						
Mon.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 7	6:00 8:15	5:50 8:00
Mon.	Sept. 8	-	Sun.	Sept. 14	6:10 8:00	6:00 7:50
Mon.	Sept. 15	-	Sun.	Sept. 21	6:20 7:45	6:10 7:35
Mon.	Sept. 22	-	Sun.	Sept. 28	6:30 7:30	6:15 7:20
Mon.	Sept. 29	-	Sun.	Oct. 5	6:40 7:15	6:30 7:05
Mon.	Oct. 6	-	Sun.	Oct. 12	6:50 7:00	6:40 6:55
Mon.	Oct. 13	-	Sun.	Oct. 19	7:00 6:50	6:50 6:40
Mon.	Oct. 20	-	Sun.	Oct. 26	7:10 6:40	7:00 6:25
Mon.	Oct. 27	-	Sat.	Nov. 1	7:20 6:25	7:15 6:15
Pacific Standard Time						
			Sun.	Nov. 2	6:20 5:25	6:10 5:15
Mon.	Nov. 3	-	Sun.	Nov. 9	6:30 5:15	6:20 5:00
Mon.	Nov. 10	-	Sun.	Nov. 16	6:40 5:05	6:30 4:55
Mon.	Nov. 17	-	Sun.	Nov. 23	6:50 5:00	6:40 4:45
Mon.	Nov. 24	-	Sun.	Nov. 30	7:00 4:50	6:50 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 1	-	Sun.	Dec. 7	7:10 4:50	7:00 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 8	-	Sun.	Dec. 14	7:15 4:50	7:05 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 15	-	Sun.	Dec. 21	7:20 4:50	7:10 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 22	-	Sun.	Dec. 28	7:25 4:55	7:10 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 29	-	Sun.	Jan. 4	7:25 5:00	7:15 4:45
Mon.	Jan. 5	-	Sun.	Jan. 11	7:25 5:05	7:15 4:55
Mon.	Jan. 12	-	Sun.	Jan. 18	7:25 5:15	7:10 5:05
Mon.	Jan. 19	-	Sun.	Jan. 25	7:20 5:25	7:05 5:15
Mon.	Jan. 26	-	Fri.	Jan. 31	7:10 5:30	7:00 5:25

(5) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON TUESDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.	Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.
Daylight Savings Time					



Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Tues.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 6	6:00	8:15	5:50 8:05
Mon.	Sept. 7	-	Sun.	Sept. 13	6:10	8:05	6:00 7:50
Mon.	Sept. 14	-	Sun.	Sept. 20	6:20	7:50	6:05 7:35
Mon.	Sept. 21	-	Sun.	Sept. 27	6:30	7:35	6:15 7:20
Mon.	Sept. 28	-	Sun.	Oct. 4	6:40	7:20	6:25 7:05
Mon.	Oct. 5	-	Sun.	Oct. 11	6:45	7:05	6:35 6:55
Mon.	Oct. 12	-	Sun.	Oct. 18	6:55	6:50	6:45 6:40
Mon.	Oct. 19	-	Sun.	Oct. 25	7:05	6:40	6:55 6:30
Mon.	Oct. 26	-	Sat.	Oct. 31	7:20	6:25	7:05 6:15
				Pacific Standard Time			
			Sun.	Nov. 1	6:20	5:25	6:05 5:15
Mon.	Nov. 2	-	Sun.	Nov. 8	6:30	5:15	6:15 5:05
Mon.	Nov. 9	-	Sun.	Nov. 15	6:40	5:05	6:30 4:55
Mon.	Nov. 16	-	Sun.	Nov. 22	6:50	5:00	6:40 4:45
Mon.	Nov. 23	-	Sun.	Nov. 29	7:00	4:55	6:50 4:40
Mon.	Nov. 30	-	Sun.	Dec. 6	7:10	4:50	6:55 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 7	-	Sun.	Dec. 13	7:15	4:50	7:05 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 14	-	Sun.	Dec. 20	7:20	4:50	7:10 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 21	-	Sun.	Dec. 27	7:25	4:50	7:15 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 28	-	Sun.	Jan. 3	7:30	5:00	7:15 4:45
Mon.	Jan. 4	-	Sun.	Jan. 10	7:25	5:05	7:15 4:55
Mon.	Jan. 11	-	Sun.	Jan. 17	7:25	5:15	7:10 5:00
Mon.	Jan. 18	-	Sun.	Jan. 24	7:20	5:25	7:05 5:10
Mon.	Jan. 25	-	Sat.	Jan. 31	7:10	5:30	7:00 5:20

(6) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
				Daylight Savings Time			
Wed.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 5	6:00	8:15	5:50 8:05
Mon.	Sept. 6	-	Sun.	Sept. 12	6:10	8:05	5:55 7:50
Mon.	Sept. 13	-	Sun.	Sept. 19	6:15	7:50	6:05 7:40
Mon.	Sept. 20	-	Sun.	Sept. 26	6:25	7:35	6:15 7:25
Mon.	Sept. 27	-	Sun.	Oct. 3	6:35	7:20	6:25 7:10
Mon.	Oct. 4	-	Sun.	Oct. 10	6:45	7:10	6:35 6:55
Mon.	Oct. 11	-	Sun.	Oct. 17	6:55	6:55	6:45 6:40
Mon.	Oct. 18	-	Sun.	Oct. 24	7:05	6:40	6:55 6:30
Mon.	Oct. 25	-	Sun.	Oct. 31	7:15	6:30	7:05 6:15
Mon.	Nov. 1	-	Sat.	Nov. 6	7:25	6:20	7:15 6:05
				Pacific Standard Time			
			Sun.	Nov. 7	6:25	5:20	6:15 5:05
Mon.	Nov. 8	-	Sun.	Nov. 14	6:40	5:10	6:25 4:55
Mon.	Nov. 15	-	Sun.	Nov. 21	6:50	5:00	6:35 4:50

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Mon.	Nov. 22	-	Sun.	Nov. 28	7:00	4:55	6:45 4:40
Mon.	Nov. 29	-	Sun.	Dec. 5	7:05	4:50	6:55 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 6	-	Sun.	Dec. 12	7:15	4:50	7:05 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 13	-	Sun.	Dec. 19	7:20	4:50	7:10 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 20	-	Sun.	Dec. 26	7:25	4:50	7:15 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 27	-	Sun.	Jan. 2	7:25	4:55	7:15 4:45
Mon.	Jan. 3	-	Sun.	Jan. 9	7:25	5:05	7:15 4:50
Mon.	Jan. 10	-	Sun.	Jan. 16	7:25	5:10	7:10 5:00
Mon.	Jan. 17	-	Sun.	Jan. 23	7:20	5:20	7:10 5:10
Mon.	Jan. 24	-	Mon.	Jan. 31	7:10	5:30	7:00 5:20

(7) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON THURSDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Daylight Savings Time							
Thurs.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 4	6:00	8:15	5:45 8:05
Mon.	Sept. 5	-	Sun.	Sept. 11	6:05	8:05	5:55 7:55
Mon.	Sept. 12	-	Sun.	Sept. 18	6:15	7:50	6:05 7:40
Mon.	Sept. 19	-	Sun.	Sept. 25	6:25	7:40	6:10 7:25
Mon.	Sept. 26	-	Sun.	Oct. 2	6:35	7:25	6:25 7:10
Mon.	Oct. 3	-	Sun.	Oct. 9	6:45	7:10	6:35 6:55
Mon.	Oct. 10	-	Sun.	Oct. 16	6:55	7:05	6:40 6:45
Mon.	Oct. 17	-	Sun.	Oct. 23	7:05	6:40	6:55 6:30
Mon.	Oct. 24	-	Sun.	Oct. 30	7:15	6:30	7:00 6:20
Mon.	Oct. 31	-	Sat.	Nov. 5	7:25	6:20	7:15 6:05
Pacific Standard Time							
			Sun.	Nov. 6	6:25	5:20	6:15 5:05
Mon.	Nov. 7	-	Sun.	Nov. 13	6:35	5:10	6:25 4:55
Mon.	Nov. 14	-	Sun.	Nov. 20	6:45	5:00	6:35 4:50
Mon.	Nov. 21	-	Sun.	Nov. 27	6:55	4:55	6:45 4:40
Mon.	Nov. 28	-	Sun.	Dec. 4	7:05	4:50	6:55 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 5	-	Sun.	Dec. 11	7:15	4:50	7:00 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 12	-	Sun.	Dec. 18	7:20	4:50	7:10 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 19	-	Sun.	Dec. 25	7:25	4:50	7:10 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 26	-	Sun.	Jan. 1	7:25	4:55	7:15 4:45
Mon.	Jan. 2	-	Sun.	Jan. 8	7:25	5:00	7:15 4:50
Mon.	Jan. 9	-	Sun.	Jan. 15	7:25	5:10	7:10 5:00
Mon.	Jan. 16	-	Sun.	Jan. 22	7:20	5:20	7:10 5:10
Mon.	Jan. 23	-	Sun.	Jan. 29	7:15	5:30	7:00 5:20
Mon.	Jan. 30	-	Tues.	Jan. 31	7:10	5:35	6:55 5:25

(8) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON FRIDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington		Eastern Washington	
				from A.M. to P.M.		from A.M. to P.M.	
Daylight Savings Time							
Fri.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 3	6:00	8:20	5:45 8:05
Mon.	Sept. 4	-	Sun.	Sept. 10	6:05	8:10	5:55 7:55
Mon.	Sept. 11	-	Sun.	Sept. 17	6:15	7:55	6:05 7:40
Mon.	Sept. 18	-	Sun.	Sept. 24	6:25	7:40	6:10 7:30
Mon.	Sept. 25	-	Sun.	Oct. 1	6:35	7:25	6:20 7:15
Mon.	Oct. 2	-	Sun.	Oct. 8	6:45	7:10	6:30 7:00
Mon.	Oct. 9	-	Sun.	Oct. 15	6:55	6:55	6:40 6:45
Mon.	Oct. 16	-	Sun.	Oct. 22	7:05	6:45	6:50 6:30
Mon.	Oct. 23	-	Sun.	Oct. 29	7:10	6:35	7:00 6:20
Mon.	Oct. 30	-	Sat.	Nov. 4	7:25	6:20	7:10 6:10
Pacific Standard Time							
			Sun.	Nov. 5	6:25	5:20	6:10 5:10
Mon.	Nov. 6	-	Sun.	Nov. 12	6:35	5:10	6:25 5:00
Mon.	Nov. 13	-	Sun.	Nov. 19	6:45	5:00	6:35 4:50
Mon.	Nov. 20	-	Sun.	Nov. 26	6:55	4:55	6:45 4:45
Mon.	Nov. 27	-	Sun.	Dec. 3	7:05	4:50	6:55 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 4	-	Sun.	Dec. 10	7:15	4:50	7:00 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 11	-	Sun.	Dec. 17	7:20	4:50	7:10 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 18	-	Sun.	Dec. 24	7:25	4:50	7:10 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 25	-	Sun.	Dec. 31	7:25	4:55	7:15 4:40
Mon.	Jan. 1	-	Sun.	Jan. 7	7:30	5:00	7:15 4:50
Mon.	Jan. 8	-	Sun.	Jan. 14	7:25	5:10	7:15 5:00
Mon.	Jan. 15	-	Sun.	Jan. 21	7:20	5:20	7:10 5:10
Mon.	Jan. 22	-	Sun.	Jan. 28	7:15	5:30	7:00 5:20
Mon.	Jan. 29	-	Wed.	Jan. 31	7:10	5:35	6:55 5:20

(9) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS

WHEN THE SEPTEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31 PERIOD BEGINS ON SATURDAY

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington		Eastern Washington	
				from A.M. to P.M.		from A.M. to P.M.	
Daylight Savings Time							
Sat.	Sept. 1	-	Sun.	Sept. 2	6:00	8:20	5:45 8:10
Mon.	Sept. 3	-	Sun.	Sept. 9	6:05	8:10	5:50 8:00
Mon.	Sept. 10	-	Sun.	Sept. 16	6:15	7:55	6:00 7:45
Mon.	Sept. 17	-	Sun.	Sept. 23	6:20	7:40	6:10 7:30
Mon.	Sept. 24	-	Sun.	Sept. 30	6:30	7:25	6:20 7:15
Mon.	Oct. 1	-	Sun.	Oct. 7	6:40	7:15	6:30 7:00
Mon.	Oct. 8	-	Sun.	Oct. 14	6:50	7:00	6:40 6:45
Mon.	Oct. 15	-	Sun.	Oct. 21	7:00	6:45	6:50 6:35
Mon.	Oct. 22	-	Sun.	Oct. 28	7:10	6:35	7:00 6:20

Dates (Inclusive)				Western Washington from A.M. to P.M.		Eastern Washington from A.M. to P.M.	
Mon.	Oct. 29	-	Sat.	Nov. 3	7:20	6:20	7:10 6:10
				Pacific Standard Time			
			Sun.	Nov. 4	6:20	5:20	6:10 5:10
Mon.	Nov. 5	-	Sun.	Nov. 11	6:35	5:10	6:20 5:00
Mon.	Nov. 12	-	Sun.	Nov. 18	6:45	5:05	6:30 4:50
Mon.	Nov. 19	-	Sun.	Nov. 25	6:55	4:55	6:40 4:45
Mon.	Nov. 26	-	Sun.	Dec. 2	7:05	4:50	6:50 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 3	-	Sun.	Dec. 9	7:10	4:50	7:00 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 10	-	Sun.	Dec. 16	7:20	4:50	7:05 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 17	-	Sun.	Dec. 23	7:25	4:50	7:10 4:35
Mon.	Dec. 24	-	Sun.	Dec. 30	7:25	4:55	7:15 4:40
Mon.	Dec. 31	-	Sun.	Jan. 6	7:25	5:00	7:15 4:50
Mon.	Jan. 7	-	Sun.	Jan. 13	7:25	5:10	7:15 4:55
Mon.	Jan. 14	-	Sun.	Jan. 20	7:20	5:15	7:10 5:05
Mon.	Jan. 21	-	Sun.	Jan. 27	7:15	5:25	7:05 5:15
Mon.	Jan. 28	-	Thur.	Jan. 31	7:10	5:35	7:00 5:25

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.045, and 77.12.047. WSR 13-02-043 (Order 12-290), § 232-12-288, filed 12/21/12, effective 1/21/13.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-10-019, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14)

**WAC 232-28-342 ((2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15)) 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.** Hunters must comply with the bag, possession, and season limits described in this section. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of RCW 77.15.245, 77.15.400, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted and the circumstances of the violation.

**STATEWIDE SEASONS:**

(1) **FOREST GROUSE (BLUE, RUFFED, AND SPRUCE)**

(a) DAILY BAG ((AND POSSESSION)) LIMIT((S)): 4 grouse per day, ~~((straight or mixed bag, with a total of 12 grouse in possession at any time.~~

~~(b))~~ to include not more than 3 Blue Grouse, 3 Spruce Grouse, and 3 Ruffed Grouse.

(b) POSSESSION LIMIT: 12 grouse, to include not more than 9 Blue Grouse, 9 Spruce Grouse, and 9 Ruffed Grouse.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Dec. 31(~~(, 2012, 2013, 2014))~~ during the current license year.

(2) **BOBCAT**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Mar. 15(~~(, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)~~) during the current license year.

(c) RESTRICTION: It is unlawful to hunt bobcat with dogs.

(3) **RACCOON**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide, EXCEPT closed on Long Island within Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Mar. 15(~~(, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)~~) during the current license year.

(4) **FOX**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide, EXCEPT closed within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests (~~(and GMUs 407 and 410)~~).

(c) SEASON DATES: (~~(i)~~) Sept. 1(~~(, 2012)~~) - Mar. 15(~~(, 2013;~~  
~~(ii) Sept. 1, 2013 - Mar. 15, 2014;~~ and  
~~(iii) Sept. 1, 2014 - Mar. 15, 2015)~~) during the current license year.

(5) **COYOTE**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Year-round.

(d) RESTRICTION: It is unlawful to hunt coyote with dogs.

**(6) COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND SNOWSHOE HARE (OR WASHINGTON HARE)**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 5 cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, with a total of 15 in possession at any time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) SEASON DATES: (~~(i)~~) Sept. 1(~~(2012)~~) - Mar. 15(~~(2013)~~

~~(ii) Sept. 1, 2013 - Mar. 15, 2014; and~~

~~(iii) Sept. 1, 2014 - Mar. 15, 2015)) during the current license year.~~

**(7) CROWS**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) SEASON DATES: (~~(i)~~) Sept. 1(~~(2012)~~) - Dec. 31(~~(2012)~~

~~(ii) Sept. 1, 2013 - Dec. 31, 2013; and~~

~~(iii) Sept. 1, 2014 - Dec. 31, 2014)) during the current license year.~~

**(8) JACKRABBIT:**

Closed statewide.

**(9) PTARMIGAN, SAGE, AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE:**

Closed statewide.

**(10) WILD TURKEY:**

(a) **YOUTH SEASON:** Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) SEASON DATES:

(A) April (~~(7-8, 2012)~~) 4-5, 2015;

(B) April (~~(6-7, 2013)~~) 2-3, 2016;

(C) April (~~(5-6, 2014)~~) 1-2, 2017; and

(D) April (~~(4-5, 2015)~~) 7-8, 2018.

(b) **SPRING SEASON**

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) SEASON DATES: (~~(A)~~) April 15 - May 31(~~(, 2012;~~

~~(B) April 15 - May 31, 2013;~~

~~(C) April 15 - May 31, 2014; and~~

~~(D) April 15 - May 31, 2015))~~ during the current license year.

(iii) BAG LIMIT: The combined spring/youth season limit is 3 birds.

Only 2 turkeys may be killed in Eastern Washington, except only one (1) may be killed in Chelan, Kittitas, or Yakima counties. One (1) turkey may be killed per year in Western Washington outside of Klickitat County. Two (2) turkeys may be killed in Klickitat County.

(c) (~~FALL NORTHEAST BEARDLESS TURKEY SEASON~~

~~(i) LEGAL BIRD: Beardless only.~~



~~(ii) LEGAL HUNTER: Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.~~

~~(iii) OPEN AREA: GMUs 105-142.~~

~~(iv) SEASON DATES:~~

~~(A) Sept. 22 — Oct. 12, 2012;~~

~~(B) Sept. 21 — Oct. 11, 2013; and~~

~~(C) Sept. 20 — Oct. 10, 2014.~~

~~(v) BAG LIMIT: Two (2) beardless turkeys (in addition to other fall turkey harvest).~~

~~(d))~~ **EARLY FALL GENERAL SEASON**

~~(i) ((LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.~~

~~(ii))~~ LEGAL HUNTER: Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

~~((iii))~~ (ii) OPEN AREA: GMUs 101(~~(, 124-142, 145)~~)-154(~~(7)~~) and 162-186.

~~((iv))~~ (iii) SEASON DATES:

(A) Sept. ~~((22))~~ 19 - Oct. ~~((12, 2012))~~ 16, 2015;

(B) Sept. ~~((21))~~ 17 - Oct. ~~((11, 2013))~~ 14, 2016; and

(C) Sept. ~~((20))~~ 23 - Oct. ~~((10, 2014))~~ 13, 2017.

~~((v))~~ (iv) BAG LIMIT: ~~((One (1))~~ Three (3) turkeys ~~((in addition to other fall turkey harvest).~~

~~(e))~~ during the early fall general season with the following area restrictions:

<u>Game Management Units (GMUs)</u>	<u>Legal Bird and Limit</u>
<u>105-121</u>	<u>Two (2) beardless turkeys</u>
<u>101, 145-154, 162-186</u>	<u>One (1) either sex turkey</u>
<u>124-142</u>	<u>Two (2) beardless plus one (1) either sex turkey</u>

(d) FALL PERMIT SEASONS

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.

(ii) LEGAL HUNTER: All hunters who are selected in the fall turkey special permit drawing and who also possess a valid turkey tag.

Hunt Name	Permit Season Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description	Permits	Bag Limit*
Klickitat	Sept. <del>((22))</del> 19 - Oct. <del>((12, 2012))</del> 16, 2015, Sept. <del>((21))</del> 17 - Oct. <del>((11, 2013))</del> 14, 2016, Sept. <del>((20))</del> 23 - Oct. <del>((10, 2014))</del> 13, 2017	Either sex	GMUs 382, 388, 568-578	150	1
Methow	Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, <del>((2012, 2013, 2014))</del> 2015, 2016, 2017	Either sex	GMUs 218-231 and 242	50	1
Teaway	Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, <del>((2012, 2013, 2014))</del> 2015, 2016, 2017	Either sex	GMU 335	50	1

\*BAG LIMIT: During the fall permit hunting seasons.

~~((+f))~~ (e) LATE FALL SEASON

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.

(ii) LEGAL HUNTER: Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

(iii) OPEN AREA: GMUs 105-154, 162-186.

(iv) SEASON DATES: ~~((+A))~~ Nov. 20 - Dec. 15 ~~((, 2012;~~

~~(B) Nov. 20 - Dec. 15, 2013; and~~

~~(C) Nov. 20 - Dec. 15, 2014))~~ during the current license year.

(v) BAG LIMIT: One (1) turkey.

~~((g))~~ (f) HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR INCENTIVE PERMITS

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) LEGAL HUNTER: Qualified hunter education instructors who are selected through a random drawing. Hunter education instructors qualify if the instructor is certified and has been in active status for a minimum of 3 consecutive years, inclusive of the year prior to the permit drawing. ~~((Instructors who are drawn, accept a permit, and are able to participate in the hunt will not be eligible for a hunter education instructor incentive permit for 10 years after they are drawn for the incentive permit.))~~

(iii) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(iv) SEASON DATES: April 1 - May 31 ~~((, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015))~~ during the current license year.

(v) PERMITS: 2 individuals will be drawn for this permit per year.

~~((h))~~ (vi) BAG LIMIT: 1 male turkey or turkey with visible beard in addition to other spring season turkey harvest.

(g) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS FOR WILD TURKEY:

1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset during spring and fall seasons.

~~((i))~~ (h) SPECIAL RULES FOR WILD TURKEY:

(i) (~~Turkey season is open for shotgun shooting #4 shot or smaller, archery, and muzzleloader shotgun shooting #4 shot or smaller.~~

~~(ii))~~ It is unlawful to hunt turkey unless the hunter possesses a turkey tag.

~~((iii))~~ (ii) It is unlawful to hunt turkeys with dogs.

~~((iv))~~ (iii) It is unlawful to bait game birds.

**EASTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS:**

(11) **RING-NECKED PHEASANT**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Three (3) cock pheasants per day. Hunters may possess up to 15 cock pheasants at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. (~~22-23, 2012~~) 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~21-22, 2013~~) 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~20-21, 2014~~) 23-24, 2017.

(c) HUNTERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SEASON DATES:

(i) Sept. (~~24-28, 2012~~) 21-25, 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~23-27, 2013~~) 19-23, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~22-26, 2014~~) 25-29, 2017.

(d) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. (~~(20, 2012)~~) 1724, 2015 - Jan. (~~(13, 2013)~~) 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. (~~(19, 2013)~~) 1522, 2016 - Jan. (~~(12, 2014)~~) 16, 2017;

and

(iii) Oct. (~~(18, 2014)~~) 21, 2017 - Jan. (~~(11, 2015)~~) 15, 2018.

(12) **CHUKAR**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 6 chukar per day. Hunters may possess up to 18 chukar at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. (~~(22-23, 2012)~~) 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~(21-22, 2013)~~) 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~(20-21, 2014)~~) 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. (~~(6, 2012)~~) 3, 2015 - Jan. (~~(21, 2013)~~) 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. (~~(5, 2013)~~) 1, 2016 - Jan. (~~(20, 2014)~~) 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. (~~(4, 2014)~~) 7, 2017 - Jan. (~~(19, 2015)~~) 15, 2018.

(13) **GRAY (HUNGARIAN) PARTRIDGE**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 6 gray partridges per day. Hunters may possess up to 18 gray partridges at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. ((~~22-23, 2012~~)) 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. ((~~21-22, 2013~~)) 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. ((~~20-21, 2014~~)) 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. ((~~6, 2012~~)) 3, 2015 - Jan. ((~~21, 2013~~)) 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. ((~~5, 2013~~)) 1, 2016 - Jan. ((~~20, 2014~~)) 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. ((~~4, 2014~~)) 7, 2017 - Jan. ((~~19, 2015~~)) 15, 2018.

(14) MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Closed throughout Eastern Washington.

(15) CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 10 quail per day. Hunters may possess up to 30 quail at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. ((~~22-23, 2012~~)) 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. ((~~21-22, 2013~~)) 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. ((~~20-21, 2014~~)) 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. ((~~6, 2012~~)) 3, 2015 - Jan. ((~~21, 2013~~)) 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. ((~~5, 2013~~)) 1, 2016 - Jan. ((~~20, 2014~~)) 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. ((~~4, 2014~~)) 7, 2017 - Jan. ((~~19, 2015~~)) 15, 2018.

WESTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS:

(16) RING-NECKED PHEASANT

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 2 pheasants of either sex per day.

Hunters may possess up to 15 pheasants at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. (~~((22-23, 2012))~~) 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~((21-22, 2013))~~) 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~((20-21, 2014))~~) 23-24, 2017.

(c) HUNTERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SEASON DATES:

(i) Sept. (~~((24-28, 2012))~~) 21-25, 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~((23-27, 2013))~~) 19-23, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~((22-26, 2014))~~) 25-29, 2017.

(d) REGULAR SEASON DATES: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(i) Sept. (~~((29))~~) 26 - Nov. 30, (~~((2012))~~) 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~((28))~~) 24 - Nov. 30, (~~((2013))~~) 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~((27))~~) 30 - Nov. 30, (~~((2014))~~) 2017.

(e) EXTENDED SEASON DATES:

(i) Dec. 1-15, (~~((2012, 2013, 2014))~~) during the current license year.

(ii) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. only at the following release sites:

Belfair, Fort Lewis, Kosmos, Lincoln Creek, Scatter Creek, Skookumchuck, and all Whidbey Island release sites EXCEPT Bayview.

(iii) The department will not release pheasants during the extended season.

(f) SPECIAL RESTRICTION: Western Washington pheasant hunters must choose to hunt only on odd-numbered or even-numbered weekend days from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at all units of Lake Terrell, Tennant Lake, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Skookumchuck, and Scatter Creek Wildlife Areas, and all hunting sites on Whidbey Island. Hunters must indicate their choice of odd-numbered or even-numbered weekend days on the Western Washington Pheasant Permit by choosing "odd" or "even." Hunters who select the three day option, hunters 65 years of age or older, and youth hunters may hunt in the morning on both odd-numbered and even-numbered weekend days. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older, and the adult must have an appropriately marked pheasant permit if hunting.

(17) **MOUNTAIN QUAIL**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 2 mountain quail per day. Hunters may possess up to 4 mountain quail at any one time.

(b) SEASON DATES:



(i) Sept. (~~(29)~~) 26 - Nov. 30, (~~(2012)~~) 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~(28)~~) 24 - Nov. 30, (~~(2013)~~) 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~(27)~~) 30 - Nov. 30, (~~(2014)~~) 2017.

(18) **CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 10 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite per day. Hunters may possess up to 30 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) SEASON DATES:

(i) Sept. (~~(29)~~) 26 - Nov. 30, (~~(2012)~~) 2015;

(ii) Sept. (~~(28)~~) 24 - Nov. 30, (~~(2013)~~) 2016; and

(iii) Sept. (~~(27)~~) 30 - Nov. 30, (~~(2014)~~) 2017.

**FALCONRY SEASONS:**

(19) **UPLAND GAME BIRD AND FOREST GROUSE - FALCONRY**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

(i) 2 pheasants (either sex);

(ii) 6 partridge;

(iii) 5 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite;

(iv) 2 mountain quail (in Western Washington only);

(v) 3 forest grouse (blue, ruffed, spruce) per day; and

(vi) Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: (~~(i)~~) Aug. 1, (~~(2012)~~) - Mar. 15(~~(, 2013;~~

~~(ii) Aug. 1, 2013 - Mar. 15, 2014; and~~

~~(iii) Aug. 1, 2014 - Mar. 15, 2015)) during the current license~~

year.

(20) **TURKEY - FALCONRY**

(a) A turkey tag is required to hunt turkey during the turkey falconry season.

(b) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: One (1) turkey (either sex) per turkey tag, with a maximum of 2 turkeys. Hunters may possess up to 2 turkeys at any one time.

(c) OPEN AREA: Eastern Washington.

(d) SEASON DATES: (~~(i)~~) Sept. 1, (~~(2012)~~) - Feb. 15(~~(, 2013;~~

~~(ii) Sept. 1, 2013 - Feb. 15, 2014; and~~

~~(iii) Sept. 1, 2014 - Feb. 15, 2015)) during the current license~~

year.

(21) **MOURNING DOVE - FALCONRY**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 3 mourning doves per day, straight bag or mixed bag with snipe, coots, ducks, and geese during established seasons. The possession limit is three times the daily limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Dec. 16(~~(, 2012, 2013, 2014)~~) during the current license year.

(22) COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND SNOWSHOE HARE - FALCONRY

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 5 cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, straight or mixed bag. Hunters may possess up to 15 cottontails or snowshoe hares at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: (~~(+)~~) Aug. 1, (~~(2012)~~) - Mar. 15(~~(, 2013;~~  
~~(ii) Aug. 1, 2013 - Mar. 15, 2014; and~~  
~~(iii) Aug. 1, 2014 - Mar. 15, 2015)~~) during the current license year.

**OTHER SEASONS:**

(23) CANADA GOOSE SEPTEMBER SEASON

(a) WESTERN WASHINGTON:

(i) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

(A) 5 Canada geese per day; hunters may possess up to 15 Canada geese at any time, ~~EXCEPT(+)~~ as otherwise provided below.

(B) In Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties and that part of Clark County north of the Washougal River: 3 Canada geese per day; hunters may possess up to 9 at any one time.

(C) In Pacific County: 15 Canada geese per day; hunters may possess up to 45 at any one time.

(ii) SEASON DATES: Sept. 10-15(~~(, 2012, 2013, and 2014)~~) during the current license year, EXCEPT Pacific County: Sept. 1-15(~~(, 2012, 2013, and 2014)~~) during the current license year.

(b) EASTERN WASHINGTON:

(i) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 3 Canada geese per day; hunters may possess up to 6 at any one time.

(ii) SEASON DATES: (~~(Sept. 14-15, 2012, 2013, and Sept. 13-14, 2014.)~~) Sept. 12-13, 2015; Sept. 10-11, 2016; Sept. 9-10, 2017.

(24) **MOURNING DOVE**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: (~~(10)~~) 15 mourning doves per day. Hunters may possess up to (~~(30)~~) 45 mourning doves at any one time.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. (~~(1-30, 2012, 2013, 2014)~~) 1 - Oct. 30 during the current license year.

(25) **BAND-TAILED PIGEON**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 2 band-tailed pigeons per day. Hunters may possess up to 6 band-tailed pigeons at any one time.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 15-23(~~(, 2012, 2013, 2014.~~

~~(d) WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED TO HUNT BAND TAILED PIGEONS:~~

~~(i) Hunters must possess a special migratory bird hunting authorization and harvest record card for band-tailed pigeons when hunting band-tailed pigeons. Immediately after taking a band-tailed pigeon into possession, hunters must record the required information in ink on the harvest record card. Hunters must report harvest information from band-tailed pigeon harvest record cards to the Washington department of fish and wildlife (WDFW) so that the department receives the information by September 30 following the current season. Every person issued a migratory bird hunting authorization and harvest record card must return the entire card to WDFW or report the card information at the designated internet site listed on the harvest record card. If a hunter fails to report his or her harvest by the reporting deadline, he or she is in violation of reporting requirements.~~

~~(ii) Beginning with the 2013 license year, hunters who do not report band-tailed pigeon hunting activity by the reporting deadline for any harvest record card are required to pay a ten-dollar administrative fee before any new migratory bird authorization and harvest record card is issued. A hunter may only be penalized a maximum of ten dollars during a license)) during the current license year.~~

(26) BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON

(a) Wild upland game birds may be pursued during the dog-training season but may not be killed except during established hunting seasons. A small game license is required to train dogs on wild game birds. A Western Washington Pheasant Permit is required to train dogs on pheasants in Western Washington. Captive raised game birds may be released and killed during dog training if the hunter has proof of lawful acquisition (invoices) and the birds are appropriately marked (WAC 232-12-271 and 232-12-044).

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Aug. 1(~~(, 2012)~~) - Mar. 31(~~(, 2013; Aug. 1, 2013 - Mar. 31, 2014; Aug. 1, 2014 - Mar. 31, 2015)~~) during the current license year.

(d) Only youth and seniors may train dogs during their respective seasons on designated Western Washington pheasant release sites.

(e) Bird dog training may be conducted year round on areas posted for bird dog training on portions of:

(i) Region One - Espanola (T24N, R40E, E 1/2 of section 16);

(ii) Region Three - South L. T. Murray Wildlife Area;

(iii) Region Four - Skagit Wildlife Area, Lake Terrell Wildlife Area, and Snoqualmie Wildlife Area;

(iv) Region Five - Shillapoo/Vancouver Lake Wildlife Area;

(v) Region Six - Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Fort Lewis Military Base.

(27) **YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION:**

The ((~~2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15~~)) 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 upland bird seasons within the Yakama Indian Reservation are the same as the season established by the Yakama Indian Nation.

(28) **COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION:**

The ((~~2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15~~)) 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 upland bird seasons within the Colville Indian Reservation are the same as the season established by the Colville Indian Tribe.

**HIP REQUIREMENTS:**

(29) All hunters of migratory game birds (duck, goose, coot, snipe, mourning dove, and band-tailed pigeon) age 16 and over are required to complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey at a license dealer and possess a Washington Migratory Bird permit as evidence of compliance with this requirement when hunting migratory game birds.

(30) Youth hunters are required to complete a HIP survey and possess a free Washington Youth Migratory Bird permit as evidence of compliance with this requirement when hunting migratory game birds.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-342, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-342, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-342, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-342, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-28-342, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. WSR 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-342, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-031 (Order 06-91), § 232-28-342, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06.]



**WAC 232-12-342 Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules**

**RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

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

**Page 20**

- The ring-necked pheasant start dates for 2015 and 2016 are changed to Oct. 24 and Oct. 22 respectively.



# 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 14-24-118 filed 12/3/14; 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:**

See Attachment A

**Hearing location(s):**

Civic Center  
411 South Balsam Street  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Date: March 20-21, 2015 Time: 8:00 AM

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments  
Address: 600 Capitol Way North,  
Olympia, WA 98501  
e-mail wildthing@dfw.wa.gov  
fax (360) 902-2162 by (date) 2/24/15

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:** Contact

Tami Lininger by March 1, 2015

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

**Date of intended adoption:** On or after April 9, 2015

(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:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150 and 77.12.240.

**Statute being implemented:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 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: February 02, 2015**

**TIME: 2:07 PM**

**WSR 15-04-090**

**DATE**

February 2, 2015

**NAME** (type or print)

Joanna Eide

**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 two or three 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 Resource Building	(360) 902-2515
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resource Building	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement..... Steven Crown	Natural Resource Building	(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 apply to recreational hunting and do not affect 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 does not involve hydraulics.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Title of rule and other identifying information:**

232-12-005 Predatory birds

232-12-024 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

232-12-064 Live wildlife—Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity

232-12-141 Wild animal trapping

232-12-242 Hunting Restrictions

232-12-271 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife

232-12-288 Official hunting hours for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse

232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules

232-28-516 Trapping seasons and regulations

### **232-12-005 Predatory birds**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

### **232-12-024 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.**

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

A common complaint of trappers and hunters who harvest bobcat or river otter is that it can be difficult to make an appointment with a department have pelts sealed as required. Under the current rule, only department employees can be authorized to seal pelts. The proposed change would allow the department to issue permits to other individuals to seal pelts. This change will make it easier to for some to meet the sealing requirement and some employee time will be saved within the department that is now taken up by sealing pelts. Assuming this rule change is adopted, the department will develop criteria to select individuals outside the department who can be issued permits to seal pelts and reporting requirements that will be expected.

Wording changes are made in subsection (5) to update the legal forms of documentation that can be used when importing raw pelts of river otter into the state.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Some agency staff time will be saved if individuals outside the department are authorized to seal pelts and customer satisfaction with the sealing process is likely to improve.

Updating the wording in subsection (5) will help reduce potential for future misunderstanding regarding acceptance of valid documentation of furs imported into the state.

**232-12-064 Live wildlife—Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

**232-12-141 Wild animal trapping**

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

The proposed changes to this rule serve to simplify and clarify the rules for fur trapping.

- The provisions regarding the use of body gripping traps are removed from this section as they restate trapping rules in RCW 77.15.194.
- A clarification is made that the meat of animals classified as furbearers may be used as bait.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Moving the portion of this rule pertaining to permitted uses of body gripping traps to the wildlife interaction rules will eliminate some confusion created by having it removed from the section pertaining to fur trapping.

The meat of furbearers is not included in rules pertaining to waste of game animals and is not commonly eaten. The use of beaver and other furbearer meat has traditionally been used by trappers as bait and the proposed change clarifies that it can continue to be used.

**232-12-242 Hunting Restrictions**

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

During the course of public meetings and other comment opportunities over the past summer individuals came forward requesting additional opportunity to hunt raccoons with dogs at night. Currently this type of hunting is restricted by this rule any time a modern firearm deer or elk season is open. The changes proposed would expand hunting opportunity by limiting the restriction to only deer and elk general seasons.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The rationale behind the current rule is that it reduces the potential for conflicts with deer and elk hunters and reduces the potential for hunters to pursue big game with dogs or at night using another form of hunting as a defense. Some concern has been voiced that this change could open the door to abuse. However, the primary time period this concern exists is during the general seasons when more hunting occurs.

**232-12-271 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

**232-12-288 Official hunting hours for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse.**

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

Amendment of this rule is necessary to make the changes described for WAC 232-12-242. References to the exemption of bobcat and raccoon from hunting hours are removed and the rule title is changed to specify the game animals that the hunting hours apply to.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

This change simplifies the hunting rules by removing a dual reference to the restriction on bobcat and raccoon hunting hours. The change to the rule title is necessary to allow night hunting for these two species at times during the hunting season when the restriction does not apply.

**232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules.**

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

This proposal establishes dates, bag limits and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting seasons for the next three years in WAC 232-28-342 which are needed in order to maintain recreational hunting opportunities for the public. Recommended changes are based on harvest trends and public input received over the past three years and surveys conducted by the department. Many of the proposals represent no changes from prior years with the exception of calendar date adjustments.

Notable changes Include:

- Modifying the bag limit for forest grouse to include no more than three of any of the three species per day but retaining the daily bag limit of four.
- Specifying that an adult must accompany youth hunters during the youth turkey season which addresses an inconsistency with other youth seasons.
- Allowing the harvest of fox in GMUs 407 and 410.
- Ending the eastern Washington Pheasant season on the Martin Luther King Day holiday each year.
- An increase in the mourning dove bag limit from ten to fifteen and increasing the season length by 30 days.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Some hunters have expressed concern that the current bag limit for forest grouse is too high and concerns also exist, based on harvest trends, that grouse populations have declined. While hunting is not considered to be a major limiting factor of grouse populations, a somewhat more conservative harvest

strategy is appropriate. The proposed split limit also will encourage hunters to learn to identify the various grouse species which will be a benefit when or if a more restrictive bag limit is needed to protect populations of one or more of the species.

Requiring an adult mentor during youth turkey seasons will help young hunters get a safe and successful start to their hunting experience.

Fox occurring in GMU 407 and 410 are an introduced population and there is not a biological rationale to continue to prohibit harvest of this species in this area. The native cascades red fox, which is a species with depressed populations, does not occur in this vicinity and will not be affected by this proposal.

The change to the Pheasant season to end on a holiday weekend will provide additional hunting opportunity without affecting populations as only males are allowed to be harvested.

Increases in mourning dove bag limits and season lengths are prescribed by the national mourning dove harvest strategy, adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council in 2013. Based on band returns, harvest rates of mourning doves are low and expanded seasons are sustainable. The harvest strategy relies on yearly monitoring of both harvest rate and population size. Should harvest rates increase to a level deemed harmful or population size declines below established thresholds, the strategy reduces harvest of mourning doves.

### ***232-28-516 Trapping seasons and regulations***

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

The proposal would continue the current trapping seasons for all furbearers with no changes except that the existing closure and bag limits in eastern Washington would be removed. The proposed change will allow expanded opportunity for harvest of river otter during the trapping season.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

The changes to the river otter trapping season have been discussed for several years with members of The Washington State Trappers Association (WSTA) who have been advocating for the proposed change. Along much of the perimeter of the closure area as it is defined, it currently is legal to harvest river otter on one side of a river but not on the opposite shore which is a difficult situation that most current otter harvest is believed to consist primarily of incidental captures associated with beaver trapping. Under the current restrictions on trap types that are allowed for fur harvest, it is very difficult for a trapper to target river otter when trapping and the current bag limits in those parts of eastern Washington open to otter harvest appear to be having no effect as it is rare that a trapper reaches the annual limit of 12. The department believes that the proposed change is reasonable given that statutory limits on trap types appear to be limiting otter harvest more than the current bag limit in most areas and a large harvest in the current closed area is not likely for the same reason.