

Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, and Moose, Permits and Regulations

232-12-284, 232-28-273, 232-28-283, 232-28-622, and 232-28-623

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Summary

Meeting dates: March 20-21, 2015

Agenda item: Mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose permits and regulations -Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Rich Harris, Ph. D., Special Species Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

This proposal will update Departmental recommendations regarding permit levels for mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and moose. WACs involved are WAC 232-28-622 2015-2017 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas, WAC 232-28-623 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas, WAC 232-28-273 2015-2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas, WAC 232-12-284 Bighorn sheep – marking and ownership requirements and WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

Proposed revision of 232-28-623 will require that successful mountain goat hunters bring their trophy (the head with horns attached) to a departmental office or designated location for inspection and data recording, as is currently done for bighorn sheep.

The Department proposes to add new hunt categories “Mountain goat – conflict reduction” and “Bighorn sheep – disabled”. In both cases, the objectives are to provide hunter opportunity where possible while maintaining the biological integrity of the resource.

Proposed revision of 232-12-284 will clarify to both Department staff and the general public conditions under which a permit would be issued for retention and possession of horns from bighorn sheep found dead afield (i.e., those other than possessed through legal hunting).

Proposed revision of 232-28-283 will change the system by which hunt units are available to holder of the mountain goat auction and raffle permits, the statewide California bighorn raffle permit, and 2 of the regional, multi-species raffle permits. At present, units are automatically open if there are to be 2 or more special (i.e., ‘regular’) permits for that species in that unit, but not otherwise. The intent of this regulation was to protect herds against excessive removals while providing predictability and consistency. However, this regulation has had unforeseen consequences in reducing opportunity for special (‘regular’) draw permittees as well as in unnecessarily restricting the list of available herds for these auction/raffle hunts. The Department has now developed an objective system that will meet both the objectives of protecting against excessive removal while providing public disclosure and advance notice. However, because this system requires data on the number of animals removed in the prior year, herd and hunt units open will also vary annually. The proposal is to allow the Director to allocate among herds based on the Department’s objective and consistent protocols, with a decision to be made no later than 1 December of the year prior to the hunt, and for it to be posted on the Department’s website no later than 1 January of the year of the hunt.

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

Mandatory in-person registration of mountain goat harvested trophies (currently reporting is by Web/phone reporting only).

Generally prohibiting possession of horns from bighorn sheep picked up afield, with clarified exceptions allowing for permitting of such when it will specifically benefit bighorn sheep conservation or management.

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.

Action requested:

Briefing and public hearing only.

Draft motion language:

Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

Form revised 12/5/12

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

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

(1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Moose Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:** (~~Anyone EXCEPT those who previously harvested a moose in Washington state may apply for a moose permit.~~)

(i) **Any moose category:** An individual may only harvest one moose under the "any moose" category during his or her lifetime. (~~However, this restriction is waived for hunters who have previously harvested a moose under an antlerless only, master hunter, raffle, or auction permit, as well as for applications for antlerless only, master hunter, raffle, or auction permits.~~) Applications will not be accepted from hunters having previously harvested a moose in the "any moose" category.

(ii) **Antlerless only, youth antlerless, over-65 antlerless, disabled-antlerless, master-hunter any moose, hunter-education antlerless, auction moose, raffle moose:** Anyone may apply.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One moose.

(c) **Weapon Restrictions:** Permit holders may use any legal weapon.

((Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Kettle Range/East Okanogan	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 101, 105, 204	Any Moose	10
Selkirk Mtns. A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 113	Any Moose	15
Selkirk Mtns. B ^d	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 113	Antlerless Only	2
Mt. Spokane South A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 1	Any Moose	8
Mt. Spokane South B	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 1	Antlerless Only	8
Mt. Spokane North A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 2	Any Moose	8
Mt. Spokane North B	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 2	Antlerless Only	7
Mt. Spokane North C ^b	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 2	Antlerless Only	1
Spokane District ^{HC}	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31	GMUs 124-142	Any Moose as specifically directed by WDFW	10 ^{HC}
Mt. Spokane South – Youth Only ^a	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 1	Antlerless Only	8
Mt. Spokane North – Youth Only ^a	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 2	Antlerless Only	8
49 Degrees North A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 117	Any Moose	21
49 Degrees North B ^b	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	3
49 Degrees North C ^c	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	2
49 Degrees North Youth Only ^a	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	2
Three Forks	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 108, 111	Any Moose	6
Hangman A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 127, 130	Any Moose	7
Hangman B	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 127, 130	Antlerless Only	7
Huckleberry Range A	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 121, 124 west of Hwy 395	Any Moose	7
Huckleberry Range B ^c	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMUs 121, 124 west of Hwy 395	Antlerless Only	2
Parker Lake A ^c	Sept. 1-26	Moose Area 3	Any Moose, Archery Only	2
Parker Lake B ^a	Sept. 27 – Oct. 5	Moose Area 3	Any Moose, Muzzleloader Only	2))

Hunt Name	Notes	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
<u>Any moose</u>				
<u>Kettle Range-East Okanogan</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMUs 101, 105, 204</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Douglas A - Early</u>		<u>Oct. 1-31</u>	<u>GMU 108</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Douglas A - Late</u>		<u>Nov. 1-30</u>	<u>GMU 108</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Aladdin A - Early</u>		<u>Oct. 1-31</u>	<u>GMU 111</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Aladdin A - Late</u>		<u>Nov. 1-30</u>	<u>GMU 111</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Selkirk</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 113</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>49 Degrees North A - Early</u>		<u>Oct. 1-31</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>49 Degrees North A - Late</u>		<u>Nov. 1-30</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Parker Lake A - Archery</u>	<u>e,W</u>	<u>Sept. 1-26</u>	<u>Moose area 3</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Parker Lake A - Muzzleloader</u>	<u>e,X</u>	<u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 5</u>	<u>Moose area 3</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Huckleberry A - Early</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>Oct. 1-31</u>	<u>GMU 121</u>	<u>6</u>

<u>Hunt Name</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Permit Season</u>	<u>GMU or boundary</u>	<u>Permits</u>
<u>Huckleberry A - Late</u>	*	<u>Nov. 1-30</u>	<u>GMU 121</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Spokane West A</u>	*	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 124 w of Hwy 395</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mt Spokane South A</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 1 (within 124)</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Mt Spokane North A</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 2 (within 124)</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Mica Peak A Hangman</u>	*	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 127 & 130</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Antlerless only</u>				
<u>Douglas B</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 108</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Aladdin B</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 111</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>49 Degrees North B</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Huckleberry B</u>	*	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 121</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Spokane West B</u>	*	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 124 w of Hwy 395</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Mt Spokane South B</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 1 (within 124)</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Mt Spokane North B</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 2 (within 124)</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Mica Peak B Mica Peak</u>	*	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 127</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Cheney B</u>	**	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 130</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Youth Only - antlerless</u>				
	a			
<u>49 Degrees North Y</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Mt Spokane South Y</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 1 (within 124)</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Mt Spokane North Y</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 2 (within 124)</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>65 Year and over - antlerless</u>				
	c			
<u>49 Degrees North V</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Huckleberry V</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 121</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Disabled hunter - antlerless</u>				
	b			
<u>49 Degrees North D</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 117</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Mt Spokane North D</u>		<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Moose Area 2 (within 124)</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Hunter Education antlerless</u>				
	d			
<u>Selkirk HE</u>	HEII	<u>Oct. - Nov. 30</u>	<u>GMU 113</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Master Hunter - Any moose</u>				
<u>Spokane District MH</u>	HC	<u>Aug. 1 - Mar. 31</u>	<u>GMUs 124-142</u>	<u>10</u>

^aApplicants must be eligible to purchase a youth moose permit application. An adult must accompany the youth hunter during the hunt.

^bApplicants must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit.

^cApplicants must be eligible to purchase a 65 years of age or older permit application.

°Applicants must be a certified hunter education instructor who meets program-defined eligibility criteria.

°The following special hunt is offered by the USAF Survival School on a trial basis and will be evaluated based on student safety each year for continuation.

°This is a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator. Only master hunters may apply, and any weapon may be used. Successful applicants will be contacted on an as-needed basis to help with specific sites of nuisance moose activity in designated areas. Not all successful applicants will be contacted in any given year.

(3) **Moose Areas:**

(a) **Moose Area 1:** South Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, S on Hwy 395 to Spokane River, E on Spokane River to Idaho-Washington state line, N on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(b) **Moose Area 2:** North Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, N on Hwy 395 to Deer Park-Milan Rd, E on Deer Park-Milan Rd to Hwy 2, N on Hwy 2 to Idaho-Washington state line, S on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(c) **Moose Area 3:** Parker Lake (GMU 117, Pend Oreille County): All lands south of Ruby Creek Rd (USFS Road 2489), north of Tacoma Creek Rd (USFS Road 2389), and west of Bonneville Power Administration power lines.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-273, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-273, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-273, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12; WSR 11-11-013 (Order 11-86), § 232-28-273, filed 5/6/11, effective 6/6/11. 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), § 232-28-273, 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), § 232-28-273, 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), § 232-28-273, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; WSR 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-273, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-273, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 05-11-022 (Order 05-89), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/05, effective 6/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-273, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.655, 77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-273, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-11-137 (Order 00-50), § 232-28-273, filed 5/23/00, effective 6/23/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 99-10-102 (Order 99-40), § 232-28-273, filed 5/5/99, effective 6/5/99; WSR 98-10-005 (Order 98-58), § 232-28-273, filed 4/22/98, effective 5/23/98.]

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

WAC 232-28-623 ((2012-2014)) 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas. (1) Hunters must comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Mountain Goat Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:** Anyone may apply, except those who harvested a mountain goat in Washington state after 1998. Except for auction and raffle permitted hunts, an individual may only harvest one mountain goat during his or her lifetime(~~(, except for those who harvested a goat prior to 1999. This restriction is also waived for applications for a raffle and/or auction permit and for hunters who have previously harvested a goat under a raffle and/or auction permit)~~)).

(b) **Bag Limit:** One (1) adult goat of either sex with horns 4 inches or longer.

(c) It is unlawful for a person who kills a mountain goat in Washington to fail, within ten days after acquisition, to personally present the horns attached to the head for inspection at a department

office or location designated by a departmental representative. After inspection, the head/horns of a mountain goat lawfully killed in Washington may be kept for personal use. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.280 (1)(b).

Goat Hunt Area Name (Number)	Permit Season^b	Subhunt Units (may be opened or closed by the director)^a	Special Restrictions	Permits^a
Chowder Ridge (4-3)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>		Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>1</u>
Lincoln Peak (4-4)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>		Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>2</u>
Dillard Creek (4-6)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>		Any Legal Weapon	0
Avalanche Gorge (4-7)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>		Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>3</u>
North Lake Chelan (2-1)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Skookum Pass Mtn., Big Goat Creek	Any Legal Weapon	2
<u>Boulder River North (4-8a)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30</u>		<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
Naches Pass (3-6)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Fife's East, Fife's Peak, Crystal Mountain, Basin Lake	Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>3</u>
Bumping River (3-7)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Nelson Ridge, Cash Prairie, American Ridge, American Lake, Timber Wolf, Russell Ridge	Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>3</u>
Blazed Ridge (3-10)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Blowout Mtn., Blazed Ridge, Blazed North, Milk Creek, Rock Creek	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>0</u>
Goat Rocks-Tieton River (5-4/3-9)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Chimney Rocks, Goat Lake, McCall Glacier, Gilbert Peak	Any Legal Weapon	((3)) <u>5</u>
South Lake Chelan (2-3)	Sept. 15 - ((Oct. 31)) <u>Nov. 30</u>	Railroad Creek, Pyramid Mountain, Box Canyon	Any Legal Weapon	1
((Mt. Washington - A (6-1))	Sept. 15-25	N/A	Any Legal Weapon	2
Mt. Washington - B (6-1)	Sept. 26 - Oct. 6	N/A	Any Legal Weapon	2
Brothers (6-2)	Sept. 15-25	N/A	Any Legal Weapon	2))
<u>Conflict reduction goat (new hunt type)</u>				
<u>East Olympic Mountains A¹</u>	<u>Sept. 15-25</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>East Olympic Mountains B¹</u>	<u>Sept. 26 - Oct. 6</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>

¹This is a new hunt type. Points accrued or spent on this hunt do not apply to other mountain goat hunts.

(3) **Mountain Goat Hunt Area Descriptions.** The following areas are defined as mountain goat hunt areas:

Chowder Ridge 4-3:

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Wells Creek with the North Fork Nooksack River; then up Wells Creek to the confluence with Bar Creek; then up Bar Creek to the Mazama Glacier; then SW on Mazama Glacier to the summit of Mount Baker; then NW between Roosevelt Glacier and Coleman Glacier to the headwaters of Kulshan Creek; then down Kulshan Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then down Grouse Creek to the confluence with Glacier Creek; then down Glacier Creek to the confluence with the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Wells Creek and the point of beginning.

Lincoln Peak 4-4

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Glacier Creek and the North Fork Nooksack River; then up Glacier Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then up Grouse Creek to the confluence with Kulshan Creek; then up Kulshan Creek to headwaters; then SE between Coleman and Roosevelt glaciers to the summit of Mount Baker; then SW on Easton Glacier to Baker Pass; then W on the Bell Pass Trail (USFS Trail 603.3) to the intersection

with Ridley Creek Trail (Trail No. 696); then W on Ridley Creek Trail to Ridley Creek; then down Ridley Creek to the Middle Fork Nooksack River; then down the Middle Fork Nooksack River to the confluence with Clearwater Creek, then up Clearwater Creek to the confluence with Rocky Creek, then up Rocky Creek to the Washington DNR boundary; then along the National Forest-Washington DNR boundary to Hedrick Creek; then down Hedrick Creek to the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Glacier Creek and the point of beginning.

Dillard Creek 4-6

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning on Baker Lake Road and Rocky Creek; then NW up Rocky Creek to its intersection with the Park Butte Trail (Trail No. 603); then NW on Park Butte Trail to its intersection with the Bell Pass Trail (Trail No. 603.3); then N on Bell Pass Trail to Baker Pass; then N onto Easton Glacier and NE to the summit of Mount Baker; then NE and SE on Park Glacier to headwaters of Park Creek; then down Park Creek to Baker Lake Road; then SW on Baker Lake Road to Rocky Creek and the point of beginning.

Avalanche Gorge 4-7

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning on Baker Lake Road and Park Creek; then up Park Creek to head-

waters and beginning of Park Glacier; then NW and SW on Park Glacier to Mount Baker summit; then N on the Mazama Glacier to Bar Creek, then down Bar Creek to the confluence with Wells Creek; then SE up Wells Creek to its headwaters; then E about 1 mile to an unnamed peak (indicated elevation 5,831 ft, just W of Ptarmigan Ridge Trail (Trail No. 682.1) (See referenced 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm)); then NE to the headwaters of the first tributary of Swift Creek encountered; then SE down said unnamed tributary to the confluence with Swift Creek; then down Swift Creek to the Baker Lake Road (USFS Road 394); then SW along the Baker Lake Road to Park Creek and point of beginning. (Refer to 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm).

Chelan North 2-1

Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Fish Creek on Lake Chelan (Moore Point); then northeast up Fish Creek and USFS trail 1259 to the Sawtooth crest near Deephole Spring; then southeast along the Sawtooth crest, which separates Chelan and Okanogan counties, to Horsethief Basin and the headwaters of Safety Harbor Creek; then south along Safety Harbor Creek to Lake Chelan, then northwest along the north shore of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Fish Creek at Moore Point and the point of beginning.

Methow 2-2

Permit Area: Okanogan County within following described boundary:

Begin at Twisp, W along Twisp River Rd (County Rd 4440) to Roads End; W up Twisp Pass Trail 432 to Twisp Pass and Okanogan County line; N on Okanogan County line through Washington Pass to Harts Pass; SE down Harts Pass (Rd 5400) to Lost River; along Lost River-Mazama Rd to Mazama; SW to State Hwy 20; SE on State Hwy 20 to Twisp and point of beginning.

South Lake Chelan 2-3

Permit Area: GMU 246

Naches Pass 3-6

Permit Area - Naches: Yakima and Kittitas counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at Chinook Pass; then north along the Pacific Crest Trail to Naches Pass; then east to USFS Road 19 and continuing to State Highway 410; then west along State Highway 410 to Chinook Pass and point of beginning.

Bumping River 3-7

Permit Area: Beginning on US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) and SR 410 at Chinook Pass; NE on SR 410 to US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd); SW on the US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd); SE on US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd) to the north fork of

Rattlesnake Creek; SE down the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek to US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd); SE on US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Rd 1500; S on US Forest Service Rd 1500 to US Hwy 12; W on US Hwy 12 to US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) at White Pass; N on the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) to SR 410 at Chinook Pass and the point of beginning. (Lands within the boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park along the Pacific Crest Trail are not open to hunting.)

Blazed Ridge 3-10

Permit Area: Kittitas and Yakima counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at the mouth of Cabin Creek on the Yakima River; then west along Cabin Creek to the headwaters near Snowshoe Butte; then south along the Cascade Crest separating the Green and Yakima river drainage to Pyramid Peak; then southeast along the North Fork, Little Naches, and Naches River to the Yakima River; then north along the Yakima River to the mouth of Cabin Creek and point of beginning.

Goat Rocks 5-4/Tieton River 3-9

Goat Rocks 5-4 Permit Area: Beginning at US Hwy 12 at the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail); S on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to Lewis County line at Cispus Pass;

S and W on the Lewis County line to Johnson Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 21); N on Johnson Creek Rd to US Hwy 12; E on US Hwy 12 to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the point of the beginning.

Permit Area - Tieton River: GMU 364

~~((Permit Area - Mt. Washington Unit~~

~~Beginning at the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24); W along Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24) to Olympic National Park (ONP) boundary at the northern end of Lake Cushman; N and NE along the ONP Olympic National Forest (ONF) boundary to the eastern boundary of the Mount Skokomish Wilderness; N and E along the ONP Mount Skokomish Wilderness boundary to the Mason-Jefferson County line; E along the Mason-Jefferson County line to USFS Trail 810 (Lena Creek Trail); S along the USFS Trail 810 to USFS Rd 25 (Hamma Hamma Rd); E on USFS Rd 25 (Hamma Hamma Rd) to USFS Rd 2480; SE on USFS Rd 2480 to Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24); NW on Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24) to Lake Cushman Rd and the point of beginning.~~

~~**Permit Area - The Brothers Unit**~~

~~Beginning at the intersection of the Dosewallips River and the Olympic National Forest (ONF) boundary in Section 30 of T26N R2W; S along the ONF boundary to the Mason-Jefferson County line; E along the Mason-Jefferson County line to intersection with the Olympic National Park~~

~~(ONP) boundary in Section 44 of T25N R4W; NE along the ONF-ONP boundary to The Brothers Wilderness; NE and N along the ONP-Brothers Wilderness boundary to the Dosewallips River; E down the Dosewallips River to its intersection with ONF boundary in Section 30 of T26N R2W and the point of beginning.)~~) **Permit Area - East Olympic Mountains Unit**

Beginning at the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24); W along Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24) to Olympic National Park (ONP) boundary at the northern end of Lake Cushman; N and NE along the ONP-Olympic National Forest (ONF) boundary to the Jefferson-Clallam County line; E along the Jefferson-Clallam County line to its intersection with ONF boundary in Section 33 of T28N R2W; S along the ONF boundary to the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24) and the point of beginning.

Permit Area - Boulder River North 4-8a

~~That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 (to Boulder Falls), westward to the USFS boundary, thence southward along the USFS boundary, following the wilderness boundary until Windy Creek, eastward across Windy Pass to the headwaters of the unnamed tributary of Copper Creek; eastward down the tributary of Cop-~~

per Creek to Copper Creek and the Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then northward and westward along the wilderness boundary to the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010, the point of beginning. That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on US Forest Service (USFS) road 2010 (to Boulder Falls), the East along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Squire Creek, then Southward along the Squire Creek to Squire Creek Pass, then Southwest up Squire Creek Pass to the Headwaters of Copper Creek, then Southeast down Copper Creek to the unnamed tributary to Copper Creek which heads East up to Windy Pass, then East up said tributary to its headwaters in Windy Pass, then East across Windy Pass to the Headwaters of Windy Creek, then East down Windy Creek to the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then North along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Boulder River trailhead on USFS road 2010 and the point of the beginning.

Mountain goat populations are managed as a collection of subpopulations, and the ideal harvest is distributed through all the subpopulations. The director is authorized to open or close subhunt areas and reduce permit levels to protect from overharvesting specific areas.

The director is authorized by the commission to identify the sub-hunt unit as a condition of the hunt permit. Hunters receiving permits will be sent a text description or map of the subhunt unit from the director prior to the start of that hunting season.

^bPermit hunters may start hunting September 1 with archery equipment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-623, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-623, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

WAC 232-28-622 ((2012-2014)) 2015-2017 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas. (1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Bighorn Sheep Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:** Anyone may apply, EXCEPT those who previously harvested a bighorn sheep in Washington state. An individual may only

harvest one bighorn (~~(sheep)~~) ram during his or her lifetime. However, this restriction is waived for hunters who have previously harvested a bighorn sheep under a ewe-only, raffle, or auction permit, as well as for applications for a ewe-only, raffle, or auction permit.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One bighorn ram, except in designated adult ewe hunts the limit is one bighorn adult ewe.

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Vulcan Mountain	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 2	Any Legal Weapon	1
Selah Butte A	Nov. 3-30	Sheep Unit 4	Any Legal Weapon	3
Selah Butte B	Nov. 3-30	Sheep Unit 4	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	5
Umtanum	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 5	Any Legal Weapon	((3)) <u>2</u>
Cleman Mountain A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>3</u>
Cleman Mountain B	Nov. 5-30	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>3</u>
Mt. Hull A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 10	Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>1</u>
Mt. Hull B	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 10	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1
Mt. Hull C ((b)) ^a	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 10	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1
Lincoln Cliffs	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 12	Any Legal Weapon	2
Quilomene	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 13	Any Legal Weapon	((3)) <u>2</u>
Swakane	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 14	Any Legal Weapon	1
Manson	Nov. 5-30	Sheep Unit 16	Any Legal Weapon	2
((Asotin	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 17	Any Legal Weapon	4))
Chelan Butte	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon	1
<u>New hunt category – Disabled hunter bighorn sheep</u>				
<u>Chelan Butte B – Disabled hunter^b HC^c</u>	<u>Oct. 11-31</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Chelan Butte B – Disabled hunter^b HC^c</u>	<u>Oct. 11-31</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u> <u>Adult ewe only</u>	<u>2</u>

~~((b))~~ ^aApplicants must be eligible to purchase a youth bighorn sheep permit application. An adult 18 years of age or older must accompany the youth hunter during the hunt.

^bApplicants must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit.

°HC - Hunt Coordinated. Only marked animals can legally be taken.

WDFW staff will assist hunters in locating these animals.

(3) **Bighorn Sheep Units:**

(a) **Sheep Unit 2 Vulcan Mountain:** Permit Area: Ferry County north of the Kettle River near Curlew.

(b) **Sheep Unit 4 Selah Butte:** Permit Area: That part of (~~Yakima and Kittitas counties between Ellensburg and Yakima~~) GMU 340 east of the Yakima River (~~and north of Selah Creek, west of Interstate 82 and south of Interstate 90~~)).

(c) **Sheep Unit 5 Umtanum:** Permit Area: Those portions of (~~Yakima and Kittitas counties~~) GMU 340 west of the Yakima River (~~, north of Wenas Creek, and east of USFS Road 1701 to Manastash Lake and its drainage; south and east along the South Fork Manastash Creek to Manastash Creek and the Yakima River~~) and GMU 342 north of Wenas Creek.

(d) **Sheep Unit 7 Cleman Mountain:** Permit Area: (~~That part of Yakima County south of Wenas Creek and east of USFS Road 1701, north of Highway 410 and Highway 12 and west of the Yakima River.~~) GMU 346 and that part of GMU 342 south of Wenas Creek.

(e) **Sheep Unit 10 Mt. Hull:** Permit Area: That part of Okanogan County within the following described boundary: Beginning at Oroville; then south along U.S. Highway 97 to the Swanson's Mill Road (old Mt.

Hull Road) near Lake Andrews; then east to the Dry Gulch Road; then north to the Oroville-Toroda Creek Road (Molson Grade Road); then west to Oroville and the point of beginning.

(f) **Sheep Unit 12 Lincoln Cliffs:** Permit Area: That part of Lincoln County north of Highway 2.

(g) **Sheep Unit 13 Quilomene:** Permit Area: GMUs 329, 330, and ~~((251))~~ that part of 251 east of Squilchuck Creek and south of Colockum Creek.

(h) **Sheep Unit 14 Swakane:** Permit Area: GMU 250.

(i) **Sheep Unit 15 Tieton:** Permit Area: GMU 360.

(j) **Sheep Unit 16 Manson:** Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Granite Falls Creek on the south shore of Lake Chelan, E across Lake Chelan to Willow Point; NW along the shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Stink Creek; E along Stink Creek to the intersection with Green's Landing Road; along Green's Landing Road to Manson Boulevard; E on Manson Boulevard to Lower Joe Creek Road; NE on Lower Joe Creek Road to Grade Creek Road; NE on Grade Creek Road to US Forest Service Road 8210; NE on US Forest Service Road 8210 to intersection with US Forest Service Road 8020; W on US Forest Service Road 8020 to Fox Peak; NW along Sawtooth Ridge (Chelan-Okanogan County Line) to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary; S along the Lake Chelan

National Recreation Area boundary to shore line of Lake Chelan; W across Lake Chelan to the mouth of Riddle Creek on the South Shore; SE along South Shore of Lake Chelan to the point of beginning.

(k) **Sheep Unit 18 Chelan Butte:** Permit Area: Beginning at the intersection of State Hwy 971 and US Hwy 97A, S to the W shoreline of the Columbia River, N along the W shoreline of the Columbia River for 21 miles to the mouth of Antione Creek, W up Antione Creek to where it crosses Apple Acres Rd, W on Apple Acres Rd to the intersection with Washington Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 8135), N on Washington Creek Rd to its end and then follow Washington Creek, W on Washington Creek to where it crosses US Forest Service Rd 8010, S on US Forest Service Rd 8010 (transitions into Purtteman Creek Rd) to Purtteman Gulch, S into Purtteman Gulch to the N shoreline of Lake Chelan, S along the shoreline to the S shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of First Creek, S up First Creek to the intersection of State Hwy 971 (Navarre Coulee Rd), S on State Hwy 971 to the point of beginning.

(l) **Sheep Unit 19 Sinlahekin:** Beginning at the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness border and the US-Canadian border; E on the US-Canadian border to the border station on Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568); SE on the Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568) to the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425); E on the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425) to US Hwy

97 in Oroville; S on US Hwy 97 to 12th Ave; W on 12th Ave (it curves S and changes to Old Highway 97); S on Old Highway 97 to US Hwy 97; S on US Hwy 97 to the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410); W on the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410) to Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290); W on Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290) to South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), along the south shore of Fish Lake; SW on South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), to the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015); SW on the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015), along the north shore of Conconully Lake, to the Salmon Creek North Fork Rd (Co. Rd 2361), at the town of Conconully; N on US Forest Service Rd 38 (Salmon Creek North Fork Rd, Co. Rd 2361) to US Forest Service Rd 3820; N on US Forest Service Rd 3820 over Lone Frank Pass, to US Forest Service Rd 39; N on US Forest Service Rd 39 to the US Forest Service Rd 300 at Long Swamp trailhead; W on the US Forest Service Rd 300 to US Forest Service Trail 342; N on US Forest Service Trail 342 to US Forest Service Trail 343; E on US Forest Service Trail 343 to US Forest Service Trail 341; E on US Forest Service Trail 341 to US Forest Service Trail 375; E on US Forest Service Trail 375 to the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness Area; N on the Pasayten Wilderness Area boundary to the US-Canadian border and the point of beginning.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-622, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-622, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-10-061, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10)

WAC 232-12-284 Bighorn sheep—Marking requirements. (1) For the purpose of this ~~((regulation))~~ section, horns ~~((shall be))~~ are defined as the ~~((permanent, paired,))~~ hollow sheath of bighorn sheep ram ~~((attached to the bony core and skull))~~. The horns do not have to be paired and may include one horn.

(2) It is unlawful for a person who kills ~~((or possesses))~~ a bighorn sheep ram taken in Washington to fail, within ten days after acquisition, to personally present the horns for inspection and permanent marking at a department ~~((regional))~~ office or location designated by a department representative. A department employee shall permanently mark one of the horns of each lawfully acquired bighorn sheep. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.280

(1)(c).

(3) It is unlawful for any person to possess the horns of a bighorn sheep ram ~~((taken))~~ originating in Washington ~~((without one of the horns being permanently marked by the department))~~ except as described in subsections (2) and (4) of this section. Horns of bighorn

sheep found dead in Washington must be left in the field. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

(4) (~~(A person may not transfer ownership or possession of bighorn sheep horns by offering them))~~ It is unlawful to offer for sale, ((selling them, purchasing them, or bartering them,)) sell, purchase, or barter, bighorn sheep horns without a written permit authorized by the director. Permits will only be granted where such sale, purchase, or barter will specifically benefit bighorn sheep conservation or management. It is unlawful for any person who transfers ownership or possession of the horns of a bighorn sheep ram (~~(that have been permanently marked))~~) to fail to give written notice of the transfer to the department within ten days after the transfer. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.750, provided it does not involve trafficking of bighorn sheep or the parts thereof. A violation of this subsection involving the trafficking of bighorn sheep or the parts thereof is punishable under RCW 77.15.260.

[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), § 232-12-284, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 96-22-073 (Order 96-193), § 232-12-284, filed

11/5/96, effective 12/6/96; WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-284,
filed 6/1/81.]

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

WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

AUCTION PERMITS

(1) BLACK-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to black-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(2) MULE DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(3) WHITE-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(4) WESTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(5) EASTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMU 157, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(6) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: (~~Any open sheep unit with two or more ram permits during the respective license year, EXCEPT sheep units in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, or Pend Oreille counties are not open.~~)

The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(7) MOOSE AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Any open moose unit.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(8) MOUNTAIN GOAT AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: (~~(Any open goat unit with two or more permits during the respective license year.)~~) The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

RAFFLE PERMITS

(9) BLACK-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(10) MULE DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(11) WHITE-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(12) WESTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not open to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(13) EASTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMU 157, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(14) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: (~~Any open bighorn sheep unit with two or more ram permits during the respective license year, EXCEPT sheep units in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, or Pend Oreille counties are not open.~~) The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1

except that sheep units in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, or Pend Oreille counties are not open.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(15) MOOSE RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Any open moose unit.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(16) MOUNTAIN GOAT RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: (~~(Any open goat unit with two or more permits during the respective license year.)~~) The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(17) TURKEY RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: April 1 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Statewide.

(c) Weapon: Archery or shotgun only.

(d) Bag limit: Three additional wild turkeys, but not to exceed more than one turkey in Western Washington or two turkeys in Eastern Washington.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(18) ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One Rocky Mountain bighorn ram.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 113, 172, 175.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(19) THREE-DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, and one additional any buck white-tailed deer; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For black-tailed deer, those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For mule deer, those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For white-tailed deer, those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(20) NORTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of six possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any bull elk, one any bull moose, one additional any legal cougar, one additional any legal black bear, and one additional any legal turkey (gobbler and turkey with visible beard ONLY); total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 101-124.

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

(ii) April 15 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar. April 15 - May 31 for turkey

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon EXCEPT archery and shotgun only for turkey.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(21) SOUTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk, one additional any buck deer, and one California bighorn sheep ram; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For elk, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to elk hunting and those GMUs not open to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For deer, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, (~~those bighorn sheep hunt areas south of Interstate 90 and west of Interstate 82 open to bighorn sheep hunting by the fish and wildlife commission with two or more permits during the respective license year~~) the director is

authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1. ~~For bighorn sheep, any bighorn herd located south of US Highway 2 and west of Interstate 82.~~ For bighorn sheep, any bighorn herd located south of US Highway 2 in Chelan County and west of the Columbia River in Kittitas and Yakima Counties.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(22) SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest four of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one additional any bull elk, one additional any legal cougar, and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed four animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 139-154 and 162-186.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. April 15 - June 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear. September 1 - March 31 for cougar

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(23) NORTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one any ram California bighorn sheep, one additional any legal cougar, and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For white-tailed deer, mule deer, cougar, and black bear, any 200 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, ~~((those bighorn sheep hunt areas in Chelan or Okanogan counties open to bighorn sheep hunting by the fish and wildlife commission with two or more permits during the respective license year))~~ the director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no

later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1 in Okanogan or Chelan counties north of US Highway 2.

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and California bighorn sheep.

(ii) April 15 - May 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

SPECIAL INCENTIVE PERMITS

(24) WESTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMUs 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(25) EASTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMU 157 and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to branch antlered bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(26) DEER INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Statewide, for use in any area open to general or permit hunting seasons EXCEPT GMUs 157, 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons and any legal weapon at other times if there are no firearm restrictions.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 5

PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCEDURE

(27) Auction permits: The director will select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual auction(s). Selection of the conservation organizations will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey auctions shall be conducted consistent with WAC 232-28-292.

(28) Raffle permits: Raffle permits will be issued to individuals selected through a Washington department of fish and wildlife drawing or the director may select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual raffles. Selection of a conservation organization will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey raffles shall be conducted consistent with WAC 232-28-290.

(29) Special incentive permits: Hunters will be entered into a drawing for special deer and elk incentive permits for prompt reporting of hunting activity in compliance with WAC 232-28-299.

(30) For permit hunts where the permittee may harvest multiple species, the permittee must select the species he/she wants to hunt within fourteen days of notification of being selected.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

(31) Permittees shall contact the appropriate regional office of the department of fish and wildlife when entering the designated hunt area or entering the region to hunt outside the general season.

(32) The permittee may be accompanied by others; however, only the permittee is allowed to carry a legal weapon or harvest an animal.

(33) Any attempt by members of the permittee's party to herd or drive wildlife is prohibited.

(34) If requested by the department, the permittee is required to direct department officials to the site of the kill.

(35) The permit is valid during the hunting season dates for the year issued.

(36) The permittee will present the head and carcass of the big-horn sheep killed to any department office within seventy-two hours of date of kill.

(37) The permittee must abide by all local, state, and federal regulations including firearm restriction areas and area closures.

(38) Hunters awarded the special incentive permit will be required to send the appropriate license fee to the department of fish and wildlife headquarters in Olympia. The department will issue the license and transport tag and send it to the special incentive permit winner.

(39) Permit hunters awarded a cougar permit may only use dogs in GMUs that have a cougar season open to dog use (WAC 232-28-285).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-283, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.32.530. WSR 12-22-045 (Order 12-257), § 232-28-283, filed

11/2/12, effective 12/3/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047,

77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 10-03-041 (Order 10-10), § 232-28-283, filed 1/13/10, effective 2/13/10.]

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

WAC 232-28-273 Moose seasons, permit quotas and areas.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

Page 5

- The hunt named “Mica Peak A”, which is an any moose permit for GMUs 127 and 130 should be renamed “Hangman”. This is the name previously used for this hunt. Retaining this name will reduce hunter confusion.
- The hunt named “Mica Peak B”, which is an antlerless only moose permit for GMU 127 only should be renamed “Mica Peak” (the name of the GMU). There is no longer a need to distinguish Mica Peak A from B if we retain the “Hangman” name for the older, combined GMU hunt area.

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

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

Page 17

- Text providing the legal description of the newly recommended Boulder River North 4-8a mountain goat hunt unit reads: “That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 (to Boulder Falls), westward to the USFS boundary, thence southward along the USFS boundary, following the wilderness boundary until Windy Creek, eastward across Windy Pass to the headwaters of the unnamed tributary of Copper Creek; eastward down the tributary of Copper Creek to Copper Creek and the Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then northward and westward along the wilderness boundary to the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010, the point of beginning.” Replace with the following: “That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on US Forest Service(USFS) road 2010 (to Boulder Falls), the East along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Squire Creek, then Southward along the Squire Creek to Squire Creek Pass, then Southwest up Squire Creek Pass to the Headwaters of Copper Creek, then Southeast down Copper Creek to the unnamed tributary to Copper Creek which heads East up to Windy Pass, then East up said tributary to its headwaters in Windy Pass, then East across Windy Pass to the Headwaters of Windy Creek, then East down Windy Creek to the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then North along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Boulder River trailhead on USFS road 2010 and the point of the beginning.” This revision reduces the size of the Boulder River North mountain goat hunt area, in response to USFS concerns.

WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

Page 39

- Text referring to the area in which California bighorns herds are part of this raffle permit reads “For bighorn sheep, any bighorn herd located south of US Highway 2 and west of Interstate 82.” Replace this text with: “For bighorn sheep, any bighorn herd located south of US Highway 2 in Chelan County and west of the Columbia River in Kittitas and Yakima Counties.” There is no substantive change; rather, this latter boundary description is more precise and easier to interpret on the ground



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:

- 232-12-284 Bighorn sheep – marking and ownership requirements
- 232-28-273 2015-2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas
- 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits
- 232-28-622 2015-2017 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas
- 232-28-623 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas

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: 1:57 PM

WSR 15-04-089

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:

- 232-12-284 Bighorn sheep – marking and ownership requirements
- 232-28-273 2015-2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas
- 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits
- 232-28-622 2015-2017 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas
- 232-28-623 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas

232-12-284 Bighorn sheep – marking and ownership requirements

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

This proposal will clarify rules regarding possession of heads and horns of bighorn sheep dying naturally in the field. The previous version of this WAC left unclear situations under which the Department would authorize, via permit, the possession of bighorn sheep heads/horns other than those obtained via a legal hunt. This had resulted in various interpretations and uncertainty both within the Agency and the public. This revision clarifies that horns of bighorn sheep found dead in Washington must be left in the field. It clarifies that the rationale and circumstances under which the Department would authorize, via written permit, possession, transfer, barter, or sale of horns of bighorn sheep are those in which doing so would specifically benefit bighorn sheep conservation or management.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Poaching and traffic of bighorn heads continues to be an Enforcement concern. Existing WAC leaves unclear what Department policy is regarding possession of bighorn heads (sale is already prohibited without Departmental permit under WAC 232-12-071). Possession of heads/horns obtained by hunters via legally authorized hunts has always been legal, and remains so. In recent years, the Department has authorized sportsmen's groups to auction or raffle to members of the public individually-pinned horns that have come into Department possession, with the proceeds benefiting bighorn conservation and management. That will remain legal under this revision. The WAC clarifies that possession by the public under circumstances other than these above makes enforcement difficult and may encourage poaching, and thus would not merit a permit from the Director.

232-28-273 2015-2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas

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

This proposal will update Departmental recommendations regarding permit levels for moose harvests in existing moose hunt areas. Permit levels are proposed to increase in a number of hunts, following evidence that the moose population is larger than earlier believed, that bull:cow ratios continue to be high, and that moose may be approaching densities at which they limit themselves.

The proposal also dis-aggregates some existing moose hunt choices: The previous "Three Forks" choice, which consisted of GMUs 108 and 111, is dis-aggregated to those 2, separate GMUs (called "Douglas" and "Aladin"). The previous "Huckleberry Range" hunt choice, which consisted of GMUs 121 and 124, is now considered only GMU 121, and GMU 124 west of highway 395 is now called "Spokane West". In some cases, the proposal recommends that the current 2-month-long moose season be split into 2, separate, 1-month-long moose seasons. These changes allow the Department to increase permit levels while dispersing hunting pressure more evenly.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Moose in Districts 1 and 2 have increased in recent years. In 2014, we began more intensive work on moose abundance and demographics. Together, these have suggested that the population can sustain additional harvest. Additional harvest of bulls is expected to reduce the post-harvest bull:cow ratio, but it is currently high. Additional harvest of cows is expected to temper the rate of growth, but this is acceptable, but may function to stabilize the population.

232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

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

Allow the Department to more precisely tailor the number of permits provided for California bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

Reasons supporting proposal:

For mountain goats in addition to routinely allocated 'special permits', the Department provides a single auction tag and a single raffle tag. For California bighorn sheep, in addition to routinely allocated 'special permits', the Department provides a single auction tag and a single raffle tag but also provides the option to choose a California bighorn sheep in 2 of the regional "multi-species" raffles. As a way to prevent the possibility more animals would be harvested in any given year than is sustainable, WAC 232-28-282 currently provides that only units in which 2 or more special permits are offered can holders of any or all of the auction/raffle permits hunt. However, this produces the undesired effect that total permit levels for California bighorn sheep cannot be increased from 1 to 2 without incurring the risk that the total number removed could increase from 1 to 5 (i.e., 1 to 2 special hunt permits, up to 3 additional animals harvested if the auction winner and both raffle winners hunt in that herd). This has had the unintended side effect of encouraging permit levels to be more conservative than is biologically justified. This has both reduced opportunity for special draw permit holders, and unnecessarily restricted the options available to the auction/raffle hunters.

The Department now has a system in place that can ameliorate the undesired consequences of this "boom or bust" number of permits, at least as averaged over a number of years.

232-28-622 2015-2017 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas

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

This proposal will update Departmental recommendations regarding permit levels for bighorn ram and ewe harvests in existing bighorn sheep hunts.

In addition, the Department proposes to add a new hunt category "Bighorn sheep – disabled hunter". New hunts for the Chelan Butte herd will be proposed as "hunt coordinated" (HC), to allow for hunter opportunity targeting specific animals.

This proposal also rectifies some earlier errors in legal descriptions bighorn sheep units 4, 6, 7, and 13.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Populations fluctuate annually. Because WDFW manages harvest of bighorn sheep closely and we follow guidelines published in the Game Management Plan, permit levels also respond to population changes.

The new "hunt coordinated" Chelan Butte hunts (disabled hunter and over-65 bighorn sheep) are designed to take advantage of an unusual situation: A number of older-aged animals resulting from the earlier reintroduction of this herd are unlikely to be taken by hunters interested in the largest-possible trophy, but would still be of great interest to many hunters. These animals are unlikely to be participating in breeding, and will not be contributing to future growth (nor would they be appropriate candidates for translocation to other herds).

232-28-623 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas

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

This proposal will update Departmental recommendations regarding permit levels for mountain goat harvests in existing mountain goat hunt areas.

This proposal will also require that successful mountain goat hunters bring their trophy (the head with horns attached) to a departmental office or designated location for inspection and data recording, as is currently done for bighorn sheep.

In addition, the Department proposes to add a new hunt category "Mountain goat – conflict reduction".

Reasons supporting proposal:

Populations fluctuate annually. Because WDFW manages harvest of mountain goats closely and we follow guidelines published in the Game Management Plan, permit levels also respond to population changes.

In order to allow for hunter opportunity while minimizing the chance of over-harvest, the Department requires detailed and complete information on harvested mountain goats. This information is best collected by trained biologists. During 2013 and 2014, the Department initiated a program of voluntary in-person registration by hunters, with only partial success. Thus, the Department feels that a mandatory in-person registration for purposes of collecting biological data is appropriate. During public scoping this proposal received unqualified support. Because mountain goat hunts are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, this causes little additional burden on the hunters. Because the total number of hunts in Washington is modest, this causes little additional burden on biologists.

The newly proposed hunt category "conflict reduction", is intended to encourage hunters to take advantage of opportunities currently provided on the Olympic Peninsula, where reduction of the goat population is a management objective. Hunter success was lower during the initial season (2014) than anticipated; hunters participating but failing to take an animal thus lost their points when applying for subsequent mountain goat hunts. This change would allow those hunters to retain any points previously accumulated for other mountain goat hunts; this revision would thus remove the dis-incentive for hunters to participate.