

# **Reduced Rate Combination Elk General Licenses and Multiple Season Big Game Permits**

Mick Cope  
Game Division Manager  
Wildlife Program



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

# Reduced Rate Overview

- 2007 Fish & Wildlife Commission Policy (POL-C6005)
  - The Master Hunter Program is intended to provide adequate numbers of hunters, with specific qualifications, to address wildlife/human interactions, such as agricultural damage.
- Master Hunters are utilized to address deer, elk and goose damage through
  - Participation in special permit hunts
  - Participation in general season Master Hunter hunts
- Addressing damage is critical in building and maintaining relationships with landowners experiencing damage
- Approximately 1,700 Master Hunters statewide

# Issue

- Reduced rate for Master Hunters was modified in 2014
  - Intent was to incentivize participation in the Master Hunter seasons by providing a reduced license fee
  - The WAC was written in such a way that did it not apply to the Master Hunter general seasons

# Purpose

- To incentivize master hunters to assist the agency address elk damage issues within Master Hunter general seasons, such as Elk Area 3911
  - Master Hunters are allowed to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> elk transport tag for the early 3911 season
  - August 1 – October 24 (warm weather)
  - Provide equity with Master Hunter special permit 2<sup>nd</sup> tags

# Proposed Change

- Clarify WAC 220-55-174
  - Clarifies when a Master Hunter will be required to purchase an elk tag in addition to their general season tag
  - Clarifies that Master Hunters hunting the early Elk Area 3911 Master Hunter general season are required to purchase a second elk tag
  - Sets the cost of Master Hunter general season 2<sup>nd</sup> elk tags at the reduced rate, consistent with special permit hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> tags

# Questions?



# Multi-Season Overview

- Multi season tags allow hunters to hunt in any general season with the corresponding weapon
  - In previous years, some multi season permits were not utilized by hunters
  - Currently, multi-season permits are sold on first come first served basis when drawn

# Purpose

- To allow more hunters the opportunity to extend their hunting season
- Allows longer time period for those who were not drawn for the multi season tag to decide if they wish to participate and make hunting plans for the season.



# Proposed Change

- Add language to WAC 232-28-294
  - Will give the Department the authority to allow more hunters opportunity for the multi season tag
  - May increase hunter days afield
  - Will allow hunters who choose to participate and extend their season more chance to harvest
  - Help meet harvest guidelines

# Questions?

