

Multi-Season Big Game Permits and Reduced Rate Combo Elk Hunting License

220-55-174 and 232-28-294

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Summary

Meeting dates: March 20-21, 2015

Agenda item: Multi-season Big game permits and Reduced Rate Combo elk hunting license

Presenter: David Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

WAC 232-28-294 has been modified over the past several years to allow for more opportunity for hunters to extend their hunting seasons. However the number of those that have taken advantage of the opportunity and the number of permits have historically left some permits leftover. This proposal would allow for the leftover permits to be offered up on a first come first served basis to extend the opportunity to more hunters.

WAC 220-55-174 was modified in 2014 to provide a discounted elk license to Master Hunters who purchase a second elk tag for special permit hunts. However, because Master Hunter hunts for some elk areas (e.g. Elk Area 3911) are general Master Hunter hunts, the reduced price could not be provided as intended.

The proposal will provide Master Hunters with an incentive to participate in hunts such as the early 3911 hunt, at a time when it can be difficult to address elk damage.

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

Provide more opportunity for hunters to extend their season by purchasing a multi season permit.

Provide the intended incentives for Master Hunters to help the agency address elk damage during general Master Hunter elk seasons.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

These proposed recommendations were sent to approximately 9000 organizations and individuals for their review and consideration. In addition, the Master Hunter portion of this agenda was reviewed the agency's Master Hunter Advisory Group and the group supports the proposal. These organizations and individuals that were contacted were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the March 20-21, 2015 Commission meeting in Moses Lake.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 9-10, 2015 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A – Briefing only

Justification for Commission action:

Provide more opportunity to those individuals who were not drawn to purchase the multiseason permit and participate in the hunting season.

Provide the intended incentives for Master Hunters to help the agency address elk damage during general Master Hunter elk seasons.

Communications Plan:

News Release

Hunting Pamphlets

Web site

Form revised 12/5/12

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

WAC 220-55-174 Reduced rate combination elk general licenses. (1)

There is hereby created combination elk hunting licenses that allow the holder to hunt elk for the purposes described below. A person purchasing any big game license that includes elk may purchase a reduced rate combination as follows:

(a) (~~If a hunter is drawn for a special permit in the master hunter elk category, they~~) Master hunters must purchase a master hunter second elk transport tag (~~as authorized and conditioned by the commission to harvest a second elk~~) to participate in both a master hunter special permit hunt. Master hunters must purchase a master hunter elk area 3911 second elk transport tag to participate in and the early elk area 3911 master hunter general season-master hunter hunts. A master hunter in good standing must also purchase a master hunter elk tag in order to utilize a damage prevention or kill permit authorized and conditioned by the department. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big game license containing elk and the master hunter second elk tag.

(b) If a hunter is issued a damage prevention or kill permit authorized and conditioned by the department, the hunter must purchase a damage elk tag. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big game license containing elk and the damage elk second tag.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to possess a second elk transport tag except as authorized by this section.

(b) Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 220-55-174, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-06-008, filed 2/24/12, effective 3/26/12)

WAC 232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits. The commission may, by rule, offer permits for hunters to hunt deer or elk during more than one general season.

An annual drawing will be conducted by the department for multiple season permits.

(1) Multiple season big game hunting permit applications:

(a) To apply for multiple season big game hunting season permits for deer or elk, applicants must purchase a permit application.

(b) No refunds or exchanges for applications will be made for persons applying for multiple season big game hunting season permits after the application has been submitted.

(c) An applicant may purchase only one application for a multiple season big game hunting season permit for each species.

(d) Permits will be randomly drawn by computer selection.

(e) Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

(f) The department will establish application and drawing dates.

(2) The bag limit for this permit is one deer or elk.

(3) Multiple season permits:

(a) Hunters who are drawn will be required to purchase their original deer or elk license, corresponding to their permit, and the multiple season big game permit.

(b) Successful applicants will be allowed to purchase their permit at any time prior to (~~September~~) August 1st.

(c) The permits are not transferable.

(d) Permits not purchased by successful applicants by August 1st may be sold at the discretion of the department on a first-come, first-served basis.

(4) Permit holders are required to follow all rules and restrictions for general season hunters within the game management unit or area hunted.

| Number of Permits | Dates | Game Management Units (GMUs) | Legal Animal | Eligible Hunters |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Multiple Season Deer Permits | | | | |
| 8500 | Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for deer | Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters | Any legal deer consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions | Any licensed deer hunter |
| 50 | Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for deer | Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters | Any legal deer consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions | Hunter education instructors meeting qualifications and selection criteria established by the department |
| Multiple Season Elk Permits | | | | |
| 1000 | Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for elk | Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters | Any legal elk consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions | Any licensed elk hunter |
| 25 | Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for elk | Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters | Any legal elk consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions | Hunter education instructors meeting qualifications and selection criteria established by the department |

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.32.450, and 77.32.370. WSR 12-06-008 (Order 12-21), § 232-28-294, filed 2/24/12, effective 3/26/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.32.450, and 77.32.370. WSR 11-01-041 (Order 10-313), § 232-28-294, filed 12/6/10, effective 1/6/11. 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), § 232-28-294, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020. WSR 08-01-052 (Order 07-292), § 232-28-294, filed 12/13/07, effective 1/13/08; WSR 06-04-066 (Order 06-09), § 232-28-294, filed 1/30/06, effective 3/2/06.]

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

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- Under section 1(a) change the language from " Master hunters must purchase a master hunter elk tag to participate in both special permit and general season master hunter hunts" to "Master hunters must purchase a master hunter second elk transport tag to participate in a master hunter special permit hunt. Master hunters must purchase a master hunter elk area 3911 second elk transport tag to participate in the early elk area 3911 master hunter general season hunt.."



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:

232-12-055 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements
 220-55-174 Reduced rate combination elk general licenses
 232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits

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: 1:54 PM

WSR 15-04-088

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:

232-12-055 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements
220-55-174 Reduced rate combination elk general licenses
232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits.

232-12-055 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements

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

The purpose of the proposal is to provide definitive regulatory clarity to the hunter orange requirement in the hunting regulations relative to Master Hunters.

The hunting regulations pamphlet states that fluorescent hunter orange clothing is required to be worn by anyone hunting deer or elk in a modern firearm deer or elk general season, and also by anyone hunting in an area that is open for modern firearm deer or elk when hunting specific species, including deer or elk. The pamphlet also contains footnotes and Hunt Notes that require Master Hunters to wear hunter orange during deer and elk special permit seasons.

However, there is confusion about if and when Master Hunters are required to wear hunter orange, relative to factors such as if and when Master Hunters are hunting in an area that overlaps with modern firearm seasons, whether the Master Hunter is hunting during a special permit or a Master Hunter general season hunt (i.e. Elk Area 3911, 3912), etc.

The existing rules address the hunter orange requirement, but not specifically for Master Hunters. The effect of the rule proposal would be to increase safety by ensuring all Master Hunters wear hunter orange during all hunts that allow the use of modern firearms.

Reasons supporting proposal:

There is confusion about if and when Master Hunters are required to wear hunter orange, relative to factors such as if and when Master Hunters are hunting in an area that overlaps with modern firearm seasons, whether the Master Hunter is hunting during a special permit or a general season Master Hunter hunt (i.e. Elk Area 3911, 3912), etc.

The proposal would clarify that Master Hunters are required to wear hunter orange when hunting during any season that allows the use of modern firearms. The proposal would ensure Master Hunters are consistent with the general hunting population relative to hunter orange requirements, and are thus visible to other hunters.

220-55-174 Reduced rate combination elk general licenses

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

The purpose of the proposal is to provide a reduced license fee to Master Hunters who participate in general Master Hunter elk seasons.

WAC 220-55-174 was modified in 2014 to provide a discounted elk license to Master Hunters who purchase a second elk tag for special permit hunts. However, because Master Hunter hunts for some elk areas (e.g. Elk Area 3911) are general Master Hunter hunts, the reduced price could not be provided as intended.

The proposal will provide Master Hunters with an incentive to participate in hunts such as the early 3911 hunt, at a time when it can be difficult to provide address elk damage.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Incentivizing Master Hunters to help the agency address elk damage issues in areas such as Elk Area 3911 is critical to building and maintaining relationships with landowners experiencing damage.

232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits.

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

The purpose of the proposed changes will allow more hunters to purchase the multiple season big game permits. Changing the purchase deadline from September 1 to August 1 will allow time for those that were not drawn to purchase the permit. Adding item 3 (d) gives the department the flexibility to allow hunters the ability to buy leftover permits. This in turn should boost revenues and decrease staff time with regards to a secondary drawing and mailing.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The reason for changing the deadline to August 1 is to allow more opportunity for hunters to extend their season by purchasing a multi season permit. By allowing for the earlier deadline, hunters who get the permit will have a longer window of time to make hunting season plans and scout favorite hunting areas. Also by allowing the permits to be sold on a first come first served basis, it would decrease staff time and resources that have historically been used on second mailings or notifications.