

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Small Game Seasons – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

This proposal amends rules for small game and other wildlife hunting seasons established during the 2015-17 three-year package for WAC 232-28-342. Recommended changes are focused on three areas of the rule adopted last year:

- Increasing fall turkey hunting opportunities in areas with strong populations.
 - Expanding pheasant hunting opportunities for hunters with disabilities, including an early season and the option to hunt both weekend days on westside pheasant release sites.
 - Removing sections of the rule concerning 2016-17 and 2017-18 migratory game bird seasons and regulations. WAC 232-28-436, 2016-17 Migratory game bird seasons and regulations, now includes proposals for all migratory game bird seasons established each year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Pacific Flyway Council. This change is based on the new federal regulatory process established in 2015, which combined early and late season rulemaking actions and adjusted timing to allow for more public review.
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Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Increasing turkey hunting opportunity in areas with strong populations.
 - Providing additional pheasant hunting opportunity for hunters with disabilities.
 - Combining early and late season rulemaking for migratory game bird seasons, for conformance with the new federal regulatory process and additional public review.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Requests for comments were sent to over 28,000 individuals and organizations through the rulemaking process. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting at Moses Lake.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 8-9, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet
