

Summary

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Elk General and Special Permit Seasons and Regulations – Rule Briefing and Public Comment

Presenter: Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

The elk hunting seasons for fall of 2016 represent the 2nd year of the 2015-2017 three-year package. Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk General Seasons and Definitions; and WAC 232-28-360 2015 Elk Special Permits. Updates will be provided on recent elk harvest and the status of elk populations. Recommendations to adjust special permit levels will be made in response to available opportunity and will address wildlife conflict when practical. Recommendations to maintain elk hunting opportunity will be described.

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

- Maximizing recreational hunting opportunity.
 - Continue sustainable hunting seasons for elk, consistent with achieving management objectives.
 - Address and prevent wildlife conflict issues utilizing hunters.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2015-2017 hunting season recommendations last year. For 2016, notification was made to approximately 28,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulations. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

Action requested:

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

Draft motion language:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet
