

# Agenda Item 12

## Possession of Dead Wildlife

### Importation and Retention of Dead Nonresident Wildlife

### Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease- Unlawful Transport of Elk Hooves



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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# Possession of Dead Wildlife

WAC 232-12-287

# Background

- Interest from multiple sources to allow retention of vehicle-killed wildlife
- Programs exist in Montana and Idaho

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



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## Vehicle-Killed Wildlife Salvage

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The 2013 Legislature passed a bill that allows for the salvage of deer, elk, and moose as a result of a collision with a motor vehicle.

The bill allows a permit to be issued for the salvage of **ONLY deer, elk, and moose**.

- Permits are available at no cost, either through law enforcement or online through this web page.



## Roadkill & Salvage Highway Mortality Reports & Salvage Permits



# Background

	<b>Montana</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Species</b>	Deer, elk, moose, antelope	Upland game, big game, furbearers
<b>Permit Method</b>	Enforcement Officer or Online Permit	Online Permit
<b>Timeframe</b>	Acquire Permit 24 hours	Notify 24 hours Acquire Permit 72 hours
<b>Cost</b>	Free	Free

# Background

- Outreach with WDFW staff
  - Regional, Enforcement, IT staff
  - Concerns raised re: safety, poaching, trespass
- Discussions with Montana and Idaho
  - Similar concerns, but have not seen a problem

# Proposed Changes

- Allow possession of deer or elk accidentally killed by a vehicle collision
- Require a salvage permit within 24 hours – online or in Regional office
- Entire carcass must be salvaged
- Disposal according to WAC
- Rule – not active until July 2016

# Rationale

- Responsive to the public's concerns
- Allows the salvage of edible meat
- Allows the activity without being burdensome (online permit system)



# Public Comment

- Vast majority of comments supported the rule proposal
- Some commenters requested to retain the antlers
  - Cited an easier process for the public if antlers are retained
  - Would require less staff resources and storage resources if antlers are not surrendered the Department





# Recommended Adjustment

- Page 3
- Formerly Section 3 (c)
- Propose removing the following language
  - *"If the salvaged deer or elk has antlers, the antlers must be surrendered to a department regional or district office within 72 hours of being salvaged."*
- The intention of the rule is not to inadvertently create a violation that stems from road salvage

# Floor Change

- Columbian white-tailed deer (CWTD) occur in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties
- Because of endangered status, the public can't salvage CWTD
- Floor change proposed will exclude the salvage of vehicle-killed deer in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties

## Floor Change continued

**Page 2**      (2) Except as provided in subsection ~~(3)~~ (4) of this section, an individual may remove and dispose of wildlife found dead on his or her property or an adjoining public roadway. Before removing the wildlife, the individual shall, by telephone, notify the department or the Washington state patrol communications office, and shall provide his or her name, address, telephone number, and the description and location of the wildlife. The individual may remove the wildlife for disposal only, and may not retain the wildlife for personal use or consumption. Other laws and rules may apply to the disposal, including rules of the department of health (WAC (~~246-203-120~~)) 246-203-121). Wildlife removed under this (~~section~~) subsection remain the property of the state.

**Page 3**      (3) Possession of wildlife in violation of subsections (1) and (2) is punishable under RCW 77.15.130, 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430 depending on the species involved in the violation.

# Floor Change continued

**Page 3**      ~~(3)~~(4) It is permissible to salvage and transport a deer or elk that is accidentally killed by a motor vehicle collision ~~on an established municipal, county, state, or federal road or highway~~ except for any deer killed by a motor vehicle collision in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties.

~~(d)~~(c) The entire carcass, including entrails, of the animal must be removed from the road right of way.

~~(e)~~(d) Salvaged deer or elk must be salvaged for consumption and all waste of wildlife rules will apply.

Any meat an individual deems unfit for human consumption or unusable animal parts must be disposed of pursuant to WAC 246-203-121. Individuals salvaging and consuming this meat do so at their own risk. The department makes no guarantee as to the fitness for consumption of deer or elk collected under a salvage permit.

# Floor Change continued

- **Page 4** ~~(f)~~(e) An individual may not kill an injured or wounded animal that they encounter for the purpose of salvage. **A** Only a law enforcement officer ~~present at the scene of a motor vehicle collision~~ or individuals or entities authorized by the department may euthanize an animal injured in ~~the~~ **a motor vehicle** collision and that deer or elk may be taken for salvage.

# Floor Change continued

**Page 4** ~~(4) (5) Possession of wildlife in violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430 depending on the species involved in the violation~~ Possession of wildlife in violation of subsection (4) is an punishable under RCW 77.15.750.

# Questions?



# **Importation and Retention of Dead Nonresident Wildlife**

**WAC 232-12-021**



# Proposed Change

- Proposed change is related to deer/elk/moose harvested in states with chronic wasting disease (CWD) detected in wild, free-ranging populations
- The rule requires additional processing of meat/hides/skulls before bringing harvested animals home to Washington
- The proposal adds Michigan to the list of states and provinces requiring additional processing

# Floor Change

- Proposal also adds Arkansas to the list of states and provinces requiring additional processing of carcasses coming into Washington
- Recent detections of CWD in wild and free-ranging deer and elk were announced by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

# Rationale and Direction

- Research has shown that CWD can persist in the soil/plants
- The intention of the rule is to reduce risk of CWD coming to Washington by reducing the chance of scraps and trim being disposed of in an inappropriate manner
- The proposal makes the emergency rule permanent
- To date Washington has not detected CWD

# **Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease Unlawful Transport of Hooves**

**WAC 232-12-286**

# Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease

- The rule is intended to reduce the risk of spreading causative agents of Treponeme Associated Hoof Disease (TAHD)
- The proposed amendment helps facilitate research related to TAHD
- The proposed amendment was an emergency rule change in October
  - Facilitated collecting hooves from hunters during November special permit hunts

# Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease

- The proposal makes the emergency rule permanent
- The rule applies to GMUs 501 through 564 and GMUs 642 through 649
- Additional hooves will be collected from hunters in 2016

# Questions?

