

Hunting Rules Amendment

232-28-357

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: June 10-11, 2016
Agenda item: Hunting Rules Amendment – Public Hearing and Decision
Presenter: Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

After receiving public comments and a presentation of the issue by department staff, the Fish and Wildlife Commission passed WAC 232-28-357 – Deer general seasons and definitions on April 8, 2016. Since that meeting, department staff has continued discussions about the potential impacts of blue tongue on white-tailed deer populations in northeastern Washington. The 2015 blue tongue outbreak resulted in large numbers of deer dying, but it was difficult to quantify. In April, the proposed rule reduced antlerless harvest for youth, senior, and hunters with disabilities, a major source of antlerless mortality. With additional discussion about the potential effects of blue tongue, the department has identified a more conservative approach and is requesting that the Commission amend their April 8 motion by reducing antlerless deer hunting opportunity for archery and muzzleloader hunters in several Game Management Units in northeastern Washington. The proposed change will revert the archery and muzzleloader hunts back to the regulations that were in place during the 2014 hunting season.

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

Antlerless deer hunting opportunity for archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Requests for comments were sent to over 28,000 individuals and organizations through the original 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. A supplemental CR102 was filed and a 30-day public comment period was opened. The proposed rule changes were put on the WDFW rule making website and public comments were solicited.

Action requested:

Amend WAC 232-28-357.

Draft motion language:

I move to amend the motion that was previously adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 8, 2016 regarding WAC 232-28-357 – 2016 Deer general seasons and definitions by changing the archery and muzzleloader antlerless white-tailed deer seasons as proposed.

Justification for Commission action:

The change will reduce antlerless white-tailed deer harvest as a precautionary measure in response to the 2015 blue tongue outbreak.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
Hunting Pamphlet Amendment
Email notification to muzzleloader and archery hunters who have hunted deer in affected GMUs in the past

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-10-059, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15)

WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions. It is unlawful to fail to comply with the bag, possession, and season limits described below. Violations of this section are punishable under RCW 77.15.410(~~7~~) Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

Bag Limit: One (1) deer per hunter during the license year except where otherwise permitted by department rule.

Hunting Method: Hunters must select one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

Any Buck Deer Seasons: Open only to the taking of deer with visible antlers (buck fawns illegal).

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

Antler Restrictions: APPLIES TO ALL HUNTERS DURING ANY GENERAL SEASON AND DESIGNATED SPECIAL PERMIT SEASONS. Buck deer taken in antler restricted game management units (GMUs) must meet minimum antler point requirements. Minimum antler point requirements are antler points on one side only. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long.

3-point Minimum GMUs: All mule deer in 100, 200, and 300 series GMUs; white-tailed deer in GMUs 127, 130, 133, 136, 139, 142, 145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 169, 172, 175, 178, 181, 186, and black-tailed deer in GMU 578.

Permit-only Units: The following GMUs require a special permit to hunt deer: 157 (Mill Creek Watershed), 290 (Desert), 329 (Quilomene), 371 (Alkali), and 485 (Green River).

GMUs Closed to Deer Hunting: 490 (Cedar River) and 522 (Loo-wit).

Types of deer that a person may legally hunt in Washington:

Black-tailed Deer: Any member of black-tailed/mule deer (species *Odocoileus hemionus*) found west of a line drawn from the Canadian border south on the Pacific Crest Trail and along the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary in Yakima County to the Klickitat River; south down Klickitat River to the Columbia River.

Mule Deer: Any member of black-tailed/mule deer (species *Odocoileus hemionus*) found east of a line drawn from the Canadian border south on the Pacific Crest Trail and along the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary in Yakima County to the Klickitat River; south down Klickitat River to the Columbia River.

White-tailed Deer: Any white-tailed deer (member of the species *Odocoileus virginianus*), except the Columbian whitetail deer (species *Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*).

MODERN FIREARM DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid modern firearm deer tag for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Modern firearm deer tag hunters may use rifle, handgun, shotgun, bow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Season	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
HIGH BUCK HUNTS					
	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Alpine Lakes, Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Pasayten, Olympic Peninsula, and Henry Jackson Wilderness Areas and Lake Chelan Recreation Area	3 pt. min.
GENERAL SEASON					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-31	Oct. 15-31	Oct. 14-31	407, 418, 426, 437, 448, 450, 454, 460, 466, 501 through 520, 524 through 556, 560, 568, 572, 574, 601 through 621, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 627 through 654, 658 through 699	Any buck
				410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 564, 655, Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				578	3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 124	Any white-tailed buck
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	203 through 284	Any white-tailed buck
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	127 through 154, 162 through 186 (except Deer Area 1040)	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	373, 379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Any white-tailed buck
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	101 through 154, 162 through 169, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 175 through 186, 203 through 284, 328, 330 through 368, 372, 373, 379, 381, 382, 388	Mule deer, 3 pt. min.
					((Mule deer, 3 pt. min.))
LATE GENERAL SEASON					

Hunt Season	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 19-22	Nov. 17-20	Nov. 16-19	407, 454, 466, 501 through 520, 524 through 560, 568, 572, 601 through 621, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 627 through 654, 658 through 699	Any buck
	Nov. 19-22	Nov. 17-20	Nov. 16-19	410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 564, 655, Deer Area 6020	Any deer
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	105, 108, 111, 113, 124	Any white-tailed buck
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	117, 121	Any white-tailed buck
HUNTERS 65 AND OVER, DISABLED, OR YOUTH GENERAL SEASONS					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	((101, 105, 108, 111, 113,) 124	Any white-tailed deer
		<u>Oct. 20-23</u>	<u>Oct. 19-22</u>	<u>101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121</u>	<u>Any white-tailed deer</u>
	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	Deer Area 1050	Any white-tailed deer
	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	Deer Areas 1060, 1070, 1080	White-tailed, antlerless only
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	127 through 142, 145, 149, 154, Deer Area 1010, and 178	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
((HUNTERS 65 AND OVER AND DISABLED					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Antlerless white-tailed deer
YOUTH GENERAL SEASONS					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))

ARCHERY DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid archery deer tag for the area hunted.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can only hunt during archery seasons with archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054).

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
EARLY ARCHERY GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	407 through 426, 437, 448, 450, 454, 466, 501, 504, 505, 524, 554, 564, 568, 621 through 636, 648 through 652, 654 through 673, 684	Any deer
				460, 503, 574, 601 through 618, 638, 642, 653, 681 and 699	Any buck
				578	3 pt. min.
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	510, 513, 516, 520, 556	Any deer
			506, 530, 550, 560, 572	Any buck	

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	105 through 121, 166, 169, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 175, 181, 243, 334	3 pt. min.
				124 through 142, 145, 149, 186, 244 through 247, 249, 250, 260, 372, 373, 379, 381, 382, 388, <u>Deer Area 3334</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	154, 162, 163 , 178	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	((162, 163,)) 251, 328, 335, 336, 340, 346, 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	3 pt. min.
	Sept. 1-15	Sept. 1-15	Sept. 1-15	101, 204 through 242, 248, 254, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284	3 pt. min.
	Sept. 16-30	Sept. 16-30	Sept. 16-29	101, 204 through 242, 248, 254, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284	3 pt. min. or antlerless
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, <u>117, 121</u>	((Any white-tailed deer)) <u>White-tailed, any buck</u>
	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	124, 204 through 250, 254 through 284, 373, 379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	127 through 149, 166, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 181, 186	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	154, 162, 163, 178	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	169, 175	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
((Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))
LATE ARCHERY GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	437, 466, 510 through 520, 524((7556)))	Any deer
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	448, 460, 506, 530, 560, 572, 601, 603 through 618, 638, 642, 681, and 699	Any buck
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 31	Nov. 23 - Dec. 31	Nov. 22 - Dec. 31	407, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, 505, 564, 624, 627, 636, 648, 652, 654, 655, 660 through 672	Any deer
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 21-30	209, 215, 233, 243, 250	3 pt. min.
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	336, 342, 346, 352, 364, 388, Deer Area 3682	3 pt. min.
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	145, 163, 178, 272, 278, 373, <u>Deer Area 3372</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Deer Area 1021	Antlerless only
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	101	Any white-tailed deer
		<u>Nov. 21-30</u>	<u>Nov. 21-30</u>	<u>204, 209</u>	<u>Any white-tailed deer</u>
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	124	Any white-tailed deer
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	127	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	145, 163, 178, 272, 278	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	((105, 108, 204, 209,)) 215, 233, 243, 373	Any white-tailed deer
		<u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 9</u>	<u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 9</u>	<u>105, 108, 117, 121</u>	<u>White-tailed, any buck</u>
	<u>Dec. 10-15</u>	<u>Dec. 10-15</u>	<u>105, 108, 117, 121</u>	<u>Any white-tailed deer</u>	
((Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))

MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid muzzleloader deer tag for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader only.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during muzzle-loader seasons and must hunt with muzzleloader equipment (WAC 232-12-051) or archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054).

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
High Buck Hunts	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Alpine Lakes, Glacier Peak, Pasayten, Mount Baker, Olympic Peninsula, and Henry Jackson Wilderness areas, and Lake Chelan Recreation Area	3 pt. min.
EARLY MUZZLELOADER GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	407, 418, 426, 437, 448, 450, 501, 503, 504, 505, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 530, 550, 554, (556 ;) 560, 568, 572, 574, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 636, 638, 642, 648, 660, 663, 672, 673	Any buck
				410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, 564, 627, 652, 655, 666, 684, and Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				578	3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 203, 204, 209, 215, 231, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 250, 251, 260, 272, 278, 284	White-tailed, any buck
				(101, 105, 108, 111, 113 ;) 124	Any white-tailed deer
				127, 142, 145, 149	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
				130, 133, 136, 139, 175, 181, 186	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
				373, 379	Any white-tailed(♁) deer
(Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121)	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer)
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	101 through 149, 175, 181, 186, 203, 204, 209, 215, 231, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 250, 251, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 328, 330 through 342, 352 through 368, 373, 379	Mule deer, 3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	Deer Areas 3334 and 3372	3 pt. min. or antlerless
LATE MUZZLELOADER GENERAL DEER SEASONS					

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	407, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, ((501)) 504, 564, 633, 666, 684, and Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				448, 460, ((550)) 501, 602, 621, 651, 654, 658, 667, and 673	Any buck
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	113	Any white-tailed buck
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	130, 133, 136, 139	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	172 (except Deer Area 1040), 181	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	130	Antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	381, <u>Deer Area 3372</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	379, 382	3 pt. min.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-059 (Order 15-98), § 232-28-357, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-357, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-357, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-357, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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Under Early Archery General, Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer, Sept. 1-30, 2016 and Sept. 1-29, 2017, change the Legal Deer in GMUs 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, and 121 from “Any white-tailed deer” to “White-tailed, any buck”.

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Under Late Archery General, Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer, change the dates and Legal Deer from “Nov. 23-Dec. 15, 2016 and Nov. 22-Dec. 15, 2017 Any white-tailed deer” to “Nov. 23-Dec. 9, 2016 and Nov. 22-Dec. 9, 2017 White-tailed any buck; and Dec. 10-15, 2016 and Dec. 10-15, 2017 Any white-tailed deer” in GMUs 105, 108, 117, and 121.

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Under Early Muzzleloader, Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer, Oct. 1-9, 2016 and Sept. 30-Oct. 8, 2017, change the Legal Deer in GMUs 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, and 121 from “Any white-tailed deer” to “White-tailed, any buck”.

All of these changes are proposed in response to the white-tailed deer population in these GMUs experiencing a hemorrhagic disease outbreak in late summer-early fall. The recommended adjustment is a more conservative season structure directed at antlerless hunting opportunity because the antlerless portion of the population has direct influence over population growth or decline.



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 15-24-136 on 12/2/15 ;
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 16-04-126
 Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject) The department is proposing revisions to the proposed WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

Hearing location(s):

Natural Resource Building
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia, Washington 98501

Date: June 10-11, 2016 Time: 8:15 a.m.

Submit written comments to:

Online: http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/hunting_regulations
Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
e-mail: Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov
fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) June 9, 2016

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Tami Lininger by May 27, 2016

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: on or after June 10, 2016
(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity for 2016. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases hunting opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change. Current proposed changes will reduce antlerless deer hunting opportunity for archery and muzzleloader hunters in several Game Management Units in northeastern Washington.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal provide recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal continues general deer hunting season opportunities for 2016 in most Game Management Units, but reduces archery and muzzleloader antlerless deer hunting opportunity in several northeastern Game Management Units as a conservative management strategy due to population uncertainty created by a blue tongue disease outbreak in 2015. These changes were not proposed earlier, but ongoing information sharing necessitated additional proposed changes.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, 77.32.155.

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, 77.32.155.

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: May 04, 2016

TIME: 11:33 AM

WSR 16-10-120

DATE
May 4, 2016

NAME (type or print)
Scott Bird

SIGNATURE

Scott Bird

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

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..... Robert Everett	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Implementation.... Robert Everett	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement..... Steven Crown	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2936

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.

WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with the bag, possession, and season limits described below. Violations of this section are punishable under RCW 77.15.410((7)) Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

Bag Limit: One (1) deer per hunter during the license year except where otherwise permitted by department rule.

Hunting Method: Hunters must select one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

Any Buck Deer Seasons: Open only to the taking of deer with visible antlers (buck fawns illegal).

Antler Point: To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

Antler Restrictions: APPLIES TO ALL HUNTERS DURING ANY GENERAL SEASON AND DESIGNATED SPECIAL PERMIT SEASONS. Buck deer taken in antler restricted game management units (GMUs) must meet minimum antler point requirements. Minimum antler point requirements are antler points on one side only. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long.

3-point Minimum GMUs: All mule deer in 100, 200, and 300 series GMUs; white-tailed deer in GMUs 127, 130, 133, 136, 139, 142, 145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 169, 172, 175, 178, 181, 186, and black-tailed deer in GMU 578.

Permit-only Units: The following GMUs require a special permit to hunt deer: 157 (Mill Creek Watershed), 290 (Desert), 329 (Quilomene), 371 (Alkali), and 485 (Green River).

GMUs Closed to Deer Hunting: 490 (Cedar River) and 522 (Loo-wit).

Types of deer that a person may legally hunt in Washington:

Black-tailed Deer: Any member of black-tailed/mule deer (species *Odocoileus hemionus*) found west of a line drawn from the Canadian border south on the Pacific Crest Trail and along the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary in Yakima County to the Klickitat River; south down Klickitat River to the Columbia River.

Mule Deer: Any member of black-tailed/mule deer (species *Odocoileus hemionus*) found east of a line drawn from the Canadian border south on the Pacific Crest Trail and along the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary in Yakima County to the Klickitat River; south down Klickitat River to the Columbia River.

White-tailed Deer: Any white-tailed deer (member of the species *Odocoileus virginianus*), except the Columbian whitetail deer (species *Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*).

MODERN FIREARM DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid modern firearm deer tag for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Modern firearm deer tag hunters may use rifle, handgun, shotgun, bow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Season	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
HIGH BUCK HUNTS					
	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Alpine Lakes, Mount Baker, Glacier Peak, Pasayten, Olympic Peninsula, and Henry Jackson Wilderness Areas and Lake Chelan Recreation Area	3 pt. min.
GENERAL SEASON					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-31	Oct. 15-31	Oct. 14-31	407, 418, 426, 437, 448, 450, 454, 460, 466, 501 through 520, 524 through 556, 560, 568, 572, 574, 601 through 621, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 627 through 654, 658 through 699	Any buck
				410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 564, 655, Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				578	3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 124	Any white-tailed buck
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	203 through 284	Any white-tailed buck
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	127 through 154, 162 through 186 (except Deer Area 1040)	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	373, 379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Any white-tailed buck
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	101 through 154, 162 through 169, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 175 through 186, 203 through 284, 328, 330 through 368, 372, 373, 379, 381, 382, 388	Mule deer, 3 pt. min.
					((Mule deer, 3 pt. min.))
LATE GENERAL SEASON					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 19-22	Nov. 17-20	Nov. 16-19	407, 454, 466, 501 through 520, 524 through 560, 568, 572, 601 through 621, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 627 through 654, 658 through 699	Any buck
	Nov. 19-22	Nov. 17-20	Nov. 16-19	410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 564, 655, Deer Area 6020	Any deer
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	105, 108, 111, 113, 124	Any white-tailed buck
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	117, 121	Any white-tailed buck
HUNTERS 65 AND OVER, DISABLED, OR YOUTH GENERAL SEASONS					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	((401, 405, 408, 411, 413,)) 124	Any white-tailed deer
		Oct. 20-23	Oct. 19-22	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121	Any white-tailed deer
	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	Deer Area 1050	Any white-tailed deer
	Nov. 7-19	Nov. 5-19	Nov. 11-19	Deer Areas 1060, 1070, 1080	White-tailed, antlerless only
	Oct. 17-27	Oct. 15-25	Oct. 14-24	127 through 142, 145, 149, 154, Deer Area 1010, and 178	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless

Hunt Season	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
((HUNTERS 65 AND OVER AND DISABLED					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Antlerless white-tailed deer
YOUTH GENERAL SEASONS					
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Oct. 17-30	Oct. 15-28	Oct. 14-27	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))

ARCHERY DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid archery deer tag for the area hunted.

Special Notes: Archery tag holders can only hunt during archery seasons with archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054).

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
EARLY ARCHERY GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	407 through 426, 437, 448, 450, 454, 466, 501, 504, 505, 524, 554, 564, 568, 621 through 636, 648 through 652, 654 through 673, 684	Any deer
				460, 503, 574, 601 through 618, 638, 642, 653, 681 and 699	Any buck
				578	3 pt. min.
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	510, 513, 516, 520, 556 506, 530, 550, 560, 572	Any deer Any buck
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	105 through 121, 166, 169, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 175, 181, 243, 334	3 pt. min.
				124 through 142, 145, 149, 186, 244 through 247, 249, 250, 260, 372, 373, 379, 381, 382, 388, Deer Area 3334	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	154, 162, 163, 178	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	((162, 163,)) 251, 328, 335, 336, 340, 346, 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	3 pt. min.
	Sept. 1-15	Sept. 1-15	Sept. 1-15	101, 204 through 242, 248, 254, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284	3 pt. min.
Sept. 16-30	Sept. 16-30	Sept. 16-29	101, 204 through 242, 248, 254, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284	3 pt. min. or antlerless	
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121	((Any white-tailed deer)) <u>White-tailed, any buck</u>
	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	124, 204 through 250, 254 through 284, 373, 379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	127 through 149, 166, 172 (except Deer Area 1040), 181, 186	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	154, 162, 163, 178	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Sept. 1-27	Sept. 1-25	Sept. 1-24	169, 175	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
((Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-30	Sept. 1-29	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))
LATE ARCHERY GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	437, 466, 510 through 520, 524((-556))	Any deer
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	448, 460, 506, 530, 560, 572, 601, 603 through 618, 638, 642, 681, and 699	Any buck

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 31	Nov. 23 - Dec. 31	Nov. 22 - Dec. 31	407, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, 505, 564, 624, 627, 636, 648, 652, 654, 655, 660 through 672	Any deer
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 21-30	Nov. 21-30	209, 215, 233, 243, 250	3 pt. min.
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	336, 342, 346, 352, 364, 388, Deer Area 3682	3 pt. min.
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	145, 163, 178, 272, 278, 373, <u>Deer Area 3372</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Deer Area 1021	Antlerless only
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	Nov. 10 - Dec. 15	101	Any white-tailed deer
		<u>Nov. 21-30</u>	<u>Nov. 21-30</u>	<u>204, 209</u>	<u>Any white-tailed deer</u>
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	124	Any white-tailed deer
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	127	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	145, 163, 178, 272, 278	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	((105, 108, 204, 209),) 215, 233, 243, 373	Any white-tailed deer
		<u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 9</u>	<u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 9</u>	<u>105, 108, 117, 121</u>	<u>White-tailed, any buck</u>
	<u>Dec. 10-15</u>	<u>Nov. 22-15</u>	<u>105, 108, 117, 121</u>	<u>Any white-tailed deer</u>	
((Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))

MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASONS

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes a deer species option.

Tag Required: A valid muzzleloader deer tag for the area hunted.

Hunting Method: Muzzleloader only.

Special Notes: Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during muzzleloader seasons and must hunt with muzzleloader equipment (WAC 232-12-051) or archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054).

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
High Buck Hunts	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Sept. 15-25	Alpine Lakes, Glacier Peak, Pasayten, Mount Baker, Olympic Peninsula, and Henry Jackson Wilderness areas, and Lake Chelan Recreation Area	3 pt. min.
EARLY MUZZLELOADER GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	407, 418, 426, 437, 448, 450, 501, 503, 504, 505, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 530, 550, 554, ((556),) 560, 568, 572, 574, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except Deer Area 6020), 636, 638, 642, 648, 660, 663, 672, 673	Any buck
				410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, 564, 627, 652, 655, 666, 684, and Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				578	3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 203, 204, 209, 215, 231, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 250, 251, 260, 272, 278, 284	White-tailed, any buck
				((101, 105, 108, 111, 113),) 124	Any white-tailed deer

Hunt Area	2015 Dates	2016 Dates	2017 Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Deer
				127, 142, 145, 149	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
				130, 133, 136, 139, 175, 181, 186	White-tailed, 3 pt. min.
				373, 379	Any white-tailed(♂) deer
((Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer in GMUs 117 and 121	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	117, 121	Any white-tailed deer))
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	101 through 149, 175, 181, 186, 203, 204, 209, 215, 231, 233, 239, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 248, 250, 251, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 328, 330 through 342, 352 through 368, 373, 379	Mule deer, 3 pt. min.
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Oct. 3-11	Oct. 1-9	Sept. 30 - Oct. 8	Deer Areas 3334 and 3372	3 pt. min. or antlerless
LATE MUZZLELOADER GENERAL DEER SEASONS					
Western Washington Black-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. 23 - Dec. 15	Nov. 22 - Dec. 15	407, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 454, ((501+)) 504, 564, 633, 666, 684, and Deer Area 6020	Any deer
				448, 460, ((550)) 501, 602, 621, 651, 654, 658, 667, and 673	Any buck
Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	Nov. 22 - Dec. 8	113	Any white-tailed buck
	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	130, 133, 136, 139	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	172 (except Deer Area 1040), 181	White-tailed, 3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	379, 381	Any white-tailed deer
Eastern Washington Mule Deer	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	130	Antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	381, Deer Area 3372	3 pt. min. or antlerless
	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	Nov. 20-30	379, 382	3 pt. min.