

**Landowner Hunting Permits and
Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Regulations**

232-28-296 and 232-28-342

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Summary

Meeting dates: March 17-18, 2017

Agenda item: Landowner Hunting Permits and Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Regulations – Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Angelique Curtis, Small Game Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed changes to WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits and WAC 232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs authorized was the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

Calendar date adjustments are proposed for the Landowner Hunting Permits. No new hunts or changes in permit levels are being recommended at this time.

The wildlife area name South L.T. Murray changed to Wenas in 1997. The name change was due to the different funding sources. The southern portion of the L.T. Murray wildlife area is funded by federal BPA money where as L.T. Murray proper is funded by wildlife state money.

A name change is proposed for the South L.T. Murray wildlife area. No other changes in the Small Game and other wildlife seasons and regulations are being recommended.

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

- Adjustments of hunt dates on individual LHP properties.
 - Change the wildlife area name South L.T. Murray to Wenas.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department notified approximately 12,000 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 17-18, 2017 Commission Meeting.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 15-16, 2017 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

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-12-087, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16)

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits. (1) A landowner may enter into a contract with the department and establish boundaries and other requirements for hunter access consistent with commission policy.

(2) It is unlawful for hunters to participate in landowner-permit hunts unless the hunters possess both an access permit from the landowner and a hunting permit from the department for the species covered under the landowner's contract. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

(3)(a) **Buckrun**

(i) Buckrun is located in Grant County, near the town of Wilson Creek.

(ii) Hunting on Buckrun is managed for a quality experience by scheduling hunt dates and keeping the number of hunters in the field low. Hunters with limited flexibility for hunt dates may experience scheduling problems. Hunters can generally expect one-day hunts during the permit seasons with written authorization from the Buckrun manager. All hunters must check in and out with the landowner or their de-

signee on hunt day. Hunts are scheduled on a first-come basis by calling 509-345-2577 in advance.

(b) **Buckrun landowner hunting permits**

(i) Buckrun's manager will distribute Buckrun's landowner hunting permits. Buckrun may charge an access fee for these permits, but not for winning raffle permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for permits on Buckrun's properties. Contact the manager at 509-345-2577 for additional information.

(ii) **Deer Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any White-tailed Deer	Buckrun
Buckrun	30	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun
Buckrun Raffle	10	Oct. 25 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun

(c) **Buckrun special hunting permits**

(i) Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for Buckrun's special hunting permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for these special permits. All hunters must check in and out with the landowner or their designee. Hunts must be scheduled in advance by calling 509-345-2577.

(ii) **Deer Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless	Buckrun

(4)(a) **Silver Dollar Association**

The Silver Dollar Association is located in Yakima and Benton counties, on the western edge of the Hanford Reservation. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Silver Dollar Association and the department.

(b) Silver Dollar Association landowner hunting permits

(i) The Silver Dollar Association's manager will distribute the association's landowner hunting permits. The association may charge an access fee for these permits.

(ii) Elk Seasons:

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	24	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar	8	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Silver Dollar

(c) Silver Dollar Association special hunting permits

(i) Hunters must apply to the department for the Silver Dollar Association's special hunting permits.

(ii) Elk Seasons:

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	8	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	6	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	2	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Persons of Disability Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar

(5)(a) Blackrock Ranches

Blackrock Ranches is located in Yakima County west of the Hanford Reservation. A legal description of the property is in the contract between Blackrock Ranches and the department.

(b) **Blackrock Ranches landowner hunting permits**

(i) Blackrock Ranches' manager will distribute the ranches' landowner hunting permits. Blackrock Ranches may charge an access fee for these permits.

(ii) **Elk Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	6	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	2	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Blackrock Ranches

(c) **Blackrock Ranches special hunting permits**

(i) Hunters must apply to the department for Blackrock Ranches' special hunting permits. To apply, hunters must have an eastside elk tag.

(ii) **Elk Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	1	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	EF	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches

(6)(a) **Pine Mountain Ranch**

The Pine Mountain Ranch is located in Yakima County 14 miles west of Yakima. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Pine Mountain Ranch and the department.

(b) Pine Mountain Ranch landowner hunting permits

(i) Pine Mountain Ranch's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. Pine Mountain Ranch may charge an access fee for these permits.

(ii) Deer Seasons:

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	3	Nov. ((7)) <u>6</u> - Dec. 31	Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

(iii) Elk Seasons:

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Aug. 1 - Nov. ((6)) <u>5</u>	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

(c) Pine Mountain Ranch special hunting permits

(i) Hunters must apply to the department for Pine Mountain Ranch's special hunting permits.

(ii) Deer Seasons:

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	3	Nov. ((7)) <u>6</u> - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

(iii) Elk Seasons:

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Aug. 1 - Nov. ((6)) 5	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

(7)(a) **Bennett Lumber LHP**

(i) The Bennett Lumber property is located in Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Walla Walla counties (GMUs 154, 162, 166, 172, and 178). A legal description of the property is in the contract between Bennett Lumber and the department.

(ii) Special hunting permits are not issued by the department for the Bennett Lumber LHP. Instead, Bennett Lumber will be enrolling in the hunt by reservation program to provide regulated public access to all of their property. The landowner and the department will develop a framework for scheduling reservation hunts on the property which will result in hunting opportunity exceeding that which otherwise would be available using the standard allocation guidelines for LHPs.

(b) **Bennett Lumber landowner hunting permits**

(i) Bennett Lumber's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. Bennett Lumber may charge an access fee for these permits. Holders of the 10 antlerless elk permits are eligible to purchase second elk tags that may only be used on lands included in the Bennett Lumber LHP.

(ii) **Deer Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
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Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Bennett Lumber A	2	Nov. 14-28	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	Bennett Lumber
Bennett Lumber B	4	Nov. 14-28	White-tailed, 3 pt. min	Bennett Lumber

(iii) **Elk Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Bennett Lumber A	1	Sept. 15-30	Any Bull	Bennett Lumber
Bennett Lumber B	5	Sept. 15-30	Antlerless	Bennett Lumber
Bennett Lumber C	5	Nov. 14-28	Antlerless	Bennett Lumber

(8)(a) **ZMI Ranch**

ZMI Ranch is located in northern Walla Walla County near Lyons Ferry (GMU 149).

(b) **ZMI Ranch landowner hunting permits**

(i) ZMI Ranch's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. ZMI Ranch may charge an access fee for these permits.

(ii) **Deer Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
ZMI A	3	Oct. (26-30) <u>25-29</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI
ZMI B	3	Nov. 14-30	3 pt. min	ZMI

(c) **ZMI Ranch special hunting permits**

(i) Hunters must apply to the department for ZMI Ranch's special hunting permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for ZMI special permits. Hunters must contact ZMI Ranch's manager to schedule a hunt time. All hunters must check in and out with the landowner or their designee on the day they hunt.

(ii) **Deer Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
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Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
ZMI ((A)) <u>C</u>	2	Nov. (2-6) <u>1-5</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI
ZMI ((B)) <u>D</u>	6	Dec. (3-11) <u>2-10</u>	Antlerless	ZMI

(9)(a) **Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association**

(i) The Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association (CPWMA) landowner hunting permit area is located in Spokane County (GMU 130) near Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the CPWMA and the department.

(ii) Landowner permit hunts are primarily damage hunts but are managed for a quality experience by keeping the number of hunters in the field low.

(b) **Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association landowner hunting permits**

(i) CPWMA's manager will distribute the association's landowner hunting permits. CPWMA will not charge an access fee for raffle permit winners. Only hunters possessing an elk tag are eligible for permits on CPWMA's properties. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from CPWMA's manager and must check in and out with CPWMA's designee at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates. Successful applicants will receive a packet of information with forms to complete and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants must complete the forms and return them before September

30. Applicants should see CPWMA's web site at www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616. Holders of landowner permits selected through raffle, including 13 antlerless elk and 2 any elk permits, are eligible to purchase second elk tags that may only be used on lands included in the CPWMA LHP.

(ii) **Elk Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA	2	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 1	4	Jan. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 2	4	Feb. 1-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 3	5	Mar. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 4	2	Jan. 1-31	Any elk	CPWMA

(c) **Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association special hunting permits**

(i) Hunters must apply to the department for CPWMA's special hunting permits. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from CPWMA's manager and must check in and out with CPWMA's designee at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates. Successful applicants will receive a packet of required information with forms to complete and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants must complete the forms and return them before September 30. Applicants should see CPWMA's web site at www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616.

(ii) **Elk Seasons:**

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA 1	5	Jan. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 2	5	Feb. 1-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 3	5	Mar. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 4	1	Jan. 1-31	Any elk	CPWMA

[Statutory Authority: 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, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-296, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-031 (Order 15-94), § 232-28-296, filed 4/28/15, effective 5/29/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-296, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-296, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-296, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]

Summary of Public Comments Received During Official Public Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner Hunting Permits

Supporting Comments:

About 60% of the 42 comments received supported the proposed rule change. The majority of the comments appreciated the land access offered by these permits.

Opposing and Other Comments:

About 40% of the 42 comments received opposed the proposed rule change. Most recommended the program be discontinued and were concerned that only a select group of hunters were able to take advantage of the additional land access. Others did not want private landowners to be able to sell the permits.

Other comments were somewhere in the middle, with support for landowner permits for use by landowners, but opposition to landowners being able to sell the permits.

Direction and Rationale:

The rationale behind the Landowner Hunting Permit program is to increase public hunting on private lands which it is doing. The proposed changes to the landowner hunting permit WAC are date changes. None of the comments received on this WAC required changes to the recommendations being made to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 16-12-087, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16)

WAC 232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations. Hunters must comply with the bag, possession, and season limits described in this section. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of RCW 77.15.245, 77.15.400, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted and the circumstances of the violation.

STATEWIDE SEASONS

(1) **FOREST GROUSE (BLUE, RUFFED, AND SPRUCE)**

(a) **DAILY BAG LIMIT:** 4 grouse per day, to include not more than 3 Blue Grouse, 3 Spruce Grouse, and 3 Ruffed Grouse.

(b) **POSSESSION LIMIT:** 12 grouse, to include not more than 9 Blue Grouse, 9 Spruce Grouse, and 9 Ruffed Grouse.

(c) **SEASON DATES:** Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 during the current license year.

(2) **BOBCAT**

(a) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:** No limit.

(b) **SEASON DATES:** Sept. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

(c) **RESTRICTION:** It is unlawful to hunt bobcat with dogs.

(3) **RACCOON**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide, EXCEPT closed on Long Island within Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

(4) FOX

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide, EXCEPT closed within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests.

(c) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

(5) COYOTE

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Year-round.

(d) RESTRICTION: It is unlawful to hunt coyote with dogs.

(6) COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND SNOWSHOE HARE (OR WASHINGTON HARE)

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 5 cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, with a total of 15 in possession at any time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

(7) CROWS

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: No limit.

(b) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 during the current license year.

(8) JACKRABBIT:

Closed statewide.

(9) PTARMIGAN, SAGE, AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE:

Closed statewide.

(10) WILD TURKEY:

(a) YOUTH SEASON: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) SEASON DATES:

(A) April 4-5, 2015;

(B) April 2-3, 2016;

(C) April 1-2, 2017; and

(D) April 7-8, 2018.

(b) SPRING SEASON

(i) LEGAL BIRD: Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) SEASON DATES: April 15 - May 31 during the current license year.

(iii) BAG LIMIT: The combined spring/youth season limit is 3 birds.

Only 2 turkeys may be killed in Eastern Washington, except only one (1) may be killed in Chelan, Kittitas, or Yakima counties. One (1)

turkey may be killed per year in Western Washington outside of Klickitat County. Two (2) turkeys may be killed in Klickitat County.

(c) **EARLY FALL GENERAL SEASON**

(i) **LEGAL HUNTER:** Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

(ii) **OPEN AREA:** GMUs 101-154 and 162-186.

(iii) **SEASON DATES:**

(A) Sept. 19 - Oct. 16, 2015;

(B) Sept. 17 - Oct. 14, 2016, (GMUs 145-154, 162-186);

(C) Sept. 17 - Oct. 31, 2016, (GMUs 101-142);

(D) Sept. 23 - Oct. 13, 2017, (GMUs 145-154, 162-186);

(E) Sept. 23 - Oct. 31, 2017, (GMUs 101-142).

(iv) **BAG LIMIT:** Three (3) turkeys during the early fall general season with the following area restrictions:

Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Bird and Limit
105-121	Two (2) beardless turkeys
101, 145-154, 162-186	One (1) either sex turkey
124-142	Two (2) beardless plus one (1) either sex turkey

(d) **FALL PERMIT SEASONS**

(i) **LEGAL BIRD:** Either sex.

(ii) **LEGAL HUNTER:** All hunters who are selected in the fall turkey special permit drawing and who also possess a valid turkey tag.

Hunt Name	Permit Season Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description	Permits	Bag Limit*
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Hunt Name	Permit Season Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description	Permits	Bag Limit*
Klickitat	Sept. 19 - Oct. 16, 2015, Sept. 17 - Oct. 14, 2016, Sept. 23 - Oct. 13, 2017	Either sex	GMUs 382, 388, 568-578	150	1
Methow	Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, 2015, 2016, 2017	Either sex	GMUs 218-231 and 242	50	1
Teanaway	Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, 2015, 2016, 2017	Either sex	GMU 335	50	1

*BAG LIMIT: During the fall permit hunting seasons.

(e) **LATE FALL SEASON**

(i) **LEGAL BIRD:** Either sex.

(ii) **LEGAL HUNTER:** Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

(iii) **OPEN AREA:** GMUs 105-154, 162-186.

(iv) **SEASON DATES:** Nov. 20 - Dec. 15 during the current license year.

(v) **BAG LIMIT:** One (1) turkey.

(f) **HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR INCENTIVE PERMITS**

(i) **LEGAL BIRD:** Male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards only.

(ii) **LEGAL HUNTER:** Qualified hunter education instructors who are selected through a random drawing. Hunter education instructors qualify if the instructor is certified and has been in active status for a minimum of 3 consecutive years, inclusive of the year prior to the permit drawing.

(iii) **OPEN AREA:** Statewide.

(iv) **SEASON DATES:** April 1 - May 31 during the current license year.

(v) **PERMITS:** 2 individuals will be drawn for this permit per year.

(vi) BAG LIMIT: 1 male turkey or turkey with visible beard in addition to other spring season turkey harvest.

(g) OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS FOR WILD TURKEY:

1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset during spring and fall seasons.

(h) SPECIAL RULES FOR WILD TURKEY:

(i) It is unlawful to hunt turkey unless the hunter possesses a turkey tag.

(ii) It is unlawful to hunt turkeys with dogs.

(iii) It is unlawful to bait game birds.

EASTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS :

(11) RING-NECKED PHEASANT

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Three (3) cock pheasants per day. Hunters may possess up to 15 cock pheasants at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 23-24, 2017.

(c) HUNTERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES SEASON DATES :

(i) Sept. 21-25, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 19-23, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 25-29, 2017.

(d) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. 24, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. 22, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. 21, 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018.

(12) **CHUKAR**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 6 chukar per day. Hunters may possess up to 18 chukar at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. 3, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. 7, 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018.

(13) **GRAY (HUNGARIAN) PARTRIDGE**

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 6 gray partridges per day. Hunters may possess up to 18 gray partridges at any one time.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. 3, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. 7, 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018.

(14) MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Closed throughout Eastern Washington.

(15) CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 10 quail per day. Hunters may possess up to 30 quail at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) YOUTH SEASON DATES: Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 23-24, 2017.

(c) REGULAR SEASON DATES:

(i) Oct. 3, 2015 - Jan. 18, 2016;

(ii) Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017; and

(iii) Oct. 7, 2017 - Jan. 15, 2018.

WESTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS :

(16) **RING-NECKED PHEASANT**

(a) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:** 2 pheasants of either sex per day. Hunters may possess up to 15 pheasants at any one time.

(b) **YOUTH SEASON DATES:** Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

(i) Sept. 19-20, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 17-18, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 23-24, 2017.

(c) **HUNTERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES SEASON DATES :**

(i) Sept. 21-25, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 19-23, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 25-29, 2017.

(d) **REGULAR SEASON DATES:** 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(i) Sept. 26 - Nov. 30, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 24 - Nov. 30, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 30 - Nov. 30, 2017.

(e) **EXTENDED SEASON DATES:**

(i) Dec. 1-15, during the current license year.

(ii) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. only at the following release sites:

Belfair, Fort Lewis, Kosmos, Lincoln Creek, Scatter Creek, Skookumchuck, and all Whidbey Island release sites EXCEPT Bayview.

(iii) The department will not release pheasants during the extended season.

(f) SPECIAL RESTRICTION: Western Washington pheasant hunters must choose to hunt only on odd-numbered or even-numbered weekend days from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at all units of Lake Terrell, Tennant Lake, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Skookumchuck, and Scatter Creek Wildlife Areas, and all hunting sites on Whidbey Island. Hunters must indicate their choice of odd-numbered or even-numbered weekend days on the Western Washington Pheasant Permit by choosing "odd" or "even." Hunters who select the three day option, hunters possessing a valid disabled hunter permit, hunters 65 years of age or older, and youth hunters may hunt in the morning on both odd-numbered and even-numbered weekend days. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older, and the adult must have an appropriately marked pheasant permit if hunting.

(17) MOUNTAIN QUAIL

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 2 mountain quail per day. Hunters may possess up to 4 mountain quail at any one time.

(b) SEASON DATES:

(i) Sept. 26 - Nov. 30, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 24 - Nov. 30, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 30 - Nov. 30, 2017.

(18) CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 10 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite per day. Hunters may possess up to 30 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) SEASON DATES:

(i) Sept. 26 - Nov. 30, 2015;

(ii) Sept. 24 - Nov. 30, 2016; and

(iii) Sept. 30 - Nov. 30, 2017.

FALCONRY SEASONS :

(19) UPLAND GAME BIRD AND FOREST GROUSE - FALCONRY

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

(i) 2 pheasants (either sex);

(ii) 6 partridge;

(iii) 5 California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite;

(iv) 2 mountain quail (in Western Washington only);

(v) 3 forest grouse (blue, ruffed, spruce) per day; and

(vi) Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Aug. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

(20) TURKEY - FALCONRY

(a) A turkey tag is required to hunt turkey during the turkey falconry season.

(b) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: One (1) turkey (either sex) per turkey tag, with a maximum of 2 turkeys. Hunters may possess up to 2 turkeys at any one time.

(c) OPEN AREA: Eastern Washington.

(d) SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Feb. 15 during the current license year.

(21) COTTONTAIL RABBIT AND SNOWSHOE HARE - FALCONRY

(a) BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: 5 cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, straight or mixed bag. Hunters may possess up to 15 cottontails or snowshoe hares at any one time, straight or mixed bag.

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Aug. 1 - Mar. 15 during the current license year.

OTHER SEASONS :

(22) BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON

(a) Wild upland game birds may be pursued during the dog-training season but may not be killed except during established hunting seasons. A small game license is required to train dogs on wild game

birds. A Western Washington Pheasant Permit is required to train dogs on pheasants in Western Washington. Captive raised game birds may be released and killed during dog training if the hunter has proof of lawful acquisition (invoices) and the birds are appropriately marked (WAC ((~~232-12-271~~ and ~~232-12-044~~)) 220-450-010 and 220-416-110).

(b) OPEN AREA: Statewide.

(c) SEASON DATES: Aug. 1 - Mar. 31 during the current license year.

(d) Only youth and seniors may train dogs during their respective seasons on designated Western Washington pheasant release sites.

(e) Bird dog training may be conducted year round on areas posted for bird dog training on portions of:

(i) Region One - Espanola (T24N, R40E, E 1/2 of section 16);

(ii) Region Three - ((~~South L. T. Murray~~)) Wenas Wildlife Area;

(iii) Region Four - Skagit Wildlife Area, Lake Terrell Wildlife Area, and Snoqualmie Wildlife Area;

(iv) Region Five - Shillapoo/Vancouver Lake Wildlife Area;

(v) Region Six - Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Fort Lewis Military Base.

(23) **YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION:**

The 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 upland bird seasons within the Yakama Indian Reservation are the same as the season established by the Yakama Indian Nation.

(24) COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION:

The 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 upland bird seasons within the Colville Indian Reservation are the same as the season established by the Colville Indian Tribe.

[Statutory Authority: 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, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-342, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-033 (Order 15-95), § 232-28-342, filed 4/28/15, effective 5/29/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-342, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-342, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-342, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-342, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. 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), § 232-28-342, filed 4/15/09, effective
5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570,
77.12.210. WSR 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-342, filed 4/18/08,
effective 5/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-031
(Order 06-91), § 232-28-342, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06.]

Summary of Public Comments Received During Official Public Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 232-28-342 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations

Supporting Comments:

About 86% of the 14 responses received supported the proposed rule change, but did not provide detailed comments.

Opposing and Other Comments:

Of the 14 comments received none opposed the proposed rule change. There were two neutral responses.

Direction and Rationale:

The rationale for the South L. T. Murray Wildlife Area name to be changed to Wenas Wildlife area is due to different funding sources. The proposed change to the small game WAC is for a name change. None of the comments received on this WAC require changes to the recommendation being made to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.



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 16-24-010 **on 11/28/16**
 ; 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: (Describe Subject) WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas; WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas; WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits; WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits; WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions; WAC 232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations; WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions; WAC 232-28-359 2016 Deer special permits; WAC 232-28-360 2016 Elk special permits; WAC 232-28-436 2016-2017 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations; WAC 232-28-622 2015-2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas; WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions; WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife; WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits; WAC 232-28-299 Mandatory report of hunting activity; WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

Hearing location(s):
 Natural Resources Building
 First Floor – Room 172
 1111 Washington St SE
 Olympia, Washington 98504

Date: March 17-18, 2017 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Submit written comments to:
 Online: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development.html>
 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) February 22, 2017

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Tami Lininger by March 1, 2017

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

Date of intended adoption: on or after April 14, 2017
 (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, 77.04.020, 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: Yes No
 CFR Title 50, Part 20, Migratory Bird
 Treaty Act

DATE
 February 1, 2017

NAME (type or print)
 Scott Bird

SIGNATURE *Scott Bird*

TITLE
 Acting Rules Coordinator

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

**OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
 STATE OF WASHINGTON
 FILED**

DATE: February 01, 2017

TIME: 11:10 AM

WSR 17-04-103

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..... Eric Gardner	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Implementation....Eric Gardner	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement..... Chief Chris Anderson	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(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

Existing Rules Proposed for Amendment

WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits.

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.

WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.

WAC 232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

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

WAC 232-28-359 2015 Deer special permits.

WAC 232-28-360 2016 Elk special permits.

WAC 232-28-436 2015-2016 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

WAC 232-28-622 2015-2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

WAC 232-28-299 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

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

The proposed changes include corrections to WAC headings or internal references to other WACs that are subject to the recodification of WAC title 232. This is part of the department's effort to clean-up and better organize WDFW's administrative code and provides the public and department staff with a more logical and navigable code. It will also consolidate all rules under one WAC Title and should accomplish a streamlined, legally accurate, and legally adequate administrative code.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The changes to WDFW's administrative code are necessary because of the code's large-scale disorganization, outdated and confusing rules, and references to former agencies and repealed RCWs. If a reorganization and substantive amalgamation of the rules is not done, the public's confusion will increase over time, the rules could be challenged and invalidated in court, and the agency could face liability due to poorly written rules. This rulemaking will update WDFW's rules to bring them into compliance with statutory authority and repeal outdated and inapplicable rules.

WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

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

The proposed changes to the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas WAC are administrative changes that clarify road names and GMU names.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Special closures and firearm restriction areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to restrict or close hunting activity in certain areas and during certain time periods to optimize safety, discourage trespass on restricted lands, and protect sensitive species.

WAC232-28-273 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

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

WDFW is proposing 1) reducing any moose permits in the combined GMU 127 and 130 hunting unit (“Hangman”) from 7 to 4; 2) reducing antlerless-only moose permits in GMU 127 from 7 to 4; 3) extending season length of the Parker Lake archery (moose area 3) hunt from Sept 1-26 to Sep 1-30; 4) extending season length of Parker Lake muzzleloader from Sept 27-Oct 5 to Oct 1-31,5) and increasing the number of Hunter Education Instructor Incentive permits from 2 to 4, but expanding the GMUs open to these permit holders to include GMUs 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, and 121.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Feedback from hunters during seasons 2015 and 2016 indicating it has been increasingly difficult to find moose in GMUs 127 and 130. Feedback from hunters has indicated the more time has been needed to successfully hunt in the Parker Lake area, and military officials have suggested these specific season dates. Increasing the hunter education instructor incentive permits will help incentivize instructors to meet program goals and public demand.

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits.

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

This proposal allows the department to restore points to hunters that draw a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator, but do not get called to participate.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Feedback from hunters since the inception of this type of hunt suggests that this is a problem that can be fixed by the proposed changes.

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.

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

This proposal modifies hunt dates on properties enrolled in WDFW’s Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2017 hunting seasons. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through permits issued by WDFW, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the³²programs authorized was the Landowner Hunting

Permit Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.

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

Six Elk Areas are proposed for removal in Grays Harbor, Mason, Clallam, and Jefferson Counties. These Elk Areas (EA 6012, EA 6062, EA 6066, EA 6068, EA 6072, EA 6073) are no longer needed to mitigate wildlife conflict.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Elk Areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt hunting seasons that can be conducted at a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Setting seasons at this scale allows for more strategic wildlife management using hunting as a tool to control populations and mitigate wildlife conflict. When the need for a particular Elk Area subsides, the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopts amendments to the rule that removes those particular Elk Areas.

WAC 232-28-342 Small Game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

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

This proposal changes the wildlife area name South L.T. Murray to Wenas. The wildlife area name Wenas will now be consistent with WDFW publications including website pages, pamphlet and brochures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The wildlife area name South L.T. Murray changed to Wenas in 1997. The name change was due to the different funding sources. The southern portion of the L.T. Murray wildlife area is funded by federal BPA money where as L.T. Murray proper is funded by wildlife state money.

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

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 2017. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2017. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-359 2017 Deer special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2017. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2017. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-360 2017 Elk special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2017. The purpose is also to balance the elk hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces elk hunting opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2017. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-436 2016-2017 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

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

This proposal amends WAC 232-28-436, 2016-2017 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations, to specify legal season dates, bag limits, and open areas to hunt waterfowl, coot, snipe, band-tailed pigeon, and mourning dove for the 2017-2018 hunting season. In this proposal goose bag limits are changed from a bag limit of 4 geese (not including brant) to allow harvest of 4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 6 white geese statewide during specified season dates. Dusky Canada Goose remains closed to harvest. The proposal opens Whatcom and Clallam counties to limited brant harvest dates.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Migratory game bird seasons and regulations are developed based on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes migratory game bird seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the migratory game bird resources of Washington.

WAC 232-28-622 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

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

WDFW is proposing 1) temporarily eliminating the bighorn sheep ram permit for the Vulcan Mountain herd, 2) adding a second season of bighorn sheep ewe permits at the Cleman Mountain herd (which would add 10 permits during a later season to the 10 offered in 2016), and 3) adjusting the season of the early bighorn sheep ewe season at Cleman Mountain.

Reasons supporting proposal:

1) The Vulcan Mountain bighorn sheep herd may be increasing slowly but remains small, and there are few mature rams in the herd at this time. WDFW co-manages this herd with the Colville Confederated Tribes, who have similarly instituted a temporary moratorium on harvest in this herd. WDFW is attempting to bolster this herd via translocations, and we hope to be able to offer a ram permit in future, in cooperation with our Tribal partners, but for now, ram harvest is not advisable. 2) The Cleman Mountain bighorn sheep herd currently numbers approximately 275 individuals, whereas WDFW has estimated that a long-term sustainable population is approximately 170-220. WDFW has, and will continue to translocate animals from this herd when opportunity exists, but at present, those opportunities have been insufficient to reduce population size to the desired level. 3) With a proposed increase from 10 to 20 ewe permits, WDFW proposes splitting the ewe season into 2 separate time periods, to assure a quality experience and reduce safety concerns. Hunter success in this herd is usually quite high; thus, WDFW believes that the time period allowed for each of these 10 hunts is sufficient.

WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

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

The proposed changes to the Deer Area Descriptions rule will create a new Deer Area in Klickitat County. The proposed new Deer Area will expand deer hunting opportunity on newly acquired Wildlife Area land.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Deer Areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt hunting seasons that can be conducted at a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Setting seasons at this scale allows for more strategic wildlife management, expanding hunting opportunity, using hunting as a tool to control deer populations and mitigating wildlife conflict.

WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

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

The proposed changes include corrections to WAC headings or internal references to other WACs that are subject to the recodification of WAC title 232. This is part of the department's effort to clean-up and better organize WDFW's administrative code and provides the public and department staff with a more logical and navigable code. It will also consolidate all rules under one WAC Title and should accomplish a streamlined, legally accurate, and legally adequate administrative code.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The changes to WDFW's administrative code are necessary because of the code's large-scale disorganization, outdated and confusing rules, and references to former agencies and repealed RCWs. If a reorganization and substantive amalgamation of the rules is not done, the public's confusion will increase over time, the rules could be challenged and invalidated in court, and the agency could face liability due to poorly written rules. This rulemaking will update WDFW's rules to bring them into compliance with statutory authority and repeal outdated and inapplicable rules.

WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

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

The proposed changes include corrections to WAC headings or internal references to other WACs that are subject to the recodification of WAC title 232. This is part of the department's effort to clean-up and better organize WDFW's administrative code and provides the public and department staff with a more logical and navigable code. It will also consolidate all rules under one WAC Title and should accomplish a streamlined, legally accurate, and legally adequate administrative code.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The changes to WDFW’s administrative code are necessary because of the code’s large-scale disorganization, outdated and confusing rules, and references to former agencies and repealed RCWs. If a reorganization and substantive amalgamation of the rules is not done, the public’s confusion will increase over time, the rules could be challenged and invalidated in court, and the agency could face liability due to poorly written rules. This rulemaking will update WDFW’s rules to bring them into compliance with statutory authority and repeal outdated and inapplicable rules.

WAC 232-28-299 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

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

The proposed changes include corrections to WAC headings or internal references to other WACs that are subject to the recodification of WAC title 232. This is part of the department’s effort to clean-up and better organize WDFW’s administrative code and provides the public and department staff with a more logical and navigable code. It will also consolidate all rules under one WAC Title and should accomplish a streamlined, legally accurate, and legally adequate administrative code.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The changes to WDFW’s administrative code are necessary because of the code’s large-scale disorganization, outdated and confusing rules, and references to former agencies and repealed RCWs. If a reorganization and substantive amalgamation of the rules is not done, the public’s confusion will increase over time, the rules could be challenged and invalidated in court, and the agency could face liability due to poorly written rules. This rulemaking will update WDFW’s rules to bring them into compliance with statutory authority and repeal outdated and inapplicable rules.

WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

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

The proposed changes include corrections to WAC headings or internal references to other WACs that are subject to the recodification of WAC title 232. This is part of the department’s effort to clean-up and better organize WDFW’s administrative code and provides the public and department staff with a more logical and navigable code. It will also consolidate all rules under one WAC Title and should accomplish a streamlined, legally accurate, and legally adequate administrative code.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The changes to WDFW’s administrative code are necessary because of the code’s large-scale disorganization, outdated and confusing rules, and references to former agencies and repealed RCWs. If a reorganization and substantive amalgamation of the rules is not done, the public’s confusion will increase over time, the rules could be challenged and invalidated in court, and the agency could face liability due to poorly written rules. This rulemaking will update WDFW’s rules to bring them into compliance with statutory authority and repeal outdated and inapplicable rules.