

Special Hunting Season Permits

232-28-291

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Summary

Meeting dates: March 17-18, 2017

Agenda item: Special Hunting Season Permits – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits.

Hunters are able to apply for special permits to participate in damage hunts that are established by the Department and administered by hunt coordinators. The hunters that draw these hunts lose any points that they accrued for that species. Not all hunters that draw these permits are always needed to deal with the existing crop damage. In the past, those hunters that were not called to participate still lost their bonus points. This proposal allows the Department to restore points to hunters who draw a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator, but do not get called to participate.

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

Allow the Department to restore points to hunters who draw a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator, but do not get called to participate.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2015-2017 hunting season recommendations last year. For 2017, notification was made to 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 in Olympia.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 14-15, 2017 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

Form revised 12/5/12

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-10-061, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10)

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits. The commission may establish special hunting seasons and may set the conditions for each category and hunt.

1. Deer, elk, cougar, or black bear special hunting season permit applications:

A. To apply for special hunting season permits for all categories of deer, elk, cougar, or black bear, applicants must have a valid Washington big game hunting license and a valid transport tag for the appropriate species. To apply for a particular hunt, each applicant for deer or elk must have the proper transport tag as identified in the special deer or elk permit regulations.

B. Multiple season deer and elk permit applications may be purchased without additional licenses or tags. Persons who are successfully drawn must purchase a multiple season permit for deer or elk and may also apply for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm special hunting season permits for the species drawn.

2. Mountain goat, moose, and bighorn sheep special hunting season permit applications:

A. Persons who have previously harvested a mountain goat, bighorn sheep ram, or bull moose in Washington are ineligible for a special hunting season permit for that category. This lifetime harvest restriction does not apply to individuals who harvested a mountain goat before 1999, raffle or auction hunt authorizations, ewe-only bighorn sheep hunts, or antlerless-only moose hunts.

B. Successful applicants under this section must purchase the appropriate hunting license by the deadline established by the department (a minimum of 15 days). Failure to purchase forfeits the permit to an alternate applicant.

3. Wild turkey special hunting season permit applications

A. To apply for wild turkey special hunting season permits, each applicant must have a valid small game hunting license.

B. Fall wild turkey special hunting season permit holders must have a valid turkey transport tag in possession to hunt turkeys in fall special hunting seasons.

4. Special hunting season permit applications:

A. Maximum group sizes are determined for each category. If a group application is drawn, all hunters in the group will receive a special hunting season permit and each hunter in the group can take an animal. If the number of permits available in a hunt category is less

than the maximum group size, then the maximum group size is equal to the number of permits.

- i. Maximum group size for deer categories is 8.
- ii. Maximum group size for elk categories is 8.
- iii. Maximum group size for bear categories is 2.
- iv. Maximum group size for cougar categories is 2.
- v. Maximum group size for mountain goat categories is 2.
- vi. Maximum group size for bighorn sheep categories is 2.
- vii. Maximum group size for fall turkey categories is 4.
- viii. Maximum group size for moose categories is 2.
- ix. Maximum group size for multiple season deer is 2.
- x. Maximum group size for multiple season elk is 2.

B. An applicant may purchase only one application for a special hunting season permit for each category.

C. Permit applications will allow four choices for all categories except the quality category for deer and elk will allow two choices.

D. Permits will be drawn by computer selection using a weighted point selection system.

i. Applicants will receive one point for each application category purchased.

ii. Once drawn for a permit, the applicant's points will be reduced to zero in that category. Applicants who are drawn for a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator and not given a chance to participate shall get their points restored. Those that decline to participate for any reason are not eligible for point restoration.

iii. An applicant's accumulated point totals, immediately prior to sales of the 2010 permit applications, will be replicated across all categories for that species. The point replication will only occur in 2010, during the transition from single species categories to multiple categories of the same species. Applicants for any new category added in the future will begin with the point awarded at the time of the initial application purchase.

E. Incomplete, ineligible, or inaccurate applications will not be accepted or entered into the drawing.

F. Permits will be voided if the applicant is found to be ineligible or to have provided an application based on inaccurate information.

G. The purchase of an application will result in one accrued point for the category purchased.

H. If an applicant makes a mistake, applies for the wrong hunt, and is successfully drawn, the special hunting season permit can be returned to the department of fish and wildlife Olympia headquarters before the opening day of the special hunting season. The applicant's points will be restored to the level prior to the permit drawing.

I. Anyone may apply for a special hunting season permit for deer, elk, bear, cougar, and wild turkey.

5. In addition to requirements for special hunting season permit applications, following are application requirements for:

A. Special hunting seasons for persons of disability: Only applicants with a Washington disabled hunter permit are eligible to apply for any special hunting season permits for persons of disability.

B. Special hunting seasons for youth: Only persons who are eligible to lawfully purchase a youth special hunt application are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for youth.

C. Special hunting seasons for hunters age 65 and older: Only applicants sixty-five years of age or older on or before March 31 of the current license year will be eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for hunters age 65 and older.

D. Special hunting seasons for master hunter program graduates: Only persons who hold a valid certificate from the Washington depart-

ment of fish and wildlife's master hunter program are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for master hunters.

6. Citizen reward for reporting violations - bonus points: A person who provides information which contributes substantially to the arrest of another person for illegally hunting or killing big game or an endangered species as defined by Title 77 RCW is eligible to receive ten bonus points toward the special hunting permit drawing for one application category of deer or elk special hunting season permits.

A. Only ten bonus points can be awarded for providing information for each person charged regardless of the number of violations involved.

B. Selection of bonus points is in lieu of application for a cash award.

[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), § 232-28-291, 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), § 232-28-291, 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), § 232-28-291, filed

4/18/08, effective 5/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-291, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 05-02-046 (Order 04-327), § 232-28-291, filed 1/3/05, effective 2/3/05; WSR 03-16-087 (Order 03-175), § 232-28-291, filed 8/5/03, effective 9/5/03; WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-291, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03; WSR 03-02-005 (Order 02-301), § 232-28-291, filed 12/20/02, effective 1/20/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-291, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01.]

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

WAC 232-28-291 Special Hunting Season Permits

Summary of Comments:

The Department received 566 online comments on this recommendation. Ninety one percent of people who commented were in favor of the recommended change. Five percent were opposed with comments that generally indicated that the rule in its current form was clear in intent and provided language that indicated points would be lost. Three percent of comments were neutral and one percent did not indicate how they felt about this change.

Direction and Rationale:

The majority of the comments received (91%) were in favor of the recommended change and we believe this will benefit the few hunters that fall into that category.



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

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 the¹³ programs 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:

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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:

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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:

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