

# Agenda Item 12

**WAC 220-415-080**

## **2018 Spring Bear Seasons and Regulations**



*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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# Background

- Spring black bear permits:
  - Distribute hunting pressure and harvest
  - Lessen tree damage on industrial timberlands
- Changing timing for determining hunts
  - Typically in March with game hunting seasons
  - More responsive to management needs
  - Process for participants remains the same
  - Announced in 2017 Big Game Hunting Season & Regulations pamphlet (hard copy and online versions)
  - Recommendations for 2018; 2017 season has ended

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- **Summary:** Outlines the requirements related to participating in spring black bear hunts through a black bear special permit; which successful harvest applies towards the annual 2 bear bag limit.



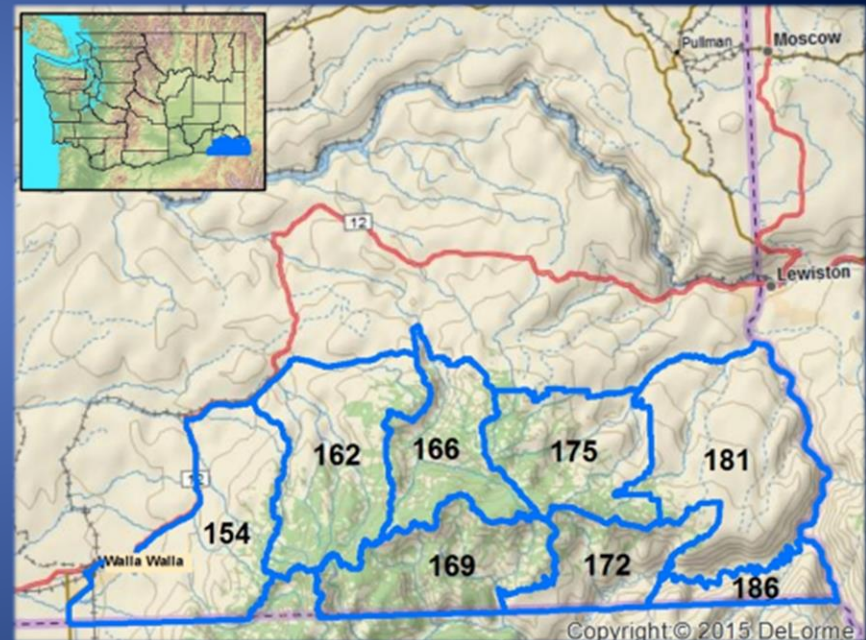
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## Proposed Change:

- Extend the season ending date to June 15 for GMUs 154, 162, 166, 169, 172, 175, 181, and 186.

## Rationale:

- To mitigate damage, improve distribution of harvest, and provide consistency and simplify the regulation for participants.



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## Proposed Change:

- Remove the Monroe hunt in GMU 448.
- Reduce the number of permits for the Long Beach hunt, GMU 684, from 20 permits to 12 permits.

## Rationale:

- The Department has determined past damage mitigation efforts have been successful in diminishing damage occurrences and reducing hunting pressure is recommended.



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## Proposed Changes:

- Add GMUs 638 and 648 (excluding US Forest Service lands), to the Copalis hunt (GMU 642).
- **Rationale:** To improve distribution of hunting pressure across areas where damage mitigation and harvest is needed.



# Next Steps

- Develop and distribute hunt area announcement
  - November 2017
  - Information to all vendors and licensed hunters (email, web site, fact sheet)
- Activate special permit process (no change in process)
  - Application
  - Drawing
  - Announcement of selected hunters
- Review results of 2018 season and prepare recommendations for 2019



# Questions?

