

# **Landowner Hunting Permits**

WAC 220-412-100

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## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** March 16-17, 2018

**Agenda item:** Landowner Hunting Permits – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

**Presenter(s):** Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy (C-6002) 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 and permit allocations are proposed for the Landowner Hunting Permits along with the recommended removal of two properties from the program. No new hunts are being recommended at this time.

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

Adjustments of hunt dates permit levels and recommended removal of two properties under the LHP program.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2018-2020 hunting season proposals. Six open house, public meetings were conducted throughout the state in July and August of 2017, to discuss a variety of issues with constituents. Concurrently, the public was asked to provide input on hunting seasons via the department website for a 6-week time period. The department emailed over 119,000 hunters notifying them of the website survey and encouraging them to participate. Using that information, the department determined which recommendations to move forward.

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to approximately 12,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 16-17, 2018 Commission meeting in Wenatchee.

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**Action requested:**

Take public comment. Adoption of rules is planned for the April 13-14, 2018 Commission meeting.

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**Draft motion language:**

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

WDFW Website

News Releases

Hunting and Trapping Regulations Pamphlets

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*Form revised 9/13/17*

# FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

## POLICY DECISION

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**POLICY TITLE:** Private Lands Access

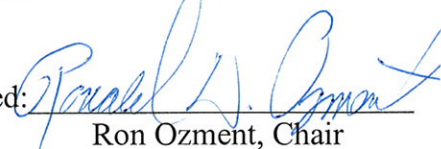
**POLICY NUMBER:** C-6002

Supersedes: C-6002 dated Dec. 6, 1996

Effective Date: Nov. 19, 2005

See Also: RCW 77.04.055  
RCW 77.12.320  
RCW 77.32.535  
WAC 232-28-260  
WAC 232-28-271

Termination Date: N/A

Approved:   
Ron Ozment, Chair

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### **Policy:**

Over half the state of Washington is privately owned, and some of the most important fish and wildlife resources are found on private lands. It is the policy of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to maintain a viable private lands access program that encourages formal partnership agreements with private landowners:

- To secure public access for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife associated recreation.
- To provide recognition and incentives for participating landowners.
- To encourage protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat.

Nothing in this policy or the private lands program shall be construed to infringe on the treaty rights of Native Americans. As stated in Commission policy C-3607: "The Department of Fish and Wildlife will engage tribal representatives in its decision making processes relative to wildlife management issues that affect tribal hunting."

### **Minimum Operating Standards and Guidelines of the Access Program:**

The Department will develop a variety of public access options for landowners. It is the Commission's highest priority to encourage partnership opportunities that provide general public hunting opportunity and those with passive restrictions rather than requiring special permits or additional access fees for hunters.

- The Department will clearly communicate program expectations to cooperators and the general public and will have a contract with each cooperator.
- Fish and wildlife are the property of the state (RCW 77.12.010) and nothing in any contract should be construed as transferring ownership from the public to the private sector. The Fish and Wildlife Commission authorizes hunting seasons, including time, place and manner as directed in RCW 77.04.012.
- Fencing or other activities designed to control natural wildlife movement or migrations will not be permitted.
- Fish and wildlife management on lands under contract will be limited to endemic fish and wildlife, including currently managed introduced fish and wildlife species.
  - Every person hunting or fishing on private lands under contract must have in possession valid licenses, tags, and permits.

- Persons hunting on lands under contract with the Department for restricted access (e.g. Hunt By Written Permission and Register To Hunt) must also possess a valid access permit (permission slip).
- Hunting programs will be conducted within the highest standards of fair chase and ethical behavior.
  - Cooperators must provide a report as required by the Department no later than March 31 each year.
  - The boundaries of lands under contract must be clearly defined and/or marked as required by the Department.
  - Locations of lands under contract must be made available to the public.
  - The Department may develop procedures to implement and manage the private lands access program within the guidelines of this policy.

**Landowner Hunting Permits:**

- Landowner Hunting Permits are designed for private lands held by an individual or corporation that provides a hunting opportunity for the public which otherwise would not exist and/or that helps resolve crop damage problems.
- Landowner Hunting Permits may only be authorized by Fish and Wildlife Commission rule.
- Those receiving Landowner Hunting Permits shall make provisions for significant public benefit and participation. General hunting season opportunity is encouraged as well as special accommodation for hunters with disabilities, youth, senior, and Advanced Hunter Education designated Master Hunters.
- Equitable allocation of Landowner Hunting Permit opportunity between cooperating landowners and WDFW will be as follows:
  1. Antlerless deer or elk – minimum of 50% allocated by WDFW.
  2. Buck deer or bull elk – minimum of 25% allocated by WDFW.
  3. Exceptions to these minimums may only be provided through Commission rule.
    - Cooperators must allow equal hunting opportunity whether the hunter received a permit allocated by the Department or the cooperator.
    - Cooperators wishing to sell access associated with the landowner's portion of the special hunting permits must waive all claims for wildlife damage that may occur on their lands.
    - Landowner incentives may include the following;
      1. Customized hunting seasons.
      2. Second tag opportunity.
      3. Technical services to the landowner.
    - Landowner Hunting Permit levels, number of cooperators enrolled, and implementation of this program are subject to funding, availability of staff, ability to meet management objectives, and Department priorities.

**WAC 220-412-100 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 designee 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. 5 - 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. 5)) <u>Dec. 1</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. ((6)) <u>5</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
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Aug. 1 - ((Nov. 5)) <u>Dec. 1</u>	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
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. 25-29	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
ZMI C	2	Nov. 1-5	3 pt. min	ZMI
ZMI D	6	Dec. 2-10	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 ap-~~

plicants must complete the forms and return them before September 30. Applicants should see CPWMA's web site at [www.cpwma.org](http://www.cpwma.org) or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616. Holders of landowner permits selected through raffle, including ((13)) 9 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)) <u>1</u>	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Antlerless	CPWMA
<u>CPWMA</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Jan. 1 - Mar. 31</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>CPWMA</u>
CPWMA Raffle 1	((4)) <u>3</u>	Jan. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 2	((4)) <u>3</u>	Feb. 1-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 3	((5)) <u>3</u>	Mar. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 4	2	((Jan. 1-31)) <u>Jan. 1 - Mar. 31</u>	Any ((elk)) <u>Bull</u>	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](http://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	<del>Jan. 1-31</del>	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA-2	5	Feb. 1-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA-3	5	Mar. 1-31	Antlerless	CPWMA))
CPWMA ((4)) <u>1</u>	1	((Jan. 1-31)) <u>Jan. 1 - Mar. 31</u>	Any ((elk)) <u>Bull</u>	CPWMA

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

### WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

#### **Supporting Comments:**

There were 26 comments submitted for this WAC proposal. There were 11 comments that generally agreed with the proposals. Of the 11 supporting comments, the majority expanded on their input by stating that they generally supported changes that would provide more hunting opportunity.

#### **Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:**

There were ten (10) opposing comments submitted. Of these respondents, many expressed concerns about how the current program operates and the level of public access obtained through this program. There were five (5) comments submitted that took a neutral stance on the proposed recommendations.

#### **Direction and Rationale:**

The department is aware of the concerns with the current program and is requesting to move forward with the recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for the 2018-2019 hunting season. During 2018, the department will revise the current Landowner Hunting Permit program to meet department objectives, address private landowner concerns, and better meet the needs of the public.



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (August 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: January 24, 2018  
TIME: 8:20 AM

WSR 18-03-177

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

**Original Notice**

**Supplemental Notice to WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuance of WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 17-24-106 on December 6, 2017 ; 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).**

**Proposal is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Title of rule and other identifying information:** (describe subject)

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

**Hearing location(s):**

**Date:**

**Time:**

**Location:** (be specific)

**Comment:**

March 15-17, 2018

8:00 a.m.

Red Lion Hotel  
1225 N. Wenatchee Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

**Date of intended adoption:** April 12-14, 2018 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: Wildlife Program Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 43141, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162

Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/seasonsetting/2018-2020/>

By (date) February 14, 2018

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**

Contact Tami Lininger

Phone: (360) 902-2267

Fax:

TTY: (800) 833-6388

Email: [tami.lininger@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:tami.lininger@dfw.wa.gov)

Other:

By (date) March 7, 2018

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

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

The purpose of the proposal is to simplify the sealing requirements for bobcat and cougar pelts by aligning the date for sealing bobcat with the last date of trapper reporting and by requiring cougar pelt sealing to occur within 72 hours of harvest. The proposed changes align the dates for pelt sealing each species, regardless of method or reporting of harvest.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to Game Management Unit 485 Green River. The existing language can be somewhat complicated. The proposed changes take advantage of the well-marked boundaries of the watershed which are identical to the GMU boundary.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to Game Management Units 522 Loo Wit and 560 Lewis River. The proposed changes clarify directional movements on established roads that make up the boundaries.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

This proposal replaces GMU 172 with GMU 169 for the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle permit holder.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

This proposal revises wording in the "once in a lifetime" part of special hunting permits for moose, to reflect the proposed change in hunt categories from "any moose" to "antlered bull moose." Any "point" accumulated under the "any moose" category will be transferred to the "antlered bull moose" category.

Additionally applicants for special hunting season permits will be required to either complete hunter education prior to submitting a permit application, or be exempt from the hunter education requirement.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

This proposal modifies hunt dates on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2018 hunting seasons. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through permits issued by WDFW, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

The proposal will ban the importation and retention of specific parts of dead nonresident wildlife that could contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from Montana. Specific circumstances are fully set forth in WAC 220-413-030 to include the state of Montana.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

The purpose of this proposal is to add unmanned aircraft to the rule that restricts the use of aircraft, boats, or other types of vehicles to hunt, spot, or harass wildlife.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

The proposal will change the reporting deadline for brant, sea duck, and snow goose to March 20 following the season for which the harvest card was issued, and adds a harvest report card requirement for the SW Canada Goose special species authorization.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

The purpose of the proposal is to modify restrictions in the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction rule by:

Adding mountain goat as an exception to the hunting restriction in GMU 522.

Clarifying and adding exceptions to the firearm restriction that exists in a portion of GMU 652.

Removing a firearm restriction area in Kitsap County that is no longer needed.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the restriction that disallows the use of primers, designed for modern cartridges in the firearms ignition system, during muzzleloader hunting seasons. Such a rule change will allow more technologically advanced muzzleloaders to be used during muzzleloader seasons.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal adds turkey to the hunter orange rule and requires turkey hunters that are hunting during a modern deer or elk firearm season to wear florescent orange.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the three Deer Areas surrounding Spokane and the Colfax Deer Area that are either ineffective or no longer needed and add the North Issaquah Deer Area in King and Snohomish Counties to help mitigate deer conflict issues. Deer Areas allow the department to focus deer hunting pressure on a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Deer Areas help expand hunting opportunity that would normally not be available. Deer Areas also help accommodate wildlife conflict mitigation using hunting as a tool.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity for 2018-2020. 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.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2018. 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.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The purpose of the proposal is to add new Elk Areas or adjust the boundaries of existing Elk Areas. Elk Areas allow the department to focus elk hunting pressure on a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Elk Areas help expand hunting opportunity that would normally not be available. Elk Areas also help accommodate wildlife conflict mitigation using hunting as a tool.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity for 2018-2020. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2018. 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.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The purpose of this proposal is to remove hunt category "any moose," replacing it with "any antlered bull moose;" require successful moose hunters to submit an incisor tooth by mail to WDFW for ageing; add "or archery" to the list of permitted weaponry for moose hunting in the Parker Lake special hunt area; and changes in permit levels.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; require a bear identification test for hunters that will hunt within grizzly bear recovery areas as identified by the department; expand the biological samples that may be collected by the department; and include results for failure to report or comply with the conditions of the rule.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; remove game management units that do not have resident bear populations; require a bear identification test for hunters that will hunt within grizzly bear recovery areas as identified by the department; expand the biological samples that may be collected by the department; and include results for failure to report or comply with the conditions of the rule.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; align the cougar season with the license year and thereby minimize potential confusion by hunters; and align the late cougar season start date with the closing date of the general deer and elk seasons for modern firearm and muzzleloader with the exception of a few Master Hunter antlerless elk seasons that continue into January.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

The purpose of the proposal is to initiate modest ewe (bighorn sheep female) harvests in two separate areas of the Lincoln Cliffs bighorn sheep populations. Additionally, increase harvest of both rams and ewes in the Chelan Butte population.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

The purpose of the proposal is to require holders of mountain goat hunting permits to pass an online test of their ability to distinguish mountain goats by gender (i.e., billy vs. nanny) before they would be allowed to purchase their mountain goat hunting license; establish new mountain goat hunting seasons in Mt. Margaret back-country, and Mt. St. Helens South (one permit in each area); and split the existing Goat Rocks mountain goat hunt area into two contiguous areas.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposal is to make date adjustments related to calendar changes; extend the fall turkey season in GMUs 101-154 and 162-186; remove the draw permits from Klickitat County and opens GMUs within that county to general season hunting; and prohibit night hunting in GMUs that fall within the lynx management zones as identified by the department.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposal is to specify legal season dates and bag limits for the 2018-2019 season.

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

This proposal changes the current Public Safety Cougar Removal from a hunting opportunity authorizing the use of hounds, when certain conditions are met, to a permit program to provide training opportunities for owners of "working dogs" who are often summoned by WDFW Law Enforcement to assist in resolving wildlife conflict issues. If approved, this new program will allow working dogs and their owners the non-lethal pursuit of cougars under the conditions of a training permit.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

The proposed amendments will make the sealing requirements consistent for each species and thereby easily understood by user groups. The proposed changes will also make managing cougar hunt unit closures more efficient and timely.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules and trespass rules more straightforward.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules more straightforward.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

The proposed amendments will redirect hunters from a small herd that has few mature rams to a herd that can more easily support removal of a large-sized ram.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

The proposed amendments will maintain consistency with proposed changes in the WAC 220-415-070 and requirements elsewhere in WAC that applicants for special permits possess the necessary qualifications to hunt under that permit should they be drawn.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

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 that was authorized is 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 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

Because Montana has identified chronic wasting disease in wild free ranging deer, the department seeks to mitigate the risk to public health and safety by adding the state of Montana to WAC 220-413-030.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

Small unmanned aircraft have become a part of modern culture. Unmanned aircraft use is pervasive. In the same spirit of hunting ethics that inspired the Fish and Wildlife Commission to promulgate a rule that restricts the use of vehicles, aircraft, or boats to hunt or harass wildlife, the department feels that unmanned aircraft should be specifically called out and added to this rule.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

Two proposed amendments of WAC 220-416-060 require changing the February 15 deadline date. The proposal to move 12-days of the snow goose hunting season in Goose Management Area 1 (Skagit and Snohomish Counties) would have the goose season ending at the end of February (February 27, 2019). Additionally, the requirement of a mandatory harvest report for goose hunting in Goose Management Area 2-Coast and Inland (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties) has to accommodate goose hunting seasons that can extend to March 10 in some years. To minimize confusion, all waterfowl-related reporting deadlines would be changed to March 20.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

Reasons for supporting the rule include expanding mountain goat hunting opportunity; accommodating both firearm restriction needs and wildlife conflict mitigation; and adding flexibility to hunting seasons when restrictions are no longer necessary.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission requested that the department reach out to the hunting public and get their opinion on the use of modern cartridge primers on muzzleloading firearms during muzzleloader season. Deer and elk hunters were polled, and the majority of the respondents were in favor of allowing the more modern primers.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal is meant to increase safety. Turkey seasons in the past did not overlap with modern deer or elk firearm seasons. New proposals to control growing turkey populations make it necessary to overlap those seasons. This recommended rule adjustment provides consistency. All other species hunters are already required to wear hunter orange during modern deer or elk firearm season. This proposal adds turkey hunters to that list.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

The proposed amendments will allow the department to use hunting as a management tool and expands deer hunting opportunity.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2018-2020. In addition, the proposal allows for the use of hunting as a management tool, helps address deer agricultural damage problems, and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2018. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The proposed amendments allow the department to use hunting as a management tool and expands elk hunting opportunity.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2018-2020. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2018. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

We expect the moose population in Northeastern Washington to stabilize or decline over the next few years. Being able to predict whether males (bulls) or females (cows) will be taken in any given hunt is important to managers. Almost all holders of "any moose" permits attempt to take bulls. Accumulated points held in the "any moose" category would be transferred to the new "any antlered bull moose" category; the definition of "antlered bull moose" would require the presence of "visible antlers." Public support for this proposal was high.

Models currently under development by WDFW to understand moose population trajectory require knowing the age of harvested moose. WDFW currently requests successful hunters to extract a tooth and send it to WDFW in a supplied envelope. However, compliance with the currently voluntary request is variable, and response is likely biased. Incorporating this request in rule should increase compliance, increasing the accuracy and precision of our monitoring models.



In response to a hunter's question from 2017, we realized that, unlike other 'muzzleloader hunts' offered for other species, we had not indicated that 'archery' – considered a lesser-capable weapon – could also be used in the muzzleloader season. WDFW received approval from The United States Air Force on this change.

Recent work has strongly suggested that moose have begun declining in abundance in most areas. We also received considerable support from the public for reducing "Youth only" hunts. Most of these specific changes reduce "antlerless moose" permits, particularly in WDFW District 2, where harvest rates have been relatively high. In response to suggestions from Enforcement, we would eliminate the Master Hunter moose permits, which have only been used a handful of times in the past decade, due to the difficulty of finding an appropriate situation. This would reduce expectation among Master Hunters for an opportunity, which, in reality, has rarely been realized.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates, assist in lessening the likelihood of incidental take of grizzly bear, bring awareness to hunters, create stewardship of resources managed by other government agencies, and provide the department with the ability to collect biological samples which further assist managing bear populations.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates, assist hunters by providing opportunities where they exist, assist in lessening the likelihood of incidental take of grizzly bear, bring awareness to hunters, create stewardship of resources managed by other government agencies, and provide the department with the ability to collect biological samples which further assist managing bear populations.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates; assist in minimizing disturbance to ungulates that are already stressed from winter and birthing; minimize confusion and burden on hunters to buy two licenses; allow hunters who are deer and elk hunting to take a cougar through December 15 without having to call the toll free line to determine if the area is open or not; provide the department an earlier timeframe to manage the harvest guidelines; and attempt to minimize potential of exceeding the harvest guidelines.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Where bighorn sheep graze frequently on private, agricultural lands, public tolerance for them can be compromised. Because we have no current place to translocate these sheep, a ewe-only hunt is recommended.

The Chelan Butte bighorn sheep population has also grown, providing opportunity for hunters interested in taking rams (we propose a split season, early and late). Because this herd is situated close to small farms and rural residences, the risk of contact between bighorns and domestic sheep and goats is high. One action the department can take to manage this risk is to halt the slow down or halt the growth of the herd through increased provision of ewe permits.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Mountain goat populations are sensitive to harvest of females, but identification of gender in the field is difficult. The department currently provides training videos and pamphlets to successful applicants for mountain goat hunting permits, but has no way of ensuring that these materials are used. The department proposes adding an online gender identification test that permit holders would be required to pass before being allowed to purchase a mountain goat hunting license. A passing score would be 80%, and permit holders could re-take the test as often as needed until they achieved a passing score.

We now have reliable surveys indicating that goats inhabiting the Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Margaret areas are sufficiently abundant to sustain a conservative hunt. Thus, new hunts are proposed in this area.

The conflict reduction hunt in the East Olympic Mountains remains in the proposed WAC revision as of 12/20/2017, but we hope to remove it prior to the March Commission meeting if we have more certainty that the multi-agency translocation project will commence in 2018. If agencies are moving goats from the Olympic Mountains, it would be inappropriate to provide hunters with the expectation that there would be goats for hunters to pursue in those same places.

The department's data suggests that mountain goat hunting in the Goat Rocks area has been sustainable, but almost all mountain goats taken have come from the more accessible portions of the area. Splitting the existing hunt area in two (and allocating permits approximately proportionally) would distribute harvest pressure more evenly among goats in the greater population.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

Annual shifts in the calendar require adjustment.

Turkey populations in those GMUs are high, causing crop and property damage. The proposed change will lengthen the fall season to facilitate additional turkey harvest and help mitigate those problems.

The turkey population in Klickitat County is doing well enough to support a general season hunting opportunity. In the past hunting in those GMUs were by draw permit only. The recommended change will do away with the draw permits and opens those GMUs to general season hunters.

A bobcat hunter mistakenly harvested a collared lynx at night last year. It is very difficult to differentiate the two species with artificial light or night vision equipment. The recommended rule change will help conserve the few lynx that exist in the lynx management zones by making it illegal to night hunt in the GMUs that fall within those zones.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

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

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

WDFW is often called upon to address wildlife conflict issues involving cougar and other species of wildlife. The issues include both public safety and the protection of property. This commonly requires assistance from local citizens who own working dogs (commonly known as hounds), that are especially capable of, and trained for, the detection, tracking, and treeing cougar. Due to broad hunting restrictions, working dogs are limited in access to training opportunities. Working dogs must be kept in peak physical condition in order to be effective. Young dogs require training in order to be of use. The current Public Safety Cougar Removal program was implemented as a pilot and has not been effective in addressing its original intent. Both the Law Enforcement and the Wildlife Programs support this concept. Representatives from The Humane Society of the United States and Conservation Northwest have been involved in creating this proposal and are in support.

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530.

**Statute being implemented:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530.

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

- Federal Law?  Yes  No  
Federal Court Decision?  Yes  No  
State Court Decision?  Yes  No

If yes, CITATION:

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** None.

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) WDFW  Private  
 Public  
 Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement:	Chief Steve Bear	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2373

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**  Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

- Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:

TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

**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:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

No: Please explain: The rule proposal does not require a cost-benefit analysis and does not affect hydraulics.

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)  
(Internal government operations)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)  
(Dictated by statute)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)  
(Incorporation by reference)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)  
(Set or adjust fees)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)  
(Correct or clarify language)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)  
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025 (4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: Proposed rule does not affect small businesses.

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES**

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. \_\_\_\_\_

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

**Date:** January 24, 2018

**Name:** Scott Bird

**Title:** Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**

