

# WAC 220-415-100

## Cougar Seasons



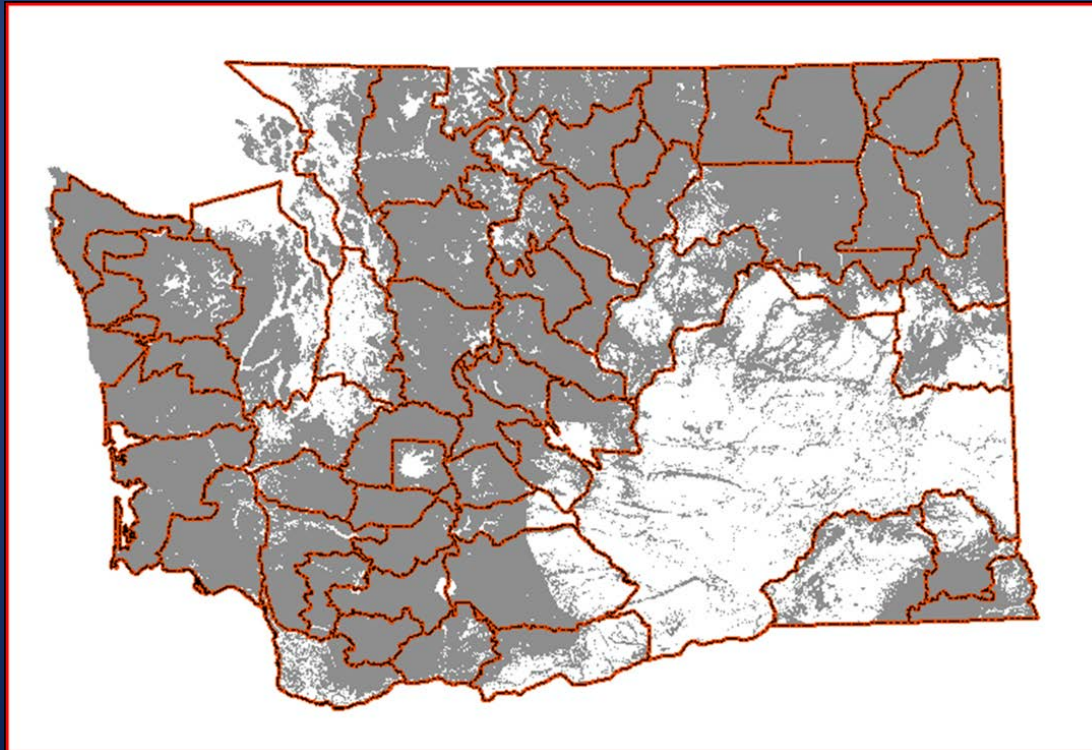
*Washington Department of*  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

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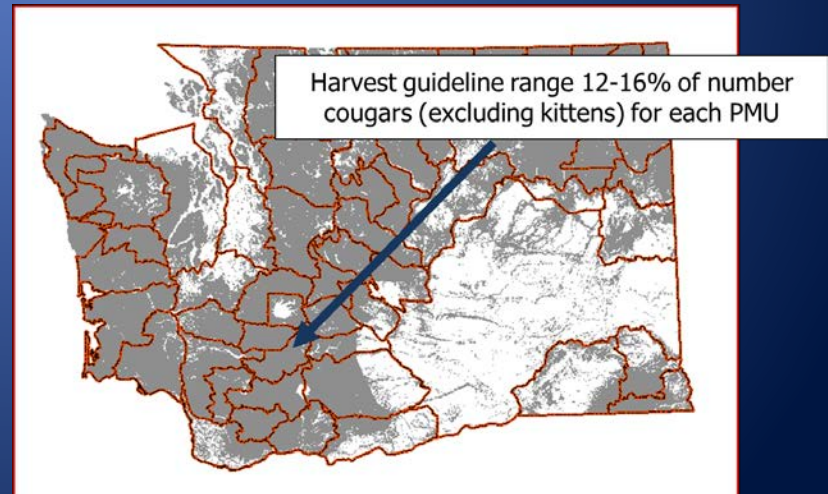
# Current Season Structure

- 50 Population Management Units (PMUs) or hunt areas have been identified.



# Current Season Structure

- Each PMU has a harvest guideline corresponding to 12-16% of cougar population (excluding kittens).
- Starting Jan 1, the department may close hunt areas that meet or exceed the harvest guideline.
  - Cougar Seasons 2015 – present: ~20 PMUs reach the quota and close each year.



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- The department conducted public meetings and surveys to assess public opinion prior to presenting the proposed changes at the March Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.
- Based on the comments received, the department is proposing to leave the cougar seasons, harvest guidelines, and reporting requirements as they are currently with only minor updates to the season years.



# Proposal

- Changes: Season dates to reflect 2018-2019 and 2019-2020; harvest guideline remain status quo.
- Rationale: Correctly identify season dates.



# Clarification

- On page 4, GMUs 169, 172, 181, and 186, the harvest guideline reads “3-4,” and should read “3.”
  - The department intends to revert the language per the recommended adjustments.

# Questions?

