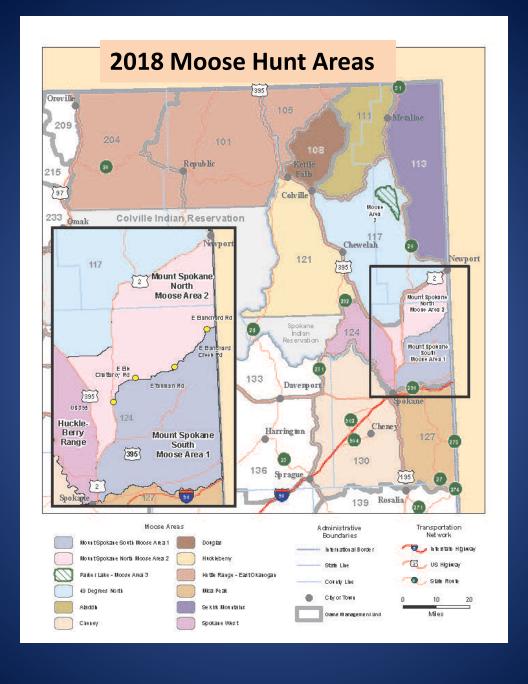
### WAC 220-412-080 and 220-415-070

### **Moose Seasons**



Rich Harris, Ph.D.
Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat, and Pronghorn
Antelope Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program



#### **Reduction in Antlerless Permits Around Mt. Spokane**

2018				2017				
Antlerless only -				Antlerless only				
Mt Spokane South B	. 1 - A v. 30 (v	Moose Area 1 within 24)	4	Mt Spokane South B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	8	-4
Mt Spokane North B	. 1 - A v. 30 (v	Moose Area 2 within 24)	4	Mt Spokane North B	Oct. 1 -	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	7	-3
Youth Only - Antlerless				Youth Only - antlerless				
49 Degrees North Y		MU 17	0	49 Degrees North Y		GMU 117	2	-2
Mt Spokane South Y	. 1 - A v. 30 (v	Moose Area 1 within 24)		Mt Spokane South Y	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	8	-7
Mt Spokane North Y	i. 1 - A v. 30 (v	Moose Area 2 within 24)		Mt Spokane North Y	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	8	-8

Concomitantly, reduce Hunter Education Instructor Incentive antlerless permits from 4 (in 2017) to 1.

# Fewer Moose in NE Washington's Future

- Moose still fairly abundant
- Have probably exceeded long-term capacity
- (Except where noted), hunting probably a minor component of survival probability
- At what abundance will decline stop?
  - Need as precise monitoring as possible to know

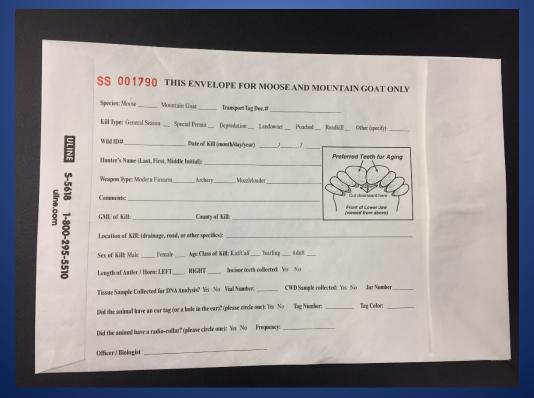
					~			Y			1			
│ Harvest Data × Auxiliary Harvest Data		Auxiliary Survival Data			Aging/Reporting Data					=	Model Summary   4			
	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9+	Effort	<b>Total Catch</b>	Catch/Effort	Harvest Data
Year 1	2001	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	1.5818	2011	1271.3365	File: Female harvest b
Year 2	2002	0	2	4	6	3	3	0	3	1	0.9477	2024	2135.6970	Years:
Year 3	2003	0	2	9	7	7	0	2	1	5	0.6341	2036	3210.8500	Age classes: Pooled:
Year 4	2004	1	7	5	2	2	0	1	2	3	1.1250	2027	1801.7778	Harvest Probability
Year 5	2005	1	5	5	9	1	2	1	2	2	0.6477	2033	3138.7988	·
Year 6	2006	1	1	2	3	5	1	0	1	1	0.8864	2021	2280.0090	Last distinct age: 0   Range: 0.02 - 0.15
Year 7	2007	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0.5727	2013	3514.9293	Random effects? No
Year 8	2008	0	3	9	3	4	2	1	3	4	0.8182	2037	2489.6113	Survival Probability
Year 9	2009	3	2	1	7	3	2	1	0	5	0.9682	2033	2099.7728	·
Year 10	2010	1	3	6	0	3	2	3	1	4	0.6409	2033	3172.1017	<b>Last distinct age:</b> 0 <b>Range:</b> 0.60 - 0.95
Year 11	2011	0	1	3	4	0	1	1	2	1	0.7295	2024	2774.5031	Random effects?
Year 12	2012	1	1	5	3	1	2	2	1	6	0.9750	2034	2086.1538	Aging/Reporting
Year 13	2013	4	0	3	1	0	2	4	2	3	1.0568	2032	1922.7858	Aging/ Reporting
Year 14	2014	2	1	2	6	1	1	0	1	5	0.9750	2033	2085.1282	Year-specific
Year 15	2015	3	1	3	7	4	4	2	0	17	2.4409	2056	842.3123	Auxiliary Data
														Harvest: loaded Survival: loaded Model

Need to know the age of harvested animals....

### WAC 220-415-070

(2) (d) Submitting moose teeth: Successful moose hunters must submit an incisor tooth from the lower jaw, either in person at a WDFW office, or via the postage-paid envelope supplied, no later than sixty days after

harvest.



# Closer Prediction of Gender of Harvest from Hunting Categories

- Eliminate "any moose" hunt category and replace with "antlered bull moose"
- Defined as having "visible antlers"
- Previously accumulated points for "any moose" transfer to "antlered bull moose"
- With few exceptions, this allows managers to anticipate hunting mortality by gender

### **Eliminate Master Hunts for Moose**

- Originally conceived as a way to provide hunter opportunity when problem moose needed to be removed (mostly around suburban Spokane)
- Started with 20/year but few used
- Later reduced to 10/year typically have used only 2-3/yr
- Region One is emphasizing non-lethal resolution to problem moose issues; has only used 1 Master Hunter permit in the last few years
- Often selected hunters live several hours from the site (but time is of the essence); officers are often required to accompany the hunter and assist with carcass; big time commitment
- Region One Enforcement has found program administration to far outweigh its benefits. A better option, when lethal removal is required, is to have Enforcement dispatch the animal, having volunteer group process the carcass and donate to charity (food bank)

# Proposal: WAC 220-412-080

- Require that the hunter education requirement be met (or appropriately exempt) for all (including youth) before application can be made for special permits for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats (including 'points only' option).
- This would disallow the current practice of 'banking' points for youth who are too young to hunt.
- Prospective, not retrospective (accumulated points would be retained).

### Rationale: WAC 220-412-080

- Consistency in approach toward licensing
  - Hunters must possess the qualifications of the hunt category if selected (e.g., > 65 years old)
  - Applicants in other categories need hunter education (or appropriate exemption) – adding it here would make it consistent
- Discourage "gaming" the system
  - Hunters unaware that they system currently allows this puts them at a disadvantage
- Other opportunities to recruit youth beside early moose hunt

# Questions?

