

# **Bighorn Sheep Seasons**

WAC 220-412-070 and WAC 220-415-120

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## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** April 13-14, 2018

**Agenda item:** Bighorn Sheep Seasons – **Decision**

**Presenter(s):** Rich Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat, and Pronghorn Antelope Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

Staff briefed the Fish and Wildlife Commission at the March Commission meeting in Wenatchee regarding the proposed amendments to WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits, and WAC 220-415-120 2018 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

1. Where bighorn sheep graze frequently on private, agricultural lands, public tolerance for them can be compromised. The Lincoln Cliffs bighorn population appears to have grown as much as it can, and limited the population, and therefore impacts on agriculture, is appropriate. There being at present no herds to which animals can be translocated, harvest females via a ewe-only hunt is recommended.
  2. 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 bighorn sheep, domestic sheep, and domestic 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.
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**Staff recommendation:**

Amend WAC 220-412-070 and WAC 220-415-120 as presented.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

- Additional ewe harvests where appropriate.
  - Additional ram harvests where appropriate.
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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 would 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 and/or proposed next steps:**

Amend WAC 220-412-070 and WAC 220-415-120 as presented.

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**Draft motion language:**

Motion: I move to amend WAC 220-412-070 and WAC 220-415-120 as presented.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

WDFW Website

News Release

Hunting Regulations Pamphlet

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*Form revised 2-15-18*

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

**AUCTION PERMITS**

(1) BLACK-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to black-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(2) MULE DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(3) WHITE-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(4) THREE-DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, and one additional any buck white-tailed deer; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For black-tailed deer, those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For mule deer, those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For white-tailed deer, those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(5) WESTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(6) EASTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(7) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(8) MOOSE AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Any open moose unit, and hunt areas identified by the department before December 1 for the following year, and posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(9) MOUNTAIN GOAT AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

#### RAFFLE PERMITS

(10) BLACK-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(11) MULE DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(12) WHITE-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(13) WESTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not open to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(14) EASTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(15) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1 except that sheep units in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, or Pend Oreille counties are not open.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(16) MOOSE RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: (~~Any open moose unit~~) GMUs 101 through 121, 204.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(17) MOUNTAIN GOAT RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(18) TURKEY RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: April 1 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Statewide.

(c) Weapon: Archery or shotgun only.

(d) Bag limit: Three additional wild turkeys, but not to exceed more than one turkey in Western Washington or two turkeys in Eastern Washington.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(19) ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One Rocky Mountain bighorn ram.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 113, ((172)) 169.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(20) THREE-DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, and one additional any buck white-tailed deer; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For black-tailed deer, those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For mule deer, those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For white-tailed deer, those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(21) NORTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of six possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any bull elk, one any bull moose, one additional any legal cougar, one additional any legal black bear, and one additional any legal turkey (gobbler and turkey with visible beard ONLY); total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 101-124.

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

(ii) April 15 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar. April 15 - May 31 for turkey.

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon EXCEPT archery and shotgun only for turkey.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(22) SOUTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk, one additional any buck deer, and one California bighorn sheep ram; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For elk, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT GMU 334 and those GMUs closed to elk hunting and those GMUs not open to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For deer, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, the director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1. ((For bighorn sheep, any

~~bighorn herd located south of U.S. Highway 2 in Chelan County and west of the Columbia River in Kittitas and Yakima counties.)~~)

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(23) SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest four of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one additional any bull elk, one additional any legal cougar, and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed four animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 139-154 and 162-186.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. April 15 - June 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear. September 1 - March 31 for cougar

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(24) NORTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one any ram California bighorn sheep, one additional any legal cougar, and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For white-tailed deer, mule deer, cougar, and black bear, any 200 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, the director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1 (~~in Okanogan or Chelan counties north of US Highway 2~~)).

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and California bighorn sheep.

(ii) April 15 - May 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar.

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

#### SPECIAL INCENTIVE PERMITS

(25) WESTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMUs 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(26) EASTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS



(a) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(27) DEER INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Statewide, for use in any area open to general or permit hunting seasons EXCEPT GMUs 157, 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons and any legal weapon at other times if there are no firearm restrictions.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 5

#### PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCEDURE

(28) Auction permits: The director will select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual auction(s). Selection of the conservation organizations will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey auctions shall be conducted consistent with WAC 220-412-060.

(29) Raffle permits: Raffle permits will be issued to individuals selected through a Washington department of fish and wildlife drawing or the director may select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual raffles. Selection of a conservation organization will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey raffles shall be conducted consistent with WAC 220-412-040.

(30) Special incentive permits: Hunters will be entered into a drawing for special deer and elk incentive permits for prompt reporting of hunting activity in compliance with WAC 220-413-100.

(31) For permit hunts where the permittee may harvest multiple species, the permittee must select the species he/she wants to hunt within fourteen days of notification of being selected.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

(32) Permittees shall contact the appropriate regional office of the department of fish and wildlife when entering the designated hunt area or entering the region to hunt outside the general season.

(33) The permittee may be accompanied by others; however, only the permittee is allowed to carry a legal weapon or harvest an animal.

(34) Any attempt by members of the permittee's party to herd or drive wildlife is prohibited.

(35) If requested by the department, the permittee is required to direct department officials to the site of the kill.

(36) The permit is valid during the hunting season dates for the year issued.

(37) The permittee will present the head and carcass of the big-horn sheep killed to any department office within (~~seventy-two hours~~) ten days of date of kill.

(38) The permittee must abide by all local, state, and federal regulations including firearm restriction areas and area closures.

(39) Hunters awarded the special incentive permit will be required to send the appropriate license fee to the department of fish and wildlife headquarters in Olympia. The department will issue the license and transport tag and send it to the special incentive permit winner.

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

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

### **Supporting Comments:**

Five (5) comments generally supported the proposed changes.

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

Three (3) commenters were opposed to providing a Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle until (if) there are corresponding draw tags for the general public in this area. One (1) commenter expressed concern about adding pressure on the Swakane bighorn sheep herd.

### **Direction and Rationale:**

The department understands the concern that providing a raffle opportunity with no corresponding draw opportunity provides an advantage to those with the means to purchase multiple raffle tickets, and shares the value that the general public be provided hunting opportunity. Bighorns in the Blue Mountains and Hells Canyon area have not yet recovered from disease events to the point where they can support additional harvests. However, funding provided by the raffle helps support the three-state effort (including Idaho and Oregon) to recover these populations. That effort has helped turn the trajectory of the Asotin herd in a positive direction; the department has hopes it can soon begin issuing a regular draw permit for the Asotin herd. None of the changes recommended affect the Swakane bighorn sheep herd.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-10-076, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17)

**WAC 220-415-120 ((2017)) 2018 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.** (1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

**(2) Bighorn Sheep Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:** Anyone may apply, EXCEPT those who previously harvested a bighorn sheep in Washington state. An individual may only harvest one bighorn ram during his or her lifetime. However, this restriction is waived for hunters who have previously harvested a bighorn sheep under a ewe-only, juvenile ram, raffle, or auction permit, as well as for applications for a ewe-only, juvenile ram, raffle, or auction permit.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One bighorn ram, except in designated adult ewe hunts the limit is one bighorn adult ewe.

<b>((<u>Hunt Name</u></b>	<b>Permit Season</b>	<b>Permit Hunt Boundary Description</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Selah Butte A	Nov. 7-30	Sheep Unit 4	Any Legal Weapon	2
Umtanum	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 5	Any Legal Weapon	2
Cleman Mountain A	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	3
Cleman Mountain D	Nov. 13-30	Sheep Unit 7	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	10
Mt. Hull A	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 10	Any Legal Weapon	1

<b>((Hunt Name</b>	<b>Permit Season</b>	<b>Permit Hunt Boundary Description</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Mt. Hull B	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 10	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1
Mt. Hull C <sup>a</sup>	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 10	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1
Lincoln Cliffs	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 12	Any Legal Weapon	1
Quilomene	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 13	Any Legal Weapon	2
Swakane	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 14	Any Legal Weapon	2
Manson	Nov. 7-30	Sheep Unit 16	Any Legal Weapon	2
Chelan Butte A	Sept. 15—Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon	2
(New hunt category) Chelan Butte B Juvenile ram—Disabled hunter <sup>b</sup>	Oct. 11-31	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon Juvenile ram <sup>c</sup>	2
Chelan Butte C—Disabled hunter <sup>b</sup>	Oct. 11-31	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon Adult ewe only	2))

<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Permit Season</b>	<b>Permit Hunt Boundary Description</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Permits</b>
<b>Ram (male) bighorn sheep only</b>				
<u>Lincoln Cliffs A</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 12</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u> <sup>2</sup>
<u>Mt. Hull A</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 10</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Swakane</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 14</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Chelan Butte A</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Chelan Butte B</u>	<u>Oct. 11 - Nov. 15</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Manson</u>	<u>Nov. 7 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 16</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Selah Butte</u>	<u>Nov. 7 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 4</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Umtanum</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 5</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Cleman Mountain A</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 7</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Quilomene</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 13</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Ewe (female) bighorn sheep only</b>				
<u>Lincoln Cliffs B</u> <u>WestWhitestone Unit</u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 12 west of</u> <u>Mount View Rd<sup>d</sup></u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Lincoln Cliffs B</u> <u>EastLincoln Unit</u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 12 east of</u> <u>Mount View Rd<sup>d</sup></u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mt. Hull B</u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 10</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mt. Hull C (youth hunter)<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 10</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Chelan Butte C</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Chelan Butte D (disabled</u> <u>hunter)<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Oct. 11-31</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Cleman Mountain B</u>	<u>Oct. 11-31</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 7</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Cleman Mountain C</u>	<u>Nov. 1-18</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 7</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Cleman Mountain D (youth</u> <u>hunter)<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Nov. 1-18</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 7</u>	<u>Adult ewe only</u> <u>Any legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>Juvenile ram (male) bighorn sheep only</b>				
<u>Chelan Butte E (disabled</u> <u>hunter)<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>Oct. 11-31</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 18</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u> <u>Juvenile ram<sup>c</sup></u>	<u>2</u>

³Applicants must be eligible to purchase a youth bighorn sheep permit application. An adult 18 years of age or older must accompany the youth hunter during the hunt.

⁴Applicants must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit.

⁵A juvenile ram is defined as a male bighorn sheep having at least one "unbroomed" horn that does not extend past an imaginary line beginning at the point on the animal's forehead where the front of the horn base adjoins the skull, and continuing downwards and in a posterior direction through the posterior edge of the eye. A "broomed" horn is defined as a sheep horn that has been broken, splintered, frayed or rubbed in the wild, thus shortening its length and disrupting its natural taper.

[⁶ See \(3\) Bighorn Sheep Units \(below\) for detailed legal descriptions of these hunt area boundaries.](#)

(3) **Bighorn Sheep Units:**

(a) **Sheep Unit 2 Vulcan Mountain:** Permit Area: Ferry County north of the Kettle River near Curlew.

(b) **Sheep Unit 4 Selah Butte:** Permit Area: That part of GMU 340 east of the Yakima River.

(c) **Sheep Unit 5 Umtanum:** Permit Area: Those portions of GMU 340 west of the Yakima River and GMU 342 north of Wenas Creek.

(d) **Sheep Unit 7 Cleman Mountain:** Permit Area: GMU 346 and that part of GMU 342 south of Wenas Creek.

(e) **Sheep Unit 10 Mt. Hull:** Permit Area: That part of Okanogan County within the following described boundary: Beginning at Oroville; then south along U.S. Highway 97 to the Swanson's Mill Road (old Mt. Hull Road) near Lake Andrews; then east to the Dry Gulch Road; then north to the Oroville-Toroda Creek Road (Molson Grade Road); then west to Oroville and the point of beginning.

(f) **Sheep Unit 12 Lincoln Cliffs:** Permit Area: That part of Lincoln County north of Highway 2.

(g) **Sheep Unit 13 Quilomene:** Permit Area: GMUs 329, 330, and that part of 251 east of Squilchuck Creek and south of Colockum Creek.

(h) **Sheep Unit 14 Swakane:** Permit Area: GMU 250.

(i) **Sheep Unit 15 Tieton:** Permit Area: GMU 360.

(j) **Sheep Unit 16 Manson:** Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Granite Falls Creek on the south shore of Lake Chelan, E across Lake Chelan to Willow Point; NW along the shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Stink Creek; E along Stink Creek to the intersection with Green's Landing Road; along Green's Landing Road to Manson Boulevard; E on Manson Boulevard to Lower Joe Creek Road; NE on Lower Joe Creek

Road to Grade Creek Road; NE on Grade Creek Road to US Forest Service Road 8210; NE on US Forest Service Road 8210 to intersection with US Forest Service Road 8020; W on US Forest Service Road 8020 to Fox Peak; NW along Sawtooth Ridge (Chelan-Okanogan County Line) to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary; S along the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary to shore line of Lake Chelan; W across Lake Chelan to the mouth of Riddle Creek on the South Shore; SE along South Shore of Lake Chelan to the point of beginning.

(k) **Sheep Unit 18 Chelan Butte:** Permit Area: Beginning at the intersection of State Hwy 971 and US Hwy 97A, S to the W shoreline of the Columbia River, N along the W shoreline of the Columbia River for 21 miles to the mouth of Antoine Creek, W up Antoine Creek to where it crosses Apple Acres Rd, W on Apple Acres Rd to the intersection with Washington Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 8135), N on Washington Creek Rd to its end and then follow Washington Creek, W on Washington Creek to where it crosses US Forest Service Rd 8010, S on US Forest Service Rd 8010 (transitions into Purtteman Creek Rd) to Purtteman Gulch, S into Purtteman Gulch to the N shoreline of Lake Chelan, S along the shoreline to the S shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of First Creek, S up First Creek to the intersection of State Hwy 971 (Navarre Coulee Rd), S on State Hwy 971 to the point of beginning.



(1) **Sheep Unit 19 Sinlahekin:** Beginning at the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness border and the US-Canadian border; E on the US-Canadian border to the border station on Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568); SE on the Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568) to the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425); E on the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425) to US Hwy 97 in Oroville; S on US Hwy 97 to 12th Ave; W on 12th Ave (it curves S and changes to Old Highway 97); S on Old Highway 97 to US Hwy 97; S on US Hwy 97 to the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410); W on the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410) to Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290); W on Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290) to South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), along the south shore of Fish Lake; SW on South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), to the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015); SW on the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015), along the north shore of Conconully Lake, to the Salmon Creek North Fork Rd (Co. Rd 2361), at the town of Conconully; N on US Forest Service Rd 38 (Salmon Creek North Fork Rd, Co. Rd 2361) to US Forest Service Rd 3820; N on US Forest Service Rd 3820 over Lone Frank Pass, to US Forest Service Rd 39; N on US Forest Service Rd 39 to the US Forest Service Rd 300 at Long Swamp trailhead; W on the US Forest Service Rd 300 to US Forest Service Trail 342; N on US Forest Service Trail 342 to US Forest Service Trail 343; E on US Forest Service Trail 343 to US Forest Service Trail 341; E on US Forest Service Trail 341

to US Forest Service Trail 375; E on US Forest Service Trail 375 to the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness Area; N on the Pasayten Wilderness Area boundary to the US-Canadian border and the point of beginning.

(m) Whitestone Unit: Starting at the intersection of Mount View Rd and US Highway 2; West on US Highway 2 to the Lincoln County Line; N on the Lincoln County Line to the Lincoln County Line in the Columbia River; E up the Columbia River to Halverson Canyon; S and W up Halverson Canyon to Mount View Rd; S on Mount View Rd to US Highway 2 and the point of the beginning.

(n) Lincoln Unit: Starting at the intersection of Mount View Rd and US Highway 2; East on US Highway 2 to the Lincoln County Line; N on the Lincoln County Line to the Lincoln County Line in the Spokane River; W down the Spokane River to the Columbia River; W down the Columbia River to Halverson Canyon; S and W up Halverson Canyon to Mount View Rd; S on Mount View Rd to US Highway 2 and the point of the beginning.

[Statutory Authority: 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. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-120, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: 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, and 77.32.155.  
WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-622, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-622, filed 4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-622, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-622, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

## WAC 220-415-120 2018 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

### RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The department recommends the following adjustments since the Code Reviser filed (CR-102). The adjustments are included in your notebooks.

#### Page 12

- Change: Under Ram (male) bighorn sheep, Lincoln Cliffs A, change the number of permits from 1 to 2.

Rationale: December 2017 survey supports this increase in hunter opportunity per the Game Management Plan.

- Change: Add the following permits under Ewe (female) bighorn sheep hunts:
  - Cleman Mountain C, Nov. 1-18, Sheep Unit 7, Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon, 8 (permits)
  - Cleman Mountain D (youth hunter), Nov. 1-18, Sheep Unit 7, Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon, 2 (permits)

Rationale: A mid-winter survey indicated that the herd continues to grow, and remains larger than biologists view as prudent from a long-term perspective. A population that is larger than our objective increases the risk that bighorns will wander into areas where they may come into contact with domestic sheep, and possibly become infected with bacteria associated with fatal pneumonia. Adding additional ewe permits will dampen this undesired population growth. Because there is some demand for “youth only” permits, 2 of these 10 will be reserved for youth hunters.

#### Page 12-13, 17

- Change: Add legal descriptions of the hunt boundaries of the 2 new subunits of the Lincoln Cliffs bighorn sheep herd
  - Page 12, under Ewe (female) bighorn sheep, “Lincoln Cliffs” hunts (2):
    - Under the hunt name strike “B West” and insert “Whitestone Unit,” and insert “d” under the boundary description.
    - Under the hunt name strike “B East” and insert “Lincoln Unit,” and insert “d” under the boundary description.
  - Page 13, insert the following language:
    - <sup>d</sup> See (3) Bighorn Sheep Units (below) for detailed legal descriptions of these hunt are boundaries.

- Page 17, insert detailed legal descriptions for (m) Whitestone Unit, and (n) Lincoln Unit.

Rationale: Because female bighorn sheep (ewe) groups are documented as having non-overlapping sub-herd home ranges and rarely interact demographically, the department desires to manage them separately for purposes of this ewe hunt. New legal descriptions are required to formalize the new subunits.

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

### WAC 220-415-120 2018 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

#### **Supporting Comments:**

Three (3) comments expressed general support.

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

Some commenters recommend additional harvest in Lincoln Cliffs because of concerns that the herd is larger than the department estimates, and that local property owners dislike the animals. One (1) comment proposed limiting the number of hunt choices on the “Once in a Lifetime” opportunity to two (2) rather than four (4). Three (3) comments proposed transplanting ewes to new areas rather than having ewe hunts when populations exceed objectives. One (1) comment opposed ewe hunting in general. Two (2) comments opposed the recommended rule change to require that all applicants for special permits possess qualifications needed to purchase the license if a permit is drawn (in this case, that youth applicants must have passed hunter education before applying). Three (3) comments recommended providing some of the existing permits to youth only. Some commenters recommended removing the legal description of the Sinlahekin herd, as there are no permits offered this year.

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

Based on newer survey data, the department has agreed to increase the number of permits for ram bighorn sheep in the Lincoln Cliffs herd from 1 to 2. The department continues to work with interested parties on ways to allocate scarce permits fairly for species in which the demand far exceeds the supply. Limiting the number of hunt choices is an alternative approach, one that would be advantageous to some hunters and a disadvantage to other hunters. At present, the department has no existing bighorn sheep populations that are both 1) in need of augmentation, and 2) are known to be free of pathogens that cause disease in bighorns. The department believes that other areas that might be considered for new bighorn sheep herds are either a) too close to known sources of infected bighorns to assure that the new herd would not become infected, or b) too close to private lands where risk of spillover pathogens from domestic sheep and goats is high, and/or agricultural conflicts are likely.

Responding to what seems to be a request for more youth opportunity, we are now recommending that two (2) of the (newly proposed) ten (10) additional ewe permits for the Cleman Mt. herd be reserved for youth hunters.

The department hopes to offer permits in the Sinlahekin herd in the near future. In the meantime, keeping the legal description language in WAC reduces future changes and possible clerical errors.



# 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:

<b>Date:</b> January 24, 2018	<b>Signature:</b>  
<b>Name:</b> Scott Bird	
<b>Title:</b> Rules Coordinator	