



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name John Magart 1-17-2024

Name of Organization Northeast Washington Wildlife Group

Mailing Address _____

City Deer Park State WA Zip Code 99006

Telephone _____ Email nwwg@outlook.com

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClst.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

Please see attached

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: _____

Please see attached

The rule is needed because: _____

Please see attached

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: _____

2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

I am requesting the following change: _____

This change is needed because: _____

The effect of this rule change will be: _____

The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

It does not do what it was intended to do.

It is no longer needed because: _____

It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

Other (please explain): _____

Petition for Adoption, Amendment, or Repeal of a State Administrative Rule

I have checked the box, "1. New Rule -I am requesting the agency adopt a new rule."

The subject or purpose of this rule is: In order to reduce deer harvest, primarily in NE Washington, immediately begin rule-making to create west side and east side deer tags, requiring deer hunters to choose between the west side and the east side of the state, just as elk tags are sold.

The rule is needed because: Deer numbers in NE Washington are approaching, or are at, unsustainable numbers. This is backed up by the fact that 2021 and 2022 harvest numbers were record lows, 2023 numbers not being available at this time but improvement to these numbers, if any, will be negligible.

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: Deer hunters who hunt deer in both west and east Washington.

Further justification

The whitetail deer numbers in Northeast Washington are less than half of what they were in 2015. As documented by WDFW, harvest numbers for the last two years have set record lows. Something needs to be done to increase deer survival. No one wants shorter seasons or limited entry through draws and permits and the following recommendation will not shorten hunter time in the field. We fully understand that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is tasked with preserving, protecting, and perpetuating wildlife in the state, while maximizing hunting opportunities to all residents and therefore, develops management plans for individual species, tracks statewide harvests of game species, and monitors status of populations around the state.

We recognize that cougar and wolf management programs need significant improvement in harvest methods and management to ensure our deer herds in Northeast Washington survive and achieve the aforementioned mission of the Department.

Action
This petition requests the creation of east side/west side deer tags as elk tags were done years ago and is currently being used. Adopting the east side/west side deer tag would reduce hunter pressure and harvest on Northeast Washington herds, the same as it did for elk in Southeastern Washington. This would result in a more diverse population of does and bucks, higher fawn survival overall, and with more bucks available would reduce the predator take on does and fawns, thus helping recruitment and overall deer numbers.

Conclusion
There are far too many predators in Northeast Washington and the deer herds simply are not coming back from disease and predation, each year their numbers decrease and are reaching unsustainable levels.

Per RCW 77.04.012: "... the Department shall preserve, protect perpetuate, and manage the wildlife...", "the Department shall conserve the wildlife...In a manner that does not impair the resource...", and "The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational... hunting opportunities of all citizens,....."

It is this mandate that sets the overall policy and direction for managing hunted wildlife. Hunters and hunting will continue to play a significant role in the conservation and management of Washington's wildlife.

Thank you,

Northeast Washington Wildlife Group