

# Concise Explanatory Statement

## Landowner Hunting Permits

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### **WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits**

#### **Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:**

##### *Supporting Comments:*

Thirty-eight percent of the comments regarding changes to the Landowner Hunting Permit program in WAC 232-28-296 supported the proposed changes.

##### *Opposing and Other Comments:*

Thirty-two percent of the comments were interpreted as opposing the proposal. Most of these comments contained statements in opposition to the LHP concept and others stating concerns related to the use of the hunt by reservation system. A relatively large portion of the comments (23%) appeared to not relate directly to the proposal and included concerns related to hunting access in general, suggestions to improve the reservation system, and statements related to permits issued to landowners to help control wildlife damage on their property independent of the LHP program.

##### *Direction and rationale:*

It appears that those who submitted some of these comments may not be aware that some of the permits on these sites are issued through the special permit process. The LHP program is intended to leverage expanded hunting access for the general public that otherwise would most likely not be available to the general public. WDFW does not make cash payments to these landowners and use of the program is limited to a few properties offering unique or otherwise beneficial opportunities. In the case of the proposed new LHP, the general hunting public will be allowed more access opportunity than would otherwise be realized through the more traditional special permit approach.

#### **Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:**

Public testimony was not provided.

#### **Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:**

Under Pine Mountain Ranch, the number of landowner any buck permits is increased from 2 to 3, and the number of youth only, any buck special hunting permits is increased from 2 to 3.

The following sentence is added under the description of Bennett Lumber landowner hunting permits: “Holders of the ten (10) antlerless elk permits are eligible to purchase second elk tags that may only be used on lands included in the Bennett Lumber LHP.”

The following sentence is added under the description of Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association landowner hunting permits: “Holders of landowner permits selected through raffle, including 13 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.”