

NEW SECTION

WAC 232-12-239 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.

(1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Bait" is any salt, grain, fruit, hay or other food-based attractant that could serve as a lure or attraction for deer or elk.

(b) Scent attractants and scent covers are not considered bait.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful to hunt deer or elk using any type of bait placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the purpose of attracting deer or elk to an area where one or more persons intend to hunt them.

(3) Exceptions: Hunting on or over the following is not considered an unlawful use of bait while hunting deer or elk:

(a) Farms or ranches where active agricultural operations including salt or mineral distribution for livestock, crop fields, orchards, vineyards, hay fields, haystacks, or pastures exist;

(b) Abandoned orchards or vineyards;

(c) Naturally occurring mineral deposits; or

(d) Food plots planted for wildlife and left undisturbed.

(4) A violation of this section is punishable as an infraction under RCW 77.15.160 if no animal has been shot or killed and RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty, if an animal has been shot or killed.