

WAC 232-36-060 (~~Director or his/her designee is empowered to grant wildlife control operator certifications.~~) Certification of wildlife control operators. For purposes of training individuals to assist landowners with employing nonlethal management techniques, or to harass, kill, trap, release, (~~and dispatch animals~~) wildlife that (~~are~~) is causing damage to private property, the director or his/her designee may (~~issue~~) certify wildlife control operators (WCOs) (~~certifications~~).

(1) To (~~qualify~~) be eligible to apply for WCO certification, applicants must:

(a) Be at least eighteen years of age;

(b) Must pass the Washington state trapper education exam and possess a minimum of two years experience that demonstrates the knowledge and ability to control wildlife species causing conflict or property damage. Applicants may document the two-year experience requirement by possessing a trapper's license for two years, providing a letter of recommendation from a currently certified WCO or trapper, providing evidence being employed in the wildlife abatement field for two years, providing a written statement verifying they are currently working with a certified WCO, or other method as identified by the department;

(c) Take and (~~complete~~) pass the department's approved WCO basic certification(~~s~~) course(s);

(~~(c) Be certified by the department and have the equipment, knowledge, and ability to control the wildlife species causing conflict or property damage;~~)

(d) Be legally eligible to possess a firearm and without a felony or domestic violence conviction including, but not limited to, convictions under chapter 9.41 RCW, unless firearm possession rights have been restored;

(e) Not have (~~a gross~~) any infractions, misdemeanors or fish and wildlife conviction within the last five years; and

(f) Pay the enrollment fee for each certification training/education (RCW 77.12.184). (~~After July 1, 2010,~~) This fee shall be fifty dollars (~~(RCW 77.12.184)~~) per certification.

(2) (~~Once a person is granted~~) The department may grant a WCO certification if the applicant meets the criteria for eligibility in subsection (1) of this section and passes the basic certification courses.

(3) If the department grants WCO certification, (~~he or she~~) the WCO must apply for a permit (~~pursuant to WAC 232-36-065 in order to harass, kill, trap, release, or dispatch animals~~) to lawfully engage

in harassing, killing, trapping, releasing, or dispatching wildlife causing damage to private property.

(4) WCO certification is valid for three years.