

19. DEER AND ELK SPECIAL PERMITS – BRIEFING

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: March 7-8, 2008
Agenda Item 19: 2008 Deer and elk special permits – **Briefing**
Prepared By: Jerry Nelson
Presented By: Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

Deer and elk special permits are adjusted to respond to population changes, winterkill, agricultural damage complaints, etc.

- This year will be the second year of increased special permits for the Mount St. Helens elk herd. The long term objective is to reduce this population to a level that the habitat can support.
 - Special permits were adopted for the new Deer Area 2012 Methow Valley in 2007. These permits are designed to deal with damage-causing and nuisance deer that are primarily on private land in the Methow Valley. This approach was successful and a slight increase in permits is appropriate.
 - A conservative number of special permits for bull elk will be recommended for GMU 418 Nooksack. Last year's hunt was a success and the population can support another year of bull permits.
 - Elk numbers continue to improve in the Blue Mountains and this population can support an increase in special permits for bulls.
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Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Reduce the Mount St. Helens elk herd to meet the population objective stated in the Mount St. Helens Elk Herd Management Plan.
 - Provide additional deer special permit opportunities on private lands in the Methow Valley in response to damage and nuisance complaints.
 - Retain a conservative number of bull elk special permits in the Nooksack.
 - Take advantage of improving numbers and distribution of elk by offering more special permits for bulls.
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Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Once recommendations are available they will be mailed to approximately 450 organizations and individuals in March for their review and consideration. These organizations and individuals will also be informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the April 11-12, 2008 Commission meeting in TriCities.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

None, briefing only. Public hearing and rule action is planned for the April 11-12, 2008 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A
