7. *SMALL GAME SEASONS – RULE ACTION*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Decision Page ..... *i*

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons 1

Recommended Adjustments to WAC 232-28-342 16

Supplemental Recommended Adjustments to WAC 232-28-342 17

Summary of Written Public Input 18

Supplemental Summary of Written Public Input 19

CR 102 20

"GREEN SHEET"

Meeting: April 11-12, 2008

Agenda Item 7: Amend WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons – **Rule Action**

Prepared By: Mick Cope and Don Kraege

Presented By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

Since 2003, fall, either sex turkey hunting seasons in northeastern and southeastern Washington have been liberalized to provide expanded hunting opportunity and to address turkey population increases. Significant concerns over high turkey populations and their impacts lead to a recommendation to reduce the population through more aggressive hunting seasons. The most significant proposed change is to increase the "early fall" bag limit to two birds in Game Management Units (GMUs) 105-124 and to reduce the population using a "beardless only" season. This strategy should increase hen harvest while also minimizing impacts to spring hunting opportunity.

This proposal would also change fall turkey hunting opportunities in GMUs 127, 130, and 133, where increases in spring harvest indicate that additional fall opportunity can be offered. Proposed changes would place these GMUs into the "early fall general season". In addition, this proposal would increase fall turkey permit levels in the Blue Mountains GMUs (GMUs 145-186) where populations are stable to increasing.

Washington mourning dove seasons are set within rules established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in cooperation with the Pacific Flyway Council. Federal rules for mourning dove seasons in Washington have allowed a 30-day season since the 1970s. Our seasons have been limited to 15 days, initially because of landowner concerns but more recently because of concerns about a long-term decline in our dove breeding population. Idaho and Oregon have maintained 30-day dove seasons since the 1970s. During the past five years, WDFW has participated in a nationwide dove banding project, which has shown very low band recovery rates for doves marked in Washington. The 2003-09 WDFW Game Management Plan prescribes a restrictive dove season until a significant increase is observed in the 10-year Washington breeding population index. In 2007, a significant increase was observed in this index, and the department is recommending an increase in the 2008 dove season length from 15 to 30 days, with season dates September 1-30. An adjustment is also necessary for the mourning dove falconry season to be consistent with federal rules.

Grays Harbor County was included in Goose Management Area 3 (GMA 3) in August 2006. Based on federal rules, seasons in all counties of goose management areas must be the same. The 2008 September goose season in the county is proposed for change to be consistent with season dates in the remainder of GMA 3. The 2008-09 regular goose season in the county will be proposed for change at the August 8-9, 2008 Commission meeting, to be consistent with the remainder of GMA 3.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Liberalize fall turkey hunting by establishing more general season opportunity.
- Help control turkey population expansion through increased hen harvest.
- Provide additional hunting opportunity for mourning doves consistent with criteria in the 2003-09 Game Management Plan.
- Provide consistent goose season regulations in all counties of Goose Management Area 3.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

These proposed recommendations were mailed to approximately 450 organizations and individuals in January for their review and consideration. These organizations and individuals were informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the March 7-8, 2008 Commission meeting in Olympia. In addition, staff attended a Washington State National Wild Turkey Federation meeting in January where members supported increased hen harvest in areas where population reduction efforts were needed.

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

Amend WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons, as presented.

Draft motion language:

I move to amend WAC 232-28-342 as proposed.

Justification for Commission action:

The proposed changes provide greater population control in areas experiencing unwanted population growth and increased hunter opportunity in areas where expanding populations can support increased harvest.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 06-91, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06)

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons.

STATEWIDE SEASONS:

FOREST GROUSE (BLUE, RUFFED, AND SPRUCE)

Bag and Possession Limits: Three (3) grouse per day, straight or mixed bag, with a total of nine (9) grouse in possession at any time.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 1 - Dec. 31, 2006, 2007, 2008.

BOBCAT

Bag and Possession Limits: No limit.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 5, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Sept. 4, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Sept. 2, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

RACCOON

Bag and Possession Limits: No limit.

OPEN AREA: Statewide, EXCEPT closed on Long Island within Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 5, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Sept. 4, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Sept. 2, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

FOX

Bag and Possession Limits: No limit.

OPEN AREA: Statewide EXCEPT closed within the exterior boundaries of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, Wenatchee, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests and GMUs 407 and 410.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 5, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Sept. 4, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Sept. 2, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

COYOTE

Bag and Possession Limits: No limit.

OPEN AREA AND SEASON DATES: Statewide, year round. Coyote may only be killed and/or pursued with hounds during the following period: Sept. 5, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Sept. 4, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Sept. 2, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009, EXCEPT coyote may be hunted year round with hounds in Grant, Adams, Benton, and Franklin counties.

COTTONTAIL AND SNOWSHOE HARE (OR WASHINGTON HARE)

Bag and Possession Limits: Five (5) cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, with a total of fifteen (15) in possession at any time, straight or mixed bag.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 1, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Sept. 1, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Sept. 1, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

CROWS

Bag and Possession Limits: No limit.

SEASON DATES: Oct. 1, 2006 - Jan. 31, 2007; Oct. 1, 2007 - Jan. 31, 2008; Oct. 1, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009.

JACKRABBIT

Season closed statewide.

PTARMIGAN, SAGE, AND SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Season closed statewide.

WILD TURKEY:

YOUTH SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Gobblers and turkeys with visible beards only.

SEASON DATES: April 7-8, 2007; April 5-6, 2008; April 4-5, 2009.

SPRING SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Gobblers and turkeys with visible beards only.

SEASON DATES: April 15 - May 31, 2007, 2008, 2009.

BAG LIMIT: The combined spring/youth season limit is three (3) birds. Only two (2) turkeys may be killed in Eastern Washington, except only one (1) may be killed in Chelan, Kittitas, or Yakima counties. One (1) turkey may be killed per year in Western Washington outside of Klickitat County. Two (2) turkeys may be killed in Klickitat County.

EARLY FALL NORTHEAST BEARDLESS SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Beardless only.

LEGAL HUNTER: Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

OPEN AREA: GMUs 105-124.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2008.

BAG LIMIT: Two (2) beardless turkeys.

EARLY FALL GENERAL SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.

LEGAL HUNTER: Open to all hunters with a valid turkey tag.

OPEN AREA: GMUs 101((~~-124~~)) and 127-133.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 - Oct. 6, 2006; Sept. 22 - Oct. 5, 2007; Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2008.

EARLY FALL PERMIT SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.

LEGAL HUNTER: All hunters who are selected in the early fall turkey special permit drawing and who possess a valid turkey tag.

OPEN AREA: GMUs ((~~127, 133,~~)) 145-186, 382, 388, 568-578.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 - Oct. 6, 2006; Sept. 22 - Oct. 5, 2007; Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, 2008.

Permit Area	Number of Permits
((~~GMU 127~~	~~150~~
~~GMU 133~~	~~200~~))
GMUs 149-163	((~~200~~)) 300
GMUs 145, 172-186	((~~100~~)) 200
GMUs 382, 388, 568-578	75

BAG LIMIT: One (1) turkey during the early fall general and permit hunting seasons combined.

LATE FALL PERMIT SEASON

LEGAL BIRD: Either sex.

LEGAL HUNTER: All hunters who are selected in the special late fall turkey permit drawing and who possess a valid turkey tag.

OPEN AREA: GMUs 101-124.

SEASON DATES: Nov. 20 - Dec. 15, 2006, 2007, 2008.

PERMITS: 800.

BAG LIMIT: One (1) turkey.

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR INCENTIVE PERMITS

LEGAL BIRD: Gobblers and turkeys with visible beards only.

LEGAL HUNTER: Qualified hunter education instructors who are selected through a random drawing. Qualifying hunter education instructors must be certified and have been in active status for a minimum of three consecutive years, inclusive of the year prior to the permit drawing. Instructors who are drawn, accept a permit, and are able to participate in the hunt, will not be eligible for these incentive permits for a period of ten years thereafter.

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: April 1 - May 31, 2007, 2008, 2009.

PERMITS: 2.

OFFICIAL HUNTING HOURS((~~/BAG LIMITS~~)) FOR WILD TURKEY:

((~~SPRING SEASON BAG LIMIT: The combined spring season limit is three (3) birds. Only two (2) turkeys may be killed in Eastern Washington, except only one (1) may be killed in Chelan, Kittitas, or Yakima counties. One (1) turkey may be killed per year in Western Washington outside of Klickitat County. Two (2) turkeys may be killed in Klickitat County.~~

~~EARLY FALL SEASON BAG LIMIT: One (1) turkey during the early fall hunting seasons combined.~~

~~LATE FALL PERMIT SEASON BAG LIMIT: One (1) turkey during the late fall permit season.~~))

HUNTING HOURS: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset during spring and fall seasons.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WILD TURKEY:

1. Turkey season is open for shotgun, archery, and muzzleloader shotgun.
2. A turkey tag is required for hunting turkey.
3. It is unlawful to use dogs to hunt turkeys.
4. It is unlawful to bait game birds.

EASTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS:

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Bag and Possession Limits: Three (3) cock pheasants per day, with a total of fifteen (15) cock pheasants in possession at any time.

YOUTH SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 and 24, 2006; Sept. 22 and 23, 2007; Sept. 20 and 21, 2008. Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old.

REGULAR SEASON DATES: Oct. 21, 2006 - Jan 15, 2007; Oct. 20, 2007 - Jan. 21, 2008; Oct. 18, 2008 - Jan. 19, 2009.

The director is authorized to close the pheasant season on an emergency basis as conditions warrant, consistent with RCW 34.05.350 and 77.12.150.

CHUKAR

Bag and Possession Limits: Six (6) chukar per day, with a total of eighteen (18) chukar in possession at any time.

YOUTH SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 and 24, 2006; Sept. 22 and 23, 2007;

Sept. 20 and 21, 2008. Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old.

REGULAR SEASON DATES: Oct. 7, 2006 - Jan 15, 2007; Oct. 6, 2007 - Jan. 21, 2008; Oct. 4, 2008 - Jan. 19, 2009.

GRAY (HUNGARIAN) PARTRIDGE

Bag and Possession Limits: Six (6) gray partridges per day, with a total of eighteen (18) gray partridges in possession at any time.

YOUTH SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 and 24, 2006; Sept. 22 and 23, 2007; Sept. 20 and 21, 2008. Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old.

REGULAR SEASON DATES: Oct. 7, 2006 - Jan 15, 2007; Oct. 6, 2007 - Jan. 21, 2008; Oct. 4, 2008 - Jan. 19, 2009.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Season closed throughout Eastern Washington.

CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Bag and Possession Limits: Ten (10) quail per day, with a total of thirty (30) quail in possession at any time, straight or mixed bag.

YOUTH SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 and 24, 2006; Sept. 22 and 23, 2007; Sept. 20 and 21, 2008. Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old.

REGULAR SEASON DATES: Oct. 7, 2006 - Jan 15, 2007; Oct. 6, 2007 - Jan. 21, 2008; Oct. 4, 2008 - Jan. 19, 2009.

WESTERN WASHINGTON SEASONS:

RING-NECKED PHEASANT

Bag and Possession Limits: Two (2) pheasants of either sex per day, with a total of fifteen (15) pheasants in possession at any time.

YOUTH SEASON DATES: Sept. 23 and 24, 2006; Sept. 22 and 23, 2007; Sept. 20 and 21, 2008. Open only to youth hunters accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old.

HUNTERS SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SEASON DATES: Sept. 25-29, 2006; Sept. 24-28 - 2007; Sept. 22-26, 2008.

REGULAR SEASON DATES: Sept. 30 - Nov. 30, 2006; Sept. 29 - Nov. 30, 2007; Sept. 27 - Nov. 30, 2008. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; EXCEPT Dungeness Recreation Area Site (Clallam County) starting Oct. 7, 2006; Oct. 6, 2007; Oct. 4, 2008.

EXTENDED SEASON DATES: Dec. 1-15, 2006, 2007, 2008. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. only on the following release sites: Belfair, Fort Lewis, Kosmos, Lincoln Creek, Scatter Creek, Skookumchuck, and all Whidbey Island release sites EXCEPT Bayview. Pheasants will not be released during the extended season.

A Western Washington Pheasant Permit is required to hunt pheasant in Western Washington, in addition to a current small game hunting license. Pheasant kills must be recorded. Upon taking a pheasant, the holder of a Western Washington Pheasant Permit must immediately enter on the corresponding space the date and location of kill.

There are three license options available:

(1) Full Season Option: Allows the harvest of eight (8) pheasants.

(2) Youth Option: Allows the harvest of eight (8) pheasants by youth hunters.

(3) 3-Day Option: Allows the harvest of four (4) pheasants harvested over three consecutive days.

Every person possessing a Western Washington Pheasant Permit must, by December 31, return the permit to the department of fish and wildlife. The number of permits purchased per year is not limited.

A hunter shall select one valid option at the time they purchase their Western Washington Pheasant Permit. It is unlawful to purchase an additional permit until the pheasants allowed on the current permit are taken.

SPECIAL RESTRICTION: Western Washington pheasant hunters must choose to hunt on either odd-numbered or even-numbered weekend days from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at all units of Lake Terrell, Tennant Lake, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Skookumchuck, and Scatter Creek Wildlife Areas, all hunting sites on Whidbey Island, and at the Dungeness Recreation Area, and must indicate their choice on the Western Washington Pheasant Permit by choosing "odd" or "even." Hunters who select the three day option, hunters 65 years of age or older, and youth hunters may hunt during either weekend day morning. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who must have an appropriately marked pheasant permit if hunting.

MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Bag and Possession Limits: Two (2) mountain quail per day, with a total of four (4) mountain quail in possession at any time.

SEASON DATES: Oct. 7 - Nov. 30, 2006; Oct. 6 - Nov. 30, 2007; Oct. 4 - Nov. 30, 2008.

CALIFORNIA (VALLEY) QUAIL AND NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Bag and Possession Limits: Ten (10) California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite per day, with a total of thirty (30) California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite in possession at any time, straight or mixed bag.

SEASON DATES: Oct. 7 - Nov. 30, 2006; Oct. 6 - Nov. 30, 2007; Oct. 4 - Nov. 30, 2008.

FALCONRY SEASONS:

UPLAND GAME BIRD AND FOREST GROUSE - FALCONRY

Bag and Possession Limits: Two (2) pheasants (either sex), six (6) partridge, five (5) California (valley) quail or northern bobwhite, two (2) mountain quail (in Western Washington only), and three (3) forest grouse (blue, ruffed, spruce) per day. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Aug. 1, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Aug. 1, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Aug. 1, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

TURKEY - FALCONRY

A turkey tag is required to hunt turkey during the turkey falconry season.

Bag and Possession Limits: One (1) turkey (either sex) per turkey tag with a maximum of two (2) turkeys. Possession limit: Two (2).

OPEN AREA: Eastern Washington.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 1, 2006 - Feb. 15, 2007; Sept. 1, 2007 - Feb. 15, 2008; Sept. 1, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2009.

MOURNING DOVE - FALCONRY

Bag and Possession Limits: Three (3) mourning doves per day straight bag or mixed bag with snipe, coots, ducks, and geese during established seasons. Possession limit is twice the daily limit.

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 1-((~~15 and Oct. 1~~)) Dec. ((~~31~~)) 16, 2006, 2007, 2008.

COTTONTAIL AND SNOWSHOE HARE - FALCONRY

Bag and Possession Limits: Five (5) cottontails or snowshoe hares per day, straight or mixed bag. Possession limit: Fifteen (15).

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Aug. 1, 2006 - Mar. 15, 2007; Aug. 1, 2007 - Mar. 15, 2008; Aug. 1, 2008 - Mar. 15, 2009.

OTHER SEASONS:

CANADA GOOSE SEPTEMBER SEASON

Bag and Possession Limits: Western Washington, except Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties and that part of Clark County north of

the Washougal River: Five (5) Canada geese per day with a total of ten (10) in possession at any time.

Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties and that part of Clark County north of the Washougal River: Three (3) Canada geese per day with a total of six (6) in possession at any time.

Eastern Washington: Three (3) Canada geese per day with a total of six (6) in possession at any time.

WESTERN WASHINGTON SEASON DATES: Sept. 9-14, 2006; Sept. 8-13, 2007; Sept. 6-11, 2008. EXCEPT Pacific ((~~and Grays Harbor counties~~)) County: Sept. 1-15, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

EASTERN WASHINGTON SEASON DATES: Sept. 9-10, 2006; Sept. 8-9, 2007; Sept. 6-7, 2008.

MOURNING DOVE

Bag and Possession Limits: Ten (10) mourning doves per day with a total of twenty (20) mourning doves in possession at any time.

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 1-((~~15~~)) 30, 2006, 2007, 2008.

HIP REQUIREMENTS:

All hunters age 16 and over of migratory game birds (duck, goose, coot, snipe, mourning dove) are required to complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey at a license dealer, and possess a Washington Migratory Bird validation as evidence of compliance with this requirement when hunting migratory game birds. Youth hunters are required to complete a HIP survey, and possess a free Washington Youth Migratory Bird validation as

evidence of compliance with this requirement when hunting migratory game birds.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Bag and Possession Limits: Two (2) band-tailed pigeons per day with a total of four (4) band-tailed pigeons in possession at one time.

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Sept. 15-23, 2006, 2007, 2008.

WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED TO HUNT BAND-TAILED PIGEONS.

All persons hunting band-tailed pigeons in this season are required to obtain a written authorization and harvest report from the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Application forms must be delivered to a department of fish and wildlife office no later than August 25 or postmarked on or before August 25 in order for applicants to be mailed an authorization before the season starts. Immediately after taking a band-tailed pigeon into possession, hunters must record in ink the information required on the harvest report. By October 15, hunters must return the harvest report to a department of fish and wildlife office, or report harvest information on the department's internet reporting system. Hunters failing to comply with reporting requirements will be ineligible to participate in the following band-tailed pigeon season.

BIRD DOG TRAINING SEASON

Wild upland game birds may be pursued during the dog-training season, but may not be killed except during established hunting seasons. A small game license is required to train dogs on wild game birds. A small game license and a Western Washington Pheasant Permit is required to train dogs on pheasants in Western Washington. Captive raised game birds may be released and killed during dog training if proof of lawful acquisition (invoices) are in possession and the birds are appropriately marked (WAC 232-12-271 and 232-12-044).

OPEN AREA: Statewide.

SEASON DATES: Aug. 1, 2006 - Mar. 31, 2007; Aug. 1, 2007 - Mar. 31, 2008; Aug. 1, 2008 - Mar. 31, 2009.

Only youth and seniors may train dogs during their respective seasons on designated Western Washington pheasant release sites.

Bird dog training may be conducted year round on areas posted for bird dog training on portions of: Region One - Espanola (T24N, R40E, E 1/2 of section 16); Region Three - South L. T. Murray Wildlife Area; Region Four - Skagit Wildlife Area, Lake Terrell Wildlife Area, and Snoqualmie Wildlife Area; Region Five - Shillapoo/Vancouver Lake Wildlife Area; Region Six - Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, Fort Lewis Military Base.

HOUND HUNTING DURING DEER AND ELK HUNTING SEASONS

It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife at night or wild animals with dogs (hounds) during the months of September, October, or November in any area open to a modern firearm deer or elk

season. The use of hounds to hunt black bear, cougar (EXCEPT by public safety cougar removal permit (WAC 232-12-243) or a commission authorized hound permit (WAC 232-28-285)), and bobcat is prohibited year round.

YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION:

The 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 upland bird seasons within the Yakama Indian Reservation shall be the same as the season established by the Yakama Indian Nation.

COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION:

The 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 upland bird seasons within the Colville Indian Reservation shall be the same as the season established by the Colville Indian Tribe.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 06-11-031 (Order 06-91), § 232-28-342, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06.]

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are already included in your notebooks.

Pages 3-5

Under Wild Turkey Seasons:

- Create an early fall "beardless only" season in GMUs 105-124 with a bag limit of two. *Rationale: This is a population reduction proposal to address field staff requests to reduce turkey populations in GMUs that experience a high frequency of nuisance and damage complaints. The season timing is such that hunters should have access to hunting on both private and public lands while maintaining a season that has minimal overlap with other hunting opportunities (e.g., muzzleloader deer and elk).*

- Early Fall General Season: Remove GMU 124 (which has been added to the beardless only season); add GMUs 127, 130, and 133 (127 and 133 were previously permit only). *Rationale: GMU 124 was included in the beardless season due to nuisance and damage concerns. Population levels in GMUs 127-133 are high enough, as indicated by harvest trends, to allow additional recreational opportunity.*

- Early Fall Permit Season: Remove GMUs 127 and 133. *Rationale: GMUs 127 and 133 were added to the general season.*

- Bag Limits: List bag limits under each season instead of in a dedicated bag limit section. *Rationale: Bag limits were included with each season to provide clarity.*

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons

SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are already included in your notebooks.

Page 11

Under mourning dove falconry seasons, change season dates from Sept. 1-15 and Oct. 1- Dec. 16 to Sept. 1- Dec. 16. This change is necessary because of federal rules and revisions to the September gun season, to provide additional opportunity for falconers when the majority of mourning doves are in Washington.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
Support these recommendations that provide additional opportunity and still maintain healthy populations.	Thank you for your support.
Support for proposed extension of the mourning dove season to 30 days in 2008.	The Department appreciates the support for this recommendation.
Oppose extension of the mourning dove season due to potential impacts on eastern Washington quail and pheasant season opener.	The proposed 2008 opening dates for eastern Washington quail and pheasant seasons are October 4 and 21, respectively. The Department believes that the period of time between the end of the proposed dove season (September 30) and the opening of other game bird seasons is adequate to avoid any conflicts. Most dove harvest and hunting effort is projected to occur during the first part of September. Extension of the dove season will allow youth hunters to hunt doves along with upland game birds, ducks, and geese during the proposed September 20 and 21 youth season.
Consider wild turkey hunting with dogs.	In the past, the majority of turkey hunters have not supported the use of dogs.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT
Received after the March 7-8, 2008 Commission Meeting

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
Concerned with spring wild turkey season extending through the end of May in western Washington. Western Washington population is not expanding like those in eastern Washington.	Hunting pressure in western Washington is not high (521 out of 16,000 during the 2006 season). Hunter pressure during the last two weeks in May is likely only a small portion of the overall effort. Subsequently, the numbers of birds taken during that time will not likely impact populations. Turkey seasons (spring and fall) will be discussed during the upcoming 3-year season setting process for the 2009-2011 hunting seasons.
Recommend a general fall turkey season or increased fall permits in Klickitat County as has been done in other counties.	Fall permits have not increased in Klickitat County primarily because the population increase in that area has not been as seen in other parts of the state. For example, spring harvest in northeastern Washington has increased 1000% since 1996 while spring harvest has increased approximately 200%. Turkey seasons (spring and fall) will be discussed during the upcoming 3-year season setting process for the 2009-2011 hunting seasons.
Propose that Washington State allow the use of dogs to hunt fall turkeys.	In the past, this topic has not been well supported by organized turkey hunting groups. Fall turkey hunting with dogs and other turkey season issues will be discussed during the upcoming 3-year season setting process for the 2009-2011 hunting seasons.

PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.320)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife

☒ **Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR** 07-24-061 **; or**
☐ **Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR** _____**; or**
☐ **Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).**

☒ **Original Notice**
☐ **Supplemental Notice to WSR** _____
☐ **Continuance of WSR** _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)
WAC 232-12-004 Classification of wild birds
WAC 232-12-045 Hunting equipment restrictions
WAC 232-28-273 2006-2008 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas
WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits
WAC 232-28-337 Deer and elk area descriptions
WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons
WAC 232-28-351 2006-2008 Deer general seasons and definitions
WAC 232-28-352 2006-2008 Elk general seasons and definitions

Hearing location(s):
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
1111 Washington Street Southeast
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-2515

Date: March 7-8, 2008 Time: 8:00 am

Submit written comments to:
Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia WA 98501-1091
e-mail Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov
fax (360) 902-2162

By: Friday, February 15, 2008

Assistance for persons with disabilities:
Contact: Susan Yeager by March 5, 2008
TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: April 11-12, 2008
(Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
See Attachment A

Reasons supporting proposal:
See Attachment A

Statutory authority for adoption: 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210

Statute being implemented: 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Federal Court Decision?	☐ Yes	☒ No
State Court Decision?	☐ Yes	☒ No

If yes, CITATION:

DATE
January 23, 2008

NAME
Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE
Lorena M Preuss

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

20

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 23, 2008
TIME: 9:30 AM

WSR 08-03-141

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:
None

Name of proponent: (person or organization)
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

☐ Private
☐ Public
☒ Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting.....	Dave Brittell	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(306) 902-2504
Implementation....	Dave Brittell	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2504
Enforcement.....	Bruce Bjork	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2373

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☐ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:
Name:
Address:

phone ( ) _____
fax ( ) _____
e-mail _____

☒ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.
These rules regulate recreational hunters and do not directly regulate small business.

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☐ Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:
Name:
Address:

phone ( ) _____
fax ( ) _____
e-mail _____

☒ No: Please explain: Not hydraulics rules.

ATTACHMENT A

WAC 232-12-004 Classification of wild birds

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
The amendment adds Eurasian collared dove to the list of predatory birds in Washington.

Reasons supporting proposal:
The Eurasian collared dove is a non-native species that has recently expanded its range into Washington. The effects of this species are not known, but there is some evidence that it may compete with our native mourning doves. The proposed amendment would classify the species as a predatory bird, which would allow it to be taken year-round with a hunting license as provided under WAC 232-12-005.

WAC 232-12-045 Hunting equipment restrictions

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
This proposal will restrict the use of telemetry equipment for hunting deer, elk, bear, moose, mountain goat, and bighorn sheep that have radio transmitters attached to them.

Reasons supporting proposal:
It is too easy for hunters to find and harvest wildlife with transmitters attached to them and hunting in this manner may bias the results of research projects.

WAC 232-28-273 2006-2008 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
Rule amends 2008 seasons and permit quotas for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats. The purpose of the rule is to maximize recreational hunting opportunities for these species while meeting the population and recreational objectives for each herd as indicated in the Game Management Plan. The rule changes include minor statewide permit level changes for moose (+14 permits) and bighorn sheep (+2 permits), as well as hunt boundary changes for mountain goat. The anticipated effect is stable to increase populations of these hunting species.

Reasons supporting proposal:
Recommended adjustments in permit quotas are based on meeting population objectives for each species as indicated in the Game Management Plan.

WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
The proposal identifies permit levels and season dates for Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program participants for the 2008 hunting seasons. There are calendar date modifications for some permits, but no changes in permit levels are being proposed. If adopted, the proposal will allocate 70 deer permits and 186 elk permits among 5 LHP cooperators. Sixty percent of the permits will be for antlerless animals while 24% will be for antlered animals and 16% for any elk.

Reasons supporting proposal:
The proposed permits are consistent with the Commission's private lands hunter access program policy (C-6002). The permits will result in general public hunter access on private property and will help mitigate deer and elk foraging on private agricultural lands.

WAC 232-28-337 Deer and elk area descriptions

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
The proposed change removes elk feeding areas from GMU 368.

Reasons supporting proposal:
This proposal allows the continuation of December hunting seasons without impacting feeding activities or creating unethical hunting situations.

WAC 232-28-342 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 Small game seasons

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
Since 2003, the Department has proposed liberalized fall, either sex turkey hunting seasons in northeastern and southeastern Washington, to provide expanded hunting opportunity and to address undesired turkey population increases. This proposal would change fall turkey hunting opportunities by increasing fall turkey permit levels in some southeastern Washington Game Management Units (GMUs), while moving some northeastern GMUs from "early fall permit only" to "early fall general season" designations.

The amendment also extends the mourning dove season from 15 to 30 days in September, modifies the mourning dove falconry season to be consistent with federal rules, and makes the September goose season in Grays Harbor consistent with the remainder of Goose Management Area 3.

Reasons supporting proposal:
The proposed changes provide: 1) greater turkey population control in areas experiencing unwanted population growth or, 2) increased turkey hunter opportunity in areas where expanding populations can support increased fall harvest.

The 2003-09 WDFW Game Management Plan prescribes a restrictive dove season until a significant increase is observed in the 10-year Washington breeding population index. In 2007, a significant increase was observed in this index, and the department is recommending an increase in the 2008 dove season length from 15 to 30 days, with season dates September 1-30. Grays Harbor County was included in Goose Management Area 3 in 2006, and the 2008 September goose season in Grays Harbor County is proposed for change to be consistent with season dates in the remainder of Goose Management Area 3.

WAC 232-28-351 2006-2008 Deer general seasons and definitions

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
This rule amends the 2008 seasons for deer. The rule clarifies the antler restriction in GMU 554; focuses late season opportunity in a portion of GMU 162; and retains a late deer season in the main part of GMU 368.

Reasons supporting proposal:
Recommended adjustments clarify restrictions, and helps focus harvest where desired. The change from GMU 368 to Deer Area 3682 helps retain the late hunt without impacting elk feeding operations.

WAC 232-28-352 2006-2008 Elk general seasons and definitions

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
This rule amends the 2008 seasons for elk. The rule modifies the season dates for the Elk Area 3911 damage hunt to provide better incentives for harvesting elk early in the season. Hunts that end in January are amended to end on January 20th to allow time for hunters to report prior to the January 31 reporting deadline. This proposal also establishes a hunt in Elk Area 3681, which avoids conflict with elk feeding stations and ethical issues while retaining the late elk season in the main part of GMU 368.

Reasons supporting proposal:
Recommended adjustments clarify restrictions, and helps focus harvest where desired. The change from GMU 368 to Elk Area 3681 helps retain the late hunt without impacting elk feeding operations.