

**22. ELK GENERAL SEASONS AND SPECIAL PERMIT REGULATIONS—  
RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

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## **“GREEN SHEET”**

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**Meeting:** March 6-7, 2009  
**Agenda Item 22:** Elk General Seasons and Special Permit Regulations – **Rule Briefing and Public Hearing**  
**Prepared By:** Jerry Nelson  
**Presented By:** Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

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### **Background:**

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed rule amendments to the following WACs: 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions; and 232-28-354 2009 Elk special permits.

The 2009-2011 hunting issues brought before the public this summer and fall included changes to elk seasons. The public encouraged the Department to make several changes that the Department could accommodate while sustaining the wildlife resource:

- The Colockum elk herd has consistently been below post-hunt population objectives for bulls. One aspect of this problem is low yearling bull survival. The Colockum herd has averaged less than 9 bulls per 100 cows in recent years. A high percentage of Colockum yearling bulls have antlers that branch and fork. By only allowing harvest of yearling bulls with a single antler point on both sides, we may be able to improve yearling survival in some of the core GMUs for the Colockum herd.
- In the last 3-year package (2006-2008), WDFW added an additional day to the modern firearm general elk season in western Washington, increasing the season from nine days to ten days. The Department committed to evaluate the results of lengthening the season. Initial analysis does not indicate an obvious change in bull harvest or a measurable change in post-hunt bull ratios.

The following are recommended hunting season amendments for 2009-2011 general elk seasons and special permits for the fall of 2009:

- In an attempt to increase bull survival for the Colockum elk herd, the Agency is proposing making the general season “spike bull” definition more restrictive in six GMUs.
- The Department is also proposing adding an additional day to the modern firearm elk season in western Washington increasing to an 11 day season. The Department will again monitor this change over the next three years and assess any need for change.

In addition, the Allocation Sub-Committee and the full Game Management Advisory Council recommended that the Department develop some new special permit hunts for modern firearm hunters during the peak of the rut for elk. We are proposing adjustments in special permits to provide more “rut hunt” opportunity to modern firearm hunters. These proposed hunts should provide some additional opportunity for modern firearm hunters at times when mature bulls are available.

Additional recommendations in response to overall population concerns:

- Proposing adjustments to the Malaga and Peshastin hunts to better address elk damage issues while trying to maintain population objectives for the Colockum elk herd.
  - Proposing some additional muzzleloader opportunity in Regions 5 and 6.
  - Also proposing adjustments to special permits in response to population changes or to better address damage issues.
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**Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

- Provide balanced hunting opportunities for modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader elk hunters.
  - Maintain general elk hunting season opportunities while meeting population objectives.
  - Adjust elk special permits in response to population changes and damage complaints.
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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop these three-year hunting season cycle recommendations. In June 2008, the Department received nearly 4,000 responses to a scoping survey that was developed to determine the major issues that were important to the public. After the initial scoping phase, the issues were refined and preferred alternatives to address those issues were developed. The alternatives were discussed at more than ten public meetings held throughout the state in August and September. Nearly 5,000 people commented on the Alternatives, which were presented at the public meetings and available online for approximately seven weeks. In early January, an email was sent to over 50,000 hunters announcing that the proposed recommendations were online and would be available for comment until February 20. A postcard was mailed to approximately 800 organizations and individuals informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulations. Advisory groups were utilized throughout the process. The Game Management Advisory Council is split on the proposed changes. The modern firearm and muzzleloader representatives for the most part, support the changes. The archery representatives don't support the loss of one day in the early general season.

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

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 2-3-4, 2009 Commission meeting in Olympia.

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A

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**Communications plan:**

- News Release
  - Hunting Pamphlets
  - Direct email to approximately 55,000 hunters
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AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 08-78, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08)

**WAC 232-28-352 ((2006-2008)) 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions.**

**Bag Limit:** One (1) elk per hunter during the license year except where otherwise permitted by fish and wildlife commission rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the fish and wildlife commission will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

**Hunting Method:** Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods (modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader).

**Elk Tag Areas:** Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

**Any Bull Elk Seasons:** Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers (bull calves are illegal).

**Antler Point:** To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long measured on the longest side.

**Branch:** A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

**Spike Bull Antler Restrictions:** Bull elk taken in spike only GMUs must have at least one antler with ~~((only one antler point above the ear. An animal with more than one antler point above the ears on both antlers is illegal))~~ no branches originating

more than four inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

**Spike Only GMUs:** 145-154, 162-186, 249, (~~251, 328, 329~~) and (~~335~~) 336-368.

**True Spike--Bull Antler Restrictions:** Bull elk taken in these units must have both antlers with no branching originating more than four inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true spike restriction, the taking of an elk that has two points on one side or has antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination is an infraction under RCW 7.84.030. All other types of violations of the true spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments.

**True Spike GMUs:** 251, 328-335.

**3 Point Antler Restrictions:** Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side with at least 2 antler points above the ear. Eye guards are antler points when they are at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

**3 Point GMUs:** All of Western Washington except for GMUs 454, 564, 568, 574, 578, 652 for archers, 666, 684, and Elk Area 4941.

**Permit Only Units:** The following GMUs are closed during general seasons: 157, 371, 418, 485, 522, 524, 556, 621, 636, 653, and Elk Area 3068.

**GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting:** 437 (except for Elk Area 4941) (~~47 and 490~~) and 490.

## **Elk Tag Areas**

**Eastern Washington:** All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs except permit only for all hunters in GMUs 157 and 371. Modern firearms are restricted in GMU 334.

EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag

EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

**Western Washington:** All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs except closed in GMU(~~s~~ ~~418~~) 437 (except for Elk Area 4941), (~~490~~) and modern firearm restrictions in portions of GMU 660. GMU 554 is open only for early archery and muzzleloader seasons. Elk Area 6064 in GMU 638 (Quinault) is open to master hunters only. Elk hunting by permit only in GMUs 418, 485, 522, 524, 556, 621, and 636.

WA - Western Washington Archery Tag

WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm General Elk Tag

WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

## **Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons**

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** Valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	((2006) 2009 Dates	((2007) 2010 Dates	((2008) 2011 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	111, 113, 117	<del>((Oct 28 - Nov 5))</del> Oct 31 - Nov 8	<del>((Oct 27 - Nov 4))</del> Oct 30 - Nov 7	<del>((Oct 25 - Nov 2))</del> Oct 29 - Nov 6	Any bull
		145 through 154, 162 through 186, 249, <del>((251, 328, 329, 335))</del> 336 through 368	<del>((Oct 28 - Nov 5))</del> Oct 31 - Nov 8	<del>((Oct 27 - Nov 4))</del> Oct 30 - Nov 7	<del>((Oct 25 - Nov 2))</del> Oct 29 - Nov 6	Spike bull
		<del>251, 328, 329, 330, 334, 335</del>	Oct 31 - Nov 8	Oct 30 - Nov 7	Oct 29 - Nov 6	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722*	Sept. 9-22	Sept. 8-21	Sept. 6-19	Antlerless
		101, 105, 108, 121, 124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	<del>((Oct 28 - Nov 5))</del> Oct 31 - Nov 8	<del>((Oct 27 - Nov 4))</del> Oct 30 - Nov 7	<del>((Oct 25 - Nov 2))</del> Oct 29 - Nov 6	Any elk
		127-142 master hunters only	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Any elk
		203 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381 ( <del>except closed within 1/2 mile of the Columbia River in Douglas and Grant counties</del> )	Oct. <del>((28))</del> 31 - Nov 15	Oct. <del>((27))</del> 30 - Nov 15	Oct. <del>((25))</del> 29 - Nov 15	Any elk
		Elk Area 2033	Sept. 8 - Oct. 2	Sept. 7 - Oct. 1	Sept. 6-30	Antlerless only
		371, Elk Areas 3911 and 3912 master hunters only	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((30))</del> 20, 2010	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((30))</del> 20, 2011	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, <del>((2009))</del> 2012	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 3911** master hunters only, 2nd tag	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Aug. 1 - Oct. <del>((24))</del> 23	Antlerless only
<p>*GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property, hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access.</p> <p>**Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October <del>((24))</del> 25, 2009, August 1 - October 24, 2010, and August 1 - October 23, 2011. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.</p>						
Western Washington	WF	407, 448, 460, 466, 503, 505 through 520, 530, 550, 560, 572, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627 through 633, 638 through 652, 654 through 684. Except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064.	Nov. <del>((4-13))</del> 7-17	Nov. <del>((3-12))</del> 6-16	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 5-15	3 pt. min.
		501, 504	Nov. <del>((4-13))</del> 7-17	Nov. <del>((3-12))</del> 6-16	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 5-15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		564, 568, 574 through 578, 666	Nov. <del>((4-13))</del> 7-17	Nov. <del>((3-12))</del> 6-16	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 5-15	Any elk
		454	Nov. <del>((4-13))</del> 7-17	Nov. <del>((3-12))</del> 6-16	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 5-15	Any bull

### Archery General Elk Seasons

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** Valid archery elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** Bow and arrow only as defined by WAC 232-12-054.

**Special Notes:** Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 232-12-054). Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	((2006)) 2009 Dates	((2007)) 2010 Dates	((2008)) 2011 Dates	Legal Elk
<b>Early Archery General Elk Seasons</b>						
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 243, 247, 249, 250, <del>373, 379, 381, 388</del>	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	Any elk
		145, 162, 166 through 172, 181, 186( <del>(-328, 329, 335)</del> )	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	Spike bull
		<del>328, 329, 335</del>				True spike bull
		149, 154, Elk Area 1010, Elk Area 1013, 163, 175, 178, 330, 334, 336, 340, 352, 356, 364	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	454, 564, 568, 574, 578, 652, 666	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	Any elk
		407, 448, 501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 572, 624, except for Elk Area 6071, Elk Area 6061, 654, 660, ((662-)) 667 through 673, <del>681, 684, and 699</del>	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	3 pt min. or antlerless
		460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 530, 601, 602, 603, 607, 612 through 618, 627, 633, 638 through 648, 651, 658, and ((68+)) <del>663</del> . Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064	Sept 8-((2+)) 20	Sept ((8-2+)) 7-19	Sept ((8-2+)) 6-18	3 pt min.
		Elk Area 4944	Oct. 1-31	Oct. 1-31	Oct. 1-31	Any elk
<b>Late Archery General Elk Seasons</b>						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117 through 127, <del>373, 388</del>	Nov. ((20)) 25 - Dec 8	Nov. ((20)) 24 - Dec 8	Nov. ((20)) 23 - Dec 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. ((20)) 25 - Dec 8	Nov. ((20)) 24 - Dec 8	Nov. ((20)) 23 - Dec 8	Antlerless only
		127-142 master hunters only. Must wear hunter orange.	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Any elk
		Elk Area 1010, 163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30	Dec. 9 - Jan. 20, 2009	Antlerless only

		203 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381 ( <del>except closed within 1/2 mile of the Columbia River in Douglas and Grant counties</del> ). Must wear hunter orange.	Oct <del>((28))</del> 31 - Nov. 15	Oct <del>((27))</del> 30 - Nov. 15	Oct <del>((25))</del> 29 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		371, Elk Areas 3911 and 3912 master hunters only. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Jan <del>((30))</del> 20, 2010	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((30))</del> 20, 2011	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, <del>((2009))</del> 2012	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 3911* master hunters only, 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange.	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Aug. 1 - Oct. <del>((24))</del> 23	Antlerless only
		328	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 23 - Dec. 8	True spike bull
		335	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. 23 - Dec. 8	True spike bull or antlerless
		<del>((335,))</del> 336, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 23 - Dec. 8	Spike bull or antlerless
Western Washington	WA	407, 503, 505, 648, 667, 672, 681, ( <del>Elk Area 6066 in GMU 660,))</del> and 699 ( <del>Elk Area 6064, except</del> ) Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 ( <del>in</del> ) portion of GMU 638	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((21))</del> 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 23 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		454, 564, 666	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((21))</del> 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 23 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		603, 612, 615, 638	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((21))</del> 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 23 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		506, 520, 530	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 7	Nov. <del>((21))</del> 24 - Dec. 7	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 23 - Dec. 7	<del>((3-pt. min. or))</del> Antlerless
		<del>((520))</del>		Nov. 21 - Dec. 15	Nov. 19 - Dec. 15	3-pt. min. or antlerless
		506, 530	Dec. 8-15	Dec. 8-15	Dec. 8-15	3-pt. min.)
		Elk Area 4941	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Any elk
*Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October <del>((24))</del> 25, 2009, August 1 - October 24, 2010, and August 1 - October 23, 2011. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.						

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**Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons**

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** Valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below on his/her person for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** Muzzleloader only as defined by WAC 232-12-051.

**Special Notes:** Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons and must hunt with muzzleloader equipment.

Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	<del>((2006))</del> 2009 Dates	<del>((2007))</del> 2010 Dates	<del>((2008))</del> 2011 Dates	Legal Elk
<b>Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons</b>						
Eastern Washington	EM	111, 113, 117, 247	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	Any bull
		101 through 108, 121 through 142, 250	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	Any elk
		172, 245, Elk Area 2051, <del>((225))</del> 336 through 342, 352 through 360, 368	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	Spike bull
		335	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 2-8	Oct. 1-7	True spike bull
Western Washington	WM	454, 564, 568, 574, 578, 666, 684	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	Any elk
		460, <del>((504))</del> 513, 530, 554, 602, 603, 607, <del>((658))</del> 627, 633, 638 except Elk Area 6064, 642, 660, 663, 672	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 652, 654, <del>663</del> , 667	Oct. <del>((7-12))</del> 2-9	Oct. <del>((6-12))</del> 2-8	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 1-7	3 pt. min. or antlerless
<b>Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons</b>						
Eastern Washington	EM	130 through 142	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((20))</del> 23 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		127-142 master hunters only Must wear hunter orange	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Any elk
		203 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. <del>((except closed within 1/2 mile of the Columbia River in Douglas and Grant counties))</del> Must wear hunter orange	Oct. <del>((28))</del> 31 - Nov. 15	Oct. <del>((27))</del> 30 - Nov. 15	Oct. <del>((25))</del> 29 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		371, Elk Areas 3911 and 3912 master hunters only Must wear hunter orange	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((20-2007))</del> 20	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((20-2008))</del> 20	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20 <del>((-2009))</del>	Antlerless only
		Elk Area 3911* master hunters only, 2nd tag. Must wear hunter orange	Aug. 1 - Oct. 25	Aug. 1 - Oct. 24	Aug. 1 - Oct. <del>((24))</del> 23	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	Elk Area 4941	Nov. 1 <del>((-Jan-30-2007))</del> 30	Nov. 1 <del>((-Jan-30-2008))</del> 30	Nov. 1 <del>((-Jan-20-2009))</del> 30	Any elk
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((24))</del> 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((49))</del> 23 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		454, 564, 568, 666, 684	Nov. <del>((22))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((24))</del> 24 - Dec. 15	Nov. <del>((49))</del> 23 - Dec. 15	Any elk
		574, 578	Nov. <del>((22-20))</del> 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((24-20))</del> 24 - Dec. 8	Nov. <del>((49-20))</del> 23 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		<del>((504))</del> 550, 601, 618, 658, 667	<del>((Nov. 22-))</del> Dec. 1-15 Nov. 25-Dec. 15	<del>((Nov. 21-))</del> Dec. 1-15 Nov. 24-Dec. 15	<del>((Nov. 19-))</del> Dec. 1-15 Nov. 23-Dec. 15	3 pt. min.
		*Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 may purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag. Any legal weapon may be used. Master hunter, Elk Area 3911 second elk transport tags will be valid only for Elk Area 3911 from August 1 - October <del>((24))</del> 25, 2009, August 1 - October 24, 2010, and August 1 - October 23, 2011. All hunters participating in the Elk Area 3911 hunt must wear hunter orange.				

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-352, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-352, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-352, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; 05-11-024 (Order 05-90), § 232-28-352, filed 5/10/05, effective 6/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-352, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-352, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03.]

**WAC 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions**

**RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

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

**Page 2**

Under **GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting**, reinstate “and 490”. Further discussions are taking place with the land manager and an open season is being delayed until 2010.

**Page 5**

Under **Early Archery, Western Washington**, delete the line for Elk Area 4941. This is a damage hunt that is being moved to the late season to better address the damage problems.

**Page 6**

Under **Late Archery, Western Washington**, add the following line:

Elk Area 4941	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Nov. 1-Jan. 20	Any elk
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This change moves the damage hunt to the late season to better address the damage problems.

**Page 7**

Under **Early Muzzleloader, Western Washington**, delete GMU 663 from the 3 pt. min. or antlerless section. This change corrects a redundancy. GMU 663 should only appear in the 3 pt. min. section.

Under **Late Muzzleloader, Western Washington**, delete the line for Elk Area 4941. This is a damage hunt that is being moved to the special permit section to better address the damage problems.

Under **Late Muzzleloader, Western Washington**, the last line covering GMUs 550, 601, 618, 658, and 667 used to run from before Thanksgiving to mid-December. This time frame should be restored to Nov. 25-Dec. 15 for 2009, Nov. 24-Dec. 15, 2010, and Nov. 23-Dec. 15, 2011. The need to make room for another season and shorten the existing season did not develop.

## SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

### WAC 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I am not a bit happy about the proposed hunting seasons and regulation changes for 2009-2011. You are taking away opportunities of bowhunters by shortening the regular season by one day. And shortening the late archery season by up to 5 days. Bowhunters still have by far the lowest success rates, and you are taking more opportunities away. Also by floating the season opener back one day each year, it is not giving the animals much time between labor day and archery opening. The date should remain Sept 8-21 for all years, with late season opening Nov 20 as it has for the past 6 years.</p>	<p>Actually in recent years, archers have the highest success rate among the three user groups. In 2007 the elk harvest success rates were:</p> <p>Archers            11%  Muzzleloaders    8%  Modern Firearm    7%</p>
<p>I took the time to complete the 2009-2011 questionnaires in 2008 and responded with my opinion of the current early archery seasons. I also explained in my comments why I feel that the early archery permit holder is very unlikely to harvest an elk with the chosen method used and suggested a revised early archery season than ran through the end of September or at least through the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to allow for a better opportunity to harvest an animal during this time. I see by the revised seasons, my opinion did not matter resulting in a decreased ending date from September 21<sup>st</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup>, again decreasing an elk harvest opportunity. With the steady increase of animals due to the season changes during the last several years, I do not understand why the early archery season continues to be modified to reduce the chances of harvest. To me, this is nothing more than more bureaucratic crap that does nothing more than decrease a hunter's willingness and right to continue hunting in this state with his/her selected weapon of choice.</p>	<p>We sincerely thank you for your participation in the surveys. Your comments are important to us. It is also important to understand that many people provide comments and it is our responsibility to balance all of them when making our recommendations.</p> <p>As you can see from the previous response, archers are quite successful at harvesting elk. In fact, archers also tend to take a greater proportion of mature bulls than the other two groups as well as have higher success rates. It is likely that the greater harvest of mature bulls is because of the timing of the early season. In 2007 the numbers were:</p> <p>Archers made up 22% of the elk hunters and took 31% of the mature bulls harvested; Muzzleloaders made up 14% of the elk hunters and took 15% of the mature bulls; and Modern Firearm hunters made up 64% of the elk hunters and took 54% of the mature bulls. A mature bull was considered greater than five points for this comparison. It was for these reasons that we are recommending an adjustment to archery season timing and length.</p>
<p>Please explain the advantage/intent of changing the definition of spike bull elk in certain game management areas. Game management area 335 will require spike elk to not have any branches on either side that is above 4 inches from the base of the horn. It seems that this rule will complicate the identification of spike elk. How does one measure 4 inches on game at a distance? I'm sure you must have a very good reason for this change. Please inform me. It better be good or you can count me against this rule change.</p>	<p>Anytime you use antler restrictions for managing deer or elk harvest, you will have issues with identification and mistakes. Over all however, antler restrictions can be effective at helping manage bull survival while maintaining general hunting seasons. The change recommended for the Colockum is because spike survival is poor; we are not seeing much recruitment into the older bull age classes.</p> <p>The language change regarding "four inches" is because that is more definitive than "above the ear" which was the previous language.</p> <p>The Colockum yearly bulls tend to have more branching than other herds so requiring both antlers to be a spike should result in an increase of about 10% of the yearlings surviving the hunting seasons.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>First let me say thank you for taking the time to read this. Second, I commend the commission in the proposal to allow archery hunters to be able to carry a side arm for protection. I think this is an outstanding rule.</p> <p>Most importantly, the gradual cuts of archery hunting are very concerning. In addition, I mainly hunt the Colockum for elk (archery). Again, I see NOTHING is going to be done in regards to the blatant tribal slaughter of this herd. For shame.</p>	<p>The rationale for the shift in archery elk seasons is explained above.</p> <p>We are working with the Yakama tribe on their members' tendency to harvest older bulls. But it is important to understand that state licensed hunters take over 150 bulls each year and our best guess at how many they are taking is 30 to 40.</p> <p>We plan to continue working with the tribes to improve our cooperation in the management of elk harvest.</p>
<p>I hunt the west side of the state and most of issues with elk are the ones that I am concerned with. I am not a supporter of the change in season length in modern and archery. Most of the animals taken are during modern firearm and I also understand that those that hunt with a firearm think that it is not far that archery gets a much longer season than them. The facts are that modern is much more effective and after hunting modern most of my life I think making the season longer will increase the kill on a herd that is already too low in numbers. I don't think a change in the length of the season for archery is needed but if it is shortened that is fine. I really am against a longer rifle season on the west side. I know one of the major concerns for the Saint Helen's elk herd has been winter kill in the Toutle river valley. The department's actions to control this has been increased cow tags in the surrounding units such as the Lewis river unit. Why would you increase the kill in units such as the Lewis when the problem is in the Loowit where the elk are over populated. After the harsh winter this last year much of the Lewis river unit experienced a large winter kill but the department did not lower the number of cow tags because of it. All I ask is that the resource be managed based on the problems at hand rather than the revenue it will bring to the department to pay the wages of its employees.</p>	<p>The rationale for the shift in archery elk seasons is explained above.</p> <p>We are gradually reducing the antlerless permit levels in areas like GMU 560 as we see a reduction in the herd. However, the success rate for antlerless permit holders last year appears to have been pretty poor due mainly to weather conditions.</p> <p>In addition, we have just started a new project to improve our population estimates for elk in the Saint Helen's elk herd. The counts next month should begin to give us a much better picture of what's going on with elk numbers and the results of our increased permit levels.</p>
<p>The new "True Spike" rule should not pertain to the archers'. The majority of spikes being taken are directly from the General Season. The rule may the intended effect if just enforced during the general season. Finally. For GMU 328 and 329. My experience in those GMU's has always been very positive, or in other words while hunting I always see a large amount of elk. It seems that issuing special permits for cow elk would seem appropriate, because the trouble that the State is having with the declining amount of spikes that live through their first year, might actually slightly improve if a few people were giving the option to harvest a cow, instead of another spike.</p>	<p>Having different rules for archers versus muzzleloaders and modern firearm hunters is something that can be considered in the future to address equity among the three users. However at this point we have been consistent in our application of antler point restrictions for all users.</p> <p>The population objective for the Colockum herd has not been achieved, therefore we plan to continue protecting antlerless animals until we reach objective.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I have been a Bow hunter since I was thirteen years old. I hunted in Idaho till I was eighteen and joined the Air Force. I moved to Washington in 1955 and have hunted in this state ever since. I have been active in past years in Archery clubs and Washington State Bow hunters. I am now 72 and I still hunt every year although I have now limited my hunting to Elk and Turkey. I regularly study your posted game statistics on the website and I think you have done a good job. What I don't understand is why Bow hunters are restricted to one area of the state either West or East. Because the early bow Elk season starts in relatively hot weather, many of us prefer to hunt the higher elevations. Those GMUs fall mainly in the East side. Since we live on the West side and most of our East areas are snowed in and inaccessible during the Archery late season, we would like to hunt the West side. Prior to the split state ruling, we were able to hunt either side during the Archery Seasons. If an archer failed to fill his or her tag during the early season, it's been my experience that their chances won't increase much during the late season after the guns have been there. From all the statistics I have studied, It shouldn't hurt a thing to make the late season Archery Elk season open for both sides of the state. You could still specify that the Early Season must be hunted in the East or West as specified by the hunters permit, but would be accepted on both sides for the late hunt. I know making that concession would do a lot toward meeting the hunters half way.</p>	<p>As described in previous responses, archers are quite successful compared to other groups. Allowing archers to hunt on both sides of the state would only make the inequity greater.</p>
<p>One suggestion I have is to have a youth elk hunt in unit 342.</p>	<p>At this point we have limited youth hunts for elk. We have been focusing on small game and deer.</p>
<p>I applaud the modern firearm general elk season (Oct 31-Nov 8) (It's about time!).</p> <p>The "special hunt" seasons and permit quotas for elk are acceptable to me.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>I have been an avid hunter for over 30 years. Hunting is very important to me, or at least it used to be. Over the last 5 years I have watched a lot of negative things and very few positive things happen.</p> <p>Don't get me wrong, all and all I support the game department and their efforts to maintain a healthy and huntable herd. The cost of our license and tags continue to increase every year and we seem to be getting less for our money. The past 9 months or so I was excited to hear there were possible changes coming, but it turns out that they are not at all what I expected. As a matter of fact they were disappointing. As a muzzleloader elk hunter we lost three times as many permits as what we gained, our new GMU's are unwanted archery units, and our equipment regulations leave many animals fatally wounded that are never found. I am sorry for all the negativity and I know you folks are trying to do the best you can to keep all 3 user groups happy.</p> <p>Maybe it's time for me to give up hunting and take up golf.</p>	<p>We have made many recommendations this year that benefit muzzleloader hunters. Permit levels are generally based on the health of elk populations and so they fluctuate every year.</p> <p>Also as a point of clarification, license rates have not changed since 1999.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I think you are heading in the right direction make GMU 328 into a true spike unit, but my personal opinion is that you need to close this unit completely. I have been hunting this unit for 8 years now and I think it would be the proper thing to do to make the herd correct.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support for the true spike regulation. We considered more drastic measures (e.g. permit only), but wanted to try a regulation that continued a general season. If we go to permit only, those hunters who don't draw a permit will go elsewhere and cause further crowding and potentially excessive harvest.</p>
<p>We all know that the true problem with the Colockum elk herd is tribal slaughter the Coffin reserve was donated to the WDFW with the understanding that it was and would always be a safe place for elk now you are confusing non tribal hunters even more with this "true spike theory". If you are so afraid to manage the herd the right way by stepping on some tribal toes then give the reserve back to private ownership so that the people trespassing on the GAME RESERVE can be arrested and fined and the elk will once again have a true safe haven. Start messing with their right to hunt and they will do just what I have done and a lot of people that I know are doing not buying Washington JOKE tags and spending our money in other states where they actually care about hunters, the people that pay for their jobs and put management above money think about that just for a min. I know I will get absolutely zero response from this email because the WDFW has already proven many times that they turn their back on confrontation unless it makes them money.</p> <p>" Sorry about the typos but it is hard to type when you are so pissed "</p>	<p>The Federal treaties with the tribes and the rights granted by them are not subject to state regulation.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, we are working with the Yakama tribe to address the issues.</p>
<p>In respect to a spike bull horn regulations, I feel errors can be made innocently. I once saw a spike with a very, very small nubbin of a horn emerging from it's right antler, which nobody could be expected to see through a riflescope. But that miniscule nubbin could have resulted in a ticket. I think it should be specified that a "branch" under a (some fraction of measurement) inch, doesn't land a spike bull hunter in the pokey. Or give wardens clear instructions to forgive human error. Some wardens just seem like that aren't respectful, compassionate civil servants (yes, I know there are a lot of creeps out there they have to deal with) but just out to throw the rules in your face when you are trying to be an ethical hunter. The assumption from the game department should be most people are ethical hunters, and should be forgiven for understandably small errors. It will generate more respect, admiration and support for the department if wardens are compassionate, and act as educators instead of traffic cops towards hunters. I've seen bad attitudes from both hunters and wardens. Mostly good wardens though.</p>	<p>The spike with a small horn would be protected with the current recommendation. We always council hunters to make sure of their target and when in doubt, don't shoot. The result with this recommendation is that we would have greater yearling survival and would be able to increase branch bull permit levels.</p> <p>We also recognize the concern about mistakes in antler point recognition. That is the reason for the infraction language for small mistakes.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>If you truly want to create a good hunting experience with plenty of animals and no overcrowding of hunters, allow the elk to spread throughout the state. If you would stop trying to kill off the few elk that roam through Lake Wenatchee the Entiat and farther north, and start building herds in those areas. The hunters would spread out and the overcrowding of hunters into relatively small areas would cease. This would also allow more elk to survive the hunting season because they would not be penned up in a relatively small area with no place to go when the shooting starts.</p>	<p>Expanding elk into quality deer ranges or agricultural areas is not feasible at this point. When elk are allowed to colonize mule deer areas, mule deer populations usually decline.</p> <p>When elk colonize intensive agricultural areas, we end up paying damage claims and spending time and money addressing property damage.</p>
<p>I do not understand why WDFW is looking at changing or closing unit 506 during late Archery Elk. I have spent at least \$10,000.00 in gas alone over 10 years to learn this area. If you are closing it during the late season then I have to go to units I don't know very well. During early season we have to deal with most of areas being closed because of fire danger. Half the time we can't even get in to the areas you want to go because Weyerhaeuser has locked the gates. I am asking that you not eliminate any days during early or late Archery season unless you are extending it. I also ask that you not close unit 506 Willapa Hills during late archery season. The recommendations should be to leave that unit open from November 20 to December 15. There is no reason to close it when you have all these permits and damage hunts from January to March.</p>	<p>The changes proposed were intended to reduce total harvest on bulls in that GMU and focus more on antlerless.</p> <p>Fire closures during the early hunting seasons are something that we must continue to address. In recent years, it has not been much of an issue. We have worked out an agreement with Weyerhaeuser to improve vehicle access to their properties with the help of many volunteers.</p> <p>The damage hunts are designed to target the elk causing problems. Providing antlerless harvest opportunities throughout a GMU only reduces the overall population and may not address the property damage.</p>
<p>As far as the "true spike" elk areas. It is just another regulation to make things even more complicated. Even during the archery season where you need to get up close to an animal it can be difficult to tell if that "extra" point isn't just velvet rubbing off. All of these new proposals make me think more and more of taking my hunting to Idaho.</p>	<p>The rationale for true spike regulations has been explained previously. Idaho has had a "true spike" regulation for all their areas under spike only restrictions.</p>
<p>I have been a Washington state hunter for many years, 25 plus, look at any other state around us, the game is more plentiful and the rules are not so messed up they don't divide the state for east or west. The elderly that have hunted and paid their dues for many years get the break on licenses if not free, not the youth who would have many years to go if managed right. Trust me from my scouting above Liberty there are plenty of elk in that unit; you need to do your surveys away from the feeding grounds. You have definitely lost the income of this hunter I will be glad to spend all of my money and hunting in another state, one that they manage to have their regulations available Jan 1 not the middle of the year, this also shows incompetence. Keep up the good work in declining the number of hunters in the field by your mismanagement. You multiply the average of \$2000 a year that I used to spend here on tags, gas, food, and lodging by the thousands that have quit hunting here because of the stupidity in charge, plus give yourselves a big bonus for doing such a good job. Soon the anti's will have won and no one will need your services.</p>	<p>The number of elk licenses sold in Washington has been increasing in recent years even though there are long-term declines in hunter participation. We currently sell over 100,000 licenses and only have 50,000 to 60,000 elk.</p> <p>We do have a limited resource and hunters have consistently said they want to retain general seasons rather than go to permit only, which Oregon is using. So, we provide fairly restrictive general seasons using antler point restrictions, season timing, and east/west splits to manage harvest rates.</p> <p>Nation wide, hunters are aging and young hunter recruitment has declined. That is why we have not asked the Legislature to provide reduced rates for senior licenses. The number of seniors (over 70 years of age) who are purchasing licenses has increased significantly over the past few years, so the impact to funding needed for wildlife conservation would be impacted with reduced rates for seniors.</p> <p>In addition, we are moving up our release of the pamphlet and permit application deadlines by nearly one month in 2009.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I THINK THAT THE FEES FOR NON-RESIDENT HUNTING OF ELK SHOULD BE GREATLY INCREASED !</p> <p>WASHINGTON STATE HAS ELK HUNTING POSSIBILITIES THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN MOST OTHER STATES, AND THOSE OUT-OF-STATE HUNTERS WISHING TO TAKE PART IN THOSE OPPORTUNITIES; SHOULD HAVE TO HELP PAY FOR THE PROGRAMS THAT CARE FOR THE ELK: AND ENABLE THE FEEEDING STATIONS, AND PAY THE LANDOWNERS FOR BROWSE DAMAGE, ETC.... TO A GREATER DEGREE THAN THEY DO NOW; AND ON A PAR WITH OTHER STATES.</p> <p>I KNOW OTHER ELK HUNTERS WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY; MOSTLY ARE ALL MUZZLELOADER, ARCHERY, OR HUNT BY SPECIAL PERMIT/DISABLED HUNTER; AS IN MY CASE.</p>	<p>Washington is not very attractive to out of state hunters and generally sells less than 5000 out of state big game licenses. These licenses cost about ten times what a resident license costs, and the price is fairly consistent with other states.</p>
<p>It seems like the hunting department is doing everything it can to lessen the chances of a successful hunt or harvest. Why is hunting season right around daylight savings so half you hunting trip is screwed up. Also, specifically for elk.....If the rut is in Sept/Oct then why do DFW keep pushing back the hunting time for modern firearm. In 08 it was moved from the first week of November to the last week of October. This has a big negative impact on east side hunters. Weather conditions are more favorable later on in the year. So moving it back a week really sucked. Even above the 4000 ft range I was mid to high 50's. If they don't want us to harvest then why sell hunting licenses in the first place?</p> <p>Also for east side hunts. The Yakima area has a million cows. The cows are good eating. Why don't DFW relax the impossible spike only system once in a while and let hunters harvest cows every other year or every third year? You shouldn't have to have a special tag or a special draw to harvest a cow there indefinitely.</p>	<p>The rationale for Washington elk harvest management was explained previously.</p> <p>The reason for the season timing in eastern Washington is related to the timing of average snow events and the potential for excessive harvest during early winters. Antlerless harvest greatly influences population levels. Modern firearm general seasons for antlerless elk would result in excessive harvest of elk and significant population declines.</p>
<p>I AGREE completely with the proposed new seasons Deer and Elk seasons.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>As far as I can see you are proposing to eliminate all late bull elk archery opportunity for us folks who live in SW Washington. Why?</p>	<p>We are trying to improve bull survival in many of these units.</p>
<p>As an avid Washington rifle hunter for Deer and Elk; and a RMEF committee chair and MDF member, I totally agree with the new proposals being made to the 2009, 2010, 2011 regulations. Thank you for moving the dates back a week.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I live and hunt in GMU 658. For the past few seasons I have hunted in my area with a muzzleloader, during the muzzleloader season. My home is located in the fire arm restricted area near Grayland. I see that the proposed seasons are eliminating the muzzleloader season. I strongly request that this be reviewed and changed back to allow the muzzleloader season. I have spent significant money on muzzleloader equipment so that I could hunt the elk close to my home. I have a small farm, and the numerous elk are constantly breaking down my fences, and damaging the other local crops in our area. The proposed change puts a burden on me, since I would have to travel a long way to hunt, even though there are many elk in my own area. I am an older man, and I enjoy going out after work to sit in the area right on my own property, but this change would put an end to that. I don't understand why this change is necessary. Please explain why this is being proposed.</p>	<p>You can still use your muzzleloader during the modern firearm season. That should be fine within the firearm restriction zone as well.</p>
<p>Our family only hunts with modern firearms. We have seen over the years how sufficient archery and muzzle hunting has been. We feel that archer hunters and muzzle hunters should use primitive weapons like I believe it was intended. The seasons for those hunters are usually prime times - rut, and bad weather. I have many archery and muzzle hunter friends that fill their tags every year due to sufficient weapons and prime seasons. I feel archery hunters that use the method of re-curve bows and muzzle with flint or exposed cap is what the season was originally intended for. I feel there should be a longer and later season for both deer and elk modern firearms seasons and more tags for antlerless does and cows. Seven day deer season is a week short for the Yakima/Ellensburg area. My 81 year young father and I are a few of the many that did not fill our cow tags in the Wenas and Bumping GMU. I understand the weather for Elk season was unusually warm this past Fall, but the harvest was very low and it looks like we are feeding a large Yakima herd in the Wenas and Oak Creek Feeding Stations. I hope the WDFW will re-issue some of our older faithful hunters, like my father. I hunted hard and saw several elk, but the few I saw were already being pursued! Maybe it would be possible to re-issue tags for unsuccessful hunters 65 (55) years and older and/or give extra points for unsuccessful hunters like myself. I have passed several animals the past few years wounded and left for dead with arrows in them. I am aware no animal goes to waste in the mountains.</p>	<p>Many of the changes proposed for 2009-11 will address your concerns.</p> <p>As far as the antlerless permits, this was a tough year in terms of harvest success, but by policy we do not re-issue permits or points for unsuccessful hunters. It wouldn't be fair to other applicants. Actually, antlerless permit applicants are successfully drawn on average every two to three years.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I would like to see more opportunities for youth only hunts for elk on the west side. If you could make them during the off seasons it would make it a lot easier on the parents (Christmas break, Thanksgiving stuff like that). This would give us the chance to teach safety and accuracy without having an eight year old competing with adults. These kids won't make a big impact on the number of animals but I know from experience that it makes a huge impact on them when they do get something. Please set the seasons a little more than four months in advance, most of us have already selected our vacations without knowing the seasons.</p>	<p>At this point, most young hunter opportunities have been restricted to deer or small game. Elk are at a premium to harvest for general hunters, so it is contentious to allocate such limited opportunity to youth.</p>
<p>I can only say I am very disappointed. Once again in unit 335 archery hunters get screwed! Why it is that Modern firearm is held in such high regard? 100 cow tags? 14 bull permits dec19 -30 1 bull permit sep21-25 Rifle hunters need to hunt during the peak of the rut????? What happened to fair chase???</p> <p>You constantly allow the 3911 hunt to wipe out all the cows in the lower Teanaway! I have waited too long for the chance to hunt a branched antler bull during the normal 335 archery season. I believe I will never get that chance... Please give me one good reason why there is no chance for an early season bull tag for archery??? I have lost all faith in the herd management in unit 335. I am not sure what you have against archery? Maybe I should choose a new hobby? I think from now on I will choose a different state to hunt.</p>	<p>The chance to bugle in a bull is considered a very high quality opportunity. There have been very few opportunities for modern firearm hunters to participate in this kind of special opportunity in the past. The 2009-11 recommendations attempt to provide that opportunity on a limited basis.</p> <p>The GMU 335 seasons for all users have been shifted later in the year to encourage elk to migrate to lower elevations and reduce property damage.</p>
<p>I hunt elk in GMU 560 mod. rifle. Beginning shooting hours are to dark in the morning to distinguish legal from non-legal. Also have driven out at days end with headlights on to see the road and have 15 minutes of shooting time left. It is illegal to use artificial light for big game but if shooting time is left and that bull crosses the road in front of you. Hmm.</p>	<p>All hunters must make decisions on what is legal and what is ethical. We brought up this concern during public meetings and comment periods, and most hunters said that on those days when it is too dark, hunters just would not continue to hunt. These same hunting hour rules have been adopted by nearly all of the western states.</p>
<p>During early Archery season we generally do not get to hunt our normal areas because it is to dry and Weyerhaeuser closes their gates. This ruins our hunting plans every year. If this happens the early archery season should have 3 or more days to hunt based closures. These gates are always open during rifle season. To even this out more considerations should be given to the early Archery Elk season. I would also like to recommend that Early Archery Elk be moved to the last 2 weeks of September instead of the middle 2 weeks.</p>	<p>Allowing archery elk hunting during the last two weeks of September would result in greater mature bull harvest during the peak of breeding. It would also exasperate the proportion of mature bulls taken by archers.</p> <p>Your other issues were addressed in previous responses.</p>
<p>The disparity between the deer and elk rifle (very short) season and the archery and Muzzle loading season needs to be corrected. Rifle tags account for nearly 80% of the tags sold but their days in the field is 12% of the days allotted where the Archery hunters have 53% and the Muzzle hunters have 34%.</p>	<p>Providing equitable opportunity between the three user groups is not easy. Some would like us to look at equitable success rates others say consider equal days to hunt. We have blended many criteria, but do not rely solely on days available.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I support extending the muzzle loader elk season, the season was too short. I used to take my son while he was in junior high and high school. That limited him to one weekend. I don't believe I showed him a good experience (I don't intend to imply getting an elk is required to have a good experience). Spent a lot of time and money preparing to hunt two days a year. Now he is not interested in elk hunting as a young adult.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>As an archer, I can live with giving up September 21 early elk hunt date for modern firearm permit hunters (reluctantly), but not with moving closing date for early archery elk hunt to a Sunday with the effect of removing additional archery hunt days from the peak of the rut, for example in 2011 the close is being moved from Sept 21. to Sept.18.</p>	<p>As stated in previous rationale for shortening the season and moving it earlier to avoid the peak of breeding, we are trying to reduce archery take of mature bulls.</p>
<p>Now what about the Elk hunting, 8 units are open in the Yakima area for the general season and are Spike only, and nothing in Southeastern Washington 154, 163, why?. With only 5,158 muzzle loaders hunting Eastern Washington (that's only 645 hunters a unit), why not open all of the areas that are open for the archery hunters (14 units) during their season and open them to the muzzle loaders as well (that would only be 368 hunters per unit), with as few of us as there are I do not see where it have a significant impact and herd dynamics and would definitely make for a quality hunt by disbursing the hunters even more.</p> <p>I don't expect this to even be read but after hunting in this state for 40 years I am tired of not getting a fair and equitable hunting time as the other users.</p>	<p>We have recommended several significant changes that favor muzzleloader hunters. At this point, not every GMU is available or can be opened. We are balancing three users and maintaining our wildlife population objectives.</p> <p>We will continue to consider additional units in the future.</p>
<p>I am afraid I can't agree with the logic of starting the late general muzzle loader hunt in unit 550 on Dec. 1. For general bull tag holders while allowing antlerless permit holders to have the run of the entire unit for 6 days prior to the general season opening. That's 20 people hunting. Not only is it reducing available hunting days for the majority of the hunters in the unit. All of the other units that are available to hunt open on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Why is this one unit any different? Is this a typographical error in the proposals?</p>	<p>This was an error that we have resolved in the recommended adjustments.</p>
<p>It is not too late to turn the 550 unit back to spike or better like it was for ever before the 3 pt. or better rule came out. I would also like to see the 556 unit open to 3 pt or better for general season to spread out the Hunters. Please think about this before deleting.</p>	<p>The spike only regulation in western Washington was very unpopular with hunters.</p>
<p>Many of the GMU's will now be open during early archery season for antlerless or 3pt. or better seasons. (681 is one) I sincerely believe that we should do away with the late archery season. Why hunt these animals and stress them any longer than we have to. I like the idea of harvesting cows during the early archery season for a few reasons, reduces pressure on bulls, harvesting cows which bulls have not exuded energy in breeding yet vs. harvesting them in the late season when they are pregnant with calves, just to name a few. Since we will be harvesting the cows for GMU's during an early archery season there will not be any reason to have a general archery late season. (Example GMU's 681).</p>	<p>Thanks for your comment and support. Late archery seasons can be maintained in many areas without impacting our population objectives.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I have hunted Deer and Elk in the state of Washington for the past forty years. I have annually purchased combination Elk , Deer, Bear and Cougar tags and have applied for Moose Tags every year sense they were available. I have purchased numerous special drawing tickets. What I am saying is that I have supported the Game Dept and done my best to insure a quality hunt-'</p> <p>In return for this support I have watched our Hunting System go from a single State Tag to specific area tags to specific Antler Configurations. All of which have detracted from the quality hunting we used to enjoy!</p> <p>I am also part of a hunting camp that donates to the Oak feeding station and have done so for years.</p> <p>Our group has over the years enjoyed to true Spirit of the Hunting Camp and each and every one of us looks forward to the the next Camp!</p> <p>The problem now is the actual season itself. As Modern Rifle hunters we are extremely limited in our hunting window. I know you can say take up the Bow or the Muzzle Loader, however we are all over 60 and unable to get around as well as we would like to pursue our passion. The second part is by the time we are able to get into the hills the Game has been chased for many weeks and are clearly aware of what is going on. To say I feel there is a disparity between the Hunting methods would be a misdemeanor. The system needs to be looked at for change to equal out the hunting seasons.</p> <p>We need a longer Modern Rifle Season or we need to rotate who goes first and give each method the same amount of time. The animals do not need to be pursued from Sept thru Dec!!! How about one season Oct 1st thru Nov 15 the split between the three hunting methods?</p>	<p>We sincerely appreciate your long-term support for hunting and wildlife conservation in this state. Thank you.</p> <p>As mentioned before we have the smallest state in the west, only 50,000 to 60,000 elk and 100,000 elk hunters. The rules have to be restrictive to maintain general seasons.</p> <p>The later the elk season goes in the Yakima area, the more likely you will have boom and bust years for harvest. During early snowfall years, harvest will be high and impact subsequent harvests (and permit levels) for several years.</p> <p>We will continue to look at season timing and impacts of hunting seasons on elk and recommend changes as necessary to maintain healthy elk herds.</p>
<p>In my opinion which is not a professional one but an experienced one. Washington has great territory for elk there is no doubt about it. There is clear cut after clear cut, hill after hill, field after field that could be inhabited for more elk. This state could take on 20 to 40 thousand more elk and have the feed and cover to keep them healthy. All of are surrounding states have around 100 thousand elk or plus. But why not Washington? All of my hunts are mainly planned outside of this state because there is simply not enough elk in this state. And here is the truth about are situation. The Indians have killed many of are big herds, I know that they got the short end of the stick with all of their land being taken away but why continue to grant them more land to devastate herds (Cedar River Watershed) All I see for the future of Washington Elk is doom, if they continue to cater to their wounds. They should be an Elk hunter just like everyone else, paying their dues to make it happen so that ONE elk feeds the family for a year. NOT making a business out of Washington elk. I know that this has been taken to court a few times but what can I do to stop this madness??? Please let me know. I want to get involved. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you. I will form a group to write a hand written letter for the next five years if that's what it takes.</p>	<p>We do have quite a challenge in managing elk in this state. The tribal cooperative management issues will continue to be a challenge as well. We have made improving co-management a priority for the next six-year Game Management Plan. We did successfully negotiate a hunting agreement with the Point Elliot treaty tribes for 2008 and hope to expand these agreements into the future.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Why can't the Department of Game start the Early Elk season the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Monday of September? When it starts right after Labor day, us that take a vacation to hunt that week have to wait for all the Holiday campers to leave the area so that we can set up camp. That leaves us setting up our Elk camps on Monday afternoon.</p>	<p>Scheduling hunting trips can be difficult regardless of season. The later into September that the archery elk season goes, the greater number of mature bulls that are killed, resulting the inequity described previously.</p>
<p>Spike only for modern firearm elk has been in effect for far to many years, on the east side, originally three years was the plan, has this produced any results other than not many spikes left, what is your plan in the future for this situation, because my fellow hunters are hunting out of state because of this rule which means lost money for this state as I see it.</p>	<p>Spike only management continues to be successful in recruiting bulls into older age classes and helps maintain general season hunting opportunity. This strategy is likely to be continued into the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>The literature stated that there was a goal of providing more muzzleloader opportunity. But as I read the proposed regulations it appears that the Westside late general season muzzle loading elk hunt has a marked reduction in season length.</p> <p>In addition I thought there was a proposal to increase the Westside early muzzle loader elk hunt from 7 to 9 days but that must not be taking place. I don't see this as added opportunity.</p>	<p>The added opportunity came in the form of deer seasons and in the form of some GMUs being open to muzzleloading that were not open before. You are right, we did not move forward with a 9 day muzzleloader season as our biologists in the field did not feel the elk populations could handle that extra hunting pressure.</p>
<p>In 2008 the season closed on November 2nd. With shirt sleeve weather and no elk. Your new schedule looks good. Give it a try and maybe move a few days later into November in coming years.</p> <p>I thing the WDFW does a great job, but would like to see more agents in the field.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support. The shift in the elk season for 2009-11 was strictly a calendar date adjustment, which changes with each three year package.</p>
<p>If the state is proposing making the Colockum area a "True Spike" only GMU's then they should provide additional Cow or Any Bull tags. The Special Hunt draw rate for these areas is already near the lowest in the state.</p> <p>The Spike Only game management strategy seems to be a complete failure. The Colockum herd strength has been in steady decline since this policy was implemented. Each year there are more and more illegal animals killed due to un-informed or unethical hunters. Where is the data on how many illegal kills there are in the Colockum herd and what is the prosecution rate? I believe the Colockum herd would be better off with a shortened Any Bull general season for both Archery and Modern Firearm. There would probably be less illegal and wasted kills.</p>	<p>Most of the rationale to answer your comment was addressed previously. Illegal kills are always problematic, but that is not what is causing problems for this herd in terms of meeting management objectives.</p> <p>Hunters have expressed that length of season is one of the most important aspects of their satisfaction with hunting. So we have recommended further antler restrictions instead of other rules to increase bull survival.</p>
<p>I support extending the muzzle loader elk season, the season was too short. I used to take my son while he was in junior high and high school. That limited him to one weekend. I don't believe I showed him a good experience (I don't intend to imply getting an elk is required to have a good experience). Spent a lot of time and money preparing to hunt two days a year. Now he is not interested in elk hunting as a young adult.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I also feel there should be a late muzzle elk season somewhere in the Yakima unit somewhere. Use it as a damage hunt or method to reduce overgrazing in a given area. There used to be a late hunt in the Little Naches area but for some reason it was discontinued several years ago. I would like to see it return somewhere in late November similar to late archery season.</p>	<p>We continue to balance opportunities for all three groups while maintaining population objectives.</p>
<p>Do not support the following: True Spike in Colockum – This is too confusing. You better make this very clear with photos so that people can see what is legal vs. not legal. Why not make it a spike with NO branches anywhere. Then it would be clear. Using a number of inches is not realistic in the field as very few guys could tell the difference between 3.5” and 4.5” at 100, 200, or 300 yards with a scope.</p>	<p>We do plan to provide good examples in the 2009 big game hunting pamphlet.</p>
<p>Muzzleloader Seasons – Great job opening up additional units and splitting the MZ deer season to be the end of September and the MZ elk season to be in early October.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>“True Spike Bull” definitions for the Colockum Herd Elk hunts. I consider myself a fairly intelligent person but the description is difficult at best to follow. It would be easier to understand and allow less “hunter interpretation” if something like the following were used: A “True Spike Bull” is defined as a Bull Elk possessing antlers with NO branching points greater than 1 inch in length originating from any part of either antler.</p>	<p>This would be even more restrictive than currently written. While we considered this type of rule, many thought it was too restrictive and difficult for hunters to see small branches at the base of the skull.</p>
<p>I <u>oppose</u> having different Spike Bull Regulations in different GMUs or different regions. I think this will lead to confusion and unintentional violations. If the spike rule needs to be changed to protect the Colockum heard, I suggest you make the changes state-wide or, at a minimum, for the entire east side.</p>	<p>We considered an eastern Washington-wide rule, but that would result in a significant reduction in harvest in the Yakima and Blue Mountains, which currently have adequate yearling survival rates.</p>
<p>After reading proposals and percentages my question is Do you actually pay any attention to what the people want? My example is the Colockum “True Spike” rule. Only 21% of the people were for this idea. That means 79% of the people clearly wanted something else. Maybe the 21% who were in favor of the measure counted more. I can see if the idea is even up between pro and con you would want to keep things Status Quo, but if the opposition is clearly against a change why go ahead and implement it anyway. Does it make any difference what the public wants? I don’t know if I will answer anymore public opinion sheets anymore. I think it would help if you reworded the proposal page to say “We are doing this regardless of you opinion but would like to have it anyway”.</p>	<p>It was obvious from the responses that hunters wanted some change in how the Colockum elk hunt is managed. In weighing the two most popular responses (true spike and permit only), we chose spike only because it continues a general season and would displace fewer elk hunters. If we went to permit only, we were concerned that we would end up causing more crowding in the Yakima area and potentially excessive harvest.</p> <p>If we aren’t successful with improving yearling survival or if the majority of hunters are dissatisfied, then we will consider changes for 2012.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>For the damage control hunt that is called the Toledo B (a muzzleloader damage control hunt in Elk Area 5029), please revert the dates of this hunt back to what it was (January 1-16 or so) until this past three year cycle when it was changed to December 7 - 20. I have been fortunate enough to draw this particular hunt at least five times in the past ten or 12 years and can say from direct experience that the quality of hunt and the success rate has been negatively influenced (dramatically so) by the change in dates. As it currently stands, the initial week of this hunt now coincides with the exceptionally popular late archery season in the Winston Unit. The objective of the damage control hunts is to cull animals that are causing damage to farm properties. Competing in the woods...and hunting animals that are more on edge due to increased numbers of hunters certainly doesn't help achieve that goal. Our success rates dropped from consistently filling all of our hunting group's tags to 1 elk out of 4 hunters in 2006 and 1 out of five in 2007. The majority of the hunters that target this hunt are repeats and upon discussion of this topic have agreed that the change in dates was a poor decision. Please reconsider the re-establishment of the dates for this hunt to the first half of January.</p>	<p>This hunt is not intended to be a quality hunt. It is designed to manage damage. If we are not successful at managing the property damage, we will consider changing the dates.</p>
<p>Of the three options that were put forward by WDFW to help a struggling Colockum elk herd, the most obvious and likely successful option to help BOTH spike survival and limit tribal harvest was road management. Due to a lack of vegetative cover that occurs in a majority of the Quilomene unit, escapement is a serious problem.....road closures would have an immediate effect on this. Not only that, but seasonal road closures is the ONLY way to reduce tribal impact on mature bulls. Easy access to rutting bulls and wintering ground by tribal TROPHY hunters leads to over-harvest.</p>	<p>We plan to continue our work on road management, but the public strongly supported additional efforts to improve yearling survival and elk management in this herd.</p>
<p>First I want to say that at first I did not like the spike only thing for elk but I must say it has improved our big bull count. We now have a lot of very impressive bulls running around, this last year was amazing. I do however believe that we could afford to give out more bull permits in some areas like the GMU 328 and 335. I noticed that there was at least 3 to 4 big bulls in every small herd of cows. I only read a little bit about the new proposal on the spike only thing in the Clockum, if I understand it correctly it will now be spike on both sides only. If that is so I fear that there is going to be a lot of accidents because it is already so hard to determine if one side is a clean spike, especially for the rifle hunters that are shooting from a lot further away.</p>	<p>We have actually reduced bull permits in the Yakima herd due to lower than anticipated numbers counted during our surveys this month.</p> <p>Thank you for your support for spike only management. The issue of mistake kills was addressed in earlier responses.</p>
<p>Elk – Support the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern firearm rut permit hunts during September.</li> <li>• Moving modern firearm season back into November</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>As a member of the bow hunter group, TBW, I would like to see the bow seasons stay as they are with a couple of exceptions. You could move the muzzleloader early elk season up a bit. The last week in Sept. would be a better match. Most of the bowhunters don't hunt that last week anyway. Also give the mod. rifle elk hunters on the west side a few days the end of October in a few GMU's.</p>	<p>Thanks for your suggestions. At this point, we will have to think about them for 2012.</p>
<p>As a non-resident from CA and who enjoy a two week vacation during Elk Season will hope the change of weeks, that is moving a week back toward Nov. it will feel more like WA instead of CA.</p> <p>I know you would like me to move to your beautiful State but I don't think my wife would move.</p>	<p>Thanks for your support.</p>
<p>I just do not understand why the West side general elk season is so late in the year. As most of the hunting is done in higher elevations we must continually fight winter weather due to the late season. This not only presents difficult and unpleasant hunting conditions but creates a safety issue to the hunters. Snow storms of great intensity can develop very rapidly in these high elevations. I have been there during these events and you literally can face whiteouts and loose the ability to recognize landmarks. Even without the snow the inclement weather can make hunting condition almost unbearable. Oregon normally starts elk season a week earlier that Washington does. I would recommend this for us as well or even better the last weekend of October.</p>	<p>We are continuing a policy of not having an overlap in our deer and elk seasons, so opening the elk season in October is not currently feasible.</p> <p>Weather is very unpredictable in the fall. Conditions as you described happen periodically, but some hunters prefer inclement weather for hunting. Our seasons are timed to accommodate average weather patterns and fit in between seasons for other species or user groups.</p>
<p>I'm writing concerning the new proposed season for the next year. I was born and raised here in Washington and have two little girls whom I am raising to enjoy the resources we have in this state whether it be hunting or fishing. I've been a rifle hunter for years and just recently gotten into bow hunting two years ago. I hunt down in the Raymond area for elk. My concern with the proposed change is the possibility of the damage that will be done to the herds. If you schedule the muzzle loaders and rifle hunters to be hunting during the rut the big bulls and all the legal bulls, for that matter, will be decimated. They're stupid in the rut and if all you need to do is get within rifle range it will be like shooting fish in a barrel. At least with archery one has to get within 35 yards to make an ethical shot. That alone gives these animals a better fighting chance. I don't want to sound biased because I'm a bow hunter that isn't the issue. I hunt and consume what I harvest for food for my family and for the love of the outdoors not for my ego. The issue I have with this season change is the apparent gross miss management of natural resources. Sportsmen in Washington State already have to deal with the stigma of being a bunch of uneducated rednecks who don't care about this land. Along with that the agenda of those who don't believe we should be able to hunt at all. I don't think we need our game commissioners adding to the problem. I realize you're probably getting pressure from outside interests but this</p>	<p>The modern firearm season during mid-September elk rut will be controlled by permit. We will have very good control on the number of bulls taken and the permit levels will be very conservative.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>is a matter of our natural resources in a state were it is a big issue.</p> <p>If I'm over looking some detail or you believe that I'm way off in my opinion please let me know.</p>	
<p>Also change from spike only to less than a three point (spike and fork) this would stop some waste when a hunter mistakenly shoots a fork and has to leave it. There is a whole different look when an elk goes to a three point.</p>	<p>Our concern is that a three point regulation in eastern Washington open habitats would result in most older age bulls being killed every year.</p>
<p>Obviously you do not count or manage South Rainer Elk. Their numbers are down and even in your report you remark about poachers. After October meeting in Packwood, elk were shot in excess as good old boys figured they were going to beat you at your hunt.</p> <p>You will destroy the herd!!!!!!!</p>	<p>The only change recommended to address the property damage expressed by local landowners was an additional 15 permits that will only be used if a landowner complains and the problem can't be solved in other ways.</p>
<p>The Sequim elk herd should be opened to ALL BOW HUNTERS instead of just master hunters. I think this because the elk herd is very big and they do damage to the peoples landscape and crops. I say just bow hunters because the people of Sequim are a little worried of stray bullets that could go to far. Bow hunters have a limited range and would not be hitting houses.</p>	<p>The current strategy using Master Hunters seems to be satisfactory with local landowners at this point.</p>
<p>I am a landowner in Elk area 4941. This area is basically ALL PRIVATE LAND. I would like to take this opportunity to comment on this past hunting season. This year we had several instances of hunters hunting outside the boundaries, trespassing to "herd" the elk into open areas ..and basically slaughtering them by running them into groups of waiting hunters ....just so you know ..I hunt ...but I choose NOT to hunt this area even though I could fill my tag every year ... WHY..??...because I do not feel that most of the hunters are not allowing "A FAIR CHASE "...to me it is not sporting to use the methods employed by most of these hunters...MY SOLUTION ..???...As this area is 99% private land ...I would suggest that you use a permit system working with private owners such as myself to regulate the amount of hunters in a given area at any 1 time...I had our lands shut down until 2 hunters that were servicemen from Whidbey filled their tags as they were going to be heading overseas to Iraq and Afghanistan. That was Archery season ...for Muzzleloader season I shut in all down in the beginning except for a couple of local hunters I knew .....this proved to be futile as hunters chased the elk from across the river to our lands...and then the trespassing would begin .. so then I took names and let some hunt "WITH CONDITIONS ... I had limited problems but they were minimal...mainly due to my constant patrolling of my land ..and the EXCELLENT work of your game agents Larry Bauman and Worth Allen ...These 2 individuals should be COMMENDED and GIVEN PERFORMANCE AWARDS for their OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION to their jobs ...they could have sat back and did the minimum and let the slaughter just happen ...but they took charge of events and conditions and stopped</p>	<p>We are recommending a change to this hunt, but recognize that a permit only hunt might result in landowners not being able to hunt their own property.</p> <p>Thank you for expressing your support for our officers and for allowing hunters on your property.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
violations and cited violators before events got out of hand!!!	
<p>After looking at the percentage of success proportionate to the percentage of hunters for deer/elk hunting; muzzle loader, rifle and archery are all proportionate. From 2003-2007, bowhunters took exactly 19.32% of the state's elk harvest while representing 19.12% of the total hunters. While during the same period, muzzleloader hunters took 17.74% of the elk and represented 14.44% of the hunters. And those hunting with modern firearm harvested 62.94% of the elk and made up 66.44% of hunters. The statistics speak for themselves.</p> <p>I believe that a possible way to balance the kill ratios and give the large number of rifle hunters in our state some satisfaction would be to add a permit only season that would be 3-4 days long in selected units around the state between September 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. The overlapping archery special permit areas would have to be taken into consideration and not overridden. This would allow rifle hunters an opportunity to hunt the rut and increase their success rates on mature bulls. With the current changes, the eventual three day change would handicap archery hunters tremendously. I would like to see the season dates for all hunting types left alone.</p>	<p>We agree that we have been fairly successful on a statewide basis in achieving equity in total harvest. That equity does vary in some areas and for some subsets of the elk harvest. For example you did not consider the in-equity in mature bull harvest among the user groups.</p> <p>Your proposal would impact recommended changes to muzzleloader deer seasons as well.</p>
Would like to see Unit 346 opened for early and/or late muzzleloader elk.	We try to balance opportunity for all user groups and will consider this suggestion in future years.
Why it is the Black powder hunters get none of the good elk hunting available in this state minus a few permit hunts we get squeezed out of areas Winston and so forth another problem for black powder hunters is the rules regarding the ignition system of the firearm.	We try to balance opportunity for all user groups and will consider adding GMUs available to muzzleloader hunters in future years.
Add a general muzzleloader elk season in the Dayton/Blue Creek Area. If I don't get drawn for a cow or bull tag, I don't hunt. Sure there are areas to hunt if I want to hunt in Yakima, Asotin or the Snake River Breaks where you're lucky to get close enough to an elk even with a modern rifle.	We try to balance opportunity for all user groups and maintain healthy elk populations.
The WDFW goal of reducing the Mt. St Helens herd by 20% has been met on the south and east sides of the mountain, and probably a good start on the other sides, too. The late snows in the spring of 2008 did the "work". The high elevation elk herds were reduced by a lot---over 50%---based on my observations during the 2008 hunting seasons and my friends. Don't be so quick to reduce the herds anymore as they are depleted too much already!	We don't think that we have achieved our reduction objectives yet. As mentioned above, we have just started a new project to get a better estimate of the number of elk in this herd.

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Next, a few words on Elk in 504 Stella. I realize the elk are thriving here and the timber companies are screaming mad about damage to the young trees. I say tough. Weyerhaeuser has 150 million acres of timberlands in a 100 mile radius of the Longview area, the small Stella area should be of no concern to the timber giants and the amount of antlerless tags and the new proposal to open season for cows in muzzle loader and modern firearm season will bring a flood of hunters into a tiny area that will create mayhem and a dangerous situation for both hunters and landowners. Please rethink this issue.</p>	<p>Actually this increase in antlerless opportunity is to address problems associated with elk becoming habituated to urban environments. We are continuing a dialog with City officials to determine how to best address the problems in the future. For now, we are increasing harvest around the area.</p>
<p>Give more ELK archery handicap areas!!!</p>	<p>We try to balance opportunity for all user groups and will consider this suggestion in future years.</p>
<p>I have been archery hunting for 15 years and believe that shortening the length of our late season on the west side is an ok move. The thing I don't agree with is that we can't harvest bulls in the late season under the proposed rules (GMU's 520 and 530). Harvesting with a bow is difficult in the late season and it just doesn't make since.</p>	<p>We sincerely appreciate your long commitment to hunting and your understanding of the challenges managing wildlife in a heavily populated state.</p> <p>The rationale for changes to the archery seasons were described previously.</p>
<p>I liked everything I seen, except for the late bull hunting opportunities for archers in western Washington.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
<p>This email is being sent in regards to the changes you are proposing to make to the elk hunting regulations for the 2009-2011 seasons. The hunt I am concerned about is the archery hunt in the Peshastin unit. My brother and I were lucky enough to have drawn that hunt last year and had a great experience even though we did not harvest an elk. We saw elk every day on our 6 day hunt and were hoping to draw this hunt in the future. I understand that you are wanting to manage the elk herd while you also want to protect landowners property. I can't see 15 bow hunters making a huge difference in the elk population knowing that all 15 hunters that are drawn will not harvest an animal. I also realize that you need to keep everything even between the rifle, muzzleloaders and archery hunters, but you are proposing to get rid of the hunt all together. There are a lot of elk in the area and I know that damage is being done by the herd to private property. Please let us help control that by continuing this hunt.</p>	<p>The archery hunt was not very successful at addressing the property damage problem. We are trying some different strategies to see if they work a little better for addressing landowner concerns with elk damage.</p>
<p>I am responding to the WDFW's solicitation for public comment regarding the proposed 2009-2011 hunting season changes. I appreciated the thorough and in depth reporting made available by the WDFW in support of the proposals. It provided facts and data that I otherwise may not have considered. And served as a base line while I reviewed the potential impacts to my own personal hunting areas and seasons. As a result of my review I am submitting the following comments. They are not based on science, but rather my own personal hunting experiences and interactions with fellow archery hunters.</p> <p>I have archery hunted for elk in the Willapa Hills unit since 1998. I've had some success over the years, but not nearly the success I could have. This is due in part to inaccessible hunting areas that are either closed</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the effort to review the materials in preparation for providing your comments. Previous responses have explained the rationale for shifting some of the bull harvest from archers to other hunters. We did want to maintain some archery hunting opportunity in these Willapa Hills units, so we left them open for antlerless.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>during archery season, or land locked by local landowners ... including Weyerhaeuser. Despite these obstacles I've remained as positive and upbeat as possible during the archery elk hunting seasons. I worked very hard over the past decade to establish good relationships with some of the landowners in order to hunt their lands. But this collective real estate is extremely limited when you consider the size of the 506 unit. In addition to the time and effort I've put in to establish those relationships, I have also pumped thousands of dollars into the local economy. A few archery hunters such as myself can make a notable difference to the success of local small business owners. I've made a considerable investment of time and money in this area. I learned the topography and general landscape well enough that there is little chance of getting lost in the woods. I put all my eggs in one basket ...so to speak.</p> <p>In consideration of my time and efforts, I am adamantly opposed to the WDFW changing the current archery elk hunting seasons in this unit. It is difficult enough to harvest an elk with a bow without reducing season lengths and limiting the harvest to one sex in the late season. I haven't killed an elk in over 4 years. But every year when I show up for the late season hunt, I hear all the success stories of the rifle hunters. For some reason, the same areas that are closed to early and late season archers are opened with welcome mats for rifle hunters. They seem to have no difficulty driving in, glassing a herd, and shooting the legal bulls in the group. It would appear that the WDFW is trying to eliminate the late archery season bull harvest in 506 in order to preserve more bulls for rifle hunters. It's a known fact that rifle hunters already harvest at least 90% of the bulls in a season when compared to other hunting methods. So, to limit unit 506 to Antlerless only in the late season, in addition to eliminating a week's worth of hunting time is completely absurd. I look forward to my late season hunts, and in large part is why I continue to hunt in western Washington. I implore you to scrap the proposed archery season changes and look for other ways to sustain or improve elk herds.</p>	
<p>The Elk section shows that Archery Hunters loose a day of hunting time. I don't understand that at all. I can't see where Archery hunters take a substantial number of Elk, at least the ones I know. So why take a day away. There are still no any Bull tags for GMU 175 Lick Creek. I hike and hunt this unit and see Big Bulls on a regular basis. I counted 26 separate branch antler Bulls in Lick Creek during the 2007 Archery season. I didn't have a chance to spend that much time in the field this season, but did see several good Bulls. I know from the Bugling I heard there seems to be plenty of Bulls in the area.</p>	<p>The number of bulls has declined in GMU 175, so we are not proposing permits in there for 2009.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I have already sent in one letter but after visiting with a state biologist I had to send in another so I hope you will include this one also. When I first read the proposed special permit allocation for the Blue Mountain units for elk I was very disappointed to see the drastic cuts in tags for the East Wenaha while all of the other units stayed the same or even received additional tags. I contacted Pat Fowler who has managed the elk herds in the Blues and done a great job of turning it into a world class elk hunt. I asked him why the tags were cut in the east Wenaha and he said that while he supported the reduction in rifle tags he recommended that the tags for archery remain the same as last year. He said there is no reason to go from 3 tags to 2 tags and that Olympia took that upon themselves to do that and it isn't based on a biologist's suggestion. I can only assume that the tag was taken away to allow for the new rifle rut tag you have put in place also against the biologist's recommendation. I think it is very unfair to put in place a new rifle rut tag in a unit that you are reducing an archery and a muzzleloader permit from against the recommendation of the head biologist in the area. I hope you will keep the primitive weapons permits in the Wenaha unit the same as last year. It is a very sought after tag that can be the hunt of a lifetime to those who draw it and I hope you won't reduce this opportunity for those of us who love to hunt. Thank you for listening.</p>	<p>Actually, we use a permit allocation formula that considers proportion of the user group and average success rates. Most of the shifts in numbers you are talking about are the result of applying the formula, except for the September rifle permits. Those were created to provide an opportunity for rifle hunters to hunt during the peak of rut and bugle for bulls. This is a very high quality hunting opportunity that does not exist in very many places in Washington.</p> <p>Thank you for your support of our staff and the work they do.</p>
<p>For the last 3 years archers have not been able to hunt cows during the early season. Now I see that rule is being continued for the next 3 years and yet you offer 100 cow permits to modern firearm hunters.</p> <p>We all know the odds of drawing a branched antler permit and living in the Teanaway Valley I am also aware of the ratio of spikes to cows. I don't have to tell you how difficult it is to harvest an elk of any gender or size with a bow and arrow and now you are further limiting us by definition of a "true spike". The needle in the haystack comes to mind so I ask, is this fair? Is this how to promote the sport? Is this the best way to encourage the residents to hunt in this state? Is this conducive to addressing the issue of game management in farmlands? I think not! Your comments would be greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>We have also proposed a late archery general season in the Teanaway for true spikes and antlerless.</p>
<p>Turnbull A, Watershed, Clearwater, Matheny, Wynoochee, are listed under "Only modern fire arm tag holders may apply" but all tag/weapon types are listed under the elk prefix column for tag type.</p> <p>Need clarification on what is meant by "<u>any</u> elk tag" vs. EF, EM, EA i.e., Sol Duc Valley B vs. Little Naches C. Can a Westside tag holder apply for an eastern "<u>any</u> elk tag" or vice versa?</p> <p>Multi-season hunts for hunter education instructors should be underlined as new text.</p>	<p>Any elk tag would include both eastern and western Washington designations as well as archery, muzzleloader, and modern firearm. The listed tag types would be more restrictive.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Regarding the issue of 15 any bull elk permits in GMU 172 for modern rifle. All of GMU 172 is private land. The only landowner allowing hunting to the public charges a fee. So the general public cannot hunt in GMU 172. I know this as I own land and a cabin on GMU 172. Why not give those permits to GMU 181 and 175 so the general public can hunt without paying? Several large landowners in 181 allow the public to hunt free of charge, and GMU 175 is national forest.</p>	<p>We allocate permits where the resource is available and GMU 172 has a good number of bulls for harvest.</p>
<p>I have another suggestion in regard to Master Hunter GMU's; 3911 &amp; 3912. Hunt master told me the land owners really do not want Master Hunter's hunting elk with archery equipment or muzzle loading rifles. They want these problem elk taken with the modern rifle, which is the most efficient method. This might help the problem of hunters not wearing hunter orange. It might not be a bad idea to check with WDFW law enforcement to get their ideas on this.</p> <p>My compliments to you and your staff for doing a good job of scoping public comment. It is a huge job and you're getting to done.</p>	<p>Thanks for your suggestion; I think a minor change could make this effective. We will talk more with enforcement and make the change as needed.</p>
<p>I live about in the middle of the Stella unit(?).Near the end of Cedar Gates Rd. Yesterday morning, Feb3, I had 27 head in my back yard.4 spikes, cows and yearling calves. My idea is a 6 month archery season done by lottery that wouldn't interfere with a person's regular elk hunting seasons. 75 tags should be enough. That way there won't be too many hunters up here running around and they could contact residents for permission to hunt on their property. I would give permission for a tree stand and or a blind. But only to someone I thought was an ethical hunter. I would like to take an elk up here myself, if my name were drawn, in addition to my modern firearm season. Hope I made sense.</p>	<p>We are continuing a dialog with the City on how to establish an effective a hunt in the urbanizing areas. But your idea will be considered as well.</p>
<p>My group had received the special tag permits to hunt the Tri-Valley Hunt. This was very tough to get the Farmers to participate. We tracked Elk for days and found them on the posted lands that we thought if we asked they might let us. Well the first ranch we thought we were going to get shot. The Farmer was very mad with anyone that wanted to Kill a animal and told us to get off the land. His front step's. The second ranch that we found Elk on for day we finally went and asked and after 1 minute of pulling up and walking to the house neighbors came screaming down the road to shout get out of here. No Hunters allowed. The third Farmer we ask was the only pleasant one that had about 37 Elk in his property and just said no I enjoy them here. We did see one shot along the side of the road. Possibly someone with a permit saw them and 30 yards off the road took the shot. All we got to see was the gut pile.</p> <p>I hope that the Game Dept does not give these Farmers money to replace fences and repair lost crops. I would hate to see my money go to Farmers that complain but don't let the Harvest thin the heard out. If we hunted this area for only 3 days I would only blame myself but for 2 weeks from daylight to daybreak the hunt did not pan out as expected. Hopefully these Farmers that complain are not going to be given money to rebuild there fences</p>	<p>Thank you for your report. We do condition damage claims that are filed with us on allowing access.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
for damage done.	
<p>Don't extend the general rifle season for elk Get rid of the cow permits you hand out for rifle and muzzle loader hunters. Each cow or doe taken by a cat is killing at least 1-2 newborns each time. Keep your new proposal to eliminate the taking of cows by rifle hunters in the Glenwood area. I have seen a slaughter of cows on opening day each year. Herds are slaughtered by these hunters and on or around land owner properties.</p>	<p>In general, modern firearm elk season days can be provided during the week without adding much harvest. The idea is to provide a few more days and spread out the hunters through the season. Antlerless permits help us manage the elk population levels to meet management objectives. This technique also helps with addressing property damage problems.</p>
<p>1) There is no 'any bull' tag in GMU 175 (Lick Creek) a. Although I am in no way trained to determine herd strength or numbers, I have noticed an apparent and large increase in the number of mature bulls in this unit over the past 7 years. b. I suggest allowing one 'any bull' archery tag in this unit (permit only) I am not opposed to the shortening of archery seasons, and feel it to be a good decision, especially to increase the opportunity for muzzleloaders. Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. I would be very interested in learning more about the season setting process, specifically the threshold herd numbers on which decisions are made.</p>	<p>We conduct annual surveys to determine whether bull permits are appropriate and at this point we are not comfortable recommending any permits for 2009 in GMU 175.</p>

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 08-227, filed 9/8/08, effective 10/9/08)

**WAC 232-28-354 ((2009)) 2009 Elk special permits.**

**Special Elk Permit Hunting Seasons**

**(Open to Permit Holders Only)**

Hunters must purchase an elk hunting license prior to purchase of a permit application. Hunters may only apply for permits consistent with the tag required for the hunt choice; however, Multiple Season Permit holders may apply for Eastern or Western Washington archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm permit hunts. Applicants must have purchased the proper tag for these hunts. The elk tag prefixes required to apply for each hunt are shown in the following table. Hunters drawn for a special permit hunt must comply with weapon restrictions and dates listed for the hunt.

Hunt Name	Permit Season Dates	Special Restrictions	Elk Tag Prefix	Boundary Description	Permits
<b>Modern Firearm Bull Permit Hunts (Only modern firearm elk tag holders may apply.)</b>					
<u>Turnbull A</u>	Oct 27 - Nov 15	Any bull	EA, EF, EM	Elk Area 1015	1
Prescott A	((Oct 20 - Nov 2)) Oct 26 - Nov 8	Any bull	EF	GMU 149	3
<u>Prescott B</u>	Sept. 21-25	Any bull	EF	GMU 149	1
Blue Creek A	((Oct 20 - Nov 2)) Oct 26 - Nov 8	Any bull	EF	GMU 154	4
<u>Blue Creek B</u>	Sept. 21-25	Any bull	EF	GMU 154	1
Watershed	((Oct 25 - Nov 2)) Oct 31 - Nov 8	3 pt. min. or Antlerless	EA, EF, EM	GMU 157	45
Dayton A	((Oct 20 - Nov 2)) Oct 26 - Nov 8	Any bull	EF	GMU 162	21
<u>Dayton B</u>	Sept. 21-25	Any bull	EF	GMU 162	1
Tucannon A	((Oct 20 - Nov 2)) Oct 26 - Nov 8	Any bull	EF	Elk Area 1014	((6)) 2

<u>Tucannon B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1014</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Wenaha West A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1008</u>	<u>((45)) 14</u>
<u>Wenaha West B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1008</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Wenaha East A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1009</u>	<u>((45)) 2</u>
<u>Wenaha East B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1009</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mountain View A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 172</u>	<u>((46)) 12</u>
<u>Mountain View B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 172</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Peola A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 178</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Couse A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 181</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mission A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 251</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Mission B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 251</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Colockum A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 328, 329</u>	<u>((3)) 5</u>
<u>Colockum B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 328, 329</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Teanaway A</u>	<u>Dec. 19-30</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 335</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Teanaway B</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 335</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Peaches Ridge A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 336, 346</u>	<u>((140)) 142129</u>
<u>Peaches Ridge B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 336, 346</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Little Naches A</u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 346</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Observatory A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 340, 342</u>	<u>((73)) 7065</u>
<u>Observatory B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 340, 342</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Goose Prairie A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 352, 356</u>	<u>((89)) 9577</u>
<u>Goose Prairie B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMUs 352, 356</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Bethel A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 360</u>	<u>((48)) 5438</u>
<u>Bethel B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 360</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Rimrock A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 364</u>	<u>((120)) 127117</u>
<u>Rimrock B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 364</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Cowiche A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 368</u>	<u>((18)) 2217</u>
<u>Cowiche B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>GMU 368</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Klickitat Meadows A</u>	<u>((Oct. 20—Nov. 2)) Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 3068</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Nooksack A</u>	<u>Oct. ((4)) 12 - Nov. ((10)) 17</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 418</u>	<u>((7)) 4</u>

<u>Nooksack B</u>	<u>Oct. 10 - Nov. 17</u>	<u>Spike only</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 418</u>	<u>6</u>
Green River	<del>((Nov. 1-7))</del> <u>Oct. 17-23</u>	Any bull	WF	GMU 485	3
Margaret A	<del>((Nov. 1-10))</del> <u>Nov. 7-17</u>	Any bull	WF	GMU 524	<del>((36))</del> <u>18</u>
<u>Margaret B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25 and Nov. 7-17</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 524</u>	<u>2</u>
Toutle A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> <u>7-17</u>	Any bull	WF	GMU 556	<del>((131))</del> <u>60131</u>
<u>Toutle B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25 and Nov. 7-17</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 556</u>	<u>2</u>
Clearwater	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	WA, WF, WM	GMU 615	<u>2</u>
Matheny	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	WA, WF, WM	GMU 618	3
Olympic A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> <u>7-17</u>	3 pt. min.	WF	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	<del>((16))</del> <u>14</u>
<u>Olympic B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>3 pt. min.</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 618</u>	<u>1</u>
Skokomish A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> <u>7-17</u>	3 pt. min.	WF	GMU 636	<del>((10))</del> <u>8</u>
<u>Skokomish B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>3 pt. min.</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 636</u>	<u>1</u>
Wynoochee	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	WA, WF, WM	GMU 648	1
White River A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> <u>7-17</u>	Any bull	WF	GMU 653	<del>((40))</del> <u>48</u>
<u>White River B</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 653</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Peninsula</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMUs 602, 607, 612</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Quinalt</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMU 638</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Cathlamet</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMUs 506, 530, 550</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Packwood</u>	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>GMUs 516, 560</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Modern Firearm Elk Permit Hunts (Only modern firearm elk tag holders may apply.)</b>					
Aladdin A	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Any elk	EF	GMU 111	15
Selkirk A	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Any elk	EF	GMU 113	20
49 Degrees North A	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 &amp; Dec. 16-31</u>	Antlerless	EF	GMU 117	45
<u>Turnbull B</u>	<u>Oct. 27 - Nov. 1</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1015</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Turnbull C</u>	<u>Nov. 3-8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1015</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Turnbull D</u>	<u>Nov. 10-15</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Elk Area 1015</u>	<u>6</u>
Blue Creek ((B)) <u>C</u>	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Antlerless	EF	GMUs 149, 154	<del>((75))</del> <u>25</u>
Prescott ((B)) <u>C</u>	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Antlerless	EF	GMU 149	<del>((75))</del> <u>30</u>
Dayton ((B)) <u>C</u>	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Antlerless	EF	GMU 163 and Elk Area 1011	<del>((100))</del> <u>50</u>
Dayton ((C)) <u>D</u>	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> <u>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</u>	Antlerless	EF	GMU 149 and Elk Area 1012	<del>((100))</del> <u>50</u>

Dayton E	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Antlerless	EF	Elk Area 1016	30
Lick Creek A	Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 175	25
Peola B	<del>((Oct. 25 - Nov. 2))</del> Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 178	<del>((50))</del> 30
Couse B	Oct. 1-12	Antlerless	EF	GMU 181	30
Mountain View <del>((B))</del> C	<del>Oct. 25 - Nov. 2</del> Oct. 31 - Nov. 8	Antlerless	EF	Elk Area 1013	10
<del>((Malaga A</del>	<del>Sept. 8-30</del>	<del>Any elk</del>	<del>EF</del>	<del>Elk Area 2032</del>	<del>3))</del>
Malaga <del>((B))</del> A	Sept. 15-25	Antlerless	EF	Elk Area 2032	35
Malaga <del>((C))</del> B	Nov. 6 - Dec. 31	Antlerless	EF	Elk Area 2032	50
<del>((Malaga D</del>	<del>Nov. 6 - Dec. 18</del>	<del>Any elk</del>	<del>EF</del>	<del>Elk Area 2032</del>	<del>5</del>
<del>Peshastin A</del>	<del>Sept. 15 - Oct. 5</del>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>EF</del>	<del>Elk Area 2033</del>	<del>20</del>
<del>Peshastin B</del>	<del>Oct. 13-31</del>	<del>Any elk</del>	<del>EF</del>	<del>Elk Area 2033</del>	<del>5))</del>
West Bar A	<del>((Oct. 25-29))</del> Oct. 31 - Nov. 4	Antlerless	EF	GMU 330	5
West Bar B	<del>((Oct. 30 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 5-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 330	5
Teanaway C	Dec. 19 - Jan. <del>((13, 2009))</del> 10, 2010	Antlerless	EF	GMU 335	100
Tancum A	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 336	150
Manastash A	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 340	250
Umtanum A	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 342	200
Little Naches B	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 346	150
Nile A	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 352	5030
Bumping A	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 356	10075
Bethel <del>((B))</del> C	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 360	10050
Rimrock <del>((B))</del> C	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 364	200150
Cowiche <del>((B))</del> C	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Antlerless	EF	GMU 368	200150
Klickitat Meadows B	<del>((Oct. 29 - Nov. 2))</del> Nov. 4-8	Spike bull or antlerless	EF	Elk Area 3068	95
Alkali A	Oct. 17 - Nov. 6	Any elk	EF	GMU 371	20
Mossyrock A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 505	50
North Bend A	Nov. 7-Nov. 17	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 4601	5
Willapa Hills A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 506	35
Winston A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 520	<del>((100))</del> 40100
Margaret <del>((B))</del> C	Nov. 19-30	Antlerless	WF	GMU 524	<del>((60))</del> 2570

Ryderwood A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 530	35
Coweeman A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 550	<del>((140))</del> 65120
Coweeman B	Jan. 1-15, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WF	GMU 550	3550
Toutle <del>((B))</del> C	Nov. <del>((19-30))</del> 23-30	Antlerless	WF	GMU 556	<del>((150))</del> 60120
Toledo A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5029	20
Green Mtn <del>((G))</del>	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5051	10
Carlton	Sept. 22-30	Any bull	WF	Elk Area 5057	5
West Goat Rocks	Sept. 22-30	Any bull	WF	Elk Area 5058	5
Mt. Adams	Sept. 22-30	Any bull	WF	Elk Area 5059	5
Wildwood A	Jan. 16-30, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5061	20
Newaukum A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5050	5
Upper Smith Creek A	<del>((Oct. 27 - Nov. 2))</del> Oct. 26- Nov. 1	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5064	<del>((6))</del> 4
Upper Smith Creek B	<del>((Oct. 27 - Nov. 2))</del> Oct. 26- Nov. 1	Any elk	WF	Elk Area 5064	2
Mount Whittier A	<del>((Oct. 27 - Nov. 2))</del> Oct. 26- Nov. 1	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5065	2
Mount Whittier B	<del>((Oct. 27 - Nov. 2))</del> Oct. 26- Nov. 1	Any elk	WF	Elk Area 5065	1
Lewis River A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 560	<del>((250))</del> 150
Siouxon A	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	WF	GMU 572	<del>((100))</del> 60
Mudflow A	Nov. 9-15	Any elk	WF	Elk Area 5099	5
Mudflow B	Nov. 9-15	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 5099	10
Raymond A	Nov. 5-10	3 pt. min. or antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6010	<del>((20))</del> 10
Raymond B	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6010	<del>((30))</del> 20
Raymond C	Jan. 1- <del>((30, 2009))</del> 20, 2010	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6010	<del>((15))</del> 10
Raymond D	Feb. 1-28, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6010	<del>((15))</del> 5
<del>((Chehalis Valley A</del>	Oct. 1-31	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6066	5
<del>Chehalis Valley B</del>	Nov. 5-10	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6066	5))
North Minot A	Oct. 20-31	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6067	<del>((20))</del> 10
Deschutes	Jan. <del>((15-23, 2009))</del> 10-20, 2010	Antlerless	WF	GMU 666	10
North River A	Nov. 8-13	Antlerless	WF	GMU 658	10
Williams Creek	<del>((Nov. 8-13))</del> Oct. 26-31	Antlerless	WF	GMU 673	50
Tri Valley A	Dec. 1 - Jan. 20, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 6012	10

<del>((North Shore A</del>	<del>Nov-4-8</del>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>WF</del>	<del>Elk Area 6068</del>	<del>5)</del>
<b>Muzzleloader Bull Permit Hunts (Only muzzleloader elk tag holders may apply.)</b>					
Note: Fire closures may limit access during early October seasons.					
Prescott <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 149	<u>1</u>
Blue Creek <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 154	<u>2</u>
Dayton <del>((B))</del> <u>F</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 162	<u>4</u>
Tucannon <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	Elk Area 1014	<u>1</u>
Wenaha West <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	Elk Area 1008	<u>3</u>
Wenaha East <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	Elk Area 1009	<del>((2))</del> <u>1</u>
Mountain View <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 172	<del>((4))</del> <u>3</u>
Peola C	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 178	<u>1</u>
Couse <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>14</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 181	<u>1</u>
Mission <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 251	<u>1</u>
Colockum <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMUs 328, 329	<u>1</u>
Teanaway D	Dec. 9-18	Any elk	EM	GMU 335	<u>6</u>
Peaches Ridge <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMUs 336, 346	<del>((23))</del> <u>2422</u>
Observatory <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMUs 340, 342	<del>((24))</del> <u>2321</u>
Goose Prairie <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMUs 352, 356	<del>((15))</del> <u>1613</u>
Bethel <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 360	<del>((15))</del> <u>1712</u>
Rimrock <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 364	<del>((16))</del> <u>1816</u>
Cowiche <del>((C))</del> <u>D</u>	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	GMU 368	<del>((8))</del> <u>108</u>
Klickitat Meadows C	Oct. 1- <del>((10))</del> <u>11</u>	Any bull	EM	Elk Area 3068	<u>1</u>
Alkali B	Sept. 27 - Oct. 16	Any elk	EM	GMU 371	<u>10</u>
Nooksack <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Sept. <del>((29))</del> 26 - Oct. <del>((10))</del> 11 and Nov. <del>((11))</del> 18-30	Any bull	WM	GMU 418	<del>((3))</del> <u>2</u>
Nooksack D	Sept. 26 - Oct. 11 and Nov. 18-30	Spike only	WM	GMU 418	<u>2</u>
Margaret D	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Any bull	WM	GMU 524	<del>((8))</del> <u>4</u>
Toutle D	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Any bull	WM	GMU 556	<del>((29))</del> <u>1322</u>
Olympic <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	3 pt. min.	WM	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	<u>3</u>
Skokomish <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	3 pt. min.	WM	GMU 636	<u>2</u>
White River <del>((B))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. <del>((1-10))</del> 3-11	Any bull	WM	GMU 653	<del>((3))</del> <u>4</u>

**Muzzleloader Permit Hunts (Only muzzleloader elk tag holders may apply.)**

Aladdin B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Any elk	EM	GMU 111	10
Selkirk B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Any elk	EM	GMU 113	10
49 Degrees North B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u> & Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	EM	GMU 117	20
Turnbull E	Oct. <del>3-8</del>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Elk Area 1015</u>	11
Turnbull F	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Elk Area 1015</u>	11
Blue Creek <del>((D))</del> <u>E</u>	Dec. 9 - Jan. <del>((30-,2009))</del> <u>20, 2010</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMUs 149, 154	40
Mountain View <del>((D))</del> <u>E</u>	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	Elk Area 1013	10
Lick Creek B	Oct. 3-11	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>GMU 175</u>	<u>15</u>
Peola D	Oct. 3-11	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>GMU 178</u>	<u>15</u>
Couse <del>((E))</del> <u>D</u>	Dec. 1-31	Antlerless	EM	GMU 181	30
Couse <del>((F))</del> <u>E</u>	Jan. 1-20, <del>((2009))</del> <u>2010</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 181	30
Malaga <del>((E))</del> <u>C</u>	Oct. 1-21	Antlerless	EM	Elk Area 2032	50
<del>((Malaga-F</del>	<del>Oct. 1-21</del>	<del>Any elk</del>	<del>EM</del>	<del>Elk Area 2032</del>	<del>5)</del>
West Bar C	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 330	5
Taneum B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 336	25
Manastash B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 340	25
Umtanum B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 342	200
Nile B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 352	<del>4025</del>
Bumping B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 356	<del>9060</del>
Berthel <del>((D))</del> <u>E</u>	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 360	<del>4025</del>
Cowiche <del>((D))</del> <u>E</u>	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Antlerless	EM	GMU 368	<del>250200</del>
Klickitat Meadows D	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> <u>3-11</u>	Spike bull or antlerless	EM	Elk Area 3068	4
North Bend B	Oct. 3-9	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>WM</u>	<u>Elk Area 4601</u>	<u>5</u>
Skagit River A	Dec. 1-Jan. 20	Any elk	<u>WM</u>	<u>Elk Area 4941</u>	<u>15</u>
Stella A	Nov. <del>((19))</del> <u>25</u> - Dec. 15	Antlerless	WM	GMU 504	<del>((100))</del> <u>75</u>
Stella B	Jan. 1-16, <del>((2009))</del> <u>2010</u>	Antlerless	WM	GMU 504	<del>((100))</del> <u>75</u>
Toledo B	Dec. 7-20	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5029	<del>((30))</del> <u>40</u>
Mossyrock B	Jan. 1-16, <del>((2009))</del> <u>2010</u>	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5052	<del>((30))</del> <u>15</u>
Randle A	Jan. 1-16, <del>((2009))</del> <u>2010</u>	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5053	15

Boistfort A	Jan. 1-16, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5054	40
Willapa Hills B	Nov. 19 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	WM	GMU 506	15
Green Mt. A	Jan. 1-16, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5051	30
Wildwood B	Jan. 1- <del>((15, 2009))</del> 6, 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5061	<del>((20))</del> 30
Mudflow C	Oct. 3-9	Any elk	WM	Elk Area 5099	5
Mudflow D	Oct. 3-9	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5099	10
Winston B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 520	<del>((45))</del> 2045
Margaret E	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 524	<del>((35))</del> 1535
Ryderwood B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 530	<del>((15))</del> 30
Coweeeman C	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	WM	GMU 550	<del>((45))</del> 2045
Toutle E	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 556	<del>((50))</del> 2050
Lewis River B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 560	<del>((160))</del> 80
Siouxon B	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 572	<del>((50))</del> 30
Yale A	Oct. <del>((4-10))</del> 3-11	Antlerless	WM	GMU 554	<del>((50))</del> 40
Yale B	Nov. <del>((19))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	3 pt. min. or antlerless	WM	GMU 554	<del>((75))</del> 50
Ethel A	Aug. 1-15	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5049	10
Ethel B	Aug. 16-31	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5049	10
Newaukum B	Jan. 1- <del>((31, 2009))</del> 20, 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5050	10
Upper Smith Creek C	Oct. <del>((18-26))</del> 17-25	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5064	<del>((6))</del> 4
Upper Smith Creek D	Oct. <del>((18-26))</del> 17-25	Any elk	WM	Elk Area 5064	2
Mount Whittier C	Oct. <del>((18-26))</del> 17-25	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 5065	2
Mount Whittier D	Oct. <del>((18-26))</del> 17-25	Any elk	WM	Elk Area 5065	1
<del>((Twin-Satsop-A</del>	<del>Jan. 5-15, 2009</del>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>WM</del>	<del>Elk Area 6061</del>	<del>10)</del>
Mashel A	Jan. 1-15, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 6054	25
North River B	Nov. 26 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	WM	GMU 658	20
North Minot B	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 6067	<del>((20))</del> 10
Raymond E	Oct. 1-31	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 6010	<del>((30))</del> 10
<del>((Chehalis-Valley-C</del>	<del>Jan. 1-20, 2009</del>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>WM</del>	<del>Elk Area 6066</del>	<del>5)</del>
Tri Valley B	Dec. 16 - Jan. 20, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 6012	30
<b>Archery Permit Hunts (Only archery elk tag holders may apply.)</b>					

Note: Fire closures may limit access during September seasons.

Turnbull G	Sept. 8-20	Antlerless	EA	Elk Area 1015	14
Prescott ((D)) E	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 149	2
Blue Creek ((B)) F	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 154	4
Dayton ((B)) G	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 162	((8)) 2
Tucannon ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	Elk Area 1014	((3)) 4
Wenaha West ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	Elk Area 1008	((3)) 2
((Wenaha-Wenaha)) Wenaha East ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	Elk Area 1009	((3)) 2
Mountain View ((B)) F	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 172	((7)) 6
Peola D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 178	1
Couse ((G)) F	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 181	1
Dayton H	Sept. 8-20	Antlerless	EA	Elk Area 1016	25
Colockum ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMUs 328, 329	((2)) 4
Teanaway E	((Nov. 20-Dec. 8)) Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull	EA	GMU 335	+819
Peaches Ridge ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMUs 336, 346	((404)) +18107
Observatory ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any elk	EA	GMUs 340, 342	((94)) +0092
Goose Prairie ((E)) D	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMUs 352, 356	((127)) +50123
Bethel ((B)) F	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 360	((32)) 4028
Rimrock ((D)) E	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 364	((103)) +20111
Cowiche ((B)) F	Sept. 8-((24)) 20	Any bull	EA	GMU 368	((13)) +814
Klickitat Meadows E	Oct. 11-22	Any bull	EA	Elk Area 3068	1
Klickitat Meadows F	Oct. 11-22	Spike bull or antlerless	EA	Elk Area 3068	9
Alkali C	Sept. 8-20 Sept. 1-26	Any elk	EA	GMU 371	5
Malaga ((G)) D	Sept. 1-7	Antlerless	EA	Elk Area 2032	25
((Peshastin-C	Sept. 1-14	Any elk	EA	Elk Area 2033	+5))
Nooksack ((E)) E	Sept. 1-((28)) 25 and Dec. 1- 31	Any bull	WA	GMU 418	((3)) 2
Nooksack F	Sept. 1-25 and Dec. 1-31	Spike only	WA	GMU 418	2
North Bend C	Sept. 8-20	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 4601	7
Margaret F	Sept. ((15-30)) 8-20 and Dec. 1-15	Any bull	WA	GMU 524	((13)) 2
Margaret G	Sept. ((15-30)) 8-20 and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	WA	GMU 524	((35)) +535

Toutle F	Sept. <del>((15-30))</del> 8-20 and Dec. 1-15	Any bull	WA	GMU 556	<del>((71))</del> 3679
Toutle G	Sept. <del>((15-30))</del> 8-20 and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	WA	GMU 556	<del>((69))</del> 3650
Ethel C	Jan. 1-20, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5049	10
Newaukum C	Aug. 1-15	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5050	10
Newaukum D	Aug. 16-31	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5050	10
Upper Smith Creek E	Oct. <del>((11-17))</del> 10-16	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5064	<del>((6))</del> 4
Upper Smith Creek F	Oct. <del>((11-17))</del> 10-16	Any elk	WA	Elk Area 5064	2
<del>((Mount Whittier B))</del>	Oct. 11-17	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5065	<del>3</del>
Mount Whittier F	Oct. 11-17	Any elk	WA	Elk Area 5065	4)
Lewis River C	Nov. <del>((19-30))</del> 26 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless	WA	GMU 560	<del>((50))</del> 30
Siouxon C	Nov. <del>((19-30))</del> 26 - Dec. 8	3 pt. min. or antlerless	WA	GMU 572	<del>((25))</del> 15
Mudflow E	Sept. 8-20	Any elk	WA	Elk Area 5099	<del>5</del>
Mudflow F	Sept. 8-20	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 5099	10
Olympic ((C)) D	Sept. 8- <del>((24))</del> 20	3 pt. min.	WA	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	6
Skokomish ((C)) D	Sept. 8- <del>((24))</del> 20	3 pt. min.	WA	GMU 636	5
White River ((C)) D	Sept. 8- <del>((24))</del> 20	Any bull	WA	GMU 653	<del>((15))</del> 20
<b>* Master Hunter Special Elk Permit Hunts: Only master hunters may apply; antlerless only hunts will not affect accumulated points; and any weapon may be used.</b>					
Turnbull H	Dec. 10-31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 1015	6
Mossyrock C	Jan. 17-30, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5052	<del>((20))</del> 10
Randle B	Jan. 17-30, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5053	15
Pumice Plains A	Oct. 25 - Nov. 2	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5063	<del>((10))</del> 5
Pumice Plains B	Oct. 18-24	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5063	<del>((4))</del> 2
Quinault Ridge	Oct. 1-10	3 pt. min. or antlerless	Any elk tag	<del>((GMU-638))</del> Elk Area 6064	5
Green Mt. B	Jan. 17-30, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5051	20
Merwin A	Nov. <del>((24))</del> 25 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5060	<del>((10))</del> 7
Merwin B	Jan. 17-30, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5060	<del>((10))</del> 7
<b>Master Hunter, Second Elk Tag Hunts: Only master hunters may apply; these hunts will not affect accumulated points; a second tag may be purchased by successful applicants as needed; and any weapon may be used. The second elk license and tag type must be the same tag type as the first one.</b>					
<del>((Peola B))</del>	Oct. 1-10	Antlerless	EM	GMU 178	<del>15)</del>
Malaga ((H)) E	Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 2032	100 <sup>1M</sup>
Malaga ((H)) F	Aug. 1 - Feb. 28, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 2032	6 <sup>1M</sup>

Peshastin ((E)) A	Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 2033	100 <sup>HM</sup>
Peshastin ((F)) B	Aug. 1 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 2033	6 <sup>HM</sup>
Fairview	Jan. 21 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 3911	20 <sup>HM</sup>
Rattlesnake Hills	Aug. 1 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless or spike bull	Any elk tag	Designated areas in GMU 372	20 <sup>HM</sup>
North Bend D	Aug. 15-Mar. 31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 4601	2 <sub>2</sub> <sup>HM</sup>
Skagit River B	Dec. 1-Feb. 28	Any elk	WA,WM	Elk Area 4941	1 <sub>2</sub> <sup>HM</sup>
Cowlitz Valley	Aug. 1 - Sept. 7	Any elk	Any elk tag	Designated areas in GMUs 503, 505, 510, 513, and 516	15 <sup>HM</sup>
Toledo C	Dec. 21-31	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5029	((20)) 35
Toledo D	Aug. 1-7	Any elk	Any ((archery)) elk tag	Elk Area 5029	((5)) 10
Toledo E	Aug. 8-14	Any elk	Any ((archery)) elk tag	Elk Area 5029	((5)) 10
Toledo F	Aug. 15-21	Any elk	Any ((muzzleloader)) elk tag	Elk Area 5029	((5)) 10
Toledo G	Aug. 22-28	Any elk	Any ((muzzleloader)) elk tag	Elk Area 5029	((5)) 10
Boistfort B	Aug. 1-7	Any elk	Any ((archery)) elk tag	Elk Area 5054	((5)) 10
Boistfort C	Aug. 8-14	Any elk	Any ((archery)) elk tag	Elk Area 5054	((5)) 10
Boistfort D	Aug. 15-21	Any elk	Any ((muzzleloader)) elk tag	Elk Area 5054	((5)) 10
Boistfort E	Aug. 22-28	Any elk	Any ((muzzleloader)) elk tag	Elk Area 5054	((5)) 10
Gray's River	Aug. 1 - Sept. 7 and Dec. 15 - Feb. 28, 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5056	15 <sup>HM</sup>
JBH *	Nov. ((12)) 18 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5090	20 <sup>HM</sup>
Trout Lake A**	Dec. 15-31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5062	3
Trout Lake B**	Jan. 1-14, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5062	3
Trout Lake C**	Jan. 15-30, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5062	3
North River ((B)) C	Dec. 16 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Designated areas in GMU 658	10 <sup>((HM))</sup>
Chehalis Valley D	Aug. 1 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Designated areas in Elk Area 6066	((10 <sup>HM</sup> )) 5
Raymond F	Dec. 1 - Mar. 31, ((2009)) 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6010	((10)) 5 <sup>HM</sup>
((Hanford-C	Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, 2009	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Designated areas in Elk Area 6069	5 <sup>HM</sup>
Dungeness A	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, ((2009)) 2010	3 pt. min.	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6071 north of Hwy 101 only	8 <sup>HM</sup>
Dungeness B	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6071 north of Hwy 101 only	6 <sup>HM</sup>

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Youth - Special Elk Permit Hunts (Must be eligible for the youth hunting license and accompanied by an adult during the hunt.)					
Mudflow ((A)) <u>G</u>	<del>((Oct-20-26))</del> Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	<del>((Antlerless))</del> Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5099	<del>((4))</del> 10
Dungeness C	Sept. 1 - Feb. 28, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6071 north of Hwy 101 only	4 <sup>HM</sup>
Sol Duc Valley <u>A</u>	Aug. 1 - Jan. <del>((22, 2009))</del> 20, 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6072	2
Clearwater Valley	Aug. 1 - Mar. 31, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6073	1
Persons of Disability Only - Special Elk Permit Hunts					
Turnbull <u>I</u>	Oct. 10-18	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 1015	6
Sol Duc Valley B	Aug. 1 - Jan. 22, <del>((2009))</del> 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6072	2
Observatory ((D)) <u>E</u>	<del>((Oct-20 - Nov-2))</del> Oct. 19 - Nov. 1	Any elk	EF or EM	GMUs 340, 342	7
Little Naches C	Oct. 1-10	Any elk	EF, EM, EA	GMU 346	5
Little Naches D	<del>((Oct-29 - Nov-2))</del> Oct. 28 - Nov. 1	Antlerless	EF, EM, EA	GMU 346	8
Alkali <u>D</u>	Oct. 17 - Nov. 6	Any elk	EF	GMU 371	5
Corral Canyon	<del>((Sept-28 - Oct-5))</del> Sept. 27 - Oct. 4	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 3721	2
Mudflow ((B)) <u>H</u>	Sept. <del>((15-21))</del> 21-27	Any elk	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5099	4
Mudflow ((C)) <u>I</u>	<del>((Sept-29 - Oct-5))</del> Nov. 23-29	<del>((Any-elk))</del> Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5099	4
<del>((Mudflow-D))</del>	Nov. 10-16	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5099	4)
Ethel D	Nov. <del>((1-10))</del> 7-17	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5049	5
Centralia Mine A	Oct. <del>((25-26))</del> 24-25	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6011	<del>((2))</del> 3
Centralia Mine B	<del>((Nov-1-3))</del> Oct. 31 - Nov. 1	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6011	<del>((2))</del> 3
<del>((North Shore B))</del>	Oct. 1-31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6068	5
North Shore C	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6068	5
Chehalis Valley <u>B</u>	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6066	10)
Hunters 65 or Older Only - Special Elk Permit Hunts					
Hanford	Jan. <del>((16-30, 2009))</del> 1-30, 2010	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 6069	5
<del>((Mudflow E))</del>	Nov. 24-30	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 5099	4)
Margaret H	Nov. <del>((11-16))</del> 21-30	Antlerless	WF	GMU 524	10

\*Muzzleloaders only; scopes allowed in JBH hunt.

\*\*May only hunt on privately owned lands. Must use only archery or legal shotgun (10 or 12 gauge; slugs only).

<sup>HM</sup>This is a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt master. Successful applicants will be contacted on an as-needed

basis to help with specific sites of elk damage on designated landowner's property. Not all successful applicants will be contacted in any given year depending on elk damage activity for that year.

<b>Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special elk permits will be allocated through a random drawing to those hunter education instructors that qualify.</li> <li>- Permit hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons, muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons, and any legal weapon during modern firearm seasons.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Permittees may purchase a second license for use with the permit hunt only.</li> </ul>				
A r e a	Dates	Restrictions	GMUs	Permits
R e g i o n 3	All general season and permit seasons established for GMUs included with the permit	Any elk	GMUs ((335)) 336-368	2
R e g i o n 5		Any elk	All 500 series GMUs except GMU 522	4
R e g i o n 6		Any elk	GMUs 654, 660, 672, 673, 681	1

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. 08-19-021 (Order 08-227), § 232-28-354, filed 9/8/08, effective 10/9/08; 08-09-091 (Order 08-79), § 232-28-354, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; 07-17-049 (Order 07-166), § 232-28-354, filed 8/9/07, effective 9/9/07; 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-354, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 06-17-095 (Order 06-196), § 232-28-354, filed 8/15/06, effective 9/15/06; 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-354, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06.]

## WAC 232-28-354 2009 Elk special permits

### RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

#### Page 32

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permits, change Peaches Ridge A from 142 to 129 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permit, change Observatory A from 70 to 65 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permits, change Goose Prairie A from 95 to 77 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permits, change Bethel A from 54 to 38 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permits, change Rimrock A from 127 to 117 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** permits, change Cowiche A from 22 to 17 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

#### Page 33

Under **Modern Firearm Bull** Permits, change Toutle A from 60 to 131. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

#### Page 34

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change the dates for Mountain View C from Oct. 25-Nov. 2 to Oct. 31-Nov. 8. This change corrects a calendar date adjustment omission.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Nile A from 50 permits to 30 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Bumping A from 100 permits to 75 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Bethel C from 100 permits to 50 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Rimrock C from 200 permits to 150 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Cowiche C from 200 permits to 150 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Klickitat Meadows B from 9 permits to 5 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless**, add the following hunt:

North Bend A	Nov. 7-Nov. 17	Antlerless	WF	Elk Area 4601	5
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This change corrects an omission in the filing of the CR 102.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Winston A from 40 to 100 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Margaret C from 25 to 70 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

**Page 35**

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Coweeman A from 65 to 120 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Coweeman B from 35 to 50 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Modern Firearm Antlerless** Permits, change Toutle C from 60 to 120 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

**Page 36**

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Peaches Ridge C from 24 to 22 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Observatory C from 23 to 21 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Goose Prairie C from 16 to 13 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Bethel D from 17 to 12 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Rimrock D from 18 to 16 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Cowiche D from 10 to 8 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Bull** Permits, change Toutle D from 13 to 29 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

**Page 37**

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Nile B from 40 to 25 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Bumping B from 90 to 60 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Bethel E from 40 to 25 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Cowiche E from 250 to 200 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless**, add the following hunts:

North Bend B	Oct. 3-9	Antlerless	WM	Elk Area 4601	5
Skagit River A	Dec. 1-Jan. 20	Any elk	WM	Elk Area 4941	15

These changes correct omissions in the filing of the CR 102.

**Page 38**

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Winston B from 20 permits to 45. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Margaret E from 15 permits to 35. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Coweeman C from 20 permits to 45. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Muzzleloader Antlerless** Permits, change Toutle E from 20 permits to 50. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Page 39

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Teanaway E from 18 to 19 permits. Correction to the permit allocation formula was made.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Peaches Ridge D from 118 to 107 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Observatory D from 100 to 92 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Goose Prairie D from 150 to 123 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Bethel F from 40 to 28 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Rimrock E from 120 to 111 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery Bull** Permit hunts, change Cowiche F from 18 to 14 permits. Aerial survey counts in February indicate a lower harvest target for this hunt.

Under **Archery** Permit hunts, change Alkali C from Sept. 8-20 to Sept. 1-26. This is the time period that the Region negotiated with the Yakima Training Center, barring any closures due to training.

Under **Archery Antlerless**, add the following hunt:

North Bend C	Sept. 8-20	Antlerless	WA	Elk Area 4601	7
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This change corrects an omission in the filing of the CR 102.

Under **Archery Antlerless** Permit hunts, change Margaret G from 15 permits to 35. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

**Page 40**

Under **Archery Bull** Permits change Toutle F from 36 to 79 permits. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

Under **Archery Antlerless** Permit hunts, change Toutle G from 36 permits to 50. This change better addresses the need for population control of the Mount St. Helens elk herd to help meet management objectives.

**Page 41**

Under **Master Hunter Second Elk Tag**, add the following hunts:

North Bend D	Aug. 15- March 31	Antlerless	Any elk tag	Elk Area 4601	25 <sup>HM</sup>
Skagit River B	Dec. 1-Feb 28	Any elk	WA, WM	Elk Area 4941	15 <sup>HM</sup>

These changes correct omissions in the filing of the CR 102.

## SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

### WAC 232-28-354 2009 Elk special permits

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I appreciate the opportunity to respond to proposed rule changes. I am generally pleased with the proposed changes save one issue. I am a Master Hunter that has been enjoying the Toledo D Aug 1-7 Special hunt during the past three seasons. I appreciate being in the woods with other archery hunters who share my concern for the ultimate fair chase. I see that moving forward there will no longer be "archery only" special hunts in this Elk Area. Hopefully I am not alone in my desire to reserve one week of the Toledo special permits for archery only. Please consider amending the proposed rule changes to include one week of Archery Only, Master Hunter Permits for 2009, 2010, and 2011. The week of Aug. 1-7 has worked splendidly for me in the past.</p>	<p>The intent of this hunt is to address elk damage problems. Therefore all tag holders may apply and participate in an effort to remove additional elk.</p>
<p>I looked through the recommendations and if I am reading it correctly GMU 653 is still being recommended as a permit only area for Elk. I have hunted this area for about 12yrs about since I was 12yrs old until about three years ago when it was changed to permit only. This year I made sure I signed up for the WDFW email so I could follow the process for the 09-11 regulations. My biggest issue is that I do not understand why this GMU 653 is permit only? Maybe I just don't know where to get the information or it is not available to the public on who, why, and how of this GMU 653. I can understand that an area may be changed to permit only or shut down to bring herd numbers up. But I would really like to see numbers from before 2006 when it was open as 3 pt or better and numbers when it was Spike only? Then what was the affect of turning GMU 653 to permit only?</p>	<p>The intent is to increase the number of bulls surviving the hunting seasons. This is a popular hunting area for state licensed hunters as well as tribal hunters; so managing harvest takes a cooperative effort. We are working together to achieve our population objectives. To get more information, we recommend that you contact Jack Smith in our Montesano office.</p>
<p>I have hunted the Williams Creek area for Elk for many years, but still continue to be surprised at the strange dates that you select for your antlerless permit hunts. In 2008 the "cow tags" were valid from Nov 8 to Nov 13. The last 3 days were after bull season had closed, and the last 4 days after most hunters had gone home. It makes it nice and quiet, but it is not always easy getting hunting partners to stick around to help take care of a down cow, after bull season is over.</p> <p>Now, for 2009 you are setting dates of October 26 thru 31 for the "cow tags", which will end 6 days before bull season opens, and will overlap with deer season. If its hard to get your hunting partners to stick around for a late hunt, after bull season closes, how will we ever get anyone there 6 to 12 days before bull season to help?</p> <p>I cannot understand the departments thinking on this issue.</p>	<p>In your situation, we recommend that you put in as a group; then your hunting partners will have the same permit as you. We have been experimenting somewhat with the dates to achieve an attractive hunt that works for everyone.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE						
<p>I read where you want to open the Toutle to general season it would be better to open it to youth and or the handicapped this has been a coveted tag since 1980</p>	<p>If that is an option in the future, you are correct that we would need to phase the change.</p>						
<p>Next on my list are the archery elk seasons..... I am a little curious as to why there is a need for modern rifle hunters to have tags in some of the best big bull units in the state in the Yakima herds and the Blue Mountain Herds?? Having a rifle hunt in these units is only going to diminish the quality of bulls running around as the 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> is the peak of the elk rut in our state! Of my experience down in the blues, there are plenty of 300 class bulls running around, and rifle hunters are going to thin them out faster than archery hunters could. Granted it is only proposed that 1 tag be available in the Wenaha, Dayton, Tucannon, etc. but each tag adds up...</p>	<p>This timeframe is very attractive for hunters. The ability to bugle for elk results in what many consider a quality opportunity. It also helps address an in-equity in archery harvest of mature bulls on a statewide basis.</p>						
<p>You need to open the Toutle area up to elk hunting during the regular seasons. There is to much area taken away from hunters and the area has grown back up.</p>	<p>That is something being discussed for the 2012 season.</p>						
<p>Modern firearm hunters don't need anymore advantages to make themselves successful by hunting during the peak of the rut. They seem to kill the majority of bulls for special permits without giving them the best time of the year to hunt them, which neither primitive weapons group gets, and our weapons are limited in range and effectiveness making it much more difficult to be successful.</p>	<p>Actually in recent years, archers have the highest success rate among the three user groups. In 2007 the elk harvest success rates were:</p> <table data-bbox="787 972 1036 1066"> <tr> <td>Archers</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muzzleloaders</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Modern Firearm</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> </table>	Archers	11%	Muzzleloaders	8%	Modern Firearm	7%
Archers	11%						
Muzzleloaders	8%						
Modern Firearm	7%						
<p>I would just like to commend the Department for staying w/ the special permits in the Margaret Unit and Toutle. I see there has been a decrease in tags which should help the trophy quality. My son drew a Margaret Bull tag last year and it was a great experience. He shot a very nice 5x5 but not many "Trophy" bulls were seen. I do realize that a lot of the hunters there were disappointed but I assure you that we saw plenty animals and some very respectable bulls. I do not wish the tags to be increased however and certainly do not want to see it open as a general unit. Thanks.</p>	<p>The number of permits proposed for these two units has been adjusted upward in our recommended adjustments.</p>						
<p>For the most part I like the proposed changes, I realize what an undertaking it must be to try and make everyone happy, I don't envy your positions. I think these new proposals make time afield a little more equal between all three user groups. Judging by the comments I've read on certain websites I can see your going to get a lot of opposition from the bow hunters in this state. In my opinion they have been spoiled long enough. The 2 changes that are proposed that don't make sense to me are the reduction of the spring bear hunts in the Blue Mt. GMUs and the reduction of certain cow permits in the Blue Mt. GMUs to me they seem to contradict each other. By reducing the cow tags I gather there is a lack of elk, so it would only make sense to give out more bear permits in the spring when elk are calving.</p>	<p>While it may seem like a logical strategy, we can not show any correlation between number of black bear permits and increased calf survival. We do see increased cow survival when permits are reduced.</p>						

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I Archery hunt and it is hard enough to harvest an Elk in the best of conditions let alone compete with a muzzle loader that can shoot accurately up to 200 yards or more. I would like to see the seasons separated better. I hunt GMU 520 most of the time. And every year black powder guys mess my hunt up. I don't care if the GMU is open to black powder, just don't overlap it. Give them there own season after Archery. The other thing I would like to see is an area that is only open for Archery, not a special permit hunt but an area just for archery. It is getting so hard to find elk that hasn't been molested by modern and black powder hunters. The elk are more alert and skittish, they won't respond to calls except to flee as fast as they can. I would appreciate a response to my suggestions.</p>	<p>Separating the seasons is something we continue to consider, but so far the majority of archery and muzzleloader hunters have supported keeping this overlap.</p>
<p>After reviewing the proposed regulation and session changes I have great concern of the dates of the session and the number of permits.</p> <p>Last year there were a huge number of elk permits given out to reduce the size of the herds in the St. Helens area. It appears to me that now the permits have been reduced by 60+ %. Did all the elk that was to be harvested get harvested to meet the management plan or are there other considerations on the plan not mentioned?</p> <p>Also the amount of permits for the Margaret Unit has been greatly reduced. This cuts down the chances of permits for holders of 13 points to get a quality hunt, me being one.</p> <p>Being a Muzzle loader hunter, I am also very disappointed in the proposed dated for Late season. The proposed 1-Dec start date takes away from the Thanksgiving hunters who, as my grandsons, are youth hunters, whom have been coming to camp for the past three years during their vacation time to spend time and LEARN about the GREAT OUTDOORS. This proposal is not good. Starting the day before Thanksgiving was always a fare start date and many feel the same.</p> <p>Please take this into considerations when setting the seasons.</p> <p>I believe that there has been an enormous effort into establishing the new regulations but some of the changes may be taking too big of a step too soon.</p>	<p>Between the harsh winters the past two years and the harvest resulting from increasing the permit levels, we think we are reducing the St Helen's elk herd.</p> <p>Our preliminary recommendations were conservative based on our projections. However, the current recommendation is for higher permit levels than our original proposal.</p>
<p>I would like to comment on the reduction of archery permits in the Dayton, Wenaha, Tucannon and any other Blue Mountain Units. I have seen many bulls while scouting and hunting in these units. I talked to other archers that hunt in these units. They talk about the number of big bulls they see in a 7 day hunt. I think it would be fair to add a tag or two for modern firearm but don't take away our archery tags to do it. Drawing a tag in those areas is difficult at best. I say leave or increase the number of archery tags. Those units can stand it.</p>	<p>We have been increasing the bull permit levels in the Blue Mountains for the past three years. They are allocated between archers, muzzleloaders, and modern firearm hunters based on their proportion of elk hunters and harvest success rates.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>Archery, blackpowder and modern firearm seasons should alternate so each tool for hunting can get in on the rut, cooler temps etc once every few years. just like unit 346 should be alternated between black powder, modern and archery.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We have taken it under advisement.</p>
<p>I oppose the proposal to give rifle hunters hunts during the peak of the rut. This makes absolutely no sense at all. Archery is considered to be the most difficult weapon to hunt with, then muzzleloaders and finally the rifle. The archery and muzzleloading seasons are set to help give them an advantage because they have disadvantages. This means pre rut and post rut seasons and extended seasons. Rifle hunting is the most effective hunting method, yet the special permit season proposed is during the peak of the rut. This is the best time to hunt elk and gives them a very high percentage of being successful. As far as I can tell they don't need that big of an advantage when you are using a modern firearm. The numbers show they are very effective with the special permit seasons they already have. The one post rut they have in the little Naches that runs from October 1-10 each year shows you how effective they will be if you give them a peak rut hunt. This hunt has extraordinarily high success compared to other user groups that hunt pre rut or post rut. I propose the WDFW give them those five days from Sept. 8-12 and then run the archery season from Sept. 13-26 or give them a post rut hunt from Oct. 1-5. No way should the most efficient hunting method be given tags during the peak of the rut where the animals are vulnerable and the easiest time of year to harvest them.</p>	<p>As mentioned previously, archers are quite successful at harvesting elk. In fact, archers tend to take a greater proportion of mature bulls than the other two groups as well as have higher success rates. It is likely that the greater harvest of mature bulls is because of the timing of the early season. In 2007 the numbers were:</p> <p>Archers made up 22% of the elk hunters and took 31% of the mature bulls harvested; Muzzleloaders made up 14% of the elk hunters and took 15% of the mature bulls; and Modern Firearm hunters made up 64% of the elk hunters and took 54% of the mature bulls. A mature bull was considered greater than five points for this comparison.</p> <p>Because of the in-equity in harvest of mature bulls, we are recommending a few modern firearm permits during the September rut timeframe.</p>
<p>My husband and I have a home in the Columbia heights area and want to let you know that it is absolutely ridiculous to think the WDFD would even consider hunting in this area.</p> <p>These are our backyards, with daily gardening and walking in the woods with our children and grandchildren. They would be endangering so many lives. Most of this land has homes on it we believe. We have the herd of elk here at least once a month for a couple of days. The herd has approx. 38/40 head. We even feed them when we have a chance to with our apples from our trees. If you must do something because of the size of the herd then please relocate them. We understand the herd is growing and will keep doing so. <b>BUT PLEASE COME WITH TRAILERS TO MOVE THEM TO A NEW HOME NOT WITH GUNS!!!! NO GUNS IN OUR BACKYARDS!!!! SOMEONE WILL GET HURT OR KILLED BY THESE HUNTERS!!!!</b></p>	<p>Hunting in urbanizing areas can be successful if conducted carefully. We are using more highly trained hunters to assist us in these situations.</p> <p>Elk that have been habituated to humans are not good candidates for moving. They just tend to get into trouble where they are released.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>In regards to hunting in the Toutle valley and other limited hunting units. I have a concern about the number of hunters that may be allowed to hunt in these areas. My concern stems from hunting in the Coweeman unit and seeing for first hand how elk are corralled in tight areas by hunters in trucks until one or more hunters that had worked their way into the timber can take a shot. I seen this first hand there was three trucks and nine hunters. or large numbers of hunters making a push to get elk in the open so one or two hunters can take a shot. Over the years hunting we have found a number of elk dead from hunters taking poor shots. Also the elk that do survive bow and modern rifle seasons are run down, thin and some limping from being ran so much by the time muzzle loader season comes around. To do this right limit the number of hunters in a group [2 max] and limit the number of total hunters in an given area, or we well end up with another Coweeman.</p>	<p>We have been trying to spread out the timeframes for permit holders to keep the crowding down to a minimum. We have not received many complaints to date, but will continue to address problem areas. Thank you for your comments.</p>
<p>Elk season now has too many tags for cows and permits for cows and bulls in the Toutle unit, and the Winston unit. The seasons for those permits run in to January. And that is ridiculous, those elk are hunger and then it snows, what in the hell is wrong w/you folks, please make it right.</p>	<p>The intent is to reduce the size of this herd so it is healthier and more productive. Once the population has been reduced, the wintering population should have less competition for food and we can consider reducing permit levels and the late winter timeframe.</p>
<p>Two thumbs up, you guys are heading in the right direction. I love the rife elk rut hunt opportunities, great for hunters &amp; great revenue producer for the WDFW - love it. I would have like to have seen the population decline in black-tail in SW Washington addressed through regulations though.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support.</p>
<p>I do agree with the additional special permit hunts in the rut for elk for rifle, but maybe instead of rifle hunts only the successful drawer could pick which weapon. This is not all about complaining, very good job on planning to get out the regs. earlier and moving the dead line for special permits up a month, very, very smart. Maybe even earlier in the future????? Take care.</p>	<p>Actually, modern firearm hunters may choose which weapon they use. They do have to wear hunter orange however.</p>
<p>Reviewing the proposed game regulations for the next three years, the Department has done nothing to address the over population of the cow herd in the Randle/Packwood area. (516) For the last three years the elk herd in the Randle/Packwood area has grown to a size and ratio unprecedented due to the regulations set forth in the preceding years. The only change being proposed is to allow Advance Hunter Education tag holders, by permit, an either sex hunt with any weapon before other hunters have an opportunity. Basically, before archery season begins. This is not equal opportunity hunting and perhaps discriminating to those hunters in the area and the land owners who suffer the most damage to their crops. Additionally, where are they going to hunt, well known the Cowlitz Area is all private property. How does this manage the herd,</p>	<p>We are starting a program of addressing property damage directly. If a landowner has a problem with elk and gives us a call, we can assign one of the permit holders to help target the elk causing the problem.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>"either sex"? Bull (mature) to cow ratio is no less than 30-1, documented by over 1000 photos taken in a years time. The herd is off balance already regardless to the numbers being posted by the Tribe in Puyallup. They don't live and see every day the growing numbers of cow population in the Cowlitz Valley.</p>	
<p>I just want to state that last year I was rewarded with a cow elk tag in Eastern Washington. I hunted the unit for six days, come to find out there was no resident elk in the unit. There was two hundred tags giving out. How can they figure to give out two hundred tags? When there is no elk in that unit. During the muzzleloader season. That's not right I see those numbers two hundred tags I am going to believe that there is elk in that unit. I cant take the time off to scout the unit.</p> <p>Plus one really big thing that got me was the fact that other hunters don't follow the red dot green dot rules. They would pass me on roads that are closed. There goes my hunt. I am Obeying the law, hunting the way it should be. And there is no enforcement to stop those people.</p> <p>Unit: 342 Umtanum</p>	<p>Last year was a tough one in terms of harvest success. The weather did not cooperate and the migratory elk just did not move down until after most seasons had finished. The season timeframe is based on average years, so sometimes harvest is poor and other times it is good.</p> <p>We are continuing to monitor the road management systems and are converting many green dot systems into gate systems. Gated systems are easier to manage and take less enforcement.</p>
<p>Seems the elk population in Margaret unit should be thinned, so would like to have more cow permits in the drawing</p>	<p>We have been increasing antlerless hunting in the Margaret unit over the past few years. We will continue with high permit levels until the population has been reduced.</p>
<p>While you may not have the support to change the Margaret and Toutle elk areas from permit only to open areas, you clearly need to increase harvest and reduce feeding. This feeding program is biologically and sociologically the wrong thing. Leave these decisions to the biologists who understand the damage done by such a feeding program. Please stop the feeding and increase the harvest.</p> <p>My main concern is your proposal to make it easier for handicap hunters. I am strongly opposed to this. As a wildlife biologist and hunter education instructor, I pay close attention to what the hunting public is doing when afield. Your handicap program requires additional oversight. The majority of so-called handicap hunters I have encountered over the last 15 years are very mobile on both legs and have good use of both arms. I have watched a number of them shooting handguns with either hand, climbing over downfall, and then bragging about their ability to go anywhere on public lands on Quads – including anywhere off-trail. The existing abuses of closed roads and the problem with ad-hoc or boot-leg trails do not need to be supported by this policy. Place additional oversight on this program so only the truly handicapped are able to participate and make sure that those legitimate handicapped hunters know the limitations of their privileges. Thank you for the ability to comment.</p>	<p>We are implementing all of your suggestions including the oversight of the hunters with disabilities. There is an Advisory Group to the Commission who reviews our policies and recommend changes where appropriate.</p>

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I have read some of the on the Elk issues and trying to take more spikes is not the answer we need to follow the actions of other states that have better management plans than this state. To get the ratio where it needs to be we need to remove more cows nobody likes to hear this but it is a proven method that works sorry but we need to follow in the foot steps of states with successful game plan</p>	<p>We have increased antlerless permit levels and seasons where reductions are warranted.</p>
<p>I live within the city limits of Longview, WA in the Park Hill Development.  I moved there in 1995. Till about the year 2000 no elk were ever seen in my neighborhood, only deer.  The next year single elk 'visited'. Their numbers increased rapidly. By 2005 up to 30 elk 'camped' on my urban front lawn. Last week, I saw a herd of 10 - 15 elk on a neighbors property. They now come regularly about twice a month. More frequently during the fall when fruit trees are beckoning. I planted 8 dwarf fruit trees on my property. The bottom 6 feet "belong" to the deer, The next 3-4 feet "belong" to the elk, the fruit above is mine. But the trees are not all that high. I do not mind the deer too much because they browse rather gingerly. The elk are destructive. At each visit they break branches as thick as my arms. On their first forage visits, I thoughts a gang of vandals had destroyed my trees. Then I saw the deep hoof-prints. During the wet winter months, the elk 'perforate' my urban lawn with holes up to a foot deep.</p> <p>Besides being highly destructive to my property, the elk are a health and traffic hazard. My wife is afraid of being gored and trampled by these huge and bold animals. At times, they leave only reluctantly even as we beat with wooden spoons on metal lids. Large game animals are not compatible with urban settings. I encourage you to thin the number of animals of "The Columbia Heights Herd". As I call them; the total herd may be as large as 50 animals. While hunting within city limits is hazardous, it should be allowed for hunters with special permits and training.</p>	<p>This is a situation that we are working on. We have had several discussions with City officials and opted for additional antlerless permits in the surrounding area. Something along the lines of your proposal is being tried in North Bend this year. If that strategy is successful, we may be able to try it in Longview in the future.</p>
<p>With the new proposal on the Sept hunt for rifles. It would be nice since it only is a 5 day season and only one person per unit can draw, to let the hunter if he does not harvest his bull in the September hunt he can carry his tag over in the general season. I mean I have the maximum number of points and am waiting to get drawn for the hunt of my life and it would be a bummer if it was over in five days. What will it hurt to let the hunter carry over his permit, you are counting that anyway.</p>	<p>This is something that we did consider. We plan to see what the success rates are for the short September season before we consider this idea.</p>



# 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 08-10-108 & 08-24-103 ; 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)  
Hunting Rules – See Attachment A

**Hearing location(s):**  
Ellensburg Quality Inn and Conference Center  
1700 Canyon Road  
Ellensburg, WA 98926  
(509) 925-9800

Date: March 6-7, 2009 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](mailto:Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov)  
fax (360) 902-2162

By: Friday, February 20, 2009

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**

Contact: Susan Yeager by March 1, 2009

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

**Date of intended adoption:** April 2-3-4, 2009  
(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; 77.12.015; 77.12.240; 77.12.040; 77.32.155

**Statute being implemented:** 77.12.047; 77.12.020; 77.12.570;  
77.12.210; 77.12.015; 77.12.240; 77.12.040; 77.32.155

**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 21, 2009

**NAME**  
Lori Preuss

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Rules Coordinator

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

**OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED**

**DATE: January 21, 2009  
TIME: 11:44 AM**

**WSR 09-03-111**

**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 232-12-047 Unlawful methods for hunting**

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

Amendments to this rule help clarify the title of the WAC which deals with more than firearms. The proposal clarifies language related to using handguns for hunting and also removes a conflict with the muzzleloading equipment WAC that proposes to allow muzzleloading handguns for hunting. The proposal would also allow crossbows to be used in firearm restriction areas as designated by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Currently only hunters with disabilities that meet certain criteria are allowed to use crossbows.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To provide more flexibility in designing hunting seasons that address urban and suburban big game issues by allowing crossbows in some situations. The proposal also removes a conflict with a proposed change in the muzzleloading equipment WAC.

### **WAC 232-12-051 Muzzleloading firearms**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify language related to lawful ignition systems for muzzleloading firearms. The proposal also no longer restricts projectiles to lead only. The proposal would allow muzzleloading handguns to be used for hunting big game and clarifies muzzleloading handgun use for small game. Also the proposal would allow modern handguns to be carried for personal protection during a muzzleloader season.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To help clarify what types of muzzleloader equipment is lawful for hunting; allow hunters more flexibility in the types of projectiles they are allowed to use; removes an unnecessary restriction related to using muzzleloading handguns for big game and clarifies other allowed uses for muzzleloading handguns; and allows muzzleloader hunters to carry handguns for personal safety as long as they are not in conflict with existing big game hunting season restrictions.

### **WAC 232-12-054 Archery requirements – Archery special use permits**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to allow modern handguns to be carried for personal protection during an archery season and allow the use of crossbows in firearm restriction areas as designated by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The proposal would provide more flexibility in designing hunting seasons that address urban and suburban big game issues by allowing crossbows in some situations. The proposal would also allow archery hunters to carry handguns for personal safety as long as they are not in conflict with existing big game hunting season restrictions.

### **WAC 232-12-055 Hunting – Hunter orange clothing requirements**

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

The proposed amendments help clarify which hunters are required to wear hunter orange clothing. The clarification is for hunting during modern firearm seasons and for modern firearm deer and elk permit holders.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

In the past, it has not been very clear whether archery and muzzleloader deer and elk hunters were required to wear hunter orange clothing outside of general seasons for modern firearm hunters.

### **WAC 232-12-062 Party hunting**

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

To develop a definition of party hunting and clarify that it is illegal to hunt for another person's big game animal or turkey.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To clarify that party hunting for big game and turkeys is illegal.

### **WAC 232-12-068 Nontoxic shot requirements**

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**  
The rule will provide additional nontoxic shot selections for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunters.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To improve recreational opportunity and protect waterfowl resources.

### **WAC 232-12-227 Hunter education training program requirements**

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**  
The purpose behind the proposal is to minimize confusion and avoid possible mistakes by license vendors.

Currently subsection (4) authorizes an individual who has a Washington hunting license from a preceding year to show that license and purchase a subsequent hunting license even if the initial license was not issued in compliance with the hunter education training requirement. The proposal will allow individuals to purchase a Washington hunting license only if they have a hunter education certificate or are identified as previous Washington hunters in the current license data system.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The proposal ensures that only hunter education graduates or individuals currently identified as hunting-license buyers within the WDFW license data system are eligible to purchase.

### **WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability**

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**  
The proposed amendment to this rule would authorize the Director to administer and issue special use permits to hunters with disabilities.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Accommodations that allow persons with disabilities to participate in Department programs are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Special use permits allow the Director to evaluate applications and provide accommodations where appropriate.

### **WAC 232-12-840 Hunting and fishing opportunities for terminally ill persons**

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**  
This proposal is to implement recently passed legislation authorizing the Commission to establish rules for providing special hunting and fishing opportunities for terminally ill persons. In the proposal, the Director is authorized to provide opportunities in a variety of ways at no cost.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To implement the legislation, which provides special hunting and fishing opportunities for terminally ill persons.

### **WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas**

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**  
The proposed rule amendments add more weapon options in firearm restriction areas. The effect will maintain some limited hunting opportunity in these areas and also provide an effective level of harvest to help control deer and elk populations causing damage and nuisance problems especially in more developed areas.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The proposed language retains some limited level of hunting that is compatible with urban expansion. Also helps deal with deer and elk damage and nuisance problems.

### **WAC 232-28-266 Damage prevention permit hunts**

#### **Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**

The amendment to the rule adds 200 turkey permits in northeastern Washington. These permits will provide landowners and WDFW enforcement with additional tools to address property damage issues.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

An increasing number of landowners are requesting the use of these permits to address damage. They have proven to be very effective in dealing with damage problems and reducing landowner complaints with deer. WDFW enforcement officers have requested they be available for turkeys as well.

### **WAC 232-28-272 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012 Black bear and cougar hunting seasons and regulations**

#### **Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**

The rule establishes hunting seasons for black bear and cougar from 2009 to 2012. The purpose of the recommended changes is to maximize recreational hunting opportunities for bear and cougar while maintaining sustainable populations.

The Department is recommending status quo bear seasons, with two exceptions: (1) For management units that open Aug 1, the Aug 1-31 period is limited to hunting on private lands only; (2) For management units that open in early September, change the opener from the day after Labor Day to September 1.

The Department's cougar season recommendations are: Statewide Sept. 1-25 archery only and Sept. 26-Oct. 16 muzzleloader only seasons; Oct. 17-Mar. 31 general season (any weapon) for zones where trends in female harvest are within our guideline; Oct. 17-Dec. 31 general season for zones where female harvest slightly exceeds our guideline; Oct. 31-Nov. 30 season for zones where female harvested is limited by a quota system and the management need is to adequately evaluate the pilot hunt with the aid of dogs; Change the statewide bag limit from 2 cougars to 1 cougar.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Maximize recreational opportunities for bear and cougar hunting, while maintaining sustainable populations.

The justification for the August black bear season on private lands only is to reduce conflict with other recreational users on public lands during the summer while still allowing bears to be harvest for damage reasons (e.g., orchard damage). The justification for the September 1 start date is consistency with the opening day of deer archery seasons.

The justification for the cougar season changes is consistency with concurrent deer/elk seasons and to limit female harvest in those areas where harvest levels exceed our guidelines.

### **WAC 232-28-273 2009-2011 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas**

#### **Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:**

The proposed rule amendments include a status quo moose permit level of 130; creating a Master Hunter damage hunt in the Mount Spokane unit; adding ewe-only hunts in three herds; increasing bighorn sheep permit levels from 36 to 46; and reducing mountain goat permit levels consistent with the findings of our recent research.

#### **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 232-28-282 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits**

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

The proposed rule amendments include removing dated language; clarifying areas open for specific deer auction and raffle seasons; and changing the areas open to the Rocky Mountain bighorn raffle permit hunt to reflect the status of mature rams in various populations.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provide a variety of different hunting opportunities and maximize revenue for auction/raffle program, all within biological sustainable limits.

### **WAC 232-28-286 2010, 2011, and 2012 Spring black bear seasons and regulations**

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

The proposed rule amendments add a spring bear hunt in a portion of GMU 501 with 50 permits and close the spring bear damage hunt in Capitol Forest.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Spring black bear seasons are used to minimize damage to trees by reducing bear populations to a lower but sustainable level, reduce nuisance activity in northeastern Washington, and better distribute the harvest geographically in southeastern Washington.

### **WAC 232-28-287 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Cougar permit seasons and regulations**

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

Establish fall permit hunts for 9 cougar zones around the state. Cougar permit hunts are designed to provide late season hunting opportunity for hunters without the use of dogs (i.e., spot and stalking in snow and/or calling). The anticipated effect is additional varieties of hunting opportunity with sustainable cougar populations.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provide late season hunting opportunity for hunters without the use of dogs (i.e., spot and stalking in snow and/or calling).

### **WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits**

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

The amendments proposed are largely housekeeping in nature. Changes are recommended for multi-season permit application and group sizes. Changes are also recommended for deer and elk permit application group sizes and the late fall turkey permit application rules are eliminated. Fall turkey permit applications are consolidated into one set of rules.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The proposal would allow multi-season applicants to submit group applications; clean up turkey permit application language; and limit the number of deer and elk group applicants to better distribute permits.

### **WAC 232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits**

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

This proposal would shorten the amount of time successful applicants for a multi-season permit would have to purchase their permit to allow for the sale of all permits prior to the first general seasons starting in September. It would also provide 50 multi-season deer and 25 multi-season elk permits to qualifying hunter education instructors.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Shortening the purchase time for successful applicants would make sure that more hunters would be able to purchase permits. Providing hunter education instructors with multiple season permits would be an incentive to recruit and retain instructors.

### **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 2009 hunting seasons. Amendments to this rule include removal of the 4-O Cattle Company who requested not to participate and addition of the Pine Mountain LHP in Yakima County. The permits will result in general public hunter access on private property and will help mitigate deer and elk foraging on private agricultural lands.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Increase public hunting access to private lands and help landowners address game damage issues.

### **WAC 232-28-333 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region three**

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

GMU boundary rules define legal hunting areas. The GMUs need readily discernable boundaries to direct hunters to appropriate hunting areas. Season dates, bag limits, antler restrictions, and other hunting season regulations are typically specified at the GMU scale.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Clarifies boundaries and facilitates hunting seasons for big game.

### **WAC 232-28-335 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region five**

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

GMU boundary rules define legal hunting areas. The GMUs need readily discernable boundaries to direct hunters to appropriate hunting areas. Season dates, bag limits, antler restrictions, and other hunting season regulations are typically specified at the GMU scale.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Clarifies boundaries and facilitates hunting seasons for big game.

### **WAC 232-28-336 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region six**

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

GMU boundary rules define legal hunting areas. The GMUs need readily discernable boundaries to direct hunters to appropriate hunting areas. Season dates, bag limits, antler restrictions, and other hunting season regulations are typically specified at the GMU scale.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Clarifies boundaries and facilitates hunting seasons for big game.

### **WAC 232-28-337 Deer and elk area descriptions**

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

Boundary adjustments are being proposed to better address current deer and elk damage issues.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The proposed rule amendment provides the means to reduce wildlife damage issues and direct deer and elk damage hunts by adjusting elk area boundaries.

### **WAC 232-28-342 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 Small game seasons**

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

The purpose of the new rule is to establish hunting season timing, hunting requirements, and applicable permit levels for the following species: bobcat, raccoon, fox, coyote, forest grouse, pheasant, chukar, gray partridge, mountain quail, California quail, bobwhite, wild turkey, Canada goose, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hare, and crow. It also describes falconry and dog training seasons.

Amendments to this rule include: 1) Liberalize fall turkey hunting by establishing more general season opportunity, 2) Eliminate the use of dogs to hunt coyotes, 3) Eliminate the two-day September Canada Goose Season, shifting those dates to the regular goose season, 4) Increase the daily bag limit for forest grouse to four per day.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Proposals are consistent with conservation of wildlife populations and public sentiment.

### **WAC 232-28-351 2009-2011 Deer general seasons and definitions**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between the three primary user groups, increase opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant such a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provides recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal maintains sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2009-2011. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for population control of deer where needed.

### **WAC 232-28-352 2009-2011 Elk general seasons and definitions**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between the three primary user groups, increase opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant such a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal maintains sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2009-2011. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for elk population control where needed.

### **WAC 232-28-353 2009 Deer special permits**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to retain special permit season deer hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between the three primary user groups, increase opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant such a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provides recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal maintains sustainable special permit deer hunting season opportunities for 2009. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for population control of deer where needed.

### **WAC 232-28-354 2009 Elk special permits**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to retain special permit season elk hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between the three primary user groups, increase opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduce opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant such a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal maintains sustainable special permit elk hunting season opportunities for 2009. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for elk population control where needed.

### **WAC 232-28-516 Trapping seasons and regulations**

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

The new WAC removes all superfluous regulations (e.g., area restrictions) that are no longer warranted given current trapping practices and low harvest levels. It recommends a standard trapping season for all furbearers from November 1 to March 31 and an increased annual bag limit for river otter from 6 to 12. WAC 232-28-516 replaces WAC 232-28-515.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

To maximize trapping opportunity consistent with population objectives.