

Agenda Item 22

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

Supplemental Recommended Adjustments

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are NOT included in your notebook language.

Page 3

Under **Western Washington**, reinstate GMU 490 to the portion that lists closed GMUs in Western Washington. Further discussions are taking place with the land manager and an open season is being delayed until 2010.

Page 5

Under **Early Archery General Elk Seasons, Eastern Washington**, the season dates for GMUs 328, 329, and 335 should be Sept. 8-20, 2009, Sept. 7-19, 2010, and Sept. 6-18, 2011. This change corrects an omission in the CR 102 filing.

Page 6

Under **Late Archery General Elk Seasons, Eastern Washington**, delete GMU 373 from the time period Oct. 31-Nov. 15. This change corrects a redundancy with GMU 373 being listed in two places for late archery. GMU 373 should be in the time period Nov. 25-Dec. 8.

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SUMMARY OF SUPPLEMENTAL WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

Supplemental public comments were not captured in the original summary of written comments. Each comment may be representative of multiple like comments.

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>I support the public meeting and the process to set hunting seasons. I don't recall any of the archery closures and shorter seasons on the agenda during the public meetings or the on-line surveys.</p>	<p>During the past year, a citizen committee worked with the Department to evaluate the allocation of hunting opportunity between archers, muzzleloaders and modern firearm hunters. They looked beyond past guidelines of hunter participation rates and equitable proportion of harvest. In other words if a user group makes up 20% of the hunters, they should harvest 20% of the elk. The parameters they considered included timing of hunts, days of opportunity, and proportion of mature, antlered, and antlerless deer and elk harvested. There were some inequities among the groups and so the Department looked at providing more days for muzzleloaders and modern firearm hunters and creating some limited special permit opportunities during the rut for modern firearm hunters. Those recommendations surfaced in late January and continue to be modified slightly as we approach the March Commission meeting.</p>
<p>More days need to be added to the muzzleloader season in GMU 368. It is getting harder to harvest an elk in this unit.</p>	<p>When we compare success and harvest among the three user groups, we feel we are very close to achieving equitable opportunity. I think everyone had a tough time last year because of the mild weather.</p>
<p>Right now you have GMU's 652, 653, and 654 open for early archery but not late. GMU 652 is open for late muzzleloader, why can't we have a late archery season in one of the GMUs?</p>	<p>We don't feel that the elk population in GMU's 653 and 654 can support added harvest at this time. Archery harvest in this district is meeting or exceeding what is equitable between users.</p>
<p>The WDFW wants to make the Stella unit open for cows during all 3 seasons without a permit. So modern and muzzle loader and archery would be 3-point or antler less. I think this is dumb and the elk are having a hard enough time with the bad winters and hoof rot already so three years of that open season should just about wipe them all out. I own 2 pieces of property in the Beacon hill area that a herd occasionally resides in and I would hate to see then wiped out. Maybe a certain number of tags for this area would be appropriate.</p>	<p>This is another situation like many across the state where human development is eroding former wildlife habitat. Once development crosses a threshold, there is not enough habitat or social tolerance to maintain large elk populations. The Stella area may be crossing that threshold.</p>

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WAC 232-28-354 2009 Elk special permits

Supplemental Recommended Adjustments

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are NOT included in your notebook language.

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Under **Master Hunter, Second Elk Tag Hunts**, add the following language “, unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.” The second elk license and tag type must be the same tag type as the first one.

So now the category descriptor should read:

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, unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag. The second elk license and tag type must be the same tag type as the first one.

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Under **Youth – Special Permit Hunts**, add the following: “Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.”

So now the category descriptor should read:

Youth – Special Elk Permit Hunts (Must be eligible for the youth hunting license and accompanied by an adult during the hunt). Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.

Under **Persons of Disability Only – Special Elk Permit Hunts**, add the following: “Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.”

So now the category descriptor should read:

Persons of Disability Only – Special Elk Permit Hunts. Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.

Under **Hunters 65 or Older Only – Special Elk Permit Hunts**, add the following: “Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.”

So now the category descriptor should read:

Hunters 65 or Older Only – Special Permit Hunts. Any weapon may be used unless tag restriction is noted. In those cases where a tag restriction is noted hunters must use a weapon consistent with their tag.