

13. SPECIAL HUNTING SEASON PERMITS AND DEALER FEES – RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING

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"GREEN SHEET"

Meeting: March 12-13, 2010

Agenda Item 13: Special Hunting Season Permits and Dealer Fees – **Rule Briefing and Public Hearing**

Prepared By: Dave Ware

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

Background:

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed rule amendments to WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits and WAC 220-55-115 Recreational license dealer fees.

In developing the 2009-11 hunting season rule package, hunters supported changes to the permit application process. Because of necessary programming modifications to our drawing system, we could not make the changes until this year. The new proposal divides the drawing into multiple categories for each species. The purpose is to improve the drawing system and allow hunters to apply for multiple categories of hunts.

Using deer as an example, special hunt applications would be divided into eight categories for deer permits. A hunter may apply for all categories for which they are eligible. The proposed categories include: quality, buck, antlerless, second antlerless, youth, senior, hunters with disabilities, and master hunters. A hunter's current points for deer would be replicated in each deer category for 2010, but would be accrued and lost within each category in the future.

This proposal is also tied to the Department's 2010 legislative request to expand our hunter access program. These permit drawing changes will increase revenue to the Department that will be used to expand hunter access opportunities on the west side of the state on private timberlands and on both sides of the state for waterfowl and pheasant hunting.

The changes to this rule are to accommodate the changes to special permit drawings. The details of the categories and permits are provided in each of the big game permit rules provided later in the agenda.

In developing the proposed changes to the 2010 special permit application process, the department was able to improve the availability of replacement permits from license vendors. This rule change allows license vendors to charge \$.50 for printing a substitute special permit for hunters who need a replacement.

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

- Provide special permit applications by category rather than species and allow hunters to apply for multiple categories of permits.
 - Allow dealers to charge \$.50 for replacement of special permits.
-

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

This proposal was part of the extensive 2009-11 hunting season package public involvement process and was developed in close consultation with the Department's Game Management Advisory Group. Notification was mailed to approximately 450 organizations and individuals

informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulations.

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

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 9-10, 2010 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

- News Releases
 - Hunting Pamphlets
 - Website
 - Washington State Register
 - License Vendor Notification
-

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 09-53, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09)

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits. The commission may establish special hunting seasons (~~((limited to species and/or weapon type))~~) and may set the conditions for each category and hunt.

1. Deer, elk, cougar, or black bear special hunting season permit applications:

A. To apply for special hunting season permits for all categories of deer, elk, cougar, or black bear, applicants must have a valid Washington big game hunting license and a valid transport tag for the appropriate species. To apply for a particular hunt, each applicant for deer or elk must have the proper transport tag as identified in the special deer or elk permit regulations.

B. Multiple season deer and elk permit applications may be purchased without additional licenses or tags. Persons who are successfully drawn must purchase a multiple season permit for deer or elk and may also apply for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm special hunting season permits for the species drawn.

2. Mountain goat, moose, and bighorn sheep special hunting season permit applications:

A. Persons who have previously harvested a mountain goat, bighorn sheep ram, or bull moose in Washington are ineligible (~~((to apply))~~) for a special hunting season permit for that (~~((species))~~) category. This lifetime harvest restriction does not apply to

individuals who harvested a mountain goat before 1999, raffle or auction hunt authorizations, ewe-only bighorn sheep hunts, (~~master hunter moose hunts,~~) or antlerless-only moose hunts.

B. Successful applicants under this section must purchase the appropriate hunting license (~~within fifteen days of the published notification~~) by the deadline established by the department (a minimum of 15 days). Failure to purchase forfeits the permit to an alternate applicant.

3. Wild turkey special hunting season permit applications

A. To apply for wild turkey special hunting season permits, each applicant must have a valid small game hunting license.

B. Fall wild turkey special hunting season permit holders must have a valid turkey transport tag in possession to hunt turkeys in fall special hunting seasons.

4. Special hunting season permit applications:

A. Maximum group sizes are determined for each category. If a group application is drawn, all hunters in the group will receive a special hunting season permit and each hunter in the group can take an animal. If the number of permits available in a hunt category is less than the maximum group size, then the maximum group size is equal to the number of permits.

- i. Maximum group size for deer categories is 8.
- ii. Maximum group size for elk categories is 8.
- iii. Maximum group size for bear categories is 2.
- iv. Maximum group size for cougar categories is 2.
- v. Maximum group size for mountain goat categories is 2.
- vi. Maximum group size for bighorn sheep categories is 2.
- vii. Maximum group size for fall turkey categories is 4.

viii. Maximum group size for moose categories is 2.

ix. Maximum group size for multiple season deer is 2.

x. Maximum group size for multiple season elk is 2.

B. An applicant may purchase only one application for a special hunting season permit for each category.

C. Permit applications will allow four choices for all categories except the quality category for deer and elk will allow two choices.

ED. Permits will be drawn by computer selection using a weighted point selection system.

i. Applicants will receive one point for each application category purchased.

ii. Once drawn for a permit, the applicant's points will be reduced to zero in that category.

DE. Incomplete, ineligible, or inaccurate applications will not be accepted or entered into the drawing.

F. Permits will be voided if the applicant is found to be ineligible or to have provided an application based on inaccurate information.

G. The purchase of an application will result in one accrued point for the category purchased.

EH. If an applicant makes a mistake, applies for the wrong hunt, and is successfully drawn, the special hunting season permit can be returned to the department of fish and wildlife Olympia headquarters before the opening day of the special hunting season (~~or the opening day of the general hunting season, whichever comes first~~). The applicant's points will be restored to the level prior to the permit drawing.

FI. Anyone may apply for a special hunting season permit for deer, elk, bear, cougar, and wild turkey.

5. In addition to requirements for special hunting season permit applications, following are application requirements for:

A. Special hunting seasons for persons of disability: Only applicants with a Washington disabled hunter permit are eligible to apply for any special hunting season permits for persons of disability.

B. Special hunting seasons for youth: Only persons who are eligible to lawfully purchase a youth (~~hunting license~~) special hunt application are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for youth.

C. Special hunting seasons for hunters age 65 and older: Only applicants sixty-five years of age or older on or before March 31 of the current license year will be eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for hunters age 65 and older (~~except for special moose hunts for persons age 65 and older, applicants must be 65 years of age or older by November 30 during the license year they are applying for~~).

D. Special hunting seasons for master hunter program graduates: Only persons who hold a valid certificate from the Washington department of fish and wildlife's master hunter program are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for master hunters.

6. Citizen reward for reporting violations - bonus points: A person who provides information which contributes substantially to the arrest of another person for illegally hunting or killing big game or an endangered species as defined by Title 77 RCW is eligible to receive ten bonus points toward the special hunting permit drawing

for one application category of deer or elk special hunting season permits.

A. Only ten bonus points can be awarded for providing information for each person charged regardless of the number of violations involved.

B. Selection of bonus points is in lieu of application for a cash award.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-28-291, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-291, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-291, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; 05-02-046 (Order 04-327), § 232-28-291, filed 1/3/05, effective 2/3/05; 03-16-087 (Order 03-175), § 232-28-291, filed 8/5/03, effective 9/5/03; 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-291, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03; 03-02-005 (Order 02-301), § 232-28-291, filed 12/20/02, effective 1/20/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-291, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01.]

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

Pages 2 & 3

Add the word “categories” to the maximum group size listed by species to make it clear that the group sizes correspond to the new categories being proposed.

Page 3

To clarify how many choices would be allowed under each permit application category, add the following language: “Permit applications will allow four choices for all categories except the quality category for deer and elk will allow two choices.”

Change the sentence, “Incomplete applications will not be accepted or entered into the drawing” to read “Incomplete, ineligible, or inaccurate applications will not be accepted or entered into the drawing.”

Add the following language:

- F. Permits will be voided if the applicant is found to be ineligible or to have provided an application based on inaccurate information.
- G. The purchase of an application will result in one accrued point for the category purchased.

This information is added so that permit applicants would have a clear understanding of the application process.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 09-15-122, filed 7/17/09, effective 8/17/09)

WAC 220-55-115 Recreational license dealer's fees. License dealers may charge a license issuance fee as follows:

(1) Two dollars for the issuance of any of the following fishing licenses:

- (a) A combination license.
- (b) A saltwater license.
- (c) A freshwater license.
- (d) A two-day temporary fishing license.
- (e) A family fishing weekend license.
- (f) A shellfish and seaweed license.
- (g) A razor clam license.

(2) Two dollars for the issuance of any of the following hunting licenses:

- (a) A big game combination license.
- (b) A small game license.
- (c) A three-consecutive day small game license.

(3) Two dollars for the issuance of a fish and wildlife lands vehicle use permit when issued separately from an annual freshwater, saltwater or combination fishing license, or separately from an annual small game hunting license, big game combination license, or trapping license.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if any two or more licenses are issued at the same time, or the fish and wildlife

lands vehicle use permit is issued with any recreational license, the license issuance fee for the document is two dollars.

(5) Fifty cents for the issuance of any of the following:

(a) A deer, elk, bear, cougar, mountain goat, mountain sheep, moose, or turkey transport tag.

(b) A state of Washington migratory bird stamp.

(c) A Western Washington pheasant permit.

(d) An application for a special permit hunt.

(e) A migratory bird hunting authorization (including harvest report card).

(f) A replacement of substitute special hunting season permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. 09-15-122, § 220-55-115, filed 7/17/09, effective 8/17/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 04-17-097 (Order 04-216), § 220-55-115, filed 8/17/04, effective 9/17/04; 01-10-030 (Order 01-62), § 220-55-115, filed 4/24/01, effective 5/25/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.32.050. 00-11-178 (Order 00-80), § 220-55-115, filed 5/24/00, effective 6/24/00. Statutory Authority: SB 5020 and RCW 75.08.090. 99-17-095 (Order 99-129), § 220-55-115, filed 8/17/99, effective 9/17/99. Statutory Authority: 1998 c 191 and RCW 75.08.080. 99-03-029 (Order 99-02), § 220-55-115, filed 1/13/99, effective 2/13/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080. 94-01-001, § 220-55-115, filed 12/1/93, effective 1/1/94; 89-07-071 (Order 89-05), § 220-55-115, filed 3/20/89; 88-05-002 (Order 88-03), § 220-55-115, filed 2/4/88; 80-03-064 (Order 80-12), § 220-55-115, filed 2/27/80, effective 4/1/80. Formerly WAC 220-105-047.]



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 09-24-111; 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):
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501
(360) 902-2515

Date: March 12-13, 2010 Time: 8:00 am

Date of intended adoption: April 9-10, 2010
(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

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

By: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact: Susan Yeager by March 8, 2010
TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

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: 77.012.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530

Statute being implemented: 77.012.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530

Is rule necessary because of a:

- Federal Law? Yes No
 - Federal Court Decision? Yes No
 - State Court Decision? Yes No
- If yes, CITATION:

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

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

DATE: February 03, 2010

TIME: 11:35 AM

WSR 10-04-125

DATE
February 3, 2010

NAME
Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE

TITLE
ules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None

Name of proponent: (person or organization)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- 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 220-55-115 Recreational License Dealer Fees

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

The proposed language allows hunters to replace lost permits at vendors statewide and reimburses vendors for the cost of providing supplemental permits.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Provide greater flexibility for hunters to replace lost permits.

WAC 232-12-047 Unlawful methods for hunting

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

The proposed language clarifies that handguns may be used for personal protection by all hunters. Hunters will have greater certainty on their rights to possess handguns for personal protection.

Moves crossbow regulations from the archery requirement rule to the unlawful methods for hunting rule.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Provide consistency with the U.S. Constitution and state law.

Crossbows are lawful under modern firearm seasons and not under archery seasons.

WAC 232-12-051 Muzzleloading firearms

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

The proposed language clarifies that handguns may be used for personal protection by all hunters. Hunters will have greater certainty on their rights to possess handguns for personal protection.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Provide consistency with the U.S. Constitution and state law.

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 proposed language clarifies that handguns may be used for personal protection by all hunters. Hunters will have greater certainty on their rights to possess handguns for personal protection.

Moves crossbow regulations from the archery requirement rule to the unlawful methods for hunting rule.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Provide consistency with the U.S. Constitution and state law.

Crossbows are lawful under modern firearm seasons and not under archery seasons.

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 language closes deer hunting on Cottonwood Island and Howard Island. The purpose is to protect endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. The anticipated effect is to further the recovery of Columbian white-tailed deer while retaining deer hunting on the mainland in GMU 564 proper.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed language allows the retention of hunting in GMU 564 proper, but does not allow deer hunting on Cottonwood and Howard Islands which are sites proposed for Columbian white-tailed deer release to further Columbian white-tailed deer recovery.

WAC 232-28-266 Damage Prevention Permits

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

This proposal changes the timeframe that turkey Damage Prevention Permits are valid, so they can be used beginning on October 10. This proposal does not change the number of turkey permits approved.

This proposal also dedicates an additional 50 antlerless elk permits to Game Management Units in Region 5 to address increased elk damage complaints.

Reasons supporting proposal:

In April 2009, the Fish and Wildlife Commission approved 200 turkey Damage Prevention Permits for GMUs 105 to 124 which were valid beginning December 15. WDFW enforcement officers found that landowners experienced damage issues during October and November, before the approved Damage Prevention Permit season.

Elk Damage Prevention Permits currently allocated throughout the state have not been adequate to address elk damage in Region 5.

WAC 232-28-273 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 WAC amends seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat. The Department recommends status quo seasons for moose and minor permit level changes for bighorn sheep and mountain goat. Winter surveys indicate moose populations are stable. The Department recommends status quo permit levels. All bighorn sheep populations that currently are hunted either meet or exceed population objectives. The Department recommends minor permit level changes (from 40 to 46) based on the population thresholds in the Game Management Plan (2008). The changes include closing the Wenaha (previously 1 permit), opening Swakane (1 permit), and opening Chelan Butte (1 permit). Mountain goat populations are stable in all hunted populations. Changes in permit levels are based on annual survey counts and tend to be conservative given the sensitivity of goats to over harvesting. The Department recommends status quo permit levels in all areas, except reducing the permit level from 2 to 1 in the Bumping River population management unit due to recent survey counts. The anticipated effects are sustainable recreational hunting opportunities and long-term viable populations.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Permit level changes are based on the population thresholds in the Game Management Plan (2008).

WAC 232-12-284 Bighorn sheep -Marking requirements

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

The proposed WAC amends the marking requirements for bighorn sheep that are harvested or in possession. The Department implemented a few ewe-only bighorn sheep hunts last hunting season and was unable to effectively mark ewe horns due to their smaller size. Given the intent of the rule and difficulty marking ewe horns, the Department is recommending amending the rule to only include marking requirements for bighorn sheep rams, not ewes. There is no anticipated effect to populations or hunting opportunity.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The intent of the rule is to address the potential for illegal harvest and commercialization of bighorn sheep ram horns, because a mature ram skull can have a market value of several thousand dollars. Fortunately, the same situation does not occur for bighorn sheep ewes. As such, the Department is recommending dropping the marking requirement for bighorn ewes.

WAC 232-28-285 2010-2011 Pilot cougar hunting seasons with the aid of dogs

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

Implements Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2438 and establishes pilot cougar with the aid of dogs in Chelan, Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, and Klickitat counties for the 2010-11 winter. The objective of the bill is to use a pilot cougar hunt with the aid of dogs to address public safety and the protection of private property (e.g., pets and livestock), as well as to allow the Department to more effectively manage cougar populations.

The Department is recommending a status quo permit season for the 2010-2011 pilot cougar hunt, with the following exceptions:

1. Change the opening day of the permit hunt from Dec 19 to Dec 1 (except GMUs 101, 105, and 204).
2. Increase the kill quota for Klickitat hunt zone to 10 total cougars or 4 females.
3. Increase the cap on the number of permits issued from 2x the total quota to 3x the total quota.
4. If a second drawing occurs, select additional hunters from the unselected pool of applicants that reside in a participating county.
5. Routine calendar date changes for the six counties continuing the pilot program.

The anticipated effect is to stabilize cougar populations at current levels.

At date of this filing, only Klickitat County has met the basic requirements for inclusion in the pilot cougar hunt. This filing serves as a public notice that other counties may request inclusion in the pilot cougar program up until rule action by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in April 2010.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The rule implements ESHB 2438. The objective of the bill is to use a pilot cougar hunt with the aid of dogs to address public safety and the protection of private property (e.g., pets and livestock), as well as to allow the Department to more effectively manage cougar populations.

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 WAC amends spring black bear hunting seasons. To expand the benefit of the spring seasons in the Blue Mountains, the Department is recommending adding a spring bear hunt in GMU 181 (Couse) with 4 permits. The anticipated effect is better distribution of harvested bears geographically and a slight increase in total harvest.

For Westside spring bear hunts, the Department is recommending reducing the season length in the Kapowsin Tree Farm unit from April 15-June 15 to April 15-May 15 based on discussions with the landowners. There is a slight anticipated effect to the number of hunter days.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The objectives of spring bear hunts in the Blue Mountains are to better distribute the harvest geographically and increase total harvest while minimizing female take. Through time, the spring season has proven successful for both objectives.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission began implementing spring black bear hunts in western Washington in 2006. The purpose of these hunts is to reduce tree damage by bears during the spring.

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

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

The rule establishes cougar permit hunt seasons without the aid of dogs. The proposal removes permit hunt seasons in hunt areas with a concurrent pilot cougar permit hunt with the aid of dogs. The purpose of the change is to consolidate two permit seasons into one for simplification and allow anyone to apply for the hunt. The anticipated effects are simplification of hunting seasons and long-term sustainable cougar populations.

In addition, the proposal increases the permit level in the Blue Mountains zone from 40 to 100. The purpose of the increased permit level is to aid in achieving harvest objectives in the Blue Mountains.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Consolidates two cougar permit hunt seasons into one permit season where anyone can apply. Increased permit level in Blue Mountains is to aid in achieving harvest objectives in the Blue Mountains.

WAC 232-28-288 2010-2011 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations

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

The rule establishes the 2010 and 2011 fall black bear seasons. Proposed seasons are status quo compared to 2009 seasons, except the recommendation to open the season on Aug 14 rather than Aug 1 in three Black Bear Management Units (i.e., South Cascades BBMU, Okanogan BBMU, and Northeastern B BBMU). The purpose is to provide recreational harvest opportunities for black bear, while maintaining long-term sustainable populations in each BBMU (except Puget Sound and Columbia Basin BBMUs). The anticipated effects of the rule are continued recreational harvest opportunities similar to 2009 levels, with slight reduced season length in 3 of 9 BBMUs, and long-term sustainable bear populations.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Population indicators for black bears support status quo hunting seasons in each BBMU, except South Cascades, Okanogan, and Northeastern B. In those BBMUs, indicators suggest that hunting seasons should be more conservative.

WAC 232-28-290 Washington raffle hunts

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

The WAC establishes rules associated with conducting a raffle for a big game hunting license/transport tag. The purpose of the amendment is to implement SHB 1778 and provide spending direction for WDFW dedicated raffle account. The proposal directs Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to spend revenue from single species raffle hunts on the management of respective species raffled, and spend revenue from multiple species raffle hunts on game management. The anticipated effect is spending consistent with SHB 1778 and public input.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Proposal implements SHB 1778 and addresses public input supporting dedicated accounts.

WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits

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

The purpose is to modify the permit application rules to allow permit application in drawing by category rather than by species.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Consistency with initiative to provide greater permit application opportunities for hunters and expand funding for hunter access programs.

WAC 232-28-292 Washington auction hunts

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

The WAC establishes rules associated with conducting an auction for a big game hunting license/transport tag. The purpose of the amendment is to implement SHB 1778 and provide spending direction for WDFW dedicated auction account. The proposal directs Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to spend revenue from single species auction hunts on the management of respective species auctioned, and spend revenue from multiple species auction hunts on game management. The anticipated effect is spending consistent with SHB 1778 and public input.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Proposal implements SHB 1778 and addresses public input supporting dedicated accounts.

WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits

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

In 2009, two "any elk" permits were allocated to the Teanaway Ranch LHP in Kittitas County; one public and one LHP landowner permit. This proposal removes one Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) cooperator (Teanaway Ranch) from the program. This rule change will likely result in one less general public hunter accessing the Teanaway Ranch for elk hunting.

Reasons supporting proposal:

In the fall of 2009, the LHP cooperator contacted WDFW, informed the agency that they did not wish to continue in the LHP program, and requested that we cancel their contract for future years.

WAC 232-28-337 Deer and Elk Area Descriptions

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

The proposed language adjusts the boundaries of deer and elk areas and also creates a new elk area. Adjustment of the boundaries will help staff deal with wildlife damage problems where they are occurring. Creation of new areas also protects elk when appropriate.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed language makes existing boundaries more appropriate when the Department is dealing with damage or nuisance issues. The new area helps protect elk on a small scale without excluding hunting entirely on the GMU scale.

WAC 232-28-342 Small Game Seasons

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

Since 2006, fall, either sex turkey hunting seasons in southeastern Washington have been liberalized, taking advantage of increasing turkey populations and providing expanded hunting opportunity. This proposal moves fall turkey hunting season in Game Management Units (GMUs) 145-154 and 162-186 (Blue Mountains GMUs) to the "early fall general" season from the "early fall permit only" season. During the 2006, 2007, and 2008 fall permit seasons, approximately 44 percent of special permit holders participated in the hunt, with approximately 45 percent of those hunters successfully filling their permit. In 2008, 89 turkeys were harvested in these GMUs during the fall permit season. Changing to a general season hunt will allow greater opportunity for turkey hunters while season length, hunter success, and mixed ownerships will moderate turkey harvest.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed changes provide increased hunter opportunity in areas where expanding populations can support increased fall harvest.

WAC 232-28-351 Deer general seasons and definitions

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between 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. Maintains sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2010 and 2011. Helps address deer damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-352 Elk general seasons and definitions

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity, balance the hunting opportunity between 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. Maintains sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2010 and 2011. Helps address elk damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-355 Deer special permits

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

Introduces new category structure for special permits which provide more opportunities to apply. New structure is intended to provide more opportunity to the public and generate more revenue for WDFW. Maintain deer special hunting season opportunities for 2010. Adjust special deer permits for 2010 in response to deer population changes and damage complaints. Provides for recreational harvest of deer. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for population control of deer where needed.

Reasons supporting proposal:

New category structure will allow more opportunities to apply which will increase revenue for WDFW. Provides recreational, deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. Addresses deer damage problems.

WAC 232-28-356 Elk special permits

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

Introduces new category structure for special permits which provide more opportunities to apply. New structure is intended to provide more opportunity to the public and generate more revenue for WDFW. Maintain elk special hunting season opportunities for 2010. Adjust special elk permits for 2010 in response to elk population changes and damage complaints. Provides for recreational harvest of elk. Helps reduce agricultural damage and provides for population control of elk where needed.

Reasons supporting proposal:

New category structure will allow more opportunities to apply which will increase revenue for WDFW. Provides recreational, elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. Addresses elk damage problems.