

8. LANDOWNER HUNTING PERMITS – RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: March 4-5, 2011
Agenda Item 8: Landowner Hunting Permits – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing
Prepared By: Mick Cope
Presented By: Mick Cope, Upland Game Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed rule amendments to WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits.

The Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program is designed to increase hunter access to private lands and to help some landowners address long-standing elk damage issues. The Department recommends adding one new LHP cooperator in Asotin County – Grande Ronde Vista. The Grande Ronde Vista LHP is a consortium of landowners that includes the owner of a previous LHP, the 4-O Ranch.

Proposed deer and elk hunting on the Grande Ronde Vista LHP include:

Landowner permits: seven deer permits (three point minimum) and 23 elk permits (11 bull and 12 antlerless).

Public Special Permits: three 3-pt minimum deer permits, six youth only antlerless deer permits, six bull elk permits, and 20 antlerless only elk permits.

The split of landowner and public deer and elk hunting opportunity is within the guidelines established in Commission Policy C6002.

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

Provide Landowner Hunting Permits that provide public hunting access to private lands and address damage concerns.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

These proposed recommendations were sent to approximately 450 organizations and individuals in January for their review and consideration. These organizations and individuals were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the March Commission meeting in Spokane.

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

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 8-9, 2011 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

These changes meet the approved criteria established by OFM as a result of the Governor's Executive Order 10-06 Suspending Non-Critical Rule Development and Adoption because it is necessary to protect public safety and welfare and have been requested by the landowners who would be affected by them (3d; 3e).

Communications plan:

- News Release
 - Hunting Pamphlet
 - Web site
-

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 10-94, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10)

WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits. A landowner may enter into a contract with the department and establish boundaries and other requirements for hunter access consistent with commission policy.

It is unlawful for hunters to participate in landowner-permit hunts unless the hunters possess both an access permit from the landowner and a hunting permit from the department for the species covered under landowner's contract. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

(1) **Buckrun**

Buckrun is located in Grant County, near the town of Wilson Creek. Hunting on Buckrun is managed for a quality experience by scheduling hunt dates and keeping the number of hunters in the field low. Hunters with limited flexibility for hunt dates may experience scheduling problems. Hunters can generally expect one day hunts during the permit seasons with written authorization from the Buckrun manager. All hunters must check in and out on hunt day. Hunts will be scheduled on a first come basis by calling 509-345-2577 in advance.

Deer

((2009)) Buckrun Landowner Hunting Permits

The manager of Buckrun will distribute these hunting permits. An

access fee may be charged in order to utilize these permits. No access fee will be charged for the raffle permit winners. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for permits on Buckrun properties. Contact the manager at 509-345-2577 for additional information.

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any Whitetail Deer	Buckrun
Buckrun	30	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun
Buckrun Raffle	10	Oct. 26 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun

Deer

((2009)) Buckrun Special Hunting Permits

Hunters apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for these permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for Buckrun special permits. All hunters must check in and out. Schedule hunts in advance by calling 509-345-2577.

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any Whitetail Deer	Buckrun

(2) Silver Dollar Association

The Silver Dollar Association is located in Yakima and Benton counties, on the western edge of the Hanford Reservation. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Silver Dollar Association and the department.

((2009-10)) Silver Dollar Association Landowner Hunting Permits

The manager of the Silver Dollar Association will distribute these hunting permits. An access fee may be charged in order to utilize these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	24	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar	8	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Silver Dollar

((2009-10)) Silver Dollar Special Hunting Permits

Hunters apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	8	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	6	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	2	Aug. 1 - March 31	Persons of Disability Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar

(3) Blackrock Ranches

Blackrock Ranches is located in Yakima County, west of the Hanford Reservation. A legal description of the property is in the contract between Blackrock Ranches and the department.

((2009-10)) Blackrock Ranches Landowner Hunting Permits

The manager of Blackrock Ranches will distribute these hunting permits. An access fee may be charged in order to utilize these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	6	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	6	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Blackrock Ranches

((2009-10)) Blackrock Ranches Special Hunting Permits

Hunters apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for these permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	1	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	3	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	3	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches

(4) Pine Mountain Ranch

The Pine Mountain Ranch is located in Yakima County, 14 miles west of Yakima. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Pine Mountain Ranch and the department.

((2009)) Pine Mountain Ranch Landowner Hunting Permits

The manager of the Pine Mountain Ranch will distribute these hunting permits. An access fee may be charged in order to utilize these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. 2 - Dec. 31	Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	Nov. 2 - Dec. 31	Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch

((2009)) Pine Mountain Ranch Special Hunting Permits

Hunters apply to Washington department of fish and wildlife for these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. 2 - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	Nov. 2 - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch

(5) Grande Ronde Vista

The Grande Ronde Vista is located in Asotin County, south of Asotin. There are eastern and western sections of this property. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the Grande Ronde Vista and the department.

Grande Ronde Vista Landowner Hunting Permits

The manager of the Grande Ronde Vista will distribute these hunting permits. An access fee may be charged in order to utilize these permits.

Deer

<u>Hunt Name</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Access Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Boundary Description</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East A</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Oct. 15-18</u>	<u>Mule Deer -- 3 pt. min</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nov. 16-20</u>	<u>Whitetail -- 3 pt. min</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>

Elk

<u>Hunt Name</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Access Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Boundary Description</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East A</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Sept. 27-30</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Oct. 24-27</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East C</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 2</u>	<u>Spike Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East D</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Oct. 6-10</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>

<u>Grande Ronde Vista East E</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Nov. 19-25</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista West A</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Sept. 10-13</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista West</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista West B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nov. 19-22</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista West</u>

Grande Ronde Vista Special Hunting Permits

Hunters apply to Washington department of fish and wildlife for these permits.

Deer

<u>Hunt Name</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Access Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Boundary Description</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East A</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Oct. 19-23</u>	<u>Mule Deer – 3 pt. min</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nov. 10-15</u>	<u>Whitetail – 3 pt. min</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East C</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Oct. 15-23</u>	<u>Youth Only, Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>

Elk

<u>Hunt Name</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Access Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Boundary Description</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East A</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Oct. 1-4</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nov. 12-15</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East C</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Nov. 3-7</u>	<u>Spike Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East D</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Nov. 3-7</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East E</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Nov. 26 - Dec. 2</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East F</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Dec. 3-9</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East G</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Dec. 10-16</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East H</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Dec. 17-23</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East I</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Dec. 31 - Jan. 6</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East J</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Jan. 7-13</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East K</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Jan. 14-20</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista East L</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Jan. 21-27</u>	<u>Antlerless Only</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista East</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista West A</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Sept. 15-18</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista West</u>
<u>Grande Ronde Vista West B</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Sept. 23-26</u>	<u>Any Bull</u>	<u>Grande Ronde Vista West</u>

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-295, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. 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), § 232-28-295, 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), § 232-28-295, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; 07-17-049 (Order 07-166), § 232-28-295, filed 8/9/07, effective 9/9/07; 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-295, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. 07-01-049 (Order 06-300), § 232-28-295, filed 12/14/06, effective 1/14/07; 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-295, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020. 06-04-066 (Order 06-09), § 232-28-295, filed 1/30/06, effective 3/2/06.]

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT
 Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
 WAC 232-28-295

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>The landowner hunting permit program should be altered to have the State of Washington select the hunters for all tags and not allow a private party sell access to use “landowner tags”.</p>	<p>This issue was discussed thoroughly with a public hunting advisory group during development of the Landowner Hunting Permit program (LHP). The tags that landowners receive in a LHP agreement are not considered the “public hunting” portion of the agreement. Rather, these tags are intended to allow the landowner to hunt their property or have someone else hunt their property to offset costs associated with allowing public hunting or to help address game damage issues on their land (if they accept an LHP agreement, they cannot make a crop damage claim). Hunters drawing “public hunting” permits will not be charged a fee to hunt on the LHP property.</p>
<p>I am in favor of WDFW opening more land for public hunting, but I do not think that allowing landowners to charge an access fee to hunt is considered public hunting.</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 10-24-087 ; 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):

Spokane Convention Center
334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, WA 99201
509-279-7000

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

Date: March 4-5, 2011 Time: 8:30 a.m.

By: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact: Susan Galloway by February 28, 2011
TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: April 8-9, 2011
(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

Statute being implemented: 77.12.047

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
January 19, 2011

DATE: **January 19, 2011**
TIME: **9:17 AM**

NAME
Lori Preuss

WSR 11-03-089

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

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..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(306) 902-2693
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
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 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 232-12-424 Public conduct on lands under cooperative agreement with the department – Unlawful Acts

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

The Department is recommending creation of a new WAC that will regulate public conduct on lands under cooperative agreement. Examples of regulated activities include violating posted safety zones, quality hunting site rules, and driving vehicles in areas that have been posted closed to motorized vehicle travel. The new rule will allow enforcement of private lands access rules that are mutually agreed to by the landowner and the Department.

Reasons supporting proposal:

When the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted WAC 232.13, the definition of “department land” was modified to exclude private lands. While this change was necessary to effectively implement 232-13, the unintended consequence was that the Department lost its ability to enforce public access and conduct on private lands under agreement. As a result, a new rule addressing the use of private lands under agreement is needed.

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 WAC amends seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat. Winter surveys indicate moose populations are stable. The Department recommends minor permit level adjustments in two moose hunt areas based on recent survey results. All bighorn sheep populations that currently are hunted either meet or exceed population objectives. The Department recommends minor permit level changes (from 41 to 48) based on the population thresholds in the Game Management Plan (2008). 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 5 to 3 in the Goat Rocks-Tieton River population management unit due to recent survey counts.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Permit level changes are based on the population thresholds in the 2009-2015 Game Management Plan.

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:

To expand the benefit of the spring seasons in northeastern Washington, the Department is recommending increasing permit levels and season length. The anticipated effect is a slight increase in total harvest and reduced bear nuisance activity.

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

Reasons supporting proposal:

The objectives for spring bear hunting seasons are to reduce timber damage by bears (western Washington), reduce nuisance bear activity (northeastern Washington), and to divert harvest away from adult females and toward adult males (southeastern Washington).

WAC 232-28-295 Landowner hunting permits

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

The Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program is designed to increase hunter access to private lands and to help some landowners address long-standing elk damage issues. The Department recommends adding one new LHP cooperator in Asotin County – Grande Ronde Vista. The Grande Ronde Vista LHP is a consortium of landowners that includes the owner of a previous LHP, the 4-O Ranch.

Proposed deer and elk hunting on the Grande Ronde Vista LHP include:

Landowner permits: seven deer permits (three point minimum) and 23 elk permits (11 bull and 12 antlerless)

Public Special Permits: three 3-pt minimum deer permits, six youth only antlerless deer permits, six bull elk permits, and 20 antlerless only elk permits

The split of landowner and public deer and elk hunting opportunity is within the guidelines established in Commission Policy C6002.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal increases public deer and elk hunting access to private land in Asotin County.

WAC 232-28-331 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region one

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

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

WAC 232-28-332 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region two

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

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

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:

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

WAC 232-28-334 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region four

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

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

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:

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

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:

Game management units are used to help distribute hunters and manage segments of deer and elk populations. This proposal will clarify game management unit boundaries for hunters and reduce space required for publicizing the rules, thereby reducing expenditures.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Simplifies and clarifies unit boundaries for deer and elk hunting.

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 232-28-351 2009-2011 Deer general seasons and definitions

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

This is the third year of the 2009-11 hunting season "rule-package" and as such, few changes are recommended. Changes during "off-years" are mainly to address crop and property damage problems; changes in population levels due to environmental conditions or disease outbreaks; and to balance harvest levels with established population objectives.

The major issue and purpose for recommending changes to the deer general season rules are to address the white-tailed deer declines in northeast Washington caused by the harsh winters of 2008 and 2009. The Commission is being asked to consider:

- Reducing the archery antlerless opportunity during the late season in northeast Washington to address the decline and hasten population expansion;
- Retaining a four day youth, senior, and hunters with disability antlerless white-tail season in northeast Washington to maintain some limited antlerless opportunity for these hunters; and
- Re-considering a four point white-tailed deer antler restriction for GMUs 117 and 121. The Steven's County Commissioners and the Steven's County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee formally petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt a four point antler restriction for GMUs 117 & 121. It is their belief that an antler point restriction would hasten population expansion and improve the general health of the deer population.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposal provides general season hunting opportunity for deer consistent with population and harvest objectives while addressing property damage concerns.

WAC 232-28-355 2010 Deer special permits

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

This is the third year of the 2009-11 hunting season "rule-package" and as such, few changes are recommended. Changes during "off-years" are mainly to address crop and property damage problems; changes in population levels due to environmental conditions or disease outbreaks; and to balance harvest levels with established population objectives.

The major changes in the recommended deer permit levels are to address:

- Calendar date adjustments;
- White-tailed deer declines in northeast Washington GMUs 101-121;
- Mitigation of property damage situations;
- Add some quality mule deer permits in northeast Washington GMUs; and
- Add antlerless deer permits in the Mission and Satsop GMUs (251 & 651) consistent with population objectives for those areas.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposal provides special hunting permit opportunity for deer and elk consistent with population and harvest objectives while addressing property damage concerns.

WAC 232-28-356 2010 Elk special permits

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

This is the third year of the 2009-11 hunting season "rule-package" and as such, few changes are recommended. Changes during "off-years" are mainly to address crop and property damage problems; changes in population levels due to environmental conditions or disease outbreaks; and to balance harvest levels with established population objectives.

The major changes in the recommended elk permit levels are to address:

- Calendar date adjustments;
- Mitigation of property damage situations;
- Increase bull permits in the Blue Mountains consistent with population objectives; and
- Provide additional antlerless elk permits for senior hunters.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposal provides special hunting permit opportunity for deer and elk consistent with population and harvest objectives while addressing property damage concerns.