

15. MOOSE, BIGHORN SHEEP, AND MOUNTAIN GOAT SEASONS AND PERMIT QUOTAS – RULE BRIEFING AND PUBLIC HEARING

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: March 4-5, 2011

Agenda Item 15: Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas– **Rule Briefing and Public Hearing**

Prepared By: Donny Martorello, Ph.D.

Presented By: Donny Martorello, Ph.D., Carnivore, Furbearer, and Special Species Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-273 2009-2011 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

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.

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

- Continued hunting of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat through a permit-only system.
 - Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat permit level adjustments consistent with Game Management Plan objectives and thresholds.
-

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 they are a revenue generating activity and have been requested by the hunters who would be affected by them (3c; 3e).

Communications plan:

- News Release
 - Hunting Pamphlet
 - Web site
-

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

WAC 232-28-273 2009-2011 Moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons and permit quotas. It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

(1) **Moose Permit Hunts**

Who May Apply: Anyone may apply, EXCEPT those who harvested a moose previously in Washington state. An individual may only harvest one moose during their lifetime (except waived for antlerless only hunts, master hunter hunts, and raffle and auction hunts).

Bag Limit: One moose.

Weapon Restrictions: Permit holders may use any legal weapon.

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Kettle Range/East Okanogan	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 101, 105, 204	Any Moose	((3)) <u>8</u>
Selkirk Mtns. A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 113	Any Moose	((22)) <u>17</u>
Selkirk Mtns. B ^d	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 113	Antlerless Only	2
Mt. Spokane A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 east of Hwy 395	Any Moose	12
Mt. Spokane B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 east of Hwy 395	Antlerless Only	14
Mt. Spokane ^{HC}	Dec. 1 - Mar. 31	GMUs 124, 127, and 130 within Spokane County	Antlerless Only	20 ^{HC}

Mt. Spokane Youth Only ^a	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 east of Hwy 395	Antlerless Only	10
49 Degrees North A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	Any Moose	22
49 Degrees North B ^b	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	3
49 Degrees North C ^c	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	2
49 Degrees North Youth Only ^a	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	Antlerless Only	2
Three Forks	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 108, 111	Any Moose	6
Hangman A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 127, 130	Any Moose	7
Hangman B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 127, 130	Antlerless Only	7
Huckleberry Range A	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 121, 124 west of Hwy 395	Any Moose	6
Huckleberry Range B ^c	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 121, 124 west of Hwy 395	Antlerless Only	2

^aApplicants must be eligible to purchase a youth moose permit application. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult during the hunt.

^bApplicants must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit.

^cApplicants must be eligible to purchase a 65 years of age or older permit application.

^dApplicants must be a certified hunter education instructor who meets program-defined eligibility criteria.

^h^cThis is a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator. Only master hunters may apply, and any weapon may be used. Successful applicants will be contacted on an as-needed basis to help with specific sites of nuisance moose activity in designated areas. Not all successful applicants will be contacted in any given year.

(2) **Bighorn Sheep Permit Hunts**

Who May Apply: Anyone may apply, EXCEPT those who harvested a

bighorn sheep previously in Washington state. An individual may only harvest one bighorn sheep during their lifetime((-)) (except waived for raffle and auction hunts, and ewe only hunts((-))).

Bag Limit: One bighorn ram (except in designated adult ewe hunts, one bighorn adult ewe).

Hunt Name	Permit Season	Permit Hunt Boundary Description	Special Restrictions	Permits
Vulcan Mountain A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 2	Any Legal Weapon	1
Vulcan Mountain B ^a	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 2	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>1</u>
((Vulcan Mountain C^b	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 2	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	1))
Selah Butte A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 4	Any Legal Weapon	5
Umtanum	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 5	Any Legal Weapon	5
Cleman Mountain A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	3
Cleman Mountain B	Nov. ((8)) <u>7-30</u>	Sheep Unit 7	Any Legal Weapon	3
Mt. Hull A	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 10	Any Legal Weapon	1
Mt. Hull B	Oct. 1-10	Sheep Unit 10	Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon	((2)) <u>1</u>
<u>Mt. Hull C^b</u>	<u>Oct. 1-10</u>	<u>Sheep Unit 10</u>	<u>Adult ewe only Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
Lincoln Cliffs	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 12	Any Legal Weapon	1
Quilomene	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 13	Any Legal Weapon	4
Swakane	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 14	Any Legal Weapon	1
Tieton A	Sept. 15 - ((Oct-10)) <u>30</u>	Sheep Unit 15	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>5</u>
Tieton B	((Nov. 8-30)) <u>Oct. 1-14</u>	Sheep Unit 15	Any Legal Weapon	((4)) <u>5</u>
Manson	Nov. ((8)) <u>7-30</u>	Sheep Unit 16	Any Legal Weapon	2
Asotin	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 17	Any Legal Weapon	((+)) <u>2</u>
Chelan Butte	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 18	Any Legal Weapon	1
Sinlahekin	Sept. 15 - Oct. 10	Sheep Unit 19	Any Legal Weapon	1

^aApplicants must be eligible to purchase a 65 years of age or older permit application.

Applicants must be eligible to purchase a youth bighorn sheep permit application. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult during the hunt.

Bighorn Sheep Units:

Sheep Unit 2 Vulcan Mountain: Permit Area: Ferry County north of the Kettle River near Curlew.

Sheep Unit 4 Selah Butte: Permit Area: That part of Yakima and Kittitas counties between Ellensburg and Yakima east of the Yakima River and north of Selah Creek, west of Interstate 82 and south of Interstate 90.

Sheep Unit 5 Umtanum: Permit Area: Those portions of Yakima and Kittitas counties west of the Yakima River, north of Wenas Creek, and east of USFS Road 1701 to Manastash Lake and its drainage; south and east along the South Fork Manastash Creek to Manastash Creek and the Yakima River.

Sheep Unit 7 Cleman Mountain: Permit Area: That part of Yakima County south of Wenas Creek and east of USFS Road 1701, north of Highway 410 and Highway 12 and west of the Yakima River.

Sheep Unit 10 Mt. Hull: Permit Area: That part of Okanogan County within the following described boundary: Beginning at Oroville; then south along U.S. Highway 97 to the Swanson's Mill Road (old Mt. Hull Road) near Lake Andrews; then east to the Dry Gulch Road; then north to the Oroville-Toroda Creek Road (Molson Grade Road); then west to Oroville and the point of beginning.

Sheep Unit 11 Wenaha Wilderness: Permit Area: That part of GMU 169 within Crooked Creek drainage.

Sheep Unit 12 Lincoln Cliffs: Permit Area: That part of Lincoln County north of Highway 2.

Sheep Unit 13 Quilomene: Permit Area: GMUs 329, 330, and 251 south of Colockum Creek.

Sheep Unit 14 Swakane: Permit Area: GMU 250.

Sheep Unit 15 Tieton: Permit Area: GMU 360.

Sheep Unit 16 Manson: Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Granite Falls Creek on the south shore of Lake Chelan, E across Lake Chelan to Willow Point; NW along the shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Stink Creek; E along Stink Creek to the intersection with Green's Landing Road; along Green's Landing Road to Manson Boulevard; E on Manson Boulevard to Lower Joe Creek Road; NE on Lower Joe Creek Road to Grade Creek Road; NE on Grade Creek Road to US Forest Service Road 8210; NE on US Forest Service Road 8210 to intersection with US Forest Service Road 8020; W on US Forest Service Road 8020 to Fox Peak; NW along Sawtooth Ridge (Chelan-Okanogan County Line) to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary; S along the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area boundary to shore line of Lake Chelan; W across Lake Chelan to the mouth of Riddle Creek on the South Shore; SE along South Shore of Lake Chelan to the point of beginning.

Sheep Unit 17 Asotin: Permit Area: GMU 175.

Sheep Unit 18 Chelan Butte: Permit Area: Beginning at the intersection of State Hwy 971 and US Hwy 97A, S to the W shoreline of the Columbia River, N along the W shoreline of the Columbia River for 21 miles to the mouth of Antione Creek, W up Antione Creek to where it crosses Apple Acres Rd, W on Apple Acres Rd to the intersection with Washington Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 8135), N on Washington Creek Rd to its end and then follow Washington Creek, W on Washington Creek to where it crosses US Forest Service Rd 8010, S on US Forest Service Rd 8010 (transitions into Purtteman Creek Rd) to Purtteman Gulch, S into Purtteman Gulch to the N shoreline of Lake Chelan, S along the shoreline to the S shoreline of Lake Chelan to the mouth of First Creek, S up First Creek to the intersection of State Hwy 971 (Navarre Coulee Rd), S on State Hwy 971 to the point of beginning.

Sheep Unit 19 Sinlahekin: Beginning at the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness border and the US-Canadian border; E on the US-Canadian border to the border station on Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568); SE on the Similkameen Rd (Co. Rd 4568) to the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425); E on the Loomis-Oroville Rd (Co. Rd 9425) to US Hwy 97 in Oroville; S on US Hwy 97 to 12th Ave; W on 12th Ave (it curves S and changes to Old Highway 97); S on Old Highway 97 to US Hwy 97; S on US Hwy 97 to the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410); W on the South Pine Creek Rd (Co. Rd 9410) to Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290); W on Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4290) to South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), along the south shore of Fish Lake; SW on South Fish Lake Rd (Co. Rd 4282), to

the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015); SW on the Sinlahekin Rd (Co. Rd 4015), along the north shore of Conconully Lake, to the Salmon Creek North Fork Rd (Co. Rd 2361), at the town of Conconully; N on US Forest Service Rd 38 (Salmon Creek North Fork Rd, Co. Rd 2361) to US Forest Service Rd 3820; N on US Forest Service Rd 3820 over Lone Frank Pass, to US Forest Service Rd 39; N on US Forest Service Rd 39 to the US Forest Service Rd 300 at Long Swamp trailhead; W on the US Forest Service Rd 300 to US Forest Service Trail 342; N on US Forest Service Trail 342 to US Forest Service Trail 343; E on US Forest Service Trail 343 to US Forest Service Trail 341; E on US Forest Service Trail 341 to US Forest Service Trail 375; E on US Forest Service Trail 375 to the eastern boundary of the Pasayten Wilderness Area; N on the Pasayten Wilderness Area boundary to the US-Canadian border and the point of beginning.

(3) **Mountain Goat Permit Hunts**

Who May Apply: Anyone may apply, except those who harvested a mountain goat in Washington state after 1998. An individual may only harvest one mountain goat during their lifetime, except for those who harvested a goat prior to 1999. (Except waived for raffle and auction hunts.)

Bag Limit: One (1) adult goat of either sex with horns four (4) inches or longer. WDFW urges hunters to refrain from shooting nannies with kids.

Hunt Name	Permit Season ^b	Subpopulations Open to Hunting ^a	Special Restrictions	Permits ^a
Mt. Baker	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Chowder Ridge, Coleman Pinnacle, Lava Divide, Black Buttes, Lake Ann, SE Baker	Any Legal Weapon	7
North Lake Chelan	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Skookum Pass Mtn., Big Goat Creek	Any Legal Weapon	2
Naches Pass	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Fife's East, Fife's Peak, Crystal Mountain, Basin Lake	Any Legal Weapon	1
Bumping River	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Nelson Ridge, Cash Prairie, American Ridge, American Lake, Timber Wolf, Russell Ridge	Any Legal Weapon	1
Blazed Ridge	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Blowout Mtn., Blazed Ridge, Blazed North, Milk Creek, Rock Creek	Any Legal Weapon	1
Goat Rocks-Tieton River	Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	Chimney Rocks, Goat Lake, McCall Glacier, Gilbert Peak	Any Legal Weapon	((5)) 3

^aMountain goat populations are managed as a collection of subpopulations, and the ideal harvest is distributed through all the subpopulations. The director is authorized to open or close subpopulations and reduce permit levels to protect from overharvesting specific areas.

The director is authorized by the commission to identify the hunt area as a condition of the hunt permit. Selected hunters will receive a text description or map of their hunt area.

^bPermit hunters may start hunting September 1 with archery equipment.

[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), § 232-28-273, 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
8 OTS.3845.2

09-53), § 232-28-273, 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), § 232-28-273, filed
4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-
273, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.047. 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-273, filed 5/8/06,
effective 6/8/06; 05-11-022 (Order 05-89), § 232-28-273, filed
5/10/05, effective 6/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047
and 77.12.020. 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-273, filed
5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.047. 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-273, filed
6/12/03, effective 7/13/03. Statutory Authority: RCW
77.12.047, 77.12.655, 77.12.020. 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), §
232-28-273, filed 5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory
Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. 01-
10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-273, filed 4/26/01, effective
5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.010,
77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. 00-11-137 (Order 00-50), §
232-28-273, filed 5/23/00, effective 6/23/00. Statutory
Authority: RCW 77.12.040. 99-10-102 (Order 99-40), § 232-28-
273, filed 5/5/99, effective 6/5/99; 98-10-005 (Order 98-58), §
232-28-273, filed 4/22/98, effective 5/23/98.]

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

Recommended Adjustments

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

Page 3

In the bighorn sheep hunt table, delete the "Tieton C" line from the table.

The reason for this change is because the ram counts during recent surveys were lower than expected.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT
 Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
 WAC 232-28-273

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
<p>The Washington Wild Sheep Foundation opposes the proposal (found in the CR 102 relating to 2011 big game season changes) to make five of the Tieton bighorn sheep permits for hunters “65 and older” for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. Bighorn permits are extremely rare and highly coveted. The Department should not set-aside permits for specific user groups for bighorn sheep permits. The policy of setting aside bighorn permits for specific user groups is flawed and discriminates against all others who wish to apply for that particular hunt. When will the discrimination end? Will the Department set aside bighorn ram permits based on gender, age, archers, muzzleloaders, disabled, race, and religion? With barely more than 40 permits, bighorn sheep permits should not be allocated to any special group. The Washington Wild Sheep Foundation certainly hopes not; we adamantly oppose setting permits aside for special groups—ALL eligible hunters should be allowed to apply.</p> <p>2. A frequent discussion relating to big game applications is improving drawing odds. There are only two ways to improve draw odds: decrease applicants or increase permits. By keeping all bighorn permits available for all applicants, every person’s odds will improve when additional permits are added.</p> <p>(12 comments followed this theme)</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. Based on lower ram counts during recent surveys, the Department is striking the “Tieton C” hunt from our recommendation.</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

By: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

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

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

DATE
January 19, 2011

NAME
Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE

Lori Preuss

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED
DATE: January 19, 2011
TIME: 9:17 AM
WSR 11-03-089

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.