

Landowner Hunting Permits
WAC 232-28-296

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Summary

Meeting dates: March 7-8, 2014

Agenda item: WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits --Rule briefing and public hearing

Presenter(s): Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs authorized was the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

This proposal makes adjustments to permit levels and hunt dates in accordance with landowner needs and recreational goals.

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

Adjustments of hunt dates and permit levels on individual LHP properties.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Notification was sent to over 9,000 organizations and individuals, informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation. Additionally, these organizations and individuals were informed of the opportunity to provide testimony at the March 7-8, 2014 Commission Meeting.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 11-12, 2014 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

This rule and proposed adjustments maintains the department's ability to work with individual landowners to provide special hunting opportunities.

Communications Plan:

Washington State Register
News Release
Hunting Pamphlet
Agency Website

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-11-078, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13)

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits. (1) A landowner may enter into a contract with the department and establish boundaries and other requirements for hunter access consistent with commission policy.

(2) 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 the landowner's contract. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.

(3)(a) **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.

(b) Buckrun landowner hunting permits

Buckrun's manager will distribute Buckrun's landowner hunting permits. Buckrun may charge an access fee for these permits, but not for winning raffle permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for permits on Buckrun's properties. Contact the manager at 509-345-2577 for additional information.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless Mule Deer or any White-tailed Deer	Buckrun
Buckrun	30	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun
Buckrun Raffle	10	Oct. ((26)) <u>25</u> - Dec. 31	Any deer	Buckrun

(c) Buckrun special hunting permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wild-life for Buckrun's special hunting permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for these special permits. All hunters must check in and out. Hunts should be scheduled in advance by calling 509-345-2577.

Deer

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Buckrun	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Antlerless	Buckrun

(4)(a) 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.

(b) Silver Dollar Association landowner hunting permits

The Silver Dollar Association's manager will distribute the association's landowner hunting permits. The association may charge an access fee for 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

(c) Silver Dollar Association special hunting permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for the Silver Dollar Association's special hunting permits.

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Silver Dollar	8	((EA ₇)) EF((₇ EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	6	((EA ₇)) EF((₇ EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar
Silver Dollar Antlerless Elk	2	((EA ₇)) EF((₇ EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Persons of Disability Only, Antlerless Elk Only	Silver Dollar

(5) (a) 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.

(b) **Blackrock Ranches landowner hunting permits**

Blackrock Ranches' manager will distribute the ranches' landowner hunting permits. Blackrock Ranches may charge an access fee for 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	2	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless	Blackrock Ranches

(c) **Blackrock Ranches special hunting permits**

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for Blackrock Ranches' special hunting permits. To apply, hunters must have an eastside elk tag.

Elk

Hunt Name	Permit Number	Weapon/Tag	Permit Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Blackrock Ranches	1	((EA,)) EF((, EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	((EA,)) EF((, EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	((EA,)) EF((, EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Any Elk	Blackrock Ranches
Blackrock Ranches	1	((EA,)) EF((, EM))	Aug. 1 - March 31	Youth Only, Antlerless Only	Blackrock Ranches

(6)(a) **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.

(b) Pine Mountain Ranch landowner hunting permits

Pine Mountain Ranch's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. Pine Mountain Ranch may charge an access fee for these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u> - Dec. 31	Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	1	Aug. 1 - Dec. 31	Any Bull	Pine Mountain Ranch
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	((August)) <u>Aug.</u> 1 - Nov. ((3)) <u>2</u>	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

(c) Pine Mountain Ranch special hunting permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for Pine Mountain Ranch's special hunting permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Nov. ((4)) <u>3</u> - Dec. 31	Youth Only, Any Buck	Pine Mountain Ranch

Elk

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

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
Pine Mountain Ranch	2	Aug. 1 - Nov. ((3)) <u>2</u>	Antlerless	Pine Mountain Ranch

(7)(a) **4-0 Ranch**

The 4-0 Ranch is located in Asotin County (GMU 172), south of Asotin. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the 4-0 Ranch and the department.

(b) **4-0 Ranch landowner hunting permits**

The 4-0 Ranch's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. The 4-0 Ranch may charge an access fee for these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	4	Oct. ((12-15)) <u>4-7</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
((4-0 Ranch B	<u>2</u>	<u>Nov. 11-15</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch))
4-0 Ranch C	1	Nov. ((15-18)) <u>8-12</u>	White-tailed, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	((2)) <u>1</u>	Sept. ((16-20)) <u>6-9</u>	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	1	((Oct. 21-24)) <u>Sept. 25-28</u>	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch C	((4)) <u>3</u>	Oct. ((26-29)) <u>18-21</u>	Spike Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch D	8	((Sept. 26-29)) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
((4-0 Ranch E	<u>2</u>	<u>Oct. 26-29</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch F	6	Nov. 21-24	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch))

(c) **4-0 Ranch special hunting permits**

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for the ranch's special hunting permits. Hunters must have an Eastside Elk tag to apply for 4-0 Ranch's elk permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	1	Oct. ((16-20)) <u>8-12</u>	Mule Deer, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	((1)) <u>3</u>	((Nov. 16-20)) <u>Oct. 8-12</u>	<u>Antlerless</u> Mule Deer, ((3 pt. min)) <u>Youth Only</u>	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch C	1	Nov. ((25-Dec-1)) <u>15-19</u>	Whitetail, 3 pt. min	4-0 Ranch

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
4-0 Ranch A	((2)) <u>1</u>	Sept. ((22-26)) <u>10-14</u>	Any Bull	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch B	1	((Oct. 30-Nov. 3)) <u>Sept. 17-21</u>	((Spike Only)) <u>Any Bull</u>	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch C	4	Oct. ((4-7)) <u>22-26</u>	((Antlerless)) <u>Spike Only</u>	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch D	((2)) <u>4</u>	Oct. ((30)) <u>29</u> - Nov. ((3)) <u>2</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch
4-0 Ranch E	((2)) <u>4</u>	Nov. ((28-Dec-1)) <u>22-26</u>	Antlerless Only	4-0 Ranch

(8)(a) **ZMI Ranch**

ZMI Ranch is located in northern Walla Walla County near Lyons Ferry (GMU 149).

(b) **ZMI Ranch landowner hunting permits**

ZMI Ranch's manager will distribute the ranch's landowner hunting permits. ZMI Ranch may charge an access fee for these permits.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
ZMI A	((2)) <u>3</u>	Oct. ((21-27)) <u>20</u> - Nov. <u>4</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI
ZMI B	((4)) <u>3</u>	Nov. ((16-Dec-8)) <u>15-30</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI

(c) **ZMI Ranch special hunting permits**

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for ZMI Ranch's special hunting permits. Only hunters possessing a modern firearm deer tag are eligible for ZMI special permits. Hunt-

ers must call ZMI Ranch's manager to schedule a hunt time. All hunters must check in and out on the day they hunt.

Deer

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
ZMI A	2	((Nov. 1-4)) <u>Dec. 1-7</u>	3 pt. min	ZMI

(9)(a) Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association

The Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association (CPWMA) landowner hunting permit area is located in Spokane County (GMU 130) near Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Landowner permit hunts are primarily damage hunts but are managed for a quality experience by keeping the number of hunters in the field low. A legal description of the property is in the contract between the CPWMA and the department.

(b) Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association landowner hunting permits

CPWMA's manager will distribute the association's landowner hunting permits. CPWMA will not charge an access fee for raffle permit winners. Only hunters possessing an elk tag are eligible for permits on CPWMA's properties. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from CPWMA's manager and must check in and out at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates. Successful applicants will receive a packet of information with forms to fill out and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants must fill

out the forms and return them before Sept. 30. Applicants should see CPWMA's web site at www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA	2	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 1	2	Jan. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 2	2	Jan. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 3	3	Feb. 1-14	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 4	2	Feb. 15-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 5	2	Mar. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 6	2	Mar. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA Raffle 7	2	Jan. 1-31	Any bull	CPWMA

(c) **Columbia Plateau Wildlife Management Association special**

hunting permits

Hunters must apply to the Washington department of fish and wildlife for CPWMA's special hunting permits. All successfully drawn permit applicants must have written authorization from CPWMA's manager and must check in and out at the beginning and ending of the scheduled hunting dates. Successful applicants will receive a packet of required information with forms to fill out and a map showing the hunt area. These applicants must fill out the forms and return them before Sept. 30. Applicants should see CPWMA's web site at www.cpwma.org or contact the hunt manager at 509-263-4616.

Elk

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA 1	3	Jan. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA

Hunt Name	Quota	Access Season	Special Restrictions	Boundary Description
CPWMA 2	2	Jan. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 3	2	Feb. 1-14	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 4	3	Feb. 15-28	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 5	3	Mar. 1-15	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 6	2	Mar. 16-31	Antlerless	CPWMA
CPWMA 7	1	Jan. 1-31	Any bull	CPWMA

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-296, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-296, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2012)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 13-14-015 on 06/21/13; and WSR 13-24-098 on 12/03/13; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1).

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject)

The subject of this proposed rule-making effort is the amendment of deer and elk seasons and permits; cougar seasons and regulations; black bear seasons and regulations; mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose seasons, permits, and regulations; bighorn sheep marking requirements; game bird regulations; small game seasons; landowner hunting permit program; deer and elk area boundaries; game management units, special closures and firearm restriction areas; unlawful methods for hunting; hunting equipment rules; special hunting season permits, hunters with disabilities, and other hunting regulations. This rule making proposal also incorporates a CR-101 filed on June 21, 2013, regarding archery special use permits for people with a disability.

Hearing location(s):

Moses Lake Civic Center
401 S. Balsam
Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Date: March 7-8, 2014 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) February 14, 2014

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Tami Lininger by February 21, 2014

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

Date of intended adoption: on or after April 11, 2014

(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: RCW 77.04.010, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.010, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240

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 22, 2014

TIME: 10:49 AM

WSR 14-03-135

DATE
January 22, 2014

NAME (type or print)
Joanna Eide

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

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

When filing the permanent rule-making order (CR-103P), the WAC sections containing rule amendments will be consolidated into one or two Order Typing Service (OTS) documents.

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.....	Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
Implementation....	Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
Enforcement.....	Steven Crown	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2373

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW or has a school district fiscal impact statement been prepared under section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 2012?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement or school district fiscal 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 apply to recreational hunting and do not affect 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: This proposal does not involve hydraulics.

ATTACHMENT A

Amendment to 220-55-040 - Recreational License tag, permit and stamp refund and exchanges

New Section 220-55-172 - Reduced Rate Combo deer hunting license

New Section 220-55-174 - Reduced Rate Combo elk hunting license

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

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify and expand the rationale for refunding, exchanging, and replacing licenses and tags. In addition, we have received several complaints regarding the price of second deer and elk licenses. This proposal creates discounts for combination licenses and tags.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal will address the complaints about the cost of second deer and elk license and improve the Department's administration of permits and tags and facilitate much improved collection of harvest data.

Amendment to 232-12-047 - Unlawful methods for hunting

Amendment to 232-12-051 - Muzzleloading firearms

Amendment to 232-12-054 - Hunters with Disabilities

New Section 232-12-819 – Special Use Permits

New Section 232-12-825 - NEW SECTION: Definition of a person with a disability

Amendment to 232-12-828 - Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability

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

Several rules (232-12-047, 232-12-051, & 232-12-054) are recommended to be amended to delete exceptions for hunters with disabilities from equipment regulations. Exceptions instead will be combined in a new rule (232-12-819) and by amendment to an existing rule (232-12-828). We are recommending that the Department be allowed to issue special use permits to provide reasonable accommodations for persons with a disability. The Department also recommends a change to the definition of a hunter with a disability.

Reasons supporting proposal:

In the past, any time the Department wanted to change the types of equipment necessary for a disabled hunter to participate in an agency hunting program, we needed to have a rule changed to accommodate the request. These changes will allow the Department to issue special use permits as needed to make those accommodations.

In addition, this change will address a petition to the Commission to amend rules to allow scopes on crossbows used by hunters with disabilities and a complaint filed with the Department of Interior. The essence of the complaint was similar to the petition. Nearly all crossbows available on the market today include scopes and modifying them required relatively expensive conversion kits which invalidated the warrantee. Therefore the claim was that the Department was discriminating by creating an economic hardship in not allowing hunters with disabilities to use a crossbow equipped with a scope.

WAC 232-12-242 - Hunting Restrictions

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

Reinstate restrictions on night hunting and hound hunting during deer and elk seasons which were inadvertently deleted from the small game seasons last year but not placed in a different section as planned.

Reference to WAC 232-28-285 is removed as it is no longer in effect and reference to WAC 232-12-243 is replaced with reference to RCW 77-15-245 which is the statute authorizing public safety cougar removals.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This rule is important in mitigating conflicts and the potential for unlawful use of dogs to pursue deer and elk and night hunting.

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 purpose of the proposal is to adjust the boundary of the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area hunting closure to better reflect conditions on the ground and also to alleviate trespass on restricted federal lands. The proposal also provides for an exception to allow special permit hunting on the Parker Lake Restricted Hunting Area. In addition the proposal provides for an exception to the modern firearm restriction in the Kittitas firearm restriction area.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Special closures and firearm restriction areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to restrict or close hunting activity in certain areas to optimize safety, discourage trespass on restricted lands, and protect sensitive species.

WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose seasons and permit quotas.

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

Increase the current temporal, geographic, and gender scope of the Master Hunter permits in Region 1. Current rules limit Master Hunts permits for moose (10) to antlerless animals only, a season of Dec 1 through the following March 1, and GMUs 124, 127, and portions of 130 within Spokane County. The revision would allow for Master Hunt permits for any moose identified by WDFW as requiring removal, for a season extending from Aug 1 through the following March 1, and extend to area to include all of GMUs 124, 127, 130, 133, 136, 139, and 142.

Additionally, new, experimental archery-only and muzzleloader-only hunts are proposed in the Parker Lake area (within GMU 117) which had previously been closed due to potential conflicts with USAF survival school. This hunt is being coordinated with USAF.

Reasons supporting proposal: Master Hunter permits for moose are intended to provide hunter opportunity where moose are causing damage or are a threat to human safety (typically in or near urban and suburban settings), and these cannot be otherwise resolved. Current restrictions on these permits limit the effectiveness of implementing this objective. This revision will allow for needed flexibility in removing problem moose.

The experimental archery-only and muzzleloader permit hunts are being offered to provide additional hunter opportunity in any area where moose populations can absorb additional harvest.

WAC 232-28-283 2012-2014 . Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Add to (18) Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle permit GMU 172, and remove GMU 181.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited.

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits

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

This proposal modifies hunt dates and permit levels on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2014 hunting season. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through WDFW's special permit drawings, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs that was authorized is the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is modify the boundary of an existing Elk Area in Region 5 to better address wildlife conflict through special permit elk hunting. The proposal also creates an Elk Area in Region 1 to facilitate elk special permit hunting on newly acquired wildlife area lands.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Elk Areas allow the Commission to distribute hunters more favorably during quality hunts. The proposed language also helps delineate when state authorized elk hunting is and is not allowed at a smaller scale within a GMU. Elk Areas help direct hunters when a scale smaller than the GMU is needed. Elk areas also help staff address wildlife conflict problems at a smaller scale than the GMU when needed.

WAC 232-28-342: 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 Small game seasons

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

Changes proposed increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag for mourning dove (including falconry), band-tailed pigeon, and September Canada goose (except for the two day eastern Washington September season). Other changes include shifting season eastern Washington September goose season dates to occur on weekend days, and increasing the bag limit for the Pacific County September Canada goose season.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed changes will standardize possession limits among all migratory bird seasons and allow increase recreational opportunity on resident Canada geese, while conserving these populations and providing agricultural damage control.

232-28-357 2012-2014 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. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. In addition the purpose is to increase opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduce the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal also helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

232-28-358 2012-2014 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 for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the elk hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces elk hunting opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

232-28-359 2014 Deer special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups and increase hunting opportunity when deer populations allow. In addition the proposal reduces the deer hunting opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal also helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

232-28-360 2014 Elk special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit elk hunting opportunity for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the elk special permit hunting opportunity between user groups. In addition the proposal increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-622 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: 1) Increase permits in the Asotin herd from 0 to 1. 2) Increase permits in the Lincoln Cliff herd from 1 to 2. 3) Decrease permits in the Cleman Mountain herd from 10 to 8. 4) Increase permits in the Umtanum portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd from 2 to 3. 5) Initiate new ewe-only hunt in the Selah portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd, 5 permits.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited.

WAC 232-28-623 2012-2014 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

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

1) Decrease mountain goat permits in the Methow (2-2) goat hunt unit from 1 to 0. 2) Increase mountain goat permits in the Naches Pass (3-6) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2; 3) Increase mountain goat permits in the Bumping River (3-7) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2; 4) Increase mountain goat permits in the Chowder Ridge (4-3) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2. 5) Initiate new conflict-reduction mountain goat hunt in Region 6, GMU 621, with 6 permits.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited. Reduce conflicts with hikers and possibility of dangerous confrontation on popular hiking trails in Region 6.

232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is to add a Deer Area in Pend Oreille County that would facilitate some special permit hunting opportunity on the USAF survival training facility where hunting access did not exist before. The proposal also adds a new Deer Area in Asotin County to facilitate special permit hunting opportunity on newly acquired wildlife area land.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed language allows the Commission to distribute hunters more favorably during quality hunts. Proposed language also helps delineate when state authorized deer hunting is and is not allowed at a smaller scale within a GMU. Deer Areas help direct hunters when a scale smaller than the GMU is needed.

Deer areas also help staff address wildlife conflict problems when needed.