

Elk General Seasons and Elk Special Permits

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Status of Elk Populations

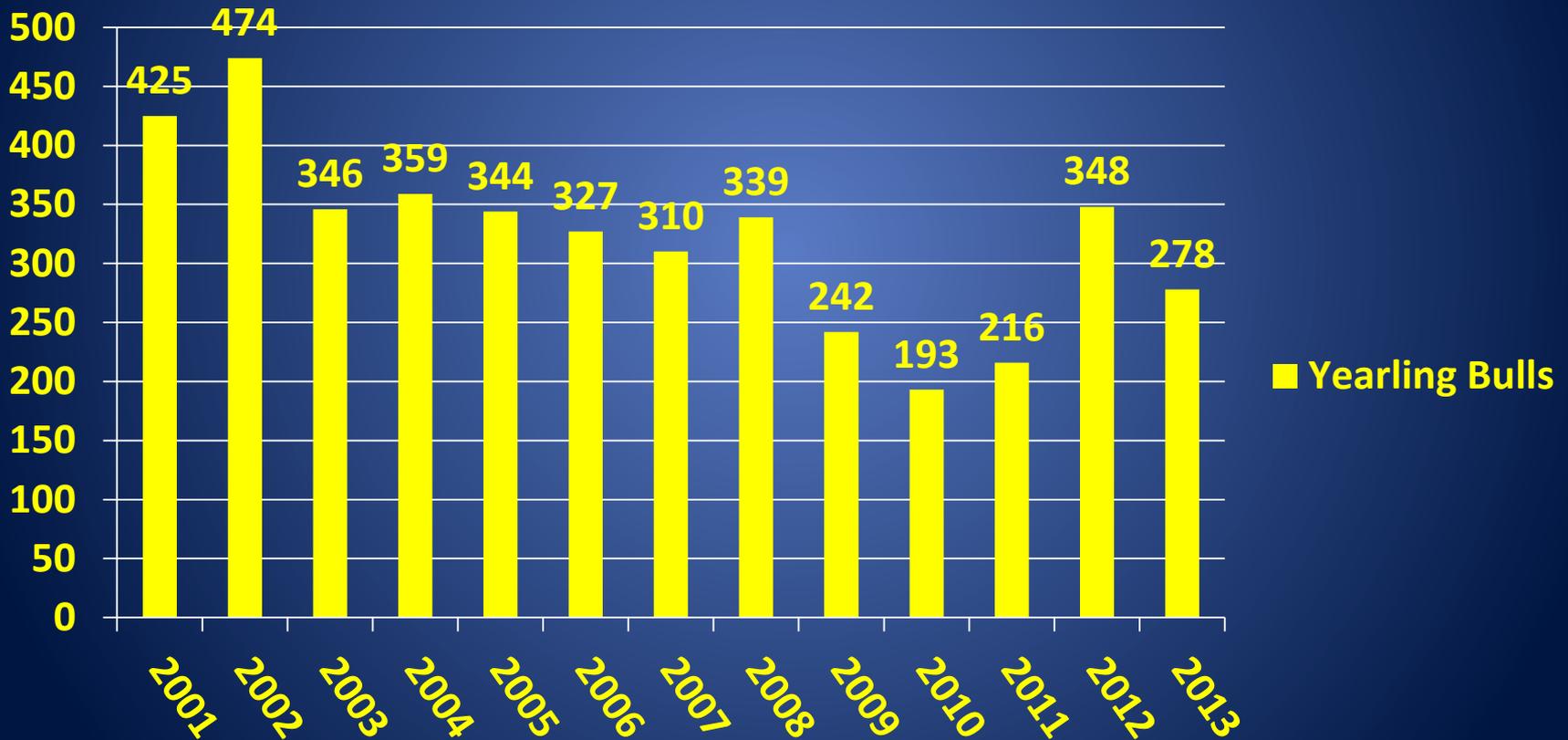
Elk Herd	Status	Hunting Season
Yakima	Above Objective	Slight Increase Harvest Targets for Bulls; Increase Antlerless Special Permit Opportunity
Colockum	Above Objective; Bull Ratios at Objective (?)	Pending Survey Flights Increase in Antlerless Special Permits; Increase in Bull Permits
Blue Mountains	At Objective	Pending Survey Flights; Status Quo on Bull Permits with some ↑ ↓
Mount St. Helens	Near Objective	Pending Survey Flights Reduction in Antlerless to Stabilize
Nooksack	Below Objective	Pending Survey Flights
Olympic	Harvest Data	Status Quo
Willapa Hills	Harvest Data	Status Quo
Selkirk	Harvest Data	Status Quo
North Rainier	Harvest Data	Status Quo
South Rainier	Harvest Data	Status Quo

Colockum Elk Herd



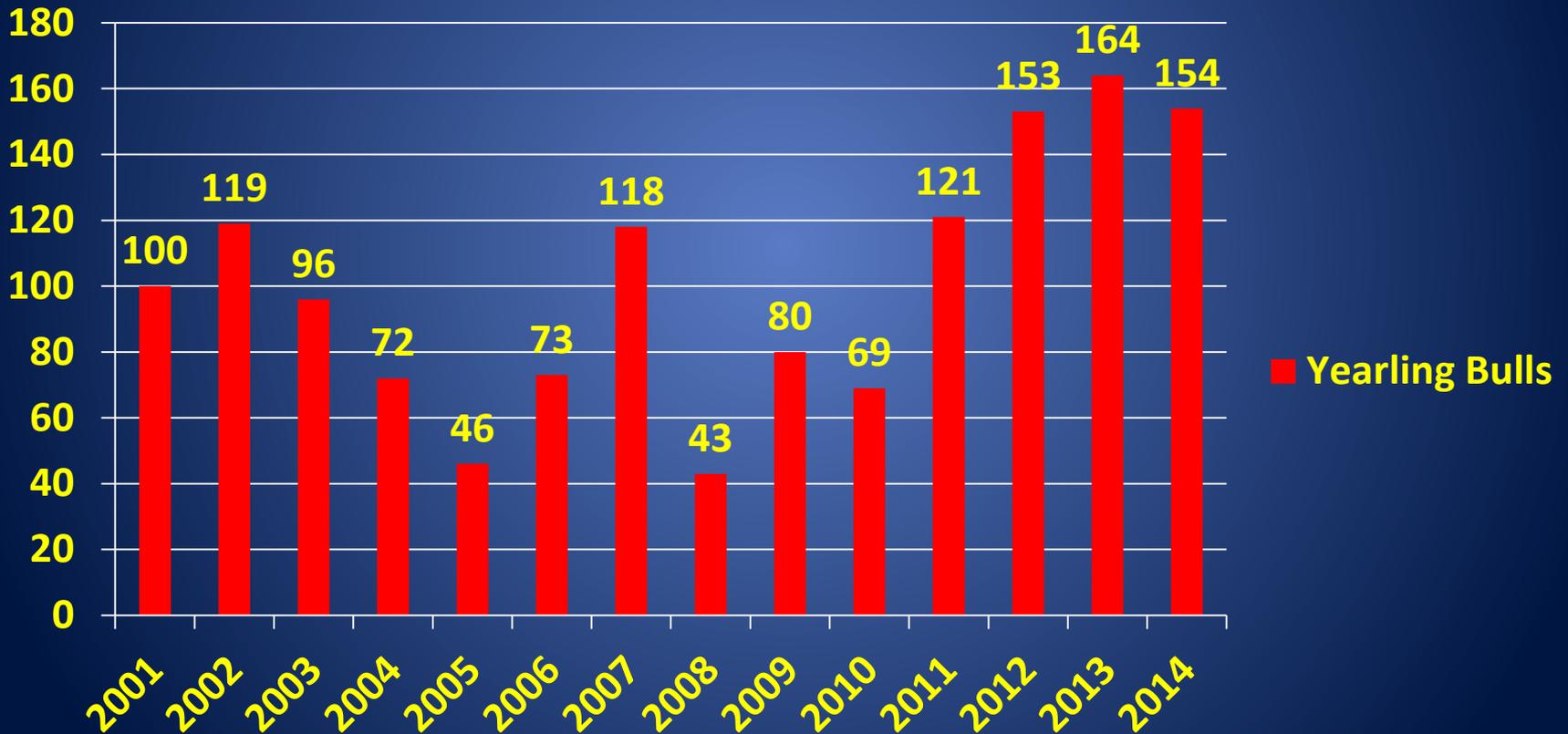
Colockum Yearling Bull Harvest

Colockum Harvest

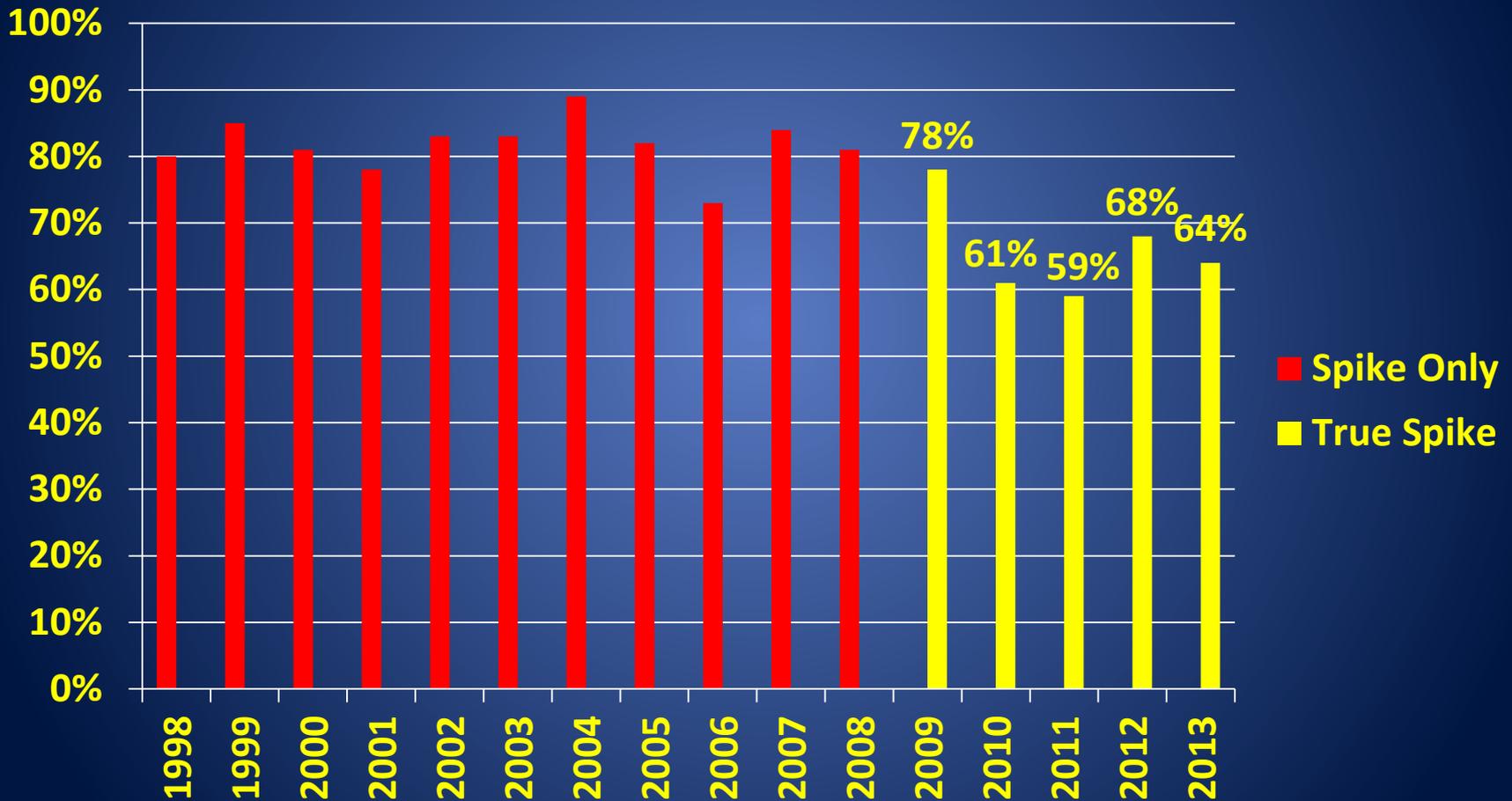


Colockum Yearling Bull Recruitment

Colockum Post-hunt



Colockum Percentage of Yearling Bulls Harvested



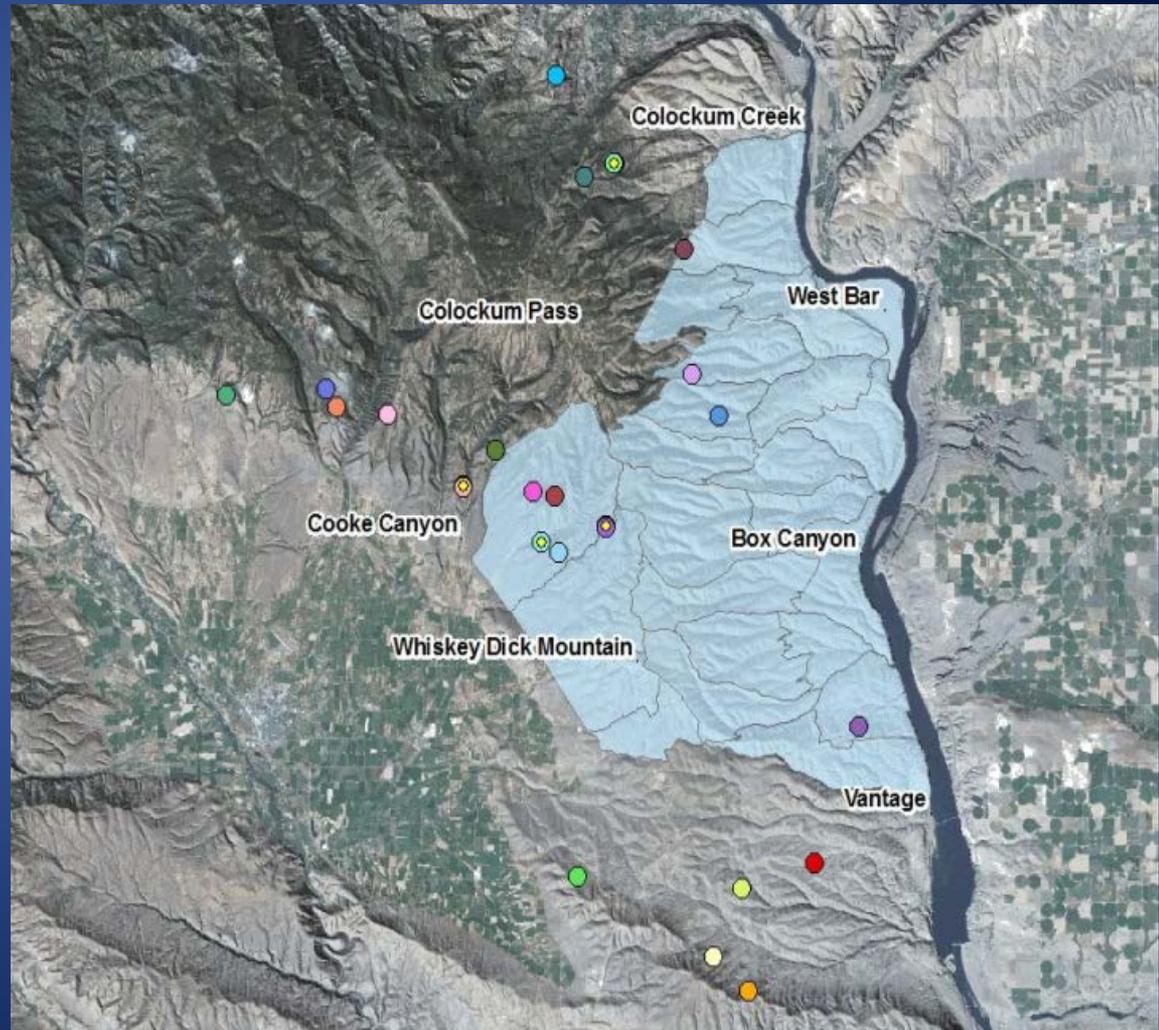
Colockum Bull Study

- Three year study
- Initiated last Sept.
- Currently 27 bulls equipped with GPS radio-collars
- Project includes a graduate student from Central Washington University



Colockum Bull Study

- Seasonal Distribution of Bulls
- Better Define the Nature of Winter Sexual Segregation
- Estimate Survival
- Seasonal Habitat Selection
- Adjust Survey Protocols



Colockum Special Permits

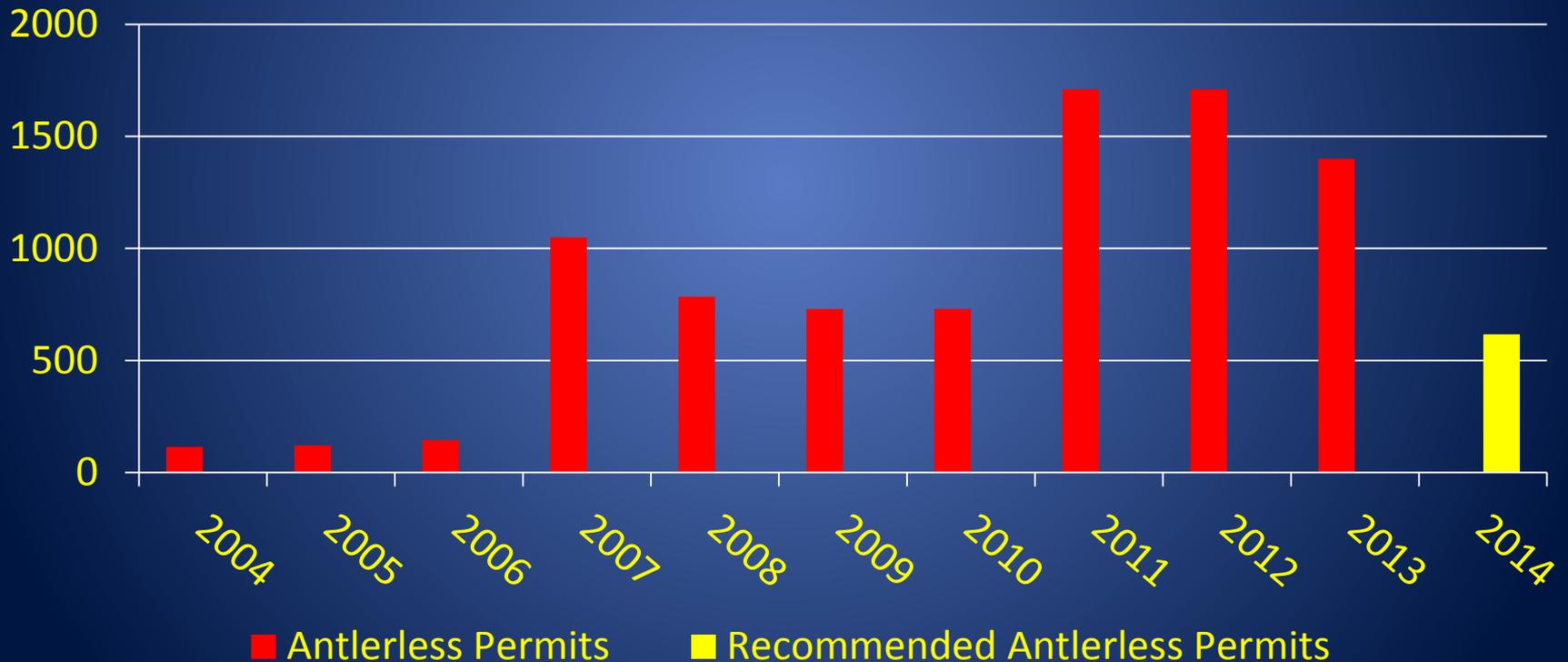
HUNT	WEAPON	DATE	GMUs	2013	2014
QUALITY	EF	OCT.-NOV.	328,329,335	1	7
QUALITY	EA	SEPT.	328,329,335	2	5
QUALITY	EM	OCT.	328,329,335	1	2
ANTLERLESS	EF	OCT.-NOV.	328,329,335	190	425
ANTLERLESS	EA	SEPT.	328, 329	140	475
ANTLERLESS	EM	OCT.	328, 329	40	90
TOTAL				374	1,004

Nooksack Elk Special Permits

- Bull Permits Remain Stable
- Recommend Antlerless Special Permits in Elk Area 4941 be Eliminated Except for the Master Hunter Permits
 - Testimony from Stillaguamish at March mtg.
- More of the Agricultural Damage Will be Addressed by the Wildlife Conflict Section
- Continue to Work with the Point Elliot Treaty Tribes on Nooksack Elk Management

Mount St. Helens Special Permits

Antlerless Elk Special Permits in Winston, Margaret, Coweeman, Toutle



HUNT	WEAPON	DATE	GMU or EA	2013	APRIL 2014
WINSTON	WF	NOV.	520	150	40
MARGARET	WF	NOV.	524	140	70
RYDERWOOD	WF	NOV.	530	100	50
COWEEMAN	WF	NOV.	550	200	120
TOUTLE	WF	NOV.	556	200	120
MARGARET	WA	SEPT. & DEC.	524	70	35
TOUTLE	WA	SEPT. & DEC.	556	80	50
GREEN MT.	WM	JAN.	EA 5051	30	5
WINSTON	WM	OCT.	520	90	40
MARGARET	WM	OCT.	524	70	35
RYDERWOOD	WM	OCT.	530	50	30
COWEEMAN	WM	NOV.-DEC.	550	50	45
TOUTLE	WM	OCT.	556	80	50
MARGARET	65+	NOV.	524	20	10
GREEN MT.	MASTER HUNTER	JAN.	EA 5051	20	5
Also eliminating the Jan. component of hunts.			TOTAL	1,350	705

Hoof Disease

- Dozens of hoof diseases
 - Many specific to the species
 - All have different causes (infectious, metabolic, toxic, nutritional, physical), and different modes of transmission, prevention, treatment, prognoses, etc.
- Males and females
- All ages
- Any hoof
- Cooperators
 - Wash. State Univ., Colo. State Univ., U.C. Davis, USDA National Animal Disease Lab, Univ. of Liverpool



Sampling Effort

- 2009 : Adult elk with chronic lesions
 - 3 unaffected elk -- East of I-5
 - 5 affected elk -- Cowlitz River Basin
- 2013: 9-10 month elk with acute lesions
 - 3 unaffected elk -- Pacific County
 - 4 unaffected elk -- Yakima / Kittitas County
 - 9 affected elk -- Lewis / Cowlitz County
- 2013: 3-4 month calf elk with acute lesions
 - 2 unaffected elk -- Grays Harbor County
 - 5 affected elk -- Lewis County
- 2014: 7-8 month calf elk with acute lesions
 - 5 elk from unaffected area-- Grays Harbor, Kittitas, & Pacific
 - 7 elk from affected area -- Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, & Pacific

Summary of Sampling Effort

- 43 elk examined from March 2009 to Jan. 2014.
- 27 from affected area
- 10 from presumed unaffected area (westside controls)
- 6 from unaffected area (east of Cascades)
- There appears to be an association with *Treponema* (a bacterium) and elk hoof disease

Information Dissemination

- Public Meeting was Held September 12, 2012
- Developed On-Line Hoof Disease Reporting Form
- Hoof Disease Public Working Group Formed
 - Three Meetings to Date
- Technical Advisory Group Formed
 - One Meeting with Subsequent Substantial Exchange of Info and Samples
- Increased Outreach Efforts
- Brochure
- Big Game Pamphlet

Elk Hoof Disease in Southwest Washington

Sporadic reports of lame elk or elk with overgrown or missing hooves have been received in southwest Washington since the mid 1990s. Reports of this "hoof disease" have been increasing, and hunters have reported lame and sometimes lameness elk with this condition. At times, observers have reported many individuals in a group limping and showing signs of Hoof Disease, which has been noted in males and females and old and very young animals.

Dozens of hoof diseases occur in domestic livestock. They have many different causes (infectious, metabolic, toxic, nutritional, physical) and varied modes of transmission, prevention and treatment.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is working with specialists, here and abroad, to better understand what is causing hoof disease in southwest Washington elk. So far, we have ruled out several potential causes and have narrowed the list of possibilities. Preliminary evidence suggests the involvement of an infectious bacterium, although additional results from animals collected in January 2014 will not be available for several months.

Given this complexity, more research is needed to help us better understand and manage this problem. We are coordinating with other agencies and universities to prioritize the work needed. Even if we are able to determine what is causing this hoof disease, it will be very challenging to address it as there are likely very few, if any, treatment options for wild elk. However, understanding the cause of the disease is an important step toward understanding and managing its impacts.

The department has established a technical advisory group composed of veterinarians and researchers to discuss research and management questions and options, and a public working group to share information and communicate with the public.

January 2014

What is WDFW doing about Elk Hoof Disease?

WDFW veterinary and biological staff, working with national and international experts, have undertaken an exhaustive diagnostic effort to determine the cause of this disease.

For more information:
wdfw.wa.gov/conservations/health/hoof_disease/

Elk Hoof Disease in Southwest Washington

Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife

wdfw.wa.gov

Next Steps

- Continue to work with other agencies and universities, both here and abroad, to complete the work needed
- Continue to meet with the Public Working Group
- Continue to work with the Technical Advisory Group and the researchers from WSU

Next Steps

- Understanding the cause of elk hoof disease in southwestern Washington is an important step in understanding and managing its impacts
- If cause is determined; there are likely very few, if any, treatment options for wild elk
- Management direction will depend on cause
- TAG meeting in June
- Brief the Commission after final results received.

Elk Season Recommendations

- Status Quo for Most Seasons
- Increase Antlerless Special Permit Opportunity in Colockum and Yakima
- Increase Antlered Special permits for Colockum and Yakima
- Reduce Antlerless Special Permits for Mount St. Helens to Stabilize Population
- Adjust $\uparrow\downarrow$ Special Permits via Special Permit Allocation Formula
- Adjust Antlerless Special Permits to Address Agricultural Damage Issues

Floor Changes

- Page 6, Late Archery, GMU 342 should be moved from the “*True Spike Bull and Antlerless*” line to the “*Spike Bull and Antlerless*” line. This change corrects a typographical error.
- Page 16, Delete the Youth Skagit River hunt.
- Page 17, Delete the 65+ Senior Skagit River Hunt.
- Page 17, Delete the Hunters with Disabilities Skagit River Hunt.
 - Bulk of Agricultural Damage Mitigation Will be Handled by the Wildlife Conflict Section.

Questions

