

Hunters with Disabilities

Special Use Permits

WACs, 232-12-047, 232-12-051,
232-12-054, 232-12-819, 232-12-825,
and 232-12-828
Rule Adoption

Hunters with Disabilities

Purpose of Changes

- Address a petition to the Commission to modify rules for hunters with disabilities and their ability to use crossbows equipped with scopes during archery seasons
- Delegate to the Department the authority to condition equipment modifications through Special Use Permits

Hunters with Disabilities

Overview

- Legal ramifications regarding opportunities for hunters with disabilities
 - Federal Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Federal Rehabilitation Act
 - Statutes that encourage the Department to provide enhanced opportunities to hunters with disabilities

Hunters with Disabilities Statutes

RCW 77.32.237

Disabled hunter permits for persons with a disability.

- The commission shall attempt to enhance the hunting opportunities for persons with a disability
- ...to issue disabled hunter permits to persons with a disability.
- ...shall adopt rules governing the conduct of persons with a disability who hunt and their designated licensed hunter.

Hunters with Disabilities Statutes

RCW 77.32.238

Adoption of rules defining a person with a disability —
Shooting from a motor vehicle — Assistance from
licensed hunter.

- The commission shall adopt rules defining who is a person with a disability and governing the conduct of persons with a disability who hunt and their designated licensed hunters...

Hunters with Disabilities Rules

- WAC 232-12-819 Special Use Permits
- WAC 232-12-825 Definition of a Person with a Disability
- WAC 232-12-828 Hunting...by persons with a disability
 - Definitions
 - Disabled hunter permit
 - Designated hunter companion

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunter Demographics

- Active disabled hunter permits – 18,916
- Number who hunted deer in 2012 – 7,455
- Number who hunted elk in 2012 – 5,535
- Number who purchased archery tags – 1394
- Number of active Special Use Permits for using a crossbow - 1045

Hunters with Disabilities

Hunter Demographics

- Number who harvested deer in 2012 – 1,953
- Number who harvested elk in 2012 – 588
- 2492 applied for a deer permit and 1055 were drawn or 42%
- 3211 applied for an elk permit and 799 were drawn or 25%

Hunters with Disabilities Options and Opportunities

- Shoot from a vehicle/hunter companion
- Special Use Permits
- Road Access Program
- Accessible blinds for waterfowl hunting
- Any whitetail or antler restricted plus antlerless general season dates in E. Wash.
- Antlerless deer and elk permits throughout the rest of the state
- A few antlerless moose permits

Hunters with Disabilities

Game Management Plan Priorities

- Hunter recruitment and retention
- First time hunter recruitment
- Retention of current hunters
 - Hunters with disabilities

Hunters with Disabilities Special Use Permits Proposal

- Special Use Permits to address needs such as crossbows for disabled archers; scopes for muzzleloaders; other adaptive equipment
- Delegate development of criteria and issuance to the Department
- In concert with the Commission's Fishers and Hunters with Disabilities Advisory Group

Questions???

