

# Small Game And Hunting Restrictions

WAC 232-28-342

WAC 232-12-242

WAC 232-12-288

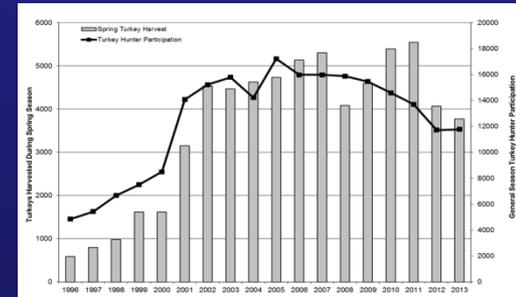
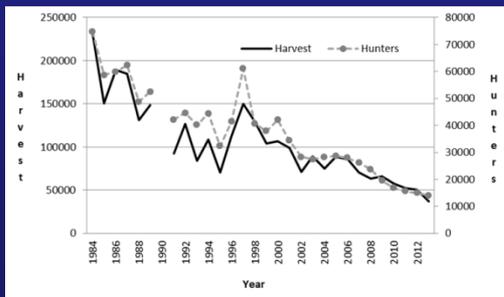
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# Overview

## TRENDS:

- Most Species: Long term harvest decline
  - Population indicator
  - Primary cause: Habitat changes
  - Secondary: Access and interest
- Exception: Turkey
  - Population at plateau or increasing



# Proposed Changes

## Amend WAC 232-28-342:

- Small game animals
- Upland game birds
- Forest grouse
- Wild turkey



# Proposed Changes

## Minor Changes:

- Status quo calendar date adjustments
- Add adult mentor requirement—youth turkey season
- Remove turkey weapon restrictions
  - Move to WAC 232-12-047
- Remove band-tailed pigeon reporting requirements
  - Move to WAC 232-28-299
- Reformat fall turkey general seasons

# Proposed Changes

## Forest Grouse:

- Bag Limit increase in 2009 has been a concern among some hunters and biologists
- Spruce grouse a particular concern
- Habitat and weather are primary limiting factors

## Proposed split bag limit:

- Four total per day
- Limit of 3 blue, 3 ruffed, 3 spruce

# Proposed Changes

## Proposed split bag limit:

### – Alternatives survey:

- Status quo: 176
- Total 4 (3 spruce): 147
- Total 4 (3 each species): 96 (recommended option)
- (many suggested to lower to three)

### – Comments:

- Concerned with species ID
- Just lower total to 3
- Keep at 4



# Proposed Changes

## Red Fox:

Remove closure in GMUs 407 and 410

- Introduced population
- No Cascade red fox in area
- Provides additional opportunity



# Proposed Changes

## Pheasant:

End season on Martin Luther King holiday:

- Retain start at Saturday following MF deer opener
- Additional opportunity
- Should not affect population



# Proposed Changes

## Mourning Dove:

Increase bag limit and season length:

- Sept 1 – Oct 30 season
- Increase bag limit from 10 to 15
- Follows national mourning dove harvest strategy
- Additional opportunity



# Proposed Changes

## Amend WAC 232-28-242:

Allow expanded opportunity Sept, Oct, Nov

- Raccoon, bobcat, coyote
- Currently precludes hound/night hunting for 3 months
- Longstanding request of raccoon hunters
- Some concerns regarding conflicts or abuse
- Maintain restriction during MF deer/elk general seasons
- Remove dual reference from WAC 232-12-288



# Questions?





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IDFG

