

Deer General Seasons and Deer Special Permits

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Options

The Department is providing the Commission two options regarding the 4-pt antler restriction for white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121

- **Option A retains the 4-pt antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121**
 - **Youth: 4 pt. min. or antlerless**
- **Option B changes GMUs 117 and 121 back to any buck as they were prior to 2011**
 - **Youth: any white-tailed deer**

Deer Season Recommendations

- **Add 2 Days to the Modern Firearm Mule Deer Season**
- **Increase Youth/Senior/Disabled Opportunity**
- **Increase Antlerless White-tailed Deer Opportunity**
- **Change White-tailed Deer to Any Buck in GMUs 117 and 121 (Option B)**
- **Adjust $\uparrow\downarrow$ Special Permits via Special Permit Allocation Formula**
- **Adjust Antlerless Special Permits to Address Agricultural Damage Issues**

Questions





White-tailed Deer in NE Washington

- **History included aggressive antlerless hunting and 2 back-to-back severe winters (2007-08, 2008-09)**
- **Reduced antlerless opportunity over the last few years**
- **In 2011 the Commission adopted a 4-pt. min. antler point restriction in GMUs 117 and 121**

Final Assessment

- **Hunter numbers reduced inside 4-pt GMUs and relatively stable outside 4-pt**
- **Hunter-days reduced inside 4-pt GMUs and stable outside 4-pt**
- **White-tailed deer antlered harvest reduced inside 4-pt GMUs and slight increase outside 4-pt**
- **Not Maximizing Opportunity in 4-pt GMUs 117 and 121**

Final Assessment

- **No discernable difference in fawn ratios inside and outside 4-pt**
- **Survey routes suggest similar population trajectories inside and outside 4-pt**
- **Recommendation is “Option B”, return GMUs 117 and 121 to “any buck”**

Floor Changes

- Page 22
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, Blakely, change the second set of dates to Nov. 12-15
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, Whidbey, change the first set of dates to Oct. 17-30
- These changes correct typographical errors in the WAC
- Page 24
- Under Senior 65+, Modern Firearm, Blakely, change the second set of dates to Nov. 12-15