

MASTER HUNTER CODE OF ETHICS

As a master hunter, I am a steward of the future of hunting. I pledge to act in accordance with the highest ethical standards. I will display proper respect for game, landowners, other hunters, the public, all fish and wildlife laws. I pledge to be a conscientious, committed hunter who cares about the future of hunting. I will assume a leadership role among my peers and will do so by exhibiting exemplary conduct in the field. As a Master Hunter, I shall play a key role in improving relationships with all landowners, thus ensuring continued hunter access to private and public lands. I pledge to continue to expand my knowledge of wildlife and natural resource management practices and understand the role I play in these practices.

I pledge to be a “Steward of the hunt.”

Elk Area 3911/Fairview Master Hunter Orientation

Sponsored by:

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Agenda

- ❑ Introductions (Aaron Garcia)
- ❑ MHPP Goals and Objectives (Dave Whipple, Capt Richard Mann)
- ❑ Master Hunter Advisory Group; Purpose & Role (Carissa Craghead, Lance Ostrom)
- ❑ WDFW Goals for 3911 (Aaron Garcia, Steve Wetzel)
- ❑ Elk Area 3911 Orientation & Information (Aaron Garcia, Steve Wetzel)
 - 3911 Map, 2015 Changes, & 2nd Elk Tag
 - Private Land Access – pre-season contact & volunteering
 - Yakima Training Center – restricted access
 - Helpful hints
- ❑ Laws, Rules, Violations, Etc. (Capt. Richard Mann)
- ❑ Questions and Answers

Master Hunter Permit Program

Dave Whipple

Hunter Education Division Manager

Wildlife Program

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife



Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP)

- The MHPP replaced the Advance Hunter Education Program in 2008, due to issues w/ the former program.
- The Fish & Wildlife Commission developed a formal policy for the new program
- ~1,700 Master Hunters currently in the program

Master Hunter Permit Program

- Designed to:
 - Help WDFW resolve human/wildlife conflicts (e.g. agricultural damage)
 - Help WDFW meet priority goals (wildlife management, etc.)
 - Promote responsible hunting
 - Strengthen the conservation ethic & the image/heritage of hunting
- Emphasizes safe, lawful and ethical hunting while upholding the highest standards
- Master hunters play a key role in improving relationships with landowners to promote access to private lands

Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP)

Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy, December 2007

- The Master Hunter resource is a tool employed by WDFW to help resolve certain human/wildlife conflict situations.
- Fundamental to the policy is that Master Hunter certification is a privilege and not a right.
- Many hunting situations will be highly visible to the public, may be on private property, & will require good judgment & professional conduct.

Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP)

Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy, Dec. 2007 (cont.)

- Violations of hunting (& fishing) regulations will not be tolerated, & will result in loss of Master Hunter privileges, possibly all hunting privileges
 - Reflected in law (RCW 77.15.760)
 - Reflected in rule (WAC 232.12.073)
- Master Hunters are role models for the rest of the hunting community and, through their actions, act as ambassadors for the Department.

Wildlife Program Policy Statement for the MHPP

- Hunter Education Division (& MHPP) transferred from Enforcement to Wildlife Program July 1, 2013
- Wildlife Program Policy Statement builds on existing MHPP policy by emphasizing the volunteer component

Wildlife Program Policy Statement for the MHPP (cont.)

- MHs are “Stewards of the Hunt” & give back to the wildlife resource
- Wildlife Program staff will work w/ the Master Hunter Advisory Group to:
 - I.D. meaningful MH volunteer opportunities that promote the conservation ethic & address priority needs of Wildlife Program & agency
 - Coordinate & manage MH volunteer efforts

Wildlife Program Policy Statement for the MHPP (cont.)

- Focus areas for volunteer projects:
 - Increasing hunter access to private lands
 - Increasing hunter recruitment & retention
 - Protection & enhancement of important habitats
 - Participation in Citizen Science wildlife data collection
 - Serving in an administrative or coordination role for a volunteer network

Wildlife Program Investments in MH Coordination

- New Hunter Education / Volunteer Coordinators
 - Region 3 / South Central Region, Yakima
 - Region 4 / North Puget Sound Region, Mill Creek
 - Region 6 / Coastal Region, Olympia
- These staff help coordinate agency projects with MHs & other volunteers
- RESULT: Increased volunteer opportunities for MHs to meet volunteer requirements

WDFW Contacts for Master Hunters

- **Tracy Loveless**
 - Customer Service, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8412, tracy.loveless@dfw.wa.gov
- **Kris Thorson**
 - MHPP Liaison, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8410, kristopher.thorson@dfw.wa.gov
- **Aaron Garcia**
 - Region 3 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Yakima
 - (509)575-2740, aaron.garcia@dfw.wa.gov
- **Steve Dazey**
 - Region 4 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Mill Creek
 - (425) 775-1311, steven.dazey@dfw.wa.gov
- **Bill Montgomery**
 - Region 6 Hunter Education and Volunteer coordinator, Olympia
 - (360) 902-8413, william.montgomery@dfw.wa.gov

Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG)

Carissa Craghead

MHAG Member and Secretary

Region 2, Moses Lake

Lance Ostrom

MHAG Member

Region 3, Selah



Why We're Here

- Provide information on the Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG)
- Support the goals of the MHPP & MHAG
- Promote the communication linkage between MHs and their regional MHAG representatives
- Help reinforce the goals of Elk Area 3911

Master Hunter Advisory Group

Role

- Represents Master Hunters statewide
- Consists of Master Hunters from each WDFW Region
- Advises WDFW on issues and opportunities affecting Master Hunters and the Master Hunter Permit Program
- Help WDFW conduct MH meetings targeting communities & stakeholders, to help resolve local issues & concerns

Mission Statement

- Develop a Corps of sportsmen dedicated to preserving the heritage of hunting by giving back to the sport, displaying the highest standards of conduct, and working to conserve wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity.

Master Hunter Advisory Group Strategic Plan

- Developed by WDFW and MHAG subgroup
- Adopted by MHAG
- Focus areas:
 - Youth Hunts
 - Education & training for new & existing hunters
 - Improving the image of Master Hunters & the MHPP

Master Hunter Advisory Group Strategic Plan

- Near-term Priorities:
 - Use MH skills & contacts to help develop hunting opportunities for youth, where there is a good chance of success.
 - Utilize MHs in educational events, such as hunting clinics, sports shows seminars, continuing education events, etc.
 - Make the benefits & accomplishments of the MHPP more visible to the hunting & general public

WDFW Goals for Elk Area 3911

Steven Wetzel

Wildlife Conflict Specialist

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Aaron Garcia

Hunter Education & Volunteer coordinator Region 3

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WDFW is Responsible For Managing Elk Damage to Crops on Private Land



WDFW Goals for 3911

- Manage the elk population
- Address agriculture damage by elk
- Move elk off private property
- Facilitate elk migration to winter range

Crop Damage



Irrigation Pipe



Fence Damage



WDFW Strategies to Meet Elk Area 3911 Goals

- Damage control hunts; MH general seasons & permit hunts August 1 – March 31
- Second tag for early MH general season to encourage early season hunting pressure & harvest
- Landowner permits
- Late MH general season & damage control permits
- Hazing

3911 Master Hunter General Seasons

- August 1st 2015 through December 15th 2015
 - Early Season: August 1 – October 30
 - Late Season: November 14 – December 15
- 3911 Season closed Oct 31 – Nov 14 (General Elk Season is Oct 31 – Nov 8)
- “Master Hunters who hunt in Elk Area 3911 during the August to October early master hunter season must purchase a master hunter, Elk Area 3911, second elk transport tag.” This tag can only be purchased from WDFW Licensing at 360-902-2464.
- Only one antlerless elk can be harvested in 3911 unless you are drawn for a special hunt permit

Special Hunts 2703 and 2704

Fairview and Region 3

Master Hunter Elk Hunts

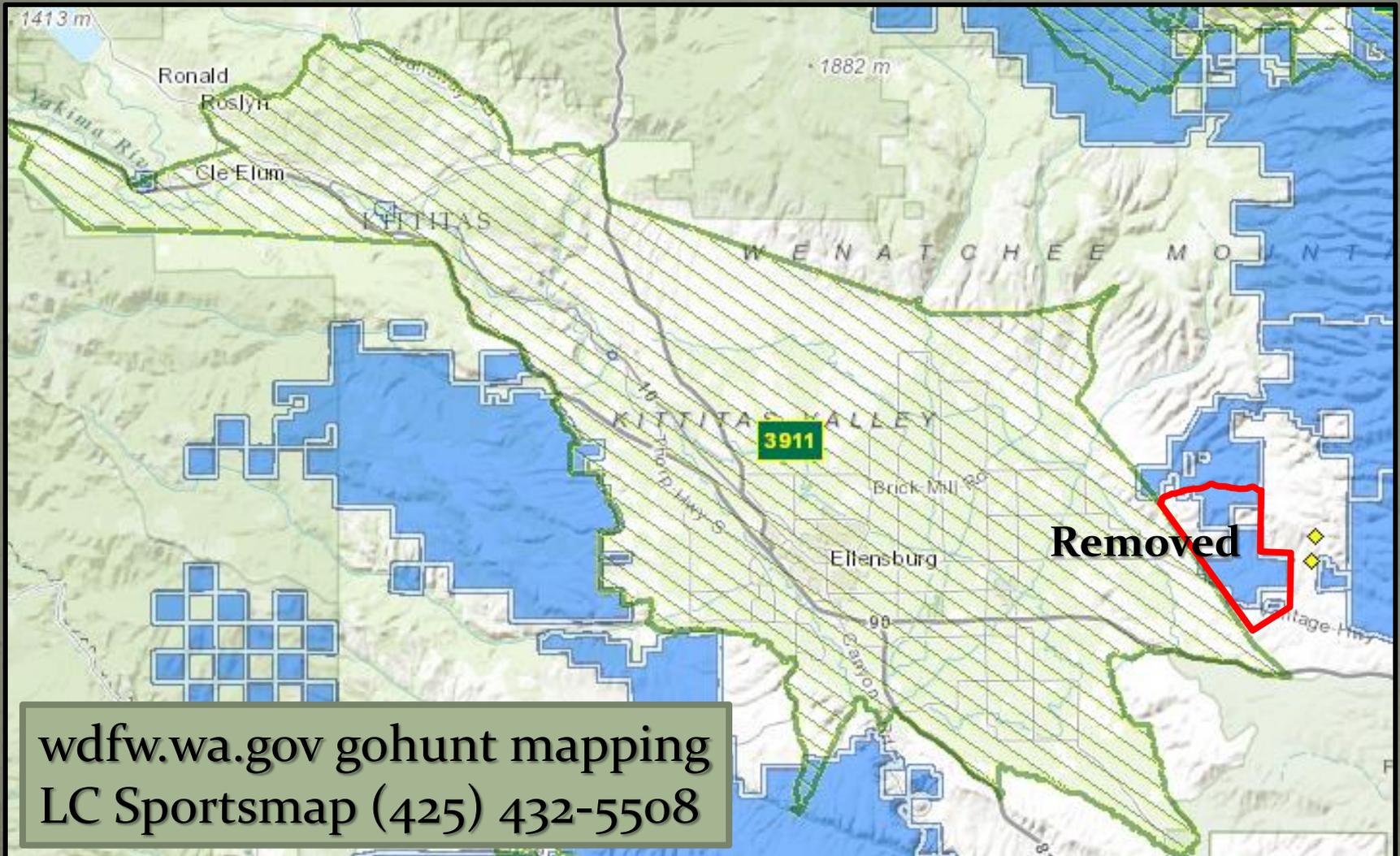
Hunt Number	Permits Issued	Start Date	End Date	Area
2703	40	November 1, 2015	March 31, 2016	GMU 328-368
2704	25	August 1, 2015	March 31, 2016	Region 3

- These are damage hunts administered by a WDFW designated Hunt Coordinator.
- Master Hunters called by list, in order. Must be available on short notice. Volunteer Hunt Coordinator is Steve Kiesel.

Landowner Specific Permits

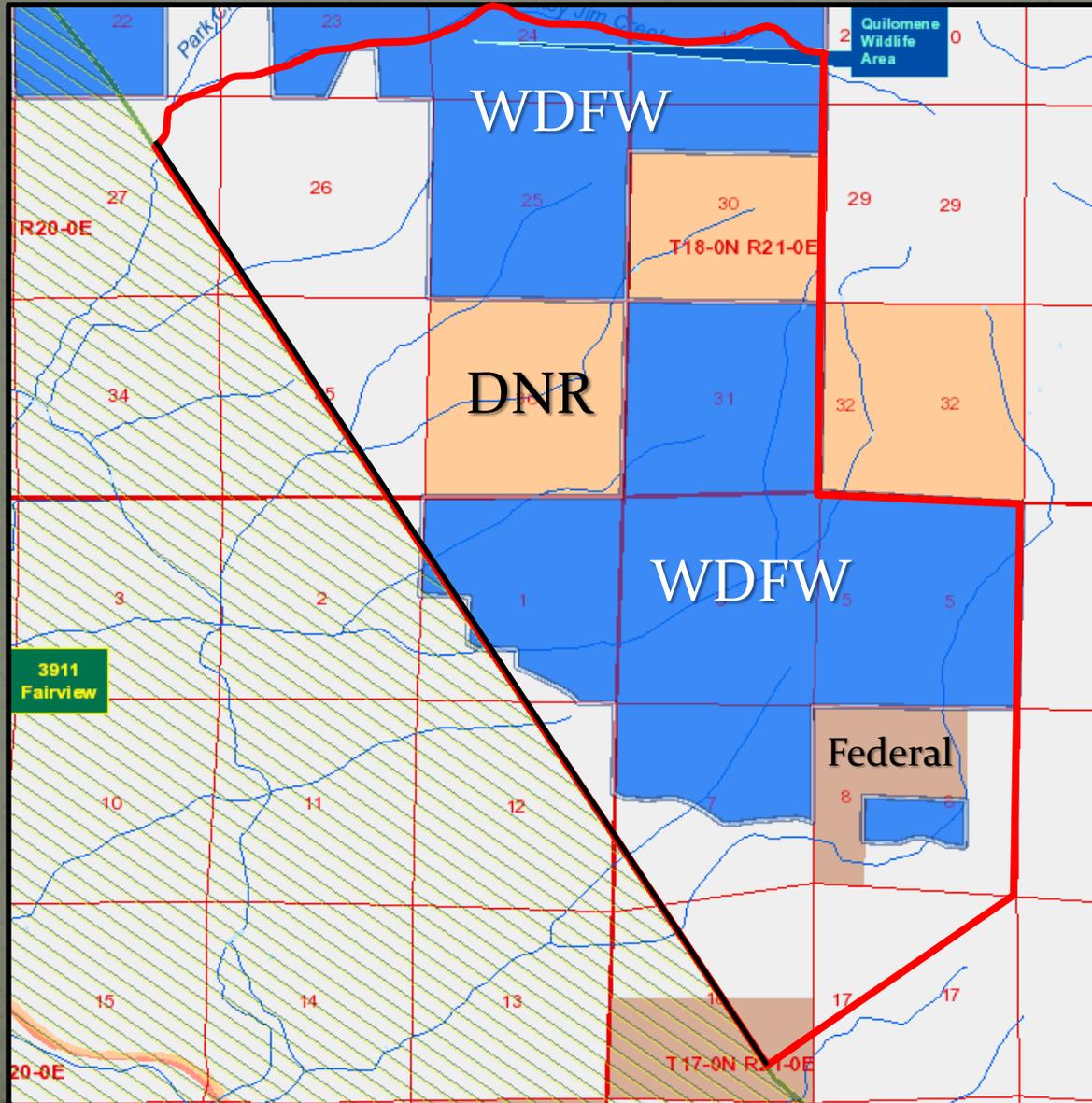
- Damage Prevention Permits
 - Issued to landowner
 - Landowner can harvest animal or select another licensed hunter
 - Landowner may charge and keep access fees
- Kill Permit
 - Only for landowner and immediate family

Elk Area 3911 / Fairview



wdfw.wa.gov gohunt mapping
LC Sportsmap (425) 432-5508

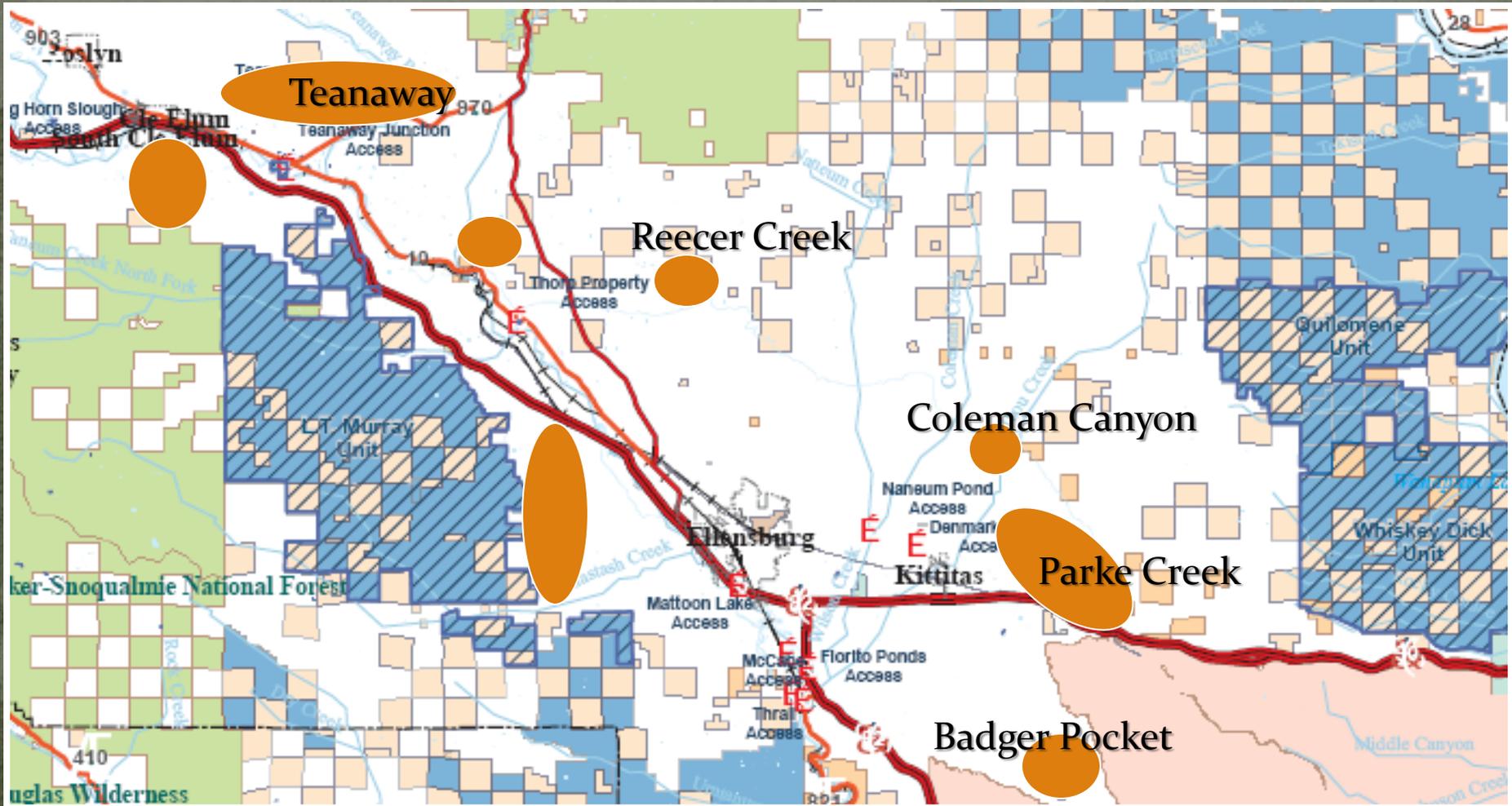
Parke Creek Area Boundary Change



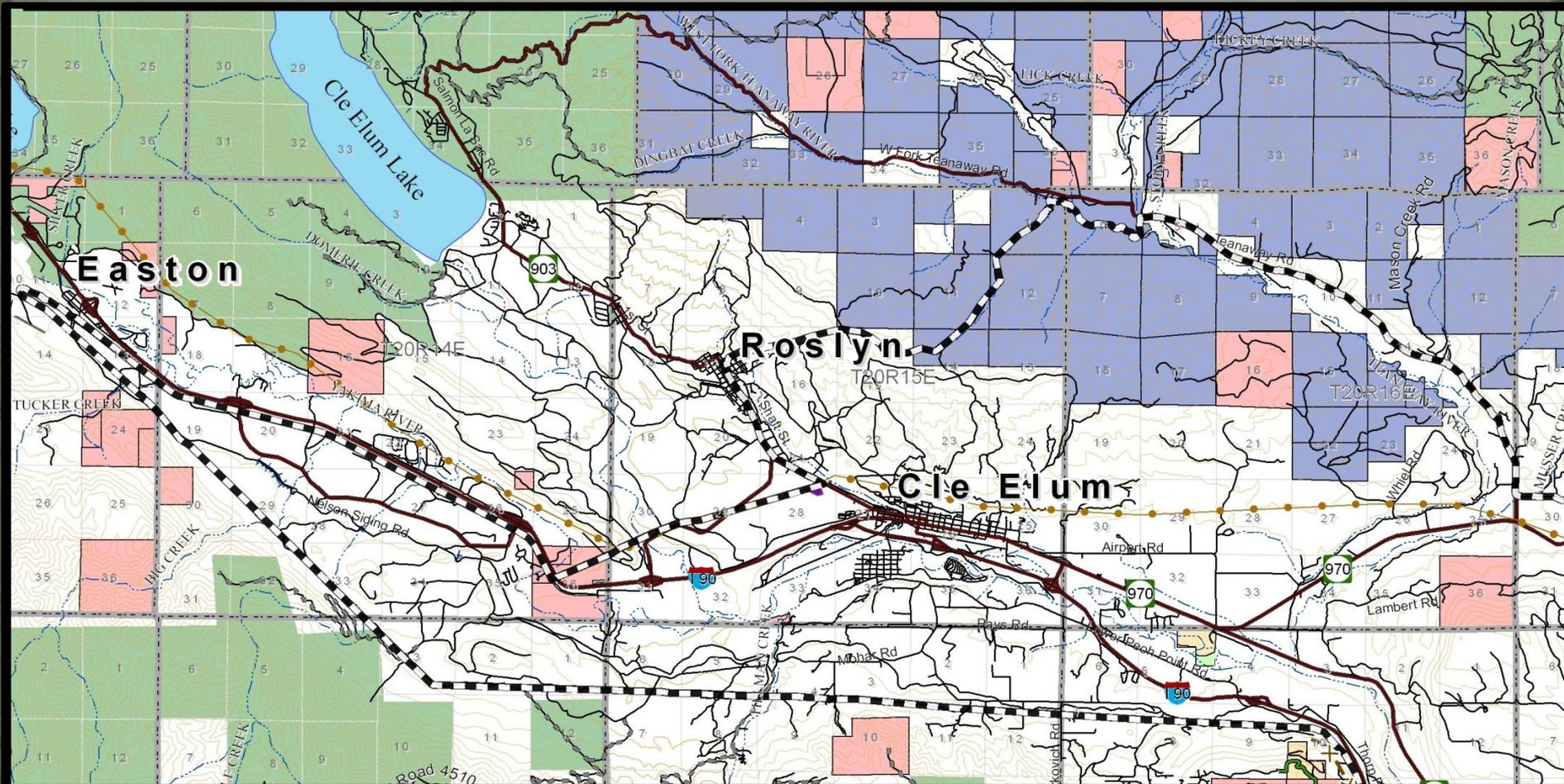
REASON FOR CHANGE:

- Elk in this area are out of the conflict & damage areas.
- We do not want to push them out of this area.

Kittitas County Elk Damage Hotspots

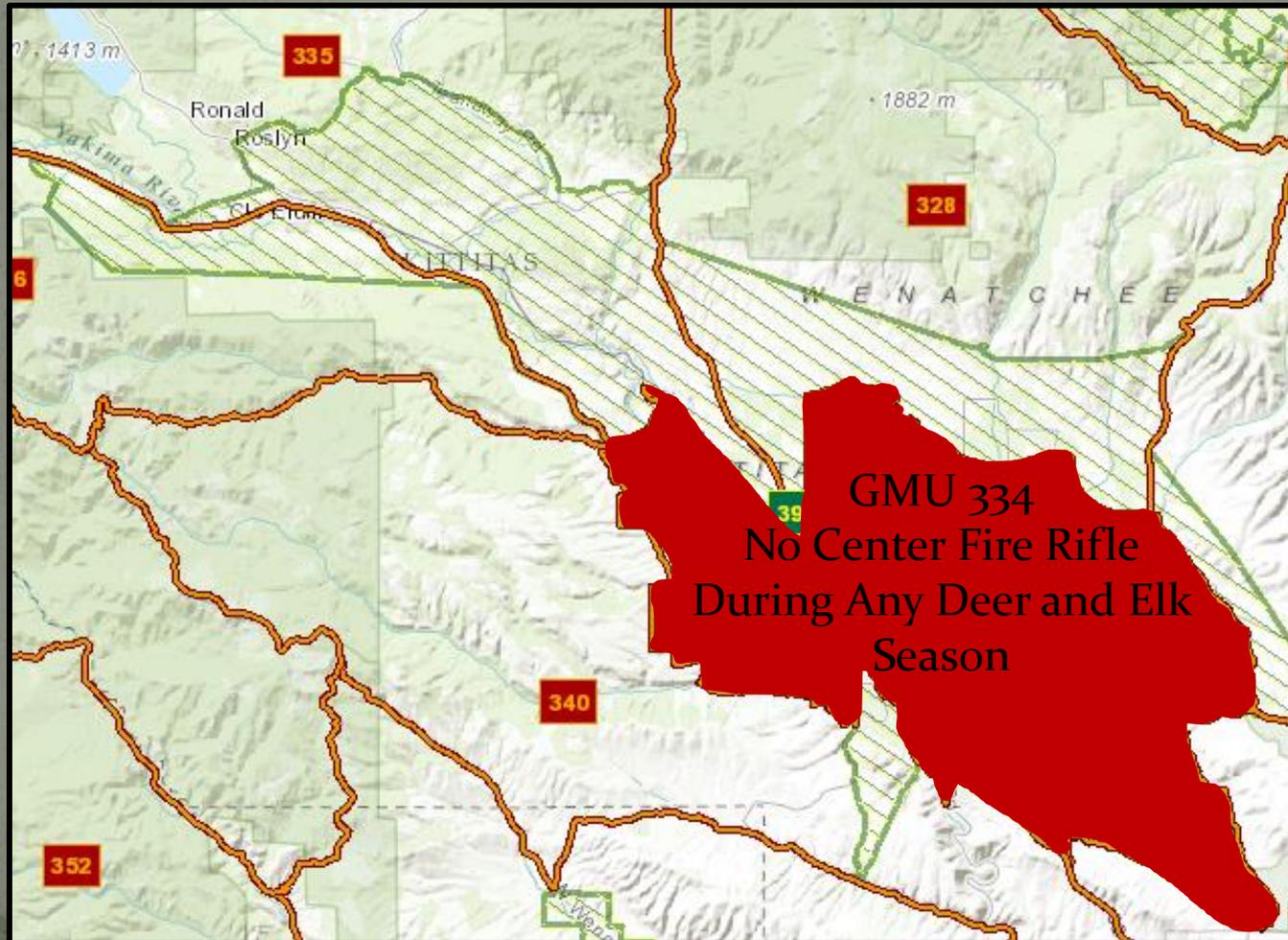


Elk Area 3911 - Upper Kittitas County



Firearm Restriction Area

GMU 334 Ellensburg Closed to Centerfire Rifles During any Deer and Elk Seasons



Private Lands Access

- Master Hunters are responsible for scouting and making landowner contacts, pre-season.
 - The WDFW will be posting elk activity updates to the website
- Volunteer projects for landowners in 3911 have been announced by email this year by Volunteer Coordinator Aaron Garcia
 - Contact Tracy Loveless in Olympia to make sure your email is correct in his database
 - If you don't live in Region 3, contact Aaron Garcia and have your email added to the 3911 list

REMEMBER -

- Landowners are not required to allow access for Master Hunters.
- Respect their wishes and requests.



Yakima Training Center

Restricted Access

Outdoor Recreation Access Policy:

- The Yakima Training Center (YTC) is open to the public for hunting, bird watching, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, falconry, archery target range, use of the Juvenile Fishing Pond, etc.
- Individuals visiting YTC for recreational purposes are required to comply with YTC Policy Statement #28, Outdoor Recreation.
- Recreational cards are issued to recreational visitors upon completion of a briefing.
- All recreational visitors to training areas are required to sign in/out with Range Operations prior to entering/departing training areas.

Yakima Training Center

Restricted Access

Visit:

- <http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/yakima/baseaccess.htm>
for more information on base activities and recreation.

Helpful Hints



- Check elk Activity updates on the MHPP webpage
- ID property owners through Kittitas County Assessor's web page
- Push animals away from croplands
- Pursue volunteer opportunities through WDFW Coordinator Aaron Garcia

Early MH General Season Challenges

- Hot weather
 - Personal safety – hydrate and watch for heat injuries
 - Have a plan for after the shot – need to immediately cool the meat
- Safety: Non-hunters, agricultural workers and general public in the field

Ethical (& *Legal*) Issues and 3911

- The most visible and well known Master Hunter general seasons
- Landowners in 3911 have experienced issues with Master Hunters such as expecting access to private land, trespassing to hunt or retrieve down elk, littering, gates not left as found, etc.
- The public watches and judges all Master Hunters by the actions they see; follow all the highest ethical standards

“Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching - even when doing the wrong thing is legal.”

— *Aldo Leopold*

“The Father of Wildlife Management”

Violation Examples



Captain Richard Mann
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Law Enforcement Program

Violation Examples



Violation Examples



Questions/Comments



Thank you for attending.
If you would like to receive emails about volunteer opportunities in 3911 make sure you have signed in and checked the box on the sign in sheet.