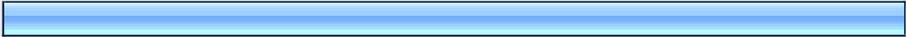
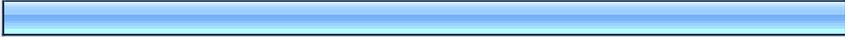
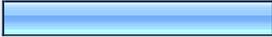
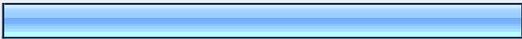


2009-2011 Hunting Season Alternatives

1. Have you hunted within the last 5 years?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			99.3%	4795
No			0.7%	33
			answered question	4828
			skipped question	152

2. Which of the following species have you hunted in the last 5 years?			Response Percent	Response Count
Deer			93.0%	4526
Elk			81.3%	3955
Bear			46.9%	2281
Cougar			36.1%	1758
Pheasant			27.2%	1325
Turkey			29.5%	1435
Forest Grouse			48.2%	2347
Waterfowl			25.9%	1258
Other			12.9%	629
			answered question	4866
			skipped question	114

3. If you hunted for deer in the last 5 years, which weapon type did you hunt with the most?			Response Percent	Response Count
Modern Firearm			70.3%	3212
Archery			19.9%	911
Muzzleloader			9.8%	447
			answered question	4570
			skipped question	410

4. If you hunted for elk in the last 5 years, which weapon type did you hunt with the most?			Response Percent	Response Count
Modern Firearm			57.2%	2291
Archery			26.6%	1063
Muzzleloader			16.2%	649
			answered question	4003
			skipped question	977

5. County of primary residence:			Response Percent	Response Count
Adams			0.4%	20
Asotin			0.5%	24
Benton			3.4%	168
Chelan			2.0%	99
Clallam			0.7%	33
Clark			7.2%	350
Columbia			0.7%	34
Cowlitz			3.8%	186
Douglas			1.0%	51
Ferry			0.7%	33
Franklin			0.9%	44
Garfield			0.2%	9
Grant			2.0%	97
Grays Harbor			1.5%	75
Island			1.1%	52
Jefferson			0.4%	18
King			10.9%	531
Kitsap			3.0%	148
Kittitas			2.3%	110
Klickitat			1.2%	57
Lewis			2.7%	131
Lincoln			0.9%	44
Mason			1.1%	55
Okanogan			1.9%	93
Pacific			0.9%	43

Pend Oreille		1.1%	53
Pierce		8.9%	436
San Juan		0.1%	6
Skagit		2.1%	100
Skamania		0.9%	42
Snohomish		7.5%	367
Spokane		9.4%	459
Stevens		3.8%	184
Thurston		3.7%	180
Wahkiakum		0.1%	7
Walla Walla		1.7%	85
Whatcom		1.8%	90
Whitman		1.1%	53
Yakima		5.5%	268
Other		0.8%	38
		<i>answered question</i>	4873
		<i>skipped question</i>	107

6. ISSUE 7A: Boundary problems for GMUs 578 (West Klickitat) and 388 (Grayback) BACKGROUND: 1) Current GMU 388 (Grayback) & GMU 578 (West Klickitat) boundary: a) Confusing boundary description; part of GMU 578 actually lies east of a good-sized portion of GMU 388. b) Fragments popular elk hunting area into “East” and “West”. c) Inappropriately groups western forested habitat with eastern agricultural and arid habitats. HUNTING SEASON RAMIFICATIONS OF BOUNDARY CHANGES: *Note that other potential Regional and Statewide changes implemented during the 2009-11 season-setting process could alter these ramifications. ELK HUNTING: -Areas in the “new” portion of 578 would be included in the “WEST” elk tag area. -Early Archery = No Significant Change -Late Archery = Areas in “new” portion of 578 would now be closed -Late Muzzleloader = Areas in the “new” portion of 578 would now be open DEER HUNTING: -***All user groups = “new” portions of 578 would be removed from the 3-Point or larger area for deer -***Modern Firearm = “new” portions of 578 would have longer general season and 2-point antler restriction -Early Muzzleloader = “new” portions of 578 would be open -***Late Muzzleloader = “new” portions of 578 would be open -Early Archery = No significant Change -Late Archery = “new” portions of 578 would be closed Do you support changing the mutual boundaries for these GMUs?**

	Support	Don't Support	No Preference	Response Count
GMUs 388 (Grayback) and 578 (West Klickitat) to the Klickitat River	34.7% (1527)	8.4% (368)	57.0% (2511)	4406
			Comments:	215
			<i>answered question</i>	4405
			<i>skipped question</i>	575

7. ISSUE 7B: Boundary problems for 574 (Wind River) and 578 (West Klickitat) BACKGROUND: 1) Current GMU 578 (West Klickitat) and GMU 574 (Wind River) boundary: a) Confusing boundary; uses high elevation USFS roads that are difficult to travel and impassible in winter. b) Essentially identical hunting opportunities and management issues. HUNTING SEASON RAMIFICATIONS OF BOUNDARY CHANGES: *Note that other potential Regional and Statewide changes implemented during the 2009-11 season-setting process could alter these ramifications. ELK HUNTING: No significant change in elk hunting opportunity for any user group DEER HUNTING: -Early Muzzleloader = “new” portions of 574 would be closed -***Late Muzzleloader = “new” portions of 574 would be closed -Modern Firearm = No Significant change -Archery = No Significant change Do you support changing the mutual boundaries for these GMUs?**

	Support	Don't Support	No Preference	Response Count
GMUs 578 (West Klickitat) and 574 (Wind River) to State Route 141	29.0% (1247)	9.6% (413)	61.4% (2644)	4304
			Comments:	102
			<i>answered question</i>	4304
			<i>skipped question</i>	676

8. ISSUE 7C: Boundary problems for GMUs 568 (Washougal) and 574 (Wind River) BACKGROUND: 1) Current GMU 574 (Wind River) and GMU 568 (Washougal) boundary: a) Confusing boundary; uses decommissioned USFS roads, the USFS boundary (nothing physically present), and requires cross-country navigation to find the boundary. b) Very similar hunting regulations for deer and elk hunting. HUNTING SEASON RAMIFICATIONS OF BOUNDARY CHANGES: *Note that other potential Regional and Statewide changes implemented during the 2009-11 season-setting process could alter these ramifications. ELK HUNTING: - Late Muzzleloader = Areas in “new” portion of 568 would have a longer season -Modern Firearm and Archery = No significant changes to hunting opportunities for these user groups DEER HUNTING: -Modern Firearm = areas in “new” portion of 568 would have general late buck season -Early Muzzleloader = areas in the “new” portion of 568 would be open -Early Archery = areas in the “new” portion of 568 would have a bag limit of any deer instead of 2-point buck -Late Archery = No change Do you support changing the mutual boundaries for these GMUs?**

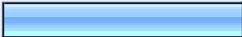
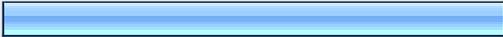
	Support	Don't Support	No Preference	Response Count
GMUs 574 (Wind River) and 568 (Washougal) to the Wind River Highway	37.7% (1596)	5.0% (211)	57.3% (2425)	4232
			Comments:	82
			<i>answered question</i>	4232
			<i>skipped question</i>	748

9. ISSUE 9: Combining GMU 490 (Cedar River) with GMU 460 (Snoqualmie) in King County BACKGROUND: GMU 490 is a unit that includes the entire exterior boundary of the City of Seattle’s Cedar River Watershed (a municipal water supply source). GMU 490 was created when the Washington Department of Game believed that the City of Seattle would allow a special permit hunt in the Cedar River Watershed. WDFW has attempted to initiate a hunt in the Cedar River Watershed for over 20 years, but the City of Seattle Water Department will not allow hunter access. GMU 490 is now open to access for members of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (which includes access for hunting) by agreement with the City of Seattle. The City still will not allow non-tribal hunter access to GMU 490. WDFW has special permits for deer and elk in the neighboring Green River Watershed (GMU 485) where the City of Tacoma Water Department maintains access for controlled access special permit hunts for non-tribal and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe hunters. GMU 490 is a stand alone Game Management Unit with closed seasons, which is confusing for many state hunters. Any hunter that strays into GMU 490 can be charged with “hunting closed season,” a more severe penalty than trespass. Private landowners in Washington control access to privately owned properties. Public watersheds provide their own security for their water supply. A hunter closure in GMU 490 puts WDFW in the position of promulgating and enforcing access restrictions to the watershed rather than the city. Such access restrictions are the responsibility of the landowner. The boundaries of the Cedar River Watershed are well marked and the City of Seattle already has security personnel to manage trespass and access. The Fish and Wildlife Commission routinely gets requests from private landowners, municipalities, and local governments to close hunting for their particular lands. The Commission sets general seasons. Local law enforcement and WDFW enforcement respond to trespass complaints. It is not a good precedent to have a hunting closure simply for access control purposes and no conservation objective. There is no biological reason to maintain the unit. Telemetry studies have demonstrated that the elk and deer move between the adjacent GMUs and spend significant time in GMU 460. The forest habitat in the Cedar River Watershed no longer supports a large population of elk or deer. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

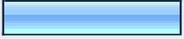
		Response Percent	Response Count
Combine GMU 490 with GMU 460.		21.3%	882
Remove state closure for GMU 490.		22.0%	911

No change.		4.7%	195
No preference.		48.5%	2003
Comments:		3.5%	143
		answered question	4134
		skipped question	846

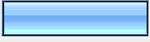
10. ISSUE 17: Opening Day of General Cougar Season BACKGROUND: The current statewide cougar season opens on August 1 and ends on March 15. The Department has received concerns from hunters that it's too hot in late Summer and early Fall and the spoilage risk of harvested cougars is high. If the opening date is moved later the end date would not change. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
September 1 opener		26.1%	1097
No Change; retain August 1 opener		55.2%	2321
No Preference		18.7%	787
		Comments:	237
		answered question	4205
		skipped question	775

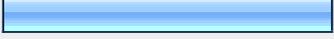
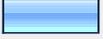
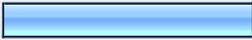
11. ISSUE 19: Loss of General Cougar Season Opportunity in Areas that Allow Hunting with Dogs BACKGROUND: In areas with the new permit-only hound hunt seasons, general cougar seasons (without the use of dogs) were substantially reduced (from August 1-March 15 to September 1-November 30). Many hunters are concerned that the September 1-November 30 season does not provide late season hunting opportunity for general hunters without dogs. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Allow hunters with or without the use of dogs to apply for the permit-only seasons from Dec. 1-Mar. 31).		44.5%	1871
Set aside some GMUs for cougar hunting without dogs from Dec. 1-Mar. 31.		19.2%	807
No change; only hound hunters with permits can hunt from Dec. 1-Mar. 31.		9.3%	389
No preference.		21.8%	918
Comments:		5.2%	217
	<i>answered question</i>		4202
	<i>skipped question</i>		778

12. ISSUE 23: Low Deer Population in GMU 388 BACKGROUND: Several factors suggest a suppressed deer population in GMU 388, indicating a need for more conservative harvest on female deer. These factors are: -Spring survey trends have shown a decline in population. -Buck harvest remains below historic levels. -Hairloss Syndrome is documented in at least 10% of wintering deer. Archers take the majority of antlerless deer in GMU 388. Opportunity for antlerless harvest by modern firearm hunters has already been reduced. Antlerless opportunity is only allowed by special permit for modern firearm hunters. Removal of antlerless deer hunting opportunity from other areas has attracted hunters to GMU 388. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

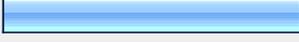
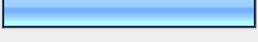
		Response Percent	Response Count
Reduce late archery antlerless general season opportunity in GMU 388; offer late archery antlerless permits if appropriate.		61.1%	2513
No change; allow both an early and a late archery season allowing 3 pt. min. and antlerless.		15.7%	645
No Preference		23.3%	957
Comments:			182
<i>answered question</i>			4115
<i>skipped question</i>			865

13. ISSUE 24: Antler Restrictions in GMUs 574 (Wind River) & 578 (West Klickitat) Don't Seem to be Having a Positive Effect
BACKGROUND: Both GMUs are currently managed under a 2-point minimum antler restriction. This is not a biologically sound approach for management of these deer. Approximately 60% of yearling bucks in this area are 2-points and about 10% of adult deer have only spike antlers. This strategy may encourage breeding by smaller-antlered bucks. The current antler restriction takes away harvest opportunity for the hunters that would take spikes. The excellent escape cover and low road density in GMU 574 means that antler restrictions aren't necessary. Less forested habitats of GMU 578 may still need some restrictions to achieve buck escapement goals. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

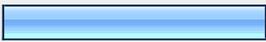
		Response Percent	Response Count
Change GMU 578 to 3-point minimum and change GMU 574 to any buck.		36.0%	1466
Change GMUs 574 and 578 to any buck.		26.5%	1079
No change, continue with 2-point minimum antler restrictions for both GMUs.		10.1%	412
No preference.		27.4%	1117
		Comments:	109
		<i>answered question</i>	4074
		<i>skipped question</i>	906

14. ISSUE 26: GMU 578 (West Klickitat) is Not Achieving Deer Population Objectives BACKGROUND: Muzzleloader hunters harvest approximately 30% of deer in this GMU. Much of Klickitat County is important wintering deer habitat. Changes are proposed to GMU 578. If the proposed changes are adopted, a new area of GMU 578 will include important deer wintering areas. Liberal, late, general muzzleloader season compromises ability to achieve post-season buck to doe ratios. Attractive liberal, late season draws hunters from other portions of the state. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer?

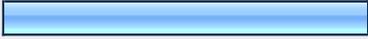
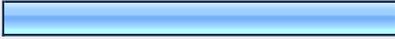
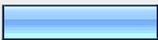
ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Reduce late muzzleloader season in GMU 578 to an 8-day season (December 1-8, 2009, 2010, and 2011).		25.7%	1043
Change late muzzleloader season in GMU 578 to special permit only.		32.7%	1326
No change, retain a 15-day late muzzleloader season in GMU 578.		13.9%	565
No preference.		27.7%	1122
		Comments:	115
		answered question	4056
		skipped question	924

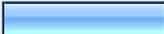
15. ISSUE 28: Effectiveness of Antlerless White-tailed Deer Special Permits in Northeast Washington BACKGROUND: The Department is considering making antlerless special permits for white-tailed deer more effective. Currently, 15-20% of hunters who receive a conventional special permit for antlerless deer, kill a buck during the general season rather than a doe with their permit. Antlerless white-tailed deer permits might be more effective if they were offered as 2nd deer antlerless permits. In a given year, the total number of antlerless permits might be lower under a second deer strategy. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change all antlerless, whitetailed deer special permits to 2nd deer permits.		50.5%	2036
No change; retain some conventional Antlerless special permits and some 2nd deer Antlerless special permits for white-tailed deer in Northeast Washington.		28.8%	1160
No preference.		20.7%	833
		Comments:	209
		<i>answered question</i>	4029
		<i>skipped question</i>	951

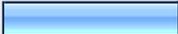
16. ISSUE 29: Extending the Late White-tailed Deer Season in Northeast Washington to Include the Sunday Before Thanksgiving
BACKGROUND: Currently, every year the late (November) modern firearm general season for white-tailed deer ends on November 19 to avoid hunting the peak of the rut and over harvesting bucks when they are at their most vulnerable. This proposal would extend the late season through the last Sunday before Thanksgiving. In 2009 the season would run through Sunday, November 22; for 2010 the season would end on Sunday, November 21; & in 2011 the season would end on Sunday, November 20. If implemented, this would likely increase the overall harvest of white-tailed bucks due to their increased vulnerability during the peak of the rut. Higher harvest levels on white-tailed bucks in northeastern Washington may not be sustainable; consequently, the average harvest success per hunter may decline substantially over time. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change the late modern firearm closing date for white-tailed deer to the last Sunday before Thanksgiving. This would extend the late season by 3 days in 2009, by 2 days in 2010, and by 1 day in 2011.		40.1%	1621
No change, retain the Nov. 19 closing date for late season modern firearm white-tailed deer.		43.3%	1752
No preference.		16.6%	673
		Comments:	183
		<i>answered question</i>	4046
		<i>skipped question</i>	934

17. ISSUE 30: White-tailed Deer Antler Point Restriction in Northeast Washington BACKGROUND: This is a long-standing proposal, county commissioners and some hunting groups feel that an antler restriction would increase trophy buck harvest and stimulate the local economy. Currently, the general rule for all hunting methods in northeastern Washington allows for the harvest of any antlered white-tailed deer. An antler point restriction would likely increase the average age of harvested white-tailed bucks. Most yearlings and other bucks with fewer than 3 or 4 antler points on the high side would be protected until they live longer and grow larger antlers with more points. An antler point restriction might increase white-tailed buck escapement for yearlings, but likely at a significantly reduced overall buck harvest. An antler point restriction might increase the buck to doe ratio in the white-tailed population. In a recently conducted hunter opinion survey, 44% of hunters support a 3-point minimum antler restriction for white-tailed deer, while 42% oppose. An antler point restriction in northeast Washington might reduce hunter participation, as seen in other areas where similar restrictions were implemented. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Implement an antler point restriction for white-tailed deer for all user groups in GMUs 105-124.		32.3%	1277
Implement an antler point restriction for white-tailed deer for all user groups in one or two northeast Washington GMUs.		17.5%	691
No change; retain the any white-tailed buck season.		34.0%	1342
No preference.		16.2%	638
		Comments:	308
		<i>answered question</i>	3948
		<i>skipped question</i>	1032

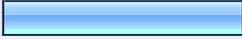
18. If an antler point restriction is implemented, would you suggest a 3 or 4 point restriction?

		Response Percent	Response Count
3		64.8%	2256
4		16.3%	568
No Preference		18.9%	659
		Comments:	189
		<i>answered question</i>	3483
		<i>skipped question</i>	1497

19. ISSUE 34: Mule Deer Antler Point Restrictions BACKGROUND: The current 3-point antler restriction for mule deer buck hunting seasons varies in its effectiveness. The intent of the restriction is to provide adequate survival of a cross section of age classes, including yearling bucks, through the hunting season. The effectiveness of this antler restriction is related to how open the habitat is, as well as whether the local mule deer populations are migratory or relatively stationary. In some places where habitat is open and bucks are highly vulnerable, WDFW research has shown that 90% of 1.5 year-old bucks that exhibit a legal buck antler configuration are killed. In many of these same locations, bucks surviving past the hunting season are made up entirely of yearling bucks. In these situations, different hunting season structures might be more effective in producing older age classes, given the habitat and the local mule deer population dynamics. In some Districts, the current 3-point minimum antler restriction would continue to be used. In other Districts, other approaches to hunting season structure might be necessary. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change one PMU to 2 point or less, with mature mule deer bucks by special permit only, and monitor for three years.		46.2%	1836
No change; retain 3 point antler restriction for all mule deer hunting.		41.8%	1659
No preference.		12.0%	477
		Comments:	258
		<i>answered question</i>	3971
		<i>skipped question</i>	1009

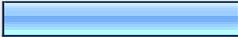
20. ISSUE 25: Allocate Hunting Opportunity in GMU 381 to Muzzleloaders Instead of Archers BACKGROUND: Many requests have been received from hunters for a late muzzleloader season. Few GMUs in eastern Washington offer late muzzleloader general deer seasons. A late muzzleloader season existed before 2006, but was eliminated to allow establishment of the late archery season. Archers have not responded in significant numbers since the establishment of the late archery season. Dryland wheat/CRP provides little cover for archers (i.e., shots are too far). Archers prefer to hunt elsewhere during rut. Overall, hunter participation has declined since the change was made. Adding a late muzzleloader general season would require eliminating the late archery general season to prevent overlap of seasons. A late muzzleloader general season would increase pressure on migratory deer that generate crop damage complaints. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Eliminate early muzzleloader and late archery and add a 3-point minimum late muzzleloader general season (November 20-30, for 2009, 2010, and 2011).		29.5%	1170
Create a 3-point minimum late muzzleloader season that would overlap with the current late archery season.		27.5%	1091
No change; retain early and late archery season and early muzzleloader season.		16.8%	665
No preference.		26.3%	1042
		Comments:	132
		<i>answered question</i>	3968
		<i>skipped question</i>	1012

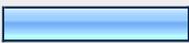
21. ISSUE 33: Late Season Muzzleloader Opportunity for Mule Deer in the following Chelan County GMUs: 243 (Manson), 245 (Chiwawa), 246 (Slide Ridge), 247 (Entiat), 250 (Swakane), and 251 (Mission). BACKGROUND: Chelan County’s late season special mule deer buck permits are highly valued by hunters of all three methods. Muzzleloader late buck permit opportunities have been limited to only one GMU within the Wenatchee District. Muzzleloader hunters continue to express interest in hunting opportunities in other late buck permit GMUs in Chelan County. Almost all muzzleloader permit opportunity within the Wenatchee District has been for antlerless deer. Muzzleloader opportunities constitute only 1% of the late season special mule deer buck permits in Chelan County. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Offer late season muzzleloader permits for mule deer bucks in GMUs 243, 245, 246, 247, 250, and 251.		39.1%	1534
No change; provide the bulk of the late season special permit opportunity to modern firearm and archery hunters.		27.3%	1070
No preference.		33.6%	1320
		Comments:	116
		<i>answered question</i>	3924
		<i>skipped question</i>	1056

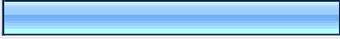
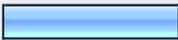
22. ISSUE 35A: GMUs Open for Muzzleloader General Season Deer Hunting BACKGROUND: Muzzleloader hunter participation is lower than modern firearm and archery, most likely because the opportunities provided are not as widespread or as long. The average percentage of deer hunters that participated in muzzleloader season for the years 2001-2006 was 6.1% (range 5.0% to 6.8%). During the same period, the average percentage of deer hunters that participated in modern firearm season was 81.2% (range 79.0% to 83.5%) and the average percentage of deer hunters that participated in archery season was 12.6% (range 11.5% to 13.9%). Currently, 80 GMUs offer some form of muzzleloader general season deer hunting opportunity compared to 130 GMUs for archery (94% of total) and 132 GMUs for modern firearm (96% of total). Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Open 90% of the GMUs in each District to muzzleloader general season deer hunting.		25.8%	1002
Open 80% of the GMUs in each District to muzzleloader general season deer hunting.		17.0%	661
No change; retain 58% of the GMUs open to muzzleloader general season deer hunting (80 GMUs), statewide.		38.2%	1486
No preference.		19.0%	741
		Comments:	178
		<i>answered question</i>	3890
		<i>skipped question</i>	1090

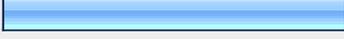
23. ISSUE 35B: Providing More Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Time **BACKGROUND:** One way to improve the muzzleloader deer season is to eliminate or reduce the overlap between muzzleloader deer season and muzzleloader elk season and provide a longer time period with two weekends. Currently, both early muzzleloader deer and early muzzleloader elk seasons are the same time in early October, it is 7 days in length, and it includes 1 weekend. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer?
ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Open muzzleloader deer the last Saturday in September and close the first Sunday in October. Archery hunting would be closed during this time to avoid overlap.		21.1%	813
Open muzzleloader deer October 1 and close the Friday before the modern firearm opener.		23.4%	901
No change; retain muzzleloader deer and elk overlap with 7-day season that includes one weekend.		35.4%	1365
No preference.		20.2%	777
		Comments:	124
		<i>answered question</i>	3856
		<i>skipped question</i>	1124

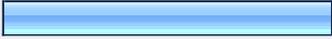
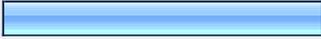
24. ISSUE 35C: Providing More Muzzleloader Elk Hunting Time **BACKGROUND:** One way to improve the muzzleloader elk season is to lengthen the current season. For the 2009-2011 hunting seasons, this could be accomplished by always opening the season on October 1 and closing before the modern firearm deer season opener (which opens on the Saturday after October 10). The 2009 season would close on October 11, the 2010 season would close on October 10, and the 2011 season would close on October 9. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Open muzzleloader elk on October 1 and close before modern firearm deer season opens.		44.0%	1715
No change; retain muzzleloader deer and elk overlap with 7 day season that includes one weekend.		36.9%	1439
No preference.		19.1%	745
Comments:			137
answered question			3899
skipped question			1081

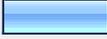
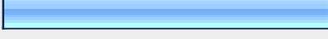
25. ISSUE 39: Management Alternatives for Bull Elk in GMUs 568 (Washougal), 574 (Wind River), 578 (West Klickitat), & 388 (Antler Restrictions) **BACKGROUND:** The Department has received requests from the public for more conservative bull elk hunting in the “Gorge” GMUs. The current season structure is “Any Elk” for all user groups. Currently, the Department is managing the area for deer opportunities. A change is not needed for conservation reasons. If a change is made, the liberal antlerless elk seasons for all user groups would continue. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change GMUs 568, 574, 578, and 388 to 3-point minimum for bull elk.		30.9%	1193
No change.		37.5%	1448
No preference.		31.6%	1218
Comments:			75
answered question			3859
skipped question			1121

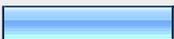
26. ISSUE 40: Timing of Modern Firearm General Elk Season in the Yakima and Colockum Areas **BACKGROUND:** Some hunters have suggested that we could improve hunting conditions and increase elk harvest by adopting a later season framework, which would increase the chances of the general season overlapping with winter storms and elk migration. The current modern firearm general elk season in the Yakima and Colockum areas is October 25 - November 2. Later seasons might result in improved hunting conditions because of weather, more elk activity, increased hunter success, and increased hunter satisfaction. Hunting pressure might increase as hunters move in from other parts of eastern Washington. There might be an increase in harvest of yearling bulls, increased success on “any bull” permits, and increased success on antlerless permits. Hunter crowding would increase as high elevation areas become inaccessible and elk concentrate at lower elevations. Season length would decrease to ensure adequate spike survival. The number of bull permits would decrease to maintain bull:cow ratios. The number of antlerless permits would decrease to meet population objectives. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<p>Change the modern firearm elk general season in the Yakima and Colockum areas to November 1-9 for 2009; October 30 - November 7 for 2010; and October 29 - November 6 for 2011.</p> 		36.1%	1399
<p>No change; retain the current season timing during the last week of October.</p> 		34.8%	1350
<p>No preference.</p> 		29.1%	1128
Comments:			141
<i>answered question</i>			3877
<i>skipped question</i>			1103

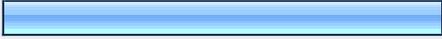
27. ISSUE 71: Changing the Season Structure for GMUs 524 (Margaret) & 556 (Toutle) from Permit Only to General Season
BACKGROUND: Currently, GMUs 524 & 556 are managed as desirable quality elk hunts in southwest Washington. Both GMU bull hunts have a high number of applicants. Antlerless hunting opportunities currently exist in these two GMUs. Changing these GMUs from permit only to general season would lose the quality elk hunt opportunity in southwest Washington. Changing these GMUs from permit only to a general season would need to be a gradual change; increasing permits slowly over a period of three years before reaching a general season entry. Changing to general season would provide additional land for more general hunter access, potentially reducing hunting pressure in adjoining GMUs. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change both GMUs from permit only to general season.		18.0%	688
Consider changing to general season in GMUs 524 and 556, while also changing one of the current public land dominated GMUs to permit only (e.g., the old Marble unit).		5.6%	215
Change one of the GMUs to general season and retain the other as permit only.		11.4%	435
No change; retain permit only in GMUs 524 and 556.		29.3%	1120
No preference.		35.8%	1369
		Comments:	191
		<i>answered question</i>	3827
		<i>skipped question</i>	1153

28. ISSUE 45: Low Bull Survival in the Colockum Elk Herd BACKGROUND: In recent history, the Colockum elk herd has consistently been below post-hunt population objectives for bulls. One aspect of this problem is low yearling bull survival. The post-hunt population objective is 12-20 bulls per 100 cows. The Colockum herd has averaged less than 9 bulls per 100 cows in recent years and is not meeting the bull to cow ratio objective. A high percentage of Colockum yearling bulls have antlers that branch and fork. By only allowing harvest of yearling bulls with a single antler point on both sides, we may be able to improve yearling survival and ultimately the post-hunt bull objectives. Other approaches to improving yearling bull survival might include more road closures or switching to a special permit only hunting season for bulls, including spikes, for the Colockum elk herd. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change the legal bull description for the general season in the Colockum to 1x1 spike bulls only. Spike bulls with antlers that fork or branch would not be legal to kill.		25.0%	957
Switch to special permits only for bulls in the Colockum, including spikes. No general season bull hunting would be allowed.		33.3%	1272
No change in spike only management; rely on road management to improve bull survival over time.		18.6%	711
No preference.		23.1%	883
		Comments:	292
		<i>answered question</i>	3823
		<i>skipped question</i>	1157

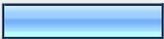
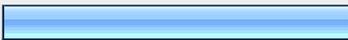
29. ISSUE 46: Reduce Antlerless Elk Hunting in Northeast Washington BACKGROUND: Some people have indicated they would like to see an emphasis put on managing for more elk in Northeast Washington. Hunting regulations for elk in the Northeast are fairly aggressive in some GMUs. Any elk including antlerless (cows & calves) are currently legal for all hunting methods, within GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121. This proposal is to change the legal elk from “any elk” to “any bull,” which is defined as a bull with visible antlers. Antlerless elk hunting would be by special permit only in GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121. If implemented, this measure might help accelerate an increase of the elk population within GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121, if the habitat conditions continue to be favorable. Elk damage issues may increase if elk are allowed to increase in these GMUs. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Switch antlerless elk hunting in GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121 from general season to permit only for all three hunting methods.		48.2%	1860
No change; retain the current rule that allows for taking any elk within GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121.		28.1%	1083
No preference.		23.7%	915
		Comments:	132
		<i>answered question</i>	3858
		<i>skipped question</i>	1122

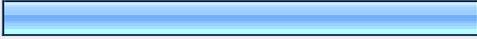
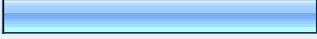
30. ISSUE 47: Modern Firearm Elk General Season Length in Western Washington BACKGROUND: In the last 3-year package (2006-2008), WDFW added an additional day to the modern firearm general elk season in western Washington, increasing the season from nine days to ten days. The Department committed to evaluate the results of lengthening the season. Initial analysis of the first two years of data, does not indicate an obvious change in bull harvest or a measurable change in post-hunt bull ratios. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Add 1 day to the current season (closing on a Tuesday) and monitor for three years.		9.2%	353
Add 2 days to the current season (closing on a Wednesday) and monitor for three years.		34.4%	1322
No change, retain the 10 day season (closing on Monday) and continue to monitor.		34.7%	1333
No preference.		21.8%	839
		Comments:	113
		<i>answered question</i>	3847
		<i>skipped question</i>	1133

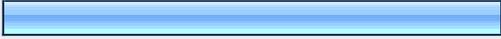
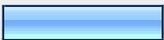
31. ISSUE 69: Wild Turkey Early Fall Season Overlaps BACKGROUND: The turkey populations in northeast and southeast Washington and Klickitat County have expanded over the past 10 years. Additional hunting opportunity is not a population concern. For the last several years the early fall turkey season in northeastern and southeastern Washington and Klickitat County has been held from the 4th Saturday in September through the first few days of October (ranges from 7-14 days depending on the year). Currently, the season overlaps the latter part of archery deer season. In order to expand the early fall turkey season, additional season overlaps would be necessary. The recent public scoping survey showed that archery, muzzleloader, and turkey hunters support adding days to overlap muzzleloader seasons, but do not support overlapping modern firearm season. This is not a discussion about whether turkey hunting with rifles should be allowed. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<p>Longer season; 4th Saturday in September through muzzleloader deer and elk season. Season will vary from 14-21 days (2-3 weekends).</p> 		44.6%	1718
<p>No change; 4th Saturday in September through the day before muzzleloader season. Season will vary from 7-14 days (1-2 weekends).</p> 		17.2%	662
<p>No preference.</p> 		38.2%	1469
		Comments:	75
		<i>answered question</i>	3849
		<i>skipped question</i>	1131

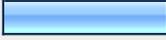
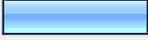
32. ISSUE 70: Wild Turkey Late Fall Season from Permit Only to General Season Hunt BACKGROUND: In an effort to control turkey population growth in northeast Washington, a permit only late fall turkey season has been held from November 20 – December 15 since 2006. Permit only hunting was chosen so the level of hunting pressure for this new opportunity would be controlled. For the first two years, there were fewer permit applicants than permits available (800). Permit only hunting limits participation by the local community, including landowners who may want to use hunting to help address their nuisance issue. Ideally, the late fall hunt will target turkeys on private lands. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
General season; change from permit only to general season and retain the November 20 - December 15 season.		52.3%	2002
No change; continue permit only hunting November 20 - December 15 in GMUs 101-124.		13.2%	507
No preference.		34.5%	1320
		Comments:	76
		<i>answered question</i>	3829
		<i>skipped question</i>	1151

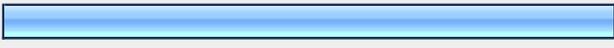
33. ISSUE 48: Bullet Types Allowed When Hunting with a Muzzleloader BACKGROUND: Many muzzleloader hunters have requested fewer restrictions on projectiles. Results of a recent scoping survey indicated that of the muzzleloaders responding, 56% supported expanding the allowed bullet types and 27% did not support. Current law requires muzzleloader hunters to use lead projectiles. A muzzleloading firearm used for deer must fire a single, non-jacketed lead projectile of nominal 40 caliber or larger, except buckshot size #1 or larger may be used in a smoothbore of 60 caliber or larger. A muzzleloading firearm used for all other big game must fire a single, nonjacketed lead projectile of nominal 50 caliber or larger, or fire a single, nonjacketed lead projectile of at least 170 grains. Muzzleloader bullets available on the current market provide a wide variety of well-constructed projectiles designed to improve penetration and make quick, humane kills. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Allow any bullet type, made up of any material.		54.8%	2120
No change; retain the lead requirement for muzzleloader projectiles.		28.0%	1085
No preference.		17.3%	668
Comments:			249
			<i>answered question</i>
			3870
			<i>skipped question</i>
			1110

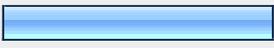
34. ISSUE 49: Using Lead Shot for Hunting BACKGROUND: Currently, hunters are required to use non-toxic shot at specific problem areas and for all waterfowl hunting. Scientific literature indicates that lead poisoning from spent shot is an increasing concern. Lead shot is known to kill wildlife through ingestion and scavenging of wounded game. The use of lead shot is being evaluated in many parts of the U.S. and throughout the world. Alternative shot technology is readily available to hunters, is effective, and has been decreasing in cost. Hunting pheasants near waterfowl areas is not uncommon in some parts of Washington. In a 2008 survey of Washington bird hunters (nonwaterfowl), 54% supported requiring hunters to use non-toxic shot on state Wildlife Area lands; 45% supported use on all public lands. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer?
ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Require non-toxic shot when hunting on WDFW owned or controlled lands when hunting any birds, other small game, and unclassified species (e.g. coyotes and ground squirrels).		8.5%	329
Require non-toxic shot when hunting on all public lands when hunting any birds, other small game, and unclassified species (e.g. coyotes and ground squirrels).		17.9%	694
No change, non-toxic shot required at problem areas and waterfowl hunting.		58.0%	2250
No preference.		15.7%	609
Comments:			116
<i>answered question</i>			3882
<i>skipped question</i>			1098

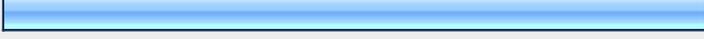
35. ISSUE 51: Baiting Deer, Elk, & Other Big Game Animals BACKGROUND: Currently, it is not legal to bait bear, waterfowl, and upland game birds. Baiting for deer and elk in the state of Washington is legal. Some people believe that baiting deer and elk provides an unfair advantage. An area is considered baited if feed has been placed or scattered to attract big game. If baiting was made illegal, it would not include hunting over crops, whether harvested normally or left standing, or over vegetation grown and left for wildlife. Baiting can help hunters with shot placement and identification of the game. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Make it illegal to hunt big game over bait or baited areas.		27.9%	1095
No change; it is legal to bait for big game.		67.2%	2635
No preference.		4.9%	191
Comments:			247
answered question			3921
skipped question			1059

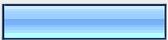
36. ISSUE 53: Hunting for Bear or Cougar During a Deer or Elk Season BACKGROUND: Currently, hunters are allowed to hunt for black bear and cougar during deer and elk seasons. Concern has been expressed regarding the potential for hunters that don't have a valid deer or elk tag (either did not purchase one or have filled their tag) who claim to be hunting bear or cougar. The concern is that they are party hunting and intend to shoot someone else's deer or elk. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Require cougar and bear hunters to possess valid deer or elk tags during open deer or elk seasons.		29.4%	1154
No change; cougar and bear hunters can hunt if they have valid tags.		66.7%	2614
No preference.		3.9%	153
Comments:			230
answered question			3921
skipped question			1059

37. ISSUE 54: Legal Shooting Hours When Big Game Hunting BACKGROUND: Currently, the legal shooting hours when hunting big game are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. The Department is considering changing the legal shooting hours to sunrise to sunset because of darkness and the potential for misidentification of game and for hunter safety. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Change the legal big game shooting hours to close 15 minutes after sunset.		20.1%	785
No change; retain one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.		77.4%	3029
No preference.		2.5%	98
Comments:			199
			answered question
			3912
			skipped question
			1068

38. ISSUE 57: Timing of the Big Game Hunting Pamphlet & Special Permit Applications BACKGROUND: Every year we receive numerous requests to publish the hunting pamphlet earlier. Currently, the hunting pamphlet is available by May 15; permit applications are due mid-June; and the permit drawing takes place in July. We could publish the pamphlet and hold the permit drawing up to 3 months earlier, however, it could not include the final number of permits available for each hunt. It would include the final number of permits that were available the previous year. Usually the number of permits remains similar to the number from the previous year. Spring surveys can not be conducted until March, which makes it impossible for the Fish & Wildlife Commission to adopt the final permit numbers until April. For the earliest possible (potentially mid-April) permit drawing, hunters would have to apply for permits without knowing the final number of permits available. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? **ALTERNATIVES:**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Pamphlet is available earlier; apply for permits <u>without knowing the final number of permits available</u> in order to receive results 3 months earlier (Pamphlet-early January; Applications due-mid March; Drawing-mid April; Results-end April)		17.5%	683
General Season Pamphlet available earlier; apply for permits earlier; receive results 1 month earlier (General Season Pamphlet-January/February; Permit Pamphlet-mid April; Applications due-early May; Drawing-late May; Results-end		25.1%	977

June)			
No change (Pamphlet-mid May; Applications due-mid June; Drawing-mid July; Results-end July)		48.6%	1894
No preference.		8.8%	343
Comments:			142
answered question			3897
skipped question			1083

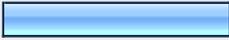
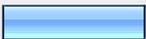
39. ISSUE 59: Applying for Permits with Low Chances of Being Drawn BACKGROUND: Some hunters have been applying for popular hunting permits for many years and have never been drawn. There are currently 13 points possible if a hunter has never been drawn. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Mathematically increase odds for people with the greatest number of points.		41.7%	1629
Set aside 25% of the popular permits for hunters with 10 or greater points.		30.5%	1192
No change.		23.0%	900
No preference.		4.8%	186
Comments:			207
answered question			3907
skipped question			1073

40. ISSUE 61: Number of Hunt Choices Allowed When Submitting a Special Permit Application BACKGROUND: Based on the results of the recent public scoping survey, the Department plans to separate the drawings for each of the categories listed below. How many hunt choices do you believe should be allowed when submitting a special permit application?

	2	4	No Preference	Response Count
Antlerless Deer or Elk	34.6% (1328)	52.4% (2010)	13.0% (500)	3838
Antlered Deer or Elk	37.1% (1415)	51.3% (1957)	11.6% (443)	3815
“Quality” Deer or Elk	40.7% (1556)	46.6% (1781)	12.6% (482)	3819
Mountain, Goat, Bighorn Sheep, or Moose	37.5% (1419)	44.0% (1668)	18.5% (700)	3787
Comments:				122
answered question				3875
skipped question				1105

41. ISSUE 66: Hunting in Urbanizing Areas BACKGROUND: The state's human population continues to grow; more land is being converted to homes & other human uses. One result of increased human density on the landscape is an increasing frequency of contact and conflict with wildlife. Often, the most effective & efficient way to address conflict associated with game species is managing them through hunting. However, hunting in urbanizing settings is often controversial because of public concerns for safety, noise, trespass, & a general fear of firearms. The greatest issues so far involve deer, elk, cougar, black bear, & waterfowl. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has established firearm restriction areas to address safety issues and to try and avoid situations where county authorities may be considering a no shooting ordinance. There are also many situations in urban/suburban settings across the state where counties have established a variety of no shooting ordinances. Some counties prohibit the discharge of all firearms, some include a prohibition on the use of archery equipment, and a few only restrict the discharge of center fire rifles. How do you think the Department should address the discharge of firearms related to hunting species like deer and elk in urban/suburban settings? The challenges for managing suburban populations of elk are greater than for other smaller game species. Areas adjacent to wetlands and estuaries around the Puget Sound are experiencing significant housing development. Waterfowl hunting in these traditional areas is becoming less & less accepted by surrounding homeowners. The concerns are generally associated with safety, noise, early morning shooting, trespass, and littering. Which of the following alternatives do you prefer? ALTERNATIVES:

		Response Percent	Response Count
If counties plan to establish no shooting ordinances, work with them to include language in their ordinances that exempts hunts established by WDFW.		50.8%	1963
Allow the use of crossbows during the modern firearm seasons within firearm restriction areas.		24.8%	960
No change.		15.4%	595

No preference.		9.0%	347
			Comments: 272
		<i>answered question</i>	
		<i>skipped question</i>	
			3864
			1116