



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

108 - Douglas
117 - 49 Degrees North
121 - Huckleberry
124 - Mount Spokane

REGION(S)

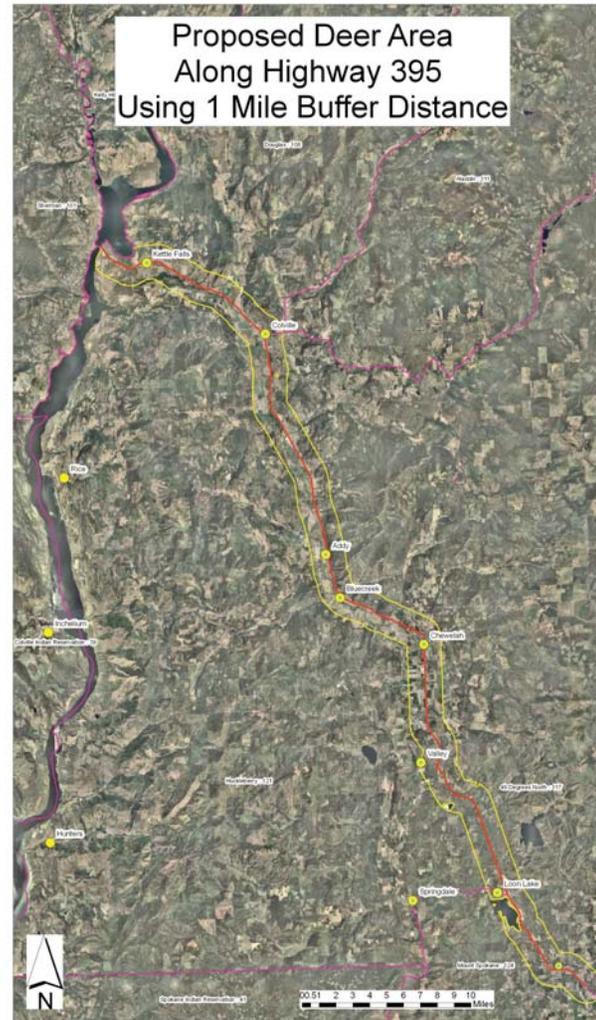
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ISSUE 6

Deer & Motor Vehicle Collisions on Highway 395 through Stevens County

BACKGROUND

- Designating the Highway 395 Corridor as a discrete Deer Area would facilitate liberalizing regulations for white-tailed deer hunting near Highway 395, which is a chronic area for motor vehicle collisions with deer as well as agricultural damage.



ALTERNATIVES

- Create a Deer Area along the Highway 395 corridor through Stevens County and then liberalize hunting regulations in an attempt to reduce deer densities.
- No change.



SPECIES

Deer
Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

568 - Washougal
574 - Wind River
578 - West Klickitat
388 - Grayback

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 7

Boundary Problems for GMUs 568, 574, 578, & 388

BACKGROUND

- Current GMU 388 & GMU 578 boundary:
 - Confusing boundary description; part of GMU 578 actually lies east of a good-sized portion of GMU 388.
 - Fragments popular elk hunting area into "East" and "West".
 - Inappropriately groups western forested habitat with eastern agricultural and arid habitats.
- Current GMU 578 & GMU 574 boundary:
 - Confusing boundary description; it uses high elevation USFS roads that are difficult to travel and are impassible in winter.
 - Essentially identical hunting opportunities and management issues.
- Current GMU 574 & GMU 568 boundary:
 - Confusing boundary description; it uses decommissioned USFS roads, the USFS boundary (noting physically present), and requires cross-country navigation to find the boundary.
 - Very similar hunting regulations for deer and elk hunting.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change the mutual boundary of GMUs 388 & 578 to the Klickitat River.
- 2) Change the mutual boundary of GMUs 578 & 574 to State Route 141.
- 3) Change the mutual boundary of GMUs 574 & 568 to the Wind River Highway.





SPECIES

Elk
Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

490 - Cedar River
460 - Snoqualmie

REGION(S)

4

ISSUE 9

Combining GMU 490 with GMU 460 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 this 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Combine GMU 490 with GMU 460.
- 2) Remove state closure of GMU 490.
- 3) No change.





SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

503 - Randle
505 - Mossyrock
510 - Stormking
513 - South Rainier
516 - Packwood

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 10/42

Elk Populations in Cowlitz Valley
are Becoming Problematic

BACKGROUND

- Elk are using agricultural grazing lands and causing damage. Multiple letters from private citizens have been received asking for relief from high elk numbers in lowland areas.
- Elk herd in Cowlitz Valley is too large.
- Regular hunting season NOT addressing damage issues.
- Creating a new elk area would provide a means for additional legal take and reducing the size of the herd. Targeting and hazing elk that are residing upon private property where elk are not wanted.
- Landowners with complaints would grant access to hunters.
- Potential new Elk Area description:
 - Private lands in that part of GMUs 503, 505, 510, 513 and 516 within one mile either side of US Highway 12 between the Junction of State Route 7 and Skate Creek Rd S.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Create a new elk area and implement a special permit damage hunt.
- 2) No change.





SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

505 - Mossyrock
510 - Stormking

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 12

Large Elk Population in Davis Lake Valley

BACKGROUND

- The elk population residing in the Davis Lake Valley has grown to the point where the local landowners consider them a problem.
- GMU 510, which currently includes the Davis Lake Valley, only allows for the harvest of branched antler bulls during modern firearm or archery general seasons (no special permits).
- The current regulations in GMU 505 would provide increased harvest opportunity, including cows, by all three hunting methods.
- If the Davis Lake valley were included in GMU 505, a unit with a more aggressive hunting season structure, complaints from landowners might be reduced.

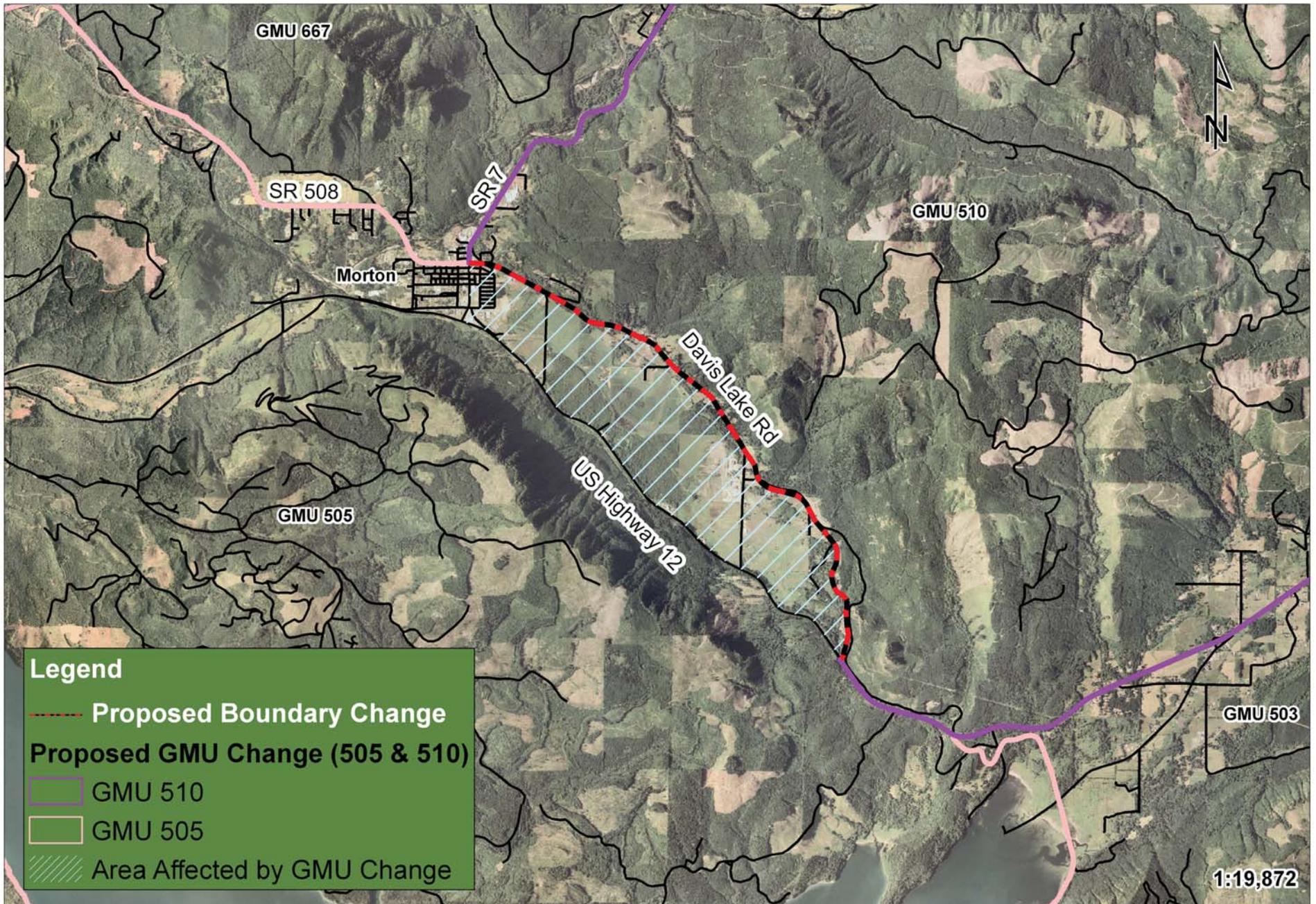


ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Move boundary between GMU 505 and 510 to the North side of the Davis Lake Valley.
- 2) No change.



Proposed Boundary Line Change to GMU 505 & 510





SPECIES

Cougar

WEAPON(S)

N/A

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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 were moved later, the end date would not change.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) September 1
- 2) No change;
August 1



SPECIES

Cougar

WEAPON(S)

N/A

GMU(S)

101-121, 203, 204, 209-247, 249-251 within Chelan, Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, or Pend Oreille counties, and 382, 388, 578 within Klickitat County

REGION(S)

1, 2, 5

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Allow hunters with or without the use of dogs to apply for the permit-only seasons from December 1 - March 31.
- 2) Set aside some GMUs for cougar hunting without dogs from December 1 - March 31.
- 3) No change; only hound hunters with permits can hunt from December 1 - March 31.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery

GMU(S)

388 - Grayback

REGION(S)

5

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.
- 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Reduce late archery antlerless general season opportunity in GMU 388; offer late archery antlerless permits if appropriate.
- 2) No change; allow both an early and a late archery season allowing 3-point minimum and antlerless.





SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

574 - Wind River
578 - West Klickitat

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 24

Antler Restrictions in GMUs 574 & 578
Don't Seem to be Having a Positive Effect

BACKGROUND

- Both GMUs currently managed under a 2-point minimum antler restriction.
- Not a biologically sound approach for management of these deer.
- Approximately 60% of yearling bucks in this area are 2-points.
- About 10% of adult deer have only spike antlers.
- This strategy may encourage breeding by smaller-antlered bucks.
- Current antler restriction takes away harvest opportunity for hunters that would take spikes.
- 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change GMU 578 to 3-point minimum and change GMU 574 to any buck.
- 2) Change GMUs 574 and 578 to any buck.
- 3) No change, continue with 2-point minimum antler restrictions for both GMUs.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

381 - Kahlotus

REGION(S)

3

ISSUE 25

Allocate Hunting Opportunity in GMU 381 to Muzzleloaders Instead of Archers

BACKGROUND

- Many requests 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 (see figure 1).
- 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Eliminate early muzzleloader and late archery and add a 3-point minimum late muzzleloader general season (November 20-30, for 2009, 2010, and 2011).
- 2) Create a 3-point minimum late muzzleloader season that would overlap with the current late archery season
- 3) No change; retain early and late archery season and early muzzleloader season.



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

578 - West Klickitat

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 26

GMU 578 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Reduce late muzzleloader season in GMU 578 to an 8-day season (December 1-8, 2009, 2010, and 2011).
- 2) Change late muzzleloader season in GMU 578 to special permit only.
- 3) No change, retain a 15-day late muzzleloader season in GMU 578.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

101-Sherman; 105-Kellyhill;
108-Douglas; 111-Aladdin;
113-Selkirk; 117-49 Degrees
North; 121-Huckleberry;
124-Mount Spokane

REGION(S)

1

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change all antlerless, white-tailed deer special permits to 2nd deer permits.
- 2) No change; retain some conventional Antlerless special permits and some 2nd deer Antlerless special permits for white-tailed deer in Northeast Washington.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Modern Firearm
Archery

GMU(S)

105-Kellyhill; 108-Douglas;
111-Aladdin; 113-Selkirk;
117-49 Degrees North;
121-Huckleberry;
124-Mount Spokane

REGION(S)

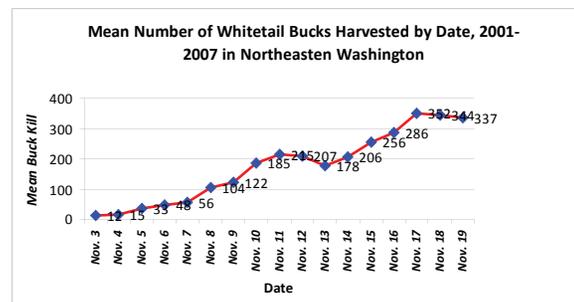
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ISSUE 29

Extending Late White-tailed Deer Season in Northeast Washington to Include the Sunday Before Thanksgiving

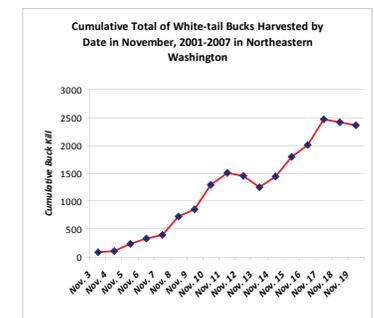
BACKGROUND

- 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.
- To avoid overlaps, archers would lose a couple of days in the beginning of late season.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) 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.
- 2) No change, retain the Nov. 19 closing date for late season modern firearm white-tailed deer.





SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

105-Kellyhill; 108-Douglas;
111-Aladdin; 113-Selkirk;
117-49 Degrees North;
121-Huckleberry;
124-Mount Spokane

REGION(S)

1

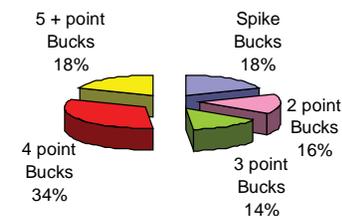
ISSUE 30

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 will 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.

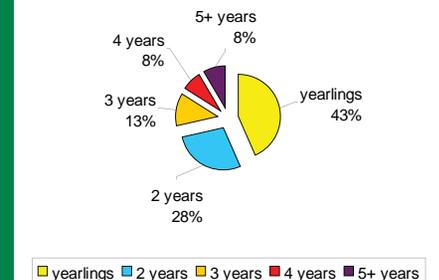
Antler Classes for 168
Adult & Yearling White-tail Bucks
Checked in 2006



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Implement an antler point restriction for white-tailed deer for all user groups in GMUs 105-124.
- 2) Implement an antler point restriction for white-tailed deer for all user groups in one or two northeast Washington GMUs.
- 3) No change; retain the any white-tailed buck season.

Age Classes of 168 White-tail Adult & Yearling
Bucks from Fall 2006





SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

204 - Okanogan East
215 - Sinlahekin
233 - Pogue

REGION(S)

2

ISSUE 32

Nuisance and Damage Issues are Increasing in the Okanogan Watershed

BACKGROUND

- Nuisance and damage deer issues on orchards and agricultural fields in the low elevations of the Okanogan Valley have escalated in recent years.
- The existing permitting system is not adequate in targeting the problem deer, especially antlerless deer.
- It is not always cost effective for landowners to install deer fencing around their agricultural fields.
- This proposal would expediently deal with nuisance/damage issues by directly targeting problem animals on private property without targeting non-offending animals.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Define some deer areas that include chronic problem sites and harvest antlerless animals by special permit on private land before the late fall migratory period.
- 2) No change.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Muzzleloader
Archery

GMU(S)

243-Manson, 245-Chiwawa, 246-Slide Ridge, 247-Entiat, 250-Swakane, 251-Mission

REGION(S)

2

ISSUE 33

Late Season Muzzleloader Opportunity for Mule Deer in Chelan County

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Offer late season muzzleloader permits for mule deer bucks in GMUs 243, 245, 246, 247, 250, and 251.
- 2) No change; provide the bulk of the late season special permit opportunity to modern firearm and archery hunters.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

Some in Eastern Wa.

REGION(S)

2, 3

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change one PMU to 2 point or less, with mature mule deer bucks by special permit only, and monitor for three years.
- 2) No change; retain 3 point antler restriction for all mule deer hunting.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

Various

REGION(S)

All

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).



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Open 90% of the GMUs in each District to muzzleloader general season deer hunting.
- 2) Open 80% of the GMUs in each District to muzzleloader general season deer hunting.
- 3) No change; retain 58% of the GMUs open to muzzleloader general season deer hunting (80 GMUs), statewide.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

Various

REGION(S)

All

ISSUE 35 B

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) 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.
- 2) Open muzzleloader deer October 1 and close the Friday before the modern firearm opener.
- 3) No change; retain muzzleloader deer and elk overlap with 7-day season that includes one weekend.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

Various

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Open muzzleloader elk on October 1 and close before modern firearm deer season opens.
- 2) No change; retain muzzleloader deer and elk overlap with 7 day season that includes one weekend.



SPECIES

Deer

WEAPON(S)

Archery

GMU(S)

Deer Area 1010 within
GMU 162 - Dayton

REGION(S)

1

ISSUE 36

Effectiveness of Archery Damage Hunt
in Deer Area 1010

BACKGROUND

- This hunt is designed to reduce deer numbers in urban/suburban areas.
- Archers tend to focus on bucks during this hunt because there are some large bucks in this area, which is not the purpose for this hunt.
- Changing the focus of the hunt to antlerless deer will force hunters to harvest antlerless deer, which is more in line with the goals for this hunt.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change late archery season in Deer Area 1010 to antlerless only.
- 2) No change.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

568 - Washougal
574 - Wind River
578 - West Klickitat
388 - Grayback

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 39

Management Alternatives for Bull Elk in
GMUs 568, 574, 578, & 388 (Antler Restrictions)

BACKGROUND

- Requests received from the public for more conservative bull elk hunting in "Gorge" GMUs.
- Currently managing area for deer opportunities.
- Change is not needed for conservation reasons.
- Liberal antlerless elk seasons for all user groups will continue.
- Current season structure is "Any Elk" for all user groups.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change GMUs 568, 574, 578, and 388 to 3-point minimum for bull elk.
- 2) No change.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

328-Naneum; 329-Quilomene;
335-Teanaway; 336-Taneum;
340-Manastash; 342-Umtanum;
346-Little Naches; 352-Nile;
356-Bumping; 360-Bethel;
364-Rimrock; 368-Cowiche;
372-Rattlesnake Hills

REGION(S)

3

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) 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.
- 2) No change; retain the current season timing during the last week of October.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

522 - Loo-Witt

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 44

Limited Harvest Opportunity in GMU 522

BACKGROUND

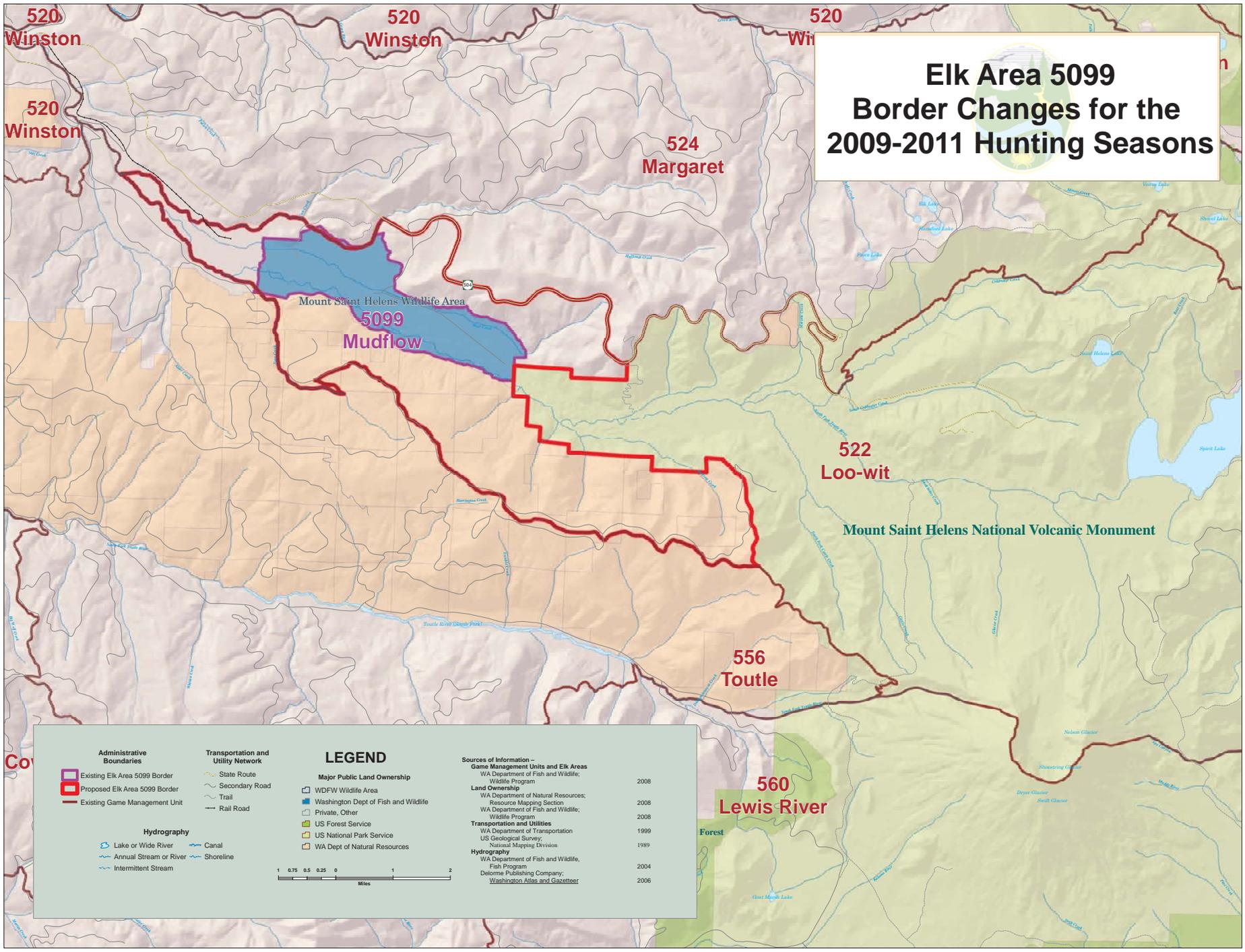
- Elk Area 5099 was created as a mechanism to begin harvesting elk in GMU 522.
- Permits have only been available to disabled, youth, and senior hunters.
- Complaints have centered on the small size of the area.
- Harvest needs to increase to achieve herd objectives.
- If the boundary were modified, special vehicular access would still only be available to special user groups.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Adjust the boundary of Elk Area 5099 to include all state and private lands in GMU 522 lying west of the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument boundary in Cowlitz County, except those lands in section 34 T. T 10N, R 4 and increase the number of special permits.
- 2) No change.

Elk Area 5099 Border Changes for the 2009-2011 Hunting Seasons



| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| Administrative Boundaries | | Transportation and Utility Network | | LEGEND | | Sources of Information – Game Management Units and Elk Areas | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Elk Area 5099 Border Proposed Elk Area 5099 Border Existing Game Management Unit | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Route Secondary Road Trail Rail Road | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WDFW Wildlife Area Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife Private, Other US Forest Service US National Park Service WA Dept of Natural Resources | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Wildlife Program 2008 WA Department of Natural Resources; Resource Mapping Section 2008 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Wildlife Program 1999 WA Department of Transportation; National Mapping Division 1989 US Geological Survey 2004 WA Department of Fish and Wildlife; Fish Program 2006 Delorme Publishing Company; Washington Atlas and Gazetteer | |
| Hydrography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake or Wide River Annual Stream or River Intermittent Stream Canal Shoreline | | <p style="text-align: center;">1 0.75 0.5 0.25 0 1 2 Miles</p> | | | | | |



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

524 - Margaret
556 - Toutle

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 71

Changing the Season Structure for GMUs 524 & 556 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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change from permit only to general season.
- 2) 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).
- 3) Change one of the GMUs to general season and retain the other as permit only.
- 4) No change; retain permit only in GMUs 524 and 556.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

GMU(S)

REGION(S)

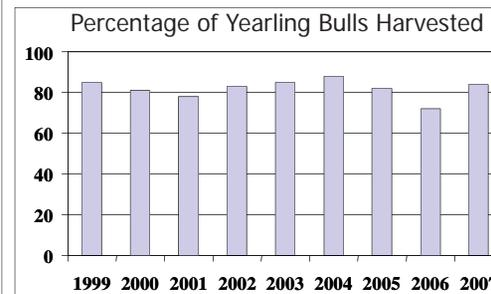
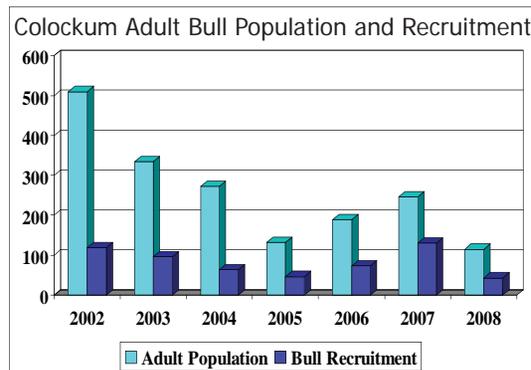
3

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) 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.
- 2) Switch to special permits only for bulls in the Colockum, including spikes. No general season bull hunting would be allowed.
- 3) No change in spike only management; rely on road management to improve bull survival over time.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

101 - Sherman
105 - Kellyhill
108 - Douglas
121 - Huckleberry

REGION(S)

1

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Switch antlerless elk hunting in GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121 from general season to permit only for all three hunting methods
- 2) No change; retain the current rule that allows for taking any elk within GMUs 101, 105, 108, and 121.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

Various

REGION(S)

4, 5, 6

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Add 1 day to the current season (closing on a Tuesday) and monitor for three years.
- 2) Add 2 days to the current season (closing on a Wednesday) and monitor for three years.
- 3) No change, retain the 10 day season (closing on Monday) and continue to monitor.



SPECIES

Big Game

WEAPON(S)

Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Allow any bullet type, made up of any material.
- 2) No change; retain the lead requirement for muzzleloader projectiles.



SPECIES

Upland Game Birds
Forest Grouse
Turkey

WEAPON(S)

Shotgun
Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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 when ingested. Shot can be ingested directly or through scavenging wounded game.
- Research shows birds shot with lead shot are a potential human health concern.
- 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 (non-waterfowl), 54% supported requiring hunters to use non-toxic shot on state Wildlife Area lands; 45% supported use on all public lands.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) 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).
- 2) 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).
- 3) No change.



SPECIES

Big Game

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.
- 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.
- Some people believe that baiting deer and elk provides an unfair advantage.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Make it illegal to hunt big game over bait or baited areas.
- 2) No change, it is legal to bait for big game.



SPECIES

Black Bear
Cougar
Deer
Elk

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Require cougar and bear hunters to possess valid deer or elk tags during open deer or elk seasons.
- 2) No change; cougar and bear hunters can hunt if they have valid tags.



SPECIES

Big Game

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change the legal big game shooting hours to close 15 minutes after sunset.
- 2) No change.



SPECIES

Deer, Elk, Turkey,
Goat, Sheep, Moose

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

ISSUE 57

Timing of the Big Game Hunting Pamphlet and 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 earlier 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.
- Changing the timing would help hunters know when to schedule vacation time.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Pamphlet available earlier; apply for permits without knowing the final number of permits available in order to receive results 3 months earlier.

Pamphlet: early January
Apps. Due: mid March
Drawing: mid April
Results: end April
- 2) General season pamphlet available earlier; apply for permits earlier; receive results 1 month earlier.

General season pamphlet: January/February
Permit Pamphlet: mid April
Apps. Due: early May
Drawing: late May
Results: end June
- 3) No change.

Pamphlet: mid May
Apps. Due: mid June
Drawing: mid July
Results: end July



SPECIES

Big Game

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Mathematically increase odds for people with the greatest number of points.
- 2) Set aside 25% of the popular permits for hunters with 10 or greater points.
- 3) No change.



SPECIES

Big Game

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

ISSUE 61

Number of Hunt Choices Allowed When Submitting a Special Permit Application

BACKGROUND

- Based on the results of the survey conducted earlier this year, the Department plans to separate the drawings for each of the categories listed below:
 - Antlerless Deer or Elk
 - Antlered Deer or Elk
 - "Quality" Deer or Elk
 - Mountain, Goat, Bighorn Sheep, or Moose
- How many hunt choices do you believe should be allowed when submitting a special permit application?



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Two
- 2) Four



SPECIES

All Game

WEAPON(S)

Archery
Muzzleloader
Modern Firearm

GMU(S)

All

REGION(S)

All

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Allow counties to establish no shooting ordinances and work with them to include language in their ordinances that exempts hunts established by WDFW.
- 2) Allow the use of crossbows during the modern firearm seasons within firearm restriction areas.
- 3) No change.



SPECIES

Elk

WEAPON(S)

GMU(S)

504 - Stella

REGION(S)

5

ISSUE 43

Longview Urban Elk Population

BACKGROUND

- GMU 504 is considered an “urban elk area.”
- Currently, there are too many elk within the Longview city limits.
- Longview has firearm restrictions within city limits.
- Working with the city government to structure a hunting season that is acceptable.
- Landowner complaints are increasing throughout the GMU (damage to tree farms, pastures, gardens, yards, etc...).
- Home sales and developments are on the rise.
- Dangerous to have elk on roadways.
- Currently, the general season regulation for muzzleloader and modern firearm is 3-point minimum. Archery is 3-point minimum or antlerless.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Change from 3-point minimum to 3 point minimum or antlerless for modern firearm and muzzleloader.
- 2) Contract hunting by authorized agents (e.g., USDA)
- 3) No change.





SPECIES

Turkey

WEAPON(S)

Shotgun
Archery
Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

Eastern Washington

REGION(S)

1, 2, 3, 5

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Longer season; 4th Saturday in September through muzzleloader deer and elk season. Season will vary from 14-21 days (2-3 weekends).
- 2) No change; 4th Saturday in September through the day before muzzleloader season. Season will vary from 7-14 days (1-2 weekends).



SPECIES

Turkey

WEAPON(S)

Shotgun
Archery
Muzzleloader

GMU(S)

101-Sherman; 105-Kellyhill;
108-Douglas; 111-Aladdin;
113-Selkirk; 117-49 Degrees
North; 121-Huckleberry;
124-Mount Spokane

REGION(S)

1

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.



ALTERNATIVES

- 1) General season; change from permit only to general season and retain the November 20 - December 15 season.
- 2) No change; continue permit only hunting November 20 - December 15 in GMUs 101-124.