New hoof rule for SW Washington elk

Hunters are now required to remove the hooves of any elk they harvest in southwest Washington and leave them on-site.

The new rule, approved by the Washington Fish and Wildlife, is designed to help reduce the spread of hoof disease that affects the region’s elk herds. It applies to all elk taken in southwest Washington, regardless of whether they show signs of the disease.

The rule applies to Game Management Units 501-564 and 642-699 in Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Skamania, Clark, Grays Harbor, Thurston, Pierce, Pacific, Lewis and Klickitat counties.