

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
June 21, 2013**

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

WAC 232-28-297

A. Agency reason for adoption:

Clarify hunt-area boundaries and maintain consistency with existing regulations for the 2013-14 cougar season.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference: None

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

<i>WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT</i>	
COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
Bring back the 'pursuit only seasons' followed by harvest tags based on numbers provided by houndsman.	Thank you for your comment. The use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougar is prohibited by state statute.
I do not think they should be hunted at all. Do not extend the hunting season nor use dogs or bait in hunting.	Thank you for your comment. Hunting occurs at a level that is consistent with long-term sustainable cougar populations. The Department is not recommending any changes to the structure, season length, or harvest guideline. The use of dogs to hunt or pursue cougar is prohibited by state statute.