



RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103P (May 2009)
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Permanent Rule Only

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

31 days after filing. 13-180

Other (specify) _____ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

Yes No If Yes, explain:

Purpose: Amendments to WAC 232-28-297 for hunting cougar in the 2013-14 season clarify hunt-area boundaries and maintain consistency with existing regulations.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:
Amended: 232-28-297
Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012; 77.04.055; 77.12.047; and 77.15.245.

Other authority :

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 13-10-087 on May 1, 2013 (date).
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: N/A

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: _____ phone () _____
Address: _____ fax () _____
e-mail _____

Date adopted: 06/21/2013

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Miranda Wecker

SIGNATURE

Miranda Wecker

TITLE

Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: August 01, 2013
TIME: 1:45 PM

WSR 13-16-056

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	_____	Amended	<u>1</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 12-70, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12)

WAC 232-28-297 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations. (1) As used in this section and in the context of general cougar hunting seasons, "harvest guideline" means the estimated allowable harvest; the actual harvest may be less than or more than the harvest guideline.

(2) Season dates and harvest guidelines for each license year:

Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Early Hunting Season	Late Hunting Season	Legal Weapon
GMU 101	7-9	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 105	2	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 108, 111	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 113	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 117	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 121	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-9	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 290, 330, 334, 371, 372, 373, 379, 381	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 149, 154, ((±57,)) 162, 163	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 203	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 204	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 209, 215	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 218, 231	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 224	2-3	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 233, 239	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 242, 243	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 244, 246, 247	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 245, 250	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 249, 251	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 328, 329, 335	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 382, 388	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 407	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon

Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Early Hunting Season	Late Hunting Season	Legal Weapon
GMUs 418, 426, 437	11-15	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 448, 450	9-13	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 454	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 460	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 466, 485, 490	2-3	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	7-10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 510, 513	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 516	3-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs ((522,)) 524, 554, 556	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 560	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 564, 568	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 572	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 574, 578	3-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 607, 615	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 618, 636, 638	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 621, 624, 627, 633	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 642, 648, 651	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 652, 666	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 653, 654	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	9-12	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 667	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon

(a) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, the director may close the cougar late hunting season after January 1st in one or more GMUs if cougar harvest meets or exceeds the guideline.

(b) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, starting January 1st, cougar hunters may hunt cougar from January 1st until the hunt area harvest guideline has been met and the director has closed the cougar late hunting season, or March 31st, whichever occurs first.

(3) Harvest guideline system:

(a) All cougar killed by licensed hunters during the early and late hunting seasons, and seasons authorized under WAC 232-12-243 shall be counted toward the harvest guideline.

(b) Individual problem cougar will continue to be killed on an as-needed basis utilizing depredation permits, landowner kill permits, and WDFW depredation authority regardless of harvest guidelines.

(c) It is each cougar hunter's responsibility to verify if the cougar late hunting season is open or closed in hunt areas with a harvest guideline. Cougar hunters can verify if the season is open or closed by calling the toll-free cougar hunting hotline or visiting the department's web site.

(4) Cougar hunting season requirements and special restrictions.

(a) A valid big game hunting license which includes cougar as a species option is required to hunt cougar.

(b) The statewide bag limit is one (1) cougar per license year; excluding removals authorized under WAC 232-12-243. It is unlawful to kill or possess spotted cougar kittens or adult cougars accompanied by spotted kittens.

(c) The use of dogs to hunt cougar is prohibited; except by a commission authorized permit (WAC 232-12-243).

(d) Any person who takes a cougar must comply with the notification and sealing requirements in WAC 232-12-024.

(e) A special cougar permit is required to hunt cougar in GMU 485.