



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Enrollment Application for Master Hunter Permit Program



Non-Refundable Application Fee: \$50.00

NOTE: Individuals who do not meet the requirements set forth in WAC 220-412-030(3) -Master Hunter Permit Program- may not apply for enrollment in the Washington Master Hunter Program. WILD ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Age Date Of Birth Male Female (Circle)

Mailing Address City State Zip Code

County Home Phone Cell Phone E-Mail

Have you EVER been charged with a misdemeanor or felony? (circle answer) Yes No If yes, please describe the charges IN DETAIL on a separate sheet.

Have you EVER received a citation for violation of state or federal fish & wildlife laws? (circle answer) Yes No If yes, please describe the charges IN DETAIL on a separate sheet.

- I understand that my application for enrollment will not be accepted unless I enclose a check or money order payable to WDFW Master Hunter in the amount of \$50.00. I further understand that a principal objective in the Master Hunter Permit Program is to represent the highest ethical ideals as a Washington hunter. I understand that failure to uphold those high ideals may result in termination from the Master Hunter Permit Program. I acknowledge that:
- Applications are accepted only between January 1 – February 15 annually
- Certification as a Master Hunter is valid only for a five-year period
- I must contribute at least 20 hours of voluntary service in an approved project activity
- I must demonstrate shooting proficiency with at least one hunting implement
- I must study WDFW-provided materials and pass a rigorous test on those materials
- I must complete a C.O.R.T. (Crime Observation and Reporting Training) course offered by Eyes In The Woods prior to receiving certification as a Master Hunter
- I must sign and abide by the Master Hunter Code Of Ethics prior to certification
- I must agree to submit to a criminal background check prior to certification as a Master Hunter
- Only Washington residents may apply, per RCW 77.08.010(39)

If I am successful in completing the requirements established by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Master Hunter Permit Program, I agree to accept my responsibility as a Master Hunter, obey fish and wildlife laws, and conduct myself as an ethical hunter at all times.

I further certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I understand that any misrepresentation or concealment of material fact will be sufficient grounds for rejection of my permit application or certification as a Master Hunter in Washington State.

I also understand that WDFW will conduct a criminal background investigation as the final step in the Master Hunter Permit Program application process.

I hereby authorize such action by my signature below.

SIGNATURE: DATE:

## **What is the Master Hunter Permit Program?**

The Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP) was developed to promote safe, ethical, responsible, and legal hunting; promote support in the general public for hunting; promote the highest standards of hunting; enhance landowner-sportsman relations; engage program applicants and participants in volunteer conservation projects that benefit wildlife, wildlife habitat, promote hunting access on private land, and the associated agency priorities; and develop a corps of Master Hunters that can be engaged in addressing highly sensitive wildlife depredation issues.

## **What does it mean to be a Master Hunter?**

Those hunters who choose to enroll in the MHPP should be motivated by giving back to the hunting tradition. They should also have a desire to continue to enhance their skills and be a role model of hunting knowledge. Master Hunters are one tool the department can utilize to address human/wildlife conflicts. These conflicts include deer, elk, bear, turkey, and goose depredating on commercial and private land owner property and agricultural lands. The Department may utilize Master Hunters to help resolve these situations. This may be hazing animals away from the lands or it may be a Master Hunter permitted to lethally remove an animal from the depredating herd.

Master Hunters may apply for Master Hunter Special Hunts that are administered by a Hunt Coordinator. If drawn, the Master Hunter is contacted in the order they were drawn to participate in the hunt. Not all Master Hunters who are successful in being drawn for a special hunt are called each year, and they should not expect to be called each year. These hunts are designed to selectively remove animals and apply appropriate hunting pressure to encourage the wildlife to move back to traditional range/habitat.

## **WAC 220-412-030 - Master hunter permit program** (partial WAC that pertains to enrollment)

(3) Master hunters are held to the highest ethical standards because these hunters are ambassadors for the department and are role models and mentors for the hunting community and for the public at large. Initial master hunter permit applicants must submit to a criminal background check. The department shall deny entry into the master hunter permit program to those applicants who have:

- a) Paid the required fine or been convicted within the last ten years of a chapter 77.15 RCW offense;
- b) Paid the required fine or been convicted within the last ten years of criminal trespass, reckless endangerment, criminal conspiracy, or making a false statement to law enforcement, while hunting, fishing, or engaging in any activity regulated by the department;
- c) Prior felonies prohibiting the possession of firearms, unless firearm possession is reinstated; or
- d) A current hunting or fishing license revocation or a current suspension of hunting or fishing license privileges in Washington or in another state.

(4) Master hunter permit applicants will be required to sign and abide by a hunter code of ethics and pass a comprehensive examination based upon study materials provided by the department. An initial master hunter permit applicant found to have submitted fraudulent information to the department or to have cheated on the master hunter examination will be excluded from the master hunter permit program for life.

(5) Initial master hunter permit applicants who successfully complete the master hunter permit program will receive a master hunter patch and a master hunter permit. The initial master hunter permit is valid for five consecutive years from the date of issuance. The permit may be renewed for additional five-year increments if, during each five-year period of validity, the master hunter fulfills the renewal requirements established by the department.

(12) Except under subsection (10) of this section, if a master hunter has his or her initial or renewal master hunter permit suspended for less than life, and the person wants to become a master hunter again, he or she must repeat the entire master hunter permit application process once the suspension period is over.

(13) Any person who has been denied initial admission into the master hunter permit program, renewal of his or her master hunter permit, or has had his or her master hunter permit suspended, has the right to an administrative hearing to contest the agency action. Such hearing will be held pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act. Initial master hunter permit applicants who fail to submit the application fee or who submit an incomplete application will have their application returned. Denial of admission on these grounds does not trigger the right to an administrative hearing.