

Maintain hunting in Washington



Emergent need

\$673,000 for 19-21
biennium

At-risk hunting impacts

\$3 million for 21-23
biennium ongoing need



Hunting seasons give more than 190,000 hunters the opportunity to harvest fresh, local, wild, and sustainable protein and generate over \$350 million in hunting-related expenditures in Washington.

The 2019 Legislature recognized the value of WDFW's work by appropriating \$24 million towards the Department's \$30.6 million biennial deficit, which fully funds this package's hunting opportunities and other at-risk work in FY 2020. However, it is a one-time appropriation as well as \$6.7 million short in the biennium's second year. This decision package requests the balance of FY 2021's deficit, \$673,000, and full costs of the work, \$1,536,000 per year in FY 2022 and ongoing. Activities described in this decision package are currently being performed; consequences of not funding hunting opportunities will be felt by the state's fish, wildlife, and people.

The Solution

With additional revenue, the department will continue providing a full range of hunting opportunities, educating all the people who pursue hunting, and surveying and studying game populations to ensure sustainable populations.

The Problem

Without this funding, the Department will have a decrease in hunting opportunities and hunter education classes, as well as a decrease in deer, elk, bear, and cougar population and wildlife disease monitoring activities. In addition, there could be cuts to the Master Hunter Program, a group of ~1,500 individuals who contribute 13,000 hours (or \$390k) to wildlife related volunteer projects yearly. These cuts could have downstream consequences on hunting licenses and revenue, putting the Department in an even worse funding situation in the future.

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