WAC 220-413-200

Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease-
Unlawful Transport of Elk Hooves

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Background

• This rule was initially adopted in 2014 and restricts the transport of elk hooves from those GMUs where treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD) has been confirmed in elk.

• The intention of the rule was to reduce the potential for spreading TAHD to new locations.

• WAC 220-413-200 was most recently updated in September 2018.

• Since that time, the disease has been confirmed on the Olympic Peninsula, in southeast Washington, and in Idaho.

• The continued expansion of TAHD appears to indicate this rule was not effective.
• Counties in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho where the presence of TAHD has been confirmed.

• An additional sample from Kittitas County in 2020 was highly suspect, but findings were inconclusive.
The Department is proposing to abolish WAC 220-413-200 for the following reasons:

- For surveillance purposes, we want to encourage elk hunters in eastern Washington to submit suspicious hooves.

- The Department is working to develop management strategies that would incentivize elk hunters to target limping elk, but would also require that hooves be submitted to the Department for inspection.

- The current rule is not being enforced, but rather used by Enforcement as an educational opportunity.

- We have no scientific evidence that supports implementation of this rule.

- Neighboring states (Idaho and Oregon) do not have a similar rule.
Public Comment

- Most comments were not directly related to the proposal.
- Some expressed support for using hunters to help manage the disease.