WAC 220-412-050

Landowner Raffle Hunts

Ciera Strickland
Private Lands Access Program Manager
Game Division
Wildlife Program
Landowner Raffle Hunts

• This WAC outlines the requirements for landowners that operate their own raffle opportunities for big game species.

• Largely pertains to a few select Landowner currently enrolled under the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program WAC 220-412-100.
Recommended Changes and Rationale

• Extend the required submission date for the annual report from *December 31* to *May 1*.
• Annual reports include raffle award information, harvest numbers and participant information.
• The rationale for this adjustment is to align all reporting submission dates with the new requirements under the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) WAC 220-412-100 which is May 1.
Public Comment
Landowner Raffle Hunts

• 147 Total Responses
  – 68 Generally Agreed
  – 63 Neutral
  – 16 Generally Disagreed

• General Comment Summary:
  – Concern over the privatization of wildlife
  – Advertising of Raffles should be required
  – Landowner Raffles should not be allowed
  – Wildlife belongs to the public – landowners shouldn’t be allowed to manage/sell hunting rights to wildlife
Questions?
WAC 220-412-100

Landowner Hunting Permits

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History of the LHP Program

• Began as a way to provide public access to larger private land parcels that were otherwise inaccessible by the general public.
• New way to incentivize landowners to allow public hunting access.
• Conflict mitigation was a secondary benefit.
Private Lands Program - Overview

• The LHP program is just one of the access opportunities under the broader Private Lands Program.

• Other opportunities:
  o Feel Free to Hunt
  o Register to Hunt
  o Hunt by Written Permission
  o Hunt by Reservation (Online)
Program Statistics for the 2018-19 Hunting Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feel Free to Hunt</th>
<th>Hunt by Reservation</th>
<th>Register to Hunt</th>
<th>Hunt by Written Permission</th>
<th>Landowner Hunt Permit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooperators</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Cooperators</td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Cooperators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>660,970</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>103,074</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>245</td>
<td>574,930</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>115,393</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Statewide Totals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cooperators</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>533</td>
<td>1,479,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Acreage Statewide: 1.47 million

Percentage LHP: 7.8% of total acreage

Most popular program: HBWP (46% of our landowners are in this program)
LHP Commission Policy

Commission Policy C-6002:

• LHP Permits authorized only by the Commission.

• Customized Seasons.

• Permit Allocation:
  – 50% of antlerless
  – 25% of bull or buck
  – Exceptions only by Commission

• Equal opportunity for all hunters with permits.

• Owners charging access fees waive damage claims.
LHP Commission Policy

Commission Policy C-6002:

• Landowners shall make provisions for significant public benefit.

• General hunting season opportunity is encouraged.

• Landowner incentives may include the following:
  – Customized hunting seasons
  – Second tag opportunity
  – Technical services to the landowner
LHP Program Revision Process

• In late 2018, WDFW staff requested permission from the Commission to undergo an extensive program revision process for the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. This revision process consisted of the following:
  – Landowner meetings
  – Public meetings
  – Internal staff meetings
• This has resulted in a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and significant changes to the WAC.
• The LHP Program is directly tied to Commission Policy C-6002.
• No changes to the Commission Policy are recommended at this time.
• All changes made to the SOP and the WAC remain consistent with the Commission Policy.
Current LHP Properties

• In order to align the updated application process to the 3-year season setting cycle, the five currently enrolled properties will be granted a one year extension to their current contracts which will end in March 2021.

• All applicants (new or current) will be required to apply using the updated application process during the upcoming 3-year season setting cycle.

• All applicants will also be required to adhere to the new Standard Operating Procedure and WAC requirements.
No Changes proposed during the 1-year extension period

• No changes to dates or permit numbers.
• Permit numbers and hunt dates will be re-evaluated after the first application process during the upcoming three season setting process.
Recommended Changes to the WAC; Acceptance Guidelines

- Landowners must provide one or both of the following:
  - Hunting opportunity that otherwise wouldn’t exist
  - Hunting opportunity that aids with chronic crop damage
- Landowners must provide “substantial public benefit”.
  - Additional “no-fee” general public access
- Only two LHP contracts can be active within a district.
- Landowners may only participate in one (1) LHP statewide.
- Landowners will be required to identify property changes annually through the annual report.
- Minimum requirement of 1,000 huntable acres.
  - Contiguous properties can span GMU boundaries
  - Non-contiguous properties have to reside in the same GMU
Recommended Changes to the WAC; Program Guidelines

- No LHP permits for elk will be issued where branch-antlered bull elk hunting is by Quality or Bull Elk Special Permits only.
- No LHP permits for deer will be issued where antlered deer hunting is by Quality or Buck Deer Special Permits only.
- All lands in an LHP contract will be identified on the WDFW website.
- All LHP permits will be tied to the 3-year season cycle.
- LHPs shall not be prioritized in any areas where other access opportunities may be jeopardized.
- WDFW at its discretion may deny any LHP application for biological or social reasons.
- Annual Reports will be required for all LHPs by May 1st of each year.
Expected Outcomes from Program Revision

• Improved...
  – Program Management – Statewide
  – Application Process
  – Structure and Transparency
  – Public perception
  – Accountability
  – Reporting (Landowners) and Tracking (WDFW)
  – Access opportunities
Public Comment

- 139 Total Responses
  - 53 Generally Agreed
  - 73 Neutral
  - 13 Generally Disagreed
- General Comment Summary:
  - Concern over the privatization of wildlife
  - Concern over lack of outreach to non-hunters
  - Terminate this program – too many special interests involved at the landowner level
  - Appreciation towards WDFW for performing a review
  - LHP has no public benefit – Available Landowner permits vs. WDFW permits are weighted towards landowners. Program should be abandoned and resources used elsewhere.
  - General comment against fee hunting
  - Concern over permits being given to friends and family only
  - Permits should be prioritized to individuals who are in close proximity of LHP property
  - Support of changes made to the equitability between public and landowner
Next Steps

• Maintain the five currently enrolled LHP Properties.
• By August of 2020, develop an online application option for new potential LHP properties.
• By August 2020, develop a marketing/advertising campaign for the LHP Program (may be included in a broader Private Lands Access Program Marketing campaign). This campaign is dependent upon program funding.
• Monitor and assess the new SOP and requirements.
Questions?

PERMIT
ONLY AREA
A LANDOWNER
HUNTING PERMIT
IS REQUIRED
TO HUNT ON THIS
PROPERTY
RESPECT THIS PROPERTY
WAC 220-412-100 and/or WAC 220-600-230

SITE NAME:

Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE