



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Commission

***REVISED* FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020**

Red Lion Columbia Center Kennewick 1101 N Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick, WA 99336 Room Lion's Den

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 – REGULAR MEETING

7:00 AM **Wildlife Committee Meeting** – Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Anderson, Linville

Location: Lion's Den

Agenda topics:

- Agenda presentation discussion
- Wildlife agenda setting
- General discussion – current events

8:30 AM **1. Call to Order** *45 min*
 a. Commissioners' Discussion
 b. Meeting Minutes Approval
 c. Committee Reports

9:15 AM **2. Open Public Input** *30 min*
 The Commission is a direct link between the citizens of Washington and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Comments on Department programs and topics of concern are welcome during this portion of the meeting. **NOTE:** During this portion of the meeting, the public is encouraged to comment on issues that do not already have public input time on the agenda.

9:45 AM **3. Director's Report** *30 min*
 The Director will brief the Commission on various items.

10:15 AM **Break** *15 min*

10:30 AM **4. Landowner Hunting Permits (LHP) and Landowner Raffle Hunts – Briefing and Public Hearing** *40 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on proposed changes to the standard operating procedure for the LHP program as well as adjusting the submission date to coincide with the new standard operating procedure.

Staff Report: Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only

11:10 AM **5. Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations and Hunter Education Instructor Turkey Incentive Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing** *30 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on amendments to the migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations.

Staff Report: Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager

Public Hearing– This Item Only

- 11:40 PM **6. Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds – Briefing and Public Hearing** *20 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on changes to rules pertaining to killing crows and magpies depredating crops and damaging private property.

 Staff Report: Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only
- 12:00 PM **Lunch** *60 min*
- 1:00 PM **7. Multi-season Deer and Elk Tags and Special Permits– Briefing and Public Hearing** *20 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission about clarifying language to the multiple season and big game permits, as well as changes to the hunter education instructor incentive permits.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only
- 1:20 PM **8. Deer General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing** *40 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on deer general seasons and special permits.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only
- 2:00 PM **9. Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing** *30 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on elk general seasons and special permits.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing– This Item Only
- 2:30 PM **10. Hunting Boundaries and Equipment – Briefing and Public Hearing** *30 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on hunting boundaries and equipment.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing– This Item Only
- 3:00 PM **Break** *15 min*
- 3:15 PM **11. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Briefing and Public Hearing** *40 min*
 Staff will brief the Commission on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons.

 Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing– This Item Only

- 3:55 PM **12. Permits and Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease – Briefing and Public Hearing** *20 min*
Staff will brief the Commission on a proposal to abolish WAC 220-413-20 relating to reducing the spread of hoof disease.

Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Public Hearing– This Item Only

- 4:15 PM **13. Cougar Rules – Briefing and Public Hearing** *1 hr
45 min*
Staff will brief the Commission on options relating to cougar recreational harvest guidelines.

Staff Report: Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager

Public Hearing – This Item Only

- 6:00 PM **14. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief** *15 min*
The Commission will discuss items that arise immediately before or during the meeting and after the preliminary agenda is published.

- 6:15 PM **Adjourn**

***Times on the agenda are approximate,
the Commission may adjust the agenda to meet scheduling needs. ***

MEMBERS

Contact the Commission office with questions at (360) 902-2267, or by email to commission@dfw.wa.gov

Larry Carpenter, Chair, Mount Vernon
(Western Washington position, Skagit County)
Occupation: Retired Business Owner
Term: 08/14/2017 - 10/31/2020

Barbara Baker, Vice-Chair, Olympia
(At-large position, Thurston County)
Occupation: Attorney/Retired Administrator
Term: 01/17/2017 - 12/31/2022

Jim Anderson, Buckley
(At-large position, Pierce County)
Occupation: Retired Administrator
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

David Graybill, Leavenworth
(Eastern Washington position, Chelan County)
Occupation: Owner FishingMagician.com LLC
Term: 03/23/2015 – 12/31/2020

Robert Kehoe, Seattle
(At-large position, King County)
Occupation: Executive Director, Purse Seine
Vessel Owners' Association
Term: 01/01/2015 – 12/31/2020

Molly Linville, Palisades
(Eastern Washington position, Douglas County)
Occupation: Cattle Rancher/Farmer
KV Ranch
Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

Donald McIsaac, Ph.D., Hockinson
(Western Washington Position, Clark County)
Occupation: Retired Executive Director of the
Pacific Fishery Management Council; Part-time
Consultant
Term: 08/14/2017 – 12/31/2022

Kim Thorburn, MD, MPH, Spokane
(Eastern Washington position, Spokane County)
Occupation: Retired Public Health Physician
Term: 01/23/2017 - 12/31/2022

Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham
(Western Washington position, Whatcom County)
Occupation: Dean Emeritus, Environmental
Science
Western Washington University
Term: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2020

Contact the Commission Office with questions and to identify special accommodation needs:
Phone (360) 902-2267; TTY (800) 833-6388, Email: commission@dfw.wa.gov.
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viewing electronically by clicking on the following link:
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/>



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting January 17-18, 2020 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Bob Kehoe
Dave Graybill
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Julie Sandberg

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Bruce Barnes	Dave Croonquist	George Harris	Todd Lammers	Lance Gray
David Hedrick	Gabe Miller	Carol Burke	Merry Coleman	Bob Lake
Robb Krehbiel	Ron Garner	Steven Franzen	Scott Sigmon	Dave Hedrick
Ronald Reed	Cary Hofmann	Patrick Pattillo	Larry Bucklin	John Rickert
Dale Scott	Greg King	Mark Coleman	Ross Barkhurst	Laura Blackmore
Tom Banse	Dan Davison	Norm Reinhardt	Lisa Olsen	Amy Carey
Larry Theok	Ed Gunderson	Greg McMillan	Earl Betts	Hannah Marchley
Jay Roberts	Jody Pope	Tim Hamilton	Art Holman	

Friday, January 17, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Carpenter noted that agenda item #8, Forest Restorations was moved to the February Commission meeting and the HSRG Subcommittee tribal meeting will have Commissioner Anderson attend instead of Vice Chair Baker.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Commissioner's Smith and Thorburn commented on their travel attending the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) mid-winter meeting.

Vice Chair Baker voiced support for the Department library.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission tabled the approval of the December 13-14, 2019 meeting minutes to the February meeting.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, Baker, Linville, Anderson, McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the status review of wolves occurs in one year. It will include reviewing status and receiving staff recommendations to bring to the Commission to provide guidance. This includes the d-listing of wolves and a plan for wolf management. The scoping process portion of plan has been completed by staff. The committee discussed at great length of where the committee will engage in the process. In February the committee will bring sideboards ideas. The committee also received an update on the Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) wolf livestock protocols.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, Anderson, Linville, Baker

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed public safety and wildlife and how both DFW enforcements with state and local police collaborate and work in parallel approach. The committee agreed to recommend that next steps on non-lead efforts be delegated to Director.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Carpenter, McIsaac, Anderson, Graybill, Kehoe, Baker, Linville, Thorburn

Commissioner McIsaac reported that committee staff briefed on Puget Sound Crab, Bob Sizemore, WDFW staff provided a presentation of treaty tribe initiatives on recreational crab management policy C-3609. He talked about 7 tribal initiatives, 4 with policy changes, 3 without. Staff were going to respond to tribes and that communications will continue, and it may come up again.

Regarding the Willapa 2019 egg take distribution, staff went through a graphic showing hatchery facilities egg production and there was a discussion about whether egg takes should stay or transfer in accordance with policy or other objectives. This is a policy decision for the full Commission and its suggested that it is added to the February agenda.

The HSRG workshop timeline discussion it was recommended that it be split into two dates the Thursdays before the next two Commission meeting. Tom McBride, Legislative Director provided an update on HSRG Taskforce recommendations. The taskforce hasn't settled on a decision yet.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, McIsaac, Linville, Baker, Anderson

Vice Chair Baker reported on agenda planning. There is a recommendation from the committee to have Commissioner McIsaac and Amy Windrope, Deputy Director give their okay on the agenda before chair approval. The committee discussed the need to adopt a Commission Conservation policy. Take away staff is going to go back and put together a draft policy to be reviewed at Big Tent. The strategic planning status was also discussed and its estimated to be completed by summer of this year.

Joint State Columbia River Policy Review Committee (PRC) update

Commissioner McIsaac reported that a timeline was discussed with the PRC efforts in December to move forward after the November meeting cancellation. On January 8 the Oregon chair had concerns about time investment. On January 13 the Oregon chair voiced interest in suspending Oregon participation in the PRC for two years. Commissioner McIsaac summarized the Oregon chairs thoughts to the Commission. Commissioners will discuss how to proceed after the director provides his report on negotiations with the Oregon director.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bruce Barnes – State resources, elk hoof disease

Dave Hedrick – NE WA wolf recovery

Robb Krehbiel – Strategic plan

Ronald Reed – Wolf recover issues

3. Director's Report

The Director provided written highlights on the following:

- Olympia oyster restoration
- Commercial marketing efforts
- Solar farm Wildlife impacts
- Digital open houses
- Government-to-government efforts

Director Susewind gave an update on negotiation efforts on a 1-year agreement with Oregon on Columbia River gear and allocation. There are five areas being addressed for concurrency; Chinook (spring, summer, fall) seasons, Coho allocation, and hook recreational regulations. An agreement has not been yet reached.

The Commission acknowledged the director's delegation of authority.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of Bear Canyon acquisition proposal is to purchase 92 (+/-) acres in Yakima County within the Oak Creek Wildlife Area along the Tieton River. Protecting and enhancing this habitat will be beneficial for ESA listed bull trout and steelhead. In addition, removing the potential for domestic livestock (sheep and goats) within the Tieton bighorn sheep range is significant for future reintroduction efforts. Acquiring this property will increase public land open for outdoor recreation including additional river access on a popular fly-fishing river.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Linville to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Coastal Dungeness Crab Whale Entanglement – Decision

Michele Culver, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager and Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Coordinator requested Commission approval to the proposed measures for the 2019-2020 season intended to reduce the risk of whale entanglements.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to adopt revisions as presented in CR-102 to: WAC 220-340-430, WAC 220-340-435, and WAC 220-340-480, except for WAC 220-340-430(6)(b)(i) and (ii), adopt a line marking requirement of 12 inches and include an effective date of December 1, 2020, as well as, revision to WAC 220-340-430(6)(a) insert the word "reasonably" before necessary. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to delegate the rulemaking authority to the Director for the specific coastal Dungeness crab fishery gear marking requirements. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Puget Sound Partnership – Briefing

Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation introduced Laura Blackmore, Executive Director with the Puget Sound Partnership. She briefed the Commission on current activities and partnerships with the Department.

7. Hydraulic Project Implementing Bill 1579 – Briefing, Public Hearing

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director, Randi Thurston, Protection Division Manager, and Pat Chapman, Regulatory Services Coordinator briefed the Commission on the implementation of the hydraulic project bill 1579.

The following people provided comments:

Robb Krehbiel Hannah Marchley
Amy Carey Jay Roberts

8. Forest Restoration Projects – Briefing, Decision

This item was moved to the February agenda.

9. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during executive session and the public was not permitted to attend. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

10. Commissioner Workshop

Commissioner Anderson, Thorburn, McIsaac, Carpenter, Baker, Linville, Graybill, Kehoe, Smith, Amy Windrope, Kelly Susewind, Joe Panesko, Nikki Kloepfer

During the workshop the Commissioners reviewed the discussion captured from their September meeting in Winthrop. The group further discussed roles and responsibilities, interactions with staff and how that is managed.

Actions:

- Kelly Susewind, Director, will ask management about Commission communication engagement. An e-mail will be sent to staff about process/interaction with Commissioners. Have 15 minute “rule” then touch base with manager. The draft information will be sent to the Commission before distribution to staff.
- Amy Windrope, Deputy Director, discussed onboarding, new orientation and training efforts for Commissioners. Kathy Backman will provide Nikki the document to distribute to Commissioners for review.
- Commissioners requested a “road map” that includes rulemaking for programs, regular events from each program, use year-at-a-glance as resource. Kloepfer to schedule something week of Feb 13th. Staff will report back to the Commission in April.
- Commissioners discussed better ways to communication digitally. Nikki will schedule a meeting with staff and Commissioner Baker to explore additional options. Staff will update the Commission at the April workshop.
- Commissioners asked about regional staff support with the onboarding efforts. Regional IT can assist Commissioners with their DFW electronic devices and other issues.
- Commissioner Graybill suggested a blue sheet for optics with muzzle loader rifles. Commissioner Thorburn suggested it go to Wildlife committee first. The item will be addressed at the February Wildlife committee meeting.
- Staff and Joe Panesko, AGO will work to address the Fish and Wildlife Commission procedures and committee structure for formal approval. This will be discussed at the workshop in April.

- The Commissioners agreed to have actions or motions draft and projected onto the screen in the Commission meetings for adequate discussion. They also agreed to have motions in writing beforehand and a “no surprises rule.” Joe Panesko offered to capture if “off the cuff”
- Next Commission workshop will be in April.

Recess

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

11. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622- Briefing, Public Comment

Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst, Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy, and Kirt Hughes, Statewide Salmon and Steelhead Fishery Manager provided a review of fishery management objectives utilized during the 2019 North of Falcon process and preliminary harvest estimates from the 2019 fishery season in relation to pre-season predicted estimates of harvest and discuss fishery management guidance for the 2020 fishery season.

The following people provided comments:

Tim Hamilton	Greg McMillan	Art Holman	Norm Reinhardt
Frances Estralla	Greg King	Lance Gra	Bob Lake
Marlia Dugan	Lisa Olsen	Ross Barkhurst	

12. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Ed Gunderson – More fish	Marlisa Dugan – Willapa habitat
Ross Barkhurst – Willapa habitat	Greg King – Fish
Dan Davison – Fish predation	Laurence Bucklin – Point-no-point
Norm Reinhardt – Point-no-point	Dave Hedrick – WAG/Wolf plan

13. Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan – Briefing, Public Comment

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy updated the Commission on the current timeline and process for the Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan.

The following people provided comments:

Ron Garner
Norm Reinhardt
Patrick Pattillo
George Harris

14. Future Meeting Planning

The following suggestions were made for the February agenda:

- Addition of Hatchery Reform Workshop, part one of two, Thursday morning
- Add agenda item for Columbia River
- Two committees, Thursday afternoon, Wildlife committee Friday morning 7am
- Saturday morning, Big Tent committee
- Add 30 minutes to “Hunting Contests” agenda item

15. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioner Kehoe requested a letter be drafted to the Oregon Commission to reconsider their position and repeal their suspension. He offered to write it.

Chair Carpenter would like more information before next steps. He offered to contact the Chair for clarity. The response will be sent to the Commission once received.

Chair Carpenter proposes a blue sheet titled "Willapa Bay" a briefing on ecological factors related to Willapa Bay food chain primarily related to food sources and availability for out migrating juvenile salmonids.

Chair Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to support the "Willapa Bay" blue sheet as proposed. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting February 6-8, 2020 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
 Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
 Bob Kehoe
 Dave Graybill
 Donald McIsaac
 Kim Thorburn
 Molly Linville
 James R. Anderson
 Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
 Director
 Amy Windrope, Deputy
 Director
 Joe Panesko, AGO
 Ron Warren
 Eric Gardner
 Anis Aoude
 Kirt Hughes

Bill Tweit
 Craig Burley
 Samantha Montgomery
 Joe Anderson
 Ken Warheit
 Cynthia Wilkerson
 Richard Tveten
 Chad Herring
 Mike Scharpf

Taylor Cotten
 Brendan Brooks
 Lisa Coffman
 Donny Martorello
 Julia Smith
 Nate Pamplin
 Joel Sisolak
 Jeff Davis
 Todd Seamons
 Bethany Craig

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Diane Gallegos
 Fred Koontz
 Jennifer Hillman
 Jean Manst
 Bruce Ogren
 Ron Figlar-Barnes
 Butch Smith
 Anna Robinson
 Irene Martin
 Phil Wolff
 Dave Croonquist
 Michael Schmitz
 Jacques White
 Frank Gorecki
 Erin Sullivan
 James Goche
 Michael Runyon

Jill Fritz
 Kerston Swartz
 Sophia Ressler
 Bob Lake
 Ross Barkhurst
 Kim Figlar-Barnes
 Greg King
 Lucas Marin
 Kent Martin
 Dale Beasley
 Lisa Wilson
 AJ Dotzauer
 Rob Geddis
 Story Warren
 Paula Sweden
 Jamie Glasgow
 Ruth Musgrave

Dan Paul
 Debra Munguia
 Ronald Reed
 Joe Durham
 Scott Crawford
 Mark Ashley
 Bryce Divine
 Joanne Tejada
 Ken VanBuskirk
 John Barr
 Bethany Craig
 Jeff Dickison
 Sherri Felix
 Andy Cove
 Dawn Wade
 David Moskowitz

Winslow Murdoch
 Katie Remine
 Tim Hamilton
 Darrell Johnson
 Michael Runyon
 Lisa Olsen
 Robert Sudar
 Irene LeVee
 Mendy Harlow
 Frank Urabeck
 Lee Blankenship
 Peggy Frank
 David Linville
 Chrissy Cove
 Shaughn Jarvis
 Conrad Gowell

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the workshop to order at 8:00 a.m.

Hatchery Policy Review Emerging Science Report Workshop – Briefing, Public Comment

Joe Anderson, Research Scientist and Ken Warheit, Supervisor of Genetic and Fish Health Laboratories briefed the Commission on the key findings of the recently completed science report titled, "A review of hatchery reform science in Washington State."

The following people provided comments:

Lisa Wilson
Greg King
Jamie Glasgow

Butch Smith
Robert Sudar
Conrad Gowell

Dave Croonquist
Lee Blankenship

Frank Urabeck
David Moskowitz

Friday, February 7, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Carpenter amended item #4 Lands 20/20. The item is a briefing only.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The December meeting minutes were tabled until later in the meeting.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Thorburn, Linville, Baker, Smith, Carpenter, Kehoe

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee had an initial discussion about post-recovery sideboards. A comprehensive discussion will be held when scoping results are provided to the committee next month. The post-doctoral position contracted to model the state wolf population and recovery is open until Feb 15th. The committee was briefed on current legislation and events.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville, Smith, Carpenter, McIsaac, Graybill

Commissioner Thorburn reported the committee had a hunting contest options discussion. The committee recommends evaluating the CR-101. The committee also had a high-level discussion on weapon modernization. For the next meeting, the committee will discuss the wildlife and cougar presentations being given to the Commission.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker

Commissioner McIsaac reported that Frank Urabeck spoke to Baker Lake Sockeye. The meeting planned to discuss allocation issues was canceled due to absence of one tribe. Another meeting is being scheduled. During public testimony the public asked that no run size is agreed to until addressed.

The Willapa Bay comprehensive review is 50% complete, staff will present to the Commission at the September meeting for approval. Staff will engage with the Willapa Bay advisory group in late July early August to get feedback.

Fall chinook hatchery egg take and 2020 fishery specifics were discussed for Commissioner approval under the Willapa Bay 2020 Guidance preview. Chad Herring briefed on what he planned on presenting.

Commissioner McIsaac reported that that at the January meeting there was discussion in favor of continuing to move down the road in a process with the Columbia River Policy Review. A draft policy review timeline was distributed and discussed. The committee recommended forming a Columbia River Workgroup with the same members that sat on the Joint-State Columbia River Fishery Policy Review Committee (PRC).

The committee discussed the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Returns packet covering aggregate of chinook runs in decadal averages.

The Committee discussed a Columbia River Policy process review timeline proposing a two Commission meeting process in April and June to complete the process one Committee meeting on the eastside and one on the westside, with public comment on both. It includes three meetings of a new Committee, the Columbia River Policy Workgroup.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Irene Martin – PRC Process, Strategic Planning	Kent Martin – PRC process
Greg King – Fisheries	Robert Sudar – Columbia River Policy
Bryce Divine – Columbia River Alt Gear	

3. Director’s Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

Accolades to Tom McBride, Legislative Director
Strategic Planning
Fish co-manager efforts
North of Falcon
Legislative session
Current and ongoing collaborations and partnerships

Brendan Brokes, Region 4 Director, provided an update on Skagit Elk efforts.

4. Lands 20/20– Briefing, Public Comment

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager provided a briefing on the Lands 20/20 process.

The following people provided comments:

Ken Van Buskirk	Mendy Harlow
Joanne Tejada	

5. 2020 Forest Restoration Project Approval Requests – Briefing, Decision

Richard Tveten, Forest Management Team Lead sought approval from the Commission on forest management projects that involve harvesting volumes exceeding one million board feet.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the proposed commercial thinning project as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Columbia River Policy Review Next Steps - Briefing

Director Susewind reported on 2020 Columbia River fisheries policy and negotiations with Oregon Director Curt Melcher and the Commission discussed potential next steps for Policy C-3620.

Commissioner Graybill made a motion to amend certain provisions of Policy C-3620 for the 2020 fishery season only with the intent of providing staff the policy guidance necessary to develop 2020 fishery plans that mirror, as closely as possible the actual 2019 fisheries. The full motion is available on the website [here](#).

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac, to table Commissioner Graybill's motion for one week in order to give Director Susewind time to conclude negotiations with Oregon related to 2020 fisheries on the Columbia River. The Commission delegated the task to him in the interests of certainty and orderly fisheries, for this year only.

As part of this motion related to timing – Commissioner Thorburn added that if Director Susewind is not able to conclude negotiations with Oregon by 8:30 am on Friday, February 14th, our commission meets by conference call to take up Commissioner Graybill's motion at that time. If an agreement is reached between Oregon and Washington by our respective directors before then, Commissioner Graybill's motion will be moot. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner McIsaac requested a continuation of the Columbia River Fishery Policy Review with the formation of a workgroup with the three appointed members from the PRC group. The Commissioners supported the workgroup formation.

The Commissioners also requested that the March meeting in Kennewick address spring salmon chinook allocations and the proposed workgroup schedule moving forward.

The Commission discussed Commissioner Kehoe's draft letter to the Oregon chair. The Commission agreed that he bring a draft to be discussed at Saturday debrief.

7. Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

Mike Scharpf, District Biologist provided the Commission an annual review briefing on Grays Harbor salmon management as stipulated within Policy C-3621, providing guidance for Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Tim Hamilton	Bob Lake
Joe Durham	Darrell Johnson

8. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622- Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

Ron Warren, Fish Policy Director and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager provided a briefing on the performance of policy implementation and seek guidance from the Commission on implementing the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) for 2019 brood year fall chinook hatchery releases and 2020 fishery management objectives and measures.

The following people provided comments:

Dale Beasley	Tim Hamilton
Ross Barkhurst	Marlisa Dugan
Bob Lake	Joe Durham
Mark Ashley	Lisa Olsen

Bruce Ogren

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Graybill to accept the 2019 BY egg take staff recommendations. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn as it relates to the fishery management aspects of the policy, carry forward the 2019 guidance except to reduce the unmarked Chinook impact rate to 14%. All in favor. Motion passes.

9. Lower Columbia Sturgeon Stock Status – Briefing. Public Comment

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided the Commission an annual review on lower Columbia River sturgeon population status, as stipulated within Policy C-3001. The Commission will discuss 2020 fisheries and provide guidance on the delegation to set 2020 fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Butch Smith Greg King
Bob Lake

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Ruth Musgrave – Pollinators

11. Hunting Contests – Briefing. Public Comment

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on the Washington laws and regulations that apply to hunting and fishing contests and provided an update on recent changes to hunting contests in other States.

The following people provided comments:

Dan Paul Chrissy Cole
Story Warren Camilla Fox
Ruth Musgrave Frank Gorecki
Jill Fritz Fred Koontz
Paula Swedeen

The Commission agreed with the Wildlife Committees recommendation to open the CR-101 and evaluate Washington's hunting contests.

12. Pollinator Projects and Backyard Sanctuaries – Briefing

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager briefed the Commission on best practices related to small scale habitat projects specifically related to pollinators and backyard sanctuaries.

13. Hatchery Policy C-3619 Review– Briefing. Public Comment

Laurie Peterson, Fish Program Science Division Manager will provide the Commission with the remaining schedule and process in the hatchery policy review. The Commission discussed next

steps subsequent to the workshop on February 6.

There was no public comment for this item.

14. Future Meeting Planning

There will be no Big Tent or Fish committee meeting in March. Lands transactions was moved from March to the April agenda.

The hunting contests CR-101 draft language will be presented to the Commission in Yakima and a final decision at the Everett meeting.

The Commission requested that the Hatchery Reform Workshop be moved to the afternoon instead of the morning for staff and Commissioner travel.

15. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Chair Carpenter brought the December 2019 minutes up for discussion.

There are two areas of the December minutes prior to considering them for adoption at the upcoming February FWC meeting:

1. The Commission guidance under agenda item 10 regarding the Hatchery Policy review. The link apparently failed just prior to the January FWC meeting and it is unclear if all Commissioners had a chance to look at it, as per the workshop discussion last Friday. The link is working now.
2. Revised language on the delegation task to the Director under agenda item 12.

The revised verbiage is as follows:

“Vice Chair Baker noted a letter from Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher suggesting that he and Director Susewind work together to provide concurrency and allocation direction for the upcoming spring chinook season and North of Falcon planning since the PRC process is not completed. The commission agreed to delegate exploring these preparations to the Director for the 2020 spring chinook season and North of Falcon negotiations. The Director is expected to report back to the Commission on this matter at the January Commission meeting.”

Commission Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Baker to approve the minutes of the December 13-14, 2019 meeting as amended. All in favor. Motion passed.

The following Commissioners would like to attend the Governor's meeting, May 27 at 1pm in Olympia. Commissioners Carpenter, Linville, Kehoe, Smith, Thorburn, Anderson, and Baker.

Commissioner Kehoe opened for discussion his draft letter to Chair Wahl with the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commissioners offered a few modifications. Nikki will update draft and send to Chair Carpenter for final approval before sending it to the Oregon Commission.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Anderson, Smith, Linville, Carpenter, Graybill

Vice Chair Baker reported that staff provided an update on strategic planning efforts. Carrie McCausland, Public Affairs Director provided an update of projects and outreach being done by the agency and communities impacted. Cynthia Wilkerson, DFW Lands Manager and Joel Sisolak,

Lands, Planning, Recreation and Outreach Section Manager provided an overview of recreation on DFW lands. Commissioners Smith and Baker requested that DFW Public Relations reach out to the Boy Scouts in Vancouver and see if there are volunteering efforts that can be coordinated. The Commissioners will forward the contact information to staff.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Conference Call
Friday, February 21, 2020
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:	Public:
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Amy Windrope,	Nikki Kloepfer	James Phillips
Don McIsaac	Deputy Director		Chris Bachman
Bob Kehoe	Edward Eleazer		Bryon Cleary
Dave Graybill	Craig Burley		
James Anderson	Margen Carlson		
Kim Thorburn	Randi Thurston		
Molly Linville	Anis Aoude		
Brad Smith	Brendan Brokes		

Friday, February 21, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Petition – Whatcom Creek – Decision

Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager briefed the Commission on a petition to amend a rule that changes the current Statewide min. size/daily limit on Whatcom Creek from Woburn Street Bridge to Racine St. Foot Bridge to -Single point hook - Catch and Release – Fly Fishing only - Year-Round.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to deny the petition to change existing regulations on Whatcom Creek from Racine Street Foot Bridge to Woburn Street Bridge to single point hook, catch and release, fly fishing only, year-round. All in favor. Motion passes.

B. Incorporating Elements of 2SHB 1579 into the Hydraulic Code Rules – Briefing and New Rulemaking Timeline

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director and Randi Thurston, Protection Division Manager briefed the Commission regarding a change in the rulemaking schedule.

Commissioner Thorburn suggested removing “we” under WAC 220-660-480, page three of the materials, highlighted paragraphs. Instead using Department or WDFW.

Schedule changes include:

- Filing the supplemental CR-102, March 4 with public comment,
- A briefing at the April Commission meeting with a public hearing and;
- A decision at the April 24 conference call.

C. Future Meeting Planning

The Commissioners discussed the draft March agenda.

Commissioner McIsaac requested that item #15 be reworded to say, "policy analysis", not workgroup discussion. The Commissioners also agreed to extend the item 30 minutes to allow ample time for public comments.

Commissioners agreed to keep item #13 Cougar rules on Friday but add 45 minutes to allow public testimony and adequate opportunity for Commissioners to discuss the issue.

D. General Discussion

Commissioner Thorburn asked about the current temperature of the legislative climate. Amy Windrope, Deputy Director, indicated that the budget is to come out next week and the agency is hopeful, with no negative indications.

Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Thorburn gave thanks to Nate Pamplin for his narrative of spring 2020 Columbia River fisheries.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

Director's Report



MARCH 2020

Director
Kelly Susewind

Deputy Director
Amy Windrope

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This issue

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Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program	P.4
Chehalis Basin Flood Control EIS	P.4

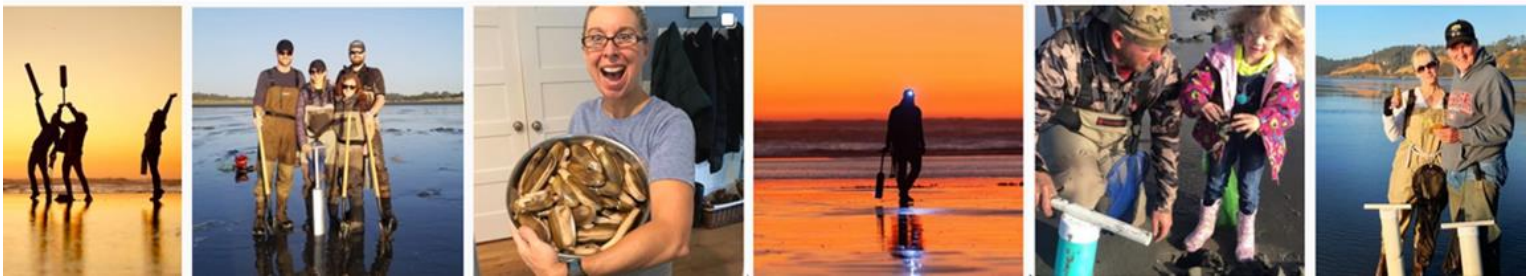
Razor Clam Harvest

Razor clam harvesting along the 58 miles of sandy beaches of Washington's open Pacific Coast has long been a family tradition for thousands of Washington residents. To insure sustainability of this unique resource, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) carefully manages razor clam populations. Seasons are set to allow for harvest openers during periods of low tides, each month, between October and May. In the fall and winter when low tides occur at night, thousands of clam diggers brave the elements to dig by lantern or flashlight. The better weather during springtime morning tides often means even more diggers headed to coastal beaches.

A major component of the Department's management of this iconic species is the work conducted by agency staff to complete a thorough population assessment each summer, following the close of the previous season. The data collected is used to set harvest quotas for the coming season.

Thanks to good ocean conditions allowing for the successful spawning and setting of razor clams, the 2019 summer assessment documented populations of harvestable-sized clams more abundant than any time in the last three decades. This has allowed fishery managers to offer an unusual number of digging opportunities so far during the 2019-20 recreational season. Even with the challenges winter weather can pose, intrepid harvesters have braved the elements to make over 175,000 digging trips and harvest over 2.5 million clams. There is a lot more to come. The Department has just announced a long list of dates through the end of April (with more dates likely to come in May) when diggers will have the chance to visit the coast to participate in this time-honored tradition – and very likely bring home limits of these tasty shellfish.

Along a portion of the Washington coast, the Department works closely with tribal fishery managers to ensure harvest opportunities for all. This includes tribal staff actively participating in summer harvest assessment work. In those areas, the harvest is shared equally.



With an epic razor clam season projected last year, the Marketing team set out to promote the great work of our coastal shellfish managers by engaging the public in a creative way – pitting the clam gunners against the clam shovel enthusiasts. The results have been overwhelmingly positive and a breath of fresh air for the agency. Connecting with the public improves relevancy of the agency!

We have partnered with local and national radio personality Fitz in the Morning from 98.9 The Bull, who has done a great job with our radio ads for the Razor Clam Face-Off. Partnering with public figures and industry influencers

increases agency relevancy and trust with the general public and provides organic awareness growth. Fitz is excited to work with us, and staff are currently developing concepts to collaborate on our 2020 Statewide Trout Derby campaign.

Public engagement for the Face-Off continues to increase as we enter the spring digging season, and we expect to see an increase in families on the beach as the daytime digs become the norm. Our YouTube “mockumentary” series continues to engage diggers, with the [latest video](#) at 38,000 views on the [WDFW Facebook page](#).

Results by month comparing 2018 razor clam license sales to 2019:

- September up **51%** (\$30,065)
- October up **15%** (\$42,936)
- November up **20%** (\$37,679)
- December up **20%** (\$23,882)

Comparing Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020 to date, razor clam license sales are up 57% (\$94,926) and shellfish is up 9% (\$64,439).



Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program

In spring 2019, the Washington State Legislature directed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop rules for a new commercial whale-watching licensing program enacted via Senate Bill 5577: a bill concerning the protection of Southern Resident Orca Whales from vessels. The purpose of creating and defining rules for a new licensing program is to enable sustainable whale watching while reducing the impacts of vessel noise and disturbance so whales can effectively forage, rest, and socialize.

In October 2019, the Department solicited applicants for an ad-hoc advisory committee to help develop these rules and processes. The Advisory Committee consists of members of the whale watching industry, including the Pacific Whale Watching Association, the on-the-water education and monitoring group SoundWatch, the nonprofit community (including the Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Aquarium, and Friends of the San Juans), and the public. The Advisory Committee began meeting in January 2020 and will conduct the bulk of its deliberations between now and May, with the hopeful result of a consensus recommendation to the Department regarding rules for the new licensing program.

An Intergovernmental Coordination Group including Department Enforcement, NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Puget Sound Partnership, and Canadian counterparts from Transport Canada and the Canadian Department of Fisheries meets in parallel to discuss issues around administration, implementation, and coordination. Finally, an independent panel of scientists is in formation by the Washington State Academy of Sciences to determine the best available science that will inform the rulemaking.

Draft language for the rules will be shared and refined over the summer of 2020, and the public comment period will follow in fall 2020, with expected adoption of the rules by Jan. 1, 2021.

Chehalis Basin Flood Control EIS

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD; Project Applicant) is proposing a new flood reduction facility (a.k.a. dam) and temporary reservoir (filled only during major floods) on the upper Chehalis River upstream of the town of Pe Ell. The Department of Ecology is leading development of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Draft EIS for the facility. The Department is an agency of expertise and provided significant contributions related to modeling, field data collection, focused studies, and analysis to support development of the Draft EIS.

Based on the Draft EIS, which was released February 27, the proposed flood reduction facility would, if not mitigated, have significant adverse environmental impacts to fish and aquatic species and habitats, water and earth resources, riparian habitat, wetlands, recreation, and wildlife species and habitats, among other resources.

The Draft EIS is an objective, science-based technical document that will help decision makers, project applicants, and the public understand how the entire proposal will affect the environment. The FCZD/Project Applicant has initiated preparation of a draft mitigation framework for the proposed facility. The Department will actively work with the FCZD on developing mitigation, with the caveat that the feasibility and sufficiency of mitigation are still unknown.

The EIS is not a decision document. The Department and others will use the EIS to determine the feasibility and appropriate scale of mitigation, as well as how the proposed dam may or may not fit into a larger Chehalis Basin Strategy to reduce flood damage and restore salmon, steelhead, and other aquatic species. The Chehalis Strategy, assuming a final agreement is reached, will include an Aquatic Species Restoration Plan on top of mitigation for any flood control structures. The strategy is currently under negotiation at the Chehalis Basin Board (which includes a Department representative as a non-voting member), and a board decision on at least its content and phasing is anticipated by the end of the 2020.

Ecology is holding a 61-day public comment period for the SEPA Draft EIS on the Proposed Project from February 27 through April 27, 2020. Ecology anticipates the SEPA Final EIS will be published in 2021. The Department is coordinating closely with Ecology on communications and public meetings.

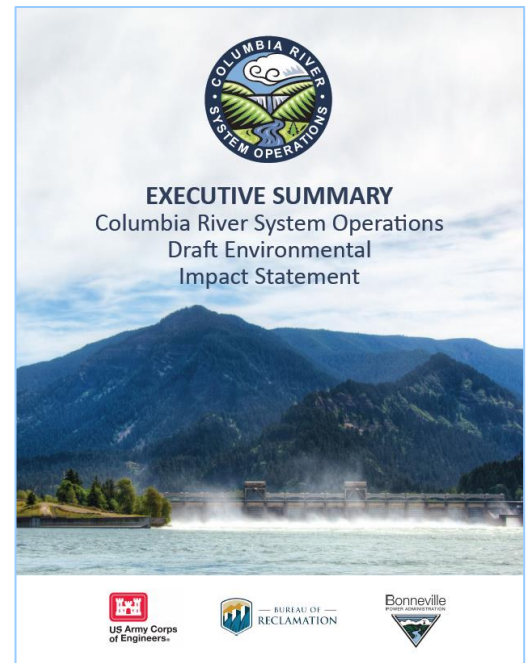
Columbia River Power System: Recent Developments

There have been several developments regarding the federal Columbia-Snake River dams in the last couple of months. A draft Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (CRSO EIS) was released on Friday, February 28. Already, multiple regional interests are saying that the EIS, while a step forward in terms of dam operations, will not be sufficient to resolve a long-standing controversy over salmon and dam management on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The draft EIS embraces the "flexible spill" operation negotiated in 2018 by Washington (including Department staff), Oregon, Nez Perce Tribe, Bonneville Power Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation. That operation, which calls for increasing the proportion of water routed over dam spillways 16 hours a day and reducing "spill" for the other eight hours, is expected to provide in the neighborhood of a 25% improvement in Snake River spring/summer Chinook Smolt-to-Adult returns (SARs) relative to pre-2012 dam operations. This should get

SARs closer to Northwest Power and Conservation Council goals, but will remain short of the levels needed for recovery. In recognition of both the progress represented by the flexible spill operation and its limitations, many elected leaders and stakeholders are calling for a regional collaboration that seeks to restore abundant salmon and steelhead while protecting clean, affordable, and reliable energy and reliable and affordable transportation and irrigation infrastructure for agriculture.

One call for regional collaboration came from a letter to four northwest Governors signed by an unlikely mix of energy utility, port, and conservation interests. The letter calls for using the CRSO EIS as a "springboard to collaboratively develop a long-term vision and strategic plan" to recover salmon and protect other interests. Another letter from Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to Gov. Jay Inslee echoes the stakeholders' call for collaboration and recognizing stakeholder needs, but goes further in stating a strong belief that lower Snake River dam breaching must be part of any long-term plan. These letters came as a consultant was wrapping up a process funded



by the state legislature and led by Gov. Inslee's office to explore stakeholder hopes and fears around dam breaching. The consultant's report will be released March 6. Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) is actively exploring federal legislation to reform the Northwest Power Act to provide more certainty for both Bonneville Power Administration finances and salmon recovery, and he has expressed a willingness to pursue lower Snake River dam breaching if that is what the region determines is necessary to restore Snake River salmon and steelhead.

Department staff is helping lead the state response to the draft EIS and will be involved in discussions about a potential regional collaboration around a long-term vision for the Columbia and Snake rivers.

**Landowner Hunting Permits (LHP) and Landowner Raffle Hunts
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts.
WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Landowner Hunting Permits (LHP) and Landowner Raffle Hunts–
Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter(s): Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager

Background summary: Department staff will brief the commission on:

- WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts.
- WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts, staff propose adjusting the submission date from December 31 to May 1, to coincide with the new standard operating procedure under the Landowner Hunting Permit WAC 220-412-100.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits, staff proposes changes to the standard operating procedure for the Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) Program. Over the past year, the department has held public meetings and active stakeholder/landowner meetings to assess the current views of the program. These comments have been taken into consideration as well as input from WDFW staff which has resulted in the development of the new standard operating procedure for the LHP program. The Landowner Hunting Permit WAC has been adjusted to reflect the new requirements for the LHP program as outlined in the standard operating procedure. No new adjustments to hunt dates or permit allocations are proposed at this time.

Staff recommendation:

Adoption of the new WACs as written.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Adjustment of submission date.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see attachment A, public comments.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-412-050 Landowner Raffle Hunts

We received 147 total comments on this proposed rule change. All comments relating to this rule were received through our online survey.

Written Supporting Comments:

Forty-six percent of the respondents indicated that they were in favor of the proposed changes. Of those that generally agreed, one individual provided written comment that suggested that under this WAC, advertising of any raffle hunts should be required.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

Eleven percent of the respondents indicated an opposing position on the rule. Of those two provided written comment. One individual simply stated that they were opposed to all landowner raffle hunts. The other individual stated their opposition to Landowner Raffle hunts and associated this practice with the privatization of wildlife.

Forty-three percent of the respondents indicated a neutral position on the rule. Of those two provided written comment. One individual stated that they opposed all landowner permits and that landowners should not be able to manage/sell access to a public resource such as wildlife. The other individual stated that more background information would have been helpful.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

Those who provided comment who demonstrated opposition made general statements regarding their opposition to landowner raffle hunts and the privatization of wildlife. Neither comment directly related to the specific change being recommended to the rule and therefore were not used in the decision to obstruct this rule from moving forward.

Those who provided comments who demonstrated a neutral position made general statements regarding opposition to landowners receiving permits and that the managing and selling of access for a public resource should not be allowed. The second comment was general and simply stated more background information would have been helpful. Neither comment directly related to the specific change being recommended to the rule and therefore were not used in the decision to obstruct this rule from moving forward.

Those who provided comments who demonstrated support for the changes simply made one suggestion that advertising should be required for landowners who perform raffles. This will be taken into consideration in the future but since it does not directly relate to the specific change being recommended, it will not be implemented at this time.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner Hunting Permits

We received 139 total comments on this proposed rule change. All comments relating to this rule were received through our online survey.

Written Supporting Comments:

Thirty-eight percent of the respondents indicated that they were in favor of the proposed changes. Of those that generally agreed, two individuals provided written comment. Both respondents were in favor of the revisions and gave praise to WDFW for acting.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

Nine percent of the respondents indicated an opposing position on the rule. Of those, two provided written comment. One individual simply stated that they were opposed to any form of fee hunting. The other individual stated that this program should be abolished due to too many special interests at the landowner level.

Fifty-three percent of the respondents indicated a neutral position on the rule. Of those, one provided written comment. This individual stated that there have been many misrepresentations by landowners who give their permits to friends and family. This individual also stated that permits should be prioritized to public hunters based upon their proximity to the hunting location.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

Those who provided comment in opposition were general regarding their opposition to all types of fee hunting. Some stated that the program should be abolished due to too many special interests at the Landowner level. Regarding the latter comment, WDFW recognized that this was a public concern and believes that the new requirements under the rule should alleviate these issues moving forward.

Out of those who provided comment taking a neutral position, there was one general statement made regarding opposition to permits being only given to friends and family of the landowner. It was also stated that permits should be given to hunters in close proximity to the LHP property rather than those hunters who are further away. Under the current system, many of the allocated WDFW permits are raffled or draw permits through the WDFW Licensing system. We think prioritizing location preference creates an unfair advantage.

Those who demonstrated support for the rule changes provided comment and praised WDFW for taking action and revising this program.

WAC 220-412-050

Landowner Raffle Hunts



Ciera Strickland
Private Lands Access Program Manager
Game Division
Wildlife Program

Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Ciera Strickland
Private Lands Access Program Manager
Game Division
Wildlife Program

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:
 - Feel Free to Hunt
 - Register to Hunt
 - Hunt by Written Permission
 - Hunt by Reservation (Online)

Program Statistics for the 2018-19 Hunting Seasons

Feel Free to Hunt		Hunt by Reservation		Register to Hunt		Hunt by Written Permission		Landowner Hunt Permit	
Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres	Cooperators	Acres
149	660,970	97	103,074	37	24,706	245	574,930	5	115,393

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)

Statewide Totals	
Cooperators	Acres
533	1,479,073

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

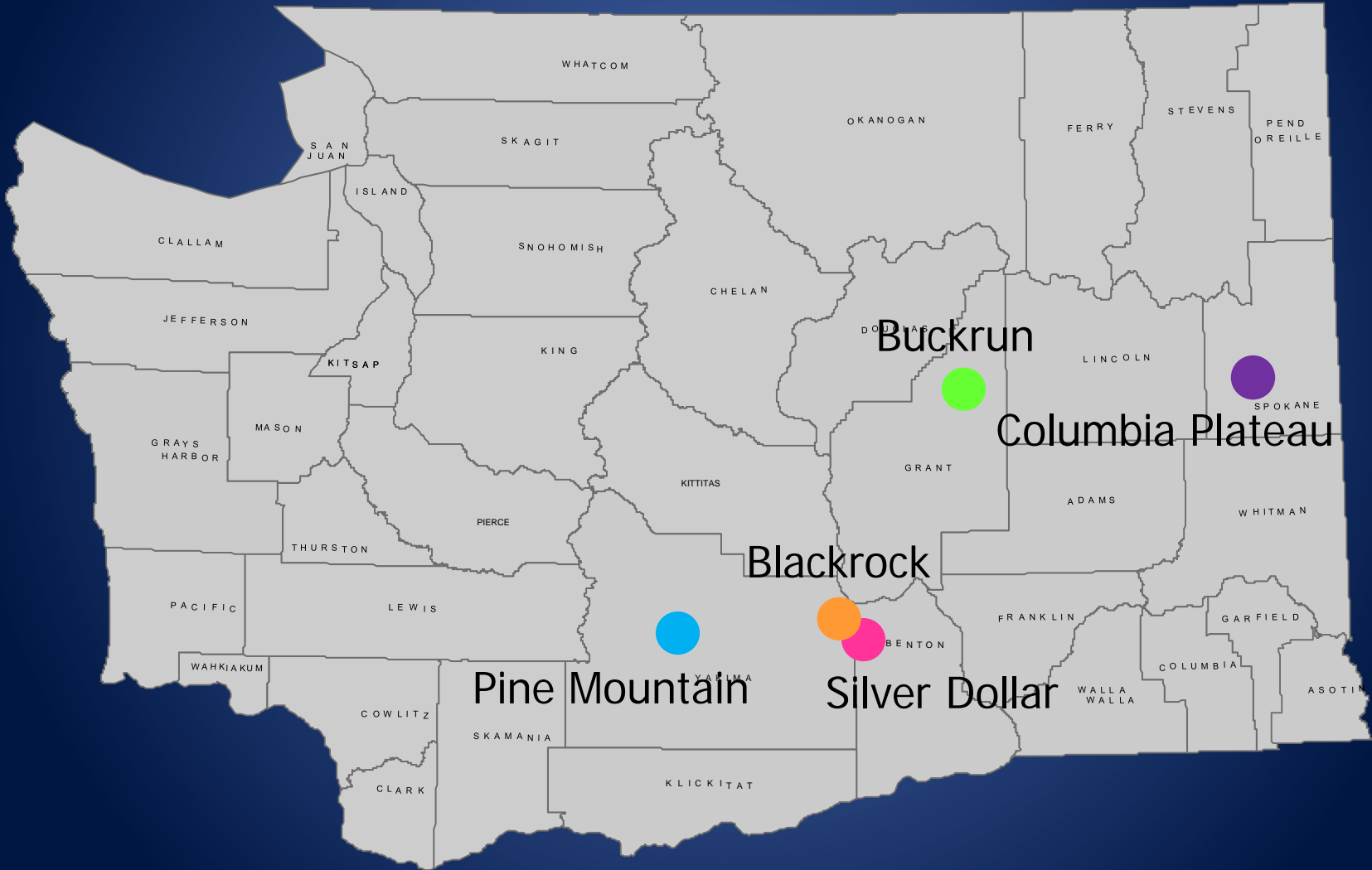
LHP Program Revision Process

- 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.

Current LHP Properties - MAP



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?



**Migratory Waterfowl and Gamebird Seasons and Regulation and Hunter Education Instructor
Turkey Incentive Permit – Briefing and Public Comment**

220-416-010 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.
220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations.

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13, 2020

Agenda item: Migratory Waterfowl and Gamebird Seasons and Regulations and Hunter Education Instructor Turkey Incentive Permits – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on the proposed amendment of WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations and WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

Migratory waterfowl season frameworks are established through ongoing interagency management programs involving U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and flyway organizations, including input from Canada, Russia, and Mexico. Federal frameworks include maximum bag limits, season lengths, season timing, and other regulations. Pacific Flyway season frameworks follow harvest strategies and management plans that have been developed cooperatively by USFWS and the Pacific Flyway Council. All states adopt waterfowl seasons within federal frameworks, and in many cases, they are more restrictive to address regional conservation needs.

Management agencies utilize Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) to establish duck season frameworks. AHM relies on annual survey information and population models to prescribe optimal regulation packages each year. The population of ducks in the western part of North America is managed separately from the eastern flyways, as part of the models developed for western mallard AHM. Western mallard AHM uses results from breeding surveys and other information from western areas rather than from the Canadian prairies, recognizing differences in Pacific Flyway breeding areas. The season packages proposed for western mallard AHM are the same as developed under mid-continent mallard AHM (liberal, moderate, and restrictive), although different models are used to prescribe annual packages.

During the 2019 breeding waterfowl assessment, most duck populations continued to benefit from good wetland and favorable weather conditions in major breeding areas, including Washington State. However, Northern pintail status remained below population objective, resulting in a daily bag limit of one pintail per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy. Additionally, based on the 2019 scaup status, the optimal regulatory alternative described in AHM protocol, requires a restrictive regulatory alternative, reducing the daily bag limit to two scaup per day, but maintains the 86-day season length.

The department staff will brief the Commission on the proposed amendment of WAC 220-416-010 Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons.

We recommend adding two spring turkey hunter education instructor incentive permits.

Staff recommendation:

- Adjust season dates relative to 2020-2021 calendar dates.
- Maintain one-pintail per day bag-limit and associated possession limit per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy.
- Lowering scaup bag-limit to two-scaup per day and associated possession limits, while maintaining an 86-day season length per the optimal regulatory alternative described in AHM protocol.
- Shifting seven-days from the beginning of the first season segment to the end of the third season segment for white geese in Goose Management Area 4 (Columbia Basin).
- Add two spring turkey hunter education instructor incentive permits.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Establishing waterfowl hunting seasons within frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including continuation of a 107-day season for ducks.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Form revised 2-15-18

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

Written Supporting Comments:

There were 139 comments submitted for this WAC proposal. Ninety-two comments generally agreed with the proposal.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

There were eleven opposing comments submitted for this WAC proposal. Several made mention of the perspective that turkey should be considered a nuisance species. Several comments were not clear on the actual incentive being offered with these two additional permits. Thirty-six comments submitted took a neutral stance on the proposed recommendations, but available comments provided comment for topics not opened in this WAC.

Fish and Wildlife Commission Hearing, Public Comments:

(To be filled out after the first Commission meeting)

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

This proposal adds two permits as an incentive to hunter education instructors and does not pose any impact to overall turkey hunting seasons.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.

Written Supporting Comments:

There were 129 comments submitted for this WAC proposal. Fifty-four comments generally agreed with the proposal. Two comments requested modification to the waterfowl pamphlet related to goose seasons descriptions but were supportive of the changes.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

There were nine opposing comments submitted for this WAC proposal. Several comments were related to the maintained one-pintail per day and a decrease in bag-limit to two-scaup per day during the authorized 86-day scaup season. Several comments are requesting changes that are federal framework and not at the discretion of the department to adjust. Sixty-six comments submitted took a neutral stance on the proposed recommendations, but available comments provided comment for topics not opened in this WAC.

Fish and Wildlife Commission Hearing, Public Comments:

(To be filled out after the first Commission meeting)

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

Migratory waterfowl season frameworks are established through ongoing interagency management programs involving U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and flyway organizations, including input from Canada, Russia, and Mexico. Federal frameworks include maximum bag limits, season lengths, season timing, and other regulations. Pacific Flyway season frameworks follow harvest strategies and management plans that have been developed cooperatively by USFWS and the Pacific Flyway Council. All states adopt waterfowl seasons within federal frameworks, and in many cases, they are more restrictive to address regional conservation needs.

Management agencies utilize Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) to establish duck season frameworks. AHM relies on annual survey information and population models to prescribe optimal regulation packages each year. The population of ducks in the western part of North America is managed separately from the eastern flyways, as part of the models developed for western mallard AHM. Western mallard AHM uses results from breeding surveys and other information from western areas rather than from the Canadian prairies, recognizing differences in Pacific Flyway breeding areas.

WAC 220-416-010

Small Game and Other Wildlife Seasons and Regulations



Kyle Spragens
Waterfowl Section Manager
Game Division
Wildlife Program

Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits

Turkey, Section e, subsection v:

- Recommend adding two spring turkey hunter education instructor incentive permits:
 - 4 individuals will be drawn for this permit per year.

Public Comment:

- 139 comments
 - 92 Generally Agree (66%)
 - 26 neutral
 - 11 Generally Do Not Agree



WAC 220-416-060

2020-2021 Migratory Gamebird Seasons and Regulations



Kyle Spragens
Waterfowl Section Manager
Game Division
Wildlife Program

Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Migratory Gamebird Hunting Authorities & Process

- USFWS Authority: Federal Framework
 - Season length
 - Earliest opening date
 - Latest closing date
 - Upper bag limits



- State Discretion: WAC within Federal Framework
 - Season timing within outside framework dates
 - Bag limits can be more restrictive but not more liberal



Framework Changes

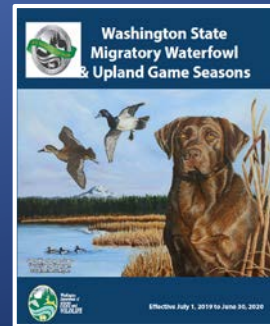
	Pacific Flyway Meetings August
	USFWS Service Regs Committee October

Non-framework Changes

	Commission Briefing - March
	Commission Adoption - April

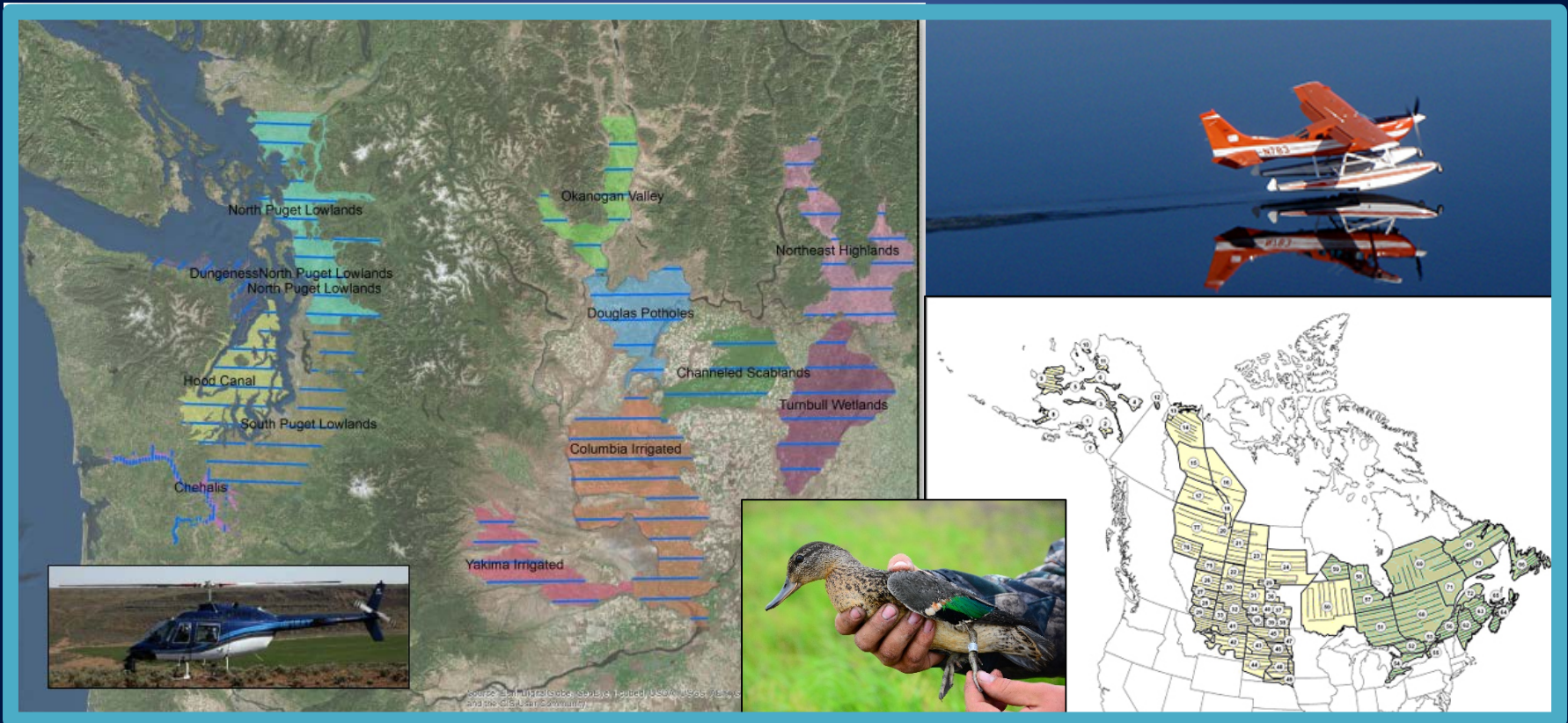
	Season Selections Due to USFWS Late-April
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Waterfowl Advisory Group & Public Input



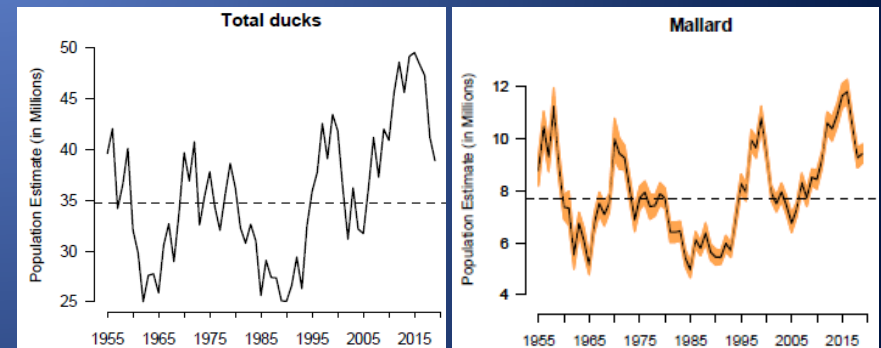
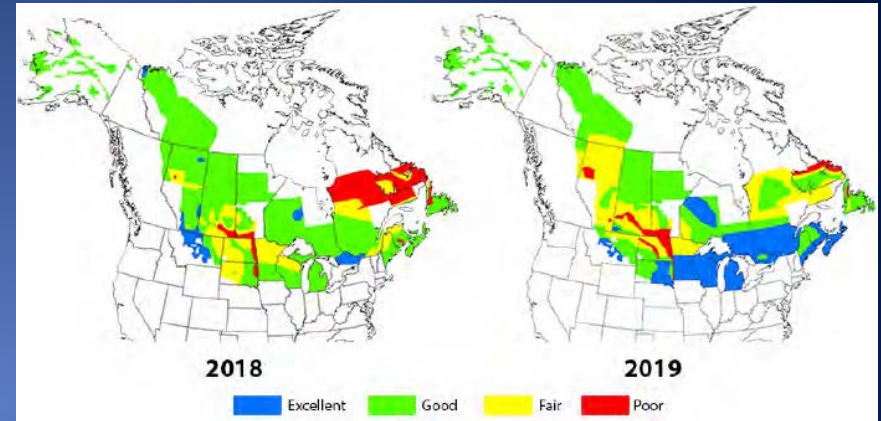
Pamphlet Published July 1

Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



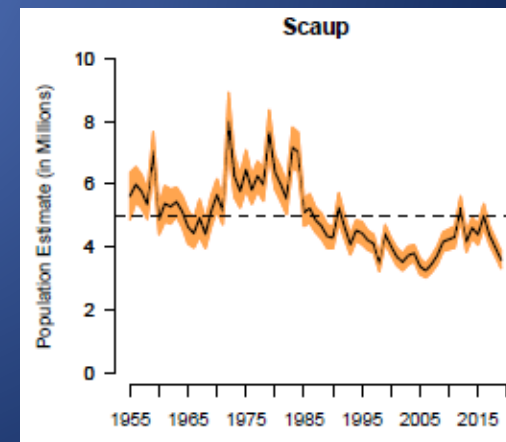
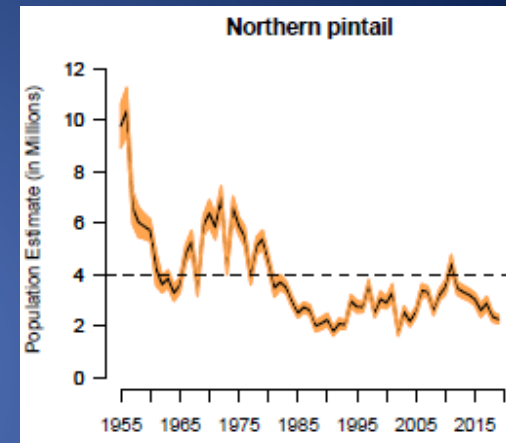
Duck Population Status

- Similar to 2018
 - # ponds (habitat conditions)
 - Total ducks: 38.9 million (6% below 2018; 10% above LTA)
- All “10 principal” duck species have come down from 2015 peaks.



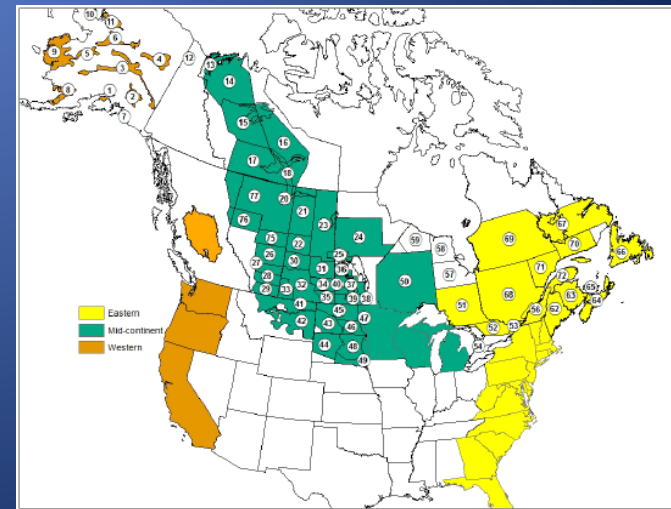
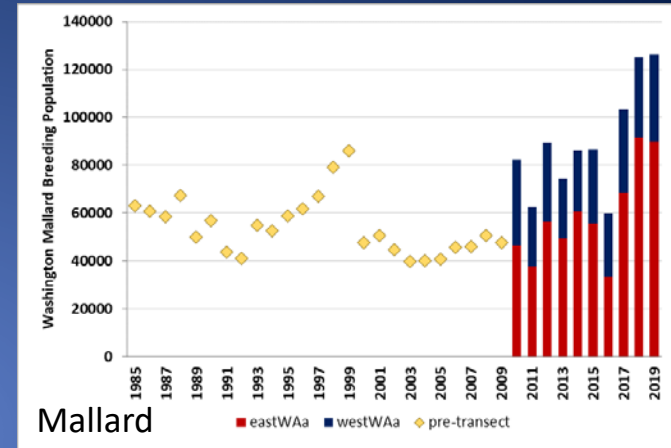
Duck Population Status

- Problematic Status
 - Northern Pintail: 2.27 million
 - 42% below LTA; 9th lowest
 - Scaup: 3.59 million combined
 - 28% below LTA; 5th lowest
- National Strategies that inform harvest options
 - Northern Pintail = Liberal-1
 - 1 bird daily bag limit
 - Scaup = **Restrictive** Regs.
 - 2 bird daily bag limit;
 - 86 day season length



Duck Population Status

- Washington Status
 - Mallard 126,243 (+1%)
- Western Mallard Strategy
 - Alaska portion (361K; -20%)
 - Southern Pacific Flyway
 - BC (75K; -5%)
 - Oregon (84K; -13%)
 - California (240K; -12%)
- Liberal Regs = 107 days;
7 ducks/7 mallard/2 hens



2020-2021 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2019-2020, except reduced scaup daily bag limit
 - 107 days (except scaup)
 - 2-day youth hunt Sept. 26, 2020 and **Feb. 6, 2021** in western Washington (West Zone); Oct. 3, 2020 and **Feb. 6, 2021** in eastern Washington (East Zone)
 - 1-day veteran and active military hunt **Feb. 6, 2021** statewide
 - 105 day general season: Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020
 - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, 1 pintail
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, **2 scaup** (86-day season)
 - western WA sea duck reduced bag-limits:
2 scoter, 2 goldeneye, 2 long-tailed, 1 harlequin (season limit)

Youth, Veteran and Active Military Special Waterfowl Hunt Day

- Feb. 6, 2021
- Add description of required documentation for Veterans and Active Military (pg. 2,4, 16)
 - DD214,
 - Veteran Benefit Card,
 - Retired Active Military I.D., or
 - Active Duty I.D. card

18
Took
Date
Unit Hunted
Keller South
Date
2/1/2020
Number of Hunters
2
Arrival Time: 8:30 AM
Depart Time: 11:30
Harvested: 5
Species & Number
Mallard
Are you (please circle):
 Youth Active Duty Veteran
*Please circle
Overall Satisfaction: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, 5 = excellent
Comments: Thank you!
Please Slip on Dash while hunting. Place in Box when completed.
Thank You and Happy Hunting!

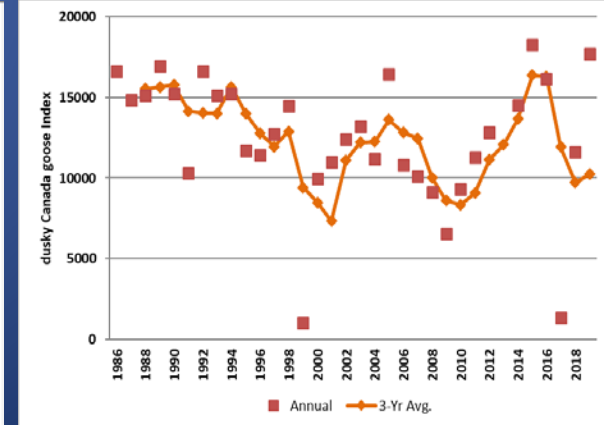
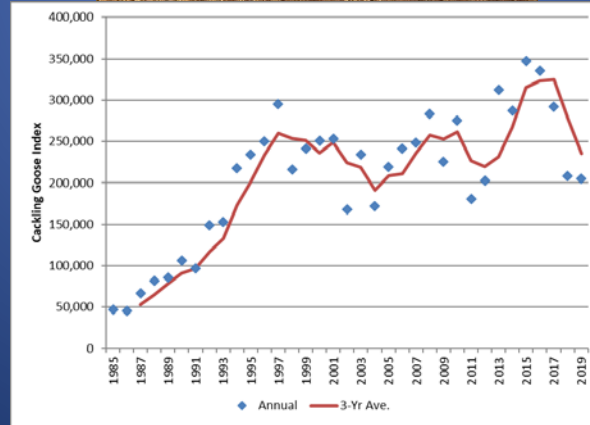
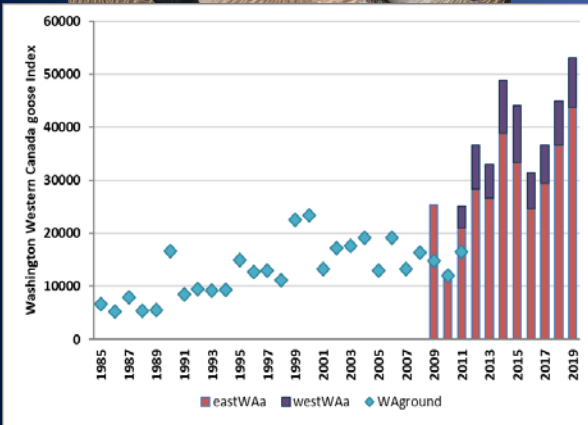
18
Took
Date
Unit Hunted
Thames
Date
2/1/2020
Number of Hunters
1
Arrival Time: 1:10 PM
Depart Time: 3:00 PM
Harvested: 1
Species & Number
1st Snow Goose
QTY = 1
Are you (please circle):
 Youth Active Duty Veteran
*Please circle
Overall Satisfaction: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = fair, 4 = good, 5 = excellent
Comments: 5 excellent!!
Please Slip on Dash while hunting. Place in Box when completed.

Goose Population Status and Season Proposals



2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

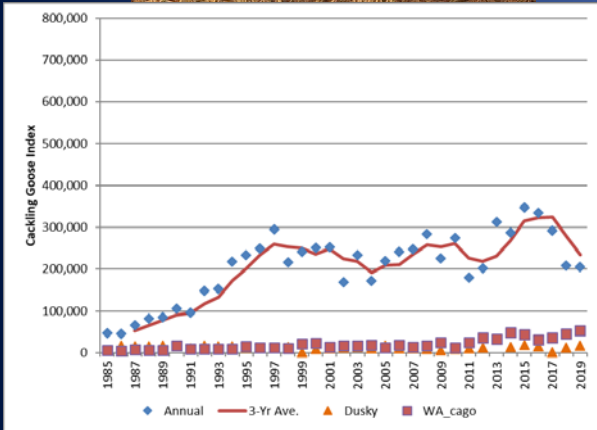
WAC 220-416-060



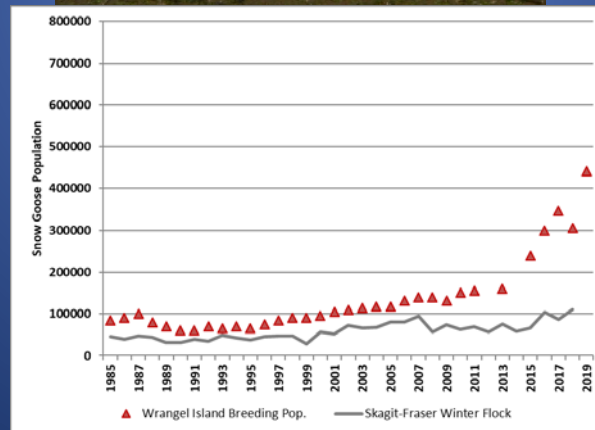
Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4

2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

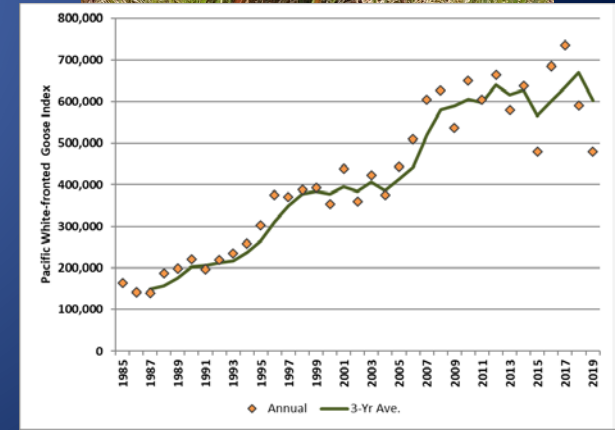
WAC 220-416-060



Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4



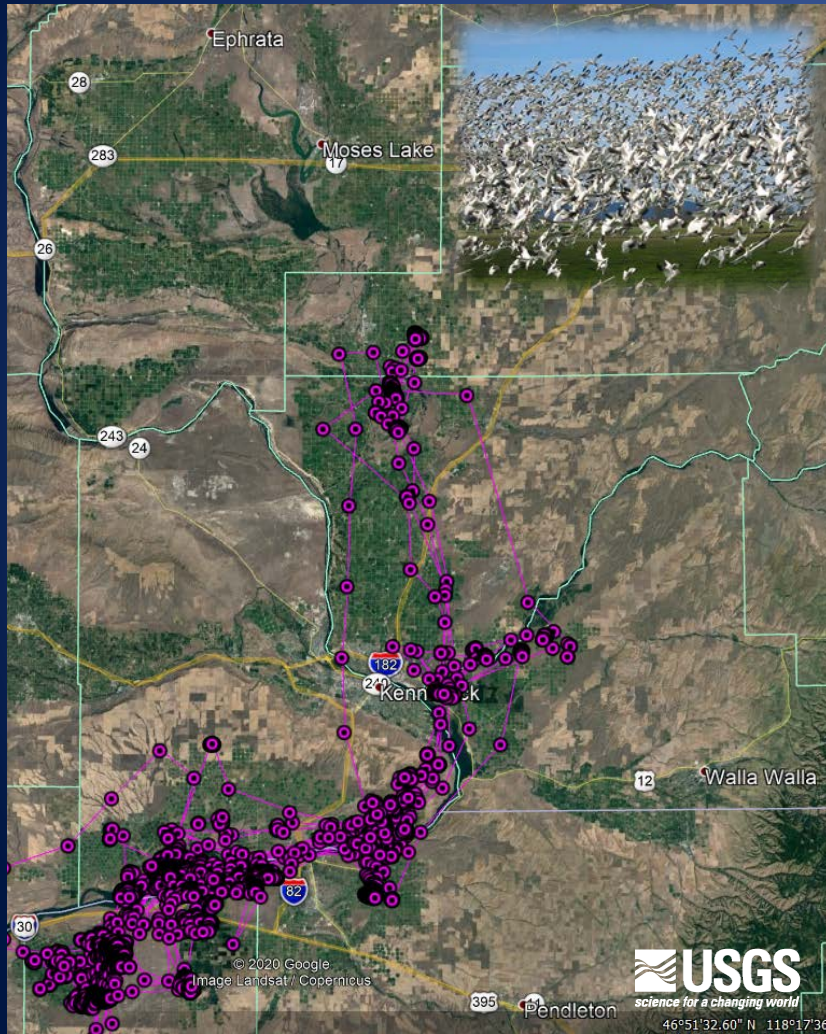
Snow Geese (white geese)
Bag limit = 6



White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10

2020-2021 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060 – GMA 4 White Geese



- Cont. increases in white geese in Goose Management Area 4;
2018 = 52,841
2019 = 160,825
- 107-days allowed by federal framework are maxed out
- 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments:
further delay season opener
Nov. 7, 2020
compared to other goose types
- **Shift 7 days**
- Resume a white-geese only season
Feb. 13 -March 3, 2021 (pg. 14)

2020-2021 Brant Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

- No changes to brant daily bag limit (2) with continuation of Mandatory Harvest Report
- Season dates between Jan. 16-31; except in Pacific
- Specified by county
 - Clallam: 3 days
 - Whatcom: 3 days
 - Skagit: 0-8 days, determined by survey results
 - Pacific: 14 days, starts Jan. 9
- Youth, Veteran & Active Military special hunt: **Feb. 6; all 4 counties**



2020-2021 Other Migratory Gamebirds WAC 220-416-060



No changes to season dates or bag limits.

Public Comment

Migratory Gamebird Proposals

- 129 comments
 - 54 Generally Agree
 - 66 Neutral
 - 9 Generally Do Not Agree

Topics:

- Northern pintail and scaup lower bag-limits
- Snow goose seasons timing and bag-limits
- Season dates and federal frameworks confusion





Questions?

**Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.
WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

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CR-102	13

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Crow Depredation and Hunting Predatory Birds - **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on recommended changes:

- WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds
- WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

We propose removing the depredation language from WAC 220-416-040, pertaining to killing crows and magpies depredating crops and damaging private property. This language already exists in WAC 220-440-060.

We made the necessary recommended changes to WAC 220-440-060 to align it with the federal rule pertaining to crows and magpies. The reason for the change is to make our rule consistent with the federal rule.

Staff recommendation:

Recommend adoption of the new language in both rules.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

This will clarify the rules, align them with the federal rule and remove redundant language in multiple rules.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds

Written Supporting Comments:

We received 133 online comments. Ninety one percent (69) of the non-neutral respondents said that they generally agree with the rule change.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

We received 133 online comments. Ten percent (7) of the non-neutral respondents generally did not agree with the rule change. Only two provided written comment that did not apply to the proposed rule changes. One suggested a change to the rule pertaining to eurasian collared dove and the other suggested more predator control in general.

Forty-three percent of all the respondents (57) remained neutral on this issue.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

None of the comments received in opposition pertained directly to the suggested rule changes.

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

The department recommends the following adjustments since the Code Reviser filed (CR-102). The adjustments are included in your notebooks.

Pages 6-8

- Change: (b) It is unlawful to take crows or magpies in violation of requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 21.43.

Rationale: This language is clearer as to the intent.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage

Written Supporting Comments:

We received 135 online comments. Eighty-nine percent (75) of the non-neutral respondents said that they generally agree with the rule change.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

We received 135 online comments. Eleven percent (9) of the non-neutral respondents generally did not agree with the rule change. Only two provided written comment. One comment did not pertain to the proposed rule changes. One disagreed with the ability to kill wildlife causing property damage.

Thirty-seven percent of all the respondents (51) remained neutral on this issue.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

One person disagreed with the premise of killing wildlife for property damage. This rule only applies to a small subset of wildlife and the rule change proposed actually decreases the likelihood of crows and magpies being killed by requiring the landowner to try non-lethal methods first.

WAC 220-440-060

and

WAC 220-416-040

**Killing wildlife causing private property
damage and Hunting predatory birds.**



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Anis Aoude
Game Division Manager
Wildlife Program

Background

- In 2014 the federal government changed the rule pertaining to the lethal removal of depredating blackbirds, cowbirds, crows, grackles, and magpies.
- We were recently made aware of the change in the federal rule.
- The WACs in question as currently written do not comply with the federal rule .

WAC 220-400-030 Classification of wild birds – Predatory birds

black-billed magpie

Pica hudsonia

American crow

Corvus brachyrhynchos

European starling

Sturnus vulgaris

house (English) sparrow

Passer domesticus

rock dove

Columba livia

Eurasian collared dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Two of these species, crows and magpies are considered predatory birds and their removal is governed by the two WACs we are recommending to amend.

Federal Rule 50 CFR 21.43 Depredation order for blackbirds, cowbirds, crows, grackles, and magpies

- (b) Conditions under which control is allowed by private citizens. You do not need a Federal permit to control the species listed in paragraph (a) of this section in the following circumstances:
 - (1) Where they are causing serious injuries to agricultural or horticultural crops or to livestock feed;
 - (2) When they cause a health hazard or structural property damage;
 - (3) To protect a species recognized by the Federal Government as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species in any county in which it occurs, as shown in the Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (<http://ecos.fws.gov>);
 - (4) To protect a species recognized by the Federal Government as an endangered or threatened species in designated critical habitat for the species; or
 - (5) To protect a species recognized by a State or Tribe as endangered, threatened, candidate, or of special concern if the control takes place within that State or on the lands of that tribe, respectively.
 - (6) Each calendar year, you must attempt to control depredation by species listed under this depredation order using nonlethal methods before you may use lethal control. Nonlethal control methods can include such measures as netting and flagging, the use of trained raptors, propane cannons, and recordings.
 - (i) Annual report. Any person, business, organization, or government official acting under this depredation order must provide an annual report using FWS Form 3-202-21-2143 to the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office. The addresses for the Regional Migratory Bird Permit Offices are provided at 50 CFR 2.2, and are on the form. The report is due by January 31st of the following year and must include the information requested on the form.

Recommendation

- Remove language that deals with depredation in WAC 220-416-040 Hunting predatory birds.
- Language is redundant and this WAC is specific to hunting.
- Modify language in WAC 220-440-060 Killing wildlife causing private property damage.
- Refer to the federal rule in this WAC for depredation specific to crows and magpies.
- Leave the language the same for other predatory birds.

Recommended Adjustment

- Pages 6-8
- Change: (b) It is unlawful to take crows or magpies in violation of requirements published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Section 21.43.
- Rationale: This language is clearer as to the intent.

Public Comment

- We received 133 online comments relating the hunting predatory birds rule and 135 comments relating to the depredation rule
- 43% and 37% said they were neutral on these proposals
- Of those that did not vote neutral 91% and 89% respectively said they generally agreed with the proposed rule changes

Questions?

Multi-season Deer and Elk Tags and Special Permits - Briefing and Public Comment

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.
WAC 220-412-090 Multiple season big game permits.

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CR-102	13

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Multi-season Deer and Elk Tags and Special Permits - **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on:
WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits and
WAC 220-412-090 Multiple season big game permits.

Staff recommendation:

The proposed changes will:

- Clarify language.
 - Adding hunt areas GMUs 186 and 181 to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle permit. (South of the line made by starting at Montgomery Ridge road and Highway 129 to the Sherry Grade Road to the Couse Creek Road to the Snake River.)
-

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Clarify language.
 - Added hunting opportunity.
-

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

See the attached summary of public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Form revised 2-15-18

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-412-070 Big Game and Wild Turkey Auction, Raffle, and Special Incentive Permits.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received six comments in support of the proposal. One respondent advocated for limiting the number of raffle tickets a person could purchase, one advocated for more special permit opportunities instead of auction/raffle permits, and one expressed general support for the program. Three other comments were unrelated to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received five comments in opposition to the proposal. Three comments were opposed to the auction/raffle concept and one respondent would rather see an increase in standard special permits rather than having auction/raffle permits. The last comment was not directly related to the proposal.

The Department received three neutral comments, but none were directly related to the proposal.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. The theme of most comments received was centered around not offering these types of permits. The primary intent of having auction and raffle permit opportunities is to generate as much revenue as possible that can in turn be used for the conservation and management of those species. The Department has always been transparent and up-front with the public about why we offer these limited opportunities.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-412-090 Multi-Season Big Game Permits.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received five comments in support of this proposal. One comment advocated for not limiting the number of multi-season permits, one was opposed to leftover permits being sold at the discretion of the Department, and one comment expressed general support. Two other comments were not related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received eight comments in opposition to the proposal. Six comments advocated for eliminating these permits or substantially reducing the number issues and one comment was opposed to leftover permits being sold at the discretion of the Department. One comment was not related to the proposal.

The Department received five neutral comments. Although neutral, two advocated for eliminating these permits, while the other three comments were not related to the proposal.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. The changes being proposed are purely administrative in nature and do not change the intent of the rule. The main theme of comments received was related to eliminating multi-season tags, which the Department is unlikely to consider. The Department has been transparent regarding the fact these tags were created with a primary intention of increasing revenue. They also enabled the Department to fulfill the desire commonly expressed by hunters that wished to have the opportunity to hunt deer and elk during all three general seasons, but to do it in a way that does not result in a resource issue.

WACs 220-412-070 and 220-412-090

Multi-Season Deer and Elk Tags and Special Permits

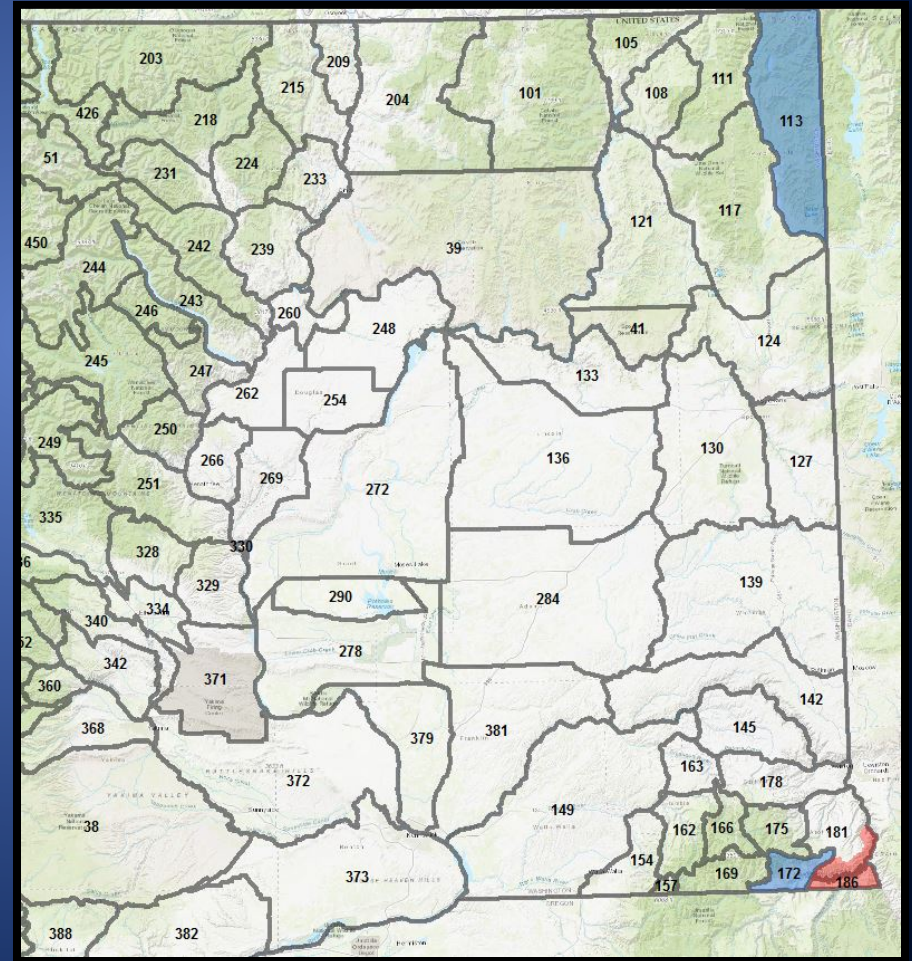


Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

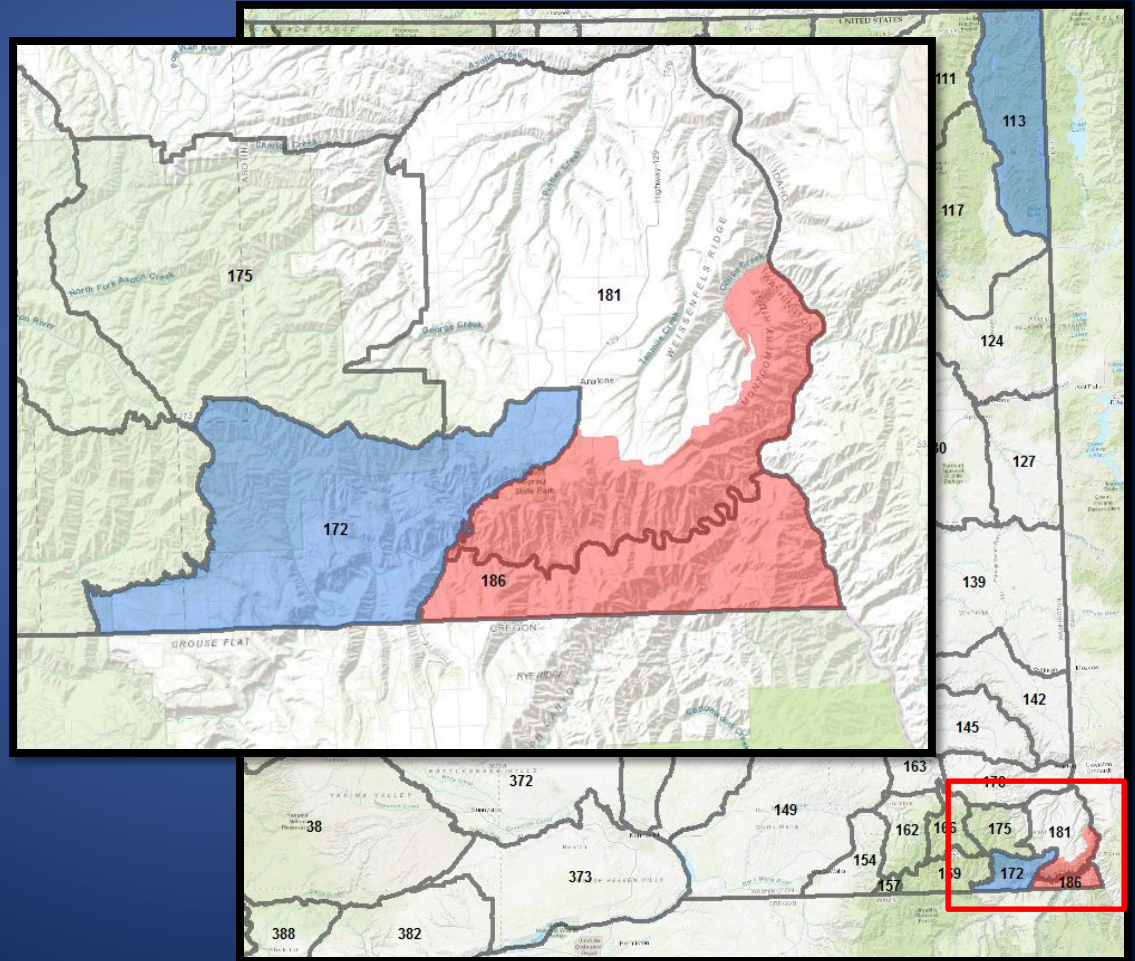
Big Game and Wild Turkey Auction, Raffle, and Special Incentive Permits WAC 220-412-070

- Propose adding GMU 186 and portions of GMU 181 to the list of areas open to the holder of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle Permit.

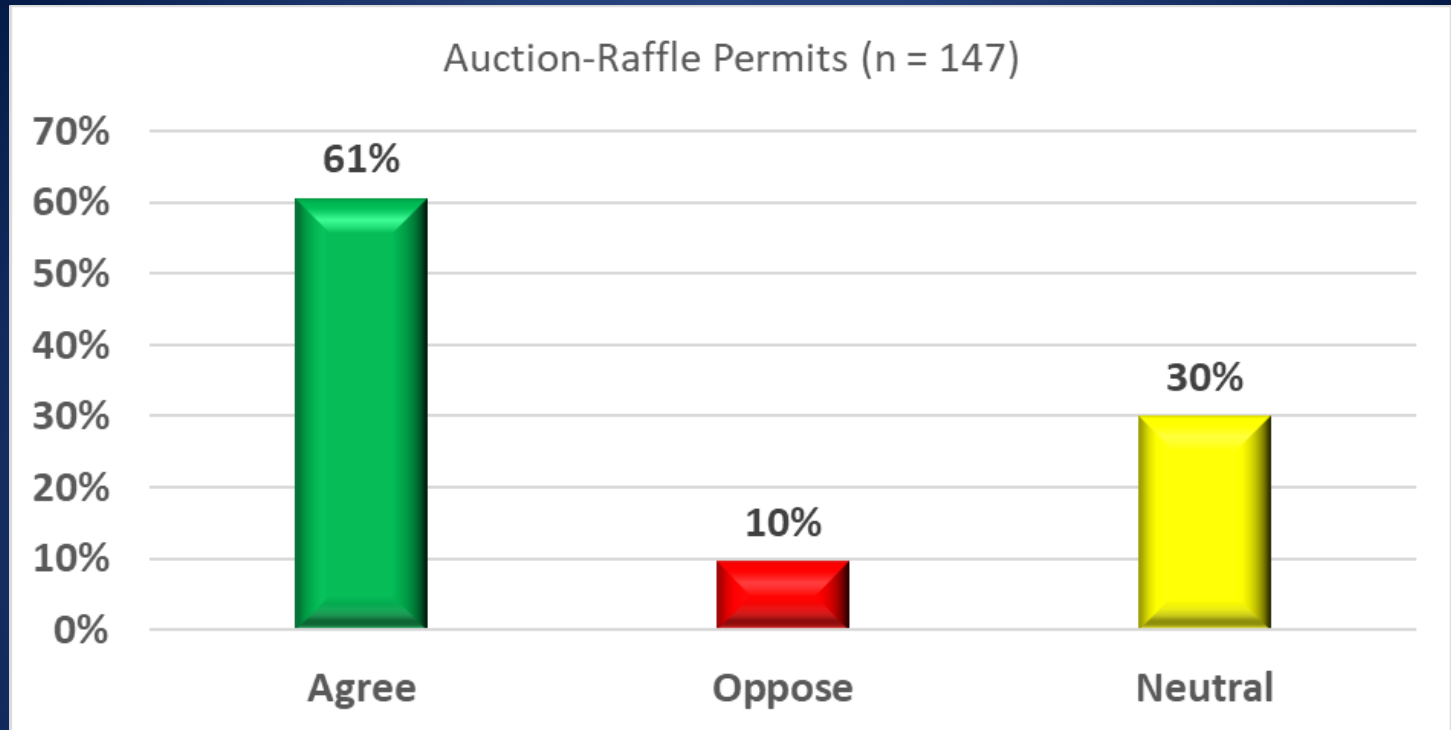


Big Game and Wild Turkey Auction, Raffle, and Special Incentive Permits WAC 220-412-070

- Propose adding GMU 186 and portions of GMU 181 to the list of areas open to the holder of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle Permit.



Public Comment



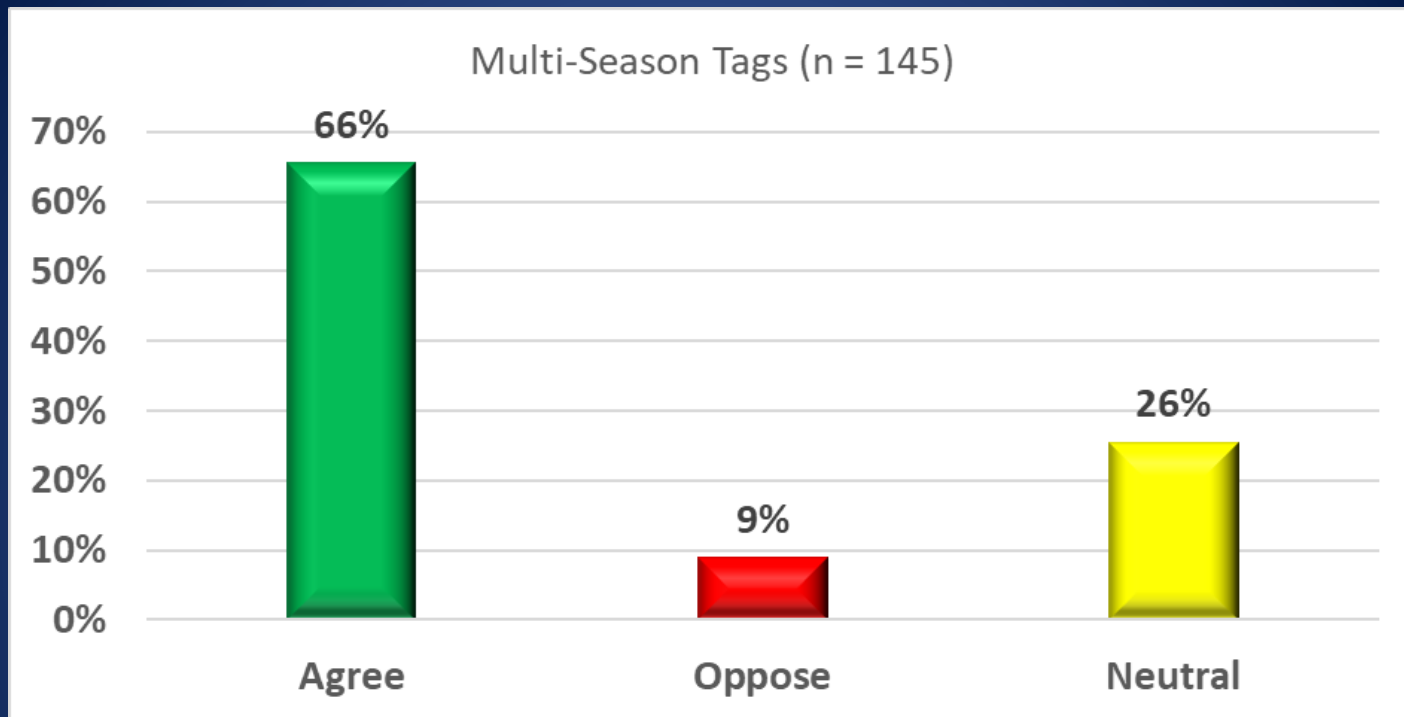
- Common theme of comments was related to eliminating auction/raffle permits

Multi-Season Deer and Elk Tags

WAC 220-412-090

- Administrative changes requested by Licensing that clarify the rule.
- Main points of clarification included:
 - Changing the name to Multi-Season Deer and Elk Tags
 - They are not permits, but tags
 - Opportunities only exist for deer and elk, not all Big Game
 - Applicants must purchase an application, not a permit
 - Drawings will be conducted in April
 - Tags not purchased by August 1 may be made available to unsuccessful applicants at the discretion of the department

Public Comment



- Common theme of comments was related to eliminating multi-season tags

Questions?



**Deer General Seasons and Special Permits
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.
WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Deer General Seasons and Special Permits – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Background summary:

The department staff will brief the Commission on WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions and WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

Staff recommendation:

Changes to WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 is to keep general season deer hunting opportunity for 2020. It also aims to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases opportunity when deer populations allow and reduces opportunity when declining deer numbers call for a change.

This proposal supports recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2020. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

Changes to WAC 220-415-030 is also to retain special permit deer hunting opportunities, as well as it adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one deer, except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one deer hunt category.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language does not specify a Bag Limit, some hunters interpret this to mean they can shoot one deer per permit or one deer in addition to their general season harvest, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Adjustments of permit numbers to support recreational deer hunting opportunity.
 - Continue sustainable hunting seasons for deer
-

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached summary of public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Form revised 2-15-18

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer General Seasons and Definitions.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received eighteen comments in support of the proposal. Respondents advocated for predator management, antler-point restrictions in northeast Washington, more opportunity for senior hunters, no antlerless harvest in northeast Washington, no antlerless harvest or no 2nd deer permits, increasing 2nd deer permits, antler-point restrictions for black-tailed deer, shorter archery seasons, and decreasing harvest in Klickitat County. Three additional comments were not directly related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received twenty-seven comments in opposition to the proposal. Respondents advocated for predator management, antler-point restricts in northeast Washington, reducing tribal harvest, no antlerless harvest in northeast Washington, managing all mule deer harvest with special permits, late-buck seasons in King and Snohomish counties, no antlerless harvest in Okanogan County, increasing opportunity because there are too many deer, antler-point restrictions for black-tailed deer, no antlerless opportunity for black-tailed deer, abolishing the 3-pt rule for mule deer, and having an eastside and westside tag for deer, similar to what the Department does for elk. There were nine additional comments that were not directly related to the proposal.

The Department received four neutral comments. One respondent advocated for predator management, one advocated for decreasing antlerless harvest, and two were not directly related to the proposal.

The Department received one email that expressed concern about mule deer populations in Chelan and Okanogan counties. The sender advocated for removing antler-point restrictions for mule deer and limiting all opportunities for mule deer using the special permit system.

The Department received four emails that were related to deer in northeast Washington. Two emails advocated for antler-point restrictions, while two others were opposed. Two emails advocated for no antlerless harvest, while one also advocated for limited special permits for youth, disabled, and senior hunters for Any Buck.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as currently proposed. Common themes identified included decreasing antlerless harvest, predator management, and antler-point restrictions for white-tailed deer in northeast Washington. The Department has already liberalized bear seasons in eastern Washington and is proposing options to recreational cougar seasons that could increase opportunities to harvest cougars. We have also substantially reduced opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer and white-tailed deer to help populations recover from recent declines that were associated with severe drought conditions in 2015 and severe winters conditions in 2016-2017. Although antler-point restrictions have not been shown to have any biological effect, beyond increasing the survival of bucks ≤ 2.5 years old, the

Department recognizes they have become increasingly popular throughout the U.S. As such, the Department will consider antler-point restrictions in concert with the 2021-2023 season setting process.

- Change: For Ten Ten, change permits from 2 to 3.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2019 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-030 2020 Deer Special Permits.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received nine comments in support of the proposal. Two comments advocated for changing the season dates for modern firearm in GMU 290, one advocated for abolishing the point system, one advocated for predator management, and one advocated for changing the season dates for buck hunts in the Palouse. Three additional comments were not related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received eighteen comments in opposition of the proposal. Four comments advocated for predator management, four advocated for more opportunity for archery hunters, two advocated for additional reductions in antlerless permits, two advocated for more muzzleloader permits, two advocated for a new permit system, one advocated for five point antler point restrictions for white-tailed deer, one advocated for closing all deer seasons, one advocated for less tribal harvest, and one advocated for not allowing hunters to be drawn for permits in multiple categories. Two additional comments were not related to the proposal.

The Department also received one neutral comment, but it was unrelated to the proposal.

The Department received one email that expressed concern about mule deer populations in Chelan and Okanogan counties. The sender advocated for removing antler-point restrictions for mule deer and limiting all opportunities for mule deer using the special permit system.

The Department received four emails that were related to deer in northeast Washington. Two emails advocated for antler-point restrictions, while two others were opposed. Two emails advocated for no antlerless harvest, while one also advocated for limited special permits for youth, disabled, and senior hunters for Any Buck.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as currently proposed. The only common themes associated with comments the Department received were related to predator management and, in general, increasing opportunities. The Department has already liberalized bear seasons in eastern Washington and is proposing options to recreational cougar seasons that could increase opportunities to harvest cougars. We have reduced opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer and white-tailed deer to help populations recover from recent declines that were associated with severe drought conditions in 2015 and severe winters conditions in 2016-2017. Those reduced opportunities will continue to be implemented until populations have recovered.

WACs 220-415-020 and 220-415-030

Deer General Seasons and Deer Special Permits



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

Content

1. Recommendations not specific to a management zone
2. Brief statewide overview
3. Status update and recommendations for each deer management zone
4. Public comment summary
5. Questions



Deer Special Permits

WAC 220-415-030

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one deer, even if permits are drawn in more than one category
- Added 10 antlerless permits for modern firearm and muzzleloader youth hunters in Designated Areas of Region 3



Deer Special Permits

WAC 220-415-030

- Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits
 - Increase the number of permits for Any White-Tailed Deer in Region 1 from 2 to 3
 - Increase the number of permits for Any Deer in Region 4 from 2 to 4
 - Increase the number of permits for Any Deer in Region 6 from 2 to 4



2015 Drought

Drought Monitor August 2001, 2005 and 2015






(2001 and 2005 were previous years of statewide drought in Washington)


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

August 2001



Intensity:






-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

August 2005



Intensity:






-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

August 2015



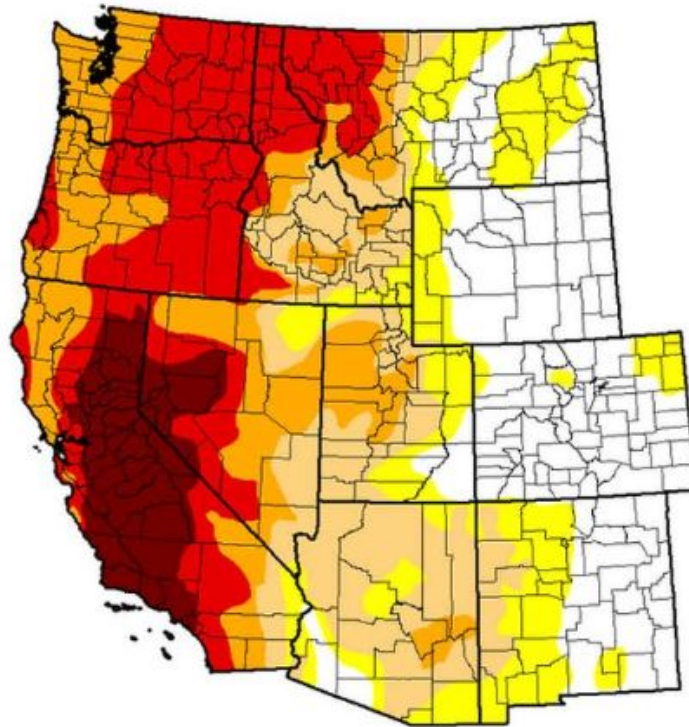
Intensity:

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

2015 Drought

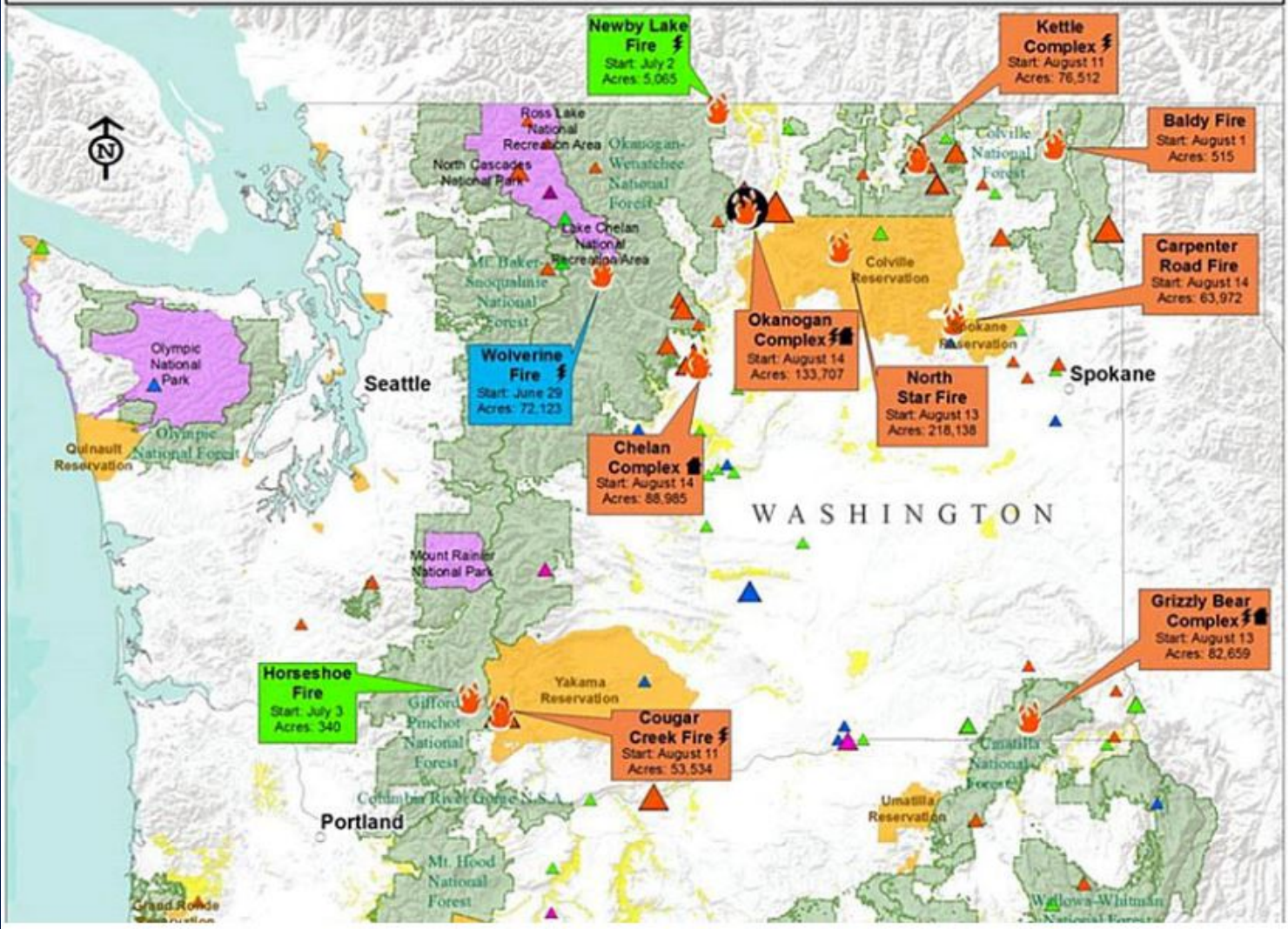
U.S. Drought Monitor West



September 15, 2015
(Released Thursday September 17, 2015)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

2015 Drought

NARRATIVE TIMELINE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2015 FIRE SEASON



2015 Drought

Warm Water Blamed for Huge Columbia River Sockeye Die-off

JULY 31, 2015 JOHN HARRISON



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FIRE SEASON



2015 Drought

Warm Water Blamed for Huge Columbia River Sockeye Die-off

JULY 31, 2015 JOHN HARRISON



Dozens of sturgeon found dead

Originally published July 16, 2015 at 6:56 am | Updated July 16, 2015 at 12:23 pm



2015 Drought

Warm Water Blamed for Huge Columbia River Sockeye Die-off

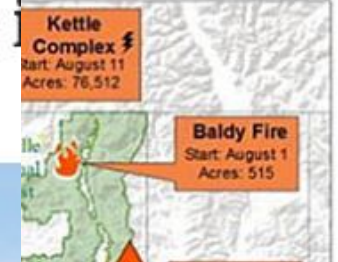
JULY 31, 2015 JOHN HARRISON



THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FIRE SEASON

Dozens of sturgeon found dead

Originally published July 16, 2015 at 6:56 am | Updated July 16, 2015 at 12:23 pm



Bluetongue outbreak confirmed in Eastern Washington deer

Twitter

Facebook

Reddit

UPDATE: Idaho confirms bluetongue-like outbreak killing whitetails in Clearwater region. [See post here.](#)

WILDLIFE -- A deadly outbreak of bluetongue among Spokane-region white-tailed deer -- which I reported earlier this week -- has been officially confirmed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Although hundreds of deer may be dying from the disease in the state's drought-stricken eastern region, wildlife managers say this year's hunting seasons will not be affected.

WDFW veterinarian Kristin Mansfield said today that bluetongue is a common virus transmitted by biting gnats at water sources where deer congregate during dry conditions. Every year in late summer and early fall, some white-tailed deer are lost to bluetongue and a similar virus known as EHD (epizootic hemorrhagic disease).

She said the department does not know precisely how many deer have been affected, but reports are more widespread and numerous than in the past, probably because of the severe drought across the region.



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2016-2017 Winter

Seven western states report heavy winter losses of deer, elk

July 3, 2017 by Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. managers are reporting heavy losses of deer and other wildlife in the snowiest winters found:

Harsh winter took heavy toll on wildlife across western U.S.

UPDATED: Sun., July 2, 2017

Twitter

Facebook

Email

Reddit

By Bob Moen

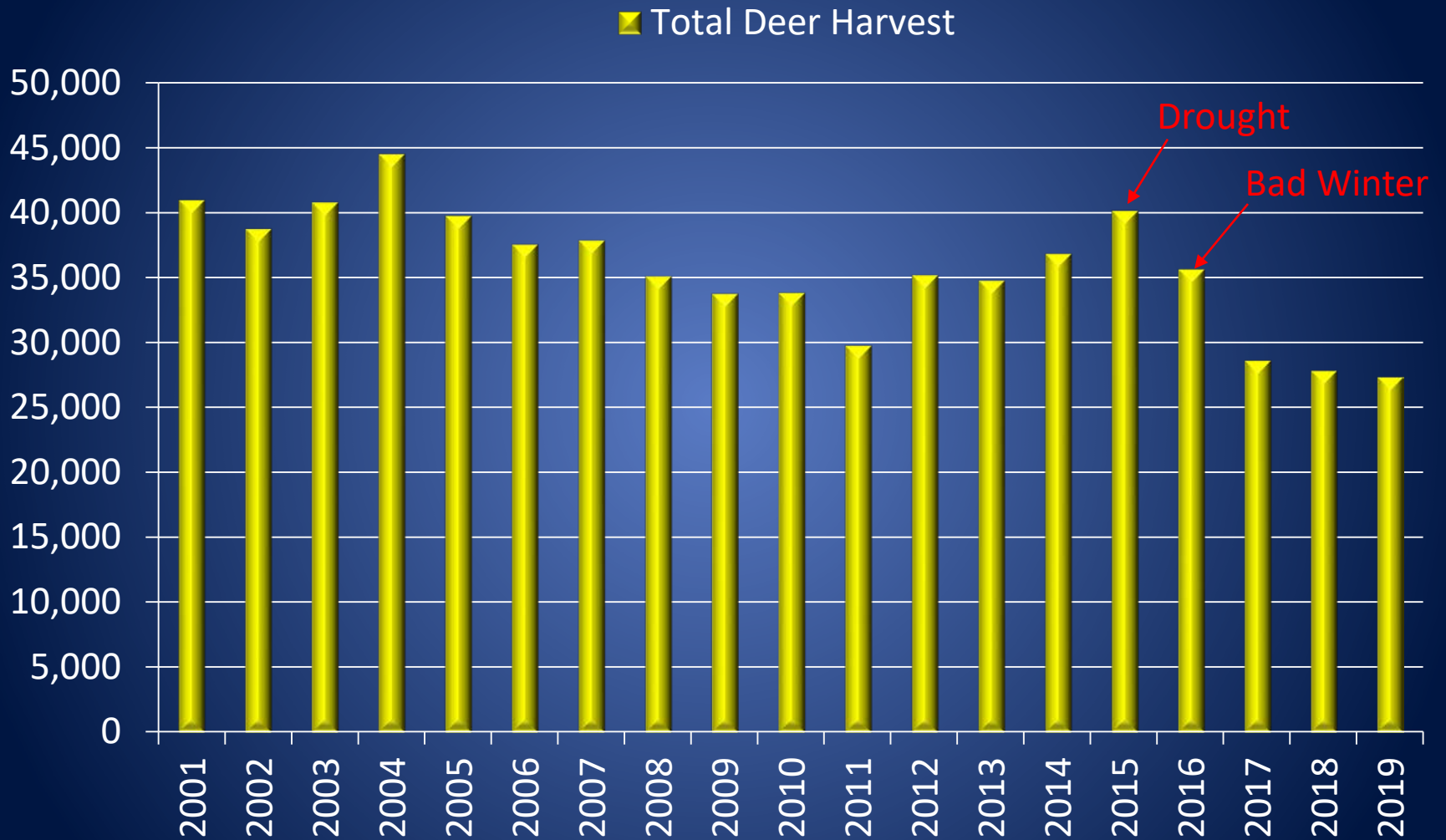
Deer Hunting Limited In Colorado, Other Western U.S. States After Tough Winter

November 25, 2017 at 10:30 am Filed Under: Elk, Mule Deer

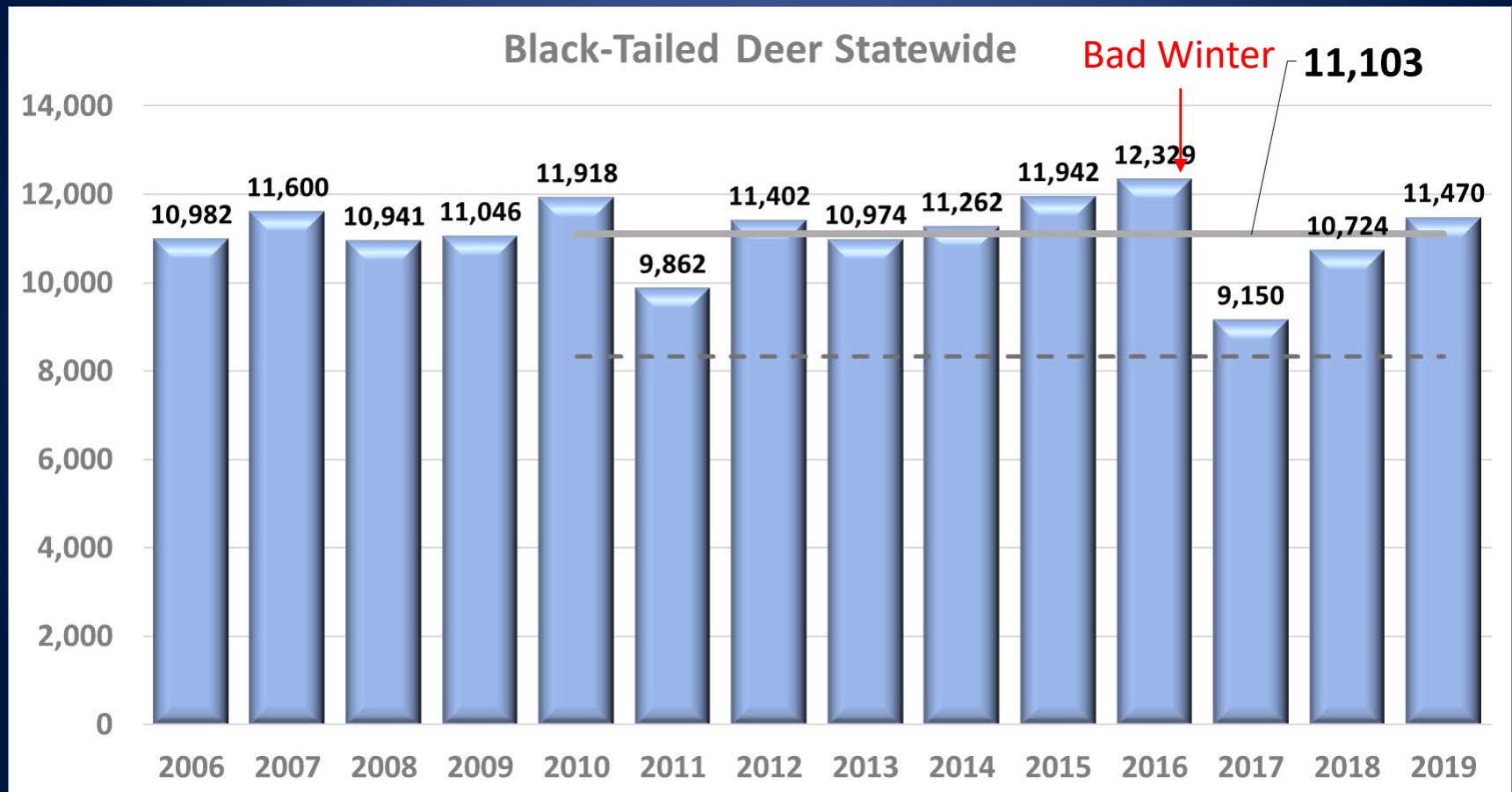
Phillips: Winter kills Idaho mule deer fawns at 2nd-highest rate in nearly 20 years

ROGER PHILLIPS Idaho Department of Fish and Game Jun 27, 2017 0

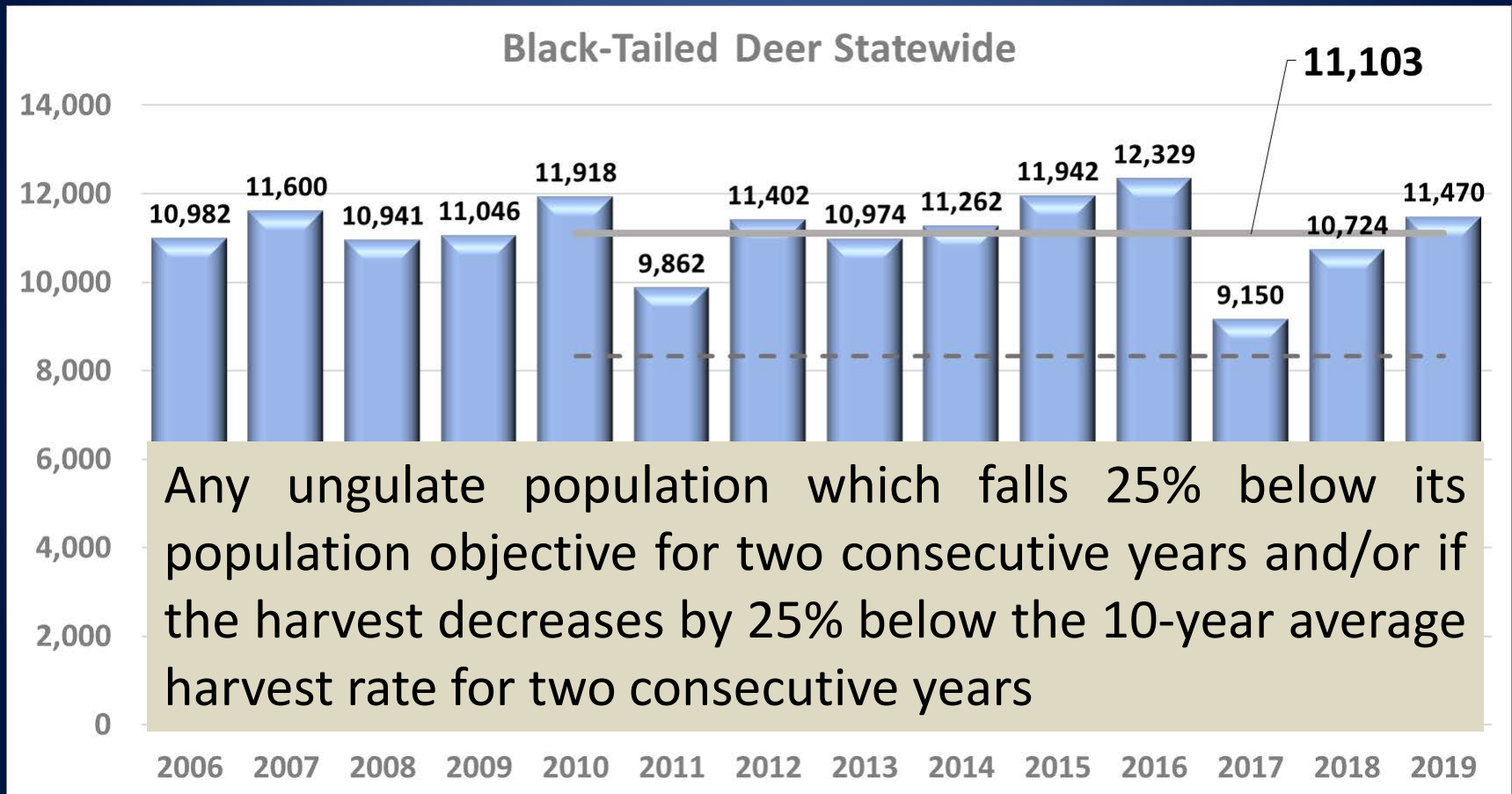
Statewide Deer Harvest 2001-2018



Black-Tailed Deer General Season Harvest 2006-2019

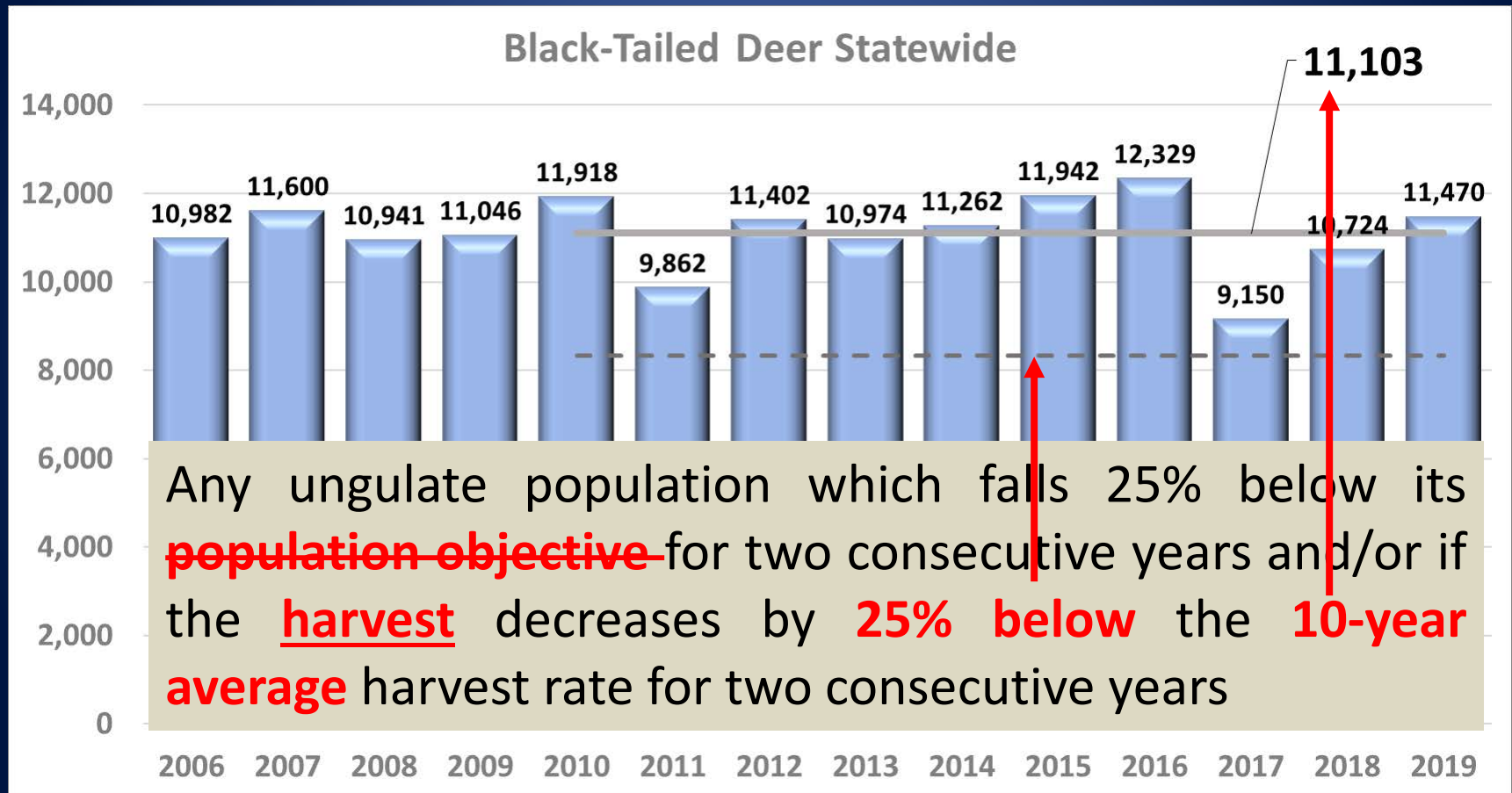


Black-Tailed Deer General Season Harvest 2006-2019



Black-Tailed Deer

General Season Harvest 2006-2019



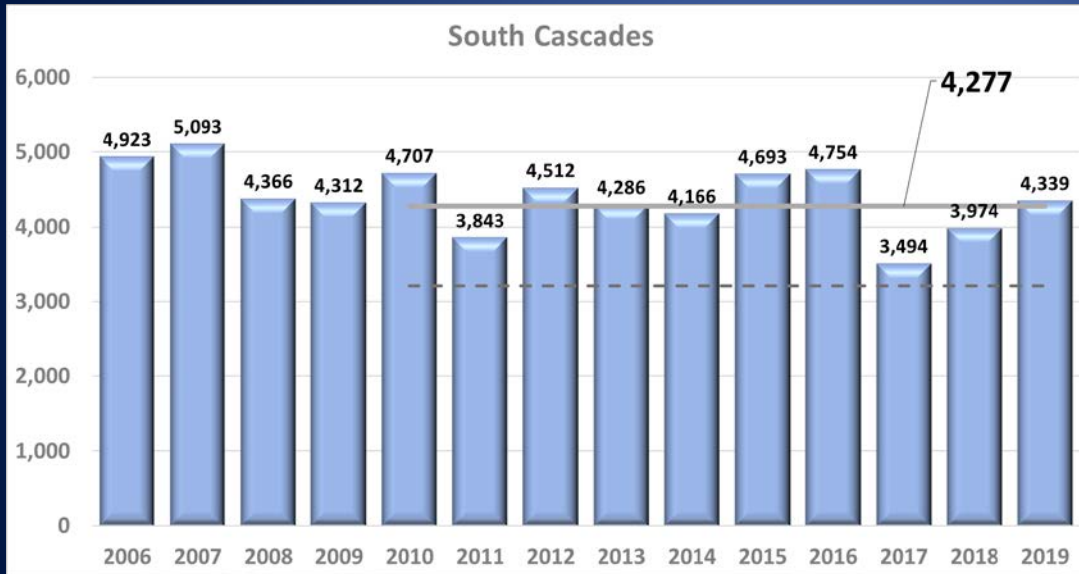
Black-Tailed Deer



South Cascades

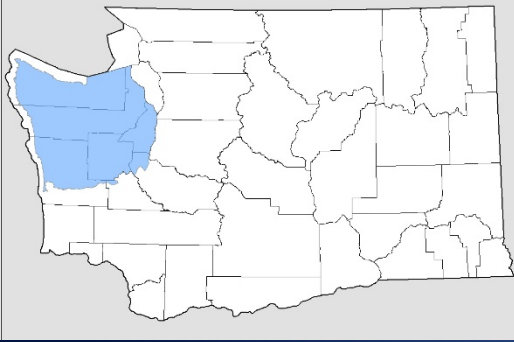


Where is the South Cascades Zone?

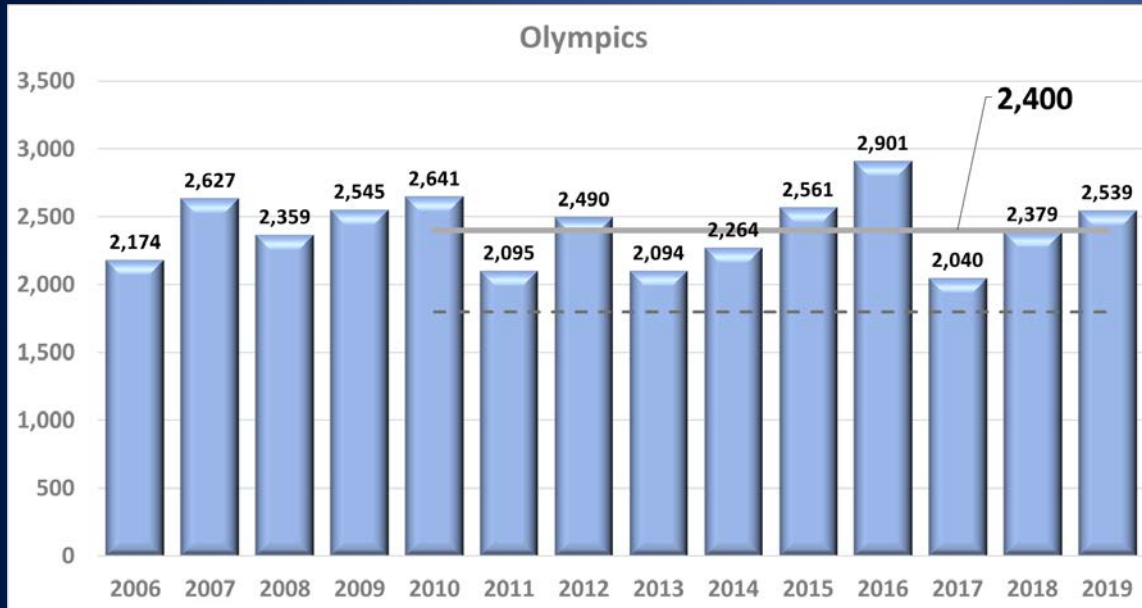


- Changed a legal deer from “Any Buck” to “Any Deer” in GMU 654 during the late-muzzleloader season

Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 485	Any Weapon	5	5
GMU 505	Modern Firearm	4	2
Total		9	7
Buck Permits		2018	2019
GMU 485	Youth	5	0
GMU 485	Disabled	0	5
Total		5	5
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 554	Youth	10	5
GMU 510	65+	5	0
GMU 513	65+	5	0
GMU 516	65+	5	0
GMU 554	65+	5	2
GMU 560	65+	2	0
GMU 572	65+	2	0
GMU 574	65+	2	0
GMU 578	65+	2	0
GMU 510	Disabled, MF	2	0
GMU 513	Disabled, MF	2	0
GMU 516	Disabled, MF	2	0
GMU 554	Disabled, MF	2	0
GMU 560	Disabled, MF	1	0
GMU 572	Disabled, MF	1	0
GMU 574	Disabled, MF	1	0
GMU 578	Disabled, MF	1	0
GMU 574	Disabled, Archery	1	0
GMU 578	Disabled, Archery	1	0
Total		52	7



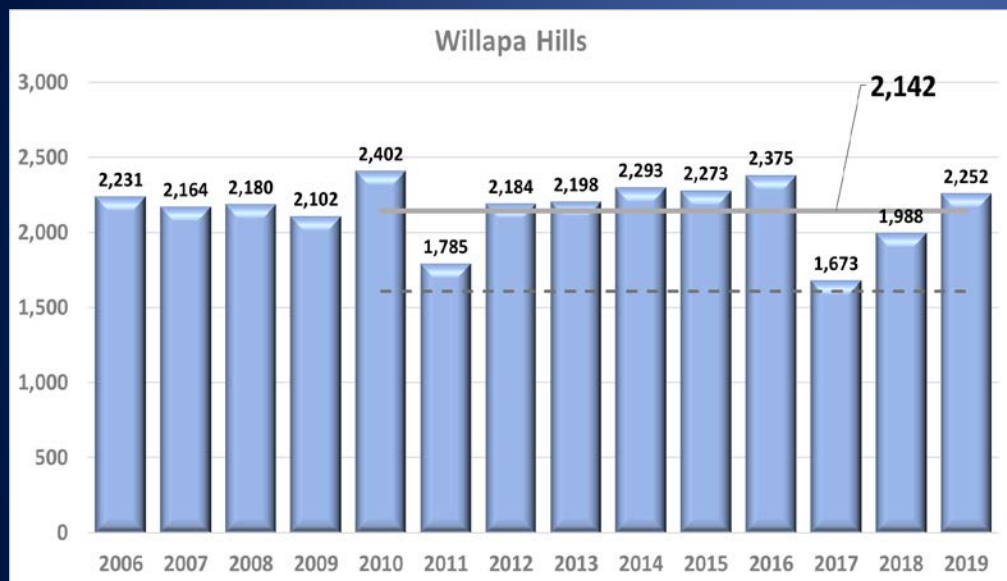
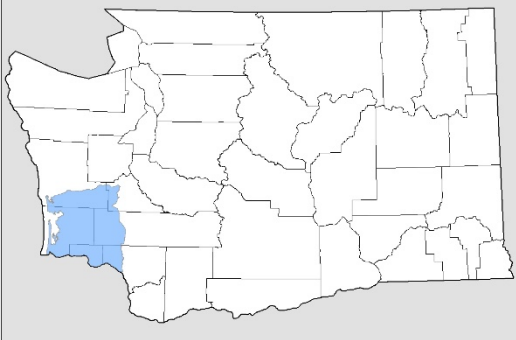
Olympics



- No changes proposed for general seasons

Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 624	Modern Firearm	20	15
GMU 648	Modern Firearm	20	30
GMU 621	Muzzleloader	20	30
GMU 624	Muzzleloader	15	20
GMU 627	Muzzleloader	10	0
GMU 648	Muzzleloader	15	25
GMU 651	Muzzleloader	15	20
GMU 621	Youth, Any Deer	15	20
GMU 648	Youth, Any Deer	12	20
GMU 621	65+	10	15
GMU 648	65+	10	15
GMU 658	65+	10	15
GMU 660	65+	10	15
GMU 663	65+	12	15
GMU 621	Disabled, MF	10	15
GMU 627	Disabled, MF	5	0
GMU 633	Disabled, MF	5	0
GMU 636	Disabled, MF	10	15
GMU 621	Disabled, Muzz	10	0
GMU 633	Disabled, Muzz	5	0
GMU 636	Disabled, Muzz	5	0
GMU 648	Disabled, Muzz	5	10
GMU 651	Disabled, Muzz	10	0
Total		259	295

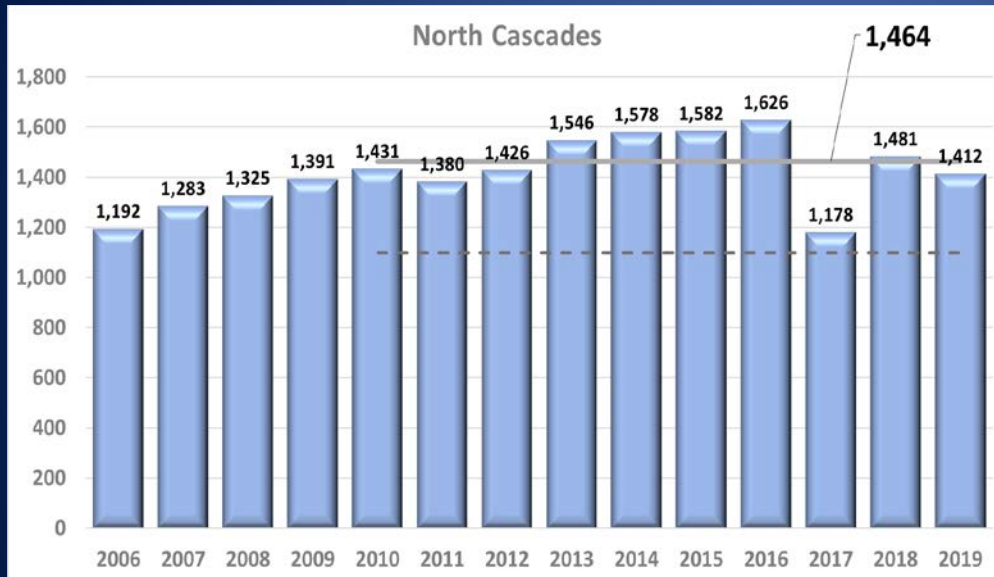
Willapa Hills



- No changes proposed for general seasons

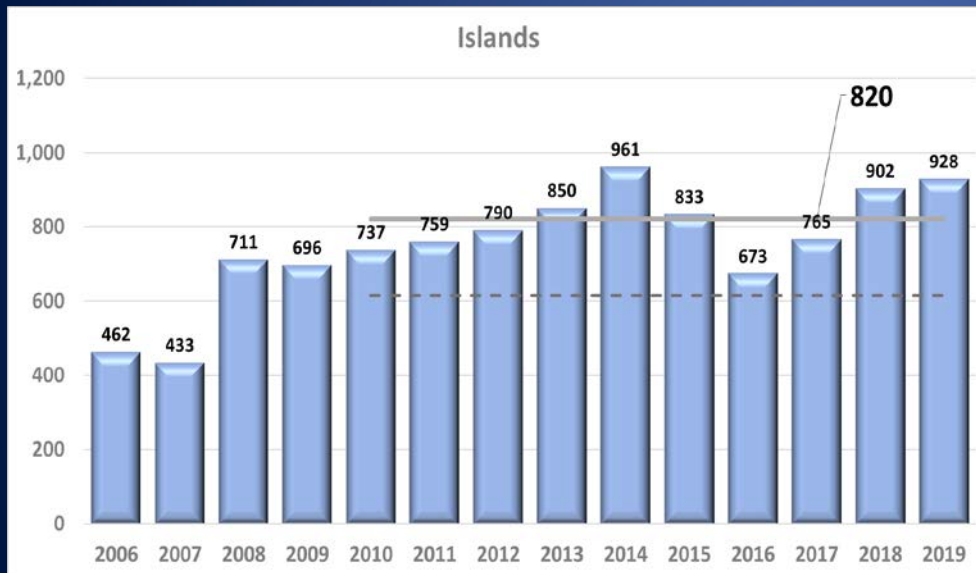
Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 660	Modern Firearm	4	5
GMU 663	Modern Firearm	7	8
GMU 672	Modern Firearm	4	5
Total		15	18
Buck Permits		2018	2019
GMU 673	Modern Firearm	7	5
Total		7	5
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 660	Modern Firearm	15	20
GMU 663	Modern Firearm	12	15
GMU 660	Muzzleloader	5	10
GMU 663	Muzzleloader	18	20
GMU 673	Muzzleloader	5	10
GMU 660	Youth, Any Deer	6	10
GMU 663	Youth, Any Deer	8	15
GMU 663	Disabled, MF	5	10
GMU 658	Disabled, Muzz	5	3
GMU 663	Disabled, Muzz	8	5
Total		87	118

North Cascades



- No changes proposed for general or special permit seasons

Islands



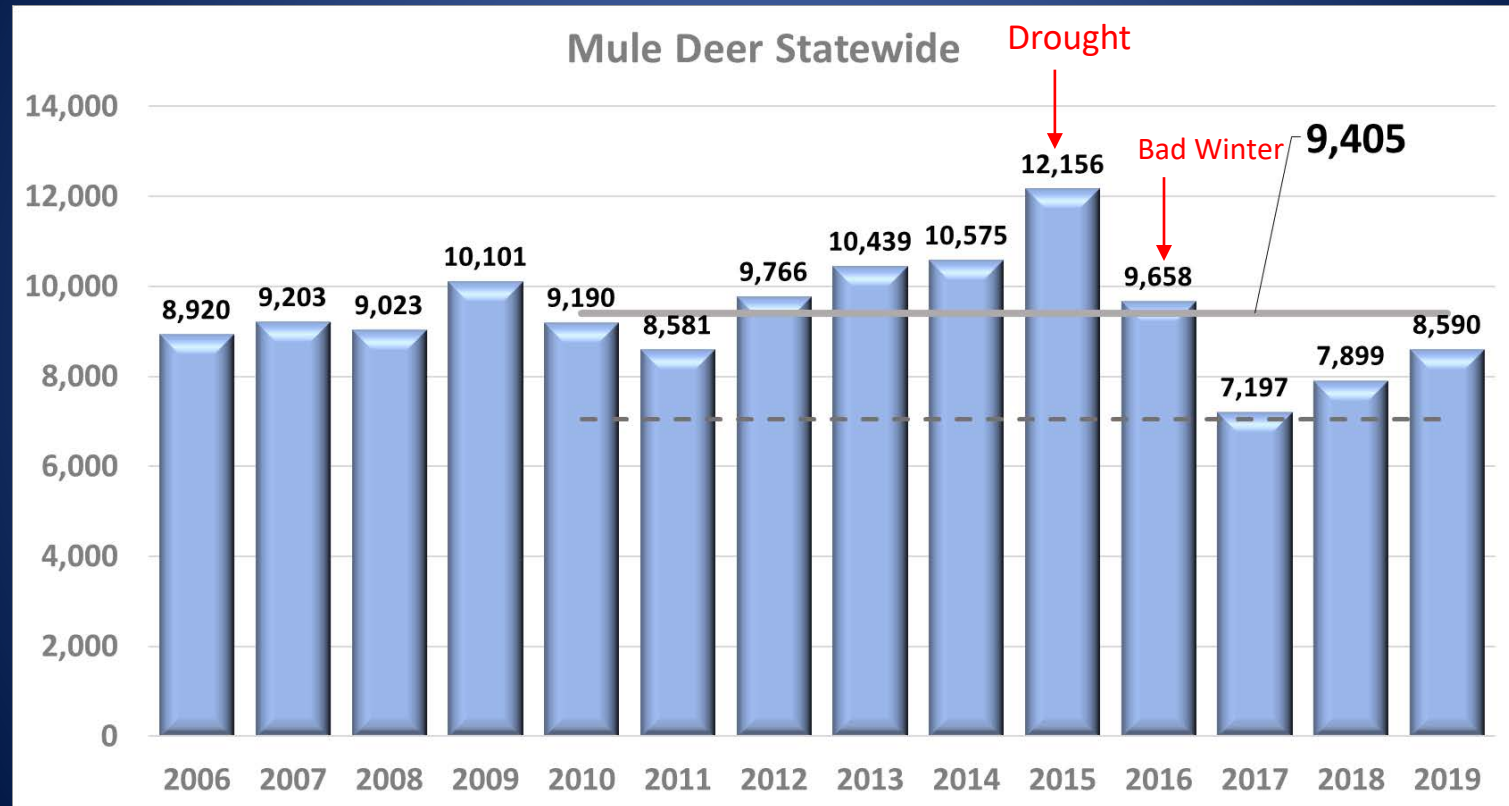
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
Orcas	MF, 2nd Deer	60	70
San Juan	MF, 2nd Deer	50	60
Lopez	MF, 2nd Deer	60	70
Blakely	MF, 2nd Deer	30	40
Whidbey	MF, 2nd Deer	150	175
Orcas	Archery, 2nd Deer	40	45
San Juan	Archery, 2nd Deer	30	40
Lopez	Archery, 2nd Deer	30	40
Whidbey	Archery, 2nd Deer	50	75
Whidbey	Muzz, 2nd Deer	20	25
Total		520	640

- No changes proposed for general seasons

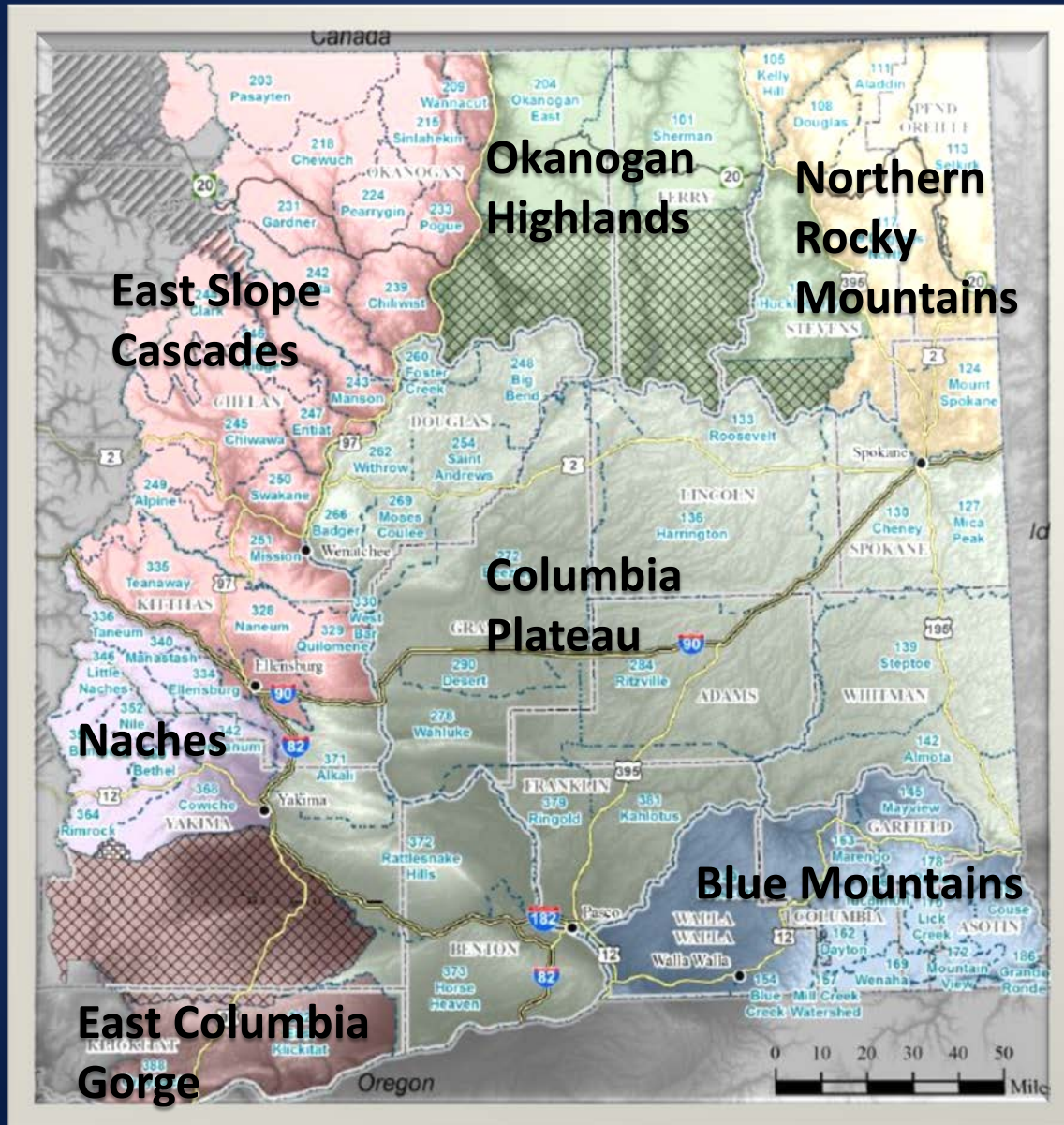
Questions?



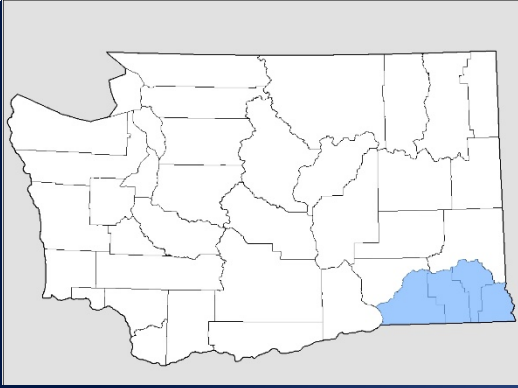
Mule Deer General Season Harvest 2006-2018



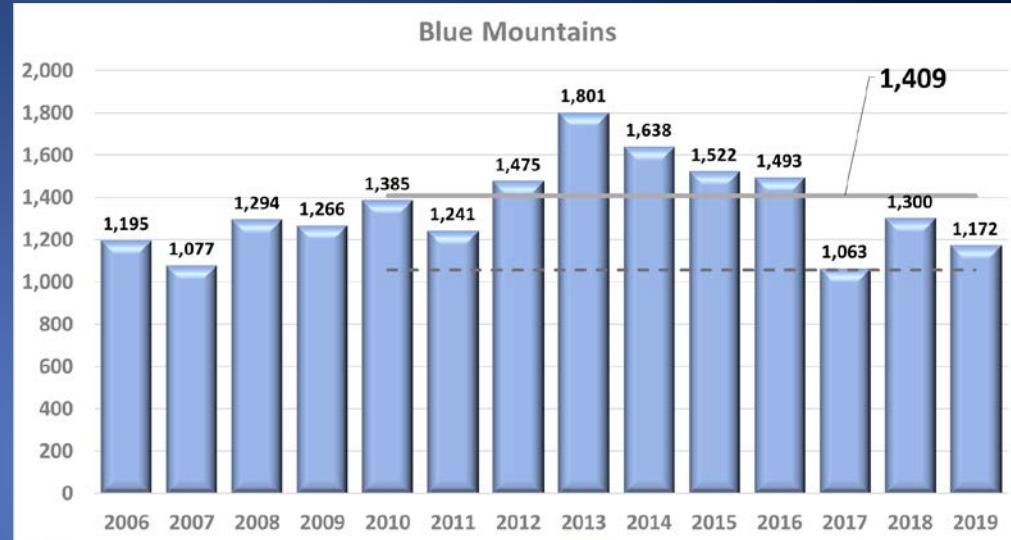
Mule Deer



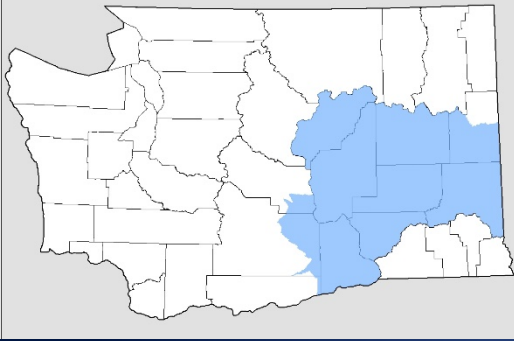
Blue Mountains



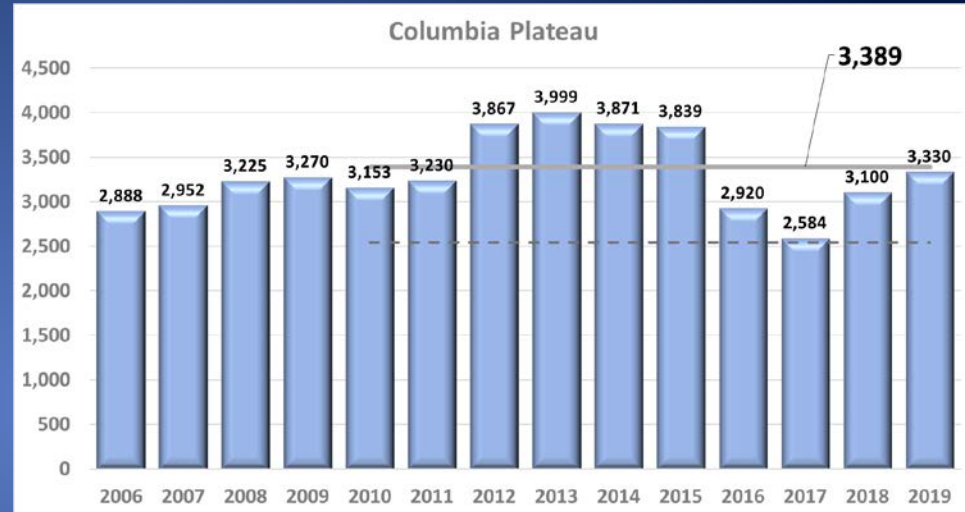
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have hovered around long-term average (~55-60:100)
- No changes proposed for general or special permit seasons



Columbia Plateau



- 3 subherds
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have hovered around long-term average (~65-70:100) or have been increasing
- No changes proposed for general seasons
- Added 5 archery buck (3-pt. min) permits in GMU 379, Nov. 15-24

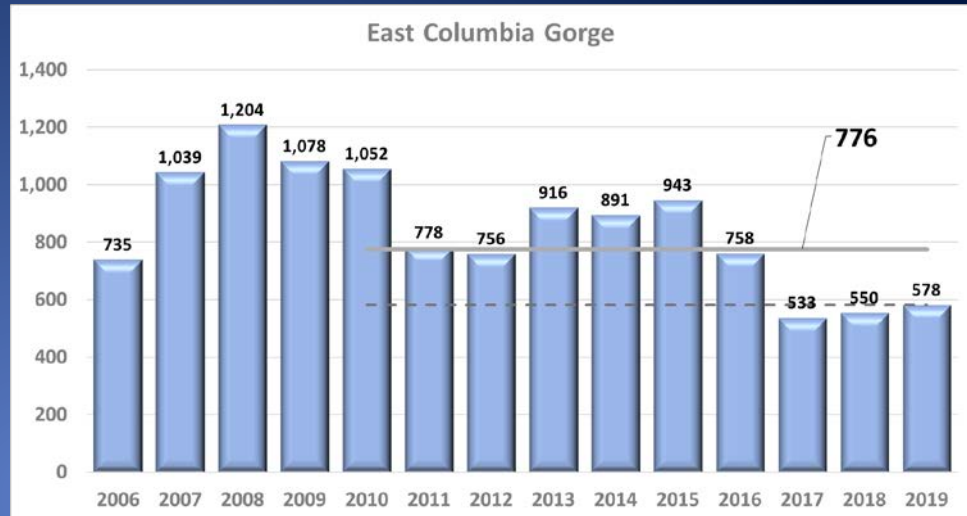


Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 133	2nd Deer	100	75
GMUs 139, 142, 284, 381	2nd Deer	350	300
GMU 290	Youth	2	3
Total		452	378



East Columbia Gorge

- Initiated formal surveys in 2016
- Buck:Doe ratios at objective
- Fawn:Doe ratios have been stable (~60:100)
- Extended the season for archery Buck permits in Deer Area 5382 to include Sep. 1-25 and **Dec. 1-8**

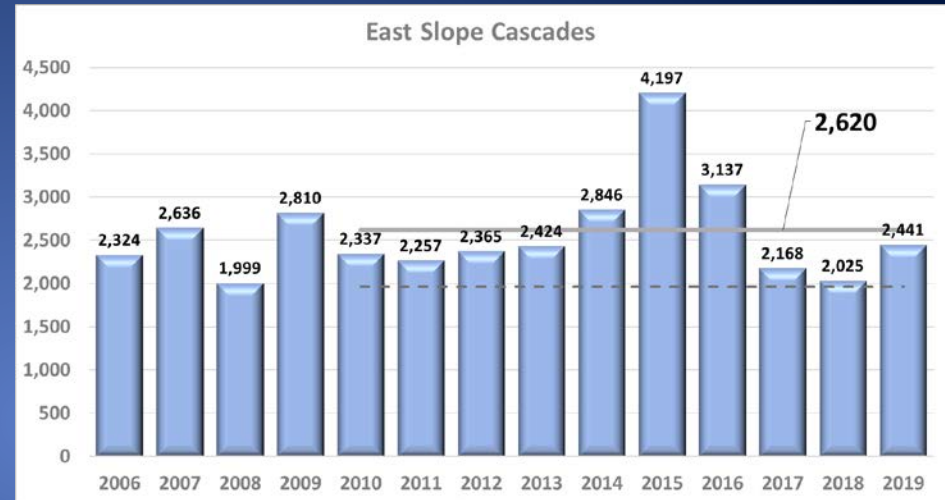


Buck Permits		2018	2019
DA 5382	Modern Firearm	3	5
Total		3	5
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
DA 5382	Youth, Any Deer	2	3
GMU-382	65+	2	0
GMU-382	Disabled	2	0
Total		6	3



East Slope Cascades

- 3 subherds
 - Surveys in Northern and Chelan subherds
- Buck:Doe ratios in the Northern subherd have declined in recent years to levels at the lower end of our objective (15-19:100)
- Fawn:Doe ratios declined below long-term average (~75:100), 2016-2018, but returned to normal in 2019
- No changes proposed for general seasons



Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 224	Modern Firearm	20	15
GMU 231	Modern Firearm	12	10
GMU 242	Modern Firearm	18	15
GMU 242	Muzzleloader	15	10
Total		65	50

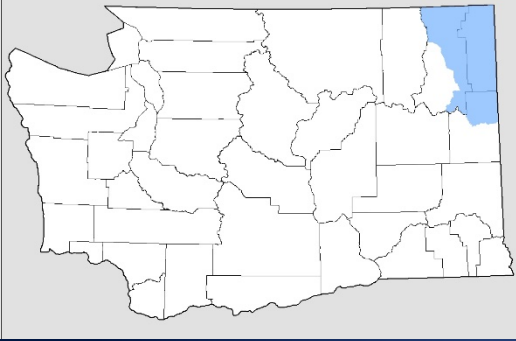
Naches



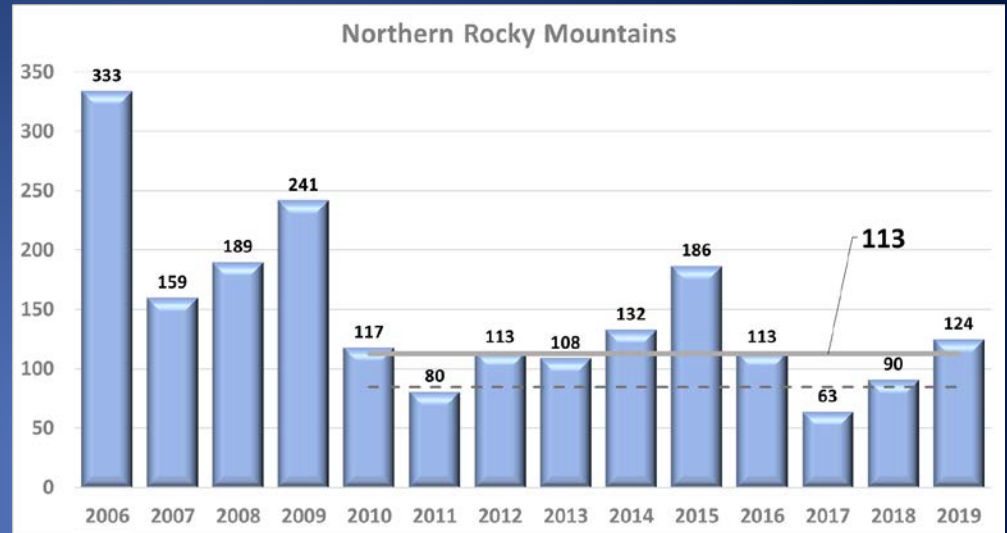
- Historically, surveys conducted in spring to estimate abundance
- Mix of black-tailed deer and mule deer make it difficult to classify deer
- Ground surveys in December to estimate ratios, but not conducted since 2017 because few deer observed
- No changes proposed for general or special permit seasons



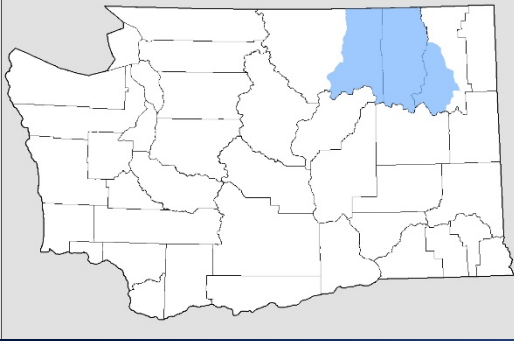
Northern Rocky Mountains



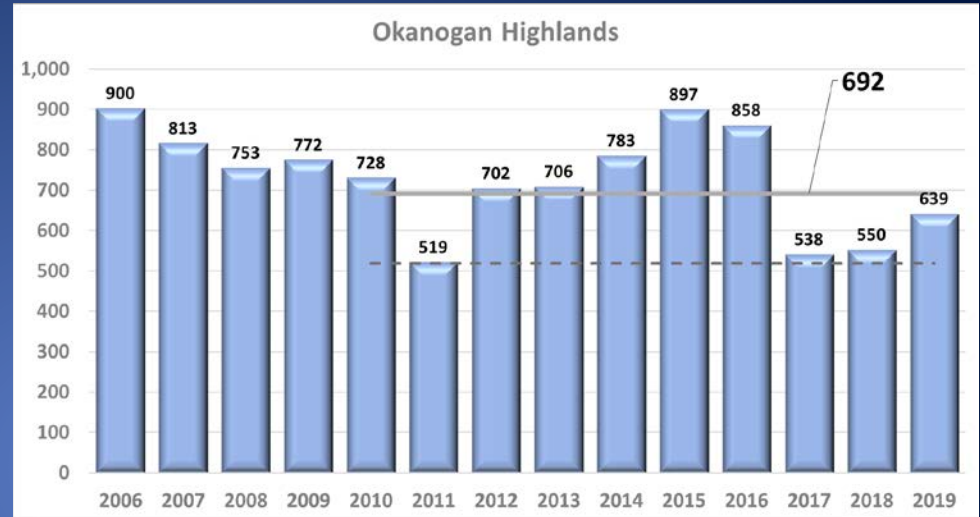
- Mule deer occur throughout the zone, but in low numbers
- White-Tailed deer are management priority in this zone
- No formal surveys for mule deer
- No proposed changes for general or special permit seasons



Okanogan Highlands



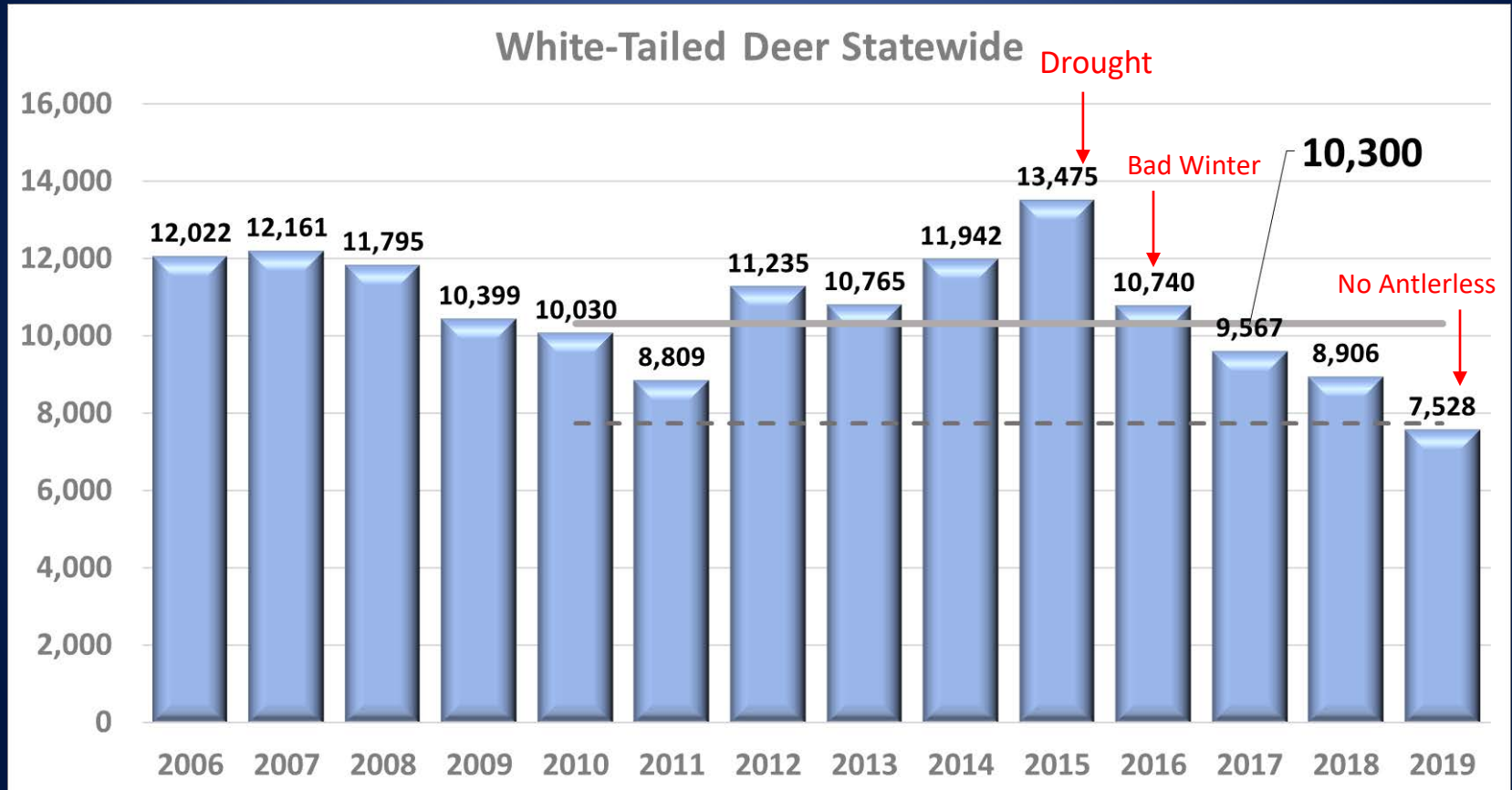
- Mule deer present throughout the zone, but much more common in western portion
- No formal surveys for mule deer
- No changes proposed for general or special permit seasons



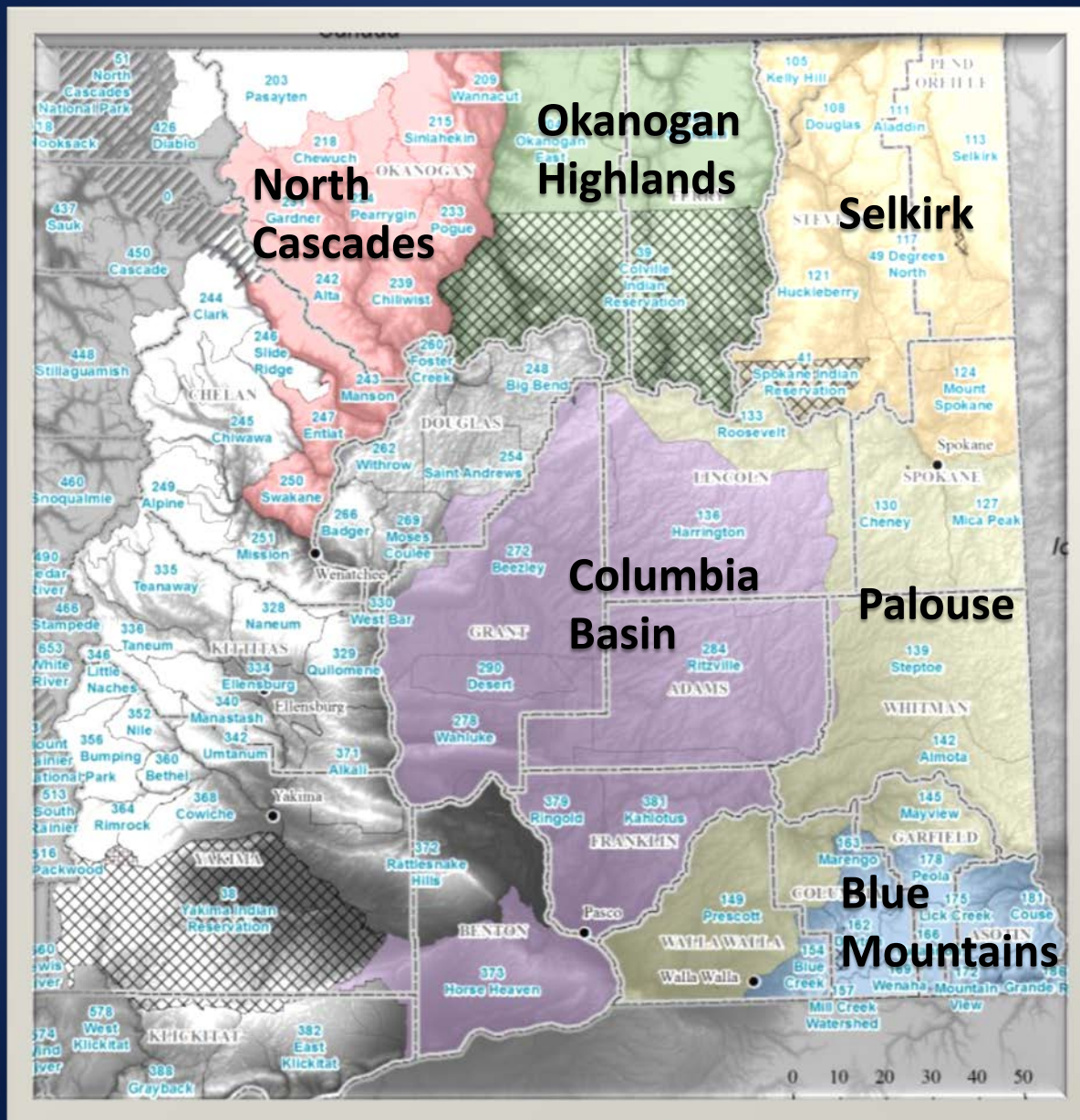
Questions?

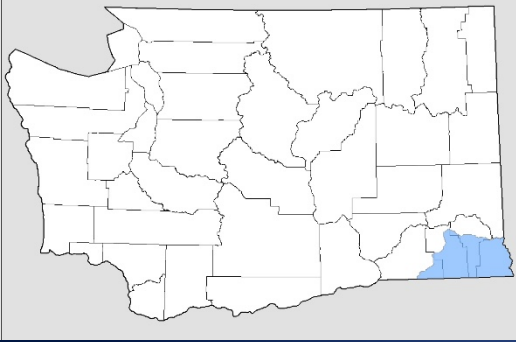


White-Tailed Deer General Season Harvest 2006-2018



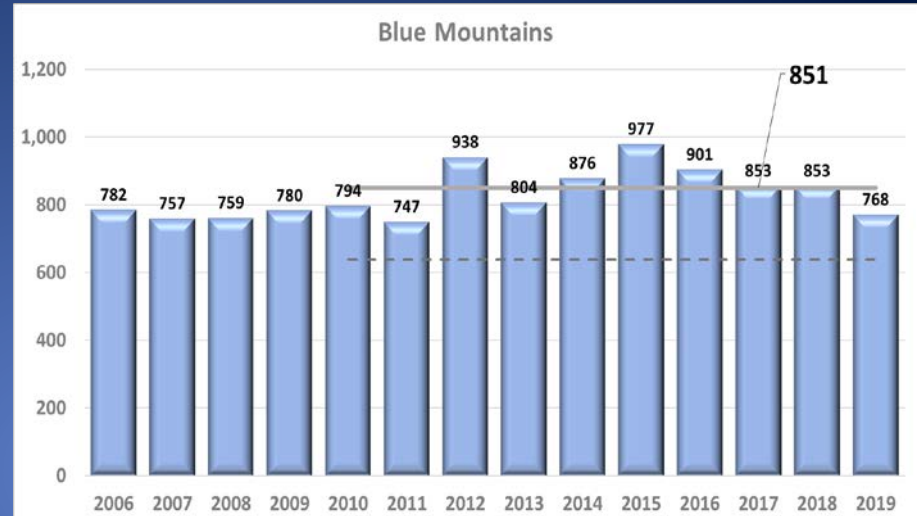
White-Tailed Deer





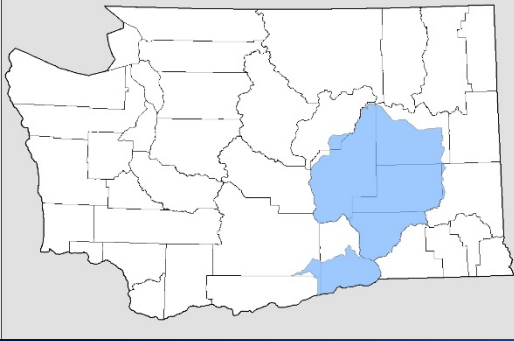
Blue Mountains

- Pre-hunt ground surveys
- Ratio estimates vary widely from year to year
 - Avg. F:D = 51:100
 - Avg. B:D = 42:100
 - 2019 estimates similar
- Removed opportunity to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer in GMU 166 during the early archery season

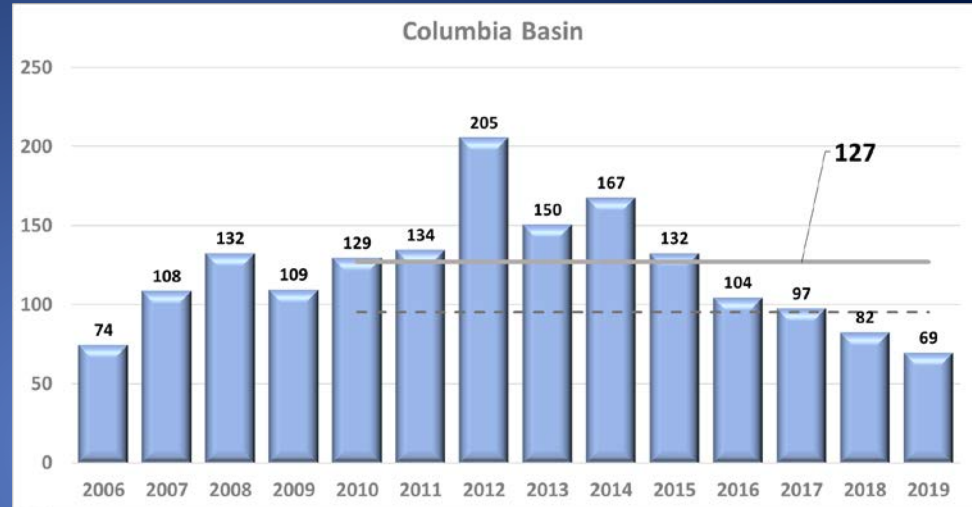


Quality Permits		2018	2019
DA 1040	Modern Firearm	2	1
Total		2	1
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
DA 1040	Youth	5	2
GMU 186	Youth	0	3
Total		5	5

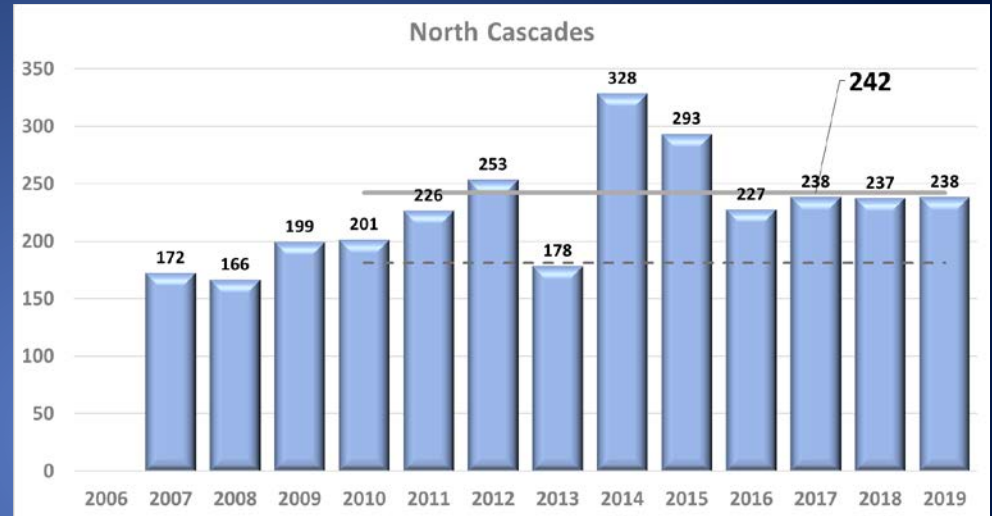
Columbia Basin



- White-Tailed deer occur in very low numbers
- Meets the criteria of an “At-Risk” ungulate population, but mule deer are the management priority in this zone
- No formal surveys
- No proposed changes for general or special permit seasons



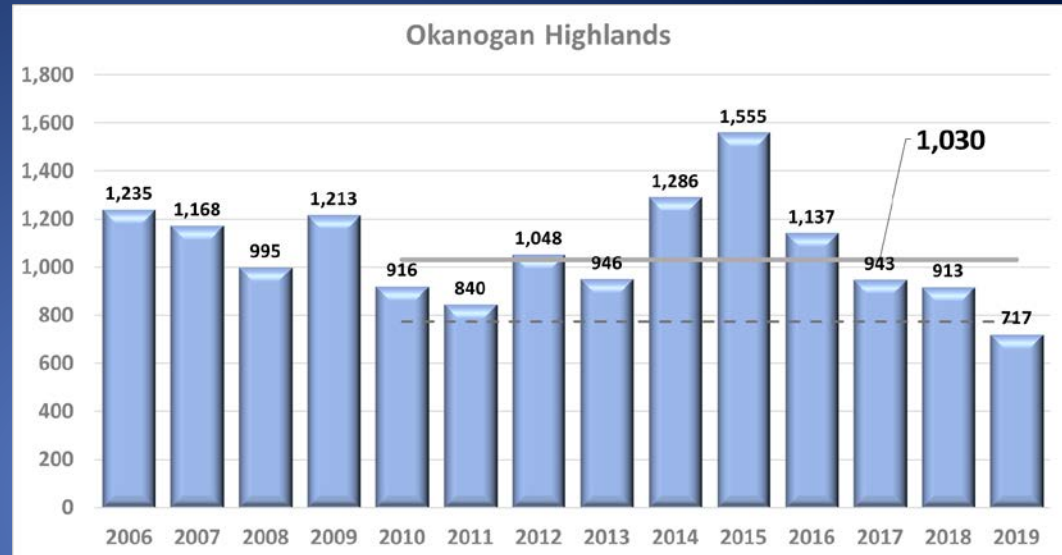
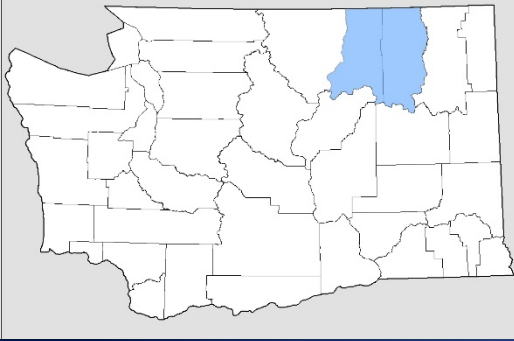
North Cascades



- White-Tailed deer occur in very low numbers
- Mule deer are the management priority in this zone
- No formal surveys
- No proposed changes for general or special permit seasons



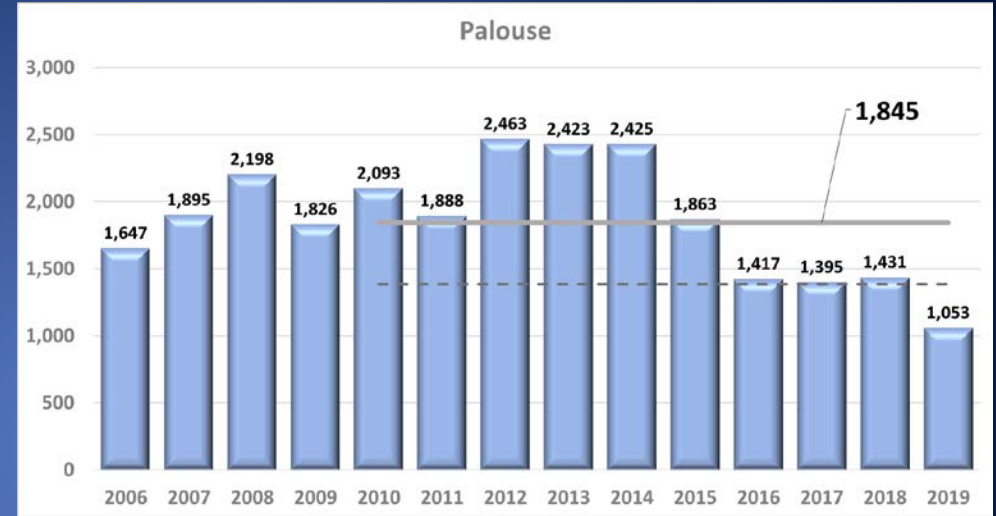
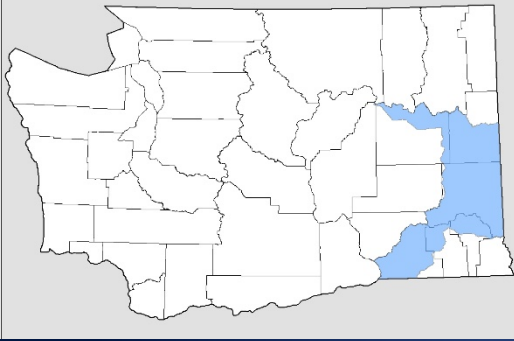
Okanogan Highlands



- White-Tailed deer occur throughout the zone, but are more common in the eastern portion
- Pre-hunt ground surveys conducted in the eastern portion to estimate buck:doe ratios, but sample sizes are usually very low (<100)
 - Avg. B:D = 32:100
- No proposed changes for general or special permit seasons



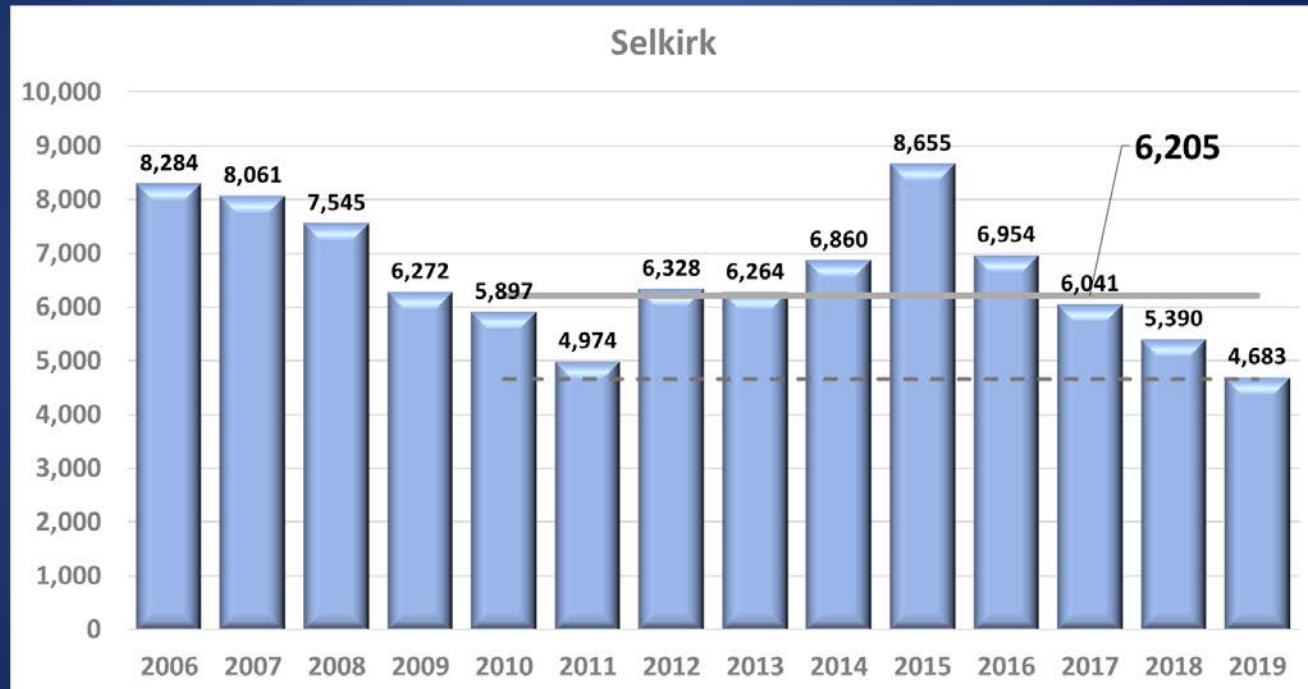
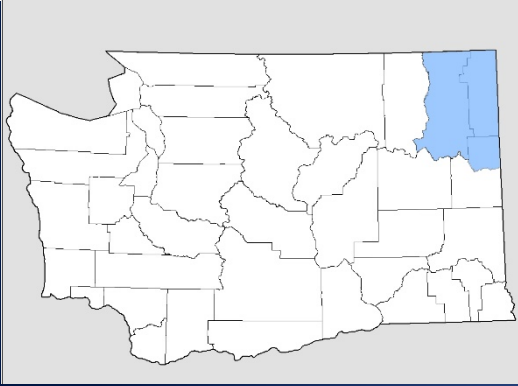
Palouse



- White-Tailed deer occur throughout the zone
- North of Snake River
 - Pre-hunt ground survey
 - Buck:Doe ratio fluctuates around the long-term average (~25-30:100)
 - Fawn:Doe ratios declined below the long-term average (~50:100), 2015-2017, but have since rebounded
- South of Snake River
 - Mule deer are the management priority
 - No formal survey
- No proposed changes for general or special permit seasons



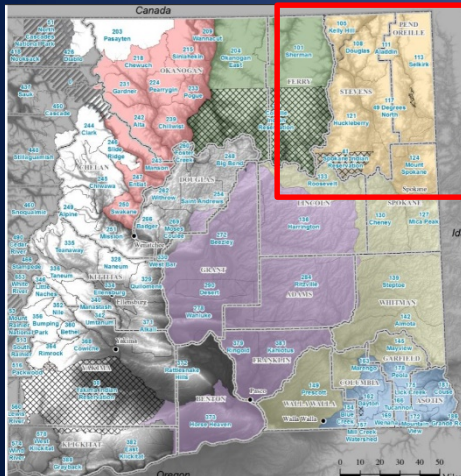
Selkirk



- No proposed changes to general or special permit seasons

District 1

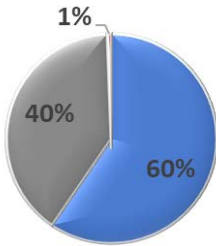
GMUs 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, & 121



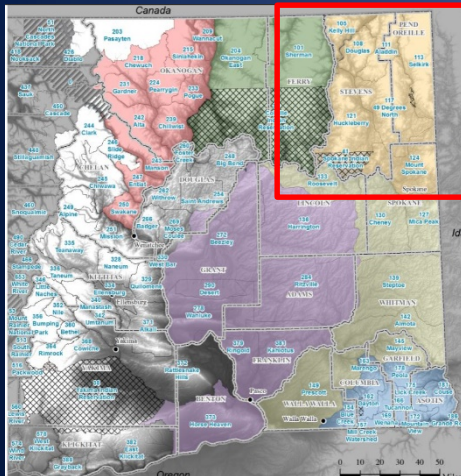
District 1

GMUs ~~101~~, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, & 121

General Season Buck Harvest in GMU 101
by Species, 2006-2018



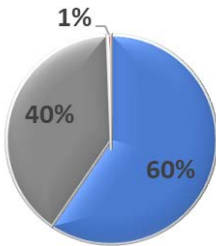
■ White-Tailed Deer ■ Mule Deer ■ Black-Tailed Deer



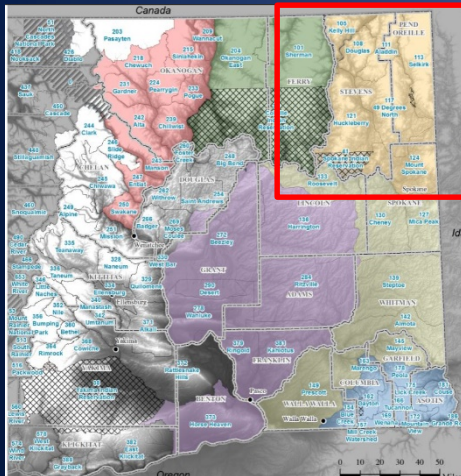
District 1

GMUs ~~101~~, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, & 121

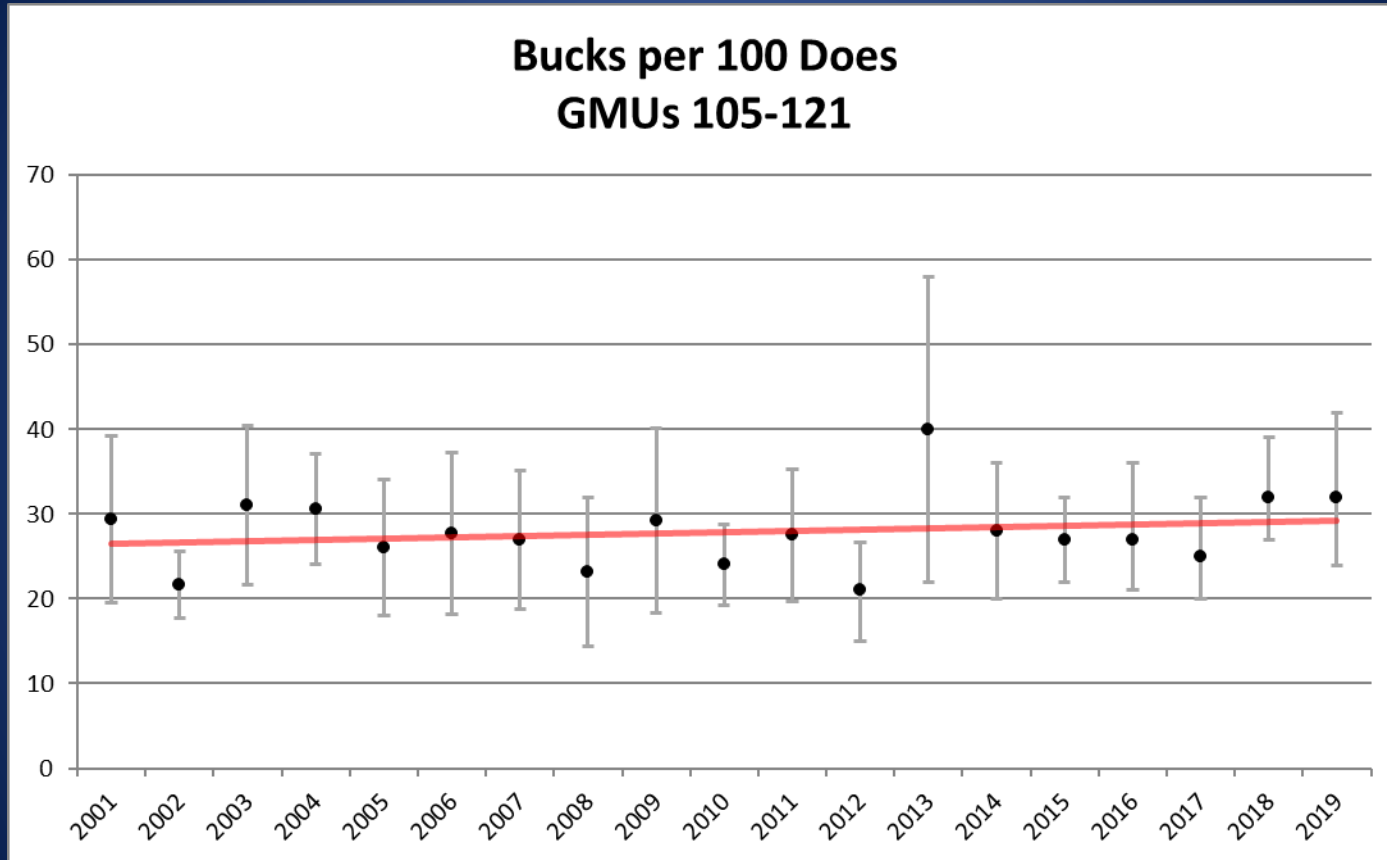
General Season Buck Harvest in GMU 101
by Species, 2006-2018



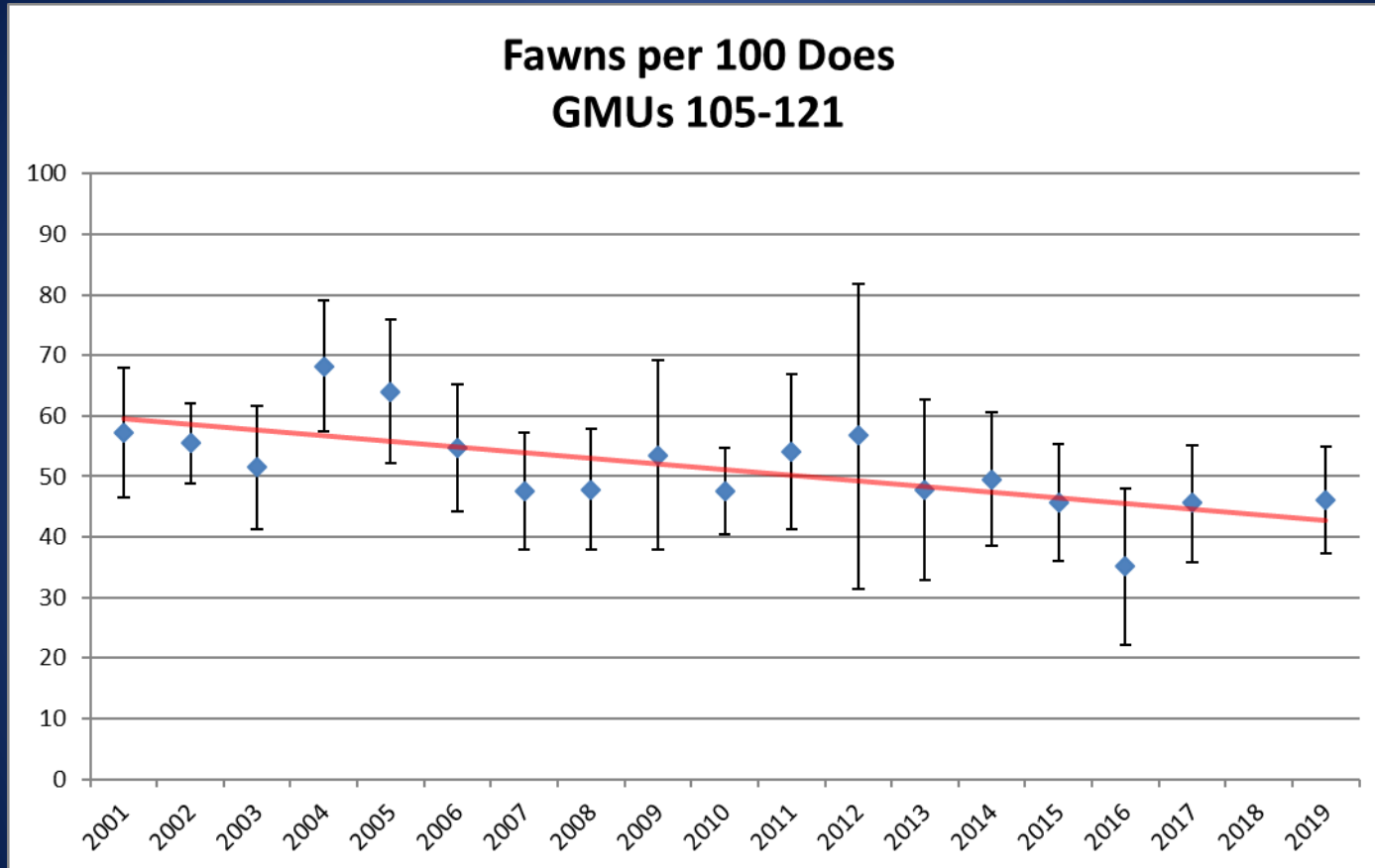
■ White-Tailed Deer ■ Mule Deer ■ Black-Tailed Deer



Buck:Doe Ratios

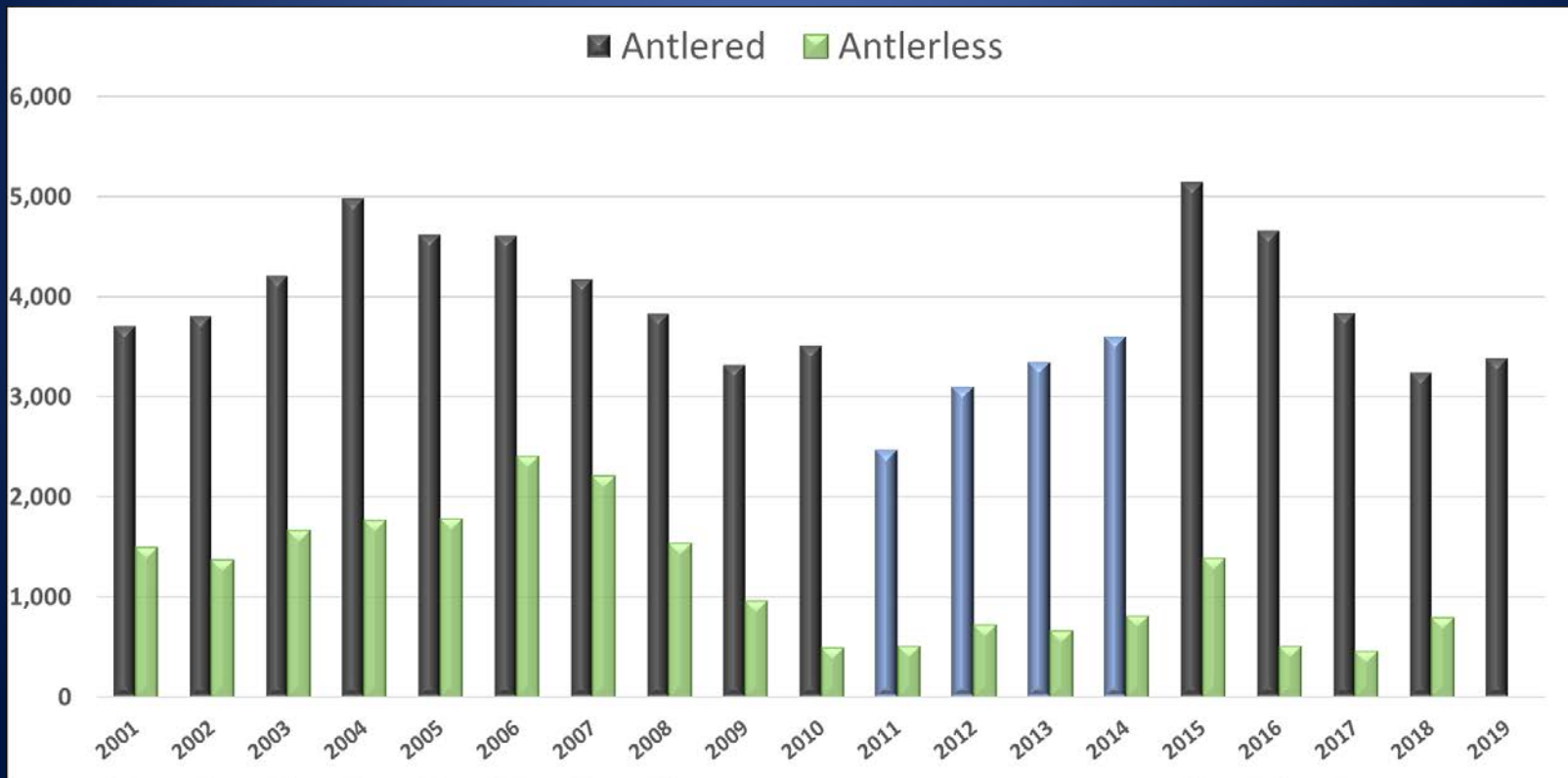


Fawn:Doe Ratios



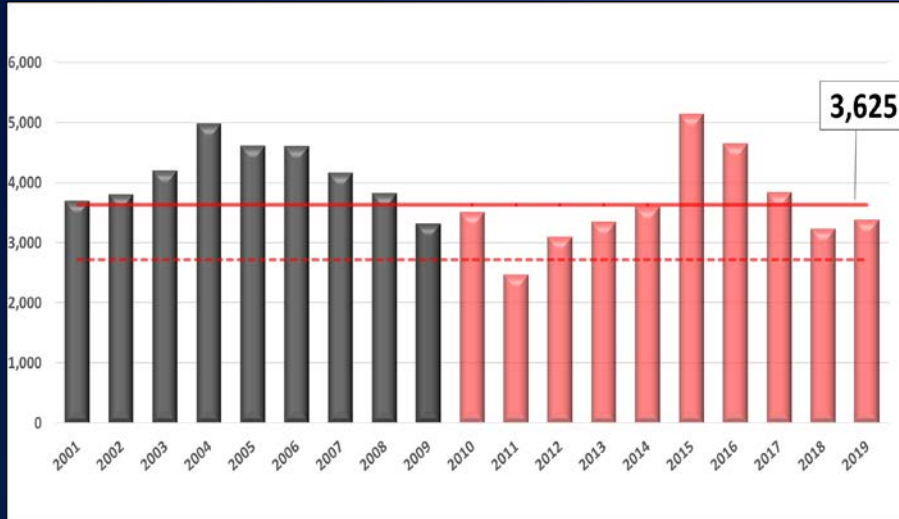
District 1—“At-Risk” Assessment

- Data limited to general season buck harvest during modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons

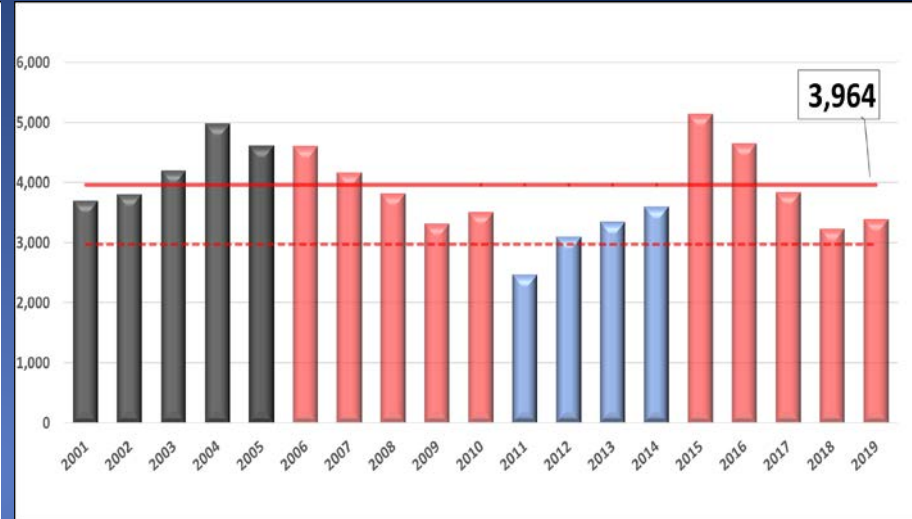


At-Risk Assessment

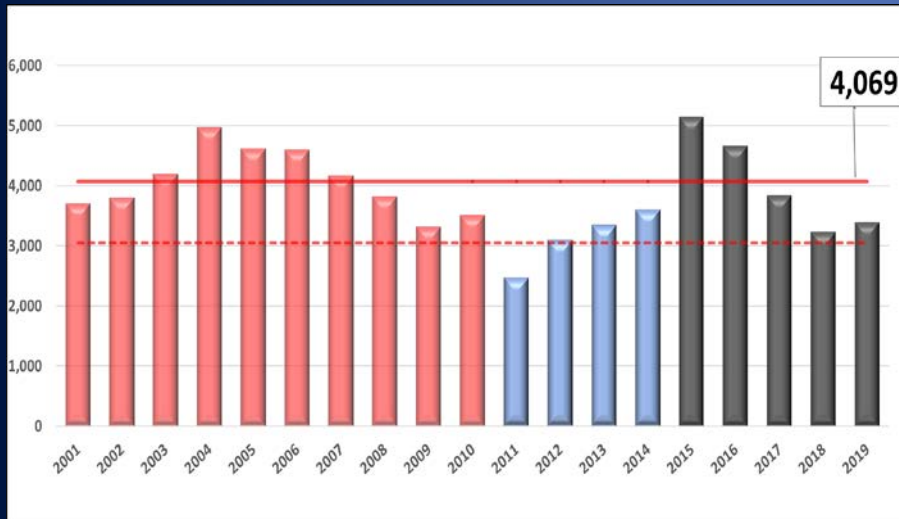
2010-2019



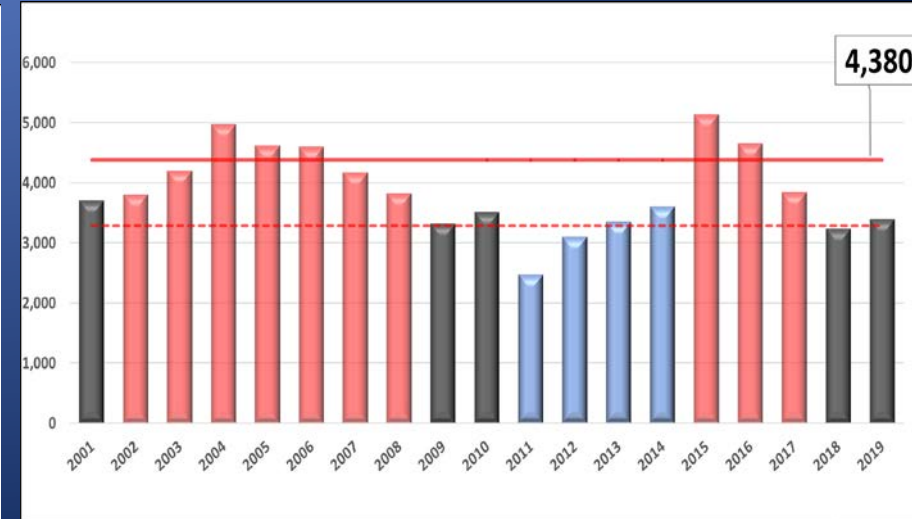
2006-2010 & 2015-2019

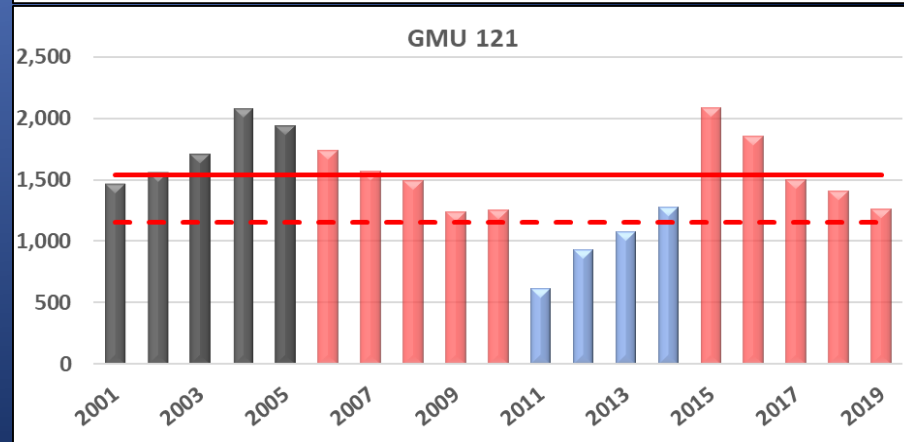
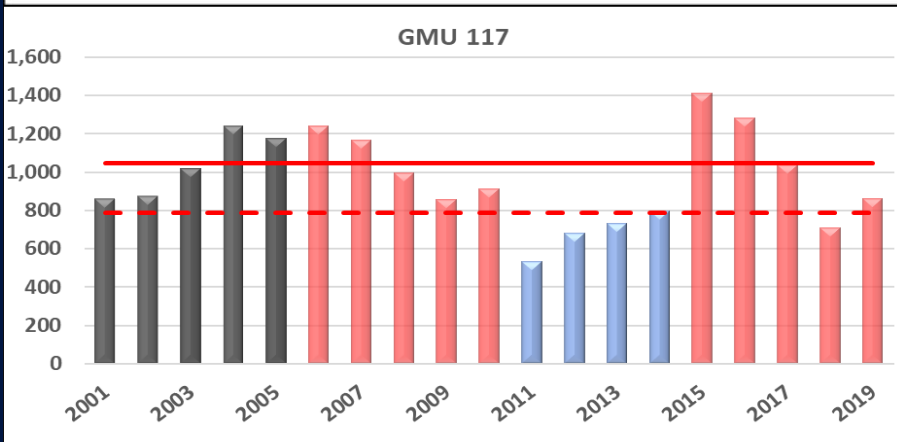
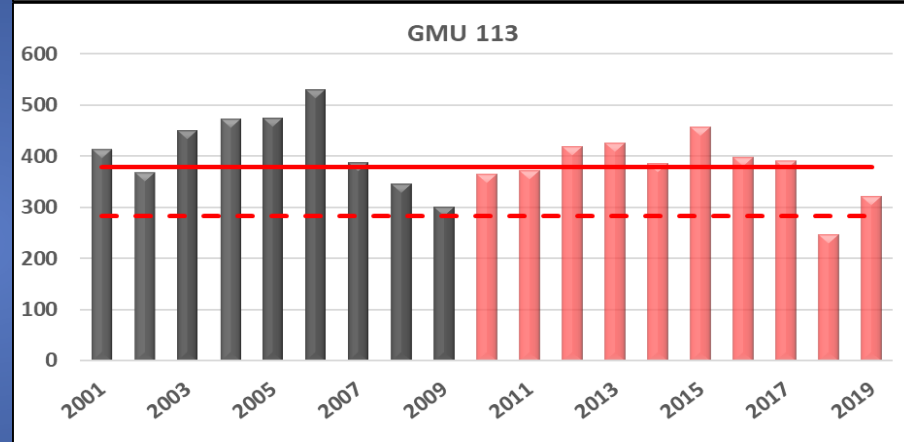
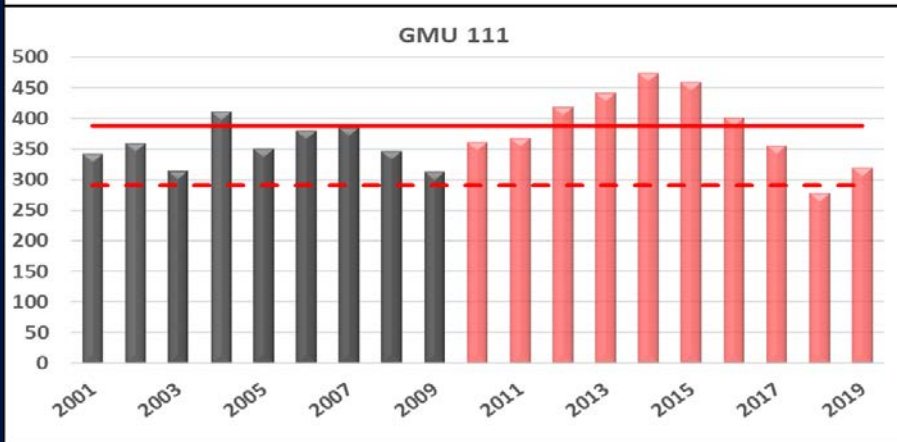
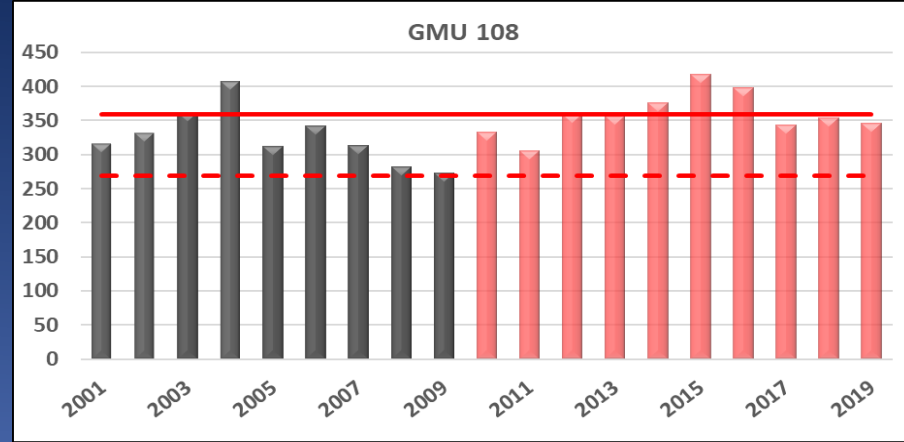
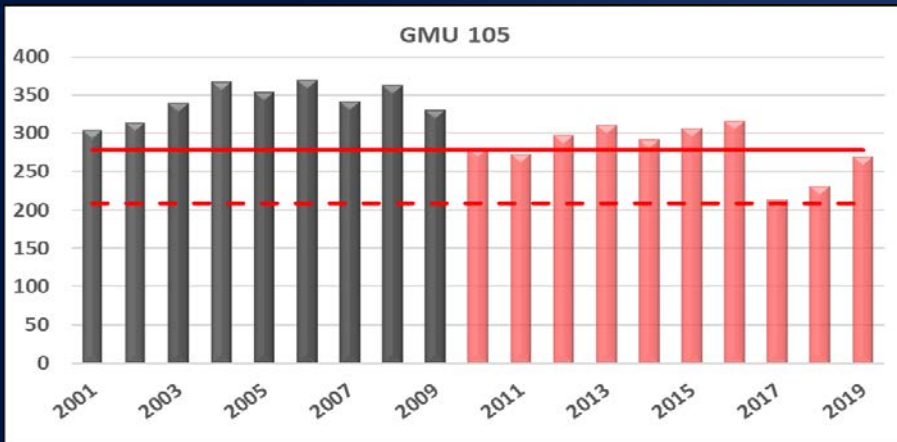


2001-2010

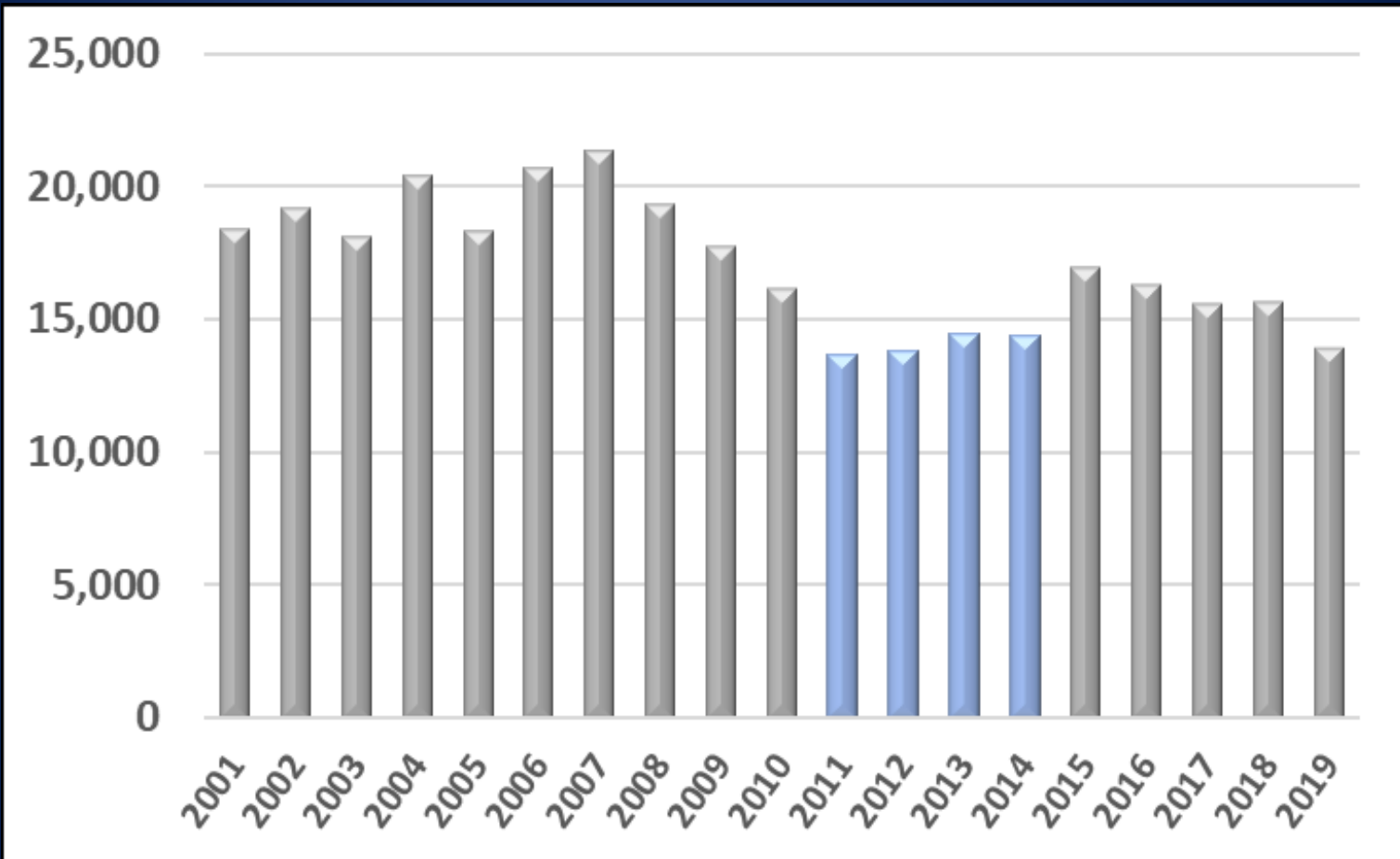


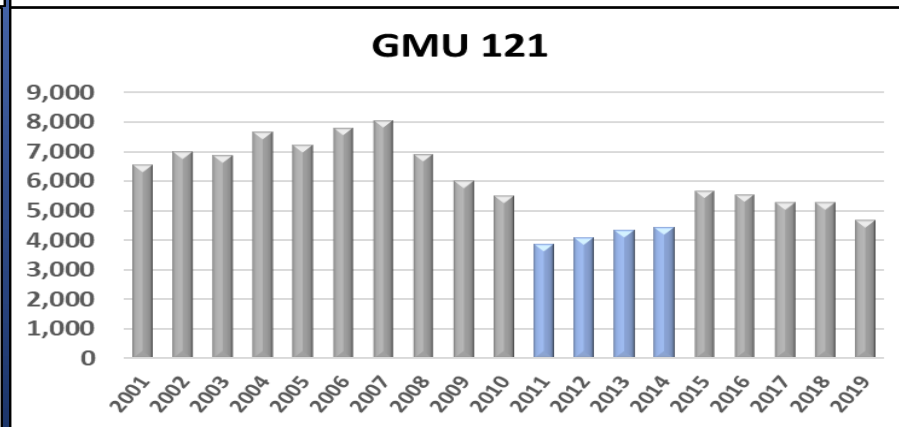
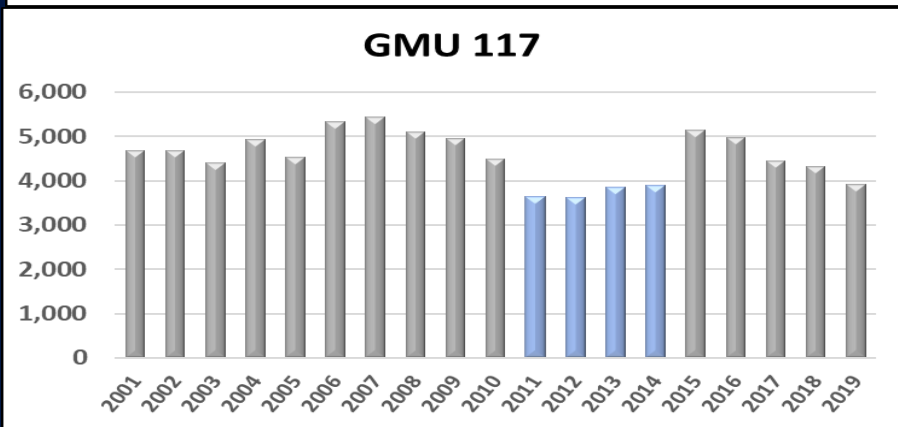
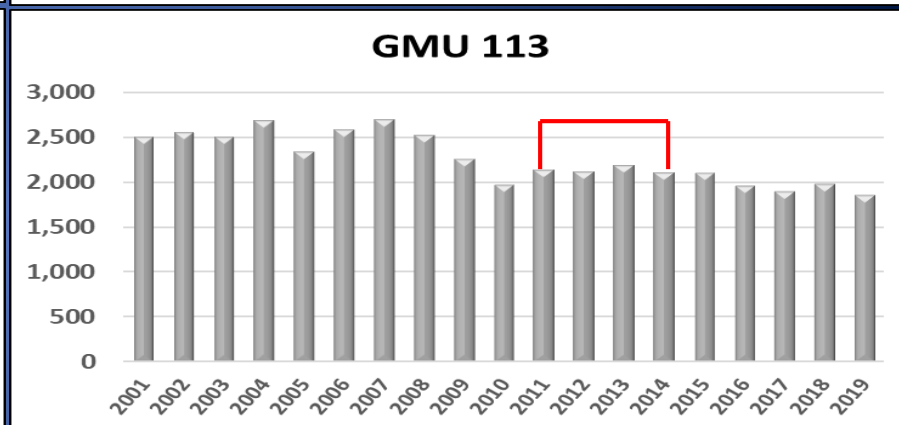
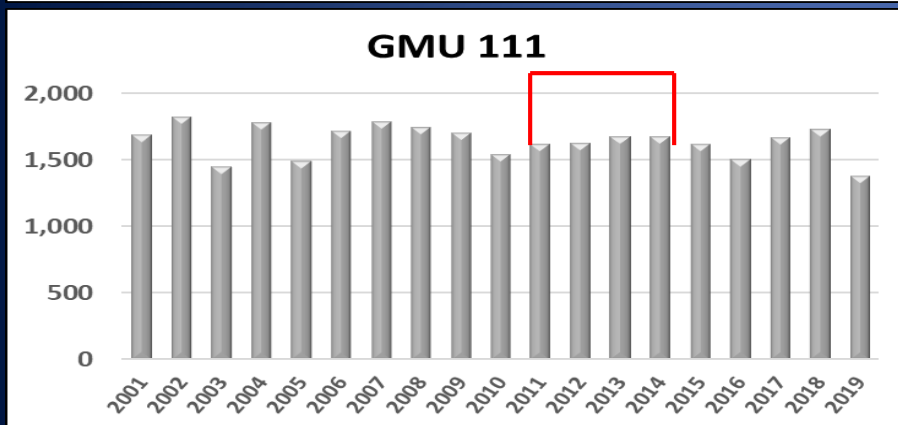
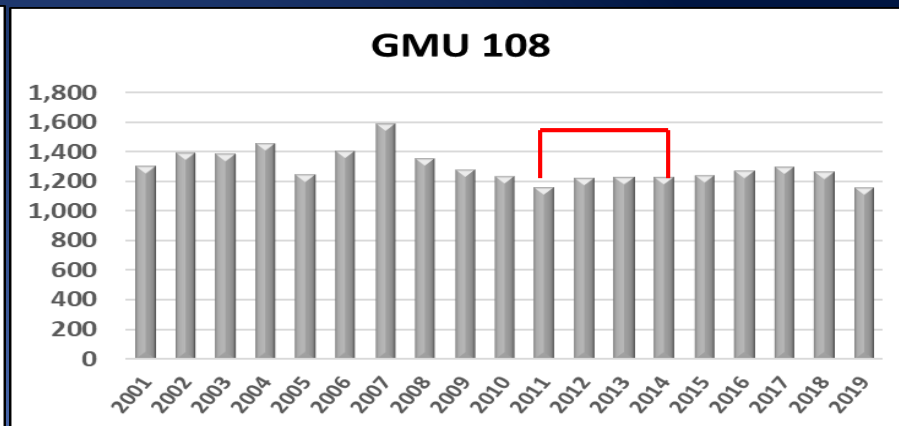
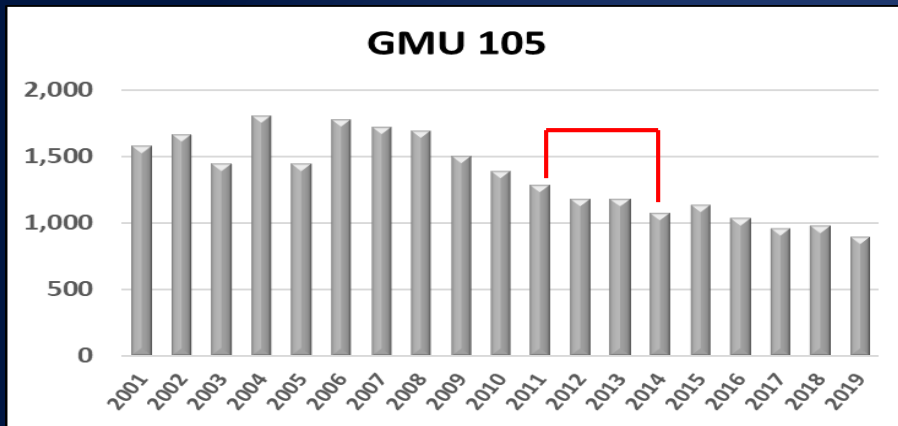
10 Highest Years



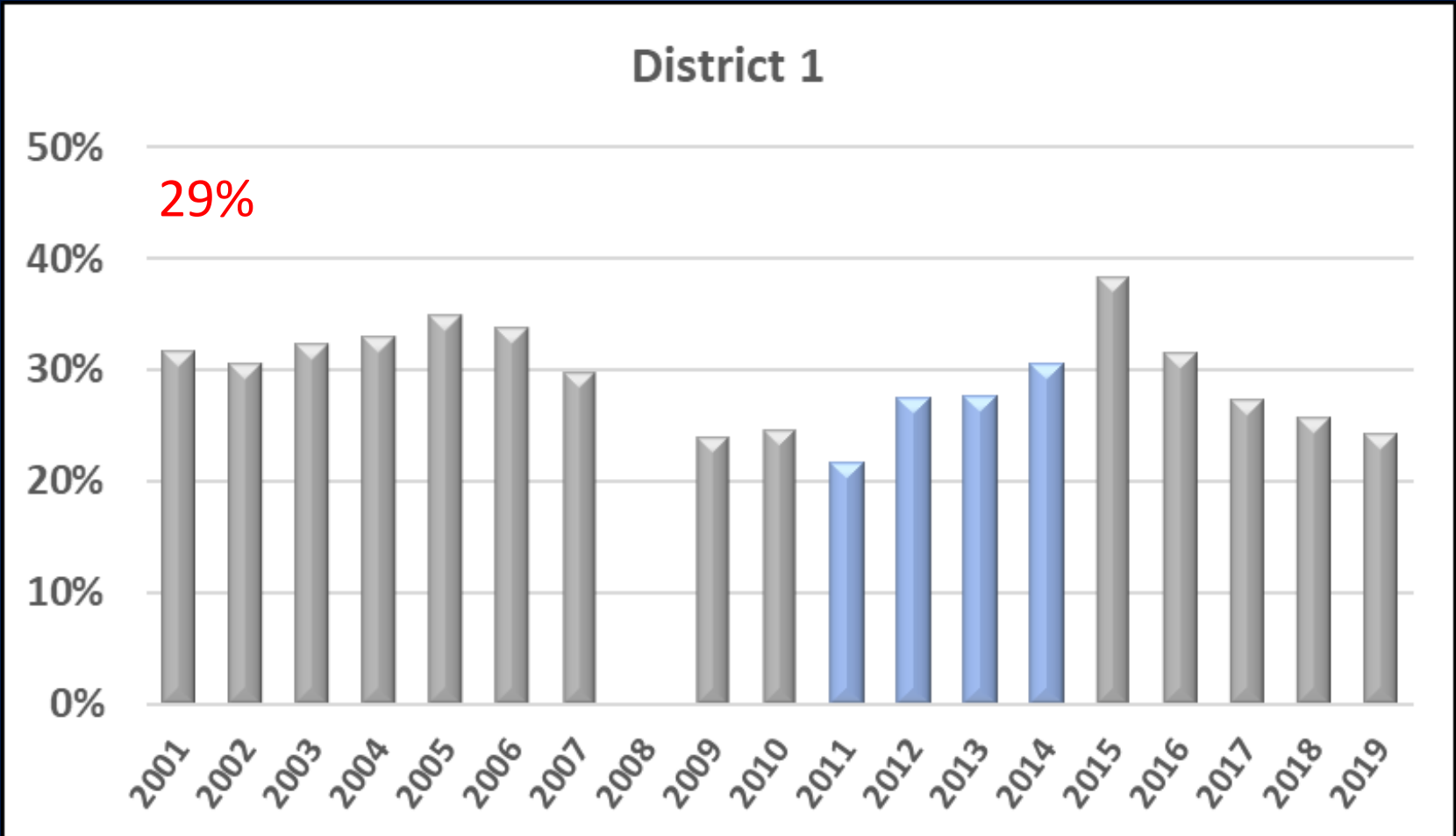


District 1—Hunter Numbers

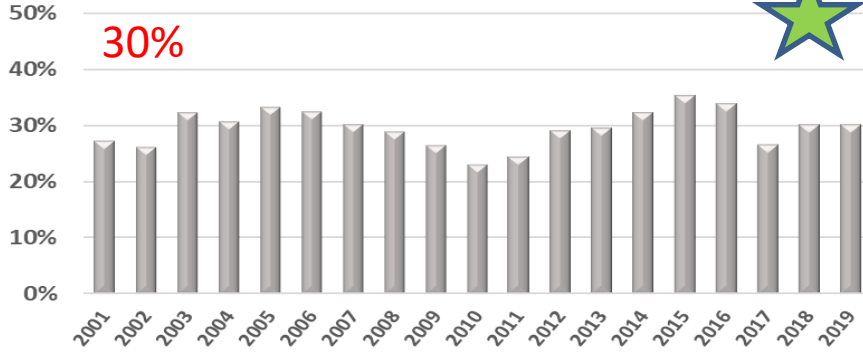




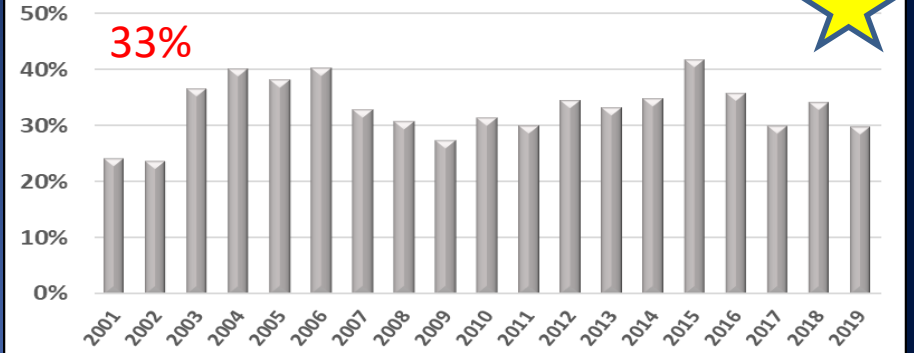
District 1—Hunter Success



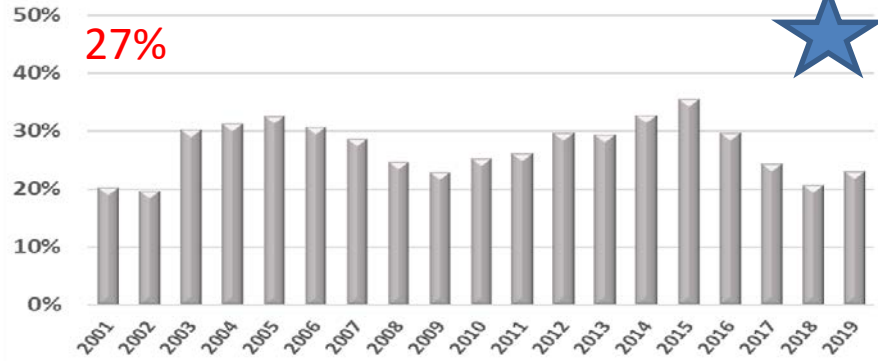
GMU 105



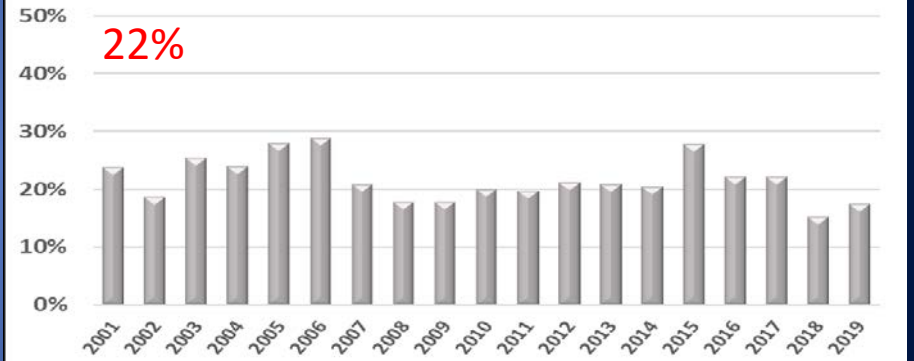
GMU 108



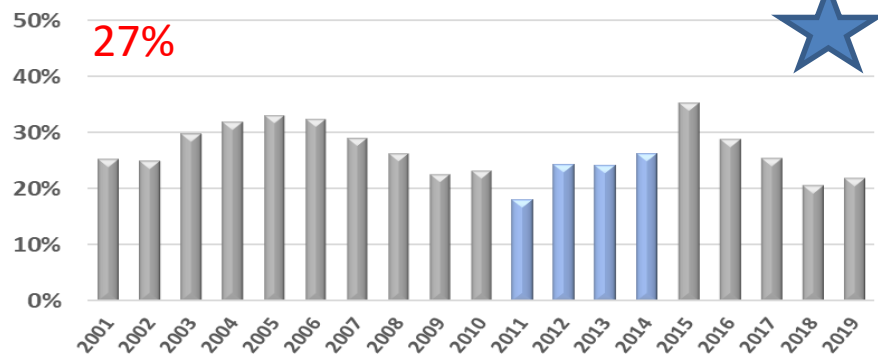
GMU 111



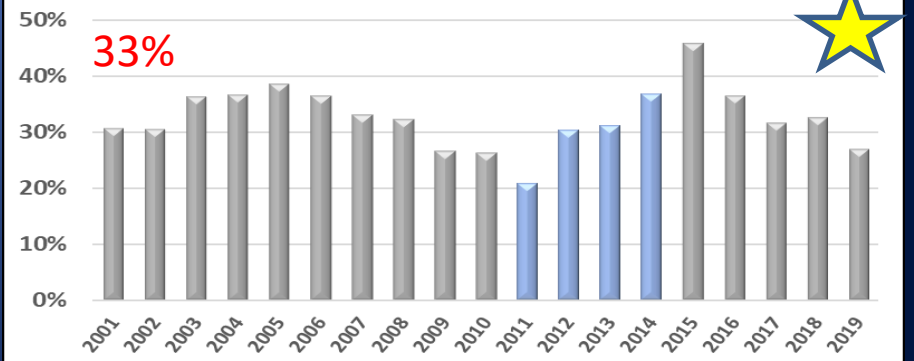
GMU 113



GMU 117

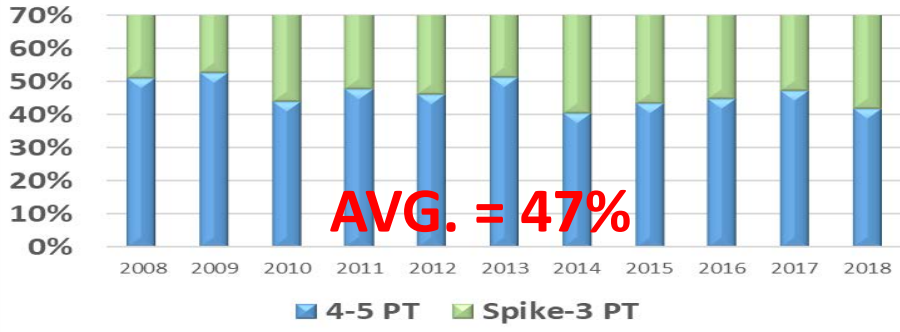


GMU 121

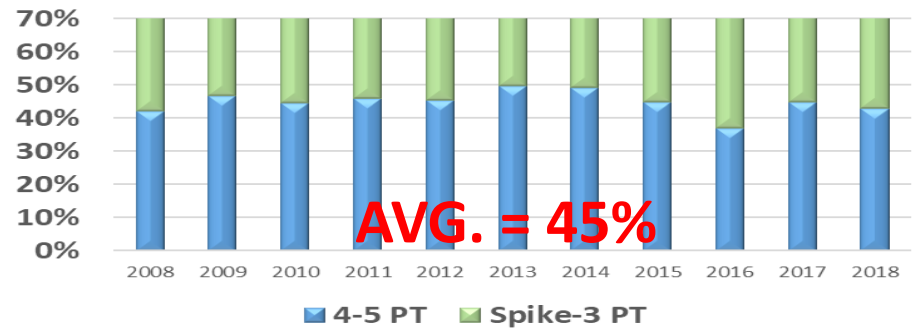


% 4-5 Pt. Bucks in Harvest

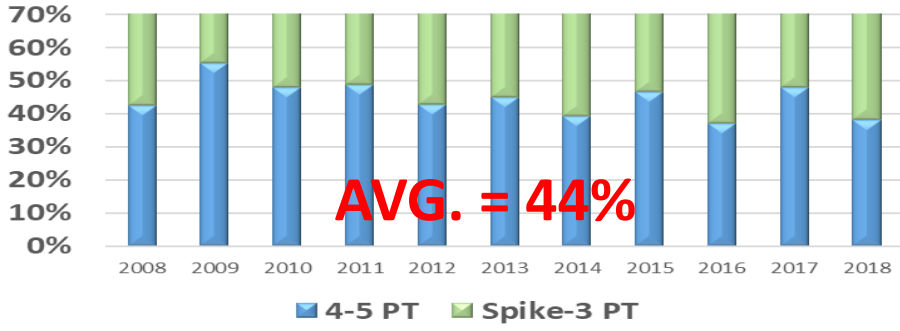
GMU 105



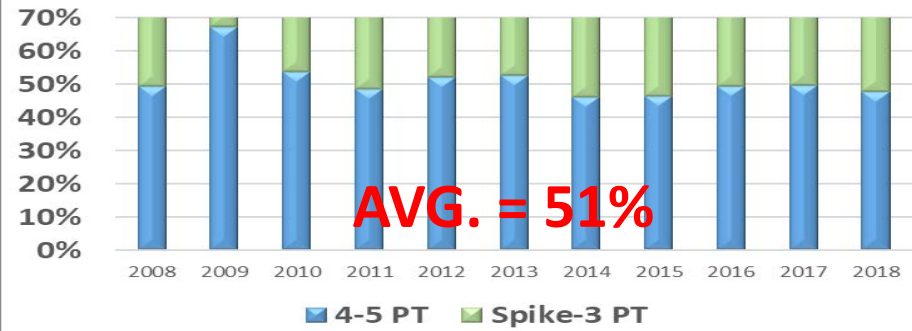
GMU 108



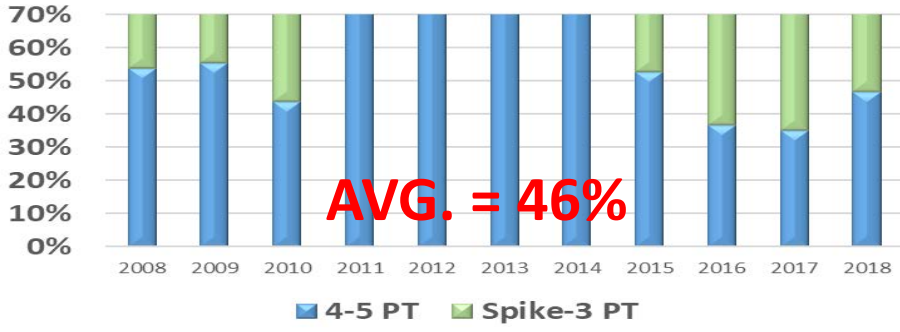
GMU 111



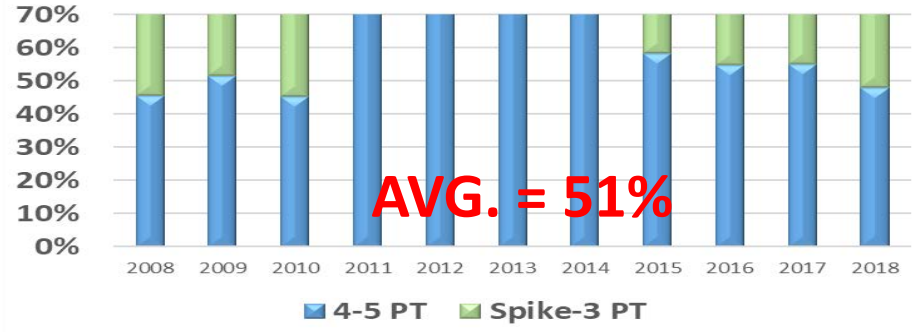
GMU 113



GMU 117

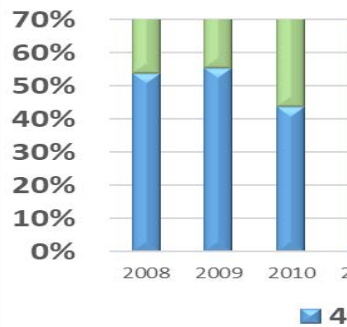
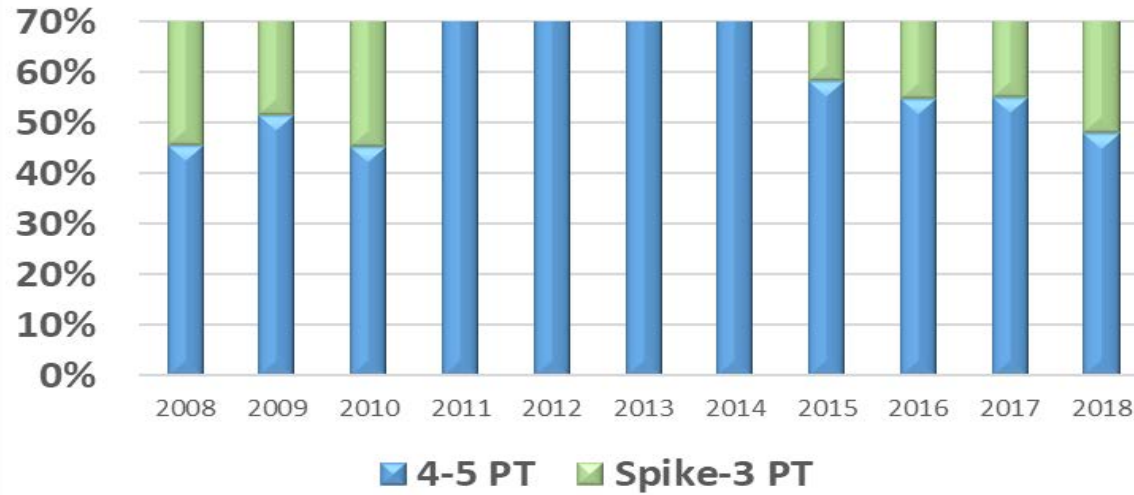
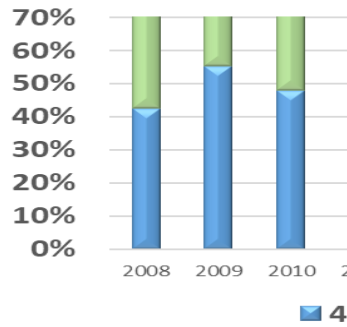
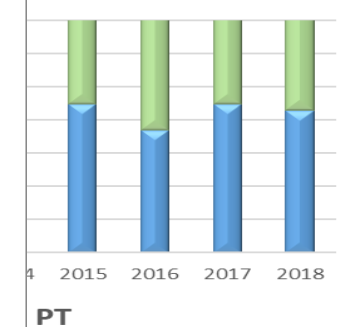
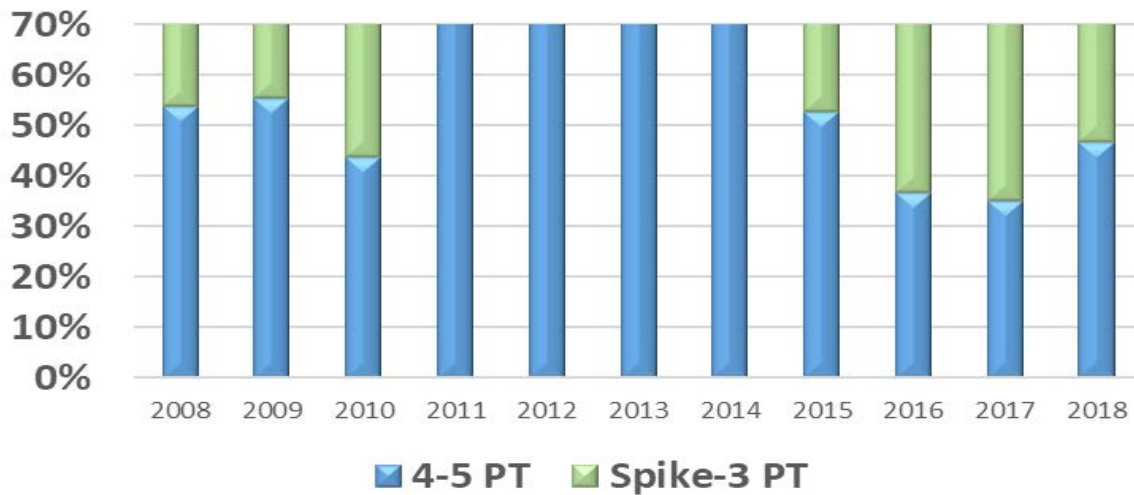
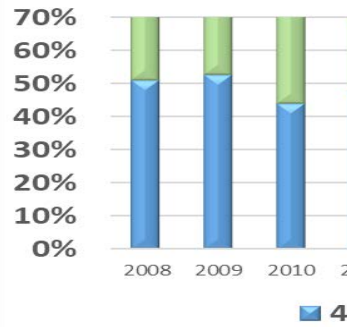


GMU 121



% 4-5 Pt. Bucks in Harvest

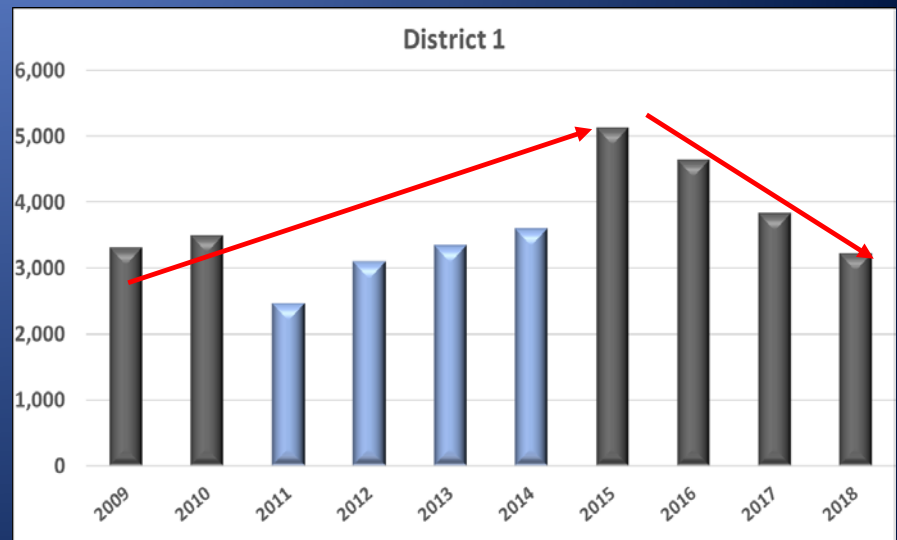
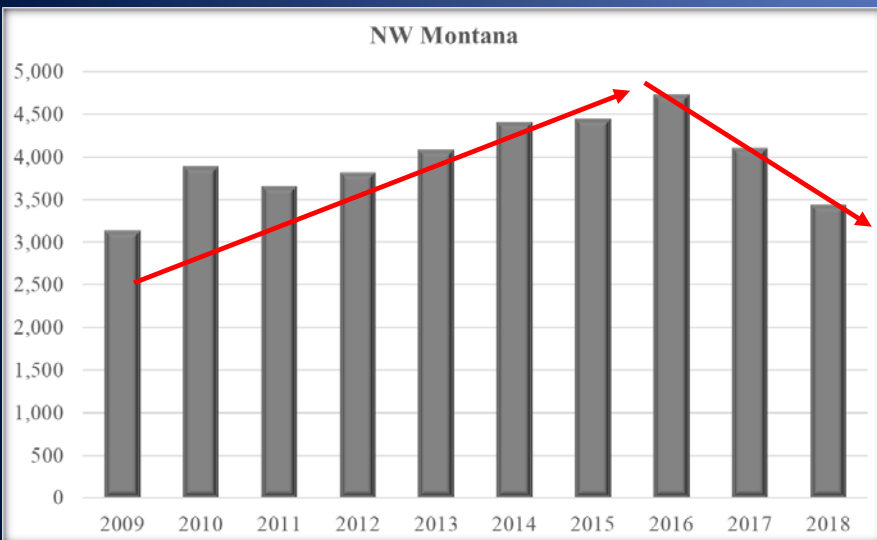
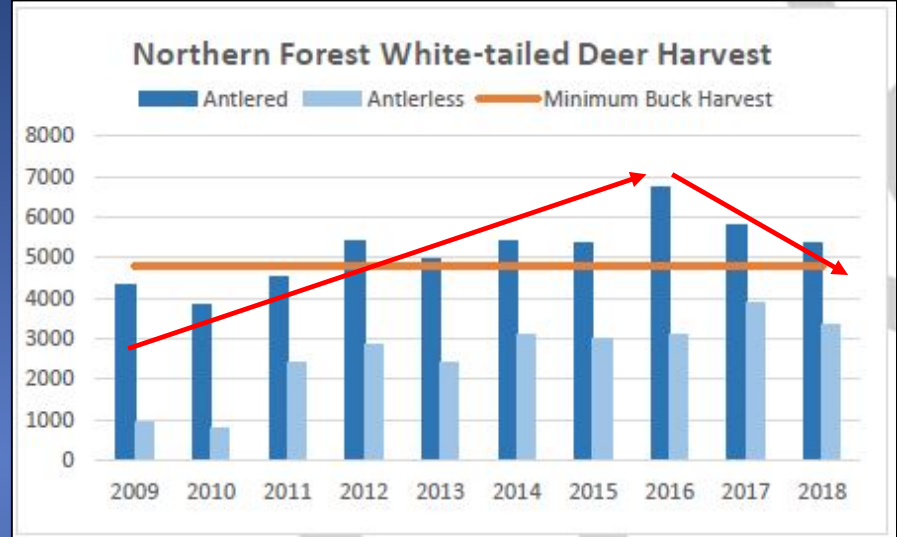
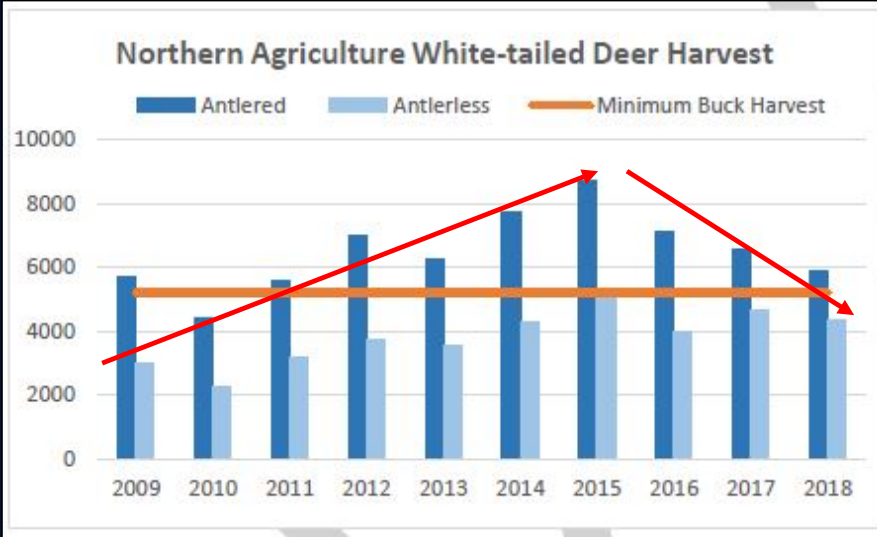
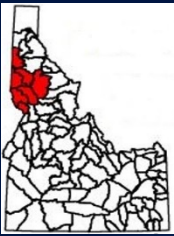
GMU 117



Regional Comparisons

- 2 Data Analysis Units from Idaho Panhandle
- 6 Hunt Districts from NW Montana
- General either-sex white-tailed deer seasons for all weapon types
- General seasons with late rut hunting opportunity
- No antler-point restrictions

Regional Comparisons Buck Harvest 2009-2018

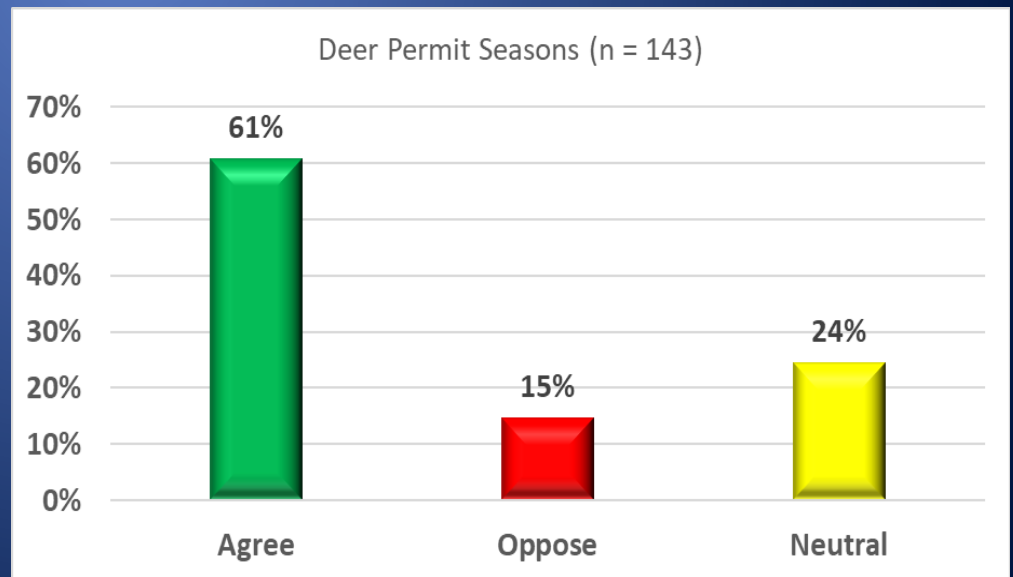
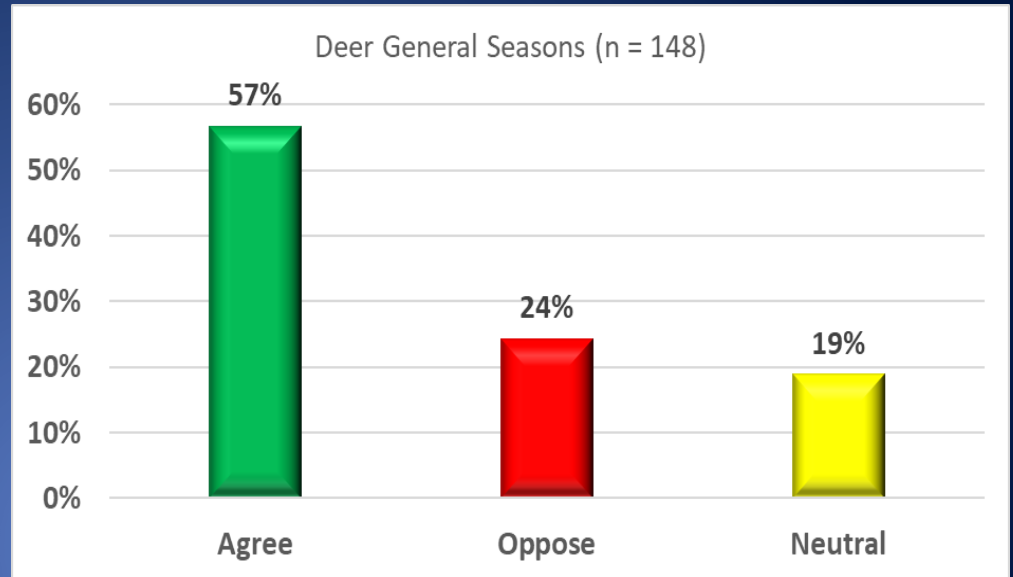


Antler-Point Restrictions (APRs)

- Although APRs have shown minimal biological benefits, they remain popular with many hunters
- Because of that popularity, they warrant consideration as a social issue
- The Department has committed to considering APRs during the 2021-2023 season setting process
- Public outreach and support is critical when APRs are being considered

Public Comment

- Common themes included:
 - Reducing antlerless harvest
 - Predator management
 - Antler-Point restrictions
- The Department has already eliminated or substantially reduced antlerless harvest in areas where it was warranted
- The Department has already liberalized bear seasons and has proposed changes to cougar seasons
- The Department has committed to considering APRs during the 2021-2023 season setting process

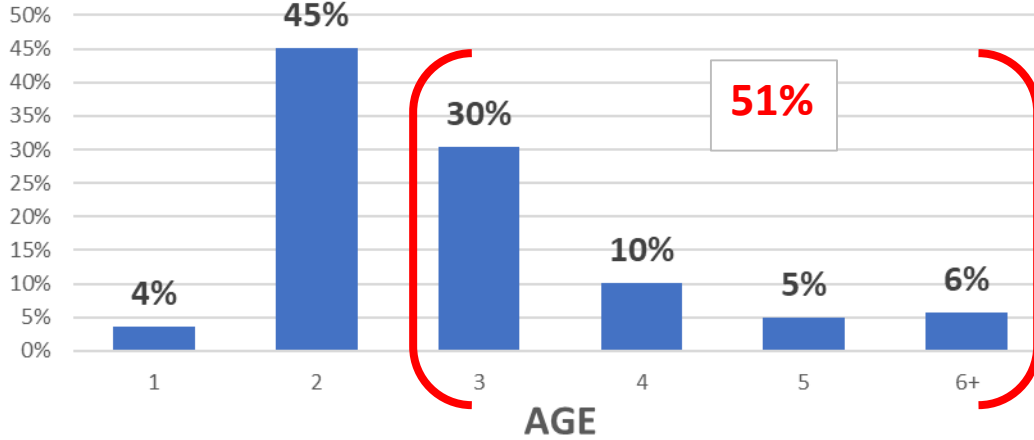


Questions?

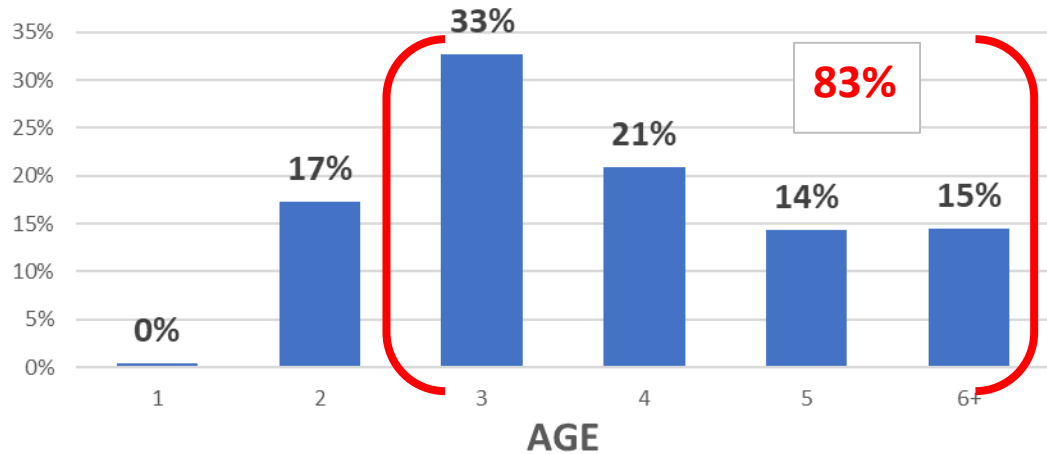


Antler Points

4 Points (n = 641)



5+ Points (n = 441)



Antler Points

- Idaho
- N = 1,045

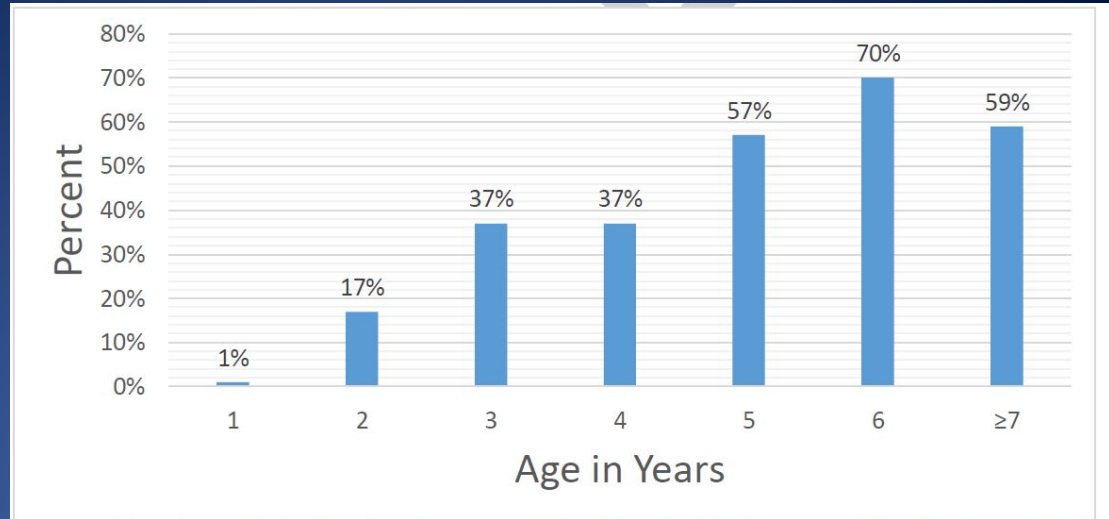
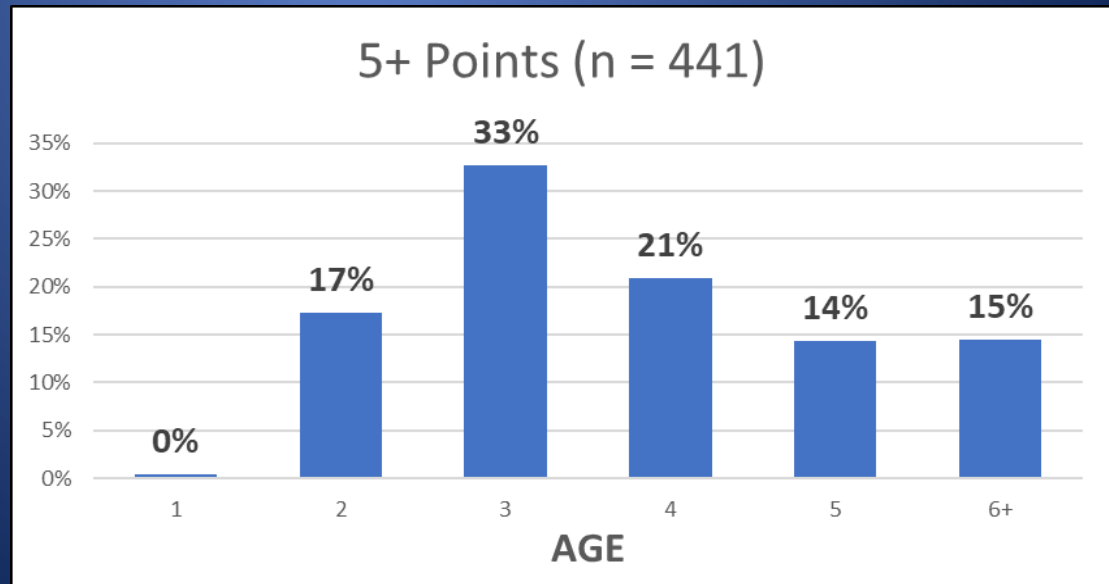


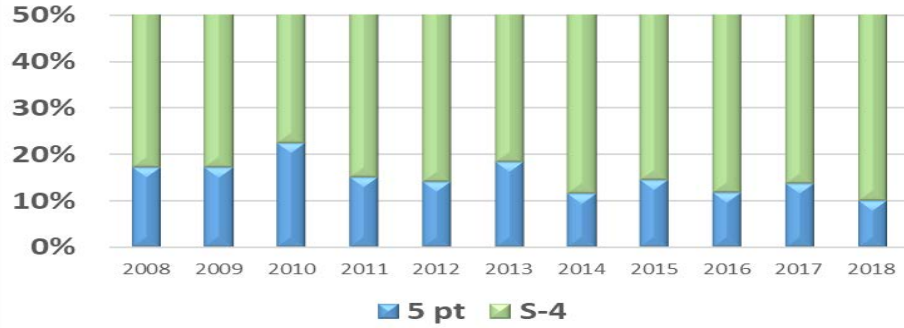
Figure 4. Percentage of bucks with ≥ 5 points on left antler of 1,045 white-tailed deer bucks checked at Panhandle Region Check Stations (1980-2012)

- Washington



Antler Points

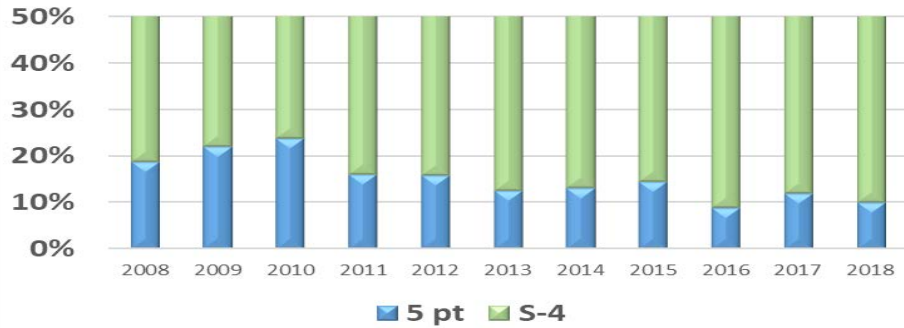
GMU 105



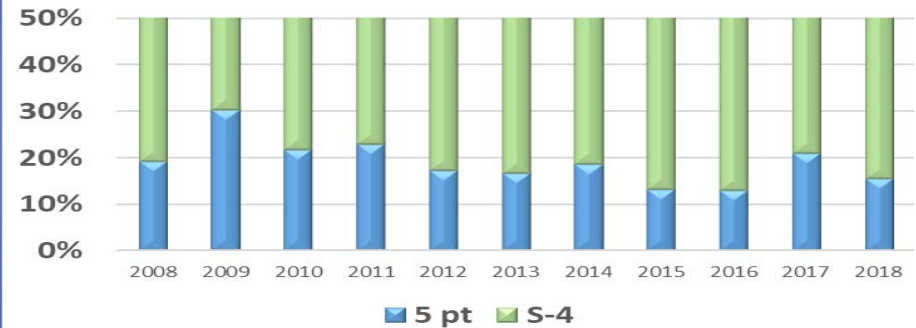
GMU 108



GMU 111



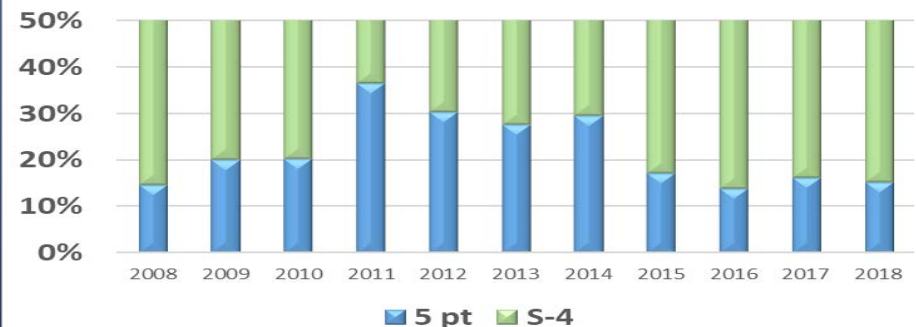
GMU 113



GMU 117

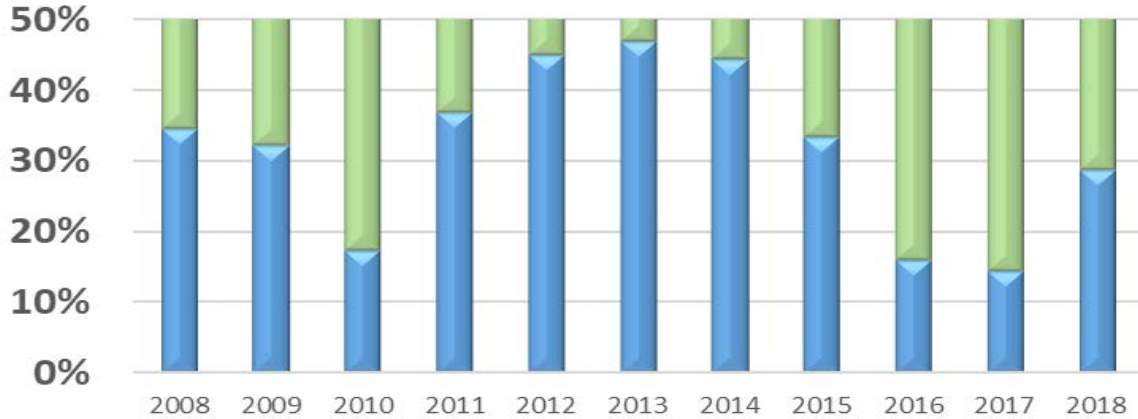
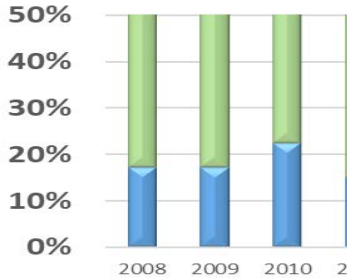


GMU 121

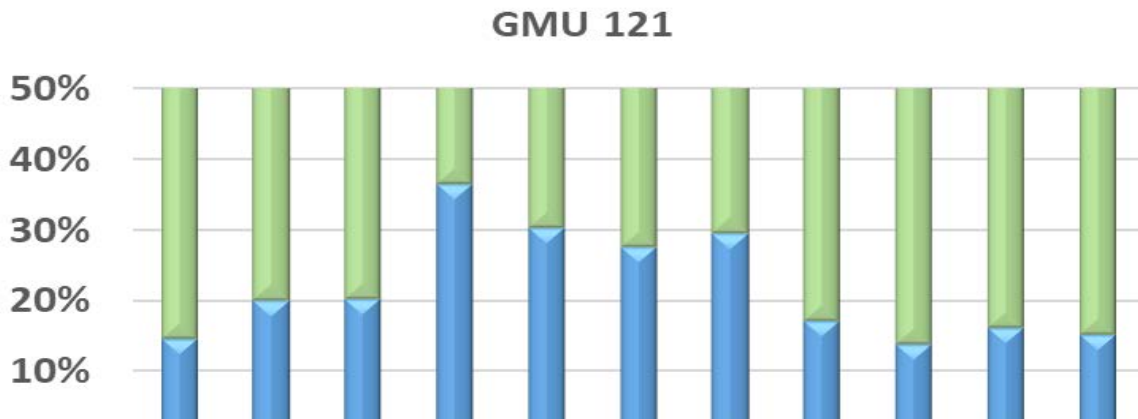
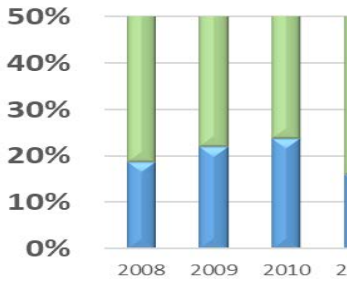
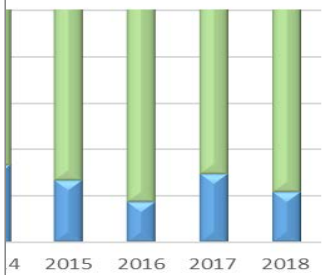


Antler Points

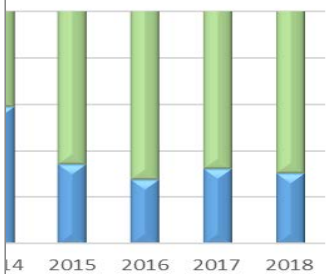
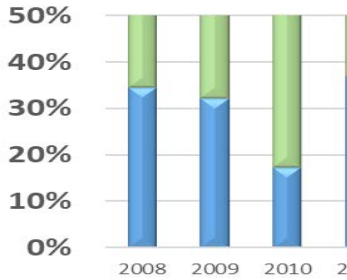
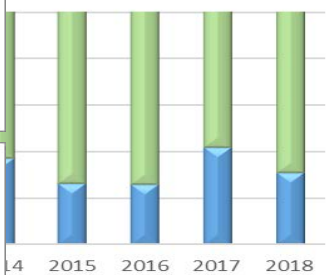
GMU 117



5 pt S-4

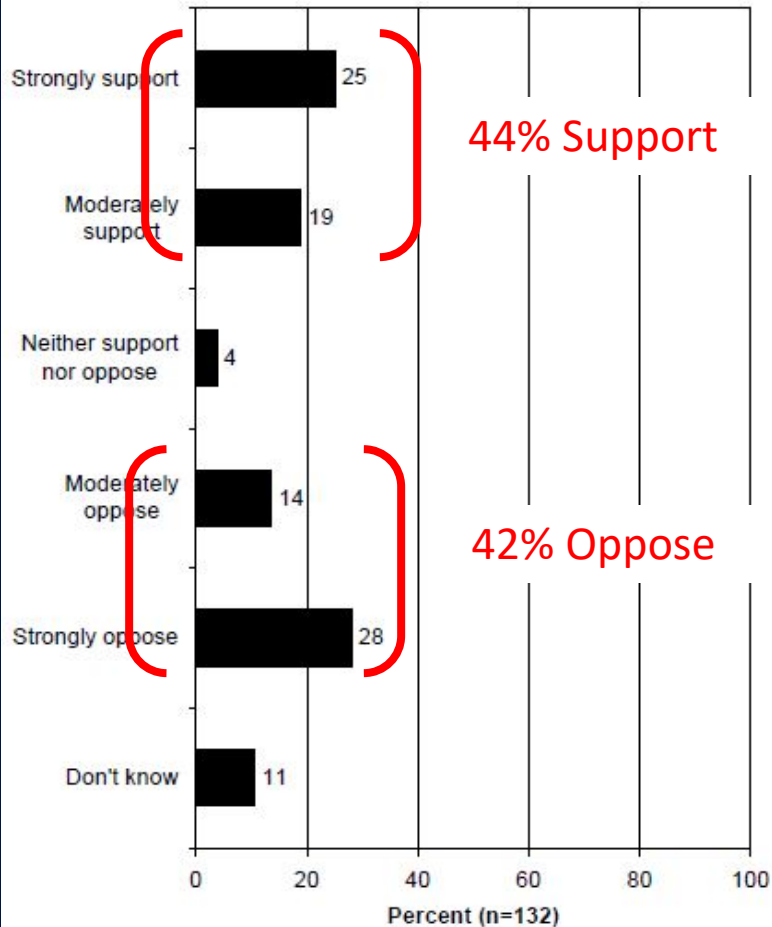


5 pt S-4

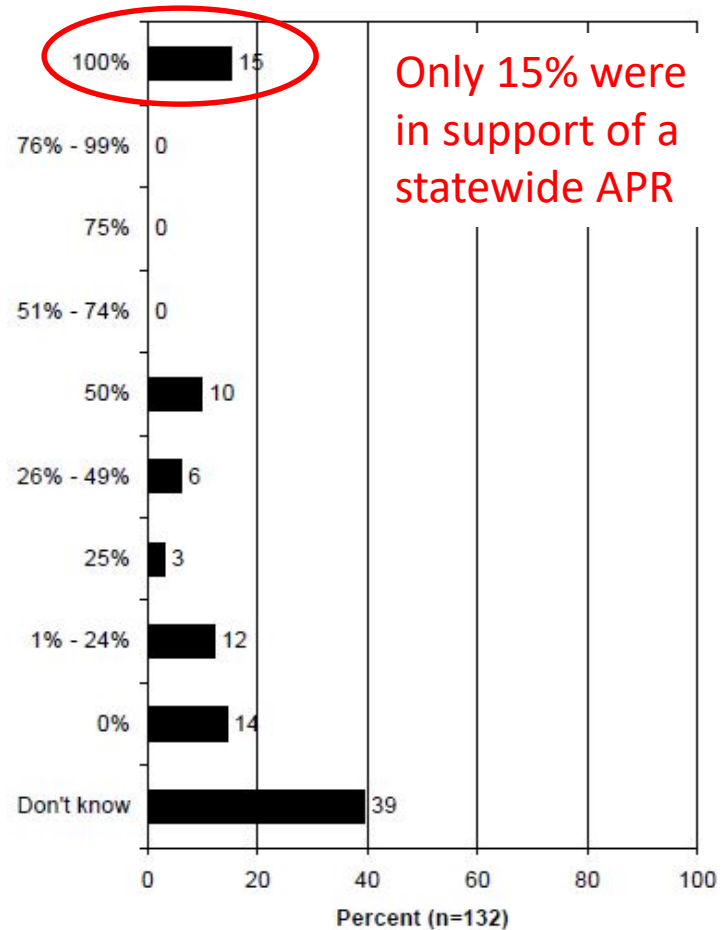


Antler Point Restrictions

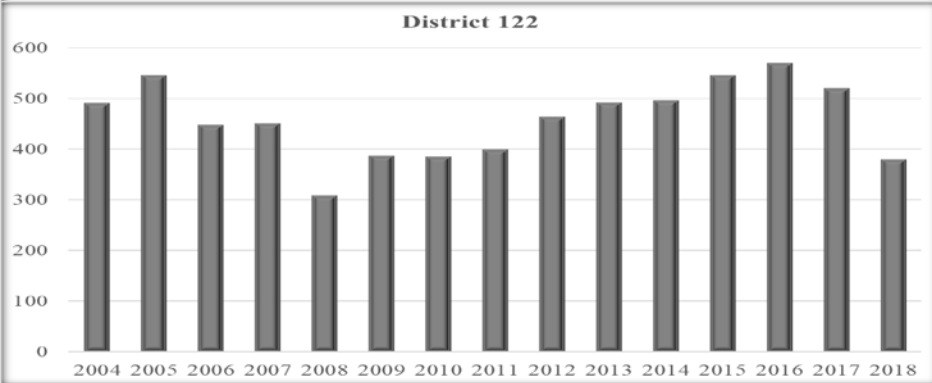
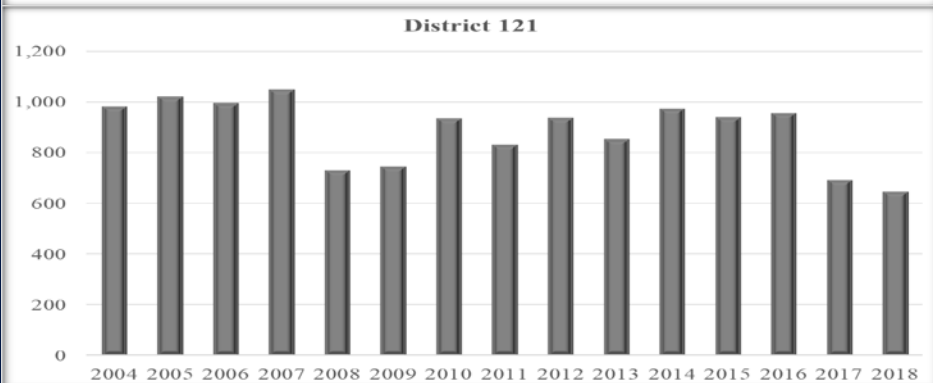
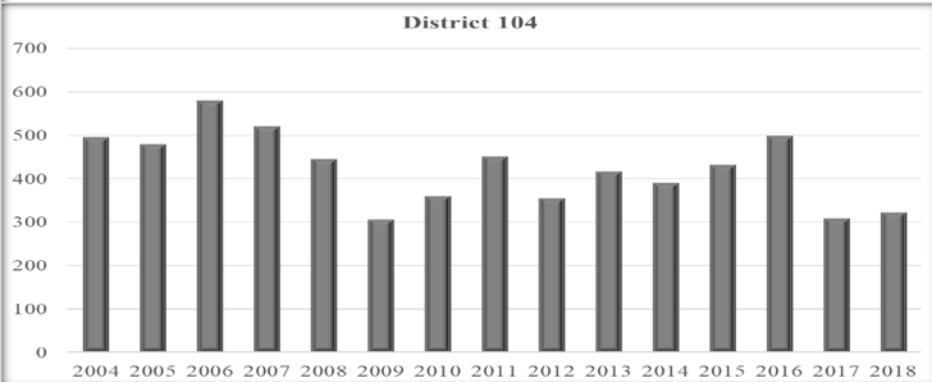
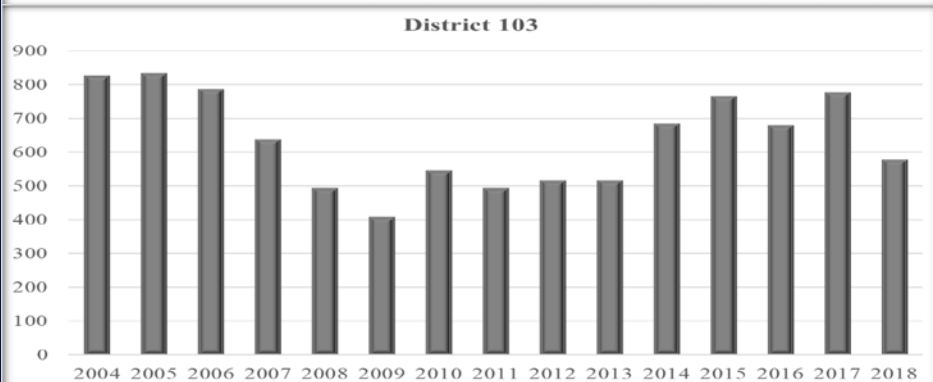
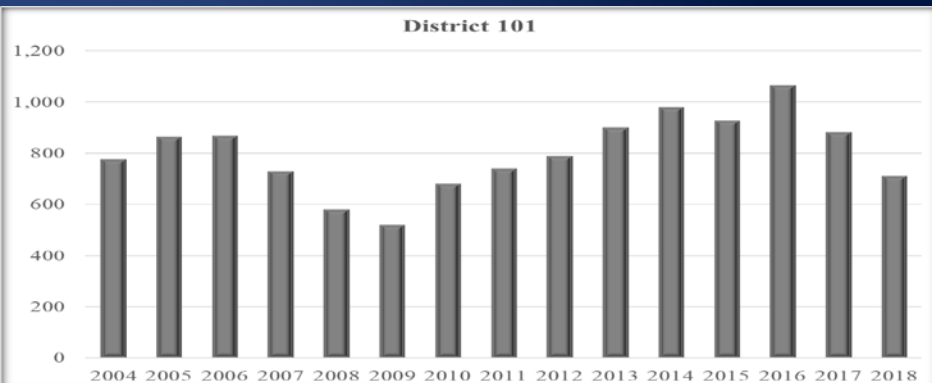
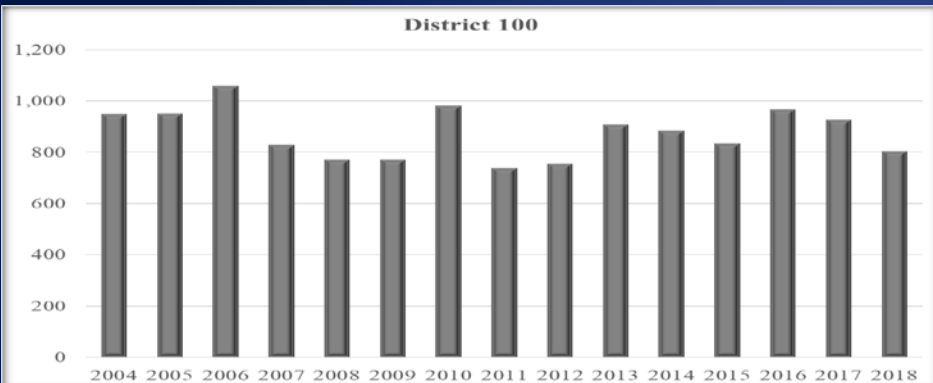
Q113. Do you support or oppose a 3-point antler restriction general season for white-tailed deer in all of eastern Washington? (Asked of deer hunters.)



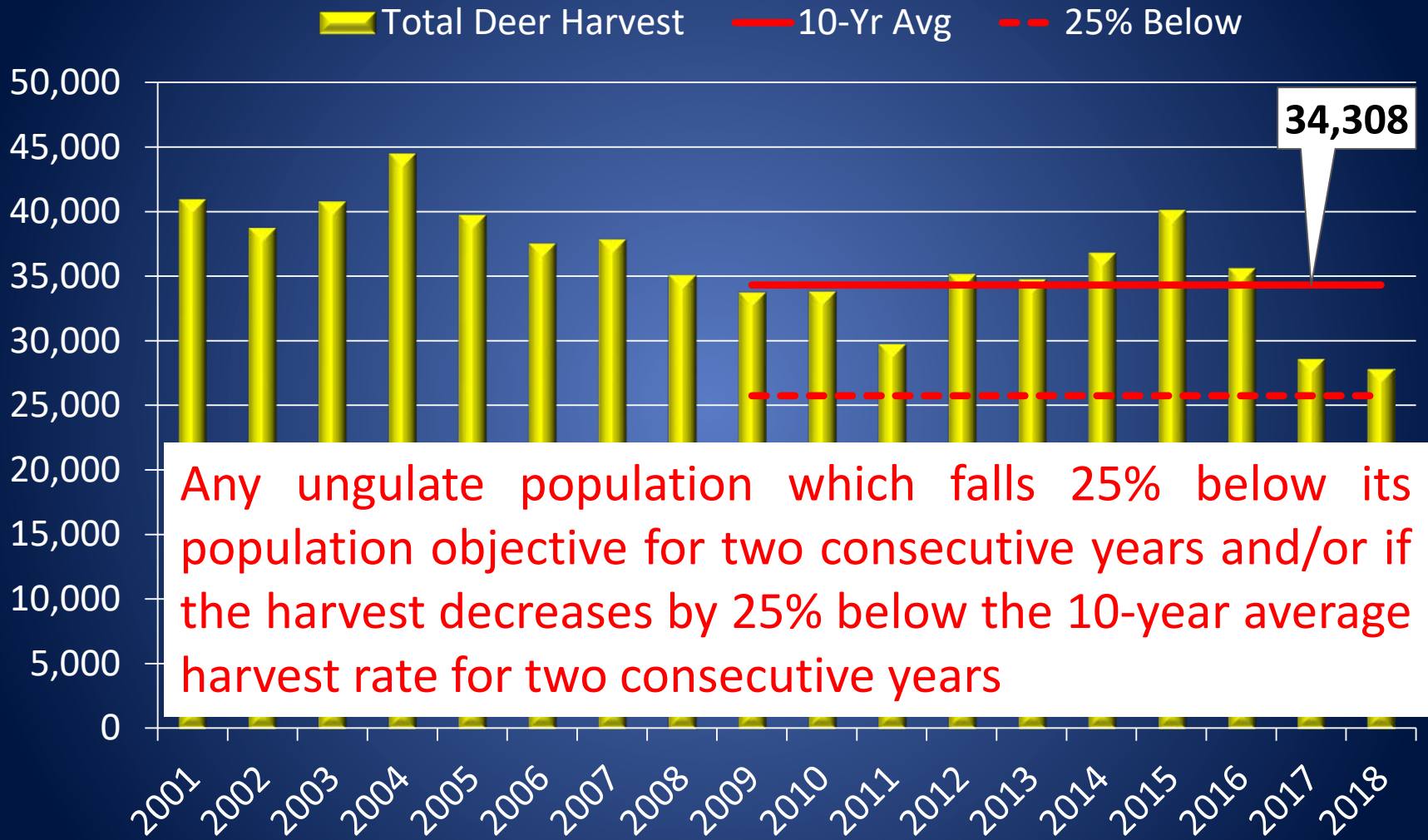
Q114. What percentage of the state's Game Management Units would you prefer to be under a 3-point antler restriction general season for white-tailed deer? (Asked of deer hunters.)



NW Montana-Buck Harvest



Statewide Deer Harvest 2001-2018



34,308

Any ungulate population which falls 25% below its population objective for two consecutive years and/or if the harvest decreases by 25% below the 10-year average harvest rate for two consecutive years

Antler-Point Restrictions (APRs)

- Very little information in the literature that has evaluated the biological benefits of APRs

Evaluation of Antler-based Selective Harvest Criteria on Harvest and Antler Size of Male White-tailed Deer in Florida

Bradley S. Cohen, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602

Erin H. Leone, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1105 SW Williston Gainesville FL 32601



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF
Fish and Wildlife

AN ASSESSMENT OF NEW JERSEY DEER HUNTER OPINION ON EXPANDING ANTLER POINT RESTRICTION (APR) REGULATIONS IN DEER MANAGEMENT ZONES 28, 30, 31, 34 AND 47

Peer-Reviewed Articles

What Predicts Support for Antler Point Restrictions?

SUSAN A. SCHROEDER¹ LOUIS CORNICELLI

The Pennsylvania State University

The Graduate School

School of Forest Resources

WHITE-TAILED DEER ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS
SURVIVAL RATES, AND DEER HUNTER SUPPORT: IS IT

REALITY

Original Article

Hunter Perceptions and Acceptance of Alternative Deer Management Regulations



Wildlife Technical Articles

Effects of Various Approaches to Quality Deer Management on White-tailed Deer Harvest

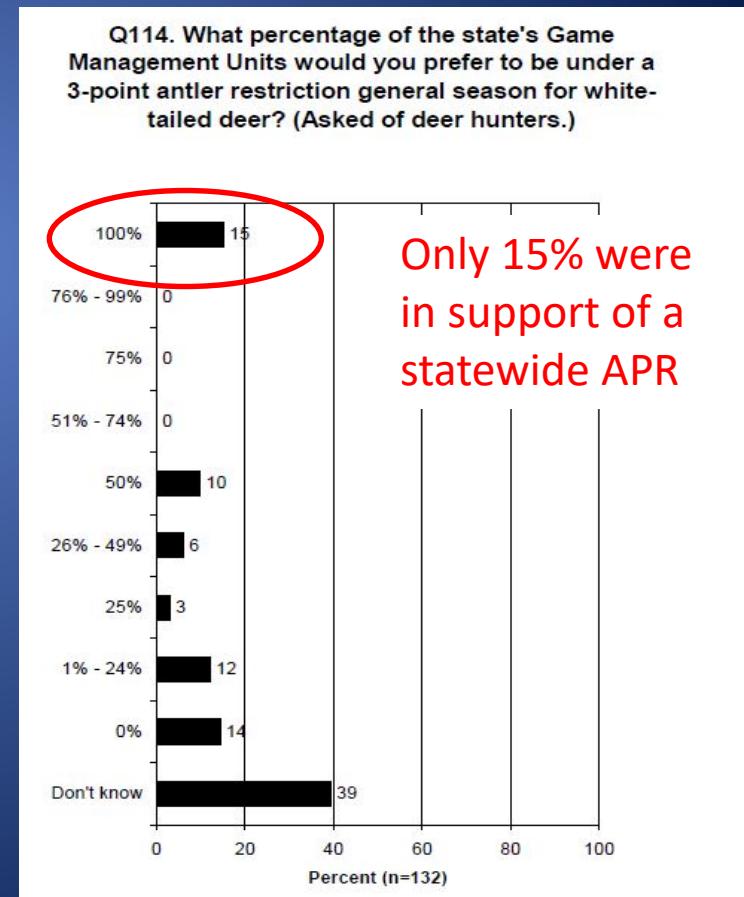
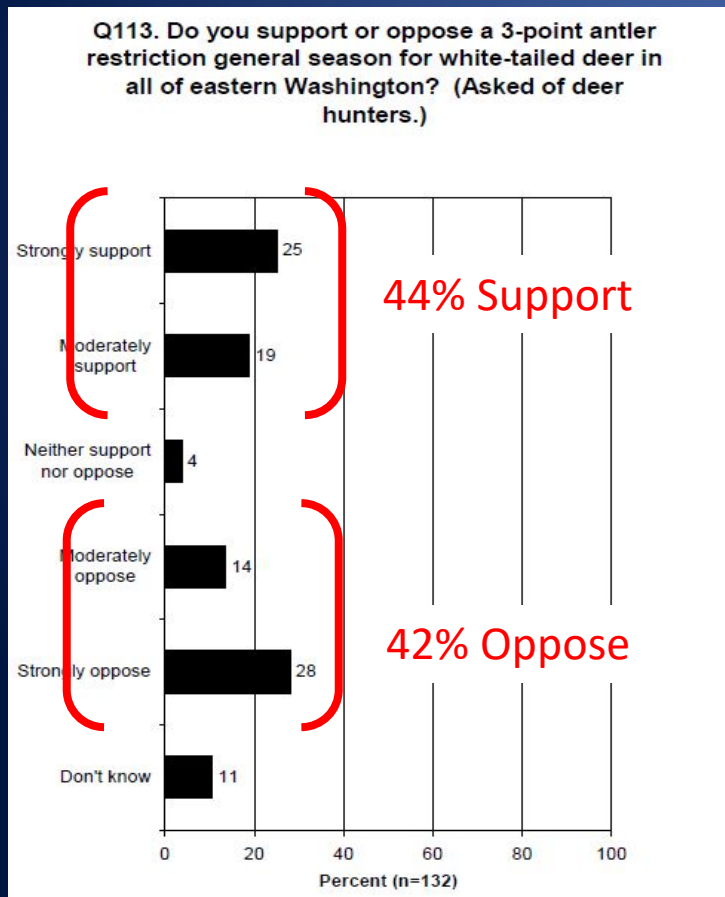
Christopher E. Shaw, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, University of Tennessee, 2431 Joe Johnson Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996

Craig A. Harper, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries, University of Tennessee, 2431 Joe Johnson Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996

Abstract: Quality deer management (ODM) is increasingly promoted and practiced throughout the range of white-tailed deer *Odocoileus virginianus*.

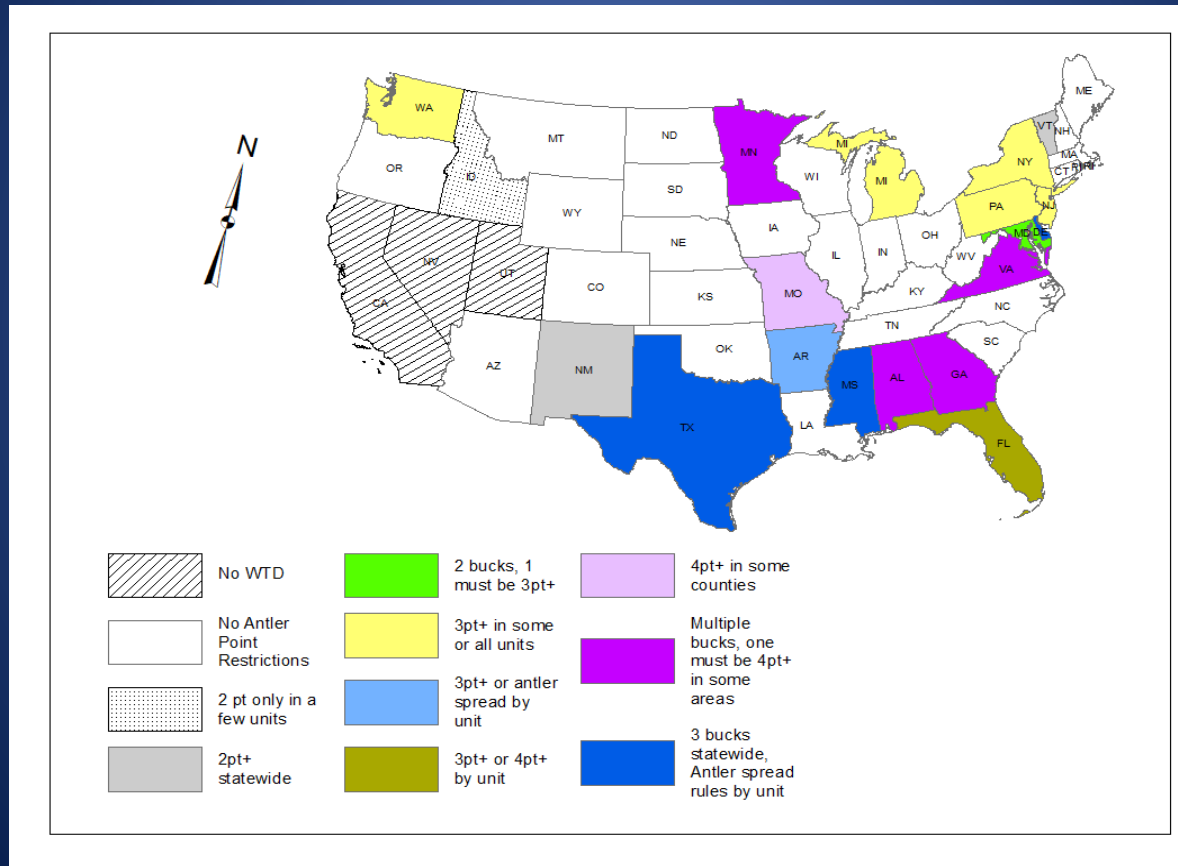
Antler-Point Restrictions (APRs)

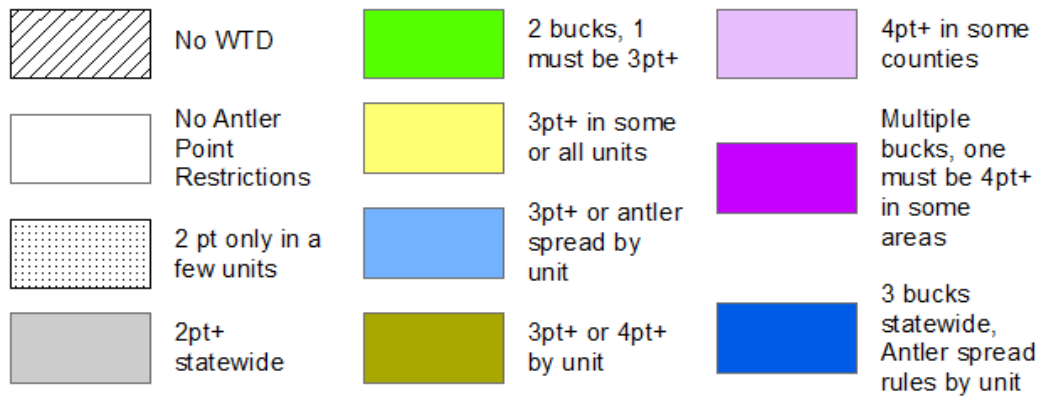
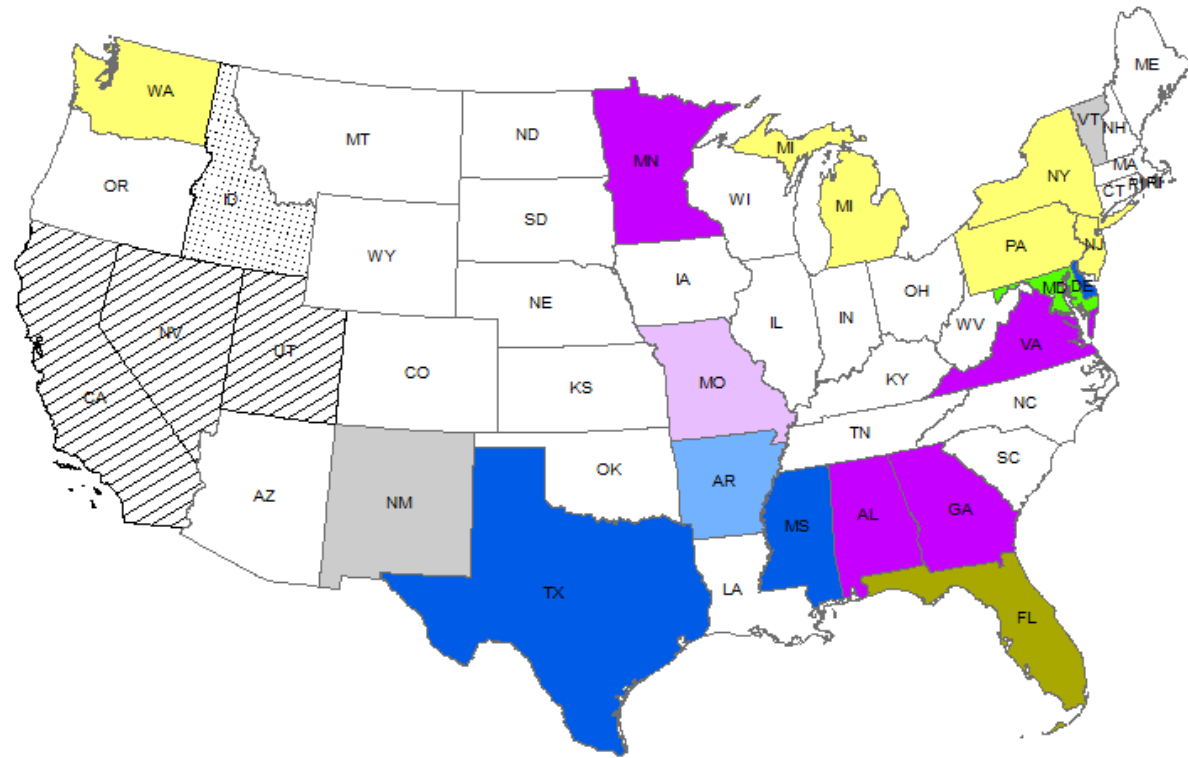
- Not always supported by the majority and never universally supported
 - Public outreach and support is critical



Antler-Point Restrictions (APRs)

- Rare for states to implement APRs at a statewide level





Effects of APRs on Reproduction

- Study Period 1999-2006
- APRs implemented 2002
- Documented increase in the number of mature bucks
- Found no effect of APRs on reproductive parameters monitored
 - Date of conception
 - Productivity (embryos/doe)
 - Sex ratio of embryos

The Journal of Wildlife Management 1-9; 2019; DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21712

Research Article

Effect of Male Age Structure on Reproduction in White-Tailed Deer

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GARY L. ALT,² Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Management, Harrisburg, PA 17110, USA
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ABSTRACT Selective harvest regimes that create female-biased sex ratios can potentially lead to delayed breeding, reduced breeding synchrony, reduced productivity, and a female-biased sex ratio of offspring. These resulting changes in breeding behavior and population dynamics have potential to adversely affect population growth. In 2002, Pennsylvania implemented harvest regulation changes that reduced deer density (increased harvest of antlerless deer) and increased the number and age of antlered deer (implemented antler point restriction regulations) that resulted in a less female-biased sex ratio. We monitored date of conception, productivity (embryos/female), and sex ratio of embryos during 1999–2006 to test if timing of breeding occurred earlier and with greater synchrony, if productivity of females increased, and if the sex ratio of offspring would shift towards more males. Deer density decreased 23% and the adult (≥ 1.5 yr old) sex ratio declined from 2.30 to 1.95 females/male. The ratio of ≥ 2.5 -year-old to 1.5-year-old males shifted towards more older males (1:3.7 in 2002 to 1:1.59 in 2006) and the ≥ 2.5 -year-old male population increased from 41,853 during 1999–2001 to 54,064 by 2006. We found no evidence of any change in the timing or variability of date of conception, productivity, or offspring sex ratio. We conclude that harvest regulation changes implemented in Pennsylvania, USA, were insufficient to affect timing of breeding or population dynamics and that efforts by managers to identify a desired sex ratio or manipulate sex ratios to achieve management goals on a statewide scale will be challenging. © 2019 The Wildlife Society.

KEY WORDS age ratio, antler point restrictions, breeding, *Odocoileus virginianus*, productivity, selective harvest, sex ratio, white-tailed deer.

In ungulate species, selective harvesting that results in a female-biased sex ratio and younger age structure can reduce fecundity, alter breeding dates, reduce birth synchrony, result in fewer male offspring, and reduce offspring body mass (Milner et al. 2007). Furthermore, male-biased harvest management strategies have raised concerns about selective effects on life-history evolution (Festa-Bianchet 2003, Myrnerud 2011) and loss of genetic variability (Ryman et al. 1981). Myrnerud et al. (2002) argued that the effects of males on population dynamics may be non-trivial and they identified several potential mechanisms that could affect timing of breeding that, in turn, could affect neonate survival and fertility of females.

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) populations throughout North America have endured harvest rates as high as 80% of antlered males (Adams and Hamilton 2011). In Pennsylvania, USA, throughout the twentieth century, hunting regulations for white-tailed deer resulted in a female-biased sex ratio but with no adverse effect on overall abundance (Diefenbach et al. 1997). During 1981–2001, the annual harvest rate of antlered deer was 0.77–0.84 and few male deer survived >3.5 years of age (Wallingford et al. 2017). In 2002, Pennsylvania implemented harvest regulations that increased the survival rate of males and reduced the survival rate of females by implementing antler point restriction (APR) regulations for males and increased allocation of antlerless licenses to harvest females (Wallingford et al. 2017). Pennsylvania's deer population has adversely affected forest plant communities and agricultural crops and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) was unable to balance deer densities with habitat conditions (Diefenbach et al. 1997). The implementation of APRs was designed to maintain hunter satisfaction with more older deer harvested despite lower deer densities from

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**Elk General Seasons and Special Permits
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.
WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to:

- WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

Staff recommendation: WAC 220-415-050, the purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity for 2020. It also balances hunting opportunity between user groups, increases opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

The Department will not develop specific recommendations regarding opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during the Early Archery General Elk Seasons in the Colockum (GMUs 328, 329) and Yakima (GMUs 336, 340, 352, 356, 364) elk herd areas until population surveys are completed in February and/or March. If population surveys indicate it is warranted, the Department may also consider reducing opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk during the Late Archery General Elk Seasons and reducing modern firearm and muzzleloader special permit opportunities. A general overview of the recommendations that may be considered dependent of herd status are provided below. Recommendations developed in response to surveys showing a population decline will also depend on the severity of the decline.

Colockum Elk Herd (GMUs 249, 251, 328, 329, 330, 334, 335)

Herd Status	General Overview of Recommendation
Decline	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during archery seasons, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the Department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 334, 335). Also reduce opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Stable	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during archery seasons, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the Department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 334, 335). Replace some of the lost opportunity with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. Retain opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Increase	Retain current general and special permit seasons.

Yakima Elk Herd (GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346, 352, 356, 360, 364, 368, 371, 372)

Herd Status	General Overview of Recommendation
Decline	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the Department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMUs 371 and 372). Replace some of the lost opportunity with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. If warranted, also reduce opportunities during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Stable	Significantly reduce or eliminate general season opportunities to harvest antlerless elk, except for those associated with addressing damage issues and in areas where the Department does not manage for large numbers of elk (e.g., GMU 371 and 372). Replace some of the lost opportunity with a limited number of permits to harvest antlerless elk. Retain current opportunities during modern firearm and muzzleloader permit seasons.
Increase	Retain current general and special permit seasons.

The Department is postponing the development of specific recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds because herds have experienced substantial declines since 2015, with late-winter surveys in 2019 indicating the Yakima herd was approximately 13% below objective and the Colockum herd approximately 8% below. Declines have been the result of increased antlerless harvest, severe drought and winter conditions, and depressed recruitment of calves. Moreover, preliminary counts of elk on feed sites for the Yakima elk herd in January 2020, indicate calf recruitment rates are likely to be lower than normal for the 4th consecutive year. The Department is concerned about the current status of both herds and plans to develop recommendations that are most likely to promote population growth.

WAC 220-415-060, the purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2020. It also balances elk hunting opportunity between user groups, increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change. Lastly, it adds language that clarifies the bag limit is one elk, except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one elk hunt category.

Situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language does not specify a Bag Limit, some hunters interpret this to mean they can shoot one elk per permit or one elk in addition to their general season harvest, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Maximize recreational elk hunting opportunity.
- Continue sustainable hunting seasons for elk
- Clarify language to avoid confusion for hunters.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached summary of public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Form revised 2-15-18

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk General Seasons and Definitions.

Supporting Comments:

There were sixteen (16) comments in support of the proposal, with most comments being related to proposals for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. Seven (7) comments expressed an understanding of the need to reduce antlerless harvest and were supportive, but perspectives on how to reduce antlerless harvest differed and included: 1) only allowing antlerless harvest through special permit seasons for all user groups; 2) reducing antlerless harvest for modern firearm hunters; and 3) reducing antlerless harvest for archery hunters. Other comments in support of the proposal and related to the Colockum and Yakima elk herds were related to concerns that tribal hunting (2 comments) and predators (2 comments) were factors negatively affecting these herds and should be addressed by the Department. Lastly, one (1) comment supported the reduction of permits in the Mount St. Helens elk herd area and one (1) comment advocated for including GMU 663 (Capitol Peak) to the list of areas open during the late general muzzleloader season in western Washington. Three (3) other comments were unrelated to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

There were twenty-eight (28) comments in opposition to the proposal, with most comments being related to proposals for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. Although in opposition of the proposal, five (7) comments indicated general support for reductions in antlerless harvest, while another four (4) comments advocated for no antlerless harvest or further reductions. Four (4) comments were opposed to reductions in opportunities for archery hunters, three (3) comments advocated for permit only opportunities for antlerless elk, one (1) comment advocated for not reducing special permits for muzzleloader hunters, and one (1) comment advocated for a season that was only for archery hunters using primitive bows. Other comments in opposition of the proposal were related to concerns that tribal hunting (3 comments) and predators (6 comments) were factors negatively affecting these herds. Three (3) comments were related to abolishing spike or true-spike rules, while two (2) other comments were unrelated to the proposal.

There were six (6) neutral comments. Although their stance was neutral, one (1) was generally supportive of reducing antlerless harvest, while three (3) were concerned about the affects of tribal harvest and one (1) advocated for the Department to consider predator management actions. One (1) additional comment was unrelated to the proposal.

The Department also received one (1) email that expressed concern about current status of the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. More specifically, they advocated for removing all antlerless harvest, not having other seasons overlap the Quality bull hunts, eliminating “true-spike”, consider closing both areas to all elk hunting, and better enforcement of the green-dot road system.

Lastly, the Department met with representatives from Washington State Bowhunters, the Washington State Archery Association, and Traditional Bowhunters of Washington to discuss proposals for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. All three groups expressed strong values associated with providing general season opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk.

Direction and Rationale:

As proposed, the Department will not develop final recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds until 2019 harvest estimates and 2020 survey results are available. Public comments indicate general support and understanding for reducing antlerless harvest in these areas, but consensus on how opportunity should be reduced was absent. If resultant harvest and survey data indicate further reductions in antlerless harvest are warranted, two primary considerations during the development of final recommendations will be related to: 1) meeting our harvest allocation objectives; and 2) being mindful of the reason why general season opportunities are adopted on a 3-year cycle (e.g., opportunities for our hunters do not vary drastically from year to year).

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-060 2020 Elk Special Permits.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received ten comments in support of the proposal. Two comments expressed general support, two advocated for replacing archery general seasons with special permits, one advocated for longer youth seasons in the Yakima herd, one advocated for more opportunity for senior hunters in GMU 560, one advocated for less tribal harvest, one advocated for predator management, and one advocated for less archery opportunity. One additional comment was unrelated to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received twenty-three comments in opposition to the proposal. Five comments advocated for predator management, five expressed opposition to a reduction in permit numbers, three advocated for a reduction in tribal harvest, two advocated against a reduction of bull permits in the Blue Mountains, two expressed general support for the proposal, two were opposed to reductions in opportunities for archery hunters, one advocated for removing all special permits, one advocated for more youth permits, one expressed opposition to reducing special permits for senior hunters, one supported further reductions in antlerless opportunities, one advocated for more opportunity for archery hunters that use traditional equipment, one advocated for more antlerless permits in GMUs 513 and 516, and one thought there were too many special permits for antlerless elk in GMU 648.

The Department received five neutral comments. Two comments advocated for predator management, one comment advocated for more youth permits, and two comments were not related to the proposal.

The Department also received one email that expressed concern about current status of the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. More specifically, they advocated for removing all antlerless harvest, not having other seasons overlap the Quality bull hunts, eliminating “true-spike”, consider closing both areas to all elk hunting, and better enforcement of the green-dot road system.

Lastly, the Department met with representatives from Washington State Bowhunters, the Washington State Archery Association, and Traditional Bowhunters of Washington to discuss proposals for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds. All three groups expressed strong values associated with providing general season opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. The most common themes from comments received included advocating for predator management, opposition to reductions in opportunity, and reducing tribal harvest. The Department has already liberalized bear seasons in eastern Washington and is proposing options to recreational cougar seasons that could increase opportunities to harvest cougars. Although the Department attempts to work collaboratively with the 24 tribes that have off-reservation hunting

rights, they set their own hunting regulations for their tribal members. Although opposition to a reduction in opportunities was a central theme, those reductions are necessary given the current status of the Colockum (8% below objective), Yakima (14% below objective), Blue Mountains (25% below objective), and Mount St. Helens (30-35% decline in 2019) elk herds.

WACs 220-415-050 and 220-415-060

Elk General Seasons and Elk Special Permits



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

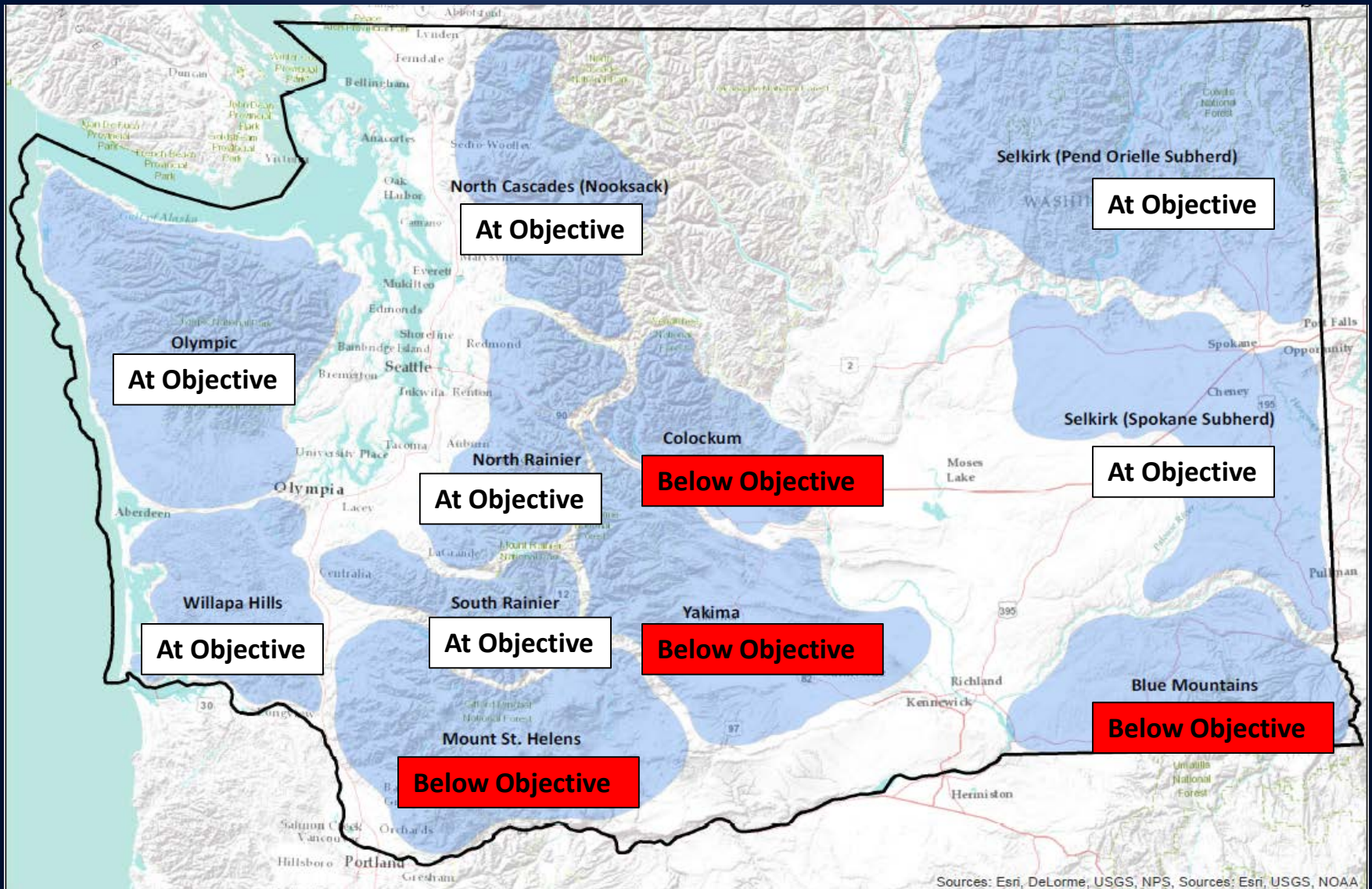
Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

Content

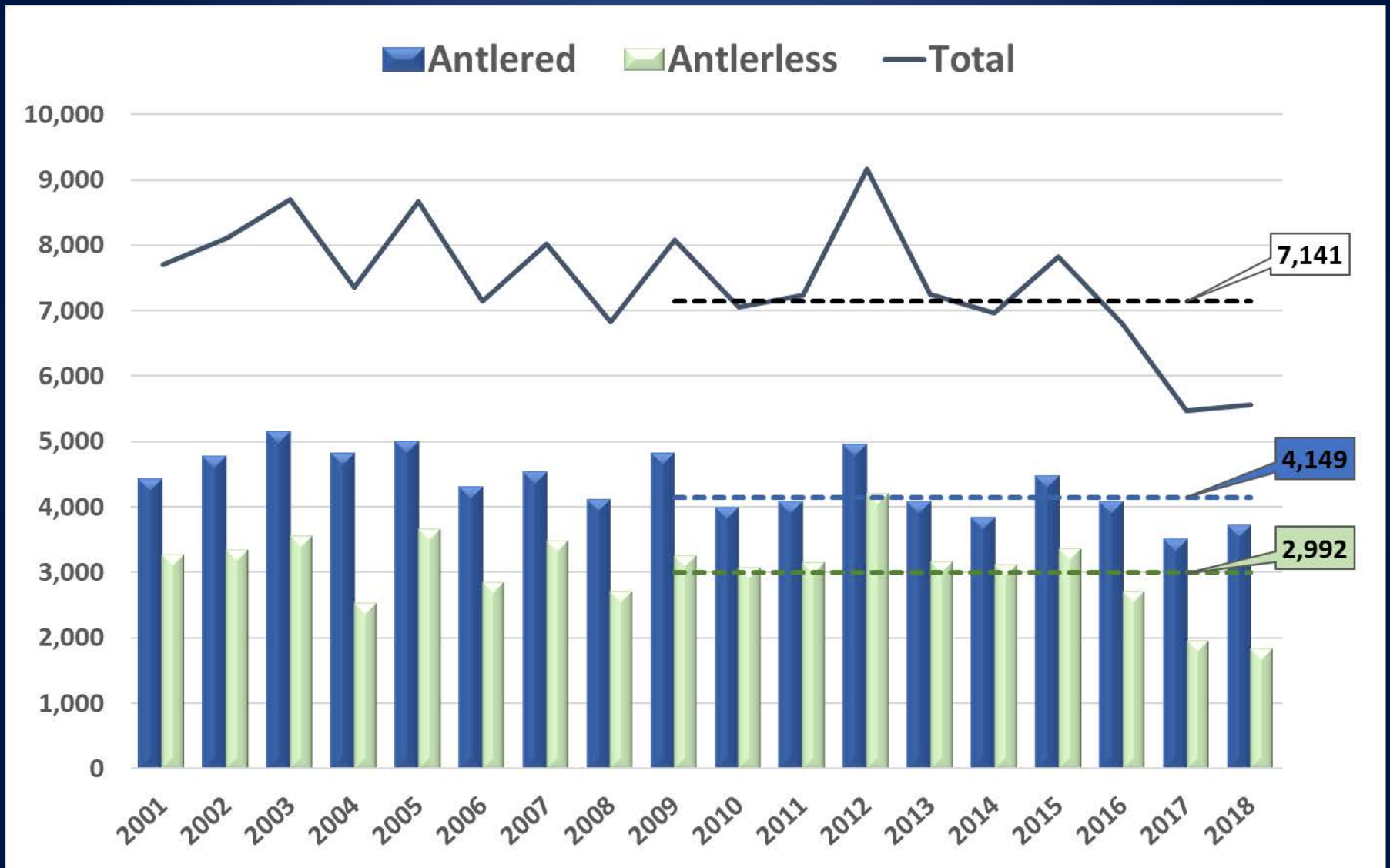
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2. Status update and recommendations by herd
3. Other recommendations
4. Public comment summary
5. Questions



Elk Herds

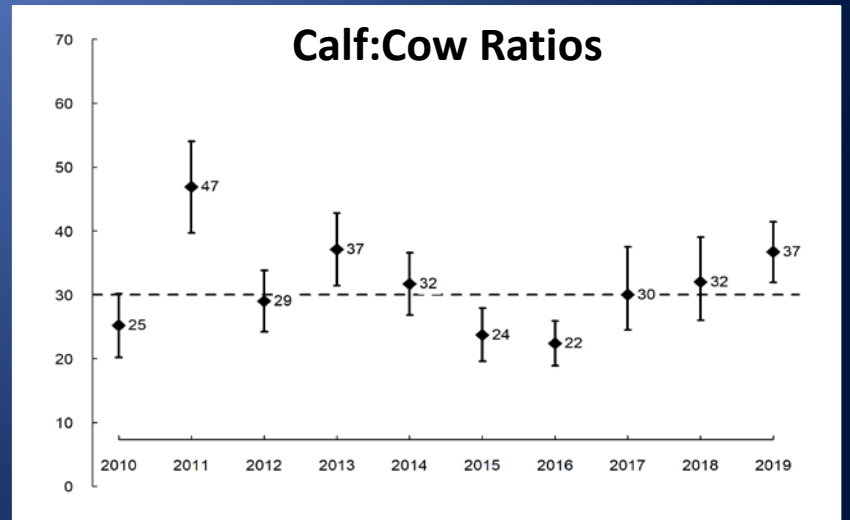
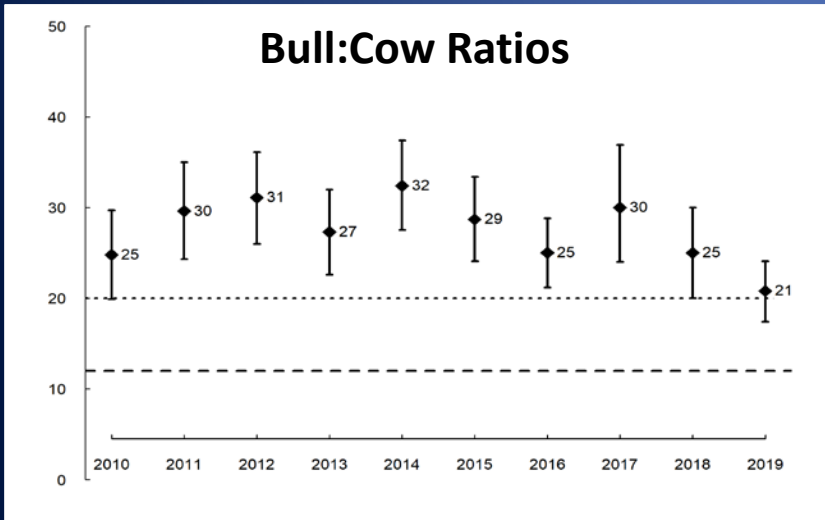
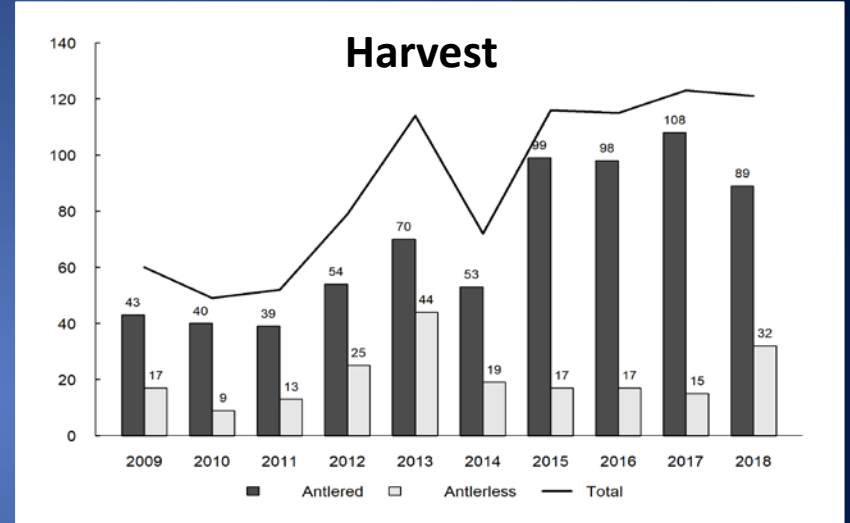
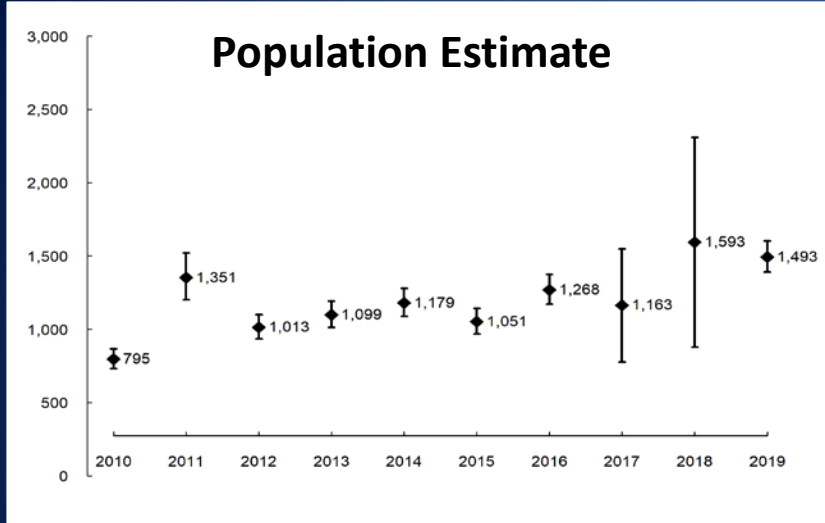


Statewide Elk Harvest 2001-2018





North Cascades Elk Herd





North Cascades Elk Herd

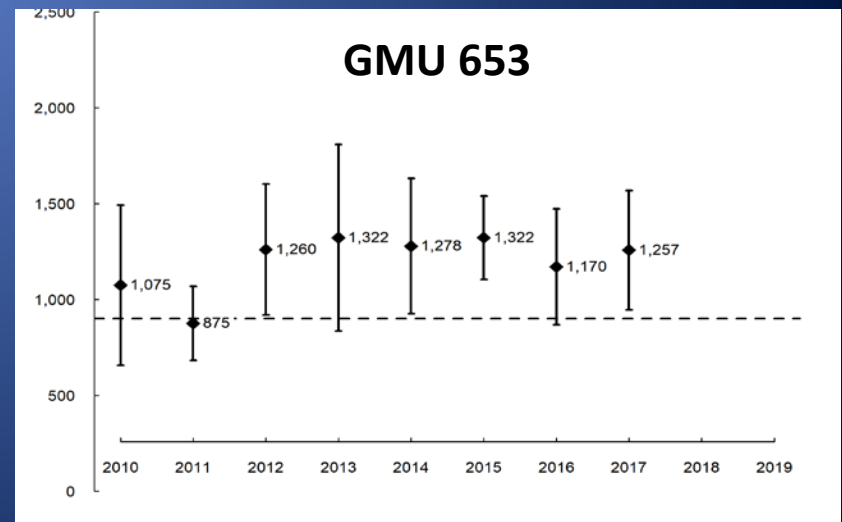
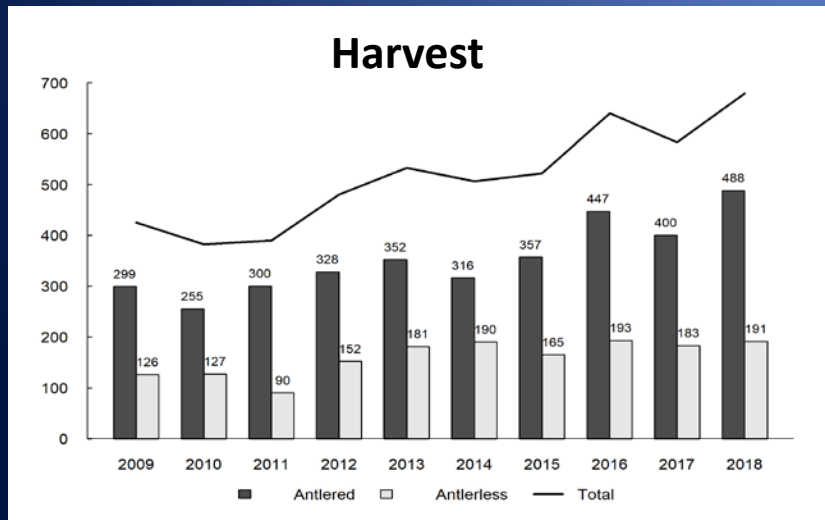
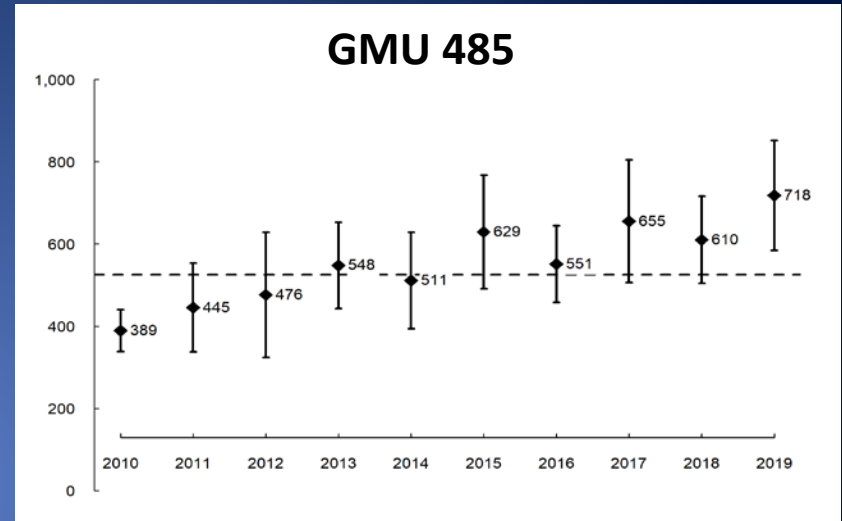
- No recommended changes for general season opportunities
- Special permit opportunities were developed in collaboration with Point Elliot Treaty Tribes and are presented as recommended adjustments

Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 418	Modern Firearm	12	13
GMU 418	Archery	7	8
GMU 418	Muzzleloader	7	8
Total		26	29
Bull Permits		2018	2019
EA 4941	Modern Firearm	5	6
EA 4941	Archery	8	9
EA 4941	Muzzleloader	5	6
Total		18	21
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
EA 4941	Any Weapon	5	5
EA 4941	Any Weapon	5	5
EA 4941	Any Weapon	5	5
Total		15	15



North Rainier Elk Herd

- Surveys in GMUs 485 and 653 conducted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe





North Rainier Elk Herd

General Seasons

- Add EA 6014 to list of areas open for Any Elk during the late general muzzleloader season

Special Permits

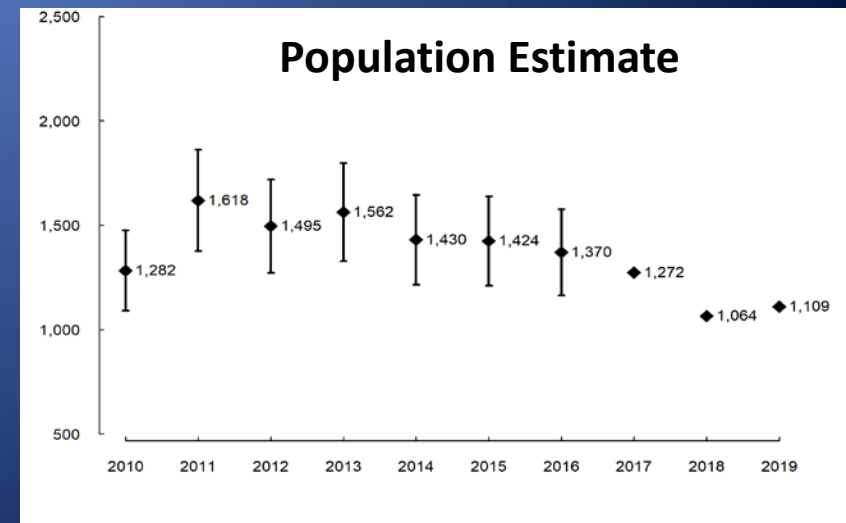
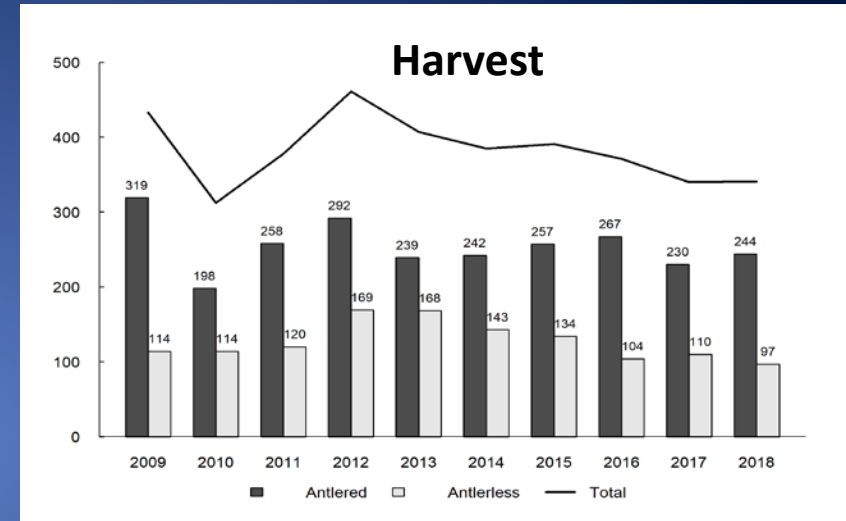
- Special permit opportunities were developed in collaboration with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and are presented as recommended adjustments

Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 485	Any Weapon	10	10
GMU 653	Modern Firearm	2	2
GMU 653	Archery	19	16
Total		31	28
Bull Permits		2018	2019
GMU 653	Modern Firearm	37	35
GMU 653	Muzzleloader	7	7
Total		44	42
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 485	Any Weapon	10	12



South Rainier Elk Herd

- Surveys limited to the Cowlitz River Basin and conducted by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- No recommended changes for general or special permit seasons





Olympic Elk Herd

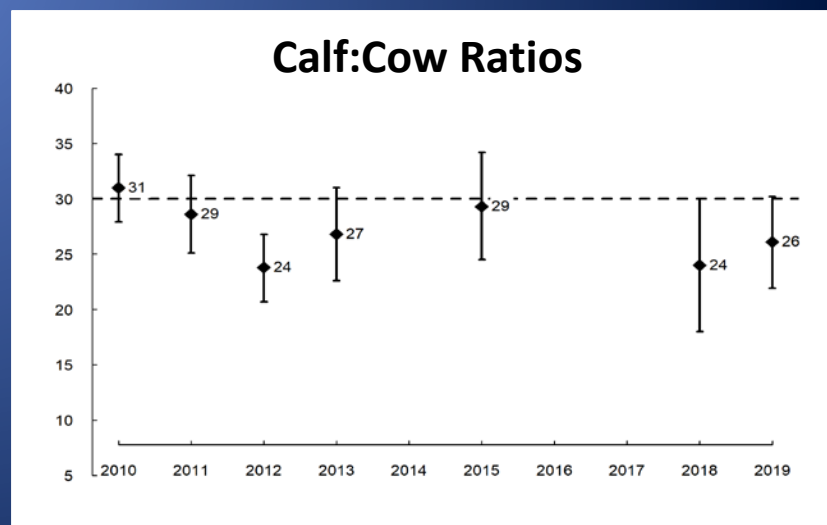
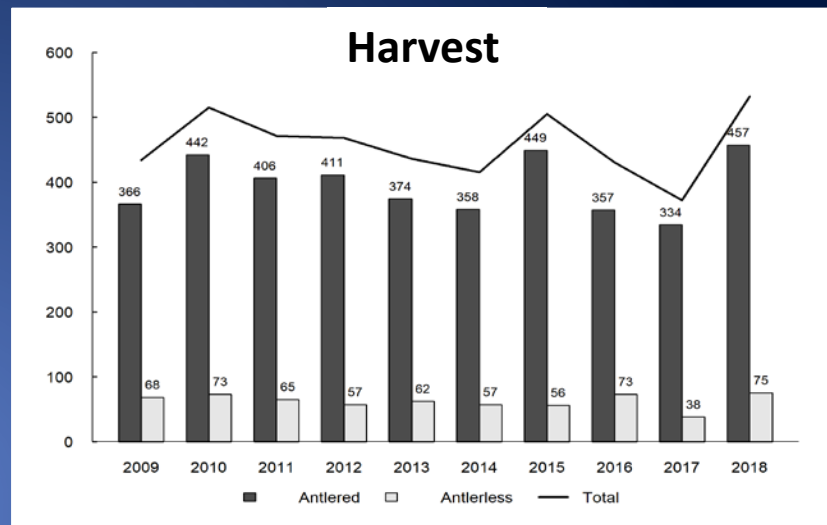
- Most surveys conducted by Olympic Treaty Tribes

General Seasons

- No recommended changes

Special Permits

- Reduce special archery permits for antlerless elk in GMU 648 from 110 to 100



Willapa Hills Elk Herd

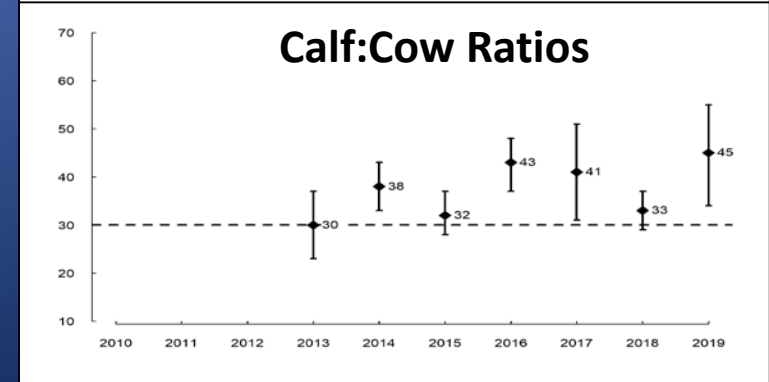
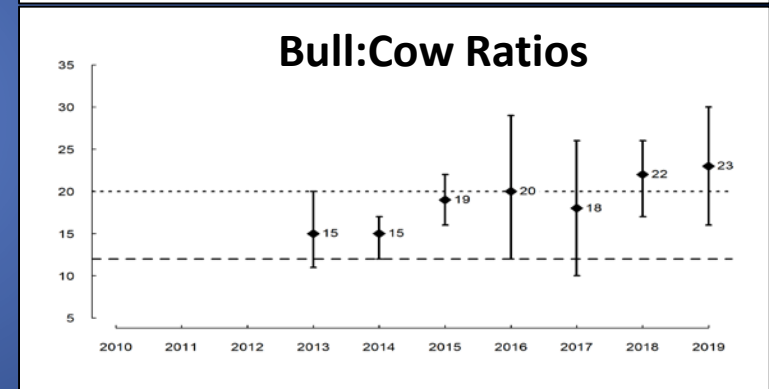
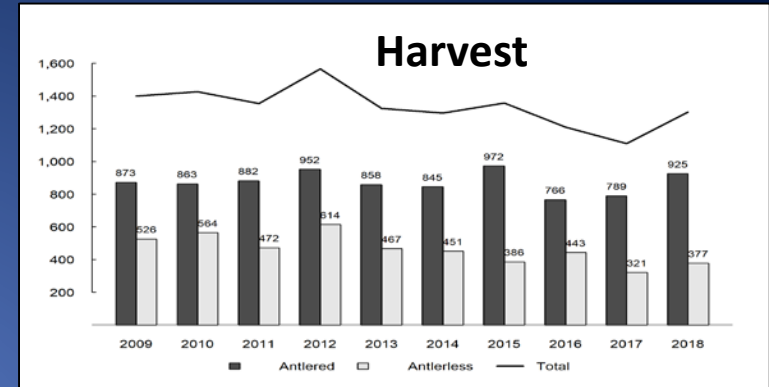


General Seasons

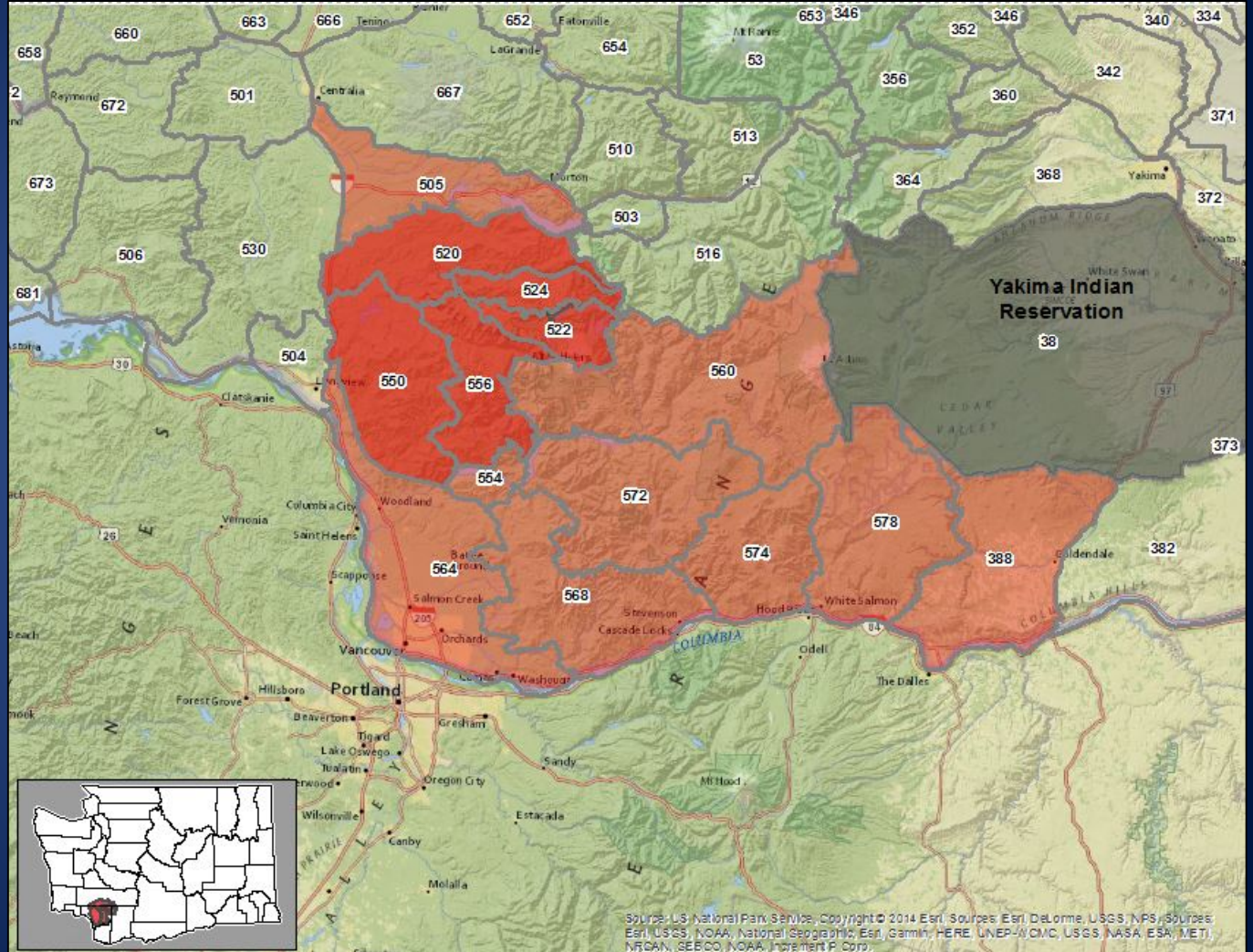
- No recommended changes

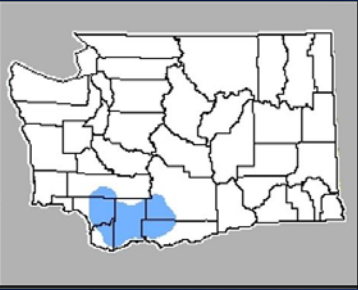
Special Permits

Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 506	Modern Firearm	25	20
GMU 506	65+	0	5
GMU 530	65+	10	5
Total		35	30

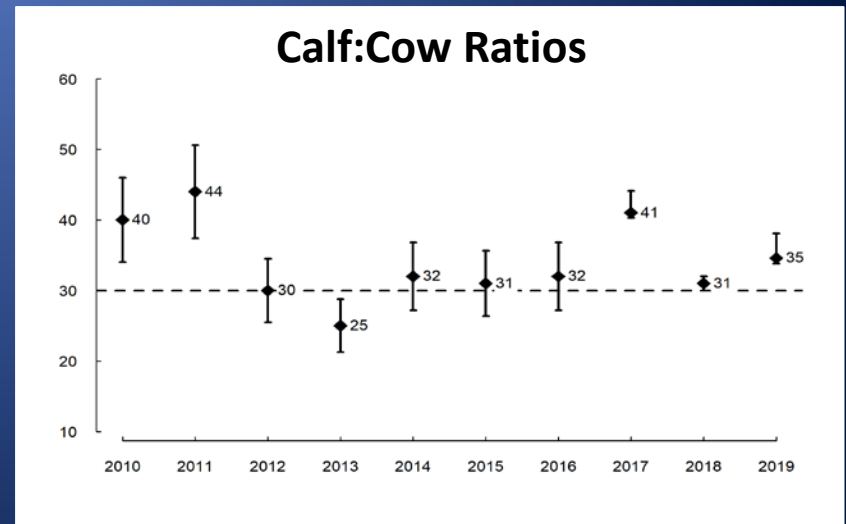
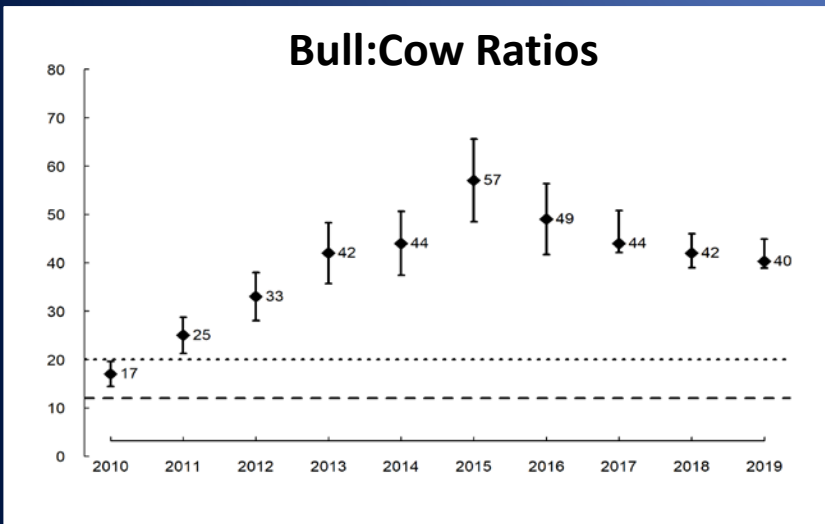
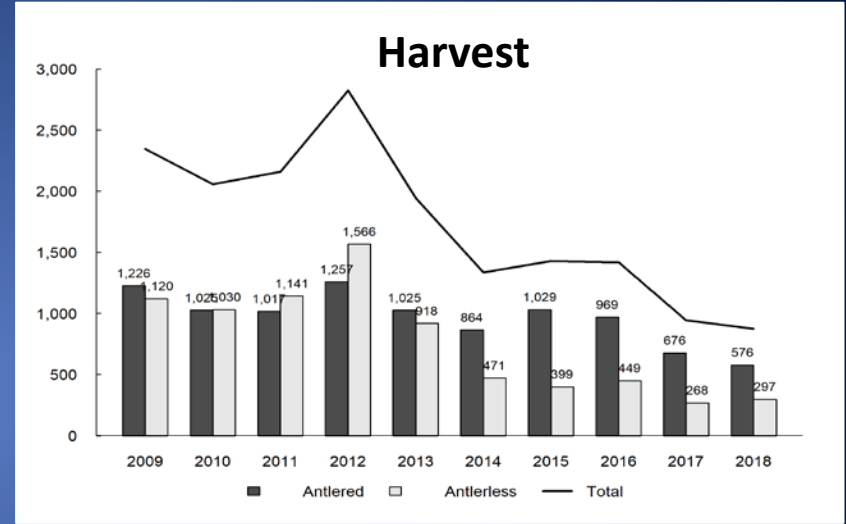
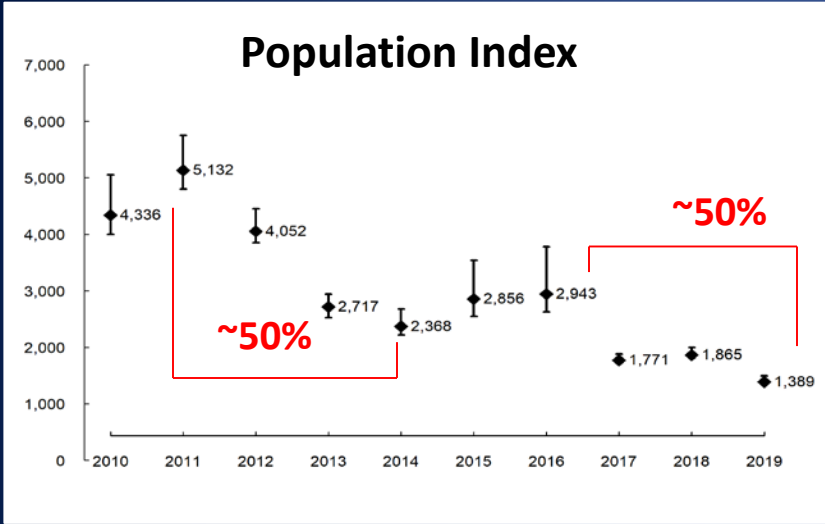


Mount St. Helens





Mount Saint Helens Elk Herd



General Seasons

- Reduce the number of days hunters can harvest an antlerless elk in GMU 578 during the late muzzleloader season from 14 to 6 days

Special Permits

- Proposed reductions in Quality, Bull, and Antlerless Special Permits

Other GMUs

Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 560	Modern Firearm	25	15
GMU 568	Modern Firearm	20	10
GMU 572	Modern Firearm	15	10
GMU 574	Modern Firearm	25	15
GMU 578	Modern Firearm	45	30
GMU 554	Muzzleloader	35	20
GMU 560	Muzzleloader	10	5
GMU 568	Muzzleloader	20	10
GMU 574	Muzzleloader	30	20
GMU 578	Youth	15	10
GMU 568	Disabled	10	5
Total		250	150

Core Area

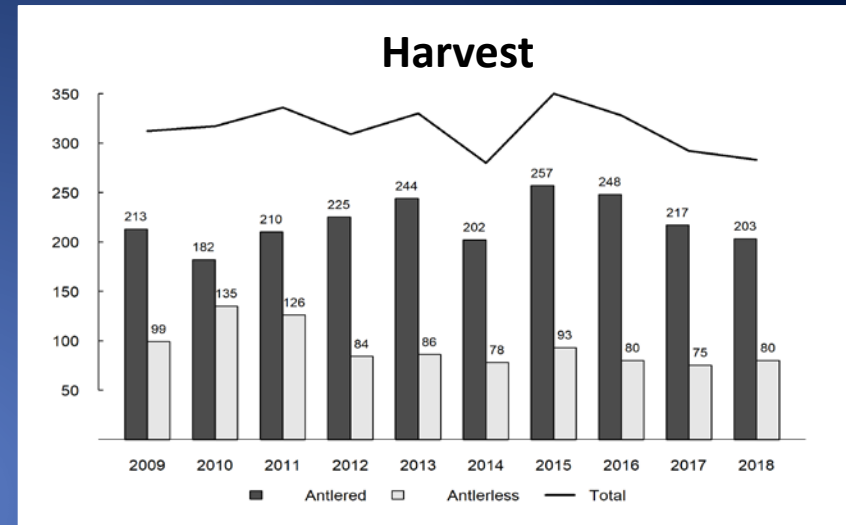
Bull Harvest Target		2018	2019
		38	25
Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 556	Modern Firearm	44	29
GMU 556	Archery	30	20
GMU 556	Muzzleloader	19	13
Total		93	62
Bull Permits		2018	2019
EA 5064	Modern Firearm	2	1
Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
GMU 520	Modern Firearm	25	10
GMU 550	Modern Firearm	15	10
GMU 556	Modern Firearm	15	5
GMU 560	Modern Firearm	25	15
EA 5064	Modern Firearm	2	0
EA 5065	Modern Firearm	1	0
EA 5066	Modern Firearm	5	3
EA 5069	Modern Firearm	5	3
GMU 556	Archery	15	10
EA 5064	Archery	2	0
EA 5099	Archery	7	5
GMU 520	Muzzleloader	15	5
GMU 550	Muzzleloader	15	10
GMU 556	Muzzleloader	15	10
GMU 560	Muzzleloader	10	5
EA 5064	Muzzleloader	2	0
GMU 550	Youth	15	10
GMU 556	Youth	20	10
EA 5063	Master Hunter	7	3
Total		216	114



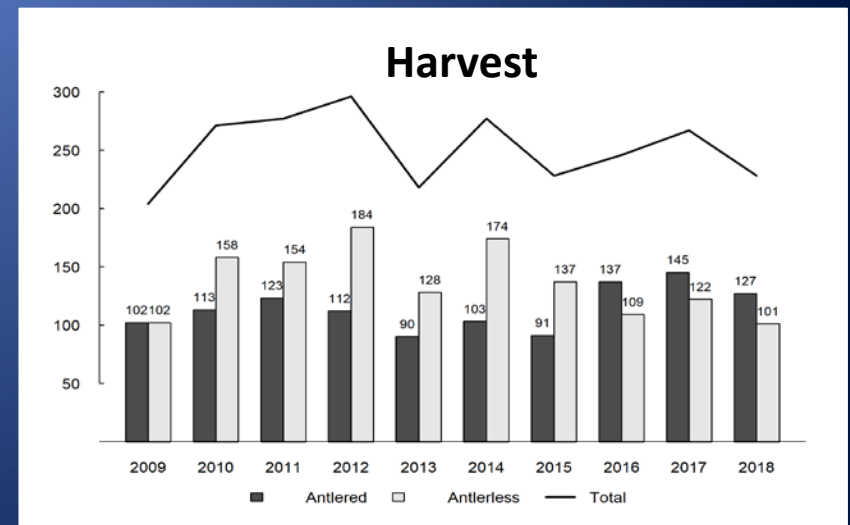
Selkirk Elk Herd

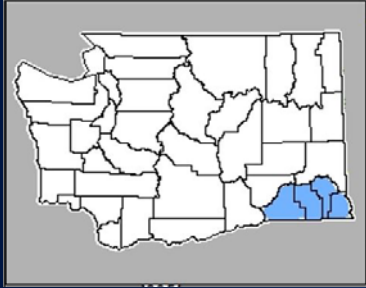
- No recommended changes for general or special permit seasons

Pend Oreille Subherd

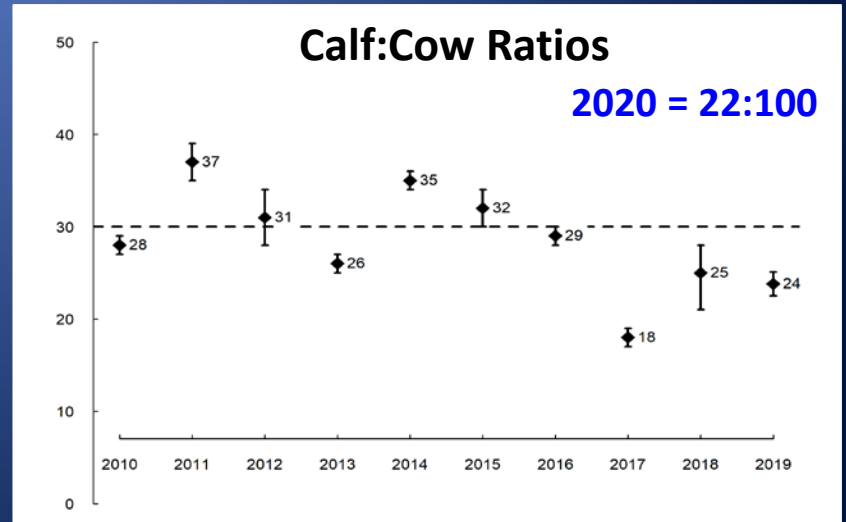
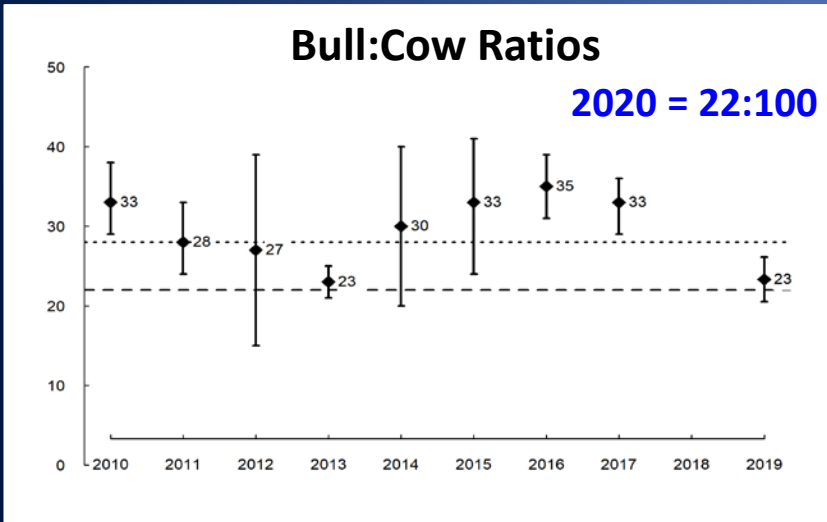
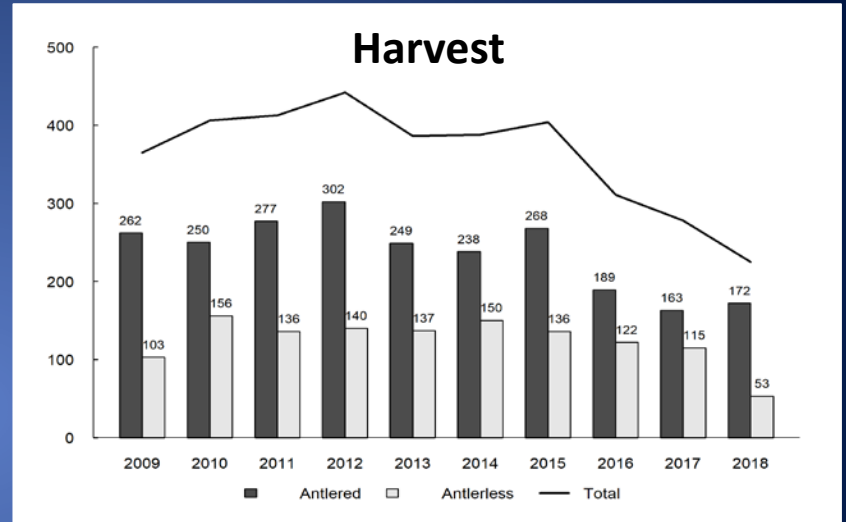
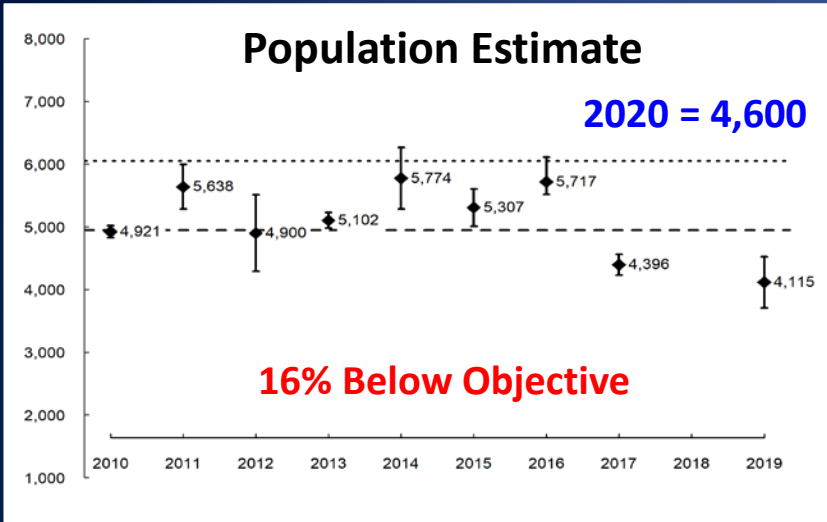


Spokane Subherd





Blue Mountains Elk Herd





Blue Mountains Elk Herd

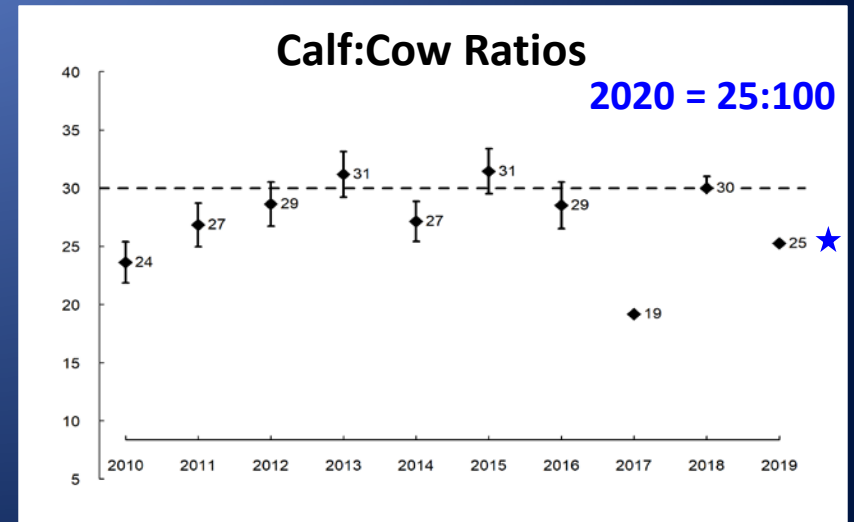
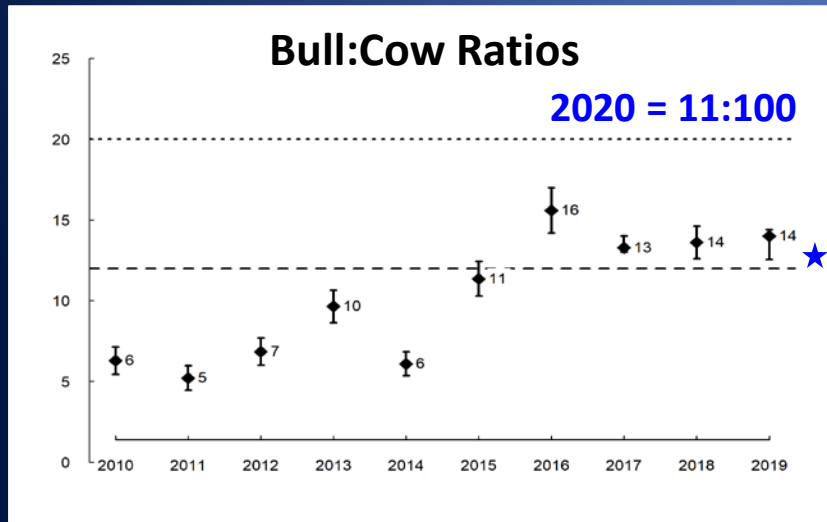
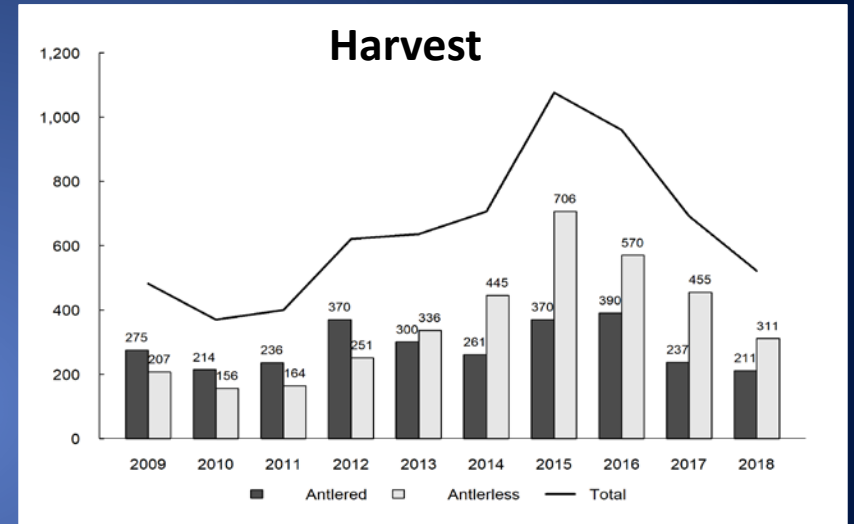
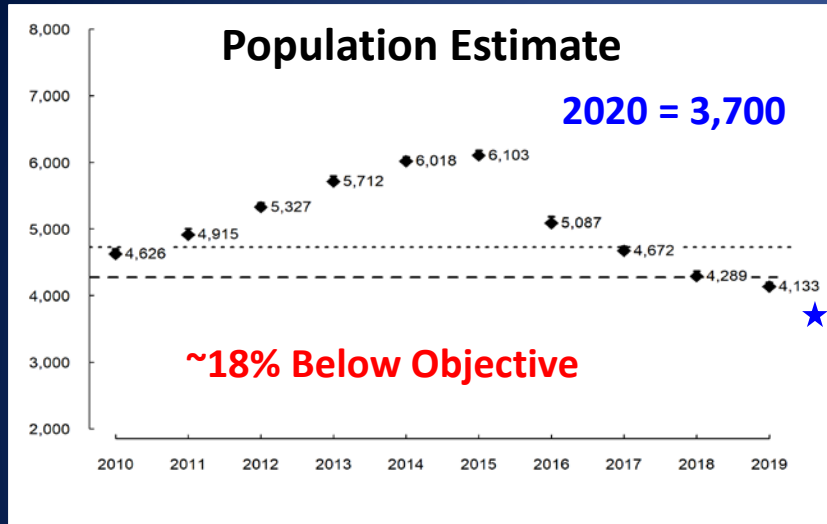
- No recommended changes for general seasons

Antlerless Permits		2018	2019
EA 1040	Modern Firearm	5	
EA 1081	Modern Firearm	40	30
EA 1082	Modern Firearm	5	
EA 1081	Muzzleloader	20	10
EA 1082	Muzzleloader	5	
GMU 162	Youth	3	
EA 1010	Youth	0	3
EA 1040	Youth	5	3
Total		83	46

Bull Harvest Target		2018	2019
		80	51
Quality Permits		2018	2019
GMU 181	Modern Firearm	4	3
GMU 154	Archery	6	5
GMU 162	Archery	3	1
EA 1010, GMU 163	Archery	3	2
GMU 166	Archery	5	2
EA 1009	Archery	3	2
GMU 172	Archery	9	4
GMU 175	Archery	3	2
GMU 181	Archery	3	2
GMU 162	Muzzleloader	2	1
GMU 166	Muzzleloader	2	1
GMU 172	Muzzleloader	5	2
Total		48	27
Bull Permits		2018	2019
EA 1040	Modern Firearm	5	0
EA 1081	Modern Firearm	40	30
EA 1082	Modern Firearm	5	0
EA 1081	Muzzleloader	20	10
EA 1082	Muzzleloader	5	0
Total		75	40

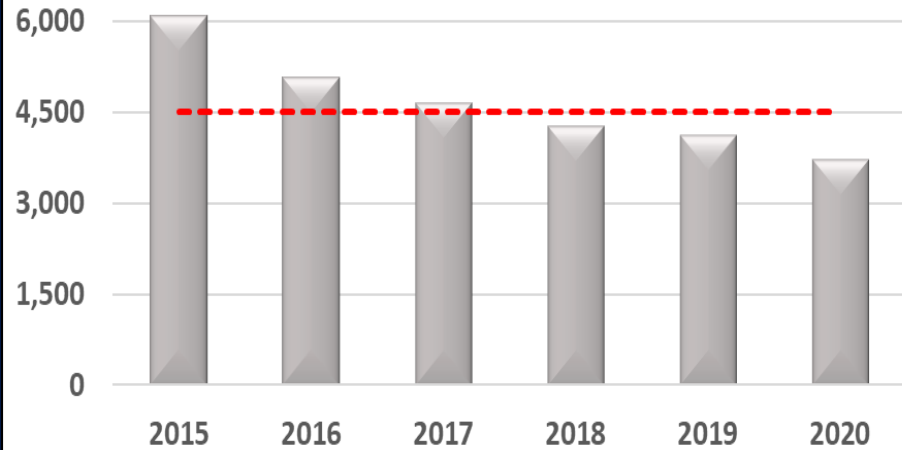


Colockum Elk Herd

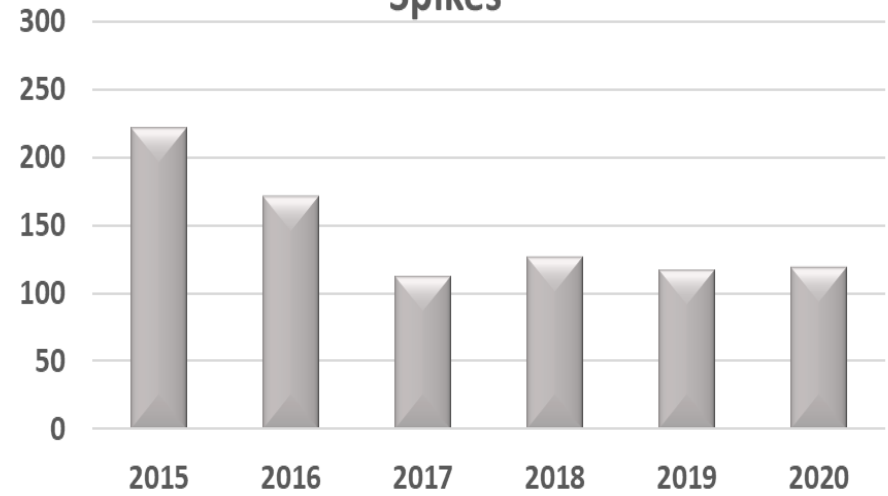


Colockum Elk Herd

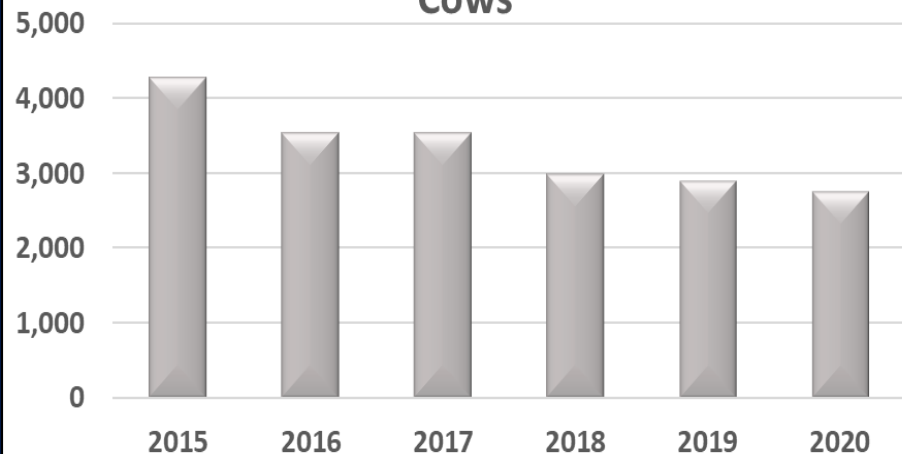
Total Abundance



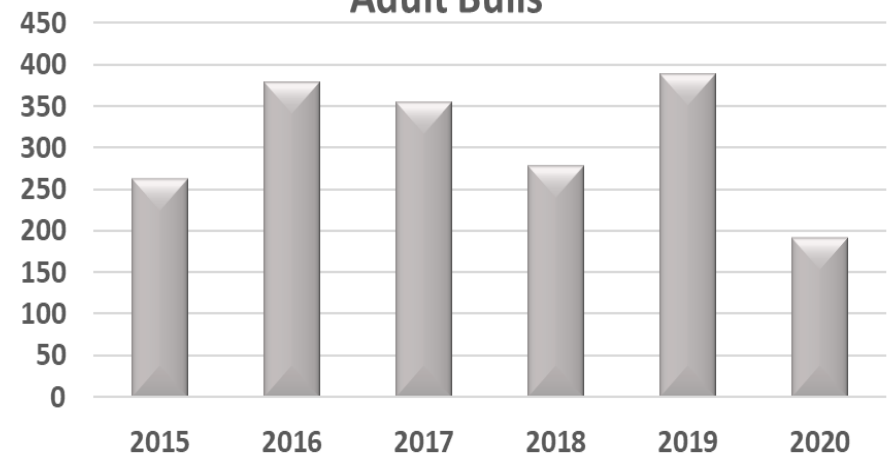
Spikes



Cows

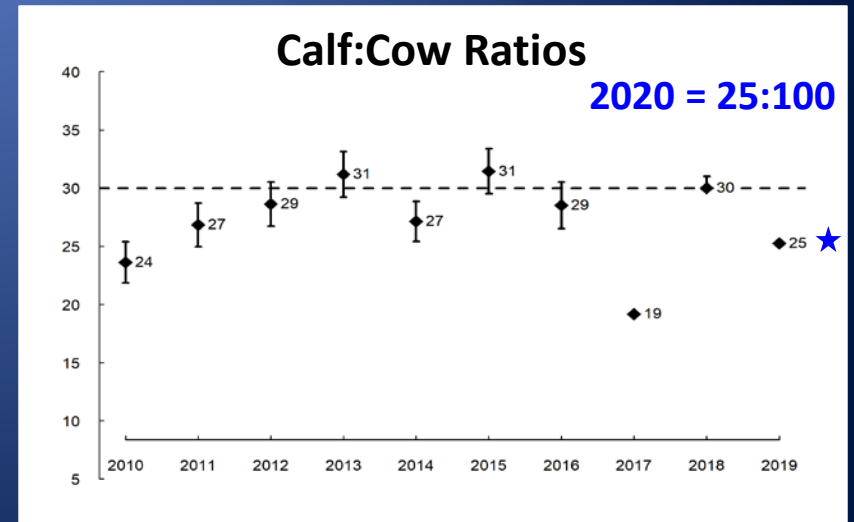
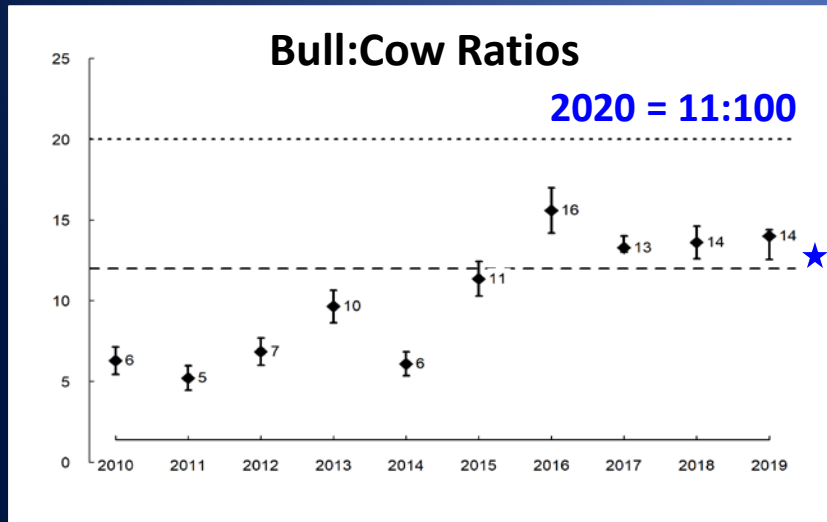
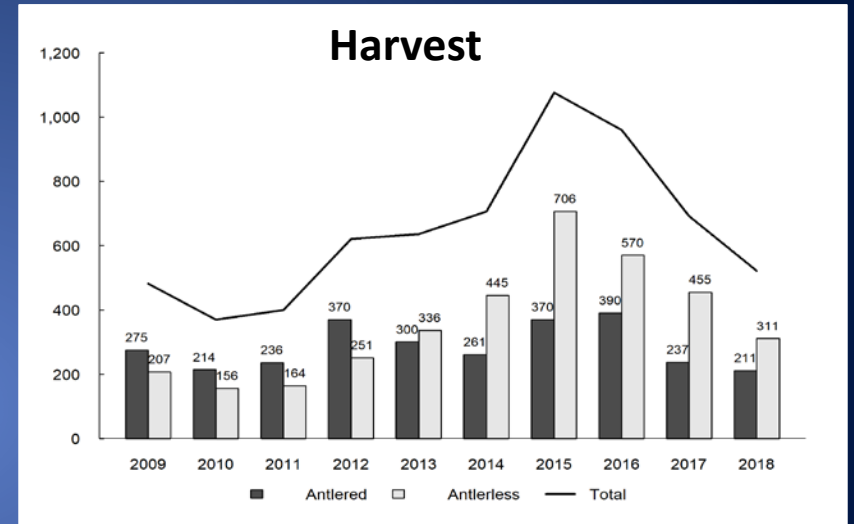
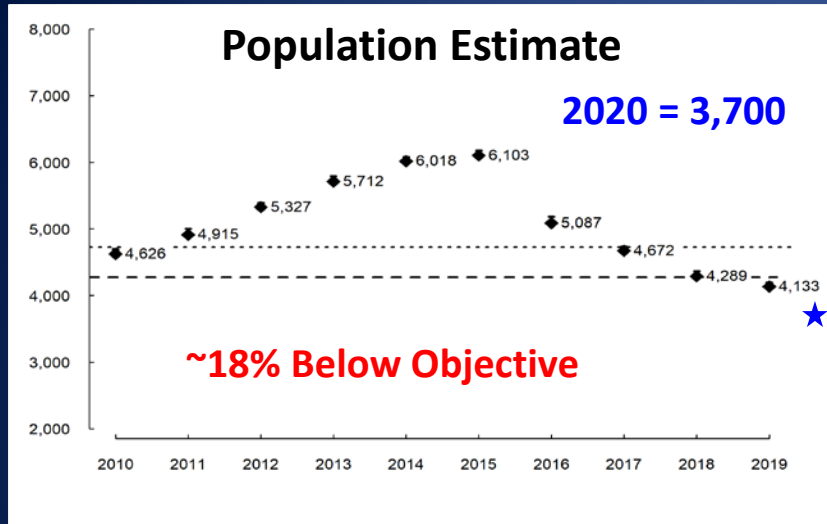


Adult Bulls





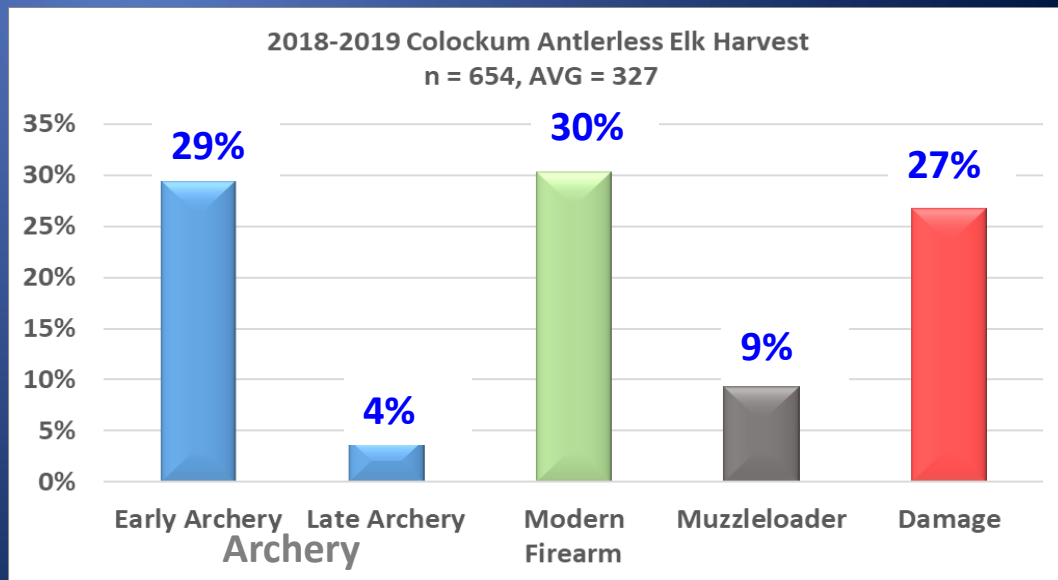
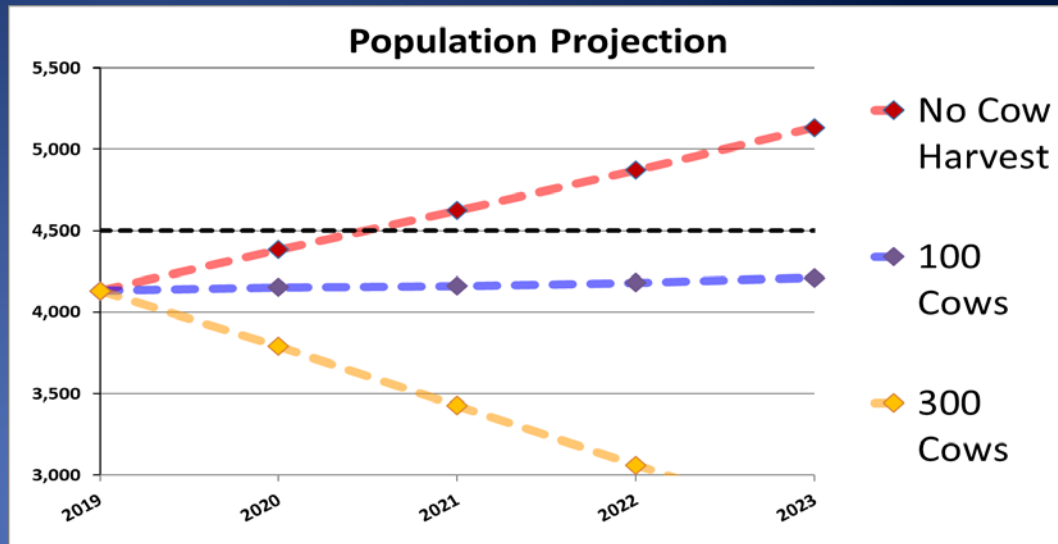
Colockum Elk Herd





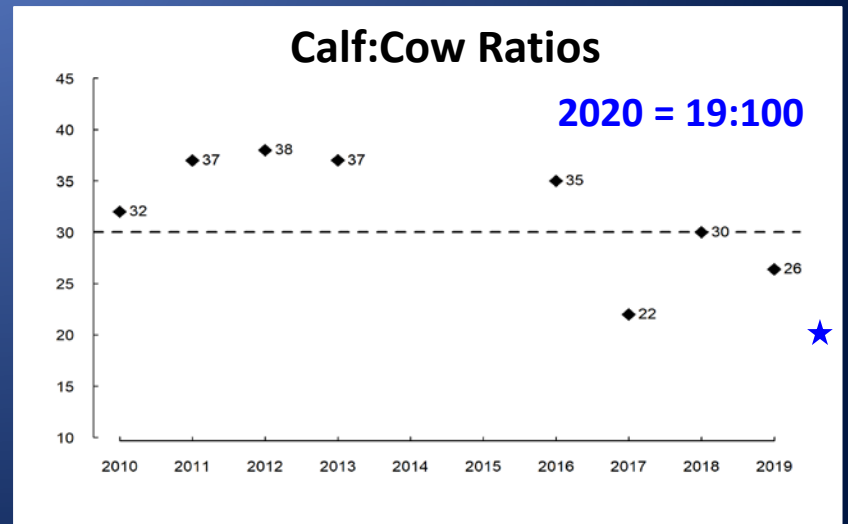
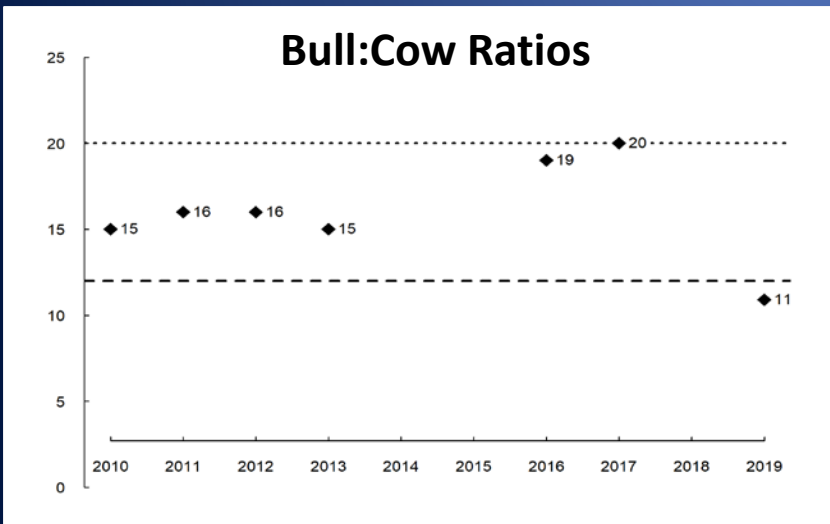
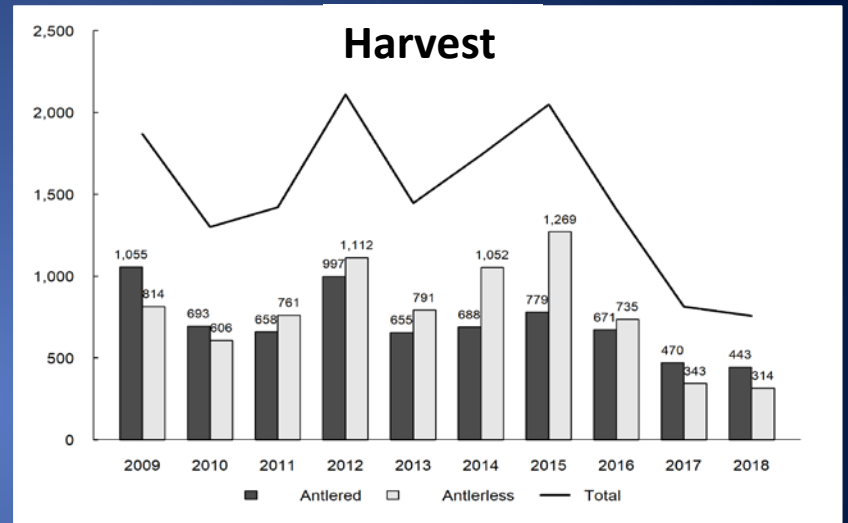
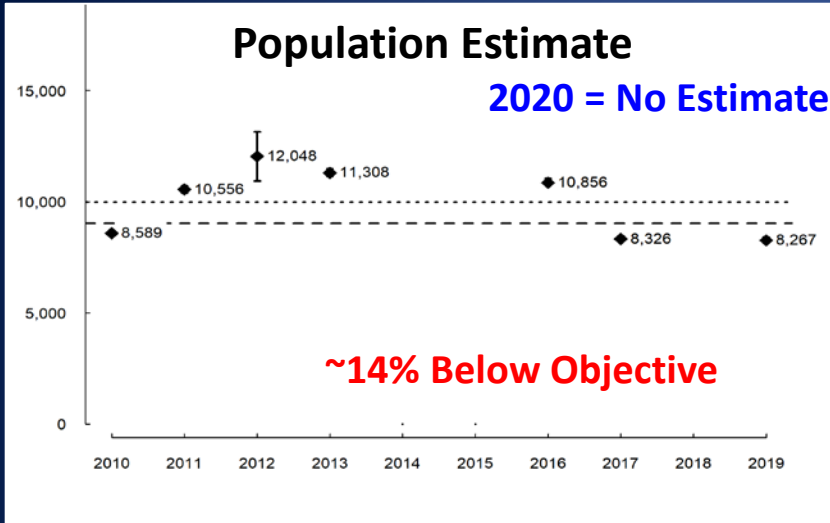
Colockum Elk Herd

- Have made preliminary recommendation to reduce special permits for antlerless elk by 65 permits
- Will make final recommendations for antlerless opportunities when 2019 harvest estimates and 2020 survey results are available
- Special bull permits will be similar to 2019 and are presented as recommended adjustments





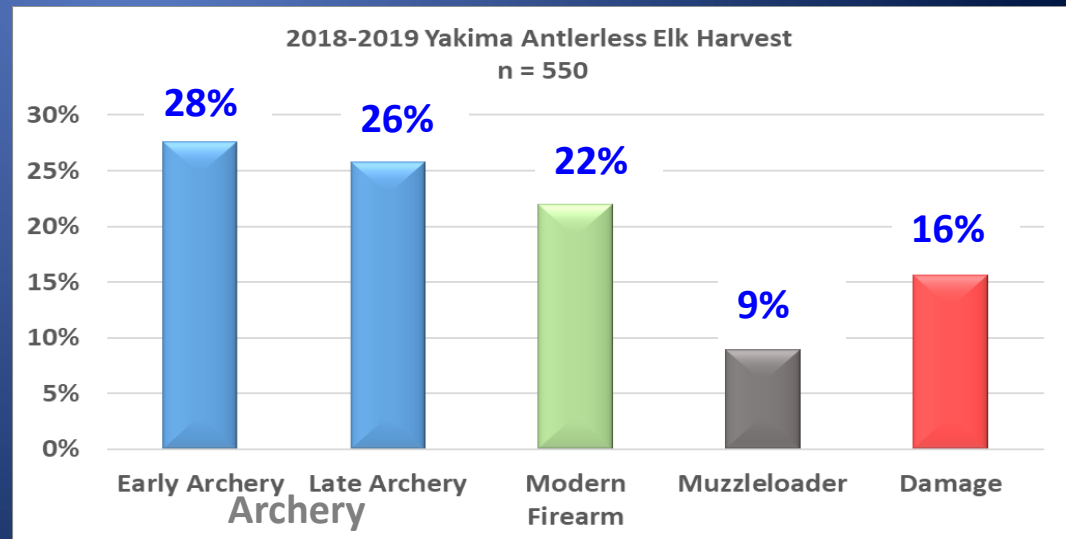
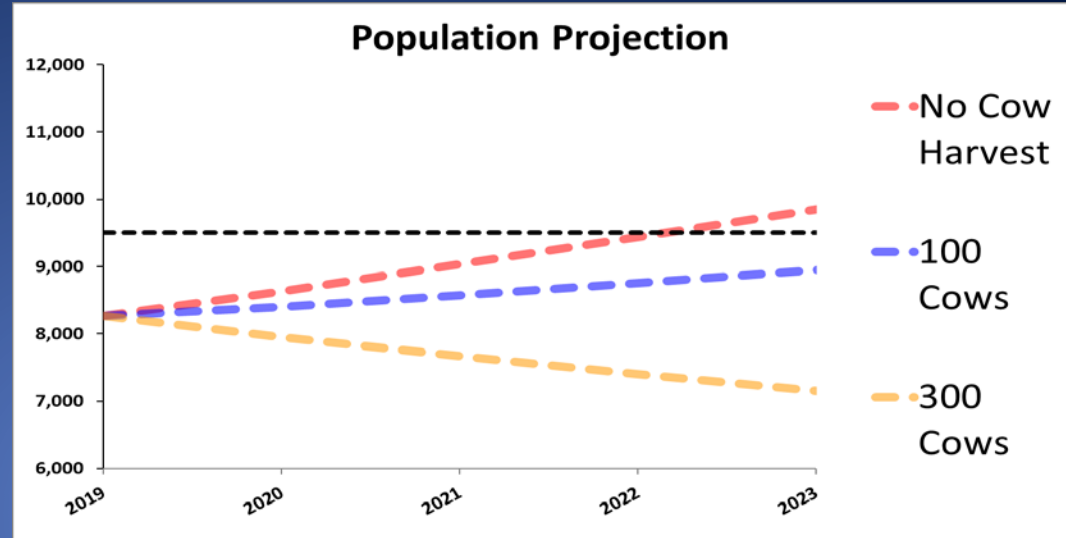
Yakima Elk Herd





Yakima Elk Herd

- Have made preliminary recommendation to reduce special permits for antlerless elk by 38 permits
- Will make final recommendations for antlerless opportunities when 2019 harvest estimates and 2020 survey results are available
- Special bull permits will be similar to 2019 and are presented as recommended adjustments





Yakima Elk Herd

General Seasons

- Reduce season length for Master Hunter Only hunts in GMU 371 from August 1-January 20 to August 1-October 15

Special Permits

- Added special antlerless permits for modern firearm (20) and muzzleloader (10) youth hunters in GMU 371

Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits			
Area	Restrictions	GMUs	Permits
Region 3	Any Bull	336, 346 336-368	1
Region 3	Any Bull	352-360	1
Region 3	Any Bull	364-368	1
Region 5	Any Elk	382, 388 and all 500 series GMUs EXCEPT 522	2
Region 6	Any Elk	618, 638-648, 654, 658, 663, 672, 699	1

Elk General Seasons

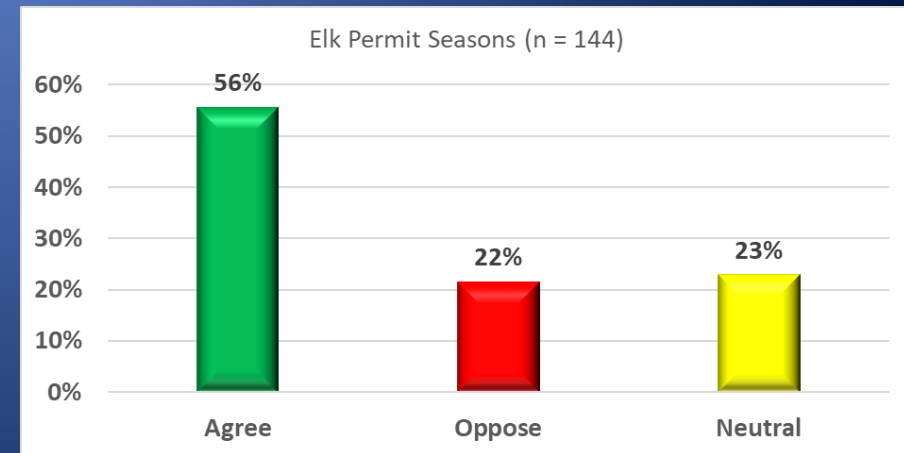
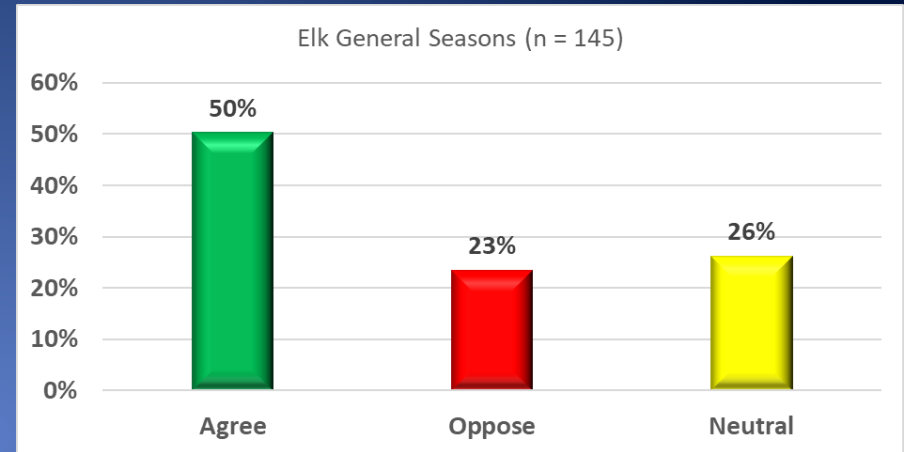
- Removed GMU 655 (Anderson Island) from the list of GMUs open during modern firearm general elk seasons in western Washington

Elk Special Permits

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one elk, even if permits are drawn in more than one category

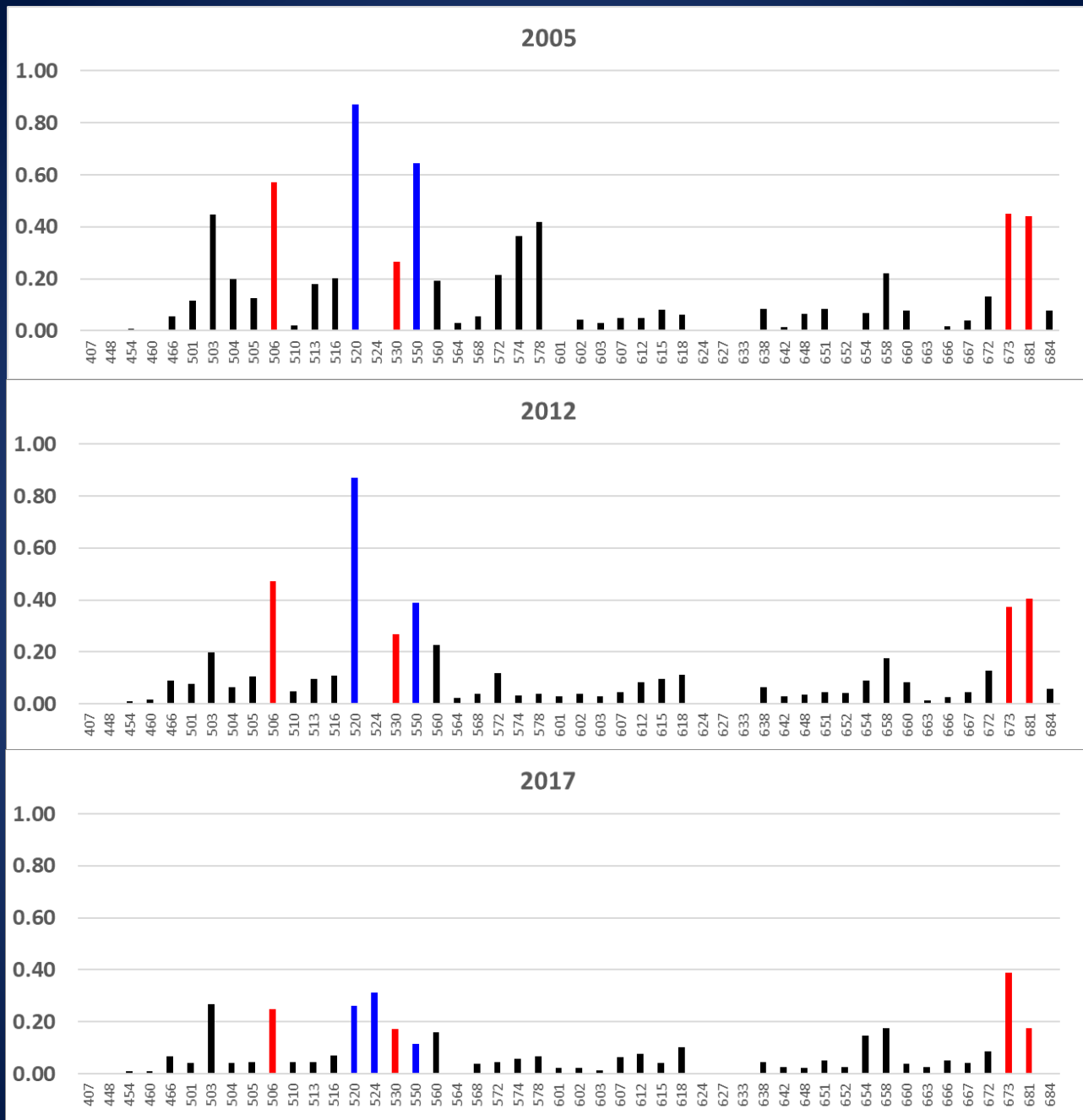
Public Comment

- Comments indicated general support and understanding for reducing antlerless harvest, but consensus on how opportunity should be reduced was lacking
- Other themes included predator management and reducing tribal harvest



Questions?





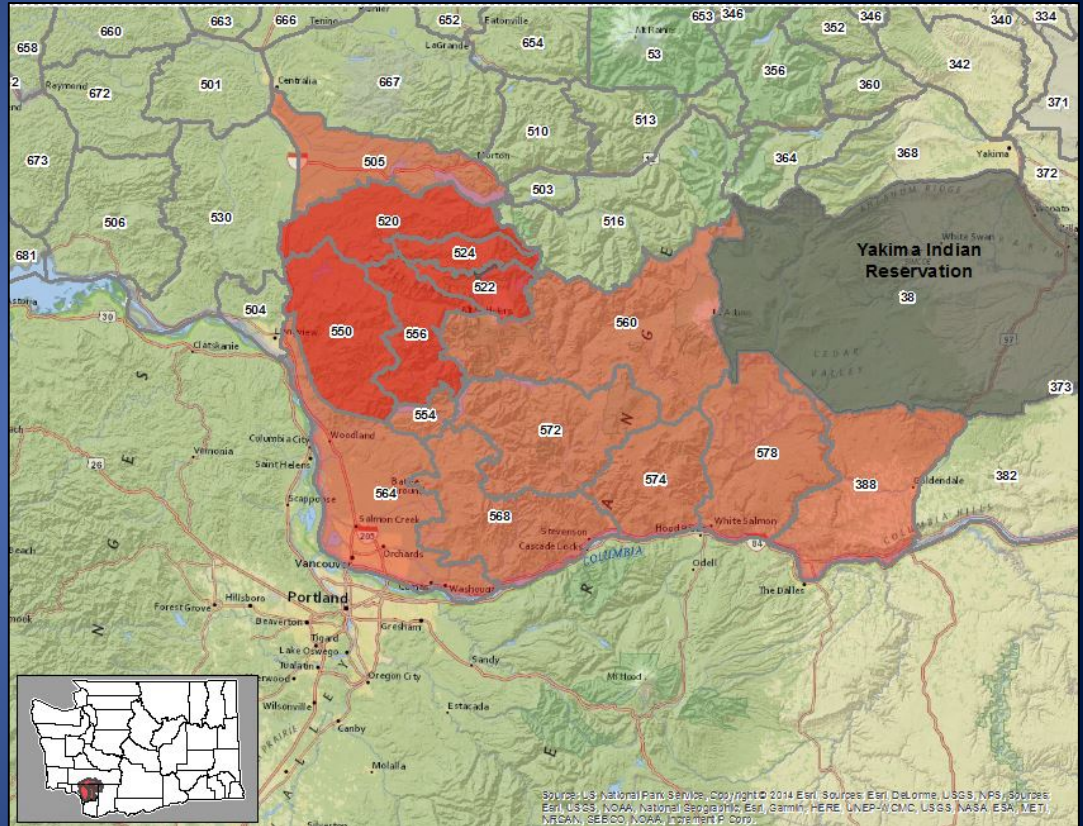
Mount St. Helens

General Seasons

- Reduce the number of days hunters can harvest an antlerless elk in GMU 578 during the late muzzleloader season from 14 to 6 days

Special Permits

- Proposed reductions in Quality, Bull, and Antlerless Special Permits



**Hunting Boundaries and Equipment
Briefing and Public Comment**

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region five.
WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region six.
WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.
WAC 220-415-040 Elk area description.

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Hunting Boundaries and Equipment – **Briefing and Public Comment**

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-410-050 GMU R5, WAC 220-410-060 GMU R6, WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restrictions, and WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

Staff recommendation:

- Clarify hunting boundaries in GMU 506 and 673.
 - In WAC 220-413-180, remove the reference to “wooden towers” from the description for the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area.
 - Corrections are made to the spelling of Newberry (from Newbury) Hill Road for the Firearm Restriction Area in Kitsap County.
 - In WAC 220-415-040, the proposed changes would eliminate Elk Area No. 1011 (Columbia County), Elk Area No. 1012 (Asotin County), and Elk Area No. 1082 (Asotin County). These elk areas are no longer needed.
-

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Maximize recreational elk hunting opportunity.
 - Continue sustainable hunting seasons for elk.
 - Clarify boundaries, spelling and language as to reduce confusion.
-

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Attached is a summary of the public comments that we received,

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-410-050 Game Management Units (GMUs) Boundary Descriptions–Region Five
WAC 220-410-060 Game Management Units (GMUs) Boundary Descriptions–Region Six.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received eight comments in support of the proposal, but none of them were related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received three comments in opposition to the proposal, but two were not related to the proposal. The one comment that was related expressed a sentiment that the number of GMUs was excessive.

The Department received ten neutral comments, but nine were not related to the proposal. One respondent indicated they were neutral because they did not hunt in this area.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. This change represents a minor adjustment to the boundary that will have little to no effect on hunters.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-413-180 Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received three comments in support of the proposal, but none were related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

We received one comment in opposition to the proposal with the respondent advocating that the rule should read “the Hanford Town Site”.

The Department received three neutral comments. One respondent advocated for clearly marking the boundary, while the other two comments were not related to the proposal.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. The proposed deletion of the reference to the “wooden towers” was made following consultation with local wildlife biologists, local fish biologists, and local law enforcement officers. All agreed this was the simplest change to make in response to the wooden towers being torn down and the boundary was still readily discernable because the power lines would remain.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-040 Elk Area Descriptions.

Supporting Comments:

We received six comments in support of the proposal, but none were related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received five comments in opposition to the proposal. One comment advocated for keeping the Elk Areas, while the other four comments were not related to the proposal.

The Department received one neutral comment. Although neutral the respondent supported the removal of these Elk Areas and advocated for removing even more.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. Elk damage issues associated with these Elk Areas have declined subsequent to substantial declines in elk numbers. Moreover, Elk Area 1011 and Elk Area 1012 have not been used since 2008 and are redundant to an existing larger Elk Area.

**WACs 220-410-050, 220-410-060,
220-413-180, and 220-415-040**

Hunting Boundaries and Equipment



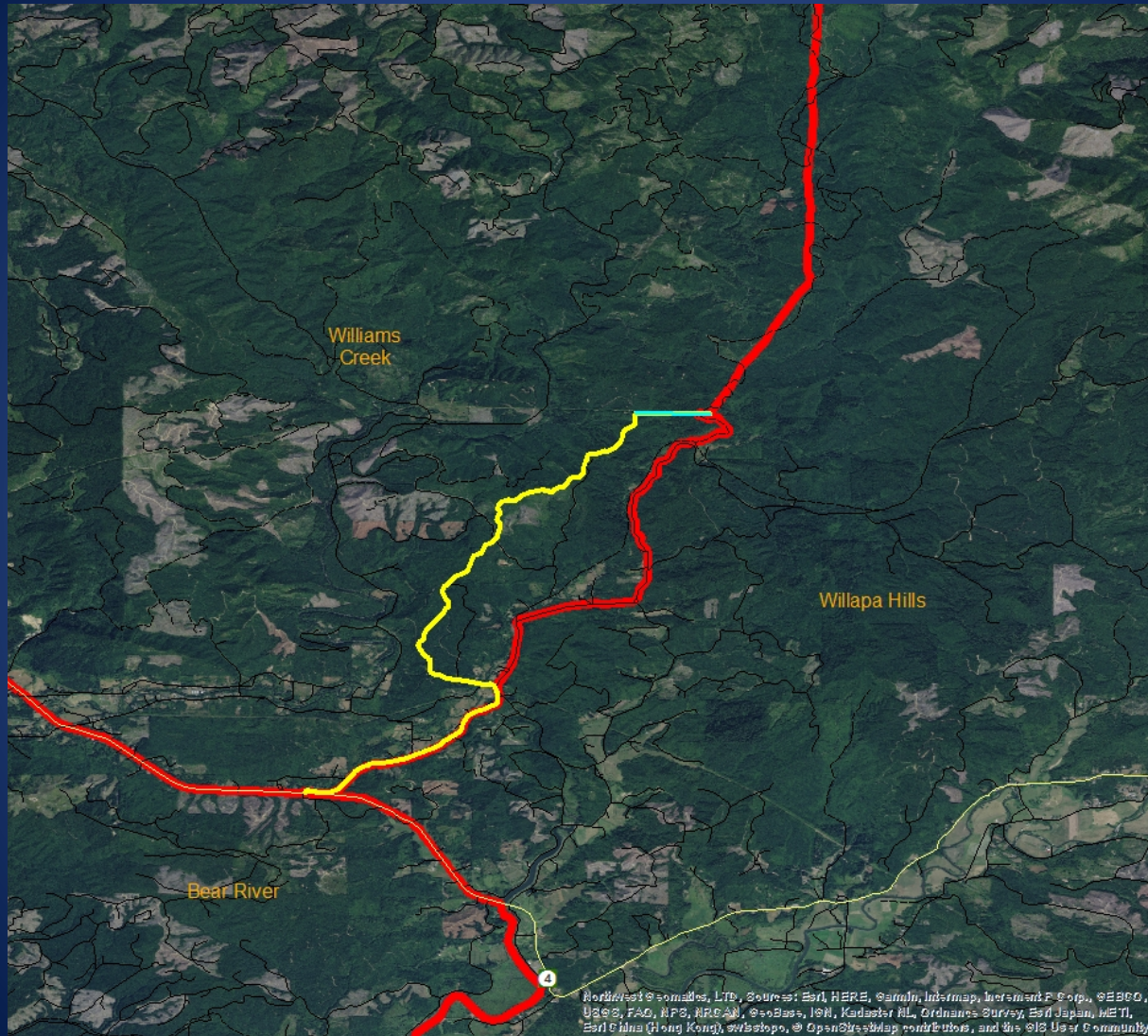
Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

**Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program**

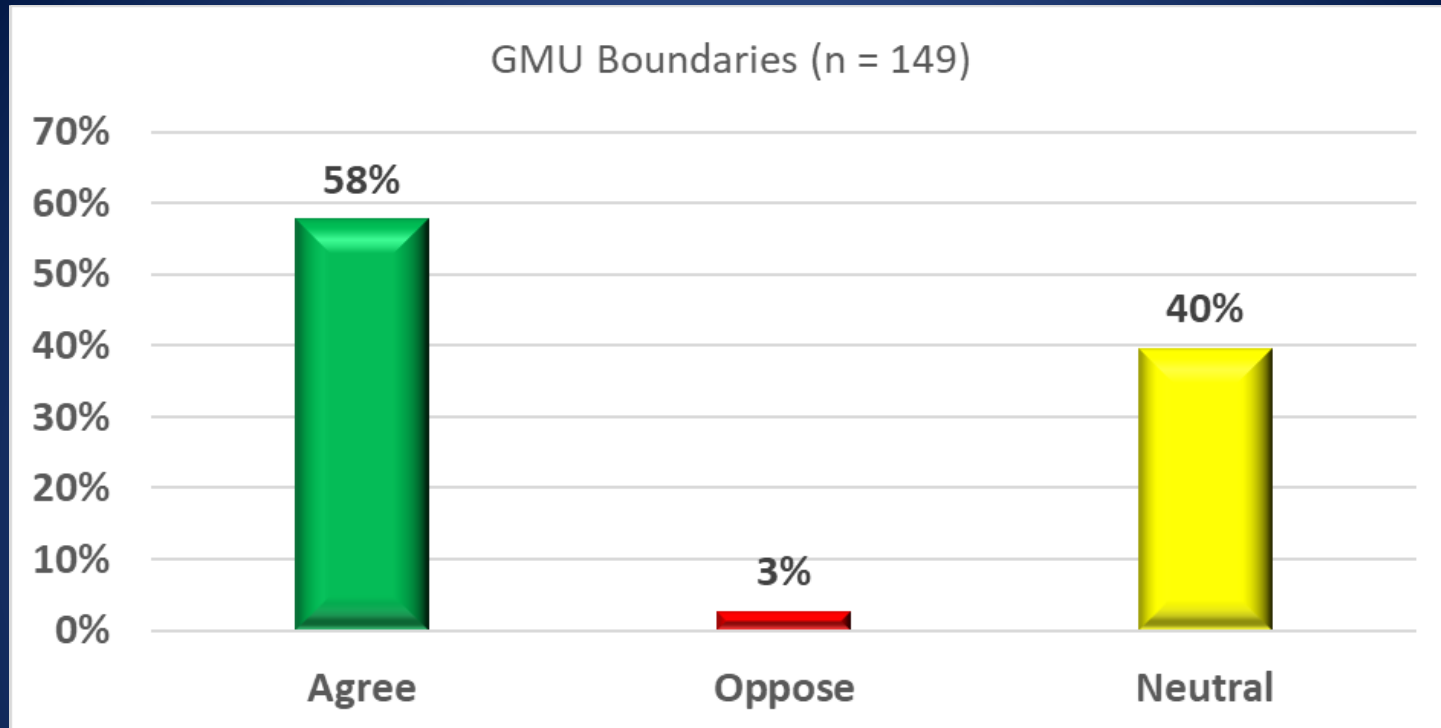
GMU Boundary Descriptions – Region 5 WAC 220-410-050 Region 6 WAC 220-410-060

- Propose adjusting GMU 673 (Williams Creek) boundary to align with Weyco 5800 line instead of Weyco 5000 line (Deep River main line).
- Proposed adjustment would align the boundary with a road that is more representative of a boundary proposed by local staff in the early 2000s.
- Necessitates changes to boundary language for neighboring GMU 506 (Willapa Hills).

GMU 673



Public Comment



- None of the comments received were directly related to the proposal.

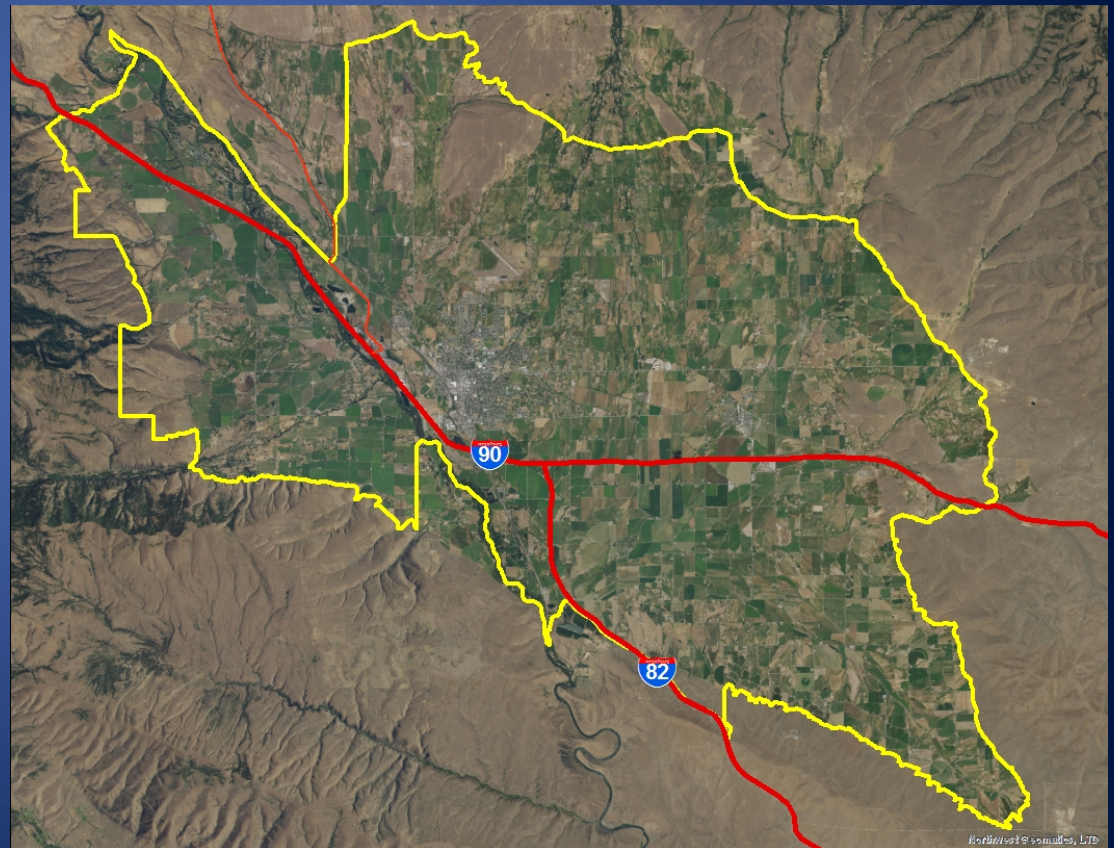
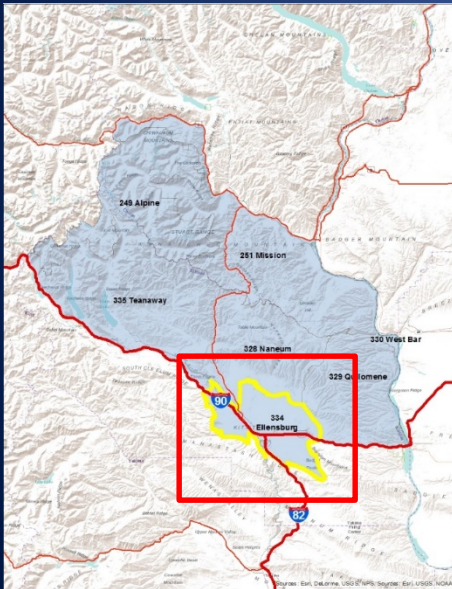
Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas

WAC 220-413-180

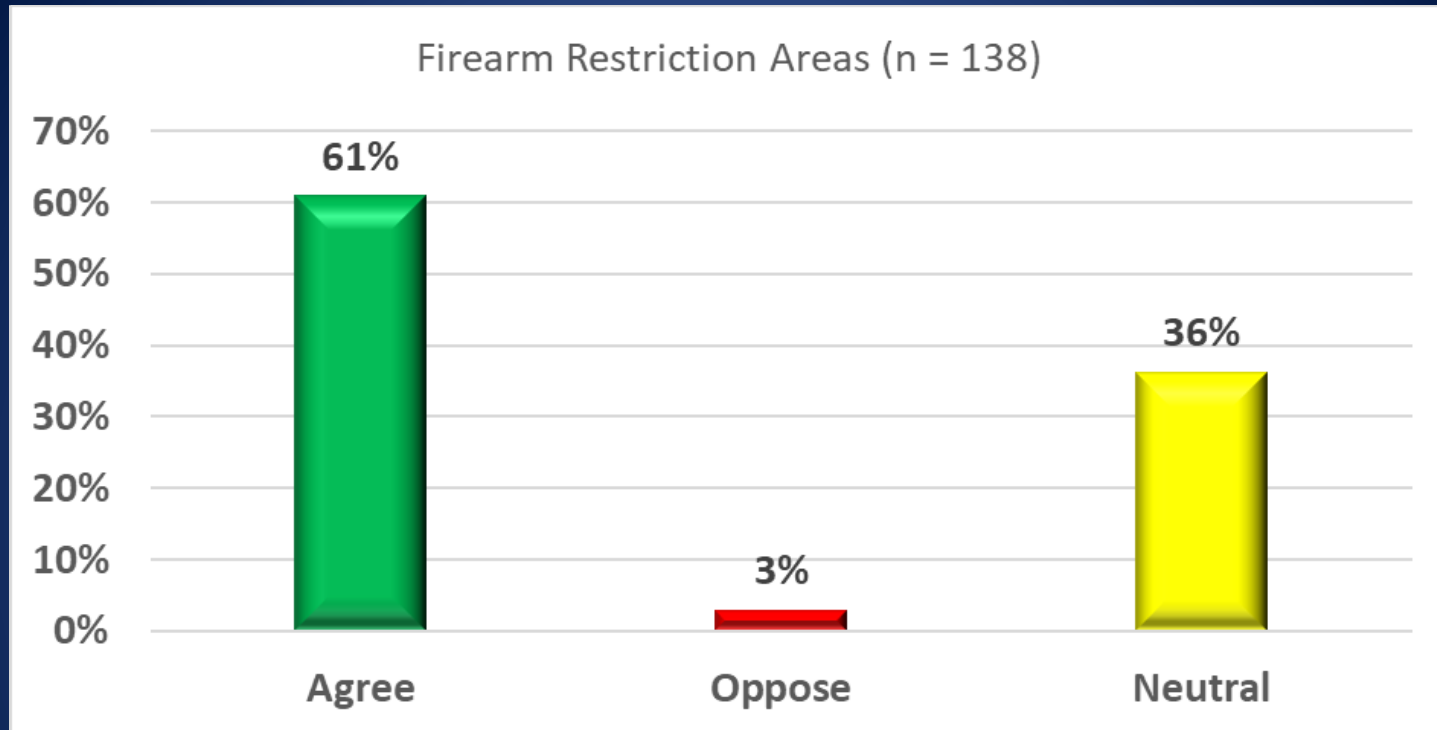
- Remove reference to the “wooden towers” for the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area boundary description.
 - The wooden towers referenced in this boundary description were torn down in November, but the powerlines referenced still remain.
- Administrative change to correct the spelling of Newberry (currently Newbury) Hill Road to avoid confusion for hunters.

Recommended Adjustment

- Delete Kittitas County and associated reference to GMU 334 from the list of Firearm Restriction Areas



Public Comment



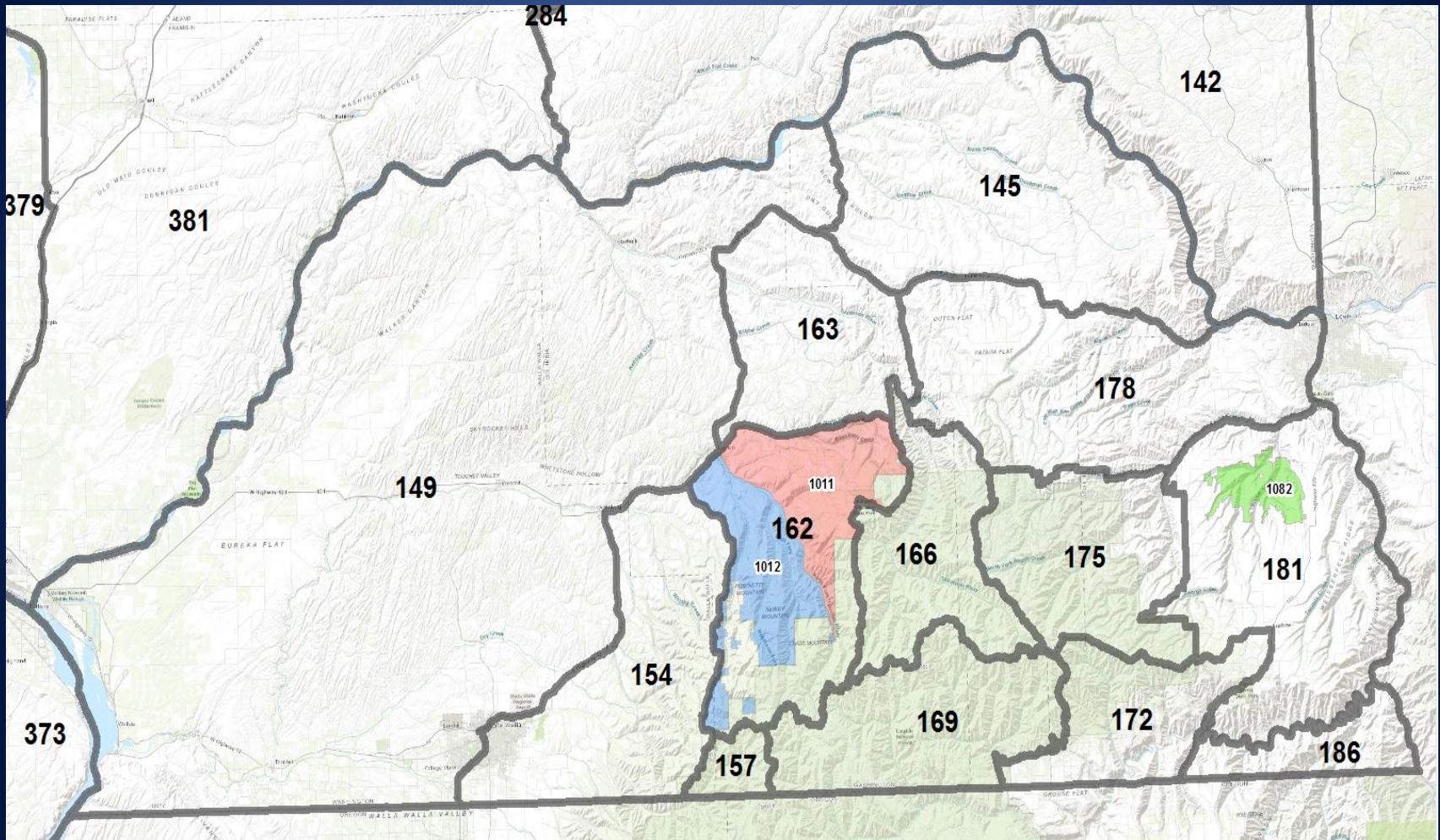
- One comment felt the language used should read “the Hanford Town Site”.
- One comment advocated for marking the boundary.

Elk Area Descriptions

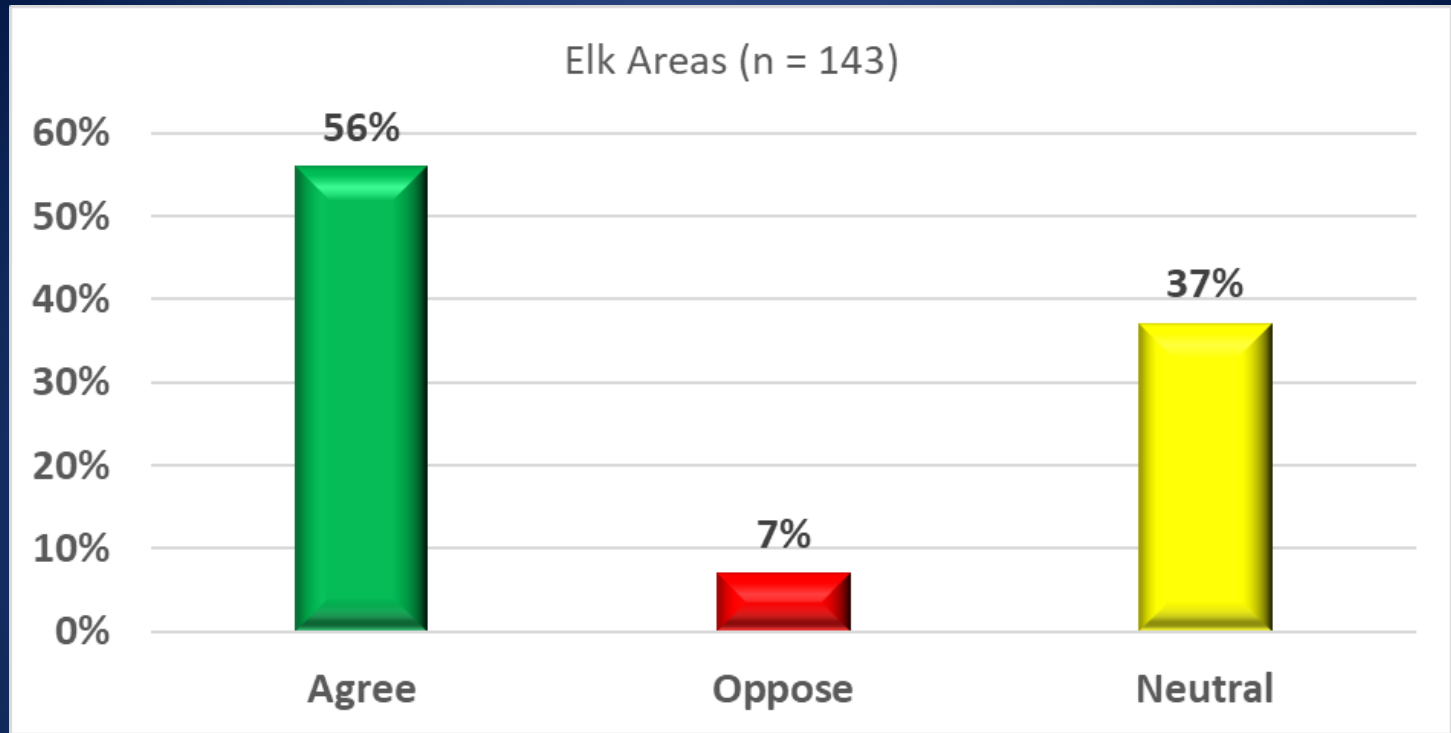
WAC 220-415-040

- Eliminate the following Elk Areas in the Blue Mountains.
 - No. 1011 (Columbia County)
 - No. 1012 (Columbia County)
 - No. 1082 (Asotin County)
- Elk numbers and damage complaints have declined substantially and the Elk Areas have not been used for many years.

Elk Areas 1011, 1012, 1082



Public Comment



- One comment supported the removal of these elk areas, while the other comment was opposed.

Questions?



Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons - Briefing and Public Comment

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose season, permit quotas, and areas.
WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep season and permit quotas.
WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Deer and Elk Section Manager

Background summary:

The department staff will brief the Commission on:

- WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
 - WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.
 - WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.
-

Staff recommendation:

For all three WACs, situations have occurred in the past that involved hunters who successfully drew a permit in more than one hunt category for the same species. Because the current language shows the bag limit is one moose, ewe, or adult goat, depending on the category, some hunters interpret this to mean one per permit, which is incorrect. Amending this rule as proposed, would clarify the rule and avoid confusion in the future.

Permits for ‘Any Antlered Bull Moose’ in Spokane West A were increased because surveys showed a good bull to cow ratio. Permits for ‘Antlerless Only’ were reduced in Mt Spokane South B, Mt Spokane North B, and Mica Peak because surveys showed calf recruitment rates and the overall number of moose biologists observed were lower than normal.

WAC 220-415-120, the department is proposing to develop unique permit opportunities for adult ewes and juvenile rams for the Yakima Canyon herd. This proposal is in association with our efforts to reduce the size of the herd and eliminate *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. Ovi.) from this herd. The department first implemented these permits during the 2019 season with special restriction identified as an Adult Ewe or Juvenile Ram, but most resulting harvest consisted of rams, including rams that were not juveniles. As such, very few ewes were harvested as intended, which calls for the proposed change.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Clarify the rule and avoid confusion.
 - Adjust ‘Any Antlered Bull Moose’ in Spokane West.
 - Change title dates from 2019 to 2020.
 - Change permit opportunities for the Yakima Canyon herd to eliminate M. Ovi.
 - Provide hunter opportunity.
-

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached summary of public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Form revised 2-15-18

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-070 2020 Moose Seasons, Permit Quotas, and Areas.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received eleven comments in support of the proposal. Seven comments advocated for predator management, one comment expressed general support of the proposal, and one comment advocated for not allowing hunters to draw a permit in more than one permit category. Two additional comments were not related to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received twelve comments in opposition to the proposal. Six comments advocated for no antlerless moose permits, three advocated for predator management, one advocated for reductions in all moose permits, and one advocated for more youth permits. Three additional comments were not related to the proposal.

The Department received two neutral comments, both of which advocated for predator management.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. Although the central themes of comments were associated with predator management and reducing antlerless permits further, the Department has already liberalized bear seasons in eastern Washington and is proposing options to recreational cougar seasons that could increase opportunities to harvest cougars. Moreover, in response to recent declines in moose populations in some areas, antlerless moose permits were substantially reduced in 2018.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-120 2020 Bighorn Sheep Seasons and Permit Quotas.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received two comments in support of the proposal. One comment advocated for not allowing hunters to draw a permit in more than one category, while the other comment was unrelated to the proposal.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received seven comments in opposition to the proposal. Two comments did not agree with the disease management approach in the Yakima Canyon herd, one advocated for more permits in Asotin Creek, and one advocated for predator management. The other three comments were unrelated to the proposal.

Of the four neutral comments received, two advocated for predator management, one advocated for stricter enforcement of the juvenile ram permits, and one advocated for permits in the Grande Ronde.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. Permit quotas were developed using the most recent survey data, are reflective of the current status of each herd, and were developed within the management framework outlined in the Game Management Plan. Permit quotas in the Yakima Canyon herd were developed with the explicit intent of reducing herd size so we can implement a “test and cull” management strategy that has been successful at eradicating Movi in other bighorn sheep herds.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-130 2020 Mountain Goat Seasons and Permit Quotas.

Supporting Comments:

The Department received seven comments in support of the proposal, but four of them were unrelated to the proposal. One respondent advocated for more permits, one advocated for predator management, and one advocated for not allowing hunters to draw a permit in more than one category.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

The Department received three comments in opposition to the proposal. One respondent advocated for more permits, one advocated for predator management, and one comment was unrelated to the proposal.

Of the two neutral comments received, one advocated for predator management and one was unrelated to the proposal.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as originally proposed. Proposed adjustments to Mountain Goat permit quotas were minor, based on most recent survey data, and within the management framework identified in the Game Management Plan.

WACs 220-415-070, 220-415-120, and 220-415-130

Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons and Permit Quotas

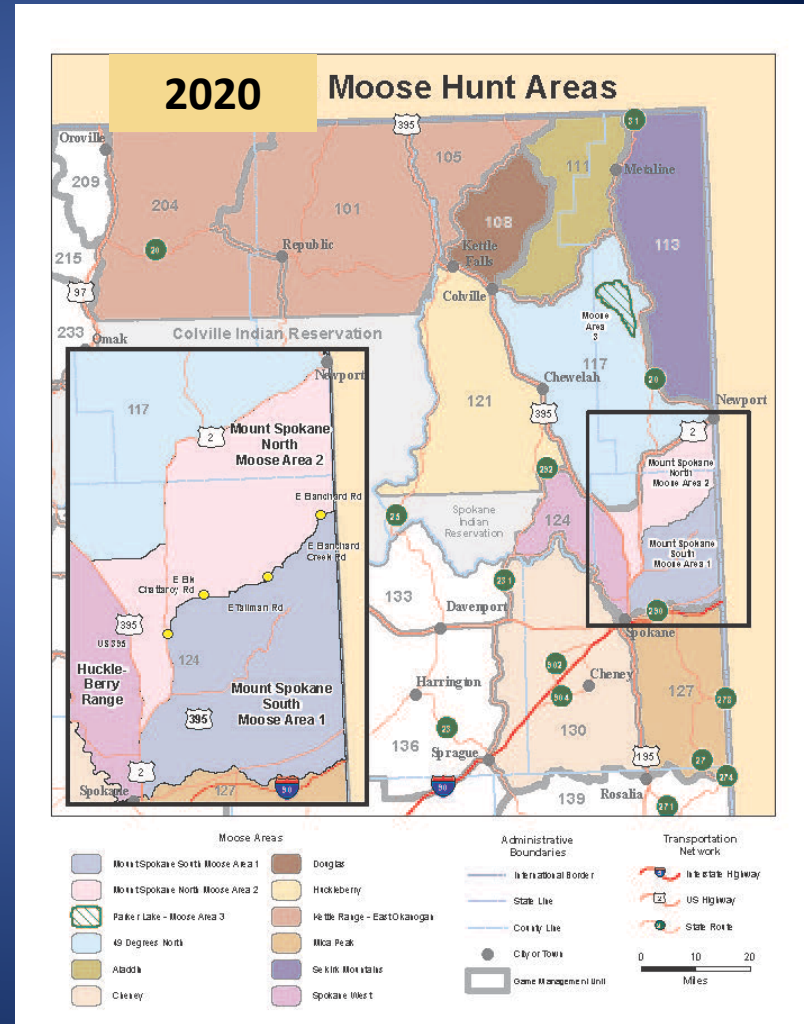


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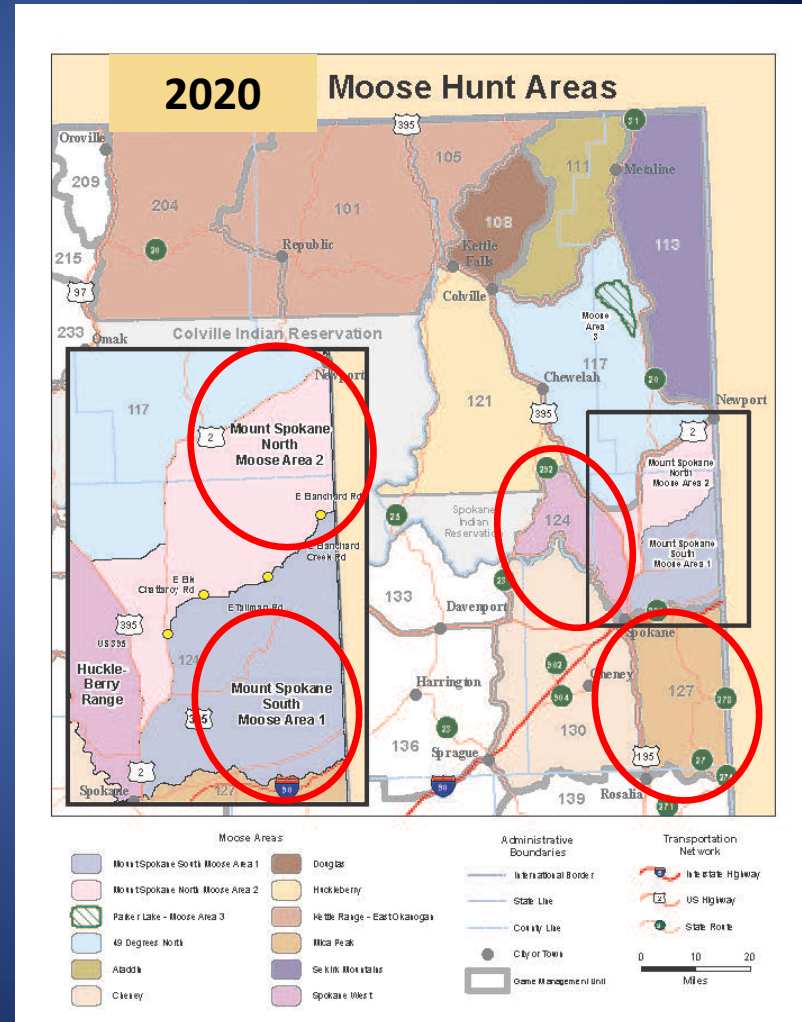
Moose Seasons, Permit Quotas, and Areas WAC 220-415-070

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one moose, even if permits are drawn in more than one category.
- Minor changes in permit numbers.



Moose Seasons, Permit Quotas, and Areas WAC 220-415-070

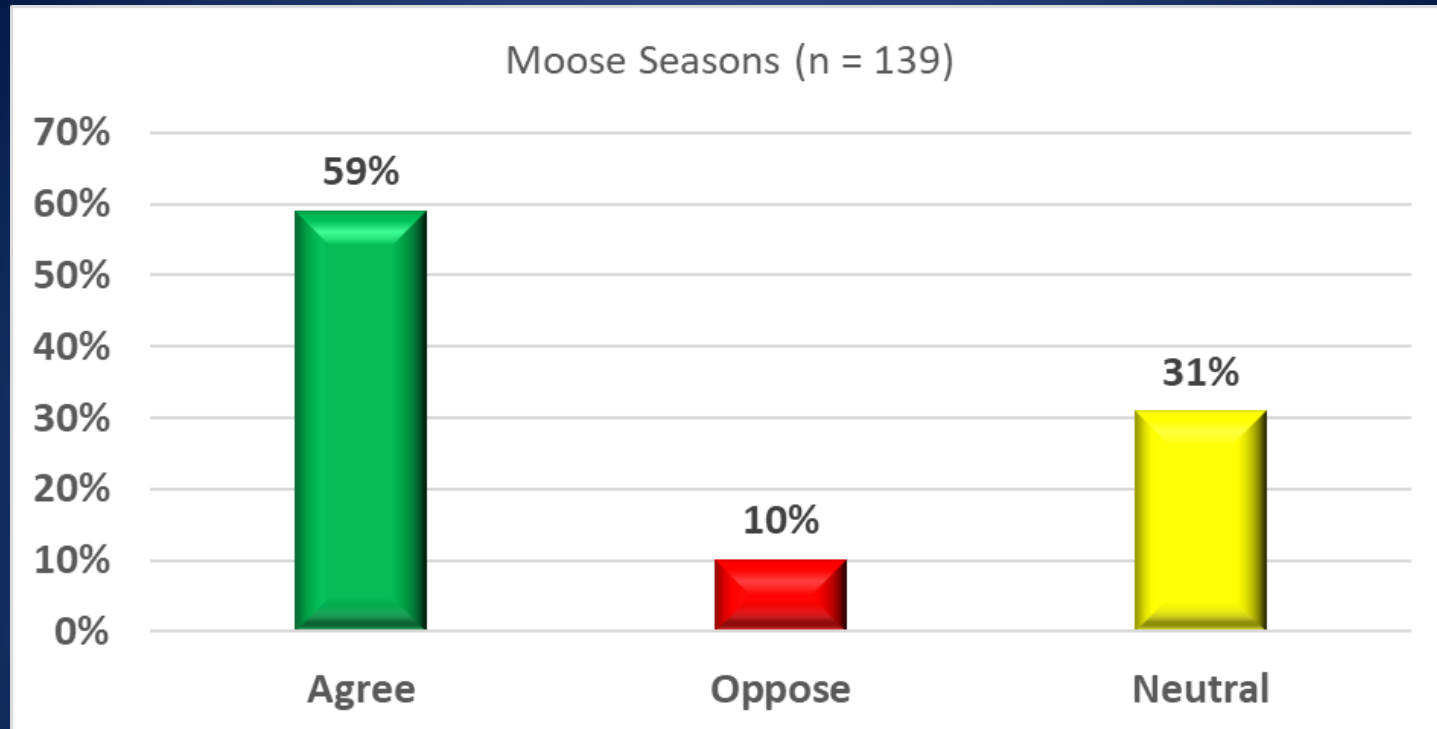
- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one moose, even if permits are drawn in more than one category.
- Minor changes in permit numbers.



Proposed Changes for 2020

Hunt Name	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
Antlered Bulls			
Spokane West A	Oct. 1-Nov. 30	GMU 124 west of Hwy 395	1 → 2
Antlerless			
Mount Spokane South B	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within GMU 124)	4 → 2
Mount Spokane North B	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within GMU 124)	4 → 2
Mica Peak	Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	GMU 127	4 → 2

Public Comment



- Central themes of comments were related to predator management and reducing or eliminating antlerless opportunities.

Questions?



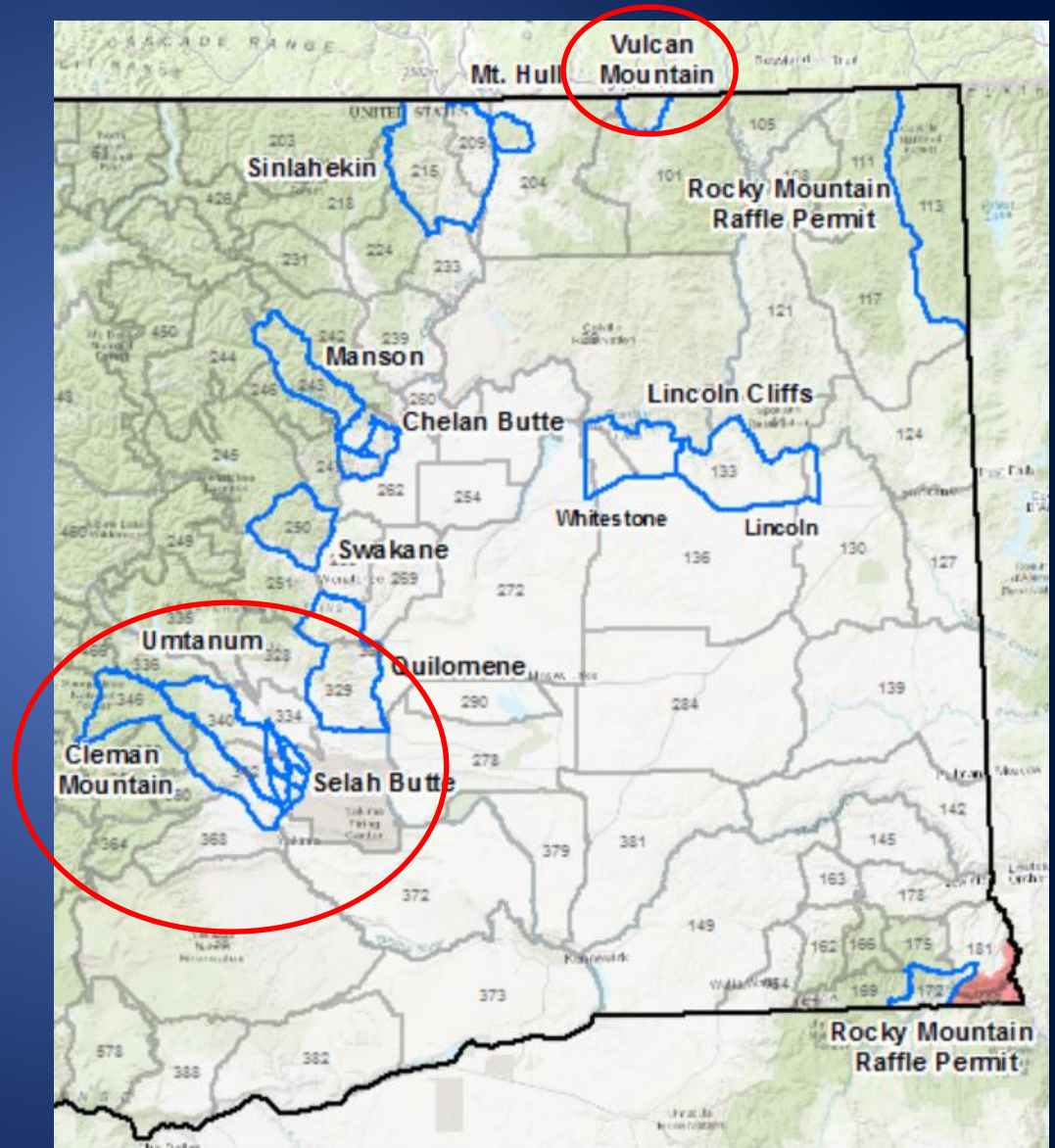
Bighorn Sheep Seasons and Permit Quotas

WAC 220-415-120

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one bighorn sheep, even if permits are drawn in more than one category.
- Minor changes in ram permit numbers.
- Proposed several changes to permits in the Yakima Canyon Herd for ewes and juvenile rams.

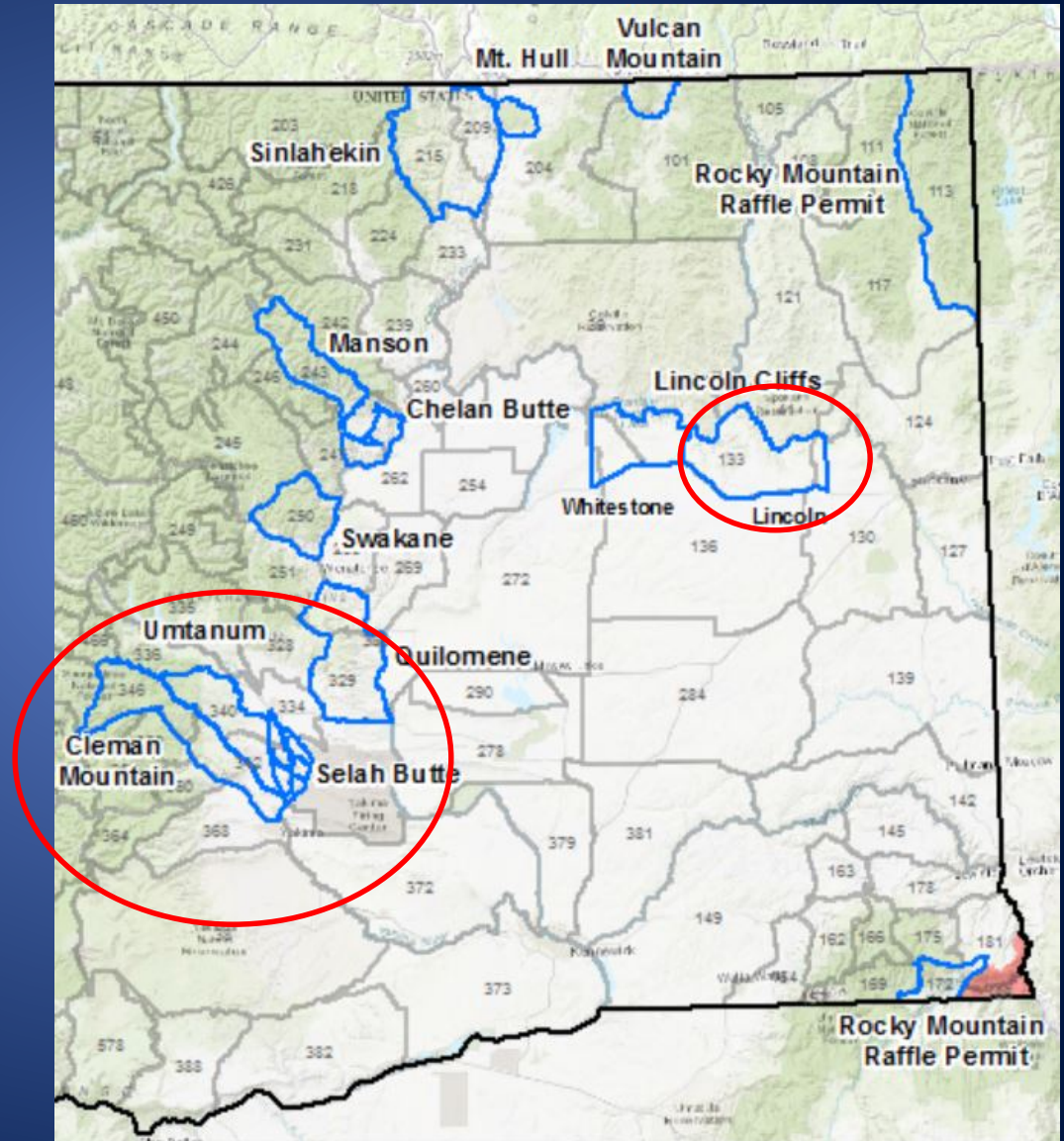
Ram Permits

- Vulcan Mountain
 - 1 → 0
- Selah Butte
 - 4 → 3
- Umtanum
 - 4 → 3
- Cleman Mountain
 - 4 → 5



Ewe and Juvenile Ram Permits

- Lincoln Unit
– 1 → 0
- Several changes in the Umtanum and Selah Butte units (aka Yakima Canyon Herd) associated with efforts to reduce herd size.



Yakima Canyon Herd

- Objective is to reduce herd size so we can implement a “Test and Cull” approach to eradicate bighorn sheep pneumonia.
- Initiated efforts to reduce herd size in 2019 by offering an increased number of permits that allowed hunters to harvest a ewe or juvenile ram.
- Almost all hunters harvested rams, several of which would not be considered juveniles (4-5 years old).

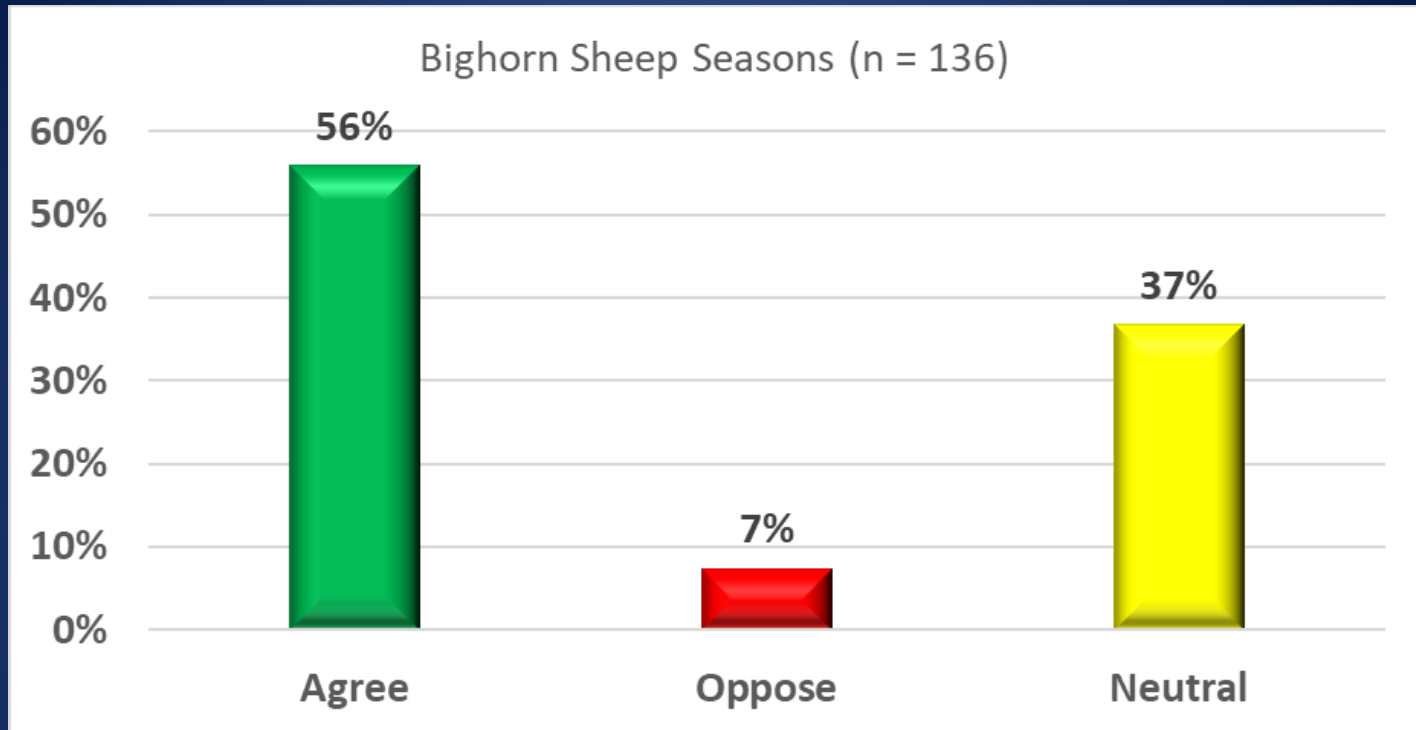
Yakima Canyon Herd

Hunt Name	Hunt Unit	Legal Animal	Permits
Selah Butte North	Sheep Unit 4A	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 4
Selah Butte North (Youth)	Sheep Unit 4A	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	2 → 2
Mount Baldy	Sheep Unit 4B	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 4
Mount Baldy (Youth)	Sheep Unit 4B	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	2 → 2
Selah Butte South	Sheep Unit 4C	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 4
Selah Butte South (Youth)	Sheep Unit 4C	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	2 → 1
Umtanum North	Sheep Unit 5A	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 5
Umtanum North (Youth)	Sheep Unit 5A	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	2 → 1
Umtanum South (Nov. 9-22)	Sheep Unit 5B	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 5
Umtanum South (Nov. 23-Dec. 6)	Sheep Unit 5B	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	5 → 5
Umtanum South(Youth)	Sheep Unit 5B	Adult ewe or juvenile ram	3 → 2

Yakima Canyon Herd

Hunt Name	Hunt Unit	Legal Animal	Permits
Selah Butte North	Sheep Unit 4A	Juvenile Ram	1
Mount Baldy	Sheep Unit 4B	Juvenile Ram	2
Selah Butte South	Sheep Unit 4C	Juvenile Ram	2
Umtanum North	Sheep Unit 5A	Juvenile Ram	1
Umtanum South	Sheep Unit 5B	Juvenile Ram	1

Public Comment



- There was no identifiable theme associated with the comments we received.

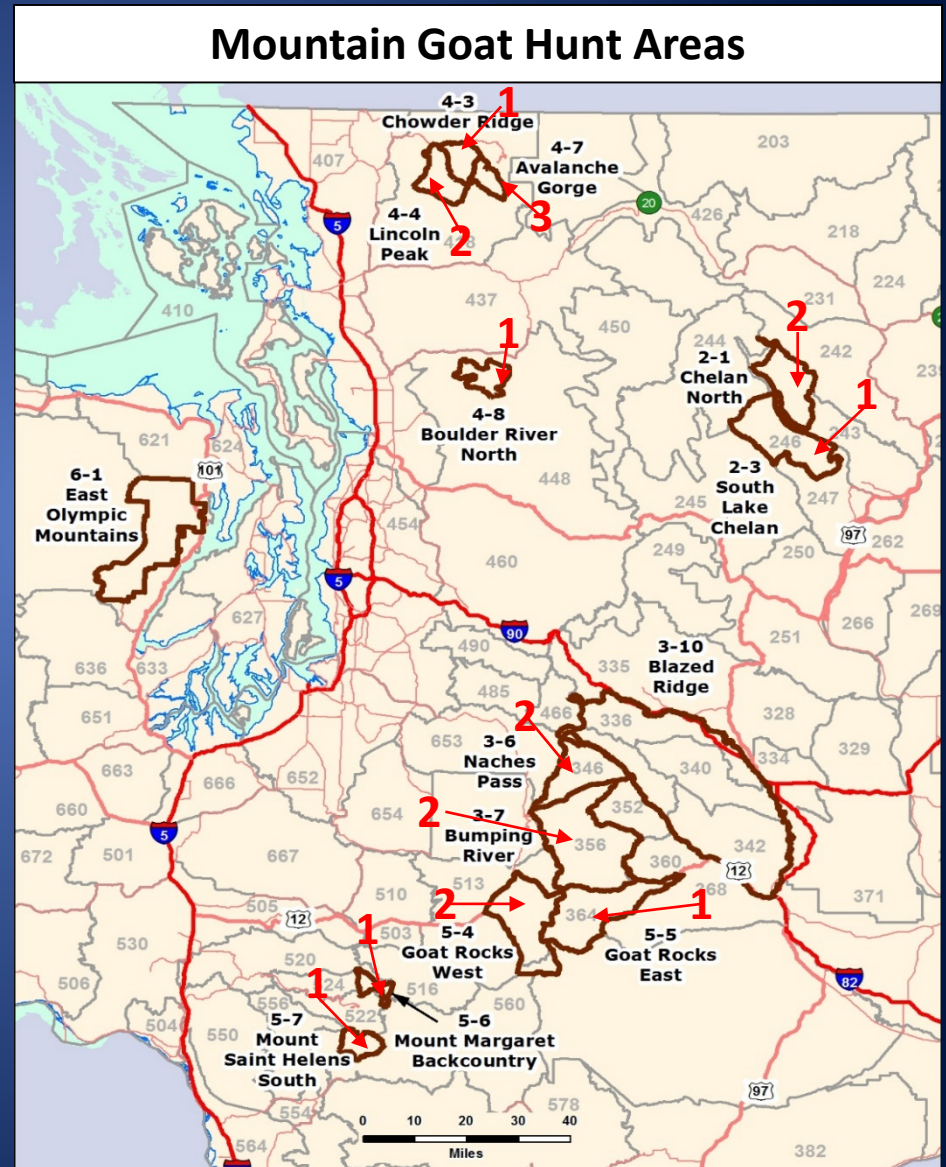
Questions?



Mountain Goat Seasons and Permit Quotas

WAC 220-415-130

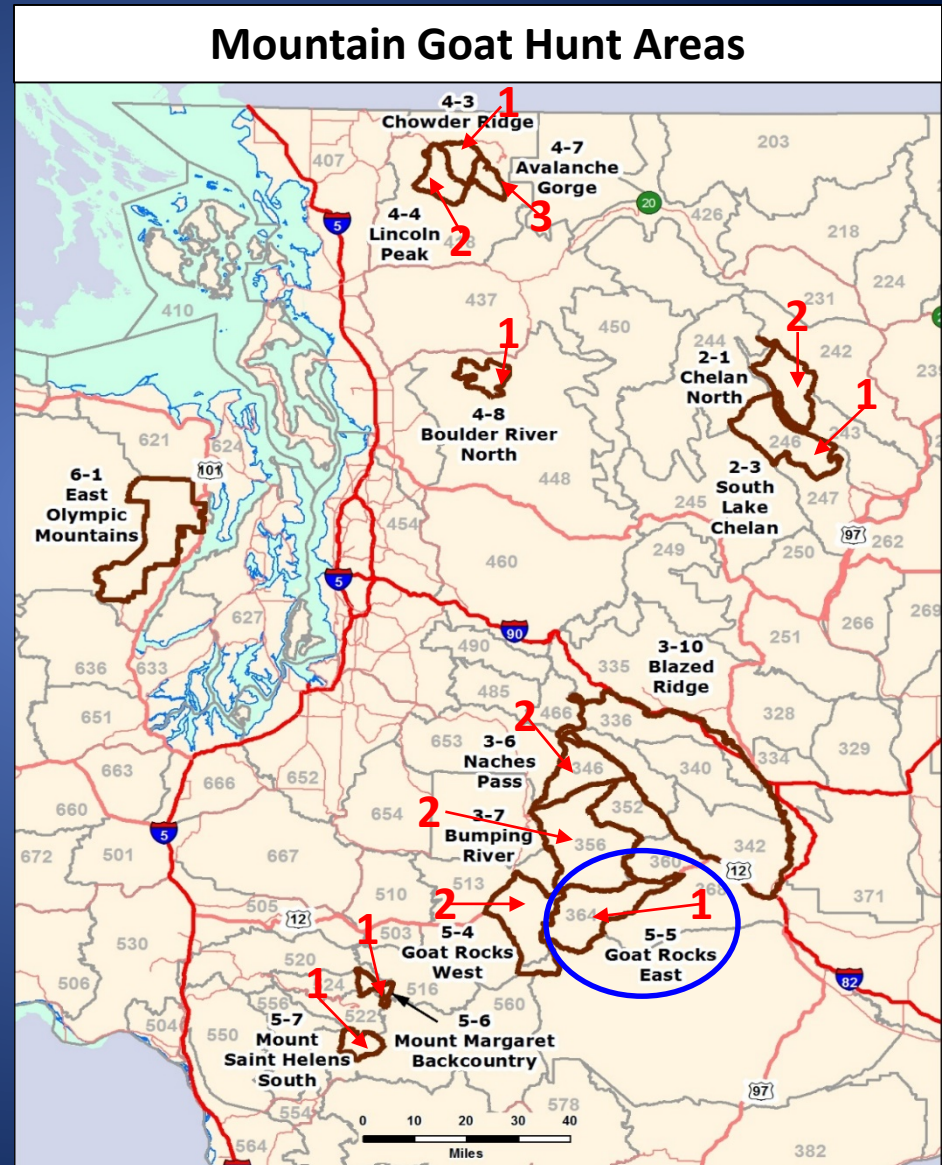
- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one adult goat of either sex with horns at least four inches long, even if permits are drawn in more than one category.
- Only one proposed change in Goat Rocks East from one permit to two permits.



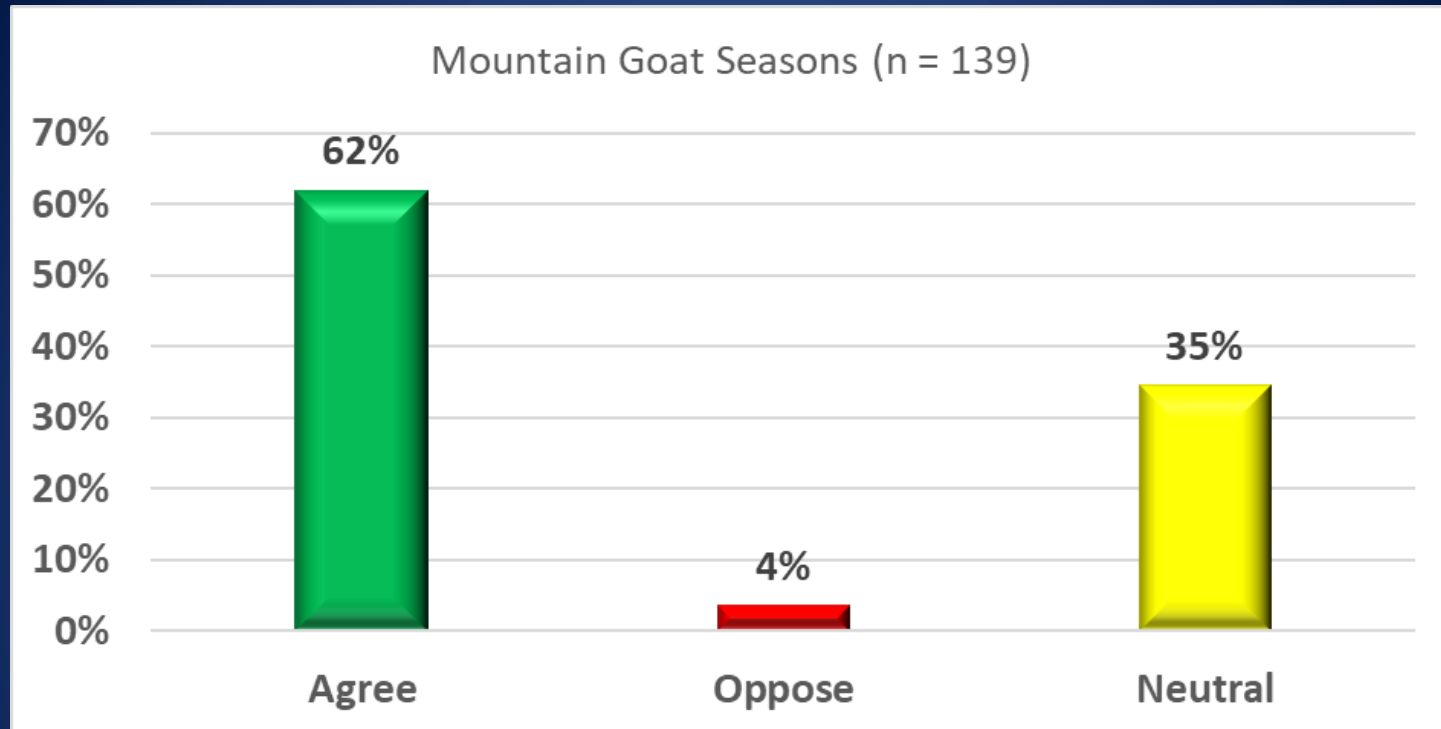
Mountain Goat Seasons and Permit Quotas

WAC 220-415-130

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one adult goat of either sex with horns at least four inches long, even if permits are drawn in more than one category.
- Only one proposed change in Goat Rocks East from one permit to two permits.



Public Comment



- There was no identifiable theme associated with the comments we received

Questions?



Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease - Briefing and Public Comment

WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease

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CR-102	4

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease

Presenter(s): Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

Background summary: The department staff will brief the Commission on the proposal to abolish WAC 220-413-200.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends abolishing WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease – Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

This rule was originally adopted in 2014 as an attempt to reduce the risk of inadvertently spreading the causative agents of treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD) in elk. Since that time, however, TAHD has been confirmed throughout western Washington, east of the Cascade Mountains near the town of Trout Lake, and in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington. The continued expansion of this disease appears to indicate this rule was ineffective at preventing disease expansion. Other reasons for supporting this rule are:

1. For surveillance purposes, we want to encourage elk hunters in eastern Washington to submit suspicious hooves.
2. The current rule is not being enforced, but rather used by Enforcement Officers as an educational opportunity.
3. We have no scientific findings that support the implementation of this rule.
4. The Department is working on developing management strategies that will be proposed during the next 3-year season cycle, which would incentivize elk hunters in western Washington to target limping elk but would also require them to submit their hooves to the Department for inspection.
5. Neighboring states (Idaho and Oregon), where TAHD has been detected, do not have a similar rule.

Although the Department is proposing to abolish this rule, we would still encourage hunters to leave hooves from the elk they harvest on site.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see the attached summary of written comment page.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease–Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

Supporting Comments:

There were eight comments in support of the proposal, however, six of those comments were not directly related to the proposal itself. Instead, the respondents were primarily providing their personal thoughts related to the cause and management of hoof disease. The other two comments expressed support for using hunters as a tool to help manage the disease.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

There were five comments in opposition to the proposal, but none were directly related to the proposal itself. Responses included: hunters should follow the rules, increase elk permits, no late archery hunts, it won't do any good, and stop spraying herbicides.

There were two neutral comments. One respondent expressed a desire to eradicate hoof disease but didn't know how they felt about abolishing this rule, while the other respondent expressed a desire for the Department to manage predators.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission to abolish this rule. With the continued spread of hoof disease throughout western Washington and to parts of eastern Washington, it does not appear this rule has been effective at minimizing the spread of this disease. In addition, the Department will strongly encourage hunters in eastern Washington to submit their hooves for surveillance purposes and hopes to develop strategies that will incentivize hunters in western Washington to target limping elk but will require they submit their hooves for inspection. Having this rule in effect, while simultaneously requesting that many of our hunters submit their hooves for inspection is likely to be confusing for hunters.

WAC 220-413-200

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



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

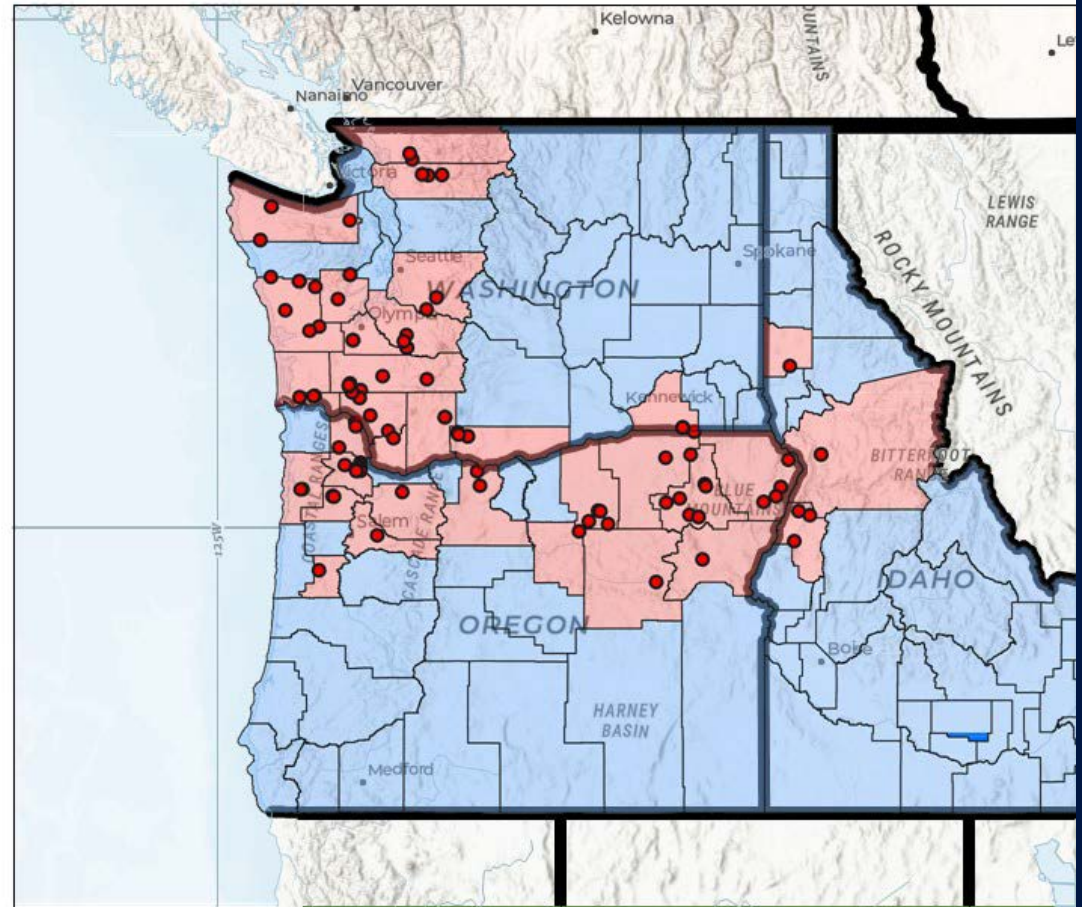
Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

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.

Elk Hoof Disease Distribution



January 6, 2020

Legend

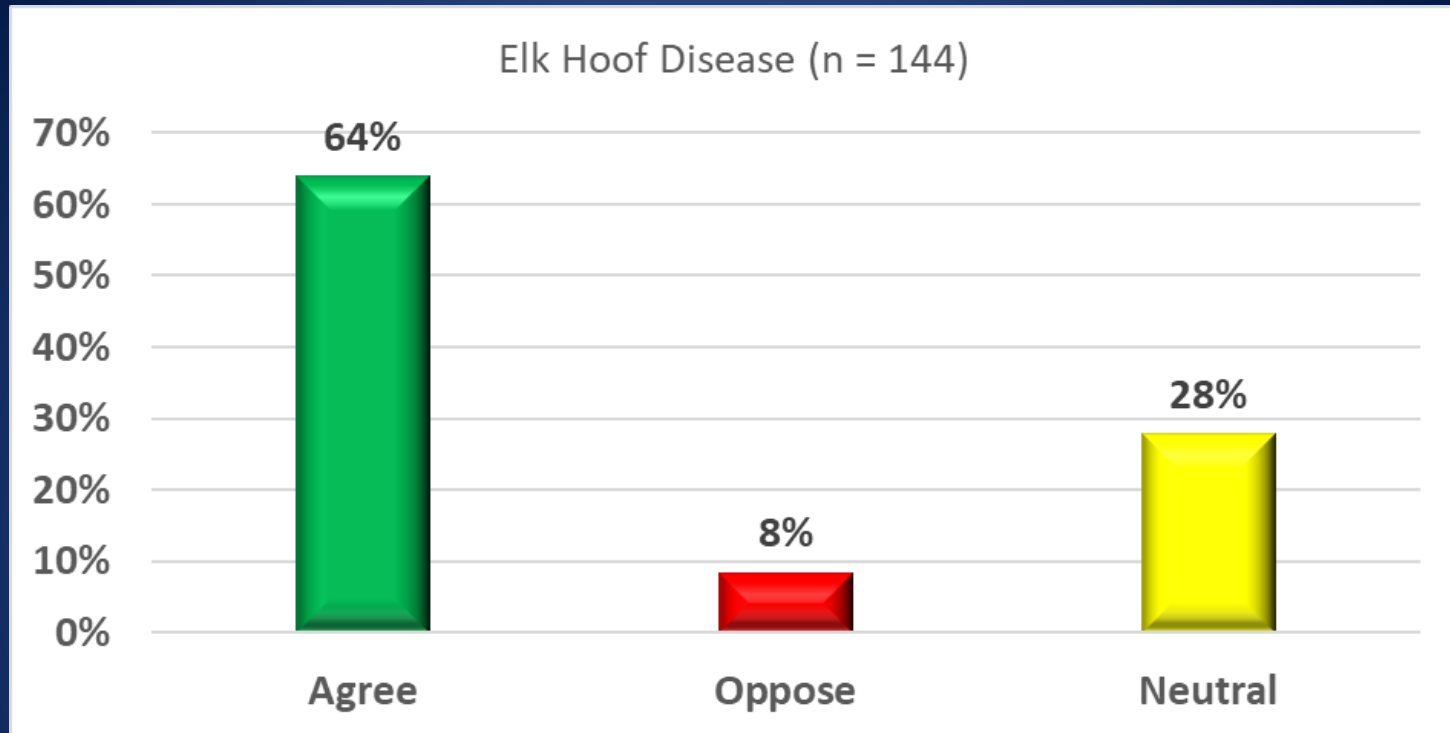
- Confirmed case
- County where elk hoof disease has not been detected
- County with confirmed case of elk hoof disease
- State where elk hoof disease has not been detected

Source

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

Questions?



Cougar Rules – Briefing and Public Comment

220-415-100 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations

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CR-1029

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 13-14, 2020

Agenda item: Cougar - **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary: Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-100 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

The proposed changes are designed to give the commission four options to choose from relating to recreational cougar harvest guidelines. The non-status quo options are intended to extend seasons in areas where harvest has been historically high and where cougar human conflict is also high. The intended result of the longer season is to shift a proportion of cougar removal, currently carried out by agency personnel, to hunters.

- The first option is status quo with one caveat, the density we used to set the guideline is the median of five research projects that were conducted in Washington. The median is a better measure because it is not affected by outliers in the data. In the past we used the mean.
- The second option also uses a median density that is calculated using only adult cougars that are 24 months or older. This option reduces the guideline slightly, but sub-adult cougars harvested under this option would not count toward the guideline for season closure.
- The third option adjusts the guideline upward for units that exceeded the guideline by December 31 at least once in the past five years. The new guideline is based on the highest harvest in the past five years. In this option there is the assumption that density is higher in these areas. In two PMUs the guidelines in this option were adjusted so they did not exceed an assumed density 4.15 cougars per 100 square kilometers. This was intended to keep the density within an acceptable range based on research conducted in the western United States. This guideline includes adults and sub-adults.
- The fourth option is like option three, but only uses a density based on adult cougars and only counts adult cougars towards the guideline.

Staff recommendation: The department intends to use this public hearing in addition to comments gathered through the rule making process to formulate a recommendation.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome: Depending on the option that the commission approves there is potential for an increase in cougar harvest that is within acceptable parameters based on the science.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department provided public input opportunity on proposed hunting seasons via the department website for a three-week time period. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 13-14, 2020 Commission meeting.

Please see page 8, public comment form.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 10-11, 2020 Commission meeting.

Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-100 Cougar hunting season

We received 733 total comments on this proposed rule change. One hundred and seventy-seven came through our online survey. Five hundred and fifty-five were emails and one letter.

Written Supporting Comments:

Fifty-two percent (89) of the online respondents indicated that they generally agreed with the proposed changes. Of those that generally agreed, thirty-four individuals provided written comment. Eighteen of those 34 indicated what option they supported: eight for option four, eight for option three, one for option two, and one for option one. Eight of the 34 people indicated that they would like to see more cougar hunting opportunity than we outlined in the proposed options. An additional eight indicated they would like to see hound hunting as a method for hunting cougar.

Of the emails received, only eight supported the proposed options. The options they supported were: five for option one, zero for option two, two for option three, and one for option four.

Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

Thirty-four percent (58) of the online respondents indicated that they generally disagreed with the proposals. Of those that generally disagreed, fifty-five provided written comment. Only two picked a preferred option. One picked option four and one option three. The rest that disagree fell into four camps. Those that wanted hound hunting as a method (9), those that wanted more cougar hunting opportunity than provided in the options (25), those that wanted no change to the regulations (16), and those that wanted no cougar hunting (3).

Fourteen percent of the online respondents took a neutral position. Of those 11 provided written comment. Six wanted more cougar hunting opportunity. Two liked option four. One liked option three. Two wanted no cougar hunting.

Five hundred and forty-seven of the emails we received were generally in opposition. Five hundred and thirty-two of those were a form letter with the following language: "As a Washington resident, I am writing to urge you to not allow the cruel and unnecessary killing of Washington's iconic native carnivores in order to boost prey populations. This proposed bill will not only hurt the carnivore population but also do little to boost prey species populations in the long term.

I urge you to please consider these comments and help protect these beautiful animals. Please do not allow any increase in Trophy hunting."

The rest of the emails (15) fell into three camps. Those that wanted no cougar hunting (5), those that wanted more cougar hunting opportunity (5) and those that wanted no change to the regulations (5).

We received one letter that did not directly relate to the cougar rule and was describing an interaction this person had with a cougar around their home.

Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:

Those that oppose the recommended changes to the rule fell into four camps:

- 1) Those that did not want any cougar hunting.

Cougar hunting like any other hunting can be controversial. Cougars are classified as a game animal in RCW 77.08.030 and as such are legal to hunt in the state. Cougars are an important species for all Washingtonians and the department manages them as such. Hunters have been integral in the recovery of many species in Washington and across the United States, including cougars. The regulations put forth in this rule are not intended to reduce cougar numbers on the landscape.

- 2) Those that wanted the rule to stay the same.

This option is certainly feasible, and the Commission could choose this option.

- 3) Those that wanted more hunting opportunity than provided in these options.

We are currently managing cougars under objectives outlined in the Statewide Game Management Plan. Any opportunity that is greater than what is proposed falls outside of this plan and would require additional public process.

- 4) Those that wanted to use hounds as a method of hunting cougars.

Hound hunting was banned by voter initiative in 1996 and unless that initiative is repealed it is not a legal method for recreational hunting, with few exceptions.

The comments that support the proposed options in the rule are summarized in this document and will be presented to the commission to consider for their decision making.



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE



WAC #220-415-100

Cougar Hunting Seasons and
Regulations

Anis Aoude

Game Division Manager
Wildlife Program

Cougar Game Mgt. Plan Objectives

- Manage for a stable cougar population in each PMU.
- Provide recreational harvest opportunity at a 12-16% annual harvest rate of the cougar population, excluding kittens in each PMU.

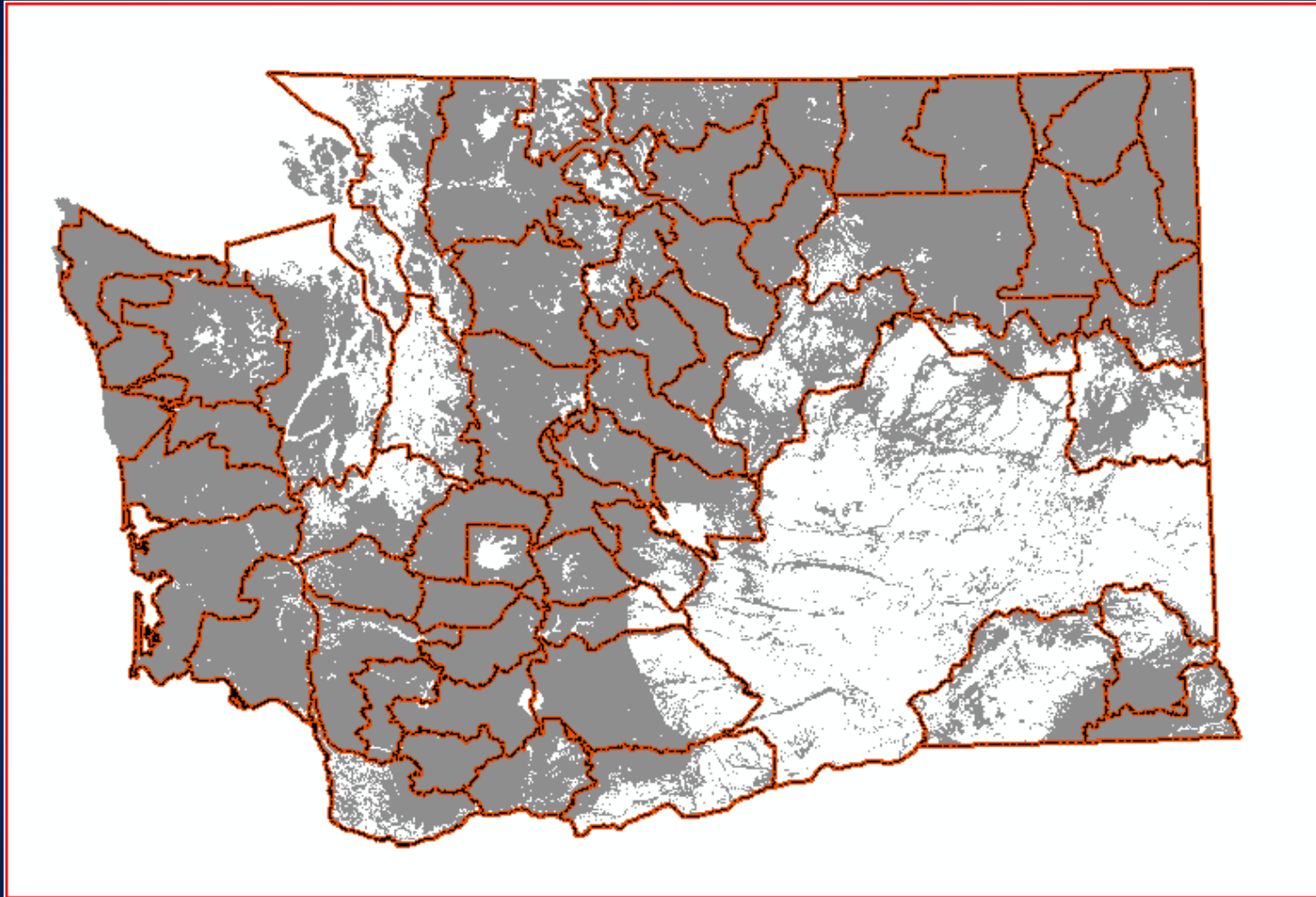


Current Season Structure

- Early season Sept 1 – Dec 31.
- Late season Jan 1 – April 30.
- Any legal weapon in both seasons.
- Each hunt area (PMU) has a harvest guideline corresponding to 12-16% of cougar population (excluding kittens).
- Starting Jan 1, the Director may close hunt areas that meet or exceed the harvest guideline.
- Only recreational harvest count towards the guidelines.

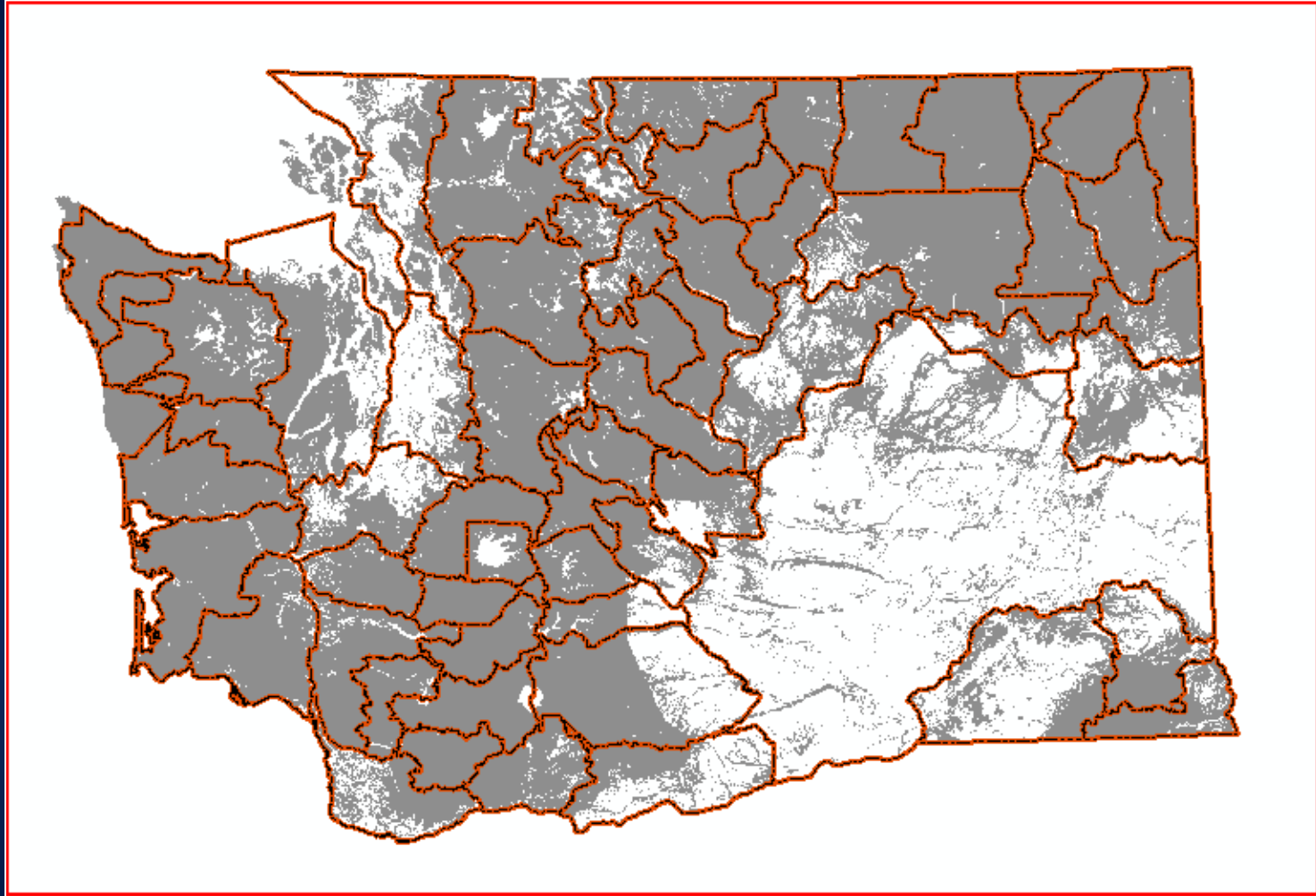
Cougar Season Structure

50 Hunt Areas or PMUs



Each PMU has a harvest guideline based on the amount of habitat

Population Estimate And Harvest Guidelines



Density X Habitat = population est.
Population X 12-16% = Guidelines

Cougar Harvest 1979-2018



Recommended options

- No change in season dates – Early general season Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, late general season Jan. 1 – April 30 for all options.
- **Option 1:** Status quo with one caveat, the density we used to set the guideline is the median of 5 research projects (2.34) that were conducted in Washington.
- The median is a better measure because it is not affected by outliers in the data.
- In the past we used the mean (2.2). Using the median adds 32 cougars to the statewide guideline.

Option 1

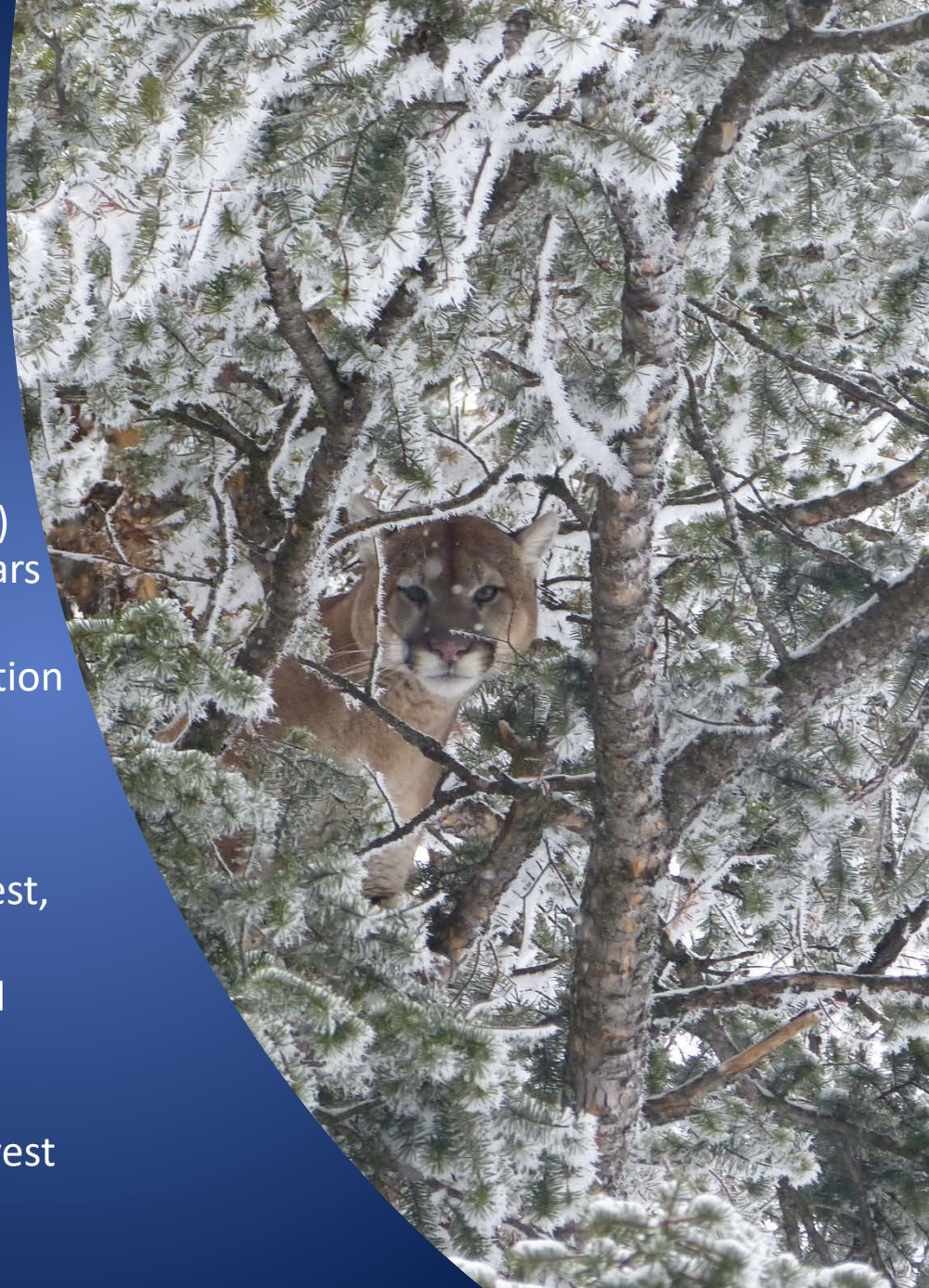
	2019 (Mean)	Option 1 Median density	Difference
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	
GMU 101	7-9	8-10	1
GMU 105	2	2-3	1
GMUs 108, 111	5-6	5-7	1
GMU 113	5-6	5-7	1
GMU 117	6-8	6-8	0
GMU 121	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-9	7-10	1
GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	4-5	4-6	1
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	3-4	0
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3	3-4	1
GMU 203	5	5-6	1
GMU 204	6-8	7-9	1
GMUs 209, 215	4	4-5	1
GMUs 218, 231	5-6	5-6	0
GMU 224	2	2-3	1
GMUs 233, 239	4	3-5	1
GMUs 242, 243	5-6	5-6	0
GMUs 244, 246, 247	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 245, 250	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 249, 251	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 328, 329, 335	6-7	6-8	1
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 382, 388	3-4	3-4	0

Option1

	2019 (Mean)	Option 1 Median density	Difference
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	
GMUs 418, 426, 437	11-15	12-16	1
GMUs 448, 450	10-13	10-13	0
GMU 460	5-6	5-7	1
GMUs 466, 485, 490	3	3	0
GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	8-10	8-11	1
GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	6-8	6-8	0
GMUs 510, 513	3-4	3-4	0
GMU 516	4	4-5	1
GMUs 522,524, 554, 556	3	3-4	1
GMU 560	5-6	5-6	0
GMU 564	1	1	0
GMU 568	2	2-3	1
GMU 572	3	3-4	1
GMUs 574, 578	4	4-5	1
GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	5-7	5-7	0
GMUs 607, 615	4	4-5	1
GMUs 618, 636, 638	4-5	4-6	1
GMUs 642, 648, 651	6-8	7-9	1
GMUs 653, 654	5	5-6	1
GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	9-12	10-13	1
GMU 667	3-4	3-4	0
Total			+32

Recommended options

- **Option 2:** Uses a median density (1.91) and is calculated using only adult cougars (24+ months).
- When compared with the 2019 this option reduces the guideline by 19.
- When compared with option 1, this option reduces the guideline by 51.
- This has the potential to increase harvest, because:
 - harvested sub-adult cougars would not count toward the guideline for season closure.
 - about 30% (73) of the current harvest consists of sub-adults .



Option 2

	Option 1 Median density	Option 2 Median density adult only	Difference
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	
GMU 101	8-10	6-8	-2
GMU 105	2-3	2	-1
GMUs 108, 111	5-7	4-6	-1
GMU 113	5-7	4-5	-2
GMU 117	6-8	5-7	-1
GMU 121	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-10	6-8	-2
GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	4-6	3-5	-1
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	3-4	0
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3-4	2-3	-1
GMU 203	5-6	4-5	-1
GMU 204	7-9	5-7	-2
GMUs 209, 215	4-5	3-4	-1
GMUs 218, 231	5-6	4-5	-1
GMU 224	2-3	2	-1
GMUs 233, 239	3-5	3-4	-1
GMUs 242, 243	5-6	4-5	-1
GMUs 244, 246, 247	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 245, 250	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 249, 251	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 328, 329, 335	6-8	5-7	-1
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 382, 388	3-4	3	-1

Option2

	Option 1 Median density	Option 2 Median density adult only	Difference
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline
GMUs 418, 426, 437	12-16	10-13	-3
GMUs 448, 450	10-13	8-11	-2
GMU 460	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 466, 485, 490	3	2-3	0
GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	8-11	6-9	-2
GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	6-8	5-7	-1
GMUs 510, 513	3-4	3	-1
GMU 516	4-5	3-4	-1
GMUs 522,524, 554, 556	3-4	3	-1
GMU 560	5-6	4-5	-1
GMU 564	1	1	0
GMU 568	2-3	2	-1
GMU 572	3-4	2-3	-1
GMUs 574, 578	4-5	3-4	-1
GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	5-7	4-6	-1
GMUs 607, 615	4-5	3-4	-1
GMUs 618, 636, 638	4-6	3-5	-1
GMUs 642, 648, 651	7-9	5-7	-2
GMUs 653, 654	5-6	4-5	-1
GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	10-13	8-11	-2
GMU 667	3-4	3-4	0
Total	293	242	-51

Recommendation

- **Option3:** Adjusts the guideline upward for 19 units that exceeded the guideline by December 31 at least once in the past 5 years.
- The new guideline is based on the highest harvest in the past 5 years.
- In this option there is the assumption that density is higher in these areas.
- In two PMUs we adjusted the guidelines so they did not exceed an assumed density 4.15 cougars per 100 square kilometers. This was done to keep the density within an acceptable range based on research conducted in the western United States.
- This guideline includes adults and sub-adults.

19 PMUs that historically closed on Jan 1

PMU	Harvest Objective	Harvest				
		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
101	7-9	10	2	8	9	13
105	2	4	2	5	2	2
108, 111	5-6	7	8	11	12	10
117	6-8	12	10	11	12	14
121	5-6	8	4	17	9	6
124, 127, 130	7-9	8	4	11	11	9
145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	7	3	6	6	7
149, 154, 157, 162, 163	4-6	4	6	12	15	18
169, 172, 181, 186	3-4	1	2	7	3	5
204	6-8	1	7	2	6	10
233, 239	3-4	1	1	6	1	4
242, 243	4-6	3	1	3	2	7
328, 329, 335	6-8	7	8	11	8	8
336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	6	8	6	12	7
352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	6	5	10	7	7
568	2	0	4	1	4	4
574, 578	3-5	4	5	3	5	7
642, 648, 651	6-8	6	3	5	10	10
667	3-4	7	3	5	3	1

Option 3

	Option 1 Median density	Option 2 Median density adult only	Option 3 Extend season	Difference from Option1
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	
GMU 101	8-10	6-8	11-13 (3.03)	3
GMU 105	2-3	2	4-5 (4.15)	2
GMUs 108, 111	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.06)	5
GMU 117	6-8	5-7	12-14 (4.0)	6
GMU 121	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.08)	5
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-10	6-8	8-11 (2.58)	1
GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	4-6	3-5	8-10 (3.99)	4
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	3-4	6-7 (3.94)	3
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3-4	2-3	6-7 (4.11)	3
GMU 204	7-9	5-7	8-10 (2.6)	1
GMUs 233, 239	3-5	3-4	4-6 (2.85)	1
GMUs 242, 243	5-6	4-5	6-7 (2.71)	1
GMUs 328, 329, 335	6-8	5-7	9-11 (3.22)	3
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.04)	5
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	4-6	8-10 (3.33)	3
GMU 568	2-3	2	3-4 (3.17)	1
GMUs 574, 578	4-5	3-4	6-7 (3.25)	2
GMUs 642, 648, 651	7-9	5-7	8-10 (2.61)	1
GMU 667	3-4	3-4	6-7 (3.91)	3
Total	293	242	346	+53

Recommendation

- **Option 4:** Like option 3, but calculates the assumed density based on adult cougars and only adult cougars count towards the guideline.



Option 4

	Option 1 Median density	Option 2 Median density adult only	Option 3 extend season	Option 4 extend season adult only	Difference from Option 2
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	Harvest Guideline	
GMU 101	8-10	6-8	11-13 (3.03)	7-11 (2.6)	3
GMU 105	2-3	2	4-5 (4.15)	4 (3.72)	2
GMUs 108, 111	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.06)	9-11 (3.63)	5
GMU 117	6-8	5-7	12-14 (4.0)	11-13 (3.57)	6
GMU 121	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.08)	9-11 (3.65)	5
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-10	6-8	8-11 (2.58)	7-9 (2.15)	1
GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	4-6	3-5	8-10 (3.99)	7-9 (3.56)	4
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4	3-4	6-7 (3.94)	6-7 (3.51)	3
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3-4	2-3	6-7 (4.11)	5-6 (3.68)	3
GMU 204	7-9	5-7	8-10 (2.6)	6-8 (2.17)	1
GMUs 233, 239	3-5	3-4	4-6 (2.85)	4-5 (2.42)	1
GMUs 242, 243	5-6	4-5	6-7 (2.71)	5-6 (2.28)	1
GMUs 328, 329, 335	6-8	5-7	9-11 (3.22)	8-10 (2.79)	3
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	4-6	10-12 (4.04)	9-11 (3.61)	5
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	4-6	8-10 (3.33)	7-9 (2.9)	3
GMU 568	2-3	2	3-4 (3.17)	3 (2.74)	1
GMUs 574, 578	4-5	3-4	6-7 (3.25)	5-6 (2.82)	2
GMUs 642, 648, 651	7-9	5-7	8-10 (2.61)	6-8 (2.18)	1
GMU 667	3-4	3-4	6-7 (3.91)	6-7 (3.48)	3
Total	293	242	346	295	+53

Option comparison

	Option 1 median density			Option 2 Median density adult only			Option 3 extend season			Option 4 extend season adult only		
Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline		Change from 2019	Harvest Guideline		Change from 2019	Harvest Guideline		Change from 2019	Harvest Guideline		Change from 2019
Total Guideline	220	293	+32	178	242	-19	273	346	+85	229	295	+34
Estimated Harvest	194	259	+15	225	306	+62	241	306	+62	289	373	+129
Statewide % harvest based on statewide median density	9.1	12.1		10.5	14.3		11.3	14.3		13.6	17.5	



Summary of comments

- We received 177 online comments
 - 52% (89) respondent generally agreed
 - 34% (58) respondents generally disagreed
 - 14% (30) respondents were neutral
- We received 555 emails and 1 letter
 - 532 were a form letter in opposition to predator hunting
 - Eight were in favor of at least one of the proposed options
 - The rest fell into 3 camps
 - No cougar hunting
 - More cougar hunting
 - No change



Summary of comments

- We received many comments about hound hunting
- Only 33 people picked an option
 - Option 1 – 21% (7)
 - Option 2 – 3% (1)
 - Option 3 – 36% (12)
 - Option 4 – 39% (13)





Questions?





Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Wildlife Commission

MEETING via CONFERENCE CALL Agenda

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 2020 – 8:30 A.M.

WHAT:

A. Petition –WAC 220-474-060 Muzzle loading firearms– Decision

Staff will brief the Commission on multiple petitions requesting a revision to WAC 220-414-060 (3b), Muzzle loading firearms, I (3b) Telescopic sights or sights containing lass are prohibited. Strike "prohibited" and [g] I am requesting the following change: replace with "legal". Or replace with "Fixed or variable scope sights are legal".

Staff Report: Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager

B. Future Meeting Planning

The Commissioners will discuss upcoming meeting agendas.

C. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director will discuss recent activities and items of interest.

***WHERE:**

This meeting will take place by telephone conference call. The public may listen to the discussion. Please contact Commission staff at (360) 902-2267 or commission@dfw.wa.gov to obtain call in information no later than 3 p.m. on March 26, 2020.

Upcoming Meetings

April 9-11, 2020– meeting (Olympia)

April 24, 2020 – conference call

MEMBERS

Larry Carpenter, Chair, Mount Vernon

(Western Washington position, Skagit County)
Occupation: Retired Business Owner
Term: 08/14/2017 - 10/31/2020

Barbara Baker, Vice-Chair, Olympia

(At-large position, Thurston County)
Occupation: Attorney/Retired Administrator
Term: 01/17/2017 - 12/31/2022

Jim Anderson, Buckley

(At-large position, Pierce County)
Occupation: Retired Administrator
Current Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

David Graybill, Leavenworth

(Eastern Washington position, Chelan County)
Occupation: Owner FishingMagician.com LLC
Term: 03/23/2015 – 12/31/2020

Robert Kehoe, Seattle

(At-large position, King County)
Occupation: Executive Director, Purse Seine
Vessel Owners' Association
Current Term: 01/01/2015 – 12/31/2020

Molly Linville, Palisades

(Eastern Washington position, Douglas County)
Occupation: Cattle Rancher/Farmer
KV Ranch
Current Term: 07/24/2019 – 12/31/2024

Donald McIsaac, Ph.D., Hockinson

(Western Washington Position, Clark County)
Occupation: Retired Executive Director of the Pacific
Fishery Management Council; Part-time Consultant
Current Term: 08/14/2017 – 12/31/22

Kim Thorburn, MD, MPH, Spokane

(Eastern Washington position, Spokane County)
Occupation: Retired Public Health Physician
Current Term: 01/23/2017 - 12/31/2022

Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham

(Western Washington position, Whatcom County)
Occupation: Dean Emeritus, Environmental Science
Western Washington University
Current Term: 01/01/2015 - 12/31/2020

COMMISSION OFFICE

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Additional meetings and/or conference calls may be scheduled as deemed necessary by the Commission. All meetings and conference calls are recorded and open to the public, except during Executive Sessions. Changes to the meeting schedule, agendas and additional materials are found on the Commission's website at:
<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/commission/meetings.html>

Year-at-a Glance

March 12-14, 2020 – Kennewick	Conference call – 3/27
<p>Game Division 2020 Season Setting– B/PH Cougar Rules – B/PH Policy C-3619 Review – Workshop Columbia River Workgroup – Schedule Spring Salmon Allocation – B/PC</p>	
April 9-10, 2020 – Olympia Conference call – 4/24	May 2020 Conference call 5/15
<p>Game Division 2020 Season Setting– D 10 min each Cougar Rules – D 10 mins Lands Transactions - D Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review (20 mins) Policy C-3620 Columbia River Review: Consider draft for public review– B/PC Policy C-3619: Hatchery Policy development guidance Puget Sound Crab – B/PC</p> <p>Executive Session 2020 legislative session de-brief (45 mins)</p> <p>Strategic Plan – Consider draft for public review B/PC Commission Workshop</p> <p>Big Tent: Conservation Policy Strategic Planning</p> <p>April 24 CC Incorporating Elements of 2SHB 1579 into the Hydraulic Code Rules – D</p>	
June 11-16, 2020 – Yakima	Conference Calls – 6/26, 7/17
<p>2021-23 operating budget proposal development SFY2021 second supplemental operating budget proposal development 2023-23 capital budget proposal development 2021 agency request legislation development Target Shooting – B/PH Policy C-3620 Changes– B/PC/D Strategic Plan – Consider adoption B/PC/D Blue Sheet: Tribal Fish Co-manager Presentation – B Hunting Contests CR102 - B/PC Eastside Solar Farms Wildlife Impact – B Michael Garrity or Mike Ritter Col R Allocation Briefing (Tweet)</p>	

Year-at-a Glance

July 30- Aug 1, 2020 – Aberdeen	Conference Call – 8/21
Commercial whale watching– B/PH 2021-23 operating budget proposal approval SFY2021 second supplemental operating budget approval 2023-23 capital budget proposal approval 2021 agency request legislation approval Review Status of Commercial Guide Logbook Requirements – B Target Shooting – D Willapa Bay Policy: Policy C3618 Comprehensive Review B/PC Policy C-3619: Consider draft for public review B/PC Executive Session Grazing Program Policy and WACs – B/PH	
September 10-12, 2020 – Olympia	Conference call – 10/2
Skagit Elk – B Commission Conservation Policy - B Grazing Program Policy and WACs – D	
October 22-24, 2020 – Colville	Conference Call – 11/20
(No rulemaking scheduled) Policy C-3619 Changes – B/PC/D Blue Sheet: Tribal Fish Co-manager Presentation – B	
December 3-5, 2020 – Everett	Conference call – 12/18
Hunting Contests CR102- B/PC/D Big Tent- Final Conservation Policy Commercial whale watching– D	

Willapa Blue Sheet?