

WAC 220-412-110 Hunting Contests

WAC 220-413-060 Hunting Restrictions

Hunting Contests



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Background

- RCW 77.32.525: The Director shall administer rules adopted by the commission which govern the time, place and manner of holding hunting and fishing contests....
- RCW 77.32.540: A person shall not promote, conduct, hold, or sponsor a contest for the hunting or fishing of wildlife or a competitive field trial involving live wildlife for hunting dogs without first obtaining a hunting or fishing contest permit. Contests and field trials shall be held in accordance with established rules.

Background

- The Commission asked the Department to modify rules related to hunting contests to achieve two main goals:
 - Make sure that illegal contests are not occurring.
 - Discontinue issuing permits for contests that can target large numbers of animals with emphasis on furbearing mammals.

Current Process

- WAC 220-412-110: A person wishing to hold a hunting contest must comply with the following provisions:
 - Only organizations filed with the state of Washington as a nonprofit corporation may apply for a hunting contest permit.
 - Hunting contest permit applications shall be submitted to the department 30 days prior to the date for which the contest is proposed.
 - Applications must include the permit fee required by RCW 77.32.211. The fee will be returned if the permit is denied.
 - Contests are restricted to the species approved on the permit.
 - Total value of prizes per contest shall not exceed \$2000.
 - Entry fees or requests for donations are prohibited.
 - It is unlawful to fail to comply with the conditions of a hunting contest permit.
 - Hunting contests which may adversely affect wildlife resources will be denied.

Recommended Rule Changes

- WAC 220-412-110: We added the following language to in this WAC, **Contests involving unclassified and classified wildlife species without a bag limit are prohibited and will not be permitted.**
 - This language will not allow the permitting of contests that promote taking as many animals as possible since the species allowed have bag limits that must be adhered to by rule.

Recommended Rule Changes

- WAC 220-413-060: We added the following language to this WAC, **It is unlawful to participate in a hunting contest for which no permit has been issued by the department. A violation of this subsection is punishable as an infraction under RCW 77.15.160(6)(b).**
 - This language makes it clear that that a permit is required and makes it an infraction to operate a contest without a permit.

Public Comment WAC 220-412-110

- More than 2,000 comments
 - Sixty percent of the non-neutral online respondents supported the proposed rule change.
 - Sixty-nine percent of email respondents supported the recommended rule changes.
 - Forty percent of the non-neutral online respondent opposed the proposed rule change.
 - Thirty-one percent of email respondents opposed the recommended rule change.
 - Three percent were neutral .

Comment Themes

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- Coyotes play an important ecological role in healthy ecosystems.
- Opposed to hunting contests (should be banned entirely).
- Opposed to contests except to control invasive species.
- Opposed to hunting in general.
- Reduce or eliminate prizes.
- Make it clear that this does not ban hunting dog field trials or training.
- Numerically based contests are needed to control coyote numbers.
- Contest can help reduce predator populations to help ungulates.
- Contests can be an economic boost for small communities.
- Too many regulations.

Public Comment WAC 220-413-060

- More than 2,000 comments
 - Seventy-six percent non-neutral online respondents supported the proposed rule change.
 - Twenty-four percent non-neutral online respondent opposed the proposed rule change.
 - Five percent were neutral.
 - Penalty should be more than an infraction.

Questions?