

Special Hunting Season Permit Points Hunters With Disabilities

Issue: Per a memo to the Commission from the ADA Advisory Committee, there has been a request to re-visit a decision made in 2010 regarding how special permit “points” were allocated and are subsequently being used in current permit drawings.

Summary of Current State

- In 2010, and on a one-time basis, hunter’s points (collected through applying for deer and elk special permits and not being selected) were distributed to all new hunt categories (e.g., quality elk, bull elk, antlerless elk, elk hunters with disabilities, elk hunters 65 and over, master hunter elk hunts, and youth elk hunts).
- Points were distributed even if hunters didn’t qualify for the category at the time (e.g., not disabled, under 65, nor a Master Hunter).
- The number of points was equal to the number of points they had in the “species” category they had at the end of 2009 (e.g., elk).
- This was done primarily for two reasons:
 - It eliminated the need to contact over 150,000 hunters to determine which new category they wanted to transfer their existing points to.
 - It streamlined the programming required to move to the new licensing system.
- The decision was made through a public process and Commission rule in 2010 (see WAC 220-412-080 (4)(d)(iii): <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=220-412-080>). (highlighted below)
- Points have been retained in the system since 2010 and are available to hunters if they qualify to use them (e.g., turn 65, become disabled, become Master Hunters).
- Points could range from 1 up to 13 because we started the points system in 1996 and changed systems in 2010.
- Hunters do not "roll over" their current points from their "quality bull" (or whatever bucket) into the disabled hunter category/bucket (e.g., a hunter has 20 points today and becomes eligible to apply for disabled hunter hunts next year, their 20 points do not roll over to the disabled hunter category).

Questions for Discussion

- Should the Commission consider removing points from hunters’ profiles for the Hunters with Disabilities category?
- Should the Commission consider removing points in other categories (e.g., Over 65, Master Hunter)?
- What mechanism would be appropriate should the Commission decide to make a change?
 - A rule change would be required
 - A risk analysis would be appropriate as hunters may believe they have a vested right in those points because of the existing rule.

WAC 220-412-080

Special hunting season permits.

The commission may establish special hunting seasons and may set the conditions for each category and hunt.

(1) Deer, elk, cougar, or black bear special hunting season permit applications:

(a) To apply for special hunting season permits for all categories of deer, elk, cougar, or black bear, applicants must have a valid Washington big game hunting license and a valid transport tag for the appropriate species. To apply for a particular hunt, each applicant for deer or elk must have the proper transport tag as identified in the special deer or elk permit regulations.

(b) Multiple season deer and elk permit applications may be purchased without additional licenses or tags. Persons who are successfully drawn must purchase a multiple season permit for deer or elk and may also apply for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm special hunting season permits for the species drawn.

(2) Mountain goat, moose, and bighorn sheep special hunting season permit applications:

(a) Persons who have previously harvested a mountain goat, bighorn sheep ram, an antlered bull moose taken under an "any antlered bull moose" permit, or any moose (whether antlered or not) taken under an "any moose" permit in Washington are ineligible for a special hunting season permit for that category. This lifetime harvest restriction does not apply to individuals who harvested a mountain goat before 1999, raffle or auction hunt authorizations, ewe-only bighorn sheep hunts, or antlerless-only moose hunts.

(b) Applicants for all mountain goat, moose, and/or bighorn sheep special hunting season permits must have either successfully completed hunter education prior to submitting an application, or have a birth date prior to January 1, 1972.

(c) Successful applicants under this section must purchase the appropriate hunting license by the deadline established by the department (a minimum of 15 days). Failure to purchase forfeits the permit to an alternate applicant.

(3) Wild turkey special hunting season permit applications:

(a) To apply for wild turkey special hunting season permits, each applicant must have a valid small game hunting license.

(b) Fall wild turkey special hunting season permit holders must have a valid turkey transport tag in possession to hunt turkeys in fall special hunting seasons.

(4) Special hunting season permit applications:

(a) Maximum group sizes are determined for each category. If a group application is drawn, all hunters in the group will receive a special hunting season permit and each hunter in the group can take an animal. If the number of permits available in a hunt category is less than the maximum group size, then the maximum group size is equal to the number of permits.

(i) Maximum group size for deer categories is 8.

(ii) Maximum group size for elk categories is 8.

(iii) Maximum group size for bear categories is 2.

(iv) Maximum group size for cougar categories is 2.

(v) Maximum group size for mountain goat categories is 2.

(vi) Maximum group size for bighorn sheep categories is 2.

(vii) Maximum group size for fall turkey categories is 4.

(viii) Maximum group size for moose categories is 2.

(ix) Maximum group size for multiple season deer is 2.

(x) Maximum group size for multiple season elk is 2.

(b) An applicant may purchase only one application for a special hunting season permit for each category.

(c) Permit applications will allow four choices for all categories except the quality category for deer and elk will allow two choices.

(d) Permits will be drawn by computer selection using a weighted point selection system.

(i) Applicants will receive one point for each application category purchased.

(ii) Once drawn for a permit, the applicant's points will be reduced to zero in that category.

Applicants who are drawn for a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator and not given a chance to participate shall get their points restored. Those that decline to participate for any reason are not eligible for point restoration.

(iii) An applicant's accumulated point totals, immediately prior to sales of the 2010 permit applications, will be replicated across all categories for that species. The point replication will only occur in 2010, during the transition from single species categories to multiple categories of the same species. Applicants for any new category added in the future will begin with the point awarded at the time of the initial application purchase.

(iv) Applicants for the "any antlered bull moose" category (established in 2018) will be credited with any points previously accumulated under the "any moose" category.

(e) Incomplete, ineligible, or inaccurate applications will not be accepted or entered into the drawing.

(f) Permits will be voided if the applicant is found to be ineligible or to have provided an application based on inaccurate information.

(g) The purchase of an application will result in one accrued point for the category purchased.

(h) If an applicant makes a mistake, applies for the wrong hunt, and is successfully drawn, the special hunting season permit can be returned to the department of fish and wildlife Olympia headquarters before the opening day of the special hunting season. The applicant's points will be restored to the level prior to the permit drawing.

(i) Anyone may apply for a special hunting season permit for deer, elk, bear, cougar, and wild turkey.

(5) In addition to requirements for special hunting season permit applications, following are application requirements for:

(a) Special hunting seasons for persons of disability: Only applicants with a Washington disabled hunter permit are eligible to apply for any special hunting season permits for persons of disability.

(b) Special hunting seasons for youth: Only persons who are eligible to lawfully purchase a youth special hunt application are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for youth.

(c) Special hunting seasons for hunters age 65 and older: Only applicants sixty-five years of age or older on or before March 31 of the current license year will be eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for hunters age 65 and older.

(d) Special hunting seasons for master hunter program graduates: Only persons who hold a valid certificate from the Washington department of fish and wildlife's master hunter program are eligible to apply for special hunting season permits for master hunters.

(6) Citizen reward for reporting violations - Bonus points: A person who provides information which contributes substantially to the arrest of another person for illegally hunting or killing big game or an endangered species as defined by Title 77 RCW is eligible to receive ten bonus points toward the special hunting permit drawing for one application category of deer or elk special hunting season permits.

(a) Only ten bonus points can be awarded for providing information for each person charged regardless of the number of violations involved.

(b) Selection of bonus points is in lieu of application for a cash award.