

Small Game, Furbearer, and Trapping

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- WAC 220-400-020 Classification of wild animals.
- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife - Evidence of sex – Definitions.
- WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting—
Firearms.
- WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-417-010 Trapping seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.



WAC 220-400-020

Classification of wild animals



WAC 220-400-020

Classification of wild animals

Purpose of the rule is to identify which animals are considered "game animals" and which are considered "furbearer animals"

- Game animals are hunted, Furbearer animals may be trapped
 - 19 classified as game and 11 classified as furbearer
 - Three species are found on both lists (raccoon, fox, and bobcat)
- Several small game animals are classified as game animals but not classified as furbearers.



Proposal

- Add the game species (listed below) to the “furbearer” classification:
 - Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)
 - Nuttall’s cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*)
 - Snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*)
- The species were selected based upon one or more of the following:
 - Currently a “game species” and hunted
 - Multi-value use (meat and hides)
 - Value to the recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts



Public Comment

Comments Received

- Through online survey – 1606
 - Agree 1,100 (68%)
 - Disagree 104 (6%)
 - Neutral 374 (23%)



Public Comment

- Comments received by those that support
 - Support, make sense, support and no further questions
 - Agree with potential to recruit youth
 - Desire expressed expand to other species and expand approved methods
- Concerns expressed by those opposed
 - Not necessary, will not affect recruitment, retention or reactivation/ will cause increased fees
 - Reduce/eliminate hunting and trapping
 - Oppose for snowshoe hare based on climate issues
 - Rabbit population status and value in the ecosystem for food sources to other animals



WAC 220-413-090

**Field Identification of Wildlife-
Evidence of sex - Definitions**



WAC 220-413-090

Field Identification of Wildlife – Evidence of sex- Definitions

- Purpose of the rule is to ensure that harvested game animals retain natural evidence of sex before processing or stored for consumption
 - Population management relies heavily on sex and age classes of species
 - Many harvest regulations and seasons are based on sex of the animal



Proposal

- Section (1) revise as follows:

(1) It is unlawful to possess or transport game birds ~~((unless))~~ without a feathered wing or head ~~((is left))~~ attached to each carcass ~~((, except Canada and cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 - Coast and Inland where the fully feathered head must be left attached for subspecies determination, and falconry-caught birds,))~~ until the carcass is processed and/or stored for consumption, except:



Proposal

- Section (1) revise as follows:
 - (1) It is unlawful to possess or transport game birds without a feathered wing or head attached to each carcass until the carcass is processed and/or stored for consumption, except:
 - (a) Falconry-caught birds; which do not require evidence of sex,
 - (b) Canada and cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 - Coast and Inland: Where the fully feathered head must be left attached for subspecies determination,
 - (c) Turkeys: Where the fully feathered head and or the beard, if present at harvest, must be left attached.



Proposal

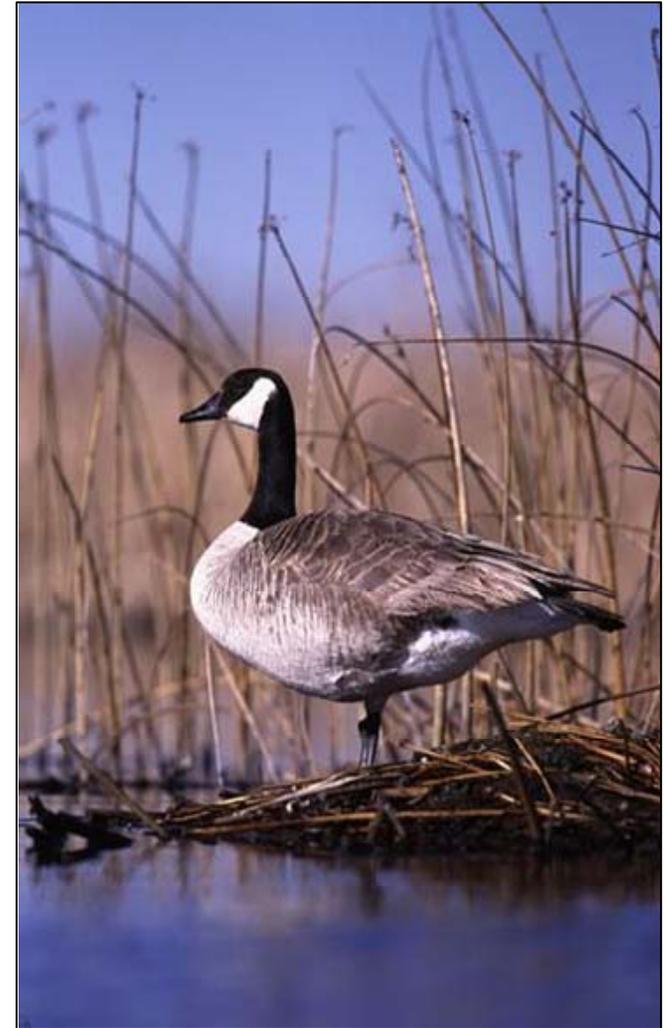
- Subsection (6) revise as follows:
(6) Failure to comply with ~~((a) through (c) of)~~ this ~~((subsection))~~ section constitutes unlawful possession of ~~((big))~~ game animals and is punishable under RCW 77.15.410.



Public Comment

Comments Received:

- Through online survey – 1562
 - Agree 985 (63%)
 - Disagree 173 (11%)
 - Neutral 404 (26%)



Public Comment

- Comments received by those that support
 - Support, language is more clear
 - Make sense
- Concerns expressed by those opposed
 - Inconvenient/Difficult to leave beard on turkeys skinned in field suggest hunter have beard in possession until processing or storing
 - Unsanitary to leave wing and or head on carcass of birds/concerns for disease with respect to deer
 - Suggest using photos as evidence
 - Still confusing



WAC 220-414-020

**Unlawful methods for hunting -
Firearms**



WAC 220-414-020

Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms

Purpose of rule:

– To identify unlawful methods of hunting big game animals

- Provide guidance to hunters regarding weapons deemed illegal for hunting big game.
- Methods are ever-changing and evolving, therefore revisions are necessary



Proposal

- Revise Section (1), subsection (d) as follows:
(d) A shotgun, provided that it is a 20 gauge, or larger shotgun, using shells loaded with slugs or buckshot size #1 or larger, may be used to hunt deer, bear, and cougar.



Proposal

- Revise Section (3) as follows:

(3) It is unlawful to hunt game birds or game animals(~~(, except bullfrogs,)~~) in a manner other than with a firearm, a bow and arrow, a crossbow, or by falconry, with the following exceptions:

(a) Bullfrogs may be hunted only by methods listed in WAC 220-416-120.

(b) Dusky grouse, sooty grouse, spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, and cottontail rabbit may be hunted with an air rifle no smaller than .22 caliber and no larger than .25 caliber.



Proposal

- Revise Section (5) as follows:

(5) It is unlawful to hunt game birds with a rifle or handgun, with the exception of (~~blue grouse, spruce grouse and ruffed grouse~~):

(a) Dusky grouse, sooty grouse, spruce grouse and ruffed grouse.



Proposal

- Revise Section (5) by incorporating Section (6) and adding text as follows:

(b) Turkey, which it is unlawful to hunt with a weapon other than (~~shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot, bow and arrow, crossbow,~~) the following:

- (i) Crossbow or bow and arrow;
- (ii) Shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot, or muzzleloading shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot;



Proposal

- Revise Section (5) Continued:

(b) Turkey, which it is unlawful to hunt with a weapon other than (~~shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot, bow and arrow, crossbow,~~) the following:

(iii) Legal modern or muzzleloading handgun designed for hunting, shooting #4 or smaller shot, and not capable of holding more than three shells. Handgun barrel length must be a minimum of ten inches (inclusive of choke tube for modern handguns). Modern handguns must shoot a minimum three inch shotshell of .410 caliber or larger. Muzzleloading handguns must be .45 caliber or larger;

(iv) Rimfire rifle as authorized during the designated fall rifle season. It is unlawful to hunt turkey with a rifle during the spring season.



Public Comment

Comments Received:

- Through online survey – 1,531
 - Agree 1,158 (76%)
 - Disagree 184 (12%)
 - Neutral 189 (12%)
- Letters/emails and correspondence
 - Concern over authorizing rimfire weapons for turkeys



Public Comment

- Comments received by those that support
 - Support for rimfire rifles
 - Support for rimfire with location restrictions (turkey population, time period outside of bow and other smaller weapons)
- Concerns expressed by those opposed
 - No rimfire rifles; longer distances; wounding loss, ethics
 - Add maximum barrel length and no magnified optics if allowing rimfire
 - Safety for other hunters



WAC 220-416-010

**2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-
2021 Small game and other
wildlife seasons and regulations**



WAC 220-416-010

Small game and other wildlife hunting seasons and regulations

Purpose

- Establishes hunting seasons and regulations for small game, furbearers and upland bird seasons
- Provide guidance to hunters regarding season dates, bag and daily harvest limits, and locations for special hunts



Proposal

- Revise the introductory statement to the follow:

~~((2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021))~~ **2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.** A valid small game license is required to hunt all species listed below, except forest grouse, coyote, and crow may be hunted with a valid big game or small game license. Hunters must comply with ~~((the bag, possession, and season limits described~~ in)) official established hunting hours for each species and the provisions of this section. Failure to ~~((do~~ so)) comply with this section constitutes a violation of RCW 77.15.245, 77.15.400, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted and the circumstances of the violation.



Proposal

- Convert the list of species and their associated regulations into a table for each species or group of species.
 - Creating tables resulted in re-numbering throughout the WAC.
- Adjust season dates to align with the appropriate years
 - 2022-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024



Proposal

- Delay the opening of grouse season by 2 weeks
 - September 15 opening day versus September 1
- Identify dusky and sooty grouse in place of “blue grouse”
- Add clarifying language that falconers must have a valid falconers permit and a valid hunting license for the species being hunted



Proposal

- Add an area for bird dog training in Region 2
 - Martha Lakes Access Area - approximately 170 acres
- Revise Fall Turkey Season, the new Section (8) and new subsection (b) to the following:
 - (b) HUNTING METHOD RESTRICTION: It is unlawful to hunt turkeys with rifles during the fall season EXCEPT rimfire rifles may be used from October 15 – November 15.



Proposal

- Revise season dates for Yakima and Colville Reservations to the current 3-year cycle



Public Comment

Comments Received:

- Through online survey – 1,553
 - Agree 976 (63%)
 - Disagree 161 (10%)
 - Neutral 416 (27%)



Public Comment

Comments received by those that support

- Support expanded youth opportunity
- Support for expanded turkey limits
- Support use of tables

Concerns expressed by those opposed

- Disagree with grouse opener on September 15
- Requested longer seasons for various game birds (particularly pheasant and quail)
- Various suggestions on bag limits and possession for bobcat, fox, and turkey

Other

- Many respondents had mixed support/concerns



WAC 220-417-010

Trapping seasons and regulations



WAC 220-417-010

Trapping seasons and Regulations

Purpose

- Identify the trapping season, species, and participation requirements
- Provides clear guidance on furbearer species legal to trap, when the season is open and the licensing requirements



Proposal

- Revise the marten season in Section (1)
 - Close marten trapping in Clallam, Jefferson, Mason, and Gray's Harbor counties.
- Based on recent discovery of the Pacific Marten on the Olympia Peninsula and similarity of appearance with the resident American Marten.
 - The Pacific Marten -is a remnant population; thought to no longer exist on the Peninsula.
 - Last record of marten harvested in the area was 1994.



Proposal

- Add season requirements in Section (1) for the following species
 - Eastern cottontail, Nuttall's cottontail, and snowshoe hare
 - Season dates: November 1- March 31
 - Daily bag limit: Five mixed bag. Possession limit: 15 mixed bag.



Proposal

- Revise Section (2) Participant Requirements to include the license requirement as written below

(a) A valid Washington state trapper's license is required.

(b) To be issued your first Washington state trapping license an individual must pass the Washington state trapper education exam.

~~((b))~~ (c) Licensed trappers must comply with reporting requirements in WAC 220-417-020.



Public Comment

Comments Received

- Through online survey – 1,501
 - Agree 676 (45%)
 - Disagree 140 (9%)
 - Neutral 685 (46%)
- Letters/email correspondences
 - Requesting closure of beaver trapping on public land



Public Comment

Comments received by those that support

- General support
- Expand trapping methods – leg hold and snare traps
- Create a Master Trapper program

Concerns expressed by those opposed

- Eliminate trapping
- Restrict trapping beaver on public land
- Disagree with Marten closures



WAC 220-417-030

Wild animal trapping



WAC 220-417-030

Wild animal trapping

Purpose

- Defines the purpose of the trapping season and its limitations for use of animals captured
 - Provides guidance on releasing non-target animals, disposition of target animals, and restrictions on holding live animals
 - Further identifies trap restrictions, checking requirements, use of baits



Proposal

- Add text to Section (1) as follows:
 - Eastern cottontail, Nuttall's cottontail, and snowshoe hare may be harvested for consumption.



Public Comment

Comments Received

- Through online survey – 1,498
 - Agree 816 (54%)
 - Disagree 87 (6%)
 - Neutral 595 (40%)



Photo credit: Diane Tilton



Public Comment

Comments received by those that support

- Expand trapping methods (foot holds and snares)

Concerns expressed by those opposed

- Eliminate trapping
- Create a bag limit on bobcat



Questions

