2022 Spring Black Bear Special Permits Decision

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Introduction

- Brief background
- Proposed rule changes
- Public comment
- Recommendation

WDFW Archives

Background

Background

- ❑ Mandate (RCW 77.04.012)
- ❑ Game Management Plan (2015-2021)

Background

Intent: Provide limited recreational opportunity while addressing local bear management issues

Proposed Rule Changes
WAC 220-415-080
Spring black bear Special Permits

Spring black bear special permits

If the motion is to adopt:

- **Changes:** Adjust the season dates to reflect the 2022 season
- **Changes:** Reduce the permit numbers in Hunt Unit 684 (Long Beach) from 10 to 6 permits
- **Changes:** Modify language associated with the harvest inspection

Public Comment

Public Comment

Over 5,000 comments received

- Online survey
- Letters (electronic)
- Email
- Voice message
- FWC briefing

Public Comment

Common Themes

- Oppose bear hunting or spring bear hunting
- Oppose hunting in general
- Possible cub orphaning and mortality
- No evidence the hunts have desired effects
- Bear hunting seasons too long
- Lack of or misleading information

Public Comment

Common Themes

- Would like to have a general spring bear season
- Support recreational hunt for mitigating impacts
- Hunting is wildlife conservation and part of the model
- Would like more opportunities (permits)
- Would like more hunt areas
- Provides economic revenue to local communities

Public Comment

- We received letters electronically from individuals, organizations, or groups of individuals.
- Comments were similar in content to the previously mentioned comments.

Public Comment

- Additional comments included:
  - Intent of RCW 77.04.012
  - Bears are property of all residents
  - Low reproductive cycle of bears
  - Ability to identify male vs female or cubs
  - Environmental condition impacts
  - Lack of hunter compliance with reporting
  - Misuse of the Game Management Plan

Recommendation

Recommendation: WAC 220-415-080 2022 Spring black bear special permits

- Request a Motion:
  - To move to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented.