

Deer General Seasons and Special Permits - Decision

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WACs:

- 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.

Deer General Seasons – WAC 220-415-020

Proposed Changes

1. Adjust 2022 black-tailed deer early archery dates
2. Adjust 2022 and 2023 mule deer late archery dates
3. Re-order the list of GMUs for western Washington black-tailed deer early muzzleloader season



Public comment

Common themes:

- General support for proposed changes
- General disagreement with proposed changes
- Desire for enlarged hunt areas
- Concern over lost opportunity
- Support for antler point restrictions
- Lack of support for antler point restrictions
- Request to harvest more antlerless deer
- Concern about harvesting antlerless deer
- Concern over tribal hunting
- Desire to eliminate late season hunting
- Desire for species-specific deer tags
- Desire for longer seasons
- Desire for early or late seasons in specific areas
- Desire for no early, or no late seasons in specific areas
- Concern over late season hunting
- Desire for general season areas to be special permit only
- Concern over predation impacts to ungulate populations

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes



Deer Special Permits – WAC 220-415-030

Proposed Changes

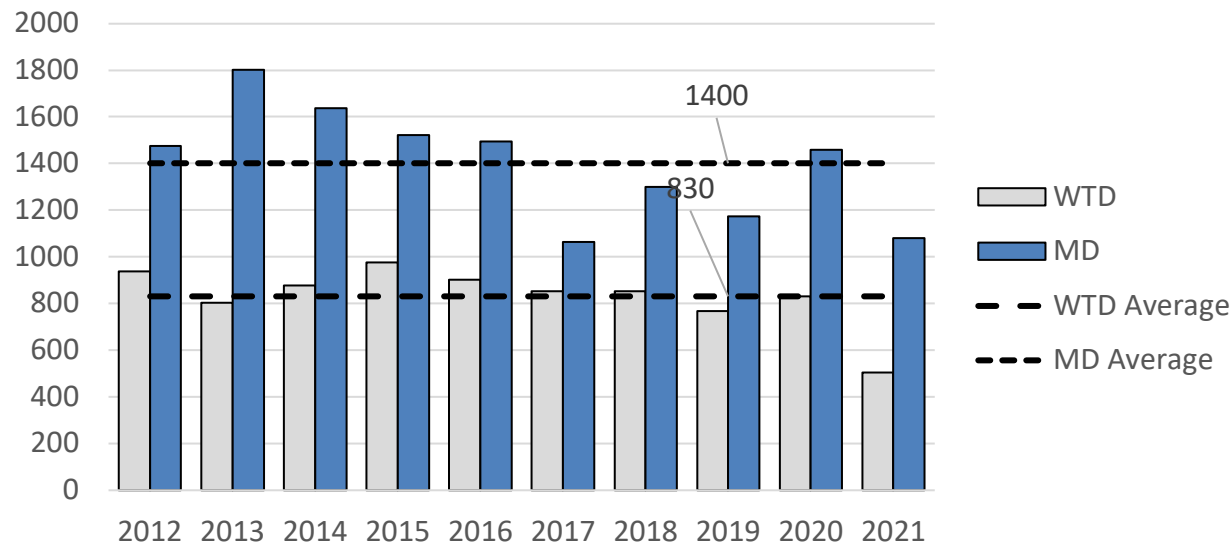
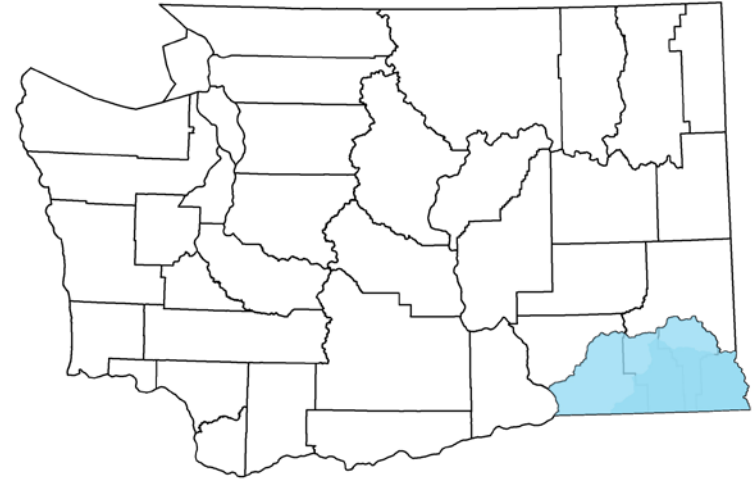
1. Adjust hunt dates to align with calendar year
2. Adjust permit levels to balance opportunity with population characteristics (e.g., abundance)
 - Most proposed changes were motivated by impacts of hemorrhagic disease outbreaks
 - Permit changes were broken down by management zone in the March briefing
3. Move the Skokomish “Quality” permit (GMU 636) to the “Buck” category
4. Recommended adjustments
 - Adjustment of “Green River” special permit hunts
 - Adjustment of Region 2 Master Hunter deer hunts to reflect 2022 license year
 - Some special permits in the “Buck” and “Quality” categories are set by an allocation formula that relies on updated harvest statistics (12 affected hunts)
 - Remove the Kitsap (GMU 627) antlerless muzzleloader permit



Blue Mtns Zones – White-tailed and mule deer

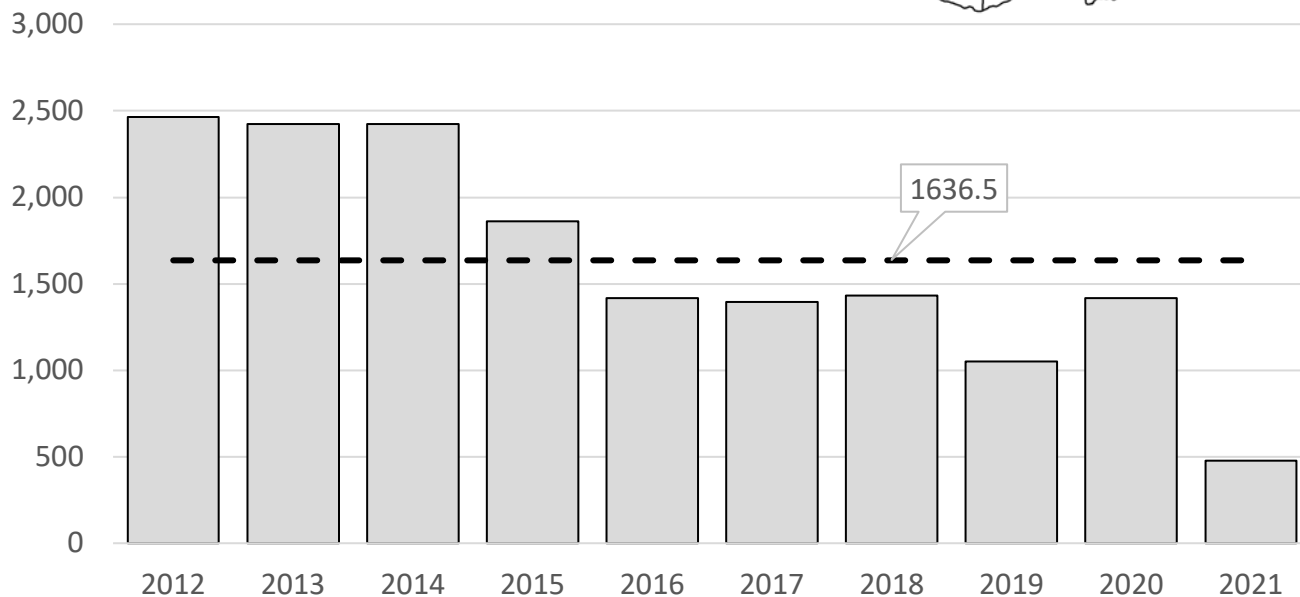
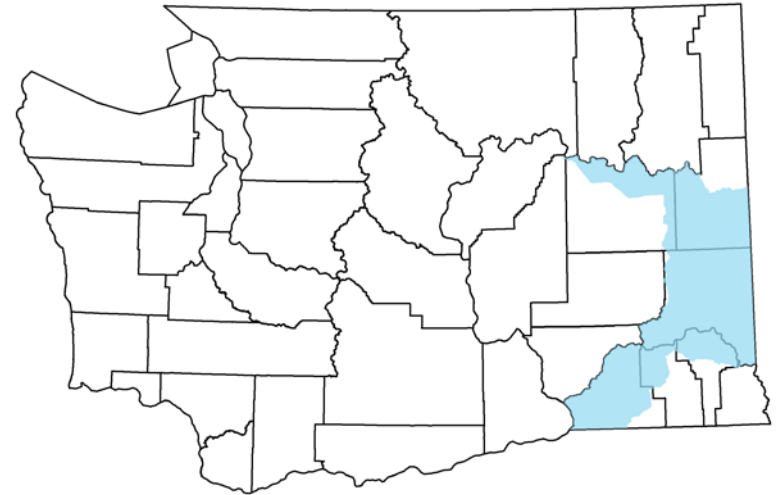
Special permit recommendations

Permit reductions, focused on
antlerless deer



Palouse Zone – White-tailed deer

Special permit recommendations
Reductions of antlerless and buck permits

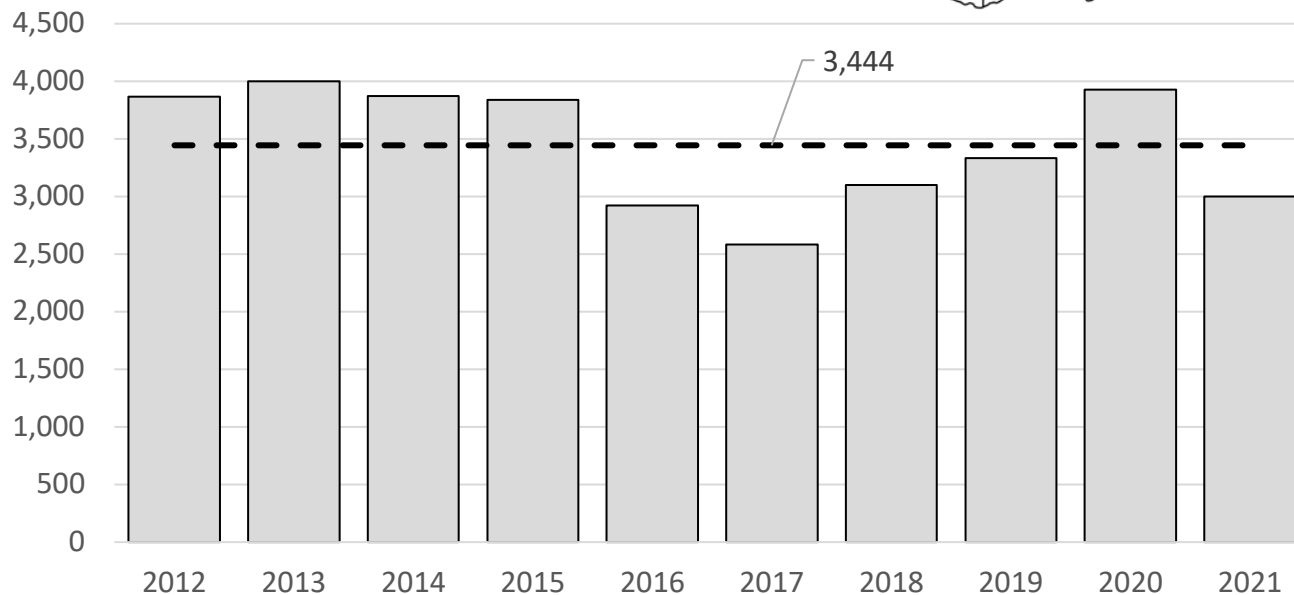
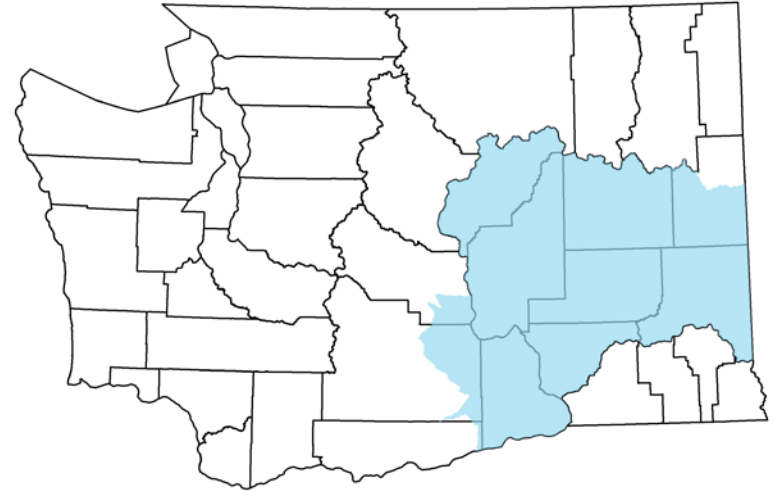


Columbia Plateau Zone – Mule deer

Special permit recommendations

Permit reductions, focused on antlerless deer

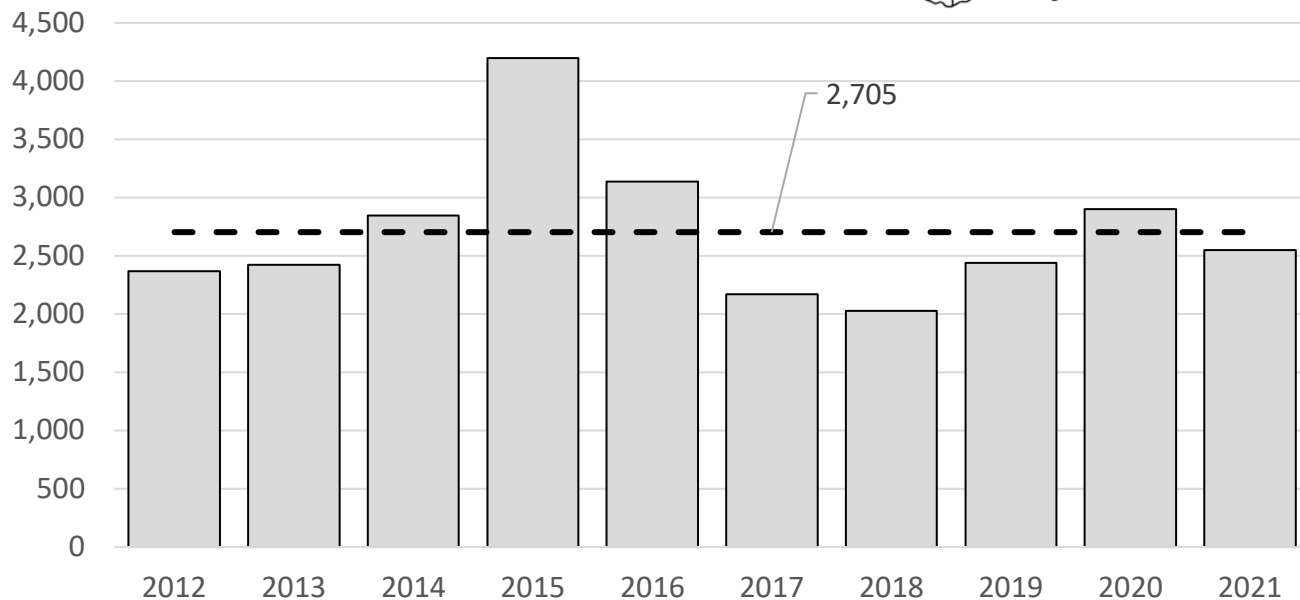
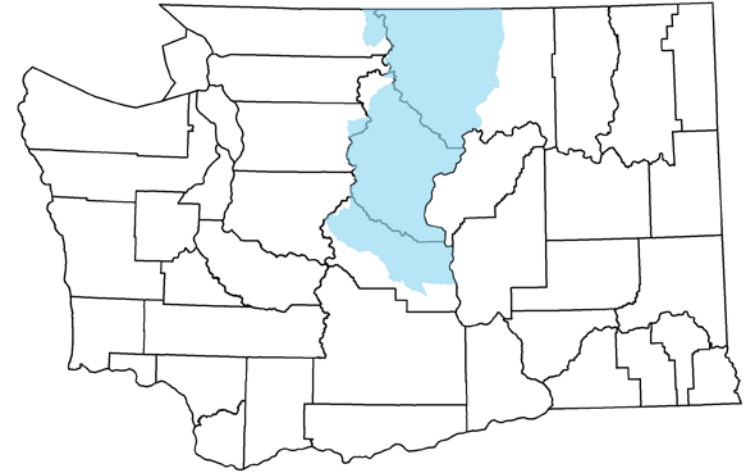
Limited permit increases where disease had no impact



E. Slope Cascades Zone – Mule deer

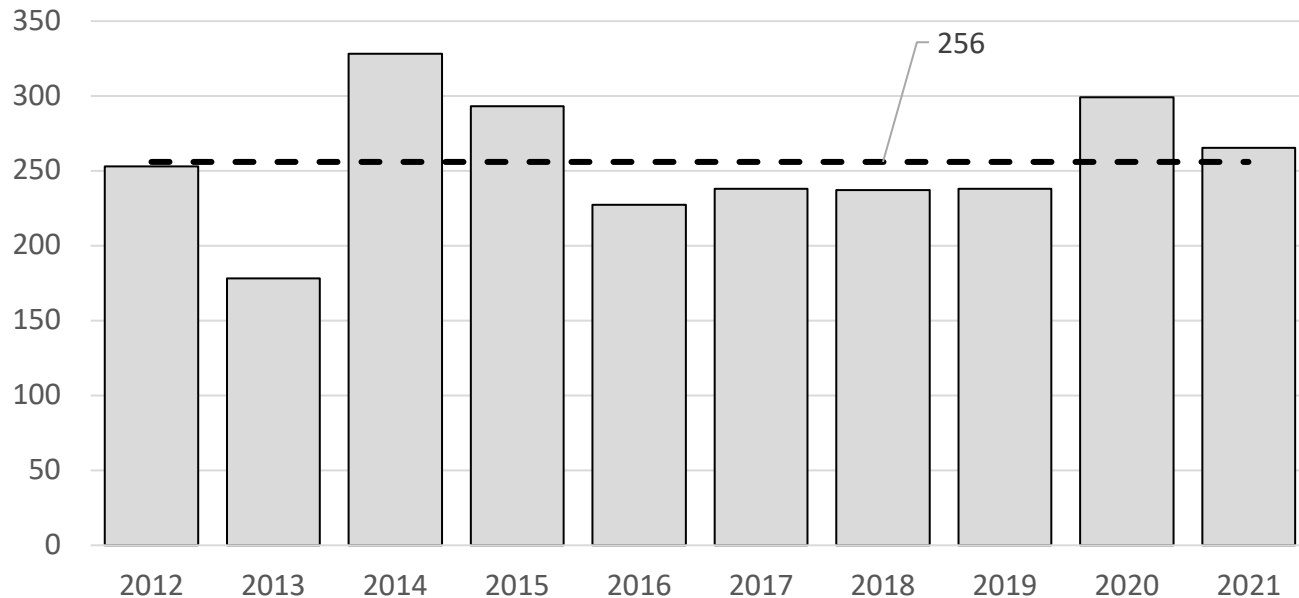
Special permit recommendations

Permit reductions, focused on antlerless deer



White-tailed deer – N. Cascade Mtns Zone

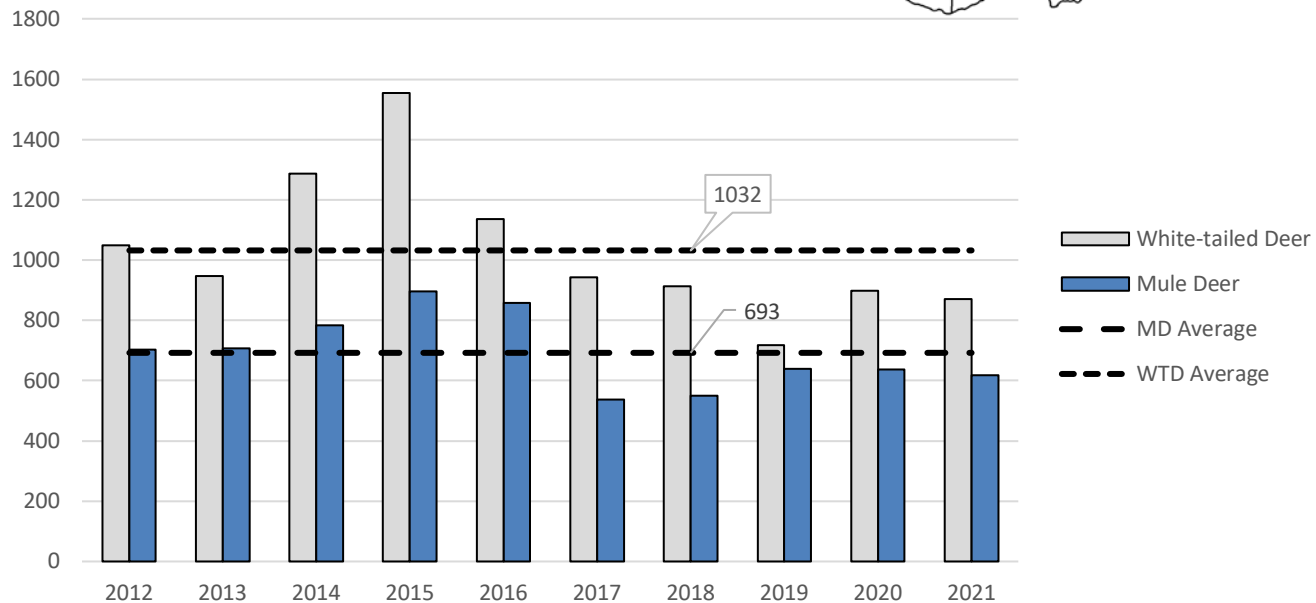
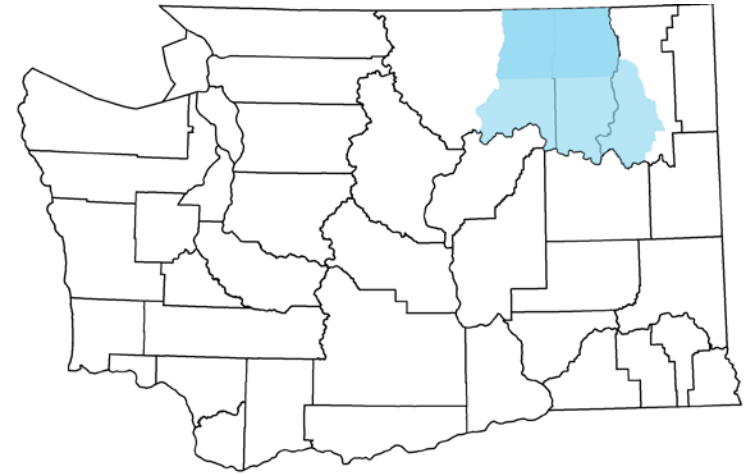
Special permit recommendations
Reductions of buck and antlerless deer permit levels



Okanogan Highlands Zone – White-tailed and mule deer

Special permit recommendations

Permit reductions, focused on
antlerless deer



Public comment

Common themes:

- General support
- Support for reductions due to disease concerns
- Lack of support for permit change based on harvest data
- Comments addressing general seasons in addition to general permits
- Concern for youth hunt opportunities
- Comments related to antler point restrictions
- Concern over perceived lack of mature bucks
- Concern over technology leading to overharvest
- Concern over predation impacts to ungulate populations
- Concern for disabled hunter opportunities
- Concern over tribal hunting
- Concern about antlerless hunting
- Concern about land access
- Desire for expanded second deer opportunities

GMAC input: 91% (11/12) agree with proposed changes

- Agreement that permit reductions are warranted, concern over predation impacts



Motion Language:

**I move to adopt the recommended
rule changes as presented by
Department staff.**

Is there a “second”?

