



## Fish and Wildlife Director Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

3/27/2023

**Agenda item:**

2023 Season Setting – Bighorn Sheep, Moose, and Mountain Goat

**Presenter(s):**

Kyle Garrison, Ungulate Section Manager

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**Background summary:**

**WAC 220–415–070 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

The specific amendments associated with this proposal are:

1. Modification of WAC title language to reflect the appropriate license year (i.e., from 2022 to 2023).

**WAC 220–415–120 2022 Bighorn sheep season, permit quotas, and areas.**

The specific amendments associated with this proposal are:

Proposed changes to bighorn sheep permit availability (i.e., permit levels), as in #1 and #2, are proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status (i.e., increased hunting opportunities when populations allow, reduced opportunities when declining numbers warrant reduction).

1. A reduction from two permits to zero for the Selah Butte and Umtanum bighorn sheep “Any Ram” special permit opportunities.
2. An increase in the Cleman Mountain “Any Ram” special permit opportunity from 3 to 4 permits.

Proposed changes #3-8 reflect co-manager or stakeholder negotiations (#3) or are proposed to maintain consistency in hunt opening day or hunt length (#4-5), to improve or clarify legal descriptions (#6-7), and to remove out-of-date language from the WAC (#8).

3. A reduction from one to zero permits for the Wenaha bighorn sheep “Any Ram” special permit opportunity. This change is proposed as a product of co-management agreement: this hunt alternates from Washington to Oregon every other year.

4. A modification of hunt dates from Nov. 7-27 to Nov. 6-26 for the Cleman Mountain B bighorn sheep “Adult Ewe” special permit opportunity. This change maintains consistency in hunt opening dates and overall hunt length.
5. A modification of hunt dates from Nov. 7-27 to Nov. 6-26 for the Cleman Mountain bighorn sheep “Youth” special permit opportunity. This change maintains consistency in hunt opening dates and overall hunt length.
6. A modification of hunt boundary description in the WAC table for the Lincoln Cliffs Whitestone Unit bighorn sheep “Adult Ewe” special permit opportunity. This change clarifies descriptive language of a hunt area.
7. Modification to the hunt area descriptions in sections “r” and “s” to be more consistent with other hunt area designations.
8. A deletion of the unnecessary text “Juvenile Ram” from the WAC table.

### **WAC 220 –415-130 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

The specific amendments associated with this proposal are:

Proposed changes to mountain goat permit availability (#1-3), are proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status (i.e., increased hunting opportunities when populations allow, reduced opportunities when declining numbers warrant reduction).

1. A reduction of the Boulder River North hunt from one permit to zero permits. This proposed change will remove the Boulder River North hunt from the WAC table until future conditions permit a hunt opportunity.
2. A reduction of the North Lake Chelan and South Lake Chelan hunts from one permit each to zero permits each. This proposed change will remove the Boulder River North hunt from the WAC table until future conditions permit a hunt opportunity.
3. An increase from one to two permits in 2023 for the Mt Margaret Backcountry and Mt St Helens South hunt opportunities.

Change #4 is proposed because the Department is planning an aerial and/or ground mountain goat capture in the Goat Rocks Wilderness and surrounding area for September 2023. Overlapping hunting and capture operation activities will negatively impact both hunting and capture success. Therefore, the Department is proposing to shorten the hunt dates for the Goat Rocks West and Goat Rocks East special permits.

4. A modification of the Goat Rocks West and Goat Rocks East hunt dates from September 1 – November 30 to proposed dates of October 1 – November 30.
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#### **Staff recommendation:**

Briefing and public comment only.

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#### **Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

None.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

None.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

On February 13, 2023, WDFW filed a CR-102, initiating public comment. The public was asked to provide input on the 2023 hunting season proposed changes via the department's website. Public comment period remains open through the Fish and Wildlife Director Meeting on March 27, 2023, closing on March 27, 2023, at Midnight. The department has emailed subscribers notifying them of the website survey and encouraging them to participate. Also, the department issued a news release and postings on social media.

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the upcoming March 27, 2023, Director Decision meeting online.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Department staff will hear and consider public comment. On or after March 28, 2023, department staff will present recommendations and seek adoption from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director.

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**Draft motion language:**

Briefing and public hearing only.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Briefing and public hearing only. After the director decision:

- The permanent rule will be filed the code revisor.
  - News release.
  - WDFW Website updates.
  - WDFW Big Game Regulations Pamphlet
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