



Fish and Wildlife Director Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

3/27/2023

Agenda item:

2023 Season Setting - Deer

Presenter(s):

Kyle Garrison, Statewide Ungulate Specialist

Background summary:

WAC 220-415-030 2022 deer special permits.

Specific amendments include:

1. Modification of hunt dates for numerous special permit opportunities. These are standard changes intended to align hunts with the calendar to ensure year-to-year consistency (e.g., open/close day of the week).
 2. Changing the hunt name "Skagit" Quality deer hunt to "Diablo" for consistency with game management unit terminology and general season rules (WAC 220-410-040).
 3. A reduction in the Blue Creek, Dayton, and Peola "Antlerless" and Peola "Youth" special permit opportunities.
 4. An increase in the number of special permits for the Kitsap "antlerless", Orcas, San Juan, Lopez, and Blakely "2nd Deer", and Couse "Youth" special permit opportunities.
 5. The creation of Blue Creek and Dayton "Youth" special permit opportunities.
 6. A modification of the Tucannon (Youth) special permit opportunity's special restrictions from "White-tailed Deer" to "Any Deer".
 7. Reduction of the Desert "Quality" deer special hunt permit levels for early modern firearm, from 20 to 18, and late archery, from 10 to 9. This hunt area does not have general season opportunity so, to ensure adequate allocation among weapon types, proposed permit levels are determined by allocating from a harvest target by using preceding license year hunter proportions across weapon types and five-year average harvest success rates by weapon type.
 8. A change to reduce the Green River "Hunters with Disabilities" permits from 5 to 2, while creating a Green River "Youth" special permit opportunity with 3 permits. This is a reduction of special permit opportunity under the "Hunters with Disabilities" category, compensated by the creation of "Youth" special permit opportunity. Changes to these hunts are determined by co-manager negotiations.
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Staff recommendation:

Briefing and public comment only.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

None.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

None.

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.

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.

Draft motion language:

Briefing and public hearing only.

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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