



## Fish and Wildlife Director Presentation Summary Sheet

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**Meeting date:**

3/27/2023

**Agenda item:**

2023 Season Setting - Elk

**Presenter(s):**

Kyle Garrison, Statewide Ungulate Specialist

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**Background summary:**

WAC 220-415-060 2022 Elk special permits.

Specific amendments include:

1. Modification of hunt dates for special permit opportunities as necessary. These standard modifications are intended to align hunts with the calendar to ensure year-to-year consistency (e.g., open/close day of the week).
2. A reduction of the early season Mayview-Peola, Blue Creek, and Couse “Antlerless” special permit opportunities. These changes are proposed to balance hunting opportunity with population status (i.e., increased hunting opportunities when populations allow, reduced opportunities when declining numbers warrant reduction).
3. Combining Turnbull “Antlerless” and Turnbull “Spike Only” special permit hunts in the “Youth” category. This change expands the special restrictions (i.e., legal animal for harvest) but retains the overall number of permit availability.
4. Modification of Blue Creek, Tucannon, Wenaha East, Couse, Lick Creek, and Alkali “Quality” and/or “Bull” category special hunt permit levels. These hunt areas do 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.
5. Modification of Nooksack, Green River, Sauk, “Quality”, “Bull”, “Antlerless”, “Youth”, “65+ Senior”, “Hunters with Disabilities” and the Region 4 North “Master Hunter” special hunt permit levels. Changes to these hunts are determined by co-manager negotiations. Except for proposed changes to the Green River hunt area, changes to these hunts will be presented as floor changes.
6. A reduction from 30 to 20 in the Region 6 “Master Hunter” permit level.
7. An increase from 5 to 10 permits for the “Youth” Region 5 hunt and an increase from 20 to 30 permits for the “Master Hunter” Region 5 hunt.
8. An expansion of the Weapon/Tag restriction for the Youth category “Region 5” hunt to include Western Archery.

9. An expansion of the Weapon/Tag restriction for the Hunters with Disabilities category “Region 5” hunt to include Western Archery.
  10. An expansion of the Weapon/Tag restriction for the Master Hunter category “Region 5” hunt to Any Elk Tag.
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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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