

6. Multiple Season Big Game Permits – RULE ACTION

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“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: February 3-4, 2012
Agenda Item 6: Multiple Season Permits – Rule Action
Prepared By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager
Presented By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager

Background:

Multiple season permits allow deer or elk hunters to hunt during all general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, and modern firearms. Interest in these permits continues to be very high with over 8000 applications received annually. The permits are allocated through an annual permit application and drawing process conducted by the department. Successful applicants are informed that they may purchase the permit until September 1st each year. In 2011, 4000 hunters were drawn for multi-season deer permits and 850 hunters were drawn for multi-season elk permits, of those approximately 2200 deer permits and 680 elk permits were purchased by the deadline.

Harvest rates by multiple season permit holders are higher than hunters who only hunt during one season, but are not considered problematic for deer or elk population management. The permit holders distribute themselves across the state and have not created any significant harvest or management concerns for biologists.

The department is recommending expanding the number of permits available for purchase with the increased revenue being used to expand the state’s wildlife conflict program for deer and elk. We are recommending increasing the number of deer hunters drawn to 8500 and the number of elk hunters drawn to 1250, which should result in about 4600 deer permits and 1000 elk permits sold.

The department will be asking the Legislature for the authority to spend the anticipated revenue for expanding our wildlife conflict program. This would allow the program to expand from its current status in Benton, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties to other priority areas of the state. The wildlife conflict program has been successfully piloted in these counties to improve assistance to property owners in preventing property damage, while helping the agency better achieve elk population objectives.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Provide sustainable deer and elk hunting opportunity.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

This program has been continually modified and improved through the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s rule making process over the past several years with good support from hunters.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

Approve the department’s recommendation to increase the number of hunters drawn for multiple season deer and elk permits.

Draft motion language:

I move to amend WAC 232-28-294 as proposed.

Justification for Commission action:

To increase deer and elk hunting opportunity and provide funding for an expanded wildlife conflict program.

Communications plan:

Hunting Pamphlet

News Release

Website

E-mail to Permit Applicants

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 10-313, filed 12/6/10, effective 1/6/11)

WAC 232-28-294 Multiple season big game permits. The commission may, by rule, offer permits for hunters to hunt deer or elk during more than one general season.

An annual drawing will be conducted by the department for multiple season permits.

(1) Multiple season big game hunting permit applications:

(a) To apply for multiple season big game hunting season permits for deer or elk, applicants must purchase a permit application.

(b) No refunds or exchanges for applications will be made for persons applying for multiple season big game hunting season permits after the application has been submitted.

(c) An applicant may purchase only one application for a multiple season big game hunting season permit for each species.

(d) Permits will be randomly drawn by computer selection.

(e) Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

(f) The department will establish application and drawing dates.

(2) The bag limit for this permit is one deer or elk.

(3) Multiple season permits:

(a) Hunters who are drawn will be required to purchase their original deer or elk license, corresponding to their permit, and the multiple season big game permit.

(b) Successful applicants will be allowed to purchase their permit at any time prior to September 1st.

(c) The permits are not transferable.

(4) Permit holders are required to follow all rules and restrictions for general season hunters within the game management unit or area hunted.

Number of Permits	Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Animal	Eligible Hunters
Multiple Season Deer Permits				
((4000)) <u>8500</u>	Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for deer	Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters	Any legal deer consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions	Any licensed deer hunter
50	Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for deer	Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters	Any legal deer consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions	Hunter education instructors meeting qualifications and selection criteria established by the department

Number of Permits	Dates	Game Management Units (GMUs)	Legal Animal	Eligible Hunters
Multiple Season Elk Permits ((850)) 1000	Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for elk	Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters	Any legal elk consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions	Any licensed elk hunter
25	Sept. 1 - December 31 within general seasons and regulations established by the commission for elk	Statewide in those GMUs with general seasons for archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm hunters	Any legal elk consistent with the game management unit or area restrictions	Hunter education instructors meeting qualifications and selection criteria established by the department

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT

WAC 232-28-294 Multiple Season Big Game Permits

COMMENTS	AGENCY RESPONSE
Does not support the increasing the number of multi-season permits because it will make the odds of drawing a special permit even worse since the winners of multi-season permits can put in for all three weapon type permits.	Adding multi-season permits may have some impact on the number of hunters applying for a given hunt choice, but it is difficult to determine. There are 32,000 hunters applying for quality elk and 28,000 applying for quality deer permits. It is uncertain if those hunters who receive multi-season permits would have applied for special permits regardless and just because they can put in for more than one weapon type, may not significantly change the odds of drawing; this is especially true with only two hunt choices available for these quality categories.
Also these permits allow for greater success for the permit holder which means that other hunters aren't as successful and that fewer special permits will be offered to the general public.	While multi-season permit holders are more successful than general season hunters, they are still less successful than special permit holders. We have not reduced season length or special permits because of multi-season permits at this point.
Multi season permits create crowding during the general seasons.	Our review of multi-season permit holder distribution is that they spread themselves out very well across the state. Some of the better hunting areas across the state can be crowded at times, but multi-season permit holders are not a significant cause. Even if these permits were eliminated, the crowding would not change much.
The concept of allowing someone with greater financial means added hunting opportunity goes against North American hunting values. The system encourages the Department to increase these expensive permits every time they want more money which further compromises our values.	We have been providing a variety of opportunities for hunting and the multi-season permit adds one more. It is not for everyone as evidenced by the fact that only 8500 hunters apply out of the 150,000 deer hunters in Washington currently.
I like allowing more multi-season permits; it gives us more time to schedule a hunt with our grandsons. We should also be able to apply for permits on either side of the state for elk.	Thank you for your support. The permit application issue will be considered as part of the 2012-14 hunting season regulation development.
We support increasing the number of multi-season permits and also suggest adding more for the hunter education instructors. There are no adverse impacts from these permits to deer and elk populations and it makes more money for the Department. It is also good because it adds recreational opportunity.	Thank you for your support, the hunter education instructor permits are not all used each year. The impacts from the multi-season permits are acceptable and have not resulted in changes to general or permit seasons.

Adding permits helps increase the amount of recreation ; helps for hunters with changing vacation schedules; provides additional funding for WDFW; reduces conflicts between the three weapon types; provides additional revenue to selling equipment and accessories, hotels, restaurants, etc; improves hunter relations with WDFW

Thank you for your support.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 11-20-111 on 10/5/11;

Original Notice

or

Expedited Rule Making—Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject):

Amend: WAC 232-28-294 Multi-Season Big Game Permits

Hearing location(s):

Natural Resources Building, Conference Room 172
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia WA 98501-1091

Email: Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) December 13, 2011

Date: January 6-7, 2012 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Tami Lininger by January 3, 2012

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: On or after February 3, 2012

(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

This proposal updates the rules regarding Multi-Season Big Game Permits by allowing additional hunters to purchase a permit.

Reasons supporting proposal: Expands opportunity for deer and elk hunters.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.12.047, 77.32.450, and 77.32.370

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.12.047, 77.32.450, and 77.32.370

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?

Yes No

Federal Court Decision?

Yes No

State Court Decision?

Yes No

If yes, CITATION:

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: **November 23, 2011**

TIME: **10:29 AM**

WSR **11-23-179**

DATE

November 23, 2011

NAME (type or print)

Lori Preuss

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Rules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization): Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(306) 902-2693
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
Enforcement.....Bruce Bjork	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2373

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____
 fax () _____
 e-mail _____

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.
These rules do not directly regulate small business.

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone () _____
 fax () _____
 e-mail _____

No: Please explain: These are not hydraulics rules.