

Recreational Hunting Licenses
WAC 220-55-040, 220-55-172 and 220-55-174

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SUMMARY SHEET

Meeting: March 7 & 8, 2014
Agenda Item : Recreational Hunting Licenses
Presented By: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background:

Periodic amendments of license and tag refunds and exchanges have been necessary to address changing public and agency needs. Proposed amendments at this time mainly address replacement of tags for hunters who harvest an animal that is unfit for consumption; tag exchanges or refunds for hunters who are out of state due to work requirements and unable to participate in the season for which they purchased a license; and conditions for refund of raffle tickets and special permit applications;

The sale of multi-season permits for deer has been well below the number available and the concern expressed by customers for not purchasing has been the high cost. Recent expansion of the wildlife conflict program was in part contingent on predicted sales rates. These rates are not currently being achieved. The proposal would result in a \$39 reduction of the price.

When the department increased license sales in 2011, the cost of a second deer tag was one of the main complaints received from hunters. The Game Management Advisory Council had suggested that the price of a second tag should be greater than the price of an initial tag because it was a special opportunity to take another deer or elk and was necessary to achieve overall revenue needs of the agency while keeping the general deer license affordable. If the second tag is reduced to \$39, it would be the same price as the first tag and would improve customer satisfaction.

Harvest data from damage prevention permits and kill permits authorized by the department has been poor in the past. The ability to track harvest through reports from the landowners issued the permits or from staff who issue the permits to landowners and the confusion by hunters on how to report these permits through the WILD harvest reporting system are the main problems. Requiring hunters to purchase a damage tag or a master hunter tag for \$20 would allow harvest reporting to improve significantly and would be specific to this tag.

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

- Improve customer satisfaction and ease of applying for refunds, exchanges, and replacements of licenses and tags.
 - Increase customer satisfaction and revenue to the department through sales of multi-season deer permits and second deer and elk tags.
 - Improve the collection and accuracy of deer and elk harvest information.
-

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

These proposals were reviewed by the Game Management Advisory Council and were supported except for the reduction for second deer and elk tags and for Master Hunter tags. These proposed amendments were mailed to over 9000 organizations and individuals in January for review and consideration. These organizations and individuals were also informed of the opportunity to provide public testimony at the March Commission meeting in Moses Lake.

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

This is a briefing and public hearing to take testimony on these recommendations.

Draft motion language:

None, these proposals will be considered for Commission adoption at the April meeting.

Justification for Commission action:

To improve customer satisfaction, revenue to the department, and the accuracy of deer and elk harvest information.

Communications plan:

News release
Agency web site
Hunting pamphlet

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 11-22-002, filed 10/19/11, effective 11/19/11)

WAC 220-55-040 Recreational license, tag, permit, and stamp re-funds, replacements, and exchanges. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Refund" means the return of money received for a license, stamp, tag, or permit purchase. Refunds may be made by license dealers or the Olympia office of the department.

(b) "Replacement" means reissuing the same species and weapon type of transport tag.

(c) "Exchange" means the surrendering of a transport tag (such as archery deer or Eastern Washington elk archery) and the reissuing of a different transport tag (such as muzzleloader deer or Western Washington muzzleloader elk).

(2) Refunds will be made for the following:

(a) A license purchaser can obtain a refund from a license dealer (~~for~~) within sixty minutes after the purchase of the license if a dealer error is made or the dealer issues the wrong license. License dealers can correct dealer errors after sixty minutes, but may not refund license purchases.

(b) A license purchaser can obtain a refund from the Olympia office of the department at any time during the licensing year if an incorrect document has been issued due to a department, a dealer, or licensing system error, as verified by the department.

(c) A license purchaser can obtain a refund from the Olympia office of the department if the ~~((purchase of a second license was made on behalf of the licensee by someone other than the licensee))~~ purchaser received more than one of the same licenses in the same license year.

(d) A license purchaser can obtain a refund from the Olympia office of the department if the licensee qualifies for a reduced fee license, ~~((but))~~ as verified by the department. The refund amount will be the difference between the license purchased and the reduced fee license.

(e) A license purchaser who is ~~((active duty military and is))~~ transferred or otherwise obligated by the military or their business and unable to use a license can obtain a refund from the Olympia office of the department after providing verifying documentation, provided that the request for refund is made within the license year.

(f) A license purchaser who is hospitalized or severely injured and provides a physician's statement that the person was incapable of

participating in hunting can obtain a refund or exchange from the Olympia office of the department after providing verifying documentation, provided that the request for refund is made within the license year.

(g) The personal representative of a deceased license purchaser, who dies prior to the opening of the applicable general hunting season, can obtain a refund from Olympia after providing documentation of the death of the purchaser.

(3) Replacement tags will be provided when a hunter has killed an animal that is unfit for human consumption and the department has authorized issuance of a replacement tag.

(4) Except as otherwise provided, refunds will not be made for the following:

(a) The department will not refund any recreational license or permit purchase for which a season or hunt has been scheduled, and the licensee could have participated in the season or hunt, regardless of whether the licensee did in fact participate.

(b) The department will not refund purchases of raffle tickets or special hunt permit applications unless an error has occurred and the error was not caused by the person purchasing the tickets or applications as verified by the department.

~~((4))~~ (5) Transport tag exchanges will be allowed for the following:

(a) The season for which the tag was issued has not opened, and the hunter wishes to exchange the tag for a different area or a different weapon type. In these instances archery tag holders must request a tag exchange before September 1st, muzzleloader tag holders must request a tag exchange before September 20th, and modern firearm tag holders must request a tag exchange before October 10th, as verified by the department.

~~(b) ((The hunter has killed an animal that is unfit for human consumption and the department has authorized issuance of an exchange tag.~~

~~(e))~~ The tag was issued in error and the error was not caused by the person applying for the tag, as verified by the department.

~~((5))~~ (6) Except as otherwise provided, transport tag exchanges will not be allowed for the following: If a special hunt permit application was submitted by the tag holder and that application required a big game transport tag, it is unlawful to exchange the transport tag after the application submission deadline date has passed. However, if the tag holder's request for a tag exchange was made prior to the application submission deadline date, as verified by the department, an

exchange can be made. Special permit applications for ghost hunts, regardless of the submission method, are not applicable to this subsection.

~~((6))~~ (7)(a) Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to possess a big game transport tag that was exchanged after the opening of the season for which the original tag was valid.

(b) Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.08.045, 77.12.170, 77.12.177, 77.32.050, 77.32.240, 77.32.350, 77.32.370, 77.32.430, 77.32.450, 77.32.460, 77.32.470, 77.32.520, 77.32.580, 77.65.020, 77.65.090, 77.65.110, 77.65.150, 77.65.160, 77.65.170, 77.65.190, 77.65.200, 77.65.210, 77.65.220, 77.65.280, 77.65.340, 77.65.390, 77.65.440, 77.65.450, 77.65.480, 77.65.510, 77.70.080, 77.70.190, 77.70.220, 77.70.260, 77.70.490, 77.115.040, and 43.84.092. WSR 11-22-002 (Order 11-282), § 220-55-040, filed 10/19/11, effective 11/19/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-09-024 (Order 06-73), § 220-55-040, filed 4/11/06, effective 5/12/06. Statutory Authority: 1998 c 191 and RCW 75.08.080. WSR 99-03-029 (Order 99-02), § 220-55-040, filed 1/13/99, effective 2/13/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 75.08.080. WSR 94-01-001, § 220-55-040, filed 12/1/93, effective 1/1/94; WSR 89-07-071 (Order

89-05), § 220-55-040, filed 3/20/89; WSR 88-05-002 (Order 88-03), §
220-55-040, filed 2/4/88; WSR 86-24-047 (Order 86-191), § 220-55-040,
filed 11/26/86; WSR 79-09-021 (Order 79-58), § 220-55-040, filed
8/10/79.]

NEW SECTION

WAC 220-55-172 Reduced rate combination deer hunting licenses.

(1) There is hereby created combination deer hunting licenses that allow the holder to hunt deer for the purposes described below. A person purchasing any big game license that includes deer may purchase a reduced rate combination license as follows:

(a) If a hunter is drawn for a multiseason deer permit, consistent with the rules of the commission and conditions of the department, they may purchase a multiseason deer permit. The fee for this combined license is thirty-nine dollars less than the sum of the big license containing deer and the multiseason deer permit.

(b) If a hunter is drawn for a special deer permit in the second deer category, they may purchase a second deer tag and utilize their special hunting permit authorizing and conditioning the harvest of a second deer. The fee for this combined license is twenty-one dollars less than the sum of the big game license containing deer and the second deer tag.

(c) If a hunter is drawn for a special permit in the master hunter deer category, they must purchase a master hunter deer tag as authorized and conditioned by the commission to harvest a second deer.

A master hunter in good standing must also purchase a master hunter deer tag in order to utilize a damage prevention or kill permit authorized and conditioned by the department. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big license containing deer and the master hunter second deer tag.

(d) If a hunter is issued a damage prevention or kill permit authorized by the department, the hunter must purchase a damage deer tag. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big game license containing deer and the damage deer second tag.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to possess a multiseason or second deer transport tag except as authorized by this section.

(b) Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 220-55-174 Reduced rate combination elk general licenses. (1)

There is hereby created combination elk hunting licenses that allow the holder to hunt elk for the purposes described below. A person pur-

chasing any big game license that includes elk may purchase a reduced rate combination as follows:

(a) If a hunter is drawn for a special permit in the master hunter elk category, they must purchase a master hunter elk tag as authorized and conditioned by the commission to harvest a second elk. A master hunter in good standing must also purchase a master hunter elk tag in order to utilize a damage prevention or kill permit authorized and conditioned by the department. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big license containing elk and the master hunter second elk tag.

(b) If a hunter is issued a damage prevention or kill permit authorized and conditioned by the department, the hunter must purchase a damage elk tag. The fee for this combined license is forty dollars less than the sum of the big game license containing elk and the damage elk second tag.

(2)(a) It is unlawful to possess a second elk transport tag except as authorized by this section.

(b) Violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

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SUMMARY OF WRITTEN PUBLIC INPUT
WAC 220-55-040, 220-55-172 and 220-55-174:
Recreational Hunting Licenses

Comments	Agency Response
<p>I am a disabled vet wounded in action , when I first got out of the service I could hunt and fish free but still had to buy tags , a disabled vet is not a rich person , and now you charge 1/2 price , why not free ???? its the same difference in \$\$\$\$ if its worth it to take 1/2 then why not all and don't worry about the people fighting wars.</p>	<p>This request would take a change in state laws through the Legislature.</p>
<p>I commend you for changing the price of the second deer tag. I do feel this price is still too high though because these essentially are damage control hunts where the reason for these permits is overpopulation of the deer on the islands and helping the public to avoid private property damage</p>	<p>Thank you for your support, not all hunts are the same. We may need to look for other ways to encourage deer harvest on the Islands.</p>



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2012)

(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 13-14-015 on 06/21/13; and WSR 13-24-098 on 12/03/13; or

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

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1).

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

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

The subject of this proposed rule-making effort is the amendment of deer and elk seasons and permits; cougar seasons and regulations; black bear seasons and regulations; mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose seasons, permits, and regulations; bighorn sheep marking requirements; game bird regulations; small game seasons; landowner hunting permit program; deer and elk area boundaries; game management units, special closures and firearm restriction areas; unlawful methods for hunting; hunting equipment rules; special hunting season permits, hunters with disabilities, and other hunting regulations. This rule making proposal also incorporates a CR-101 filed on June 21, 2013, regarding archery special use permits for people with a disability.

Hearing location(s):

Moses Lake Civic Center
401 S. Balsam
Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Date: March 7-8, 2014 Time: 8:30 a.m.

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) February 14, 2014

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Tami Lininger by February 21, 2014

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

Date of intended adoption: on or after April 11, 2014

(Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

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

See Attachment A.

Reasons supporting proposal:

See Attachment A.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.010, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.010, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240

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: January 22, 2014

TIME: 10:49 AM

WSR 14-03-135

DATE
January 22, 2014

NAME (type or print)
Joanna Eide

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Rules Coordinator

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

When filing the permanent rule-making order (CR-103P), the WAC sections containing rule amendments will be consolidated into one or two Order Typing Service (OTS) documents.

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	(360) 902-2693
Implementation....	Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2693
Enforcement.....	Steven Crown	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2373

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW or has a school district fiscal impact statement been prepared under section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 2012?

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement or school district fiscal 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 apply to recreational hunting and do not affect 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: This proposal does not involve hydraulics.

ATTACHMENT A

Amendment to 220-55-040 - Recreational License tag, permit and stamp refund and exchanges

New Section 220-55-172 - Reduced Rate Combo deer hunting license

New Section 220-55-174 - Reduced Rate Combo elk hunting license

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

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify and expand the rationale for refunding, exchanging, and replacing licenses and tags. In addition, we have received several complaints regarding the price of second deer and elk licenses. This proposal creates discounts for combination licenses and tags.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal will address the complaints about the cost of second deer and elk license and improve the Department's administration of permits and tags and facilitate much improved collection of harvest data.

Amendment to 232-12-047 - Unlawful methods for hunting

Amendment to 232-12-051 - Muzzleloading firearms

Amendment to 232-12-054 - Hunters with Disabilities

New Section 232-12-819 – Special Use Permits

New Section 232-12-825 - NEW SECTION: Definition of a person with a disability

Amendment to 232-12-828 - Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability

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

Several rules (232-12-047, 232-12-051, & 232-12-054) are recommended to be amended to delete exceptions for hunters with disabilities from equipment regulations. Exceptions instead will be combined in a new rule (232-12-819) and by amendment to an existing rule (232-12-828). We are recommending that the Department be allowed to issue special use permits to provide reasonable accommodations for persons with a disability. The Department also recommends a change to the definition of a hunter with a disability.

Reasons supporting proposal:

In the past, any time the Department wanted to change the types of equipment necessary for a disabled hunter to participate in an agency hunting program, we needed to have a rule changed to accommodate the request. These changes will allow the Department to issue special use permits as needed to make those accommodations.

In addition, this change will address a petition to the Commission to amend rules to allow scopes on crossbows used by hunters with disabilities and a complaint filed with the Department of Interior. The essence of the complaint was similar to the petition. Nearly all crossbows available on the market today include scopes and modifying them required relatively expensive conversion kits which invalidated the warrantee. Therefore the claim was that the Department was discriminating by creating an economic hardship in not allowing hunters with disabilities to use a crossbow equipped with a scope.

WAC 232-12-242 - Hunting Restrictions

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

Reinstate restrictions on night hunting and hound hunting during deer and elk seasons which were inadvertently deleted from the small game seasons last year but not placed in a different section as planned.

Reference to WAC 232-28-285 is removed as it is no longer in effect and reference to WAC 232-12-243 is replaced with reference to RCW 77-15-245 which is the statute authorizing public safety cougar removals.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This rule is important in mitigating conflicts and the potential for unlawful use of dogs to pursue deer and elk and night hunting.

WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas

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

The purpose of the proposal is to adjust the boundary of the Columbia River Restricted Hunting Area hunting closure to better reflect conditions on the ground and also to alleviate trespass on restricted federal lands. The proposal also provides for an exception to allow special permit hunting on the Parker Lake Restricted Hunting Area. In addition the proposal provides for an exception to the modern firearm restriction in the Kittitas firearm restriction area.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Special closures and firearm restriction areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to restrict or close hunting activity in certain areas to optimize safety, discourage trespass on restricted lands, and protect sensitive species.

WAC 232-28-273 2012-2014 Moose seasons and permit quotas.

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

Increase the current temporal, geographic, and gender scope of the Master Hunter permits in Region 1. Current rules limit Master Hunts permits for moose (10) to antlerless animals only, a season of Dec 1 through the following March 1, and GMUs 124, 127, and portions of 130 within Spokane County. The revision would allow for Master Hunt permits for any moose identified by WDFW as requiring removal, for a season extending from Aug 1 through the following March 1, and extend to area to include all of GMUs 124, 127, 130, 133, 136, 139, and 142.

Additionally, new, experimental archery-only and muzzleloader-only hunts are proposed in the Parker Lake area (within GMU 117) which had previously been closed due to potential conflicts with USAF survival school. This hunt is being coordinated with USAF.

Reasons supporting proposal: Master Hunter permits for moose are intended to provide hunter opportunity where moose are causing damage or are a threat to human safety (typically in or near urban and suburban settings), and these cannot be otherwise resolved. Current restrictions on these permits limit the effectiveness of implementing this objective. This revision will allow for needed flexibility in removing problem moose.

The experimental archery-only and muzzleloader permit hunts are being offered to provide additional hunter opportunity in any area where moose populations can absorb additional harvest.

WAC 232-28-283 2012-2014 . Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: Add to (18) Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle permit GMU 172, and remove GMU 181.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited.

WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits

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

This proposal modifies hunt dates and permit levels on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2014 hunting season. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through WDFW's special permit drawings, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs that was authorized is the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is modify the boundary of an existing Elk Area in Region 5 to better address wildlife conflict through special permit elk hunting. The proposal also creates an Elk Area in Region 1 to facilitate elk special permit hunting on newly acquired wildlife area lands.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Elk Areas allow the Commission to distribute hunters more favorably during quality hunts. The proposed language also helps delineate when state authorized elk hunting is and is not allowed at a smaller scale within a GMU. Elk Areas help direct hunters when a scale smaller than the GMU is needed. Elk areas also help staff address wildlife conflict problems at a smaller scale than the GMU when needed.

WAC 232-28-342: 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 Small game seasons

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

Changes proposed increase the possession limit to three times the daily bag for mourning dove (including falconry), band-tailed pigeon, and September Canada goose (except for the two day eastern Washington September season). Other changes include shifting season eastern Washington September goose season dates to occur on weekend days, and increasing the bag limit for the Pacific County September Canada goose season.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed changes will standardize possession limits among all migratory bird seasons and allow increase recreational opportunity on resident Canada geese, while conserving these populations and providing agricultural damage control.

232-28-357 2012-2014 Deer general seasons and definitions.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. In addition the purpose is to increase opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduce the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal also helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

232-28-358 2012-2014 Elk general seasons and definitions.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the elk hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces elk hunting opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

232-28-359 2014 Deer special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups and increase hunting opportunity when deer populations allow. In addition the proposal reduces the deer hunting opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal also helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

232-28-360 2014 Elk special permits.

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit elk hunting opportunity for 2014. The purpose is also to balance the elk special permit hunting opportunity between user groups. In addition the proposal increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

Reasons supporting proposal: This proposal provides recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting season opportunities for 2014. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 232-28-622 Big horn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: 1) Increase permits in the Asotin herd from 0 to 1. 2) Increase permits in the Lincoln Cliff herd from 1 to 2. 3) Decrease permits in the Cleman Mountain herd from 10 to 8. 4) Increase permits in the Umtanum portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd from 2 to 3. 5) Initiate new ewe-only hunt in the Selah portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd, 5 permits.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited.

WAC 232-28-623 2012-2014 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

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

1) Decrease mountain goat permits in the Methow (2-2) goat hunt unit from 1 to 0. 2) Increase mountain goat permits in the Naches Pass (3-6) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2; 3) Increase mountain goat permits in the Bumping River (3-7) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2; 4) Increase mountain goat permits in the Chowder Ridge (4-3) goat hunt unit from 1 to 2. 5) Initiate new conflict-reduction mountain goat hunt in Region 6, GMU 621, with 6 permits.

Reasons supporting proposal: Provide hunter opportunity where herd increase has allowed for increase harvest, while reducing permit levels where mortality must be limited. Reduce conflicts with hikers and possibility of dangerous confrontation on popular hiking trails in Region 6.

232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

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

The purpose of the proposal is to add a Deer Area in Pend Oreille County that would facilitate some special permit hunting opportunity on the USAF survival training facility where hunting access did not exist before. The proposal also adds a new Deer Area in Asotin County to facilitate special permit hunting opportunity on newly acquired wildlife area land.

Reasons supporting proposal:

The proposed language allows the Commission to distribute hunters more favorably during quality hunts. Proposed language also helps delineate when state authorized deer hunting is and is not allowed at a smaller scale within a GMU. Deer Areas help direct hunters when a scale smaller than the GMU is needed.

Deer areas also help staff address wildlife conflict problems when needed.