

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016
Agenda Item: Hunter Education Deferrals – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing
Presenter(s): David Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

The Hunter Education Deferral was authorized in 2007 by WAC 232-12-228. The deferral allows first-time Washington hunters to participate in hunting, with an accompanying hunter, without first taking a hunter education class. If specific criteria are met for the deferred and accompanying hunters, the program authorizes a once-in-a-lifetime deferral of the hunter education requirement, valid for one license year.

Department staff will brief the Commission on the Hunter Education Deferral program and propose rule modifications to eliminate an outdated administrative practice, provide enhanced customer service, and reduce agency costs.

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

Proposed changes to the hunter education deferral rules support two goals of the agency's 2015-17 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 2: Provide sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational and commercial experiences.
- Goal 3: Promote a healthy economy, protect community character, maintain an overall high quality of life, and deliver high-quality customer service.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Notification was made to approximately 28,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulations. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

The majority of comments received on the rule proposal were supportive. Some commenters do not support the deferral program in general, and thus do not support the proposed changes.

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

Take public comment. Adoption is planned at the April 8-9, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A – Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

N/A – Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications plan:

WDFW Website
Commission Meeting Materials
