

Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits

220-412-070

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary Sheet	1
WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits	2
CR-102	19

Summary

Meeting dates: August 4-5, 2017

Agenda item: Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits:
Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision

Presenter: Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits, and request adoption of those amendments.

WAC 220-412-070 provides for the long-established program of offering big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits. Auction and raffle permits provide species-specific revenue to be used for management of those species. Incentive permits provide an incentive to hunters to report their hunting activity before the deadline.

The proposed amendments clarify language pertaining to where auction, raffle, and special incentive permits can be used for elk. The amendment also clarifies which types of elk are legal to harvest using these permits.

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

Clarification of the conditions of auction, raffle, and special incentive permits that can be used for elk.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department notified approximately 1,200 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 August 4-5, 2017 Commission Meeting in Olympia.

Action requested:

Briefing, public hearing, and rule adoption.

Draft motion language:

I move to amend WAC 220-412-070 as presented.

Justification for Commission action:

The amendment clarifies the intent and the conditions of auction, raffle, and incentive permits used for elk.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

Form revised 12/5/12

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-10-076, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17)

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

AUCTION PERMITS

(1) BLACK-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to black-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(2) MULE DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(3) WHITE-TAILED DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(4) THREE-DEER AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, and one additional any buck white-tailed deer; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For black-tailed deer, those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For mule deer, those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For white-tailed deer, those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(5) WESTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(6) EASTSIDE ELK AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon type: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(7) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and

recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(8) MOOSE AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Any open moose unit, and hunt areas identified by the department before December 1 for the following year, and posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(9) MOUNTAIN GOAT AUCTION PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the fol-

lowing year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

RAFFLE PERMITS

(10) BLACK-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(11) MULE DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck mule deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(12) WHITE-TAILED DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any buck white-tailed deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(13) WESTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMU 485, those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not open to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(14) EASTSIDE ELK RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting, and those GMUs not opened to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(15) CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1 except that sheep units in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin, or Pend Oreille counties are not open.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One California bighorn ram.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(16) MOOSE RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Any open moose unit.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One moose of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(17) MOUNTAIN GOAT RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: The director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1.

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(d) Bag limit: One mountain goat of either sex.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(18) TURKEY RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Season dates: April 1 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31

(b) Hunt Area: Statewide.

(c) Weapon: Archery or shotgun only.

(d) Bag limit: Three additional wild turkeys, but not to exceed more than one turkey in Western Washington or two turkeys in Eastern Washington.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(19) ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One Rocky Mountain bighorn ram.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 113, 172.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(20) THREE-DEER RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any buck black-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, and one additional any buck white-tailed deer; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For black-tailed deer, those GMUs open to black-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT GMU 485 and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For mule deer, those GMUs open to mule deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to mule deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For white-tailed deer, those GMUs open to white-tailed deer hunting EXCEPT those GMUs closed to white-tailed deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(21) NORTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of six possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One

additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any bull elk, one any bull moose, one additional any legal cougar, one additional any legal black bear, and one additional any legal turkey (gobbler and turkey with visible beard ONLY); total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 101-124.

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, elk, and moose.

(ii) April 15 - May 31 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar. April 15 - May 31 for turkey.

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon EXCEPT archery and shotgun only for turkey.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(22) SOUTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: One additional any bull elk, one additional any buck deer, and one California bighorn sheep ram; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For elk, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT GMU 334 and those GMUs closed to elk hunting and those GMUs not open to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For deer, any 300 or 500 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, the director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1. For bighorn sheep, any bighorn herd located south of U.S. Highway 2 in Chelan County and west of the Columbia River in Kittitas and Yakima counties.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(23) SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest four of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one additional any bull elk, one additional any legal cougar,

and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed four animals.

(b) Hunt Area: GMUs 139-154 and 162-186.

(c) Season dates: September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk. April 15 - June 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear. September 1 - March 31 for cougar

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

(24) NORTH-CENTRAL WASHINGTON BIG GAME RAFFLE PERMIT

(a) Bag limit: Permit hunter may harvest three of five possible species. Species that may be harvested under this permit include: One additional any buck white-tailed deer, one additional any buck mule deer, one any ram California bighorn sheep, one additional any legal cougar, and one additional any legal black bear; total harvest not to exceed three animals.

(b) Hunt Area: For white-tailed deer, mule deer, cougar, and black bear, any 200 series GMU EXCEPT those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission. For California bighorn sheep, the director is authorized to select areas open for this hunt based on population objectives, harvest objectives, and recent harvest parameters as identified by the department. The selection of hunt areas will

be made no later than December 1 for the following year, and will be posted on the department's web site no later than January 1 in Okanogan or Chelan counties north of US Highway 2.

(c) Season dates:

(i) September 1 - December 31 for white-tailed deer, mule deer, and California bighorn sheep.

(ii) April 15 - May 15 and September 1 - December 31 for black bear.

(iii) September 1 - March 31 for cougar.

(d) Weapon: Any legal weapon.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 1

SPECIAL INCENTIVE PERMITS

(25) WESTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Western Washington EXCEPT GMUs 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(26) EASTERN WASHINGTON ELK INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Eastern Washington EXCEPT GMUs 157, 334, and those GMUs closed to elk hunting or closed to (~~branch-antlered~~) bull elk hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons.

(d) Bag limit: One additional elk.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 2

(27) DEER INCENTIVE PERMITS

(a) Hunt Area: Statewide, for use in any area open to general or permit hunting seasons EXCEPT GMUs 157, 418, 485, 522, and those GMUs closed to deer hunting by the fish and wildlife commission.

(b) Season dates: September 1 - December 31

(c) Weapon: Any legal weapon, EXCEPT hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons and muzzleloader equipment during muzzleloader seasons and any legal weapon at other times if there are no firearm restrictions.

(d) Bag limit: One additional any deer.

(e) Number of permit hunters selected: 5

PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCEDURE

(28) Auction permits: The director will select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual auction(s). Selection of the conservation organizations will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey auctions shall be conducted consistent with WAC 220-412-060.

(29) Raffle permits: Raffle permits will be issued to individuals selected through a Washington department of fish and wildlife drawing or the director may select a conservation organization(s) to conduct annual raffles. Selection of a conservation organization will be based on criteria adopted by the Washington department of fish and wildlife. Big game and wild turkey raffles shall be conducted consistent with WAC 220-412-040.

(30) Special incentive permits: Hunters will be entered into a drawing for special deer and elk incentive permits for prompt reporting of hunting activity in compliance with WAC 220-413-100.

(31) For permit hunts where the permittee may harvest multiple species, the permittee must select the species he/she wants to hunt within fourteen days of notification of being selected.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

(32) Permittees shall contact the appropriate regional office of the department of fish and wildlife when entering the designated hunt area or entering the region to hunt outside the general season.

(33) The permittee may be accompanied by others; however, only the permittee is allowed to carry a legal weapon or harvest an animal.

(34) Any attempt by members of the permittee's party to herd or drive wildlife is prohibited.

(35) If requested by the department, the permittee is required to direct department officials to the site of the kill.

(36) The permit is valid during the hunting season dates for the year issued.

(37) The permittee will present the head and carcass of the big-horn sheep killed to any department office within seventy-two hours of date of kill.

(38) The permittee must abide by all local, state, and federal regulations including firearm restriction areas and area closures.

(39) Hunters awarded the special incentive permit will be required to send the appropriate license fee to the department of fish and wildlife headquarters in Olympia. The department will issue the license and transport tag and send it to the special incentive permit winner.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-412-070, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-283, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-283, filed 4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-283, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.32.530. WSR 12-22-045 (Order 12-257), § 232-28-283, filed 11/2/12, effective 12/3/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 10-03-041 (Order 10-10), § 232-28-283, filed 1/13/10, effective 2/13/10.]



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 17-10-070 on May 3, 2017
- 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)

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.
WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease-Unlawful transport of elk hooves.
WAC 220-415-080 2017 and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

Hearing location(s):
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
1111 Washington Street Southeast
Olympia, Washington 98501

Date: Friday, August 4-5, 2017 Time: 8:00 a.m.

Submit written comments to:
Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KQXJQTS>
Name: Wildlife Program
Attn: Commission Meeting Public Comments
Address: 600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Fax: (360) 902-2162 by July 12, 2017

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact
Tami Lininger by July 28, 2017
TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

Date of intended adoption: on or after August 4, 2017
(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 77.04.012, 77.12.240, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.32.090, and 77.32.530.

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.012, 77.12.240, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.32.090, and 77.32.530.

- 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: June 21, 2017

TIME: 11:38 AM

WSR 17-13-132

DATE
June 21, 2017

NAME (type or print)
Scott Bird

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.....	Eric Gardner	Natural Resources Building	(360) 902-2515
Implementation....	Eric Gardner	Natural Resources Building	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement.....	Chris Anderson	Natural Resources Building	(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 rule changes does not impact small businesses.

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 rule proposals do not affect hydraulics.

ATTACHMENT A

220-412-070 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:

This rule codifies the locations, restrictions, and legal bag limit for auction, raffle and special incentive permits.

The proposal clarifies language on those auction and raffle tags that include elk hunting. The proposed language clarifies where the auction, raffle, and incentive permits can be used and which animals are legal for harvest.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposed clarifies where and how auction, raffle, and special incentive permits can be used which make them easier to understand for the users and also provides clarity to law enforcement.

220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease-Unlawful transport of elk hooves.

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

This rule is an attempt to reduce the potential risk of inadvertently spreading the causative agents of treponeme associated hoof disease (TAHD) in elk.

New Game Management Units (GMUs) are being proposed in which transport of elk hooves from harvested elk would be restricted. These new GMUs include 407, 418, 437, 633, and 636. The rule does allow, under certain circumstances, the legal transport of elk hooves coming from GMUs with TAHD to facilitate research by the Department.

Reasons supporting proposal:

This proposal adds GMUs where transport of elk hooves will be restricted in order to reduce the potential risk of the disease spreading.

220-415-080 2017 and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

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

The proposal is intended to establish harvest guidelines for 21 spring bear hunts around the state during 2018. The proposal will: 1) remove the 2017 season from the current rule, 2) extend the season ending date to June 15 for GMUs 154, 162, 166, 169, 172, 175, 181, and 186, and 3) remove the Monroe hunt area. The anticipated effects include mitigation of nuisance and damage activity while providing distributed recreational hunting opportunities within harvest management levels described in the 2015-2021 Game Management Plan.

Reasons supporting proposal:

Spring bear seasons are typically used to address specific management needs such as nuisance and damage to property, and improve distribution of harvest. These amendments will remove a hunt area where the Department no longer requires removals to mitigate damage because damage occurrences have diminished. Additionally, the amendments will extend season dates by 15 days in areas where the Department has determined there is a need to use hunting pressure to mitigate damage and improve distribution of harvest and further minimize confusion for those who are permitted to participate in WDFW's Region 1.