WAC 220-413-030, 220-415-020, and WAC 220-415-030

Deer General Seasons, Deer Special Permits, and Carcass Importation

Brock Hoenes
Deer and Elk Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program
Statewide Deer Harvest
2001 to 2017

General Season and Special Permit Combined
Deer General and Permit Seasons
WACs 220-415-020 & 220-415-030

• General Seasons
  – Second year of three-year package
  – No major changes for black-tailed or mule deer

• Permit Seasons
  – Quality special permits were adjusted through the special permit allocation process
  – Adjusted antlerless special permits up or down depending on management goal
Deer General and Permit Seasons
WACs 220-415-020 & 220-415-030

- Proposed to add five days to the general early archery white-tailed deer season in GMUs 169 and 175
- Proposed to add early, antlered general season opportunity for muzzleloader in GMU 621
- Proposed to add late, general season antlerless opportunity for muzzleloader in GMU 667
- Proposed to remove the late general season muzzleloader opportunity in Deer Area 6020
Deer General and Permit Seasons  
WACs 220-415-020 & 220-415-030

• Proposed to retain late general muzzleloader season for black-tailed deer in GMU 654
• Proposed to reduce quality archery and modern permits in GMUs 382, 388, 578, and 574
• Proposed to increase modern firearm Buck permits in GMU 284
District 1 White-Tailed Deer

- Substantial changes proposed in District 1
- Season setting process begins in early winter before harvest data is available
- Hunter feedback at check stations indicated reduced hunter success and low deer numbers
- Initial recommendation included substantial reduction in antlerless permits
- Received numerous comments during public review process
District 1 White-Tailed Deer

• Common themes included:
  – Concerns regarding the status and decline of white-tailed deer populations in District 1
  – Eliminating antlerless deer harvest
  – Reinstating antler-point restrictions

• The Department values public feedback and proposed to eliminate all antlerless opportunities for the 2019 season
District 1 White-Tailed Deer

- The Department did not propose recommended adjustments that would reduce buck harvest
  - (1) Antler-point restrictions; (2) shortening season lengths for antlered deer; or (3) eliminating late-season opportunities
- The number of bucks has not been shown to affect productivity until ratios are in the single digits
  - Buck:doe ratios have consistently been 25-30:100
- Late-season rutting activity not uncommon in white-tailed deer populations
District 1 White-Tailed Deer

- We implemented antler-point restrictions 2011-2014 and there was no biological effect.
- Antler-point restrictions resulted in a 30-35% reduction in hunter numbers and harvest.
- Antler-point restrictions are not universally supported by hunters.
- Antler-point restrictions need to be considered in association with a 3-year season setting package.
District 1 White-Tailed Deer

• Proposed to eliminate all general season antlerless, white-tailed deer opportunities in GMUs 101-121

• Proposed to eliminate all antlerless, white-tailed deer special permit opportunities in GMUs 101-121
Questions?
Motion Language

I move to adopt WACs 220-415-020 and 220-415-030 as presented.
Importation and Retention of Dead Nonresident Wildlife
WAC 220-413-030

- One of the intentions of this WAC is to reduce the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) entering Washington.
- To date, Washington has not detected CWD in the state.
- In recent months, the state of Tennessee has detected CWD in wild, free-ranging deer.
- Proposed to add the state of Tennessee to the list of states and provinces in this WAC.
Questions?
Motion Language

I move to adopt WAC 220-413-030

as presented.