

Moose Seasons

WAC 220-415-070

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CR-10211

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: April 5-6, 2019

Agenda item: Moose seasons and permit quotas

Presenter(s): Dr. Richard B. Harris, Bighorn sheep, moose, mountain goat, and pronghorn antelope section manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-070 Moose seasons and permit quotas. Changes to permit quotas are minor and result from district biologists' best assessment of the status and trend of moose populations. The department proposes reducing the number of antlered bull and antlerless permits in GMU 117 and adding a similar number in GMU 121. Additionally, the department proposes a temporary suspension of moose hunting permits in the Parker Lake special area, due to land management conflicts during 2019.

Staff recommendation: Revise permit numbers in GMUs 121 and 117 (resulting in a net addition of three permits compared with 2018 permit numbers). Suspend moose hunts in the Parker Lake Special Area for 2019 (two archery only, two muzzleloader/archery only) to avoid conflicts with land management activities that will take place concurrently with the hunting season.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

- Providing hunter opportunity
 - The moose population is declining in Northeastern Washington. However, the department's analysis suggests that the long-term capacity of habitats to sustain moose has been exceeded, and therefore that a decline is expected and acceptable. Further, the department's assessment is that reducing hunter opportunity for moose at this time would not halt the decline.
-

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to approximately 12,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 1-2, 2019 Commission meeting in Wenatchee. One additional verbal comments was received at presentation in Spokane, March 1, 2019.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Adopt changes in WAC 220-415-070

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to adopt WAC 220-415-070 as presented.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed.

Post decision communications plan:

WDFW Website

News Release

Hunting Regulations Pamphlet

Form revised 2-15-18

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-11-061, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18)

WAC 220-415-070 ((2018)) 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas. (1) It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) **Moose Permit Hunts**

(a) **Who May Apply:**

(i) **Any antlered bull moose category:** An individual may only harvest one moose under the "any antlered bull moose" or "any moose" category during his or her lifetime. Applications will not be accepted from hunters having previously harvested a moose in the "any moose" or "any antlered bull moose" category.

(ii) **Antlerless only, youth antlerless, over-65 antlerless, disabled-antlerless, ((~~master-hunter any moose~~)) hunter-education antlerless, auction moose, raffle moose:** Anyone may apply.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One moose.

(c) **Weapon Restrictions:** Permit holders may use any legal weapon.

(d) **Submitting moose teeth:** Successful moose hunters must submit an incisor tooth from the lower jaw, either in person at a WDFW office, or via the postage-paid envelope supplied, no later than sixty days after harvest.

(e) **Any antlered bull moose seasons:** Open only to the taking of moose with visible antlers (bull calves illegal).

Hunt Name	Notes	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
Any antlered bull moose				
Kettle Range-East Okanogan 101, 105, 204		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10
Douglas A - Early		Oct. 1-31	GMU 108	3
Douglas A - Late		Nov. 1-30	GMU 108	3
Aladdin A - Early		Oct. 1-31	GMU 111	3
Aladdin A - Late		Nov. 1-30	GMU 111	3
Selkirk 113		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 113	15
49 Degrees North A - Early		Oct. 1-31	GMU 117	((15) <u>12</u>)
49 Degrees North A - Late		Nov. 1-30	GMU 117	((15) <u>12</u>)
((Parker Lake A - Archery)	e,W	Sept. 1-30	Moose Area 3	2
Parker Lake A - Muzzleloader	e,X	Oct. 1-31	Moose Area 3	2))
Huckleberry A - Early		Oct. 1-31	GMU 121	((6) <u>10</u>)
Huckleberry A - Late		Nov. 1-30	GMU 121	((6) <u>10</u>)
Spokane West A		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 w of Hwy 395	1
Mt Spokane South A		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	8
Mt Spokane North A		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	8
Hangman		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 127 & 130	4
Antlerless only -				
Douglas 108 B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 108	2
Aladdin 111 B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 111	2
49 Degrees North B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	4
Huckleberry B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 121	((9)

Hunt Name	Notes	Permit Season	GMU or boundary	Permits
				<u>10</u>
Spokane West B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 124 w of Hwy 395	2
Mt Spokane South B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	4
Mt Spokane North B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	4
Mica Peak		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 127	4
Cheney B		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 130	2
Youth Only - Antlerless	a			
Mt Spokane South Y		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 1 (within 124)	1
65 Year and over - Antlerless	c			
49 Degrees North V		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	2
Huckleberry V		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 121	2
Disabled hunter - Antlerless	b			
49 Degrees North D		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	GMU 117	3
Mt Spokane North D		Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	Moose Area 2 (within 124)	1
Hunter Education Antlerless	d			
			GMU 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121	1

^aApplicants must be eligible to purchase a youth moose permit application. An adult must accompany the youth hunter during the hunt.

^bApplicants must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit.

^cApplicants must be eligible to purchase a 65 years of age or older permit application.

^dApplicants must be a certified hunter education instructor who meets program-defined eligibility criteria.

~~((The following special hunt is offered by the USAF Survival School on a trial basis and will be evaluated based on student safety each year for continuation.~~

~~*Archery only.~~

~~*Muzzleloader or archery only.))~~

Note: Moose Area 3 (Parker Lake) is closed to all moose hunters, except those with a Parker Lake special permit. Special permits (both archery and muzzleloader) for Moose Area 3 are temporarily suspended for hunting season 2019 due to local land uses that conflict with hunting (i.e., no permits will be offered in 2019). If reopened in future years, applicants should take note that this special hunt is authorized under an agreement with the U.S. Air Force Survival School on a trial basis and will be evaluated based on student safety each year for continuation.

^{HEII}Only qualifying hunter education instructors may apply.

(3) **Moose Areas:**

(a) **Moose Area 1:** South Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, S on Hwy 395 to Spokane River, E on Spokane River to Idaho-Washington state line, N on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(b) **Moose Area 2:** North Spokane Moose Area:

That portion of GMU 124 beginning at intersection of Blanchard Rd and Idaho-Washington state line: W on Blanchard Rd to Blanchard Creek Rd; SW on Blanchard Creek Rd to Tallman Rd; W on Tallman Rd to Elk

Chattaroy Rd; SW on Elk Chattaroy Rd to Hwy 2; S on Hwy 2 to Hwy 395, N on Hwy 395 to Deer Park-Milan Rd, E on Deer Park-Milan Rd to Hwy 2, N on Hwy 2 to Idaho-Washington state line, S on Idaho-Washington state line to Blanchard Rd and the point of beginning.

(c) **Moose Area 3:** Parker Lake (GMU 117, Pend Oreille County): All lands south of Ruby Creek Rd (USFS Road 2489), north of Tacoma Creek Rd (USFS Road 2389), and west of Bonneville Power Administration power lines.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-070, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. 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 § 220-415-070, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17.

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), § 232-28-273, 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), § 232-28-273, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-

28-273, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-273, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12; WSR 11-11-013 (Order 11-86), § 232-28-273, filed 5/6/11, effective 6/6/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-273, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-28-273, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. WSR 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-273, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08; WSR 07-11-017 (Order 07-62), § 232-28-273, filed 5/3/07, effective 6/3/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-273, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 05-11-022 (Order 05-89), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/05, effective 6/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-273, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.655, 77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-28-273, filed 5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020,

77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-28-273, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-11-137 (Order 00-50), § 232-28-273, filed 5/23/00, effective 6/23/00. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 99-10-102 (Order 99-40), § 232-28-273, filed 5/5/99, effective 6/5/99; WSR 98-10-005 (Order 98-58), § 232-28-273, filed 4/22/98, effective 5/23/98.]

Summary of Public Comments Received During Official Public Comment Period and WDFW Response:

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

Supporting Comments:

There were 11 comments submitted for this WAC proposal. Two (2) respondents categorized their response as positive, three (3) as neutral, and six (6) as opposed. Additionally, there was one (1) email letter.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

A sentiment frequently expressed among respondents regardless of their self-categorization was that moose populations are now declining – with predators most often mentioned as the cause – and therefore that the department should reduce (or eliminate entirely) draw permits, particularly on the antlerless segment of the population. One respondent suggested creating a new moose permit unit for GMU 105. One respondent favored increasing the proportion of antlerless tags provided to youth hunters (youth hunts for moose had been greatly reduced in the previous three-year package).

At the March Commission meeting in Spokane, there was an additional verbal comment provided by a hunting guide who also expressed concern about the level of predation on moose. This individual also recommended a regulation prohibiting taking of calves among antlerless moose.

Direction and Rationale:

The department concurs that the moose population in northeastern Washington is currently in decline, and agrees that predators are part of the story in this decline. The department's interpretation is that moose increased during the early years of the 2000s beyond the long-capacity of habitat to support the population. Moose on northeastern Washington are generally in poor body condition, resulting in low pregnancy rates. Calf survival is also low, both where wolf packs are present, and also where wolf packs are absent. Mild winters have also facilitated high survival of ticks, which also benefit from high moose densities. Thus, the department's view is that a decline in the moose population is unavoidable. Further, the department's view is that attempts to maintain the recently-documented high densities of moose in northeastern Washington are more likely to result in a lower long-term equilibrium than assisting the decline with hunter harvest. For the time being, therefore, the department continues to recommend permit levels similar to recent years, with only minor geographic rebalancing in response to local understanding of moose abundance.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (August 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 18, 2019
TIME: 11:41 AM

WSR 19-03-129

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

- Original Notice**
- Supplemental Notice to WSR** _____
- Continuance of WSR** _____

- Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 18-23-030 on November 14, 2018 ; 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).**
- Proposal is exempt under RCW** _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject)

Amended Rules

- WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region four.
- WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region six.
- WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.
- WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.
- WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.
- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.
- WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restrictions.
- WAC 220-413-200 Reducing the spread of hoof disease – Unlawful transport of elk hooves.
- WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.
- WAC 220-414-080 Hunting – Hunter orange clothing requirements.
- WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general season and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.
- WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.
- WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general season and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-060 Elk special permits.
- WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep season.
- WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.
- WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-416-110 Use of game birds for training dogs, field trials – Marking requirements.
- WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.
- WAC 220-430-010 Game farm license provisions.
- WAC 220-450-010 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
March 1-2, 2019	8:00 a.m.	Natural Resources Building Room 172 1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501	

Date of intended adoption: April 5-6, 2019 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program
 Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504
 Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov
 Fax: (360) 902-2162
 Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/seasonsetting/2019/>
 By (date) February 13, 2019

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Tami Lininger

Phone: (360) 902-2267

Fax:

TTY: (800) 833-6388

Email: tami.lininger@dfw.wa.gov

Other:

By (date) February 22, 2019

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

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region four.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to Game Management Unit 485 Green River. The existing language can be somewhat complicated. The proposed changes take advantage of the well-marked boundaries of the Green River watershed which are identical to the GMU boundary.

WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region six.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to the boundary shared by Game Management Unit 653 White River and Game Management Unit 485 Green River. The existing language can be somewhat complicated. The proposed changes take advantage of the well-marked boundaries of the Green River watershed which are identical to the GMU boundary.

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

Proposed change (1) would allow holders of an Eastside Elk Auction Permit, Eastside Elk Raffle Permit, South-Central Washington Big Game Raffle Permit, or Eastern Washington Elk Incentive Permit to hunt elk in GMU 334 (Ellensburg). This GMU is currently excluded from the legal hunt area.

Proposed change (2) would redirect the holder of the 'Rocky Mountain' bighorn sheep raffle permit to a portion of the Wenaha-Mountain View herd complex with a greater number of mature rams.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

This proposal modifies hunt dates on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2019 hunting seasons. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through permits issued by WDFW, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

The proposal will ban the importation and retention of specific parts of dead nonresident wildlife that could contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from Tennessee. Specific circumstances are fully set forth in WAC 220-413-030 to include the state of Tennessee.

WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.

The proposal amends WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife-Evidence of sex-Definitions by changing subsection 1, related to the possession and transport of game birds by adding the fully feathered wing as an acceptable field identification requirement, with the exception of Canada and Cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 Coast and Inland where the head must be left attached for subspecies determination.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restrictions.

The proposed changes to the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas WAC are administrative changes that clarify firearm restrictions in portions of Grays Harbor County and Pacific County only apply during modern firearm general deer and/or elk seasons. It also clarifies that Key Peninsula and Longbranch Peninsula are the same location in Pierce County.

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

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

WAC 220-413-200 was most recently updated in September 2018. Since that time, TAHD has been confirmed along the border of GMUs 638 and 618, in the upper Wynoochee Valley (GMU 636) just south of Olympic National Park, and in GMU 621, necessitating the addition of GMUs 618, 621, and 638. With the addition of these 3 GMUs, the rule would apply in all but 15 of the 61 western Washington GMUs that are not islands in Puget Sound. The Department believes it prudent to add all western Washington GMUs to the restriction.

New Game Management Units (GMUs) are being proposed in which transport of elk hooves from harvested elk would be restricted. These new GMUs include all 400, 500, and 600 GMUs. The rule does allow, under certain circumstances, the legal transport of elk hooves to facilitate research by the Department and/or our collaborators.

WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the restriction that makes it unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow weighing less than six grains per pound of draw weight with a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains. Such a rule change will ensure hunters are not unknowingly in violation of a restriction, while in no way negatively affecting the kill efficacy of modern archery equipment commonly in use today.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting – Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal clarifies the hunter orange rule to address the overlap between turkey hunting and general season modern firearm deer and elk seasons. This proposed change will allow turkey hunters not to wear orange except during the general modern deer and elk seasons. This change will allow turkey hunters more flexibility and maintain safety during the general modern firearm seasons. This proposal adds turkey to the hunter orange rule and requires turkey hunters that are hunting during a modern deer or elk firearm season to wear florescent orange.

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity for 2019. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2019. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The purpose of this proposal is to allow the department to focus elk hunting pressure on a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Elk Areas help expand hunting opportunity that would normally not be available. Elk Areas also help accommodate wildlife conflict mitigation using hunting as a tool. The purpose of the proposal is to adjust the boundaries of Elk Area 6054, such that harvest is focused in areas where conflicts are most frequent.

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:
The elk seasons for fall of 2019 represent the second year of the 2018-2020 three-year hunting season package. The purpose of the proposal is to increase opportunities in some areas to assist with efforts to mitigate elk damage. The proposal also corrects typographical errors associated with season dates for the western Washington and Elk Area 3722 general elk modern firearm seasons.

WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2019. 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.

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The purpose of this proposal is to adjust moose permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest.

WAC 220-415-120 2019 Bighorn sheep season.

The purpose of this proposal is to adjust bighorn sheep hunt permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest.

WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

The purpose of this proposal is to adjust mountain goat hunt permit limits to reflect population changes and recent harvest.

WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

The proposal amends WAC 220-416-060 2018-19 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations to specify legal season dates, bag limits for the 2019-20 season.

Changes include:

- Adjusting season dates relative to 2019-2020 calendar dates
- Lowering Northern Pintail bag-limit to 1 pintail per day and associated possession limits per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy
- Proposed shift of 12-days for white goose hunting from the beginning of the season to February 22 – March 4, 2020 in Goose Management Area 4
- Proposed addition of dates to brant season in Pacific County, contingent upon the most recent 3-year average results per the Pacific Brant Population Management Plan harvest strategy.

WAC 220-416-110 Use of game birds for training dogs, field trials – Marking requirements.

The proposed changes clarify that only one method is required for marking game birds and adds an additional method option, which is nasal scarring caused by an anti-pecking device. In addition, the proposal adjusts the ordering of existing options for marking non-waterfowl game birds.

WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.

The proposed changes clarify that restraining traps (live capture traps) must be checked every 24 hours, whether or not an animal has been captured.

WAC 220-430-010 Game farm license provisions.

The proposed changes clarify that a game farm license is required to sell species listed in subsection 2 (game birds and waterfowl). Also, the proposed changes clarify that a current, valid license is required to continue to possess, propagate, sell and transfer wildlife that was lawfully possessed on January 1, 1992. Lastly, the proposed changes add conditions for revocation or denial of a game farm's license and grounds for prosecution under existing RCW.

WAC 220-450-010 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife.

The proposed changes clarify that game birds released for dog training and hunting pursuant to WAC 220-416-110 do not need to be purchased. Instead, they simply need to be acquired from certain facilities. These facilities include a department facility, a state- or federally-licensed game farm facility that has been inspected by a certified veterinarian within the past twelve months, or a facility with current National Poultry Improvement Plan certification.

Reasons supporting proposal:

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions – Region four.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules and trespass rules more straightforward.

WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region six.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules and trespass rules more straightforward.

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

1) GMU 334 has historically been excluded from the legal hunt area for auction, raffle, and special incentive permits, in addition to Quality Elk and Bull Elk special permits because it primarily consists of private residential and agricultural properties within and/or immediately adjacent to the city limits of Ellensburg, which makes it difficult for most hunters to find an area within the GMU where they have permission to hunt. In addition, the potential for human-elk conflicts within this GMU is high and the Department limits elk numbers by providing numerous opportunities to harvest spike bull (or true spike) and antlerless elk during general seasons. However, with no opportunities to harvest branch-antlered bulls, the number of mature bulls has steadily increased and they are frequently the source of damage complaints from agricultural producers. Including opportunities to harvest branch-antlered bulls in GMU 334 would provide increased opportunity to hunters, reduce the number of branch-antlered bulls, and reduce the number of human-elk conflicts that occur in association with branch-antlered bulls.

2) These bighorn herds are closely managed, so biologists typically have good data on the number and distribution of the large-sized rams sought by auction and raffle holders. WDFW also co-manages these herds with Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribes, so fine-scale distribution of hunters is helpful.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

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.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

Because Tennessee has identified chronic wasting disease in wild, free-ranging deer, the department seeks to mitigate the risk to public health and safety by adding the state of Tennessee to WAC 220-413-030.

WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.

The proposed amendment to WAC 220-416-090 Field identification of wildlife-Evidence of sex-Definition, brings field identification of game birds in line with federal possession and transport identification requirements. Identification of migratory waterfowl by wing is a typical training component for federal and state enforcement and should be allowed as an appropriate method of identification for game bird hunters in Washington. The exception of Canada and Cackling geese harvested in Goose Management Area 2 Coast and Inland where the head must be left attached for subspecies determination must be required due to the use of a bill measurement criteria set in WAC 220-413-060 2019-2020 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations that differentiates the Dusky Canada goose subspecies which is closed to harvest.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restrictions.

The added language was needed to clarify that modern firearms could be used within these areas to mitigate damage issues during established permit and/or damage hunts, which increases the department's ability to accommodate both firearm restriction needs and wildlife conflict mitigation. The Key Peninsula is also known to some as Longbranch Peninsula; the proposed change clarifies they are the same location.

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

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

WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.

Washington is the only state that has a minimum arrow weight to draw weight ratio and only one of five that have a similar regulation of minimum overall weight of 300 grains. With the advent of carbon arrow technology, which dominates today's market, it is likely a vast majority of archery hunters are unknowingly in violation of the arrow weight to draw weight ratio restriction. In addition, it is highly unlikely any archer would shoot an arrow that weighed less than 300 grains. Lastly, we have no additional information that indicates either of these restrictions increases kill efficacy.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting – Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal will increase turkey hunter success and maintain safety. Turkey seasons in the past did not overlap with modern deer or elk firearm season. New proposals to control growing turkey populations make it necessary to overlap those seasons. Last year we modified the hunter orange rule to include turkey. We have since found that the rule as written was too broad and turkey hunters had to wear orange throughout the fall season. This recommended rule adjustment provides more flexibility for turkey hunters, while maintaining the hunter orange requirement during the deer and elk modern firearm seasons.

WAC 220-415-020 2018-2020 Deer general seasons and definitions.

These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2019. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-030 2019 Deer special permits.

These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2019. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

This proposal allows the department to use hunting as a management tool and expands elk hunting opportunity.

WAC 220-415-050 2018-2020 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-060 2019 Elk special permits.

This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2019. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-070 2019 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

Population abundance estimates and document of recent past harvest.

WAC 220-415-120 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Population abundance estimates and document of recent past harvest.

WAC 220-415-130 2019 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Population abundance estimates and document of recent past harvest.

WAC 220-416-060 2019-2020 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

Waterfowl seasons and regulations are developed based on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes waterfowl seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the waterfowl resources of Washington.

WAC 220-416-110 Use of game birds for training dogs, field trials – Marking requirements.

The proposal provides clarity so that the WAC is not misinterpreted to mean that game birds must be marked by all methods.

The use of anti-pecking devices is standard among game farms in the western US, particularly for pheasants which can be aggressive in captivity. By allowing nasal scarring caused by these devices to meet the marking requirements, the department is reducing the burden on game farmers to apply an additional mark to game birds. This proposed change will also improve compliance in marking requirements.

The proposal to adjust the order of the listed marking requirements is intended to emphasize less invasive methods.

WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.

The current WAC states that an animal captured in a restraining trap must be removed within 24 hours but doesn't state that traps must be checked every 24 hours. The proposed change clarifies that the traps must be checked every 24 hours and captured animals may not be restrained for more than 24 hours.

WAC 220-430-010 Game farm license provisions.

The proposed changes support game farm license holders by emphasizing that certain species cannot be sold without a game farm license. This is intended to reduce confusion and to ensure that unlicensed individuals are not selling these species.

In addition, the proposed changes provide clarity regarding license requirements to game farm license holders who maintain species that were lawfully possessed prior to prior to January 1, 1992.

The proposed changes also provide the department with the necessary tools to ensure that game farm license holders are compliant with the game farm license provisions.

WAC 220-450-010 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife.

The proposed changes simplify requirements for obtaining game birds for dog training and hunting pursuant to WAC 220-416-110. The changes also seek to ensure that game birds are acquired from facilities that undergo appropriate inspections and follow appropriate guidelines to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.570, 77.32.070, and 77.32.530.

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.570, 77.32.070, 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:

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 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	Natural Resources Building 1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515

Enforcement: Steve Bear Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE (360) 902-2373
Olympia, WA 98501

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

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:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

No: Please explain: The rule proposal does not require a cost-benefit analysis.

Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025 (4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: Proposed rule does not affect small businesses.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES

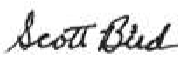
If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. _____

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

Date: January 18, 2019	Signature: 
Name: Scott Bird	
Title: Rules Coordinator	