

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
April 11-12, 2013**

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

- 220-55-040 - Recreational License tag, permit and stamp refund and exchanges**
220-55-172 - Reduced Rate Combo deer hunting license
220-55-174 - Reduced Rate Combo elk hunting license

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

Section 2(e): Insert the words “out of state” after the word “transferred” in the first sentence and delete the words “or otherwise obligated”. The sentence will read: “A license purchaser who is transferred out of state by the military or their business and unable to use a license can obtain a refund...”.

Rationale: The change is necessary to clarify the intent of this exception for a refund for those who could not participate in a hunt for which they purchased a license.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comments	
Comments	Agency Response
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.	This request would take a change in state laws through the Legislature.
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	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.

Verbal Public Comments	
Comments	Agency Response
Support reductions of licenses. The cost of licenses for disabled should also be discounted.	The Commission is only authorized to address the cost of license combinations. The Legislature would need to address a discounted license for those with disabilities.

- 232-12-047 - Unlawful methods for hunting**
232-12-051 - Muzzleloading firearms

232-12-054 - Hunters with Disabilities

232-12-819 – Special Use Permits

232-12-825 - Definition of a person with a disability

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

Several rules (232-12-047, 232-12-051, & 232-12-054) were to be amended to delete exceptions for hunters with disabilities from equipment regulations. Exceptions instead are combined in a new rule (232-12-819) and by amendment to an existing rule (232-12-828). The Department is authorized to issue special use permits to provide reasonable accommodations for persons with a disability. The definition of a hunter with a disability was also updated.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

WAC 232-12-819 Special Use Permits:

- Under subsection (4) delete the term accommodation and replace it with the word modification. The term accommodation is related to employment and not to equipment used for hunting. This edit came from the Department of Interior.

WAC 232-12-825 Definition of a person with a disability:

- Change subsection (1) to read: “Person with a disability” means a person who has a permanent physical disability or permanent developmental disability which substantially impairs their ability to participate in recreational activities or access department lands; and’

This language more accurately describes a person of disability in terms of their needs to participate in multiple types of fish and wildlife related recreational activities.

- Add the words “every time” after the term assistive device under the definition of “Lower extremity disability”. This better defines the level of disability that meets this definition.
- Modify the definition of an “Upper extremity disability” as follows: “Upper extremity disability” means a person who has a permanent upper extremity impairment and is physically limited in their ability to hold and safely operate a legal hunting or harvesting device; or’

This language better defines the level of impairment qualifying for this disability.

WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability:

- Under subsection (3) the last sentence should read: “A designated hunter companion must have a valid hunting license issued by Washington state or another state.” The term “with a disability” is replaced with “companion”. This change just corrects an error made by the department.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
I would respond to the ongoing drive to allow people with disabilities special privileges. A friend from work suggested I try shooting with my teeth. It worked great and over the last 30 years I have harvested many deer, elk and bear. In fact I got a nice 5x5 elk last year in Oregon with 3 friend with a combined age of 202(72+65+85). We have held 3D archery shoots for handicap archers in wheel chairs and they all shot standard bows. I’m not against helping the disabled but someday we all will not be able to do the things we love.	It sounds like you are enjoying hunting and have found a way to make it work for you. Congratulations and thank you for sending us your thoughts.

<p>Please also additionally amend 'WAC 232-12-047 Unlawful methods for hunting' subsection 4d and remote subsection 4e regarding the use of expandable broadheads to allow the use of expandable broadheads in archery hunting seasons. Use of regular broadheads does not curb taking animals, it just allows for more animals to be lost in a given year and for other predators to be fed instead of the hunters (meaning greater population loss and greater predator activity). It is also no less humane in taking an animal and actually affords a more humane, and quicker, take of an animal. It allows a greater cut to penetrate and potentially cut main arteries or veins and greater blood loss for tracking the animal.</p>	<p>The changes recommended for 2014 are to address special needs for hunters with disabilities. Requests for changes to equipment regulations will come with the next three year package discussion in 2015. We know that expandable broadheads will be a part of the considerations for 2015-17.</p>
<p>WDFW should consider the option of changing to International Bowhunter's Association (IBO) safety standards, with regards to minimum grains per pound of pull. There is no more risk in IBO standards, than what is found in AMO safety standards. The weight of the arrow, and pounds per inch still maintain a safe and ethical means for harvesting game. The difference is definitely a tradeoff in kinetic energy, for speed. However, given the plethora of bows available on the market today, a hunter should be able to choose which bow works best for him/her and not have to be limited.</p>	<p>The changes recommended for 2014 are to address special needs for hunters with disabilities. Requests for changes to equipment regulations will come with the next three year package discussion in 2015.</p>
<p>I am a Washington resident and have a disability permit to use a crossbow. I am writing to express my support to change the current regulations and allow the use of scopes (red dot or magnification) on crossbows, to allow us to use a crossbow without handicap. The requirement to rely on open or peep sights is difficult to do with a crossbow, especially those of us who are older and depth of field becomes a serious issue. Scopes are the only thing that will work effectively as a sighting tool on a crossbow, and we owe it to the animal to make an accurate and ethical shot. Crossbows are made by the manufacturer with a scope as an integral part of the design, and we should be allowed to purchase a sight for a crossbow that is readily available from a retail store.</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of this proposal.</p>

Verbal Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>We would like to see some additional opportunities for motorized access for hunting pheasants with a pointing dog</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments, while a regulation change is not necessary for your recommendation, we will consider your request through our hunter access programs.</p>

I would like to have better access on WDFW managed road access systems. A disabled hunter should not have to wait until Monday to gain vehicle access when others have access beginning on the opening day (Saturday).	Thank you for your comments, we will forward your request to the appropriate manager.
Supports allowing scopes on crossbows.	Thank you for your support. The Departments proposal would facilitate that modification.
There should be a review of how permits are allocated among the different groups. Must be careful with trying to provide opportunities and equipment modifications for so many hunters that we don't overharvest the resource.	A complete review of allocation of opportunity will occur with the next three year hunting season package for 2015-17.
Hunters with disabilities would like to hunt during muzzleloader and archery season and might be encouraged to continue hunting these seasons if provided sufficient means to hunt during those seasons.	Our proposal should help us make equipment modifications more available so we can encourage those with disabilities' to return to hunting.

232-12-242 - Hunting Restrictions

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

Include 'except rabbit and hares,' in section (2)(a):

...It is unlawful to hunt any wildlife at night or wild animals, except rabbits and hares, with dogs (hounds) during the months of September, October, or November in any area open to a modern firearm deer or elk season. ...

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A

232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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. This change also provides for an exception to allow special permit hunting on the Parker Lake Restricted Hunting Area. In addition this provides an exception to the modern firearm restriction in the Kittitas firearm restriction area.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Under Restricted Hunting Areas delete section (f) pertaining to the Voice of America Recreation Area in Clallam County. The change is necessary because the landowners are no longer allowing any kind of hunting access.
- Under Firearm Restriction Areas, San Juan County, add "...and those portions of GMU 410 (Islands) that occur in San Juan County." This change clarifies that most but not all of GMU 410 occurs in the firearm restriction area of San Juan County.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
Suggest changing the wording under firearm restriction areas to read "strait walled pistol cartridges" instead of revolver style pistol. This would allow the use of the 10mm and .460 Roland (both equivalent to a .41 mag) for deer/big game hunting.	The Department has received a number of comments on this topic in the past few years. The changes and advancements in handguns and handgun ammunition that have taken place since the current rule language was developed, has been substantial. It seems evident that the Department will have to revisit this topic and try to develop rule language that better serves Washington hunters that hunt in firearm restriction areas. As the Department moves forward with the public process of developing the hunting season package for 2015-2017, we encourage you to stay engaged and voice your opinions on this topic.

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

To increase the current temporal, geographic, and gender scope of the Master Hunter permits in Region 1. The revision allows 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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

N/A

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.	Big-game season timing is a complex art of providing acceptable hunter access, minimizing stress to animals at specific times of their life-cycle, and also minimizing conflicts with other land-uses. In the case of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, hunter success rates are currently very high, and extending season lengths appears unnecessary to enhance hunter opportunity.
Make ALL big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take ONE animal and only have a limited amount of TIME to apply to their hunting efforts.	Big-game season timing is a complex art of providing acceptable hunter access, minimizing stress to animals at specific times of their life-cycle, and also minimizing conflicts with other land-uses. In the case of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, hunter success rates are currently very high, and extending season lengths appears unnecessary to enhance hunter opportunity.

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

To add to 18 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Raffle permits GMU 172, and remove GMU 181.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

N/A

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A

232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

N/A

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A

232-28-337 Elk area descriptions

Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Delete Elk Area 1014. This elk area is no longer needed to implement elk management actions.
- Under the description of Elk Area 5056, after Grays River Valley, add “...and Eden Valley...”. This change clarifies to the reader that the townships, ranges, and sections spelled out in the new boundary modification occur in both the Grays River Valley and the Eden Valley. This should help avoid some confusion.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

N/A

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
I am writing this Email to encourage the return of the MLK Holiday as the end to the E. WA Pheasant Season. The closing of the E.WA Season a week prior to the quail and partridge seasons is not only confusing, but lacks any sound biological reasoning.	Changes proposed for this rulemaking are specific to September migratory bird seasons. Additional changes to small game seasons and regulations will be considered as part of the 2015-17 three year hunting season package, planned for presentation to the Commission in March 2015. In the past, late closures have raised concern among landowners and some hunters, because as the likelihood of snow increases, so does the potential development of unethical hunting situations. The three year process provides a greater opportunity for the public to weigh in on these kinds of issues.

<p>I would like to recommend that the waterfowl season start on Oct 18 next season and end on Jan 31. The trouble with starting it on the 11 of Oct is that it can be so warm at that time that it is hard to keep the birds cool so that they are good table fare. And the last few days of Jan that we didn't get this season for geese is resulting in some real damage to some Timothy grass fields near the Burbank Refuge.</p>	<p>October – January waterfowl seasons are set at the August Commission meeting. This suggestion will be considered at that time.</p>
<p>I would like to see the WDFW legalize the use of dogs during the fall turkey season. It is legal to hunt all other game birds with dogs in Washington State, including forest grouse which inhabit same areas as wild turkeys. Fall turkey hunting with dogs is a time honored and sporting tradition that should be available to Washington State turkey hunters.</p>	<p>Changes proposed for this rulemaking are specific to September migratory bird seasons. Additional changes to small game seasons and regulations will be considered as part of the 2015-17 three year hunting season package, planned for presentation to the Commission in March 2015. Major changes to hunting rules such as this are a better fit for consideration in the three year process.</p>
<p>I have been hunting a wide area around Randle wa. for almost 50 years. The last 10 - 15 years has seen the game population drop drastically. Several things have contributed. These things seriously need to be addressed. The hound pursuit of cougar and bear basically had a stop put on it, bear isn't so bad because they eat other things than meat.</p>	<p>Changes proposed for this rulemaking are specific to September migratory bird seasons. Additional changes to small game seasons and regulations will be considered as part of the 2015-17 three year hunting season package, planned for presentation to the Commission in March 2015.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Verbal Public Input</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Comments</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Agency Response</p>
<p>Thomas M. Nieberding</p> <p>1) Pheasant Enhancement Program funds have been substantially reduced by Department of Fish & Wildlife's recent expansion of the private lands acquisition program for enhancement of Eastern Washington big game hunting opportunities at the expense of upland bird hunting opportunities.</p> <p>Across the board reductions in Eastern Washington Pheasant releases have reduced the pheasant hunting opportunities at all of the state's pheasant release sites. Most notably of which has been the significant reduction of bird plants at the Steamboat Rock release site.</p> <p>Western Washington upland bird hunters travel long distance at great expense to camp at Steamboat Rock State Park, and hunt at the state's pheasant release site only to find few if any birds over the past several years.</p> <p>Put the Pheasant Enhancement Program funds back where they were intended to be spent rather than into acquisition of private lands for increased big game hunting opportunities.</p>	<p>The Eastern Washington Pheasant Enhancement Program has both bird stocking and habitat components. Initially, the stocking program was seen as a mechanism to increase declining harvest but it was evident that the downward harvest trend continued even with the stocking effort. Because of this, it was recognized that the funding would be better used to increase efforts to improve habitat for wild birds. This funding shift has occurred gradually over several years with the intent of reaching a point where the majority of the fund income is being used for habitat improvements for pheasants. The department will continue to maintain a release program but at a lower level.</p> <p>Much of this effort is currently directed to working with private landowners in southeast Washington to improve habitat for pheasants. The area was selected due to the cost effectiveness and likelihood of success in improving conditions for pheasants.</p> <p>The primary intent of working with private landowners in this area was to improve pheasant populations and hunting opportunities. A side</p>

<p>2) Ruffed Grouse bag limits have recently been increased from the "historic" three bird limit to a four bird limit at a time when Ruffed Grouse populations are just beginning to recover from a twelve year cyclic low.</p> <p>The long established Ruffed Grouse season opener of September 1st is way too early. The young of the year birds haven't had the opportunity to reach maturity, let alone the adults having had only 30 days to recover from the July molt.</p> <p>An October 1st grouse season opener, coupled with a two bird Ruffed Grouse limit, and a season end date of November 15th would seem far more prudent.</p> <p>Ruffed Grouse is an esteemed quarry worthy of fair chase and wing shooting, rather than the traditional big game hunter ethic of a pot shot ground swat from a vehicle with a 22 caliber pistol or rifle.</p> <p>The Ruffed Grouse has been short ruffed here in Washington State. Clearly, a game bird as esteemed and worthy of fair chase and appropriately applied wildlife practices as the Ruffed Grouse is deserves far better treatment than he's been given.</p>	<p>benefit of this increased effort has been improved big game hunting opportunity but that was not the primary objective.</p> <hr/> <p>Washington's grouse season dates have been in place since 1987 and are similar to those of neighboring states. The grouse daily limit which had been three birds since 1952 was changed four birds in 2009. This change was made with the intent of increasing interest in grouse hunting. Based on daily harvest averages, the change in daily limit should have little effect on grouse at a population level. It is well known that the harvest during the early portion of the season is weighted toward juveniles and females but this also appears to be when most of the hunter effort and harvest occurs. A shortening of the season would likely decrease hunter interest and participation which are both aspects that we always seek to maintain or increase.</p> <p>These kinds of comments related to grouse are not uncommon or new. For this reason, questions pertaining to hunter opinions and satisfaction with the current grouse regulations are being included in a hunter survey associated with the update of the Game Management Plan. The revised plan may also contain elements to improve our knowledge of the current status of grouse populations and answer questions related to concerns that hunters have brought forward. Season or other regulation changes may be proposed in future three year regulation cycles based on the outcome of hunter surveys or other work.</p>
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232-28-357 2012-2014 Deer general seasons and definitions

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Under Early Modern Firearm, Eastern Washington, white-tailed deer, 3 pt. min., Oct. 11-19, after 162 through 186 add (except for Deer Area 1040). This exception allows the Department to implement different hunting season structures inside the Deer Area.
- Under Early Archery, Eastern Washington, white-tailed deer, Sept. 1-26, move GMU 149 from white-tailed deer 3 pt. min., to white-tailed deer 3 pt. min. or antlerless. This change corrects a typographical error.
- Under Muzzleloader, High Buck Hunt, Sept. 15-25, add Mount Baker to the list of wilderness areas open to the High Buck Hunt. This change corrects a typographical error omission.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Input	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(4) If the multi-season tag is drawn, allow the winners to apply for and DRAW any and all special permits for that species in the entire state. Then the lucky winners of the multi-season tag would have more opportunity to make any choice they wanted upon drawing (or not drawing) their special permits.</p>	<p>The multi-season tag already allows for this. If drawn for the multi-season tag you can apply for any special permit for which you qualify. All multi-season deer tag holders can apply for Quality, Bucks, Antlerless, and 2nd deer regardless of weapon type. All multi-season elk tag holders can apply for Quality, Bulls, and Antlerless regardless of east or west designation and weapon type. In addition both deer and elk multi-season tag holders can apply for youth, 65+, hunters with disabilities, or master hunter if they qualify for those categories.</p>
<p>Make ALL big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take ONE animal and only have a limited amount of TIME to apply to their hunting efforts.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having</p>

	<p>a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Archery for deer in the late season the day after Thanksgiving is not working. November 20th is a good opening day because the deer are still in the late rut.</p>	<p>In 2014, there are no late archery deer seasons proposed to open the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28). Such was the case in 2013 and 2012 as well. Late archery seasons open on a variety of dates dependent on location, deer vulnerability, hunting season objectives, and habitat types, just to name a few. In 2014, late archery openers will range from Nov. 10 to Nov. 26.</p> <p>You didn't mention where you hunt but if you are hunting a GMU where the late archery opener is tied to the Thanksgiving holiday, it probably opens the day before Thanksgiving. In 2014 that will be Nov. 26. Because Thanksgiving makes a calendar shift every year the archery opener can be as early as Nov. 21 and as late as Nov. 27.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Please discuss the opportunity of adding a late muzzleloader season to a local Yakima area game mgmt unit. Could be a good tool for damage control issues in the Cowiche or Cleman units.</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for ways to use hunting seasons to mitigate damage. If the deer damage need was there and muzzleloaders were the most appropriate group for the job, we would have recommended such a season.</p>
<p>I would like to make the recommendation of adding unit 448 to the late blacktail season in November.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>

<p>I am once again dismayed that the Muzzleloader deer season dates remain unchanged and are grossly uneven in duration from year to year. I wish the Department would average the number of days possible using the current "Thanksgiving Day" opener logic and make the season equal length EVERY year!</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Late archery Deer season should start on a given day not the day after Thanksgiving, It used to start on Nov. 20th I think that was good timing, it let us hunt Deer a little while they were still in the rut</p>	<p>In 2014, there are no late archery deer seasons proposed to open the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28). Such was the case in 2013 and 2012 as well. Late archery seasons open on a variety of dates dependent on location, deer vulnerability, hunting season objectives, and habitat types, just to name a few. In 2014, late archery openers will range from Nov. 10 to Nov. 26.</p> <p>You didn't mention where you hunt but if you are hunting a GMU where the late archery opener is tied to the Thanksgiving holiday, it probably opens the day before Thanksgiving. In 2014 that will be Nov. 26. So you have two more hunting days than you thought you had. Because Thanksgiving makes a calendar shift every year the archery opener can be as early as Nov. 21 and as late as Nov. 27.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Early and late muzzle loader and bow seasons when I first started, there were certain areas for these methods to be used in. You had a choice of what you wanted to hunt with for the deer or elk season, one season your choice of weapon. There were some specific areas possibly for bow or muzzle loaders. Now the long seasons given to them puts too much strain on the animals. Make the bow hunters and muzzle loaders obey by the same laws as modern rifle hunters unless drawn for a special permit.</p>	<p>Archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters do have to abide by the same basic rules that modern firearm hunters do. Separating the different user groups avoids overlaps in seasons that could be potentially problematic and some would argue unfair. Separating the user groups also helps us reduce some of the crowding during hunting seasons. All hunters can freely select the weapon type that best meets their needs for opportunity and timing of season.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>The 4 point minimum restriction in GMUs 117 & 121 must be removed. My hunting buddies and I have hunted on the Colville National Forest in GMU 117 each year since 1970. What historically was a successful hunting trip has turned into a glorified camping trip, since it is almost impossible to identify four or more points in the few seconds</p>	<p>The 4 pt. minimum antler restriction for white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121 was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2011. This was not the original recommendation by the Department but the Fish and Wildlife Commission made the commitment to constituents to adopt and retain the season structure through the 2014 season</p>

<p>of opportunity that typically is offered during the hunt.</p> <p>PLEASE eliminate this unnecessary restriction!</p>	<p>before reevaluating.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
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Verbal Public Input	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>Dan Marcott Harvest rates and 3 main tools, Archery, muzzleloader and modern refer to the 'normal' hunter. With crop damage and other programs we have, I just want to be sure that department is listening to the disabled hunter. Disabled hunters are discriminated against when it comes to harvest and special permits. Time for change with disabled hunters. A small portion of harvest designated to disabled hunters has remained the same while the baby boomer population coming into retirement age and an age when things go wrong.</p>	<p>Hunters with disabilities can apply for all special permit categories unless they don't qualify for either the Youth or the Senior categories. Hunters with disabilities can hunt any general season as long as they have the appropriate license and transport tag.</p> <p>The Department considers hunters with disabilities when they are addressing wildlife conflict issues. Available access is often a limiting factor in these situations.</p>
<p>Al Martz – Stevens County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council, Northeast Washington Wildlife Group, Stevens County Commission</p> <p>In support of and would like to see continue the 4 point antler restrictions GMU 117 & 121.</p> <p>Propose to extend the 4 point antler restriction through 2015-20173 year package. Expand youth opportunities for doe and any buck in the early general season.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.</p>
<p>Dale Magart - Stevens County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council, Stevens County Commission</p> <p>Seconded Mr. Martz input.</p> <p>Less hunters and harvest is going up should be a good sign that 4 point restriction is working.</p> <p>Have heard of more bucks in the Northeast from family member.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for</p>

	<p>four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.</p>
<p>Gary Douvia 4 point system is a test and we need another 2-3 years to conclude results from it.</p> <p>Fawns are decreasing, there is a predator problem. Need to find balance with predators.</p> <p>Habitat on public lands and predators are 2 easiest way to address loss of hunters and loss revenue.</p> <p>Youth were supposed to be excluded from 4-point restriction. Or possibly add more permits available for youth. Definitely needs to be part of the 3 year package.</p> <p>We're losing hunters by making it too difficult for youth to be successful.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.</p>

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Under 3-point GMUs, add GMU 448 and delete GMUs 568, 574, and 578. This change updates the list of 3-point GMU changes that were made several years ago.
- Under Late Archery:
 - Elk Area 1010 and GMU 163, Antlerless only, change the end date of the season from January 20th to January 30th, 2015. This change corrects a typographical error that was inserted in 2012.
 - GMU 342 should be moved from the “True Spike Bull and Antlerless” line to the “Spike Bull and Antlerless” line. This change corrects a typographical error.
- Under Late Archery, Nov. 26-Dec. 15, 3 pt. min. or antlerless, add Elk Area 4601. This change corrects an omission from the original filing.
- Under Early Muzzleloader, Sept. 27-Oct. 10, 3 pt. min. or antlerless, add Elk Area 4601. This change corrects an omission from the original filing.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment

Comments	Agency Response
<p>(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(4) If the multi-season tag is drawn, allow the winners to apply for and DRAW any and all special permits for that species in the entire state. Then the lucky winners of the multi-season tag would have more opportunity to make any choice they wanted upon drawing (or not drawing) their special permits.</p>	<p>The multi-season tag already allows for this. If drawn for the multi-season tag you can apply for any special permit for which you qualify. All multi-season deer tag holders can apply for Quality, Bucks, Antlerless, and 2nd deer regardless of weapon type. All multi-season elk tag holders can apply for Quality, Bulls, and Antlerless regardless of east or west designation and weapon type. In addition both deer and elk multi-season tag holders can apply for youth, 65+, hunters with disabilities, or master hunter if they qualify for those categories.</p>
<p>Make ALL big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take ONE animal and only have a limited amount of TIME to apply to their hunting efforts.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the</p>

	<p>animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Early archery elk is starting too early. September 8th-21st would be better for the archery hunters and the game processing. It would be nice to get closer to the rut and hunt. Also early season elk needs to have more units opened up. Increase the bull tags by 10% in the Yakima herd.</p>	<p>The early, general, elk archery season currently runs for 13 days starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day. If any changes are going to be made to the start date or length of early archery elk they would have to be implemented in the 2015-2017 three-year hunting season package.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups.</p>
<p>Would like the Little Naches and Bumping units to be open after Labor Day up to Sept. 21st. Little Naches was closed last year, and everyone hunted Bumping across the road. It would be better to have less pressure in both units than a lot of pressure in just one unit.</p>	<p>The early, general, elk archery season currently runs for 13 days starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day. If any changes are going to be made to the start date or length of early archery elk they would have to be implemented in the 2015-2017 three-year hunting season package. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The current opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. In 2010, Region 3 recommended the antlerless part of the early, archery opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 be put on temporary hold as a result of lower than desired numbers of elk counted in the aerial surveys. This was always seen as a temporary measure until the elk numbers in those GMUs responded appropriately. At that same time, to offset the loss of early season antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352, 356, Region 3 recommended opening an early antlerless opportunity in GMU 346. Records show that opportunity hadn't been</p>

	<p>offered in the previous ten years (2000-2009) and probably hadn't been offered much longer than that if ever. Now that the elk numbers in GMUs 352 and 356 have responded, in 2013 the Commission returned to the pre-2010 structure for the early archery season that allowed antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 but not in GMU 346. As an aside, late season antlerless opportunity for archery has always been offered in GMU 346 for this entire time period (2000-2012) and there is no recommendation to change that opportunity.</p>
<p>Please bring back the late Muzzleloader season in Yakima unit 346. It would be nice to have more than 7 days to hunt.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Please discuss the opportunity of adding a late muzzleloader season to a local Yakima area game mgmt unit. Could be a good tool for damage control issues in the Cowiche or Cleman units.</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for ways to use hunting seasons to mitigate damage. If the elk damage need was there and muzzleloaders were the most appropriate group for the job, we would have recommended such a season. There are currently some general season hunts in the Ellensburg area that involve GMU 371 and Elk Areas 3911 and 3912 that are open to Master Hunters. There are also approximately 1,475 antlerless elk permits being offered to muzzleloaders for the Yakima elk population, however, these are being offered in October, not during a late season.</p>
<p>Too many cow tags for elk. You are going to wipe out the herds. Cow season should be the second week of the season to give people a chance to hunt for bulls.</p>	<p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. Antlerless permits are typically used to get an elk population back to objective.</p>
<p>Open more hunting units to Muzzle loaders please. many have to travel extraordinary miles just to get to a hunting unit. You need to open more than 7 or so on each side of the mountains.</p>	<p>For early general muzzleloader season there are 28 GMUs open in eastern Washington and 29 GMUs in western Washington. For late general muzzleloader season there are 32 GMUs open in eastern Washington and 19 GMUs open in western Washington. This does not account for any additional special permit hunts.</p>
<p>I hunted elk in region 653 for 40 years then you closed it, except for special permits. I am now disabled and would like to hunt in those old familiar areas at least one more time. Please open the Huckleberry Creek area for disabled hunters this year.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. This is one of the topics that will likely be discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Early archery Elk should be two full weeks ending sometime after Sept. 20th. I don't like the tie-in to the labor day weekend. I would like it start for instance on the 8th and end on the 21st no matter what day of the week it starts or ends. Late archery Elk season also should start on a given day not the day after Thanksgiving, It used to start on Nov. 20th. The weather always plays a</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The recommended number of antlered and</p>

<p>large role in late season for Elk, sometime there's too much snow other times none. The longer season would give us a better chance to be there at the right time concerning the weather. Early season archery Elk should be open to more units. It used to be one side of the highway for archery the other side for muzzleloaders, (for instance the Little Naches unit and the Bumping unit) now that we don't hunt at the same time why not open all units to both groups. The number of bull tags in the Yakima herd should be increased by at least 10%.</p>	<p>antlerless, special permits for the Yakima elk population have been increased.</p> <p>The Bumping unit is open during the early season, as is the Nile. The Little Naches is open during the late season.</p>
<p>(3) Early and late muzzle loader and bow seasons when I first started, there were certain areas for these methods to be used in. You had a choice of what you wanted to hunt with for the deer or elk season, one season your choice of weapon. There were some specific areas possibly for bow or muzzle loaders. Now the long seasons given to them puts too much strain on the animals. Make the bow hunters and muzzle loaders obey by the same laws as modern rifle hunters unless drawn for a special permit.</p>	<p>Archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters do have to abide by the same basic rules that modern firearm hunters do. Separating the different user groups avoids overlaps in seasons that could be potentially problematic and some would argue unfair. Separating the user groups also helps us reduce some of the crowding during hunting seasons. All hunters can freely select the weapon type that best meets their needs for opportunity and timing of season.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Change the early archery elk season back to a fixed time frame of September 8th to the 21st as it was prior to the 2009-2011 seasons and add our 1 day back that was taken away in 2009. Archery is a hard sport and one that does not need further handicaps. By limiting us to 13 days afield and starting on September 2nd (2014) makes a difficult sport much, much harder.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Bring back the early archery antlerless/spike elk hunt in GMU 346 (Little Naches) as there are plenty of animals as witnessed by the 500 proposed modern firerarm antlerless permits.</p>	<p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. In 2010, Region 3 recommended the antlerless part of the early, archery opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 be put on temporary hold as a result of lower than desired numbers of elk counted in the aerial surveys. This was always seen as a temporary measure until the elk numbers in those GMUs responded appropriately.</p> <p>At that same time, to offset the loss of early season antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352, 356, Region 3 recommended opening an early antlerless opportunity in GMU 346. Records show that opportunity hadn't been offered in the previous ten years (2000-2009) and probably hadn't been offered much longer than that if ever.</p>

	<p>Now that the elk numbers in GMUs 352 and 356 have responded, in 2013 the Commission returned to the pre-2010 structure for the early archery season that allowed antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 but not in GMU 346.</p> <p>As an aside, late season antlerless opportunity for archery has always been offered in GMU 346 for the time period (2000-2013) and there is no recommendation to change that opportunity</p>
<p>(3) Object to "peak rut" hunts for eastern washington modern firearm quality elk hunts increasing from 1 to 3 permits??? Archery hunters have long been told by the game department that we will never have an archery season during the peak rut (last week of September) however peak rut permits were added in 2009 to allow modern firearm hunters to hunt bulls during the last week of September.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>I would like to see the archery season for early elk be set to start on Sept 8 every year and go for 2 weeks rather than how it is now with it depending on Labor Day weekend. No other season dates are dependent on a holiday so why should this one. Also most of the olympi Peninsula gmus especially around the Forks area need some cow tags. We have herds of over 100 cows and very few bulls to breed them. They are becoming nuisance elk in many areas so let hunters help manage the numbers. At least some youth tags or archery tags even if it is special permit.</p>	<p>There are many late archery and muzzleloader hunts that are dependent on the Thanksgiving day holiday. Although it's not a holiday, the modern firearm deer seasons fall on the Saturday after Oct 10.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Having the season at the beginning of September means that you are forced to hunt during what will most likely be very warm temperatures. This poses obvious problems for meat care should you harvest a back country elk. The difference between the first and the end of September temperature wise is profound. When I lived in Idaho we didn't even hunt the first weekend for that very reason. Why not move the season deeper into September? If you observe the Idaho panhandle you will see there doesn't seem to be any ill effect from Bowhunting clear to the end of September, and we share some of the same elk as I often hunt the northeast corner of the state.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>The Season is far too short. Another thing that disappointed me was how the shortened seasons in Washington impacted my hunting. I have a steady job, and am limited to hunting on my days off. It is very deceptive to say I have a 13 day season, because I really only have a 2-3 days I can hunt. In Idaho I had 4 weekends to hunt on vastly increasing my opportunities. Also, by cramming all the hunters into such a short time frame it makes</p>	<p>The state of Washington is the smallest in area of all the western elk states and is second only to California in human population. Washington also has more elk hunters per elk than any other western state. One of the highest values for Washington elk hunters is to maintain an over-the-counter, general season opportunity. To maintain that opportunity and not overharvest the elk populations we have shorter seasons, we antler restrictions, and we</p>

<p>it very difficult to get away from other people which is very important to me. Last Year I bought a non-resident tag for Idaho based on these very reasons, and then tried the Muzzleloader season here. Sadly, we were really busy here at work that weekend and I only got to hunt a 1/2 day in Washington, and there were people everywhere!</p>	<p>require hunters to select a weapon type and only hunt within those designated seasons. At this time the calendar is full with no room to lengthen the seasons for user groups as you've described or to push them later when elk are more vulnerable. In addition, history has shown that the increased vulnerability of eastern Washington elk moving in response to snow events will result in a higher harvest than can be sustained over the long-term. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
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Verbal Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>Gary Tatro – Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Opposing any elk harvest in Elk Damage Area 4941 until Spring surveys are conducted and an analysis of the 2013 harvest data is complete enabling WDFW biologists and tribal biologists to agree on a 2014 harvest management plan that is based on science. Committed to addressing land owner needs while at the same time and more importantly, preserving treaty rights.</p>	<p>The Department will continue to work with the Point Elliot Treaty Tribes to agree on sound stewardship of the elk population in this area. The Department is also required by statute to address wildlife damage by elk. The Department will continue to work agricultural producers to mitigate elk damage.</p>

232-28-359 2014 Deer special permits.

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Update the year to 2014 for deer special permits.
- Under Quality, Modern Firearm:
 - Selkirk, correct the omission of Mule Deer Buck. This change clarifies the type of hunt offered.
 - 49 Degrees North, correct the omission of Deer. This change clarifies the type of hunt offered.
- Under Quality, Modern Firearm, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:
 - Slide Ridge, Nov. 1-20 was changed from 10 to 11
 - Desert, Oct. 25-Nov. 2 was changed from 18 to 16
 - Naneum, Nov. 11-19 was changed from 15 to 14
 - Quilomene, Nov. 3-19 was changed from 14 to 15
 - Alkali, Nov. 1-16 was changed from 6 to 5
- Under Quality, Modern Firearm:

- Teanaway hunt, the date was changed from Nov. 12-20 to Nov. 11-19, to account for the calendar shift.
- Lt Murry hunt, the date was changed from Nov. 12-20 to Nov. 11-19, to account for the calendar shift.
- Under Quality, Archery, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:
 - Chiwawa, Dec. 1-8 was changed from 12 to 11
 - Desert, Nov. 25-Dec. 8 was changed from 32 to 37
 - Naneum, Nov. 20-Dec. 8 was changed from 7 to 10
 - Quilomene, Nov. 20-Dec. 8 was changed from 6 to 5
 - Teanaway, Nov. 20-Dec. 8 was changed from 11 to 7
- Under Quality, Muzzleloader, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:
 - Desert, Oct. 11-19 was changed from 3 to 2
 - Teanaway, Nov 3-10 was changed from 2 to 1
- Under Bucks, Modern Firearm, Watershed, change the dates from Oct. 1-10 to Oct. 4-15. These hunts are coordinated with Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. The first dates staff received from them were incorrect.
- Under Bucks, Archery, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:
 - Ritzville, Dec. 1-8 was changed from 7 to 5
 - Alkali, Sept. 1-21 was changed from 4 to 3
- Under Bucks, Muzzleloader, Alkali, Sept. 21-Oct. 10 was changed from 2 to 1 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Antlerless, Archery, to facilitate moving opportunity to the Youth, Senior, and Hunters with Disabilities categories delete:
 - 49 Degrees North hunt, Sept. 1-26 and Nov. 25-Dec. 9, Antlerless, GMU 117
 - Huckleberry hunt, Sept. 1-26 and Nov. 25-Dec. 9, Antlerless, GMU 121
- Under Antlerless, Muzzleloader, to facilitate moving opportunity to the Youth, Senior, and Hunters with Disabilities categories delete:
 - 49 Degrees North hunt, Sept. 27-Oct. 5, Antlerless, GMU 117
 - Huckleberry hunt, Sept. 27-Oct. 5, Antlerless, GMU 121
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, add a 49 Degrees North hunt, Oct. 11-15, White-tailed Antlerless, GMU 117, 20 permits.
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, add a Huckleberry hunt, Oct. 11-15, White-tailed Antlerless, GMU 121, 20 permits.
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, change the number of permits due to fewer deer to harvest, and the new permit numbers are intended to reflect reasonable expectations:
 - Chewuch hunt from 20 to 10

- Pearrygin hunt from 20 to 10
- Under Youth, Modern Firearm, delete the Green River hunt, Nov. 9-15, Antlerless. This change is the result of a negotiated agreement between WDFW, Muckleshoot Tribe, and the City of Tacoma. This hunt will alternate every other year with the hunters with disabilities hunt.
- Under Senior 65+, Modern Firearm, add:
 - 49 Degrees North hunt, Oct. 11-15, White-tailed Antlerless, GMU 117, 20 permits
 - Huckleberry hunt, Oct. 11-15, White-tailed Antlerless, GMU 121, 20 permits
- Under Hunters with Disabilities, Modern Firearm, add:
 - 49 Degrees North hunt, Oct. 11-15, Antlerless, GMU 117, 20 permits
 - Huckleberry hunt, Oct. 11-15, Antlerless, GMU 121, 20 permits

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Input	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department’s intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(4) If the multi-season tag is drawn, allow the winners to apply for and DRAW any and all special permits for that species in the entire state. Then the lucky winners of the multi-season tag would have more opportunity to make any choice they wanted upon drawing (or not drawing) their special permits.</p>	<p>The multi-season tag already allows for this. If drawn for the multi-season tag you can apply for any special permit for which you qualify. All multi-season deer tag holders can apply for Quality, Bucks, Antlerless, and 2nd deer regardless of weapon type. All multi-season elk tag holders can apply for Quality, Bulls, and Antlerless regardless</p>

	<p>of east or west designation and weapon type. In addition both deer and elk multi-season tag holders can apply for youth, 65+, hunters with disabilities, or master hunter if they qualify for those categories.</p>
<p>Make <i>ALL</i> big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take <i>ONE</i> animal and only have a limited amount of <i>TIME</i> to apply to their hunting efforts.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Archery for deer in the late season the day after Thanksgiving is not working. November 20th is a good opening day because the deer are still in the late rut.</p>	<p>In 2014, there are no late archery deer seasons proposed to open the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28). Such was the case in 2013 and 2012 as well. Late archery seasons open on a variety of dates dependent on location, deer vulnerability, hunting season objectives, and habitat types, just to name a few. In 2014, late archery openers will range from Nov. 10 to Nov. 26.</p> <p>You didn't mention where you hunt but if you are hunting a GMU where the late archery opener is tied to the Thanksgiving holiday, it probably opens the day before Thanksgiving. In 2014 that will be Nov. 26. Because Thanksgiving makes a calendar shift every year the archery opener can be as early as Nov. 21 and as late as Nov. 27.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in</p>

	that process.
Please discuss the opportunity of adding a late muzzleloader season to a local Yakima area game mgmt unit. Could be a good tool for damage control issues in the Cowiche or Cleman units.	The Department is always looking for ways to use hunting seasons to mitigate damage. If the deer damage need was there and muzzleloaders were the most appropriate group for the job, we would have recommended such a season.
I would like to make the recommendation of adding unit 448 to the late blacktail season in November.	The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.
I am once again dismayed that the Muzzleloader deer season dates remain unchanged and are grossly uneven in duration from year to year. I wish the Department would average the number of days possible using the current "Thanksgiving Day" opener logic and make the season equal length EVERY year!	The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.
(3) Late archery Deer season should start on a given day not the day after Thanksgiving, It used to start on Nov. 20th I think that was good timing, it let us hunt Deer a little while they were still in the rut	<p>In 2014, there are no late archery deer seasons proposed to open the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28). Such was the case in 2013 and 2012 as well. Late archery seasons open on a variety of dates dependent on location, deer vulnerability, hunting season objectives, and habitat types, just to name a few. In 2014, late archery openers will range from Nov. 10 to Nov. 26.</p> <p>You didn't mention where you hunt but if you are hunting a GMU where the late archery opener is tied to the Thanksgiving holiday, it probably opens the day before Thanksgiving. In 2014 that will be Nov. 26. So you have two more hunting days than you thought you had. Because Thanksgiving makes a calendar shift every year the archery opener can be as early as Nov. 21 and as late as Nov. 27.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
Early and late muzzle loader and bow seasons when I first started, there were certain areas for these methods to be used in. You had a choice of what you wanted to hunt with for the deer or elk season, one season your choice of weapon. There were some specific areas possibly for bow or	Archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters do have to abide by the same basic rules that modern firearm hunters do. Separating the different user groups avoids overlaps in seasons that could be potentially problematic and some would argue unfair. Separating the user groups also helps us

<p>muzzle loaders. Now the long seasons given to them puts too much strain on the animals. Make the bow hunters and muzzle loaders obey by the same laws as modern rifle hunters unless drawn for a special permit.</p>	<p>reduce some of the crowding during hunting seasons. All hunters can freely select the weapon type that best meets their needs for opportunity and timing of season.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>The 4 point minimum restriction in GMUs 117 & 121 must be removed. My hunting buddies and I have hunted on the Colville National Forest in GMU 117 each year since 1970. What historically was a successful hunting trip has turned into a glorified camping trip, since it is almost impossible to identify four or more points in the few seconds of opportunity that typically is offered during the hunt.</p> <p>PLEASE eliminate this unnecessary restriction!</p>	<p>The 4 pt. minimum antler restriction for white-tailed deer in GMUs 117 and 121 was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2011. This was not the original recommendation by the Department but the Fish and Wildlife Commission made the commitment to constituents to adopt and retain the season structure through the 2014 season before reevaluating.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>

Verbal Public Input	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>Dan Marcott Harvest rates and 3 main tools, Archery, muzzleloader and modern refer to the 'normal' hunter. With crop damage and other programs we have, I just want to be sure that department is listening to the disabled hunter. Disabled hunters are discriminated against when it comes to harvest and special permits. Time for change with disabled hunters. A small portion of harvest designated to disabled hunters has remained the same while the baby boomer population coming into retirement age and an age when things go wrong.</p>	<p>Hunters with disabilities can apply for all special permit categories unless they don't qualify for either the Youth or the Senior categories. Hunters with disabilities can hunt any general season as long as they have the appropriate license and transport tag.</p> <p>The Department considers hunters with disabilities when they are addressing wildlife conflict issues. Available access is often a limiting factor in these situations.</p>
<p>Al Martz – Stevens County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council, Northeast Washington Wildlife Group, Stevens County Commission</p> <p>In support of and would like to see continue the 4 point antler restrictions GMU 117 & 121.</p> <p>Propose to extend the 4 point antler restriction through 2015-20173 year package. Expand youth opportunities for doe and any buck in the early general season.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo</p>

	for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.
<p>Dale Magart - Stevens County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council, Stevens County Commission</p> <p>Seconded Mr. Martz input.</p> <p>Less hunters and harvest is going up should be a good sign that 4 point restriction is working.</p> <p>Have heard of more bucks in the Northeast from family member.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.</p>
<p>Gary Douvia</p> <p>4 point system is a test and we need another 2-3 years to conclude results from it.</p> <p>Fawns are decreasing, there is a predator problem. Need to find balance with predators.</p> <p>Habitat on public lands and predators are 2 easiest way to address loss of hunters and loss revenue.</p> <p>Youth were supposed to be excluded from 4-point restriction. Or possibly add more permits available for youth. Definitely needs to be part of the 3 year package.</p> <p>We're losing hunters by making it too difficult for youth to be successful.</p>	<p>The 4 pt. rule was vetted by 10 stakeholder groups in summer/fall of 2010 and the rule was adopted for the 2011 season. At the time, some of the northeast WA proponents did want an exception for youth/senior, but ultimately, with the help of the stakeholder groups, it was decided that the 4 pt. rule should apply to all participants to evaluate the performance of the 4 pt. rule (and response by the local herds) and to avoid enforcement issues. Since the rule was adopted in 2011, the last year of the previous three-year package, there was a commitment made to not 'tinker' with the rule for four years, and that the entire 4 pt. restriction would be revisited at the next three-year package, 2015-2017. The staff recommendation is status quo for buck harvest in these two GMUs for 2014. We will then evaluate the entire WTD hunting strategy in GMUs 117 and 121 for the next three-year package, beginning this summer.</p>

232-28-360 2014 Elk special permits

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Updated the year to 2014 for special permits.
- Under Quality, Eastern Modern Firearm (EF):

- number of permits for the Prescott hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 4 to 2 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Watershed hunt, Oct. 25-Nov. 2, was changed from 45 to 35. Fewer bulls are available for harvest, so a reduction in permits was necessary. This hunt is coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the city of Walla Walla.
 - number of permits for the Tucannon hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 12 to 10 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Wenaha East hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 12 to 13 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Mountain View hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 15 to 14 due to the special permit allocation formula calculated different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Lick Creek hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 6 to 5 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Couse hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 1 to 3 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Colockum hunt, Oct. 20-Nov. 2, was changed from 1 to 6. This change is in response to the March aerial surveys of the Colockum herd.
- Under Quality, Western Modern Firearm (WF), the number of permits for the Toutle hunt, Nov. 1-12, was changed from 99 to 73 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year
 - Under Quality, Eastern Archery (EA):
 - number of permits for the Prescott hunt, Sept. 1-19, was changed from 2 to 1 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Blue Creek hunt, Sept. 1-19, was changed from 3 to 2 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Mountain View hunt, Sept. 1-19, was changed from 11 to 12 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Peola hunt, Sept. 1-19, was changed from 1 to 3 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Couse hunt, Sept. 1-19, was changed from 1 to 2 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Colockum hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 2 to 5 This change is in response to the March aerial surveys of the Colockum herd.
 - number of permits for the Peaches Ridge hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 106 to 134 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.

- number of permits for the Observatory hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 110 to 131 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- number of permits for the Goose Prairie hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 62 to 69 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- number of permits for the Bethel hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 35 to 37 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- number of permits for the Rimrock hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 94 to 96 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- number of permits for the Cowiche hunt, Sept. 2-14, was changed from 24 to 32 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Quality, Western Archery (WA):
 - number of permits for the Toutle hunt, Sept. 6-21 and Dec. 1-15, was changed from 65 to 49 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the White River hunt, Sept. 3-15, was changed from 14 to 13 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Quality, Eastern Muzzleloader (EM):
 - number of permits for the Mountain View hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 6 to 4 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Colockum hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 1 to 2. This change is in response to the March aerial surveys of the Colockum herd.
 - number of permits for the Peaches Ridge hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 25 to 27 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Observatory hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 19 to 22 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Bethel hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 11 to 14 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Rimrock hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 14 to 12 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - number of permits for the Cowiche hunt, Oct. 1-10, was changed from 6 to 9 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.

- Under Bulls, Eastern Modern Firearm (EF):
 - Ten Forty hunt, Oct. 25-Nov. 2, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.
 - Mission hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift.
 - number of permits for the Teanaway hunt, Dec. 17-31, was changed from 10 to 11 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Peaches Ridge hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 115 to 125 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Observatory hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 66 to 72 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Goose Prairie hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 68 to 73 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Bethel hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 51 to 59 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Rimrock hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 124 to 130 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - Cowiche hunt, the date was changed from Oct. 21-Nov. 3 to Oct. 20-Nov. 2, to account for the calendar shift. The number of permits was changed from 20 to 24 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Western Modern Firearm (WF):
 - Nooksack hunt, Oct. 11-Nov. 18, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.
 - Margaret hunt, Nov. 1-12, the number of permits was changed from 73 to 72 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Eastern Archery (EA):
 - Ten Forty hunt, Sept. 4-14, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.
 - number of permits for the Teanaway hunt, Nov. 21-Dec. 8, was changed from 8 to 10 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Western Archery (WA):
 - Nooksack hunt, Sept 1-21 and Dec. 1-31, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.

- Margaret hunt, Sept. 6-21 and Dec. 1-15, the number of permits was changed from 50 to 46 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- number of permits for the Olympic hunt, Sept. 3-15, was changed from 6 to 9 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Eastern Muzzleloader (EM):
 - Ten Forty hunt, Oct. 1-10, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.
 - number of permits for the Teanaway hunt, Dec. 9-16, was changed from 7 to 13 due to a change in harvest objective and the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Western Muzzleloader (WM):
 - Nooksack hunt, Sept 24-Oct. 5 and Nov. 22-30, a clarification was made on the “spike bull only” special restriction.
 - Margaret hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 21 to 28 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Bulls, Western Muzzleloader (WM):
 - Olympic hunt, change the dates from Oct. 5-11 to Oct. 4-10. This change avoids an overlap with modern firearm deer and corrects an oversight in the Regional recommendation.
 - Skokomish hunt, change the dates from Oct. 5-11 to Oct. 4-10. This change avoids an overlap with modern firearm deer and corrects an oversight in the Regional recommendation. Also, the number of permits was changed from 3 to 2 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
 - White River hunt, change the dates from Oct. 5-11 to Oct. 4-10. This change avoids an overlap with modern firearm deer and corrects an oversight in the Regional recommendation. Also, the number of permits was changed from 4 to 6 due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year.
- Under Antlerless, Eastern Modern Firearm (EF):
 - Mountain View hunt, Oct. 25-Nov. 2, the number of permits was changed from 10 to 25 due to more antlerless elk available for harvest and to maintain population control in this Elk Area.
 - Colockum hunt, Oct. 29-Nov. 2, the number of permits was changed from 190 to 425. The Colockum population is well above population objective and antlerless elk harvest is necessary to reduce the population to objective levels.
- Under Antlerless, Western Modern Firearm (WF):
 - North Bend hunt, Nov. 1-12, change the number of permits from 7 to 5. This change corrects an omission in the original filing.
 - delete the Skagit River hunt, Oct. 11-Nov. 21. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers. Damage mitigation will be handled using other strategies.
 - Winston hunt, Nov. 1-12, the number of permits was changed from 150 to 40. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.

- Margaret hunt, Nov. 18-26, the number of permits was changed from 140 to 70. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Ryderwood hunt, Nov. 1-12, the number of permits was changed from 100 to 50. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Coweeman hunt, Nov. 1-12, the number of permits was changed from 200 to 120. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Toutle hunt, Nov. 18-26, the number of permits was changed from 200 to 120. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Raymond hunt, Jan. 1-20, change the year from 2014 to 2015. This change corrects an oversight in the original filing.
 - Raymond hunt, Feb. 1-28, change the year from 2014 to 2015. This change corrects an oversight in the original filing.
 - Puyallup hunt, Jan. 1-20, change the year from 2014 to 2015. This change corrects an oversight in the original
- Under Antlerless, Eastern Archery (EA) for the Colockum hunt, Sept. 2-14, the number of permits was changed from 140 to 475. The Colockum population is well above population objective and antlerless elk harvest is necessary to reduce the population to objective levels.
 - Under Antlerless, Western Archery (WA):
 - delete the Skagit River hunt, Sept. 1-21. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers. Damage mitigation will be handled using other strategies.
 - delete the Skagit River hunt, Nov. 22-Dec. 31. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers. Damage mitigation will be handled using other strategies.
 - Margaret hunt, Sept. 6-21 and Dec. 1-15, the number of permits was changed from 70 to 35. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Toutle hunt, Sept. 6-21 and Dec. 1-15, the number of permits was changed from 80 to 50. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - Under Antlerless, Eastern Muzzleloader (EM) for the Colockum hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 40 to 90. The Colockum population is well above population objective and antlerless elk harvest is necessary to reduce the population to objective levels.
 - Under Antlerless, Western Muzzleloader (WM):
 - delete the Skagit River hunt, Sept. 24-Oct. 10. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers. Damage mitigation will be handled using other strategies.
 - delete the Skagit River hunt, Nov. 22-Dec. 31. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers. Damage mitigation will be handled using other strategies.
 - Green Mt. hunt, Jan. 1-15, 2015, the number of permits was changed from 30 to 5. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.

- Winston hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 90 to 40. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
- Margaret hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 70 to 35. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
- Ryderwood hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 50 to 30. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
- Coweeman hunt, Nov. 26-Dec. 8, the number of permits was changed from 50 to 45. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
- Toutle hunt, Oct. 4-10, the number of permits was changed from 80 to 50. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
- Under 65+ Senior, Western Modern Firearm (WF):
 - Margaret hunt, Nov. 18-26, the number of permits was changed from 20 to 10. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.
 - both Centralia Mine hunts, change the number of permits from 4 to 5. This increase was a negotiated agreement with mine staff who are acting as hunt coordinators.
- Under Hunters with Disabilities, Western Modern Firearm (WF) for both Centralia Mine hunts, change the number of permits from 4 to 5. This increase was a negotiated agreement with mine staff who are acting as hunt coordinators.
- Under Master Hunter, Region 1, any elk tag/2nd elk tag, Aug. 1-March 31, 2015, Ferry, Stevens and Pen Oreille counties were deleted as boundaries and replaced with Region 1 and the number of permits were changed from 10 to 20^{HC}. This change accommodates the consolidation of the former three Region 1 hunt areas and the increase in permits will be used to help mitigate agricultural damage in Region 1 using Master Hunters.
- Under Master Hunter:
 - Region 4 North, any elk tag/2nd elk tag, Aug. 1-March 31, 2015, the number of permits was changed from 30 to 25^{HC}. This change is a negotiated agreement with the cooperative managers.
 - Green MT., any elk tag/2nd elk tag, Jan. 16-30, 2015, the number of permits was changed from 20 to 5. The population has been reduced and this change is intended to stabilize the population at its current level.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in</p>

	<p>harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(4) If the multi-season tag is drawn, allow the winners to apply for and DRAW any and all special permits for that species in the entire state. Then the lucky winners of the multi-season tag would have more opportunity to make any choice they wanted upon drawing (or not drawing) their special permits.</p>	<p>The multi-season tag already allows for this. If drawn for the multi-season tag you can apply for any special permit for which you qualify. All multi-season deer tag holders can apply for Quality, Bucks, Antlerless, and 2nd deer regardless of weapon type. All multi-season elk tag holders can apply for Quality, Bulls, and Antlerless regardless of east or west designation and weapon type. In addition both deer and elk multi-season tag holders can apply for youth, 65+, hunters with disabilities, or master hunter if they qualify for those categories.</p>
<p>Make <i>ALL</i> big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take <i>ONE</i> animal and only have a limited amount of <i>TIME</i> to apply to their hunting efforts.</p>	<p>In the last few years the Department has recommended and the Commission has adopted longer seasons for western modern firearm elk and muzzleloader deer. The western modern firearm elk general season used to be 9 days long and was incrementally increased to 12 days. Muzzleloader deer was increased from 7 days to 9 days and now includes 2 weekends rather than 1.</p> <p>The Department's intention is to provide as much recreational opportunity as possible without having a negative impact on the wildlife resource. Longer hunting seasons typically equate to an increase in harvest. If by lengthening the season we are also encroaching further into the breeding season, then harvest will increase even more, because the animals are more vulnerable to harvest during the breeding season.</p> <p>In addition, with all of the user groups vying for an opportunity to hunt, the calendar from September to December already has some form of big game hunting occurring. Any increase for one user group will require a reduction for some other user group. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>

<p>Early archery elk is starting too early. September 8th-21st would be better for the archery hunters and the game processing. It would be nice to get closer to the rut and hunt. Also early season elk needs to have more units opened up. Increase the bull tags by 10% in the Yakima herd.</p>	<p>The early, general, elk archery season currently runs for 13 days starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day. If any changes are going to be made to the start date or length of early archery elk they would have to be implemented in the 2015-2017 three-year hunting season package.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups.</p>
<p>Would like the Little Naches and Bumping units to be open after Labor Day up to Sept. 21st. Little Naches was closed last year, and everyone hunted Bumping across the road. It would be better to have less pressure in both units than a lot of pressure in just one unit.</p>	<p>The early, general, elk archery season currently runs for 13 days starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day. If any changes are going to be made to the start date or length of early archery elk they would have to be implemented in the 2015-2017 three-year hunting season package. The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The current opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. In 2010, Region 3 recommended the antlerless part of the early, archery opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 be put on temporary hold as a result of lower than desired numbers of elk counted in the aerial surveys. This was always seen as a temporary measure until the elk numbers in those GMUs responded appropriately. At that same time, to offset the loss of early season antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352, 356, Region 3 recommended opening an early antlerless opportunity in GMU 346. Records show that opportunity hadn't been offered in the previous ten years (2000-2009) and probably hadn't been offered much longer than that if ever. Now that the elk numbers in GMUs 352 and 356 have responded, in 2013 the Commission returned to the pre-2010 structure for the early archery season that allowed antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 but not in GMU 346. As an aside, late season antlerless opportunity for archery has always been offered in GMU 346 for this entire time period (2000-2012) and there is no recommendation to change that opportunity.</p>

<p>Please bring back the late Muzzleloader season in Yakima unit 346. It would be nice to have more than 7 days to hunt.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Please discuss the opportunity of adding a late muzzleloader season to a local Yakima area game mgmt unit. Could be a good tool for damage control issues in the Cowiche or Cleman units.</p>	<p>The Department is always looking for ways to use hunting seasons to mitigate damage. If the elk damage need was there and muzzleloaders were the most appropriate group for the job, we would have recommended such a season. There are currently some general season hunts in the Ellensburg area that involve GMU 371 and Elk Areas 3911 and 3912 that are open to Master Hunters. There are also approximately 1,475 antlerless elk permits being offered to muzzleloaders for the Yakima elk population, however, these are being offered in October, not during a late season.</p>
<p>Too many cow tags for elk. You are going to wipe out the herds. Cow season should be the second week of the season to give people a chance to hunt for bulls.</p>	<p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. Antlerless permits are typically used to get an elk population back to objective.</p>
<p>Open more hunting units to Muzzle loaders please. many have to travel extraordinary miles just to get to a hunting unit. You need to open more than 7 or so on each side of the mountains.</p>	<p>For early general muzzleloader season there are 28 GMUs open in eastern Washington and 29 GMUs in western Washington. For late general muzzleloader season there are 32 GMUs open in eastern Washington and 19 GMUs open in western Washington. This does not account for any additional special permit hunts.</p>
<p>I hunted elk in region 653 for 40 years then you closed it, except for special permits. I am now disabled and would like to hunt in those old familiar areas at least one more time. Please open the Huckleberry Creek area for disabled hunters this year.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. This is one of the topics that will likely be discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Early archery Elk should be two full weeks ending sometime after Sept. 20th. I don't like the tie-in to the labor day weekend. I would like it start for instance on the 8th and end on the 21st no matter what day of the week it starts or ends. Late archery Elk season also should start on a given day not the day after Thanksgiving, It used to start on Nov. 20th. The weather always plays a large role in late season for Elk, sometime there's too much snow other times none. The longer season would give us a better chance to be there at the right time concerning the weather. Early season archery Elk should be open to more units. It used to be one side of the highway for archery the other side for muzzleloaders, (for instance the Little Naches unit and the Bumping unit) now that we don't hunt at the same time why not open all units to both groups. The</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p> <p>The recommended number of antlered and antlerless, special permits for the Yakima elk population have been increased.</p> <p>The Bumping unit is open during the early season, as is the Nile. The Little Naches is open during the late season.</p>

<p>number of bull tags in the Yakima herd should be increased by at least 10%.</p>	
<p>(3) Early and late muzzle loader and bow seasons when I first started, there were certain areas for these methods to be used in. You had a choice of what you wanted to hunt with for the deer or elk season, one season your choice of weapon. There were some specific areas possibly for bow or muzzle loaders. Now the long seasons given to them puts too much strain on the animals. Make the bow hunters and muzzle loaders obey by the same laws as modern rifle hunters unless drawn for a special permit.</p>	<p>Archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters do have to abide by the same basic rules that modern firearm hunters do. Separating the different user groups avoids overlaps in seasons that could be potentially problematic and some would argue unfair. Separating the user groups also helps us reduce some of the crowding during hunting seasons. All hunters can freely select the weapon type that best meets their needs for opportunity and timing of season.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Change the early archery elk season back to a fixed time frame of September 8th to the 21st as it was prior to the 2009-2011 seasons and add our 1 day back that was taken away in 2009. Archery is a hard sport and one that does not need further handicaps. By limiting us to 13 days afield and starting on September 2nd (2014) makes a difficult sport much, much harder.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>(3) Bring back the early archery antlerless/spike elk hunt in GMU 346 (Little Naches) as there are plenty of animals as witnessed by the 500 proposed modern firearm antlerless permits.</p>	<p>The opportunities recommended by the Regional biologists are based on the annual aerial surveys conducted, as well as past patterns of harvest and success rates for all user groups. In 2010, Region 3 recommended the antlerless part of the early, archery opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 be put on temporary hold as a result of lower than desired numbers of elk counted in the aerial surveys. This was always seen as a temporary measure until the elk numbers in those GMUs responded appropriately.</p> <p>At that same time, to offset the loss of early season antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352, 356, Region 3 recommended opening an early antlerless opportunity in GMU 346. Records show that opportunity hadn't been offered in the previous ten years (2000-2009) and probably hadn't been offered much longer than that if ever.</p> <p>Now that the elk numbers in GMUs 352 and 356 have responded, in 2013 the Commission returned to the pre-2010 structure for the early archery season that allowed antlerless opportunity in GMUs 352 and 356 but not in GMU 346.</p> <p>As an aside, late season antlerless opportunity for archery has always been offered in GMU 346 for</p>

	the time period (2000-2013) and there is no recommendation to change that opportunity
<p>(3) Object to "peak rut" hunts for eastern washington modern firearm quality elk hunts increasing from 1 to 3 permits??? Archery hunters have long been told by the game department that we will never have an archery season during the peak rut (last week of September) however peak rut permits were added in 2009 to allow modern firearm hunters to hunt bulls during the last week of September.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>I would like to see the archery season for early elk be set to start on Sept 8 every year and go for 2 weeks rather than how it is now with it depending on Labor Day weekend. No other season dates are dependent on a holiday so why should this one. Also most of the olympi Peninsula gmus especially around the Forks area need some cow tags. We have herds of over 100 cows and very few bulls to breed them. They are becoming nuisance elk in many areas so let hunters help manage the numbers. At least some youth tags or archery tags even if it is special permit.</p>	<p>There are many late archery and muzzleloader hunts that are dependent on the Thanksgiving day holiday. Although it's not a holiday, the modern firearm deer seasons fall on the Saturday after Oct 10.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>Having the season at the beginning of September means that you are forced to hunt during what will most likely be very warm temperatures. This poses obvious problems for meat care should you harvest a back country elk. The difference between the first and the end of September temperature wise is profound. When I lived in Idaho we didn't even hunt the first weekend for that very reason. Why not move the season deeper into September? If you observe the Idaho panhandle you will see there doesn't seem to be any ill effect from Bowhunting clear to the end of September, and we share some of the same elk as I often hunt the northeast corner of the state.</p>	<p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. The timing of early archery season will likely be one of the topics discussed. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
<p>The Season is far too short. Another thing that disappointed me was how the shortened seasons in Washington impacted my hunting. I have a steady job, and am limited to hunting on my days off. It is very deceptive to say I have a 13 day season, because I really only have a 2-3 days I can hunt. In Idaho I had 4 weekends to hunt on vastly increasing my opportunities. Also, by cramming all the hunters into such a short time frame it makes it very difficult to get away from other people which is very important to me. Last Year I bought a non-resident tag for Idaho based on these very reasons, and then tried the Muzzleloader season here. Sadly, we were really busy here at work that weekend and I only got to hunt a 1/2 day in Washington, and there were people everywhere!</p>	<p>The state of Washington is the smallest in area of all the western elk states and is second only to California in human population. Washington also has more elk hunters per elk than any other western state. One of the highest values for Washington elk hunters is to maintain an over-the-counter, general season opportunity. To maintain that opportunity and not overharvest the elk populations we have shorter seasons, we antler restrictions, and we require hunters to select a weapon type and only hunt within those designated seasons.</p> <p>At this time the calendar is full with no room to lengthen the seasons for user groups as you've described or to push them later when elk are more vulnerable. In addition, history has shown that the increased vulnerability of eastern Washington elk</p>

	<p>moving in response to snow events will result in a higher harvest than can be sustained over the long-term.</p> <p>The Department will be engaging in the public process to develop the three-year hunting season package for 2015-2017 in the summer and fall of 2014. We encourage all hunters to participate in that process.</p>
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Verbal Public Comment	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>Gary Tatro – Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Opposing any elk harvest in Elk Damage Area 4941 until Spring surveys are conducted and an analysis of the 2013 harvest data is complete enabling WDFW biologists and tribal biologists to agree on a 2014 harvest management plan that is based on science. Committed to addressing land owner needs while at the same time and more importantly, preserving treaty rights.</p>	<p>The Department will continue to work with the Point Elliot Treaty Tribes to agree on sound stewardship of the elk population in this area. The Department is also required by statute to address wildlife damage by elk. The Department will continue to work agricultural producers to mitigate elk damage.</p>

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

Increase permits in the Asotin herd from 0 to 1. Increase permits in the Lincoln Cliff herd from 1 to 2. Decrease permits in the Cleman Mountain herd from 10 to 8. Increase permits in the Umtanum portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd from 2 to 3. Initiate new ewe-only hunt in the Selah portion of the Umtanum/Selah herd, 5 permits.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

N/A

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A

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

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

Written Public Input	
Comments	Agency Response
<p>(3) Make ALL big game seasons longer. Hunters can still only take one animal and only have a limited amount of time to apply to their hunting efforts. A hunter can still only harvest one animal. This would spread out hunting pressure and provide all with a more quality hunting experience.</p>	<p>Big-game season timing is a complex art of providing acceptable hunter access, minimizing stress to animals at specific times of their life-cycle, and also minimizing conflicts with other land-uses. In the case of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, hunter success rates are currently very high, and extending season lengths appears unnecessary to enhance hunter opportunity.</p>

<p>Make <i>ALL</i> big game seasons longer that would be great. Hunters can still only take <i>ONE</i> animal and only have a limited amount of <i>TIME</i> to apply to their hunting efforts.</p>	<p>Big-game season timing is a complex art of providing acceptable hunter access, minimizing stress to animals at specific times of their life-cycle, and also minimizing conflicts with other land-uses. In the case of bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and moose, hunter success rates are currently very high, and extending season lengths appears unnecessary to enhance hunter opportunity.</p>
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232-28-624 Deer area descriptions

A. Agency reason for adoption:

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.

B. Changes, if any, from the text of the proposed rule and reasons for difference:

- Delete Deer Area 1020. This deer area is no longer needed to implement deer management actions.
- Modify the boundary of Deer Area 1060 Spokane South to expand the southern boundary slightly south to include Jackson and Elder Roads. This expansion allows Wildlife Management to better address nuisance and wildlife damage issues caused by deer.

C. Agency responses to written and oral comments:

N/A