

Concise Explanatory Statement

Equipment Requirements, Game Management Units, Importation and Retention of Dead Nonresident Wildlife

WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

100% of the people with an opinion specific to this WAC were in favor of the proposed change. Many of those supporting the proposal cited keeping CWD out of Washington state as their reason.

Opposing and Other Comments:

None of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes.

A small number of people had comments that weren't specific to this WAC.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to reduce the risk of disease for deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Public testimony was not provided.

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

None

WAC 232-12-047 Unlawful methods for hunting - Firearms

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

81% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Many of those supported the proposal because it helped facilitate allowing crossbows for big game and turkey during modern firearm seasons.

Opposing and Other Comments:

19% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. Several of those opposing didn't want to allow crossbows and the change to this WAC would help facilitate that change.

Several people made the comment that they didn't want crossbows allowed during archery season which is not something that the Department was proposing. Many requests related to making the muzzleloader requirements more liberal, which is not part of this WAC. Others made requests for items the Department is already doing or offering.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide for expanding opportunity when possible as long as there are no overall negative impacts to the resource. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that request new tools should be allowed for hunting that are not currently being allowed.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Public testimony was not provided.

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

None

WAC 232-12-052 Crossbow requirements

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

82% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Many of those supporting the proposal felt that allowing crossbows for big game and turkey during modern firearm seasons was an appropriate thing to do. Others supporting the proposal also wanted to see crossbows allowed for archery and/or muzzleloader seasons.

Opposing and Other Comments:

18% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. Several of those opposing the proposal didn't offer reasons why. The reasons cited for not approving included crossbows not being an effective or appropriate weapon.

Several people made the comment that they didn't want crossbows allowed during archery season which is not something that the Department was proposing. Others made requests for items the Department is already doing or offering.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide for expanding opportunity when possible as long as there are no overall negative impacts to the resource. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that request new tools should be allowed for hunting that are not currently being allowed.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Public testimony was not provided.

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

None

WAC 232-12-054 Archery requirements

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

91% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Most of those who supported the proposal felt that mechanical broadheads were effective equipment to be used for hunting big game and turkey.

Opposing and Other Comments:

9% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. Most of those opposing didn't want to allow mechanical broadheads for big game and turkey hunting because they didn't think the equipment was effective.

Several people made comments that weren't related to WAC 232-12-054.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide for expanding opportunity when possible as long as there are no overall negative impacts to the resource. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that request new tools should be allowed for hunting that are not currently being allowed.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Supporting Comments:

One person testified in support of the proposed changes to WAC 232-12-054 at the March Commission meeting.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide for expanding opportunity when possible as long as there are no overall negative impacts to the resource. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that request new tools should be allowed for hunting that are not currently being allowed.

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

Delete the remainder of section (f) as it currently stands; "It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with a broadhead blade unless the broadhead is unbarbed", and re-letter section (1). This change clarifies the proposed change allowing mechanical broadheads to be used for archery hunting big game.

WAC 232-28-331 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions, Region one

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

80% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Many of those supporting the proposal didn't offer reasons why. Others supporting the proposal supported clear, enforceable Game Management Unit boundaries.

Opposing and Other Comments:

20% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. The reasons offered included not wanting change in general and not wanting to confuse hunters with proposed boundary changes.

In general, a multitude of people had comments about general seasons, special permits, and Elk Areas that weren't specific to this WAC.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide hunting opportunity and clear boundary language.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Public testimony was not provided.

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

None

WAC 232-28-335 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions, Region five

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

41% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Many of those supporting the proposal didn't offer reasons why. Others supporting the proposal supported the change in response to access issues on private land and providing more opportunity.

Opposing and Other Comments:

59% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. The reasons offered included not wanting change in general and not wanting to see the facilitation of converting the Margaret unit to general season. Many commented about the portion of land that was proposed to be moved into the Loo-wit unit. The Department reacted to those comments after they were made and modified that change to a much smaller size.

In general, a multitude of people had comments about general seasons, special permits, and Elk Areas that weren't specific to this WAC.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide hunting opportunity and clear boundary language and be responsive to changes in land ownership and private land access policy changes.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Public testimony was not provided.

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

Under GMU 522-Loo-Wit: This proposed change helps facilitate moving the neighboring Margaret unit (524) to a general elk season and also discourages the use of areas deemed sensitive by the Mount St. Helens National Monument. Modify the legal boundary description to read as follows:

GMU 522-LOO-WIT (Cowlitz and Skamania counties): Beginning on the North Fork Toutle River at the mouth of Hoffstadt Creek; SE up the North Fork Toutle River to Deer Creek; SE up Deer Creek to Weyerhaeuser (Weyco) 3020 line; NW along Weyco 3020 line to Weyco 3000 line; E along Weyco 3000 line to US Forest Service (USFS) Trail 216G; SE along USFS Trail 216G to USFS Trail 216; S on USFS Trail 216 to South Fork of the Toutle River; E along South Fork Toutle River to its headwaters and Mount St. Helens crater's southern edge; E along the Mt. St. Helens crater's southern edge to the headwaters of Ape Canyon Creek; NE down Ape Canyon Creek to USFS Trail 225 (Smith Creek Trail); N and NW on USFS Trail 225 to USFS Rd 99; NE along USFS Rd 99 to USFS Rd 26; N on USFS Rd 26 to USFS Trail 1 (Boundary Trail); W on USFS Trail 1 to USFS Trail 214 (Whittier Trail); N on USFS Trail 214 to USFS Trail 211 (Lakes Trail); W on USFS Trail 211 to USFS Trail 211, USFS Trail 230 (Coldwater Trail) junction; NE to Minnie Peak; W to the USFS property boundary in the SE ¼ of Section 20, T10N, R5E; W and S on USFS property boundary to State Route 504 near the center of Section 35, T10N, R4E; ((Trail 1; W on USFS Trail 1 to USFS Trail 214; NW on USFS Trail 214 to USFS Trail 211; W on USFS Trail 211 to Coldwater Creek; W down Coldwater Creek to Coldwater Lake; SW along the northwest shore of Coldwater Lake to the outlet of Coldwater Lake; SW down the outlet stream from Coldwater Lake to State Route (SR) 504 bridge at mile post 45)) W on SR 504 to Hoffstadt Creek Bridge on Hoffstadt Creek; S and W down Hoffstadt Creek to the North Fork Toutle River and point of beginning.

Under GMU 524 Margaret: This proposed change helps facilitate moving the Margaret unit (GMU 524) to a general elk season, and helps with the creation of a new Elk Area (Norway Pass) in which a new Quality special permit hunting opportunity is proposed. The change does not incorporate areas deemed sensitive by the Mount St. Helens National Monument. This proposed change should not impact the level of grouse, deer, and bear hunting currently taking place on public land. Modify the legal boundary description to read as follows:

GMU 524-MARGARET (Cowlitz, Skamania and Lewis counties): Beginning on the North Fork Toutle River at the mouth of the Green River; SE up the North Fork Toutle River to the mouth of Hoffstadt Creek; N and E up Hoffstadt Creek to the State Route (SR) 504 bridge over Hoffstadt Creek; E on SR 504 to ((the bridge over the outlet to Coldwater Lake at mile

post 45; NE up the outlet stream of Coldwater Lake to Coldwater Lake; NE along the northwest shoreline of Coldwater Lake to Coldwater Creek inlet; E up Coldwater Creek to US Forest Service (USFS) Trail 211; NE on USFS Trail 211 to USFS Trail 214; SE on USFS Trail 214 to USFS Trail 1; E on USFS Trail 1 to USFS Rd 26; N on the USFS Rd 26 (Ryan Lake Rd) to USFS Rd 2612; W on USFS Rd 2612)) US Forest Service (USFS) property boundary near the center of Section 35, T10N, R4E; E and N on USFS property boundary to the USFS property boundary in the SE ¼ of Section 20, T10N, R5E; E to Minnie Peak; SW to USFS trail 211 (Lakes Trail) and USFS trail 230 (Coldwater Trail) junction; E on USFS Trail 211 (Lakes Trail) to USFS Trail 214 (Whittier Trail); S on USFS Trail 214 to USFS Trail 1 (Boundary Trail); E on USFS Trail 1 to USFS Rd 26; N on USFS Rd 26 to USFS Rd 2612; W on USFS Rd 2612 to the Green River; W down the Green River to its mouth on the North Fork of the Toutle River and point of beginning.