

Concise Explanatory Statement

Deer and Elk Seasons and Regulations

WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

55% 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 boundaries and taking safety into account in firearm restriction areas. Support was also offered for expanding the types of handguns that could be used in firearm restriction areas.

Opposing and other comments:

45% 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 adjustments proposed would still not clarify boundaries. Some didn't want the expansion of which handguns allowed in firearm restriction areas. Some did not care for hunting in firearm restriction areas at all, citing they would prefer hunting didn't take place that close to urban/suburban areas. Other folks commenting requested the creation of new firearm restriction areas.

In general people had comments about general seasons and special permits that weren't specific to this WAC. Others made requests for items the Department is already doing or offering and still other comments had nothing to do with the WAC at all.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide hunting as a wildlife management tool and at the same time keeping those activities as safe as possible. We also propose adjusting boundary language to provide clarity in rules and to be responsive to a changing landscape. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that are requesting appropriate tools be allowed in their hunting pursuits 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 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

58% 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 elk area boundaries, elk area boundary changes that would better help address wildlife conflict, and supported additional hunting opportunity that these changes might provide.

Opposing and Other Comments:

42% 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 adjustments proposed would still not clarify boundaries. Some didn't want the Margaret unit changing to a general season unit and this WAC has some ties to that separate proposal. Some did not care for hunting in elk areas that were near the urban/suburban interface. Others commenting didn't feel the proposed changes would effectively address elk damage problems.

In general people had comments about general seasons and special permits that weren't specific to this WAC. Others made requests for items the Department is already doing or offering and still other comments had nothing to do with the WAC.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide hunting opportunity and help mitigate wildlife conflict. We also propose adjusting boundary language to provide clarity in rules and to be responsive to a changing landscape. In addition we have also proposed changes to be responsive to the public that are requesting help with elk damage.

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 Elk Area 5066 Norway Pass make the following adjustments: Provide clarifying language that describes the newly proposed Elk Area as being in GMU 524 Margaret. Also provide a directional adjustment on the line between the USFS trails 211/230 junction, and

Minnie Peak. This proposed change helps facilitate moving the Margaret unit (524) to a general elk season, and helps with the creation of a new Elk Area in which a new Quality special permit hunting opportunity is proposed, and also discourages the use of areas deemed sensitive by the Mount St. Helens National Monument. This proposed change will also not penalize the level of grouse, deer, and bear hunting currently taking place on public land.

WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

43 % of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. The reasons being cited for support of the changes included being in favor of adding days to the mule deer general season. They also were in favor of the later starting date for deer season but most of those folks probably don't realize that start date shifts with the calendar each year and 2015 just happens to be the latest start date in that 7-year cycle. Most of the people that expressed support for the changes didn't indicate why.

Of the comments that were specifically related to the 4-pt. antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121; 58.3% want the antler point restriction removed and 41.7% want to retain the antler point restriction.

Opposing and Other Comments:

57% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. Reasons given included: being against extending mule deer, wanting the season even shorter than it currently is, the timing of the seasons will be too hard on the deer, they felt the 3-pt. APR for mule deer was unnecessary and should be removed, some were against the overlap of deer muzzleloader and elk muzzleloader, some were against Y/S/D season opening the same day as the general season, they were unhappy with the length of the late season, or they wanted more opportunity for various user groups- muzzleloader, archery, youth, seniors, and disabled hunters.

Other comments expressed were about wanting later seasons, longer seasons, standard start/stop dates for deer seasons, change the APR from 3-pt. to 2-pt. for mule deer.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes has not changed as a result of the public comments and public testimony. The Department considers the proposed increased antlerless opportunity for white-tailed deer in the NE is consistent with that growing population; the 4-pt. antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121 is unnecessary and should be changed to any buck; the

addition of 2 days to the modern firearm mule deer will provide more opportunity to hunters while still meeting post-hunt mule deer population objectives.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Supporting Comments:

Three members of the public testified in favor of changing GMUs 117 and 121 to any buck for white-tailed deer. Their reasons included lack of success, negative economic impact on the area, frustrating hunting experiences for youth and senior hunters, negative impact to retention and recruitment, family hunting camps breaking up, etc.

Opposing and Other Comments:

Six members of the public testified in favor of retaining the 4-pt. antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121.

Their reasons for supporting is that it was good for the deer population and even though hunter numbers were down, success rates were up for those that continued to hunt the GMUs.

A request was made to simplify the hunting regulations and provide more, late season mule deer opportunity for archers.

Testimony was given to not make any changes to the deer seasons in GMU 101.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes has not changed as a result of the public comments and public testimony. The Department considers the proposed increased antlerless opportunity for white-tailed deer in the NE is consistent with that growing population; the 4-pt. antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121 is unnecessary and should be changed to any buck; the addition of 2 days to the modern firearm mule deer will provide more opportunity to hunters while still meeting post-hunt mule deer population objectives.

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

Under Early Archery Eastern Washington White-tailed Deer, GMUs 169 and 175, White-tailed 3 pt. min., change the dates to Sept. 1-30, 2015; Sept. 1-30, 2016, Sept. 1-29, 2017. This change corrects a typographical error in the CR-102 filing.

Under Early Muzzleloader Western Washington Black-tailed Deer, Oct. 3-11 move GMU 437 from "2 pt. min." to "any buck". This change corrects a typographical error in the CR- 102 filing.

WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

47% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Many in favor of the changes did not give a reason. The reasons being cited for support of the changes included moving the early archery elk season to start the Saturday after Labor Day, and opening more GMUs for early general muzzleloader season. Muzzleloader hunters also listed approval of overlapping the early muzzleloader deer and elk seasons.

Opposing and Other Comments:

53% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. Reasons given included: archery and modern firearm hunters being against opening additional GMUs to early muzzleloader elk season, muzzleloader and modern firearm hunters being against shifting the early archery elk season, muzzleloader hunters being against the overlap of muzzleloader deer and elk seasons, elk hunters being against the true spike rule in Region 3.

Other comments expressed were about specific user groups- archery, muzzleloader, and modern firearm, wanting later seasons, longer seasons, and standard start/stop dates for elk seasons. Several comments referenced their dissatisfaction with the Master Hunter program and felt it should be eliminated. Comments were made about other rules that didn't pertain to this WAC. Comments were made about frustrations with tribal harvest of bull elk.

Many commented about opportunities they would like to have that they, in fact, already had. Many complained about perceived changes that weren't real and therefore the opportunity hadn't changed.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's proposed changes include shifting the early archery elk season to a more favorable time frame. Proposed start date would be the Saturday after Labor Day and running for 13 days as it has in the past. Recommendation expands the number of GMUs open to early muzzleloader elk hunting, in effect opening more GMUs to early muzzleloader that are already open to modern firearm and archery hunters. The recommendation shifts GMU 524 Margaret from a special permit only season to a general season. The Department's rationale for these recommendations includes maximizing recreational hunting opportunity while still meeting post-hunt elk population objectives, creating a more equitable general season hunting structure between the three main user groups, being adaptive to changing private land ownership and private land access policies, continue sustainable elk hunting seasons, and help manage wildlife conflict issues utilizing hunters.

Public Testimony Received During March 20-21 Commission Meeting:

Supporting Comments:

Two members of the public testified at the March Commission meeting in favor moving the early archery elk season to the Saturday after Labor Day.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's proposed changes include shifting the early archery elk season to a more favorable time frame. Proposed start date would be the Saturday after Labor Day and running for 13 days as it has in the past. Recommendation expands the number of GMUs open to early muzzleloader elk hunting, in effect opening more GMUs to early muzzleloader that are already open to modern firearm and archery hunters. The recommendation shifts GMU 524 Margaret from a special permit only season to a general season. The Department's rationale for these recommendations includes maximizing recreational hunting opportunity while still meeting post-hunt elk population objectives, creating a more equitable general season hunting structure between the three main user groups, being adaptive to changing private land ownership and private land access policies, continue sustainable elk hunting seasons, and help manage wildlife conflict issues utilizing hunters.

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

Propose the removal of the general season for Elk Area 2033. This hunt was originally designed to address agricultural damage concerns. Those damage issues are now being effectively mitigated by Wildlife Conflict staff.

Substitute new language for the Master Hunter (MH) 3911 hunt footnote. This proposal facilitates the lower pricing proposal for MH 2nd tags and clarifies rule differences between the early and late 3911 hunts.

Add an exception to the newly proposed general season in GMU 524. This exception will facilitate Quality special permit hunts in the newly proposed Norway Pass Elk Area.

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Update the January dates for Late Archery, Elk Area 1010 and GMU 163. This corrects an oversight in the filing.

Update the January dates for Late Archery, GMU 371 and Elk Area 3912. This corrects an oversight in the filing.

Substitute new language for the Master Hunter (MH) 3911 hunt footnote. This proposal facilitates the lower pricing proposal for MH 2nd tags and clarifies rule differences between the

early and late 3911 hunts.

Add an exception to the newly proposed general season in GMU 524. This exception will facilitate Quality special permit hunts in the newly proposed Norway Pass Elk Area.

Insert early muzzleloader dates for GMU 407 and Elk Area 4601 for years 2015 and 2016. This corrects a holdover omission from the last 3-year package.

Reinstate the start dates for late muzzleloader for GMUs 130-142. This corrects a miscommunication between headquarters and the region.

Update the January dates for Late Archery, GMU 371 and Elk Area 3912. This corrects an oversight in the filing.

Substitute new language for the Master Hunter (MH) 3911 hunt footnote. This proposal facilitates the lower pricing proposal for MH 2nd tags and clarifies rule differences between the early and late 3911 hunts.

WAC 232-28-359 2015 Deer special permits

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

42% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were in favor of the changes. Most of those supporting the proposal didn't offer reasons why. Others supporting the proposal were overall in support of special permit hunts and liked the dates and locations being offered.

Opposing and Other Comments:

58% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. The reasons cited for not approving included the timing of the hunts, the locations the hunts that are being proposed, and which groups would have access to permits. Archery hunters and muzzleloader hunters would like to have more special permit opportunity. Youth hunters would like to have more opportunity. Senior hunters and hunters with disabilities would like to have more opportunity. Some of the respondents didn't agree with the concept of special permits, some didn't agree with the Department generating revenue through special permits, and some didn't agree with the cost associated with special permits.

In general hunters wanted more time allotted to specific special permit hunts; they wanted to eliminate antler point restrictions; they wanted to retain antler point restrictions; they wanted more special permits where they hunt; they wanted to be reimbursed or have their category points changed because of changes in the proposed rules or based on past hunting experiences; or they had comments about general seasons that weren't specific to this WAC.

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide more Quality opportunity in western Washington, provide antlerless opportunity to control populations and help mitigate wildlife conflict, and provide additional antlerless opportunity to youth/senior/disabled hunters mostly in western 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:

Under Quality, Modern Firearm, Wenaha West, changed the Boundary from GMU 1008 to Deer Area 1008 to correct a typographical error.

Under Quality, Modern Firearm, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:

Chiwawa, adjusting the permit quota from 27 to 26. Slide Ridge, adjusting the permit quota from 11 to 10. Quilomene, adjusting the permit quota from 15 to 14. Alkali, adjusting the permit quota from 5 to 4.

Under Quality, Modern Firearm, Sauk, changed the Special Restriction from 2 pt min to Any buck in order to correct a typographical error.

Under Quality, Any Tag, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:

Green River, the permit season and permit quota have been determined. The permit season is Nov. 7-13 and the permit quota is 5.

Under Quality, Archery, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:

Chiwawa, adjusting the permit quota from 11 to 10. Desert, with season of Sept. 1 – Oct.7, adjusting the permit quota from 18 to 15. Desert, with season of Nov. 25 – Dec. 12, adjusting the permit quota from 18 to 15. Naneum, adjusting the permit quota from 10 to 8. Teanaway, adjusting the permit quota from 7 to 8.

Under Quality, Muzzleloader, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:

Chiwawa, adjusting the permit quota from 3 to 2. Teanaway, adjusting the permit quota from 1 to 2. Quilomene, adjusting the permit quota from 4 to 2.

Under Quality, Muzzleloader, Quilomene, changed the season date from Sept. 26 – Oct. 4 to Oct. 3 – 11 in order to correct a typographical error

Under Bucks, Modern Firearm, due to the special permit allocation formula calculating different special permit numbers from the previous year:

Ritzville, adjusting permit quota from 10 to 9.

Under Bucks, Muzzleloader, Kahlotus, changed the season date from Sept. 27 – Oct. 5 to Oct. 3 – 11 in order to correct a typographical error.

Under Antlerless, Modern Firearm, Skokomish was changed to Satsop to correct a typographical error.

Under Antlerless, Muzzleloader, Prescott, changed the season date from Sept. 26 – Oct. 4 to Oct. 3 – 11 in order to correct a typographical error.

Under 2nd Deer, Any Deer Tag, Lakeview, changed the season date year from 2015 to 2016 in order to correct a typographical error.

Under 2nd Deer, Muzzleloader, changed the season date in order to correct a typographical error.

Chiwawa, changed the season date from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Swakane, changed the season date from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Mission, changed the season date from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Foster Creek, changed the season date from Sept. 27 - Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Moses Coulee, changed the season date from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Orcas, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Shaw, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. San Juan, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Lopez, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Blakely, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Decatur, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Cypress, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Guemes, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Whidbey, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Camano, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14

Under 2nd Deer, Muzzleloader, changed the season date in order to correct a typographical error:

Vashon-Maury, changed the season date from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26 - Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14

Under Youth, Modern Firearm, changed the season date in order to correct a typographical error:

Blue Mtns. Foothills West, changed the season date from Oct. 17-25 to Oct. 17-27. Blue Mtns. Foothills East, changed the season date from Oct. 17-25 to Oct. 17-27. Tucannon, changed the season date from Oct. 17-25 to Oct. 17-27. East Okanogan, changed the season

date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Wannacut, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Sinlahekin, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Chewuch, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Pearrygin, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Gardner, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Pogue, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Chiliwist, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27. Alta, changed the season date from Oct. 10-18 to Oct. 17-27

Under Youth, Modern Firearm, add a Green River hunt, Nov. 7-13, Any Buck, GMU 485, 5 permits.

Under Youth, Muzzleloader, changed the season dates to correct a typographical error:

East Okanogan, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Wannacut, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Pogue, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Chiliwist, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Alta, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11. Mission, changed the season dates from Sept. 27-Oct. 5 to Oct. 3-11.

Under Senior 65+, Modern Firearm, changed the season dates to correct a typographical error:

Blue Mtns. Foothills, changed the season dates from Oct. 17-25 to Oct. 17-27. East Okanogan, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Wannacut, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Sinlahekin, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Chewuch, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Pearrygin, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Gardner, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Pogue, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Chiliwist, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Alta, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Chiwawa, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Entiat, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Swakane, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Mission, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Bridgeport, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Palisades, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27.

Under Senior 65+, Modern Firearm, changed the season dates to correct a typographical error:

Sunnyside, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Horse Heaven Hills, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Kahlotus, changed the season dates from Oct. 11-19 to Oct. 17-27. Whidbey, changed the season dates from Oct. 17-03 and Nov. 12-15 to Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15.

Under Senior 65+, Muzzleloader, changed the season dates to correct a typographical error:

Whidbey, changed the season dates from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26- Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14. Vashon-Maury, changed the season dates from Sept. 26-Oct. 4 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14 to Oct. 3-11 and Nov. 26-Dec. 14.

Under Hunters with Disabilities, Modern Firearm, Blue Mtns. Foothills, changed the season date from Oct. 17-25 to Oct. 17-27 to correct a typographical error.

Under Hunters with Disabilities, Modern Firearm, removed hunts due to redundancy and incorrect placement:

Orcas, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 411, 4 permits. Shaw, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 412, 2 permits. San Juan, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 413, 4 permits. Lopez, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 414, 3 permits. Blakely, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 415, 2 permits. Decatur, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 416, 1 permit. Cypress, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 417, 1 permit. Guemes, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 419, 1 permit. Whidbey, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 420, 5 permits. Camano, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 421, 3 permits. Vashon-Maury, Senior 65+, Oct. 17-30 and Nov. 12-15, Antlerless, GMU 422, 5 permits.

Under Hunters with Disabilities, Modern Firearm, delete the Green River hunt, Oct. 25-31, Antlerless. This change is a result of a negotiated agreement between WDFW, Muckleshoot Tribe, and the City of Tacoma. This hunt will alternate every other year with the youth hunt.

Under Master Hunter, Any/2nd Deer Tag, changed the season dates to correct typographical errors:

Region 1, changed the season dates from Aug. 1 2014 – March 31, 2015 to Aug. 1 2015 – March 31, 2016. Region 2, changed the season dates from Aug. 1 2014 – March 31, 2015 to Aug. 1 2015 – March 31, 2016. Region 3, changed the season dates from Aug. 1 2014 – March 31, 2015 to Aug. 1 2015 – March 31, 2016. Region 6, changed the season dates from Aug. 1 2014 – March 31, 2015 to Aug. 1 2015 – March 31, 2016.

Under 2nd Deer, Modern Firearm, Deschutes, change the date from Oct. 11-31 to Oct. 17- 31. This change corrects an oversight by Regional staff regarding calendar date shifts.

Under 2nd Deer, Muzzleloader, Anderson, change the start of the late date from Nov. 22 to Nov. 25. This change corrects an oversight by Regional staff regarding calendar date shifts.

Under Senior 65+, Modern Firearm, change the hunt named “Copalis” to “Wynoochee”. This change corrects a typographical error in the CR-102 filing.

WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions

Written Comments Received During Official Comment Period:

Supporting Comments:

95% 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 Deer Area boundaries and supported additional hunting opportunity that these changes might provide.

Opposing and Other comments:

5% of the people commenting on the changes to this WAC were opposed to the changes. The one person opposed to the proposed change did not articulate the reason why.

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

Direction and Rationale:

The Department's rationale for the proposed changes is to provide hunting opportunity and help mitigate wildlife conflict. We also propose adjusting boundary language to provide clarity in rules and to be responsive to a changing landscape.

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