



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

**CR-103P (May 2009)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Permanent Rule Only**

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules 15-99**

31 days after filing.

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

Yes  No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** See Attachment A

**Citation of existing rules affected by this order:**

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 232-28-286, 232-28-288, and 232-28-297

Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150 and 77.12.240.

**Other authority :**

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 15-04-085 on 02/02/2015

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: See Attachment B.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Date adopted:**

April 10, 2015

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

Brad Smith

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Chair, Fish and Wildlife Commission

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: May 01, 2015**

**TIME: 12:53 PM**

**WSR 15-10-066**

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

<b>Federal statute:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Federal rules or standards:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Recently enacted state statutes:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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**The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:**

New	<u>0</u>	Amended	<u>3</u>	Repealed	<u>0</u>
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**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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**The number of sections adopted using:**

<b>Negotiated rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Pilot rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
<b>Other alternative rule making:</b>	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

## **Attachment A - Purpose**

### **232-28-286 2016, 2017, and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.**

**Purpose:** This rulemaking establishes the 2016, 2017, and 2018 spring black bear seasons. The purpose is to: 1) reduce tree damage by bears in western Washington; 2) disperse harvest geographically and reduce female harvest in southeastern Washington; and 3) reduce nuisance and damage activity in northeastern and southwestern Washington, while maintaining long-term sustainable populations in each Black Bear Management Unit (BBMU), except Puget Sound and Columbia Basin BBMUs. The anticipated effects of the rule are continued recreational harvest opportunities similar to 2013-2015 levels and long-term sustainable bear populations.

### **232-28-288 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.**

**Purpose:** This rulemaking establishes the 2015, 2016, and 2017 fall black bear seasons. The purpose is to provide recreational harvest opportunities for black bear, while maintaining long-term sustainable populations in each BBMU, except Puget Sound and Columbia Basin BBMUs. The anticipated effects of the rule are to maintain recreational harvest trends similar to 2012-2014 levels. The anticipated effect to the bear population is a long-term sustainable bear population statewide.

### **232-28-297 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.**

**Purpose:** This rulemaking establishes the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 cougar hunting seasons. The proposal establishes hunt areas and associated harvest guidelines for the entire state (except Columbia Basin and Puget Sound Cougar Management Units). The harvest guideline represents a sustainable 12-16 percent harvest rate for each hunt area. The anticipated effects to the cougar population are to maintain a stable population and to maintain an adequate age structure for cougar populations equally distributed across the state.

## Attachment B - Changes

### 232-28-286 2016, 2017, and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

Addition of superscript “d” to Hunt Name “Long Beach” in table displaying Hunt Areas, Permit Levels, and Season Dates for Each License Year. This change clarifies that the Long Beach area is a firearm restriction area.

Change superscript “b” from “Private lands; access is extremely limited; firearm restriction area. If you cannot secure access to private lands, do not apply for these hunts.” to “Mostly private lands; access is extremely limited. Please secure access prior to applying for these hunts.” In the table displaying Hunt Areas, Permit Levels, and Season Dates for Each License Year. This change clarifies that most of the hunt area is private lands and that hunters need to gain permission from landowners prior to hunting. Additionally, the change removes the firearm restriction area reference for the entire area because only GMU 684 (Long Beach) is a firearm restriction area.

Addition of superscript “d” to the bottom of table, reading “d Firearm restriction area.” in the table displaying Hunt Areas, Permit Levels, and Season Dates for Each License Year. This change is needed because GMU 684 (Long Beach) is a firearm restriction area.

### 232-28-297 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

Changed the harvest guideline in 14 hunt areas as follows:

- For GMU 101 change the harvest guideline from 7-9 to 10-12
- For GMU 105 change the harvest guideline from 2 to 2-3
- For GMUs 108 & 111 change the harvest guideline from 5-6 to 7-8
- For GMU 113 change the harvest guideline from 4-6 to 6-8
- For GMU 117 change the harvest guideline from 6-8 to 8-10
- For GMU 121 change the harvest guideline from 5-6 to 6-8
- For GMUs 149, 154, 162, & 163 change the harvest guideline from 4-6 to 6-7
- For GMUs 145, 166, 175, & 178 change the harvest guideline from 3-4 to 5-6
- For GMUs 169, 172, 181, & 186 change the harvest guideline from 3-4 to 4-5
- For GMU 204 change the harvest guideline from 6-8 to 9-11
- For GMUs 218 & 231 change the harvest guideline from 4-6 to 6-7
- For GMUs 242 & 243 change the harvest guideline from 4-6 to 6-7
- For GMUs 249 & 251 change the harvest guideline from 5-6 to 7-8
- For GMUs 328, 329, & 335 change the harvest guideline from 6-8 to 8-10

The purpose of the change was to increase the harvest guideline from 12-16% of the cougar population (excluding kittens) to 17-21% in hunt areas that overlap known wolf packs.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-11-078, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13)

**WAC 232-28-286 ((2013, 2014, and 2015)) 2016, 2017, and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.** It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, 77.15.245, ((and)) or 77.15.280, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

**Who May Apply:** Anyone with a valid Washington big game license, which includes black bear as a species option.

**Hunt Areas, Permit Levels, and Season Dates for Each License Year:**

Hunt Name	Hunt Area	Permits <sup>a</sup>	Season Dates <sup>b</sup>
Sherman	GMU 101	<del>((25))</del> <u>50</u>	April 1 - June 15
Kelly Hill	GMU 105	<del>((25))</del> <u>50</u>	April 1 - June 15
Douglas	GMU 108	<del>((20))</del> <u>40</u>	April 1 - June 15
Aladdin	GMU 111	<del>((25))</del> <u>50</u>	April 1 - June 15
49 Degrees North	GMU 117	<del>((50))</del> <u>100</u>	April 1 - June 15
Huckleberry	GMU 121	<del>((50))</del> <u>100</u>	April 1 - June 15
Blue Creek	GMU 154	15	April 15 - May 31
Dayton	GMU 162	15	April 15 - May 31
Tucannon	GMU 166	5	April 15 - May 31
Wenaha	GMU 169	45	April 15 - June 15
Mt. View	GMU 172	15	April 15 - May 31
Lick Creek	GMU 175	15	April 15 - May 31
Couse	GMU 181	4	April 15 - May 31
Grande Ronde	GMU 186	5	April 15 - May 31
<u>Bear River<sup>b</sup></u>	<u>GMU 681</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>April 15 - May 31</u>
<u>Long Beach<sup>bd</sup></u>	<u>GMU 684</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>April 15 - May 31</u>
North Skagit <sup>c</sup>	That portion of GMU 418 that is designated as the hunt area by DNR, Sierra Pacific, Longview Timber Lands, and Grandy Lake Timber company.	30	April 15 - June 15
Monroe <sup>c</sup>	That portion of GMU 448 that is designated as the hunt area by DNR, Campbell Group, and Longview Timber Lands.	25	April 15 - June 15
Copolis <sup>(a)</sup>	That portion of GMU 642 that is designated as the hunt area by Rayonier Timber Company.	100	April 15 - June 15
Kapowsin <sup>(*)<sup>c</sup></sup>	That portion of GMUs 653 and/or 654 that is designated as the hunt area by Hancock Forest Management and International Forestry.	150	April 15 - June 15
<del>((Lincoln<sup>a</sup></del>	<del>That portion of GMU 501 that is designated as the hunt area by participating commercial timber landowners.</del>	<del>75</del>	<del>April 15 - June 15))</del>

<sup>a</sup>((Spring black bear hunting seasons under this area constitute a pilot program to reduce black bear damage to trees.))  
Permits are valid for the license year they are issued.

Hunt Name	Hunt Area	Permits <sup>a</sup>	Season Dates <sup>b</sup>
<sup>b</sup> <del>((Permits are valid for the license year they are issued.))</del> <u>Mostly private lands; access is extremely limited. Please secure access prior to applying for these hunts.</u>			
<sup>c</sup> <u>Spring black bear hunting seasons to reduce black bear damage to trees.</u>			
<sup>d</sup> <u>Firearm restriction area.</u>			

**Bag Limit:** One black bear per black bear special permit season.

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license, which includes black bear as a species option, is required to hunt black bear. One black bear transport tag is included with a big game hunting license that has black bear as a species option.

**Hunting Method:** Hunters may use any lawful big game modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader equipment for hunting black bear. The use of dogs or bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

**Submitting Bear Teeth:** Successful bear hunters must submit the black bear premolar located behind the canine tooth of the upper jaw.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 12-12-006, filed 5/23/12, effective 6/23/12)

**WAC 232-28-288 ((2012-2014)) 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.** It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions below. ((Violators may be punished)) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, 77.15.245, ((and)) or 77.15.280 (1)(c).

<b>Black Bear Management Unit</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Hunt Area</b>
Coastal	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2012)) <u>2015</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2013)) <u>2016</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2014)) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530, 601, 602, 603, 607-621, 636-651, 658-663, 672-684
Puget Sound	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2012)) <u>2015</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2013)) <u>2016</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2014)) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 407, 410, 454, 624, 627, 633, 652, 666, 667
North Cascades	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2012)) <u>2015</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2013)) <u>2016</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ((2014)) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 418-450, 460
South Cascades	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2012)) <u>2015</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2013)) <u>2016</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2014)) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 466, 485, 503, 505, 510-520, 524, 550-574, 653, 654
Okanogan	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2012)) <u>2015</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2013)) <u>2016</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ((2014)) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 203, 209-243

<b>Black Bear Management Unit</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Hunt Area</b>
East Cascades	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 244-247, 249-251, 328, 329-368, 382, 388, 578
Northeastern A	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 101-121, 204
Northeastern B	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Aug. 15 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 124-130
Blue Mountains	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 145-154, 162-186
Columbia Basin	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Aug. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260-290, 371-381
Long Island	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2012</del> ) <u>2015</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2013</del> ) <u>2016</u> Sept. 1 - Nov. 15, ( <del>2014</del> ) <u>2017</u>	GMU 699

**Bag Limit:** Two (2) black bear per annual hunting season, only one of which may be taken in Eastern Washington.

**Area Restriction:** Special deer permit required to hunt black bear in GMU 485.

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license, which includes black bear as a species option, is required to hunt black bear. One black bear transport tag is included with a big game hunting license that has black bear as a species option. A second black bear transport tag must be purchased to take a second bear.

**Hunting Method:** Hunters may use any lawful big game modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader equipment for hunting black bear. The use of hounds and bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

**Submitting Bear Teeth:** Successful bear hunters must submit the black bear premolar tooth located behind the canine tooth of the upper jaw.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-16-056, filed 8/1/13, effective 9/1/13)

**WAC 232-28-297 ((2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015)) 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.** (1) As used in this section and in the context of general cougar hunting seasons, "harvest guideline" means the estimated allowable harvest; the actual harvest may be less than or more than the harvest guideline.

(2) General cougar season is September 1 to April 30 of the following year. Season dates and harvest guidelines for each ((license year)) season:

Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Early Hunting Season	Late Hunting Season	Legal Weapon
GMU 101	((7-9)) <u>10-12</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 105	((2)) <u>2-3</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 108, 111	((5-6)) <u>7-8</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 113	((4-6)) <u>6-8</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 117	((6-8)) <u>8-10</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 121	((5-6)) <u>6-8</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-9	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 290, 330, 334, 371, 372, 373, 379, 381	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	((4-6)) <u>6-7</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	((3-4)) <u>5-6</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	((3-4)) <u>4-5</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 203	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 204	((6-8)) <u>9-11</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 209, 215	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 218, 231	((4-6)) <u>6-7</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 224	2-3	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 233, 239	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 242, 243	((4-6)) <u>6-7</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 244, 246, 247	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ((Mar. 31)) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon

<b>Hunt Area</b>	<b>Harvest Guideline</b>	<b>Early Hunting Season</b>	<b>Late Hunting Season</b>	<b>Legal Weapon</b>
GMUs 245, 250	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 249, 251	<del>((5-6))</del> <u>7-8</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 328, 329, 335	<del>((6-8))</del> <u>8-10</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 382, 388	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 407	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 418, 426, 437	11-15	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 448, 450	9-13	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 454	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 460	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 466, 485, 490	2-3	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	7-10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 510, 513	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 516	3-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 524, 554, 556	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 560	5-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU( <del>s</del> ) 564( <del>(, 568))</del>	<del>((3-4))</del> <u>2-3</u>	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
<u>GMU 568</u>	<u>2-3</u>	<u>Sept. 1 - Dec. 31</u>	<u>Jan. 1 - Apr. 30</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>
GMU 572	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 574, 578	3-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	5-7	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 607, 615	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 618, 636, 638	4-5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 621, 624, 627, 633	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 642, 648, 651	6-8	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon

Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline	Early Hunting Season	Late Hunting Season	Legal Weapon
GMUs 652, 666	None	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 653, 654	4-6	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	9-12	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon
GMU 667	3-4	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan. 1 - ( <del>Mar. 31</del> ) <u>Apr. 30</u>	Any Legal Weapon

(a) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, (~~the director may close~~) the cougar late hunting season may close on or after January 1st in one or more GMUs if cougar harvest meets or exceeds the guideline.

(b) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, starting January 1st, cougar hunters may hunt cougar from January 1st until the hunt area harvest guideline has been met (~~and the director has closed the cougar late hunting season~~), and the department has notified licensed cougar hunters by posting the hunt area closure on the departments web site and on the toll-free cougar hunting hotline, or (~~March 31st~~) April 30th, whichever occurs first.

(3) Harvest guideline system:

(a) All cougar killed by licensed hunters during the early and late hunting seasons, and seasons authorized under WAC 232-12-243 shall be counted toward the harvest guideline.

(b) Individual problem cougar will continue to be killed on an as-needed basis utilizing depredation permits, landowner kill permits, and WDFW depredation authority regardless of harvest guidelines.

(c) It is each cougar hunter's responsibility to verify if the cougar late hunting season is open or closed in hunt areas with a harvest guideline. Cougar hunters can verify if the season is open or closed by calling the toll-free cougar hunting hotline or visiting the department's web site.

(4) Cougar hunting season requirements and special restrictions.

(a) A valid big game hunting license which includes cougar as a species option is required to hunt cougar.

(b) The statewide bag limit is one (1) cougar per license year; excluding removals authorized under WAC 232-12-243. It is unlawful to kill or possess spotted cougar kittens or adult cougars accompanied by spotted kittens.

(c) The use of dogs to hunt cougar is prohibited; except by a commission authorized permit (WAC 232-12-243).

(d) Any person who takes a cougar must comply with the notification and sealing requirements in WAC 232-12-024.

(e) A special cougar permit is required to hunt cougar in GMU 485.