



**PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL
OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE**

Print Form

In accordance with [RCW 34.05.330](#), the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name Brad Thomsen
Name of Organization [REDACTED]
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED] State WA Zip Code 98020
Telephone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClst.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: WDRW

1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: Please See Attached

The rule is needed because: Please See Attached

The new rule would affect the following people or groups: Please See Attached

2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

I am requesting the following change: _____

This change is needed because: _____

The effect of this rule change will be: _____

The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

It does not do what it was intended to do.

It is no longer needed because: _____

It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

Other (please explain): _____

Sent via Email to:

rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov

commission@dfw.wa.gov

Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov

March 21st, 2025

Rules Coordinator
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Kelly Susewind
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Susewind, Department Staff, WDFW Rules Coordinator and
Commissioners:

**In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, please accept this petition
asking the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to begin
rulemaking for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Black
Bear Hunting Season;**

This petition aims to put black bear management back into the hands of
Department Staff and the Director.

This Commission knows the Director was a strong supporter of continuing the Washington State Spring Black Bear Hunting Season leading up to this Commission cancelling the season.

This petition calls for *the WDFW Director* to approve this petition to address *“unscientific rule changes by the WDFW Commission on November 19, 2021 and unscientific vote by the WDFW Commission on Friday November 18, 2022.”*

Begin rule making for a spring black bear hunting season based on the reliability of density and abundance estimates provided by WDFW Staff on December 14-15, 2023.

Begin rule-making for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Black Bear Hunting Season to address *“unscientific black bear spring season rule changes during the years 2021-22.”*

This petition aims to rebalance the delicate relationship between black bears and their habitats by providing flexibility in management to the Department Staff and Director and away from the WDFW Commission.

Black Bear Management by Department Staff is essential, specifically in geographic areas where there are robust black bear populations and hotspots of human-black bear conflict.

Department Staff and the Director have an opportunity to reclaim their role as leaders in science based black bear management in Washington.

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, please accept this petition asking the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to begin rulemaking for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Black Bear Hunting Season;

2021 Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations – Briefing and Public Hearing

220-415-080

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: December 3-5, 2020

Agenda item: 2021 Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations– Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Game Division Manager

Background summary:

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-080 Spring black bear special permits.

The proposed amendments are to align season dates; Adjust permit numbers where needed and clarify information about biological samples collected from harvested bears through a pelt check-in process conducted by department staff.

Staff recommendation:

- Standardize season dates.
 - Clarify language associated with spring bear check-in.
 - Reduce permit numbers on the Long Beach hunt by two.
 - Remove Weyerhaeuser-Columbia Timber Lands from the North Skagit Hunt area because they are not allowing access.
-

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

No policy issues.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impact.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department posted draft proposed rules on the WDFW website for a 30-day review and comment period. The comment period was prior to the December Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The department will collect public testimony at the December 3-5, 2020 Commission meeting and public hearing.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Briefing and public hearing only. The commission is scheduled to adopt or amend this rule after considering public comment and testimony provided today during the December 18 Web Conference.

Form revised 2-15-18

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-22-061, filed 11/5/19, effective 12/6/19)

WAC 220-415-080 ((2020)) 2021 Spring black bear special permits.

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, 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	Season Dates
Sherman	GMU 101 Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	50	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
Kelly Hill	GMU 105 Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	50	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
Douglas	GMU 108 Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	40	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
Aladdin	GMU 111 Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	50	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
49 Degrees North	GMU 117 Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	100	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
Huckleberry	GMU 121	100	April ((+)) <u>15</u> - June 15
Blue Creek	GMU 154	18	April 15 - June 15
Dayton	GMU 162	18	April 15 - June 15
Tucannon	GMU 166	5	April 15 - June 15
Wenaha	GMU 169	60	April 15 - June 15
Mt. View	GMU 172	24	April 15 - June 15
Lick Creek	GMU 175	18	April 15 - June 15
Peola	GMU 178	5	April 15 - June 15
Couse	GMU 181	5	April 15 - June 15
Grande Ronde	GMU 186	5	April 15 - June 15
Kitsap	GMU 627	5	April 15 - ((May 31)) <u>June 15</u>
Mason	GMU 633	5	April 15 - ((May 31)) <u>June 15</u>
Bear River	GMU 681	20	April 15 - ((May 31)) <u>June 15</u>
Long Beach	GMU 684	((12)) <u>10</u>	April 15 - ((May 31)) <u>June 15</u>
North Skagit	That portion of GMU 418 that is designated as the hunt area by DNR, Sierra Pacific, ((Weyerhaeuser-Columbia Timber Lands)) and Grandy Lake Timber company. Note: Mandatory bear identification test required.	30	April 15 - June 15
Copalis	GMU 642, 648, and 638 (excluding U.S. Forest Service lands).	50	April 15 - June 15

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 apply for a spring

black bear special permit. 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.

Other Requirements: Hunters that are selected to hunt in GMUs located in grizzly bear recovery areas, as identified by the department, must successfully complete the annual WDFW online bear identification test with a passing score (80% or higher) or carry proof that they have passed an equivalent test from another state. The WDFW test may be taken repeatedly until a passing score is achieved. All hunters must carry proof of passing a bear identification test while hunting in the GMUs identified by the department.

Harvest Check, Submitting Biological Samples and Bear Teeth: All successful bear hunters must validate (notch) their bear tag consistent with WAC 220-413-020, notify the department within 72 hours of kill (excluding legal state holidays), provide the hunter's name, date and location of kill, and sex of animal. The unfrozen raw pelt, with evidence of sex attached, and the first premolar must be presented to an authorized department employee for ((~~sealing~~)) inspection within 5 days of notification of kill. All permit hunters must comply with harvest reporting and submission of biological samples as described above. Failure to comply with the submission of biological samples is a misdemeanor pursuant to RCW 77.15.280.