

WACs 220-415-050 and 220-415-060

Elk General Seasons and Elk Special Permits



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

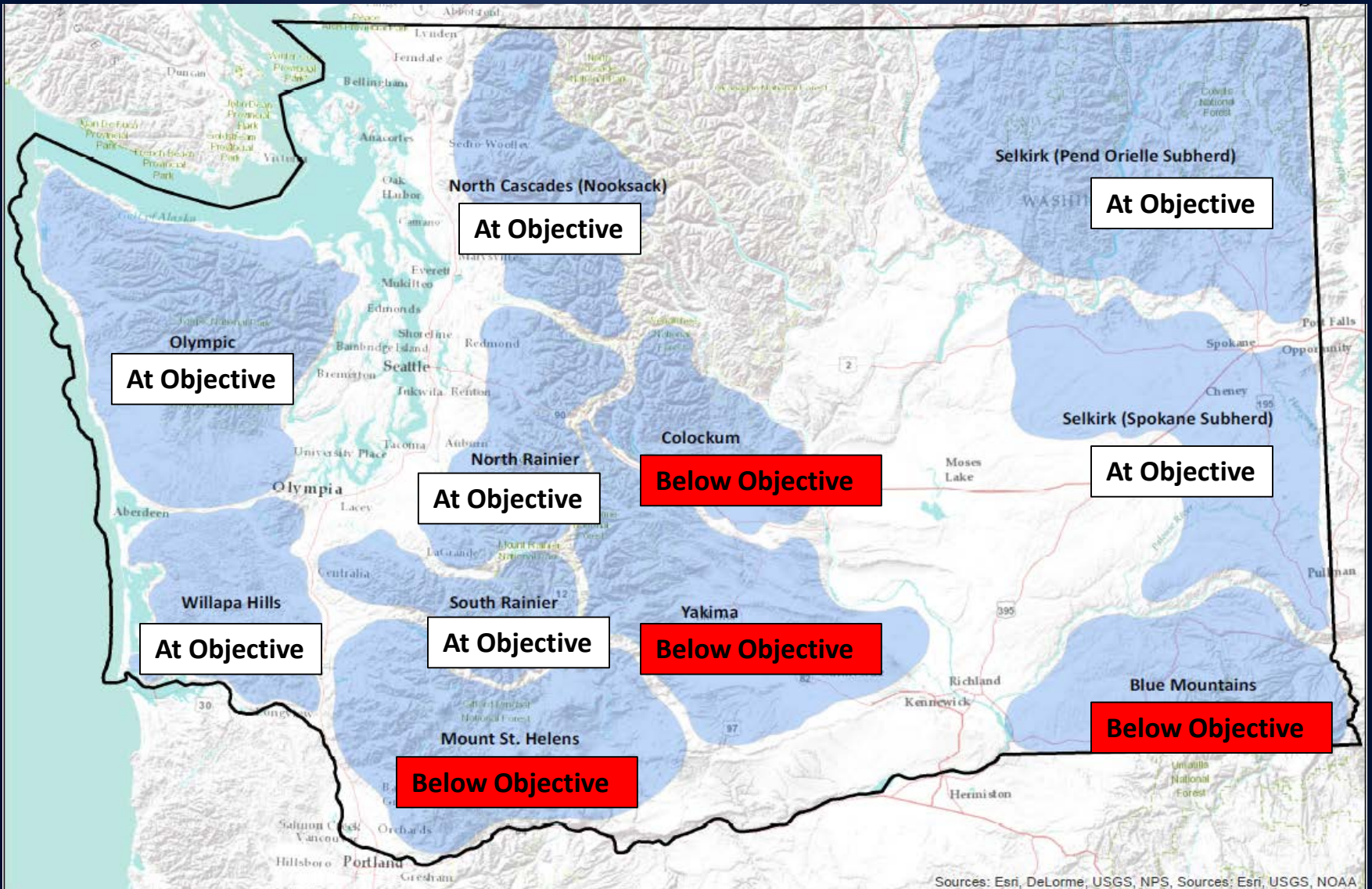
Brock Hoenes
Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program

Content

1. Brief statewide overview
2. Summary of minor adjustments
3. Recommendations for Colockum and Yakima
4. Public comment summary
5. Questions



Elk Herds



Elk General Seasons

- Removed GMU 655 (Anderson Island) from the list of GMUs open during modern firearm general elk seasons in western Washington
- Proposed no changes in the North Cascades, South Rainier, Olympic, Willapa Hills, Selkirk, and Blue Mountains elk herd areas
- Proposed minor adjustments in the North Rainier and Mount St. Helens elk herd areas
 - Both were associated with mitigating elk damage
- Postponed recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds until survey and harvest data were available

Elk Special Permits

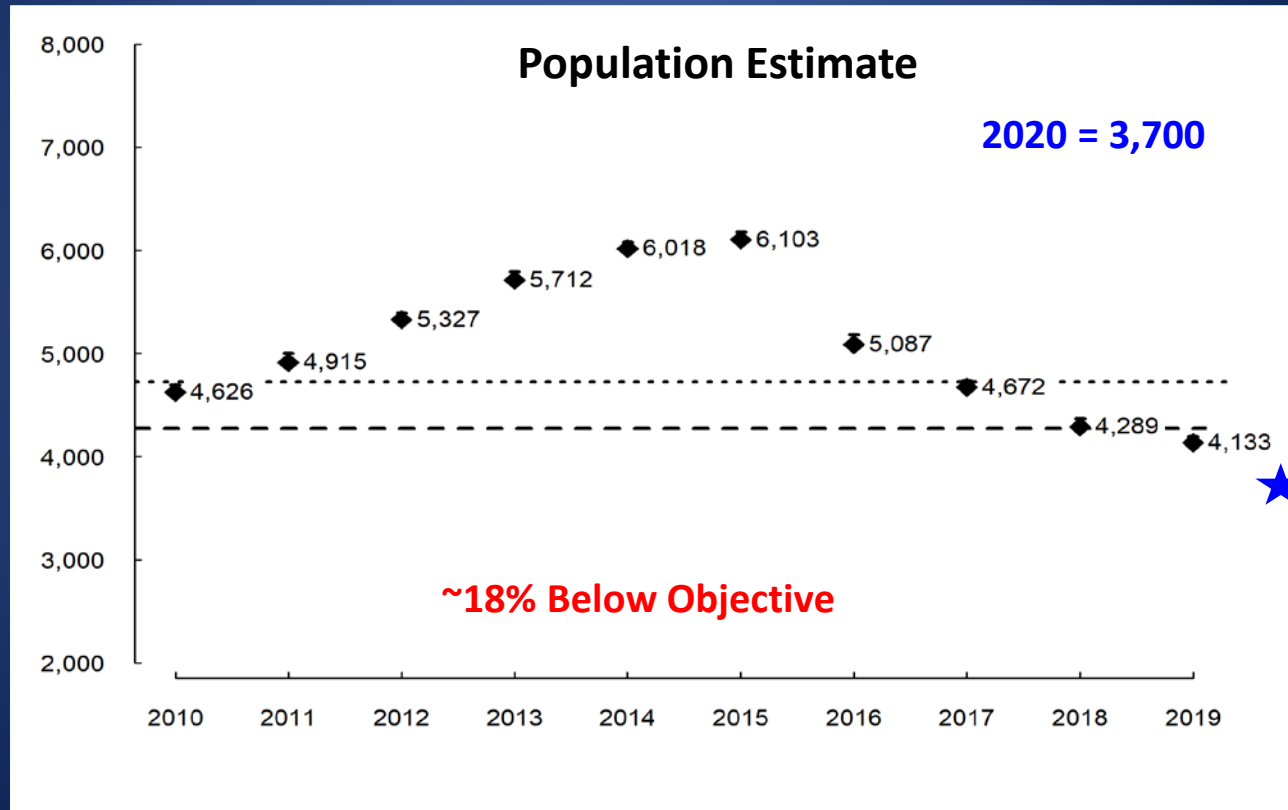
- Recommended a reduction in permits for bulls and antlerless elk in the Blue Mountains
- Recommended a reduction in permits for antlerless elk in Mount St. Helens
- Postponed the development of final recommendations for the Colockum and Yakima elk herds

Elk Special Permits

- Added language that clarifies the bag limit is one elk, even if permits are drawn in more than one category
- No recommended adjustments were proposed in the South Rainier and Selkirk elk herd areas
- Minor adjustments were proposed in the North Cascades, North Rainier, Olympic, and Willapa Hills elk herd areas

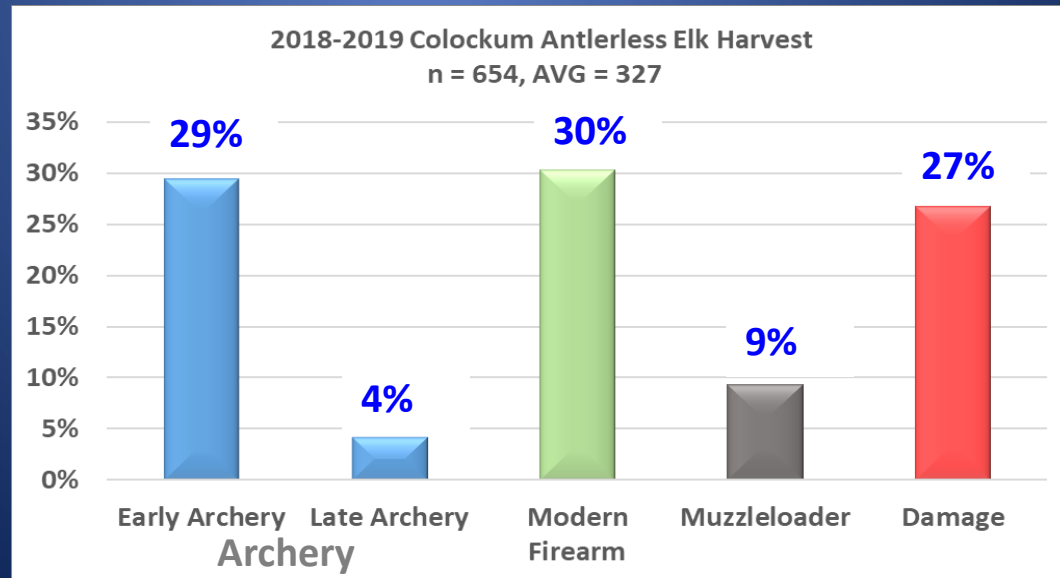
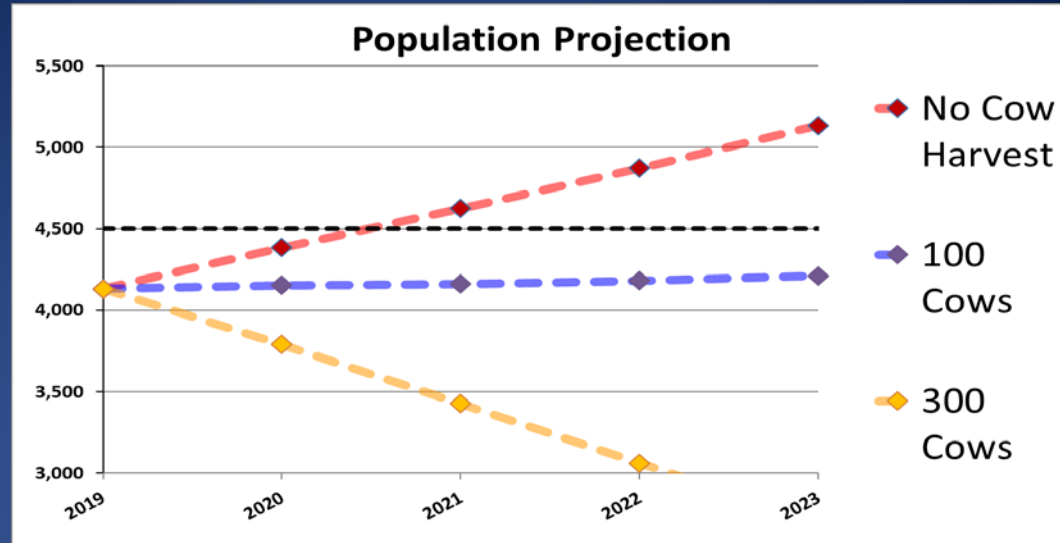


Colockum Elk Herd





Colockum Elk Herd





General Seasons

- Recommend eliminating opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during early and late general archery seasons in GMUs 328 and 329 (core area)
- Opportunities in GMUs 249, 334, and 335 were retained
- Offset some of the opportunity lost with special permits



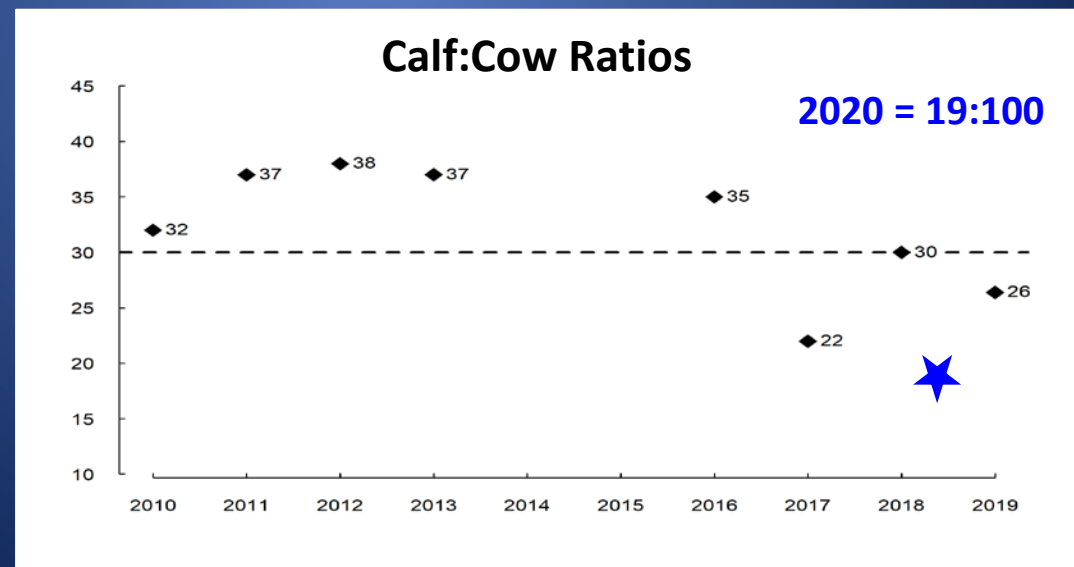
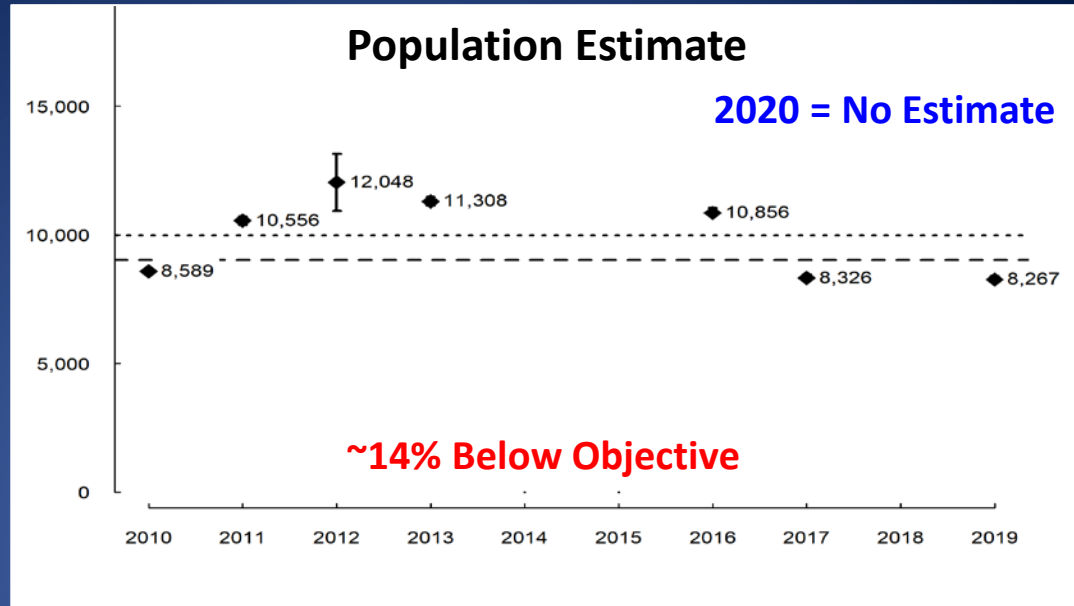
Special Permits

Special Permits		
Weapon/Group	2019	2020
Modern Firearm	140	45
Muzzleloader	65	30
Youth	35	0
Senior (65+)	15	0
Hunters w/ Disabilities	10	0
Total	265	75
Archery Early	0	75
Archery Late	0	20

- Set permit numbers with a harvest target of 100 antlerless elk, including elk harvested in damage situations
- Reduced the number of antlerless permits for modern firearm and muzzleloader hunters
- Eliminate opportunities for Youth, Senior (65+), and Hunters w/ Disabilities

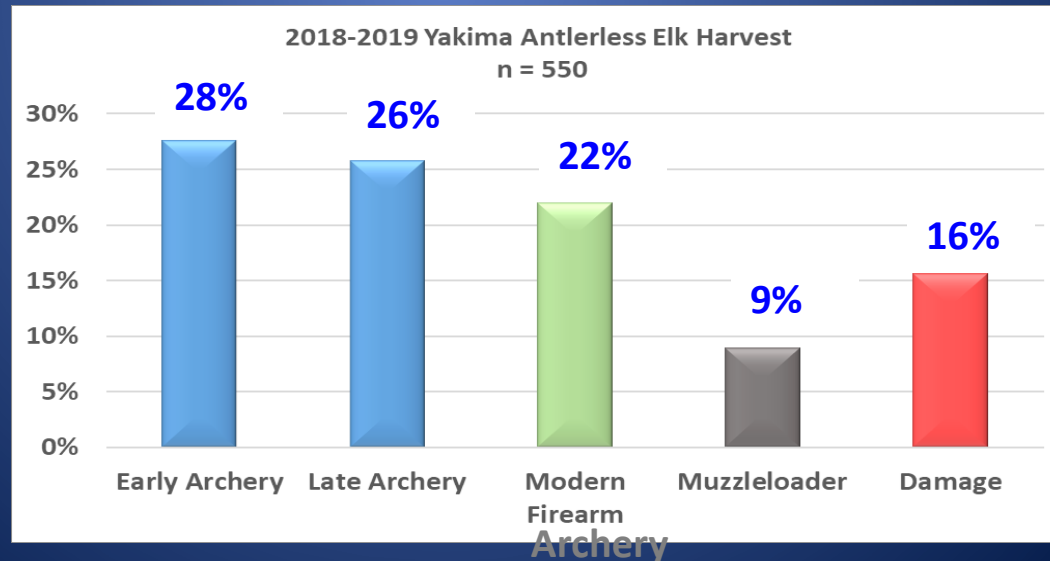
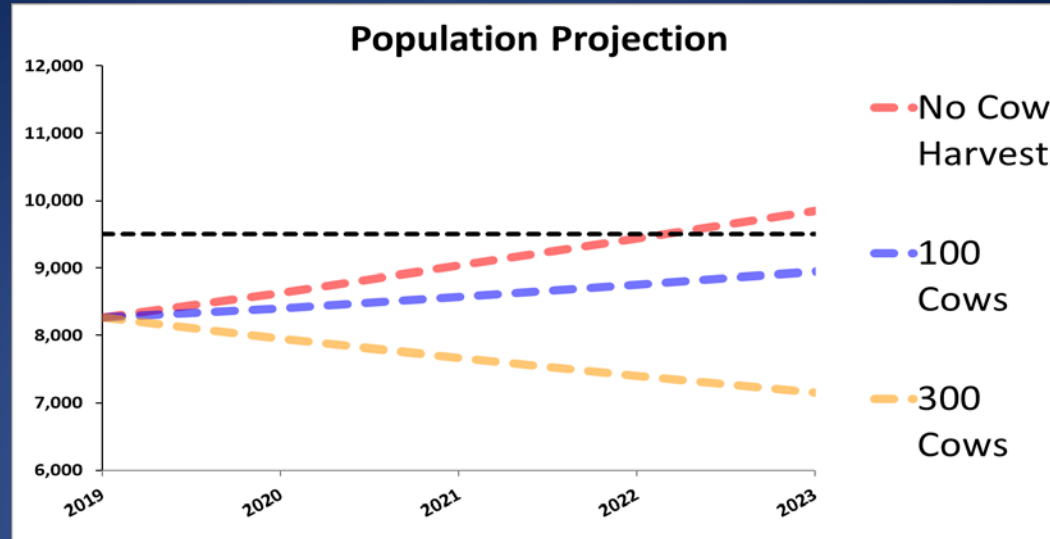


Yakima Elk Herd





Yakima Elk Herd



Archery



General Seasons and Special Permits

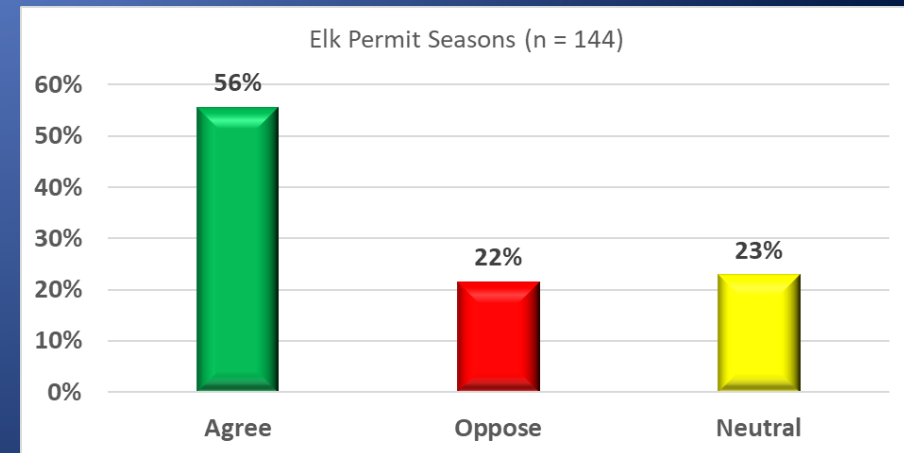
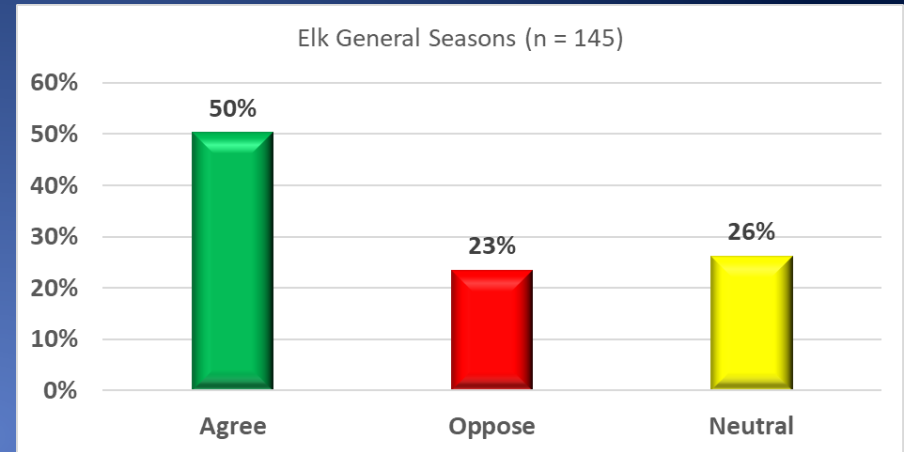
- Recommend eliminating opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during all early and late general archery seasons
- Offset some of the lost opportunity with special permits
- Set permit numbers with a harvest target of 150 antlerless elk, including elk harvested in damage situations

Special Permits

Weapon/Group	2019	2020
Modern Firearm	190	75
Muzzleloader	110	60
Youth	55	56
Senior (65+)	40	31
Hunters w/ Disabilities	20	11
Total	415	233
Archery	0	390

Public Comment

- Comments indicated general support and understanding for reducing antlerless harvest, but consensus on how opportunity should be reduced was lacking
- Other themes included predator management and reducing tribal harvest



Additional Public Comment

- Public Testimony
 - No comments in support
 - Received 1 comment in opposition to the proposal because they were opposed to the elimination of opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during general archery seasons
- Extended Comment Period
 - 1 comment expressed general support
 - 1 comment supported youth permits in GMU 371
 - 1 comment in opposition (same person that testified)
 - 1 comment in opposition to changes in Master Hunter season length in GMU 371
 - 1 comment advocated for separate Master Hunter seasons for each weapon type in GMU 371
 - 1 comment advocated for allowing elk to expand in agricultural areas
 - 1 comment advocated for antlerless permits in GMU 653

Questions?



Motion Language

I move to adopt WACs 220-415-050
and 220-415-060 as presented.