

Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

220-415-050 and 220-415-060

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**Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet**

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**Meeting date:**

3/26/2021

**Agenda item:**

Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

**Presenter(s):**

Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

Department staff will brief the Commission on WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions and WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.

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**Staff recommendation:**

Briefing only.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

- Maximize recreational elk hunting opportunity
- Continue sustainable hunting seasons for elk
- Balancing opportunity among user groups

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2021-2023 hunting season proposals. WDFW held seven virtual public meetings by topic in August and September of 2020, to discuss a variety of issues with constituents. Concurrently, the public was asked to provide input on hunting seasons via the department website for a six-week period. The department emailed over 199,000 hunters notifying them of the website survey and encouraging them to participate. Using that information, the department determined which recommendations would move forward.

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the upcoming March 25-27, 2021 Commission meeting online.

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for April 9, 2021 Webinar Conference.

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**Draft motion language:**

Briefing only.

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**Post decision communications plan:**

Briefing only.

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*Form revised 8-4-20*

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-12-080, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20)

**WAC 220-415-050** ((~~2018-2020~~)) 2021-2023 **Elk general seasons and definitions.** It is unlawful to fail to comply with bag, possession, and season limits described below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

**Bag Limit:** One (1) elk per hunter during the license year, except where otherwise permitted by department rule. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the department will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

**Hunting Method:** Elk hunters must select only one of the hunting methods: Modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader.

**Elk Tag Areas:** Elk hunters must choose either Eastern or Western Washington to hunt in and buy the appropriate tag for that area.

**Any Bull Elk Seasons:** Open only to the taking of elk with visible antlers; bull calves are illegal.

**Antler Point:** To qualify as an antler point, the point must be at least one inch long, measured on the longest side.

**Branch:** A branch is defined as any projection off the main antler beam that is at least one inch long, measured on the longest side, and longer than it is wide.

**Spike Bull Antler Restrictions:** Bull elk taken in spike-only game management units (GMUs) must have at least one antler with no branches originating more than 4 inches above where the antler attaches to the skull.

~~((Spike-only GMUs: 145-154, 162-186, 249, and 336-368.))~~

**True Spike ((-)) Bull Antler Restrictions:** Neither antler of bull elk taken ~~((in GMUs 251, and 328-335))~~ can have branching originating more than 4 inches above where the antlers attach to the skull. Under the true-spike restriction, taking an elk that has two points on one side or antler points within one inch of the definitions regarding length of point, or point of origination, is an infraction under RCW 77.15.160. All other types of violations of the true-spike restriction are subject to current penalties and assessments under RCW 77.15.410 and 77.15.420.

~~((True-spike GMUs: 251, 328-335.))~~

**3-point Antler Restrictions:** Legal bull elk must have at least 3 antler points on one side. Eye guards are antler points when they are

at least one inch long. Antler restrictions apply to all hunters during any open season.

~~((3-point GMUs: All of Western Washington, except for GMUs 448, 454, 564, 652 for archers, 666, 684, and Elk Area 4941.))~~

**Permit-only Units:** The following GMUs are closed to elk hunting during general elk seasons: 157, ~~((371,))~~ 418, 437, 485, 522, 556, 621, 636, and 653.

**GMUs Closed to Elk Hunting:** ~~((437 (except for Elk Area 4941) and))~~  
490.

~~((Areas with Special Restrictions: There are modern firearm restrictions in GMU 334 and portions of GMU 660. GMU 554 is open only for early archery and muzzleloader seasons. Elk Area 6064 in GMU 638 (Quinalt) is open to master hunters only.))~~

### **Elk Tag Areas**

**Eastern Washington:** All 100, 200, and 300 GMUs.

EA - Eastern Washington Archery Tag

EF - Eastern Washington Modern Firearm ~~((General-Elk))~~ Tag

EM - Eastern Washington Muzzleloader Tag

**Western Washington:** All 400, 500, and 600 GMUs.

WA - Western Washington Archery Tag

WF - Western Washington Modern Firearm (~~(General Elk)~~) Tag

WM - Western Washington Muzzleloader Tag

**Modern Firearm General Elk Seasons**

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** A valid modern firearm elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** May use modern firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader, but only during modern firearm seasons.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	(( 2018 )) 2021 Dates	(( 2019 )) 2022 Dates	(( 2020 )) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EF	101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, 121, 204	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 4 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 3 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 6</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 5</u>	Any bull
		145 through 154, 162 through (( 169, 172 (except Elk Area 1040), 175 through )) 186, 249, 336 through 368	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 4 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 3 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 6</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 5</u>	Spike bull
		251, 328, 329, 334, 335	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 4 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 3 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 6</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 5</u>	True spike bull
		Elk Area 3722 (( * ))	(( Sept. 8-23 )) <u>Sept. 11-26</u>	(( Sept. 7-22 )) <u>Sept. 10-25</u>	(( Sept. 12-27 )) <u>Sept. 9-24</u>	Antlerless only
		124 through 142, 372, 382, 388	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 4 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 3 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 6</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 5</u>	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 15</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 15</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 15</u>	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2019 )) 2022	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2020 )) 2023	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2021 )) 2024	Antlerless only
		Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	(( Aug. 1 - Oct. 15 )) <u>Aug. 1-31</u>	Antlerless only

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	(( 2018 )) 2021 Dates	(( 2019 )) 2022 Dates	(( 2020 )) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
( ( *GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access. ) )						
Western Washington	WF	460, 466, 448, 503, 505 through 520, 524 ( ( except-CLOSED in Elk Area 5066 ) ) , 530, 550, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638), 642 through 651, 652 (except for Elk Area 6014), 654, 658, 660, 667 through 684.	( ( Nov. 3-14 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	( ( Nov. 2-13 ) ) <u>Nov. 5-16</u>	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 4-15</u>	3 pt. min.
		501, 504, 663, Elk Areas 4601 and 6014	( ( Nov. 3-14 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	( ( Nov. 2-13 ) ) <u>Nov. 5-16</u>	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 4-15</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407, ( ( 448, ) ) 564, 666	( ( Nov. 3-14 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	( ( Nov. 2-13 ) ) <u>Nov. 5-16</u>	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 4-15</u>	Any elk
		454	( ( Nov. 3-14 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	( ( Nov. 2-13 ) ) <u>Nov. 5-16</u>	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 4-15</u>	Any bull

**Archery General Elk Seasons**

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** A valid archery elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** Bow and arrow only, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

**Special Notes:** Archery tag holders can hunt only during archery seasons and must hunt with archery equipment (WAC 220-414-070).

Archery elk hunters may apply for special bull permits. Please see permit table for tag eligibility for all elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	(( 2018 )) 2021 Dates	(( 2019 )) 2022 Dates	(( 2020 )) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Early Archery General Elk Seasons						



Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	(( 2018 )) 2021 Dates	(( 2019 )) 2022 Dates	(( 2020 )) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
Eastern Washington	EA	101 through 142, 204, 243, 247, 249, 250, <u>272, 278, 284, 290, 373, 379, 381, 382 (except Deer Area 5382), 388</u>	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	Any elk
		162, 166, 169, 172 ( (except Elk Area 4040) ), 175, 186, <u>251, 328, 329, 336, 340, 352, 356, 364</u>	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	Spike bull
		( ( <u>328, 329</u> )	<u>Sept. 8-20</u>	<u>Sept. 7-19</u>	<u>Sept. 12-24</u>	True spike bull
		334, 335	<u>Sept. 8-20</u>	<u>Sept. 7-19</u>	<u>Sept. 12-24</u>	True spike bull or antlerless )
		145, 149, 154, ( ( Elk Area 4010, Elk Area 4013, ) ) 163, 178, 181, <u>334, 335, 371</u>	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	Spike bull or antlerless
		<u>Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Antlerless only</u>
Western Washington	WA	407, ( ( 448, ) ) 454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	Any elk
		Elk Area 4601, 501 through 505, 520, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, Elk Area 6061, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 654, 660, 663, 667 through 673, 681, 699	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		<u>448, 460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 524 ( (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066) )</u> , 530, 601 through 618, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except Master Hunters only in Elk Area 6064), 642 through 651, 658	(( Sept. 8-20 )) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	(( Sept. 7-19 )) <u>Sept. 10-22</u>	(( Sept. 12-24 )) <u>Sept. 9-21</u>	3 pt. min.
<b>Late Archery General Elk Seasons</b>						
Eastern Washington	EA	101, 105, 108, 117, 121, 204	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any bull
		124, 127, 373, <u>382, 388</u>	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		178	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Nov. 20 - Dec. 8	Antlerless only
		( ( Elk Area 4010, ) ) 163	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, ( ( 2019 )) 2022	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, ( ( 2020 )) 2023	Dec. 9 - Jan. 30, ( ( 2021 )) 2024	Antlerless only
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 15</u>	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 29 - Nov. 15</u>	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 15 )) <u>Oct. 28 - Nov. 15</u>	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, ( ( 2019 )) 2022	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, ( ( 2020 )) 2023	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, ( ( 2021 )) 2024	Antlerless only

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	( ( 2018 ) ) 2021 Dates	( ( 2019 ) ) 2022 Dates	( ( 2020 ) ) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
		( ( Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink. ) )			Aug. 1 - Oct. 15	Antlerless only ) )
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
		334, 335	( ( Nov. 21 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( True ) ) Spike bull or antlerless
		249, 251, 336, 342, 346, 352, 364, Elk Area 3681	( ( Nov. 21 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 8 ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 8</u>	Spike bull
Western Washington	WA	Elk Area 4601, 503, 505, 506, 530, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 663, 667, 672, 681, and 699. Master hunters only in Elk Area 6064 portion of GMU 638	( ( Nov. 21 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 15</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		407	( ( Nov. 21 - Jan 20, 2019 ) ) <u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Jan 20, 2020 ) ) <u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Jan 20, 2021 ) ) <u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 15</u>	Any elk
		( ( 448, ) ) 454, 564, 666, Elk Area 6014	( ( Nov. 21 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 15</u>	Any elk
		448, 603, 612, 615, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 648	( ( Nov. 21 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 27 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 15 ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 15</u>	3 pt. min.
		( ( *GMU 372 and Elk Area 3722 are mainly private property. Hunters are not advised to try hunting these areas without making prior arrangements for access. ) )				

**Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons**

**License Required:** A valid big game hunting license with an elk tag option.

**Tag Required:** A valid muzzleloader elk tag as listed below for the area hunted.

**Hunting Method:** Muzzleloader, as defined under WAC 220-414-060, or bow and arrow, as defined under WAC 220-414-070.

**Special Notes:** Muzzleloader tag holders can only hunt during the muzzleloader seasons. Only hunters with tags identified in the Special Elk Permits tables may apply for special elk permits.

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	(( 2018 )) 2021 Dates	(( 2019 )) 2022 Dates	(( 2020 )) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
<b>Early Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons</b>						
<b>Eastern Washington</b>	EM	101 through 121, 204, 247	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	Any bull
		124 through 142, 245, 250, 272, 278, 284, 290, 379	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 172 ( (except Elk Area 1040) ), 175, 178, 181, 336 through 342, 352 through 368	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	Spike bull
		249, 251, 328, 329, 334, 335, Elk Area 2051	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	True spike bull
		<u>Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Aug. 1-31</u>	<u>Antlerless only</u>
<b>Western Washington</b>	WM	407, ( ( 448; ) ) 454, 564, 666, 684	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	Any elk
		448, 460, 466, 506, 510, 513, 516, 520, 524 ( (except <b>CLOSED</b> in Elk Area 5066) ), 530, 550, 554, 560, 568, 572, 574, 578, 602, 603, 607, 612, 615, 624 (except for Elk Area 6071), 627, 633, 638 (except for Elk Area 6064), 642, 648, 660, 672, 673, 681	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min.
		501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), Elk Area 6014, 654, 663, 667, Elk Area 4601	(( Oct. 6-12 )) Oct. 2-8	(( Oct. 5-11 )) Oct. 1-7	(( Oct. 3-9 )) Oct. 7-13	3 pt. min. or antlerless
<b>Late Muzzleloader General Elk Seasons</b>						
<b>Eastern Washington</b>	EM	130 through 142	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Nov. 25 - Dec. 8	Any elk
		203, 209 through 248, 250, 254 through 290, 373, 379, 381. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	(( Oct. 27 - Nov. 15 )) Oct. 30 - Nov. 15	(( Oct. 26 - Nov. 15 )) Oct. 29 - Nov. 15	(( Oct. 31 - Nov. 15 )) Oct. 28 - Nov. 15	Any elk
		Master Hunters Only: Elk Areas 3911 and 3912. Must wear hunter orange and/or hunter pink.	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2019 )) <u>2022</u>	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2020 )) <u>2023</u>	Aug. 1 - Jan. 20, (( 2021 )) <u>2024</u>	Antlerless only
		(( <u>Master Hunters Only: 371. Must wear</u>			<u>Aug. 1 - Oct. 15</u>	<u>Antlerless only</u> ) )

Hunt Area	Elk Tag Area	Game Management Units (GMUs)	( ( <del>2018</del> ) ) 2021 Dates	( ( <del>2019</del> ) ) 2022 Dates	( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) 2023 Dates	Legal Elk
		<del>hunter orange and/or hunter pink.</del>				
		Master Hunters Only: 127, 130	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Dec. 9-31	Antlerless only
Western Washington	WM	407	( ( <del>Nov. 21–Jan. 20, 2019</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 16-31</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 27–Jan. 20, 2020</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 16-31</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Jan. 20, 2021</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 16-31</u>	Any elk
		Elk Area 4601, 501, 503, 504, 505, 652 (except Elk Area 6013 closed to antlerless), 667	( ( <del>Nov. 21–Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 27–Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 8</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 8</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		( ( <del>578</del> ) )			<u>Nov. 25-30</u>	3 pt. min. or antlerless
		578			<u>Dec. 1-8</u>	3 pt. min. ) )
		( ( <del>448</del> ) ) 454, 564, 666, 684, Elk Area 6014	( ( <del>Nov. 21–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 27–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 15</u>	Any elk
		568, 574, <u>578</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 21–30</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24-30</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 27–30</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 23-30</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 25–30</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 22-30</u>	3 pt. min.
		<u>448</u> , 601, 618, 651, 658	( ( <del>Nov. 21–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 27–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 23 - Dec. 15</u>	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 22 - Dec. 15</u>	3 pt. min.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-050, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 19-20-078 (Order 19-245), § 220-415-050, filed 9/27/19, effective 10/28/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-050, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and

77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-050, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-050, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-358, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-059 (Order 15-98), § 232-28-358, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-358, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-358, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-358, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]

**WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.**

**RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

The department recommends the following adjustments since the Code Reviser filed (CR-102). The adjustments are included in your notebooks.

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- Change: Under late archery general elk seasons, eastern Washington, added GMU 382, any elk.

Rationale: The intent of the Department's original proposal was to open GMU 382 during both the early and late general archery seasons and that is how we presented it to the public. This adjustment corrects a clerical error that resulted in GMU 382 not being included in the original proposal.

## **Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:**

### WAC 220-415-050 Elk general seasons.

We received 234 total comments on the proposed rule changes, and all but six (email/letter) came through our online survey. Twenty-three of the online respondents did not indicate if they agreed or disagreed.

#### **Written Supporting Comments:**

Of the 1,753 respondents to our online survey 68% (1,185) indicated they agreed with the proposed rule changes. Five comments indicated general support of the proposed changes but did not specify why, while 44 comments indicated support for specific aspects of the proposal.

#### **Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:**

Only 13% (236) of the respondents indicated they disagreed with the proposed rule changes and 19% (334) indicated they were neutral. Nine comments indicated general disagreement with the proposed changes but did not specify why, while 86 comments indicated opposition to specific aspects of the proposal.

Sixty-three other comments were not directly related to proposed changes and most advocated for more opportunity related to their specific area of interest (e.g., user group, weapon type, area, etc.).

Below are the common themes identified from comments that indicated opposition or were not directly related to proposed changes:

- True-spike should be removed for all weapon types
- There are too many predators
- Concerns about tribal hunting
- Opposed to reducing Master Hunter opportunities in GMU 371
- Need to increase opportunity
- Opposed to removing the general muzzleloader season in GMU 578

#### **Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:**

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as proposed.

Most responses were in favor of the proposed rule changes. Those that were opposed had several reasons. We have outlined the most prominent reasons for being opposed and common themes not directly related to the proposal and WDFW's consideration in response to those comments.

Comment: True-spike should be removed for all weapon types

Recruitment of spikes into the branch-antlered class was too low and WDFW was consistently unable to meet our bull-to-cow objectives in the Colockum until we implemented the true-spike regulation. Ratios were consistently in the single digits. Removing the true-spike restriction for archery hunters is not likely to result in a substantially higher harvest of spike bulls, but that is not likely to be the cause for other weapons types, especially modern firearm. Moreover, WDFW removed the restriction to offset some of the opportunity lost when we removed general season opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk.

Comment: There are too many predators

WDFW's Game Management Plan identifies guidelines to determine when a particular population meets the criteria of an "at-risk" ungulate population and whether carnivore management actions are needed to promote recovery. In some areas, populations meet that criteria and we have initiated efforts to determine if carnivore management actions are warranted. In addition, we have liberalized bear and cougar hunting seasons in eastern Washington in response to concerns that carnivore populations are too high.

Comment: Concerns about tribal hunting

WDFW does not regulate tribal hunting. The 24 tribes that have off-reservation hunting rights in Washington set their own hunting regulations for their tribal members. Those tribes can allow members to hunt on open and unclaimed land within their ceded area or within an area proven to have been traditionally used by the tribe.

Comment: Opposed to reducing Master Hunter opportunities in GMU 371

Master Hunter opportunities were established in GMU 371 to mitigate conflicts with private landowners that live adjacent to this area. WDFW believes we can continue to mitigate those conflicts mostly using general hunters. Establishing more opportunities for general hunters in GMU 371 will also offset some of the opportunity that has been lost since we have had to reduce opportunities given recent declines in the Colockum and Yakima elk herds.

Comment: Need to increase opportunity

WDFW establishes opportunities that we believe are sustainable relative to the status of elk populations and maximize hunter opportunity. Our proposed changes are reflective of that policy.

Comment: Opposed to removing the general muzzleloader season in GMU 578

The opportunities Master Hunters had to harvest antlerless elk in GMU 578 were historically limited to special permit opportunities. As concerns related to conflict with private landowners increased, WDFW shifted those opportunities to the late general season. However, that general season opportunity resulted in more cow harvest than



was initially anticipated and at levels that was not sustainable. It is not our objective to substantially reduce elk numbers in GMU 578 which would likely happen if we retained the general season opportunity.

@AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 20-12-080, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20)

**WAC 220-415-060 ((2020)) 2021 Elk special permits.** It is unlawful to fail to comply with the bag, possession, and season limits described below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

**Special Elk Permit Hunting Seasons (Open to Permit Holders Only)**

Hunters must purchase an elk hunting license prior to purchasing a permit application. Hunters may only apply for permits consistent with the tag required for the hunt choice; however, Multiple Season Permit holders may apply for Eastern or Western Washington archery, muzzleloader, or modern firearm permit hunts. Applicants must have purchased the proper tag for these hunts. The elk tag prefixes required to apply for each hunt are shown in the following table. Hunters drawn for a special permit hunt must comply with weapon restrictions, dates, and other conditions listed for the hunt. Hunters drawn for a special permit designated "**Any tag**" under the "**Weapon/Tag**" restriction must use equipment consistent with the requirements of their transport tag and license.

**Bag Limit:** One (1) elk per hunter during the license year except where otherwise permitted by department rule, even if permits are drawn for more than one elk hunt category. Any combination of seasons, tags, and permits set by the department will not exceed a maximum of two (2) elk per hunter during the license year.

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Turnbull	EA, EF, EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-12 and Nov. 14-Dec. 3</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-11 and Nov. 13 - Dec. 2</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1015	1
Prescott	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 149	2
Blue Creek	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 21-25</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 154	1
Blue Creek	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 154	<del>89</del>
Watershed	EA, EF, EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 157	25
Dayton	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 162, 163	2
( ( <del>Ten-Ten</del>	EF	Any	<u>Sept. 21-25</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	4
<del>Ten-Ten</del>	EF	Any	<u>Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	4 ) )
Tucannon	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 166	5
Wenaha West	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	5
Wenaha East	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	4
Mountain View	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 172 ( ( , EXCEPT Elk Area 1040 ) )	<del>59</del>
( ( <del>Ten-Forty</del>	EF	Any	<u>Oct. 26 - Nov. 8</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1040	4 ) )

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Lick Creek	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26</del> - <del>Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 175	<del>2</del> <u>1</u>
Peola	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 21-25</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMUs 178, 145	1
Peola	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26</del> - <del>Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 178, 145	2
Couse	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26</del> - <del>Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 181	5
Mission	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 26</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 251	4
Colockum	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 334	1
Colockum	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 21</del> - <del>Nov. 3</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 334	<del>2322</del>
Teanaway	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 335	2
Peaches Ridge	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	2
Observatory	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 340, 342	2
Little Naches	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 346	3
Goose Prairie	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	2
Bethel	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 360	2
Rimrock	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 364	2
Cowiche	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28</del> - <del>Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 27 - Oct. 1</u>	Any bull	GMU 368	2
Alkali	EF	Any	<u>Oct. 16 - Nov. 5</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 371	<del>25</del>
Nooksack	WF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-29</del> and <del>Dec. 14-29</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-28 and Dec. 13-28</u>	Any bull	GMU 418	13

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Green River	WF, WA, WM	Any	( ( Oct. 17-23 ) ) <del>FBD</del> Nov. 13-19	Any bull	GMU 485	( ( 40 ) ) <del>FBD</del> 10
Wahkiakum	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMUs 506, 530	1
South Rainier	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMUs 510, 513	1
Packwood	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMU 516	1
Winston	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMU 520	1
Coweeman	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMU 550	1
Toutle	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 and Nov. 7-18 ) ) Sept. 20-24 and Nov. 6- 17	Any bull	GMU 556	2
Toutle	WF	Any	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Any bull	GMU 556	( ( 26 ) ) 2731
Lewis River	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMU 560	2
Siouxon	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	GMU 572	2
Carlton	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5057	5
West Goat Rocks	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5058	5
Upper Smith Creek	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	1
Mount Whittier	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	2
Mt. Adams	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 21-25 ) ) Sept. 20-24	Any bull	Elk Area 5059	5
Mudflow	WF	Any	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	7
Peninsula	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 26-30 ) ) Sept. 25-29	3 pt. min.	GMUs 602, 603, 607, 612, 615	4
Matheny	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 26-30 ) ) Sept. 25-29	3 pt. min.	GMU 618	3
Quinault	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 26-30 ) ) Sept. 25-29	3 pt. min.	GMU 638	( ( 5 ) ) 4
Wynoochee	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 26-30 ) ) Sept. 25-29	3 pt. min.	GMU 648	1
White River	WF	Any	( ( Sept. 26-30 ) ) Sept. 25-29	Any bull	GMU 653	2
Prescott	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) Sept. 6-23	Any bull	GMU 149	1

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Blue Creek	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 154	<del>54</del>
Dayton	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 162, 163	1
( ( Ten Ten	EA	Any	Sept. 1-19	Any bull	Elk Area 1010, GMU 163	3 ) )
Tucannon	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 166	2
Wenaha West	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	2
Wenaha East	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	2
Mountain View	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 172 ( ( , EXCEPT Elk Area 1040 ) )	<del>47</del>
( ( Ten Forty	EA	Any	Sept. 9-20	Any bull	Elk Area 1040	2 ) )
Lick Creek	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 175	2
Peola	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 178, 145	3
Couse	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 1-19 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 181	2
Colockum	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 334	15
Teanaway	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 335	2
Peaches Ridge	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	<del>109</del>
Observatory	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 340, 342	<del>1918</del>
Goose Prairie	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	<del>65</del>
Bethel	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 360	<del>78</del>
Rimrock	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 364	<del>2018</del>
Cowiche	EA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 368	<del>64</del>
Alkali	EA	Any	Sept. 1-24	Any elk	GMUs 334, 371	40
Nooksack	WA	Any	( ( Aug. 24 - Sept. 12 and Jan. 1-19, 2021 ) ) <u>Aug. 23 - Sept. 11 and Jan. 1-19, 2022</u>	Any bull	GMU 418	8
Toutle	WA	Any	( ( Sept. 12-24 and Dec. 1-15 ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23 and Dec. 1- 15</u>	Any bull	GMU 556	( ( 20 ) ) 21
Upper Smith Creek	WA	Any	( ( Sept. 13-19 ) )	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	1

Quality						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
			<u>Sept. 12-18</u>			
Norway Pass	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 5-11</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 4-10</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	2
Mudflow	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-19 and Nov. 19-23</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-18 and Nov. 18-22</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	7
Peninsula	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 1-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 1-23</u>	3 pt. min.	GMUs 602, 603, 607, 612, 615	2
White River	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24 and Nov. 28-Dec. 13</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23 and Nov. 27-Dec. 12</u>	Any bull	GMU 653	<del>46</del> 19
Prescott	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 149	1
Blue Creek	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 154	2
Dayton	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 162, <u>163</u>	1
( ( <del>Ten Ten</del> ) )	EM	Any	<del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del>	<del>Any bull</del>	<del>Elk Area 1010, GMU 163</del>	<del>1</del> ) )
Tucannon	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 166	1
Wenaha West	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1008	1
Wenaha East	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 1009	1
Mountain View	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 172, <del>EXCEPT Elk Area 1040</del>	<del>24</del>
( ( <del>Ten Forty</del> ) )	EM	Any	<del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del>	<del>Any bull</del>	<del>Elk Area 1040</del>	<del>2</del> ) )
Lick Creek	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 175	1
Peola	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMUs 178, 145	1
Couse	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28-Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 181	1
Mission	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 251	4

<b>Quality</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Colockum	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMUs 328, 329, 334	7
Teanaway	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 335	1
Peaches Ridge	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	4
Observatory	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 340, 342	<del>6</del> 5
Goose Prairie	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	2
Bethel	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 360	2
Rimrock	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 364	<del>4</del> 5
Cowiche	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 368	<del>2</del> 1
<u>Alkali</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 15</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>GMUs 334, 371</u>	<u>10</u>
Nooksack	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 19-30 and Nov. 14-23, and Nov. 29-Dec. 6</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 18-29 and Nov. 13-22, and Nov. 28 - Dec. 5</u>	Any bull	GMU 418	8
Toutle	WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Any bull	GMU 556	( ( <del>9</del> ) ) 11
Mount Whittier	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 13-19</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 12-18</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 13-19</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 12-18</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	2
Mudflow	WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-13</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-12</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	7
Peninsula	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 26-Oct. 2</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 1</u>	3 pt. min.	GMUs 602, 603, 607, 612, 615	2

<b>Bulls</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Turnbull	EF	Any	( ( <del>Dec. 8-13</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 7-12</u>	Spike bull only	Elk Area 1015	1
( ( <del>Ten-Forty</del> ) )	EF	Any	<del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del>	Spike bull only	Elk Area 1040	<del>2</del> ) )
Grande Ronde	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 186	1
Mission	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26-Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 251	4
<u>Peshastin</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Feb. 8-17, 2022</u>	<u>Any bull</u>	<u>Elk Area 2033</u>	<u>4</u>



<b>Bulls</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Teanaway	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 335	4
Peaches Ridge	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 336, 346	15
Observatory	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 340, 342	<del>4</del> 15
Goose Prairie	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 352, 356	7
Bethel	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 360	7
Rimrock	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 364	33
Cowiche	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 26–Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMU 368	<del>5</del> 4
( ( Alkali	EF	Any	<del>Oct. 12-30</del>	<del>Any bull</del>	<del>GMUs 334, 371</del>	<del>45</del> ) )
( ( Skagit River ) ) Sauk	WF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3–Nov. 5</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2 - Nov. 4</u>	Any bull	( ( <del>Elk Area 4941</del> ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	6
Upper Smith Creek	WF	Any	Oct. 17-23	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	1
Mount Whittier	WF	Any	Oct. 17-23	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WF	Any	Oct. 17-23	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	3
Olympic	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 1-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 1-17</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	<del>5</del> 8
Skokomish	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 1-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 1-17</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	<del>2</del> 4
White River	WF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 17–Nov. 11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16 - Nov. 10</u>	Any bull	GMU 653	<del>35</del> 45
Turnbull	EA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Spike bull only	Elk Area 1015	1
( ( Ten-Forty	EA	Any	<del>Sept. 1-8</del>	<del>Spike bull only</del>	<del>Elk Area 1040</del>	<del>2</del> ) )
Grande Ronde	EA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 1-19</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 6-23</u>	Any bull	GMU 186	1
( ( Alkali	EA	Any	<del>Sept. 1-20</del>	<del>Any Elk</del>	<del>GMUs 334, 371</del>	<del>40</del> ) )
( ( Skagit River ) ) Sauk	WA	Any	( ( <del>Aug. 24–Sept. 12 and Jan. 1-7, 2021</del> ) ) <u>Aug. 23 - Sept. 11 and Jan. 1-7, 2022</u>	Any bull	( ( <del>Elk Area 4941</del> ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	9
Upper Smith Creek	WA	Any	Oct. 1-7	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	2

<b>Bulls</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Mount Whittier	WA	Any	Oct. 1-7	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WA	Any	Oct. 1-7	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	3
Lewis River	WA	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 560	5
Siouxon	WA	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 572	5
Olympic	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 1-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 1-23 and Dec. 1-15</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT Elk Area 6071	<del>14</del>
Skokomish	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 1-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 1-23 and Dec. 1-15</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	<del>13</del>
Turnbull	EM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 28–Dec. 3</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 27 - Dec. 2</u>	Spike bull only	Elk Area 1015	1
( ( <del>Ten-Forty</del> ) )	EM	Any	<u>Oct. 3-9</u>	<del>Spike bull only</del>	Elk Area 1040	<del>2</del> ) )
Grande Ronde	EM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 28–Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 186	1
( ( <del>Alkali</del> ) )	EM	Any	<u>Sept. 21–Oct. 11</u>	<del>Any bull</del>	GMUs 334, 371	<del>15</del> ) )
( ( <del>Skagit River</del> ) ) <u>Sauk</u>	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 19-30 and Nov. 30–Dec. 9 and Jan. 9-20, 2021</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 18-29 and Nov. 29 - Dec. 8 and Jan. 8-19, 2022</u>	Any bull	( ( <del>Elk Area 4941</del> ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	6
Upper Smith Creek	WM	Any	Oct. 9-15	Any bull	Elk Area 5064	2
Mount Whittier	WM	Any	Oct. 9-15	Any bull	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WM	Any	Oct. 9-15	Any bull	Elk Area 5066	3
Yale	WM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25–Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 554	( ( <del>15</del> ) ) <u>5</u>
Olympic	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 26–Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 8</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 621, EXCEPT for Elk Area 6071	<del>23</del>
Skokomish	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 26–Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 8</u>	3 pt. min.	GMU 636	1
White River	WM	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 26–Oct. 9</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 8</u>	Any bull	GMU 653	<del>79</del>
<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
North Half	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31–Nov. 8</del> ) )	Antlerless	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10

<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
			<u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>			
Douglas	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 108	5
Aladdin	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 111	10
Selkirk	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 113	10
49 Degrees North	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u> and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 117	10
Huckleberry	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u> and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 121	10
Turnbull	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 14-19</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 13-18</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	5
Turnbull	EF	Any	( ( <del>Dec. 8-13</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 7-12</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	5
Mayview-Peola	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 17-25</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16-24</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	10
Mayview-Peola	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	( ( <del>20</del> ) ) <u>10</u>
Prescott	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 149	20
Blue Creek	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 17-25</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16-24</u>	Antlerless	GMU 154	5
Blue Creek	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 154	5
Marengo	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 163	10
Mountain View	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1013	( ( <del>40</del> ) ) <u>5</u>
Couse	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 17-25</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16-24</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1081	( ( <del>15</del> ) ) <u>10</u>
Couse	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 13</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1081	( ( <del>30</del> ) ) <u>25</u>
Malaga	EF	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	20

<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Malaga	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 3 – Dec. 31</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 1 - Dec. 31</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	55
<u>Peshastin</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Dec. 15, 2021 - Feb. 8, 2022</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>Elk Area 2033</u>	<u>20</u>
Colockum	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329	( ( <del>50</del> ) ) <u>4050</u>
( ( <del>West Bar</del> ) )	<u>EF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Oct. 31 – Nov. 3</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 330</u>	<u>5</u> ) )
West Bar	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 330	5
Teanaway	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 335	25
Taneum	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 336	( ( <del>25</del> ) ) <u>20</u>
Manastash	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 340	( ( <del>25</del> ) ) <u>20</u>
Umtanum	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 342	( ( <del>25</del> ) ) <u>20</u>
Little Naches	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 346	( ( <del>30</del> ) ) <u>20</u>
Nile	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 352	10
Bumping	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 356	15
Bethel	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 360	10
Rimrock	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 364	15
Cowiche	EF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 4-8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 368	15
Alkali <u>A</u>	EF	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 12-30</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16 - Nov. 5</u>	Antlerless	GMU 371	( ( <del>25</del> ) ) <u>45</u>
( ( <del>North Bend</del> ) )	<u>WF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 7-18</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>Elk Area 4604</u>	<u>5</u> ) )
<u>Alkali B</u>	<u>EF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 6-24</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 371</u>	<u>45</u>
Green River	WF, WA, WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 17-23</del> ) ) <u>FBDNov. 13-19</u>	Antlerless	GMU 485	( ( <del>42</del> ) ) <u>FBD12</u>
Mossyrock	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 505	20
Willapa Hills	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 506	20
Winston	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 520	10
Margaret	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 524 ( ( <del>except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066</del> ) )	5
Ryderwood	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 530	15

<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Coweeman	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 550	10
Toutle	WF	Any	Nov. 20-30	Antlerless	GMU 556	5
Lewis River	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 560	15
Washougal	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 568	10
Siouxon	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 572	10
Wind River	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 574	15
West Klickitat	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 578	30
Norway Pass	WF	Any	Oct. 17-23	Antlerless	Elk Area 5066	3
Mudflow	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	3
Mallis	WF	Any	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	10
Mallis	WF	Any	Jan. 1-20, ( ( 2021 ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	20
Puyallup	WF	Any	Jan. 1-20, ( ( 2021 ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6014	10
Puyallup	WF	Any	Jan. 21 - Feb. 10, ( ( 2021 ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6014	10
Puyallup	WF	Any	Feb. 11-28, ( ( 2021 ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6014	10
<u>Joyce</u>	<u>WF</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Dec. 16-31</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>Elk Area 6030</u>	<u>5</u>
Hanaford	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5
Williams Creek	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 673	50
Long Beach	WF	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 684	( ( 6 ) ) 4
Turnbull	EA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	12
Malaga	EA	Any	( ( <del>Aug. 30 - Sept. 5</del> ) ) <u>Aug. 29 - Sept. 4</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	20
<u>Colockum</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 328, 329</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Colockum</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 328</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Taneum</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 336</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Manastash</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 340</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Umtanum</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 342</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Nile</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 352</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Bumping</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 356</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Rimrock</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 364</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Cowiche</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>Elk Area 3681</u>	<u>50</u>

<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Margaret	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u> and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	GMU 524 ( ( <del>except CLOSED in Elk Area 5066</del> ) )	5
Toutle	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u> and Dec. 1-15	Antlerless	GMU 556	10
Norway Pass	WA	Any	Oct. 1-7	Antlerless	Elk Area 5066	3
Mudflow	WA	Any	( ( <del>Sept. 5-11 and Nov. 19-23</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 4-10 and Nov. 18-22</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	5
Lewis River	WA	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 560	5
Siouxon	WA	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 572	3
Wynoochee	WA	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25 - Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	Antlerless	GMU 648	( ( <del>400</del> ) ) <u>95</u>
North Half	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 101, 105, 204	10
Douglas	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 108	5
Aladdin	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 111	10
Selkirk	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 113	10
49 Degrees North	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u> and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 117	20
Huckleberry	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8 and Dec. 16-31</u>	Antlerless	GMU 121	10
Turnbull	EM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 28 - Dec. 3</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 27 - Dec. 2</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	8
Turnbull	EM	Any	( ( <del>Dec. 15-20</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 14-19</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	8
Blue Creek	EM	Any	Dec. 9, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021 - Jan. 20,</u> ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	GMU 154	15
Mountain View	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1013	( ( <del>20</del> ) ) <u>5</u>
Mayview-Peola	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	( ( <del>20</del> ) ) <u>10</u>
Couse	EM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1081	10

Antlerless Elk						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Couse	EM	Any	Dec. 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Jan. 20, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	Elk Area 1081 and Elk Area 1075	35
Malaga	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	45
Colockum	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329	35
( ( West Bar	EM	Any	Oct. 3-11	Antlerless	GMU 330	5 ) )
Teanaway	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 335	20
Taneum	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 336	20
Manastash	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 340	20
Umtanum	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 342	20
Nile	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 352	10
Bumping	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 356	10
Bethel	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 360	10
Cowiche	EM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) Oct. 2-10	Antlerless	GMU 368	10
Alkali	EM	Any	( ( Sept. 21 - Oct. 11 ) ) Sept. 25 - Oct. 15	Antlerless	GMU 371	( ( 20 ) ) 45
Willapa Hills	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 506	15
Mudflow	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-13 ) ) Oct. 2-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	4
Winston	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 520	5
Margaret	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 524 ( ( except <b>CLOSED</b> in Elk Area 5066 ) )	5
Ryderwood	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 530	10
Coweeman	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 550	10
Yale	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 554	( ( 10 ) ) 5
Yale	WM	Any	( ( Nov. 25 - Dec. 15 ) ) Nov. 24 - Dec. 15	Antlerless	GMU 554	( ( 10 ) ) 5
Toutle	WM	Any	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMU 556	10

<b>Antlerless Elk</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Lewis River	WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 560	5
Washougal	WM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 568	10
Siouxon	WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 572	5
Wind River	WM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	Antlerless	GMU 574	20
<u>West Klickitat</u>	<u>WM</u>	<u>Any</u>	<u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMU 578</u>	<u>75</u>
Mount Whittier	WM	Any	Oct. 9-15	Antlerless	Elk Area 5065	1
Norway Pass	WM	Any	Oct. 9-15	Antlerless	Elk Area 5066	2
Mallis	WM	Any	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	10
Mashel	WM	Any	Jan. 1-15, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6054	20
North River	WM	Any	( ( <del>Nov. 19 - Dec. 15</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 24 - Dec. 15</u>	Antlerless	GMU 658	20
Forks ( * )	WF, WM, WA	Any	Jan. 1-31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6612	20*

<b>Youth - Only youth hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Turnbull	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 21-26</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 20-25</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	5
Turnbull	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 21-26</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 20-25</u>	Spike bull only	Elk Area 1015	1
Aladdin	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 111	5
Selkirk	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 113	5
49 Degrees North	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u> and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMU 117	5
Mayview-Peola	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 145, 178	5
Blue Creek	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 154	3
( ( <del>Ten-Ten</del> ) )	EF	Youth	<del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1010	3
<del>Ten-Forty</del>	EF	Youth	<del>Oct. 17-25</del>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1040	<del>3</del> ) )



<b>Youth - Only youth hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Couse	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1081	10
Malaga	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 2-13</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 1-12</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	10
( ( Colockum	EF	Youth	<u>Nov. 4-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329, 335	<del>20</del> ) )
Yakima North	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 4-11</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	10
Yakima Central	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 4-11</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 352, 356, 360	5
Yakima South	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 4-11</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 364, 368	5
Alkali	EF	Youth	( ( <del>Dec. 14, 2020 - Jan. 3, 2021</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 18, 2021 - Jan. 3, 2022</u>	Antlerless	GMU 371	20
<u>Yakima Early</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 336, 340, 352, 356, 364</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Yakima Late</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 342, 368</u>	<u>20</u>
( ( Colockum	EM	Youth	<u>Oct. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329, 335	<del>10</del> ) )
Yakima North	EM	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	10
Yakima Central	EM	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 352, 356, 360	10
Yakima South	EM	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 364, 368	10
Alkali	EM	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 21 - Dec. 13</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 371	10
( ( North Bend	WF, WM, WA	Youth	<u>Nov. 7-18</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	5 ) )
( ( Skagit River ) ) Sauk	WF, WM, WA	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 14-29</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-28 and Dec. 13-28</u>	Antlerless	( ( Elk Area 4941 ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	5
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 21-30</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 23-30</u>	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	5
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Youth	( ( <del>Oct. 24 - Nov. 1</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 23-31</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	5
Coweeman	WF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 550	10
Toutle	WF	Youth	Nov. 20-30	Antlerless	GMU 556	10
Lewis River	WF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 560	5
Wind River	WF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 574	5
West Klickitat	WF	Youth	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 578	10

<b>Youth - Only youth hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Region 5	WF, WM	Youth with mentor	Aug. 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Mar. 31, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 5	10 <sup>HC</sup>
Peninsula	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	4
Clearwater	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMU 615	5
Matheny	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMU 618	5
Wynoochee	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMU 648	10
North River	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMU 658	5
Williams Creek	WF	Youth	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) Nov. 6-17	Antlerless	GMU 673	10
Mallis	WF	Youth	Dec. 16, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Jan. 20, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	Elk Area 6010	10
Peninsula	WA	Youth	( ( Sept. 12-24 ) ) Sept. 11-23	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	2
Peninsula	WM	Youth	( ( Oct. 3-9 ) ) Oct. 2-8	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	2
Forks ( ( ♯ ) )	WF, WM, WA	Youth	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 6612	10*
Region 6	WF	Youth with mentor	Aug. 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Mar. 31, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 6	7 <sup>HC</sup>

<b>65+ Senior - Only hunters 65 and older may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Northeast	EF	65+	( ( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 ) ) Oct. 30 - Nov. 7 and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMUs 113, 117	10
Prescott	EF	65+	( ( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 ) ) Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Antlerless	GMU 149	3
Blue Creek	EF	65+	( ( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 ) ) Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Antlerless	GMU 154	1
Marengo	EF	65+	( ( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 ) ) Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Antlerless	GMU 163	1
Peola	EF	65+	( ( Oct. 31 - Nov. 8 ) ) Oct. 30 - Nov. 7	Antlerless	GMU 178	( ( 3 ) ) 2
Malaga	EF	65+	( ( Nov. 2-13 ) ) Nov. 1-12	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	10
( ( Colockum ) )	EF	65+	Nov. 4-11	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329, 335	( 10 ) )
Yakima North	EF	65+	( ( Nov. 4-11 ) )	Antlerless	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	10

<b>65+ Senior - Only hunters 65 and older may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
			<u>Nov. 3-11</u>			
Yakima Central	EF	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 4-11</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 352, 356, 360	5
Yakima South	EF	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 4-11</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 364, 368	5
Alkali	EF	65+	( ( <del>Oct. 11-30</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 16 - Nov. 5</u>	Antlerless	GMU 371	10
( ( North Bend	<del>WF, WM, WA</del>	65+	<u>Nov. 7-18</u>	<del>Antlerless</del>	<del>Elk Area 4601</del>	<del>5</del> ) )
<u>Yakima Early</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Sept. 11-23</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 336, 340, 352, 356, 364</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Yakima Late</u>	<u>EA</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Nov. 25 - Dec. 8</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 342, 368</u>	<u>10</u>
( ( Colockum	<u>EM</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Oct. 3-11</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>GMUs 328, 329, 335</u>	<u>5</u> ) )
Yakima North	EM	65+	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5
Yakima Central	EM	65+	( ( <del>Oct. 3-11</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 352, 356, 360	5
Ryderwood	WF	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 530	5
Willapa Hills	WF	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 506	5
( ( Skagit River ) ) <u>Sauk</u>	WF, WM, WA	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 14-29</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-28 and Dec. 13-28</u>	Antlerless	( ( <del>Elk Area 4941</del> ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	5
Peninsula	WF	65+	( ( <del>Nov. 7-18</del> ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	3
( ( Centralia Mine	<u>WF</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Sept. 5-6</u>	<u>Antlerless</u>	<u>Elk Area 6011</u>	<u>5</u> ) )
Hanaford	WF, WM, WA	65+	Jan. 1-15, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5
Hanaford	WF, WM, WA	65+	Jan. 16-31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 6069	5
Peninsula	WA	65+	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	1
Peninsula	WM	65+	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	1
Forks ( ( * ) )	WF, WM, WA	65+	Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	Elk Area 6612	10*

<b>Hunters with Disabilities - Only hunters with disabilities may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Northeast	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u> and Dec. 16-31	Antlerless	GMUs 113, 117	4
Turnbull	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( <del>Oct. 7-12</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 6-11</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	5
Prescott	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( <del>Oct. 31 - Nov. 8</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 149	3

<b>Hunters with Disabilities - Only hunters with disabilities may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
<b>Hunt Name</b>	<b>Weapon/Tag</b>	<b>Hunters</b>	<b>Hunt Dates</b>	<b>Special Restrictions</b>	<b>Boundary</b>	<b>Permits</b>
Blue Creek	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 31 – Nov. 8 ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 154	1
<a href="#">MarengoDayton</a>	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 31 – Nov. 8 ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 163	1
Peola	EF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 31 – Nov. 8 ) ) <u>Oct. 30 - Nov. 7</u>	Antlerless	GMU 178	( ( 3 ) ) <u>2</u>
Observatory	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 26 – Nov. 8 ) ) <u>Oct. 25 - Nov. 7</u>	Any bull	GMUs 334, 340, 342	( ( 3 ) ) <u>2</u>
Little Naches	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 3-11 ) ) <u>Oct. 2-10</u>	Any bull	GMU 346	( ( 3 ) ) <u>2</u>
Malaga	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Sept. 7-18 ) ) <u>Sept. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 2032	10
( ( Colocum	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Nov. 4-11	Antlerless	GMUs 328, 329, 335	10 ) )
Yakima North	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 4-11 ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	10
Yakima Central	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 4-11 ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 352, 356, 360	5
Yakima South	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 4-11 ) ) <u>Nov. 3-11</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 364, 368	5
Alkali	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Oct. 11-30 ) ) <u>Oct. 16 - Nov. 5</u>	Any ( ( bull ) ) elk	GMUs 334, 371	5
Corral Canyon	EF, EM, EA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Sept. 22-29 ) ) <u>Sept. 25 - Oct. 3</u>	Any elk	Elk Area 3721	2
( ( North Bend	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Nov. 7-18	Antlerless	Elk Area 4601	5 ) )
( ( Skagit River ) ) <a href="#">Sauk</a>	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 7-29 and Dec. 14-29 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-28 and Dec. 13-28</u>	Antlerless	( ( Elk Area 4941 ) ) <u>GMU 437</u>	5
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 14-20	Antlerless	Elk Area 5099	5
Mudflow	WF, WM, WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Sept. 22-28	Any bull	Elk Area 5099	5
Washougal	WF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMU 568	5
Region 5	WF, WM	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Aug. 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) <u>2021 - Mar. 31,</u> ( ( 2021 ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 5	5 <sup>HC</sup>
( ( Centralia Mine	WF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	Oct. 10-11	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Elk Area 6011	5 ) )
Peninsula	WF	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( Nov. 7-18 ) ) <u>Nov. 6-17</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	3

<b>Hunters with Disabilities - Only hunters with disabilities may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt.</b>						
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Peninsula	WM	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( <del>Oct. 3-9</del> ) ) <u>Oct. 2-8</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	1
Peninsula	WA	Hunters w/ Disabilities	( ( <del>Sept. 12-24</del> ) ) <u>Sept. 11-23</u>	Antlerless	GMUs 602, 607, 612, 615	1

<b>Master Hunter - Only master hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt. Additional weapon restrictions may be conditioned by the hunt coordinator for each hunt. For those hunts requiring the purchase of a master hunter second tag, one elk may be killed in the unit under the authorization of the special permit.</b>							
Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Requirements	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Turnbull	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	( ( <del>Dec. 22-31</del> ) ) <u>Dec. 21-31</u>	Antlerless	Elk Area 1015	5
Region 1	EF, EA, EM/ 2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Region 1	20 <sup>HC</sup>
Region 2	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 2	10 <sup>HC</sup>
( ( Fairview	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	<del>Oct. 26, 2020 - Mar. 31, 2021</del>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in GMUs 328-368	20 <sup>HC</sup> ) )
Region 3	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 3	20 <sup>HC</sup>
Rattlesnake Hills	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in GMU 372	20 <sup>HC</sup>
Region 4 North	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	July 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Whatcom and Skagit counties	13 <sup>HC</sup>
Region 4 South	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	July 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in King and Snohomish counties	10 <sup>HC</sup>
Pumice Plains	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Oct. 9-15	Antlerless	Elk Area 5063	2
Pumice Plains	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Oct. 17-23	Antlerless	Elk Area 5063	3
( ( Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	<del>Dec. 15-31</del>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	5
Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	<del>Jan. 1-15, 2021</del>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	5
Trout Lake**	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	<del>Jan. 16-30, 2021</del>	Antlerless	Elk Area 5062	5 ) )
Region 5	Any western elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Aug. 1, ( ( <del>2020</del> ) ) <u>2021</u> - Mar. 31, ( ( <del>2021</del> ) ) <u>2022</u>	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 5	20 <sup>HC</sup>

**Master Hunter - Only master hunters may apply. Weapon must be consistent with weapon/tag restriction noted for hunt. Additional weapon restrictions may be conditioned by the hunt coordinator for each hunt. For those hunts requiring the purchase of a master hunter second tag, one elk may be killed in the unit under the authorization of the special permit.**

Hunt Name	Weapon/Tag	Requirements	Hunters	Hunt Dates	Special Restrictions	Boundary	Permits
Long Beach	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	July 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Mar. 31, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	GMU 684	5
Region 6	WF, WA, WM/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	July 1, ( ( 2020 ) ) 2021 - Mar. 31, ( ( 2021 ) ) 2022	Antlerless	Designated Areas in Region 6	30 <sup>HC</sup>
Region 5 Northwest—Hoof Disease	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Dec. 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	Antlerless	GMUs 501, 503, 504, 505, 506 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 6010), 520, 524, 530, 550	15**
Region 5 Southeast—Hoof Disease	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Dec. 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	Antlerless	GMUs 554, 560, 564, 568, 572, 574, 578 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 5062), 388, 382	10**
Region 6 Willapa Hills—Hoof Disease	Any elk tag/2nd elk tag	Master Hunter elk tag required	Master Hunter	Dec. 1, 2021 - Feb. 28, 2022	Antlerless	GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 6010), 673 (except CLOSED in Elk Area 6010), 681	15**

\* ( Muzzleloader only, scopes allowed.

\*\* May only hunt on privately owned lands. Must use only archery or legal shotgun (10 or 12 gauge; slugs only).

\* ) Must use only archery, muzzleloader, or legal shotgun (10 or 12 gauge; slugs only).

\*\* Hunters are expected to target elk displaying clinical signs of elk hoof disease such as limping, lameness, or hoof abnormalities.

<sup>HC</sup> This is a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator. Successful applicants will be contacted on an as-needed basis to help with specific sites of elk damage on designated landowner's property. Not all successful applicants will be contacted in any given year, depending on elk damage activity for that year.

Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special elk permits will be allocated through a random drawing to those hunter education instructors who qualify.</li> <li>Permit hunters must use archery equipment during archery seasons, muzzleloader equipment or archery equipment during muzzleloader seasons, and any legal weapon during modern firearm seasons. Hunter orange and/or hunter pink is required during modern firearm seasons.</li> <li>Except for online class incentive permits and chief instructor incentive permits, qualifying hunter education instructors must be certified and have been in active status for a minimum of three consecutive years, inclusive of the year prior to the permit drawing.</li> <li>Permittees may purchase a second license for use with the permit hunt only.</li> <li>Qualified hunter education instructors may only receive one incentive permit each year.</li> </ul>				
Area	Dates	Restrictions	GMUs	Permits
Region 3	All general season and permit seasons established for GMUs included with the permit. Not eligible for seasons and permits for auction hunts; raffle hunts; and hunts for master hunters, youth hunters, hunters with disabilities, or hunters 65 years and older, unless the hunter education instructor legally qualifies for such hunts.	Any bull	GMUs 336-368	1
Region 4		Any elk	GMUs 454, 460	1
Region 5		Any elk	382, 388 and all 500 series GMUs EXCEPT GMU 522	1
Region 6		Any elk	GMUs 618, 638-648, 654, 658, 663, 672, 699	1

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240. WSR 20-12-080 (Order 20-76), § 220-415-060, filed 6/1/20, effective 7/2/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.020. WSR 19-20-078 (Order 19-245), § 220-415-060, filed 9/27/19, effective 10/28/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.090, 77.04.130, 77.15.568, 77.08.010, 77.65.510, 77.65.515, and 77.65.520. WSR 19-10-011 (Order 19-79), § 220-415-060, filed 4/19/19, effective 5/20/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-415-060, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090. WSR 17-10-076 (Order 17-10), amended and recodified as § 220-415-060, filed 5/3/17, effective 6/3/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, and 77.32.155. WSR 16-12-087, § 232-28-360, filed 5/31/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-059 (Order 15-98), § 232-28-360, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15. Statutory Authority: RCW

77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), §  
232-28-360, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-  
94), § 232-28-360, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory  
Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-360,  
filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12.]



## **WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.**

### **RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

The department recommends the following adjustments since the Code Reviser filed (CR-102). The adjustments are included in your notebooks.

#### **Page 18**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Blue Creek, EF, changed permits from 8 to 9.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Mountain View, EF, changed permits from 5 to 9.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

#### **Page 19**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Lick Creek, EF, changed permits from 2 to 1.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Colockum, EF, changed permits from 22 to 22.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

#### **Page 20**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Green River, WF, WA, WM, changed TBD to Nov. 13-9 and permits from TBD to 10.

Rationale: Permit numbers are developed in collaboration with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and managers of the Green River Watershed and those meeting did not occur prior to the CR-102 being filed.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Toutle, WF, changed permits from 27 to 31.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

#### **Page 21**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Blue Creek, EA, changed permits from 5 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Mountain View, EA, changed permits from 4 to 7.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Peaches Ridge, EA, changed permits from 10 to 9.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Observatory, EA, changed permits from 19 to 18.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Goose Prairie, EA, changed permits from 6 to 5.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Bethel, EA, changed permits from 7 to 8.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Rimrock, EA, changed permits from 20 to 18.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Cowiche, EA, changed permits from 6 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

## **Page 22**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, White River, WA, changed permits from 16 to 19.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Mountain View, EM, removed “except elk area 1040 and changed permits from 2 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments. Also, we intended to remove all references to EA 1040 in our original proposal because this EA is being eliminated, but inadvertently missed this one.

### **Page 23**

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Observatory, EM, changed permits from 6 to 5.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Rimrock, EM, changed permits from 4 to 5.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Quality Elk, Cowiche, EM, changed permits from 2 to 1.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

### **Page 24**

- Change: Under Bulls, Observatory, EF, changed permits from 14 to 15.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, Cowiche, EF, changed permits from 5 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, Olympic, WF, changed permits from 5 to 8.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, Skokomish, WF, changed permits from 2 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, White River, WF, changed permits from 35 to 45.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

## **Page 25**

- Change: Under Bulls, Olympic, WA, changed permits from 1 to 4.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, Skokomish, WA, changed permits from 1 to 3.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, Olympic, WM, changed permits from 2 to 3.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

- Change: Under Bulls, White River, WM, changed permits from 7 to 9.

Rationale: Harvest estimates from 2020 became available and were used to make final allocation adjustments.

## **Page 26**

- Change: Under Antlerless elk, Colockum, EF, changed permits from 40 to 50.

Rationale: After harvest estimates became available it was determined that the Department was likely to have met our objective of not harvesting more than 100 antlerless elk in the Colockum. As such, permits will stay at their current level and this adjustments sets permit levels the same as they were for the 2020 season.

- Change: Under Antlerless elk, Green River, Any from TBD to Nov. 13-19 and changed permits from TBD to 12.

Rationale: Permit numbers are developed in collaboration with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and managers of the Green River Watershed and those meeting did not occur prior to the CR-102 being filed.

## **Page 34**

- Change: Under Hunters with Disabilities, changed Dayton to Marengo.

Rationale: This is an administrative adjustment, so the Hunt Name is the same as the GMU name.

**Page 37**

- Change: Under Master, changed Region 5 Northwest to Region 5 Northwest—Hoof Disease.

Rationale: This is an administrative adjustment to clarify these permits are being offered in association with the Department's Elk Hoof Disease Incentive Program.

- Change: Under Master, changed Region 5 Southeast to Region 5 Southeast—Hoof Disease.

Rationale: This is an administrative adjustment to clarify these permits are being offered in association with the Department's Elk Hoof Disease Incentive Program.

- Change: Under Master, changed Region 6 Willapa Hills to Region 6 Willapa Hills—Hoof Disease.

Rationale: This is an administrative adjustment to clarify these permits are being offered in association with the Department's Elk Hoof Disease Incentive Program.

## **Summary of Public Comments Received During the Official Comment Period and WDFW Response:**

### WAC 220-415-060 Elk special permits.

We received 216 total comments on the proposed rule changes, and all but three (email/letter) came through our online survey. Fifty-four of the online respondents did not indicate if they agreed or disagreed.

#### **Written Supporting Comments:**

Of the 1,715 respondents to our online survey 56% (955) indicated they agreed with the proposed rule changes. Fifteen comments indicated general support of the proposed changes but did not specify why, while 15 comments indicated support for specific aspects of the proposal.

#### **Written Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:**

Twenty-two percent (382) of the respondents indicated they disagreed with the proposed rule changes and 22% (382) indicated they were neutral. Nine comments indicated general disagreement with the proposed changes but did not specify why, while 88 comments indicated opposition to specific aspects of the proposal.

Thirty-two other comments were not directly related to proposed changes and most advocated for more opportunity related to their specific area of interest (e.g., user group, weapon type, area, etc.).

Below are the common themes identified from comments that indicated opposition or were not directly related during the online survey:

- Don't shift elk special permits in GMU 371 from the Bull category to Quality
- Opposed to the Master Hunter elk hoof disease special permits
- Don't reduce youth, senior, and disabled opportunities
- Increase special permits
- Concerns about tribal hunting

#### **Rationale-Agency Action Regarding Comments:**

The Department will move forward with the recommendation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission as proposed.

Most responses were in favor of the proposed rule changes. Those that were opposed had several reasons. We have outlined the most prominent reasons for being opposed and common themes not directly related to the proposal and WDFW's consideration in response to those comments.

Comment: Don't shift elk special permits in GMU 371 from the Bull category to Quality

For special permits in the Quality elk special permit category, hunters can expect lower than average hunter densities, greater potential for success, or good hunt timing. The only opportunity to harvest branch-antlered bulls in GMU 371 is offered through WDFW's special permit system and the GMU will be closed during general seasons, except for the archery general season. Thus, hunters experience extremely low hunter densities. Also, when this special permit opportunity was first created, very few elk occurred in the GMU, but elk numbers have increased substantially, with nearly 1,000 elk observed during a survey of the area in March 2021. Moreover, hunters experience high success rates and routinely harvest very large bulls.

Comment: Opposed to the Master Hunter elk hoof disease special permits

Most comments received during the summer input period also indicated opposition to providing these special permit opportunities to Master Hunters, rather than to general hunters. The Elk Hoof Disease Incentive Program is being implemented as a pilot program with the objective of determining whether WDFW can issue special permits specifically for elk with hoof disease and know that it will result in the harvest of those elk, rather than healthy elk. To evaluate that program, WDFW will require hunters to submit their hooves for inspection, will be in frequent contact with the hunters before the season, and will work closely with the hunters after the season is over to evaluate the program and determine whether it worked or needs modified. We believe it will be easier to facilitate those aspects via the Master Hunter program because they have WDFW program oversight and existing communication channels. Moreover, we believe this type of opportunity aligns well with the original intent of the Master Hunter Program.

Comment: Don't reduce youth, senior, and disabled opportunities

Providing opportunities for youth, senior, and disabled hunters is important to WDFW and to our efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters. Although we attempt to provide as much opportunity as possible for these groups, we also must be mindful of the status of a given population and balancing those opportunities with the opportunities for other user groups. As such, we increase opportunities when we can and decrease opportunities when harvest needs to be reduced.

Comment: Increase special permits

Special permits allow the Department the ability to regulate hunting opportunities that are not sustainable using a general season format. Some examples include opportunities to harvest females, to hunt during the peak breeding season, and to hunt big-game species that occur in low numbers (e.g., bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goats). Hunters consistently express a desire to have these types of opportunities and a special permit system allows WDFW to do that without having a negative effect on the population. As such, the number of special permits offered is directly related to the status of a given population and at levels WDFW believes are sustainable.

Comment: Concerns about tribal hunting

WDFW does not regulate tribal hunting. The 24 tribes that have off-reservation hunting rights in Washington set their own hunting regulations for their tribal members. Those tribes can allow members to hunt on open and unclaimed land within their ceded area or within an area proven to have been traditionally used by the tribe.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING



CR-102 (December 2017)  
 (Implements RCW 34.05.320)  
 Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
 FILED

DATE: February 10, 2021  
 TIME: 3:48 PM

WSR 21-05-032

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 20-23-122 on November 18, 2020 ; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR \_\_\_\_\_; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

Proposal is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) |

- WAC 220-400-020 Classification of wild animals.
- WAC 220-410-010 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region one.
- WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region four.
- WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region five.
- WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region six.
- WAC 220-411-140 Lake Terrell Game Reserve (Whatcom County).
- WAC 220-411-210 Game Stratford Game Reserve.
- WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.
- WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.
- WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.
- WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.
- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.
- WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms.
- WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.
- WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.
- WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.
- WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.
- WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.
- WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.
- WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.
- WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.
- WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.
- WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.
- WAC 220-415-070 2021 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-090 2019-2020 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-415-120 2020 Bighorn sheep seasons permit quotas.
- WAC 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-416-070 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures.
- WAC 220-416-080 Lynch Cove and Union River hunting area restriction (Mason County).
- WAC 220-417-010 Trapping seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
March 25-27, 2021	8:00 a.m.	Webinar and/or conference call.	This meeting will take place by webinar. The public may participate in the meeting. Visit our website at <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings">http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/commission/meetings</a> or contact the Commission office at (360) 902-2267 or

[commission@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:commission@dfw.wa.gov) for instruction on how to join the meeting.

**Date of intended adoption:** April 9, 2021 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: Wildlife Program

Address: PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA. 98504

Email: Rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162

Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/season-setting>

By (date) March 4, 2021

**Assistance for language translation, alternate format or reasonable accommodation:**

Contact Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator

Phone: (360) 902-2349, TTY (711)

Email: Title6@dfw.wa.gov

For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>

By (date) March 18, 2021

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:** | |

**WAC 220-400-020 Classification of wild animals.**

The purpose of this proposal is to add eastern cottontail, Nuttall's cottontail, and snowshoe hare to the identified furbearer game species list. This change will offer new and expanded recreational hunting and trapping opportunities.

**WAC 220-410-010 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region one.**

This proposal is a minor administrative change to clarify that the boundary for GMUs 175 (Lick Creek) and 178 (Peola) follows the elk drift fence to where it meets the section line, rather than where the fence ends. There are no anticipated effects associated with this proposal other than making it clearer to hunters.

**WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region four.**

Specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. Establishing Henry Island (GMU 423) and Stuart Island (GMU 424) in the Puget Sound as standalone GMUs, rather than including them as part of GMU 410 (Islands). Anticipated effects of this proposal would be reductions in hunter confusion and improvements in harvest estimates. 2. Making a minor adjustment to the boundary description for GMUs 407 (North Sound) and 454 (Issaquah) to establish a more easily identified boundary. Anticipated effects of this amendment would be reductions in hunter confusion and resulting enforcement issues.

**WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region five.**

Specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. Making a minor adjustment to the boundary description for GMUs 568 (Washougal) and 572 (Siouxon) to establish a more easily identified boundary. Anticipated effects associated with this amendment include reductions in hunter confusion. 2. Adding that portion of GMU 554 (Yale) that is north of State Route 503 to GMU 556 (Toutle). Anticipated effects associated with this amendment include reducing hunter confusion and resulting in less enforcement issues. 3. Formally adopting a change to the boundary description for GMUs 506 (Willapa Hills) and 673 (Williams Creek) that was implemented as an emergency rule on September 1, 2020. There are no anticipated effects associated with this amendment.

**WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region six.**

Formally adopting a change to the boundary description for GMUs 506 (Willapa Hills) and 673 (Williams Creek) that was implemented as an emergency rule on September 1, 2020. There would be no anticipated effects associated with this amendment.

**WAC 220-411-140 Lake Terrell Game Reserve (Whatcom County).**

Rule changes are needed to this rule for technical adjustment under area description to align intent with legal description. This does not change how users have understood this Game Reserve.

**WAC 220-411-210 Stratford Game Reserve.**

The proposed rule changes for WAC 220-411-210 is for the same reason as the rule change to 220-411-140. The changes are needed to this rule for technical adjustment under area description to align intent with legal description. This does not change how users have understood this Game Reserve.

**WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.**

The purpose of this proposal is to change the bag limit for auction and raffle moose permits from one moose of either sex to one bull moose, as well as, to expand the hunt area for moose raffle permits to include any open moose unit, instead of being limited to GMUs 101-121 and 204. Nearly all auction and raffle permit holders harvest bulls, so there are no anticipated effects beyond reducing the potential for antlerless harvest in the future. The only anticipated effect associated with amending the hunt area for raffle permits is that harvest may occur in different GMUs.

**WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.**

Specific amendments associated with this proposal include:

1. Allowing successful applicants for all big game special permits to return their permit to the Department for any reason two weeks prior to the opening day of the season and to have their points restored. Whether this proposal will result in more

permits being returned is difficult to predict. It will, however, simplify the process of returning permits and reduce situations where hunters could not participate in a hunt, but lose their preference points within that specific hunt category.

Providing an exception to the once-in-a-lifetime restriction for hunters that participate in mountain goat conflict reduction hunts. The anticipated effects would be allowing hunters who have previously harvested a mountain goat, to participate in efforts to remove mountain goats from the Olympic Peninsula.

**WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.**

The purpose of the proposal is to present the new properties for enrollment into the Landowner Hunt Permits Program (LHP) and their corresponding permit allocations and season dates. In addition, staff proposes slight wording changes to the WAC 220-412-100 that will provide further clarification within the standard operating procedure.

**WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.**

The specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. A minor administrative change to rule language that clarifies it is unlawful to hunt any wildlife at night and that it is unlawful to hunt wild animals, except rabbits and hares, with hounds during established modern firearm general deer and elk seasons during the months of October and November. There are no anticipated effects associated with this amendment other than reducing confusion that potentially exists. 2. Allowing hunters to use one dog controlled by leash during lawful hunting hours and within 72 hours of shooting a big game animal, except bear and cougar, to assist with recovering wounded big game. Anticipated effects of this proposal would be a reduction in the number of big game animals that are mortally wounded, but not recovered.

**WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.**

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify language regarding turkey identification - evidence of sex until processed and/or stored for consumption and clarify requirements for falconry efforts. Its anticipated effect is to provide clarity for hunters.

**WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms.**

The purpose of this proposed rule is to add legal methods for hunting dusky grouse, sooty grouse, spruce grouse, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, and turkey and to maintain humane methods of harvest. We anticipate expanded and new recreational hunting opportunities will assist with the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters.

**WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.**

This proposal clarifies that it is unlawful to hunt all big game, not just deer and elk, with the aid of infrared night vision equipment or with laser sights. There are no anticipated effects associated with this proposal other than eliminating any confusion that potentially exists.

**WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.**

The changes proposed to rule 220-414-040 are: Adjust Wildlife Area and Unit naming conventions under subsection two to reflect current relationships.

All adjustments are related to Wildlife Area Units with significant wetlands occurring within boundaries.

**WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.**

The proposed changes to rule 220-414-050 are: Technical adjustment under subsection 1d-Johnson/DeBay's Slough Hunt Unit area description fixing GPS-coordinates to align intent with legal description; Technical adjustment under subsection 1e-Dungeness Unit in Clallam County due to a change in a previous contract agreement; Addition of subsection 1f – Samish River Unit of Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County, as a technical adjustment required from differentiating from the Samish Unit.

Addition of subsection 1g – South Padilla Bay Unit of Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County, to align with current management of waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting on this Unit.

**WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.**

Specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. Allowing the use of 1x or red dot scopes on muzzleloading firearms. Anticipated effects associated with this amendment would be increased hunter participation, increased hunter retention, and ensuring a clean and ethical kill. 2. Allowing video-cameras to be mounted to muzzleloading firearms. There are no anticipated effects associated with this proposal other than hunters who wish to video their hunt being allowed to do so. Clarifies that the term "load" refers to the powder charge and projectile and that both must be loaded from the muzzle. Anticipated effects associated with this amendment would be hunters having a clearer understanding of the muzzleloading firearms that are legal to use during established muzzleloader seasons.

**WAC 220-414-070 Archery equipment.**

Currently, it is unlawful for hunters to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s) attached to archery equipment. The purpose of this proposal is to allow the use of specific electronic equipment. Specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. Allowing the use of range-finding bow sights. 2. Allowing the use of breadcrumb nocks. 3. Allowing the use of verifiers for peep sights. 4. Allowing video-cameras to be mounted to archery equipment.

Anticipated effects associated with amendments 1-3 would be increased hunter participation, increased hunter retention, and ensuring a clean and ethical kill. There are no anticipated effects associated with allowing video-cameras to be mounted to archery equipment other than hunters who wish to video their hunt being allowed to do so.

**WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.**

The proposed change to WAC 220-414-090 is:

Under subsection 2, provide an exception allowing the use of electronic calls during a white goose-only (snow, Ross', and blue phase geese) season segment; this aligns state regulations with federal allowances.

**WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.**

The purpose of this proposal is to allow the use of crossbows during established muzzleloader seasons. The only anticipated effect associated with this proposal would be increased participation during established muzzleloader seasons, but that effect is expected to be minor.

**WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.**

The purpose of this proposal is to eliminate Deer Areas 1040 (4-O Ranch Wildlife Area) and 1021-Clarkston (Asotin Co.). Anticipated effects associated with this proposal include increasing hunter opportunities to harvest deer on the 4-O Wildlife Area and reducing opportunities for hunters to harvest antlerless mule deer in areas adjacent to the city of Clarkston, WA.

**WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunities for 2021-2023. It also provides opportunities in accordance with the status of deer populations and attempts to balance hunting opportunity among user groups. More specifically, amendments include: 1. Changing season dates for the late white-tailed deer season in GMUs 105-121 to a nine-day season with season dates of November 11-19. 2. Reducing general season opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer in GMUs 127-142 to promote population increases. 3. Reducing general season opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer in GMUs 127-142 to promote population increases. 4. Reducing general season opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer in GMU 124 (Mount Spokane). 5. Increasing opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer during general muzzleloader seasons in GMUs 247 (Entiat), 254 (Saint Andrews), 262 (Withrow), 266 (Badger), and 269 (Moses Coulee).

Eliminating opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer during the early general archery season in GMUs 382 (East Klickitat) and 388 (Grayback).

**WAC 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunities for 2021. It also provides opportunities in accordance with the status of deer populations and attempts to balance hunting opportunity among user groups. Specific amendments include: 1. Adding a special permit opportunity for modern firearm hunters in GMU 136 (Harrington) in the Quality permit category. 2. Establishing special permit opportunities for antlerless deer in GMUs 127-142 to offset some of the opportunity lost by reducing general season opportunities. 3. Increasing the number of special permits for antlerless black-tailed deer on Puget Sound islands and standardizing season dates of August 1-December 31 for Any Weapon to assist with reducing deer numbers.

Adding a special permit opportunity in the Youth category for black-tailed deer in GMU 485 (Green River).

**WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.**

Specific amendments associated with this proposal include: 1. Eliminating Elk Area 1040 and opening the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area Unit during general elk seasons. Anticipated effects associated with this proposal include increasing hunter opportunities to harvest elk on the 4-O Wildlife Area. 2. Making a minor adjustment to the boundary description for Elk Area 2032 (Malaga) to establish a more easily identified boundary. There are no anticipated effects other than making it easier for hunters to identify the boundary. 3. Adding Elk Area 5066 (Norway Pass) to GMU 522 (Loo-Wit). Anticipated effects include reductions in hunter confusion and resulting enforcement issues. Other anticipated effects include the elimination of opportunities to hunt other game species in Elk Area 5066. However, these effects are anticipated to be minor because very few hunters report hunting activity for other game species in Elk Area 5066.

Establishing a new Elk Area in GMU 603 (Pysht) near the town of Joyce to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints. Anticipated effects are increased opportunities for elk hunters and reductions in elk damage complaints.

**WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunities for 2021-2023. It also provides opportunities in accordance with the status of elk populations and attempts to balance hunting opportunity among user groups. More specifically, amendments include: 1. Increasing opportunity in Game Management Units (GMUs) 249 (Alpine) and 251 (Mission) during general archery and muzzleloader elk seasons. Anticipated effects associated with these amendments include increases in hunter opportunity and harvest of bull elk, but not at levels that would represent a resource concern. 2. Increasing opportunity in GMUs 272 (Beezley), 278 (Wahluke), 284 (Ritzville), 382 (East Klickitat) and 379 (Ringold) during general archery and muzzleloader elk seasons. Anticipated effects associated with these amendments include increases in hunter opportunity and elk harvest, but those increases would be minimal given that elk already occur at very low densities. 3. Limiting the Master Hunter season in GMU 371 (Alkali) to the month of August and increasing opportunity in GMU 371 during general archery elk seasons. Anticipated effects associated with these amendments include a reduction in opportunity for Master Hunters and an increase in opportunity for general elk hunters. Harvest rates for elk are anticipated to be similar. 4. Removing the "True Spike Bull" restriction during general archery seasons in GMUs 328 (Naneum), 329 (Quilomene), 334 (Ellensburg), and 335 (Teanaway). Anticipated effects associated with these amendments include increases in hunter opportunity, with minimal changes to the harvest rate of yearling bull elk. 5. Changing the legal elk in GMU 448 (Stillaquamish) during general elk seasons from Any Elk to 3-pt. minimum. Anticipated effects associated with this amendment include a reduction in antlerless harvest, which may lead to increases in the elk population within this GMU. 6. Modifying season dates for late general archery and muzzleloader seasons in GMU 407 (North Sound). Anticipated effects associated with this amendment include simplifying the hunting regulations, decreasing the potential for hunter safety concerns, and potentially increasing the quality of the hunt experience.

Eliminating the late general muzzleloader elk season in GMU 578 (West Klickitat). The anticipated effects associated with this proposal would be a reduction in opportunity and subsequent harvest of antlerless elk, which will minimize the likelihood of harvesting antlerless elk at a rate that is not sustainable.

**WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit elk hunting opportunities for 2021. It also provides opportunities in accordance with the status of elk populations and attempts to balance hunting opportunity among user groups. Specific amendments include: 1. Establishing special permit opportunities for Master Hunters in 500 and 600 series GMUs to harvest elk displaying clinical signs of elk hoof disease such as limping, lameness, or hoof abnormalities.

Anticipated effects include increased harvest of antlerless elk that have elk hoof disease, but not at levels that would result in a population decline. 2. Establishing special permit opportunities in Elk Area 2033 (Peshastin) for antlerless and antlered elk to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints. Anticipated effects include increased harvest of antlered and antlerless elk and subsequent reductions in elk numbers and elk damage complaints within the Elk Area. 3. Modifying the hunt area for special permits in Elk Area 4941 (Skagit River) to include all of GMU 437 (Sauk). Anticipated effects are minimal. Harvest levels are expected to remain the same but distributed more broadly within the GMU. 4. Establishing special permit opportunities for muzzleloader hunters in GMU 578 (West Klickitat) to offset some of the opportunity lost with the elimination of the late general season. Anticipated effects are associated with ensuring harvest rates for antlerless elk are sustainable. 5. Shifting special permits for bulls in GMU 371 (Alkali) from the Bull special permit category to the Quality category. This amendment would increase the application fee for hunters from \$7.10 to \$13.70, which could potentially increase revenue by ~\$23,000. 6. Establishing special permit opportunities for antlerless elk in the Yakima elk herd area for archery hunters in the Youth and 65 and Older special permit categories. Anticipated effects are limited to balancing opportunity among user groups. Changes in antlerless harvest are expected to be minor.

Establishing special permit opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk in the Colockum and Yakima elk herd areas and removing opportunities in the Colockum herd area within the Youth, Hunters 65 Years or Older, and Hunters with Disabilities categories.

**WAC 220-415-070 2021 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit hunting opportunities for moose that are in accordance with the status of moose populations. Specific amendments include: 1. Increasing bull moose permits in GMU 108. 2. Reducing bull moose permits in GMUs 117 and 121. 3. Eliminating the Hunter Education Instructor incentive permit for one antlerless moose. - Administrative changes to remove hunt notes that were not needed.

**WAC 220-415-090 2019-2020 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.**

The purpose of this proposal is to replace the season date table with a single sentence which identifies a standard time-period each year for black bear hunting across all game units. Also clearly identify the three game management units that are closed for fall black bear hunting. These units contain either watersheds or monument areas which are closed to public access, closed to hunting, or only allow limited hunting opportunity by permit for species other than bear. The anticipated effect will reduce redundancy within the WAC and minimize need for editorial changes during each three-year cycle; continue sustainable species management and hunting and trapping seasons; and assist with the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters.

**WAC 220-415-120 2021 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit hunting opportunities for bighorn sheep that are in accordance with the status of bighorn sheep populations. Specific amendments include: 1. Reducing the number of bighorn ram permits in the Yakima Canyon and Cleman Mountain herds. 2. Establishing new hunts for bighorn rams in the Wenaha and Mountain View sub-herd areas in the Blue Mountains. 3. Clarifying the criteria used to define a juvenile ram.

Administrative changes to clarify permits within the Youth and Hunters with Disabilities categories and to remove hunt notes that were not needed.

**WAC 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

The primary purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit hunting opportunities for mountain goats that are in accordance with the status of mountain goat populations. Specific amendments include: 1. Reinstating the mountain goat conflict reduction special permits in the Olympic Mountains and establishing a bag limit of two mountain goats of any sex or age to assist with efforts to remove mountain goats from this range. 2. Reducing the number of permits in the Naches Pass, Bumping River, and Goat Rocks West hunt areas. 3. Establishing an opening season date of September 1 for all weapon types. - Administrative changes to hunt area descriptions to make them consistent.

**WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.**

The purpose of this proposal is to amend the season dates, restrictions, and regulations for small game and other species hunted. In addition, the proposal is to display information in table format to provide a user-friendly presentation.

**WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.**

This proposal amends WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations are: Adjust season dates relative to 2021-2022 calendar dates; Maintain one-pintail per day bag-limit and associated possession limit per the USFWS Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy; Maintain two-scaup per day bag-limit and associated possession limits, while maintaining an 86-day season length per the optimal regulatory alternative described in AHM protocol; Adjust the boundaries of Goose Management Area 1 to include Skagit and Whatcom counties, and that portion of Snohomish County west of Interstate 5. All regions previously within GMA 1 will be part of Goose Management Area 3; Increase white goose (snow, Ross', blue phased) in all Goose Management Areas to ten white geese per day bag-limit and associated possession limits.

Increase white goose (snow, Ross', blue phased) to 20 white geese per day bag-limit and associated possession limits during white goose-only season segments (GMA 1 and GMA 4), when electronic callers would be allowed.

**WAC 220-416-070 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures.**

The proposed rule will update closures to reflect current management considerations. The Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures: Under subsection 4, removes reference to the "Wooden Tower" which has been removed from the landscape. Eliminates subsection 7; Would now allow waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting during approved season dates.

**WAC 220-416-080 Lynch Cove and Union River hunting area restriction (Mason County).**

Proposed changes to WAC 220-416-080 Lynch Cove and Union River hunting area restrictions (Mason County) [Regulated Access Area restrictions for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting] will: Adjusts the title of this WAC to include several Wildlife

Area Units where restrictions exist to regulate access for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting; Provides specification of current management restrictions for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting access consistent with purposes articulated in WAC 220-500-040 Regulating public access.

There are several cases, highlighted in the proposed WAC 220-416-080 Regulated access area restriction for waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunting, where department managed lands are left to relay and enforce these restrictions through posted notice (signs), but specifying these restrictions would provide greater clarity to users and reinvigorate the rationale behind those management considerations on particular units.

**WAC 220-417-010 Trapping seasons and regulations.**

The purpose of this proposal is to change the season dates for marten trapping, add season dates for eastern cottontail, Nuttall's cottontail, and snowshoe hare, and include trapping restrictions for each of these species. Further, clarify license requirements by adding language stating a trapping license is required. The anticipated effect to this rule is to continue sustainable species management and hunting and trapping seasons.

**WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.**

The purpose of this rule is to clarify language regarding authorized take and use of furbearer animals. The change will allow eastern cottontail, Nuttall's cottontail, and snowshoe hare to be used for consumption.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

**WAC 220-400-020 Classification of wild animals.**

This proposal will provide greater understanding of the identified species. Expand recreational harvest opportunity as well as continue sustainable species management and allow for sustainable hunting and trapping seasons. Also, the proposal will assist with the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters.

**WAC 220-410-010 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region one.**

This is a minor change in the current boundary description that does not result in an actual change to the GMU boundary.

**WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region four.**

Currently, Stuart Island and Henry Island are included with GMU 410 which includes all islands in San Juan and Skagit counties except Orcas, San Juan, Lopez, Shaw, Blakely, Decatur, and Cypress islands. Often hunters are confused about which islands are included under the description of GMU 410 and report their harvest incorrectly. Stuart and Henry islands represent two of the larger islands in the Puget Sound that are not currently standalone GMUs. This proposal would lessen hunter confusion and improve harvest estimates. When presented to the public for initial comment, 62% of the ~1,100 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

The current boundary description for GMU 407 is defined by traveling south from the town of Monroe on State Route (SR) 203 to NE Woodinville-Duvall Road at the town of Duvall; West on NE Woodinville-Duvall Road to the Snohomish River and then north down the Snohomish River. The current boundary description results in a very narrow portion of GMU 407 that is bordered to the east by GMU 460 (Snoqualmie) and to the west by GMU 454. This small area of GMU 407 causes confusion and frequent enforcement issues. When presented to the public for initial comment, 81% of the ~1,100 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

**WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region five.**

1. The current boundary language is unclear because there is confusion about road names at the point where NE Healy Road crosses Canyon Creek. This proposal represents a minor adjustment to the current boundary language. Instead of the boundary following NE Healy Road to National Forest (NF) Road 54 from the point where NE Healy Road crosses Canyon Creek the boundary would continue approximately 1.4 miles upstream until NF Road 54 crosses Canyon Creek. This would result in approximately 75 acres being removed from GMU 572 and added to GMU 568. When presented to the public for initial comment, 77% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Currently GMU 554 is a firearm restriction area (FRA), even though the area north of State Route 503, which represents approximately 6,400 acres, is almost entirely forested. A large proportion of this area is also public land owned by the Department of Natural Resources. Because of these facts many hunters unintentionally hunt in the area not realizing they are in an FRA, which has resulted in a long-standing enforcement issue. This amendment would alleviate this confusion and appropriately remove a large tract of mostly forested public land from an FRA. When presented to the public for initial comment, 79% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 3. Amendments to the boundary descriptions for GMUs 506 and 673 that were presented to and adopted by the Commission in 2020 were done so in error. As such, the Department implemented an emergency rule on September 1, 2020 that nullified those amendments and reverted the boundary description back to its original language. This proposal formalizes that emergency rule.

**WAC 220-410-060 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions—Region six.**

Amendments to the boundary descriptions for GMUs 506 and 673 that were presented to and adopted by the Commission in 2020 were done so in error. As such, the Department implemented an emergency rule on September 1, 2020 that nullified those amendments and reverted the boundary description back to its original language. This proposal formalizes that emergency rule.

**WAC 220-411-140 Lake Terrell Game Reserve (Whatcom County).**

Game Reserves are defined as a closed area where hunting for all wild animals and wild birds is prohibited, per RCW 77.08.010 subsection 32, Chapter 220-411 provide descriptions of all Game Reserves in Washington. In reviewing spatial boundaries of these areas closed to all hunting for consistency with user maps, it was identified that in WAC 220-411-140 Lake Terrell Game Reserve and WAC 220-411-210 Stratford Game Reserve, the legal description did not portray the approved intent. This will give greater clarity to waterfowl hunters and other users of department lands.

**WAC 220-411-210 Stratford Game Reserve.**

Game Reserves are defined as a closed area where hunting for all wild animals and wild birds is prohibited, per RCW 77.08.010 subsection 32, Chapter 220-411 provide descriptions of all Game Reserves in Washington. In reviewing spatial boundaries of these areas closed to all hunting for consistency with user maps, it was identified that in WAC 220-411-140 Lake Terrell Game Reserve and WAC 220-411-210 Stratford Game Reserve, the legal description did not portray the approved intent. This will give greater clarity to waterfowl hunters and other users of department lands.

**WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.**

Moose populations in some GMUs have declined in recent years. In response to those declines, the Department substantially reduced opportunities to harvest antlerless moose in 2018. Reducing opportunities for auction and raffle permit holders is consistent with previous reductions and only reduces the potential for future antlerless harvest as nearly all auction and raffle permit holders harvest bulls. Amendments to adjust the hunt areas associated with the raffle permits are supported because there is no clear justification for why raffle permit holders should be limited to GMUs 101-121 and 204.

**WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.**

1. Every year the Department receives multiple requests from hunters who have drawn a special permit, or multiple special permits, and are unable to go on their hunt for reasons that are beyond their control. We currently only offer point restoration to hunters under certain circumstances (e.g., medical, death, moved, etc.) and do not attempt to reissue the permit. Losing their points reduces their chances of drawing in the future. This proposal will allow people to return their permits and have their points restored regardless of the reason, if they do so two weeks before the season opens. This proposal would simplify the process for returning permits and reduce situations where hunters are unable to participate in a hunt but lose their preference points within that specific hunt category. When presented to the public for initial comment, 87% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

2. Following an increase in conflicts between humans and mountain goats in the Olympic Mountains, the Department created special permit opportunities that were designed to reduce goat numbers in areas where those conflicts occurred. These permit opportunities were not available in 2018 and 2019 to avoid conflicts with efforts to capture and translocate goats from the Olympic Mountains to the North Cascade Mountains. The Department is proposing to reinstate these permits to assist with efforts to lethally remove goats that remain on the Olympic Peninsula following the final translocation effort in 2020 (see proposal for WAC 220-415-130). Biologists believe less than 100 mountain goats remain within the associated hunt area. Success rates are expected to be low, with the ultimate objective of completely removing mountain goats from this area, rather than provide recreational opportunity. Thus, there is not a strong justification for excluding hunters who have previously harvested a mountain goat.

**WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.**

The Department completed its first application period since the program revision for the 2021-2023 LHP seasons. Six applications were submitted, and the Department is proposing five of those six be accepted into the program. The Landowner Hunting Permit WAC has been adjusted to reflect the new proposed applicants, the corresponding permit allocations and season dates, as well as some adjustments to wording that will aid in providing clarification to the standard operating procedure.

**WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.**

1. This amendment is a minor administrative change that only provides clarification and does not change the intent of the rule. 2. The Department frequently receives requests from hunters to allow the use of dogs for tracking wounded big game, as is allowed in many other states. Those requests are usually associated with deer and elk hunting, but it is likely to be beneficial for recovering other big game species as well. Additionally, the Department does not believe this would result in an increase in hunters that use dogs to hunt big game unlawfully. When presented to the public for initial comment, 71% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

**WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.**

The proposed changes to the rule minimize potential confusion and align with current Department activities, needs, and goals for managing these species for conservation and recreation interests. This proposal will provide greater understanding of evidence of sex for the identified game species. Both users and non-users will benefit from these amendments.

**WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms.**

The proposed changes expand the legal methods of take for turkey and clarify methods of take for several grouse and rabbit species. The proposed changes establish the use of handguns and rimfire rifles as a legal method for harvesting turkeys with exceptions noted.

**WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.**

This amendment is a minor administrative change that does not change the intent of the rule. Additionally, it provides language consistent with RCW 77.15.450 (Hunting with artificial lights).

**WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.**

The 2021-2022 migratory waterfowl, coot and snipe season will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> year since prohibiting the use of lead for waterfowl hunting nationwide. These changes provide consistency in naming conventions of our Wildlife Area Units, and address Wildlife Area Units with significant wetlands presenting a high probability for contact with spent shot pellets.

**WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.**

The proposed changes are consistent with current management on these units to improve the presence of waterfowl over the course of the 107-day season, balancing resource and user objectives consistent with Objective 104e in WDFW's Game Management Plan.

**WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.**

1. Under current rule, sights on muzzleloading firearms must be open, peep, or of other open sight design. Optic sights are allowed, but telescopic sights or sights containing glass are not. The Department routinely receives requests from hunters to

allow the use of 1x scopes on muzzleloading firearms. Common arguments in support of allowing them to be used are related to increased hunter participation, hunter retention, and ensuring a clean and ethical kill. One-power scopes do not magnify the target, but rather provide a clearer sight window, in much the same way eyeglasses correct someone's vision (i.e., they make the target clearer, but don't make it bigger). Common arguments against their use are typically related to the use of scopes not adhering to the spirit of primitive weapons. The Department is not opposed to allowing the use of 1x scopes on muzzleloading firearms because we do not anticipate it would result in more animals being harvested. When presented to the public for initial comment, 65% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Currently, it is unlawful for hunters to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s) attached to muzzleloading firearms. By rule, this precludes a hunter from mounting a video camera to their weapon for the purpose of filming their hunt. Filming hunts has become a common practice with hunters, but it is difficult for hunters that prefer to hunt without other hunting companions. Allowing video-cameras to be mounted to muzzleloading firearms would make it easier for them to film their hunts and does not present a resource concern. When presented to the public for initial comment, 71% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 3. Recent technological advancements in muzzleloading equipment have resulted in the development of muzzleloading firearms that use an encapsulated propellant charge that loads from the breech and is completely impervious to moisture. The bullet is still loaded from the muzzle. Hunters have begun to inquire as to whether this type of muzzleloading firearm is legal to use in Washington. It is not because the current rule requires that the load be loaded from the muzzle. By amending language to clearly state that the term load includes both the powder charge and bullet, the proposed amendment simply adds language to clarify these new muzzleloading firearms are not lawful during established muzzleloader seasons.

#### **WAC 220-414-070 Archery equipment.**

1. The main argument for allowing the use of range-finding bow sights is related to improving the likelihood of a clean and ethical kill. Because the sights do not magnify the target, they also would not qualify as a scope. The sights simply produce a digital reading of the estimated distance that is visible to the shooter while they are looking at the sight pins. The Department is not opposed to the use of range-finding bow sights because we do not feel it will result in more animals being harvested. When presented to the public for initial comment, 57% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Breadcrumb nocks use Bluetooth technology via a cell-phone app to assist with the recovery of arrows that miss an intended target. Although some may advocate this technology would also assist with recovering wounded game, that is unlikely because the range limit on a breadcrumbnock is 50 yards. The Department is not opposed to the use of breadcrumb nocks because we do not feel it will result in more animals being harvested. When presented to the public for initial comment, 68% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 3. Verifiers are small glass inserts for peep sights that are designed to allow shooters who are farsighted (i.e., unable to see things clearly that are close) to see their sight pins more clearly. They are manufactured with several different magnification powers, to fit the needs of the user. Although they are made of glass and clarify the sight pins, they do not magnify the target. The main argument for allowing the use of verifiers is related to increasing the likelihood that hunters make clean and ethical kills. The current rules defining archery requirements do not specifically address the use of verifiers but do make it unlawful for hunters to hunt wildlife with any bow equipped with a scope, which some would interpret to mean verifiers are also illegal. This proposal seeks to clarify the rule by allowing the use of verifiers because they do not magnify a target in the same way a scope does. The Department is not opposed to the use of verifiers for peep sights because we do not feel it will result in more animals being harvested. When presented to the public for initial comment, 79% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 4. Currently, it is unlawful for hunters to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s) attached to archery equipment, which precludes a hunter from mounting a video camera to their weapon for the purpose of filming their hunt. Filming hunts has become a common practice with hunters, but it is difficult for hunters that prefer to hunt without other hunting companions. Allowing video-cameras to be mounted to archery equipment would make it easier for them to film their hunts and does not present a resource concern. When presented to the public for initial comment, 71% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

#### **WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.**

Currently WDFW regulations are more restrictive than Federal regulations. Significant increases in the number of wintering white geese have been documented in northwest Washington and portions of the Columbia Basin in eastern Washington. Harvest strategies developed in the Pacific Flyway Council's management for this population of snow geese and the WDFW Game Management Plan provide guidance to increase harvest rates and/or total harvest on snow geese at the winter count estimates now being observed. In recent years, WDFW has allowed separate goose-type bag limits, and shifted days specifically for snow geese into February, while being consistent with the 107-day maximum allowed under federal frameworks and law. Further increases in bag-limit for snow geese are not likely to effectively increase harvest without the assistance of electronic calls, a highly effective tool at attracting this highly gregarious species. Electronic calls can only be allowed under federal law during a white goose only (snow, Ross', blue phase geese) season segments; currently only allowed in Goose Management Area 1 (11 days) and Goose Management Area 4 (19 days). Therefore, all other waterfowl and migratory gamebird species are closed during these dates. Additionally, this is consistent with Objective 103b to utilize recreational harvest as the primary method to address agricultural depredation concerns with this goose population.

#### **WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.**

Currently, hunters can only use muzzleloading firearms as defined under WAC 220-414-060, or bow and arrow, as defined under WAC 220-414-070 during established muzzleloader seasons for deer and elk. This proposal aims to also allow the use of crossbows during established general and special permit muzzleloader seasons for deer and elk because it is considered a "lesser" weapon than a muzzleloading firearm and it does not represent a resource concern. When presented to the public for initial comment, 56% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

#### **WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.**



Deer Area 1040 is the area in Game Management Unit 172 (Mountain View) that is associated with lands managed by the Department as the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area Unit. Since 2014, the Department has provided limited special permit opportunities within the Deer Area and excluded general season opportunities with the intent of providing a quality hunting experience. However, because Deer Area 1040 is within the ceded area of the Nez Perce Tribe, tribal hunters also pursue deer in this area. To ensure opportunities to access this area and hunt deer are similar for state and tribal hunters, the Department is proposing to eliminate Deer Area 1040, expand the hunt area for the special permits to include all of GMU 172, and open the area during general deer seasons. When presented to the public for initial comment, 84% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

Deer Area 1021 was created to assist with mitigating damage complaints caused by resident mule deer near the city of Clarkston. The number of complaints has declined to levels that no longer require a need for this Deer Area. Moreover, preliminary findings from the Department's efforts to radio-collar mule deer in the foothills of the Blue Mountains indicate some of the mule deer within Deer Area 1021 move into this area during winter but migrate back to summer range. As such, the late antlerless opportunities associated with Deer Area 1021 were likely targeting migratory mule deer more so than residents, which was not the intent. When presented to the public for initial comment, 76% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

**WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.**

1. Some white-tailed deer hunters have strongly advocated for reinstating a 4-pt minimum antler-point restriction (APR) for white-tailed deer, with the intent of managing for more mature bucks in northeast Washington after that rule was abolished in 2015. The Department committed to considering APRs while developing proposals for the 2021-2023 seasons. We initiated this consideration by partnering with Washington State University to summarize the opinions of deer hunters on the management of white-tailed deer. We specifically targeted white-tailed deer hunters for that survey.

It was clear from this initial survey that a substantial portion of the ~13,000 white-tailed deer hunters that responded to the survey were unsatisfied with their opportunities that related to seeing and harvesting mature white-tailed deer bucks, but they were strongly opposed to any restrictions that would need to be implemented to increase the number of mature bucks in the population. Based on those findings, the Department's proposal that went out for public comment this summer included the following options:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. No change (retain current Any Buck seasons)          | 36% |
| 2. 2-pt. APR with exemption for youth, senior, disabled | 17% |
| 3. 3-pt. APR with exemption for youth, senior, disabled | 29% |
| 4. 4-pt. APR with exemption for youth, senior, disabled | 20% |

Although we provided these four options, we also clearly stated that our recommendation to the Commission would be Option 1 (No change) since there was such strong opposition in the WSU survey. We also retained the APR options in this survey to uphold our commitment that we would consider them in concert with the 2021-2023 season setting process. The percentages provided next to the bulleted options above represent the proportion of respondents that indicated support. 2. Although 'No change' was the preferred option, 64% of the ~1,400 respondents were supportive of at least some level of APR, which indicates most respondents were interested in managing for more mature white-tailed deer bucks. We considered several options and believe the shortened nine-day season with hard calendar dates of November 11-19 is the most amenable because it is the smallest change from status quo. 3. We are presenting this proposal fully acknowledging it will result in only minor changes to buck harvest. One of the primary reasons for making that decision is because the Department does not feel we have requested explicit input from hunters regarding all available options. The only option we specifically asked about in the WSU survey, beyond asking hunters if they supported a general management approach, was APRs (e.g., should it be implemented district-wide or in select GMUs, which GMUs, should there be alternative seasons for youth, etc.). We need to gather more input from hunters before we consider other options that represent a substantial change from status quo.

4. As indicated by trends in general season harvest, white-tailed deer numbers in the Palouse White-tailed Deer Management Zone have substantially declined in recent years and fell more than 25% below the ten-year average harvest in 2019. This trend is driven predominately by declines in the white-tailed deer population in GMUs 127 – 142. If harvest levels are similar in 2020, harvest will have declined more than 25% below the ten-year average in two consecutive years, which would meet the criteria of an "At-Risk" ungulate population. The observed decline began with the 2015 Blue Tongue outbreak and has been further exasperated by several smaller hemorrhagic disease events and multiple hard winters. A more rapid recovery will not be achieved through a reduction in antlerless permits alone because over 70% of the antlerless harvest in these GMUs occurs during the general season. Substantial reductions in general season antlerless harvest in GMUs 127-142 are needed for this population to recover more quickly. Muzzleloader and archery hunters are responsible for ~35% of the general season antlerless harvest, with Youth coming in a close second at ~31%. Senior (≥65yrs old) and Disabled hunters take ~19% and ~16% respectively. When presented to the public for initial comment, 82% of the ~1,400 respondents indicated support for reductions in opportunities to harvest antlerless deer. 5. GMUs 127-142 represent the eastern third of the Columbia Plateau Mule Deer Management Zone where harvest data indicates mule deer numbers across the zone have begun to recover following declines that occurred 2015-2017. However, trends in harvest for GMUs 127-142 indicate mule deer populations have not fully recovered in the eastern portion of the zone. A substantial reduction in damage complaints associated with mule deer also indicates populations remain below historical levels. A reduction in opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer is needed to ensure the Department continues to promote the growth of mule deer populations throughout the Columbia Plateau Mule Deer Management Zone. When presented to the public for initial comment, 73% of the ~1,400 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 6. As indicated by trends in general season harvest, white-tailed deer numbers in GMU 124 (Mount Spokane) have substantially declined in recent years and fell more than 25% below the ten-year average harvest in 2019. If harvest levels are similar in 2020, harvest will have declined more than 25% below the ten-

year average in two consecutive years, which would meet the criteria of an “At-Risk” ungulate population. The observed decline began with the 2015 Blue Tongue outbreak and has been further exasperated by several smaller hemorrhagic disease events and multiple hard winters. A more rapid recovery cannot be accomplished through a reduction in antlerless permits alone because ~75% of the antlerless harvest in GMU 124 occurs during the general season. Substantial reductions in general season antlerless harvest opportunities are needed for this population to recover more quickly. Archery and muzzleloader hunters are responsible for ~34% of the general season antlerless harvest, with Youth coming in a close second at ~30%. Senior (≥65yrs old) and Disabled hunters take ~18% and ~17% respectively. When presented to the public for initial comment, 77% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for reductions in opportunities to harvest antlerless deer.7. Currently, GMUs 247 (Entiat), 254 (Saint Andrews), 262 (Withrow), 266 (Badger), and 269 (Moses Coulee) are not open during early general muzzleloader seasons for any buck white-tailed deer, but there is no biological justification for them not being open. Opening these GMUs would increase opportunity and make opportunity among weapon types more consistent in GMUs with similar white-tailed deer populations. When presented to the public for initial comment, 66% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.8. As indicated by trends in harvest, mule deer numbers in the East Columbia Gorge Mule Deer Management Zone (GMUs 382 and 388) have substantially declined over the past decade and currently meet the criteria of an “At-Risk” ungulate population because harvest has dropped more than 25% below the ten-year average for at least two consecutive years. The Department has removed all other opportunities to harvest antlerless mule deer in GMUs Units 382 (East Klickitat) and 388 (Grayback), so this amendment would be consistent with past recommendations. When presented to the public for initial comment, 77% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

#### **WAC 220-415-030 2021 Deer special permits.**

1. Most recent estimates of buck to doe ratios in GMU 136 indicate this limited special permit opportunity is sustainable. In addition, it increases hunter opportunity. 2. See above under WAC 220-415-020 for reasons supporting a reduction in general season opportunities to harvest antlerless white-tailed deer. The Department is supportive of offering limited special permit opportunities to harvest antlerless deer to offset some of the opportunity lost during general seasons because we anticipate proposed amendments would result in at least a 70% reduction in antlerless harvest. The elimination of all opportunities to harvest antlerless deer is not needed to promote population increases. 3. Black-tailed deer populations in GMUs 411 (Orcas Island), 412 (Shaw Island), 413 (San Juan Island), 414 (Lopez Island), 415 (Blakely Island), and 420 (Whidbey Island) are at levels that warrant a reduction. Controlling deer numbers on Puget Sound islands has been a long-standing management challenge for the Department because they are dominated by privately owned lands, which makes facilitating hunter access extremely difficult. This amendment is modeled after the approach the Department has implemented in GMU 422 (Vashon Island), which increases opportunity through a longer season and allows more flexibility to hunters relative to the weapon type they can use. When presented to the public for initial comment, 83% of the ~1,300 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 4. Special permit opportunities for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities for black-tailed deer in GMU 485 alternate each year. In 2020, the special permit opportunity was offered in the Hunter with Disabilities category, so it will be offered in the youth category in 2021.

#### **WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.**

1. Elk Area 1040 is the area in Game Management Unit 172 (Mountain View) that is associated with lands managed by the Department as the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area Unit. Since 2014, the Department has provided limited special permit opportunities within the Elk Area and excluded general season opportunities with the intent of providing a quality hunting experience. However, because Elk Area 1040 is within the ceded area of the Nez Perce Tribe, tribal hunters also pursue elk in this area. This amendment ensures opportunities to access this area and hunt elk are similar for state and tribal hunters. When presented to the public for initial comment, 83% of the ~1,000 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. The current boundary description for Elk Area 2032 follows Moses Carr Road beyond a point where this road has been closed and no longer exists, and therefore is no longer a relevant reference point. To improve clarity of the boundary and address enforcement concerns, the Department is proposing to realign the boundary along section lines. This realignment would increase Elk Area 2032 by approximately 130 acres. 3. Currently, Elk Area 5066 represents the eastern portion of GMU 524 (Margaret) and opportunities to hunt elk in this Elk Area are limited to special permit opportunities. Currently, hunters can hunt in GMU 524 during general elk seasons, but not within Elk Area 5066. This causes confusion for some hunters as Enforcement Officers routinely make contacts with elk hunters in Elk Area 5066 that do not have an elk special permit and did not realize that portion of GMU 524 was not open to general season elk hunters. This proposal would assist with clarifying the rule for hunters and enforcement of elk hunting regulations in Elk Area 5066. When presented to the public for initial comment, 58% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 4. Conflicts with elk in the Joyce area have been increasing over the past five years. Currently there are no established seasons in GMU 603 that allow antlerless harvest. The creation of a new Elk Area and offering limited opportunities to harvest antlerless elk within that area would assist the Department with addressing conflicts, while also allowing us to maintain our current management objective of promoting population growth in other parts of the GMU. When presented to the public for initial comment, 83% of the ~1,100 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

#### **WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.**

1. The Colockum elk herd area consists of GMUs 249, 251, 328, 329, 330, 334, and 335. Currently, the only general archery season available in GMUs 249 and 251 is in GMU 249 during the early general archery season for any elk. The only early general muzzleloader season available is associated with Elk Area 2051 (Tronsen) for a “True Spike” bull. Elk Area 2051 (Page 45 in 2020 Hunting Pamphlet) includes most of GMU 251 and a portion of GMU 249. It was originally created to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints, but that need no longer exists. The proposed amendments would provide more opportunity, standardize opportunity within the Colockum elk herd area, and do not present a resource concern. When

presented to the public for initial comment, 63% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Elk numbers in GMUs 272, 278, 284, 290, 379, and 382 are extremely low because the Department maintains liberal harvest opportunities for elk with the intent of keeping elk populations suppressed because of the potential conflict with agriculture. The proposed amendments would establish general season opportunities that would be consistent with other general elk season opportunities in GMUs where the Department's intent is to maintain low densities of elk. When presented to the public for initial comment, 60-70% of the ~1,100 respondents indicated support for these proposals. 3. Nearly all of GMU 371 is comprised of public lands associated with the Yakima Training Center. The Department has historically offered liberal general season opportunities for Master Hunters to harvest antlerless elk to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints on neighboring private lands. As recently as 2019 the season dates associated with this hunt were Aug. 1–Jan. 20 but were shortened to Aug. 1–Oct. 15 for the 2020 season. The need to mitigate elk conflict issues still exists but given this GMU is mostly public land the Department feels we can use general elk hunters to mitigate elk conflicts just as effectively as we did with Master Hunters. Moreover, because of the status of the Yakima and Colockum elk herds (both below management objective), the Department had to substantially reduce general elk hunter opportunities, and this amendment has the potential to replace some of that lost opportunity. 4. To increase the survival of yearling bulls, harvest of bulls during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons has been limited to "True Spike" bulls in the core Colockum elk herd area (GMUs 328, 329, 334, and 335) since 2009. Since that time, yearling bull survival has increased and consistently meets the Department's management objective. The Department anticipates removing this restriction during general archery seasons would result in only modest effects on yearling bull survival. Moreover, archery hunters no longer have opportunities to harvest antlerless elk during general archery seasons in GMUs 328 and 329. Although the Department replaced some of that lost opportunity with special permit opportunities beginning during the 2020 season, concerns related to equity remain. When presented to the public for initial comment, 71% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 5. A legal elk during general modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader seasons in GMU 448 has been Any Elk for many years because the Department's intent was to keep elk numbers low to minimize the potential for conflict with private landowners. However, a substantial portion of this GMU is forested public land and elk numbers could potentially increase in those areas without increasing conflict. Providing opportunities to harvest antlerless elk would still be considered to mitigate conflicts when appropriate but would be limited to the areas where conflicts occur. When presented to the public for initial comment, 52% of the ~1,000 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 6. The late general archery (November 25–January 20; 57 days) and general muzzleloader seasons (November 25–December 15; 21 days) in GMU 407 for Any Elk currently overlap and occur for an extended period to assist with elk damage complaints. Elk damage complaints have declined so there is no longer a need for such lengthy seasons. The Department has also received feedback from hunters expressing concerns they have about hunter crowding and overlapping seasons. The proposed amendments simplify the hunting regulations because season dates would be the same as those established for other western Washington GMUs, decreases the potential for hunter safety issues that potentially exist with the current overlap of hunting methods, and potentially increases the quality of the hunt experience for users of each hunting method by reducing the number of hunters in the field during each period. When presented to the public for initial comment, 62% of the ~900 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 7. The general season opportunity for hunters to harvest antlerless elk during the late general muzzleloader season in GMU 578 was first established during the 2018 season. Prior to that, opportunities were limited to the Department's special permit system. This change was made in 2018 to assist with the Department's efforts to mitigate damage complaints. However, this general season opportunity resulted in much more antlerless harvest than was anticipated and at levels that are not sustainable. Antlerless harvest averaged 41 elk 2015-2017 but increased to 95 in 2018 and 69 in 2019. When presented to the public for initial comment, 70% of the ~1,100 respondents indicated support for this proposal.

#### **WAC 220-415-060 2021 Elk special permits.**

With no treatments or vaccines available, efforts to reduce the prevalence and distribution of elk hoof disease are limited to lethally removing diseased elk. The proposed amendment is related to the Department's effort to develop a program that can be used to evaluate the potential for using hunters as a tool to assist with managing this disease. Importantly, the goal of this program is to increase the proportion of diseased elk within total harvest, but total harvest is not expected to increase. This program will be evaluated on an annual basis, and if warranted, discontinued before the 2023 hunting season. The two main components of this program include: Incentivizing Elk Hunters to Harvest Diseased Elk: The Department will create a special incentive permit drawing for hunters that harvest an elk with hoof disease. This drawing would be similar to permits offered to incentivize hunters to submit their harvest report early. The specific opportunities (season date, number of permits, hunt area, etc.) will be determined by September 1, 2021, but the Department plans to offer multiple permits to create a legitimate incentive. Any hunter (*except Hoof Disease special permit*) can participate by submitting hooves from their elk harvest at a Department collection location. Hunters that submit a hoof set with at least one hoof indicating a deformity enter the drawing. Hoof Disease Special Permits: The proposed amendment will create special permits within the Master Hunter special permit category that provide an opportunity to harvest diseased elk that are not identified as a legal elk during most general seasons (e.g., antlerless elk) or may otherwise not be targeted. If a Master Hunter successfully harvests a diseased elk under this special permit as their first elk, they will be issued an additional permit that would allow them to harvest a second elk during the established permit season. The Department will require permitted Master Hunters to submit all four hooves from their harvest to evaluate the effectiveness of this permit opportunity. 1. Elk Area 2033 is in GMU 251 (Mission) southeast of Leavenworth, WA. It was originally created to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints. The Department has not offered harvest opportunities in this Elk Area for several years, but conflicts with elk have increased to levels that warrant a reduction in the number of elk using this area, to include antlered elk. When presented to the public for initial comment, 71% of the ~1,200 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Elk Area 4941 is in the Skagit River Valley and represents the most northerly portions of GMU 437. It was originally created to assist with mitigating elk damage complaints, which currently

includes special permit opportunities for both antlered and antlerless elk. With exception to Elk Area 4941, GMU 437 has been closed during both general and special permit elk seasons for more than two decades. Most of the elk in GMU 437 occur within Elk Area 4941, but they do occur in other parts of the GMU and at levels that could sustain limited special permit opportunities. The Department would continue to mitigate elk damage complaints using antlerless harvest opportunities when deemed appropriate, but those opportunities would be facilitated through the issuance of landowner or Master Hunter permits. When presented to the public for initial comment, 80% of the ~900 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 3. Offering limited special permit opportunities for muzzleloader hunters in GMU 578 would offset some of the opportunity lost by eliminating the general muzzleloader season, while also providing opportunity that is sustainable. 4. When special permit opportunities were first established for GMU 371, there were only small numbers of elk within the GMU. Elk numbers have substantially increased in recent years resulting in a much higher quality experience for hunters. As such, these permits now meet the criteria for the Quality special permit category. 5. When the Department removed all general season opportunities for archery hunters to harvest antlerless elk in 2020, we replaced some of that lost opportunity with special permits. However, we inadvertently failed to establish opportunities for archery hunters in the Youth and 65 Years or Older special permit categories. This proposed amendment establishes those opportunities. 6. These amendments were presented to and adopted by the Commission in April 2020. The permits were issued during the 2020 hunting season and the hunts occurred. However, due to a clerical error, these amendments were not filed with the CR-103 in 2020. As such, they represent an administrative change to correct this error.

**WAC 220-415-070 2021 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

1. Aerial survey results in 2019 indicated a high bull to cow ratio and the average antler spread of bulls harvested in GMU 108 indicates most bulls being harvested are mature bulls. As such, the population can likely sustain more bull harvest. 2. Recent studies of moose in GMU 117 indicated populations were declining with very low calf recruitment rates and that cows were experiencing nutritional limitations. It is believed similar trends may be occurring in GMU 121 as well. Even though populations were declining, the Department retained antlerless permit numbers at similar levels in hopes of lowering the population and increasing forage availability, which would result in subsequent improvement in cow body condition and calf recruitment. Hunters are expressing difficulty in finding moose, which may indicate we have reached the equilibrium we were targeting. The Department believes it prudent to reduce antlerless harvest until surveys can be conducted to assess current status of the population. 3. Moose populations in some GMUs have declined in recent years. In response to those declines, the Department substantially reduced opportunities to harvest antlerless moose in 2018. Eliminating the Hunter Education Instructor incentive permit is consistent with previous reductions. 4. These are simple administrative changes that do not change opportunity or hunt area boundaries.

**WAC 220-415-090 2019-2020 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.**

The proposed changes to the fall black bear hunting season rule are intended to adjust the dates and simplify the rule and clearly identify closed areas. This proposal will provide greater understanding of the fall season dates, methods of harvest, and restrictions.

**WAC 220-415-120 2021 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

1. The Yakima Canyon bighorn sheep herd has declined to ~120 bighorn sheep. Most recently, those declines have been associated with the Department's efforts to reduce the herd, but those declines are also associated with the establishment of *M.ovi* within the herd and chronically depressed lamb survival because of *M.ovi*. With a very small number of yearling rams being recruited, permits for adult rams must be reduced accordingly. 2. An *M.ovi* outbreak occurred in the Cleman Mountain herd during fall 2020. As has occurred with other outbreaks, the Department anticipated a potential reduction in this herd, although it's difficult to predict how large the die-off event will be. In response to the outbreak, the Department implemented an emergency rule to allow the harvest of five additional rams in fall 2020. Reductions in ram permits are warranted until the Department is better able to assess how large the die-off was. 3. Bighorn sheep herds in the Blue Mountains have started to recover after *M.ovi* was cleared from those populations. Numbers within the Wenaha and Mountain View sub-herds have increased to levels that can sustain limited ram harvest. 4. Some rams harvested under juvenile ram permits are adults. When this occurs, hunters cite a misunderstanding of the criteria used in the field to determine if a ram is a juvenile. This amendment is an administrative change with the intent of reducing hunter confusion or misunderstanding. This amendment is a simple administrative change that clarifies the opportunities that are available for youth hunters and hunters with disabilities.

**WAC 220-415-130 2021 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.**

1. Following an increase in conflicts between humans and mountain goats in the Olympic Mountains, the Department created special permit opportunities that were designed to reduce goat numbers in areas where those conflicts occurred. This amendment reinstates these permits to assist with efforts to lethally remove mountain goats that remain following efforts to translocate goats from the Olympic Peninsula to the North Cascades. When presented to hunters for initial review, 81% of the ~1,400 respondents indicated support for this proposal. 2. Aerial surveys of mountain goats in the Naches Pass, Bumping River, and Goat Rocks West hunt areas in 2020 indicated a decline in the number of goats observed and resulting abundance estimates. This amendment reduces special permits accordingly. 3. Having a clause that allowed permit holders that used archery equipment to start hunting September 1 caused confusion in some instances. The Department originally proposed to establish a standard opening date of September 15. However, when presented to hunters for initial comment, only 51% of the ~1,500 respondents were in support of the proposal. A common theme of the comments received expressed opposition to shortening the season for archery hunters. We adjusted our proposal in response to that feedback and believe a standard opening date of September 1 achieves the same goal of reducing confusion without reducing opportunity. 4. These are simple administrative changes that do not change the hunt area boundaries.

**WAC 220-416-010 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.**

The proposed changes to the furbearer, small game and upland game bird rules are mainly intended to provide clarity for users and to align the regulations with current department activities, needs, and goals for managing these species for conservation and recreation interests. This proposal will provide greater understanding of the identified game species, methods of harvest, and seasons associated with each.

**WAC 220-416-060 2020-2021 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.**

Migratory game bird seasons and regulations are developed base on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes migratory game bird seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the migratory game bird resources of Washington.

Goose Management Area 1 currently includes Skagit, Snohomish and Island counties. This Goose Management Area is designated to assist in management responsibilities for the Wrangel Island population of Lesser Snow Geese that winter in the Skagit-Fraser region. Shifting of season dates into February in Goose Management Area 1 have highlighted differences that exist between Goose Management Area 1 and Goose Management Area 3. This proposal would change the boundary of Goose Management Area 1 (with February white goose-only season dates) and by extension modify the adjacent Goose Management Area 3 (without February goose season dates).

**WAC 220-416-070 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures.**

The rule change will update closures to reflect current management and resource considerations. Opening of this 4-miles stretch of the Yakima River will provide increased opportunity to waterfowl, coot, and snipe hunters in the region. Additionally, two Game Reserves exist to the west and east of this river segment, providing safe refuge areas for waterfowl, coot and snipe, allowing birds to shift in distribution and not disperse from the Yakima Valley.

**WAC 220-416-080 Lynch Cove and Union River hunting area restriction (Mason County).**

The ten Regulated Access Areas are consistent with current management and considerations at these sites. Greater clarity to waterfowl hunters and other users of department lands management and providing enforceable restrictions to achieve increased wildlife use in order to improve hunter success, while managing other uses and safety on particular units of our Wildlife Areas. This is consistent with Objectives 104e and 104f of the WDFW Game Management Plan.

**WAC 220-417-010 Trapping seasons and regulations.**

The proposed changes to the furbearer and small game trapping seasons and regulations are intended to provide clarity and to align the seasons and regulations with current Department activities, needs, and goals for managing these species for conservation and recreation interests. The changes proposed for marten trapping in coastal counties are intended to minimize potential take of Pacific marten; which was once thought to be extirpated but recently re-discovered on the Olympic Peninsula. The proposed rule changes will provide users with greater understanding of the identified game species, methods of harvest, and season dates for each species.

**WAC 220-417-030 Wild animal trapping.**

The proposed changes to the wild animal trapping provide clarity to the use of the newly added furbearing species and to align the rule with current Department activities, needs, and goals for managing these species for conservation and recreation interests. Both users and non-users will benefit from these amendments.

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

**Statute being implemented:** RCWs 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, and 77.12.240

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

- |                         |                              |  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Federal Law?            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Federal Court Decision? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| State Court Decision?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

If yes, CITATION: |                    |

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** |None. |

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) |Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife |

<input type="checkbox"/> Private
<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement:	Steve Bear	1111 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA. 98501	(360) 902-2373

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**  Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name: |                    |

Address: [ ]  
Phone: [ ]  
Fax: [ ]  
TTY: [ ]  
Email: [ ]  
Other: [ ]

**Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?**

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name: [ ]  
Address: [ ]  
Phone: [ ]  
Fax: [ ]  
TTY: [ ]  
Email: [ ]  
Other: [ ]

No: Please explain: [This proposal does not require a cost benefit analysis under RCW 34.05.328.]

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description: [ ]

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)  
(Internal government operations)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)  
(Dictated by statute)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)  
(Incorporation by reference)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)  
(Set or adjust fees)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)  
(Correct or clarify language)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)  
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW [ ].

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: [ ]

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES** If the proposed rule is not exempt, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?  No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated.  Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here: The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting: Name: Address: Phone: Fax: TTY :Email:Other:

**Date:** February 10, 2021

**Name:** Annie Szvetecz

**Title:** WDFW Agency Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**

