

Weapons and Other Restrictions Decision

Stephanie Simek, Ph.D. Carnivore Section Manager
and

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager
Game Division, Wildlife Program



Staff will brief the Commission on:

Stephanie Simek:

- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife – Evidence of sex – Definitions.
- WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting – Firearms.

Kyle Garrison:

- WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.
- WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.
- WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.





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

WAC 220-413-090

Field Identification of Gamebirds

Proposed Change:

- Editorial change in section (1) –

Unlawful to possess or transport game birds (~~unless a~~) without feathered wing or head (~~is left~~) attached to each carcass until the carcass is processed and/or stored for consumption, except:

- Reorganized the exceptions under subsection (1) and added turkey to list of species with exceptions.



WAC 220-413-090

Field Identification of Gamebirds

Proposed Change:

Turkey exception stipulation:

- Where the head and or the beard, if present at harvest, must be left attached.

Creates subsection (6)

- Provision for failure to comply.



Nick Rezek Jr. and Sr.



WAC 220-413-090

Field Identification of Gamebirds

Recommended Adjustment:

- The incorrect version of the rule was included in the CR102 package.

- The correct version includes:
 - Turkey - the head and, if present at harvest, the beard of must be left attached.
 - The proposed addition of section (6).





Isaac and Max Nelson; taken by
Marc Nelson

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effect:

If adopted:

- Provides guidance to ensure harvested game animals retain natural evidence of sex before processing or stored for consumption
- Outlines the penalty for failure to comply with the rule



Public comment

Common themes:

- General support
- General support of editorial changes
- Request to modify turkey head and beard to accompany versus remain attached
- Request for instructions or an instructional video

Game Management Advisory Council:

- 100% agree



Motion Language:

**I move to adopt the
recommended rule changes as
presented by Department staff.**

Is there a “second”?





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

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

Proposed Change:

Editorial change in subsection (1)(d)

- *A shotgun, provided that it is a 20 gauge, or larger shotgun, using shells loaded with slugs or buckshot size #1 or larger, may be used to hunt deer, bear, and cougar.*

- ### Adding air rifles, no smaller than .22 caliber and no larger than .25 caliber, may be used to hunt grouse, snowshoe hare, and cottontail rabbit.



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

Proposed Change:

- Editorial changes: in proposed (3)(b)
 - *Blue grouse defined as dusky grouse and sooty grouse*

- Add the use of modern handgun and muzzleloading handgun as lawful weapons for turkey hunting.



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

Recommended adjustment:

- Under section (5)(b)(iii) *Modern handguns must shoot a minimum three-inch shotshell of ~~.140~~.410 caliber or larger;*



Eric Braaten



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

Floor Change:

- ❑ Under section (5)(b)(iv) *Legal muzzleloading handguns*
 - Legal muzzleloading handgun designed for hunting, and shooting #4 or smaller shot., and not capable of holding more than three shells. Handgun barrel length must be a minimum of 10 inches. Muzzleloading handguns must be .45 caliber or larger.



Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effect:

If adopted:

- Expand opportunity by allowing use of lighter weight weapons for hunting turkey, grouse, snowshoe hare and cottontail rabbit.



Public comment

Common themes:

- Support
- Expand to include air handguns
- Edit the “three shot shell” under muzzleloading handgun

Game Management Advisory Council:

- 100% agree



Motion Language:

I move to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by Department staff.

Is there a “second”?





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

WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions

Proposed changes -

1. Modify WAC language to clarify it is unlawful to hunt wild animals, except rabbits and hares, with dogs (hounds) during the month of October or November during dates established for modern firearm deer and elk general seasons.
2. Allow the use of one dog controlled by leash during lawful hunting hours within 72 hours of shooting a big game animal, except bear and cougar, to track wounded big game and aid in recovery.



Public comment

Common themes:

- General disagreement for night hunting rule changes
- General support for night hunting rule changes
- Desire to allow hunting of racoon, coyote, or bobcat at night
- General support for allowing dog tracking
- Perception of increased game recovery using dog tracking
- General disagreement about the use of dogs to track wounded game
- Desire to use dogs to track any game species once wounded
- Concern that use of dogs enables unethical hunting practices (poor shot placement)

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes





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

WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions

Proposed changes -

1. Modify WAC language to clarify 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.



Public comment

Common themes:

- General agreement with proposed change
- Concern regarding the use of night vision/infrared for coyote and bobcat hunting (i.e., concern for loss of night hunting for those species)
- Concern about the use of night vision/infrared at dawn/dusk for other species (i.e., concern for misuse of technology to hunt outside of “night”)

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes





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

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms

Proposed changes -

1. Allowing the use of 1x or red dot scopes on muzzleloading firearms.
2. Allowing video-cameras to be mounted to muzzleloading firearms.
3. Clarifying that the term "load" refers to the powder charge and projectile and that both must be loaded from the muzzle.



Public comment

Common themes:

- General support for rule changes
- General disagreement about rule changes
- Desire to maintain primitive weapon types
- Concern about increased hunter participation in muzzleloader seasons
- Concern over availability of 1x scopes
- Support for rule change due to improved shot placement
- Support for 1x scopes on muzzleloading firearms because it enables hunter participation (e.g., poor eyesight may restrict participation with this weapon type)
- Concern over ethical shot placement – perception that scopes may enable long-distance shooting

GMAC input: 92 (11/12)% agree with proposed changes

- Concern over scope availability
- Support for allowing 1x scope due to improved participation





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

WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements

Proposed changes -

1. Allow the use of range-finding bow sights.
2. Allow the use of breadcrumb nocks.
3. Allow the use of verifiers for peep sights.
4. Allow video-cameras to be mounted to archery equipment.



Public comment

Common themes:

- General agreement
- General disagreement
- Dislike of electronic equipment on archery equipment
- Desire to keep primitive weapons primitive
- Concern over ethical shot placement/distance
- Support due to improved shot placement and accurate distance measurement
- Support due to improved game recovery
- Concern over increased harvest rates
- Concern regarding fair chase

GMAC input: 55% (6/11) agree with proposed changes

- Concern about moving away from the principle of a primitive weapon
- Concern over the use of rangefinding bowsights





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

WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements

Proposed changes -

1. Allow the use of crossbows during established muzzleloader seasons.



Public comment

Common themes:

- General agreement with proposed changes
- General disagreement with proposed changes
- Unspecified opposition to the use of crossbows in muzzleloader seasons
- Support for crossbow use in muzzleloader seasons due to assumed dispersion of hunters across seasons
- Concern regarding sight restrictions; that is, concern that variable powered scopes may be used on crossbow equipment, presumably increasing hunter success/harvest
- Concern that crossbows are more successful than muzzleloaders; that is, the rule change will result in increased harvest

GMAC input: 100% agree with proposed changes



Motion Language:

**I move to adopt the
recommended rule changes as
presented by Department staff.**

Is there a “second”?

