

# Game Management Overarching Plan

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# purpose

The purpose of the Game Management Plan is to assess current issues for hunted wildlife and outline strategies to help WDFW prepare for the future. The emphasis in this plan is the scientific management of hunted species populations, harvest management (hunting), and other significant factors affecting game populations. The plan is dynamic, and it is designed to facilitate resolution of emergent issues and allow adjustment of priorities when issues are resolved. The issues and options in the plan are based on current management information. As new information becomes available, options may be modified or new ones developed.



# The GMPs are Intended to:

- Provide direction on sustainable hunting management.
- Identify data gaps and future research and monitoring needs.
- Identify existing and potential limiting factors affecting game populations.
- Give broad direction on addressing known limiting factors.
- Provide a basis for work planning.
- Provide the public an opportunity to weigh-in through a formal process on high level game management issues.
- Identify funding needs.



**The GMP is based upon and grounded in the Department's mission and legislative mandate**



# Main Parts of Overarching Plan

- Commission and Department Authority
- Guiding principals for season setting
- General Game Management Issue Statements



# Commission and Department Authority

## **Mandate of Department and Commission RCW 77.04.012**

The commission may authorize the taking of wildlife, food fish, game fish, and shellfish only at times or places, or in manners or quantities, as in the judgment of the commission does not impair the supply of these resources.

The commission shall attempt to maximize the public recreational game fishing and hunting opportunities of all citizens, including juvenile, disabled, and senior citizens.



# Commission and Department Authority

## **Commission- Duties RCW 77.04.055**

The commission shall maximize fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations.

(2) The commission shall establish hunting, trapping, and fishing seasons and prescribe the time, place, manner, and methods that may be used to harvest or enjoy game fish and wildlife.



# Commission and Department Authority

## **Composition of Department – powers and duties RCW 77.04.020**

The department consists of the state fish and wildlife commission and the director. The commission may delegate to the director any of the powers and duties vested in the commission.

Legislative findings and intent—1987 c 506: "Washington's fish and wildlife resources are the responsibility of all residents of the state. We all benefit economically, recreationally, and aesthetically from these resources. Recognizing the state's changing environment, the legislature intends to continue to provide opportunities for the people to appreciate wildlife in its native habitat. However, the wildlife management in the state of Washington shall not cause a reduction of recreational opportunity for hunting and fishing activities. The paramount responsibility of the department remains to preserve, protect, and perpetuate all wildlife species. Adequate funding for proper management, now and for future generations, is the responsibility of everyone.





# Commission and Department Authority

## “Big game” defined RCW 77.08.030

As used in this title or rules of the commission, "big game" means the following species:

### Scientific Name

*Cervus canadensis*

*Odocoileus hemionus*

*Odocoileus virginianus*

*Alces americana*

*Oreamnos americanus*

*Rangifer caribou*

*Ovis canadensis*

*Antilocapra americana*

*Felis concolor*

*Euarctos americana*

*Ursus horribilis*

### Common Name

elk or wapiti

blacktail deer or mule deer

whitetail deer

moose

mountain goat

caribou

mountain sheep

pronghorn antelope

cougar or mountain lion

black bear

grizzly bear



# Commission and Department Authority

## **Recreational and commercial licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets issued by authorized officials—Rules—Fees RCW 77.32.050**

(1) All recreational and commercial licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets shall be issued under the authority of the commission. The commission shall adopt rules for the issuance of licenses, permits, tags, stamps, and raffle tickets, and for the collection, payment, and handling of license fees, including terms and conditions to govern dealers, and dealer fees.



# Commission and Department Authority

## **Wildlife to be classified. RCW 77.12.020**

(1) The director shall investigate the habits and distribution of the various species of wildlife native to or adaptable to the habitats of the state. The commission shall determine whether a species should be managed by the department and, if so, classify it under this section.

(2) The commission may classify by rule wild animals as game animals and game animals as fur-bearing animals.

3) The commission may classify by rule wild birds as game birds or predatory birds. All wild birds not otherwise classified are protected wildlife.



# Questions?

