

# Falconry and Dog Training: Eurasian Collared Doves

232-12-005, 232-12-064,

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Summary Sheet .....	1
WAC 232-12-005.....	3
WAC 232-12-064.....	4
WAC 232-12-271.....	15
Recommended Adjustments .....	20
CR102 .....	21

## Summary Sheet

---

**Meeting dates:** April 9-10, 2015

**Agenda item:** Falconry and dog training: Eurasian collared doves

**Presenter:** Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, Wildlife Program

---

**Background summary:**

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round, but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed, but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

---

**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

The use of Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training.

---

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

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2015-2017 hunting season recommendations. This summer, two online issue scoping surveys were made available to the public. The first survey laid out major issues of concern. The second survey was a follow-up based on the public response received from the first survey. The department also held six public meetings, three on each side of the state. Both the surveys and the meetings were publicized via news release, WDFW's website and an email to hunters from the last five years. Also, a request for comment was sent to over 9000 individuals and organizations through the rulemaking process. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 20-21, 2015 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

---

**Action requested:**

Amend WACs 232-12-005, 232-12-064, and 232-12-271.

---

**Draft motion language:**

I move to amend WACs 232-12-005, 232-12-064, and 232-12-271 as proposed.

---

**Justification for Commission action:**

To provide opportunities to falconers and dog trainers, consistent with achieving management objectives.

---

---

**Communications Plan:**

WDFW Website

News Releases

Hunting Pamphlet

---

*Form revised 12/5/12*

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-11-036, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04)

**WAC 232-12-005 Predatory birds.** (1) HUNTING PREDATORY BIRDS:

(a) It is unlawful to hunt for or take predatory birds without a hunting license except as allowed under RCW 77.36.030.

(b) Crows and magpies: It is (~~lawful~~) permissible to take crows during established hunting seasons and crows or magpies when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance provided that none of the birds, or their plumage, be offered for sale.

(c) All other predatory birds may be hunted throughout the year.

(2) SALE OF PREDATORY BIRDS: It is (~~lawful~~) permissible to sell starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, and rock doves for the purposes of falconry and lawful to sell rock doves and Eurasian collared doves for the purposes of bird dog training.

(3) POSSESSION OF PREDATORY BIRDS: It is (~~lawful~~) permissible to take from the wild and possess live starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian

collared doves, and rock doves for purposes of falconry and Eurasian collared doves and rock doves for purposes of bird dog training.

(4) RELEASE OF LIVE PREDATORY BIRDS: It is (~~lawful, without a permit,~~) permissible to release Eurasian collared doves and rock doves for the purposes of bird dog training or falconry without a permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-12-005, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-02-043, filed 12/21/12, effective 1/21/13)

**WAC 232-12-064 Live wildlife—Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity.** (1) It is unlawful to take live wildlife, wild birds, or game fish from the wild without a permit issued by the director except as otherwise provided by department rule. This subsection does not apply to starlings, house sparrows, Eurasian collared doves, and rock doves taken by falconers, or rock doves and Eurasian collared doves taken by bird dog trainers.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of WAC 232-12-027(1), 232-12-067, and subsections (3) and (4) of this section, and except as provided under subsection (7), (8), (9), or (10) of this section, it is unlawful to import into the state, hold, possess, propagate, offer for

sale, sell, transfer, or release live specimens of or the gametes and/or embryos of the following species in the family *Cervidae*:

(3) It is unlawful to import into the state or to hold live wildlife taken, held, possessed, or transported contrary to federal or state law, local ordinance, or department rule. It is unlawful to import live wild animals, wild birds, or game fish without first presenting to the department the health certificate required by the Washington department of agriculture under WAC 16-54-180. However, raptors used for falconry or propagation may be imported if the importer has health certificates for the raptors. Importers must produce proof of lawful importation for inspection if asked to do so by a department employee.

(4) It is unlawful to possess or hold in captivity live wild animals, wild birds, or game fish unless lawfully acquired. Any person possessing or holding wild animals, wild birds, or game fish in captivity must provide proof of lawful acquisition and possession for inspection if asked to do so by a department employee. The proof must identify the wild animals', wild birds', or game fish's:

(a) Species;

(b) Age and sex;

(c) Origin;

- (d) Receiving party's name;
- (e) Source's name and address;
- (f) Invoice/statement date; and
- (g) Documentation of prior transfers.

(5) Live wild animals, wild birds, or game fish held in captivity, or their progeny or parts thereof, may not be sold or otherwise used commercially except as provided by department rule.

(6) It is unlawful to release wildlife from captivity except as provided in WAC 232-12-271. It is unlawful to release fish into any state waters, including private, natural, or man-made ponds, without first obtaining a fish planting permit. However, if a person catches game fish and keeps the fish alive on stringers, in live wells, or in other containers while fishing, he or she may release the fish back into the same waters that he or she caught the game fish in.

(7) **Scientific research or display:** The director may issue written authorization for a person to import into the state, hold, possess and propagate live specimens of wildlife listed in subsection (2) of this section, for scientific research or for display by zoos or aquariums who are accredited institutional members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), provided that the person:

- (a) Confines the specimens to a secure facility;

(b) Does not transfer specimens to any other location within the state without the director's written authorization, and the specimens are transferred to other AZA-accredited facilities and transported by AZA-accredited institutional members or their authorized agents;

(c) Does not sell or otherwise dispose of specimens within the state, unless the director gives written approval to sell or dispose of the specimens;

(d) Keeps records on the specimens and make reports as the director requires; and

(e) Complies with the requirements in this section.

**(8) Retention or disposal of existing specimens lawfully in captivity prior to June 20, 1992:** A person who holds live Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer and black-tailed deer, white-tailed deer, and moose may retain the specimens of the wildlife the person lawfully possessed prior to June 20, 1992, and the lawful progeny of that wildlife, provided the person complies with the requirements of this section, and:

(a) Reports to the director, in writing, the species, number, and location of the specimens as required;



(b) Confines the specimens to a secure facility at the location reported, and the facility meets the requirements listed in WAC 232-12-063;

(c) Does not propagate live specimens except at AZA-accredited facilities with the director's written permission or as otherwise authorized in writing by the director;

(d) Does not release live specimens, except with the director's written permission;

(e) Does not sell or transfer live specimens, except:

(i) Live specimens in lawful possession prior to June 20, 1992, and their lawful progeny may be permanently removed from Washington state or transported directly to slaughter in accordance with applicable law;

(ii) Federally listed endangered or threatened species may be transferred to AZA-accredited facilities in compliance with federal law;

(iii) Live specimens may be moved to the new primary residence of the possessor with the director's written approval, provided all other requirements of this section are satisfied and the total number of locations where animals are held is not increased; and

(iv) AZA-accredited facilities may sell and/or transfer live specimens within the state with the written permission of the director.

(f) Live specimens must be neutered, physically separated by sex, and/or rendered infertile by means of contraception, except at AZA-accredited facilities with the director's written permission.

**(9) Retention or disposal of existing specimens lawfully in captivity prior to February 13, 1993:** A person holding live specimens of wildlife newly listed in subsection (2) of this section by operation of this rule (Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*)), may retain the specimens of such wildlife the person lawfully possessed prior to February 13, 1993, provided:

(a) The person reports to the director in writing by March 31, 1993, and reports annually thereafter, or as otherwise required by the director, the species, number, and location of such specimens; and

(b) The person complies with subsection (8)(b) through (f) of this section and the other requirements of this section.

(10) The provisions of this section do not prohibit the importation, possession, propagation, sale, transfer, or release of live specimens of federally listed threatened or endangered species, their gametes or embryos, where in compliance with federal law.

(11) **Escaped wildlife:**

(a) Escaped wildlife is considered a public nuisance. The department or any peace officer may seize, capture, or destroy wildlife that have escaped the possessor's control. The former possessor is responsible for costs incurred by the department in recovering, maintaining, or disposing of such animals, as well as any damage to the state's wildlife or habitat.

(b) Possessors must report escaped wildlife to the department immediately.

(c) Possessors must report the recapture or death of escaped wildlife to the department immediately.

(12) **Testing specimens:**

(a) If the director issues a permit to allow any member of the Genus *Cervus*, identified in subsection (2) of this section, then prior to the animal's entry into Washington state, the person must submit records of genetic tests conducted by a professionally recognized laboratory to identify red deer genetic influence. Red deer genetic influence is genetic material from any member of any subspecies, race, or species of the elk-red deer-wapiti complex *Cervus elaphus* not indigenous to the state of Washington. Upon examination by department biologists, animals deemed to exhibit behavioral (vocalization), mor-

phological (size, rump patch, color), or biochemical indications of such influence (hemoglobin, superoxide dismutase, transferrin and post-transferrin, or others to be developed) may not be imported.

(b) A person currently holding any member of the genus *Cervus elaphus* identified in subsection (2) of this section must immediately submit to the director records of genetic tests conducted by a professionally recognized laboratory to identify red deer genetic influence, as defined in (a) of this subsection, for each individual cervid. Genetic testing will be at the possessor's expense. Any animals identified as red deer or having nonindigenous genetic influence must be destroyed, removed from the state, or neutered immediately.

(c) The director may require wildlife listed in subsection (2) of this section that are lawfully held in captivity to be tested for brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*), tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*), meningeal worm (*Paralophostrongylus tenuis*), and muscle worm (*Elaphostrongylus cervis*) in accordance with the procedures specified in department of agriculture WAC 16-54-180. The director may also require testing for other diseases or parasites determined to pose a risk to wildlife. Results of those tests must be filed with the director as required.

**(13) Reporting:**

(a) A person holding wildlife listed in subsection (2) of this section in captivity must submit a completed report no later than March 30, 1993, and then no later than January 31 of each year, or as otherwise required by the director, on a form provided by the department.

(b) Persons possessing wildlife listed in subsection (2) of this section must notify the director within 10 days of any change of such persons' address and/or location of the holding facility.

(14) **Inspection:** All holding facilities for captive wildlife located in the state are subject to inspection, conducted at a reasonable time, for compliance with the provisions of this section.

(15) **Notification and disposition of diseased animals:**

(a) Any person who has reason to believe that wildlife being held pursuant to this rule have contracted or been exposed to a dangerous or communicable disease or parasite must notify the department immediately.

(b) Upon reason to believe that wildlife held pursuant to this rule have contracted or been exposed to a dangerous or contagious disease or parasite, the director may order inspection of such animals by a licensed, accredited veterinarian, certified fish pathologist, or inspection agent. Inspection will be at the possessor's expense.

(c) The director will determine when destruction of wildlife or quarantine, disinfection, or sterilization of facilities is required at any facility holding wildlife pursuant to this rule. If the director determines that destruction of wildlife or quarantine, disinfection, or sterilization of facilities is required, he or she will issue a written order to the possessor describing the procedure to be followed and the time period for carrying out such actions. The destruction of wildlife or quarantine, disinfection, or sterilization of facilities will be at the possessor's expense.

(16) **Quarantine area:**

(a) Facilities holding wildlife listed in subsection (2) of this section must have an approved quarantine facility within its exterior boundary or submit an action plan to the director that guarantees access to an approved quarantine facility within the state of Washington.

(i) An approved quarantine facility is one that meets criteria set by the Washington department of agriculture in chapter 16-54 WAC.

(ii) The quarantine area must meet the tests of isolation, separate feed and water, escape security, and allowances for the humane holding and care of its occupants for extended periods of time.

(b) If quarantine becomes necessary, the possessor of any wild-  
life requiring quarantine must provide an on-site quarantine facility  
or make arrangements at the possessor's expense to transport his or  
her wildlife to an approved quarantine facility.

(17) **Seizure:**

(a) The department may seize any unlawfully possessed wildlife.

(b) The cost of any seizure or holding of wildlife may be charged  
to the possessor of the wildlife.

(18) Violation of this section is a misdemeanor punishable under  
RCW 77.15.750, Unlawful use of a department permit—Penalty.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.055, 77.12.045,  
and 77.12.047. WSR 13-02-043 (Order 12-290), § 232-12-064, filed  
12/21/12, effective 1/21/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR  
10-07-105 (Order 10-64), § 232-12-064, filed 3/19/10, effective  
5/1/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.020, 77.12.047, and 77.12.455.  
WSR 10-03-088 (Order 10-08), § 232-12-064, filed 1/19/10, effective  
2/19/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-  
036 (Order 04-98), § 232-12-064, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04.  
Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040 and 77.12.010. WSR 96-18-059 (Order  
96-135), § 232-12-064, filed 8/30/96, effective 9/30/96. Statutory Au-  
thority: RCW 77.12.030. WSR 93-04-038 (Order 581), § 232-12-064, filed

1/27/93, effective 2/13/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.16.040. WSR 85-09-008 (Order 243), § 232-12-064, filed 4/5/85; WSR 84-09-052 (Order 224), § 232-12-064, filed 4/16/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 82-04-034 (Order 177), § 232-12-064, filed 1/28/82; WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-064, filed 6/1/81. Formerly WAC 232-12-173.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-11-036, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04)

**WAC 232-12-271 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife.** (1) Release by persons other than the director. It is unlawful for persons other than the director to plant aquatic plants or release any species, subspecies, or hybrids of animals which do not already exist in the wild in Washington. If such species, subspecies, or hybrid does already exist in the wild in Washington, it may be released within its established range by persons other than the director, but only after obtaining a permit from the director.

(a) Application for a permit must be made on a form provided by the department. It must be submitted at least thirty days prior to acquisition of the wildlife or aquatic plants intended for release or planting, and must provide all information indicated.



(b) Permits will only be issued if the director determines there will be no adverse impact on the wildlife or wildlife habitat of the state.

(c) Each permit shall require that at least thirty days prior to planting or release of wildlife or aquatic plants they must be made available for inspection by the director. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to show that the wildlife will not pose a disease threat. If the director is not satisfied that the wildlife or aquatic plants do not pose a disease threat, they shall not be released or planted in the state. Director approval for release or planting may be withdrawn for cause.

(d) Each permit shall require that an applicant intending to release wildlife in the state shall report immediately to the director the outbreak of any disease among the wildlife intended to be released. If the director determines that such outbreak presents a threat to the wildlife of the state, the director may immediately order such action as necessary including quarantine or destruction of stock, sterilization of enclosures and facilities, cessation of activities, and disposal of wildlife in a manner satisfactory to the director.

(e) Each permit shall require that wildlife to be released shall not be branded, tattooed, tagged, fin clipped or otherwise marked for identification without approval of the director or as required in WAC 232-12-044.

(f) Legally acquired pheasant of the genus *Phasianus*; gray partridge of the genus *Perdix*; chukar of the genus *Alectoris*; quail of the genus *Callipepla* and *Colinus*; and mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) may be released without a permit for purposes of dog training, and hunting pursuant to WAC 232-12-044. Game birds of these species released for these purposes must be purchased from facilities that have been inspected by a certified veterinarian within the past twelve months. Rock doves and Eurasian collared doves may be released without a permit for purposes of bird dog training.

(2) Release by the director. The director may plant aquatic plants or release animal species, subspecies, or hybrids which have been planted or released previously in Washington if they do not pose a disease threat and if planting or release will not cause adverse impact on the wildlife or wildlife habitat of the state. Before releasing any species, subspecies, or hybrid of animal not already existing in the wild in Washington, the director shall report to the commission on the planned release, stating the basis for determining that the

planned release fulfills the criteria set forth herein. The director may release nonnative species, subspecies, or hybrids not previously released in Washington only if the director in his or her sole discretion has determined that:

(a) There is no reasonable expectation of adverse impact on the wildlife or wildlife habitat of the state and there is an adequate plan for evaluating such impact following the release;

(b) The commission has classified the species, subspecies, or hybrids to be released pursuant to RCW 77.12.020;

(c) Suitable habitat is available;

(d) The nonnative species, subspecies, or hybrids to be released are free of exotic pathogens;

(e) The release serves the public interest.

(3) This section does not apply to release of classified or unclassified fish or shellfish by persons who have caught or taken the fish or shellfish, provided the fish or shellfish are released into the water or on the tidelands at the approximate location where taken, except that fishing contest participants may release fish at a contest-designated location in the same body of water from which the fish were taken.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-12-271, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040, 77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-12-271, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.055, 77.12.040 and 77.16.150. WSR 91-24-015 (Order 521), § 232-12-271, filed 11/22/91, effective 12/23/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.020, 77.12.040 and 77.16.150. WSR 89-12-044 (Order 397), § 232-12-271, filed 6/2/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 82-04-034 (Order 177), § 232-12-271, filed 1/28/82; WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-271, filed 6/1/81. Formerly WAC 232-12-675.]

**RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

The following adjustments are proposed since the Code Reviser (CR 102) filing and are already included in your notebook.

**Page 4**

- The word “and” is inserted in the third line of Subsection (4) to correct a typing error and make the sentence understandable.



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (June 2012)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 14-24-118 filed 12/3/14; 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).

- Original Notice
- Supplemental Notice to WSR \_\_\_\_\_
- Continuance of WSR \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of rule and other identifying information:**

See Attachment A

**Hearing location(s):**

Civic Center  
411 South Balsam Street  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Date: March 20-21, 2015 Time: 8:00 AM

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments  
Address: 600 Capitol Way North,  
Olympia, WA 98501  
e-mail wildthing@dfw.wa.gov  
fax (360) 902-2162 by (date) 2/24/15

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:** Contact

Tami Lininger by March 1, 2015

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 902-2267

**Date of intended adoption:** On or after April 9, 2015

(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

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

See attachment A

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

See attachment A

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150 and 77.12.240.

**Statute being implemented:** RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150 and 77.12.240.

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

- Federal Law?  Yes  No
  - Federal Court Decision?  Yes  No
  - State Court Decision?  Yes  No
- If yes, CITATION:

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: February 02, 2015**

**TIME: 2:07 PM**

**WSR 15-04-090**

**DATE**

February 2, 2015

**NAME** (type or print)

Joanna Eide

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

Rules Coordinator

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:**

When filing the permanent rule-making order (CR-103P), the WAC sections containing rule amendments will be consolidated into two or three Order Typing Service (OTS) documents.

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

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resource Building	(360) 902-2515
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resource Building	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement..... Steven Crown	Natural Resource Building	(360) 902-2373

**Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW or has a school district fiscal impact statement been prepared under section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 2012?**

Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement or school district fiscal impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

These rules apply to recreational hunting and do not affect small business.

**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 ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

No: Please explain: This proposal does not involve hydraulics.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **Title of rule and other identifying information:**

232-12-005 Predatory birds

232-12-024 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

232-12-064 Live wildlife—Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity

232-12-141 Wild animal trapping

232-12-242 Hunting Restrictions

232-12-271 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife

232-12-288 Official hunting hours for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse

232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules

232-28-516 Trapping seasons and regulations

### **232-12-005 Predatory birds**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

### **232-12-024 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.**

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

A common complaint of trappers and hunters who harvest bobcat or river otter is that it can be difficult to make an appointment with a department have pelts sealed as required. Under the current rule, only department employees can be authorized to seal pelts. The proposed change would allow the department to issue permits to other individuals to seal pelts. This change will make it easier to for some to meet the sealing requirement and some employee time will be saved within the department that is now taken up by sealing pelts. Assuming this rule change is adopted, the department will develop criteria to select individuals outside the department who can be issued permits to seal pelts and reporting requirements that will be expected.

Wording changes are made in subsection (5) to update the legal forms of documentation that can be used when importing raw pelts of river otter into the state.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Some agency staff time will be saved if individuals outside the department are authorized to seal pelts and customer satisfaction with the sealing process is likely to improve.

Updating the wording in subsection (5) will help reduce potential for future misunderstanding regarding acceptance of valid documentation of furs imported into the state.



**232-12-064 Live wildlife—Taking from the wild, importation, possession, transfer, and holding in captivity**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

**232-12-141 Wild animal trapping**

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

The proposed changes to this rule serve to simplify and clarify the rules for fur trapping.

- The provisions regarding the use of body gripping traps are removed from this section as they restate trapping rules in RCW 77.15.194.
- A clarification is made that the meat of animals classified as furbearers may be used as bait.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Moving the portion of this rule pertaining to permitted uses of body gripping traps to the wildlife interaction rules will eliminate some confusion created by having it removed from the section pertaining to fur trapping.

The meat of furbearers is not included in rules pertaining to waste of game animals and is not commonly eaten. The use of beaver and other furbearer meat has traditionally been used by trappers as bait and the proposed change clarifies that it can continue to be used.

**232-12-242 Hunting Restrictions**

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

During the course of public meetings and other comment opportunities over the past summer individuals came forward requesting additional opportunity to hunt raccoons with dogs at night. Currently this type of hunting is restricted by this rule any time a modern firearm deer or elk season is open. The changes proposed would expand hunting opportunity by limiting the restriction to only deer and elk general seasons.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

The rationale behind the current rule is that it reduces the potential for conflicts with deer and elk hunters and reduces the potential for hunters to pursue big game with dogs or at night using another form of hunting as a defense. Some concern has been voiced that this change could open the door to abuse. However, the primary time period this concern exists is during the general seasons when more hunting occurs.

**232-12-271 Criteria for planting aquatic plants and releasing wildlife**

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

Eurasian collared doves are an exotic species whose numbers and distribution are believed to be increasing in Washington. They have already been added to the list of predatory birds which allows them to be hunted year round but they appear to continue to be expanding.

There has been some interest in being able to use Eurasian collared doves for falconry and dog training but current rules do not allow their use for these purposes. Changes proposed to these three rules would add this species to the lists of other species that can be used for these purposes.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Eurasian collared doves are considered an undesirable species and removal and use of these birds for falconry and dog training may help limit competition with native species and other potential impacts. Release of this species for these purposes would be allowed but this is not likely to cause further or more rapid expansion of their current range as most of the birds would be killed.

**232-12-288 Official hunting hours for big game animals, rabbits, hares, fox, and forest grouse.**

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

Amendment of this rule is necessary to make the changes described for WAC 232-12-242. References to the exemption of bobcat and raccoon from hunting hours are removed and the rule title is changed to specify the game animals that the hunting hours apply to.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

This change simplifies the hunting rules by removing a dual reference to the restriction on bobcat and raccoon hunting hours. The change to the rule title is necessary to allow night hunting for these two species at times during the hunting season when the restriction does not apply.

**232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and rules.**

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

This proposal establishes dates, bag limits and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting seasons for the next three years in WAC 232-28-342 which are needed in order to maintain recreational hunting opportunities for the public. Recommended changes are based on harvest trends and public input received over the past three years and surveys conducted by the department. Many of the proposals represent no changes from prior years with the exception of calendar date adjustments.

Notable changes Include:

- Modifying the bag limit for forest grouse to include no more than three of any of the three species per day but retaining the daily bag limit of four.
- Specifying that an adult must accompany youth hunters during the youth turkey season which addresses an inconsistency with other youth seasons.
- Allowing the harvest of fox in GMUs 407 and 410.
- Ending the eastern Washington Pheasant season on the Martin Luther King Day holiday each year.
- An increase in the mourning dove bag limit from ten to fifteen and increasing the season length by 30 days.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Some hunters have expressed concern that the current bag limit for forest grouse is too high and concerns also exist, based on harvest trends, that grouse populations have declined. While hunting is not considered to be a major limiting factor of grouse populations, a somewhat more conservative harvest

strategy is appropriate. The proposed split limit also will encourage hunters to learn to identify the various grouse species which will be a benefit when or if a more restrictive bag limit is needed to protect populations of one or more of the species.

Requiring an adult mentor during youth turkey seasons will help young hunters get a safe and successful start to their hunting experience.

Fox occurring in GMU 407 and 410 are an introduced population and there is not a biological rationale to continue to prohibit harvest of this species in this area. The native cascades red fox, which is a species with depressed populations, does not occur in this vicinity and will not be affected by this proposal.

The change to the Pheasant season to end on a holiday weekend will provide additional hunting opportunity without affecting populations as only males are allowed to be harvested.

Increases in mourning dove bag limits and season lengths are prescribed by the national mourning dove harvest strategy, adopted by the Pacific Flyway Council in 2013. Based on band returns, harvest rates of mourning doves are low and expanded seasons are sustainable. The harvest strategy relies on yearly monitoring of both harvest rate and population size. Should harvest rates increase to a level deemed harmful or population size declines below established thresholds, the strategy reduces harvest of mourning doves.

### **232-28-516 Trapping seasons and regulations**

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

The proposal would continue the current trapping seasons for all furbearers with no changes except that the existing closure and bag limits in eastern Washington would be removed. The proposed change will allow expanded opportunity for harvest of river otter during the trapping season.

#### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

The changes to the river otter trapping season have been discussed for several years with members of The Washington State Trappers Association (WSTA) who have been advocating for the proposed change. Along much of the perimeter of the closure area as it is defined, it currently is legal to harvest river otter on one side of a river but not on the opposite shore which is a difficult situation that most current otter harvest is believed to consist primarily of incidental captures associated with beaver trapping. Under the current restrictions on trap types that are allowed for fur harvest, it is very difficult for a trapper to target river otter when trapping and the current bag limits in those parts of eastern Washington open to otter harvest appear to be having no effect as it is rare that a trapper reaches the annual limit of 12. The department believes that the proposed change is reasonable given that statutory limits on trap types appear to be limiting otter harvest more than the current bag limit in most areas and a large harvest in the current closed area is not likely for the same reason.