Moose, Mountain Goat, and Bighorn Seasons and Permit Quotas – and Related Revisions To Auction/Raffle and Bighorn Marking WACs

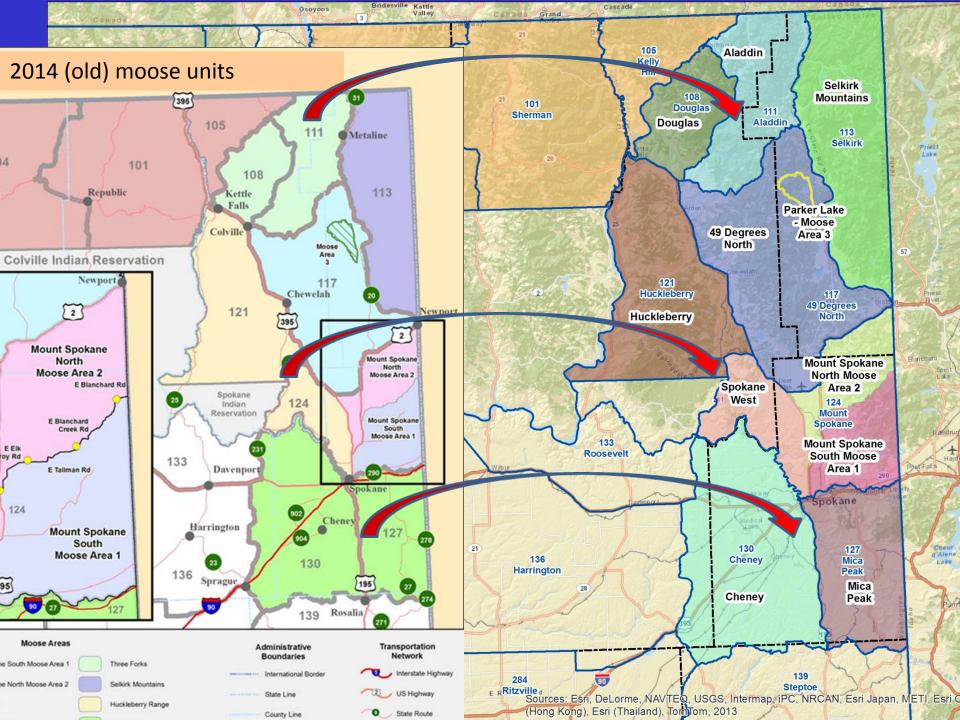
Rich Harris, Special Species Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

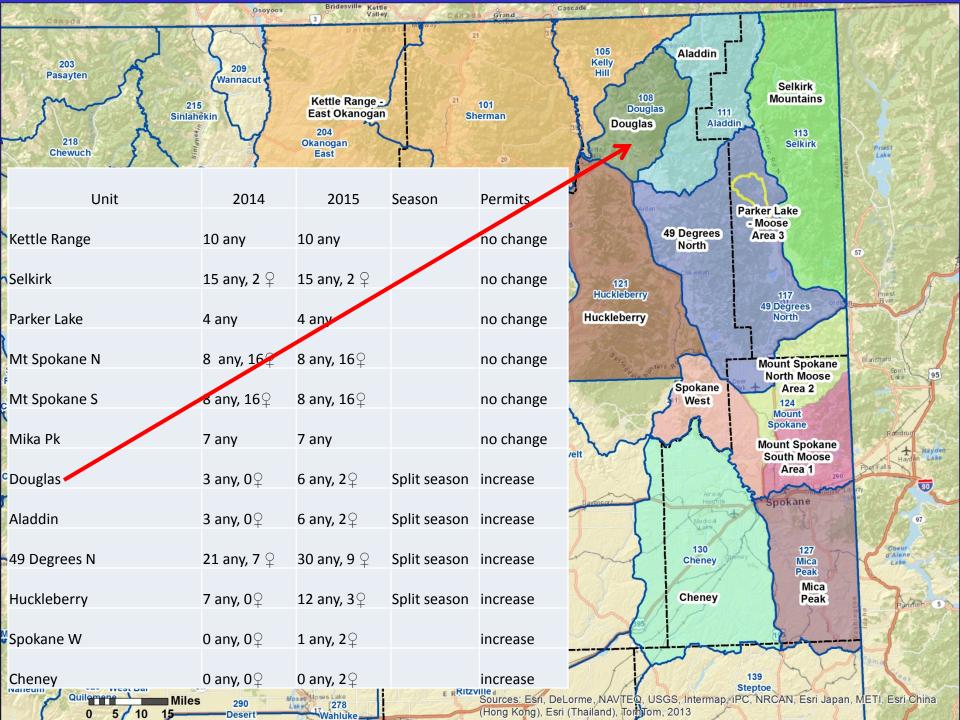
232-28-273 – Moose Recommendations:

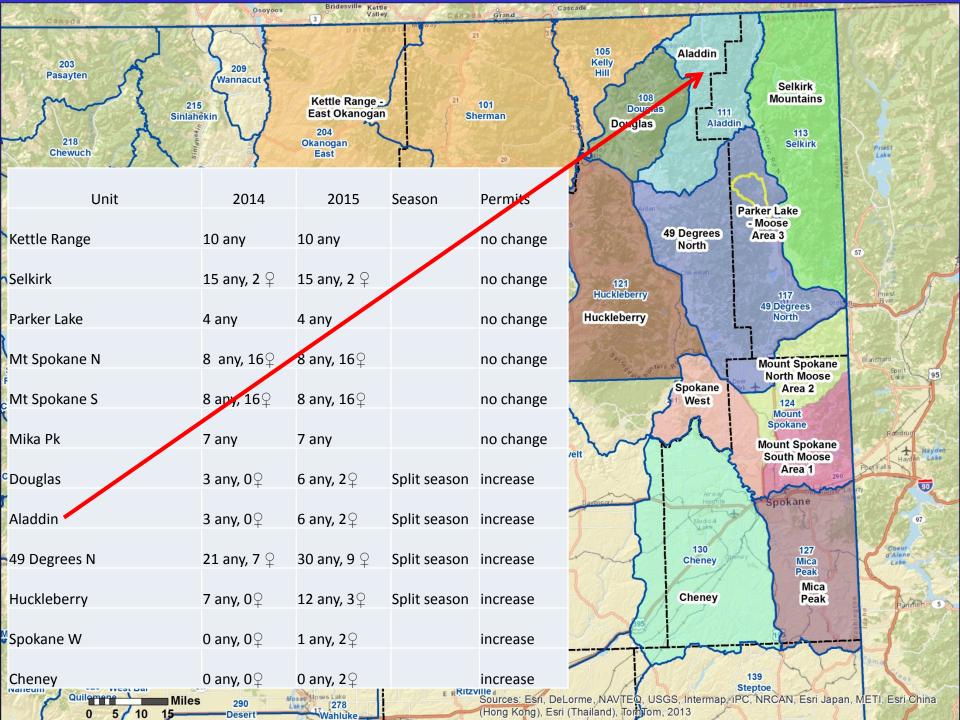
* A substantial (~ 25%) increase in permit levels

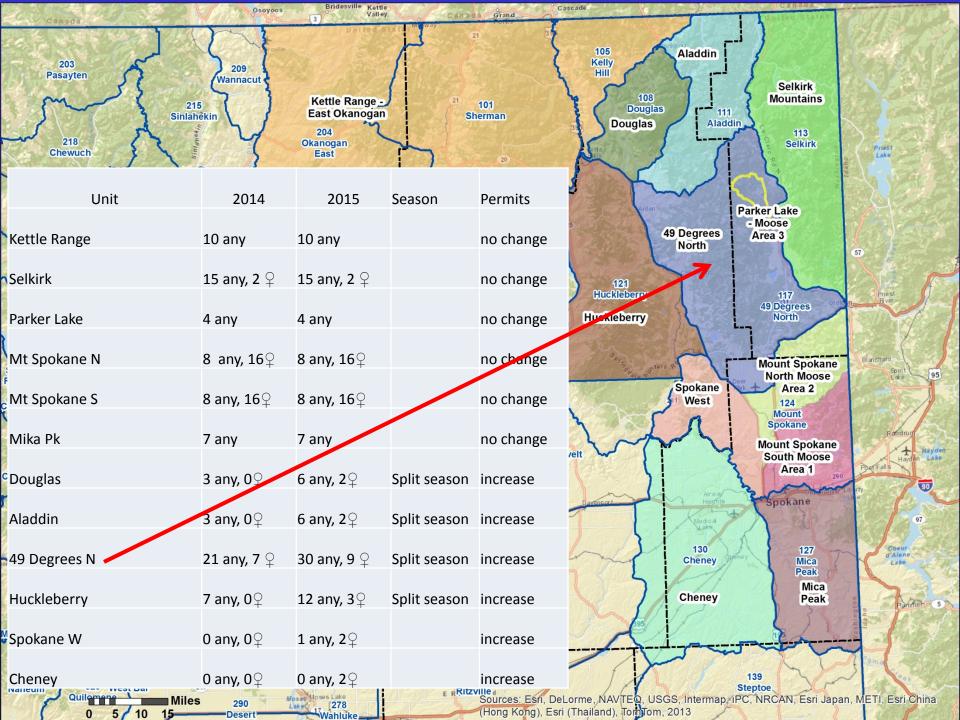


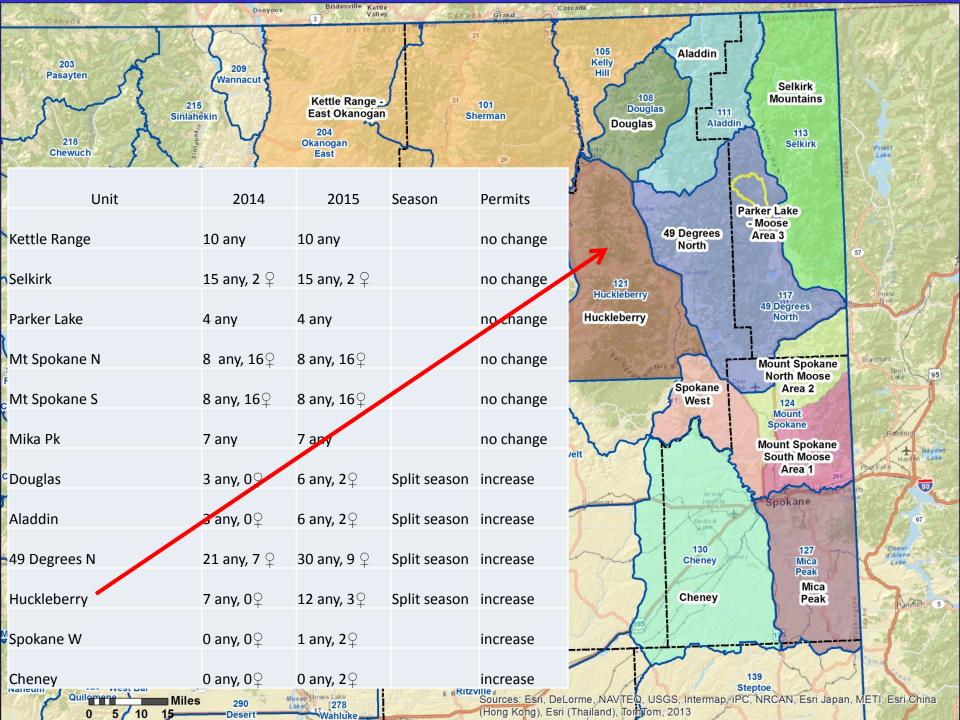
* Increase in total permits from 136 (86 any moose, 50 antlerless) to 170 (107 any, 63 antlerless)











232-28-623 Mountain Goats

-- Recommendations --

Mandatory in-person inspection for goats

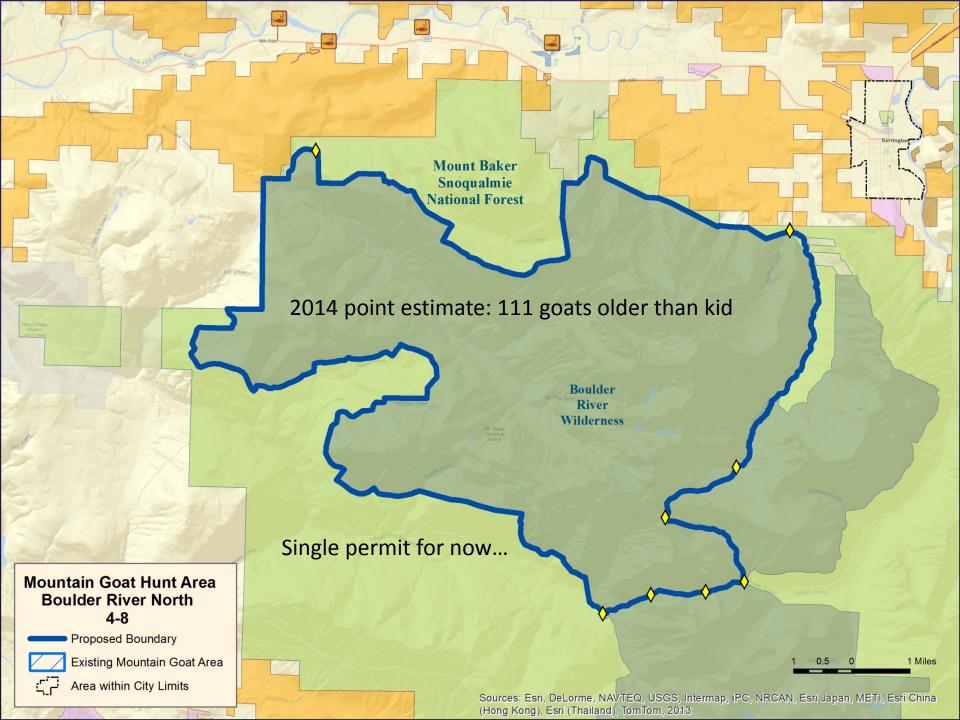
Small revisions to permit numbers in

existing mountain goat hunts responding to recent survey estimates and Game Management Plan

Extend season through November









232-28-622 Bighorn Sheep

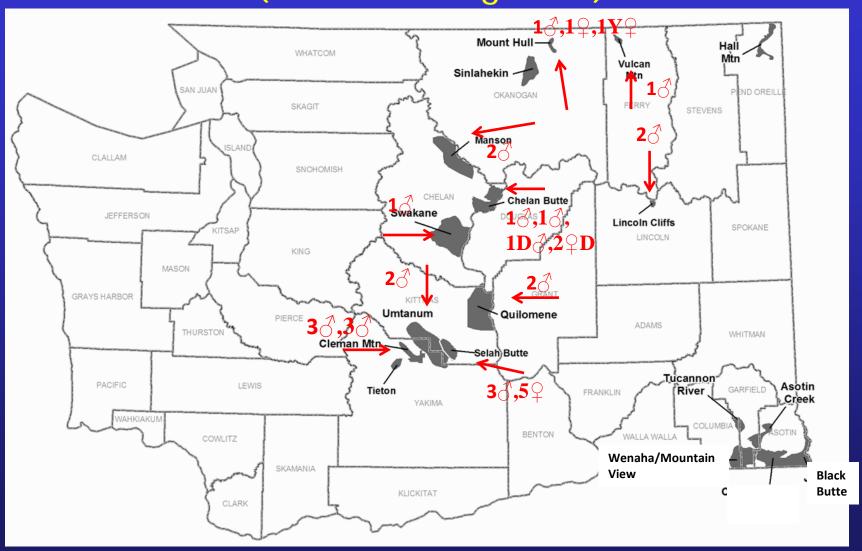
- Minor revisions in permits
- All respond to Game Management Plan and recent survey information



Revisions to "Rocky Mtn" Bighorn Permits



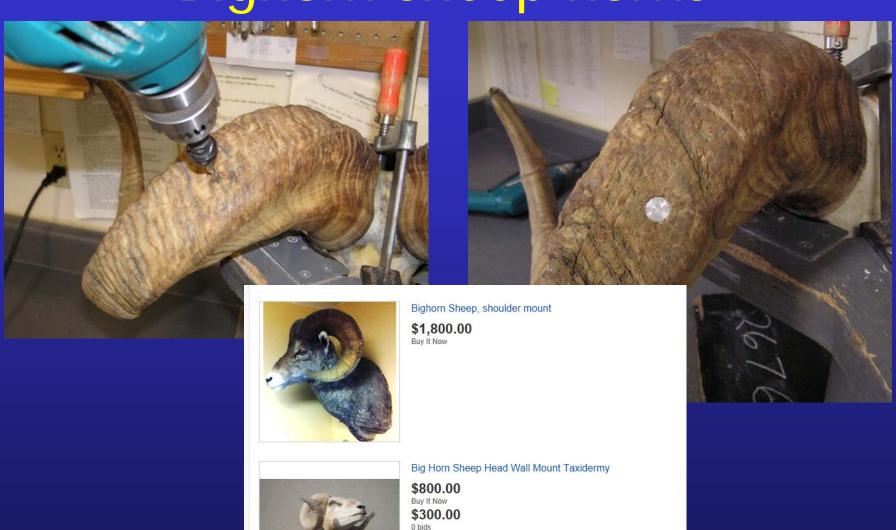
Minor Revisions to Ram Permits ('California' Bighorns)



Final Recommended Adjustment

- March recommendation: 1 new "disabled bighorn sheep hunt" category
- New recommendation: 2 sex-specific
 "disabled bighorn sheep hunt" categories
- Reason: Maintain existing distinction between ram and ewe re: "once-inlifetime harvest"
- Necessitated by Licensing Division systems

Bighorn sheep horns



WAC 232-12-284

- Issue 1 Redefine horns to include single, unattached sheaths (close loophole)
- Issue 2 Clarify that picked-up horns are treated as "wildlife found dead" in 232-12-287 (not to be retained)
- Issue 3- Clarify that exceptions (permits) to existing language in 232-12-071 ("unlawful to...sell...nonedible parts of bighorn sheep") only issued when sale benefits bighorn conservation/management

What about older trophies obtained prior to marking?

- Existing 232-12-284: "(3) It is unlawful for any person to possess the horns of a bighorn sheep ram taken in Washington without one of the horns being permanently marked by the department."
- Recommend revisions: "It is unlawful for any person to possess the horns of a bighorn sheep ram originating in Washington except as described in subsections...(4)"..."(4)...In the case of horns originating from a bighorn sheep legally obtained prior to the to the initiation of permanent marking in the jurisdiction of its origin, the Director is authorized to issue a permit for possession (but not for resale)...must be...retained with the horns...horns must [then] be presented for permanent marking to a WDFW office within 30 days".

WAC 232-28-284 Raffles/Auctions

For mountain goats:

- 1 statewide auction
- 1 statewide raffle

For 'California' bighorn sheep:

- 1 statewide auction
- 1 statewide raffle
- Southcentral big-game raffle
- Northcentral big-game raffle (choose 3 from 5)

WAC 232-28-284 Raffles/Auctions

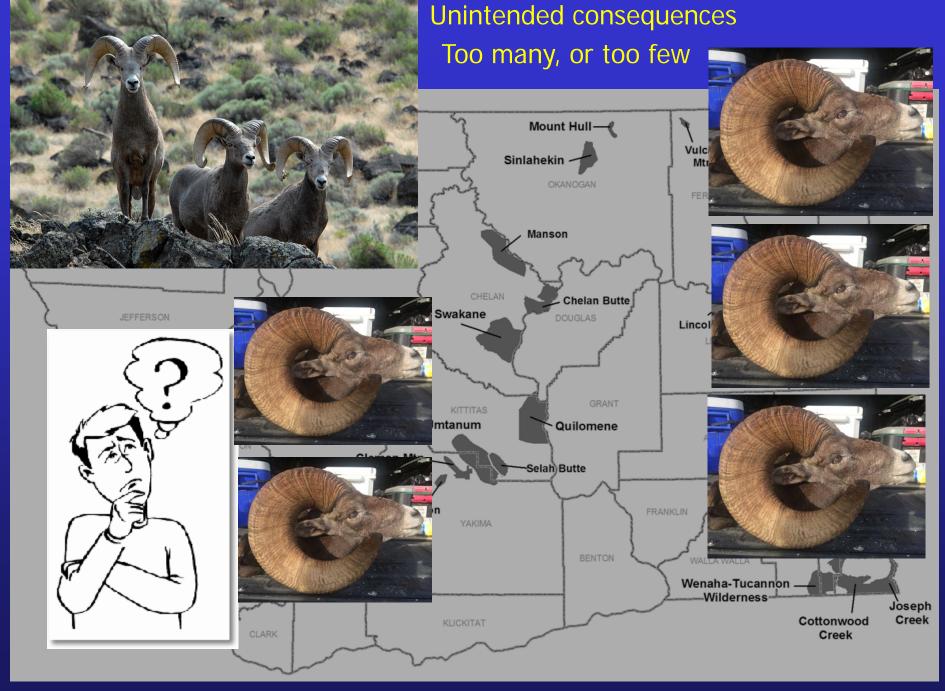


Current approach: If 2 or more draw permits, then

*Herd is available for auction/raffle, Otherwise,

- *Herd is not open for raffle/auction
 - Ensures herd is large
 - Provides predictability...but





WAC 232-28-284 Raffles/Auctions Recommended Resolution

- Allow Director flexibility
- Will determine which herd is eligible based on where auction/raffle hunters went in previous year
- Will know by 1 January which to open for coming autumn (earlier than currently, in time for auctions)
- Director will base allocation on consistent protocol, skipping years for that herd if previous pressure too high
- Will allow opening more herds to auction/raffle while mitigating 'boom and bust'





Questions?

