

**Deer Areas, Elk Areas, Special Closure and Firearm Restriction Areas, and  
Hunting by Persons with a Disability**

232-28-624, 232-28-337, 232-28-248 and 232-12-828

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## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** April 8-9, 2016

**Agenda item:** Deer Areas, Elk Areas, Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas, and Hunting by Persons with a Disability – Rule Decision

**Presenter:** Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

Staff will propose amendments to WAC 232-28-624 Deer Area Descriptions, WAC 232-28-337 Elk Area Descriptions, WAC 232-28-248 Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas, and WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability.

Two new deer areas are proposed for Region 3 in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. The proposed additions are intended to reduce agricultural damage.

One new elk area is being proposed for Asotin County. The proposed addition is intended to reduce agricultural damage. The proposed change to Elk Area 6054 in Pierce County will make the boundary more discernable and make the elk area more effective. The proposed change to Elk Area 6064 removes some public land that was unnecessarily included. The elk area was established due to safety concerns, but the original boundary included some U.S. Forest Service lands where this concern does not exist. The removal of Elk Area 6063 is also proposed as it is no longer needed.

The proposed change to the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas clarifies a restriction in Grays Harbor County that should only apply during modern firearm deer and elk seasons.

A rule reinstating the conditions under which hunters with disabilities may shoot from their vehicles is being proposed. This is necessary because the conditions were removed in anticipation of a change to RCW 77.32.238 and that change never happened. Until changes to the RCW are made, the conditions need to remain in rule.

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

- Maximizing recreational hunting opportunity while controlling wildlife populations.
  - Managing wildlife conflict issues utilizing hunters.
  - Managing wildlife conflict issues by influencing the distribution of deer and elk.
  - Implementing firearm restriction areas when safety dictates.
  - Reestablishing conditions under which hunters with disabilities may shoot from their vehicles.
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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The Department notified approximately 28,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulations. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were given the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

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**Action requested:**

Amend WAC 232-28-624, WAC 232-28-337, WAC 232-28-248, and WAC 232-12-828 as proposed.

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**Draft motion language:**

I move to amend WAC 232-28-624, WAC 232-28-337, WAC 232-28-248, and WAC 232-12-828 as proposed.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

- Proposals help control wildlife populations while maximizing hunting opportunity.
- Proposals help mitigate wildlife conflict using hunting as a management tool.
- Proposals maintain public safety while providing hunting opportunity.
- Proposals maintain and facilitate hunting opportunity for hunters with disabilities.

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**Communications Plan:**

WDFW Website  
News Releases  
Hunting Pamphlet

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*Form revised 12/5/12*

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-10-059, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15)

**WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.** The following areas are defined as deer areas:

**Deer Area No. 1008 West Wenaha (Columbia County):** That part of GMU 169 west of USFS trail 3112 from Tepee Camp (east fork of Butte Creek) to Butte Creek, and west of Butte Creek to the Washington-Oregon state line.

**Deer Area No. 1009 East Wenaha (Columbia, Garfield, Asotin counties):** That portion of GMU 169 east of USFS trail 3112 from Tepee Camp (east fork Butte Creek) to Butte Creek, and east of Butte Creek to the Washington-Oregon state line.

**Deer Area No. 1010 (Columbia County):** GMU 162 excluding National Forest land and the Rainwater Wildlife Area.

**Deer Area No. 1021 Clarkston (Asotin County):** That portion of GMU 178 beginning at the junction of the Highway 12 bridge and Alpowa Creek; east on Highway 12 to Silcott Road; south and east on Silcott Road to Highway 128; southwest on Highway 128 to McGuire Gulch Road; southeast along the bottom of McGuire Gulch to Asotin Creek; east on Asotin Creek to the Snake River; north and west on the Snake River to Alpowa

Creek; southwest of Alpowa Creek to the Highway 12 bridge and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 1030 Republic (Ferry County):** That area within 1/2 mile surrounding the incorporated town of Republic.

**Deer Area No. 1031 Parker Lake (Pend Oreille County):** That area within GMU 117 south of Ruby Creek Rd (USFS Road 2489), north of Tacoma Creek Rd (USFS Road 2389), and west of Bonneville Power Administration power lines. The Parker Lake Deer Area is a protected area for the U.S. Air Force Military Survival Training Program that allows some limited access for special permit hunting.

**Deer Area No. 1035 Highway 395 Corridor (Stevens County):** That portion of GMU 121 beginning at the intersection of US Highway (Hwy) 395 (State Route 20) and State Route (SR) 25: S on SR 25 to Old Kettle Rd; E on Old Kettle Rd to Mingo Mountain Rd; S on Mingo Mountain Rd to Greenwood Loop Rd; E on Greenwood Loop Rd to the bridge over the Colville River; S on the Colville River to the bridge over Gold Creek Loop/Valley Westside Rd; W and S on Valley Westside Rd to the Orin-Rice Rd; E on Orin-Rice Rd to Haller Creek Rd; S on Haller Creek Rd to Skidmore Rd; E and S on Skidmore Rd to Arden Hill Rd; E on Arden Hill Rd to Townsend-Sackman Rd; S on Townsend-Sackman Rd to Twelve Mile Rd; S on Twelve Mile Rd to Marble Valley Basin Rd; S on Marble Valley Ba-

sin Rd to Zimmer Rd; S on Zimmer Rd to Blue Creek West Rd; E on Blue Creek West Rd to Dry Creek Rd; S on Dry Creek Rd to Duncan Rd; E on Duncan Rd to Tetro Rd; S on Tetro Rd to Heine Rd; E and S on Heine Rd to Farm-to-Market Rd; S on Farm-to-Market Rd to Newton Rd (also known as Rickers Lane); E on Newton Rd to US Hwy 395; N on US Hwy 395 to McLean Rd and Twelve Mile Rd (also known as Old Arden Hwy); N on McLean Rd and Twelve Mile Rd to US Hwy 395; N on US Hwy 395 to Old Arden Hwy (again); N on Old Arden Hwy to US Hwy 395; N on US Hwy 395, through the town of Colville, then W on US Hwy 395 (SR 20) to SR 25 and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 1040 (Asotin County):** That area within GMU 172 designated as the WDFW owned lands managed as the 4-0 Ranch Wildlife Area.

**Deer Area No. 1050 Spokane North (Spokane County):** From the intersection of the Spokane River and the Idaho-Washington state line, N to Hauser Lake Rd, W to Starr Rd, S to Newman Lake Dr, W and N to Foothills Rd, W to Forker Rd, N and W to Hwy 206 (Mt Spokane Park Rd), N to Feehan Rd, N to Randall Rd, W to Day Mt Spokane Rd, N to Big Meadows Rd, W to Madison Rd, N to Tallman Rd, W to Elk-Chattaroy Rd, N to Laurel Rd, E to Conklin Rd, N to Nelson Rd, E to Jackson Rd, N to Oregon Rd, E to Jefferson Rd, N to Frideger Rd, W to Elk-Camden Rd, S to Boundary Rd, N and W to Dunn Rd, S to Oregon Rd, W to Hwy 2, S on US

Hwy 2 to the Deer Park-Milan Rd, W on the Deer Park-Milan Rd to US Hwy 395 at the town of Deer Park, NW on US Hwy 395 and W onto Williams Valley Rd, W and S to Hattery Rd (Owens Rd), S and E to Swenson Rd, S to Hwy 291, west to Stone Lodge Rd, west to the Spokane River, E on the Spokane River to the Idaho state border and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 1060 Spokane South (Spokane County):** That part of GMU 127 beginning at the intersection of Spokane River and Barker Rd Bridge, Barker Rd S to 24 Ave, 24 Ave W to Barker Rd, Barker Rd S to 32 Ave, 32 Ave W to Linke Rd, Linke Rd S and E to Chapman Rd, Chapman Rd S to Linke Rd, Linke Rd S to Belmont Rd, Belmont Rd W to Jackson Rd, Jackson Rd S to Hwy 27 S to Elder Rd, Elder Rd W to Valley Chapel Rd, Valley Chapel Rd S to Spangle Creek Rd, Spangle Creek Rd SW to Hwy 195, Hwy 195 N to I-90, I-90 E to Latah Creek at I-90-Latah Creek Bridge, Latah Creek NE to Spokane River, Spokane River E to the Barker Rd Bridge and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 1070 Spokane West (Spokane County):** That part of GMU 130 beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Latah Creek at I-90-Latah Creek Bridge, NE to Hwy 195 S on Hwy 195 S to Paradise Rd, Paradise Rd W to Smythe Road, Smythe Road NW to Anderson Rd, Anderson Rd W to Cheney Spokane Rd, Cheney Spokane Rd SW to Hwy 904/1st St in the town

of Cheney, 1st SW to Salnave Rd/Hwy 902, Salnave Rd NW to Malloy Prairie Rd, Malloy Prairie Rd W to Medical Lake Tyler Rd, Medical Lake Tyler Rd N to Gray Rd, Gray Rd W then N to Fancher Rd, Fancher Rd NW to Ladd Rd, Ladd Rd N to Chase Rd, Chase Rd E to Espanola Rd, Espanola Rd N turns into Wood Rd, Wood Rd N to Coulee Hite Rd, Coulee Hite Rd E to Seven Mile Rd, Seven Mile Rd E to Spokane River, Spokane River S to Latah Creek, Latah Creek S to I-90 at the Latah Creek Bridge and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 1080 Colfax (Whitman County):** That part of GMUs 139 and 142 beginning at the intersection of Hwy 195 and Crumbaker Rd, NE on Crumbaker Rd to Brose Rd, E on Brose Rd to Glenwood Rd, S on Glenwood Rd to Hwy 272, SE on Hwy 272 to Clear Creek Rd, SE on Clear Creek Rd to Stueckle Rd, S on Stueckle Rd to Palouse River Rd, E to Kenoyier Rd SE to Abbott Rd, S on Abbott Rd to Parvin Rd, S on Parvin Rd to McIntosh Rd, S on McIntosh Rd to 4 mile Rd/Shawnee Rd, W on Shawnee Rd to Hwy 195, N on Hwy 195 to Prune Orchard Rd, W on Prune Orchard Rd to Almota Rd, S on Almota Rd to Duncan Springs Rd, W and NW on Duncan Springs Rd to Airport Rd, NW on Airport Rd to Fairgrounds Rd, N on Fairgrounds Rd to Endicott Rd, NNW on Endicott Rd to Morley Rd, E and S and E on Morley Rd to Hwy 295 (26), NE on Hwy 295 to West River Dr then follow Railroad Tracks NW to Manning Rd, E on Manning Rd to Green



Hollow Rd, E and S on Green Hollow Rd to Bill Wilson Rd, E on Bill Wilson Rd to Hwy 195, S on Hwy 195 to Crumbaker Rd and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2010 Benge (Adams and Whitman counties):** That part of GMU 284 beginning at the town of Washtucna; north on SR 261 to Weber Road; east on Weber Road to Benzel Road; north on Benzel Road to Wellsandt Road; east on Wellsandt Road to Hills Road; south on Hills Road to Urquhart Road; east on Urquhart Road to Harder Road, East on Harder Road to McCall Road; east on McCall Road to Gering Road; east on Gering Road to Lakin Road; east on Lakin Road to Revere Road; south on Revere Road to George Knott Road; south on George Knott Road to Rock Creek; south along Rock Creek to the Palouse River; south and west along the Palouse River to SR 26; west on SR 26 to Washtucna and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2011 Lakeview (Grant County):** That part of GMU 272 beginning at the junction of SR 28 and First Avenue in Ephrata; west on First Avenue to Sagebrush Flats Road; west on Sagebrush Flats Road to Norton Canyon Road; north on Norton Canyon Road to E Road NW; north on E Road NW to the Grant-Douglas county line; east along the county line to the point where the county line turns north; from this point continue due east to SR 17; south on SR 17 to SR 28 at Soap Lake; south

on SR 28 to the junction with First Avenue in Ephrata and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2012 Methow Valley (Okanogan County):** All private land in the Methow Watershed located outside the external boundary of the Okanogan National Forest and north of the following boundary: Starting where the Libby Creek Road (County road 1049) intersects the Okanogan National Forest boundary; east on road 1049 to State Hwy 153; north on Hwy 153 to the Old Carlton Road; east on the Old Carlton Road to the Texas Creek Road (County road 1543); east on the Texas Creek Road to the Vintin Road (County road 1552); northeast on the Vintin Road to the Okanogan National Forest boundary.

**Deer Area No. 2013 North Okanogan (Okanogan County):** Restricted to private land only located within the following boundary: Beginning in Tonasket at the junction of Havillah Rd and Hwy 97; NE on Havillah Rd to Dry Gulch Extension Rd; N to Dry Gulch Rd; N on Dry Gulch Rd to Oroville-Chesaw Rd; W on Oroville-Chesaw Rd to Molson Rd; N on Molson Rd to Nine Mile Rd; N and W on Nine Mile Rd to the Canadian border at the old Sidley Town Site; W along the border to the east shore of Lake Osoyoos; S around Lake Osoyoos to the Okanogan River; S along the east bank of the Okanogan River to the Tonasket Fourth Street Bridge; E on Fourth Street to Hwy 97; N on Hwy 97 to point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2014 Central Okanogan (Okanogan County):** Restricted to private land only located within the following boundary: Beginning in Tonasket on the Okanogan River at the Fourth Street Bridge; S along Hwy 7 to Pine Creek Rd; W along Pine Creek Rd to Horse Spring Coulee Rd; W and N on Horse Spring Coulee Rd to Beeman Rd; W on Beeman Rd to North Lemnasky Rd; S along North Lemnasky Rd to Pine Creek Rd; S on Pine Creek Rd to Hagood Cut-off Rd; S on Hagood Cut-off Rd to South Pine Creek Rd; E on South Pine Creek Rd to Hwy 97; S on Hwy 97 to Town of Riverside North Main Street junction; SE on North Main Street to Tunk Valley Rd and the Okanogan River Bridge; E on Tunk Creek Rd to Chewiliken Valley Rd; NE along Chewiliken Valley Rd to Talkire Lake Rd; N on Talkire Lake Rd to Hwy 20; W on Hwy 20 to the junction of Hwy 20 and Hwy 97; N on Hwy 97 to Fourth Street; W on Fourth Street to point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2015 Omak (Okanogan County):** Restricted to private land only located within the following boundary: Beginning at Hwy 97 and Riverside Cut-off road; west on Riverside Cut-off Rd to Conconully Road; south on Conconully Rd to Danker Cut-off road; west on Danker Cut-off road to Salmon Creek Rd; north on Salmon Creek Rd to Spring Coulee Rd; south on Spring Coulee Rd to B&O Road North Rd; southwest on B&O North Rd to Hwy 20; east on Hwy 20 to B&O Rd; south on B&O Rd

to the Town of Malott and the bridge over the Okanogan River; north along the west bank of the Okanogan River to the Town of Riverside and the Tunk Valley road bridge; west on Tunk Valley road to State Street in Riverside; south on State Street to 2nd Street; west on 2nd Street to Hwy 97 and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2016 Conconully (Okanogan County):** Restricted to private land only located within the following boundary: Beginning at the Conconully town limit at the south edge of Town and the east shore of Conconully Reservoir; south along the east shore of the reservoir to Salmon Creek; south along the east bank of Salmon Creek to Salmon Creek road at the old Ruby Town site; south on Salmon Creek road to Green Lake road; northeast on Green Lake road to Conconully road; north on Conconully road to the south limit of the Town of Conconully and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 2017 Lake Chelan North (Chelan County):** Restricted to private land only located within the following boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Purtteman Creek (Purtteman Gulch) and Lake Chelan; NE along Purtteman Creek to Boyd Road; E on Boyd Road to Purtteman Creek Road; N on Purtteman Creek Road to the USFS boundary; W along the USFS boundary to Canyon Ranch Road (Joe Creek); SE on Canyon Ranch Road to Grade Creek Road; SE on Grade Creek Road to Lower Joe Creek

Road; SE on Lower Joe Creek Road to Emerson Acres Road; west on Emerson Acres Road to Lake Chelan; S along the north shore of Lake Chelan to the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 3071 Whitcomb (Benton County):** That part of GMU 373 made up by the Whitcomb Unit of the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

**Deer Area No. 3072 Paterson (Benton County):** That part of GMU 373 made up by the Paterson Unit of the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge.

**Deer Area No. 3088 High Prairie (Klickitat County):** That portion of GMU 388 (Grayback) that is south of SR 142.

**Deer Area No. 3334 Ellensburg (Kittitas County):** Beginning at the confluence of the Yakima River and Wilson Creek, north up Wilson Creek to the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, west and north on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail to State Hwy 10, north and west on State Hwy 10 to the Thorp Highway, south and east on the Thorp Highway to the Yakima River (Thorp Highway Bridge), south and upstream on the Yakima River to the confluence of Taneum Creek and the Yakima River, south and west up Taneum Creek to the South Branch Canal, south and east on the South Branch Canal and South Branch Extension Canal to Umtanum Road, north on Umtanum Road to Lower Riverbottom Road, east and south on Lower Riverbottom Road to the Fogarty Ditch, south and east on the Fogarty

Ditch to the Yakima River, south and east along the Yakima River to Wilson Creek and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 3682 Ahtanum (Yakima County):** That part of GMU 368 beginning at the power line crossing on Ahtanum Creek in T12N, R16E, Section 15; west up Ahtanum Creek to South Fork Ahtanum Creek; southwest up South Fork Ahtanum Creek to its junction with Reservation Creek; southwest up Reservation Creek and the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary to the main divide between the Diamond Fork drainage and Ahtanum Creek drainage; north along the crest of the main divide between the Diamond Fork drainage and the Ahtanum Creek drainage to Darland Mountain; northeast on US Forest Service Trail 615 to US Forest Service Road 1020; northeast on US Forest Service Road 1020 to US Forest Service Road 613; northeast on US Forest Service Road 613 to US Forest Service Trail 1127; northeast on US Forest Service Trail 1127 to US Forest Service Road 1302 (Jump Off Road), southeast of the Jump Off Lookout Station; northeast on US Forest Service Road 1302 (Jump Off Road) to Hwy 12. Northeast on Hwy 12 to the Naches River. Southeast down the Naches River to Cowiche Creek. West up Cowiche Creek and the South Fork Cowiche Creek to Summitview Ave. Northwest on Summitview Ave to Cowiche Mill Road. West on Cowiche Mill Road to the

power line in the northeast corner of T13N, R15E, SEC 13. Southeast along the power line to Ahtanum Creek and the point of beginning.

**Deer Area No. 3372 Sunnyside (Yakima County):** Beginning in Union Gap

where I-82 crosses the Yakima River, follow I-82 east to the Yakima

River Bridge in Prosser. Upstream on the Yakima River to the point of

beginning. The islands in the Yakima River are on the Yakama Indian

Reservation and are not part of the deer area.

**Deer Area No. 5064:** That part of GMU 564 in the Columbia River near the mouth of the Cowlitz River made up of Cottonwood Island and Howard Island.

**Deer Area No. 6020 (Clallam and Jefferson counties):** Dungeness-Miller Peninsula: That part of GMU 624 west of Discovery Bay and Salmon Creek.

[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), § 232-28-624, 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), § 232-28-624, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-624, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

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

### WAC 232-28-624 Deer Area Descriptions

#### **Supporting Comments:**

About 53% of the 38 comments received supported the proposed rule change. The support was highlighted by folks who saw the value in the deer areas for effective deer population management.

#### **Opposing and Other Comments:**

About 37% of the 38 comments received opposed the rule change, with concern that the regulations would become more complicated and more difficult to discern. Another was concerned the additional boundaries could have a negative impact on hunter recruitment.

#### **Direction and Rationale:**

The intent of Deer Areas is to allow hunting to be used as a management tool at a smaller, more flexible scale than the Game Management Unit. The changes recommended create three new Deer Areas to accomplish this. None of the comments received on this WAC required changes to the recommendations being made to the Fish and Wildlife Commission



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-10-059, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15)

**WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.**

The following areas are defined as elk areas:

**Elk Area No. 1008 West Wenaha (Columbia County):** That part of GMU 169 west of USFS trail 3112 from Tepee Camp (east fork of Butte Creek) to Butte Creek, and west of Butte Creek to the Washington-Oregon state line.

**Elk Area No. 1009 East Wenaha (Columbia, Garfield, Asotin counties):** That portion of GMU 169 east of USFS trail 3112 from Tepee Camp (east fork Butte Creek) to Butte Creek, and east of Butte Creek to the Washington-Oregon state line.

**Elk Area No. 1010 (Columbia County):** GMU 162 excluding National Forest land and the Rainwater Wildlife Area.

**Elk Area No. 1011 (Columbia County):** That part of GMU 162 east of the North Touchet Road, excluding National Forest land.

**Elk Area No. 1012 (Columbia County):** That part of GMU 162 west of the North Touchet Road, excluding National Forest land and the Rainwater Wildlife Area.

**Elk Area No. 1013 (Asotin County):** GMU 172, excluding National Forest lands and the 4-0 Ranch Wildlife Area.

**Elk Area No. 1015 Turnbull (Spokane County):** Located in GMU 130, designated areas within the boundaries of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.

**Elk Area No. 1016 (Columbia County):** GMU-162 Dayton, excluding the Rainwater Wildlife Area.

**Elk Area No. 1040 (Asotin County):** That area within GMU 172 designated as the WDFW-owned lands managed as the 4-0 Ranch Wildlife Area.

**Elk Area No. 1081 (Asotin County):** All of GMU 181 Couse, including the portion of GMU 172 starting at the intersection of Mill Road and Highway 129 in Anatone, south along Hwy 129 to Smyth Rd, west and then north on Smyth Rd to the intersection of E Mountain Rd, west along E Mountain Rd to the intersection of W Mountain Rd, north along W Mountain Rd to Mill Road, east on Mill Rd to the starting point.

**Elk Area No. 2032 Malaga (Kittitas and Chelan counties):** Beginning at the mouth of Davies Canyon on the Columbia River; west along Davies Canyon to the cliffs above (north of) the North Fork Tarpiscan Creek; west and north along the cliffs to the Bonneville Power Line; southwest along the power line to the North Fork Tarpiscan Road in Section 9, Township 20N, Range 21E; north and west along North Fork Tarpiscan

Road to Colockum Pass Road (Section 9, Township 20N, Range 21E); south and west on Colockum Pass Road to section line between Sections 8 & 9; north along the section line between Sections 8 and 9 as well as Sections 4 & 5 (T20N, R21E) & Sections 32 & 33 (T21N, R21E) to Moses Carr Road; west and north on Moses Carr Road to Jump Off Road; south and west on Jump Off Road to Shaller Road; north and west on Shaller Road to Upper Basin Loop Road; north and west on Upper Basin Loop Road to Wheeler Ridge Road; north on Wheeler Ridge Road to the Basin Loop Road (pavement) in Section 10 (T21N, R20E); north on Basin Loop Road to Wenatchee Heights Road; west on Wenatchee Heights Road to Squilchuck Road; south on Squilchuck Road to Beehive Road (USFS Rd 9712); northwest on Beehive Road to USFS Rd 7100 near Beehive Reservoir; north and west on USFS Rd 7100 to Peavine Canyon Road (USFS Rd 7101); north and east on Peavine Canyon Road to Number Two Canyon Road; north on Number Two Canyon Road to Crawford Street in Wenatchee; east on Crawford Street to the Columbia River; south and east along the Columbia River to Davies Canyon and point of beginning. (Naneum Green Dot, Washington Gazetteer, Wenatchee National Forest)

**Elk Area No. 2033 Peshastin (Chelan County):** Starting at the Division St bridge over the Wenatchee River in the town of Cashmere; S on Aplets Way then Division St to Pioneer St; W on Pioneer St to Mission

Creek Rd; S on Mission Creek Rd to Binder Rd; W on Binder Rd to Mission Creek Rd; S on Mission Creek Rd to Tripp Canyon Rd; W on Tripp Canyon Rd to where Tripp Canyon Rd stops following Tripp Creek; W on Tripp Creek to its headwaters; W up the drainage, about 1000 feet, to US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 7200-160; W on USFS Rd 7200-160 to Camas Creek Rd (USFS Rd 7200); W on Camas Creek Rd (USFS 7200 Rd) (excluding Camas Land firearm closure\*) to US Hwy 97; N on US Hwy 97 to Mountain Home Rd (USFS 7300 Rd); N on Mountain Home Rd to the Wenatchee River in the town of Leavenworth; S on the Wenatchee River to the Division St bridge in Cashmere and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 2051 Tronsen (Chelan County):** All of GMU 251 except that portion described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Naneum Ridge Road (WDFW Rd 9) and Ingersol Road (WDFW Rd 1); north and east on Ingersol Road to Colockum Road (WDFW Rd 10); east on Colockum Road and Colockum Creek to the intersection of Colockum Creek and the Columbia River; south on the Columbia River to mouth of Tarpiscan Creek; west up Tarpiscan Creek and Tarpiscan Road (WDFW Rd 14) and North Fork Road (WDFW Rd 10.10) to the intersection of North Fork Road and Colockum Road; southwest on Colockum Road to Naneum Ridge Road; west on Naneum Ridge Road to Ingersol Road and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 3681 Ahtanum (Yakima County):** That part of GMU 368 beginning at the power line crossing on Ahtanum Creek in T12N, R16E, Section 15; west up Ahtanum Creek to South Fork Ahtanum Creek; southwest up South Fork Ahtanum Creek to its junction with Reservation Creek; southwest up Reservation Creek and the Yakama Indian Reservation boundary to the main divide between the Diamond Fork drainage and Ahtanum Creek drainage; north along the crest of the main divide between the Diamond Fork drainage and the Ahtanum Creek drainage to Darland Mountain; northeast on US Forest Service Trail 615 to US Forest Service Road 1020; northeast on US Forest Service Road 1020 to US Forest Service Road 613; northeast on US Forest Service Road 613 to US Forest Service Trail 1127; northeast on US Forest Service Trail 1127 to US Forest Service Road 1302 (Jump Off Road), southeast of the Jump Off Lookout Station; northeast on US Forest Service Road 1302 (Jump Off Road) to Highway 12; northeast on Highway 12 to the Naches River; southeast down the Naches River to Cowiche Creek; west up Cowiche Creek and South Fork Cowiche Creek to Summitview Avenue; northwest on Summitview Avenue to Cowiche Mill Road; west on Cowiche Mill Road to the power line in the northeast corner of T13N, R15E, SEC 13; southeast along the power line to Ahtanum Creek and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 3721 Corral Canyon (Benton and Yakima counties):** That part of GMU 372 beginning at the Yakima River Bridge on SR 241 just north of Mabton; north along SR 241 to the Rattlesnake Ridge Road (mile post #19); east on Rattlesnake Ridge Road to the Hanford Reach National Monument's (HRNM) southwest corner boundary; east and south along the HRNM boundary to SR 225; south on SR 225 to the Yakima River Bridge in Benton City; west (upstream) along Yakima River to point of beginning (SR 241 Bridge).

**Elk Area No. 3722 Blackrock (Benton and Yakima counties):** That part of GMU 372 beginning at southern corner of the Yakima Training Center border on Columbia River, northwest of Priest Rapids Dam; southeast on southern shore of Columbia River (Priest Rapids Lake) to Priest Rapids Dam; east along Columbia River to the Hanford Reach National Monument's (HRNM) western boundary; south along the HRNM boundary to the Rattlesnake Ridge Road; west on Rattlesnake Ridge Road to SR 241; south on SR 241 to the Yakima River Bridge just north of Mabton; west along Yakima River to SR 823 (Harrison Road) south of town of Pomona; east along SR 823 (Harrison Road) to SR 821; southeast on SR 821 to Firing Center Road at I-82; east on Firing Center Road to main gate of Yakima Training Center; south and east along Yakima Training Center

boundary to southern corner of Yakima Training Center boundary on Columbia River and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 3911 Fairview (Kittitas County):** Beginning at the intersection of the BPA Power Lines in T20N, R14E, Section 36 and Interstate 90; east along the power lines to Highway 903 (Salmon La Sac Road); northwest along Highway 903 to Pennsylvania Avenue; northeast along Pennsylvania Avenue to No. 6 Canyon Road; northeast along No. 6 Canyon Road to Cle Elum Ridge Road; north along Cle Elum Ridge Road to Carlson Canyon Road; northeast along Carlson Canyon Road to West Fork Teanaway River; east along West Fork Teanaway River to North Fork Teanaway River; north along North Fork Teanaway River to Teanaway Road; southeast on Teanaway Road to Ballard Hill Road; east on Ballard Hill Rd and Swauk Prairie Road to Hwy 970; northeast on Hwy 970 to Hwy 97; south on Hwy 97 to the power lines in T20N, R17E, Section 34; east on the power lines to Naneum Creek; south on Naneum Creek approximately 1/2 mile to power lines in T19N, R19E, Section 20; east along BPA power lines to Colockum Pass Road in T19N, R20E, Section 16; south on Colockum Pass Road to BPA power lines in T18N, R20E, Section 6; east and south along power lines to the Yakima Training Center boundary; south and west along the Yakima Training Center boundary to I-82; north on I-82 to Thrall Road; west on Thrall Road to Wilson Creek;

south on Wilson Creek to Yakima River; north on Yakima River to gas pipeline crossing in T17N, R18E, Section 25; south and west on the gas pipeline to Umtanum Creek; west on Umtanum Creek to the Durr Road; north on the Durr Road to Umtanum Road; north on Umtanum Road to South Branch Canal; west on South Branch Canal to Bradshaw/Hanson Road; west on Bradshaw Road to the elk fence; north and west along the elk fence to power line crossing in T19N, R16E, Section 10; west along the power line (south branch) to Big Creek; north on Big Creek to Nelson Siding Road; west and north on Nelson Siding Road to I-90; east on I-90 to point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 3912 Old Naches (Yakima County):** Starting at the elk fence and Roza Canal along the south boundary T14N, R19E, Section 8; following the elk fence to the bighorn sheep feeding site in T15N, R16E, Section 36; south on the feeding site access road to the Old Naches Highway; west and south on the Old Naches Highway to State Route 12 and the Naches River; down the Naches River to the Tieton River; up the Tieton River approximately 2 miles to the intersection of the metal footbridge and the elk fence at the south end of the bridge in T14N, R16E, Section 3; south along the elk fence to the top of the cliff/rimrock line; southwest along the top of the cliff/rimrock line to the irrigation canal in T14N, R16E, Section 9;



southwest along the irrigation canal to the elk fence in T14N, R16E, Section 8; south along the elk fence to the township line between T12N, R15E and T12N, R16E; south along the township line to the South Fork Ahtanum Creek; downstream along the South Fork Ahtanum Creek and Ahtanum Creek to the Yakima River; upstream along the Yakima River to Roza Canal and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 4601 North Bend (King County):** That portion of GMU 460 beginning at the interchange of State Route (SR) 18 and I-90; W on I-90 to SE 82nd St, Exit 22, at the town of Preston; N on SE 82nd Street to Preston Fall City Rd SE (Old SR 203); N on Preston Fall City Rd SE to SE Fall City Snoqualmie Rd (SR 202) at the town of Fall City; E on SE Fall City Snoqualmie Rd to the crossing of Tokul Creek; N and E up Tokul Creek to its crossing with Tokul Rd SE; S on SE Tokul Rd to SE 53rd Way; E on SE 53rd Way where it turns into 396th Dr SE then S on 396th Dr SE to SE Reinig Rd; E on SE Reinig Rd to 428th Ave SE; N on 428th Ave SE to where it turns into North Fork Rd SE; N and E on North Fork Rd SE to Ernie's Grove Rd; E on Ernie's Grove Rd to SE 70th St; N on SE 70th St to its ends at Fantastic Falls on the North Fork Snoqualmie River; SW down the North Fork Snoqualmie River to Fantastic Falls and the Mt Si Natural Resource Conservation Area boundary then S and E along the southern boundary of the Mt Si NRCA to the "School

Bus" turnaround at SE 114th St; S on 480th Ave SE to SE 130th St; S and E on SE 130th St to its end; SSE overland from the end of SE 130th St, over the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, to the end of 486th Ave SE; S on 486th Ave SE to the intersection with SE Middle Fork Road; Due S, from said intersection, up Grouse Mountain toward its peak, to the logging road adjacent to Grouse Mountain Peak; S down the logging road to Grouse Ridge Access Rd; W on Grouse Ridge Access Road which becomes SE 146th St; W on SE 146th St to I-90 then east along I-90 to the W boundary of Olallie/Twin Falls State Park then S along the state park western boundary to its most western boundary where it intersects with the boundary of the Iron Horse State Park; W along the boundary of Iron Horse State Park to the boundary of the Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area; W along the boundary of the Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area to Cedar Falls Rd SE; N along the Cedar Falls Rd to SE 174th Way; W on SE 174th Way to SE 174th St; W on SE 174th St to SE 173rd St; W on SE 173rd St to SE 170th Pl; W on SE 170th Pl to SE 169th St; W on SE 169th St to 424th Ave SE; N on 424th Ave SE to SE 168th St; W on SE 168th St to 422 Ave SE; N on 422 Ave SE to 426th Way SE; S on 426th Way SE to SE 164th St; E on SE 164th St to Uplands Way SE; W on Uplands Way SE to the crossing with the Power Transmission Lines; W along the Power Transmission Lines to the Winery Rd; NW on the Winery

Rd to SE 99th Rd; W and N on SE 99th Rd to the I-90 interchange, at Exit 27; SW on I-90 to the interchange with SR 18 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 4941 Skagit River (Skagit County):** That portion of GMU 437 beginning at the intersection of State Route 9 and State Route 20; east on State Route 20 to Concrete-Sauk Valley Road; south on Concrete-Sauk Valley Road over The Dalles Bridge (Skagit River) to the intersection with the South Skagit Highway; west on South Skagit Highway to State Route 9; north on State Route 9 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5029 Toledo (Lewis and Cowlitz counties):** Beginning at the Cowlitz River and State Highway 505 junction; east along the Cowlitz River to the Weyerhaeuser 1800 Road; south along Weyerhaeuser 1800 Road to Cedar Creek Road; east along Cedar Creek Road to Due Road; south on Due Road to Weyerhaeuser 1823 Road; south along Weyerhaeuser 1823 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 1945 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 1945 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 1900 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 1900 Road to the North Fork Toutle River; west along the North Fork Toutle River to the Toutle River; west on the Toutle River to the Cowlitz River; North along the Cowlitz River to the junction of State Highway 505 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5049 Ethel (Lewis County):** That part of GMU 505 beginning at the intersection of Jackson Highway and Highway 12; south along Jackson Highway to Buckley Road; south on Buckley Road to Spencer Road; east on Spencer Road to Fuller Road; north on Fuller Road to Highway 12; east on Highway 12 to Stowell Road; north on Stowell Road to Gore Road; west on Gore Road to Larmon Road; west on Larmon Road to Highway 12; west on Highway 12 to Jackson Highway and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5050 Newaukum (Lewis County):** That part of GMU 505 beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 12; east on Highway 12 to Larmon Road; east on Larmon Road to Leonard Road; north on Leonard Road through the town of Onalaska to Deggler Road; north on Deggler Road to Middle Fork Road; east on Middle Fork Road to Beck Road; north on Beck Road to Centralia-Alpha Road; west on Centralia-Alpha Road to Logan Hill Road; south then west on Logan Hill Road to Jackson Highway; south on Jackson Highway to the Newaukum River; west along the Newaukum River to Interstate 5; south on Interstate 5 to Highway 12 and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5051 Green Mountain (Cowlitz County):** Beginning at the junction of the Cowlitz River and the Toutle River; east along the Toutle River to the North Fork Toutle River; east along the North Fork

Toutle River to the Weyerhaeuser 1900 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 1900 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 1910 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 1910 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 2410 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 2410 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4553 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 4553 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4500 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 4500 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4400 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 4400 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4100 Road; east along the Weyerhaeuser 4100 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4700 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 4700 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4720 Road; west along the Weyerhaeuser 4720 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4730 Road; west along the Weyerhaeuser 4730 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4732 Road; west along the Weyerhaeuser 4732 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4790 Road; west along the Weyerhaeuser 4790 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 1390 Road; south along the Weyerhaeuser 1390 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 1600 Road; west along the Weyerhaeuser 1600 Road to the Weyerhaeuser Logging Railroad Tracks at Headquarters; west along the Weyerhaeuser Logging Railroad Track to Ostrander Creek; west along Ostrander Creek to the Cowlitz River; north along the Cowlitz River to the Toutle River and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5052 Mossyrock (Lewis County):** Beginning at the intersection of Winston Creek Road and State Highway 12; east on State Highway

12 to the Cowlitz River; east on the Cowlitz River to Riffe Lake; southeast along the south shore of Riffe Lake to Swofford Pond outlet creek; south on Swofford Pond outlet creek to Green Mountain Road; west on Green Mountain Road to Perkins Road; west on Perkins Road to Longbell Road; south on Longbell Road to Winston Creek Road; north on Winston Creek Road to State Highway 12 and the point of beginning.

(All lands owned and managed by the Cowlitz Wildlife Area are excluded from this Elk Area.)

**Elk Area No. 5053 Randle (Lewis County):** Beginning at the town of Randle and the intersection of U.S. Highway 12 and State Route 131 (Forest Service 23 and 25 roads); south on State Route 131 to Forest Service 25 Road; south on Forest Service 25 Road to the Cispus River; west along the Cispus River to the Champion 300 line bridge; south and west on the Champion 300 line to the Champion Haul Road; north along the Champion Haul Road to Kosmos Road; north on Kosmos Road to U.S. Highway 12; east on U.S. Highway 12 to Randle and point of beginning.

(All lands owned and managed by the Cowlitz Wildlife Area are excluded from this Elk Area.)

**Elk Area No. 5054 Boistfort (Lewis County):** Beginning at the town of Vader; west along State Highway 506 to the Wildwood Road; north along the Wildwood Road to the Abernathy 500 line gate (Section 20, T11N,

R3W, Willamette Meridian); northwest along the 500, 540, and 560 lines to the Weyerhaeuser 813 line; northwest along the 813, 812, 5000J, 5000 and 4000 lines to the Pe Ell/McDonald Road (Section 15, T12N, R4W); west along the Pe Ell/McDonald Road to the Lost Valley Road; northeast along the Lost Valley Road to the Boistfort Road; north along the Boistfort Road to the King Road; east along the King Road to the town of Winlock and State Highway 603; south along Highway 505 to Interstate 5; south along Interstate 5 to State Hwy 506; west along State Hwy 506 to the town of Vader and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5056 Grays River Valley (Wahkiakum County):** That area in GMU 506 on or within 1.5 miles of agricultural land in the Grays River Valley and Eden Valley within the following sections: T11N, R08W, Section 36; T11N, R07W, Sections 31, 32, 33; T10N, R7W, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32; T10N, R8W, Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36; T09N, R08W, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15; T09N, R07W, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8.

**Elk Area No. 5057 Carlton (Lewis County):** That part of 513 (South Rainier) lying east of Highway 123 and north of Highway 12.

**Elk Area No. 5058 West Goat Rocks (Lewis County):** Goat Rocks Wilderness west of the Pacific Crest Trail.

**Elk Area No. 5059 Mt. Adams Wilderness (Skamania and Yakima counties):**

The Mt. Adams Wilderness.

**Elk Area No. 5060 Merwin (Cowlitz County):** Begin at the State Route 503 and the Longview Fibre Road WS-8000 junction; north and west on the Longview Fibre Road WS-8000 to Day Place Road; west on Day Place Road to Dubois Road; south on Dubois Road to State Route 503; east on State Route 503 to the State Route 503 and the Longview Fibre Road WS-8000 junction and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5061 Wildwood (Lewis County):** Beginning at the junction of the Pacific West Timber (PWT) 600 Road and the Wildwood Road (SE1/4 S29 T11N R3W); southwest on the 600 Road to the 800 Road (NW1/4 S36 T11N R4W); southwest on the 800 Road to the 850 Road (SW1/4 S3 T10N R4W); northwest on the 850 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4720 Road (S20 T11N R4W); north on the Weyerhaeuser 4720 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 4700 Road (S17 T11N R4W); east on the Weyerhaeuser 4700 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 5822 Road (NW1/4 S16 T11N R4W); east on the Weyerhaeuser 5822 Road to the Weyerhaeuser 5820 Road (NW1/4 S10 T11N R4W); southeast on the Weyerhaeuser 5820 Road to the PWT 574 Road (SE1/4 S10 T11N R4W); south on the PWT 574 Road to the 570 Road (NW1/4 S14 T11N R4W); south on the 570 Road to the 500 Road (NW1/4 S14 T11N R4W); northeast on the 500 Road to the 560 Road (SW1/4 S12 T11N R4W); east on the 560



Road to the 540 Road (SE1/4 S12 T11N R4W); east and south on the 540 Road to the 500 Road (SE1/4 S18 T11N R3W); east on the PWT 500 Road to the Wildwood Road (N1/2 S20 T11N R3W); south on the Wildwood Road to the point of beginning, the PWT 600 Road junction (SE1/4 S29 T11N R3W).

**Elk Area No. 5062 Trout Lake (Klickitat County):** Those portions of GMU 578 (West Klickitat) beginning at the intersection of SR 141 and Sunnyside Road; north on Sunnyside Road to Mount Adams Recreational Area Road; (including agricultural land on the Trout Lake Valley floor north of Sunnyside Road within T06N R10E in Sections 13 and 14); south on Mount Adams Recreational Area Road to the intersection of SR 141 and south on SR 141 and Sunnyside Road to the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5063 Pumice Plain (Cowlitz and Skamania counties):** That part of GMU 522 beginning at the confluence of the N. Fork Toutle River and Castle Creek; East along the N. Fork Toutle River to USFS trail 207; south along USFS trail 207 to USFS trail 216E; southwest along USFS trail 216E to USFS trail 216; west along USGS trail 216 to USGS 216G; northwest along USFS trail 216G to USGS trail 221; north along USFS 221 to Castle Creek; northwest along Castle Creek to N. Fork Toutle River and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5064 Upper Smith Creek (Skamania County):** That part of GMU 522 beginning at the U.S. Forest Service Rd. 99 and U.S. Forest Service Trail 225 (Smith Creek Trail) junction; south on Trail 225 to Ape Canyon Creek; south and west up Ape Canyon Creek to U.S. Forest Service Trail 216 (Loowit Trail); north on Trail 216 to U.S. Forest Service Trail 216D (Abraham Trail); north on Trail 216D to U.S. Forest Service Trail 207 (Truman Trail); north and east on Trail 207 to U.S. Forest Service Rd. 99; north and east on U.S. Forest Service Rd. 99 to the junction of U.S. Forest Service Rd. 99 and U.S. Forest Service Trail 225 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5065 Mount Whittier (Skamania County):** That part of GMU 522 beginning at the U.S. Forest Service Trail 1 (Boundary Trail) and U.S. Forest Service Trail 214 (Whittier Ridge Trail) junction; west on the U.S. Forest Service Trail 1 to U.S. Forest Service Trail 230 (Coldwater Trail); north on U.S. Forest Service Trail 230 to U.S. Forest Service Trail 211 (Lakes Trail); east on Trail 211 to U.S. Forest Service Trail 214; south on U.S. Forest Service Trail 214 to the junction of U.S. Forest Service Trail 214 and U.S. Forest Service Trail 1 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5066 Norway Pass (Lewis and Skamania counties):** That part of GMU 524 beginning at the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Trail 211

(Lakes Trail) and USFS Trail 230 (Coldwater Trail) junction; NE to Minnie Peak; W to the USFS property boundary in the SE 1/4 of Section 20, T10N, R5E; N along the USFS property boundary to the Green River; E up the Green River to the USFS Rd 2612; E on the USFS Rd 2612 to USFS Rd 26; S on USFS Rd 26 to USFS Trail 1 (Boundary Trail); W on USFS Trail 1 to USFS Trail 214 (Whittier Trail); N on USFS Trail 214 to USFS Trail 211 (Lakes Trail); W on USFS Trail 211 to the USFS Trail 211, Trail 230 junction and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5090 JBH (Wahkiakum County):** The mainland portion of the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, as administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as described: Beginning at the junction of State Route 4 and Steamboat Island Slough Road, northwest on Steamboat Island Slough Road to Brooks Slough Road, east on Brooks Slough Road to State Route 4, south on State Route 4 to Steamboat Slough Road and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 5099 Mudflow (Cowlitz County):** That part of GMU 522 beginning on the North Fork Toutle River at the mouth of Hoffstadt Creek; SE up the North Fork Toutle River to Deer Creek; SE up Deer Creek to Weyerhaeuser (Weyco) 3020 line; NW along Weyco 3020 line to Weyco 3000 line; E along Weyco 3000 line to Weyco 3000P line; E on the 3000P line to Weyco 5600 Line to the Mount Saint Helens National Vol-

canic Monument Boundary; N on the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument Boundary to SR 504; W on SR 504 to Hoffstadt Creek Bridge on Hoffstadt Creek; S and W down Hoffstadt Creek to the North Fork Toutle River and point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6010 Mallis (Pacific County):** That part of GMUs 506, 672, and 673 within one and one-half mile either side of SR 6 between the east end of Elk Prairie Rd and the Mallis Landing Rd, and all lands within a half mile of Elk Creek Rd bounded on the south by Monohon Landing Rd.

**Elk Area No. 6011 Centralia Mine (Lewis County):** That portion of GMU 667 within Centralia Mine property boundary.

**Elk Area No. 6012 Tri Valley (Grays Harbor and Mason counties):** Those portions of GMUs 648 (Wynoochee) and 651 (Satsop) within one mile of Brady-Matlock Road from State Highway 12 north to the junction with Schaefer State Park Road (east Satsop Road) and all lands within one mile of Wynoochee Valley Road from State Highway 12 north to the junction with Cougar Smith Road, and all lands within one mile of Wishkah Valley Road from north Aberdeen city limit to mile post 16 and all lands within 2 miles north of SR 12 between the Satsop River and Schouweiler and Hurd roads and then a line north from the end of Hurd Road to a point 2 miles north of SR 12.

**Elk Area No. 6013 (Pierce County):** That part of GMU 652 beginning at the intersection of Highway 167 and Highway 410; north on Highway 167 to Highway 18; east on Highway 18 to Highway 164; southeasterly on Highway 164 to intersection with power transmission line in T20 R6 Section 18. West along power transmission line to intersection with 226th Ave E. South on 226th Ave East to intersection with 40th St E, east on 40th St E to 230th Ave E, South on 230th Ave E to Radke Road. Southwest on Radke to Barkubine Road, South on Barkubine Road to Connells Prairie; West on Connells Prairie Rd to 214th Ave E, South on 214th Ave E to Highway 410; westerly on Highway 410 to Highway 167 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6014 (Pierce County):** Starting at Highway 164 intersection with power transmission line in T20 R6 Section 18; W along power transmission line to intersection with 226th Ave E; S on 226th Ave East to intersection with 40th St E; E on 40th St E to 230th Ave E; S on 230th Ave E to Radke Rd; SW on Radke to Barkubine Rd; S on Barkubine Rd to Connells Prairie; W on Connells Prairie Rd to 214th Ave E; S on 214th Ave E to South Prairie Road; SE on South Prairie Road to Highway 162; E on Hwy 162 to Hwy 165; NE on Hwy 165 to Hwy 410; NE on Hwy 410 to White River; SE along White River to intersection with power transmission lines in T19N R7E S; NE on power trans-

mission lines to intersection with Hwy 410 West on SR 410 to Hwy 164; NW on Highway 164 to starting point.

**Elk Area No. 6054 Puyallup River (Pierce County):** That portion of GMU 654 beginning at the intersection of Mount Rainier National Park's western boundary and State Route (SR) 706; W on SR 706 (~~(to 278th Ave E; N on 278th Ave E to WA Dept of Natural Resources' (DNR) 1300 Rd; NW on DNR 1300 Rd)~~) to intersection with Highway 7 at Elbe; NW on Highway 7 to Alder Cutoff Rd; N on Alder Cutoff Rd to Scott Turner Rd; NW on Scott Turner Rd to Alder Cutoff Rd; W and NE on Alder Cutoff Rd to Center St SE in the town of Eatonville; NW on Center St SE to SR 161; N and W on SR 161 to Orville Rd E; N on Orville Rd E, past Lake Ohop and Lake Kapowsin, to the bridge crossing the Puyallup River; SE up the Puyallup River to Mount Rainier National Park's western boundary; S on Mount Rainier National Park's western boundary to SR 706 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6061 Twin Satsop Farms (Mason County):** That portion of GMU 651 starting at the junction of the Deckerville Road and the Brady-Matlock Road; southwest to the junction with the West Boundary Road; north on West Boundary Road to the Deckerville Road; east on the Deckerville Road to the junction of Brady-Matlock Road and point of

beginning. In addition, the area within a circle with a radius of two miles centered on the junction of State Route 108 and the Eich Road.

**Elk Area No. 6062 South Bank (Grays Harbor County):** That portion of GMU 660 (Minot Peak) described as follows: Beginning at Highway 12 and Wakefield Road Junction (South Elma); south on Wakefield Road, across the Chehalis River to the South Bank Road; southeast on the South Bank Road to Delezene Road; south on the Delezene Road to a point one mile from the South Bank Road; southeast along a line one mile southwest of the South Bank Road to the Oakville-Brooklyn Road; east on the Oakville-Brooklyn Road to Oakville and Highway 12; northwest on Highway 12 to Wakefield Road to Elma and the point of beginning.

~~((Elk Area No. 6063 (Grays Harbor and Jefferson counties): Private lands within Elk Area 6064 east of Highway 101.))~~

**Elk Area No. 6064 Quinault Valley (Grays Harbor and Jefferson counties):** That portion of GMU 638 (Quinault) ~~((within the Quinault River watershed east of Gatton Creek and Lake Quinault excluding US Forest Service (USFS) Colonel Bob Wilderness Area))~~ beginning on the Olympic National Park boundary and the Quinault Indian reservation boundary at the northwest corner of Lake Quinault; NE along the west shore of Lake Quinault to the Quinault River; NE on the Olympic National Park boundary, which is along the Quinault River, to intersection with USFS

Colonel Bob Wilderness Area. West along boundary of Colonel Bob Wilderness area to intersection with Haas Creek. Downstream along Haas Creek to intersection with USFS Olympic National Forest boundary. West along USFS boundary to intersection with Lake Quinault. ((within the Quinault River watershed east of Gatton Creek and Lake Quinault excluding US Forest Service (USFS) Colonel Bob Wilderness Area)) beginning at the mouth of the Quinault River; NE on the Olympic National Park boundary, which is along the Quinault River, to the intersection with USFS Colonel Bob Wilderness Area; then SW along the Colonel Bob Wilderness area Western boundary to its intersection with Haas Creek; then downstream along Haas Creek to its intersection with USFS Olympic National Forest boundary; then SW along USFS boundary to the Lake Quinault shoreline; then N along the East shore of Lake Quinault to the mouth of Quinault River and the point of the beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6066 Chehalis Valley (Grays Harbor County):** That portion of GMU 660 (Minot Peak) beginning at Highway 12 and Highway 107 junction near Montesano; east and south on Highway 12 to Oakville; south on Oakville-Brooklyn Road to a point one mile west of South Bank Road; northwest along a line one mile southwest of South Bank Road to Delezene Road; north along Delezene Road to South Bank Road; northwest along South Bank Road to Wakefield Road; north on Wakefield Road to



Chehalis River; west on Chehalis River to Highway 107 bridge; north on Highway 107 to Highway 12 and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6068 Willapa (Grays Harbor County):** That part of GMU 658 south of SR 105 between the intersection of SR 105 and Hammond Road and the SR 105 bridge over Smith Creek; and within one mile north of SR 105 west from Hammond Road and east of the SR 105 bridge over Smith Creek.

**Elk Area No. 6069 Hanaford (Lewis and Thurston counties):** That part of GMU 667 (Skookumchuck) beginning at the intersection of Salzer Valley Rd and S Pearl St (Centralia); N on S Pearl St to N Pearl St; N on N Pearl St to State Hwy 507; W and N on State Hwy 507 to Skookumchuck Rd; E on Skookumchuck Rd to the first bridge over the Skookumchuck River; E along the Skookumchuck River to the Skookumchuck Rd bridge; E on Skookumchuck Rd to the steel tower power line; SW along the power line to Big Hanaford Rd; E and S along Big Hanaford Rd to the intersection with the main stem of Hanaford Creek; SE along Hanaford Creek to the range line between Range 1W and Range 1E of Township 14N; S on the range line between Range 1W and Range 1E of Township 14N to Mitchell Creek; SW on Mitchell Creek to the North Fork of the Newaukum River; SW on the North Fork of the Newaukum River to North Fork Rd; W on

North Fork Rd to Centralia-Alpha Rd; W on Centralia-Alpha Rd to Salzer Valley Rd and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6071 Dungeness (Clallam County):** Portions of GMUs 621 (Olympic) and 624 (Coyle) beginning at the mouth of the Dungeness River; east and south along the coast of the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the mouth of Dean Creek on Sequim Bay; south and west up Dean Creek to the power transmission line; west on the power transmission line to the Dungeness River; north down the Dungeness River to its mouth and the point of beginning.

**Elk Area No. 6072 Sol Duc Valley (Clallam County):** That portion of GMU 607 (Sol Duc) between the Sol Duc River and Hwy 101 from a point at the Sol Duc River bridge over Hwy 101 approximately 2 miles north of Forks to the westernmost Sol Duc River bridge over Hwy 101 at a point approximately 1 mile east of Lake Pleasant.

**Elk Area No. 6073 Clearwater Valley (Jefferson County):** That portion of GMU 615 (Clearwater) within one mile of the Clearwater Road from the Quinault Indian Reservation boundary to a point 4 miles to the north.

[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), § 232-28-337, 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), § 232-28-337, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-337, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 12-11-005 (Order 12-70), § 232-28-337, filed 5/2/12, effective 6/2/12; WSR 11-11-013 (Order 11-86), § 232-28-337, filed 5/6/11, effective 6/6/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-337, filed 4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-28-337, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210. WSR 08-09-090 (Order 08-78), § 232-28-337, filed 4/18/08, effective 5/19/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020. WSR 08-01-052 (Order 07-292), § 232-28-337, filed 12/13/07, effective 1/13/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 07-01-049 (Order 06-300), § 232-28-337, filed 12/14/06, effective 1/14/07; WSR 06-17-095 (Order 06-196), § 232-28-337, filed 8/15/06, effective 9/15/06; WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-337, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 06-02-063 (Order 05-271), § 232-28-337, filed 1/3/06, effective 2/3/06; WSR 05-11-023 (Order 05-84), § 232-28-337, filed 5/10/05, effective 5/15/05.

Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-28-337, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-337, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/13/03.]

**RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS**

**Pages 38-39**

The description of Elk Area No. 6064 was modified to read as follows:

**Elk Area No. 6064 Quinault Valley (Grays Harbor and Jefferson counties):** That portion of GMU 638 (Quinault) (within the Quinault River watershed east of Gatton Creek and Lake Quinault excluding US Forest Service (USFS) Colonel Bob Wilderness Area) beginning at the mouth of the Quinault River; NE on the Olympic National Park boundary, which is along the Quinault River, to the intersection with USFS Colonel Bob Wilderness Area; then SW along the Colonel Bob Wilderness area Western boundary to its intersection with Haas Creek; then downstream along Haas Creek to its intersection with USFS Olympic National Forest boundary; then SW along USFS boundary to the Lake Quinault shoreline; then N along the East shore of Lake Quinault to the mouth of Quinault River and the point of the beginning.

This change corrects an error in the original recommended boundary change that mistakenly included Lake Quinault.

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

### WAC 232-28-337 Elk Area Descriptions

#### **Supporting Comments:**

More than 47% of the 34 comments received supported the proposed rule change. There was support for using elk areas to better manage elk populations and seasons.

#### **Opposing and Other Comments:**

Forty-one percent (41%) of the comments received opposed the proposed rule change. Most were concerned that the regulations would become more complicated and more difficult to read and understand. One did not see the value in having elk areas at all.

#### **Direction and Rationale:**

The intent of Elk Areas is to allow hunting to be used as a management tool at a smaller, more flexible scale than the Game Management Unit. The changes recommended create one new Elk Area, eliminate one old Elk Area, and modify the boundaries of two existing Elk Areas. None of the comments received on this WAC required changes to the recommendations being made to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-10-059, filed 4/30/15, effective 5/31/15)

**WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.**

(1) **RESTRICTED HUNTING AREAS.**

It is unlawful to hunt in the following restricted hunting areas unless otherwise provided:

(a) Parker Lake (GMU 117, Pend Oreille County): All lands south of Ruby Creek Road (USFS Road 2489), north of Tacoma Creek Road (USFS Road 2389), and west of Bonneville Power Administration power lines are designated as "CLOSED AREA" to hunting wild animals and wild birds year-round except for special hunts adopted by the fish and wildlife commission. The Parker Lake closure provides a protected area for the U.S. Air Force Military Survival Training Program.

(b) Columbia River: The Columbia River, all islands except privately owned, in the river, the Benton County shoreline below the high water mark, Central Hanford Department of Energy property, and any peninsula originating on the Benton County shoreline, between Vernita Bridge on Highway 24 downstream to the Richland city limits are designated as a "CLOSED AREA" to hunting wild animals and wild birds except waterfowl hunting is open below the high water mark between the old

Hanford townsite power line crossing (wooden towers) in Section 24, T 13 N, R 27 E, and the Richland city limits.

(c) Green River (GMU 485): Except for special permit hunters, who may also take a black bear and/or cougar with the appropriate license/tag options, all lands within GMU 485 are designated as a "CLOSED AREA" to hunting big game year-round. During the general westside elk season and general and late deer seasons, all lands within GMU 485 year-round are also designated as a "CLOSED AREA" to hunting all wild animals, including wild birds, year-round. The city of Tacoma enforces trespass within GMU 485 year-round on lands owned or controlled by the city.

(d) McNeil Island (part of GMU 652): Closed to hunting all wild animals, including wild birds, year-round.

(e) Loo-wit (GMU 522): Closed to hunting and trapping, except for elk hunting by special permit holders during established seasons and in designated areas.

(2) A violation of subsection (1) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.

(3) **CLOSED BIG GAME HUNTING AREAS .**



It is unlawful to hunt big game in the following closed areas, unless otherwise specified:

(a) Clark, Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties: Closed to hunting for Columbian whitetail deer.

(b) Cathlamet: Except for special permits issued by the department for nonendangered deer and elk, this area is closed to all deer and elk hunting to protect the Columbian whitetail deer. This area's boundaries are described as:

Beginning in the town of Skamokawa; then east along SR 4 to Risk Road; then south and east along Risk Road to Foster Road; then south along the Foster Road to the Elochoman River; then upstream along the Elochoman River to Elochoman Valley Road (old SR 407); then west along the Elochoman Valley Road to SR 4; then east along SR 4 to SR 409; then south along SR 409 to the Cathlamet Channel of the Columbia River; then east along the north shore of the Cathlamet Channel to Cape Horn; then south in the Columbia River to the state line; then west along the state line to a point directly south of the mouth of Skamokawa Creek; then north on Skamokawa Creek to SR 4 and the point of beginning.

(c) Walla Walla Mill Creek Watershed (GMU 157): All lands in the Mill Creek Watershed are designated as a "CLOSED AREA" to hunting all

wild animals, including wild birds. The only exception is for deer or elk hunting by holders of GMU-157 special deer or elk permits during the established open season. These permit holders must have a U.S. Forest Service permit to enter the hunt area, and the area is closed to motorized vehicles. No entry into the Mill Creek Watershed is allowed at other times.

(d) Westport: Closed to hunting all big game animals on the part of Westport Peninsula lying north of State Highway 105 from the Elk River Bridge west end and the Schafer Island Road to the ocean beach.

(e) Cottonwood and Howard islands (GMU 564): Closed to all deer hunting.

(4) A violation of subsection (3) of this section is a gross misdemeanor or a class C felony punishable under RCW 77.15.410, depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(5) **FIREARM RESTRICTION AREAS .**

(a) It is unlawful to hunt wildlife in the following firearm restriction areas with centerfire or rimfire rifles, or to fail to comply with additional firearm restrictions, except as established below:

**COUNTY**

**AREA**

COUNTY	AREA
Chelan	That portion of GMU 251 (Mission) beginning at the intersection of the Duncan Road and Highway 2; south on Duncan Road to Mountain Home Road; south along Mountain Home Road to the Icicle Irrigation Ditch; south and west along the Icicle Irrigation Ditch to the Snow Lake Trail; west and north along the Snow Lake Trail and across the Icicle River to Icicle River Road; east and north along Icicle River Road to the Wenatchee River; northwest along the Wenatchee River to Highway 2; north and east on Highway 2 to Duncan Road and the point of beginning.
Clallam	That portion of GMU 624 (Coyle) located within Clallam County.
Clark	GMU 564 (Battleground) That portion of GMU 554 in Clark County.
Cowlitz	GMU 554 (Yale) GMU 504 (Stella) That portion of GMU 564 (Battleground) in Cowlitz County.
Grays Harbor	<u>The following Chehalis Valley restriction applies only during modern firearm deer and elk seasons:</u> That portion of GMU 658 (North River) beginning at Bay City; then west along Highway 105 to Twin Harbors State Park; then south along Highway 105 to Grayland Grocery; then east on Cranberry Road to Turkey Road; then east and north on Turkey Road to Bayview Logging Road; then north and east along Bayview Logging Road to Mallard Slough; then east and south along the Bayview Road to Andrews Creek; then north along main channel of Andrews Creek to Grays Harbor; then north and west along the main navigation channel to Bay City and point of beginning.
Grays Harbor	The following Chehalis Valley restriction applies only during modern firearm elk seasons: That portion of GMU 660 (Minot Peak) described as follows: Beginning at Highway 12 and Highway 107 junction near Montesano; east and south on Highway 12 to State Street in Oakville; south on State Street to its merge with Oakville Road; west on Oakville Road to its merge with South Bank Road; northwest along South Bank Road to Wakefield Road; north on Wakefield Road to the Chehalis River; west along the Chehalis River to Highway 107 bridge; north on Highway 107 to Highway 12 to the point of beginning.
Island	GMUs 421 (Camano) and 420 (Whidbey).
Jefferson	Indian and Marrowstone islands.

COUNTY	AREA
King	<p>The area west of Highway 203 (Monroe-Fall City, then Fall City-Preston Road) to Interstate 90 (I-90), I-90 to Highway 18, Highway 18 to Interstate 5 (I-5), I-5 to the Pierce-King County line; and GMU 422 (Vashon-Maury).</p> <p>This area is restricted to archery only:</p> <p>The following portion of GMU 652 (Puyallup): Beginning at the intersection of State Highway 410 and the southeast Mud Mountain Dam Road near the King/Pierce County line north of Buckley; then east along the southeast Mud Mountain Road to 284th Avenue Southeast; then north along 284th Avenue Southeast to State Highway 410; then west along Highway 410 to the point of the beginning.</p>
Kitsap	<p>East of State Highway 16 originating at the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to Gorst, and east of Highway 3 to Newbury Hill Road, north of Newbury Hill Road and the Bremerton-Seabeck Highway to Big Beef Creek Bridge; all of Bainbridge Island, and Bangor Military Reservation.</p>
Kittitas	<p>GMU 334 (Ellensburg) Closed to centerfire rifles during deer and elk seasons except for those areas designated in writing by WDFW wildlife conflict staff.</p>
Klickitat	<p>Elk Area 5062 (Trout Lake) closed to centerfire rifles, handguns, and muzzleloaders October 1 to January 30.</p>
Mason	<p>GMU 633 (Mason Lake) south of Hammersley Inlet; and all of Harstine Island.</p>

COUNTY	AREA
Pacific	<p>GMU 684 (Long Beach) the following Long Beach Peninsula restriction applies only during modern firearm deer and elk seasons: Beginning at the end of Outer Harbor Way in the City of Ilwaco to U.S. Highway 101, west and north on Highway 101 to Sandridge Road; north on Sandridge Road to 95th Street; west on 95th Street to Tarlatt Slough; out Tarlatt Slough to Willapa Bay, north along the shoreline of Willapa Bay, then west to the Pacific Ocean. South along the west coast of the peninsula to Cape Disappointment State Park; east along state park boundary to Baker Bay; east along Baker Bay to the point of beginning.</p> <p>The portion of GMU 658 (North River) south and west of State Highway 105 and Airport Road between Raymond and North River Bridge.</p> <p>GMU 681 (Chinook Valley) beginning at confluence of Wallacut River, east along the Columbia River to the Astoria-Megler bridge; west along U.S. Highway 101 to Houtchen Road, north on Houtchen Road to the Chinook River; west on the Chinook River to the Chinook Valley Road; west on the Chinook Valley Road to Highway 101 and Wallacut River bridge; southwest on Wallacut River to point of beginning.</p>
Pierce	<p>GMU 652 (Ketron Island), GMU 655 (Anderson) limited to archery, shotgun, and muzzleloader. McNeil Island closed to hunting.</p> <p>See GMU 652 restriction area outlined for King County.</p> <p>GMU 627 (Kitsap) south of Highway 302 on the Longbranch Peninsula is a firearm restriction area.</p>
San Juan	<p>All San Juan County, including GMUs 411 (Orcas), 412 (Shaw), 413 (San Juan), 414 (Lopez), 415 (Blakely), 416 (Decatur), and those portions of GMU 410 (Islands) that occur in San Juan County.</p>
Snohomish	<p>All areas west of Highway 9, until the intersection of Highway 9 and Highway 2, then east along Highway 2 to Highway 203, then all areas west of Highway 203 to the Snohomish/King County line.</p>
Skagit	<p>All mainland areas and islands, including GMU 419 (Guemes), in Skagit County west of I-5 and north of the Skagit/Snohomish County line, except Cypress Island. This restriction applies to big game hunting only.</p>
Skamania	<p>That portion of GMU 564 (Battle Ground) in Skamania County.</p>
Thurston	<p>GMU 666 (Deschutes) north of U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 5 between Oyster Bay and the mouth of the Nisqually River.</p>

COUNTY	AREA
Whatcom	All mainland areas and islands of Whatcom County that are west of I-5. This restriction applies to big game hunting only.

(b) Archery tag holders may only hunt during established archery seasons with archery equipment as defined under WAC 232-12-054.

(c) Muzzleloader tag holders may only hunt during established muzzleloader seasons with muzzleloader equipment or archery equipment as defined by department rule.

(d) Modern firearm tag holders may hunt during established modern firearm seasons with bows and arrows; crossbows; muzzleloaders; revolver-type handguns; semiautomatic handguns of .40 (10 mm) caliber or larger; or shotguns, so long as the equipment and ammunition complies with department rules.

(6) A violation of subsection (5) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.

[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), § 232-28-248, 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), § 232-28-248, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-248, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13. Statutory Authority: RCW

77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240,  
77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 10-10-061 (Order 10-94), § 232-28-248, filed  
4/30/10, effective 5/31/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047,  
77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083  
(Order 09-53), § 232-28-248, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statu-  
tory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-28-  
248, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06; WSR 06-02-063 (Order 05-271), §  
232-28-248, filed 1/3/06, effective 2/3/06; WSR 05-11-022 (Order 05-  
89), § 232-28-248, filed 5/10/05, effective 6/10/05; WSR 05-02-046  
(Order 04-327), § 232-28-248, filed 1/3/05, effective 2/3/05. Statuto-  
ry Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-  
98), § 232-28-248, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Author-  
ity: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-28-248, filed  
6/12/03, effective 7/13/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047,  
77.12.655, 77.12.020. WSR 02-11-069 (Order 02-98), § 232-28-248, filed  
5/10/02, effective 6/10/02. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040,  
77.12.020, 77.32.070, 77.32.530. WSR 01-10-048 (Order 01-69), § 232-  
28-248, filed 4/26/01, effective 5/27/01. Statutory Authority: RCW  
77.12.040, 77.12.010, 77.12.020, 77.12.770, 77.12.780. WSR 00-11-137  
(Order 00-50), § 232-28-248, filed 5/23/00, effective 6/23/00. Statu-  
tory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 99-10-102 (Order 99-40), § 232-28-

248, filed 5/5/99, effective 6/5/99; WSR 98-10-018 (Order 98-54), § 232-28-248, filed 4/22/98, effective 5/23/98; WSR 97-06-052 (Order 97-32), § 232-28-248, filed 2/27/97, effective 3/30/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.010 and 77.12.040. WSR 96-04-027, § 232-28-248, filed 2/1/96, effective 3/3/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 95-11-036, § 232-28-248, filed 5/10/95, effective 6/10/95; WSR 95-03-038 (Order 94-150), § 232-28-248, filed 1/10/95, effective 2/10/95.]



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

### WAC 232-28-248 Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas

#### **Supporting Comments:**

About 43% of the 49 comments received supported the proposed rule change. The majority of the support came from those wanting to ensure the safety of residents in the areas affected by the rule change.

#### **Opposing and Other Comments:**

A handful of comments opposed the proposed rule, with most citing too many restrictions already in the hunting pamphlet. Another comment encouraged the restriction should be enforced year round.

Additional comments were provided, including cutting down permit use in the area altogether, allowing specific calibers in the restricted area, and allowing more clarity in the regulations.

#### **Direction and Rationale:**

The intent of firearm restriction areas is to continue to use hunting as a management tool while providing for public safety in specific locations. The recommendation clarifies the timing of a firearm restriction area in Grays Harbor County. None of the comments received on this WAC required changes to the recommendations being made to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-10-019, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14)

**WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability.** (1) Definitions:

(a) "Hunter with a disability" means a person with a permanent disability who possesses a disabled hunter permit issued by the department.

(b) "Disabled hunter permit" means a permit, card, or endorsement to a license issued by the department to any person with a permanent disability who applies to the department and presents such evidence as the director may require showing that the applicant is a person with a qualifying disability.

(i) Upon approval of the application, the department will issue a vehicle identification placard.

(ii) A designated hunter companion card will be issued to the holder of a disabled hunter permit along with the issuance of a hunting license.

(c) "Designated hunter companion" means a person who assists or acts on behalf of a hunter with a disability in the stalking, shooting, tracking, retrieving, or tagging of game birds and game animals.

(d) "Designated hunter companion card" means an identification card issued by the department to a hunter with a disability for use by another person in assisting or acting on the behalf of the hunter with a disability while engaging in hunting activities.

(e) "Accompany" means the hunter with a disability and the designated hunter companion are in the physical presence of each other, not to exceed a 1/4-mile separation. While stalking or shooting an animal, the hunter with a disability and the designated hunter companion must have a form of reliable and direct communication.

(2) It is unlawful for a hunter with a disability to fail to obtain all required licenses, tags, or stamps before hunting.

(3) It is unlawful for a designated hunter companion to assist a hunter with a disability unless the designated hunter companion has the designated hunter companion card on his or her person. A designated hunter companion must have a valid hunting license issued by Washington state or another state.

(a) The designated hunter companion must accompany the hunter with a disability when stalking or shooting game on behalf of the hunter with a disability.

(b) The designated hunter companion does not need to accompany the hunter with a disability while tracking an animal wounded by ei-

ther hunter, or while tagging or retrieving a downed animal on behalf of the hunter with a disability.

(4) It is unlawful for the hunter with a disability or the designated hunter companion to fail to:

(a) Immediately cut, notch, or date any required tag upon harvesting a game bird or animal; and

(b) Affix the tag to the carcass of the game bird or animal as soon as reasonably possible after killing the game.

(5) A violation of subsection (2), (3), or (4) of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, 77.15.430, or 77.15.750 or other statutes under chapter 77.15 RCW depending on the circumstances of the violation.

(6) Game birds or game animals killed, tagged or retrieved by a designated hunter companion on behalf of a hunter with a disability do not count against the designated hunter companion's bag or possession limit.

(7) It is unlawful for a hunter with a disability to possess a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, or shoot from a motor vehicle, unless the vehicle is stopped, the vehicle is removed from the maintained portion of the roadway, and the motor is turned off. A disabled hunter vehicle identification placard must be displayed and visible.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-12-828, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.020, 77.12.570, 77.12.210, 77.12.150, 77.12.240. WSR 09-09-083 (Order 09-53), § 232-12-828, filed 4/15/09, effective 5/16/09. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 07-04-087, § 232-12-828, filed 2/6/07, effective 3/9/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047 and 77.12.020. WSR 04-11-036 (Order 04-98), § 232-12-828, filed 5/12/04, effective 6/12/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 03-10-040 (Order 03-85), § 232-12-828, filed 4/30/03, effective 5/31/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.32.237. WSR 96-03-084 (Order 96-07), § 232-12-828, filed 1/18/96, effective 2/18/96.]

**Summary of Public Comments Received during Official Public Comment Period and WDFW Response:**

WAC 232-12-828 - *Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability.*

A majority of the 46 comments received supported the proposed rule change. In some cases, supportive comments were qualified with requests to further define the “maintained roadway” and to allow hunters with disabilities to gain further access to gated areas. For clarity, roadway is defined in RCW 46.04.500 and it refers to the maintained portion of the road that is ordinarily used for vehicle travel. Therefore, this rule would allow hunters with disabilities to shoot from their vehicle as long as they are not on the normal driving surface of a road. The type of road is not defined, so it would include gravel and paved roads. As for providing access behind locked gates, WDFW does have a program where cooperating landowners provide opportunities.

There were a few comments that were opposed to the proposed change, primarily because they did not want anyone shooting from a vehicle. Additionally, there was a request for further defining a disabled hunter. This definition exists in WAC 232-12-825.

Other comments were indirectly related to the proposed changes, including a request to allow disabled hunters to access all WDFW lands without reservations or restrictions. These comments were referred to the Hunters with Disabilities Coordinator for use in developing programs and outreach materials.



# 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 15-24-136 on 12/2/15 and WSR 15-22-107 on 11/4/15 ; 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:** (Describe Subject) The subject of this proposed rule-making effort is the development and/or amendment of deer and elk seasons and permits; baiting regulations for deer and elk; deer and elk area boundaries; special closures and firearm restriction areas; importation of dead wildlife; possession of dead wildlife; reducing the spread of elk hoof disease; cougar seasons and regulations; spring black bear seasons and regulations; bighorn sheep seasons and permits; special hunting season permits; auction, raffle, and special incentive permits; landowner hunting permit program; hunting by persons with a disability; migratory waterfowl seasons, regulations, and closures; upland game bird and other small game seasons and regulations; hunter education deferrals; and other hunting regulations.

**Hearing location(s):**

Moses Lake Civic Center  
401 S. Balsam  
Moses Lake, Washington 98837

Date: March 18-19, 2016 Time: 8:30 a.m.

**Submit written comments to:**

Online: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/hunting\\_regulations](http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/hunting_regulations)  
Name: Wildlife Program Commission Meeting Public Comments  
Address: 600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
e-mail: [Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Wildthing@dfw.wa.gov)  
fax: (360) 902-2162 by (date) February 25, 2016

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:** Contact

Tami Lininger by February 26, 2016

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

**Date of intended adoption:** on or after April 8, 2016

(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, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.240, 77.12.800, 77.32.090, 77.32.155.

**Statute being implemented:** 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, 77.32.155.

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

Federal Law?  Yes  No  
Federal Court Decision?  Yes  No  
State Court Decision?  Yes  No  
If yes, CITATION:  Yes  No  
CFR Title 50, Part 20, Migratory Bird  
Treaty Act

**DATE**  
February 3, 2016

**NAME** (type or print)  
Jacalyn Hursey

**SIGNATURE** *Jacalyn m. Hursey*

**TITLE**  
Acting Rules Coordinator

**CODE REVISER USE ONLY**

**OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED**

**DATE: February 03, 2016**

**TIME: 9:33 AM**

**WSR 16-04-126**

**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

- Private
- Public
- Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Implementation....Nate Pamplin	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement..... Steven Crown	Natural Resources Building, Olympia	(360) 902-2936

**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

### Existing Rules Proposed for Amendment

- WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.
- WAC 232-12-228 Hunter education deferral.
- WAC 232-12-286 Reducing the spread of hoof disease—Unlawful transport of elk hooves.
- WAC 232-12-287 Possession of dead wildlife.
- WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability.
- WAC 232-16-740 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures.
- WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.
- WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.
- WAC 232-28-286 2016, 2017, and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.
- WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.
- WAC 232-28-297 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.
- WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.
- WAC 232-28-342 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.
- WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 232-28-359 2015 Deer special permits.
- WAC 232-28-360 2016 Elk special permits.
- WAC 232-28-436 2015-2016 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.
- WAC 232-28-622 2015-2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.
- WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.

### New Rule(s) Proposed for Adoption

**Department staff is requesting the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt one of the following three proposed rules.**

- WAC 232-12-239 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.
- WAC 232-12-245 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.
- WAC 232-12-246 Bait volume limits for the purpose of hunting deer or elk.

### **WAC 232-12-021 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to add Michigan to the list of states and provinces requiring additional processing of deer, elk, and moose carcasses before they can be brought into Washington. The states and provinces listed in the WAC have confirmed chronic wasting disease (CWD) in their wild, free-ranging populations of cervids.

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

The proposal reduces the risk of CWD being imported into Washington State via carcasses of animals harvested in other states. Reducing disease risk helps in sustaining deer, elk, and moose populations and hunting opportunities in Washington.

### **WAC 232-12-228 Hunter education deferral.**

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

The proposed rule changes will remove language pertaining to outdated practices, clarify language, and allow the department (Hunter Education and Licensing Divisions) to provide improved customer service.

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

The existing rules contain outdated elements that are no longer implemented. The proposal will also enable a much higher level of customer service, including: additional payment methods for the hunter education deferral; reduction or elimination of mail costs and delays; elimination of original and replacement deferral cards; opportunity for immediate hunting license purchase; and minor rule clarifications. Department cost savings will be realized via a reduction in staff time to process deferral applications and fees and the reduction or elimination of mailing and printing costs.

### **WAC 232-12-239 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to further the public discussion regarding hunting deer and elk using bait. If adopted the rule would make it unlawful to use bait to hunt deer or elk for all hunters.

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

In the last three years the Department has been approached by hunters and landowners that do not approve of the practice of baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk. Additional input was received as part of the 3-year hunting season package, public process in 2015.

The non-random input the Department received via the website during the 3-year package process indicated that 23% of hunters wanted a ban on baiting with an exception for food plots and agricultural operations. Fourteen percent (14%) of hunters wanted to disallow the use of bait by hunting guides and restrict the manner and volume of baiting by hunters not using guides. A 63% majority of the hunters commenting wanted no change to the rules pertaining to baiting deer and elk.

In a random telephone survey of deer hunters conducted as part of the 2015-17 3-year package, 59% either opposed or strongly opposed baiting for deer. Deer hunters that supported or strongly supported baiting for deer made up 21% of the respondents. Eleven percent (11%) of those surveyed were neutral and 9% didn't know.

In the same random telephone survey, 68% of elk hunters either opposed or strongly opposed baiting for elk. Elk hunters that supported or strongly supported using bait to hunt elk were 14%. Eleven percent (11%) of those surveyed were neutral and 8% didn't know.

Although some potential exists, the Department has no data at this time to suggest that the practice of baiting for deer and elk hunting has a negative population or natural resource effect.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission discussed this issue in March and April 2015 and decided to not make changes to the existing rule (baiting for deer and elk hunting is allowed). Since then, the Department has facilitated further discussion with a group of hunters interested in the issue. That group met several times over the past year. Through that process, and input received from the Game Management Advisory Council in 2015, it is clear that there is no consensus on this issue other than scents and natural agricultural practices should not be considered baiting. Members expressed several points of view ranging from banning all baiting for deer and elk hunting to retaining the ability to bait using any quantity. The committee discussed alternatives to the “all or none” scenario, which resulted in several options that will be presented to the Commission for discussion and possible decision. The Commission will consider options that range from banning all baiting to retaining all baiting, including two specific options that consider a volume limit on the amount of bait allowed.

### **WAC 232-12-245 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to further the public discussion regarding hunting deer and elk using bait. If adopted the rule would make it unlawful to hunt deer or elk using bait in excess of 10 gallons and bait located closer than 200 yards from another bait site.

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

In the last three years the Department has been approached by hunters and landowners that do not approve of the practice of baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk. Additional input was received as part of the 3-year hunting season package, public process in 2015.

The non-random input the Department received via the website during the 3-year package process indicated that 23% of hunters wanted a ban on baiting with an exception for food plots and agricultural operations. Fourteen percent (14%) of hunters wanted to disallow the use of bait by hunting guides and restrict the manner and volume of baiting by hunters not using guides. A 63% majority of the hunters commenting wanted no change to the rules pertaining to baiting deer and elk.

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options that range from banning all baiting to retaining all baiting, including two specific options that consider a volume limit on the amount of bait allowed.

### **WAC 232-12-246 Bait volume limits for the purpose of hunting deer or elk.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to further the public discussion regarding hunting deer and elk using bait. If adopted the rule would make it unlawful to hunt deer or elk using bait in excess of 10 gallons.

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

In the last three years the Department has been approached by hunters and landowners that do not approve of the practice of baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk. Additional input was received as part of the 3-year hunting season package, public process in 2015.

The non-random input the Department received via the website during the 3-year package process indicated that 23% of hunters wanted a ban on baiting with an exception for food plots and agricultural operations. Fourteen percent (14%) of hunters wanted to disallow the use of bait by hunting guides and restrict the manner and volume of baiting by hunters not using guides. A 63% majority of the hunters commenting wanted no change to the rules pertaining to baiting deer and elk.

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### **WAC 232-12-286 Reducing the spread of hoof disease—Unlawful transport of elk hooves.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to allow, under certain circumstances, the legal transport of elk hooves coming from GMUs with treponeme associated hoof disease. The amendment would help facilitate current research on treponeme associated hoof disease and make the emergency rule permanent.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** This proposal helps facilitate research on treponeme associated hoof disease in elk while also helping reduce the probability of the disease spreading.

### **WAC 232-12-287 Possession of dead wildlife.**

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

Currently there is no legal way to salvage and possess deer, elk, or moose that have been killed by a motor vehicle. Per a request by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Department has investigated a strategy that would allow salvage and possession of those animals. The proposed amendments to WAC 232-12-287 would facilitate the legal salvage of road-killed deer and elk.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** This proposal would allow citizens to salvage meat from a deer or elk that has been killed in a vehicle collision.

### **WAC 232-12-828 Hunting of game birds and animals by persons with a disability.**

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

The proposal is intended to reinstitute a rule that was deleted in 2014 related to shooting firearms from vehicles. The anticipated effects would be greater clarity for hunters and enforcement officers.

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

Currently, all hunters with disabilities are permitted to shoot from their vehicles under RCW 77.32.238. In 2014, WAC 232-12-828 provided language that described how hunters with disabilities can shoot from a vehicle. This language was removed in preparation for an RCW change that was anticipated in 2015. That RCW change never occurred. Hunters with disabilities currently do not have defined guidance for shooting from a vehicle. Recommended language addition reinstitutes how, when, and where hunters with disabilities may shoot from their vehicles. WDFW Enforcement staff and county prosecutors have requested more defined language. The proposed rule change is recommended to stay in rule until the RCW is changed.

### **WAC 232-16-740 Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures.**

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

The proposal amends WAC 232-16-740, Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River waterfowl, coot, and snipe closures, to correct an inaccurate boundary description for the closure on the Snake River contained in subsection 6.

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

Need to provide a clear, accurate description of the boundary for effective enforcement and conservation of migratory bird resources.

### **WAC 232-28-248 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to change the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas rule to clarify a restriction in Grays Harbor County. The restriction in question should only apply during modern firearm deer and elk seasons. The restriction is unnecessary during other times of the year. The restriction still allows hunting to be used as a management tool.

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

Special closures and firearm restriction areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to restrict or close hunting activity in certain areas and during certain time periods to optimize safety, discourage trespass on restricted lands, and protect sensitive species.

## **WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.**

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

We are recommending a few minor changes to big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits hunting for 2016: 1) A new "Three-deer auction permit", valid September 1 - December 31. 2) Allow the Department to extend the areas open to the holder of the single, statewide moose auction permit beyond those open to holders of moose draw permits. 3) Remove GMU 175 from areas available to the holder of the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle permit.

### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

1) Increase hunter interest in deer hunting and provide additional revenue for the deer/elk section. This was suggested by a citizen group as likely to be attractive to hunters, and will help raise revenue and interest in deer hunting without adverse effects to the resource. This will complement the existing, three-deer raffle permit, which contains similar stipulations.

2) Increase revenue available to monitor moose populations. This was suggested by involved citizens as a way to enhance interest in moose and increase available revenue for moose. For the past 3 years, the Department has documented an expanding front of moose colonization to the west and south of the primary moose areas. We have not had resources to formally survey these areas, but know that there are a few large bull moose that could safely be harvested without interrupting this expansion. We recommend beginning with the auction permit, because hunters bidding for this generally do their own scouting, and thus can actually help us understand moose distribution in these areas.

3) GMU 175 represents the area typically used by the Asotin bighorn sheep herd. Although the herd appears to be slowly rebounding from a disease-related reduction, the number of mature rams has become sufficiently low to generate a biological concern. There are currently an insufficient number of rams in this herd to justify a ram hunt for 2016.

## **WAC 232-28-286 2016, 2017, and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.**

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

The proposal is intended to establish harvest guidelines for 22 spring bear hunts around the state. The anticipated effects include timber damage or public safety mitigation and providing for hunting recreation within harvest levels described in the 2015-21 Game Management Plan.

### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Proposed harvest is anticipated to be consistent with the Game Management Plan. In addition, these proposals provide additional tools for landowners to deal with timber damage. Some proposals may help the agency address concerns over public safety.

## **WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.**

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

This proposal modifies hunt dates on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2016 hunting seasons. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through permits issued by WDFW, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

### **Reasons supporting proposal:**

Several years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Commission developed a policy to expand the private lands available to the general public for hunting. One of the programs that was authorized was the Landowner Hunting Permit Program. This program encourages landowners to provide opportunity to the general hunter in exchange for customized hunting seasons and the ability to generate funding to offset the cost of providing public access.

### **WAC 232-28-297 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.**

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

This proposal includes three alternative options for modifying existing rules. The proposal establishes harvest guidelines for 50 cougar units around the state. Cougar guidelines are designed to provide a long season and hunting opportunity for hunters without the use of dogs (i.e., spot and stalking in snow and/or calling). The anticipated effects are harvest levels consistent with the game management plan, balancing hunting opportunity with sustainable cougar populations.

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

To provide early and late season hunting opportunity for hunters without the use of dogs (i.e., spot and stalking in snow and/or calling), while maintaining sustainable cougar populations.

### **WAC 232-28-337 Elk area descriptions.**

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

One new Elk Area is being proposed for Asotin County. The proposed addition is intended to reduce agricultural damage.

A change to Elk Area 6054 in Pierce County is proposed. The purpose is to make the boundary more discernable and make hunts held in the Elk Area more effective at mitigating elk damage.

The proposed change to Elk Area 6064 in Grays Harbor and Jefferson Counties removes some public land that was unnecessarily included. The Elk Area was established due to safety concerns but the original boundary included some USFS lands where this concern does not exist.

The proposal removes one Elk Area (EA 6063) in Grays Harbor and Jefferson Counties that is no longer needed.

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

Elk Areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt hunting seasons that can be conducted at a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Setting seasons at this scale allows for more strategic wildlife management using hunting as a tool to control populations and mitigate wildlife conflict.

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

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

The proposal amends WAC 232-28-342, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations, to specify legal season dates, bag limits, and open areas to hunt small game and other wildlife for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 hunting seasons. In this proposal HIP requirements are removed from WAC 232-28-342 and are included in WAC 232-28-436.

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

Minor modifications to WAC 232-28-342 are needed to provide additional recreational hunting opportunities for disabled hunters, and consolidate migratory game bird regulations due to changes in the federal regulatory process.

### **WAC 232-28-358 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity for 2016. The purpose is also to balance the elk hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow.



**Reasons supporting proposal:** This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2016. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

#### **WAC 232-28-357 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity for 2016. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2016. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

#### **WAC 232-28-359 2015 Deer special permits.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2016. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when deer populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining deer numbers warrant a change.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** These proposals provide for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2016. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

#### **WAC 232-28-360 2015 Elk special permits.**

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

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2016. The purpose is also to balance the elk hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases elk hunting opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces elk hunting opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change. The proposal makes minor adjustments to season dates.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2016. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

#### **WAC 232-28-436 2015-2016 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.**

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

The proposal amends WAC 232-28-436, 2015-16 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations, to specify legal season dates, bag limits, and open areas to hunt waterfowl, coot, snipe, band-tailed pigeon, and mourning dove for the 2016-17 hunting season. In this proposal HIP requirements are removed from WAC 232-28-342 and are included in WAC 232-28-436.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Migratory game bird seasons and regulations are developed based 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.

**WAC 232-28-622 2015-2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.**

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

We are recommending a few minor changes to bighorn hunting for 2016: 1) Discontinuing ewe permits for the Selah Butte herd (which is declining); 2) Adding ewe permits for the Cleman Mountain herd (which is over-abundant); 3) Adding ram permit opportunity for the Swakane and Chelan Butte herds; 4) Adding ewe permits for disabled hunters, as well as a new category of "immature ram" for disabled hunters, both in the Chelan Butte bighorn sheep herd; and 5) making minor adjustments to season dates.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Maintain population size and hunter opportunity and reduce the risk of bacterial infection from domestic sheep/goats by reducing the tendency of animals in over-abundant herds to foray from their core ranges.

**WAC 232-28-624 Deer area descriptions.**

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

The proposed changes to the Deer Area Descriptions rule will create three new Deer Areas: one each in Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties. The proposed additions will accommodate using hunting as a management tool and are intended to reduce agricultural damage in these locations.

**Reasons supporting proposal:**

Deer Areas allow the Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt hunting seasons that can be conducted at a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Setting seasons at this scale allows for more strategic wildlife management, using hunting as a tool to control populations and mitigate wildlife conflict.