

Mountain Goat Seasons

WAC 220-415-130

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Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: March 16-17, 2018

Agenda item: Mountain Goat Seasons – **Briefing and Public Hearing**

Presenter(s): Rich Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Moose, Mountain Goat, and Pronghorn Antelope Section Manager, Game Division, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-130 2018 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas:

1. Mountain goat populations are sensitive to harvest of females (nannies), but identification of gender in the field is difficult; hunters require training and patience to do so. The department currently provides training videos and pamphlets to successful applicants for mountain goat hunting permits, but has no way to be assured that these are used. The department now proposes adding to the educational materials, an online gender identification test (already in use in Alaska), that permit holders would be required to pass before being allowed to purchase their needed mountain goat hunting license. A passing score would be 20 of 25 questions (80%), and permit holders could re-take the test as often as needed until passing. The intention is not to deny the opportunity to permit holders, but rather to ensure that they have spent time educating themselves on mountain goat gender identification.
2. Although mountain goat populations generally remain much lower than their historic abundance, they have recently increased in the southern-most portion of their Washington range. We now have reliable surveys indicating that goats inhabiting the Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Margaret areas are sufficiently abundant to sustain a conservative hunt. Thus, new hunts are being proposed in this area.
3. The conflict reduction hunt in the East Olympic Mountains remains in the proposed WAC but has been reduced from 6 to 3 permits, and changed in dates to a split season of August 28-September 6, and again September 25-October 5, to avoid overlap with possible goat captures for translocation in mid-September.
4. Although the department's data suggests that mountain goat hunting in the Goat Rocks hunt area has been sustainable long-term, data show that almost all harvested mountain goats have come from the more accessible portions of the area. Splitting the existing hunt area in two (and allocating permits approximately proportionally) would distribute harvest pressure more evenly among goats in the greater population.

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

- Optimal non-regulatory way to reduce undesired harvest of female mountain goats.
- Opportunity for new mountain goat hunting in expanding population.
- Refinement of goat hunt areas to distribute hunting pressure more equitably within the spatial scale of the hunt unit.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No fiscal impacts beyond the status quo.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2018-2020 hunting season proposals. Six open house, public meetings were conducted throughout the state in July and August of 2017, to discuss a variety of issues with constituents. Concurrently, the public was asked to provide input on hunting seasons via the department website for a 6-week time period. The department emailed over 119,000 hunters notifying them of the website survey and encouraging them to participate. Using that information, the department determined which recommendations would move forward.

In preparation for this meeting, notification was made to approximately 12,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulation amendments. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 16-17, 2018 Commission meeting in Wenatchee.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption of rules is planned for the April 13-14, 2018 Commission meeting.

Draft motion language:

N/A – Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

N/A – Briefing and public hearing only.

Post decision communications plan:

WDFW Website

News Release

Hunting Regulations Pamphlet

Form revised 9/13/17

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-05-112, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17)

WAC 220-415-130 ((2015-2017)) 2018 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas. (1) Hunters must comply with the provisions of this section. A violation of species, sex, size, number, area, season, or eligibility requirements is punishable under RCW 77.15.410, Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty.

(2) Mountain Goat Permit Hunts

(a) **Who May Apply:** Anyone may apply, except those who harvested a mountain goat in Washington state after 1998. Except for auction and raffle permitted hunts, an individual may only harvest one mountain goat during his or her lifetime.

(b) **Bag Limit:** One (1) adult goat of either sex with horns 4 inches or longer.

(c) It is unlawful for a person who kills a mountain goat in Washington to fail, within ten days after acquisition, to personally present the horns attached to the head for inspection at a department office or location designated by a departmental representative. After inspection, the head/horns of a mountain goat lawfully killed in Wash-

ington may be kept for personal use. A violation of this subsection is punishable under RCW 77.15.280 (1)(b).

((Goat Hunt Area Name (Number))	Permit Season^b	Subhunt Units (may be opened or closed by the director)^a	Special Restrictions	Permits^a
Chowder Ridge (4-3)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30		Any Legal Weapon	1
Lincoln Peak (4-4)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30		Any Legal Weapon	2
Dillard Creek (4-6)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30		Any Legal Weapon	0
Avalanche Gorge (4-7)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30		Any Legal Weapon	3
North Lake Chelan (2-1)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Skookum Pass Mtn., Big Goat Creek	Any Legal Weapon	2
Boulder River North (4-8a)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30		Any Legal Weapon	1
Naches Pass (3-6)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Fife's East, Fife's Peak, Crystal Mountain, Basin Lake	Any Legal Weapon	3
Bumping River (3-7)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Nelson Ridge, Cash Prairie, American Ridge, American Lake, Timber Wolf, Russell Ridge	Any Legal Weapon	3
Blazed Ridge (3-10)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Blowout Mtn., Blazed Ridge, Blazed North, Milk Creek, Rock Creek	Any Legal Weapon	0
Goat Rocks Tieton River (5-4/3-9)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Chimney Rocks, Goat Lake, McCall Glacier, Gilbert Peak	Any Legal Weapon	5
South Lake Chelan (2-3)	Sept. 15 – Nov. 30	Railroad Creek, Pyramid Mountain, Box Canyon	Any Legal Weapon	1
Conflict reduction goat (new hunt type)				
East Olympic Mountains A [†]	Sept. 15 – 25	N/A	Any Legal Weapon	3
East Olympic Mountains B [†]	Sept. 26 – Oct. 6	N/A	Any Legal Weapon	3

~~†This is a new hunt type.)~~) (d) Applicants drawn for a permit may only purchase their license after successfully completing the WDFW online mountain goat gender identification test with a passing score (80% or higher). The test may be taken repeatedly until a passing score is achieved.

<u>Goat Hunt Area Name (Number)</u>	<u>Permit Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Permits</u>
<u>North Lake Chelan (2-1)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>South Lake Chelan (2-3)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Naches Pass (3-6)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Bumping River (3-7)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Boulder River North (4-8a)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Chowder Ridge (4-3)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>

<u>Goat Hunt Area Name (Number)</u>	<u>Permit Season</u>	<u>Special Restrictions</u>	<u>Permits</u>
<u>Lincoln Peak (4-4)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Avalanche Gorge (4-7)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Goat Rocks West (5-4)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Goat Rocks East (5-5)</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - Nov. 30^a</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Mt. Margaret Backcountry (5-6)</u>	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Mt. St. Helens South (5-7)</u>	<u>Oct. 1 - Nov. 30</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>East Olympic Mountains A¹</u>	<u>Sept. 15 - 25 Aug. 28 - Sept. 6 and Sept. 25 - Oct. 5</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>East Olympic Mountains B¹</u>	<u>Sept. 26 - Oct. 6</u>	<u>Any Legal Weapon</u>	<u>3</u>

¹Points accrued or spent on this hunt do not apply to other mountain goat hunts.

^aPermit holders hunting with archery equipment may start hunting September 1.

(3) **Mountain Goat Hunt Area Descriptions.** The following areas are defined as mountain goat hunt areas:

Chelan North 2-1

Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Fish Creek on Lake Chelan (Moore Point); then northeast up Fish Creek and USFS trail 1259 to the Sawtooth crest near Deephole Spring; then southeast along the Sawtooth crest, which separates Chelan and Okanogan counties, to Horsethief Basin and the headwaters of Safety Harbor Creek; then south along Safety Harbor Creek to Lake Chelan, then northwest along the north shore of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Fish Creek at Moore Point and the point of beginning.

Methow 2-2

Permit Area: Okanogan County within following described boundary:

Begin at Twisp, W along Twisp River Rd (County Rd 4440) to Roads End;

W up Twisp Pass Trail 432 to Twisp Pass and Okanogan County line; N on

Okanogan County line through Washington Pass to Harts Pass; SE down

Harts Pass (Rd 5400) to Lost River; along Lost River-Mazama Rd to

Mazama; SW to State Hwy 20; SE on State Hwy 20 to Twisp and point of

beginning.

South Lake Chelan 2-3

Permit Area: GMU 246

Naches Pass 3-6

Permit Area - Naches: Yakima and Kittitas counties within the follow-

ing described boundary: Beginning at Chinook Pass; then north along

the Pacific Crest Trail to Naches Pass; then east to USFS Road 19 and

continuing to State Highway 410; then west along State Highway 410 to

Chinook Pass and point of beginning.

Bumping River 3-7

Permit Area: Beginning on US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest

Trail) and SR 410 at Chinook Pass; NE on SR 410 to US Forest Service

Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd); SW on the US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bump-

ing Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd); SE on

US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd) to the north fork of

Rattlesnake Creek; SE down the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek to US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd); SE on US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Rd 1500; S on US Forest Service Rd 1500 to US Hwy 12; W on US Hwy 12 to US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) at White Pass; N on the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) to SR 410 at Chinook Pass and the point of beginning. (Lands within the boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park along the Pacific Crest Trail are not open to hunting.)

Blazed Ridge 3-10

Permit Area: Kittitas and Yakima counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at the mouth of Cabin Creek on the Yakima River; then west along Cabin Creek to the headwaters near Snowshoe Butte; then south along the Cascade Crest separating the Green and Yakima river drainage to Pyramid Peak; then southeast along the North Fork, Little Naches, and Naches River to the Yakima River; then north along the Yakima River to the mouth of Cabin Creek and point of beginning.

Chowder Ridge 4-3:

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Wells Creek with the North Fork Nooksack

River; then up Wells Creek to the confluence with Bar Creek; then up Bar Creek to the Mazama Glacier; then SW on Mazama Glacier to the summit of Mount Baker; then NW between Roosevelt Glacier and Coleman Glacier to the headwaters of Kulshan Creek; then down Kulshan Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then down Grouse Creek to the confluence with Glacier Creek; then down Glacier Creek to the confluence with the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Wells Creek and the point of beginning.

Lincoln Peak 4-4

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Glacier Creek and the North Fork Nooksack River; then up Glacier Creek to the confluence with Grouse Creek; then up Grouse Creek to the confluence with Kulshan Creek; then up Kulshan Creek to headwaters; then SE between Coleman and Roosevelt glaciers to the summit of Mount Baker; then SW on Easton Glacier to Baker Pass; then W on the Bell Pass Trail (USFS Trail 603.3) to the intersection with Ridley Creek Trail (Trail No. 696); then W on Ridley Creek Trail to Ridley Creek; then down Ridley Creek to the Middle Fork Nooksack River; then down the Middle Fork Nooksack River to the confluence with Clearwater Creek, then up Clearwater Creek to the confluence with Rocky Creek, then up Rocky Creek to the Washington DNR boundary; then

along the National Forest-Washington DNR boundary to Hedrick Creek; then down Hedrick Creek to the North Fork Nooksack River; then up the North Fork Nooksack River to Glacier Creek and the point of beginning.

Dillard Creek 4-6

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning on Baker Lake Road and Rocky Creek; then NW up Rocky Creek to its intersection with the Park Butte Trail (Trail No. 603); then NW on Park Butte Trail to its intersection with the Bell Pass Trail (Trail No. 603.3); then N on Bell Pass Trail to Baker Pass; then N onto Easton Glacier and NE to the summit of Mount Baker; then NE and SE on Park Glacier to headwaters of Park Creek; then down Park Creek to Baker Lake Road; then SW on Baker Lake Road to Rocky Creek and the point of beginning.

Avalanche Gorge 4-7

Hunt Area: Whatcom County within the following described boundary: Beginning on Baker Lake Road and Park Creek; then up Park Creek to headwaters and beginning of Park Glacier; then NW and SW on Park Glacier to Mount Baker summit; then N on the Mazama Glacier to Bar Creek, then down Bar Creek to the confluence with Wells Creek; then SE up Wells Creek to its headwaters; then E about 1 mile to an unnamed peak (indicated elevation 5,831 ft, just W of Ptarmigan Ridge Trail (Trail No.

682.1) (See referenced 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm)); then NE to the headwaters of the first tributary of Swift Creek encountered; then SE down said unnamed tributary to the confluence with Swift Creek; then down Swift Creek to the Baker Lake Road (USFS Road 394); then SW along the Baker Lake Road to Park Creek and point of beginning. (Refer to 1:24k USGS quad map - Shuksan Arm).

Permit Area - Boulder River North 4-8a

That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Rd 2010 (to Boulder Falls), then E along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Squire Creek, then southward along the Squire Creek to Squire Creek Pass, then SW up Squire Creek Pass to the headwaters of Copper Creek, then SE down Copper Creek to the unnamed tributary to Copper Creek which heads W up to Windy Pass, then W up said tributary to its headwaters in Windy Pass, then W across Windy Pass to the headwaters of Windy Creek, then W down Windy Creek to the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then N along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 and the point of the beginning.

~~Chelan North 2-1~~

~~Permit Area: Beginning at the mouth of Fish Creek on Lake Chelan (Moore Point); then northeast up Fish Creek and USFS trail 1259 to the Sawtooth crest near Deephole Spring; then southeast along the Sawtooth crest, which separates Chelan and Okanogan counties, to Horsethief Basin and the headwaters of Safety Harbor Creek; then south along Safety Harbor Creek to Lake Chelan, then northwest along the north shore of Lake Chelan to the mouth of Fish Creek at Moore Point and the point of beginning.~~

~~**Methow 2-2**~~

~~Permit Area: Okanogan County within following described boundary: Begin at Twisp, W along Twisp River Rd (County Rd 4440) to Roads End; W up Twisp Pass Trail 432 to Twisp Pass and Okanogan County line; N on Okanogan County line through Washington Pass to Harts Pass; SE down Harts Pass (Rd 5400) to Lost River; along Lost River Mazama Rd to Mazama; SW to State Hwy 20; SE on State Hwy 20 to Twisp and point of beginning.~~

~~**South Lake Chelan 2-3**~~

~~Permit Area: GMU 246~~

~~**Naches Pass 3-6**~~

~~Permit Area — Naches: Yakima and Kittitas counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at Chinook Pass; then north along~~

~~the Pacific Crest Trail to Naches Pass; then east to USFS Road 19 and continuing to State Highway 410; then west along State Highway 410 to Chinook Pass and point of beginning.~~

~~**Bumping River 3-7**~~

~~Permit Area: Beginning on US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) and SR 410 at Chinook Pass; NE on SR 410 to US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd); SW on the US Forest Service Rd 1800 (Bumping Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd); SE on US Forest Service Trail 973 (Richmond Mine Rd) to the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek; SE down the north fork of Rattlesnake Creek to US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd); SE on US Forest Service Rd 1502 (McDaniel Lake Rd) to US Forest Service Rd 1500; S on US Forest Service Rd 1500 to US Hwy 12; W on US Hwy 12 to US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) at White Pass; N on the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest Trail) to SR 410 at Chinook Pass and the point of beginning. (Lands within the boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park along the Pacific Crest Trail are not open to hunting.)~~

~~**Blazed Ridge 3-10**~~

~~Permit Area: Kittitas and Yakima counties within the following described boundary: Beginning at the mouth of Cabin Creek on the Yakima River; then west along Cabin Creek to the headwaters near Snowshoe~~

~~Butte; then south along the Cascade Crest separating the Green and Yakima river drainage to Pyramid Peak; then southeast along the North Fork, Little Naches, and Naches River to the Yakima River; then north along the Yakima River to the mouth of Cabin Creek and point of beginning.~~

~~((Goat Rocks 5-4/Tieton River 3-9~~

~~Goat Rocks 5-4 Permit Area: Beginning at US Hwy 12 at the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail); S on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to Lewis County line at Cispus Pass; S and W on the Lewis County line to Johnson Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 21); N on Johnson Creek Rd to US Hwy 12; E on US Hwy 12 to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the point of the beginning.~~

~~Permit Area - Tieton River: GMU 364~~

~~Permit Area - East Olympic Mountains Unit~~

~~Beginning at the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24); W along Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24) to Olympic National Park (ONP) boundary at the northern end of Lake Cushman; N and NE along the ONP Olympic National Forest (ONF) boundary to the Jefferson-Clallam County line; E along the Jefferson-Clallam County line to its intersection with ONF boundary in Section 33 of T28N R2W; S along the ONF boundary to the intersection of Lake~~

~~Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24) and the point of beginning.))~~ **Goat Rocks West 5-4: (Lewis County)**. Beginning at US Hwy 12 at the US Forest Service Trail 2000 (Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail); S on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail to Lewis County line at Cispus Pass; S and W on the Lewis County line to Johnson Creek Rd (US Forest Service Rd 21); N on Johnson Creek Rd to US Hwy 12; E on US Hwy 12 to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the point of the beginning.

Goat Rocks East 5-5: (Yakima County): GMU 364

Permit Area 6-1: East Olympic Mountains Unit

Beginning at the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24); W along Jorsted Creek Rd (USFS Rd 24) to Olympic National Park (ONP) boundary at the northern end of Lake Cushman; N and NE along the ONP-Olympic National Forest (ONF) boundary to the Jefferson-Clallam County line; E along the Jefferson-Clallam County line to its intersection with ONF boundary in Section 33 of T28N R2W; S along the ONF boundary to the intersection of Lake Cushman Rd and Jorsted Creek Rd (US Forest Service (USFS) Rd 24) and the point of beginning.)) ~~(awaiting JT input)~~

~~**Permit Area -- Boulder River North 4-8a**~~

~~That area within the Boulder River Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, beginning at the Boulder River trailhead on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Rd 2010 (to Boulder Falls), then E along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to Squire Creek, then southward along the Squire Creek to Squire Creek Pass, then SW up Squire Creek Pass to the headwaters of Copper Creek, then SE down Copper Creek to the unnamed tributary to Copper Creek which heads W up to Windy Pass, then W up said tributary to its headwaters in Windy Pass, then W across Windy Pass to the headwaters of Windy Creek, then W down Windy Creek to the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary, then N along the USFS Boulder River Wilderness boundary to the Boulder River trailhead on USFS Rd 2010 and the point of the beginning.~~

~~((Mountain goat populations are managed as a collection of subpopulations, and the ideal harvest is distributed through all the subpopulations. The director is authorized to open or close subhunt areas and reduce permit levels to protect from overharvesting specific areas.~~

~~The director is authorized by the commission to identify the subhunt unit as a condition of the hunt permit. Hunters receiving permits will be sent a text description or map of the subhunt unit from the director prior to the start of that hunting season.~~

~~*Permit hunters may start hunting September 1 with archery equipment.))~~

Permit Area - Mt. Margaret Backcountry 5-6 (Skamania and Lewis counties)~~(awaiting JT input)~~

Beginning at the junction of USFS 99 Rd and USFS 26 Rd; South on USFS 99 Rd to junction of USFS 99 Rd and USFS Trail 227 at Independence Pass trailhead; North on USFS Trail 227 to junction of USFS Trail 227 and USFS Trail 1; West on USFS Trail 1 to junction of USFS Trail 1 and USFS Trail 230; Northwest on USFS Trail 230 to junction of USFS Trail 230 and USFS Trail 211; Northeast to Minnie Peak; West to the USFS property boundary in the SE 1/4 of Section 20, T10N, R5E; North along the USFS property boundary to the Green River; East up the Green River to USFS Rd 2612; East on USFS 2612 to the junction of USFS Rd 2612 and USFS Rd 26; South on USFS Rd 26 to the junction of USFS Rd 26 and USFS Rd 99 and point of beginning.

Permit Area - Mt. St. Helens South 5-7 (Skamania and Cowlitz counties)~~(awaiting JT input)~~

Beginning at the junction of USFS Trail 234 and USFS Rd 83; West on USFS Rd 83 to the junction of USFS Rd 83 and USFS Rd 81; Northwest on USFS Rd 81 to the junction of USFS Rd 81 and USFS Rd 8123; North on USFS Rd 8123 to USFS Trail 238 at Blue Lake; North on USFS Trail 238

to USFS Trail 216; North on USFS Trail 216 to the South Fork Toutle River; Up the South Fork Toutle River to Mt. St. Helens crater's edge; East along Mt. St. Helens crater to Ape Canyon Creek; Down Ape Canyon Creek to USFS Trail 216; East on USFS Trail 216 to USFS Trail 234; Southeast on USFS Trail 234 to USFS Rd 83 and point of beginning.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 17-05-112 (Order 17-04), amended and recodified as § 220-415-130, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.055, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, and 77.12.240. WSR 15-10-048 (Order 15-101), § 232-28-623, filed 4/29/15, effective 5/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047, 77.12.240, and 77.32.070. WSR 14-10-019 (Order 14-95), § 232-28-623, filed 4/25/14, effective 5/26/14; WSR 13-11-078 (Order 13-94), § 232-28-623, filed 5/16/13, effective 6/16/13.]

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

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

Page 5

- Change dates of “East Olympic Mountains A” from Sept 15-25 to Aug. 28-Sept. 6 and Sept. 25-Oct. 5.
- Change: Remove mountain goat hunt “East Olympic Mountains B, Sept. 26-Oct. 6, Any Legal Weapon, (3).”
- Rationale: If approved by federal agencies (as expected), live translocation of mountain goats in this area could occur during the September 9-22 period. Much or all of the area would be closed to public access for safety reasons. Moving the hunt to this earlier period avoids the conflict, but having a late hunt as well affords hunters the option to hunt later if they desire (acknowledging that some goats may have been non-lethally removed by that time).

Page 5, 6, 7, 10-16

- Change: Under (3) reverse order of presentation of boundary descriptions, so that they appear in order of the region in which they are located.
- Rationale: Ease of reading.

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

WAC 220-415-130 2018 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Supporting Comments:

- One (1) comment supported the creation of new hunting areas in the Mt. St. Helens area.
- Two (2) comments supported the creation of a new web-based gender ID test.
- Two (2) comments supported subdividing the Goat Rocks unit into two (2) adjacent areas.
- Eight (8) comments expressed general support of the proposals.

Opposing, Neutral, and Other Comments:

- Four (4) comments proposed initiating new hunts in the Alpine Lakes wilderness. Two (2) comments proposed issuing permits for the Blazed Ridge area. One (1) comment proposed issuing permits in the Methow area, and around Mt. Adams. One (1) comment proposed issuing permits in the Pasayten and Glacier Peak areas. One (1) comment favored more liberal hunting for mountain goats in general.
- One (1) comment proposed limiting the number of hunt choices on “Once in a Lifetime” species to two (2) rather than four (4).
- One (1) comment favored removing the “Once in a Lifetime” limitation for hunters successfully harvesting a goat in the East Olympic Conflict Reduction Hunt. Three (3) comments favored retaining and/or expanding the East Olympic Conflict Reduction Hunt.
- One (1) comment opposed the gender ID test unless separate billy and nanny tags are issued. One (1) comment opposed the new gender identification test because it is hard to distinguish the gender of mountain goats at a distance in the heat of the moment; a second opposed the proposal because it seemed like a waste of money. One (1) commenter’s support was contingent on the test being required of only selected applicants. Another wondered if nannies would still be legal. One (1) comment favored restricting hunts to billies only.
- One (1) comment favored allowing hunting with muzzleloader equipment on September 1st (as archery hunters are currently permitted).
- Two (2) comments expressed concern about harvest from Tribal members.

Direction and Rationale:

- The department uses guidelines in the statewide Game Management Plan to ensure sustainability of mountain goat harvests. These guidelines call for surveys estimating a resident population of no fewer than 100 goats (excluding kids) before issuing goat permits, and that permits be issued such that, over a 3-year period, the number of females harvested does not exceed 1.2% of the estimated total population.
 - As currently defined, the Blazed Ridge area has fallen just short of the minimum 100-goat threshold. In future surveys, the department will examine if biological justification supports expanding the hunt area to include nearby areas with goats.
 - Aerial surveys using peer-reviewed methods to account for imperfect detection in the Methow area suggest that the goat population here may have begun recovering from

only 22 goats estimates in 2009 (an estimated 43 goats in 2016), but are still insufficient to restore hunting. The department remains interested in understanding if there may have been a distributional change in goats in this area.

- The department has prioritized understanding more about the status of mountain goats in the Alpine Lakes wilderness. Incomplete, ground-based surveys tallied 89 mountain goats within the Enchantments portion of the wilderness in summer 2017; a planned aerial survey was postponed due to smoke and fires but is planned for 2018.
- The department is aware that mountain goats inhabit areas around Mt. Adams and in the Pasayten Wilderness but has been unable to prioritize scarce funding to conduct aerial surveys in these areas.
- The department is recommending partial reinstatement of the East Olympic Mountain Conflict Reduction Hunt, as it now appears that the earliest any goat could be translocated from this area, assuming federal approval, is mid-September in 2018. Hunting cannot take place during any removal activities because the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plans to close the area for safety reasons. Since initiation of this hunt, most goats have been taken from a relatively small area, which is also a very popular hiking destination; to reduce hunter crowding and safety issues, the department recommends no more than three (3) permits allowed at any given time.
- The department believes that providing additional educational and vetting material, in the form of the gender identification test that may be taken until passed, is an appropriate balance of the benefit of limiting take of female goats, while providing for human error. The test may be taken by anyone, but is only required of those who have been selected by the random lottery process (or through the auction or raffle process). Harvest of female goats would remain legal.
- The department has generally opened to archery hunting areas otherwise restricted to muzzleloader equipment, on the basis that archery is “more limited.” The department would want to engage with the public during the next 3-year period to gauge support or opposition to allow muzzleloaders the early dates for goat seasons currently available only to archery hunters.
- The department attempts to understand the level of take from Tribal members, and accounts for it when possible in its permitting recommendations.
- The department continues to work with interested parties on ways to fairly allocate scarce permits for species in which demand far exceeds supply. Limiting the number of hunt choices is an alternative approach, one that would give some hunters an advantage and would be a disadvantage to others.



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (August 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320) Do NOT use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: January 24, 2018
TIME: 8:20 AM

WSR 18-03-177

Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 17-24-106 on December 6, 2017 ; 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).

Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject)

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

Hearing location(s):

Date: **Time:** **Location:** (be specific) **Comment:**

March 15-17, 2018	8:00 a.m.	Red Lion Hotel 1225 N. Wenatchee Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801	
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Date of intended adoption: April 12-14, 2018 (Note: This is **NOT** the effective date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: Wildlife Program Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 43141, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Email: wildthing@dfw.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2162

Other: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/seasonsetting/2018-2020/>

By (date) February 14, 2018

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Tami Lininger

Phone: (360) 902-2267

Fax:

TTY: (800) 833-6388

Email: tami.lininger@dfw.wa.gov

Other:

By (date) March 7, 2018

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

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

The purpose of the proposal is to simplify the sealing requirements for bobcat and cougar pelts by aligning the date for sealing bobcat with the last date of trapper reporting and by requiring cougar pelt sealing to occur within 72 hours of harvest. The proposed changes align the dates for pelt sealing each species, regardless of method or reporting of harvest.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to Game Management Unit 485 Green River. The existing language can be somewhat complicated. The proposed changes take advantage of the well-marked boundaries of the watershed which are identical to the GMU boundary.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

The purpose of the proposal is to clarify boundary language as it pertains to Game Management Units 522 Loo Wit and 560 Lewis River. The proposed changes clarify directional movements on established roads that make up the boundaries.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

This proposal replaces GMU 172 with GMU 169 for the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle permit holder.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

This proposal revises wording in the "once in a lifetime" part of special hunting permits for moose, to reflect the proposed change in hunt categories from "any moose" to "antlered bull moose." Any "point" accumulated under the "any moose" category will be transferred to the "antlered bull moose" category.

Additionally applicants for special hunting season permits will be required to either complete hunter education prior to submitting a permit application, or be exempt from the hunter education requirement.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

This proposal modifies hunt dates on properties enrolled in WDFW's Landowner Hunting Permit (LHP) program for the 2018 hunting seasons. These sites offer special hunting opportunities to the public through permits issued by WDFW, raffles, or selection by the landowner.

WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

The proposal will ban the importation and retention of specific parts of dead nonresident wildlife that could contain Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from Montana. Specific circumstances are fully set forth in WAC 220-413-030 to include the state of Montana.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

The purpose of this proposal is to add unmanned aircraft to the rule that restricts the use of aircraft, boats, or other types of vehicles to hunt, spot, or harass wildlife.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

The proposal will change the reporting deadline for brant, sea duck, and snow goose to March 20 following the season for which the harvest card was issued, and adds a harvest report card requirement for the SW Canada Goose special species authorization.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

The purpose of the proposal is to modify restrictions in the Special Closures and Firearm Restriction rule by:

Adding mountain goat as an exception to the hunting restriction in GMU 522.

Clarifying and adding exceptions to the firearm restriction that exists in a portion of GMU 652.

Removing a firearm restriction area in Kitsap County that is no longer needed.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the restriction that disallows the use of primers, designed for modern cartridges in the firearms ignition system, during muzzleloader hunting seasons. Such a rule change will allow more technologically advanced muzzleloaders to be used during muzzleloader seasons.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal adds turkey to the hunter orange rule and requires turkey hunters that are hunting during a modern deer or elk firearm season to wear florescent orange.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the three Deer Areas surrounding Spokane and the Colfax Deer Area that are either ineffective or no longer needed and add the North Issaquah Deer Area in King and Snohomish Counties to help mitigate deer conflict issues. Deer Areas allow the department to focus deer hunting pressure on a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Deer Areas help expand hunting opportunity that would normally not be available. Deer Areas also help accommodate wildlife conflict mitigation using hunting as a tool.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season deer hunting opportunity for 2018-2020. 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.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain special permit deer hunting opportunity for 2018. 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.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The purpose of the proposal is to add new Elk Areas or adjust the boundaries of existing Elk Areas. Elk Areas allow the department to focus elk hunting pressure on a smaller scale than the Game Management Unit. Elk Areas help expand hunting opportunity that would normally not be available. Elk Areas also help accommodate wildlife conflict mitigation using hunting as a tool.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain general season elk hunting opportunity for 2018-2020. In addition, the purpose of the proposal is to balance the hunting opportunity between user groups. The proposal also increases the opportunity when elk populations allow, and reduces the opportunity when declining elk numbers warrant a change.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

The purpose of this proposal is to retain elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2018. 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.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The purpose of this proposal is to remove hunt category "any moose," replacing it with "any antlered bull moose;" require successful moose hunters to submit an incisor tooth by mail to WDFW for ageing; add "or archery" to the list of permitted weaponry for moose hunting in the Parker Lake special hunt area; and changes in permit levels.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; require a bear identification test for hunters that will hunt within grizzly bear recovery areas as identified by the department; expand the biological samples that may be collected by the department; and include results for failure to report or comply with the conditions of the rule.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; remove game management units that do not have resident bear populations; require a bear identification test for hunters that will hunt within grizzly bear recovery areas as identified by the department; expand the biological samples that may be collected by the department; and include results for failure to report or comply with the conditions of the rule.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to align the rules with the appropriate season dates; align the cougar season with the license year and thereby minimize potential confusion by hunters; and align the late cougar season start date with the closing date of the general deer and elk seasons for modern firearm and muzzleloader with the exception of a few Master Hunter antlerless elk seasons that continue into January.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

The purpose of the proposal is to initiate modest ewe (bighorn sheep female) harvests in two separate areas of the Lincoln Cliffs bighorn sheep populations. Additionally, increase harvest of both rams and ewes in the Chelan Butte population.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

The purpose of the proposal is to require holders of mountain goat hunting permits to pass an online test of their ability to distinguish mountain goats by gender (i.e., billy vs. nanny) before they would be allowed to purchase their mountain goat hunting license; establish new mountain goat hunting seasons in Mt. Margaret back-country, and Mt. St. Helens South (one permit in each area); and split the existing Goat Rocks mountain goat hunt area into two contiguous areas.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposal is to make date adjustments related to calendar changes; extend the fall turkey season in GMUs 101-154 and 162-186; remove the draw permits from Klickitat County and opens GMUs within that county to general season hunting; and prohibit night hunting in GMUs that fall within the lynx management zones as identified by the department.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

The purpose of the proposal is to specify legal season dates and bag limits for the 2018-2019 season.

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

This proposal changes the current Public Safety Cougar Removal from a hunting opportunity authorizing the use of hounds, when certain conditions are met, to a permit program to provide training opportunities for owners of "working dogs" who are often summoned by WDFW Law Enforcement to assist in resolving wildlife conflict issues. If approved, this new program will allow working dogs and their owners the non-lethal pursuit of cougars under the conditions of a training permit.

Reasons supporting proposal:

WAC 220-400-050 Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

The proposed amendments will make the sealing requirements consistent for each species and thereby easily understood by user groups. The proposed changes will also make managing cougar hunt unit closures more efficient and timely.

WAC 220-410-040 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region four.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules and trespass rules more straightforward.

WAC 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions-Region five.

The proposed amendments will make the boundaries more discernable for hunters. The proposed changes will also make enforcement of hunting season rules more straightforward.

WAC 220-412-070 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits.

The proposed amendments will redirect hunters from a small herd that has few mature rams to a herd that can more easily support removal of a large-sized ram.

WAC 220-412-080 Special hunting season permits.

The proposed amendments will maintain consistency with proposed changes in the WAC 220-415-070 and requirements elsewhere in WAC that applicants for special permits possess the necessary qualifications to hunt under that permit should they be drawn.

WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

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 is 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 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

Because Montana has identified chronic wasting disease in wild free ranging deer, the department seeks to mitigate the risk to public health and safety by adding the state of Montana to WAC 220-413-030.

WAC 220-413-070 Hunting with aid of aircraft, boats or other vehicles.

Small unmanned aircraft have become a part of modern culture. Unmanned aircraft use is pervasive. In the same spirit of hunting ethics that inspired the Fish and Wildlife Commission to promulgate a rule that restricts the use of vehicles, aircraft, or boats to hunt or harass wildlife, the department feels that unmanned aircraft should be specifically called out and added to this rule.

WAC 220-413-100 Mandatory report of hunting activity.

Two proposed amendments of WAC 220-416-060 require changing the February 15 deadline date. The proposal to move 12-days of the snow goose hunting season in Goose Management Area 1 (Skagit and Snohomish Counties) would have the goose season ending at the end of February (February 27, 2019). Additionally, the requirement of a mandatory harvest report for goose hunting in Goose Management Area 2-Coast and Inland (Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties) has to accommodate goose hunting seasons that can extend to March 10 in some years. To minimize confusion, all waterfowl-related reporting deadlines would be changed to March 20.

WAC 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

Reasons for supporting the rule include expanding mountain goat hunting opportunity; accommodating both firearm restriction needs and wildlife conflict mitigation; and adding flexibility to hunting seasons when restrictions are no longer necessary.

WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission requested that the department reach out to the hunting public and get their opinion on the use of modern cartridge primers on muzzleloading firearms during muzzleloader season. Deer and elk hunters were polled, and the majority of the respondents were in favor of allowing the more modern primers.

WAC 220-414-080 Hunting—Hunter orange clothing requirements.

This proposal is meant to increase safety. Turkey seasons in the past did not overlap with modern deer or elk firearm seasons. New proposals to control growing turkey populations make it necessary to overlap those seasons. This recommended rule adjustment provides consistency. All other species hunters are already required to wear hunter orange during modern deer or elk firearm season. This proposal adds turkey hunters to that list.

WAC 220-415-010 Deer area descriptions.

The proposed amendments will allow the department to use hunting as a management tool and expands deer hunting opportunity.

WAC 220-415-020 2015-2017 Deer general seasons and definitions.

This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general deer hunting season opportunities for 2018-2020. In addition, the proposal allows for the use of hunting as a management tool, helps address deer agricultural damage problems, and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-030 2017 Deer special permits.

This proposal provides for recreational deer hunting opportunity and protects deer from overharvest. The proposal would also maintain sustainable deer special permit hunting season opportunities for 2018. The proposal helps address deer agricultural damage problems and provides for deer population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.

The proposed amendments allow the department to use hunting as a management tool and expands elk hunting opportunity.

WAC 220-415-050 2015-2017 Elk general seasons and definitions.

The proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable general elk hunting season opportunities for 2018-2020. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-060 2017 Elk special permits.

This proposal provides for recreational elk hunting opportunity and protects elk from overharvest. The proposal would maintain sustainable elk special permit hunting opportunity for 2018. The proposal helps address elk agricultural damage problems and provides for elk population control when needed.

WAC 220-415-070 2017 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

We expect the moose population in Northeastern Washington to stabilize or decline over the next few years. Being able to predict whether males (bulls) or females (cows) will be taken in any given hunt is important to managers. Almost all holders of "any moose" permits attempt to take bulls. Accumulated points held in the "any moose" category would be transferred to the new "any antlered bull moose" category; the definition of "antlered bull moose" would require the presence of "visible antlers." Public support for this proposal was high.

Models currently under development by WDFW to understand moose population trajectory require knowing the age of harvested moose. WDFW currently requests successful hunters to extract a tooth and send it to WDFW in a supplied envelope. However, compliance with the currently voluntary request is variable, and response is likely biased. Incorporating this request in rule should increase compliance, increasing the accuracy and precision of our monitoring models.

In response to a hunter's question from 2017, we realized that, unlike other 'muzzleloader hunts' offered for other species, we had not indicated that 'archery' – considered a lesser-capable weapon – could also be used in the muzzleloader season. WDFW received approval from The United States Air Force on this change.

Recent work has strongly suggested that moose have begun declining in abundance in most areas. We also received considerable support from the public for reducing "Youth only" hunts. Most of these specific changes reduce "antlerless moose" permits, particularly in WDFW District 2, where harvest rates have been relatively high. In response to suggestions from Enforcement, we would eliminate the Master Hunter moose permits, which have only been used a handful of times in the past decade, due to the difficulty of finding an appropriate situation. This would reduce expectation among Master Hunters for an opportunity, which, in reality, has rarely been realized.

WAC 220-415-080 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates, assist in lessening the likelihood of incidental take of grizzly bear, bring awareness to hunters, create stewardship of resources managed by other government agencies, and provide the department with the ability to collect biological samples which further assist managing bear populations.

WAC 220-415-090 2015-2017 Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates, assist hunters by providing opportunities where they exist, assist in lessening the likelihood of incidental take of grizzly bear, bring awareness to hunters, create stewardship of resources managed by other government agencies, and provide the department with the ability to collect biological samples which further assist managing bear populations.

WAC 220-415-100 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

The proposed amendments will announce the appropriate season dates; assist in minimizing disturbance to ungulates that are already stressed from winter and birthing; minimize confusion and burden on hunters to buy two licenses; allow hunters who are deer and elk hunting to take a cougar through December 15 without having to call the toll free line to determine if the area is open or not; provide the department an earlier timeframe to manage the harvest guidelines; and attempt to minimize potential of exceeding the harvest guidelines.

WAC 220-415-120 2017 Bighorn sheep seasons and permit quotas.

Where bighorn sheep graze frequently on private, agricultural lands, public tolerance for them can be compromised. Because we have no current place to translocate these sheep, a ewe-only hunt is recommended.

The Chelan Butte bighorn sheep population has also grown, providing opportunity for hunters interested in taking rams (we propose a split season, early and late). Because this herd is situated close to small farms and rural residences, the risk of contact between bighorns and domestic sheep and goats is high. One action the department can take to manage this risk is to halt the slow down or halt the growth of the herd through increased provision of ewe permits.

WAC 220-415-130 2015-2017 Mountain goat seasons and permit quotas.

Mountain goat populations are sensitive to harvest of females, but identification of gender in the field is difficult. The department currently provides training videos and pamphlets to successful applicants for mountain goat hunting permits, but has no way of ensuring that these materials are used. The department proposes adding an online gender identification test that permit holders would be required to pass before being allowed to purchase a mountain goat hunting license. A passing score would be 80%, and permit holders could re-take the test as often as needed until they achieved a passing score.

We now have reliable surveys indicating that goats inhabiting the Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Margaret areas are sufficiently abundant to sustain a conservative hunt. Thus, new hunts are proposed in this area.

The conflict reduction hunt in the East Olympic Mountains remains in the proposed WAC revision as of 12/20/2017, but we hope to remove it prior to the March Commission meeting if we have more certainty that the multi-agency translocation project will commence in 2018. If agencies are moving goats from the Olympic Mountains, it would be inappropriate to provide hunters with the expectation that there would be goats for hunters to pursue in those same places.

The department's data suggests that mountain goat hunting in the Goat Rocks area has been sustainable, but almost all mountain goats taken have come from the more accessible portions of the area. Splitting the existing hunt area in two (and allocating permits approximately proportionally) would distribute harvest pressure more evenly among goats in the greater population.

WAC 220-416-010 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 Small game and other wildlife seasons and regulations.

Annual shifts in the calendar require adjustment.

Turkey populations in those GMUs are high, causing crop and property damage. The proposed change will lengthen the fall season to facilitate additional turkey harvest and help mitigate those problems.

The turkey population in Klickitat County is doing well enough to support a general season hunting opportunity. In the past hunting in those GMUs were by draw permit only. The recommended change will do away with the draw permits and opens those GMUs to general season hunters.

A bobcat hunter mistakenly harvested a collared lynx at night last year. It is very difficult to differentiate the two species with artificial light or night vision equipment. The recommended rule change will help conserve the few lynx that exist in the lynx management zones by making it illegal to night hunt in the GMUs that fall within those zones.

WAC 220-416-060 2017-2018 Migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

Waterfowl seasons and regulations are developed based on cooperative management programs among states of the Pacific Flyway Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, considering population status and other biological parameters. The rule establishes waterfowl seasons and regulations to provide recreational opportunity, control waterfowl damage, and conserve the waterfowl resources in Washington.

WAC 220-440-030 Public Safety Cougar Removals.

WDFW is often called upon to address wildlife conflict issues involving cougar and other species of wildlife. The issues include both public safety and the protection of property. This commonly requires assistance from local citizens who own working dogs (commonly known as hounds), that are especially capable of, and trained for, the detection, tracking, and treeing cougar. Due to broad hunting restrictions, working dogs are limited in access to training opportunities. Working dogs must be kept in peak physical condition in order to be effective. Young dogs require training in order to be of use. The current Public Safety Cougar Removal program was implemented as a pilot and has not been effective in addressing its original intent. Both the Law Enforcement and the Wildlife Programs support this concept. Representatives from The Humane Society of the United States and Conservation Northwest have been involved in creating this proposal and are in support.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530.

Statute being implemented: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, 77.12.020, 77.12.040, 77.12.047, 77.12.150, 77.12.210, 77.12.240, 77.12.320, 77.12.570, 77.12.800, 77.15.245, 77.32.007, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530.

Is rule necessary because of a:

- Federal Law? Yes No
Federal Court Decision? Yes No
State Court Decision? Yes No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) WDFW Private
 Public
 Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Eric Gardner	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515
Implementation:	Eric Gardner	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2515
Enforcement:	Chief Steve Bear	600 Capitol Way North Olympia, WA 98501	(360) 902-2373

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

- Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:

TTY:
Email:
Other:

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:

TTY:

Email:

Other:

No: Please explain: The rule proposal does not require a cost-benefit analysis and does not affect hydraulics.

Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)
(Internal government operations)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)
(Dictated by statute)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)
(Incorporation by reference)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)
(Set or adjust fees)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)
(Correct or clarify language)

RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)
((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025 (4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: Proposed rule does not affect small businesses.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES


If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. _____

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

Date: January 24, 2018	Signature: 
Name: Scott Bird	
Title: Rules Coordinator	