

WAC 220-415-080 and WAC 220-415-090

Black Bear Seasons



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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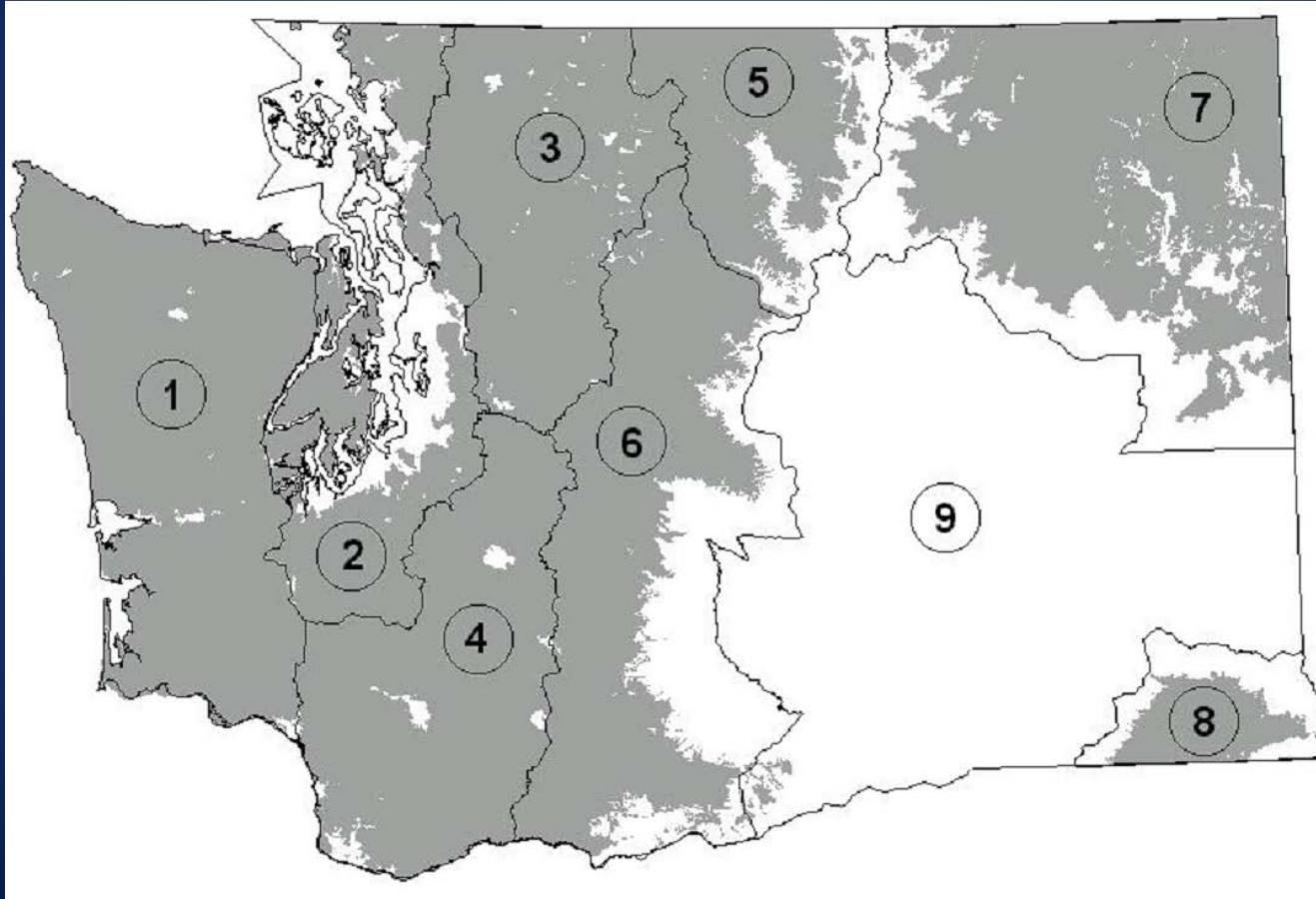
WAC 220-415-090

Fall Black Bear Hunting Season

- Summary: Outlines the requirements related to participating in recreational fall bear hunts; which the annual bear bag limit is 2 animals.



Black Bear Management Units



Game Management Plan

Objective 88

- Provide recreational hunting while maintaining sustainable bear populations in each black bear management unit.

Parameter	Harvest		
	Liberalize	Acceptable	Restrict
% Females in harvest	< 35%	35-39%	> 39%
Median age of harvested females	> 6 years	5-6 years	< 5 years
Median age of harvested males	> 4 years	2-4 years	< 2 years

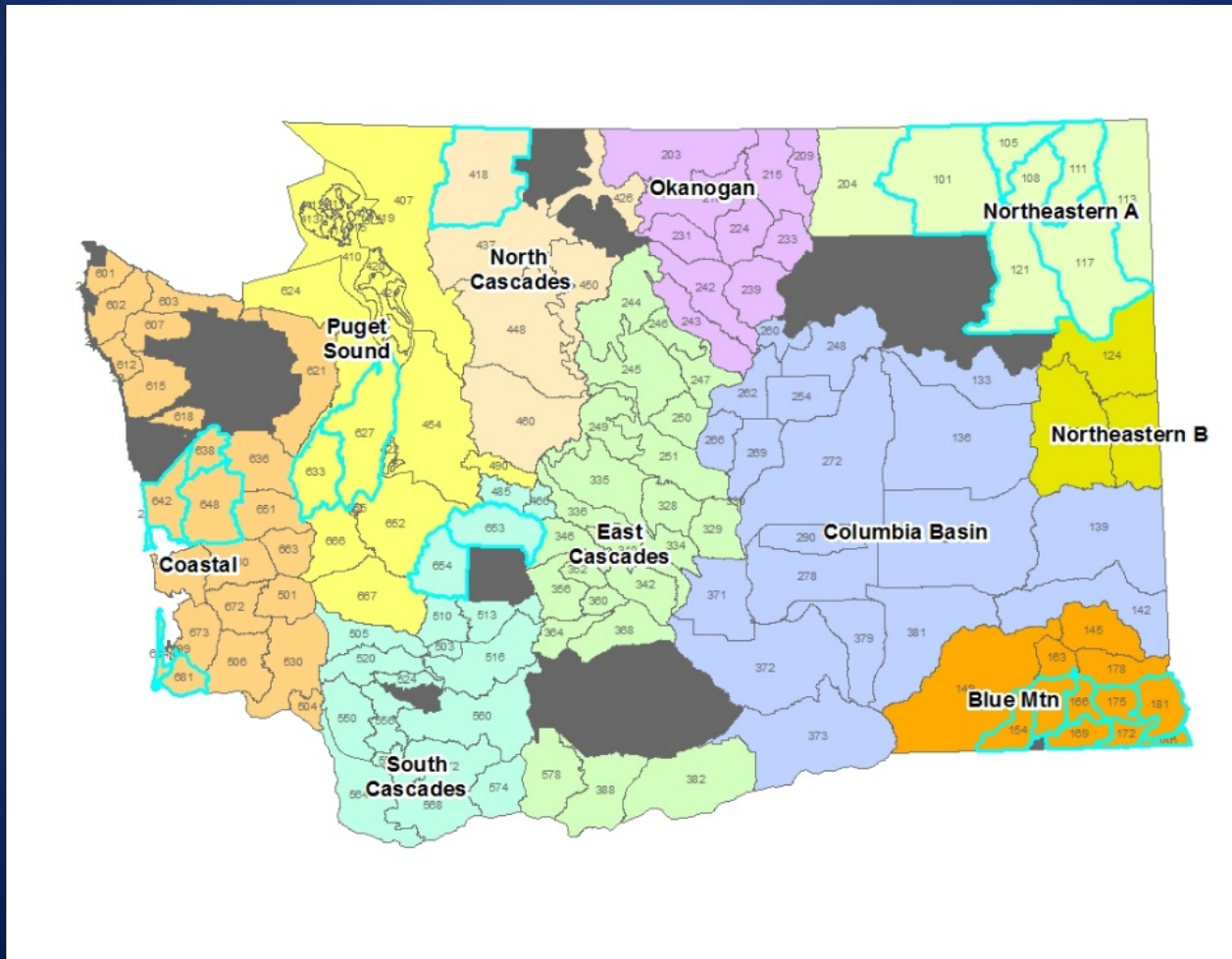
WAC 220-415-080

Spring Special Permit Black Bear Season

- Summary: Outlines the requirements related to participating in spring black bear hunts through a black bear special permit; which successful harvest applies towards the annual 2 bear bag limit.



Spring Special Permit Black Bear Hunt Areas



WAC 220-415-080 and WAC 220-415-090

- The department conducted public meetings and surveys to assess public opinion prior to presenting the proposed changes at the March Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.
- The department received mixed views from the public during the public meetings, surveys, and previous Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.



Proposal WAC 220-415-090

Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons

- Changes: Season dates to reflect 2018-2020.
- Changes: Remove GMUs 410 and 422.
- Rationale: No known resident bears therefore few, if any, opportunities for hunting.

Fall Black Bear		
Hunt Zone	Season	Hunt Area GMUs
Coastal	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530, 601, 602, 603, 607-621, 636-651, 658-663, 672-684
Puget Sound	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 407, ((410,)) 454, 624, 627, 633, 652, 666, 667
North Cascades	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs ((418-450)) 418-421, 426-450, 460
South Cascades	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15	GMUs 466, 485, 503, 505, 510-520, 524, 550-574, 653, 654
Okanogan	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15	GMUs 203, 209-243
East Cascades	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 244-247, 249-251, 328, 329-368, 382, 388, 578
Northeastern A	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 101-121, 204
Northeastern B	Aug. 15 - Nov. 15	GMUs 124-130
Blue Mountains	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 145-154, 162-186
Columbia Basin	Aug. 1 - Nov. 15	GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260-290, 371-381
Long Island	Sept. 1 - Nov. 15	GMU 699

Proposal WAC 220-415-080

Spring Special Permit Black Bear Season

- Revise title of rule to indicate Spring Special Permit.
- Adjust season dates to reflect 2019 and 2020 seasons.
- Modify language to reflect appropriate ownership in Kapowsin Hunt Area.
- Rationale: Correctly identify season dates and locations and clearly identifies the season as a special permit opportunity.

Proposal

Annual Bear Identification Test

Required for Fall or Spring Special Permit

- Purpose: to minimize harvest of grizzly bears as a result of mistaken identity and build stewardship of resource management with other agencies.
- Provide photographic clues to assist hunters with identification.
- Aligns with other western states - MT, WY, ID.



Proposal

Annual Bear Identification Test

- Require an annual bear identification test be taken by all hunters that plan to hunt within the GMUs identified by the department:
 - Listed in hunting pamphlet
 - May be taken until a passing score is achieved (80%)
 - Online testing through Licensing or at a Regional Office
 - Department will honor certificates from other states



Proposal

WAC 220-415-080 and WAC 220-415-090

- Modify language to clarify requirements regarding report and submission of biological samples.
- Modify language to clarify penalties for failure to report or comply with the conditions of WAC 220-415-080 and 220-415-090.
- Rationale: Clarifying language should reduce potential confusion and minimize violations.

Floor Change

- On page 5 and 13, update the language under “Submitting Biological Samples and Bear Teeth” to read as follows:

Failure to ~~provide reports or~~ comply with the submission of biological samples is a misdemeanor pursuant to RCW 77.15.280.

- Rationale: RCW 77.15.280 only applies to the submission of biological samples. RCW 77.32.070 give the department the authority to require a hunter report and is listed in the statutory authority.

Questions?

