

WACs 220-415-050 & 220-415-060

Elk General Seasons and Elk Special Permits

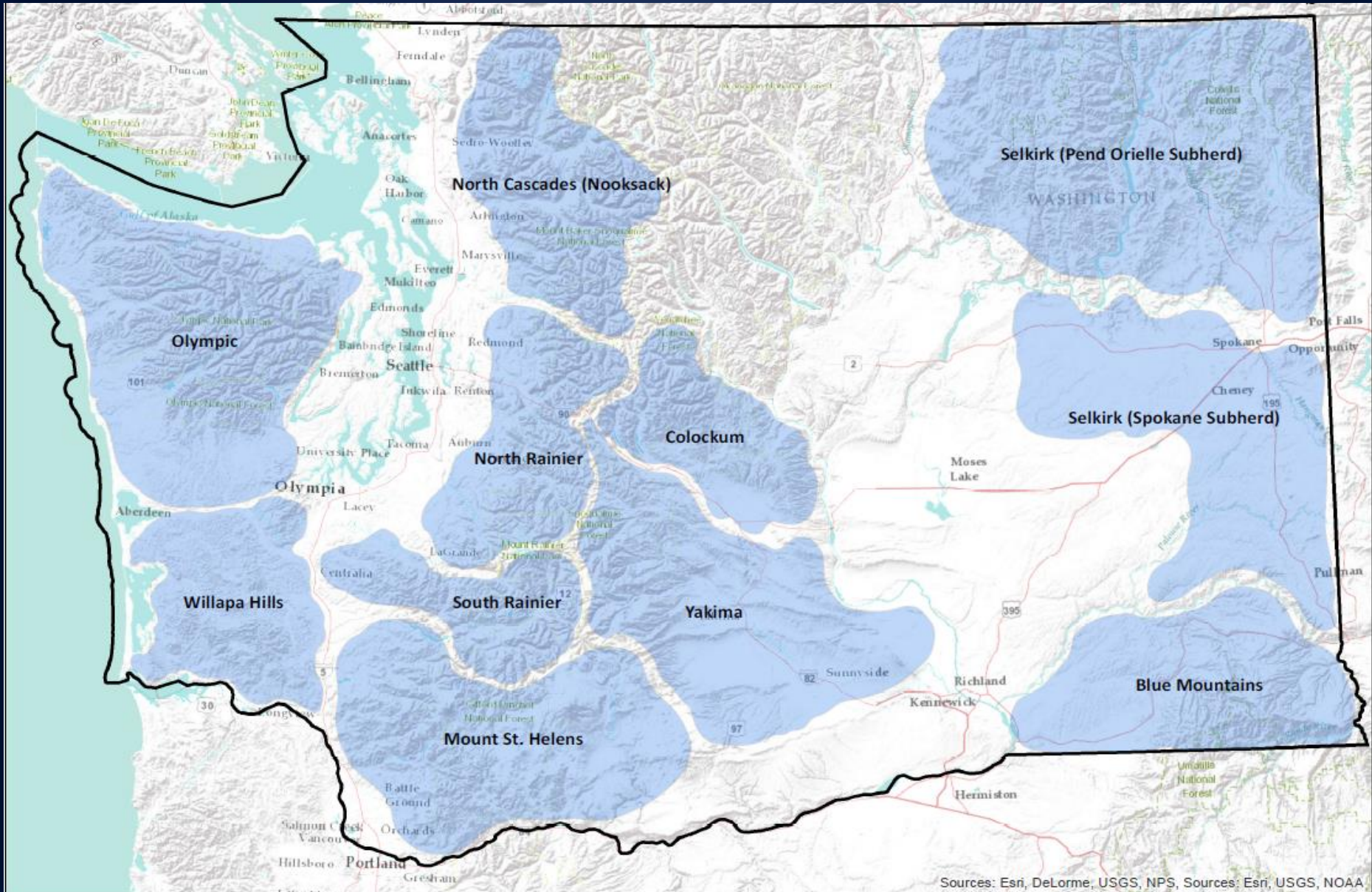


Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

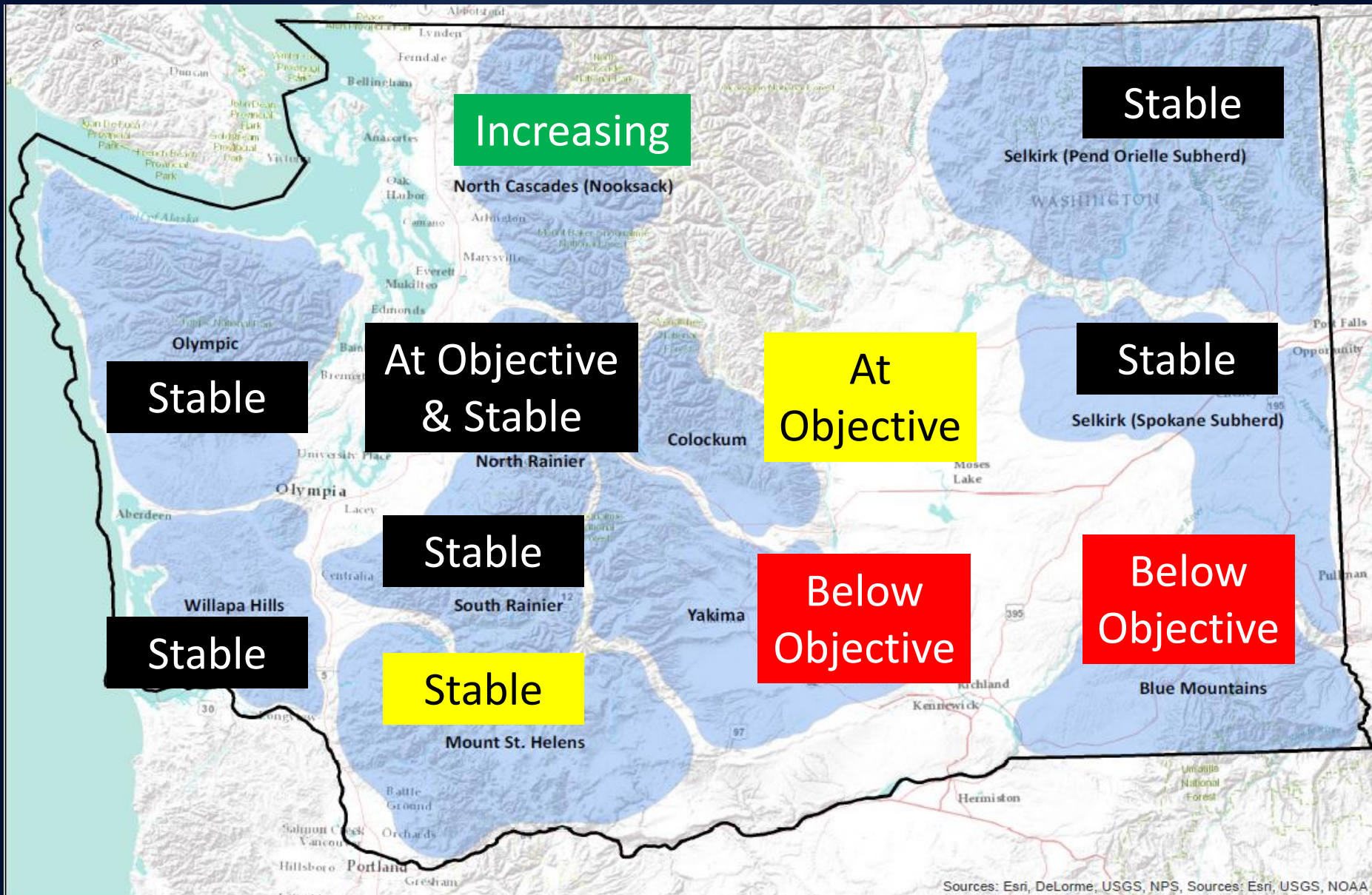
Brock Hoenes

**Deer and Elk Section Manager, Game Division
Wildlife Program**

Elk Herd Status

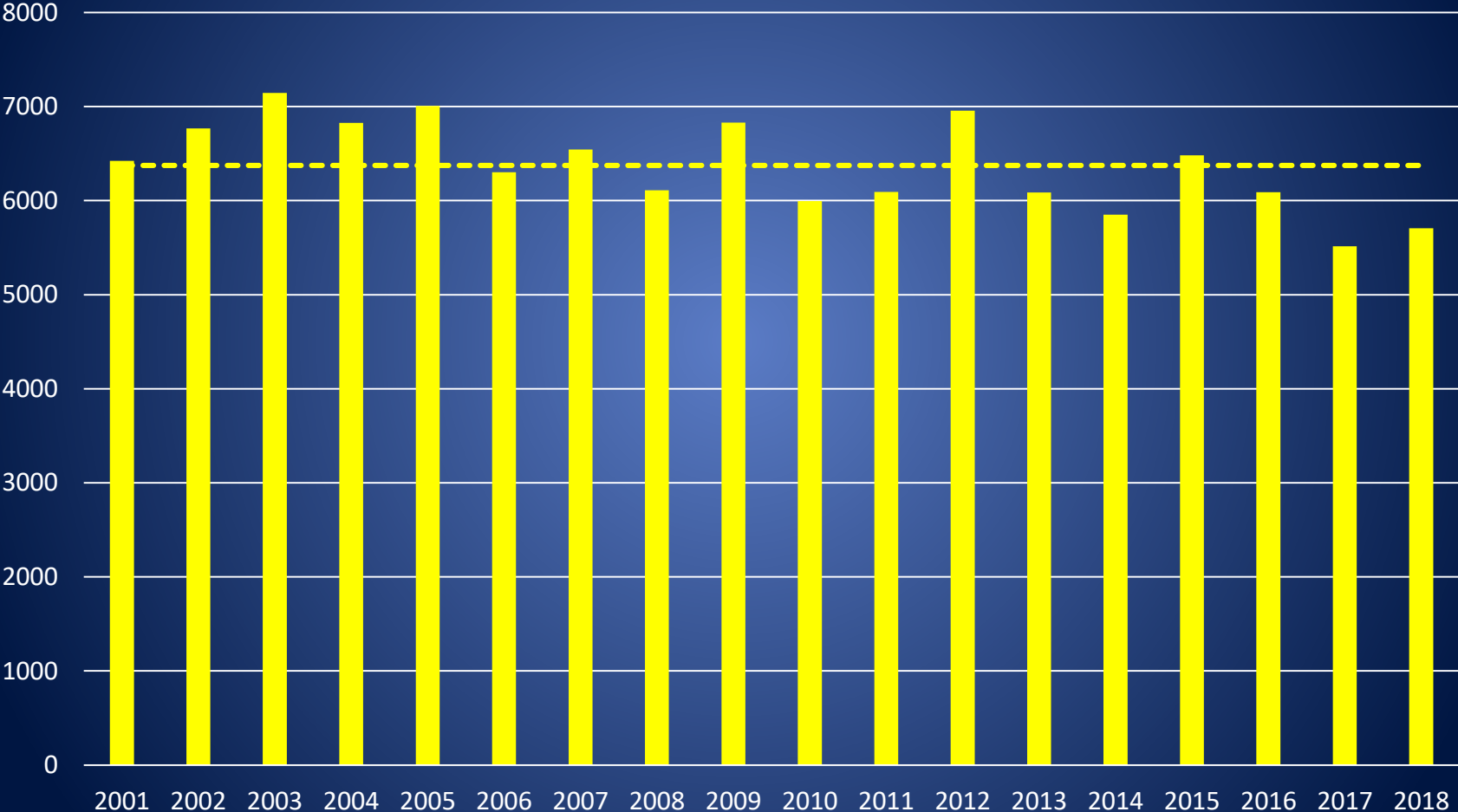


Elk Herd Status



Elk Harvest 2001 to 2018

General Season and Special Permit Combined



Elk General Season Proposals

WAC 220-415-050

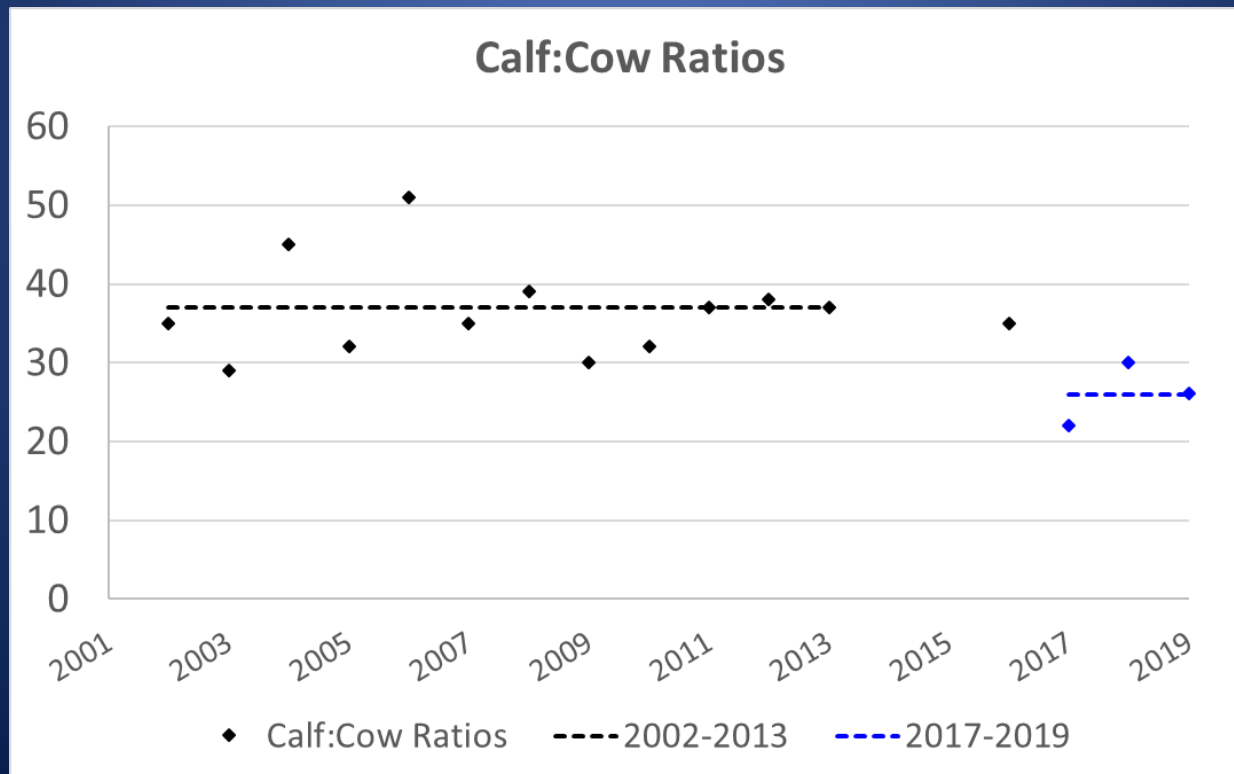
- Proposed to add early archery Any elk opportunity and early muzzleloader 3 pt. Min. or antlerless opportunities in EA 6014 to help mitigate damage issues
- Proposed to shift legal elk for early archery in GMU 652 from Any elk to 3 pt. min. or antlerless
- Proposed to allow opportunities to harvest antlered elk in EA 6013 during early and late archery

Elk General Seasons Continued

- Proposed to shift the legal elk for early muzzleloader in GMU 505 from 3 pt. min. to 3 pt. min. or antlerless to help mitigate damage
- Proposed to shift the legal elk for late muzzleloader in GMU 667 from 3 pt. min. to 3 pt. min. or antlerless and reduce the season length by 7 days
- Maintained a placeholder for an early archery general elk season in the Colockum and Yakima elk herd areas until 2018 harvest estimates and 2019 spring survey data are available

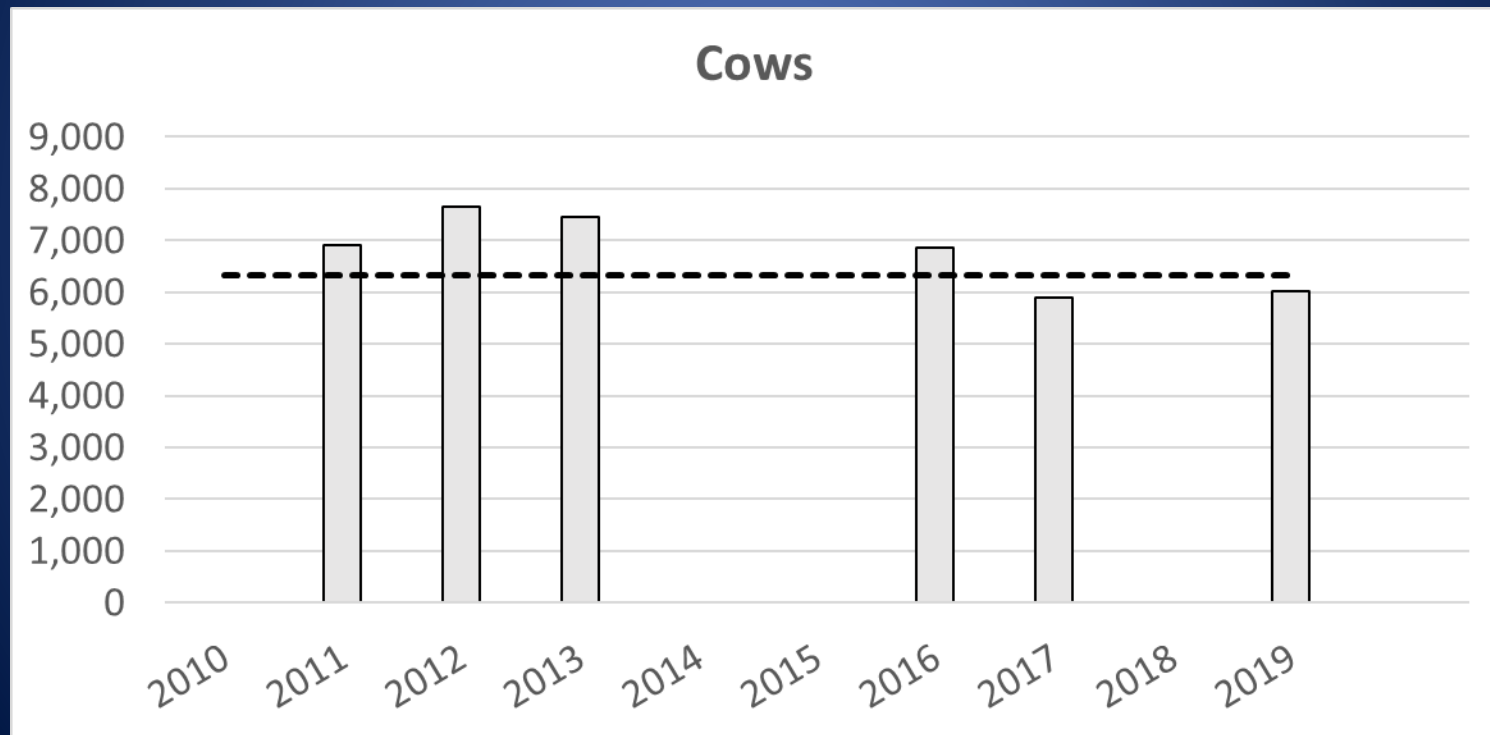
Yakima Elk Herd

- 2019 survey indicates the Yakima herd remains ~1,200 elk (13%) below objective and calf recruitment rates remain below historical levels



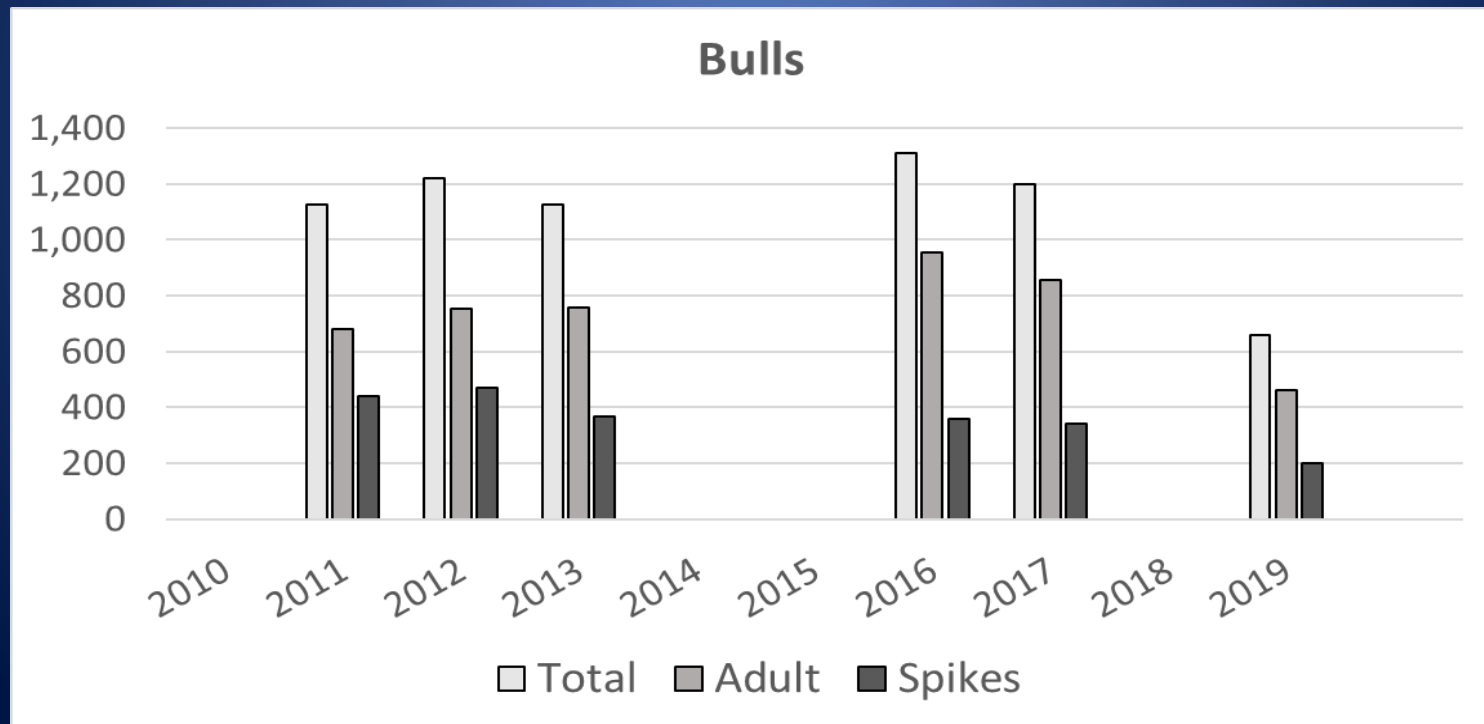
Yakima Elk Herd

- Cow numbers are near objective
- 2019 estimate = 6,019 cows



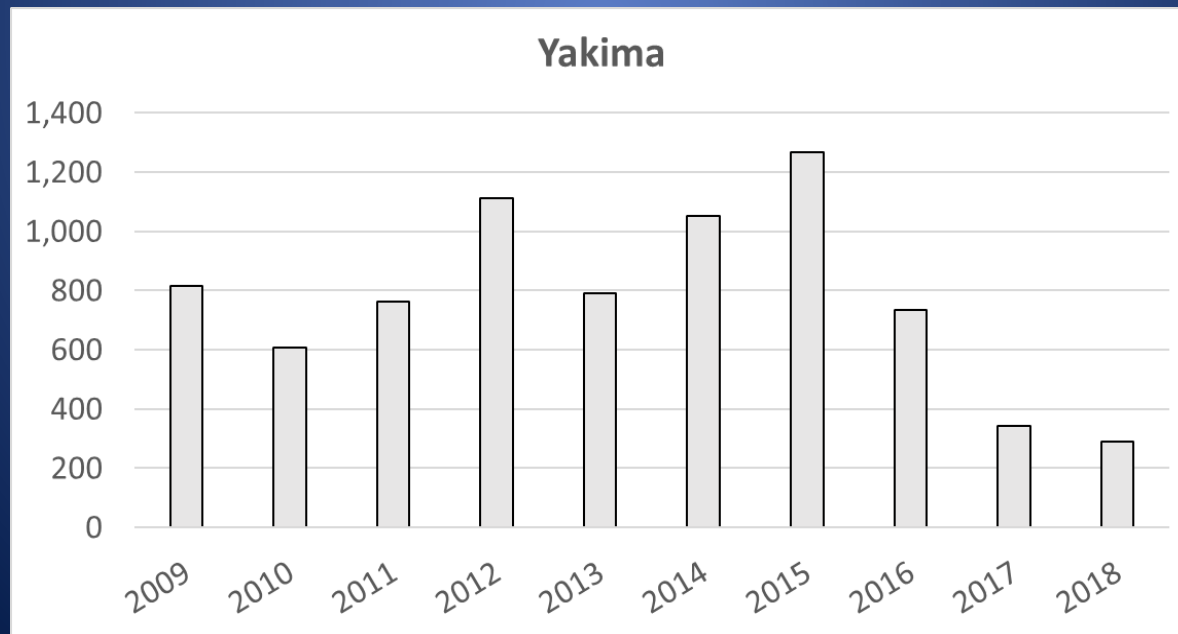
Yakima Elk Herd

- Total bull and adult bull numbers have declined by ~50%
- The number of spikes recruited has declined by ~55%



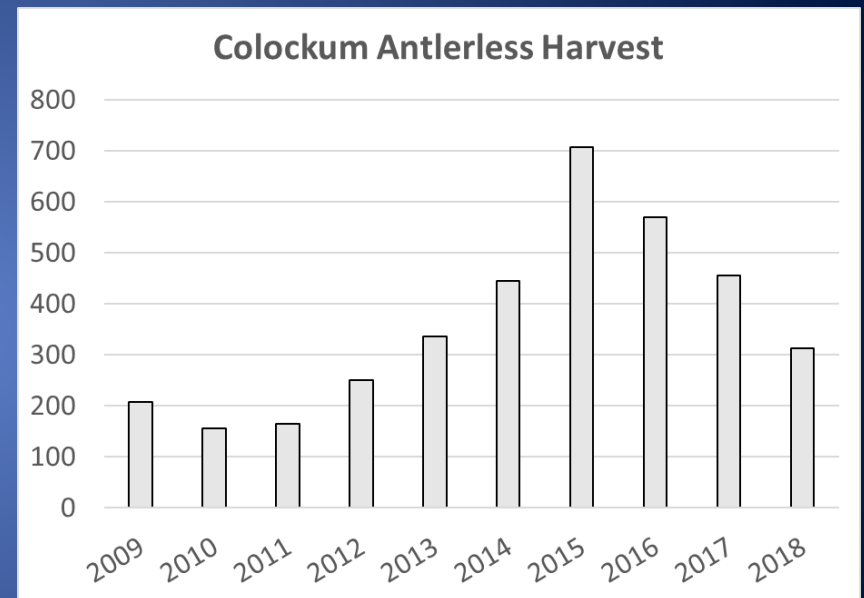
Yakima Elk Herd

- Recreational antlerless harvest has been reduced substantially
- Early archery season only accounted for ~60 of the 300-400 antlerless elk harvested during recreational and damage hunts combined



Colockum Elk Herd

- At objective in 2018
- Recreational cow harvest reduced substantially
- Antlerless harvest during archery general seasons declined by ~155 elk in 2018
- Calf recruitment rates expected to be adequate



Supplemental Recommended Adjustments Elk General Seasons

Page 5: Under Early Archery General Elk Seasons for Eastern Washington in GMUs 328, 329, 336, 340, 352, 356, and 364; update the season dates under 2019 Dates to be Sept. 14-19 and leave 2020 dates blank.

Questions?



Elk Permit Seasons

WAC 220-415-060

- Quality special permits were adjusted through the special permit allocation process and reduced in the Yakima, Colockum, and Blue Mountains herds
- Adjusted antlerless special permits up or down with the goal of maintaining herds at objective or moving them toward population objective
- Proposed adding special permit opportunities in GMU 334 in conjunction with existing opportunities in the Colockum and Yakima herd areas

Permit Seasons Continued

- Proposed adding modern firearm, archery, and muzzleloader special bull permits and Youth special permits for Spike bull only in EA 1015 to compensate for reduced antlerless permits
- Proposed expanding Youth special permits for Designated Areas in Region 5 to include holders of a muzzleloader or archery transport tag
- Proposed eliminating Antlerless permit hunts for Disabled and 65+ Senior hunters in EA 6011

Supplemental Recommended Adjustments Elk Permit Seasons

- Propose substantial reductions in special permits for bulls in the Yakima elk herd area

| Hunt Name | GMUs | <u>Modern Firearm</u> | | | <u>Archery</u> | | | <u>Muzzleloader</u> | | | <u>Total</u> | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | | 2018 | Original | Final | 2018 | Original | Final | 2018 | Original | Final | 2018 | Original | Final |
| Peaches Ridge | 336, 346 | 61 | 36 | 13 | 58 | 35 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 4 | 136 | 81 | 27 |
| Observatory | 334, 340, 342 | 35 | 12 | 16 | 57 | 23 | 20 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 105 | 40 | 42 |
| Goose Prairie | 352, 356 | 54 | 33 | 8 | 53 | 33 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 120 | 74 | 17 |
| Bethel | 360 | 38 | 30 | 7 | 32 | 25 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 79 | 62 | 15 |
| Rimrock | 364 | 65 | 52 | 28 | 63 | 50 | 21 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 137 | 109 | 53 |
| Cowiche | 368 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 21 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 39 | 25 | 13 |
| Total | | 265 | 170 | 77 | 284 | 180 | 70 | 67 | 41 | 20 | 616 | 391 | 167 |
| Reduction | | | 36% | 71% | | 37% | 75% | | 39% | 70% | | 37% | 73% |

Recommended Floor Change Elk Permit Seasons

- 2019 surveys indicate the Blue Mountains elk herd is ~1,300 elk (25%) below objective
- 3rd straight year with lower than normal calf recruitment rates
 - 3-year average = 22:100
 - 07'-16' average – 30:100
- Propose reductions in special permits for antlerless elk in the Blue Mountains

Recommended Floor Change Elk Permit Seasons

| Antlerless | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <u>Page</u> | <u>Hunt Name</u> | <u>Weapon</u> | <u>Boundary</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>Original</u> | <u>Final</u> |
| 23 | Blue Creek | EF | GMU 154 | 10 | 10 | 5 |
| 23 | Blue Creek | EF | GMU 154 | 10 | 10 | 5 |
| 23 | Marengo-Dayton | EF | GMU 163 and EA-1010 | 75 | 50 | 10 |
| 26 | Blue Creek | EM | GMU 154 | 25 | 25 | 15 |
| Youth | | | | | | |
| <u>Page</u> | <u>Hunt Name</u> | <u>Weapon</u> | <u>Boundary</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>Original</u> | <u>Final</u> |
| 28 | Blue Creek | EF | GMU 154 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| 28 | Dayton | EF | GMU 162 | 10 | 8 | 3 |
| 28 | Lick Creek | EF | GMU 175 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 65+ Senior | | | | | | |
| <u>Page</u> | <u>Hunt Name</u> | <u>Weapon</u> | <u>Boundary</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>Original</u> | <u>Final</u> |
| 30 | Blue Creek | EF | GMU 154 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 30 | Dayton | EF | GMUs 162, 163 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Hunters with Disabilities | | | | | | |
| <u>Page</u> | <u>Hunt Name</u> | <u>Weapon</u> | <u>Boundary</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>Original</u> | <u>Final</u> |
| 31 | Blue Creek | EF | GMU 154 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 31 | Dayton | EF | GMUs 162, 163 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Total | | | | 149 | 122 | 45 |
| Reduction | | | | | 18% | 70% |

Questions?



Motion Language

I move to adopt WACs 220-415-050
and 220-415-060 as presented.