

The West Seattle Sportsman

www.westseattlesportsmen.org

Clean that shotgun. Bird hunting trip this October 18th!

Applications due Oct. 15 for public safety cougar removal permits

OLYMPIA - Washington hunters interested in assisting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) with public-safety cougar removals have until Oct. 15 to apply for special permits.

The requests are being taken in accordance with rules adopted Aug. 1 by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission that allow the use of dogs to remove cougars in limited areas where cougars have been judged to be a threat to human safety, based on past complaints.

The use of dogs to hunt cougars was banned in Washington in 1996 by ballot initiative. Since then, hunting cougars without dogs has been allowed annually from Aug. 1 to March 15. But following increasing cougar-related complaints over the last few years, the Legislature in 2000 directed the commission to develop rules allowing the use of dogs to remove cougars in selected areas of the state.

WDFW staff determined that up to 61 cougars should be removed from 16 game management units (GMUs) that had the highest levels of public safety cougar-related complaints in 2002 and 2003. The units are primarily in north-central and northeast

Washington.

Permit applicants must have a valid state big game hunting license, with cougar as a species option, and must own cougar-tracking dogs.

The permit applications, which must be in writing, must be submitted by Oct. 15 to WDFW Enforcement Program, Attn: Sean Carrell, 600 Capital Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091. [Application forms](#) are available on the WDFW website. Permit requests must include the applicant's name, address, phone number and the WDFW administrative region in which the applicant would like to participate.

Cougar removal permits, which will be valid for use from Dec. 1 to March 15, will be drawn at random.

Individuals selected for permits will be notified by mail. The notice will include the GMU and the boundaries in which the permit is to be used.

**MEETINGS FIRST
WEDNESDAY 7:15
Roger Dahl Rifle Range
West Seattle Stadium**

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar!

Oct 18th – Bird Hunting trip.

October – Deer Hunting.

November – Squid Fishing.

December – Christmas Party.

If you have any ideas for programs to have at the club meeting or any good outing ideas let one of the Officers or Trustees know.

Pacific Northwest Elk Outlook

Washington-Oregon Game and Fish Magazine

Elk herds in Washington and Oregon appear to be healthy and increasing, which bodes well for hunters in 2003.

By Doug Rose

There are a lot of things that elk managers can control: They can modify season lengths to increase or reduce harvest, issue cow permits to control population growth, adopt point restrictions to change bull-to-

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RANGE REPORT

September 17, 2003
Tony Olszewski

As of today, September 17, all the backstops are installed and the target carriers are working. The ducting on the range side has been completely installed. All that is left to do is install the ducting in the back room, but this is a challenge and will take several more weeks.

Tentatively, our first competition is an air pistol match on the second Saturday of October. We have two ideas for installing the air gun backstops. The best one requires some aluminum tubing about 2-4" in diameter with at least a 1/8" wall. Anybody got some to donate or sell cheap? This project is outside the grant funds.

The old backstop has been removed. Since nobody wanted the good steel plate, we donated it to the South Seattle Community College welding class.

Washington's New State-Record Blacktail

The Gold Bar buck stands to become the Pope and Young Club's second-largest non-typical blacktail ever taken by anyone anywhere.

by Elmer Kurrus

The Gold Bar Buck is an exceptional blacktail deer that has completely rewritten Washington archery record books and may become the second-largest non-typical blacktail ever taken by a bowhunter in the world. The buck's non-typical score of 179 1/8 points is more than 37 inches bigger than the closest entry for any other Washington blacktail.

In October 1998, Don Engel arrowed the massive buck.



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The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club was founded in 1934 by a group of fourteen men who had the foresight to see that sportsmen, in a united group, would present views, be better heard and achieve goals that were not possible when action as unorganized individuals. The ambitions of these charter members, who strove for the propagation of wildlife and habitat as well as the conservation of all our natural resources, has proven prophetic, for today multitudes of individuals and sporting groups are carrying on the job of conserving the remaining outdoor assets of natural America. The West Seattle Sportsmen's Club helps lead in this fight in the state of Washington. A member has the opportunity to join others in formulating club action in achieving and maintaining these goals.

However, "all work and no play" is not the format of the club. Many events are spaced throughout the year to insure a member many chances to participate in sportsmen's activities. For \$25, what more could a man ask than the opportunity to go salmon fishing with a group of his friends on a charter boat, fresh water fishing with other members and their families, have a salmon bake, a clam feed, or attend a banquet especially for the ladies. But there's more - he can shoot on the club range, go rabbit hunting, and if nothing else, should get \$25 worth just by watching the kids of the community have a real ball at the Kid's Fishing Derby. To sum it all up, a guy gets at least a hundred dollars worth of fun out of a year's membership.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WEST SEATTLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

Date _____

I, _____ of _____, Washington, being interested in the propagation and conservation of game birds, game animals, and fish in the State of Washington, do hereby apply for membership in the WEST SEATTLE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB and tender herewith the sum of \$ _____ in payment of one year's dues.

"I solemnly swear that I will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the West Seattle Sportsmen's Club and help in its up-building and I will not willfully disobey the Game Laws wherever I fish or hunt. I will always be a true sportsman both in the field and to my brother members at all times.

Signed _____

Street Address _____

City _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Recommended by _____

(Pacific Northwest Elk Outlook, Page 1.)

cow ratios, and they can refine management down to smaller and smaller areas. What they can't control is the weather.

Fortunately, the winter of 2002-'03 was the kind that elk managers in Washington and Oregon would prescribe if they could - especially in the central and eastern portions of both states, where heavy snow and freezes can effect elk survival.

"Overall, we had a real mild winter, and there was very little winter kill," said Dave Ware, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's game program manager.

Oregon elk also got through the winter well, according to Tom Thornton, the game program manager of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Everything I've heard suggests it was a pretty mild winter throughout the state," he said. "Most of our snow caps are well below average, and we got some spring green-up. (Elk did real well.)"

Each year, Washington-Oregon Game & Fish contacts game managers, regional biologists and outfitters to help hunters decide where and how they want to hunt elk in the upcoming season. After reading our 2003 elk forecast, we believe you will be able to devote your energy on the things that are important - scouting, practicing with your hunting implement of choice, and getting in shape for dragging heavy elk quarters out of the woods - rather than trying to find a place to hunt.

WASHINGTON

Washington supports 10 major elk herds.

- The Yakima herd is the state's largest Rocky Mountain elk herd, numbering in excess of 13,000 animals.
- The Colockum herd lives between the Columbia River and Wenatchee Mountains.
- The Blue Mountains herd is native to the southeast corner of the state.
- The Selkirk herd's home is in northeast Washington.
- West of the Cascades, the Olympic Peninsula's 10,000 elk are the only pure stock of Roosevelt elk in the region.
- The remaining wet-side herds are Rocky Mountain/Roosevelt elk hybrids and include the Mount St. Helens, north Rainier, south Rainier, Willapa Hills and Nooksack herds.

East-Side ElkIn recent years, "spike-only" regulations have been in affect in most of eastern Washington, while 3-point minimums are the rule west of the Cascades.

The Yakima herd is not only Washington's largest, it is also the most popular to hunt. During 2000, more than 32,000 hunters took 2,755 elk from the WDFW's Region 3, the herd's home range.

There are two components to the Yakima herd: the Cascade slope herd, which lives on the east slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Yakima, southern Kittitas and northern Benton counties, and the much smaller Rattlesnake Mountain population that roams the shrub-steppe habitat between the Yakima and Columbia rivers.

The WDFW's Ware says the Cascade herd is about the same size now that it has been in recent years, and hunter opportunity will be similar.

The Cascade herd is migratory, and during the hunting season it is widely distributed in the Taneum, Manastash, Umtanum, Little Naches, Nile, Bumping, Bethel, Rimrock and Cowiche units. All of these are "spike-only" units for general-season hunters; only limited-draw permit holders may take adult bulls.

Access is excellent on Wenatchee National Forest land, although more than 580 miles of road on the Cascade slopes are managed as "green dot" road closures. In these areas, mainline roads are open to motorized vehicles, but spur roads are closed.

Chelan County's Colockum herd suffered heavy winterkill in the 1990s and they haven't rebounded as quickly as hoped. "The Colockum herd seems to be doing a little better than it has the last three or four years," Ware said, "but it's still well below historical levels."

Two years ago, the total elk harvest in Region 2, which includes the Colockum herd, was 70 elk, and more than half of them came from the Mission Unit (GMU 251). Only the Mission and Alpine units were proposed to be open during the general modern firearms seasons this year, but the Manson, Entiat, Alpine and Swakane units are open to bowhunters, and the Chiwawa, Swakane and Mission units have early muzzleloader hunts.

The biggest news out of southeast Washington's Blue Mountains this year was the arrest of an organized elk-poaching ring (see this month's Washington-Oregon In the Field). "We busted a big ring down there," Ware said. "It's looking like they took a bunch of branch-antlered bulls over the last four years."

Private Lands Wildlife Management Area (PLWMA): A Program Review And Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife August 22, 2003

Introduction: The trial Private Lands Wildlife Management Area (PLWMA) program has been in existence since November 1991, when PLWMA 201 Buck run located near Wilson Creek, Washington was approved by the Commission. Subsequently, the Kapowsin Tree Farm located in Pierce County was approved in 1992 and the Pysht Tree Farm located near Clallam Bay, Washington was approved as a trial PLWMA in 1997. The Fish and Wildlife Commission requested WDFW to conduct a review of the program and report back to them with recommendations.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) organized a PLWMA stakeholder group in January 2003 to assist in a program review. Representatives from each of the trial programs, five representatives of various sportsmen organizations, two timber industry representatives, three agriculture interests, two professional wildlife biologists and one representative of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission made up the Stakeholder group.

Four meetings were held and at the conclusion, they developed this report, which contains 49 specific recommendations including a recommendation to continue with a PLWMA-like program. The following three questions are the central themes of the review process.

Should the PLWMA program be authorized as a permanent program having successfully completed a lengthy trial period?

Should the current Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy POL-C6002 be amended and the PLWMAs reauthorized as a permanent program?

Should the PLWMA program be terminated?

Responsive Management, a private polling firm, conducted a study for the WDFW entitled, *Washington State hunters' and Landowners' Opinions on the Private Lands Wildlife Management Area Program,* which has been very helpful in the review process. A Copy of this report is available by request to George Tsukamoto, Wildlife Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capital Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091



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