

Attachment I

Proposed Amendments to WAC 220-415-100

WAC 220-415-100 (2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27) Cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

(1) As used in this section and in the context of general cougar hunting seasons, “harvest guideline” means the estimated maximum allowable harvest; the actual harvest may be less than or more than the harvest guideline.

(2) ~~Early g~~General cougar season is September 1st to ~~December 31st, late general~~ cougar season is ~~January 1st to April 30th~~ March 31st of the following year. Hunters can use any legal weapon to hunt cougars.

Harvest guidelines: (~~Implied density in parentheses~~)

Population Management Unit (PMU)	Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline
1	GMU 101	7-11 (2.6)
2	GMU 105	4 (3.72)
3	GMUs 108, 111	9-11 (3.63)
4	GMU 113	4-5 (1.91)
5	GMU 117	11-13 (3.57)
6	GMU 121	9-11 (3.65)*
7	GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-9 (2.15)
8	GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 290, 330, 334, 371, 372, 373, 379, 381	None
9**	GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	7-9 (3.56)*
10**	GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	6-7 (3.51)
11**	GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	5-6 (3.68)
12	GMU 203	4-5 (1.91)
13	GMU 204	6-8 (2.17)
14	GMUs 209, 215	3-4 (1.91)
15	GMUs 218, 231	4-5 (1.91)
16	GMU 224	2 (1.91)
17	GMUs 233, 239	4-5 (2.42)
18	GMUs 242, 243	5-6 (2.28)
19	GMUs 244, 246, 247	4-6 (1.91)
20	GMUs 245, 250	4-6 (1.91)
21	GMUs 249, 251	4-6 (1.91)
22	GMUs 328, 329, 335	8-10 (2.79)
23	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	9-11 (3.61)
24	GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	7-9 (2.9)
25	GMUs 382, 388	3 (1.91)
26	GMU 407	None
27	GMUs 418, 426, 437	10-13 (1.91)
28	GMUs 448, 450	8-11 (1.91)
29	GMU 454	None
30	GMU 460	4-6 (1.91)
31	GMUs 466, 485, 490	2-3 (1.91)
32	GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	6-9 (1.91)
33	GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	5-7 (1.91)
34	GMUs 510, 513	3 (1.91)

Attachment I

Proposed Amendments to WAC 220-415-100

Population Management Unit (PMU)	Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline
35	GMU 516	3-4 (1.91)
36	GMUs 524, 554, 556	3 (1.91)
37	GMU 560	4-5 (1.91)
38	GMU 564	1 (1.91)
39	GMU 568	3 (2.74)
40	GMU 572	2-3 (1.91)
41	GMUs 574, 578	5-6 (2.82)
42	GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	4-6 (1.91)
43	GMUs 607, 615	3-4 (1.91)
44	GMUs 618, 636, 638	3-5 (1.91)
45	GMUs 621, 624, 627, 633	None
46	GMUs 642, 648, 651	6-8 (2.18)
47	GMUs 652, 666	None
48	GMUs 653, 654	4-5 (1.91)
49	GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	8-11 (1.91)
50	GMU 667	6-7 (3.48)

Population Management Unit (PMU)	Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline
1	GMU 101	7-9
2	GMU 105	2
3	GMUs 108, 111	5-6
4	GMU 113	5-6
5	GMU 117	6-8
6	GMU 121	5-6
7	GMUs 124, 127, 130	7-9
8	GMUs 133, 136, 139, 142, 248, 254, 260, 262, 266, 269, 272, 278, 284, 290, 330, 334, 371, 372, 373, 379, 381	None
9	GMUs 149, 154, 162, 163	4-5
10	GMUs 145, 166, 175, 178	3-4
11	GMUs 169, 172, 181, 186	3
12	GMU 203	5
13	GMU 204	6-8
14	GMUs 209, 215	4
15	GMUs 218, 231	5-6
16	GMU 224	2
17	GMUs 233, 239	4
18	GMUs 242, 243	5-6
19	GMUs 244, 246, 247	5-6
20	GMUs 245, 250	5-6
21	GMUs 249, 251	5-6
22	GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-6

Attachment I

Proposed Amendments to WAC 220-415-100

Population Management Unit (PMU)	Hunt Area	Harvest Guideline
23	GMUs 336, 340, 342, 346	5-6
24	GMUs 352, 356, 360, 364, 368	5-6
25	GMUs 382, 388	3-4
26	GMU 407	None
27	GMUs 418, 426, 437	11-15
28	GMUs 448, 450	10-13
29	GMU 454	None
30	GMU 460	5-6
31	GMUs 466, 485, 490	3
32	GMUs 501, 504, 506, 530	8-10
33	GMUs 503, 505, 520, 550	6-8
34	GMUs 510, 513	3-4
35	GMU 516	4
36	GMUs 524, 554, 556	3
37	GMU 560	5-6
38	GMU 564	1
39	GMU 568	2
40	GMU 572	3
41	GMUs 574, 578	4
42	GMUs 601, 602, 603, 612	5-7
43	GMUs 607, 615	4
44	GMUs 618, 636, 638	4-5
45	GMUs 621, 624, 627, 633	None
46	GMUs 642, 648, 651	6-8
47	GMUs 652, 666	None
48	GMUs 653, 654	5
49	GMUs 658, 660, 663, 672, 673, 681, 684, 699	9-12
50	GMU 667	3-4

*Adjusted to stay within realistic density.

** A second cougar may be harvested in the hunt area with the purchase of a second cougar transport tag.

(a) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, the cougar late hunting season may ~~will close on or after January 1st in one or more GMUs~~ if cougar harvest meets or exceeds the guideline.

(b) In hunt areas with a harvest guideline, ~~starting January 1st,~~ cougar hunters may hunt cougar from ~~January~~ September 1st until the hunt area harvest guideline has been met, and the department has notified licensed cougar hunters by posting the hunt area closure on the department's website and on the toll-free cougar hunting hotline, or ~~March 31st, April 30th~~ whichever occurs first.

(3) Harvest guideline system:

Attachment I

Proposed Amendments to WAC 220-415-100

(a) All independent-aged cougar of the appropriate age class killed beginning on April 1st of each year licensed hunters during the early and late hunting seasons, shall be counted toward the harvest guideline for that season, including those killed by hunters, through known poaching, by landowners or other private citizens, or by federal, state or local officials or their agents.

(b) Individual problem cougar will continue to be killed on an as-needed basis utilizing depredation permits, landowner kill permits, and WDFW depredation authority regardless of harvest guidelines.

(c) It is each cougar hunter's responsibility to verify if the cougar late hunting season is open or closed in hunt areas with a harvest guideline. Cougar hunters can verify if the season is open or closed by calling the toll-free cougar hunting hotline or visiting the department's website.

(4) Cougar hunting season requirements and special restrictions.

(a) A valid big game hunting license which includes cougar as a species option is required to hunt cougar.

(b) ~~The statewide bag limit is one cougar per license year statewide. and one additional cougar per license year may only be harvested from the following PMUs 9, 10, and 11; excluding removals authorized under WAC 220-440-030. One cougar transport tag is included with a big game hunting license that has cougar as a species option. A second cougar transport tag must be purchased to take a second cougar in PMUs 9, 10, and 11; which are comprised of the following GMUs: 145, 149, 154, 162, 163, 166, 169, 172, 175, 178, 181, and 186. Hunters may only purchase the second transport tag after having purchased a license which includes cougar as a species option. It is unlawful to kill or possess spotted cougar kittens or adult cougars accompanied by spotted kittens.~~

(c) The use of dogs to hunt cougar is prohibited; except by a commission authorized permit (WAC 220-440-030 and 220-412-130).

(d) Any person who takes a cougar must comply with the notification and sealing requirements in WAC 220-400-050.

(e) A special cougar permit is required to hunt cougar in GMU 485.

Attachment II
Proposed Amendment to WAC 220-400-050

WAC 220-400-050

Requirements for sealing of pelts and collection of biological information for river otter, cougar, lynx, and bobcat.

(1) It is unlawful to possess river otter, cougar, lynx, or bobcat taken in Washington without a department identification seal which has been attached to the raw pelt, on or off the carcass, prior to the pelt sealing deadline.

(2) The raw pelt of a bobcat or river otter must be presented to an authorized department employee, or authorized individual under permit with the department, for sealing and the associated harvest report must be submitted to the department by April 20th after the close of the appropriate hunting or trapping season in which it was killed.

~~(3) Any person who takes a cougar without the use of dogs must notify the department within 72 hours of kill (excluding legal state holidays) and provide the hunter's name, date and location of kill, and sex of animal. Any person who takes a cougar with the use of dogs must notify the department within 24 hours of kill (excluding legal state holidays) and provide the hunter's name, date and location of kill, and sex of animal. The raw pelt of a cougar must be presented to an authorized department employee for sealing within five days of the notification of kill.~~

Any person who takes a cougar must present the cougar skull, in such a manner that teeth and biological samples can be extracted, to an authorized department employee at the time of sealing.

(4) It is unlawful to transport or cause the transport out of Washington a raw pelt of river otter, cougar, lynx, or bobcat taken in Washington without a department seal attached to the pelt.

(5) The raw pelt of a river otter, cougar, lynx, or bobcat taken outside Washington and imported into the state must be identified by a tag, seal or permit consistent with federal, state or country of origin laws and be accompanied by an invoice, declaration or permit specifying the number of pelts in the shipment.

(6) It is unlawful to possess an unlocked, broken, or otherwise open department seal for river otter, cougar, lynx, or bobcat unless the seal wire or band has been cut through and removed from a pelt that has been received and invoiced by a licensed taxidermist or fur dealer for processing or removed from a pelt that has been processed, except that individuals authorized by the department to seal pelts may possess open, unbroken seals.

[Statutory Authority:

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](#), [77.32.00](#)

Attachment II
Proposed Amendment to WAC 220-400-050

7, 77.32.050, 77.32.070, 77.32.090, 77.32.370, and 77.32.530. WSR 18-11-061 (Order 18-76), § 220-400-050, filed 5/11/18, effective 6/11/18. 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), recodified as § 220-400-050, 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 15-10-033 (Order 15-95), § 232-12-024, filed 4/28/15, effective 5/29/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 06-11-032 (Order 06-92), § 232-12-024, filed 5/8/06, effective 6/8/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 99-17-034 (Order 99-118), § 232-12-024, filed 8/11/99, effective 9/11/99; WSR 94-18-059 (Order 94-58), § 232-12-024, filed 8/31/94, effective 10/1/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.030, 77.12.040 and 77.32.220. WSR 91-13-063 (Order 498), § 232-12-024, filed 6/17/91, effective 7/18/91; WSR 89-18-015 (Order 404), § 232-12-024, filed 8/28/89, effective 9/28/89. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.030 and 77.12.040. WSR 88-13-091 (Order 312), § 232-12-024, filed 6/20/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.040. WSR 81-12-029 (Order 165), § 232-12-024, filed 6/1/81. Formerly WAC 232-12-065.]

Attachment III
Proposed Amendments to WAC 220-415-090

WAC 220-415-090 (2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27) Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations.

It is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions below. A violation of this section is punishable under RCW [77.15.410](#), [77.15.245](#), or [77.15.280](#).

Fall black bear season dates: ~~August~~ September 1 to November 15.

Bag Limit: ~~Two (2)~~ One black bear per annual hunting season.

Area Restriction: GMUs 157, 490, and 522 are closed to fall bear hunting. Special deer permit required to hunt black bear in GMU 485. Hunters that choose to hunt in GMUs located in grizzly bear recovery areas, as identified by the department, must successfully complete the annual WDFW online bear identification test or equivalent test from another state and carry proof of successful completion.

License Required: A valid big game hunting license, which includes black bear as a species option, is required to hunt black bear. One black bear transport tag is included with a big game hunting license that has black bear as a species option. A second black bear transport tag must be purchased to take a second bear.

Hunting Method: Hunters may use any lawful big game modern firearm, archery, or muzzleloader equipment for hunting black bear. The use of hounds and bait to hunt black bear is prohibited statewide.

Other Requirements: Hunters that choose to hunt in GMUs located in grizzly bear recovery areas as identified by the department must successfully complete the annual WDFW online bear identification test with a passing score (80% or higher) or carry proof that they have passed an equivalent test from another state. The WDFW test may be taken repeatedly until a passing score is achieved. All hunters must carry proof of passing a bear identification test while hunting in the GMUs identified by the department.

Submitting Biological Samples and Bear Teeth: Successful bear hunters must comply with harvest reporting and submission of biological samples including the black bear premolar tooth located behind the canine tooth of the upper jaw. Failure to comply with the submission of biological samples is a misdemeanor pursuant to RCW [77.15.280](#), and will preclude hunters from obtaining a bear hunting license the following year.

[