Chapter 220-414 WAC

WILDLIFE—HUNTING—FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND EQUIPMENT

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WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.
(1) It is unlawful to hunt deer or elk with the aid of infrared night vision equipment or with laser sights (not to include range finders) capable of projecting a beam onto the target, while in possession or control of a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow.

(2) It is unlawful to use radio-telemetry equipment to locate and hunt wildlife with transmitters attached to them.

(1) It is unlawful to hunt any big game with:
   (a) A fully automatic firearm.
   (b) A centerfire cartridge less than 22 caliber for cougar.
   (c) A centerfire cartridge less than 24 caliber for any other big game.
   (d) A shotgun, provided that a 20 gauge, or larger shotgun, using shells loaded with slugs or buckshot size #1 or larger, may be used to hunt deer, bear, and cougar.
   (e) A shotgun for any other big game, except that a 12 gauge or 10 gauge shotgun using slugs may be used.
   (f) A handgun during a modern firearm season that does not meet the following criteria: Have a minimum barrel length of four inches, per manufacturer's specification, and fire a centerfire cartridge.
   (g) Any rimfire cartridge.
   (2) It is unlawful to hunt game birds with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells.
   (3) It is unlawful to hunt game birds or game animals, except bullfrogs, in a manner other than with a firearm, a bow and arrow, a crossbow, or by falconry.
   (4) It is unlawful to hunt game animals or game birds with a shotgun larger than 10 gauge.
   (5) It is unlawful to hunt game birds with a rifle or handgun, with the exception of blue grouse, spruce grouse and ruffed grouse.

WAC 220-414-030 Baiting for the purposes of hunting deer or elk.
(1) For the purposes of this section: "Bait" is any substance that could serve as a lure, food, or attraction for deer or elk.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful to hunt for deer and elk using any type of bait placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the purpose of attracting deer or elk with the intent to hunt them, if the volume of bait accessible to wildlife exceeds 10 gallons.

(3) Bait sites of an individual license holder cannot be placed within 200 yards from another known bait site or another bait site of the same license holder.

(4) Exceptions: Hunting on or over the following is not considered an unlawful use of bait while hunting deer or elk:
   (a) Locally common agricultural and ranching practices including salt or mineral distribution, and feeding;
   (b) Food that is available from undisturbed wild, volunteer, or planted vegetation; including fruit trees, orchards, vineyards, and food plots;
   (c) Scents used for cover and attractant that are not consumed by animals;
   (d) Naturally occurring mineral deposits;
   (e) As authorized by a department permit issued to address a management objective; or


(5) It is unlawful to hunt game birds with a rifle or handgun, with the exception of blue grouse, spruce grouse and ruffed grouse.

(6) It is unlawful to hunt turkey with a weapon other than shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot, bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloading shotgun shooting #4 or smaller shot.

(7) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.


(2/15/17)
(f) Exceptions do not include accidental or intentional spills, dumping, or storage of agricultural produce, feed, or bait.

(5) A violation of this section is punishable as an infraction under RCW 77.15.160 if no animal has been shot or killed and RCW 77.15.410 Unlawful hunting of big game—Penalty, if an animal has been shot or killed.


**WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements.** (1) It is unlawful to possess shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than nontoxic shot when hunting for waterfowl, coot, or snipe. Nontoxic shot includes the following approved types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Nontoxic Shot Type*</th>
<th>Percent Composition by Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bismuth-tin</td>
<td>97 bismuth, 3 tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iron (steel)</td>
<td>iron and carbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iron-tungsten</td>
<td>any proportion of tungsten, ˃=1 iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iron-tungsten-nickel</td>
<td>˃=1 iron, any proportion of tungsten, up to 40 nickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copper-clad iron</td>
<td>84 to 56.9 iron core, with copper cladding up to 44.1 of the shot mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-bronze</td>
<td>51.1 tungsten, 44.4 copper, 3.9 tin, 0.6 iron; and 60 tungsten, 35.1 copper, 3.9 tin, 1 iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-iron-copper-nickel</td>
<td>40-76 tungsten, 10-37 iron, 9-16 copper, 5-7 nickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-matrix</td>
<td>95.9 tungsten, 4.1 polymer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-polymer</td>
<td>95.5 tungsten, 4.5 nylon 6 or 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-tin-tin</td>
<td>any proportions of tungsten and tin, ˃=1 iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-tin-bismuth</td>
<td>any proportions of tungsten, tin, and bismuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-tin-iron-nickel</td>
<td>65 tungsten, 21.8 tin, 10.4 iron, 2.8 nickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tungsten-iron-polymer</td>
<td>41.5-95.2 tungsten, 1.5-52.0 iron, and 3.5-8.0 fluoropolymer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Coatings of copper, nickel, tin, zinc, zinc chloride, zinc chrome, and fluoropolymers on approved nontoxic shot types also are approved.

The director may adopt additional nontoxic shot types consistent with federal regulations.

(2) It is unlawful to possess shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than nontoxic shot in the following areas:

(a) Well's Wildlife Area (Bridgeport Bar Unit);

(b) Cowlitz Wildlife Area (all units);

(c) Whatcom Wildlife Area (all units);

(d) Shillapoo Wildlife Area (all units);

(e) Skagit Wildlife Area (all units);

(f) Snoqualmie Wildlife Area (all units);

(g) Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area (Headquarters, Byron and Windmill Ranch units);

(h) Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (Driscoll Island, Hegdahl, and Kline Parcel units);

(i) Olympic Wildlife Area (Chinook and Chehalis units);

(j) South Puget Sound Wildlife Area (Davis Creek (Koopman) Unit).

(3) It is unlawful to possess shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading), other than nontoxic shot, when hunting for upland game birds (pheasants, quail, chukar, or gray partridge), mourning doves, band-tailed pigeons, or game animals in the following areas:

(a) Chehalis River pheasant release site;

(b) Dungeness Recreation Area;

(c) Hoehn Road pheasant release site;

(d) Hunter Farms pheasant release site;

(e) Raymond Airport pheasant release site;

(f) Two Rivers and Wallula Units of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's McNary National Wildlife Refuge;

(g) All Whidbey Island pheasant release sites.

(4) It is unlawful to possess shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading), other than nontoxic shot, when hunting for upland game birds (pheasant, quail, chukar, and gray partridge), mourning doves, and band-tailed pigeons on all WDFW designated pheasant release sites not listed in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.


**WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.** (1) It is unlawful to have in possession more than 15 shotgun shells or to fire (shoot) more than 15 shells in one day on the following areas:

[Ch. 220-414 WAC p. 2]
(a) The Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County.

(b) The Spencer Island Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area in Snohomish County.

(c) The Samish Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County.

(d) The Johnson/DeBay's Slough Hunt Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area in Skagit County: In Skagit County beginning at the intersection of Francis Road and DeBay Isle Road (N 48.467817 W -122.255143); then northeast approximately 125 feet to a white corner marker (N 48.46818 W -122.254977); then east approximately 250 feet along the parking area fence line to a white corner marker (N 48.468087 W -122.25392); then north along the fence line approximately 334 feet to corner of fence line (N 48.469067 W -122.253787); then east along the fence line approximately 250 feet to a white corner marker (N 48.469081 W -122.252834); then north approximately 215 feet to orange corner marker (N 48.475024 W -122.252937); then west approximately 1421 feet to the white corner marker (N 48.475072 W -122.26007); then south approximately 1170 feet to the west shoreline of DeBay Slough white corner marker (N 48.471872 W -122.258097); then move easterly and southerly along the west shoreline of DeBay Slough approximately 1850 feet to white corner marker on the south side of DeBay Isle Road (N 48.468225 W -122.260139); then easterly along the south side of DeBay's Isle Road to the intersection of Francis Road and the point of beginning.

(e) All lands managed by the department north of East Anderson Road and west of the Dungeness River in Clallam County.

(2) It is unlawful to have in possession more than 25 shotgun shells or to fire (shoot) more than 25 shells in one day on the Nisqually Unit of the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area in Thurston County.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 77.04.012, 77.04.013, 77.04.020, 77.04.055, and 77.12.047. WSR 03-13-047 (Order 03-129), § 232-12-051, filed 6/12/03, effective 7/1/03.]


(a) Muzzleloader: A firearm that is loaded from the muzzle and uses black powder or a black powder substitute as recommended by the manufacturer for use in all muzzleloading firearms.

(b) A muzzleloading firearm shall be considered loaded if a powder charge and a projectile, either shot or single projectile are in the barrel and the barrel or breech is capped or primed.

(2) It is unlawful to hunt wildlife using a muzzleloading firearm that does not meet the following specifications:

(a) A muzzleloading shotgun or rifle must have a single or double barrel, rifled or smooth-bored.

(b) A muzzleloading shotgun or rifle used for deer must be .40 caliber or larger. Buckshot size #1 or larger may be used in a smoothbore of .60 caliber or larger for deer.

(c) A muzzleloading shotgun, rifle, or handgun used for all other big game must be .45 caliber or larger.

(d) Persons lawfully hunting small game with a double barrel, muzzleloading shotgun may keep both barrels loaded.

(e) A muzzleloading handgun must have a single or double barrel of at least eight inches, must be rifled, and must be capable of being loaded with forty-five grains or more of black powder or black powder substitute per the manufacturer's recommendations.

(f) A muzzleloading handgun used for big game must be .45 caliber or larger.

(g) A handgun designed to be used with black powder, including black powder percussion revolvers, can be used to hunt forest grouse, cottontail rabbits, and snowshoe hares.

(3) In addition to the above requirements, it is unlawful to participate (hunt) in a muzzleloading hunting season using a firearm that does not meet the following specifications for a muzzleloader. However, a modern handgun may be carried for personal protection. Modern handguns cannot be used to hunt big game or dispatch wounded big game during a big game hunting season for muzzleloading firearms.

(a) Ignition is to be wheel lock, matchlock, flintlock, or percussion using original style percussion caps that fit on the nipple and are exposed to the weather. "Exposed to the weather" means the percussion cap or the frizzen must be visible and not capable of being enclosed by an integral part of the weapon proper. Primers designed to be used in modern cartridges are not legal.

(b) Sights must be open, peep, or of other open sight design. Fiber optic sights are legal. Telescopic sights or sights containing glass are prohibited.

(c) It is unlawful to have any electrical device or equipment attached to a muzzleloading firearm while hunting.

(d) Those persons lawfully hunting big game with a double barrel muzzleloader may only keep one barrel loaded.

(4) Muzzleloading firearms used during a modern firearm season are not required to meet ignition, sight, or double barrel restrictions.

(5) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.


WAC 220-414-070 Hunting seasons.

Firearms, Ammunition, and Equipment 220-414-060
WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements. (1) The following provisions apply to all archery hunting seasons:
(a) It is unlawful for any person to carry or have in his possession any firearm while archery hunting in the field during an archery season specified for that area, except for modern handguns carried for personal protection. Modern handguns cannot be used to hunt big game or dispatch wounded big game during an archery big game hunting season.
(b) It is unlawful to have any electrical equipment or electric device(s), except for illuminated nocks, attached to the bow or arrow while hunting.
(c) It is unlawful to discharge a bow from a vehicle or from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway.
(d) It is unlawful to use any device secured to or supported by the bow for the purpose of maintaining the bow at full draw or in a firing position.
(e) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead, or with a broadhead blade or blades that are less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
(f) It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with any bow equipped with a scope.
(2) The following provisions apply to long bow, recurve bow and compound bow archery equipment:
(a) It is unlawful for any person to hunt big game animals with a bow that does not produce a minimum of 40 pounds of pull measured at twenty-eight inches or at full draw.
(b) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow measuring less than 20 inches in length or weighing less than 6 grains per pound of draw weight with a minimum arrow weight of 300 grains.
(3) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.

WAC 220-414-080 Use of decoys and calls. (1) It is unlawful to use or aid of battery-powered or other electronic devices as decoys.
(2) It is unlawful to use waterfowl, wild turkeys, or deer with the use of air or aid of electronic calls.
(3) Except as otherwise authorized by rule of the commission or by contract or agreement with the department, any person placing waterfowl decoys on any area (including water, access areas, roads, and trails) under the ownership, management, lease, or control of the department, shall not:
(a) Place waterfowl decoys prior to 4:00 a.m.
(b) Allow or permit waterfowl decoys to be unattended or not in their immediate control for a period greater than one hour.
(c) Fail to remove waterfowl decoys within two hours after the close of established daily hunting hours;
(d) Dispose waterfowl decoys on days closed to waterfowl hunting.
(4) This regulation shall be enforced under RCW 77.15.400.
WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements. (1) The following provisions apply to hunting with a crossbow:

(a) It is unlawful to hunt big game with a crossbow outside of a modern firearm season.

(b) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with a crossbow with a draw weight less than 125 pounds and a trigger safety that does not work properly.

(c) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow or bolt weighing less than 350 grains.

(d) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with any arrow or bolt that does not have a sharp broadhead and the broadhead blade or blades are less than seven-eighths inch wide.

(e) It is unlawful to hunt big game animals with a broadhead blade unless the broadhead is unbarbed.

(f) It is unlawful to discharge a crossbow from a vehicle or from, across, or along the maintained portion of a public highway.

(g) It is unlawful to hunt wildlife with a crossbow during an archery season.

(2) A violation of this section is punishable under RCW 77.15.400, 77.15.410, or 77.15.430, depending on the species hunted.