



WDFW Licensing: Recreational Customer Service Center

Special Hunts

Created on: March 27th, 2025

Quick Overview

Special Hunts are an additional opportunity to fulfill a tag, typically allowing you to hunt outside of the general season. Special Hunts do not allow for an additional Deer or Elk to be harvested, though there are exceptions (these will be specifically mentioned in the category/description of the hunt).

Washington has three species that do not have a 'general season' associated with them; those being Moose, Goat, and Sheep. If selected for a Special Hunt Permit housed within these three species, the applicant is required to purchase the corresponding license and tag in order to participate.

Purchasing Applications

There are 27 Special Hunt applications for customers to choose from, and only one application can be purchased for each category per year.

Special Hunt Application Categories		
Quality Deer	Quality Elk	Moose - Youth
Buck Deer	Bull Elk	Moose - 65 & Over
Antlerless Deer	Antlerless Elk	Moose - Disabled
Second Deer	Youth Elk	Mountain Goat
Youth Deer	Elk - 65 & Over	Sheep - Any Ram
Deer - 65 & Over	Elk - Disabled	Sheep – Adult Ewe
Deer - Disabled	Elk - Master Hunter	Sheep – Youth
Deer - Master Hunter	Any Antlered Bull Moose	Sheep – Disabled Ewe Only
Fall Turkey	Antlerless Moose	Sheep – Disabled Ram Only

Prior to purchasing any application for **Deer, Elk or Turkey** a corresponding license is required.

To purchase any application for **Moose, Goat or Sheep** you do not need a license. The customer can only purchase these licenses and tags after being selected for that species from the Special Hunt Drawing.

To Purchase any of the **Master Hunter** applications the customer must have an active Master Hunter certification listed on their WILD account. Master Hunter certifications are active for 5 years.



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To purchase any of the **65 & Over** applications, the customer must be 65, or turn 65 prior to the end of the license year. Example: For the 2025 season, the customer must turn 65 prior to March 31st, 2026.

To purchase any of the **Disabled** applications, the customer must have disability status listed on their account. Customers can apply for this by downloading a Hunter/Fisher Disability status application online or by requesting one via customer service staff.

Customers can purchase Special Hunt applications online through their WILD profile, at any local dealer, or over the phone with a WDFW employee or After-Hours call center staff.

	Special Hunt Application	SH Quality Application
Resident	\$9.61	\$18.72
Non – Resident	\$152.30	\$152.30
Youth	\$5.05	\$5.05
Resident Senior	\$3.60	\$6.69

Submitting Applications

Special Hunt applications need to be submitted if the customer wants to participate in the draw for that license year. If the customer does not submit any application(s), then they will receive a point in that category.

Special Hunts come with a plethora of hunt choices to select from when submitting a customer's applications. While customers can purchase their applications starting in December, it is encouraged that customers wait until the Big Game regulation book is released to finalize submission choices as the hunt numbers can change from year to year. Currently, the submission period is slated to be April 20th to May 20th. The regulation books will hit the dealers in early or mid-May, with the digital version being available now.

Prior to submitting applications, you'll want to ensure that the customer has an active transport tag. Otherwise, you may experience an error message like this.



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Special Hunt Application

Bull Elk - Elk

Select your hunt choices

☐ Point Saver

Hunt Choices

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

Priority 4

(optional)

(optional)

(optional)

(optional)

BRENNAN WELDY does not meet the area requirements (Eastern WA) for 2806 Peaches Ridge

BRENNAN WELDY does not meet the weapon type requirements (Modern Firearm) for 2806 Peaches Ridge

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Cancel

In this case, a great way to verify is by looking into the Customers' Active Privileges and ensuring that either 'Deer Tag' or 'Elk Tag' are present within the customers' account.

The special hunt submissions are accessed through the 'special hunts' tab on a customer's account.

Desktop view:

Max Test Testings

800289416099 | Non-Resident

Active account

Verified account

Customer Home

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT

Customer Profile

Hunter Safety Education

Hunting Authorizations

Mandatory Species Identification Tests

Disability Information

LICENSES, PERMITS, TAGS, & APPLICATIONS

Order History

View & Print Active Privileges

Harvest Reporting

Special Hunts

Raffle Tickets

Special Hunt Points

Special Hunt Wins

Mobile View:

FISH & WILDLIFE

Vehicle Access Pass

VALID DATES 04/02/2025 - 03/31/2026

Catch Record Card

VALID DATES 04/02/2025 - 03/31/2026

View All Privileges

Order History

View & Print Active Privileges

Harvest Reporting

Special Hunts

Raffle Tickets

Special Hunt Points

Special Hunt Wins

Home

Account

Special Hunts

Help



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From there, you will find the applications that are pending submission.

Special Hunt

Season

SERIES	APPLICANT TYPE	DATE PURCHASED	DATE SUBMITTED	HUNT(S) & STATUS	APP STATUS	
2025 Bull Elk	Unknown	04/09/2025	Not Submitted	None	Not Submitted	Submit
2025 Buck Deer	Unknown	04/09/2025	Not Submitted	None	Not Submitted	Submit

Once you have selected the submit button, you'll notice that a pop-up screen appears prompting you to make your selection of Individual, Group Member, or Group Leader. This should appear the same whether you are in the customer's account through your CS Staff login or the customer is logged in on their end.

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Special Hunt Application

Bull Elk - Elk

Submit As

Individual



Submit an application as an individual. Your application will not have a group associated with it.

Group Leader



Submit as a group leader. Allows others to join your group at a later time.

Group Member



Submit as a member of a group. You will need to know your group leader's WILD ID.



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Points Only Submission

If the customer is wanting to submit for Points Only, you would navigate to the 'Individual' option. When submitting for 'Points Only' you'll notice a box in the upper-left hand corner titled 'Point Saver'. You may click this box and press next to submit for points only.

Special Hunt Application
Bull Elk - Elk

Select your hunt choices

☒ Point Saver

Hunt Choices

Priority 1

Priority 2 (optional)

Priority 3 (optional)

Priority 4 (optional)

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Once submitted, you'll notice the application reads as submitted with no hunt choices designated per the example below.

SERIES	APPLICANT TYPE	DATE PURCHASED	DATE SUBMITTED	HUNT(S) & STATUS	APP STATUS	
2025 Bull Elk	Individual	04/09/2025	04/10/2025	None	Active	View Edit Unsubmit

As long as the customer has an email address listed in their account, the customer will then receive an email that informs them that the application has been submitted with the 'Point Saver' option in lieu of any hunt choices.



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Hunt Choice Submission

If the customer is wanting to submit as an individual with specific hunt choices, you will select 'Individual' on the initial pop-screen, and then enter in the hunt choices for that corresponding hunt application. Special hunt applications allow up to 4 hunt choices to be selected, with the exception of Quality Elk and Quality Deer which only allow 2 hunt choices.

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Special Hunt Application

Bull Elk - Elk

Select your hunt choices

☐ Point Saver

Hunt Choices

Priority 1

2806 - Peaches Ridge ▼

Priority 2

2807 - Observatory ▼

(optional)

Priority 3

2811 - Cowiche ▼

(optional)

Priority 4

2805 - Teanaway ▼

(optional)

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Be mindful of the hunt choices and making sure they correspond with the choices on the tags specified by the customer, which can be found in the Big Game regulation book. Otherwise, you may encounter an error like the example below.



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Special Hunt Application

Bull Elk - Elk

Select your hunt choices

☐ Point Saver

Hunt Choices

Priority 1

2811 - Cowiche

▼

Priority 2

▼

(optional)

Priority 3

▼

(optional)

Priority 4

▼

(optional)

BRENNAN WELDY does not meet the area requirements (Eastern WA) for 2811 Cowiche

BRENNAN WELDY does not meet the weapon type requirements (Modern Firearm) for 2811 Cowiche

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Once the customer has confirmed their hunt choices, and is satisfied with the submission, you may proceed by pressing the 'NEXT' button. You'll then be met with a confirmation page of the customers' choices. Example on next page.



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When the customer or CS staff click 'SAVE', the submission is complete. The customer will then get confirmation via email which will look like the example to the right. Please ensure that the email is correct in the customer's account prior to any sales or submissions.

Submission Review Example:

Special Hunt Application
Buck Deer - Deer

License Year: 2025
Application Status: Active
Comments:

Applicant(s)
BRENNAN WELDY (20723269026)
Individual

Hunt Choice(s)

Hunt	Status
1 — 1215 - SolDuc Hunt Area(s): Not Provided	Eligible
2 — 1216 - Goodman Hunt Area(s): Not Provided	Eligible

Submit Cancel

Email Customer Receives:

Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

Thank You for Special Hunt Submission!

Dear BRENNAN S WELDY,

You have successfully submitted a special hunt application for **Buck Deer**.

License Year: 2025
Application status: Submitted

Applicant(s)
BRENNAN WELDY Individual

Hunt Choice(s)
1 — 1215 - SolDuc
2 — 1216 - Goodman

This is a confirmation of your Special Hunt Application submission and is not a notification of drawing results.

Thank you for submitting your Special Hunt Application.
If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at licensing@dfw.wa.gov

Group Submission

When submitting as a group, the process varies just slightly. Within the customer's group, they must designate a leader. The group must have the same tag, though members can also have a Multi-season tag as it covers all weapon types. Once established, that individual will need to be submitted first using the following steps.



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Special Hunt Application Buck Deer - Deer

Submit As

Individual

Submit an application as an individual. Your application will not have a group associated with it.

Group Leader

Submit as a group leader. Allows others to join your group at a later time.

Group Member

Submit as a member of a group. You will need to know your group leader's WILD ID.

Next

Cancel

Special Hunt Application Buck Deer - Deer

License Year
2025

Application Status
Active

Comments

Applicant(s)

BRENNAN WELDY (20723269026)
Group Leader

Hunt Choice(s)

1

Hunt
1215 - SolDuc

Hunt Area(s)
Not Provided

Status
Eligible

Submit

Cancel

With the hunt submitted by the Group Leader, you'll notice the following in the customer's Special Hunts.

2025 Buck Deer	Group Leader	04/09/2025	04/10/2025	1:1215	Active	View	Edit	Unsubmit
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With the application submitted, the customer will receive confirmation of submission via email.

For Group Members, customers will need to note the WILD ID of the assigned group leader as it will be detrimental to submitting their applications. To submit, customers or CS staff will use the following steps.

Special Hunt Application Buck Deer - Deer

Submit As

Individual

Submit an application as an individual. Your application will not have a group associated with it.

Group Leader

Submit as a group leader. Allows others to join your group at a later time.

Group Member

Submit as a member of a group. You will need to know your group leader's WILD ID.

Next

Cancel

Special Hunt Application Buck Deer - Deer

Please enter the WILD ID of the Group Leader to join their group:

Hunter WILD ID
800288817150

Look up

NAME	ROLE
Xavier Woods	Group Leader

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Cancel



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The customer/CS Staff will then be provided with this screen displaying all current members of the group prior to finalizing the submission.

The Group Leader along with the Group member will then be sent an email confirming the submission and addition of the group member. Please note that the quantity of permitted group members may vary, these should **NOT** exceed the amount listed in the number of permits associated with the hunt choice in the Big Game Regulation booklet.

If a customer calls in requesting to submit Special Hunt application(s), do a quick look at their active privileges. This will help ensure the customer has the prerequisite license documents and save you and the customer a few extra steps.

Special Hunt Application

Buck Deer - Deer

License Year	App Status	Comments
2025	Active	Not Provided

Applicant(s)

[Edit](#)

Xavier Woods ([800288817150](#))
Group Leader

BRENNAN WELDY ([20723269026](#))
Group Member

Hunt Choice(s)

1	Hunt	Status Eligible
	1215 - SolDuc	
	Hunt Area(s) Not Provided	

Save

Cancel

Quick Tips

- When submitting Special Hunt application(s) for a customer, ALWAYS enter a ticket into their profile with the following designations: Status = Closed, Issue Category = Special Hunt.
- A customer can **NOT** get a refund on the purchase of a Special Hunt application, **UNLESS** a dealer charged the customer for an incorrect application type **AND** admit fault.
- A customer who is awarded a Multi-Season Tag is not restricted to a specific weapon type or area when submitting hunt choices.
- Customers can edit their submissions through their WILD profile, or by contacting customer service at any point prior to the deadline.
- A customer can request a tag exchange even after the submission of Special Hunts as long as it is prior to the deadline, they would need to unsubmit their applications associated with that tag prior to utilizing this option.
- If a customer creates a group, but members fail to join, then the 'group leader' will be submitted as an individual.