



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office location: 1049 Port Way, Clarkston WA 99403, (509) 758-5314

June 18, 2025

Dear Valued Landowners:

Hello! I am Chris Heitstuman. I am the new Private Lands Biologist (Jason Earl's old position), and we have filled my old position of the Natural Resource Technician 3 with Wade Hammons. He will work in conjunction for Jeff Wade in Conflict as the Herder/Hazer and Conflict programs. He will work for me as the Private Lands Technician and in Habitat and he will spend part of his time working in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing program.

We would like to thank each of you that has participated in the WA DFW Hunting Access Programs. We are in the process of updating access contracts and renewing those recently or about to expire. We are always looking for landowners who would like to participate in one of the 4 public access programs. These four are: Feel Free to Hunt, Register to Hunt, Hunt by Reservation and Hunt with Written Permission.

Occasionally we receive funding to pay on a per acre basis for either the Hunt by Reservation Program or the Feel Free to Hunt Program. All four programs offer liability coverage for being enrolled at no cost to the landowner. We may be able provide some patrolling. We do work in conjunction with the Enforcement Division as needed. You can enroll whatever amount of acreage you want in each of the programs. Additionally, you can exit the programs at any time.

The 2024 hunting season is almost under way and your enrolled lands provide great benefit to the public with the WDFW's access program. Part of our efforts will be to provide posting materials to all cooperators if requested, We will be working to make sure your properties are correctly posted on any roadside boundaries. We do not

post boundaries with adjoining property but will provide the signs and posts if you want to post them. Please let me know any of your properties that need attention. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Additional we can post safety zone signs and designated parking areas. If you have removed access to private lands and require sign removal, please notify me.

If you need new signs, steel posts, permission cards, want the name and number on existing signs changed or any other program materials, please contact me as soon as possible by phone or e-mail.

Cell# 509-780-9852 Email

christopher.heitstuman@dfw.wa.gov

Each year normally, we include a list of upcoming hunting opportunities for the public. Around those dates, you may experience calls and/or contacts from the sportsman. We encourage the public to make their contacts early rather than at the last minute and to remember each of you are providing access for their enjoyment! All inquiries for information thru our office are referred to the state website. We do not provide your phone numbers to the public.

Wade's technician role includes Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing of all deer, elk, and moose if we can get samples. I would like to encourage each of you to ask your hunters to submit their animals for testing. Sampling is now mandatory. We operate a check station near Asotin both weekends of the general deer season. I may be able to meet up with hunters on an as needed basis, preferably at the Clarkston Office. The sampling does not require much time.

Thanks Again!

Chris Heitstuman

Asotin & Garfield County Acting Private Lands Biologist
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cellular # 509-780-9852
christopher.heitstuman@dfw.wa.gov