

WAC 220-413-170 Tribal hunting—Medicine Creek Treaty hunters—Enforcement policy.

(1) This rule establishes an interim enforcement and management line intended to address a long-standing dispute over the location of the southern boundary of the area ceded by the tribes signatory to the Treaty of Medicine Creek, 10 Stat. 1132. This interim line will guide the enforcement efforts of the department and will enable the department, the county prosecutors of Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Pierce, and Grays Harbor counties, and the tribes signatory to the Treaty of Medicine Creek, to better coordinate wildlife enforcement and resource planning in the region, without the need for time-consuming and costly litigation.

(2) For purposes of state law, enrolled members of the Puyallup, Nisqually, Squaxin Island and Muckleshoot Indian tribes, when authorized by their respective tribal governments, shall be deemed to be exercising their respective tribes' hunting right, as secured in the Treaty of Medicine Creek, when hunting on open and unclaimed lands, bounded on the west, north and east by the ceded area language contained in the Treaty of Medicine Creek, and lying north of the following line:

From the main stem of the Skookumchuck River up the drainage divide to the central point between the Skookumchuck and the North Fork of the Tilton River; thence south along the drainage divide to the point where the Skookumchuck, Newaukum, and North Fork of the Tilton rivers meet just north of Newaukum Lake; thence southerly along the drainage divide to Rooster Rock; thence along the top of Bremer Mountain to the confluence of the North Fork of the Tilton River with the Tilton River; thence south to the top of peak (el. 2,960); thence south along the divide between the Cowlitz and Tilton rivers and along the summit of the ridge known as Cottler's Rock, staying on the divide to encompass all of Sand Creek; thence across the valley and up the northern drainage boundary of Landers Creek to Vanson Peak (el. 4,935); thence along the drainage divide between the Cowlitz and Green rivers, along the eastern shore of Deadman Lake to the summit of Goat Mountain; thence dropping through the pass along the drainage divide at Ryan Lake; thence along the drainage divide between the Cispus and Green rivers, and Clearwater Creek of the Lewis River and continuing southeasterly along the divide between the Cispus and Lewis rivers to Badger Peak; thence continuing along the divide to an unnamed peak (el. 5,295) located north of Dark Mountain; thence along the drainage divide between McKoy Creek and Dark Creek to Surprise Peak; thence along the drainage divide to the top of Spud Hill; thence down and across the Cispus River and up the face of Blue Lake Ridge to the divide between Mouse Creek and Blue Lake tributaries; thence along the divide between Timonium Creek and Cat Creek to Hamilton Buttes; thence along the divide between the North Fork of the Cispus River and the Cispus River to Elk Peak; thence continuing northeasterly along the same divide, and the divide between Johnson Creek and the Cispus River, passing through Buckhorn Camp (el. 6,240), honoring the divide between the Cowlitz and Cispus rivers, to the summit of Old Snowy Mountain; thence north along the crest of the Cascade range to Naches Peak; thence west through Chinook Pass along the divide of the Cowlitz River and the White River to the summit of Mt. Rainier.

(3) State hunting laws shall apply to enrolled members of the Puyallup, Nisqually, Squaxin Island and Muckleshoot Indian tribes when hunting outside of the above-described area, or on lands that are not "open and unclaimed" within the above-described area.

(4) This rule does not purport to define where the southern boundary of the Medicine Creek Ceded Area is in fact, nor does it represent an attempt to resolve any other legal issue regarding the nature or geographic scope of the hunting right secured by the Treaty of Medicine Creek.

[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 § 220-413-170, filed 2/15/17, effective 3/18/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 77.12.047. WSR 02-16-043 (Order 02-178), § 232-12-253, filed 7/31/02, effective 8/31/02; WSR 02-05-021 (Order 01-289), § 232-12-253, filed 2/11/02, effective 3/14/02.]