



Changes in Washington law regarding the sale of Wild Huckleberries

Two major changes were made to the law that regulates the sale and purchase of wild huckleberries. These changes went into effect on June 12, 2008.

1) The first change is anyone selling or attempting to sell raw or unprocessed huckleberries in any amount must first acquire a specialized forest products permit.

The permits must be properly completed and may be obtained from the following agencies:

- The Sheriff's of the county in which the huckleberries are harvested
- US Forest Service **ONLY IF** the huckleberries being offered for sale were harvested on National Forest land.

A properly completed permit must contain all of the following information:

- The date the permit is issued and when it will expire (which is 1 year from the issue date if another date is not specified.)
- The name, address, telephone number, and signature of the landowner or their agent
- The name, address, telephone number, and signature of the person receiving the permit
- The approximate amount or volume of huckleberries to be harvested or transported;
- The legal description of the property from which the huckleberries are to be harvested or transported, including the name of the county, or the state or province if outside the state of Washington;
- A description of local landmarks where the harvesting is to occur,
- Lastly, the permit must contain a statement to inform the possessor that permission from the landowner is required prior to harvesting huckleberries. Collection must be with the landowner's permission.

2) The second change is BUYERS of huckleberries (except retail buyers) must now record the following information from sellers:

- the permit number,
- the permit holder's name,
- the amount of huckleberries purchased.
- the license plate number of the vehicle transporting the huckleberries.

All of this information must be recorded on the bill of sale which must be retained for at least 1 year. These records must be made available to law enforcement officers, colleges and universities. Retail sales of huckleberries are exempt from this requirement.

Law enforcement may take possession of any huckleberries being sold illegally and violations of this law are considered a Class C felony punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a \$5000 fine.