

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 11, 2016

Agenda Item: 2016-2017 Black Bear Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges, HD Boundaries and Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. FWP proposes a few changes to the existing 2015 regulations and Bear Management Units: 1) change the mandatory reporting time requirement for presenting a harvested bear for tagging from five days to 10 days to match reporting requirements for other species, 2) change BMUs 280 and 300 boundaries to match Regional boundaries, and 3) Create new BMU 309 in the Gallatin Valley Weapons Restriction Area out of portions of BMUs 319 & 341 to match Deer/Elk Hunting District 309. All other elements of the 2015 regulations are to remain unchanged. All these changes are referenced in the Black Bear Master List in the December Commission package.

FWP is proposing no changes to those adopted in December.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Black bear season comments were received during scoping and included interest in expanded opportunities. Public comment ran from Dec. 10 to Jan 22. We received 29 comments that included wanting more opportunity and mentioning R1, R5 and R7, baiting, a handgun season, and uniform season dates across the state, among other comments. All comments are included in the Commission packet.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2015 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationale for individual proposals was included in the Dec. 10th Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Feb. 11th Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt the final 2016 and 2017 Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP. I also move to adopt all other portions of the previous 2014-2015 black bear season regulations not affected by the Commission's actions today.