

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 15, 2015

Agenda Item: 2015 Mountain Goat Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

FWP proposes to reduce the mountain goat licenses in hunting district 326 from six to two for the 2015 season, which is outside the current minimum quota range of four. The quota was once as high as 16 mountain goats. Since 2006 FWP issued six either-sex licenses.

About 31 mountain goats inhabit HD 326. At a harvest rate of 4-8 percent, as recommended in the literature, this would allow a take of 1.25 to 2.5 mountain goats and justify allowing two licenses. A more thorough discussion and justification of the proposed change is in the supporting information found in the Commission packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance, a local Bozeman group that communicates with more than a thousand active sportsmen and -women in Western states, publicized this project and proposal via social media through 2014. The RMGA supports a reduction in licenses to allow this population a chance to increase. Formal public comment will run through 5 p.m., May 15. Any final adoption will take place at the Commission meeting in June.

Alternatives and Analysis

No alternatives were considered.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends that the Commission approve for public comment the proposed change from six to two either-sex licenses in mountain goat HD 326.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve for public comment the proposal to reduce the mountain goat license quota for hunting district 326 from six to two either-sex licenses to be issued for the 2015 season as recommended by FWP.