

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 6, 2015

Agenda Item: Apprentice Hunter Certificate Annual Rule

Division: Communication Education

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

The 2015 Legislature passed HB 140 creating an Apprentice Hunting Certificate available for people 10 through 17 years of age who have not completed hunter education. The Commission needs to clarify specifics included in the statute:

- the process for designating and identifying a mentor
- the number of apprentices a mentor can supervise while hunting
- "sight of and direct voice contact with apprentice hunter"
- how completion of a hunter education course is defined for an apprentice hunter

At the May meeting, the Commission approved proposing an Annual and Administrative Rule regarding requirements for apprentice hunters and mentors. The Administrative Rule will be presented to the Commission for final approval during their August 25 conference call.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Of 158 email responses received 123 addressed the law not the rule. Of the 31 responses addressing the rule 22 were in favor of the rule as written, 8 favored with suggested changes including: not allowing the mentor to carry a weapon or hunt, allowing more than one apprentice/mentor (if family members), establishing a specific distance that the mentor must maintain with the apprentice. One individual opposed the rule as written.

Alternatives & Analysis

Failure to propose rules clarifying the statute will cause problems with consistency of enforcement and confusion among the public.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the Commission approve the proposed Annual Rule language clarifying the requirements of a mentor to an apprentice hunter and how completion of a hunter education course is defined for an apprentice hunter.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve the Annual Rule clarifying the requirements of a mentor to an apprentice hunter and how completion of a hunter education course is defined for an apprentice hunter.