

# ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2015

**Agenda Item:** Apprentice Hunter Certificate Administrative Rule

**Division:** Communication and Education

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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## **Background**

The 2015 Legislature passed HB 140 creating an Apprentice Hunting Certificate available for people 10-17 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

On Aug. 6, the Commission adopted an annual rule for FWP to issue apprentice hunter certificates until this permanent rule could be adopted. The annual rule expires with approval of a permanent rule.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

FWP received a total of 213 email comments and one written comment. A total of 161 comments address apprentice hunter statute and they fell outside the scope of this rule making process. Of the remaining 52 comments:

- 13 related to the mentor and offered one or more of the following suggestions: the mentor should not be able to carry a firearm while hunting; mentors should undergo a background check; mentors, regardless of date of birth, should have to take a hunter education or mentor certification course.
- eight suggested that sight and sound needed to specifically defined as a measured distance.
- 12 supported the language to allow 10 and 11 year olds who have taken hunter education to participate in the apprentice hunter program.
- nine generally supported the ARM rule.
- one thought a mentor should be able to have more than one apprentice (father with 2 kids).
- three suggested that one shouldn't be allowed to be a mentor if he/she have a fish and game violation
- five were seeking clarification about the law or ARM rule and how the program would function.
- one provided an interpretation of definitions for the ARM rule.

## **Alternatives & Analysis**

The Commission can choose not to adopt the administrative rule and keep the annual rule, which will expired next year. The annual rule does not address the opportunity to hunt during a youth hunt.

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends the Commission adopt the administrative rule as proposed and adds language allowing apprentice hunters 15 or younger to hunt during statewide youth seasons.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt the hunter apprentice administrative rule as proposed with additional language providing apprentice hunters 15 years or younger the opportunity to hunt during any specified statewide youth season as provided in the regulations.