

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 8, 2015

Agenda Item: 2015 -2016 Wolf Regulation/Trapper Certification

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

Wolf hunting and trapping regulations in Montana require trappers to complete a wolf trapping safety and education course prior to trapping wolves in Montana. For the first three years this requirement was in place, in-person classes were held throughout Montana. To date, 3,273 individuals have completed the course, though class participation has diminished significantly since 2012. Class participation since 2012:

- **2012:** 2,347 participants
- **2013:** 645 participants
- **2014:** 281 participants

This proposal is being brought to the commission to clarify that an online course meets the requirements of the regulation.

Public Involvement Process & Results

There has been no public involvement to this point on the online option. The commission will take comment at its Oct. 8 meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

The proposal may be approved as proposed, with adjustments or disapproved.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP, in the interest of efficiency and realizing that class participation has decreased significantly, is proposing an online wolf trapper safety and education course starting in October 2015. Some regions, at their discretion, may offer personal courses similar to those previously taught.

FWP recommends the following language be adopted for the 2015-16 hunting and trapping season.

- *Before setting a wolf trap in Montana a person must complete an FWP offered online trapper safety and education course or complete either a Montana or Idaho (in person) certification class.*

Proposed Motion

I move the commission approve the completion of a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks online - or Montana or Idaho (in person) trapper safety and education course—to meet the requirement that trappers must pass a trapper safety and education course before any wolf trapping.