

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 10, 2015

Agenda Item: 2016-2017 Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 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. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2015) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For the 2016 and 2017 mountain goat season-structure changes include no longer requiring mandatory reporting and inspection. There is little biological reason for mandatory reporting because, via FWP's annual harvest survey, all license holders are contacted to estimate harvest, and too few animals are inspected to yield meaningful population biological data. Some districts with specific management needs (e.g. 313 – the Crazies) may still require it. FWP is also proposing to introduce adult female-only (nanny) licenses for the first time to facilitate population reduction and maintenance in the Crazy Mountains where goat numbers exceed the objective of 300 by 25-75 goats since 2009. Nanny licenses have been used with success in Utah and Colorado for more than five years with minimal enforcement problems and high hunter participation. Online identification courses have helped hunters be confident and accurate in harvesting nannies. Other proposals include opening the Gallatin Special Management Area to hunting in HDs 314 and 362 and clarifying boundary language in HDs 327 and 328.

All proposed changes are in the Commission Master List for the December meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Mountain goat season comments were received during scoping and included interest in drawing odds. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2016. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 11, 2016 Commission meeting.

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 is included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 10 Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission adopt for public comment the 2016 and 2017 Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.