

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 10, 2018

Agenda Item: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Drones Biennial Rule Amendment

Division: Enforcement

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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Background: The commission has previously adopted the following language:

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for the purposes of hunting is prohibited.

The intent of this language unclear. In talking with commissioners, FWP employees have been told the intent of the rule was to not allow the use of UAVs/drones for the purposes of hunting within the same hunting day after a UAV/drone has been airborne.

Additionally, there have been questions from the public as to whether they can use UAVs/drones to film their hunts.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The public has not had an opportunity to review or comment. Public comment should be taken on this matter at this meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: Leaving language as is would mean that the rule would not have any clarification, and the department would continue to receive questions from the public on this issue. This presents potential interpretation and enforcement challenges for game wardens as well as legal challenges.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The department recommends the commission amend the language to read as follows;

It is unlawful for a person to use an UAV/drone for the purposes of concentrating, pursuing, driving, rallying, or stirring up any game animal. A UAV/drone may not be used to locate game animals for the purposes of: hunting those animals during the same hunting day after a UAV/drone has been airborne, or providing information for another person for the purposes of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after the UAV/drone has been airborne. UAVs/drones are not allowed to film a hunt.

Proposed Motion: I move that the commission adopt the UAV/drone biennial rule as proposed by the department.