

FWP proposal to be amended: Bighorn Sheep

Commissioner: Jeff Burrows

Date Received by Commission:

Proposed amendment: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt Quota of one (1), Opportunity Any Ram in Hunting District 250 - West Fork of the Bitterroot. Quota Range 1-3, Archery Season Sep 07 - Sep 14 and General Season Sep 15 - Dec 01.

Requested by FWP: No

Rationale and Background:

After discussions with the single tag holder in HD 250, there were a number of bighorn sheep seen while hunting and multiple rams that could have been harvested under an Any Ram tag. To help recover the Bighorn Sheep population the previous either-sex opportunity is proposed to be changed to an Any Ram opportunity.

*After discussion with Bitterroot Biologist Rebecca Mowry, she agreed with the amendment.

Department response:

The department based the original recommendation on the most recent survey data but acknowledges the value of data provided during the hunting season. The department does not anticipate any adverse biological effects to the bighorn sheep population as a result of the amendment. If adopted, the department recommends that the department proposal to eliminate HD 250 should also be removed from consideration.