

FWP proposal to be amended: Black Bear Regulations

Commissioner: Brian Cebull

Date Received by Commission:

Proposed Amendment: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the following amendment to the proposed 2024 and 2025 Black Bear Regulations:

1. BMU 520: Set spring season to May 1 – June 15.

Requested by FWP: No

Rationale and Background: BMU 520 lies along the northern and eastern face of the Beartooth Mountains. BMU 520 has a female harvest quota for the Spring of 12 sows which is typically filled very early in the season. By adjusting the start date of the season from April 15 to May 1, this will allow the season to stay open incrementally longer and, hopefully, allow hunters to access more back country male bears that are unreachable due to snow in the early season. In addition, since sows are the key to maintaining a population, I'd recommend that the Department implement bear ID training for hunters to help them be able to identify sows to prevent the female harvest from closing the season so early.

Department response:

The department does not anticipate any adverse biological effects as a result of this amendment.