

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. 11

Agenda Item: Draft Pronghorn Management Plan

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

Background:

Staff have drafted a revision of the Department's Pronghorn Management Plan. The intent of this update is to use current information to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of pronghorn populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. This plan will set overall direction and will function as the action plan for pronghorn management in Idaho during the next 6 years (2023-2028). Major issues affecting pronghorn are identified. This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization and provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will present an overview of the Draft Pronghorn Management Plan at the meeting and will seek Commission approval to release the draft for public comment.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents for management actions and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The Pronghorn Management Plan will function as the action plan for pronghorn management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

With consent of the Commission, the draft plan will be posted on the Department's website for 21 days and we will seek input on the draft plan from the public, interested groups, and affected agencies. Public input will be sought during March and April 2023.

Justification:

This agenda item is for Commission information on the current status of the update of the Pronghorn Management Plan. The Commission considers input from the public and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department recommended plans.

Staff Recommendation:

No formal action is requested at this time. Staff seeks Commission concurrence to release the Draft Pronghorn Management Plan to the public, agency partners, and interested organizations for input. Staff will revise the draft based on input received with intent to complete a final plan to present to the Commission for approval and adoption at their May meeting.