

Meeting Date: March 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. 5C

Agenda Item: Big Game Season Setting & LAP (Action) **Bureau Chief Approval:** JR

Prepared by: Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager

Background:

Regional staff scoped proposals for big game season changes and controlled hunt tag limits at open houses, public meetings, and through the Department's website Feb 8 - Feb 22. Following assessment of public input and final regional recommendations, regional staff will submit recommendations to the Wildlife Bureau and a final package of recommendations will be developed for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons for presentation to the Commission. Staff will also present recommendations for adjustments to Landowner Appreciation Program tags proportional to recommended changes to corresponding big game tag numbers.

Recommendations are not finalized at this time, but a summary of preliminary proposals scoped with public is presented below. Following review of public input and consideration of any new population survey information, proposals may be modified or rescinded. Final recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the meeting.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

- Panhandle:
 - Hunt area 1-1X, Unit 1, extra antlerless, white-tailed deer only, (Hunt No 1119), change hunt area and reduce tags to 800 (-100).
- Clearwater:
 - Create a new Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Landowner EXTRA either sex hunt in Unit 14, private land only. Hunt will be for any weapon, either species, with 500 tags, season dates will be Aug 30 – Dec 31.
 - Unit 11A: shorten white-tailed deer any weapon season date from Oct 10 – Dec 1 to Oct 10 – Nov 20.
 - Units 16A, 17, 19 and 20: Add two days to the end of the general any weapon seasons on the white-tailed deer tag to align with closing dates of surrounding units.
 - Eliminate muzzleloader only controlled hunt in Hunt Area 8A (Hunt No 1086) and replace with an either sex hunt, archery or muzzleloader only, white-tailed deer only, providing late archery and muzzleloader opportunity with 50 tags, Dec 2 – Dec 20.
 - Eliminate muzzleloader only controlled hunt in Hunt Area 10A (Hunt No 1087) and replace with an either sex hunt, archery or muzzleloader only, white-tailed deer only, providing late archery and muzzleloader opportunity with 50 tags, Nov 21 – Dec 20.
 - Hunt Area 14 (Hunt No 1141, Oct 10 – Nov 20), split extra antlered deer hunt in into two hunts with 125 tags each. Both hunts will remain, extra antlered deer, white-tailed deer only, Oct 10 – Oct 31 and Nov 1 – Nov 20.
- Southwest-McCall:
 - Units 19A, 23 and 24, extend white-tailed deer seasons to Nov 20.
 - Units 23, eliminate any weapon, antlerless youth only either-species hunt and replace with antlerless white-tailed deer only Oct 10 – Oct 31.
- Upper Snake Region
 - Hunt Area 50-1X, (Hunt No 1136) extra antlerless hunt, Reduce tags 40 (-85).
 - Hunt Area 60A-1X, (Hunt No 1138) extra antlerless hunt, modify hunt by removing Unit 63 from the hunt area.
 - Hunt Area 60-2, (Hunt No 1114), youth only hunt, change hunt type from

- antlerless only to either sex hunt.
- Salmon Region
 - Hunt Areas 21-1X and 36A-1X extra antlerless, white-tailed deer only Aug 30 – Sep 30, remove short range weapon and private land only restrictions.
 - Hunt Area 21-1, archery only, antlered deer (Hunt No 1072); expand hunt area to include Unit 37, shift and lengthen season to Aug 1 - Sep 30.
 - Hunt Area 28-1, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1059); eliminate hunt.
 - Units 21, 21A, 28, 29, 30, 30A, 36A, 36B, 37, and 37A; remove private land restriction from youth only antlerless hunt and extend either sex, short range weapon season to open Nov 1.
 - Hunt Area 36B-1, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1060); eliminate hunt.

MULE DEER

- Clearwater:
 - Create a new Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Landowner EXTRA either sex hunt in Unit 14, private land only. Hunt will be for any weapon, either species, with 500 tags, season dates will be Aug 30 – Dec 31.
 - Split antlered controlled hunt in Hunt Area 14 (CH# 1007, Oct 10 – Nov 20) into two hunts with 190 tags each. Both hunts will remain any weapon, antlered, mule deer only, Oct 10 – Oct 31 and Nov 1 – Nov 20.
 - Units 16A, 17, 19 and 20: Add two days to the end of the general any weapon seasons on the regular deer tag
 - Hunt Area 11A, establish a new archery-controlled hunt, either sex, either species, Aug 30 – Sept 30 with 75 tags.
- Southwest-McCall:
 - Unit 23, eliminate any weapon, antlerless youth only either-species hunt and replace with antlerless white-tailed deer only Oct 10 – Oct 31.
- Southwest-Nampa:
 - Units 40, 41, and 42; eliminate antlerless harvest during the archery general season (Aug 30 – Sep 30).
- Magic Valley:
 - Hunt Area 44, youth hunt (Hunt No 1106), reduce tags to 150 (-50).
 - Hunt Area 45-1, youth hunt (Hunt No 1107), reduce tags to 150 (-150).
 - Hunt Area 45, eliminate December antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1063) with 100 tags.
 - Unit 56, create a new youth only hunt, antlerless only, Oct 10 – Oct 24, with 150 tags.
 - Hunt Area 54, antlered hunt (Hunt No 1041) reduce tags to 200 (-100).
 - Hunt Area 54, eliminate antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1065), Nov 1 – Nov 14, with 150 tags.
 - Hunt Area 54, archery only (Hunt No 1082) eliminate antlerless harvest, change to antlered only.
 - Hunt Area 54, youth hunt (Hunt No 1110), reduce tags to 45 (-45).
 - Hunt Area 54, eliminate antlerless only, youth hunt (Hunt No 1111), Oct 1-Oct 31, with 200 tags.
- Southeast:
 - Unit 78, Eliminate general season archery hunt.
 - Hunt Area 78, New hunt, antlered only, archery only, Aug 30 – Sep 30, unlimited tags. Non-resident limit of 21 tags.
 - Hunt Area 73-1X, New extra antlerless deer hunt, youth only, on private land only, Oct 10 – Oct 24, with 50 tags.
 - Hunt Area 70-1X, New extra antlerless deer hunt, archery only, on private land

- only, Aug 30 – Oct 24, with 50 tags.
- Hunt Area 73-2X, New extra antlerless deer hunt, short range weapon only, on private land only, Aug 15 – Nov 15, with 50 tags.
- Upper Snake:
 - Hunt Area 50-1X, (Hunt No 1136) extra antlerless hunt, Reduce tags 40 (-85).
 - Hunt Area 60-2, (Hunt No 1114), youth only hunt, change hunt type from antlerless only to either sex hunt.
- Salmon:
 - Hunt Area 21-1, archery only, antlered deer (Hunt No 1072); expand hunt area to include Unit 37, shift and lengthen season to Aug 1 - Sep 30.
 - Hunt Area 21-1X, extra antlerless, youth only hunt (Hunt No 1115); remove private land only restriction.
 - Hunt Area 28-1, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1059); eliminate hunt.
 - Hunt Area 36A-1X, extra antlerless, youth only hunt (Hunt No 1116); remove private land only restriction.
 - Hunt Area 36B-1, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 1060); eliminate hunt.

ELK

- Panhandle Zone:
 - Hunt area 2-1, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2051) – Reduce tags from 50 to 25 (-25).
 - Hunt area 3-2, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2053) – Reduce tags from 100 to 60 (-40) and remove Unit 4 from hunt area boundary.
 - Hunt area 6-1, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2055) – Eliminate hunt (-30 tags).
 - Panhandle Zone: A and B Tag – Remove antlerless harvest from Unit 4 for archery and any-weapon seasons.
 - Hunt area 1-1, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2050) – Reduce tags from 150 to 100 (-50) and remove Bonner County from hunt area.
- Palouse Zone:
 - Palouse B tag, eliminate general archery only hunt Aug 30 – Sept 14.
 - Hunt Area 8-1 (Hunt No 2056); reduce tags to 25 tags (-50 tags).
 - Hunt Area 8-2 (Hunt No 2057); Reduce tags to 100 tags (-100 tags).
- Hells Canyon Zone
 - Hunt Area 13, new outfitter allocation hunt, Oct 10 – Nov 2, antlerless only, with 9 tags.
- Dworshak Zone:
 - Dworshak A tag, change archery only portion of A tag to antlered only, convert December general muzzleloader hunt to controlled hunt with 200 tags.
 - Dworshak B tag, eliminate general archery hunt, Aug 30 – Sep 14.
- Elk City Zone:
 - Elk City A tag, Unit 15, change the early archery opportunity to antlered only. Eliminate late season archery hunts.
 - Elk City A tag, Units 14 and 16, change the muzzleloader only season to antlerless only (removing spike harvest) and extend season to run Nov 21 – Dec 5. Eliminate late season muzzleloader only, spike hunt Nov 25 – Dec 9.
 - Hunt Area 14-1, increase tags in LPH, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2165), to 120 tags (+40).
- Salmon Zone:
 - Salmon Zone A Tag; eliminate any weapon antlerless season in portions of Units 28 and 36B.
 - Hunt Area 21A, new antlerless elk hunt, Nov 15 – Dec 15 with 75 tags.
 - Hunt Area 30, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2075), reduce tags to 75 (-85)
 - Hunt Area 21A-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2167); change opening date to Sep 1.

- Weiser River Zone:
 - Weiser River A Tag: Units 22 & 32A, eliminate short range weapons only hunt, antlerless only, Aug 15 – Sep 30. Eliminate youth hunt, any weapon, antlerless only, Oct 1 – Oct 9. Eliminate any weapon hunt, antlerless only, Oct 10 – Oct 16.
 - Weiser River B Tag: Unit 32, any weapon, antlerless only, extend season to Aug 1 – Nov 15 and expand to all of Unit 32.
 - Hunt Area 32A-2, eliminate antlerless only, muzzleloader hunt (Hunt No 2128) with 150 tags, Dec 1 – Dec 31 and replace with Hunt Area 32A-2X extra antlerless hunt with 50 tags (-100), short range weapons only, Dec 1 – Dec 31.
 - Hunt Area 32-1X (Hunt No 2160), eliminate extra antlerless hunt, Aug 15 – Oct 31.
 - Hunt Area 32-1X (Hunt No 2161), change opening date to Nov 16.
 - Hunt Area 22-2X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2168) increase tags to 300 (+50) and eliminate gap in season to run Aug 15 – Dec 31.
- McCall Zone:
 - Hunt Area 24, eliminate antlerless only, muzzleloader hunt (Hunt No 2127) with 50 tags, Dec 1 – Dec 20 and replace with Hunt Area 24X extra antlerless hunt with 25 tags (-25), short range weapons only, Dec 1 – Dec 20.
- Lemhi Zone:
 - Hunt Area 29, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2074), reduce tags to 35 (-35)
 - Hunt Area 37A, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2084), reduce tags to 45 (-45).
 - Hunt Area 51-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2185) increase tags to 50 (+25) and add additional early season hunt.
 - Hunt Area 51-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2292), Jan 1 – Feb 15, increase tags 50 (+25) and limit to private land only.
 - Hunt Area 21A-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2167); change opening date to Sep 1.
- Beaverhead Zone:
 - Hunt Area 30A-1, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2076); eliminate hunt.
 - Hunt Area 21A-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2167); change opening date to Sep 1.
- Brownlee Zone:
 - Hunt Area 31; antlered elk (Hunt No 2008), reduce tags to 75 (-25).
 - Hunt Area 31; either sex elk (Hunt No 2114), reduce tags to 50 (-50).
 - Hunt Area 31; youth only, either sex elk (Hunt No 2159) reduce tags to 30 (-20).
- Sawtooth Zone:
 - Hunt Area 33-1X; Create new Landowner Permission hunt, extra antlerless, Aug 1 – Oct 31 with 35 tags, private land only.
 - Hunt Area 36-1, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2080), reduce hunt area and reduce tags to 100 (-100).
- Pioneer Zone:
 - Pioneer A Tag: Shift muzzleloader season closing date from Nov 14 to end Nov 9, 5 days earlier.
 - Pioneer B Tag: Reduce B tag cap from 2,500 to 500 and extend any weapon season to Nov 10 – Nov 30.
 - Hunt Area 36A-1X, new extra antlerless hunt, Jan 1 – Jan 31 with 100 tags.
 - Hunt Area 49, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2029), reduce tags to 20 (-5).
 - Hunt Area 49, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2030), reduce tags to 175 (-25).
 - Hunt Area 49-1X, Landowner Permission, extra antlerless only hunt, (Hunt No 2182), private land only, reduce tags to 150 (-50).

- Hunt Area 50-1, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2031), Eliminate hunt.
- Hunt Area 50-1, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2032), reduce tags to 60 (-60).
- Hunt Area 50-1, muzzleloader only, either sex hunt (Hunt No 2139), reduce tags to 50 (-50) and shift season dates to Oct 1 – Oct 14.
- Hunt Area 36AX, extra antlerless elk (Hunt No 2162); increase tags to 200 (+75).
- Hunt Area 50-1X, any weapon, extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2282), Eliminate hunt.
- Hunt Area 50-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2184) increase tags to 100 (+25), add additional early season hunt, and make private land only.
- Hunt Area 50-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2291), Jan 1 – Feb 15, change hunt area and limit to private land only.
- Owyhee Zone:
 - Hunt Area 40-1 archery only (Hunt No 2121); increase tags to 35 (+15).
 - Hunt Area 41-1 antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2088); reduce tags to 75 (-85).
 - Hunt Area 41-1X extra antlerless (Hunt No 2163); Eliminate hunt.
 - Hunt Area 41-1X, Landowner Permission Hunt, extra antlerless (Hunt No 2175); reduce tags to 20 (-65).
 - Hunt Area 41X extra antlerless (Hunt No 2280), Jan 1 – Jan 31; increase tags to 100 (+50) and open to all of Unit 41.
 - Hunt Area 41X extra antlerless (Hunt No 2281), increase tags to 100 (+40), shift season to Feb 1 – Feb 28 and open to all of Unit 41.
 - Hunt Area 41-1X, Landowner Permission Hunt, extra antlerless, (Hunt No 2290) increase tags to 100 (+50), lengthen season to Feb 28.
- Boise River Zone:
 - Boise River B Tag; extend season length 5 days by shifting opening date to Oct 27.
 - Hunt Area 39 archery only (Hunt No 2120); shift season opening date to Aug 30.
 - Hunt Area 39 muzzleloader only (Hunt No 2134); shift season opening date to Aug 30.
- Smoky-Bennett Zone:
 - Smoky-Bennett B Tag; Shorten season by 6 days to Nov 24.
 - Hunt Area 43, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2019) increase tags to 125 (+15).
 - Hunt Area 44, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2021) increase tags to 200 (+25).
 - Hunt Area 45, eliminate any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2022), with 50 tags, Aug 1 – Aug 29.
 - Hunt Area 45, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2023), increase tags to 125 (+25).
 - Hunt Area 45, eliminate any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2024), with 40 tags, Dec 1 – Dec 31.
 - Hunt Area 48, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2028) increase tags to 150 (+15).
 - Hunt Area 52, eliminate any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2035), with 50 tags, Aug 1 – Aug 29.
 - Hunt Area 48-1, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2092) shorten season and change closing date to Nov 14.
 - Hunt Area 48-2, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2093) shorten season and change closing date to Nov 14.
 - Hunt Area 48, muzzleloader hunt (Hunt No 2137) increase tags to 75 (+25), shift season dates to Nov 15 – Nov 30, and allow either sex harvest.

- Hunt Area 49-1X, Landowner Permission, extra antlerless only hunt, (Hunt No 2182), private land only, reduce tags to 150 (-50).
- Hunt Area 45, Outfitter Allocation Hunt (Hunt No 2215), increase tags to 4 (+1) to compensate for elimination of late season hunt.
- Hunt Area 45, Eliminate Outfitter Allocation Hunt (Hunt No 2216), parent hunt is being eliminated.
- **South Hills Zone:**
 - Eliminate Unit 46 only, any weapon hunt, Aug 1 – Nov 30, on or within 1 mile of private irrigated agricultural lands.
 - Hunt Area 46-1, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2025), reduce tags to 15 (-5).
 - Hunt Area 54, any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2038) increase tags to 25 (+5).
 - Hunt Area 56-1, eliminate any weapon, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2040), Aug 1 – Aug 29.
 - Hunt Area 46-2, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2091) increase tags to 125 (+50).
 - Hunt Area 56, any weapon, antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2098) increase tags to 300 (+250) and shift season dates to Oct 25 – Nov 15.
 - Hunt Area 46-1, archery only, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2124), reduce tags to 10 (-5).
 - Hunt Area 54, archery only, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2125) increase tags to 25 (+5).
 - Hunt Area 46-1, muzzleloader only, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2136), reduce tags to 10 (-5).
 - Hunt Area 49, muzzleloader only, either sex hunt (Hunt No 2138), reduce tags to 75 (-25).
 - Hunt Area 54, muzzleloader only, antlered hunt (Hunt No 2140), increase tags to 25 (+5).
- **Big Desert Zone:**
 - Big Desert A Tag, extend A tag archery season to Oct 14 and eliminate Unit 68 only, archery hunt Aug 1 – Aug 30, on or within 1 mile of private irrigated agricultural lands.
 - Hunt Area 68, New hunt, either sex, Aug 1 – Aug 29, unlimited tags.
 - Hunt Area 52A-1, any weapon, antlered hunt, (Hunt No 2037) shift opening date to Oct 15.
 - Hunt Area 49-1X, Landowner Permission, extra antlerless only hunt, (Hunt No 2182), private land only, reduce tags to 150 (-50).
 - Hunt Area 68-1X, Landowner Permission, extra antlerless, (Hunt No 2191), private land only, increase tags to 50 (+25).
- **Snake River Zone:**
 - Snake River Zone A Tag, extend archery only season in Unit 68A only to Dec 31. Eliminate archery only season for antlerless elk.
 - Hunt Area 63, either sex hunt (Hunt No 2118), set tags to 250 and extend season to close to Dec 31.
 - Hunt Area 63-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2293), increase tags to 100 (+75).
 - Hunt Area 63X, New extra antlerless hunt, Sep 1 – Oct 31 with 50 tags.
 - Hunt Area 63X, New extra antlerless hunt, Nov 1 – Dec 31 with 50 tags.
- **Island Park Zone:**
 - Remove Unit 60A from the Archery hunt.
 - Hunt Area 60A, New hunt, either sex, Aug 1 – Sep 30, 125 tags.
 - Hunt Area 60-1, any weapon, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2101), increase to 400 tags (+50)
 - Hunt Area 61, any weapon, antlerless elk (Hunt No 2103), Eliminate hunt.
 - Hunt Area 60-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, Aug 1 – Oct 31, on private land only with 50 tags.

- Hunt Area 62-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, Aug 1 – Oct 31, on private land only, with 50 tags.
- Palisades Zone:
 - Hunt Area 65-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, Nov 1 – Dec 1, on private land only with 25 tags.
 - Hunt Area 65-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, Jan 1 – Feb 15, on private land only with 25 tags.
- Tex Creek Zone:
 - Hunt Area 69-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2191), shorten early season closing date to Aug 29, increase tags to 200 (+100) and eliminate within Bigham County from hunt area description.
 - Hunt Area 69-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, Jan 1 – Feb 15, private land only, with 100 tags.
- Bannock Zone:
 - Bannock Zone A Tag, eliminate any weapon, antlerless only hunt in portion of Unit 74.
 - Hunt Area 70-1, New hunt, muzzleloader only, either sex, Nov 16 – Nov 30, 125 tags.
 - Hunt Area 72-1X, New Landowner Permission extra antlerless hunt, on private land only, Aug 1 – Aug 29, 25 tags.
 - Hunt Area 74X, New hunt, extra antlerless, Dec 1 – Dec 15, 75 tags.
 - Hunt Area 74X, New hunt, extra antlerless, Dec 16 – Dec 31, 75 tags.
 - Hunt Area 74-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless (Hunt No 2193) Aug 1 – Dec 31; add portions of Units 73 and 77 within Franklin County to hunt Area.
 - Hunt Area 74-1X, Landowner Permission extra antlerless (Hunt No 2294) Jan 1 – Jan 31; add portions of Units 73 and 77 within Franklin County to hunt Area.
- Bear River Zone:
 - Bear River Zone B Tag, convert any weapon, antlered only to either sex.
- DiamondCreek:
 - Hunt Area 66A-1X, Landowner Permission, extra antlerless, (Hunt No 2190), private land only, shorten season to close Aug 29.
 - Hunt Area 76-1X, Landowner Permission hunt (Hunt No 2195), extend season to Sep 30, eliminate Nov 1 – Dec 31 fall/winter season, and reduce tags to 200 (-50).
 - Hunt Area 76X, extra antlerless hunt (Hunt No 2285), remove private land only restriction and shorten season to close on Jan 15.
 - Hunt Area 76X, New hunt, extra antlerless, Jan 16 – Jan 31, 50 tags.
 - Hunt Area 76-1X, New hunt, extra antlerless, on private land only, Dec 1 – Dec 15, 50 tags.
 - Hunt Area 76-1X, New hunt, extra antlerless, on private land only, Dec 16 – Dec 31, 50 tags.

PRONGHORN

- Southwest-McCall:
 - Hunt Area 31-1, create a new either sex hunt with 5 tags, Sep 25 – Oct 24, limited access.
 - Youth hunt, Hunt No 4052, expand hunt area to include Unit 31 and add limited access note.
- Magic Valley:
 - Hunt Area 45-1X, Extra Doe or Fawn hunt, change hunt area to include all of Unit 52.
- Upper Snake Region:
 - Hunt Area 63X, New Landowner Permission doe or fawn hunt, Aug 1 – Oct 24, on private land only with 25 tags.

- Salmon Region:
 - Hunt Area 36A-1, short range, either sex hunt (Hunt No 4050); increase tags to 30 (+10).

BLACK BEAR

- Southwest-McCall:
 - Amend Weiser-area black bear hunts to aid compliance and enforcement – modify hunt boundary to outside the national forest system boundary only.
- Salmon Region:
 - Units 21 and 28, remove restriction of electronic call to be used in only portions of Units 21 & 28.

MOUNTAIN LION

- Southwest-Nampa:
 - Unit 40, extend season to June 30.
 - Units 41 and 42, allow use of second lion tag.
- Salmon Region:
 - Units 21 and 28, remove restriction of electronic call to be used in only portions of Units 21 & 28.

GRAY WOLF

- Panhandle Region:
 - Units 1, 2, 3, and 5; Change opening season date to July 1 to June 30, open to year-round hunting on public land.
 - Unit 3, Open more of Unit 3 to trapping excluding Fernan Lake to Hayden Lake and 4th of July Recreation Area and allow foothold trapping beginning Sep 10, one month earlier.
 - Unit 5, Allow foothold trapping beginning Sep 10, one month earlier.
 - Unit 6, Open all of Unit 6 to foothold trapping Sep 10th to provide additional trapping opportunity.
- Clearwater Region:
 - Open Units 8, 8A, 11, 11A and 13 to wolf hunting year-a-round on public land.
 - Open Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13, 14 and 16 to foot hold trapping beginning Sep 10, one month earlier.
- Southwest-McCall:
 - Units 19A and 25, open to foot hold trapping beginning Sep 10, one month earlier.
 - Units 19A and 25, expand public land hunting season to year-round July 1 – June 30.
- Southwest-Nampa:
 - Units 38, 40, 41, and 42 open to foot hold trapping beginning Sep 10, one month earlier.
- Magic Valley Region:
 - Unit 45, 48, 52, and 52A expand wolf hunting to year-round.
- Southeast Region:
 - Region wide, expand public wolf hunting season to year-round.
 - Region wide, open to foot hold trapping beginning Sep 10.
- Upper Snake Region:
 - Unit 51, expand public land hunting to allow expanded hunting methods Nov 15- Mar 31, general hunting rules apply Apr 1 – Nov 14.
 - Units 58, 59, 59A, 60, 60A, 61, 62A, 63, 63A, 66, and 69 expand public land hunting season year-a-round, July 1 to June 30.
 - Units 51, 64 and 67, expand public land foothold trapping season to an earlier start date of Sep 10.
 - Units 58, 59, 59A, 60A, 63A, 66, 69, expand public land foothold trapping season to an earlier start date of Sep 10.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy. Species management plans provide Commission direction for population and harvest management.

Public Involvement Process:

Recommendations have resulted from year-round public involvement, and population and harvest monitoring. Proposals have been scoped internally and with the public through open houses and public meetings around the state, email outreach, and through our website. Proposals were posted on the Department website and input was solicited from February 8 through February 22.

Justification:

Commission action is required to adopt 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, black bears, mountain lions, and gray wolves. Commission action is also required to adopt the 2023-2024 and 2023-2025 Landowner Appreciation Program seasons.

Staff Recommendation:

After evaluation of public input, staff will develop final recommendations for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons. Those final recommendations will be presented to the Commission at the meeting. Staff recommends Landowner Appreciation Program hunts and tag levels be adjusted consistent with, and proportionate to, Commission adopted changes in regular controlled hunts and tag levels.

Action Requested:

Approve 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 big game hunting seasons and the Landowner Appreciation Program seasons and tag numbers for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons.

Suggested Motion: Commission adopt staff recommendations for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 big game hunting seasons and the Landowner Appreciation Program seasons and tag numbers for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons.