

Meeting Date: July 27, 2023

Agenda Item No. 10

Agenda Item: Antlerless Harvest Management

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

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Background:

The Department manages deer and elk populations across Idaho to provide abundant and sustainable public hunting opportunities. Antlerless harvest is a management tool employed for many different reasons, including increasing population performance in areas where habitat is limited or increasing hunter opportunity in high performing herds. In other cases, it may be used to reduce populations for disease management purposes or in response to agriculture depredation issues. However, pursuit and harvest of antlerless deer and elk can be a controversial tool in some areas.

Staff will present an overview of how antlerless harvest is used in managing ungulate populations and how the Department employs it in the management of white-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk populations and hunter opportunity in Idaho.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104(2) provides authority to the Commission to determine when an open season may be declared for the take of wildlife. The Department is charged with preserving, protecting, perpetuating, and managing the state's wildlife (IC 36-103). IDAPA 13.01.08 establishes rules regarding the take of big game animals.

Public Involvement Process:

This agenda item is for information only.

Justification:

This presentation will become part of the Department's *State of Deer and Elk* series. This series highlights the Department's efforts to understand and manage deer and elk statewide and to communicate that information to the interested public.

Staff Recommendation:

This agenda item is for Commission information. No action is required.