

**Meeting Date:** July 27, 2023

**Agenda Item No. 9**

**Agenda Item:** Update on Mountain Goat Mandatory Sex Identification Training and Testing

**Bureau Chief Approval:** SR

**Prepared by:** Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

**Background:**

In June 2023, the Department implemented mandatory mountain goat sex identification training with a goal of reducing the number of adult females taken in the harvest. The sex identification course includes educational materials to teach hunters about mountain goats and the best ways to identify the differences between male and female mountain goats. The test is split into two parts; both must be passed with a minimum score of 80%.

Staff will provide the Commission with an overview of the mandatory mountain goat sex identification training and test, as well as the status of the 2023 mountain goat tag holders relative to testing requirements.

**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). Idaho Code 67-52 (Idaho Administrative Procedure Act) governs the process for considering, adopting, and implementing IDAPA rules.

IDAPA 13.01.01.220. MOUNTAIN GOAT IDENTIFICATION. No person may obtain a mountain goat tag unless they have completed the Department's online mountain goat gender identification test with a passing score (eighty percent (80%) or higher). One may take this test repeatedly to pass. (3-30-23)

**Public Involvement Process:**

Survey emails were sent on April 19, 2021, to approximately 2,600 hunters who applied for a mountain goat tag in one or more of the last five years (2016-2021). Additionally, an online public survey that was open to everyone was advertised and available on April 22. Both surveys ran through April 30. There were 777 respondents to the email survey; 80% (622) supported mandatory training and 344 left written comments. There were 153 submissions to the online survey; 90% (137) supported mandatory training and 91 left written comments.

Public input opportunity was also provided during the rule making process.

**Justification:**

This agenda item is to provide the Commission with information on the mandatory mountain goat sex identification training.

**Staff Recommendation:**

This agenda item is an update for Commission information. No formal action is requested at this time.