

Meeting Date: March 18, 2021

Agenda Item No. 5.B.1 and 5.B.2

Agenda Item: Season Setting: Deer,

Bureau Chief Approval: TB

Elk, Pronghorn, Black bears,

Mountain lions, and Gray wolves (Action)

Prepared by: Mike McDonald, Regional Wildlife Manager

Background:

With input from the Commission's Nov. 20 meeting, regional and bureau staff conducted public scoping of proposals for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 big game seasons (mule and white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion and gray wolf). Following review of public input and coordination of regional proposals on a statewide basis, staff will present recommendations to the Commission for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons for presentation to the Commission.

Staff will also present recommendations for adjustments to Landowner Appreciation Program controlled hunt tag numbers (generally proportional to recommended changes for corresponding controlled hunts).

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 9 virtual open houses around the state, 8 regional after hours call-in events, email outreach, and through our website. The Department asked for public input on proposals via the website and other outreach, with a comment period from February 8 through February 25.

Justification:

Commission action is required to adopt 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 seasons for regular deer, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, and gray wolf.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommendations for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 big game seasons will be presented to the Commission in the form of a mockup of the season brochure, with recommended changes from the prior 2020 season highlighted.

Staff recommendation for Landowner Appreciation Program Controlled Hunts and tag levels will correspond proportionally to "parent" controlled hunts.

Action Requested:

Approve 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 big game hunting seasons and the Landowner Appreciation Program seasons and tag numbers for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 hunting seasons.

Suggested Motions:

5.B.1.: I move the Commission adopt staff recommendations for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 big game seasons for mule and white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, mountain lion, black bear and gray wolf.

5.B.2. I move the Commission adopt staff recommendations for the Landowner Appreciation Program seasons and controlled hunt tag numbers for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 big game seasons.