

Meeting Date: November 20, 2020

Agenda Item No. 7

Agenda Item: Legislative Update and Rulemaking

Bureau Chief Approval: ES

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Background (Legislative Update): For quite a few years, the Commission has met via weekly conference calls during the legislative session to evaluate legislative proposals related to fish and wildlife management, Department administration, and other items of interest. Calls have typically occurred on either Wednesday or Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. MST, and staff have provided the Commission with a summary of legislation and bill status (including Commission-sponsored legislation approved by the Governor's office). The weekly calls provide the Commission with the opportunity to determine whether a policy position is warranted.

A staff legislative analysis sheet and proposed House and Senate bill tracking forms proposed for use during the 2021 session are attached for consideration.

The Governor's Office authorized one piece of agency-sponsored legislation regarding game tags for sage grouse.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: Commission has responsibility to provide policy direction for Department-sponsored legislation and to provide policy guidance relative to other legislative initiatives and process including issues the Commission has identified to work with other stakeholders to advance.

Public Involvement Process: Commission quarterly meetings provide the public with comment opportunities regarding ideas for agency-sponsored legislation, which follows a process and schedule determined by the Governor's office. The legislative process also provides the public a separate opportunity to comment to their elected representatives on the merits of legislation.

Staff Recommendation: Continue in 2021 a process similar what was conducted in 2020 to evaluate legislative proposals as directed by the Commission, including establishing the 2021 phone conference calendar (e.g., day of week, time of conference call, frequency of calls). Direct staff to initiate support work such as public notice to implement the Commission legislative process.

Justification: Define the Commission's legislative process to facilitate timely and effective policy input during the 2021 legislative session.