

Meeting Date: July 14, 2021

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Mountain Goat Gender Identification
Training Update

Bureau Chief Approval: TB

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Background:

Staff will present the results of the public input survey conducted in April 2021 to determine public support of mandatory mountain goat gender identification training. The gender identification training program would be used to educate hunters on the best ways to identify the differences between male and female mountain goats with the goal of reducing the number of adult females taken in the harvest. We conducted an online and a targeted email survey. The online survey was on our website and available to anyone while the email survey was sent to hunters that applied for mountain goat tags in the last 5 years. Results for both surveys were similar with 80% of 777 email survey respondents and 90% of 153 online survey respondents supporting mandatory gender identification training.

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.

Public Involvement Process:

Emails were sent on April 19th to approximately 2,600 hunters who put in for mountain goats during the last 5 years (2016-2021). The online public survey comment period was first advertised on April 22nd. Both surveys ran through April 30th. There were 777 respondents to the email survey. Of those, 80% (622) supported mandatory training and 344 left written comments. There were 153 submissions to the online survey. Of those 90% (137) supported mandatory training and 91 left written comments.

Justification:

This agenda item is to provide the Commission with information on the public input survey for mandatory mountain goat gender identification training.

Staff Recommendation:

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