

Meeting Date: July 28, 2022

Agenda Item No. 9.

Agenda Item: Bighorn Sheep Annual Action Plan Update

Bureau Chief Approval: JR

Prepared by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

Background:

The Commission adopted the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (2022-2027) at their May 19, 2022 meeting. The intent of the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan is to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement management actions that will aid in protection and management of bighorn sheep populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. This plan also provides guidance for annual action plans for bighorn sheep management in Idaho. The annual action plan will describe in more detail planned activities to address management directions and strategies.

Staff will provide an overview of the 2022 bighorn sheep action plan.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species Management Plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The Bighorn Sheep Management Plan will function as the primary action plan for bighorn sheep management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department solicited input on the draft Bighorn Sheep Management Plan from the public, interested groups, tribes, and other state and federal agencies February 3-25, 2022. Stakeholders provided the Commission additional comments on the plan during testimony at the public hearing prior to the May 2022 Commission meeting.

Justification:

This agenda item is to provide the Commission with information on the annual bighorn sheep action plan.

Staff Recommendation:

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