Meeting Date: November 14, 2018   **Agenda Item No.** 16

Agenda Item: Muzzleloader Caliber Update   **Bureau Chief Approval:** <u>GLW</u>

Prepared by: Greg Wooten

Background:
Current Commission rules allow at least a forty-five (.45) caliber muzzleloader for deer, pronghorns, mountain lion, or gray wolf, or at least fifty (.50) caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat or black bear. The Commission requested an update on muzzleloader caliber.

In 1975 the Commission adopted rules that allowed the take of big game animals with a forty (.40) caliber or larger muzzleloader.

In 1983 the Commission adopted rules that allowed forty (.40) caliber or larger for deer, pronghorns and mountain lions or at least fifty (.50) caliber or larger for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat or black bear.

In 1991 the Commission adopted rules that allow at least a forty-five (.45) caliber muzzleloader for deer, pronghorns, mountain lion, or gray wolf (gray wolf was added in 2011), or at least fifty (.50) caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat or black bear.

The only reference in Commission minutes in April 1991 reveal the Commission recognized they may have to set rules about sabots and allowable size and weight of muzzleloader projectiles.

In 1991 the Department published *Idaho Hunter's Guide to Muzzleloader Performance and Limitations*. The Department field tested the forty-five (.45), fifty (.50) and fifty-four (.54) calibers using multiple bullet types, weights and manufacturers. They chose these three calibers as the most common at the time and no specific recommendation provided. No subsequent field tests or published booklets.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:
The Commission has statutory authority for rulemaking regarding this subject. Idaho Code 36-104(b)2 provides Commission authority to make rules under what circumstances and by what means wildlife can be taken. A proposed rule must be upheld by the 2019 Legislature to become effective.

Public Involvement Process:
None at this point

Staff Recommendation:
None at this point

Justification:
None at this point