

Meeting Date: January 24, 2019

Agenda Item No. 7.C.

Agenda Item: Airguns: Foot Pounds of Energy (FPE)

Bureau Chief Approval: GW

Prepared by: Chris Wright

Background:

Current proposed Commission rules will allow the use of air guns to hunt big game animals if ratified by the legislature. The proposed rules do not require FPE.

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.

Staff Recommendation: The Department is not recommending FPE requirements because there is not a feasible way to seek compliance. Not all air guns are officially qualified with a FPE rating and many are custom made. Similar to other methods of harvesting big game, it is up to the individual to have knowledge and experience of their weapon and its capability.

Further, the Department is recommending the following language in the big game seasons and rules brochure: It is recommended that air guns used to hunt big game animals be capable of producing 350 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle of the barrel.

Justification: Commission requested the review.