

Meeting Date: May 10, 2018

Agenda Item No. 7E

Agenda Item: Grizzly Bear Hunting Proposal

Bureau Chief Approval:

Prepared by: Toby Boudreau

Background:

The greater Yellowstone population of grizzly bears was delisted in June 2017. The conservation strategy for Yellowstone grizzlies allows for take of bears, when the population estimate is greater than 600 bears. Hunting is a management tool consistent with the conservation strategy and bear conservation. The 2017 population estimate is 718 bears. Idaho has the opportunity to have a hunt for 1 bear to harvest in 2018.

Proposed Season Details:

- Season: September 1 –November 15, 2018
- Bag limit: 1 grizzly bear
- Hunt area: See map next page
- Application period: June 15 – July 15th

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission has already created a framework in the Idaho Administrative Code sections 13 01.06 and 13 01.08 to allow the establishment of a hunting season for grizzly bears. Those rules include; what sex and ages can be harvested, tag validation procedures, evidence of sex requirements, grizzly bear reporting requirements, established a mandatory check for harvested bears and added grizzly bears to the list of species not allowed to be hunted within 200 yards of a landfill or dump.

Public Involvement Process:

The Department conducted 2 public meetings (Idaho Falls and Boise) and collected written comments from April 16th thru May 3rd, 2018. Public meeting attendance was 75 members of the public total including both Idaho Falls and Boise meetings. A summary of the public comment will be delivered to the commission at the May 10, 2018 meeting. **We did not scope tag residency requirements as a part of the outreach.**

Justification:

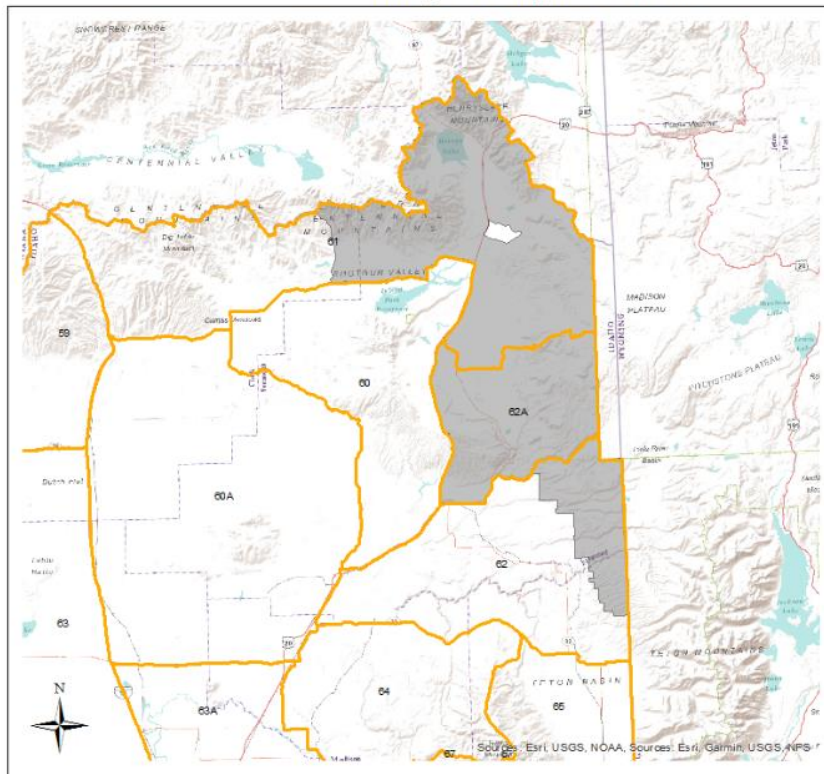
Hunting grizzly bears is consistent with the conservation strategy and based on the 2018 allocation Idaho has the opportunity to harvest one bear.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the grizzly bear hunting season framework and continue with the controlled hunt application for 1 grizzly bear tag in anticipation of a Fall 2018 Idaho grizzly bear season. **Because the hunt is limited to 1 tag, staff recommends availability is limited to residents only.**

Suggested Motion: Commission adopts staff recommendation to approve a grizzly bear hunting season with controlled hunt applications for 1 grizzly bear tag, **available to residents.**

Grizzly Bear Proposed Hunt Area



That portion of Unit 61 east of Howard Creek except the portion enclosed by the Big Springs Loop Road and U.S. Highway 20 is closed. That portion of unit 62 within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest boundary. All of unit 62A.

Legend

- Game Management Units
- Grizzly Bear Hunt Boundary