

Meeting Date: January 17, 2008

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Hunter Survey Report

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton/Bruce Ackerman

Background:

In 1998, the Department implemented a new Mandatory Harvest Report (MHR) system to estimate total harvest of deer, elk, and pronghorn. All deer, elk, and pronghorn hunters must complete and file a MHR, regardless of harvest success. Currently, the Department issues approximately 250,000 reports to hunters annually, with nearly 80% compliance. Approximate annual cost to the Department is \$250,000.

The MHR has increased the amount of information, and in some cases improved the information, used for making management decisions. However, paper copies sent through the mail, invalid responses, and declining compliance over the past decade continually provide challenges to obtaining accurate and timely harvest information.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff will provide a review of the Mandatory Harvest Report system, including successes, challenges, and potential changes for improvement.

Justification:

This agenda item is for informational purposes.