

Meeting Date: May 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 18

Agenda Item: Mule Deer Initiative Update

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

Mule deer are an important wildlife resource to Idaho's hunters and citizens. Southern and eastern Idaho have been renowned for abundant populations providing ample opportunity for hunting and taking mature bucks. The long-term trend in mule deer populations across the West, including Idaho, is downward. The Department's desire, consistent with public expectations, is to intensively manage mule deer and mule deer habitat to improve populations and hunter satisfaction.

In 2005, the Department initiated the Mule Deer Initiative (MDI). MDI is a focused and increased effort by sportsmen, landowners, land management agencies, and the Department to increase on-the-ground efforts with habitat management, predator management, population management, enforcement, public involvement/outreach, and access management to benefit mule deer and mule deer hunting.

Over the past 4 years, the Department has implemented a number of strategies identified in the Action Plan.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

None.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is provided to update the Commission on MDI activities.

Justification:

Information only.