

Good Evening and thank you for attending. My name is Sharon Kiefer and I am a Deputy Director for Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Tonight's public hearing is to gather input about proposed rules to administer grizzly bear hunting should the Idaho Fish and Game Commission authorize hunting after grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are taken off the federal endangered species list because the Yellowstone population meets federal recovery criteria. The proposed rules do not make any decision to delist grizzly bears and do not propose to open any hunting season for grizzly bear in Idaho. Any grizzly bear hunts the Fish and Game Commission may authorize after federal delisting would undergo additional biological analysis and opportunity for public input. Any grizzly bear hunt authorized by the Commission would be tightly regulated and extremely limited.

The Fish and Game Commission adopted these proposed rules on August 8. These rules were published on October 5 in the Idaho Administrative Bulletin Volume 16-10 which provides a public comment period ending October 26, including the comment from this hearing. During their November 17 meeting, the Commission will review public comments and determine whether to send changes to existing rules to the Legislature for final review in the upcoming legislative session. Should the Legislature approve these rules, they will become final upon conclusion of the 2017 Legislative session.

You are invited to provide verbal or written input.

A brief summary of the 7 rules is as follows:

- Establish rule to limit harvest of a grizzly bear in Idaho to once per lifetime.

This rule is consistent with rules for mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose.

- Establish that either sex of grizzly bears may be taken, except adults accompanied by young and young accompanying adults may not be taken.

This rule is consistent with the rules for take of black bear and mountain lion.

- Establish that immediately after harvest of a grizzly bear, the tag must be validated and securely attached to the hide.

This rule is consistent with the rules for tag validation for all big game species.

- Add grizzly bear to the list of species for which evidence of sex must be left naturally attached to the hide until mandatory check requirement has been fulfilled.

This rule is consistent with the rule for all big game species.

- Establish requirement that any hunter who kills a grizzly bear must report the harvest within 24 hours by calling a toll-free reporting number.

This rule is consistent but more conservative than the mandatory telephone report for grey wolf, which is 72 hours.

- Establish mandatory check requirement for grizzly bears. Skull and hide must be presented to IDFG regional office for checking within five days of harvest.

This rule is consistent but more conservative than the mandatory check and report requirements for mountain lion, black bear, gray wolf, bighorn sheep, moose, and mountain goat.

- Add grizzly bear to the list of species that may not be hunted within 200 yards of any designated dump ground or sanitary landfill.

This rule is consistent with rule for black bear and gray wolf.