

Meeting Date: November 17, 2016

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain
Goat briefing

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

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Background:

A biennial report on status of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats and a preliminary list of issues and proposals to be scoped during public hearings is presented in November, preceding adoption of harvest regulations in January of each odd-numbered year. In January 2017 the Fish and Game Commission will set seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2017 and 2018 hunting seasons. The following preliminary proposals are being considered by regional staff for scoping and public comment.

Moose

- **Panhandle** –Considering the following changes:
 - Hunt area 1-1: Currently offer 80 antlered moose tags (50 in a long hunt, 15 in each of 2 short hunts). Considering reduction of tags in all hunts.
 - Hunt area 1-2: Currently offer 35 antlered tags in both long and short hunts. Considering reduction of tags.
 - Hunt area 1-3: Currently offer 5 antlered tags. Considering reduction in tags or elimination of hunt.
 - Hunt area 2: Currently offer 50 antlered and 40 antlerless tags. Considering reduction in both antlered and antlerless tags.
 - Units 4 and 4A: Currently offer 35 antlered tags in GMU 4 and 5 antlered tags in GMU 4A. Consider combining these 2 units into one hunt and slightly reduce tag numbers.
- **Clearwater** – No changes proposed.
- **Southwest** – No changes proposed.
- **Southwest McCall** – No changes proposed.
- **Magic Valley** – No changes proposed.
- **Southeast** - No changes proposed.
- **Upper Snake** – No changes proposed.
- **Salmon** – No changes proposed.

Bighorn Sheep

- **Panhandle** – No changes proposed.
- **Clearwater** – No changes proposed.
- **Southwest** –
 - Considering reduction of the number of tags from 4 to 3 in hunt areas 42-1 and 42-2.
- **Magic Valley** –
 - Considering proposal of additional hunting opportunity in Hunt Area 55 by increasing ram tags from 1 to 2 and adding 5 ewe tags.
 - Considering proposing a new hunt including GMU 54, 1 ram tag.

- **Southeast** – No changes proposed.
- **Upper Snake** – No changes proposed.
- **Salmon** –
 - Considering proposing a new hunt including portions of GMUs 21 and 21A, 2 permits.
 - Considering proposal to decrease tags in hunt area 21 from 3 to 2.

Mountain Goat

- **Panhandle** – No changes proposed.
- **Clearwater** – No changes proposed.
- **Southwest** – No changes proposed.
- **Magic Valley** – No changes proposed.
- **Southeast** – No changes proposed.
- **Upper Snake** – No changes proposed.
- **Salmon** –
 - Propose possible reallocation of tags among the hunt areas in Unit 36A.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

This agenda item is intended to inform Commissioners of issues and concerns relative to current status and statewide management issues and anticipated proposals for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

Public Involvement Process:

Public input is received year-round through contacts with interested sportsmen. Proposals will be developed and circulated statewide for public review. Open houses will be conducted around the state December-January. Proposals will be distributed through news releases in all media outlets. Proposals and additional information will be provided on the Department website. Public input will be summarized and considered to guide development of the Department's recommendations to the Commission in January.

Justification:

Establish harvest seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat for the 2017-2018 seasons.

Action Requested:

None. This presentation is for Commission information. Final recommendations will be presented for Commission action at the January meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A