ALLOCATION OF HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Game Mgmt Advisory Council
March 1, 2014
EQUITABILITY

WHAT IS IT ???
Equitable Opportunity

- Allocation between:
  - Modern Firearm Hunters
  - Muzzleloader Hunters
  - Archers

- Other Groups
  - Youth
  - Seniors
  - Disabled
Equitable Opportunity

- What is “Fair”?
- Is it equal:
  - Days
  - Season Timing
  - Harvest
  - Success Rate
- Something else?
Equitable Opportunity

- The Permit allocation formula
- Based on:
  - participation
  - success

Permits = participation X harvest quota success
Equitable Opportunity

- Can we extend the permit allocation formula to general seasons?
- The formula currently includes:
  - All deer or elk combined (does and bucks; cows and bulls)?
  - The geographic scale is the District
  - Standard: Statewide Participation & Proportion of Harvest
Equitable Opportunity

- Techniques to make changes:
  - GMUs open to group
  - Antlerless opportunity
  - Season timing
  - Season length
Equitable Opportunity
Equitable Opportunity

- Initial changes with 2000-02 package
- Created Allocation Committee as part of GMAC to review results of changes
- Recommendations to GMAC
Deer Muzzleloader
Elk
Modern Firearm
Elk Archery
Allocation Committee

- Results:
  - Currently most Districts:
    - Offer a mix of opportunity for all groups
    - Are within acceptable levels of success and participation
  - There are a few changes recommended for each three-year package
  - Although none last package because of Governor’s moratorium
Allocation Committee

- 2008 Review:
  - Look beyond the current formula at distribution of:
    - Antlered
    - Antlerless
    - Mature
  - Consider timing and quality
Allocation Committee

- Analyzed Harvest Data
- Results:
  - Percent of mature (Bucks-MF; Bulls-Arch)
  - Percent of bucks and bulls (MF)
  - Percent of antlerless (Archery)
- Other Considerations for Allocation
GMAC Considerations:

- Should archery and muzzleloader hunters expect to have similar harvest success as modern firearm?  No.
- Should additional opportunity for hunting during the rut be available for modern firearms?  Yes.
- Should antlered and antlerless opportunity be spread across all users more evenly?  Yes.
GMAC Considerations:

- Changes to seasons should be “subtle” from one year to the next…
- Recommended changes should be based on harvest data.
- Review the current allocation formula (permits as well).
- Consider modeling variations in the allocation formula to predict the result of changes.
GMAC Considerations:

- Resource considerations must be primary before allocation
- Also consider percentages in making allocation recommendations
GMAC Direction to Allocation Committee:

- Review of Allocation to benefit recruitment of First Time Hunters.
- Hunter Retention
- Annual Participation
- Preparing for the 2015-17 Three Year Package.
Allocation Committee Ideas:

- Hunter Match Making
- Mentoring Programs for First Time Hunters
- FTH - Special hunting opportunities
GMAC Involvement

- Game Mgmt Plan Update – starts this summer
- 2015-17 Hunting Seasons – starts next summer
Questions ????