

Summary

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Auction Tags and Landowner Hunting Permits – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Jerry Nelson, Ph.D., Deer and Elk Section Manager, Wildlife Program
Rich Harris, Ph.D., Special Species Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-283 Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle, and special incentive permits and WAC 232-28-296 Landowner hunting permits.

A new 3-deer auction hunt is being proposed. The Department currently offers a 3-deer raffle hunt but not an auction hunt. Conservation organizations have encouraged the Department to create a 3-deer auction hunt that has the potential to generate additional revenue. If adopted, the new hunt will be assigned to a conservation organization during the annual process in the summer of 2016 and would be auctioned and utilized in 2017.

We propose to expand the area available to the holder of the statewide moose auction permit. Moose are gradually pioneering into areas south and west of their stronghold around Spokane, and while surveys are lacking to justify substantial harvest, allowing this one special hunting opportunity will serve as a learning experience for the Department while maintaining high hunter interest in moose.

On the recommendation of the district biologist, we are recommending a temporary removal of GMU 175 from the areas available to holder of the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep raffle permit, due to a paucity of rams in this herd.

Calendar date adjustments are proposed for the Landowner Hunting Permits. No new hunts or changes in permit levels are being recommended at this time.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

- Continue sustainable hunting opportunities, consistent with achieving management objectives.
- Address and prevent wildlife conflict problems.
- Generate revenue for the Department.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department notified approximately 28,000 individuals and organizations informing them of the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed regulations. Additionally, these individuals and organizations were informed of the opportunity to provide verbal testimony at the March 18-19, 2016 Commission Meeting in Moses Lake.

Action requested:

Take public comment. Adoption is planned for the April 8-9, 2016 Commission Meeting.

Draft motion language:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

NA – Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet
