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## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** August 18, 2017 (Conference Call)

**Agenda item:** 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations – **Decision**

**Presenter:** Stephanie Simek, Carnivore Section Manager, Wildlife Program

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**Background summary:**

Department staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to the following WAC 220-415-080 2017 and 2018 Spring black bear seasons and regulations.

Amendments are needed to mitigate damage, distribute harvests, and minimize confusion by participants, while maintaining sustainable bear populations statewide.

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

- Remove the 2017 season from the current rule as the 2017 season will have ended.
  - Extend the season ending date to June 15 for GMUs 154, 162, 166, 169, 172, 175, 181, and 186 to mitigate damage, improve distribution of harvest, and minimize confusion for permitted participants within Region 1.
  - Remove the Monroe hunt area as the Department has determined past damage mitigation efforts have been successful in diminishing damage occurrences.
  - Reduce the number of permits for GMU 684 from 20 permits to 12 permits.
  - Add GMUs 638 and 648 (excluding US Forest Service lands) to the Copalis hunt.
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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The Department posted draft proposed rules on the WDFW website for a 30-day review and comment periods. The comment period was prior to the August Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The Department will collect public testimony at the August 4-5, 2017 Commission meeting and public hearing. The Department met with and/or received written input from key stakeholders.

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**Action requested:**

Adopt WAC 220-415-080 as presented.

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**Draft motion language:**

I move to adopt WAC 220-415-080 as presented.

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**Justification for Commission action:**

This proposal amends the spring black bear seasons and regulations to align the rules with management needs where and when most needed and provide guidance to the Department and the public.

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**Communications Plan:**

WDFW Website  
News Releases  
Hunting Pamphlet

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