Summary

Meeting dates: March 18-19, 2016

Agenda item: Spring Black Bear Seasons – Rule Briefing and Public Hearing

Presenter: Anis Aoude, Carnivore Section Manager, Wildlife Program

Background summary:

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 232-28-286, 2016-2018 Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission has implemented spring bear damage hunts in western Washington to reduce bear damage to trees in the spring and to reduce negative wildlife interactions with the public. The Department is recommending changes in western Washington areas that will affect the 2017 and 2018 spring seasons. The proposal adds five permits to each of two Game Management Units (GMUs) in areas where nuisance complaints are high and reduces permits in a GMU where harvest has been low over the past several years. In addition, minor changes are proposed to include appropriate corporate ownership names for industrial timberland owners where existing spring bear hunts are conducted.

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

- Address and prevent timber damage and wildlife conflict issues utilizing hunters.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department conducted an extensive public involvement process to develop the 2015-2017 hunting season recommendations last year. For 2016, notification was made to 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:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Justification for Commission action:

N/A - Briefing and public hearing only.

Communications Plan:

WDFW Website
News Releases
Hunting Pamphlet

Form revised 12/5/12