

Summary Sheet

Meeting dates: Friday, Sept 7, 2018 - 8:30 A.M.

Agenda item: Petition – To clarify the intent of a safe and ethical kill with respect to the restrictions currently in place regarding arrow weight as it relates to draw weight.

Presenter(s): Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager

Background summary:

On July 13, 2018, the Fish and Wildlife Commission received a petition from Mr. White requesting that the Department of Fish and Wildlife change WAC 220-414-070(2)(b), to clarify the intent of a safe and ethical kill with respect to the restrictions currently in place regarding arrow weight as it relates to draw weight. Specifically Mr. White felt that the formula in our regulation regarding arrow weight is no longer valid given the bows sold today. We currently require minimum arrow weight of 300 grains and the arrow must weigh at least 6 grains per pound of draw weight. Thus a bow with 70 pound draw weight must have an arrow that weighs at least 420 grains.

Department staff have reviewed Mr. White's petition and appreciate his interest and expertise. We have also looked at other state's regulations and discussed with staff in the Enforcement Program. We agree that a change to this restriction should be considered. We also want to make sure we gather enough input from other interested public before making this decision. We reached out to Mr. White and assured him that we would pursue a change to this regulation in the upcoming season setting process (March and April 2019). He initially verbally agreed to this approach, but then decided to go forward with this petition.

Staff recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission deny the petition request – although we agree with the petitioner, any change to equipment usually has ramifications and requires more outreach to archery groups and other users. The department commits to making a recommendation to change this rule to address the issues that the petitioner outlined through the normal season setting and rulemaking cycle that occurs March and April of each year. This will allow for additional study of the issue and help the department gather other potential public comments.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

Amend the rule to address the issues outlined in the petition through normal rule making.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

No impact

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Department staff recommend the Commission deny this petition and commit to a more inclusive process to change this rule during the March/April 2019 hunting season changes.

Draft motion language:

Motion: I move to deny the petition as presented by staff and request that staff bring this forward during the season setting process in March/April 2019.

Is there a "second"?

If so, then motion maker discusses basis for motion; other Commissioners discuss views on motion; amendments, if any, proposed and addressed

Post decision communications plan:

Commission staff will provide a letter to the petitioner with the final outcome of the Commission decision regarding the petition.

Further information will be brought forward in 2019.