

STATEMENT OF REASONS

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 34

DEPREDATION PREVENTION HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(i), (viii), (xvi) and (xxii) directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife for any type of legal weapon, except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds, in any specified locality of Wyoming, and to give notice thereof; authorizes the Chief Game Warden or his designee to take any wildlife doing substantial damage; and to promulgate such orders necessary to carry out the intent of this act.

W.S. § 23-1-703 provides a limitation on the number of certain licenses that may be applied for and received by an individual.

The title of this regulation is being amended to “Auxiliary Management Hunting Seasons” since implementation of this regulation may be for reasons other than depredation prevention.

Section 1 provides an updated list of state statutes which provide the Commission authority to promulgate these rules.

Section 2 provides a definition of “Auxiliary Management Hunting Seasons” designed to provide additional clarity to the purpose of this regulation. The term “Harvest Year” is being deleted since it is no longer necessary for this regulation.

Section 3 has been edited to include the new term “auxiliary management hunting season” to provide consistency and clarity within this regulation.

Section 4 has been edited to indicate that Department personnel may accompany hunters for any auxiliary management hunting season. New Section 4 (b) is an existing regulatory provision that was previously located in Section 5 (a)(ii). This information is more appropriately located under Section 4, Supervision of Hunters.

Old Section 5 has been completely removed since the Department is proposing to do away with the previous application process for hunters to be placed on a priority list for an Auxiliary Management Hunting Season. The process for hunters to apply for and receive licenses under this regulation can more efficiently be accomplished through the Department’s Electronic Licensing Service (ELS). Depredation prevention hunting season priority lists have not been developed over the last several years due to no applications being received. Transitioning to the Department’s ELS will be much more efficient for participating hunters and the Department. New Section 5 further clarifies that participating hunters may need an elk special management permit, depending

on the location of a designated hunt, and further addresses hunting license limitations and preference points for certain species.

New Section 6 addresses bag limits for auxiliary management hunting licenses and allows for more than one auxiliary management hunting license to be purchased by any person. This provision will be necessary for designated hunts with limited public access availability.

New Section 7 clarifies that hunters participating in an auxiliary management hunting season may be required to have their harvested animal inspected by Department personnel, and may require the collection of biological samples from harvested animals to meet disease management objectives.

New Section 8 clarifies that all other Commission regulations shall apply to the taking of big or trophy game animals or wild turkeys during an auxiliary management hunting season. This provision is to ensure compliance with other regulations that must be followed by licensed hunters.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of the rules and regulations.