

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 15

WILD BISON RECREATIONAL HUNTING SEASON

W. S. § 23-1-302 directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, open, 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, and to give notice thereof.

The Department proposes to amend Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season to establish annual hunting seasons, limitations and bag limits for the 2024 wild bison hunting seasons. The Department sets hunting seasons annually based on public input, annual harvest data, population monitoring data, individual herd unit objectives and ongoing habitat evaluations.

At the time of this filing, the 2023 wild bison harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area regular hunting season dates, hunt area limitations, license types and license quotas may be modified after harvest data has been evaluated. Any additional proposed changes to regular hunting season dates, hunt area limitations, numbers of limited quota licenses, license types, hunt area boundaries or modifications to other hunting provisions shall be made available for public comment on the Department website. An updated draft of the 2024 wild bison hunting season proposals will be discussed at all in-person public meetings and will be posted on the Department website in March for additional public comment.