

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

### **CHAPTER 20**

#### **WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS**

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 except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds.

The Department proposes to amend Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons to establish annual hunting seasons, limitations and bag limits for the 2024 fall and 2025 spring wild turkey hunting seasons. The Department sets hunting seasons annually based on public input, annual harvest data, population monitoring data and ongoing habitat evaluations.

At the time of this filing, the previous year wild turkey 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 wild turkey 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.

In Section 2, Hunting Regulations, edits have been made to further clarify evidence of sex requirements and a requirement for a Department permission slip when hunting on the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area. Hunt areas 1-5 are also being combined into one statewide hunt area (Hunt Area 1) to simplify these regulations.

Section 4, Hunt Area Descriptions, have been edited to reflect combining all five (5) hunt areas into one statewide Hunt Area 1.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have also been incorporated in the above regulation that do not change the intent of the regulations.