

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 9

BIGHORN SHEEP AND MOUNTAIN GOAT 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 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons to establish annual hunting seasons, limitations and bag limits for the 2024 bighorn sheep and mountain goat 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 bighorn sheep and mountain goat harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area regular hunting season dates, special archery 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, special archery 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 2024 Chapter 9 Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons 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 sections 4 and 8, Special Archery Seasons, slight modifications have been made for consistency among other regulations.

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