

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 3

BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302(a)(i) 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.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission promulgates Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons to establish limitations on the take of black bears during the spring and fall hunting seasons.

Section 3 is being edited to address the number of bear bait containers a person may place at a registered bait site. Some bear hunters have requested more flexibility with regard to the number of bait containers which may be used while still adhering to the combined total cubic foot regulation.

Section 9. The previous three (3) year black bear harvest information is not yet available for analysis at the time this draft regulation is being prepared for public comment. As a result of harvest information analysis and in response to public concerns about the recent winter severity on western Wyoming mule deer herds, the Department may propose additional changes to hunting season dates, annual female mortality limits or hunting season structures. Any proposed black bear season date changes, annual female mortality limits or hunting season structures will be made available to the public for comment prior to all in-person public meetings to be held around the state. Once harvest data has been completely evaluated, an updated version of this Chapter 3 regulation will also be made available for public viewing and comment on the Department's website.