

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 8

MOOSE 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 the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Regulation Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons to establish annual hunting seasons, limitations and bag limits for the 2026 moose hunting season. The Department sets moose hunting seasons annually based on public input, annual harvest data, population monitoring data, individual herd unit objectives and ongoing habitat evaluations. The entire Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons regulation is open for public comment and may be modified through this rule making process.

Wildlife managers propose to adjust antlerless moose harvest opportunities in the Snowy Range Moose Herd Unit. In addition, wildlife managers intend to propose requiring successful moose hunters to submit mandatory biological samples from harvested moose in designated hunt areas.

At the time of this filing, the 2025 moose harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area regular hunting season dates, special archery hunting season dates, hunt area limitations and license quotas may be adjusted after harvest data has been evaluated. Individual license types may be added, removed or modified for existing hunt areas.

Any additional proposed changes to regular hunting season dates, special archery hunting season dates, hunt area limitations, license types, numbers of limited quota licenses, 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 2026 Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons regulation proposal will be available at all in-person public meetings and through online Department presentations. All proposed changes to this regulation will be posted on the Department website in March for additional public comment.