

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 2026 wild bison hunting seasons. The Department sets wild bison recreational hunting seasons annually based on public input, annual harvest data, population monitoring data, individual herd unit objectives and ongoing habitat evaluations. The entire Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season regulation is open for public comment and may be modified through this rule making process

At the time of this filing, the 2025 wild bison harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area regular hunting season dates, hunt area limitations and license quotas may be modified 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, 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 2026 Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season regulation proposal shall be available at all in-person public meetings and through online Department presentations. All proposed changes to this regulation shall be posted on the Department website in March for additional public comment.