

## Committee Staff Summary for January 15, 2025 WRC

**3. Big Game Hunting****Today's Item**Information Action 

Discussion and potential recommendations for changes to regulations for big game preference points and the movement of cervid carcasses in chronic wasting disease management zones.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

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|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Initial vetting                                        | May 16, 2024; WRC       |
| • Discussion                                             | September 12, 2024; WRC |
| • <b>Today's discussion and potential recommendation</b> | <b>January 15, 2025</b> |

**Background**

At the September 2024 Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) meeting, a large number of potential regulation changes were discussed related to big game hunting and chronic wasting disease (CWD); staff also noted that, even without CWD, big game regulation changes are a significant workload, representing from five to seven rulemakings each year.

Given capacity concerns, WRC chose to split off from the Department's big game hunting proposal potential regulation changes related to refunding preference points due to public land closures resulting from wildfires. WRC requested that the Department return to today's WRC meeting with a refined proposal for regulation changes related to preference points.

Today, WRC will discuss how the preference point regulations might be changed to address difficulties in administration, and may potentially make a recommendation for Commission consideration.

Additionally, the movement of cervid carcasses in CWD management zones has been identified as a concern; WRC and the Commission have previously discussed with the Department the possibility of restricting carcass movement. Today, the Department will discuss with WRC whether, and if so how, to restrict cervid movement; WRC may potentially develop a recommendation for Commission consideration.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Based on the Department's presentations and today's discussions, recommend the Commission support future rulemakings regarding refunding preference points due to public land closures and the movement of cervid carcasses in CMZs.

**Department:** Support a future rulemaking regarding refunding big game preference points due to public land closures from wildfires.

**Exhibits (N/A)**

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**Committee Direction/Recommendation**

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding refunding preference points due to public land closures resulting from wildfires and the movement of cervid carcasses in chronic wasting disease management zones.