

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The 2007 Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2971, which authorizes the department to appoint agents for assisting the department in its official duties by pursuing black bear and/or cougar with dogs subject to the department's direction and control. These rules authorize two classes of agents 1) volunteer agents and 2) private contractors hired by the department on personal services contracts, for responding to specific conflict or management actions consistent with the Oregon cougar and bear management plans and/or to work on specific research projects.

Staff provided proposed rules to implement statute put in place by HB 2971 at the January 11, 2008, Commission Meeting. The proposed rules presented today incorporate edits and comments provided by the Commission at the January 11 meeting and detail the application and selection process as well as describe minimum information and training requirements for agents.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

These proposed rules are being considered through a permanent rulemaking process, which includes public notice, a public comment period which ended at the January 11, 2008 Commission Meeting and two hearings before the Commission (Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, 2008). Staff communicated with organized sports groups and other interested parties.

ISSUE 1

Whether to adopt the proposed rules

ANALYSIS

The proposed rules are consistent with the requirements of HB 2971 and will provide the department with flexibility to use the most cost effective methods for taking action deemed necessary to meet objectives under the department's species management plans.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the rules as proposed
2. Adopt the rules in some amended form
3. Not adopt any rules on this subject

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to adopt OAR Chapter 635 Division 079 as proposed by staff in Attachment 4.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Filing.