

# FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AMENDMENT

**FWP proposal to be amended:** 2025 -2026 Bighorn Sheep Regulations

**Commissioner:** Vice Chair Patrick Tabor

**Date Received by Commission:** TBD

**Proposed Amendment:**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adjust time requirements for reporting harvest, closing the season, and head and cape inspection times for unlimited bighorn sheep harvest from 48 to 24 hours for harvest reporting, 48 to 24 hours for season closure, and 48 to 72 hours for head and cape inspection.

**Requested by FWP:** **NO**

**Rationale and Background:**

Unlimited bighorn sheep units are managed by harvest quota. This regulation structure is implemented by a reporting system that requires hunters to report and check in their harvest within 48 hours. Once reported harvest reaches the quota, FWP announces the closure and hunters have another 48 hours to hunt before the season closes. This leaves potential for the season to remain open for 96 hours or four days after the quota is met. This unnecessarily increases the potential for each unit to go over quota. This original timeline was established when technology was extremely limited. With technological advances it has become easier for hunters to check in and report their harvest. This new technology enables hunters to communicate from anywhere in the world including the deepest parts of the Beartooth mountain range, primarily through text. The additional time for inspection is to allow more time to exit the backcountry.

**Department Response:**

FWP anticipates no population level impacts from this amendment.