

Senate Bill 245
February 10, 2015
Presented by Jeff Hagener
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Jeff Hagener, Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here today in support of Senate Bill 245.

Some people are under the impression that the Fish and Wildlife Commission does not currently have the authority to establish late seasons for elk management. Senate Bill 245 simply clarifies in statute that late antlerless elk hunts are definitively a tool available to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for managing elk populations.

What is new in this bill is the creation and authorization of the sale of a \$10 "postseason management hunting season endorsement" allowing any hunter with an unused elk license to participate in late hunts established per this statute.

We have worked with the sponsor on the wording of this bill and are satisfied with it as written. The department supports the bill as it represents one more option to potentially help elk population management.