

# Extending Patrolling Season

- Background

- For the past 8 years the PWV patrolling season has been Mid-January to September 31.
- Stated Rational was due to the danger of high-powered hunting season.
- Deer, Elk and Moose Hunting season this year is a total of 35 days.

Bear	September 2 - 30
Moose	October 1 - 14
Separate limited elk (1 <sup>st</sup> season)	16 - 20
Combined deer/elk (2 <sup>nd</sup> season)	October 30 - November 7
Combined deer/elk (3 <sup>rd</sup> season)	November 13 - 19
Combined Limited deer/elk (4th season)	November 24 - 28

- The Executive Committee approved, for 2021 an extension of the patrolling season until October 31. Patrollers are required to wear safety vest.

- Rational for Extending the Season
  - PWV's education functions are important year round.
  - There are a lot of visitors still out hiking our trails in the winter.
    - As of October 19, PWV has:
      - Done 20 patrols this month
      - Contacted 172 people
      - Seen 1 hunter (Grouse hunter on West Branch)
  
- Concerns for Extending the Season
  - Safety issues concerning hunters
    - Accidentally being shot
    - Dealing with hunting regulations
    - Dealing with hunters

- How we Could Mitigate the Concerns
  - Patrol wearing safety vest
  - Patrollers staying on the trail
  - Patrollers should not attempt to enforce or address hunting regulations. (The Forest Service has no responsibility for hunting.)
  - Hunters are just another visitor type and should be treated the same as any other visitor.
  
- Options
  - Keep the season as it has been.
  - Extend the season to include all year.
  - Extend the season but not all year.