



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Moose Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing 2019 structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

Among other proposed changes there are several boundary changes combining hunting districts or portions of districts to simplify regulations and enhance management. Some of the more substantial changes are:

- Region 3 - Combine HDs 304 & 311 into a new larger HD 311.
- Combine HDs 306, 307 & 310 into a new larger HD 310.
- Combine HDs 361 & 362 into a new larger HD 361.
- Create a new 325-00 antlerless license, quota 1.
- Create a new 340-00 antlerless license, quota 1.

- Region 4 - Create a new HD 447 that would encompass all of current deer/elk HD 447 with a new 447-50 bull license, quota 1.

These and all proposed changes are on the commission master list and justifications are in the commission packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Thirteen moose season comments were received during the Aug. 15 – Sep. 16 scoping. Comments varied, but one wanted an archery-only season and another once-in-a-lifetime for licenses. In addition to public comment on proposed changes taken during the Dec. 5 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2020 commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 moose hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the moose season remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.