



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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Background:

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February.

FWP proposes the following to mountain lion regulations:

HDs 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124 & 130: Replace the current total and male sub quotas in these HDs with separate male and female special licenses to increase control of harvest and hunter satisfaction.

HD 140: Increase quota from 6 to 8.

R1 Boundary Changes: Remove HD 132 by placing private lands in expanded HD 170 and the Forest Service lands into expanded HDs 130 & 140. Remove HD 151 by combining it into a new larger HD 150.

R4 Boundary Changes: East Front (HDs 404, 421 & 444), Snowy (HDs 411 & 412) and Castle mountains (combine HDs 449 & 452).

HDs 500, 502, 530, 570, 575 & 590: Combine all lion HDs in the eastern ecoregion into a single management unit with a harvest quota of 23.

R6 Boundary Changes: Combine HDs 611 and part of 670; combine HDs 640, 641 and parts of 651 & 670; combine HDs 650 and part of 651; combine HDs 680 & 690.

Except for calendar rotation, all other elements of the 2019 regulations are to remain unchanged. All these changes are referenced in the commission master list and justifications are found in the commission packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Comments were received during the Aug. 15 – Sept. 16 public scoping and there were 11 comments about mountain lions. Some spoke in favor of separate male/female license in Region 1 and several about too many lions. In addition to public comment 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 2021 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 commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 mountain lion hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of these seasons remain unchanged.