

## **FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** June 19, 2019

**Agenda Item:** 2019 Deer/Elk/Antelope Quotas Outside the Biennial Quota Ranges

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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**Background:** The commission previously adopted quota ranges for deer, elk and antelope for each hunting district within which FWP can make changes that do not need Commission approval, but changes outside the adopted ranges do need commission approval. FWP is proposing one such change for elk and two for antelope as described below and none for deer. Detailed information on the proposals is found in the proposal justification in the commission packet.

- Reduce elk 283-02 antlerless B licenses from 5 to 1 and change the biennial quota range from 5 – 150 to 1 – 150. This addresses a large decrease in observed elk in the North Hills/Evaro herd unit and is proposed along with a separate companion proposal to eliminate HD 283 from antlerless harvest using the regional 002-00 B license. The population objective is 300 with a range of 240 - 360 observed elk. The latest flight found 146.
- Reduce second opportunity antelope 360-30 doe/fawn B licenses from 150 to 25. There is no adopted biennial range for these types of B licenses, hence the need for commission approval. Objectives are to reduce doe/fawn pronghorn harvest to stabilize or increase the herd. 1993 through 2019 data suggest that counts between 1,500 and 1,750 strike a hunter opportunity vs. game damage balance. The two most recent counts were the lowest counts since 2003 with the 2019 being 1,540.
- Reduce antelope 512-20 either-sex licenses from 75 to 50 and change the biennial quota range from 75-200 to 50-200. The primary objective is to reduce hunting mortality to allow the population to increase back towards objective level of 500-600 total. The long-term average is 390 antelope and the 2018 count was 264.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** The elk proposal was vetted with Hellgate Hunters & Anglers and individually with several sportsmen who were supportive. It was presented to the North Hills Elk Working Group on May 29, 2019. Spring survey and proposal information has been shared with all North Hills landowners.

The antelope 360-30 proposal was vetted with two landowners and the flight report discussing the need to reduce B licenses was emailed to more than 150 landowners, sportsmen, and interested parties.

The antelope 512-20 proposal was vetted with Local FWP enforcement personnel support it. No landowners or sportsmens groups have been consulted and no comments have been received in support or opposition to this proposal.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** No alternatives were considered.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends that the commission adopt the proposed changes to the 283-02 antlerless elk B licenses and 360-30 antelope doe/fawn B licenses.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move that the commission reduce the number of elk 283-02 antlerless B licenses from 5 to 1 and change the biennial quota range from 5-150 to 1-150, reduce the 360-30 antelope doe/fawn B licenses from 150 to 25, and reduce antelope 512-20 either-sex licenses from 75 to 50 and change the biennial quota range from 75-200 to 50-200 as proposed by FWP, and that all other aspects of the 2019 deer, elk and antelope regulations remain unchanged except if dealt with in another proposal.