



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: November 12, 2019

Agenda Item: Authorization of Paddlefish Bonus Points

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: The 2019 Legislature passed HB432 amending MCA 87-2-117 to remove the word “hunting” in order to allow the commission to make available bonus points for other special licenses other than hunting. A paddlefish license is currently the only special license drawing that occurs within the Fisheries Division. The department is proposing to use the authority granted in MCA 87-2-117 to allow applicants to purchase bonus point for the special license drawing for snagging paddlefish in the Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton (White Tag). Unsuccessful applicants for this drawing would accumulate bonus points to increase the probability of being drawn in the future.

Public Involvement Process & Results: This change was passed by the 2019 Legislature and supported by the department. Authorizing bonus points for this license drawing is widely supported by anglers who use this fishery.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department is asking for commission approval to authorize this change in statute and begin allowing customers to purchase bonus points for paddlefish snagging licenses (White Tag) in the Missouri River above Fort Peck. If the commission were not to approve this request, the department would not use the authority granted through this change in statute to authorize the purchase of bonus points for paddlefish snagging.

Proposed Motion: I move the commission approve authorization of bonus points for paddlefish snagging in the Missouri River upstream from Fort Peck Dam to Fort Benton.