

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM SEASON-SETTING SCOPING 2019

ANTELOPE	1
BLACK BEAR.....	2
MOUNTIAN LION.....	3
BIGHORN SHEEP.....	5
MOUNTAIN GOAT.....	6
MOOSE.....	7
BISON.....	8
MULE DEER.....	8
WHITE-TAILED DEER.....	10
ELK.....	11
GAME DAMAGE/MANAGEMENT SEASONS.....	13
SEASON DATES.....	14
OTHER COMMENTS.....	16
GENERAL SATISFACTION.....	17
MIGRATORY BIRD.....	20
UPLAND BIRD.....	20

ANTELOPE

- 2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA More bowhunting opportunities

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT N/A

- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Block management needs to be opened on August 15th or season pushed to September.

- 5 Dan Gagner Helena MT I would like to see the 900-20 permit available as a 2nd choice in the draw, like it used to be.

- 6 damon repine Libby Montana if all possible have the drawing date early for planning purposes and possible youth only for successful youth that draw a permit

- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT No changes necessary.

- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana Ok

- 11 Timothy Mitchell Saint Ignatius Montana leave it

- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes

- 21 Anna May Superior Mt Haven't done it.

- 26 Tyler Houston Billings MT The season is perfect as is. Provides early hunting opportunities for archery hunters and the rifle season is great for the month of October.

- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I do not hunt antelope yet but the season in general looks fine to me
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT District 600 should be split up to allow for better management of the resource.
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT Wish that archery antelope would be a second choice option
- 34 Doug Stickney Miles City MT Too many tags are given but satisfied otherwise.
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Fairly happy.
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt Again I think the resource is being over harvested. Used to see hundreds of pronghorn in 700, now I see very few and they are where I cant hunt.1 Jeff miller
Gold Creek MT Generally

BLACK BEAR

- 2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA make the nonresident bear tag cheaper
- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT Hunters should be able to take 1 bear in the spring and 1 bear in the fall.
- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Spring bear needs to run until June 15th. Bear closes as hinting gets good, causing more people to shoot the 1st bear they see.
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana move to a two bear limit in 100s. there are lots of bears one fall one spring
- 7 David Metzler Marion Mt I would like the spring season to all end in June 15.
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary. black bear hunters should have to take the ID test every four years.
- 9 David Slack Kalispell Mt Need to makes season end June 15 statewide
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson FallsMontana Ok
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Season yes. Electronic callers should be allowed.
- 21 Anna May Superior Mt Nope
- 24 Keith Fisk Pierre SD Reduce the license price, please
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I like the black bear hunting seasons
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Pleased.

MOUNTAIN LION

- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Needs to be seperate tom/female draw to encourage selective harvest, not shoot to fill quota!!! Waiting period on sucessful draw!!!!!! Seperate hunt quotas for registered hound handlers.
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana need to increase the harvest of Female and reduce the amount male in 100.
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.
- 9 David Slack Kalispell Mt More tags and increase quotas
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana Lion population are very high in Region 1 need to be more liberal with permits.
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell Montana No. Not enough lions being harvested. Lion hunters giving misleading harvest reports to protect certain area populations. Predation by lions is getting out of hand.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Far to much specialized permitting pandering to specialist hunters. Lion are getting out of hand. Electronic caller should be allowed as in wolf hunting. Be consistent in fact rules.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I wish there was a late season for region 2 special lion licence with no hounds/General lion licence in the HDs that have not met quotas in region 1 and 2
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT Based on the expansion of lion numbers in Region 6 , I believe the quota should be increased substantially.
- 41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I would like to see a late winter season open up in Region 1 for holders of the general lion license and the special region 2 lion license, subject to quotas not being met by the end of the winter season. There is a large population of mountain lions in Region 1 and quotas do not always get filled during the winter season, opening up a late winter season would give the opportunity to people who did not draw a special lion license.

Email letter

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the good fortune of purchasing a general mountain lion tag in 2018, and, with good snow conditions and the help of good friends, I harvested my first ever mountain lion. It was a very enjoyable experience.

As required by the Mandatory Reporting Requirements, I personally called and reported my mountain lion kill telephonically with the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks ("MFWP") reporting

line within 12 hours. However, I had important business to get back to in Salt Lake City, Utah, where I reside. Therefore, I left my mountain lion skull and cape (with my validated license tag attached) with my friends Scott and Taylor D-Agostino. I hoped and expected that they would be able to do the check-in for me with MFWP given the circumstances. After checking with MFWP, I learned that there was no alternative but for me to follow the current Mandatory Reporting Requirement – i.e., “the successful hunter must personally present the hide and skull to a Montana FWP official.” Unfortunately, that required me to fly back up to Bozeman, Montana and check-in the mountain lion personally with MFWP, which I did at considerable expense. Despite it being a very pleasant experience and efficiently handled in-person check-in, I didn’t need to be present for this check-in. **I understand that the MFWP is considering a change in the regulations to allow a resident to check-in the mountain lion skull and cape on behalf of the successful hunter in the future.** As a non-resident hunter who has frequently hunted in Montana, I offer the following reasons to support a change to this regulation:

- It appears that the purpose of the in-person check-in is to (1) have the successful hunter fill out and sign a MFWP form, and (2) have the hide tagged and a tooth removed for aging.
- As the successful hunter, my **in-person presence did not materially add any value to the check-in of the mountain lion.**
- I simply filled out a form and signed it. **The form that I filled out and signed could easily be done remotely via email or via fax.** Alternatively, successful hunters could sign the form in person, leaving an original ink signature, and leaving that with a resident who would check-in the lion for them at the MFWP office.
- **The MFWP officer tagged the hide of the lion and removed a tooth for purposes of aging, without any assistance from me.**
- Admitting that I have limited experience, with only two days of mountain lion hunting experience, it appears that to be successful hunting mountain lions, you need fresh snow for a successful mountain lion hunt. Because the ideal conditions depend on weather, that usually results in trips planned on relatively short notice, as was the case for my hunt. It also meant, in my case, that I only had a limited period of time to hunt. In my case, I had two days of availability. And luckily had great conditions that enabled me to harvest a mountain lion. The wildlife offices were not open after I returned from the field and before my flight left the next morning. **Given the urgent business that I needed to return to, I could not stay an extra day to check-in my mountain lion during normal business hours of the MFWP.** I would expect many non-residents would face similar challenges.
- **The cost to me – in terms of both time and money – for the in person check-in of the mountain lion was relatively high.** My out-of-pocket costs – air, meals, transportation, and other travel expenses – exceeded \$1,500. The business cost to me for that day – I was fortunate to fly in and out the same day -- were many times that amount. **Given that my presence provided no benefit to the check-in of my mountain lion, a cost-benefit analysis suggests that non-residents be allowed to have someone check-in their lion after the harvest.**

- A successful mountain lion hunt will likely require well-trained hunting dogs. I have been an avid hunter for more than 40 years, and spend more than 3 weeks in the field hunting every year. I have never had the opportunity to harvest a mountain lion before this year, and have seen only a handful of mountain lions over that time before this hunt. I am fortunate that my good friends Scott and Taylor D-Agostino who were willing to take me out with their well-trained dogs. I would expect most successful non-resident hunters would have the benefit of trained hunting dogs who are residents. Thus, it is highly likely that there will be residents able to check-in harvested mountain lions for non-residents if they are successful. Thus, a change in this regulation would likely apply broadly to most, if not all, successful non-resident mountain lion hunters.
- As a non-resident, my focus is on a change that affects me. However, the same analysis would apply to residents who may have been required to travel and hunt a significant distance from their Montana home. Thus, the change in the regulation would also evenhandedly benefit Montana residents that need a non-in-person check-in of their mountain lion.

I have hunted big game in Montana for many years. I appreciate the efforts of the MFWP and their sound wildlife management efforts. Every hunting experience I have had in Montana has been outstanding. In supporting this proposed regulation change, I believe it would be a prudent improvement that would continue to encourage non-residents to participate in mountain lion hunting.

Please let me know if you need more information from me or other similarly situated non-resident hunters.

Sincerely,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Brett Foster
Partner

BIGHORN SHEEP

- 2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA More tags
- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT N/A
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana Montana has the greatest Big horn hunting in the united states. i ask the department to be a proactive as possible to protect these great animals
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT No changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana Not sure,
- 11 Timothy Mitchell Saint Ignatius Montana leave it

- 15 David Shimek Shepherd MT Make it once in a lifetime tag
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell Montana N/A
 18 Tim Doughty Great Falls Montana Trophy ram should be once in a lifetime draw.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes
- 21 Anna May Superior Mt Nope
- 24 Keith Fisk Pierre SD Please allow a few more opportunities for Non-residents. Sheep are a special species and should be utilized more by non-residents. Especially on federally owned public lands!
- 28 Jerry Muething Belgrade MT Please keep the Unlimited sheep hunting season. This is an awesome concept, which gives hunters a lot of opportunity, with little harvest.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I put in for big horn sheep season this year , I did not draw but I find no problems with this season
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT I think the quotas should be increased in some units around the state.
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT Need way more opportunities.... should be once in a lifetime tag in certain areas. I have been applying for 30+ years and no tag, yet i know some that have gotten it twice and some 3 times
- 34 Doug Stickney Miles City MT Satisfied
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Wish I could draw a tag.
- 38 David Shimek Shepherd Mt Should be once in a lifetime
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt I'm happy I drew my ram permit a few years back.

MOUNTIAN GOAT

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby sam_rosling@hotmail.com Get a better way to count the goats there are more than what is being reported,
- 6 damon repine Libby REPINEDL@CDMSMITH.COM description of why there are only one tag in 101 and 2 tags in 100. Goat population appears health to substance a harvest of 4 goat per unit
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby tomradandt0@gmail.com no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls mangelmoose@yahoo.com Ok
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell smoontana@live.com N/A

- 18 Tim Doughty Great Falls tim_doughty@gfps.k12.mt.us Once in lifetime draw on trophy goats
- 19 Robert slone Eureka rmtslone@gmail.com Overall yes, but so much of mountain tops are growing in with timber, wolfs, bears, and eagles. Not surprising over all numbers dropping.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby dorianboling@gmail.com No complaints about this season
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna henryhastigiv@gmail.com Wish I could draw a tag
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Shellistevdavis@gmail.com If I could only draw....

MOOSE

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby Moose? What moose.
- 6 damon repine Libby no comment
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Ok
- 13 Jason Ricks Lewistown Would like to see the archery hunters allowed at least one week prior to rifle season opens. Not real excited to be working in close to a moose with archer equipment and have someone on the neighboring ridge start shooting.
- 15 David Shimek Shepherd Should be a once in a lifetime
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell N/A
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Never participated, yes, I guess, Habitat across the state has matured , food sources have diminished, no wonder overall numbers struggle. Forest service is a big problem with habitat manipulation. Also John Murr , Serria cub, extremists perseveration attitudes.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby I have no complaints about this season
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner The moose quota in Region 6 should be increased.
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel Wish i could get a tag. once in a lifetime tag for certain areas.
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Wish I could draw a tag
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Almost 40 years of applying with no tag but I will wait my turn. Dont see as many moose as in years past but I believe they are still there for those willing to work for it.

BISON

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT N/A
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana try to increase the opportunity for the general public.
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana More permits to non-tribe members
- 13 Jason Ricks Lewistown MT Hope to see some action and movement on the cow calf hunting. I've been frustrated with the lack of action in these hunts not allowing Montanan's the opportunity.
- 15 David Shimek Shepherd MT Open up more hunting to resident hunters. 90 % of bison are taken by Natives.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt What bison season. It has become a tribal killing ritual.
- 20 Kim Blaskowski Stevensville MT Unhappy with the way the bison are sent to slaughter houses instead of letting them be hunted.
- 21 Anna May Superior Mt Nope
- 26 Tyler Houston Billings MT Extend the season until Bison are done exiting the park so hunters have a chance to harvest. A later winter helps hunters with an opportunity to hunt them.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana No problems with this season
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Wish I could draw a tag.
- 40 Gary LaFranier (NCTHPO) Lame Deer MT Bison are important to Native American people. They need to be more managed and taken seriously due to the fact that they been here longer then other animals and they were nearly wiped out in the past.

MULE DEER

- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Do not overlap cat season in December 1st!
No youth hunt during archery season!!!
- 5 Dan Gagner Helena MT I'd like to see the rifle season end earlier, maybe sometime in early November. Maybe allow archery hunting for the 2nd half to give the deer a chance to reach an older age class and better quality hunt.
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana i would like to see and increase in mule deer numbers in 104 and 103. reduce the season in those areas to reduce the pressure of hunter that travel to these areas once other areas close on the November closure.
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.

- 9 David Slack Kalispell Mt No doe hunting in region 1
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana In region 1 season need to be shortened by 1 week, the last week
- 15 David Shimek Shepherd MT You shouldn't allow the take of does on the Custer National Forest. Numbers are way down and pressure is up. Hunting has really declined down there.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes. Should move to buying either a whitetail, or mule deer tag only,
- 21 Anna May Superior Mt It would be nice if more areas of Mineral County was able to hunt Mule Deer. There are so many at this time.
- 26 Tyler Houston Billings MT Archery season should be changed to Sept. 1 opener.
- 28 Jerry Muething Belgrade MT Hunting mule deer with a rifle during the whole month of November not sustainable. The age class of mule deer bucks on public land is very poor. FWP does not allow general elk hunting with a rifle during Sept., and elk are thriving, where mule deer populations are struggling. Please consider moving the rifle mule deer season forward.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I wish to have HD105-50 removed to insure the season has no reason to change in the future . We need to be on the lookout for CWD in Lincoln county. There is a large amount t of mule deer that go into that area during the fall and the mule deer study is showing mule deer are crossing the CWD management area to get to that location. I do not want to give CWD a chance to reach that area and get into our mule deer. If that happens there is a group of people that will want to make the deer season shorter for mule deer or make all mule deer a draw permit only. I like the season the way it is now and want to keep it that way. 103-50 needs to be removed to keep hunters in the area so sick deer can be reported easier
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT I have long felt we need to institute a late season draw only trophy permit.
- 34 Doug Stickney Miles City MT The general rut hunt is management that may have worked in the 70's but what we are doing is not sustainable some people can see it some people can't. Montana FWP unfortunately can not. It is time for some big changes.
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Leave last week of rifle hunting season to open sight muzzleloader/ bow hunting only to preserve good genetic deer from getting massacred in peak rut time. Make it more challenging.
- 38 David Shimek Shepherd Mt The liberal doe season on the Custer National Forest is ridiculous. You population estimating is flawed especially for this block of public land. You have degraded the hunt. I ask that you stop the doe hunt for anyone older than 18 on the Custer. I also walk you limit the doe take to 1 doe. The population is low and the hunt opportunity stinks out there. I ask you manage this area separate. This chunk of public has now seen a major increase in hunters due to the work d record elk harvest. The deer need help!
- 41 Scott Hanson Libby MT With the discovery of CWD in the Libby area, the Commission needs to remove permit area 103-50. While 103-50 is currently outside of the CWD management area, it

is currently on the border and with the seasonal migratory habits of mule deer, and the high density of deer and elk in 103-50 during the winter months, not removing 103-50 will most definitely lead to the rapid spread of CWD across Montana west of the divide. Two years ago when 103-50 was put in place Tonya Chilton-Radandt expressed concern with CWD and George Mercer, the spokesman for the group supporting the permit area, dismissed her concerns just as he dismissed her input about the trophy area stating that anyone who doesn't support the trophy area doesn't have all the facts. Well it is probable that CWD was present here in Libby when George Mercer pushed his agenda through against the will of the people of MT and for no biological purpose. Now we have a biological need to remove 103-50, it will not take long before CWD crosses the Fisher River, if it hasn't already and from there it will quickly spread to the mule deer summer ranges and further. 103-50 NEEDS to be removed and all of 103 should return to a permitless area.

42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT Mule deer hunting should be restricted in the rut. Perhaps to archery only.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Do not overlap cat season in December 1st!
No youth hunt during archery season!!!

6 damon repine Libby Montana no comment

7 David Metzler Marion Mt Cut back on doe hunting in unit 103.

8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.

9 David Slack Kalispell Mt No doe hunting in region 1

10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana In Region 1 no doe hunting, by permit only on private land. Shorten season till populations rebound in Region 1. Eliminate the youth hunting of does also. Change the youth hunting of does to their very first license only. Look at point restrictions on bucks. Biologist need to propose what needs to be done to increase numbers.

19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes, see above.

21 Anna May Superior Mt It's been good.

23 Bo Hinchey Seeley lake Mt Getting the archery whitetail b tags back in HD 285 would be nice

26 Tyler Houston Billings MT Archery season should be changed to Sept. 1 opener.

29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I like the way the season is and want no changes

32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT I think a late season draw only trophy permit would have a great deal of merit.

36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Have more time to hunt whitetail does. Possibly an extra week. Ton of whitetail in Fallon County area. They're really beginning to take over a lot of Mule deer territory.

41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I believe that the regulations on whitetails need to be more liberal in the NW corner of the state, there is an abundance of deer in region 1 and adding more Deer B tags or opportunities to harvest antlerless whitetail would be beneficial to all hunters. FWP recently sold 600 B tags for the CWD Management area immediately surrounding Libby, and they sold in about 2 hours. That speaks volumes to what hunters want.

42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT Restrict hunting to archery only during rut.

ELK

1 Jeff miller Gold Creek MT The shoulder seasons are not a good idea! Shooting elk in August has to be hard on the calves. Rifle hunters in bow season messes things up for bowhunters, every serious bowhunter you talk to will tell you that. If you want to get elk populations down, make the general tag an either sex tag, have a season thru december, January at the latest. The elk have a hard enough time trying to survive in the winter without getting shot at

2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA More bowhunting only permits

4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Do not overlap cat season in December 1st!
No youth hunt during archery season!!!

5 Dan Gagner Helena MT I am not satisfied with the elk shoulder seasons. They were intended to be studied, rather than expanded, and just the opposite has happened. I also think that districts (i.e., 411, 511, 530, 590) where large landowners and outfitters harbor elk and sell bull hunts should be reduced to cow only hunts. It's not fair to the public for these places to be leased and locked up, then call in the cow cleanup crew for relief. Putting all the focus on antlers and inches has changed what hunting is all about and is only making it worse by this pay-to-play model that's currently going on in Central Montana.

6 damon repine Libby Montana need to increase the bull to cow ration in 100 104 105.
not sure it that would help but see good many cows with out calves. consider short rifle season or antler restrictions. 5 point or better

7 David Metzler Marion Mt Add more cow tags to unit 103

8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.

9 David Slack Kalispell Mt No cow hunting with general tag statewide

10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana In Region 1 do something to increase elk numbers, shorten season, permit only districts, Biologist need to propose what need to be done to increase elk number in Region 1 instead of being hunter driven.

12 Robert McKenzie Big Timber MT All we hear is there are to many elk but we can't draw a archery tag for our home town it is a joke we can't kill elk if we can't get tags

14 Greg Sielinsky Roundup MT The bull mtn elk herd needs to be managed as 1 herd in districts 590 and 530. The southern half of 530 should be grouped with 590 to manage the elk herd more effectively. Potentially raising the 590 quota to accommodate the amount of elk in 530. Also 590 and 530, being predominantly private property vs the districts included in the 900-20 tag that have public national forests, should be removed from the 900-20 archery tag and managed as 1 unit under the bull mtn elk herd. Nonresident archers wanting to hunt 530 or 590 are competing with other 900-20 public land hunters in acquiring the permit and it appears residents will soon be doing the same with more and more applicants applying. With the elk herd in the two districts well above objective (and growing!) it doesn't make sense to restrict the archery opportunities due to competition for the 900-20 tag which includes a substantial amount of public ground in other districts. Managing the herd could be more effectively accomplished by breaking it out and allowing more opportunities (possibly going back to the general elk tag archery hunt) during the archery season. Make the 590/530 tag available to archery nonresidents a guarantee but only allow nonresident applicants to acquire the tag every other year. This would allow

more bowhunters (which landowners seem to be more favorable too) opportunities to harvest elk and potentially bring the elk numbers back into check. Just my .02 cents.

15 David Shimek Shepherd MT Please rework the 900-20 tag. I was one of 500+ residents that didn't draw first choice. In a time when elk are above objectives you should increase the tags so at least 90% of applicants draw. Limit the non residents to a lesser percent to balance the numbers. Make it a choose your weapon first choice only unit. It is time to change that hunt.

18 Tim Doughty Great Falls Montana Please do not allow 3 tags per hunter. It seems like only friends and family can hunt many areas. Develop a list of farms and ranches with phone numbers with access.

19 Robert slone Eureka Mt No, get rid of shoulder hunting, reevaluate heard numbers for 21st century. Current numbers are wrong on low side.

21 Anna May Superior Mt So hard to find.

22 David Weis OVANDO MT The shoulder season is helping region 2 ranchers with redistributing elk away from agriculture land. It is more organized than damage hunts. I don't think it is taking away from the normal big game season. So as a hunter and a rancher, I would like to see the shoulder season continue in the future.

26 Tyler Houston BillingsMT Archery season should never start as late as Sept. 7. 2019 is an exception which happens rarely but elk are already in full rut and you a few days of compared to a Sept. 3-4 start. Archery elk should open by Sept. 1 and go for the usual 5 weeks regardless. You will end up with a longer break between archery and rifle some years but that gives the animals a break.

27 Kent Brown Big SkyMT 1) In HD 290 (archery only area) there is an effort to reduce elk numbers, with unlimited rifle hunting for cows and an extended shoulder season. Two years ago, however, the elk B licenses for archery on public land (Aunt Molly as example) were eliminated. I would like to propose that these HD 290 B licenses be reinstated for archery hunting on public land. If there is an unlimited shoulder rifle season on adjacent private land, it makes sense to reinstate these tags for archery on adjacent public land to potentially help with cow harvest and increase opportunity. 2) In HD 310 elk hunting is for bulls only, even during archery season. Two years ago, the requirement to apply for an unlimited permit to hunt bulls was withdrawn which suggests that the population might be doing better. I would like you to consider proposing that cow elk harvest be allowed during the archery only

season in this district, if the population will allow this. I don't know the statistics for cow harvest during archery, but wonder if the impacts would be minimal. Thanks for the chance to comment.

- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I like the season the way it is
- 31 vince colucci Missoula MT I would submit you would not need the shoulder seasons if elk management is improved by limiting motor vehicle (including e-bikes) access and increasing depredation-quit protecting wolves and griz; limit MV access to reduce pressure so less elk end up on rancher lands. liberalize land owner tags and let THEM control the tags reduce the general rifle season....it's almost six weeks. cut it to say one month..oct 15 - nov 15 those dates every year. others states do that and it works just fine
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT less shoulder seasons. more incentives to access private ground
- 35 Matthew Enriquez Helena Mt Elk have been grossly mismanaged in unit 350 whitetail region. It was promised that a close eye would be kept on the herd and the either sex rifle season would be pulled if need be. Elk are scarce and it is still either sex. We've been lied to
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt No more shoulder season.
- 37 Sawyer J Connelly Missoula MT I would like to see shoulder seasons eliminated where elk numbers are under or at objectives. I would also like to see a better version of hunt roster utilized to help build relationships between hunters and landowners.
- 38 David Shimek Shepherd Mt The 900-20 tag needs an overhaul. It is time to make hunters choose if they are going to hunt east or west and that should be your only choice. I live in the east and have no other options. The issue is all the Western guys come over for at most a week. Hunt and then go home to hunt their back yard. Meanwhile those of us who live here didn't get drawn and have no other options. We want opportunity too. If you make hunters choose then they would have to choose between eastern units or their back yard and not both. You have to find a way to free up space and opportunity for those of us who live in eastern Montana. I would also like to see you split up the units. Increase the archery tags for residents only. Make the 900-20 tag your first and only option for hunting.
- 42 Jordan Lanini BillingsMT I would prefer more restrictions on elk hunting. For example, hunters should select weapon/area combinations, similar to other states, with the goal of increasing the quality of hunts. Allow some areas for access, some for quality, some for trophy.

GAME DAMAGE/MANAGEMENT SEASONS

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT You mean Landowner special elk hunt
- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Eliminate all damage hunts
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana if need continue
- 9 David Slack Kalispell Mt Stop shoulder hunts December 30
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson FallsMontana Ok

- 13 Jason Ricks Lewistown MT I am opposed to Shoulder hunts starting in August!! Orphaned calves likely do not survive, the heat makes it more likely for spoilage, and it moves animals, (that would have been available to archers), to private sanctuaries earlier in the year, thus reducing the overall harvest.
- 14 Greg Sielinsky Roundup MT The shoulder season for cow elk with any weapon before an archery season is absolutely absurd! Eliminate the Aug 15 opener and start the season the Monday following the close of archery. I believe most bowhunters feel the same.
- 18 Tim Doughty Great Falls Montana Shoulder seasons needs a serious look at. Land owners outfit a lot of ranches during the general season and then let friends and family on during the shoulder seasons.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt The intent of shoulder management has blown into a bad monster, meat hunters wet dream killing. How many elk can a family eat? Lots of wasted meat in freezer of people I know personally.
- 22 David Weis OVANDO MT Game damage is a tool that is a lot of work for wildlife biologists and landowners. Hearing comments from both, the shoulder season is more effective where available.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana No comment
- 32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT They should be on a need basis regardless of the time of year.
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Shoulder season needs to end
- 37 Sawyer J Connelly Missoula MT See previous comments.
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt I don't begrudge any landowner that wants/needs an outfitter on their lands to help make the Bill's, but I dont think they should be allowed to make \$\$ from an outfitter and then whine about the does/cows eating them out of business. If they have an outfitter and they are making \$\$ from them then they shouldnt be allowed to have a shoulder season or damage hunt on their property.
- 40 Gary LaFranier (NCTHPO) Lame Deer MT All types of wildlife needs to be studied more and find other ways of managing the wild life. More diseases are affecting wild life and if its caused from man made materials or the change of our seasons caused from our earth changing.
- 42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT Allowing rifle hunting for in August is inappropriate, especially on BLM lands for the shoulder season. Shoulder seasons are not resulting in the intended results.

SEASON DATES

- 2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA Start September 1st every year and go to Sunday after Thanksgiving.

- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT season are good.
- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Do not overlap youth and archery!!!! Do not overlap cat season and rifle deer/elk!!!!
- 5 Dan Gagner Helena MT I feel the elk shoulder seasons should end, it's not ethical to shoot cows with a rifle in August when their calves depend on them and when they're pregnant in February. The problem is access, please keep the focus on improving that.
- 6 damon repine Libby Montana see comments above
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana Season dates for Region 1, deer open 1 week sooner close 1 week sooner, elk open November 1 close Sunday after Thanksgiving. That way people can hunt over the holiday. Or Biologists propose date for Region 1 to increase deer and elk numbers.
- 15 David Shimek Shepherd MT Make the youth hunt 4 days to include the weekend when it falls away from the General season so we can make it a nice camping 4 day season.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt The season structure is based and predicated to maximum killing for meat hunters. There are a lot of poor quality Road hunter opportunistic sportsman.
- 22 David Weis OVANDO MT They are fine including early and late shoulder seasons.
- 28 Jerry Muething Belgrade MT Hunting mule deer with a rifle during the whole month of November not sustainable. The age class of mule deer bucks on public land is very poor. FWP does not allow general elk hunting with a rifle during Sept., and elk are thriving, where mule deer populations are struggling. Please consider moving the rifle mule deer season forward.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I like the dates the way they are , NO changes
- 31 vince colucci Missoula MT see elk comments
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT less shoulder seasons
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt No more shoulder season.
- 38 David Shimek Shepherd Mt Make the youth hunt a full 4 day hunt when it doesn't coincide with the General season. We lack all our gear, and then only get 2 days of a 4 day weekend to hunt with the kids. Give the kids a better opportunity. With cow tags and shoulder seasons. Let kids shoot a few days before the general opener for elk. Give kids better opportunity!
- 39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt Seasons are good.
- 41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I like the current season dates, it provides hunters with great opportunity.
- 42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT See Upland Game comments.

OTHER COMMENTS

- 1 Jeff miller Gold Creek MT Control wolves like coyotes, open season
- 3 Sam Rosling Libby MT Come out with a speical draw for Bobcat.
- 4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana Comb the seasons over with common sense and eliminate archery/youth rifle overlap!!!!!!
- 5 Dan Gagner Helena MT I feel strongly that the elk management plan needs to be rewritten ASAP. The objective numbers are much too low and are causing negative effects that I'm worried will be long lasting. What I mean is the shoulder seasons are only herding elk further onto private ranches not allowing access. Once these herds learn they're safe there, that knowledge will be passed down through generations and only lead to bigger problems of elk harboring. Also, the current elk management is not being followed as it says privately harbored elk should not be included in the population objectives, but this is not followed at all. All I've heard is John Vore saying it's state law to get the numbers down to objective, but then he completely ignores the harboring language written in the plan, so they've just kept the pedal to the metal on trying to wipe out elk that the public can't get to. If our leadership would at least follow the current plan as it was written, we wouldn't have such a mess on our hands.
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT the drawings for permits and special tags should be consolidated into one or two drawings. that way one will not miss deadlines, and have a better idea on what to plan for in the upcoming hunting season.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana The bottom line is that Region 1 can not control the weather, all they can control is the season structure, so hunters are asking Region 1 to come up with a plan to increase deer and elk numbers. Hunter may not like the proposal, but if the quality of hunting keeps going down, we are going to stop buying licenses.
- 12 Robert McKenzie Big Timber MT Only 50 sandhill crane permits in Sweet grass County is a joke there are thousands of cranes around and the farmers hate them listen to your biologists
- 13 Jason Ricks Lewistown MT Thank you for all your work and efforts to open more of our public lands to public access!
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt It is sad, when young children go thru hunters education, only to be instructed by dads, uncles, brothers, other, teaching road hunting methods. See them in car and trucks road hunting, makes me cry. The experience is out in the field actually learning.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I wish for US 103-50 to be removed so when CWD expands outside of Libby we stand a chance of catching it early , plus removing that area will get rid of all the hunters telling other hunters you can't hunt mule deer in Lincoln county anymore , I am so tired of the Hunter harassment about that. I told Bill Swagger and complained to him about that last year and it is still hoping g this year . That area has created more bully hunters in our area and needs to be removed for multiple reasons
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt An extra general season turkey tag a year.

39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt Personally I would like to see Montana make sportsman choose their weapon type of hunts. I'd you want to bowhunt for elk then that's your season same with rifle hunting. This would allow for a more quality hunt. I'm sure I'm in the minority in this thinking.

41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I hope that my comment is actually read and heard. After the Commission set the regulations two years ago, I lost faith in the Commission after hearing Tim Aldrich tell Dorian Boling that 103-50 wasn't going to happen, and then find out that just before the Commission meeting in Feb 2018 that he was wined and dined by George Mercer and then all of a sudden he flip flopped on the issue, and then at the Commission meeting stated that it went against the biology and the desire of Montana hunters and passed it through. Combined with the deceptive actions of Rich Hjort who was on the Citizen's Advisory Committee at the time. FWP is earning a reputation as a corrupt agency and I would hope that the Commission decides to turn it around.

42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT In general, I would prefer shifting regulations for big game toward higher quality hunts rather than universal access.

GENERAL SATISFACTION

1 Jeff miller Gold Creek MT Generally

2 KYLE D JOHNSON MUKILTEO WA Yes

3 Sam Rosling Libby MT Yes, Montana general season is one of the best in the west.

4 Travis Fields Columbia Falls Montana NO

5 Dan Gagner Helena MT No, I am not satisfied with the elk shoulder seasons. They were intended to be studied, rather than expanded, and just the opposite has happened. I also think that districts (i.e., 411, 511, 530, 590) where large landowners and outfitters harbor elk and sell bull hunts should be reduced to cow only hunts. It's not fair to the public for these places to be leased and locked up, then call in the cow cleanup crew for relief. Putting all the focus on antlers and inches has changed what hunting is all about and is only making it worse by this pay-to-play model that's currently going on in Central Montana.

6 damon repine Libby Montana yes, Like the opportunity to hunt with both bow and gun. With the use of range finder and long range hunting. i would like to see some kind of relief for the animals. ether antler restriction on elk or a reduce general season.

7 David Metzler Marion Mt Yes but I would like a muzzloader season for elk and deer. Between the bow season and rifle season.

8 Tom Radandt Libby MT I think the seasons are fine and should not be changed. I would like to see a change in how permits and tags are issued. they should occur in one or two events, not spread out over the spring and summer.

9 David Slack Kalispell Mt Yes. I like that I can hunt for three months in the fall.

10 Jerry McGuire Thompson Falls Montana No, season are to long, deer and elk number are at very low population because of 3 tough winters and increased number of predator in Region 1. The

department can only control season structure not the weather. Adjustments to season structure need to be done NOW NOT WHEN THE NUMBER GET ANY LOWER,in region 1

- 11 Timothy Mitchell Saint Ignatius Montana yes
- 12 Robert McKenzie Big Timber MT No!
- 13 Jason Ricks Lewistown MT Yes, I appreciate the season openers being on a Saturday to allow the working Montanan's (especially with kids) the opportunity to enjoy the opening of the Seasons as much as our out- of-state competition and outfitted clients.
- 14 Greg Sielinsky Roundup MT Yes. Except for elk management in 590 and 530 districts.
- 15 David Shimek Shepherd MT No
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell Montana No
- 17 Hudson English Great Falls Montana Yes
- 18 Tim Doughty Great Falls Montana General public needs better access to shoulder season areas before you allow 3 tags per hunter. Right now it seems in at least area 445 it is Friends and family hunting only
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes
- 20 Kim Blaskowski Stevensville MT YES
- 21 Anna May Superior Mt Yes I am, wish they were a little longer though.
- 22 David Weis OVANDO MT Yes, I would like to see the shoulder season continue.
- 23 Bo Hinchey Seeley lake Mt Yes
- 24 Keith Fisk Pierre SD yes
- 25 Grant Bell Great Falls MT Yes
- 26 Tyler Houston Billings MT Yes, the seasons are great compared other states for providing opportunities to hunt. I believe the shoulder seasons should be shortened however and give the elk a break of hunting pressure. Starting in Mid-August and ending in February seems excessive considering most of these hunts are carried out on private land where elk are spending more and more time on (case in point, the Elkhorn Mountains) study just completed by FWP.
- 27 Kent Brown Big Sky MT yes
- 28 Jerry Muething Belgrade MT Unsatisfied.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana Yes I am generally satisfied with the hunting seasons however due to CWD in my area I am not satisfied with US 103-50 , due to the high amount of mule deer in that area I am concerned about CWD reaching that area.the mule deer study is showing the

mule deer pass threw a lot of land to get to that area in the fall and it's just a matter of time before it reaches that area and with the lack of hunters in that area it is no longer good for the mule deer population to be in a permit area, HE 103-50 needs to be removed to save the mule deer and help keep a eye out for CWD making its way into that area , if we give CWD the ability to reach out mule deer in the area it will hurt the population to the point of people not liking the deer season. I am concerned with that and do not want to see our hunting seasons shortened for any reason!

30 Timothy Stuckey Libby Mt. No I am not Satisfied: Area 103-50 Is for Trophy Mule deer only. And it needs to be changed back to where its bucks only with out a Mule deer permit. Every year you mess with the hunting regulations. The Mule deer permit needs to be removed. And what is this with the CWD issuing 600 b-tags are you insane or what? The deer are going to get slaughtered this year. Personally I do not believe in CWD. I have not seen any scientific evidence that this exists.

31 vince colucci Missoula MT not really. Elk seasons are too long

32 Miles G. HuttonTurner MT Not really

33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT yes

34 Doug Stickney Miles City MT No I'm very very dissatisfied.

35 Matthew Enriquez Helena Mt No. The mismanagement of elk in region 350 is inexcusable.

36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Not a big fan of the elk shoulder season. Putting a ton of pressure on the elk. I believe medicine rocks state park should be drawing tags only for turkeys. Ton of people in small area... Asking for an accident. 3 tags would be sufficient. Have you ever considered a open sight muzzleloader/bow only week long season for deer/elk the week of Thanksgiving? This could potentially save good genetic bucks from getting shot so easily during the peak rut period. What about a week for just bowhunting turkeys in the spring before shotgun season opens? This would draw more revenue through out of state hunters. And few Western States do this causing this to be a more popular turkey hunting destination. What about leaving opening weekend of big game rifle hunting for residents only?

37 Sawyer J Connelly Missoula MT Yes.

38 David Shimek Shepherd Mt No

39 Steve Davis Belgrade Mt Yes, although I think the resource is being pushed to its limit.(ie) to many people being hunting the same areas of public access.

40 Gary LaFranier (NCTHPO) Lame Deer MT Yes I am satisfied. There are more wild life now and its good how it is managed, except for poachers. That needs to be managed better.

41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I am generally satisfied with Montana's hunting seasons. I would like to see some weapons restriction areas expanded, many areas that have small tracts of public land have good hunting, and expanded weapons restriction areas could help with public opinion of hunting as cities and towns begin to sprawl out.

42 Jordan Lanini Billings MT Yes

MIGRATORY BIRD

- 6 damon repine Libby Montana no comment
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson FallsMontana Ok
- 12 Robert McKenzie Big Timber MT Stop the zones in the central flyaway they should be the same in the whole flyaway
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell Montana N/A
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes, actually should be longer, plenty of birds that southern boys shoot with little regards to season/ daily limits.
- 33 Steve J Anderson Laurel MT More liberal Goose limits. there are a lot of geese.
- 42 Jordan Lanini BillingsMT Add an early teal season?

UPLAND BIRD

- 6 damon repine Libby Montana no comment
- 8 Tom Radandt Libby MT no changes necessary.
- 10 Jerry McGuire Thompson FallsMontana Good
- 16 Scott Moon Kalispell Montana More research needs to be allocated toward real habitat enhancement. The current programs are far too lenient in terms of habitat needs for upland birds.
- 19 Robert slone Eureka Mt Yes, glad to see FWP actively working with land owners. Should make grass pastures mixes of seeds available to smaller land owners. Never enough proper habitat for wildlife.
- 29 Dorian V Boling Libby Montana I love upland game bird hunting season
- 36 Henry Hastig IV Plevna Mt Good number of birds this year.
- 41 Scott Hanson Libby MT I believe that the Commission needs to reconsider allowing crossbows to be used for turkeys. I see no legitimate reason for crossbows to not be allowed. The MBHA does not represent all bowhunters in MT and most bowhunters likely do not share their elitist ideology.
- 42 Jordan Lanini BillingsMT Upland game seasons start too early and end too early. Hunting on september 1 for prairie birds is dangerous to hunters and dogs. I would prefer to start all seasons two weeks to a month later (with the exception of mountain grouse) and end them two weeks to a month later.