



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Black Bear Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:

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

FWP proposes the following changes to black bear regulations:

Statewide: Eliminate the hide license (tag). Currently, hunters get two portions, or tags, with their bear license – a hide tag and a carcass tag – and we only need a carcass tag. This is consistent with all other game animals.

BMU 319: Boundary change - Expand BMU 319 by incorporating deer/elk HDs 390, 391 & 392.

BMU 400: Boundary change - Combining all Region 4 BMUs (411, 420, 440, & 450) into one new BMU 400 and make BMU boundaries consistent with all other regional boundaries (currently, portions of BMUs 411 & 420 are in Region 5).

BMU 580: Boundary change – Consistent with proposed new BMU 400, this would increase BMU 580 and make BMU boundaries consistent with all other regional boundaries. It would also create black bear hunting opportunity in the eastern half of deer/elk HD 530.

These and all other proposed changes are on the commission master list. There are no proposed changes to the black bear seasons proposal adopted by the commission in December.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment was taken from Dec. 5 to Jan. 27 and forwarded to commissioners and FWP staff for their consideration.

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 that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the 2020-2021 black bear hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP. Except for calendar rotation and those season elements specifically identified for change, all other aspects of these seasons are to remain unchanged.