



## MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** February 4, 2021

**Agenda Item:** 2021 Black Bear Quota Adjustments

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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**Background:**

FWP proposes the following change to black bear quotas:

Increase the Region 7 (BMU 700) fall black bear harvest quota from eight to 12.

Regional indicators, including harvest, observation frequency and location, cub observation, property damage frequency and location, and livestock depredation, suggest that the Region 7 black bear numbers continue to grow and expand. The proposed change will help address increasing bear conflicts, maintain social tolerance of black bears across a largely privately-owned landscape, and increase hunting opportunities.

**Public Involvement Process and Results:** Public comment was accepted during the December commission meeting and through January 11, 2021, at 5 p.m. Only two public comments were received on this agenda item and neither opposed the amended quota.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change. The department believes the available data indicates an expanding black bear population and that the proposed quota change would be consistent with population status. The commission may choose to alter the proposed quota.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission vote to adopt as final the proposed 2021 quota change to BMU 700, with all other aspects of the 2021 black bear season unchanged except those influenced by routine calendar rotations or those addressed through other commission actions.