



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: February 4, 2021

Agenda Item: 2021 Turkey Quota Adjustments

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

FWP proposes the following changes to spring turkey quotas:

Increase the 400-20 spring gobbler licenses from 20 to 40.

Increase the 445-20 spring gobbler licenses from 20 to 40.

Biological indicators, including harvest, observation frequency and location, and hunter interviews, indicate that turkey populations are stable and robust. The department believes that this increased hunter opportunity can be sustained.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public comment was accepted during the December commission meeting and through January 11, 2021, at 5 p.m. Several wildlife conservation organizations that support turkey hunting expressed support for this adjustment prior to its proposal to the commission. Only three public comments were received on this topic, and two comments were in favor. The third comment encouraged the department to follow the science, which is why the department is making the recommendation to amend the quotas.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change. The department believes the available data is indicative of a stable and robust turkey 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 quota increase from 20 to 40 licenses in spring turkey hunt 400-20 and the proposed quota increase from 20 to 40 licenses in spring turkey hunt 445-20, with all other aspects of 2021 turkey seasons unchanged except those influenced by routine calendar rotations.