

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Species: Mountain Lion

Region: 2

Hunting District: HDs 211 and 216, 213 and 214, 212 and 215 and 217

Year: 2020

1. Describe the proposed season / quotas changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.).

In consideration of new elk hunting district boundaries for HDs 211, 213, and 214, and 217, it is proposed to:

- 1) Split Mountain Lion HDs 213 and 214
 - HD 214 will have its own LPT 214-00
 - Male quota of 2, female quota of 1
 - General license quota of 1 for archery and rifle season
 - Special license quota of 3
 - Valid on Garrity Wildlife Management area December 1-31.
 - HD 213 will be grouped with HDs 212 and 217 with the LPT 212-00
 - Male quota of 4, female quota of 1
 - General license quota of 1 for archery and rifle season
 - Special license quota of 5
- 2) Split Mountain Lion HD 215 from HDs 212 and 217
 - HD 215 will have its own LPT 215-00
 - Male quota of 3, female quota of 1
 - General license quota of 1 for archery and rifle season
 - Special license quota of 4
- 3) New eastern boundary (Storm Lake Road) for HD 211 and 216.

2. What is the objective of this proposed change? This could be a specific harvest amount or resulting population level or number of game damage complaints, etc.

Objectives are to:

- Improve FWP hunting district boundaries by better mirroring landscape-level wildlife populations and management.
- Simplify hunting regulations by matching deer, elk, and mountain lion hunting district boundaries as much as possible.

- Temporarily increase mountain lion harvest in areas that have seen an increase in mountain lion conflict.

3. How will the success of this proposal be measured? This could be annual game or harvest surveys, game damage complaints, etc.

The success of this proposal will be measured by:

- Satisfaction with hunters and landowners will be measured by FWP field staff.

4. What is the current population's status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Mountain lions harvest has been steady with harvest quota's being filled every year for the past 10 years in the Upper Clark Fork districts. Timing of the quota closing depends greatly on amount of snow and weather conditions, but quotas are reached, nonetheless.

More importantly, mountain lion conflict has increased in the past several years with predation on sheep, llamas, pets, and preying on deer in neighborhoods. Conflict has primarily involved young mountain lions, injured or sick mountain lions, or females with older kittens.

Proposed Hunting District Boundaries for the Upper Clark Fork MONTANA FWP

HDs 211, 212, 213, 214, and 217

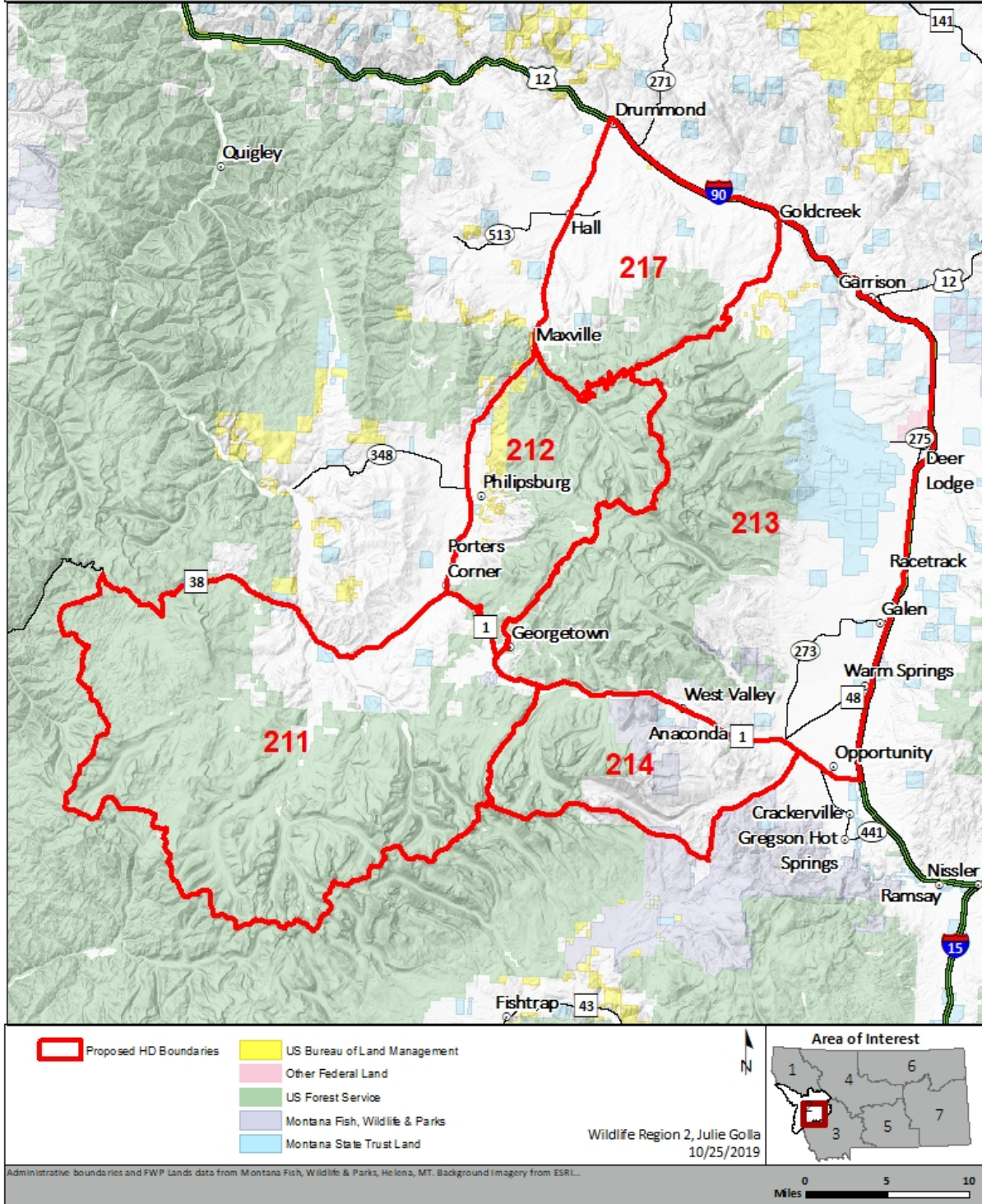


Figure 1. All proposed deer and elk hunting district boundary changes for 2020 in the Upper Clark Fork.

Current Mt. Lion HD Boundaries for the Upper Clark Fork

MONTANA FWP

Elk and Deer HDs 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216 and 217

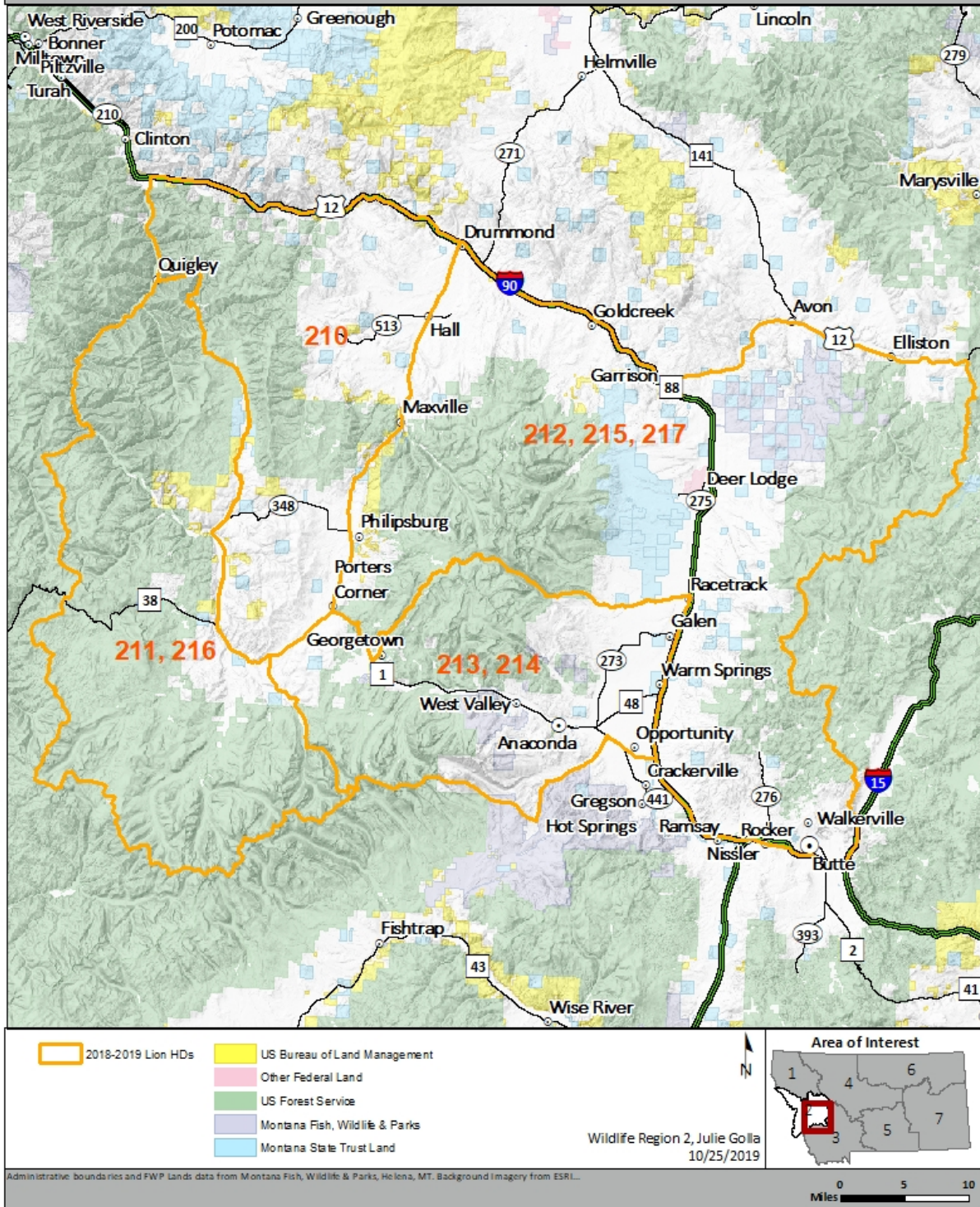


Figure 2. Mountain lion hunting districts for 2018-2019.

Proposed Mt. Lion HD Boundaries for the Upper Clark Fork **MONTANA FWP**

Elk and Deer HDs 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216 and 217

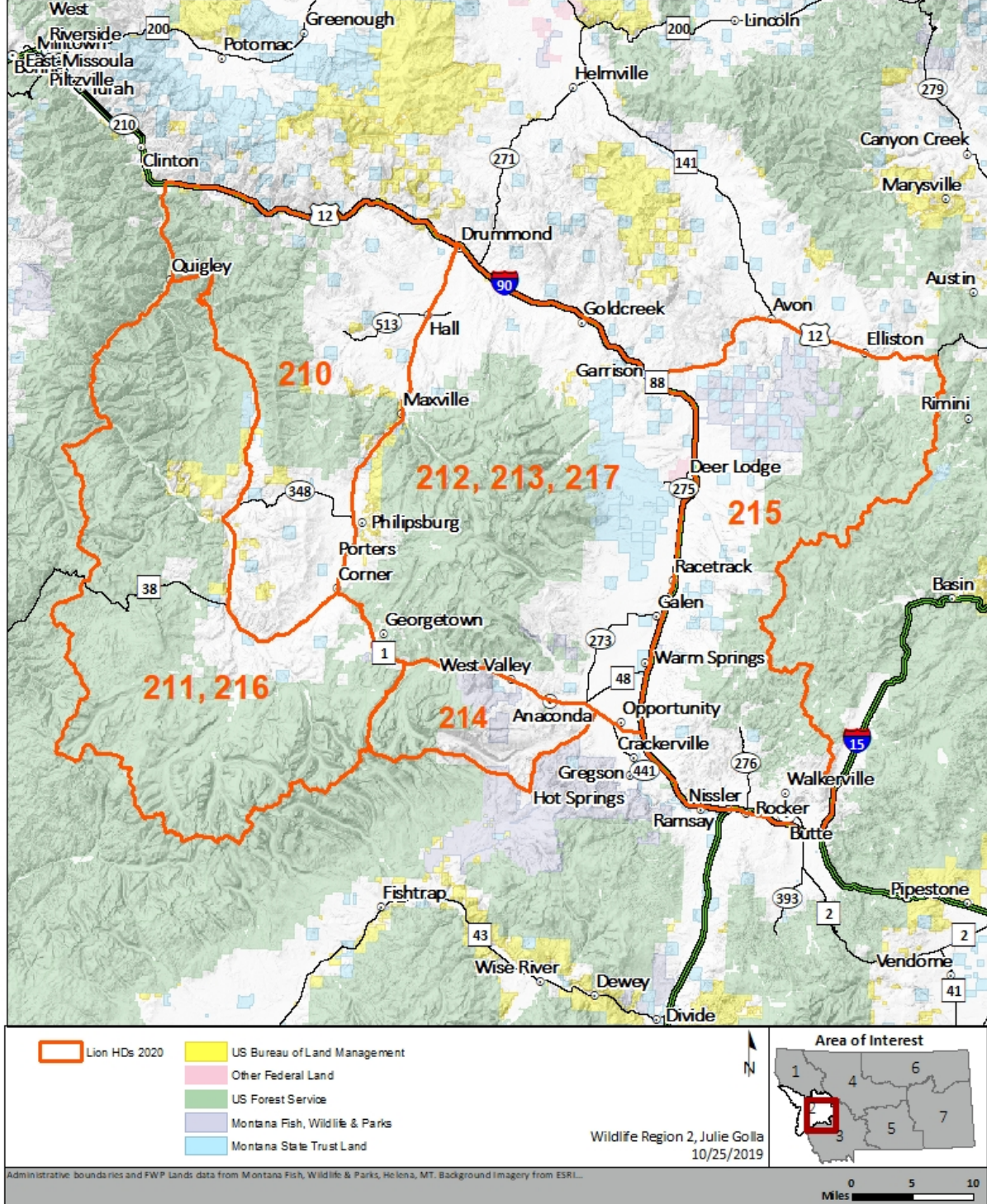


Figure 3. Proposed mountain lion HDs based on new elk and deer hunting districts.

5. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors, public or private land use or resident and nonresident hunting opportunity that have relevance to this change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

Allowing houndsman to access Garrity WMA for 2 weeks in December will help manage mountain lions near Anaconda. FWP staff prefer to use mountain lion hunters to help haze or harvest problem mountain lions, as opposed to being removed by the department of Wildlife Services. Allowing access onto Garrity WMA early in the season, when lions often find themselves in or near town pursuing urban deer, will allow successful mountain lion management and sportsman satisfaction.

6. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

Local sportsmen in Anaconda and the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club support increased harvest of mountain lions in HD 214, including allowing a window of access onto Garrity WMA at the beginning of hound hunting season in December. This support mirrors concerns the community has for the local mule deer and elk herds, as well as human and livestock safety around Anaconda.

Local houndsmen also support the proposed change in hunting district boundaries for mountain lion management and hunting opportunity. Many elk, deer, and mountain lion hunters have reported abundant sign of mountain lion sign throughout the Upper Clark Fork. An increase in harvest for a short time appears to be sustainable and necessary to alleviate increased mountain lion conflict throughout the region.

Submitted by: Julie Golla

Date: March 26, 2020

Approved: _____
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: _____
Name / Date

Reason for Modification: