



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: April 18, 2023

Agenda Item: Amendments to Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 12.9.1303 (Control Methods of the Gray Wolf Include Nonlethal and Lethal Means)

Action Needed: Approval to initiate rulemaking

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background: Current ARM 12.9.1303 addresses nonlethal and lethal control methods consistent with the Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Given Montana's wolf management plan is being reviewed for potential changes and updates, any specific ARM reference to the first (current) wolf plan should be edited to represent the reality of plan evolution over time. This is not to suggest the resulting ARM would represent inconsistencies with any current wolf plan that has been developed and finalized with public participation.

Public Involvement Process & Results: The Montana Secretary of State defines and implements the ARM development and amendment process, including process steps and timeline. This includes opportunities for public participation. If the commission approves the department's proposal to initiate rulemaking, the next step would be for the commission to consider proposed language from the department. This step would include opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed language to the commission.

Alternatives & Analysis: The alternative to initiating rulemaking would be to leave ARM 12.9.1303 as it currently is. That would not address the reference to Montana's plan becoming outdated as new plans are developed and implemented.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: Recommend approval of the department's proposal to initiate rule making addressing amendments to ARM 12.9.1303.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve initiation of rulemaking for amendments to ARM 12.9.1303 as presented by the department.