



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Dec. 14, 2023

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Antelope Hunting Regulations, Season Structures, and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially by the commission for most game species. The proposed changes to antelope seasons are described in the attached antelope season summary and presented in detail for commission action within the regulation mockup. The commission is considering all regulations and descriptions of boundaries for the 2024 and 2025 antelope seasons, whether a change is proposed or not. All other regulations and descriptions of boundaries will remain unchanged unless addressed by the commission.

Public Involvement Process and Results: Public input was solicited through 34 public meetings during June and July where concepts for biennial season setting were discussed. Public comment will be solicited for a four-week period following the Oct. 19 commission meeting, and seven hybrid virtual meetings will be held (one in each region) between Oct. 30 and Nov. 10 to answer questions about proposals. Written public comments received during the comment period will be posted online and provided to commissioners at least two weeks prior to the December commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: The department presented concepts for discussion for each species during June and July. Based on public feedback and legal analysis, the department refined the concepts and developed proposals for commission action.

Alternative A: The commission may approve the department's recommendation as presented.

Alternative B: The commission may amend the department's recommendation on any aspect of season structure, quota, or hunting district or on aspects of the regulations that are not proposed for change.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission approve the proposed 2024 and 2025 hunting regulations and district boundaries as presented by the department and as detailed in the attached mockup. Any aspect unchanged from 2023 season will remain in effect for 2024 and 2025, except where affected by routine calendar rotations.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to approve: 1) changes identified in the antelope regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department; and 2) all other antelope regulations contained in the 2023 regulations, except for those affected by regular calendar rotations, unless addressed in some other proposal to be adopted for the 2024 and 2025 antelope hunting seasons and districts.



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Alternative Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to amend: 1) changes identified in the antelope regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department (insert changes here); and 2) all other antelope regulations contained in the 2023 regulations, except for those affected by regular calendar rotations, unless addressed in some other proposal to be adopted for the 2024 and 2025 antelope hunting seasons and districts.

Season dates

Season 2024	Date conventions
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/10 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/7 – 10/11 (First Saturday of September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/12 – 11/10 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)

Season 2025	Date conventions
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/9 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/6 – 10/10 (First Saturday in September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/11 – 11/9 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)

Summary of proposed changes for antelope

Reduce quota range of Either-sex Antelope License 310-20 from the current 150–250 licenses to 50–200 licenses.

Change the quota range of Doe-fawn Antelope B License 310-30 from the current 150–400 licenses to 50–300 licenses.

Change the quota range of Either-sex Antelope 338-20 from 100–700 to 1–500 licenses.

Eliminate the second opportunity B license in HD 317.

Eliminate second opportunity B license in HD 338.

Eliminate second opportunity B license in HD 339.

License 401-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 200–1,200 to 100–500.

License 401-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 25–1,000 to 25–500.

License 420-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 5 – 1,200 to 5–500.

License 420-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 5–700 to 5–500.

License 430-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 25–475 to 25–225.

License 450-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 25–400 to 25–250.

License 450-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 5–1,200 to 5–400.

License 471-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 25–700 to 25–500.

License 480-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 5–1,200 to 5–500.

License 480-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 5–1,400 to 5–500.

License 481-20 Either-sex Antelope reduce from 5–1,200 to 5–500.

License 481-30 Doe-fawn Antelope reduce from 5–1,400 to 5–500.

Add Doe-fawn License to HD 546 (546-30) with a quota of 100 and a quota range of 50–600 licenses.