



# 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 Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health-Urban Wildlife Quota Authorizations

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 15 Minutes

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**Background:** Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health-Urban Wildlife harvest quotas are adopted biennially for deer, elk, and antelope; wildlife health quotas and special Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) hunt quotas are adopted for deer, elk, and moose. These quotas represent authority and limits to prescribed harvest from any future game damage hunts or management seasons and hunts to address wildlife health issues such as brucellosis, tuberculosis, respiratory illness, and CWD. These quotas represent the upper limits to potential prescribed harvest—not necessarily issued permit-license numbers or hunter numbers. The department is proposing no change from the 2022 and 2023 quotas. The commission is considering all quotas for adoption for the 2024 and 2025 season, whether a change is proposed or not.

**Public Involvement Process and Results:** 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. No changes to prior year's quotas were proposed.

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 Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health-Urban Wildlife Quota Authorizations as presented by the department. 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 the 2024 and 2025 Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health-Urban Wildlife Quota authorizations as proposed by the department.

**Alternative Motion:** I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to amend the 2024 and 2025 Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health-Urban Wildlife Quota authorizations as proposed by the department as follows (insert changes here).

**Quota recommendations**

Game Damage-Management Season-Wildlife Health  
maximum harvest quotas for 2024 and 2025.

Region	Deer	Elk	Antelope	Bison	Bighorn Sheep
1	800	500	0	0	5
2	400	1000	20	0	5
3	1400	2000	200	10	5
4	750	1000	450	0	5
5	1400	600	300	0	5
6	2000	500	100	0	5
7	2000	200	500	0	5

Special CWD Hunt maximum harvest quotas for 2024 and 2025.

Deer	Elk	Moose
5000	1000	20

Urban Wildlife maximum harvest quotas for 2024 and 2025.

Deer
1370