



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

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Meeting Date: Dec. 14, 2023

Agenda Item: 2024 and 2025 Mountain Goat 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 mountain goat seasons are described in the attached mountain goat 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 mountain goat 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 mountain goat regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department; and 2) all other mountain goat 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 mountain goat hunting seasons and districts.

Alternative Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission vote to amend: 1) changes identified in the mountain goat regulation mockup to include opportunities, season dates, quotas, and quota ranges as presented by the department as follows (insert changes here); and 2) all other mountain goat 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 mountain goat hunting seasons and districts.

Season dates

Season 2024	Date conventions
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 12/1 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)
Moose/sheep/goat archery	9/7 – 9/14 (first Saturday of September to 9/14; some districts vary)

Season 2025	Dates/Process
Moose/sheep/goat archery	9/6 – 9/14 (first Saturday of September to 9/14; some districts vary)
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)

Summary of proposed changes for mountain goat

Add an archery-only season beginning the first Saturday of September through Sep. 14 for mountain goat seasons that do not have a rifle season that currently conflicts with those dates.

Add a definition for adult female mountain goat, which is currently lacking. Add definition to Mountain Goat Specific Information that mirrors that for adult ewe, specifically "Adult female – a female mountain goat – one year old or older. Kids (young of year) are not included."