



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION FWP PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION SHEET

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Meeting Date: Aug. 16, 2024

Agenda Item: Correction to Elk Season Dates in Hunting District 446 and White-tailed Deer Season Dates in Hunting Districts 210, 211, 214, and 216.

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background: During December 2023, the commission adopted season structures and dates for most game seasons for the 2024 and 2025 biennium. Inadvertently, the department made errors in the recommended dates for elk seasons in hunting district (HD) 446 and white-tailed deer seasons in HDs 210, 211, 214, and 216. Because this error results in multi-day lapses mid-season without a biological rationale, the department is recommending a correction so that the hunting season may continue uninterrupted.

Public Involvement Process and Results: The public brought the error to the attention of the department. The public will be able to comment on the recommended correction at the commission meeting on Aug. 16.

Analysis and Alternatives:

Alternative A: The commission may choose to adopt the department's recommendation to adjust the elk B license 004-00 general season dates to begin on Oct. 21 (instead of Oct. 26) in HD 446 and adjust the antlered buck white-tailed deer and either-sex white-tailed youth season dates to begin on Nov. 2 (instead of Nov. 4) in HDs 210, 211, 214, and 216.

Alternative B: The commission could choose to retain the current dates, which would leave a five-day gap in elk hunting in HD 446 and a two-day gap in white-tailed deer hunting in HDs 210, 211, 214, and 216.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: The department recommends the commission adopt the correction to season dates in hunting districts as presented.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the correction to adjust the elk B license 004-00 general season dates to begin on Oct. 21 (instead of Oct. 26) in HD 446 and adjust the antlered buck white-tailed deer and either-sex white-tailed youth season dates to begin on Nov. 2 (instead of Nov. 4) in HDs 210, 211, 214, and 216 in 2024 and 2025.