



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially between December and final adoptions in February for most game species. FWP is proposing several hunting district boundary changes to combine and simplify districts, make districts the same for deer/elk/antelope, facilitate management, and increase opportunity. These changes were mentioned in individual species regulations proposals, but all are presented here in one place. Changes include:

Deer/Elk/Lion/Bear:

Region 1 - Remove HD 132 by placing private lands in expanded HD 170 and the Forest Service lands into expanded HDs 130 & 140. Combine HDs 150 & 151 into a new larger HD 150.

Region 2 - Upper Clark Fork (HDs 212, 213 & 217) and Philipsburg valleys (HDs 211, 212 & 214).

Region 4 - East Front (HDs 404, 421 & 444), Snowy (HDs 411 & 412) and Castle mountains (combine HDs 449 & 452).

Region 6 - Combine HDs 611 and part of 670; combine HDs 640, 641 and parts of 651 & 670; combine HDs 650 & part of 651; combine HDs 680 & 690. These changes reduce nine HDs to five.

Antelope

Region 3 - Reestablish HD 329 in the south portion of current 318.

Region 4 - Combine HDs 470 & 471 into a new larger HD 471. Adjust HD 491 so the entire HD is in R4.

Region 5 - Expand HD 514 by modifying the eastern boundary. Adjust HD 590 so the entire HD is in R5.

Region 6 - Make Hwy. 241 the east edge of HD 600. Make Hwy. 2 the north edge of HD 620. Create new HD 640 to match DEA HD 640. NE boundary of HD 650 to follow the Missouri River. West boundary of HD 670 to Route 241 to align with proposed DEA 670.

Moose

Region 3 - Combine HDs 306, 307 & 310 into new larger HD 310 to match deer/elk HD 310. Combine HDs 304 & 311 into new larger HD 311. Combine HDs 361 & 362 into new larger HD 361 to match deer/elk HD 361.

Region 4 - Create new HD 447, which matches deer/elk HD 447.

Bighorn Sheep

Region 4 - Make north boundary of HD 482 the Missouri River instead of the north bank.

Region 6 - Extend east boundary of HD 622 to current border for the Deer/Elk HD 631

Mountain Goat

Region 3 - Combine HDs 327 & 328 into new larger HD 327.

Region 5 - Create new HD 521 in the upper West Fork of the Stillwater.

All changes are further described in the boundary change master list and justifications found in the commission packet. All other regulations and descriptions of boundary changes will remain unchanged.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed or with adjustment, additions, deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Public Involvement Process & Results: In addition to public comment taken during the Dec. 5 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2020 commission meeting.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 changes to hunting district boundaries as presented by FWP, and that all other regulations and descriptions of boundaries will remain unchanged.