



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** December 5, 2019

**Agenda Item:** 2020-2021 Black Bear Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 minutes

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**Background:**

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February.

FWP proposes the following changes to black bear regulations:

Statewide: Eliminate the hide license (tag). Currently hunters get two licenses, or tags – a hide tag and a carcass tag – and we only need a carcass tag. This is consistent with all other game animals.

BMU 319: Boundary change - Expand BMU 319 by incorporating deer/elk HDs 390, 391 & 392.

BMU 400: Boundary change - Combining all Region 4 BMUs (411, 420, 440, & 450) into one new BMU 400 and make BMU boundaries consistent with all other regional boundaries (currently portions of BMUs 411 & 420 are in Region 5).

BMU 580: Boundary change – Consistent with proposed new BMU 400 this would increase BMU 580 and make BMU boundaries consistent with all other regional boundaries. It would also create black bear hunting opportunity in the eastern half of deer/elk HD530.

Except for calendar rotation, all other elements of the 2019 regulations are to remain unchanged. All changes are referenced in the commission master list and justifications are found in the commission packet.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

Comments were received during the Aug. 15 – Sept. 16 public scoping, and there were 13 comments about black bears. Most were satisfied with the season, but there was some advocacy for all seasons to end June 15, electronic callers, and a two-bears per season limit. 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.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

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

**Proposed Motion:**

I move the commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 black bear hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the black bear season remain unchanged.