

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 9, 2011

Agenda Item: License and Permit Application Dates

Division: Management & Finance

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

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Background

Proposal changing the application deadline for all resident and nonresident antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk & deer permits from June 1 to March 15 to coincide with current nonresident license drawing deadline. If adopted this change would be implemented for the 2012 hunting season application process. There is no change proposed to the 10 percent nonresident allocation process. This proposal was originally brought before the Commission by Wildlife in December 2010, but was placed on hold pending the outcome of proposed legislation (HB 372 and HB 387) which addressed the issuance of special elk or deer permits. HB 372 was passed with an effective date of July 1, 2011 and the reference to special elk or deer permits removed.

Several bills which affect licenses and bonus points passed during the session and are effective on passage, July 1, 2011, or March 1, 2012. In order to implement these bills and the March 15th deadline for the special elk and deer permits, the department will prepare an annual rule that will spell out the processes, provide instruction to the public, and serve as a prototype for the ARM rule process. The proposed 2012 Annual rule for the sale of nonresident licenses, bonus and preference points, and special elk and deer permits, will be brought before the Commission during the August Commission meeting.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Information Only

Alternatives and Analysis

Information Only

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Rationale for the March 15th deadline is to enhance customer service for residents and nonresidents by providing special elk and deer permit drawing results earlier. Currently these results are not available until the end of July. Nonresidents who apply for hunting licenses on March 15 must wait for late summer to receive permit drawing results to determine if they are coming to Montana. This change will provide earlier notification and more time to make hunting plans. Since residents are included in this change, there will be no change proposed to the 10% nonresident allocation process. With the passage of several bills that will impact Nonresident license sales and Bonus Points, an Annual rule will allow the department to implement and comply with the new laws using the input of the public and Commission.

Proposed Motion

No motion required. Information only