

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 12, 2013

**Agenda Item:** 2014 – 2015 Bison Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 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. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing (2013) structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For the 2014 and 2015 bison season, structure changes include increased quotas, quota ranges, a season framework with two rather than three periods, and adjustments to district boundaries.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Bison season comments were received during scoping and included interest in more hunting opportunity and allocation of harvest among non-tribal/tribal hunters. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 12 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 24, 2014. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb.13, 2014 Commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2013 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Rationale for individual proposals have been included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 12 Commission meeting.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt the 2014 and 2015 Bison Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP.