

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 14, 2017

Agenda Item: 2017 Elk and Deer Permits Outside Biennial Quota Range

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Min

Background

Hunting districts listed below have proposed changes from the 2016 elk either-sex permit levels that are outside the biennial range. The only proposal today is to increase the quota of the 447-20 Either Sex elk permits from 75 to 100 and increase the biennial range for those permits from 50 – 75 to 50 – 150. The objective of the proposed increase is to facilitate increased bull elk hunting opportunity and harvest. These either-sex permits have been in place for at least the last 35 years, with a quota of 75 permits since 1995. There are plenty of available bulls to allow for increased opportunity. More detailed information is found in the season justification in the Commission packet. The elk population objective for HD 447 is 700 and there were 1,828 observed in 2016. All other either sex and antlerless elk and deer permits are either proposed to remain at 2016 levels or changes are within the Commission-adopted biennial range and need no Commission action.

Proposed Adjustments – Montana 2017 Elk Permit and Quota Ranges

Hunting District	Quota Change		Quota Range Change	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
447-20 Belt – Square Butte Either Sex Elk	75	100	50-75	50-150

Public Involvement Process & Results

Formal public comment will be taken at this meeting on this proposed and final Commission action. Elk management is discussed with many private landowners and sportspersons throughout the HD and local area annually. Area landowners contacted provided support for the increase in permits. Stanford and Ft. Benton area game wardens Bob Hammer and Wendy Kamm, though recently retired, were contacted in regards to elk management objectives and proposed permit increase, both supporting the proposal. Great Falls area game warden Brett Logan also indicated support for the increase.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, or no change from 2016 as per staff justifications, public comment and Commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends approval of proposed HD 447 Either-sex permit quota adjustments with no changes in other hunting districts.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve the proposed 2017 quota change and biennial quota range change for the 447-20 either sex elk permit as presented by FWP.