

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

**Meeting Date:** June 7, 2017

**Agenda Item:** 2017 Fall Upland Game Bird and Fall Turkey Quotas and Limits

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

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

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### **Background**

Upland game bird and fall turkey season dates for 2017 were approved in February 2016. Other than normal calendar date rotation, no changes to the 2016 adopted quotas and limits are proposed.

Sage-grouse lek count data for this year is not all entered and analyzed yet, but a preliminary analysis of available data promises it to be another very good year. Reports from across the state are above average in most areas with several new leks being found. Southwest Montana counts are slightly below average. A brief summary of preliminary data is found in the Commission packet.

However, sage grouse populations naturally cycle up and down, and we want to make the Commission and public aware that we expect a downturn in the next few years. Barring severe weather or disease, this is natural and expected and unrelated to carefully regulated hunting.

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

If approved, public comment will be taken at this meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

This proposal is based upon field observations and regional input and is consistent with statewide upland game bird management.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends adopting the 2017 upland game bird and fall turkey bag, possession and license quota limits as unchanged from 2016.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish & Wildlife Commission approve the proposed 2017 upland game bird and fall turkey bag, possession and license quota limits as unchanged from 2016.