

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 10, 2017

Agenda Item: Selection of Organizations to Auction 2018 Moose, Sheep, Goat, Mule Deer and Elk Licenses

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for the Presentation: 15 Min

Background: ARM 12.3.131 & 12.3.132 establish the criteria and process for selecting conservation organizations to conduct the moose, sheep, goat, mule deer and elk license auctions/lotteries. The Department solicited proposals to conduct the auctions/lotteries. The Commission decides which organization is awarded the license(s) for distribution through auction or lottery.

The 2017 species auction licenses were awarded to: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) – elk; Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) – mule deer; Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) – bighorn sheep; Safari Club International Great Falls (SCI-Great Falls) – goat; and Montana Ducks Unlimited (MTDU) – moose. All licenses were auctioned at fund raising events.

Public Involvement Process and Results: A press release and notice on the FWP website for solicitation of interested organizations were completed this year. A letter of solicitation was sent to cooperators that have expressed interest. Responding proposals for 2018 licenses came from the following: Wild Sheep Foundation for the sheep; Mule Deer Foundation for the mule deer; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for the elk and moose licenses; Safari Club International Great Falls for the goat license; and Montana Ducks Unlimited for the moose license.

Alternatives and Analysis: This format has been successful and the Department has not utilized another alternative. Interest in obtaining and aggressively auctioning these licenses has remained high with these responding conservation organizations at least. Further, many of these conservation organizations have effectively and significantly partnered with FWP on other conservation and management efforts.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: The Department typically does not make a specific recommendation to the Commission in terms of which organization should be awarded which license and has been asked by the Commission to merely pass along the proposals submitted.

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve (organization name) to be awarded the 2018 (species name) auction license.