

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 7, 2017

Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Moose-Bighorn Sheep-Mountain Goat-Bison Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and Hunting District Boundaries

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. FWP proposes adopting existing (2017) season structures except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

Notable changes proposed for the 2018 and 2019 hunting seasons include:

Moose: Adding an antlerless moose license in HD 302
Boundary change in HD 441

Bighorn Sheep: Reopening HD 304 – Hyalite – following recovery from a disease event
Opening a new HD 330 – Greenhorn Mountains with 1 ES license
Requiring rams taken in HD 482 to be checked in the region, like other Missouri Breaks HDs

Mountain Goat: In all hunting districts in Regions 1, 2 and 4 it is illegal to take a female mountain goat accompanying a kid or a female mountain goat in a group that contains one or more kids.
Opening a new HD 350 – North Big Belt Mountains with 1 ES license
Close HDs 131, 132, 134, 141, 141, 414 and 442

Bison: HD 395 – Create new boundaries for portions and rename them Gallatin Watershed and Madison Watershed Portions. Close the Gallatin Portion for 2018-2019.

All proposed changes, including several quota adjustments, are in the Commission Master List and justifications are in the Commission Packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Comments were received during an Aug. 20 – Sept. 21 public scoping and included thoughts on drawing odds, lower moose populations and predators. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 7 Commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 24, 2018. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb. 2018 Commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale: Rationale for individual proposals is included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 7 Commission meeting.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2018 and 2019 moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and bison Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as presented by FWP. All other aspects of the seasons will remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.