

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 15, 2018

Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Moose/Bighorn Sheep/Mountain Goat/Bison Hunting Seasons

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 Min

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species every other year between December and February. FWP proposes adopting existing (2017) season structures except for specific changes. **Changes from December proposals are highlighted.**

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
HD 210 – Remove the 210-30 adult ewe license
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. Public comment ran from Dec. 7 through Jan. 24, and we received 1 comment on moose, 6 on sheep, 21 on goats, 3 on bison and 17 that spoke to all species or other matters. There was general support for FWP proposals, with some in disagreement.

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: FWP recommends adoption of the proposed changes.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt 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.