



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:**

**Agenda Item:** Regulation change to allow the accompanying adult to hunt for commission approved species during the youth statewide two-day deer hunt.

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5

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**Background:**

This proposal is the result of recommendations from the hunting and trapping regulations review committee. The current hunting regulations allow legally licensed hunters that are 10 to 15 years of age to participate in a special 2-day early season deer hunt. These regulations also require a participating hunter to have an adult of at least 18 years of age accompany the hunter during the special hunt. The regulations specifically require the accompanying adult to be “non-hunting”.

Nothing in law prohibits the accompanying adult from carrying a firearm. Additionally, there are multiple commission approved hunting seasons that occur concurrently with the special 2-day deer hunt. Because of these reasons, it is virtually impossible to effectively enforce the non-hunting regulation.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

The public is able to comment at this meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The Commission could adopt the proposed change to the regulations that would allow the accompanying adult to hunt for commission approved species during the state-wide two-day deer hunt.

Alternatively, the Commission could not adopt the proposal and the regulations will remain as they currently are.

**Agency Recommendation**

Since the two-day deer season is only open to youth, the adult cannot by definition hunt deer during this two-day season. Additionally, are several commission approved hunting seasons that occur concurrently with the youth statewide two-day deer hunt that a licensed adult or youth could legally hunt in.

Therefore, the department recommends that the commission remove the language in the regulations that requires the adult accompanying a youth hunter during the youth statewide two-day deer hunt to be non-hunting. All other requirements for a minor to be accompanied, whether as an apprentice hunter with a mentor, or as a regularly licensed hunter, would still apply.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the commission remove the requirement that the adult accompanying the hunter during the youth statewide two-day deer hunt be non hunting.