



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 20 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing 2019 structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

FWP proposals to deer regulations include those below (yellow highlights represent changes to December adoptions). Additional proposed changes are included in the master list.

Region 1 - Hunting district boundary changes in the Flathead and Swan valleys (HDs 130, 132, 140 & 170) and Bob Marshall (combine HDs 150 & 151).

HDs 121, 123 & 124: Eliminate the first and last week either-sex white-tailed deer general season and replace it with a 5-week antlered buck-only season.

Change the youth/PTHFV general license opportunity to be valid for the entire general season instead of Oct. 31-Nov. 29.

HD 170: Change the 170-00 from two per hunter to one per hunter.

An OTC (limit 1/hunter) 199-00 either-sex whitetail B license for the Libby CWD Management Zone (portions of HDs 100, 103 & 104) to reduce deer densities.

Region 2 - Hunting district boundary changes in the Upper Clark Fork (HDs 212, 213 & 217) and Philipsburg valleys (HDs 211, 212 & 214).

Add a 3-point or less mule deer buck permit in HD 270 to lower buck numbers to improve herd health and manage for CWD while not compromising trophy potential.

A general reduction in antlerless white-tailed deer B license opportunity in many HDs.

Region 3 - Remove unlimited mule deer buck permits and allow either-sex hunting in HDs 390 and 391.

Region 4 - Hunting district boundary changes on the East Front (HDs 404, 421 & 444), Snowy (HDs 411 & 412) and Castle mountains (combine HDs 449 & 452).

Change the general season length from three weeks to five weeks in HDs 400, 401, 403 & 406.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment was taken from Dec. 5 to Jan. 27 and forwarded to commissioners and FWP staff for their consideration.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

Proposed Motion: I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the 2020-2021 deer hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP. Except for calendar rotation and those season elements specifically identified for change, all other aspects of these seasons are to remain unchanged.