



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons, District Boundaries and SB 200 Quota

Action Needed: Proposed **Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game and other managed species every other year between December and 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.

Proposed changes for the 2020-2021 wolf hunting seasons are listed below. Proposed changes from December adoption are yellow highlighted. No other changes are proposed.

- Reduce wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 from 2 to 1 and in WMU 316 from 2 to 1. Maintain the wolf harvest quota at 2 in WMU 313 and 2 in WMU 316.
- Region 1: Extend general hunting season to begin Aug. 15 and end March 31. Currently, archery season begins Sept. 1, general season begins Sept. 15 and ends March 15.
- Region 1: Extend trapping season to March 15. The trapping season currently ends Feb. 28.
- Region 1: Increase individual limit to 10 per person. Currently, the limit is 5 per person.

Senate Bill 200 allows landowners or their agents to take wolves on their private property that are a potential threat to human safety, livestock, or domestic dogs. The commission annually approves a quota for SB 200 take, which last year was up to 100 in separate commission-approved intervals of 25 in a calendar year. No change is proposed to the SB 200 quota.

Wolf take under Senate Bill 200 (MCA 87-1-901) and Defense of Property statutes.

Calendar Year	SB 200 Take	Defense of Property Take
2014	6	7
2015	12	4
2016	9	4
2017	7	7
2018	3	13

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment was taken from Dec. 5 to Jan. 27 and forwarded to commissioners and FWP staff for their consideration. Given new proposed changes, an additional public comment period will run to Monday, March 16, with final adoption at the June meeting.

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 for public comment the proposed 2020-2021 wolf 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.