

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 10, 2010

Agenda Item: Limited Brow-tined Bull Elk Permits in HD 250

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

The elk population in HD 250 has experienced a significant decline. The FWP Commission recently adopted an adjustment to the HD 250-season frameworks in the current Elk Plan that make available this proposed change to limited permits. The proposal is for 25 brow-tined bull permits for the 2011 season, with a quota range of 10-100. Additionally, this conservative effort is consistent with the wolf 10j proposal recently approved by the FWP Commission and submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The time-sensitive association with the wolf 10j proposal and extremely low recruitment levels justify this procedural exception to the biennial season setting process. Note this final proposal adjusts "either sex" to "brow-tined bull" to further remove the potential for antlerless harvest.

Public Involvement Process & Results

In addition to public comment at the FWP Commission meeting in December, public comment ran from Dec. 10 thru Jan. 14, 2011. Thirty-five comments were received and forwarded to the commission. Reduced elk numbers in this district was a common—but not unanimous—theme.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2010 (status quo) as per staff justifications, public comment and FWP Commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Given the observed population size, limited recruitment and Elk Plan guidance, there is significant justification to pursue this adjustment.

Proposed Motion

I move the commission adopt the final season adjustment and quota range in elk HD 250 as presented by FWP.