



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59020-0701
December 16, 2013

Dear Interested Person:

∩ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is requesting public comment on 2014 – 2015 hunting season proposals adopted by the Fish and Wildlife (FW) Commission at its December 12, 2013 meeting. Elements of these hunting season proposals include hunting district (HD) boundaries, dates, permit and license types, quotas and biennial quota ranges. A 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 quota range for take of deer for Helena urban deer management is also proposed

The information below represents proposals for:

- ∩ 2014-2015 General Regulations
- ∩ 2014-2015 Deer, Elk and Antelope Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries
- ∩ 2014-2015 Moose, Sheep and Goat Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries
- ∩ 2014-2015 Black Bear Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges HD Boundaries and Quotas
- ∩ 2014-2015 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries
- ∩ 2014-2015 Bison Hunting Seasons and HD Boundaries
- ∩ 2014-2015 Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons, Quotas and HD Boundaries
- ∩ 2014-2015 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons (contingent upon Federal frameworks)
- ∩ 2014-2015 Game Damage/Management Season Quotas
- ∩ 2014-2015 Hunting Season Dates
- ∩ 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 Quota Range for Helena Urban Deer Management

With the exceptions of the changes listed below, 2013 regulations are being re-proposed for 2014 and 2015. For reference, 2013 regulations are available on the FWP website at the following address: <http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/regulations/>

Additionally, 43 public meetings are scheduled at locations across Montana throughout much of January for the proposed 2014-2015 hunting season elements. That meeting schedule is enclosed.

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded link below can be found under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

The deadline for public comment is 5:00 PM Friday, January 24, 2014. Final adoptions will be made at the February 2014 FWP Commission meeting.

http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2014_15HuntingSeasonSetting.html

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

PROPOSED 2014 – 2015 HUNTING SEASONS

From December 12, 2013 FWP Commission Meeting

For Public Review and Comment through 5:00 PM Friday, January 24, 2014

Final Commission Adoptions to be made February 2014

2014 – 2015 Proposed Hunting Seasons for Deer, Elk, Antelope, Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Black Bear, Mountain Lion, Bison Upland Game Birds, and Migratory Game Birds. A Helena urban deer quota range is also proposed.

NOTE: No changes from 2013 season elements are proposed EXCEPT the specific items listed below. This includes biennial quota ranges. Except for the listed changes below, proposals for the maintenance of status quo from 2013 are made but not specifically listed here. For review and comparison, 2013 regulations may be viewed on the FWP website. To clarify again, in addition to the proposed status quo season elements not specifically noted here, the following items are proposed hunting season adjustments for the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

These proposals represent FW Commission adoptions from their December 12, 2013 meeting. Public comment may be submitted through 5:00 PM Friday, January 24, 2014. Final adoptions by the FWP Commission will be at the February 2014 FWP Commission meeting.

DEER MASTER LIST

December 12, 2013

Specific proposed changes from 2013 are list below. All other season components except calendar rotation are proposed unchanged from 2013.

Statewide

- Convert all general mule deer seasons to antlered-only, with a few exceptions to address urban deer and game damage issues (some Region 2 private land-specific general seasons; HD 388 (Helena)).
- Generally eliminate mule deer B licenses, except to retain a few specific B licenses to address urban deer and game damage issues (Region 2 private land licenses (4 HD's; HD 388 (Helena)).
- Generally eliminate white-tailed deer B licenses in Regions 4, 5, and 6, except to retain one license in Region 5 where the population greatly exceeds the long term average and EHD losses were minor in 2013 (599-00 with reduction of licenses from 2000 to 1000). No changes would be implemented in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 7.

Region 1

HD 101/102/109/120/122/124: Establish white-tailed deer antlerless B-licenses individually for each of these HDs. In HDs 101, 102, 109, and 120 these licenses are valid on private land only but not to include Plum Creek or Stoltze Timber Company land. HDs 121,122 and 124 these licenses would be valid on all ownerships, district wide. Quotas and quota ranges are listed below.

HD 101 – 50 (quota range 5 – 300)

HD 102 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)
HD 109 – 25 (quota range 5 – 200)
HD 110 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)
HD 120 – 100 (quota range 5 – 300)
HD 121 – 300 (quota range 25 – 1500)
HD 122 – 200 (quota range 5 – 300)
HD 124 – 200 (quota range 25 – 500)

HD 170: Adjust regulations to read: NOTE: Flathead Weapons Restriction Area portion of hunting district and Flathead and Blasdel WPAs restricted to ArchEquip, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader or crossbow only.

Region 2

See statewide changes listed at the beginning of the master list.

HD 201: Increase existing white-tailed B licenses in Four Mile area from 5 to 25 and modify the area they are valid to be only private land. Eliminate the 50 white-tailed deer B-licenses for Ninemile/Sixmile Area

HD 204/240/250/261/270: Reduce white-tailed deer general license antlerless harvest opportunity from season-long to the first 9 days. Allow youth to continue to hunt for antlerless white-tailed deer season-long on the general license. District specific antlerless B licenses would be eliminated in HD 250 and 270. Allocate limited B-licenses for antlerless white-tailed deer in other districts as follows:

HD 204—50 B licenses

HD 240—100 B licenses

HD 261—25 B licenses

Reduce archery-only, over-the-counter B license 260-10 from 5 to 3 per hunter (valid in 204, 240, 250, 260, 261, and 270).

New HD 206/260: Adjust the boundary of Hunting District 260 to confine it to the Bitterroot River bottoms south of Missoula (see Elk Master List). The west side of the valley would be in HD 206, while the east side would be within HD 260.

The deer season framework in new HD 206 would be general, either-sex white-tailed deer, archery only from the beginning of archery season through January 15.

Eliminate LPT 260-30. LPT 260-30 allowed 500 B licenses for either-sex white-tailed deer, using archery equipment, shotgun, traditional handgun, muzzleloader or crossbow, from Dec 1-Jan 15 in HDs 204, 240, 250, 260, 261 and 270. This would return HD 260 to an archery-only district with the existing general deer license, archery equipment only, either-sex white-tailed deer from the beginning of archery season to January 15th. This season would also be changed to add either-sex mule deer.

Add 1 over-the-counter B license for antlerless mule deer. Archery equipment only. Valid only in HD 260 from Sept 6 - Jan 15.

HD 240: South of Carlton Creek and outside the National Forest boundary, expand general deer license to be valid for antlerless mule deer as well as either sex white-tailed deer.

HD 240/250: Extend the backcountry rifle season for mule deer bucks from October 15 to the end of the general rifle season—valid only inside the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary in HD 240. This is LPT 240-50 and FWP would continue to offer 25 buck permits. Under this proposal, the season would continue to open on October 1.

Discontinue the backcountry rifle season for mule deer bucks in HD 250, due to the proposed boundary shift (see Elk Master List) that would reduce the available hunting area. This was LPT 250-51, and only 10 permits were offered in 2012-2013.

HD 250/270: Reduce limited buck permits in HD 250 from 85 to 40, due to the proposed boundary change involving HDs 240 and 270 (see Elk Master List), which would transfer the most accessible and productive fall mule deer habitat to those districts. Extend the closing date from Nov 17 to the end of the general season. Eliminate all opportunity to hunt antlerless mule deer in HD 270. This

would eliminate LPTs 270-00 (25 B licenses), 270-01 (25 B-licenses), and 270-02 (25 B-licenses).
HD 262: Create new Hunting District (HD) 262 from portions of HDs 204 and 261 in the East Bitterroot Valley (see Elk Master List). A primitive weapons season would run during the archery season and up to the general firearm season. The two day youth deer season would be any weapon. HD 262 would have the standard general rifle season. HD 262 would be open to either-sex white-tailed deer and antlerless mule deer. Also, 200 B licenses would be valid for antlerless deer, either species. Existing mule deer buck permits in HD 261 would also be valid in HD 262.

HD 290: Add an over-the-counter B license valid for antlerless white-tailed deer, archery-only. Up to three of these B licenses per hunter.

HD 291: Eliminate existing mule deer B licenses, reduce mule deer buck permits from 100 to 50, and reduce youth only mule deer buck permits from 25 to 10.

HD 292: Add 75 new and additional white-tailed deer B licenses (quota range 25 – 200) valid only on private land in the Blackfoot watershed.

Region 3

See statewide changes listed at the beginning of the master list.

HD 309, 311, 312

All three HD's currently have separate, over-the-counter B licenses valid for antlerless white-tailed deer. The proposal is to have one B license valid in all 3 districts, with no change in season dates.

HD 388

Seasons within the weapons restriction area (WRA) began with an archery opener on August 15. The proposed change is to begin all HD388 seasons, within and outside the WRA, on the standard archery opening date (9/6 in 2014).

Region 4

See statewide changes listed at the beginning of the master list.

Region 5

See statewide changes listed at the beginning of the master list.

HD's 500, 511, 530

Remove the following deer season note:

NOTE: Those portions of HD 511 lying within Golden Valley County are closed to the taking of deer exhibiting 75 percent or more of white coloration.

- This language was apparently adopted some time ago to provide protection to an albino deer observed in the area.

Regions 6 and 7

See statewide changes listed at the beginning of the master list.

ELK MASTER LIST

December 12, 2013

Specific proposed changes from 2013 are list below. All other season components except calendar rotation are proposed unchanged from 2013.

Region 1

Region Specific B License Definition: In the following districts (100, 101, 103, 104, 109, 110, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 130, 132, 140), the following restriction applies: Hunters who receive a B license to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Archery and/or Firearm Seasons may not take an antlered elk in the district or portion of a district for which the B license is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the B license is valid for only a portion of the season.

HD 103: Special Youth Only hunt on Lost Trail NWR the first week of archery (brow-tined bull and antlerless) and general firearm season (brow-tined bull). Youth must be accompanied by a

non-hunting adult aged 18 or older.

Region 2

Region Specific B License Definition: In the following districts (200, 201, 202, 204, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 240, 282, 283, 285, 290, 291, and 293), the following restriction applies:

Hunters who receive a B license to hunt antlerless elk during all or any portion of the General Archery and/or Firearm Seasons may not take an antlered elk in the district or portion of a district for which the B license is valid. This restriction applies for the entire season even if the B license is valid for only a portion of the season.

HD 201: Reduce existing B licenses from 85 to 60 and modify the area they are valid to be only private land outside the USFS administrative boundary. Increase existing B licenses in Nemote Creek area from 30 to 50. Also add general license antlerless opportunity for youth on private land in the Ninemile/Sixmile area.

HD 202/203: Replace general elk season with unlimited permits for brow-tined bull elk. The permits would be first choice only. There would be separate permits for each HD.

Create new HD 206 out of existing HD 260: This area would be open for general license brow-tined bull harvest with archery equipment only throughout both general fall seasons. The proposed legal descriptions are below.

HD 206 - That portion of Missoula County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at US Highway 93 and Blue Mountain Road in Missoula, then west and northerly along said road to Big Flat Road (Missoula County Route 30), then northerly along said road to the old Harper's Bridge, then westerly down the west shoreline of the Clark Fork River to the first Interstate 90 bridge west of the Ninemile interchange, then easterly along Interstate 90 to its intersection with US Highway 93 in Missoula, then southerly along said highway to Blue Mountain Road, the point of beginning.

260 Bitterroot-Clark Fork Archery District: Those portions of Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at US Highway 93 and Miller Creek Road in Missoula, then south on said road to the Trails End Road, then south on said road to its end, then south along the east side of the Montana Power Company B Power Line to the Eightmile Creek Road, then south along said road to its junction with the eastside Highway (State Routes 203, 268 and 269), then south on said highway to its junction with US Highway 93 at Hamilton, then south on said highway to its junction with State Route 38, then south along said route to its junction with State Route 501, then south along said route to its junction with County Road 87, then south along said road to its junction with US Highway 93 at Como, then north along said highway to its junction with the Roaring Lion Road, then west along said road to its junction with County Road 68, then north along said road to its junction with County Road 62, then north along said road to its junction with US highway 93 at Riverside Bridge, then north along said highway to Miller Creek Road, the point of beginning.

HD 210/211/216: Add 1000 new B licenses (quota range 200 – 1200) valid only on private land.

HD 210: Decrease current B licenses from 250 to 100.

HD 211: Decrease current B licenses from 100 to 50.

HD 212: Maintain existing general season and B licenses except in proposed north portion between Boulder Creek and Gold Creek which would change to a limited draw with 100 brow-tined bull permits (quota range 5 – 400), along with unlimited, over the counter B licenses, valid only on private land, that must be purchased prior to the start of the archery season.

The proposed north portion of HD 212 is: Boulder Creek to Gold Creek. Those portions of Granite and Powell Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Drummond south on Highway 1 to Boulder Creek at Maxville, southeasterly on FS 676 up Boulder Creek to FS 5184 following Little Gold Creek northeasterly to FS 78452, then southeast to FS trail 8054, north to FS trail 8052 northeasterly until its intersection with FS 302, northeasterly to its junction with FS 645, north on the Gold Creek road to its intersection with Highway 90 and then northwest on Highway 90 until its intersection with Highway 1 at Drummond the point of

beginning.

HD 213: Reduce current Elk B licenses from 200 to 25. Propose new 200 B licenses valid only on private land (quota range 5-400).

HD 214: Decrease current B licenses from 75 to 50.

HD 215: Maintain general elk season except for Spotted Dog WMA which is proposed as a limited draw area with 50 either sex elk permits (quota range 5 - 200) valid for archery and general rifle season, 25 elk B licenses for each week of the general season (quota range 5 – 100 for each period), and 25 elk B licenses for archery season (quota range 5 – 100). Additionally, on private lands throughout HD 215 add 400 elk B licenses (quota range 5 – 400) and on all lands south of Cottonwood Creek increase current elk B licenses from 200 to 300 and decrease current elk B licenses on all lands north of Cottonwood Creek except Spotted Dog WMA from 300 to 200.

HD 216: Decrease current B licenses from 75 to 50

HD 240/261: Restrict the general elk archery and firearm season in HDs 240 and 261 to brow-tined bull by permit-only (unlimited permits, first-choice). Youth may hunt antlerless elk on the general license in archery or firearm season, district-wide. Eliminate Elk B licenses in these HDs (currently 50 in HD 240 and 50 in HD 261). Within a portion of HD 240—that portion located outside the National Forest boundary and south of Carlton Creek—hunters may hunt antlerless elk on the general license with archery equipment during the archery-only season, and with a rifle in the general season through November 2.

Create new HD 262 (for deer and mountain lion also) in Bitterroot Valley. This would also adjust boundaries of HDs 204 and 261. Proposed season structure is below.

HD 262 elk framework:

Sept 6-Oct 19: Primitive weapons (archery, shotgun, muzzle loader, traditional handgun, crossbow) General license valid for antlerless elk.

Oct 25-Nov 30. Any weapon season. General license valid for antlerless elk.

Dec 1-Jan 15. Primitive weapons. General elk license valid for antlerless elk.

Proposed HD descriptions are:

HD 262—Bitterroot Farmlands: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning near Florence and Eightmile Creek at the junction of Fescue Slope Road and County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), then south along said highway to its junction with State Highway 269 at Stevensville, then south along said highway to its junction with US Highway 93 at Hamilton, then south on said highway to its junction with State Route 38, then southeast along said route (Skalkaho Road) to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with Fescue Slope Road, near Dry Gulch, then northwest along said road to County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), the point of beginning.

HD 261: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Skalkaho Pass, then west along State Route 38 to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with the Burnt Fork Road, then easterly along said road to Cut-off Gulch, then northeast along Cutoff Gulch Trail 146 to the Rock Creek Divide, then southerly along said divide to Skalkaho Pass, the point of beginning.

HD 204: Those portions of Granite, Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at Missoula, then east along Interstate 90 to the Rock Creek Interchange, then south along the Rock Creek Road to the Eagle Creek cable crossing, then west along USFS Trail 215 to the Bitterroot Divide, then northerly along said divide to USFS Trail 146 (the Cut-Off Gulch Trail), then southwest down said trail to the Burnt Fork Road, then northwest along said road to its junction with the Bitterroot Irrigation District Canal (Big Ditch), then north along said ditch to its intersection with Fescue Slope Road, near Dry Gulch, then northwest along said road to County Road 203 (Old East Side Highway), then north on said highway to the Eightmile Creek Road, then north along said road and the Montana Power Co. Power Line to the south end of Trails End Road, then northerly along said road to the Miller Creek Road, then

northerly along said road to US Highway 93, then north along said highway through Missoula to Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

HD 240/250/270: Adjust the boundaries of these contiguous hunting districts. The south boundary of HD 240 would expand approximately 7 miles southward from Tin Cup Creek to Trapper Creek, which would reduce HD 250 correspondingly. The southwest boundary of HD 270 would expand approximately 2-4 miles westward from Highway 93 generally to the head of Warm Springs Creek, which also would reduce HD 250 correspondingly.

240 West Bitterroot: Those portions of Missoula and Ravalli Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at Lolo, then south on US Highway 93 to its junction with County Road 62 near the river bridge north of Hamilton, then along said road to its junction with County Road 68, then along said road to its junction with the Roaring Lion Road, then along said road to its junction with US Highway 93, then south along said highway to its junction with County Road 98 near Conner, then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with Trapper Creek, then northwest and west up said creek to the Montana-Idaho border, then northward along said border to US Highway 12 at Lolo Pass, then easterly along said highway to Lolo, the point of beginning.

250 West Fork Bitterroot: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of US Highway 93 and County Road 98 near Conner, , then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with the ridgeline between the Spade Creek and Piquette Creek drainages (along the boundary between the West Fork and Darby Ranger Districts), then up said ridgeline to USFS Trail 601 and Shook Mountain, then south on said trail to Medicine Point and USFS Trail 56, then south on said trail to the headwaters of Base Creek, then southeast down said creek to its junction with Wiles Creek, then east down said creek to its junction with Warm Springs Creek, then southeast up said creek to its junction with Porcupine Creek, then southeast up said creek and along the headwaters in Sections 24 and 25, Township 1 South, Range 20 West, to the ridgeline between Camp Creek and Shields Creek, then south on said ridgeline to the Montana-Idaho border, then in a southwesterly and northerly direction along said border to its junction with the Trapper Creek headwaters, then east and southeast down said creek to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then northeast along said road to its junction with County Road 98, then east on said road to its junction with US Highway 93 near Conner, the point of beginning.

270 East Fork Bitterroot: That portion of Ravalli County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning in Darby, then south along US Highway 93 to its junction with County Road 98 near Conner, , then west along said road to its junction with the West Fork Bitterroot Road, then southwest on said road to its junction with the ridgeline between the Spade Creek and Piquette Creek drainages (along the boundary between the West Fork and Darby Ranger Districts), then up said ridgeline to USFS Trail 601 and Shook Mountain, then south on said trail to Medicine Point and USFS Trail 56, then south on said trail to the headwaters of Base Creek, then southeast down said creek to its junction with Wiles Creek, then east down said creek to its junction with Warm Springs Creek, then southeast up said creek to its junction with Porcupine Creek, then southeast up said creek and along the headwaters in Sections 24 and 25, Township 1 South, Range 20 West, to the ridgeline between Camp Creek and Shields Creek, then south on said ridgeline to the Montana-Idaho border, then easterly along said boundary to the Continental Divide, then in a northeasterly direction along said divide to the Bitterroot-Rock Creek Divide, then in a northerly direction along said divide to its junction with State Route 38 (Skalkaho Road), then west down said road to its junction with State Route 501, then south along said road to its junction with County Road 87, then south along said road to its junction with US Highway 93, then south along said highway to Darby, the point of beginning.

HD 250: eliminate 5 B-licenses valid for the northeast portion of the district if the Commission approves the proposed boundary change that would place the northeast portion of the district into HD 240.

HD 270: Add a general youth archery elk season (current youth season is only valid during the

general rifle season).

HD 282: Reduce the number of Elk B licenses in HD282 from 25 to 5.

HD 283: Increase the number of 283-03 B-licenses from 50 to 60 and expand this B license to include the archery only season.

HD 291: Add 200 new B licenses (quota range 5 – 500) valid only on private land.

HD 292: Expand general elk license opportunity to include both brow-tined bull and antlerless elk on private lands in the Blackfoot watershed portion of HD292. Current Elk B licenses valid throughout HD292 would be eliminated. Other season structures would be maintained.

HD 292/298: Adjust boundary to read as follows:

HD 292: Those portions of Missoula, Granite, and Powell Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road) and the Powell/Granite County Line, then northwest on said County Line to its intersection with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Section 9 (T12N, R13W), then east to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 12 (T12N, R13W), then generally northeast along the BLM /private land boundary to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 26 (T13N, R12W), the generally north along the BLM/private land boundary to the northeast corner of Section 15 (T13N, R12W), then east to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T13N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 30 (T14N, R12W), then east to the northeast corner of Section 29 (T14N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 21 (T14N, R12W), then generally northwest along the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation/ private land boundary to Lobe Creek, then northwest down said Creek bottom to its confluence with the Blackfoot River, then down said river to Scotty Brown Bridge and the County Road, then north on said Road to its junction with State Route 200, then west along said route to its junction with Interstate 90 near Milltown, then east along said Interstate to its junction with Route 271, then north along said Route to the point of beginning.

HD 298: Those portions of Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Route 271 (Drummond-Helmville Road) and the Powell/Granite County Line, then northwest on said County Line to its intersection with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Section 9 (T12N, R13W), then east to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 12 (T12N, R13W), then generally northeast along the BLM /private land boundary to the southeast corner of the SW ¼ Section 26 (T13N, R12W), the generally north along the BLM/private land boundary to the northeast corner of Section 15 (T13N, R12W), then east to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T13N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 30 (T14N, R12W), then east to the northeast corner of Section 29 (T14N, R12W), then north to the northwest corner of Section 21 (T14N, R12W), then generally northwest along the MT Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation/ private land boundary to Lobe Creek, then northwest down said Creek bottom to its confluence with the Blackfoot River, then down said river to Scotty Brown Bridge and the County Road, then north on said Road to its junction with State Route 200, then east on said Route to its junction with the Helmville-Ovando County Road, then south along said road to its junction with Route 271 at Helmville, then east along said route to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, then east along said route to its junction with the Ogden Mountain Road (USFS Road #1163), then south along said Road to its junction with Route 141, then southeast along said Route to its junction with Cottonwood Meadows Road (1/4 mile northwest of Nevada Lake), then northwest on said Road to its junction with Braziel Creek Road (BLM Road #2864), then south on said Road to the northern boundary of BLM Section 22 (T12N, R10W), then west along said section line to the southeast corner of Section 16 (T12N, R10W), then north along the eastern boundary of said section to its northeast corner, then west along the northern boundaries of Sections 16, 17, and 18 to the northwest corner of Section 18 (T12N, R10W), then south along said section boundary to the northeast corner of Section 24 (T12N, R11W), then west along said section's northern boundary to its northwest corner, then south along said section's boundary to its southwest corner, then west along the northern boundary of Section 26 (T12N, R11W) to its junction with Cottonwood Cr., then north along said Creek to its junction

with Route 271, then south along said Route to the point of beginning.

HD 293: Restrict Elk B licenses to private land only and increase them from 25 to 100.

Region 3

HD 302: Replace the 302-50 unlimited brow-tined bull elk permit with general license brow-tined bull throughout the HD and general license brow-tined bull/antlerless on private and DNRC lands. Create either sex youth elk opportunity for the general archery season and firearm seasons throughout the HD.

HD 313: Adjust unlimited bull permits to first-choice only and extend permits to include archery season.

HD 314: Divide the hunting district so that north of Big Creek brow-tined bulls and antlerless elk may be harvested with a general license, and south of Big Creek will be restricted to brow-tined bulls only on the general license. Antlerless B licenses valid throughout the district will be maintained but the quota would be reduced from 400 to 25 and the quota range would be adjusted from 200 – 2000 to 25 – 2000.

HD 315/393: Eliminate antlerless B license valid in both 315 and 393 and create separate antlerless B licenses for HD 315 and HD 393 valid only in the respective districts. There would be 500 B licenses in HD 315 (quota range 200 – 800). In HD 393, B licenses would be unlimited and sold over the counter. Also in HD 393, modify the general season so that the last week of the general firearm season is antlerless only.

HD 319/341: For both HD 319 and 341, allow antlerless elk harvest on the general license during the archery season. In HD 341, add a new elk B licenses with a quota of 10 (quota range 5 – 75).

HD 321: Increase existing B licenses from 100 to 200 and increase quota range from 15 – 200 to 15 – 400.

HD 322/323/324/325/326/327/330: Implement a general license brow-tined bull/antlerless harvest through the entirety of the general rifle season instead of just the first two weeks.

HD 329: Add general license antlerless elk to the current brow-tined bull hunting during the general seasons in proposed north portion of Hunting District 329, as described below.

329-North Portion: That portion of Beaverhead County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning south of Jackson at the junction of the Skinner Meadows Road and Route 278, then southeasterly along said route to Big Hole Pass, then southerly and westerly along the Big Hole Divide to the junction with Forest Service Road 919, then southerly along said road to the junction with Bloody Dick Road (Forest Service Road 181), then northwesterly from said junction to the intersection with Forest Service Trail 1157 (Eunice Creek Trail), then southwestly up said trail to the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along said border to the Bloody Dick-Big Hole Divide, then easterly along said divide to the Skinner Meadow-Jackson Road, then northerly along said road to Route 278, the point of beginning.

HD 329/331/332: Combine B licenses in each HD and issue 550 licenses valid in all 3 HD (quota range 500 – 900).

HD 339: Eliminate general license antlerless elk harvest and add 500 new B licenses (quota range 100 – 800).

HD 340: Allow general license antlerless elk harvest from the 2nd Saturday of the general firearm season through the 3rd Sunday of same (9 total days).

HD 350/370: Add general license antlerless elk harvest from the 2nd Saturday of the general firearm season through the 3rd Sunday of same (9 total days).

HD 360/362: Add general license antlerless harvest in HD 362 and modify existing B license to be valid throughout the general seasons. There would be 500 licenses issued (quota range 50-1000).

Also strike the one-elk-only rule in these HDs. In HD 360, implement the Jeffers Weapons Restriction Area as defined below:

Jeffers Weapons Restriction Area: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 287 and the south access to Jeffers Loop Road at milepost 47.1, then north along the access road until the junction with Jeffers Loop Road, then easterly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Loop Road South, then northerly along Jeffers Loop Road until its intersection with Jeffers Road, then west along Jeffers Road to its intersection with the entrance to Valley Garden Fishing Access Site, then westerly along the south boundary of the Valley Garden Fishing Access Site to its junction with the west bank of the Madison River, then southwesterly along the west bank of the Madison River to its intersection with Highway 287, then southeast along Highway 287 until the point of the beginning.

HD 388: Begin seasons within the Weapons Restriction Area simultaneously with the beginning of those same seasons Outside the Weapons Restriction Area within HD 388. All hunting would commence with general archery season (rather than August 15).

Region 4

Region 4 B license: Expand to include HDs 401 and 417, increase B licenses from 2800 to 4500. Not valid on National Forest lands or FWP WMAs. Valid in all Region 4 HDs except HDs 410 and 455. Also adjust quota range from 2200 – 3000 to 2200 – 5000. Remove hunting district specific B licenses in HD's 401, 412, 417, 426, 441, 447, and 450. These B licenses would be replaced with the region-wide B licenses and the general antlerless season (below).

HD 401/403/412/415/417/426/441/447/450/448: Establish (or continue) a 5-week general license opportunity for antlerless elk (or either-sex, or brow-tined bull/antlerless elk) regulation in all Region 4 hunting districts except districts 410, 420 and 455. In districts with an established general antlered bull season, change to a commensurate either-sex general season. Given this expanded antlerless opportunity for all general license holders, eliminate "Only youth ages 12-15" antlerless elk regulation statement in all districts. This proposal will result in a season structure change in the following Region 4 hunting districts: 401, 403, 412, 415, 417, 426, 441, 447, 450 and 448. Also remove the district-specific B licenses in HDs 401, 412, 417, 426, 441, 447, 450.

HD 411: Remove HDs 511 and 530 from the 411 B license, allow B license to be used throughout HD 411 to include USFS lands, and adjust B license quota range from 50 – 400 to 50 – 500.

HD 416: Adjust B license quota range from 100 – 400 to 35 – 400.

HD 420: Adjust either sex permit quota range from 60 – 100 to 50 – 100.

HD 422: Adjust B license quota range from 350 – 350 to 100 – 350.

HD 424/442: Adjust/clarify quota closure language (no change to intent).

HD 425: Establish five (5) either-sex elk permits valid all of HD 425 throughout the general seasons. * There has not been an opportunity to full involve the Sun River Working Group on this proposal, in part due to the lateness of the proposal's arrival to the group. Input from local working groups like the Sun River Wildlife Team is valued by FWP, the department will be seeking a formal position from the work group and will strongly consider a work group position in any final recommendation.

HD 426: Adjust either sex permit quota range from 5 – 25 to 5 – 50.

Region 5

HD 500/502/portion of 510 west of HWY 310/511/portion of 520 south and east of West Fork of Rock Creek/530/570/575/portion of 580 south of Sweet Grass Creek/590: Adjust general license from antlerless to spike bull or antlerless throughout the general archery and firearm seasons. Spike bull definition is any elk having antlers which do not branch. If branched, branch must be less than four inches long measured from the main antler beam.

HD's 500, 502, Portion of 510 west of HWY 310, 511, 520, 530, 570, 575, 580 and 590: The proposal is to remove the individual hunting district Elk B-licenses in the above districts and portions and replace those B licenses with one Region 5 elk B license that would be valid in these districts or district portions but not valid on National Forest lands. The current archery and general season either sex permit structure would remain unchanged in these districts and district portions. Bull harvest opportunity is by permit only in the form of either sex archery permits and either sex general season permits in these districts or district portions. FWP proposes a quota of 1200 licenses and quota range of 500 – 2500.

HD 511/530: Remove these HD's from the HD 411 B license.

HD 520: Change general elk license opportunity during general firearm season from:

- Oct 25 – Nov 30 - Antlered Bull Elk. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.
-Either-sex Elk. Only youth ages 12-15. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.

To:

- Oct 25 – Nov 30 - Either-sex Elk. Only valid north and west of the West Fork of Rock Crk.

HD 570/580: Adjust quota ranges for either sex permits in HD 570 from 10 – 65 to 30 – 120 and in HD 580 between Big Timber Creek and West Fork Duck Creek from 10 – 40 to 30 – 100.

HD 580: Adjust the quota range for either-sex permits in the Sweet Grass to Big Timber portion (580-21) from the current range of 10 – 30, to 15 – 75.

Region 6

No change.

Region 7

No Change.

ANTELOPE

Changes are limited to quota range changes in various districts.

MOOSE

Region 1

No change

Region 2

No change

Region 3

District 302

Remove the antlerless moose license, but retain the antlered bull license.

Districts 304 and 311

Combine the 2 districts into 1 hunt (311), with a total of 5 antlered bull licenses and a quota range of 1 to 15.

District 325

Change the moose district 325 boundary to incorporate old HD 321, with the following description: That portion of Deer Lodge County lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at

the junction of Route 43 and Route 274 then westerly along Route 43 to its intersection with North Fork Road, then southwesterly along said road to its intersection with Pintler Creek Road, then northwesterly along said road to its intersection with the forest boundary, then northerly and easterly along said boundary to the Mudd Creek-Pintler Creek Divide, then northwesterly along said divide to the Continental Divide near East Pintler Peak, then northerly and easterly along said divide to Route 274, then southerly along said route to Route 43, the point of beginning.

District 343

Create a new district 343, with the following legal description, and offer 1 antlered bull license with a quota range of 1 to 2.

District 343 legal description:

Beginning at US Highway 12 West at MacDonald Pass and the Continental Divide, then northwesterly along the Continental Divide to the North Fork Lyons Creek, then southeasterly down said creek to Interstate 15, then southeasterly along said route to the north boundary of Section 31, T12N, R3W, at the north of the split median of Interstate 15, then following the north boundary of Section 31 westerly to the northeast corner of Section 36, T12N, R4W, then southerly along the east boundary of Section 36, then west along the south boundary of Section 36 to Green Meadow Drive, then south along Green Meadow Drive to its junction with Woodland Hills Road, then west on Woodland Hills Road to its junction with Lone Mountain Road, then south along Lone Mountain Road to Highway 279 (Lincoln Road West) then westerly along said route to its intersection with County Route 602 (the Birdseye Road, also known as Williams Street), then southerly along said route to the north boundary of Section 15, T10N, R4W, and the intersection with the property owned and administered by the Department of Defense and known as Fort Harrison in Section 15, T10N, R4W, then along the boundary of all property owned and administered by the Department of Defense known as Fort Harrison in Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22, T10N, R4W, to the intersection with County Route 602 (the Birdseye Road, also known as Williams Street) in Section 22, T10N, R4W, then southerly along said route to its intersection with US Highway 12, then westerly along said route to MacDonald Pass and the Continental Divide, the point of beginning.

Region 4

Districts 600 & 401

Remove the portion of existing 600 that is in Region 4, and describe that as a new district (401), with 2 either-sex licenses and a quota range of 1 to 5.

District 401 legal description:

Those portions of Toole and Liberty Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the Port of Sweetgrass and its junction with Interstate 15 on the Canadian border, then east on said border to the Liberty-Hill County line, then south on said line to US Highway 2, then west along said highway to Shelby and Interstate 15, then north along said interstate to Sweetgrass, the point of beginning.

District 441

Create a new district (441), with 1 either-sex license and a quota range of 1 to 5.

District 441 legal description:

Those portions of Pondera and Teton Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary on US Highway 89, then southerly on said highway to the junction of US Highway 287 in Choteau, then southerly on said highway to north bank of the Sun River, then westerly along said bank to Gibson Reservoir, then westerly along the north bank of Gibson Reservoir to the east bank of the North Fork of the Sun River, then north along the east bank of the North Fork of the Sun River to Sun River Pass, then easterly and northerly along the Continental Divide, to Badger Pass and USFS Trail 121, then easterly along said trail to Swift Dam, then north and east along the Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary to US Highway 89, the point of beginning.

Region 5

No changes are proposed.

Region 6

District 600

Describe a new District 600, that encompasses all of Region 6, with 3 either-sex licenses and a quota range of 1 to 15.

New District 600 legal description:

Those portions of Hill, Blaine, Chouteau, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, McCone, Sheridan, Garfield and Richland Counties lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at a point where the Hill-Liberty County Line meets the Canadian Border, then east on said border to the North Dakota Border, then south along said border to State Route 200 at Fairview, then southwest and westerly along said route to Little Dry Creek west of Flowing Wells, then northerly along said creek to Big Dry Creek, then northerly along said creek to the east shore of Fort Peck Reservoir, then northerly along said shore to the Fort Peck Dam Spillway, then westerly along the north shore of Fort Peck Reservoir/Missouri River to the Marias River, then northwesterly along said river to the Hill County Line, then north along said line to where the Hill-Liberty County Line meets the Canadian Border, the point of beginning.

Region 7

No changes are proposed.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Region 1

District 123

Close the 123-30 ewe season.

Region 2

No change

Region 3

District 302

Increase quotas and quota ranges for ewes and rams (see quota report). Change the district 302 legal description. And extend the ewe season closing date to the end of the general rifle season (Sunday after Thanksgiving).

New district 302 legal description:

Those portions of Gallatin and Madison Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning at the junction of Taylor's Fork and U.S. Highway 191, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with the Yellowstone National Park boundary, then southerly along said boundary to the Montana-Idaho border, then northwesterly along said border to Route 87, then northerly along said route to U.S. Highway 287, then northerly along said highway to its junction with Indian Creek, south of Cameron, then easterly up Indian Creek to the Madison-Gallatin River divide, then easterly to Cache Creek of Taylor's Fork, then southeasterly down said creek to Taylor's Fork, then easterly down said fork to U.S. Highway 191, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Gallatin Closed Area (renamed Gallatin Special Management Area) Bacon Rind and Buffalo Horn Units Closed to hunting bighorn sheep. Refer to "Areas Closed or Limited to Hunting" for unit legal description.

District 340

Re-open district 340, with 1 either-sex license and a quota range of 1 to 3.

Region 4

Districts 422, 423, 424

Close the ewe licenses (422-30, 423-30, 424-30) in these districts.

Region 5

No Change

Region 6

District 620

Re-establish district 620, which is currently included in 680, and offer 1 either-sex license (quota range of 1-3).

District 622

Change the legal description for the portion of 622 west of Timber Creek, that is used to define the legal area for the ewe license (622-30).

The new description is as follows:

Those portions of Valley and Phillips Counties lying within the following-described boundary:

Beginning at the confluence of Timber Cr. and Fort Peck Reservoir then up said creek to the Anderson Road, then up said road to the Triple Crossing Road, then west on said road to the Larb Creek-Content Road, then northwesterly along said road to Content Road, then southwesterly along said road to Crowder Road, then easterly along said road to the Reynolds Hill Road, then southerly along said road to Fort Peck Reservoir, then easterly along said reservoir to Timber Creek, the point of beginning.

District 680

Change the 680 legal description to the following:

Beginning at Coal Banks Landing along the Missouri River, then southeasterly along the northern boundary of Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) boundary to the intersection with Montana Highway 236 north of Judith Landing, then northwest along Highway 236 to the Eagleton Road, then northeast along the Eagleton Road to its junction with the Cow Island Trail, then east along the Cow Island Trail to the junction with the Lloyd Road, then north along the Lloyd Road to Cow Creek, then southeast along Cow Creek to Suction Creek, then northeast along Suction Creek to Little Suction Creek, then east along Little Suction Creek to the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation boundary, then south and east along said boundary to the intersection with Montana Highway 66, then south along Highway 66 to the junction with US Highway 191, then southwest along Highway 191 to its intersection with the Missouri River, then northwest along the Missouri River to Coal Banks Landing, the point of beginning.

NOTE: Submarginal lands adjacent to the Ft. Belknap Indian Reservation shall be closed to all hunting. For more information contact Ft. Belknap Community Council, Box 349, Harlem, MT 59529.

Region 7

No change

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Regions 1-2

No change

Region 3

District 361

Create a new district, 361, and offer 2 licenses with a quota range of 1 to 10.

District 361 would have the following legal description:

361 Hebgen-Upper Madison: Those portions of Madison and Gallatin Counties lying within the following-described boundary: Beginning where the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park intersects the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along the Yellowstone National Park Boundary to its intersection with Grayling Creek, then southwesterly along said creek to the north shore of Hebgen Lake, then westerly along the north shore of Hebgen Lake to Hebgen Lake Dam, then westerly along the north shore of the Madison River and Earthquake Lake to Route 87, then southerly along said route to the Montana-Idaho border then southeasterly along said border to the intersection of the Yellowstone National Park Boundary, the point of beginning.

Regions 4-7

No change

BLACK BEAR

Region 1

No change

Region 2

District 200

Extend the spring season closing date from May 31 to June 15.

Regions 3-4

No change

Region 5

Districts 510, 520, 580

Adjust those black bear hunting district boundaries as described in the justification.

Regions 6-7

No change

MOUNTAIN LION

Statewide

Archery/Fall Quota Allocation - By commission rule, up to 20% of the lion quota in each lion hunting district, is allocated to the archery and fall seasons. That allocation is rounded down to the nearest lion. For example, if the quota in a district was 8 lions, 20% equates to 1.6 lions, and the archery fall quota would be 1 lion. FWP proposes altering that rule to round to the nearest lion. For example, if the quota in a district was 8 lions, 20% equates to 1.6 lions, and the archery fall quota would be 2 lions.

Region 1

Region 1 quota changes and subquota gender - The proposal is to reduce special license in 6 districts, while increasing licenses in 2 districts. The total net change is a **reduction of 33 lion licenses**. In addition, the region proposes to regulate harvest with male rather than female subquotas.

The following quota adjustments and male subquotas are proposed:

HD	Existing Quota	Proposed Male Sub Quota	Proposed Total Quota
100	30	12	24
101	17	5	12
102	17	5	12
103	12	7	12
104	12	7	12
109	12	4	8
110	10	4	8
120	8	4	11
121	37	11	22
122	14	6	14
123	6	3	7
124	5	2	5
130	14	5	14

Regions 2-7

No change

BISON

Bison season frameworks would be changed to the following:

HD 395 (west side) – see new boundary description

Hunt period 1 = Nov 15-Jan 15, 20 licenses

Hunt period 2 = Jan 16-Feb 15, 20 licenses

(quota range on each = 10-100)

HD 385 (north side) – no boundary change

Hunt period 1 = Nov 15-Jan 15, 20 licenses

Hunt period 2 = Jan 16-Feb 15, 20 licenses

(range on each = 10-100)

The 395 boundary would be expanded to the following. This change is contingent on the outcome of the current MEPA process to expand the tolerance area.

Those portions of Madison and Gallatin Counties lying within the following-described boundary:

Beginning where the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park intersects the Montana-Idaho border, then northerly along the Yellowstone National Park Boundary to the Gallatin-Yellowstone Rivers divide, then northerly along said divide to Eaglehead Mountain, then in a westerly and northerly direction along the Portal Creek-Porcupine Creek divide and along the Porcupine Creek-Levinski Creek Divide to the Gallatin River, then southerly up the Gallatin River to its confluence with Buck Creek, then westerly along Buck Creek to the Gallatin-Madison Divide, then southerly along the Gallatin-Madison divide to the west boundary of the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, then southerly and easterly along said boundary to the Beaver Creek-Cabin Creek Divide, then southerly along said boundary to its junction with the Madison River, then south along the north boundary of the Madison River to Hebgen Dam, then along the Earthquake Lake/Lower Madison-Hebgen Lake watershed divide to the Montana-Idaho border, then south and east along this border to the point of beginning.

UPLAND BIRD

Statewide

Sagegrouse

Establish three harvest management zones in Montana. Other season framework changes will be developed this spring and presented at the May 2014 commission meeting.

Region 1

Region 1 bag limit change - Increase the fall bag limit to 2 turkeys including one either-sex turkey and one hen.

The language for the fall bag limits in Montana, would be as follows:

Fall Bag Limit: In general hunting areas, hunters may harvest up to 1 turkey, either-sex. **Exception:** In Administrative Region 7, hunters may harvest up to 2 turkeys, either-sex and in Administrative Region 1, hunters may harvest up to 2 turkeys, one either-sex and one hen.

Region 2

Turkey District 282

Increase spring and fall permit numbers:
282-20 (spring) from 150 to 200 permits
282-50 (fall) from 50 to 100 permits

Region 3

Turkey District 375

Increase spring and fall permit numbers:
375-20 (spring) from 15 to 30 permits
375-21 (spring) from 2 to 10 permits
375-50 (fall) from 10 to 40 permits
375-51 (fall) from 2 to 10 permits

Region 4

Turkey District 400

Establish a new district and hunt, with the following legal description: Chouteau (R4 portion), Toole, Pondera, Liberty, and Teton Counties.
400-20 5 permits

Regions 5-6
No change

Region 7

See adjusted fall bag limit language under Region 1 above.

MIGRATORY BIRD

Crane District 380

Currently the district is a small area in the Dillon/Twin Bridges/Cardwell area bridging Beaverhead, Madison, and Jefferson counties. FWP proposes to expand the hunting district to include all of Madison and Gallatin counties.

GAME DAMAGE/MANAGEMENT SEASON QUOTAS

2014 and 2015

REGION	DEER	ELK	ANTELOPE
1	100 500	50 500	0
2	400	600 1000	50
3	1400	2000	200
4	1500 750	1000	450
5	1400	600	300
6	5000 2000	500	100
7	5000 2000	200	500

2014 – 2015 Hunting Season Dates

Proposed 2014 Season Dates

Season	Dates/Process
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/9 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/6 – 10/10 (First Saturday of September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/11 – 11/9 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)
Bison	11/15 – 2/15
Black bear spring	4/15 – 5/15 (some districts end later)
Black bear fall – archery	9/6 – 9/14 (First Saturday of September to 9/14)
Black bear fall	9/15 – 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer/elk/lion archery	9/6 – 10/19 (First Sat in Sept to Sunday before general deer/elk opener)
Deer/elk backcountry	9/15 – 11/30 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer youth	10/16 – 10/17 (MEA days; not adjacent to general season start, overlap with archery)
Deer/elk general	10/25 – 11/30 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion fall	10/25 – 11/30 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion winter	12/1 – 4/14
Sage grouse	9/1 – 11/1
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (9/1 to 1/10 for portion of Carbon County)
Pheasant	10/11 – 1/1 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 1/1)
Youth Pheasant/Youth Waterfowl	9/27 - /9/28 (weekend before start of general waterfowl)
General Waterfowl	10/4 Start date (Saturday nearest 10/1; End date to be adopted late summer 2014 per federal frameworks)
Turkey spring	4/12 – 5/18 (2 nd Saturday in April to 3 rd Sunday in May)
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

Proposed 2015 Season Dates

Season	Dates/Process
Antelope 900	8/15 – 11/8 (8/15 to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Antelope archery	9/5 – 10/9 (First Saturday in September to Friday of Columbus Day weekend)
Antelope general	10/10 – 11/8 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 2 nd Sunday in November)
Moose/sheep/goat	9/15 – 11/29 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving; some districts vary)
Bison	11/15 – 2/15
Black bear spring	4/15 – 5/15 (some districts end later)
Black bear fall – archery	9/5 – 9/14 (First Saturday of September to 9/14)
Black bear fall	9/15 – 11/29 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer/elk/lion archery	9/5 – 10/18 (First Sat in Sept to Sunday before general deer/elk opener)
Deer/elk backcountry	9/15 – 11/29 (9/15 to Sunday after Thanksgiving)
Deer youth	10/15 – 10/16—(MEA days; not adjacent to general season start, overlap with archery)
Deer/elk general	10/24 – 11/29 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion fall	10/24 – 11/29 (37 days ending Thanksgiving Sunday—Saturday start)
Mountain lion winter	12/1 – 4/14
Sage grouse	9/1 – 11/1
Sharp-tailed grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Mountain grouse	9/1 – 1/1
Partridge	9/1 – 1/1 (9/1 to 1/10 for portion of Carbon County)
Pheasant	10/10 – 1/1 (Saturday of Columbus Day weekend to 1/1)
Youth Pheasant/Youth Waterfowl	9/26 - 9/27 (weekend before start of general waterfowl)
General Waterfowl	10/3 Start date (Saturday nearest 10/1; End date to be adopted late summer 2015 per federal frameworks)
Turkey spring	4/11 – 5/17 (2 nd Saturday in April to 3 rd Sunday in May)
Turkey fall	9/1 – 1/1

2014-2015 and 2016-2017 Quota Range for Helena Urban Deer Management

Establish a quota range for the deer cull within Helena's City Limits. The target number of removals within the established quota range and the removal period within the dates established by the commission in 2012 and 2013 (November 15th – March 31st) would still be recommended annually by the Helena Area Biologist based on annual spotlight survey data and subsequent Distance Sampling analysis. As is the case with other established quota ranges, approval of the target quota within this newly established quota range would be sought and required annually through the Region 3 Wildlife Manager and Helena FWP. A target quota outside the established range would require FWP Commission approval and would include a public involvement.

Proposed Quota Range: 0 to 250

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded link below can be found under "Opportunity for Public Comment" on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

The deadline for public comment is 5:00 PM Friday, January 24, 2014. Final adoptions will be made at the February 2014 FWP Commission meeting.

http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2016_17QuotaHelenaUrbanDeer.html

Wildlife - Regional - Biennial Season Setting Public Meeting Schedule

Please note: Meetings are from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., * = Denotes start time exceptions

~ January 2014 ~						
◀ Dec 2013						Feb 2014 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 *R1 – Kalispell, Kalispell Ctr Mall, 9am – Open House 10am-12pm meeting
5	6 *R2 – Helmville, Community Ctr, 6:30 start R3 – Gardiner, Gardiner HS R4 – Chester, Chester HS Auditorium	7 *R2 – Hamllton, Bitterroot River Inn, 6:30 start R3 – Bozeman, Holiday Inn R4 – Cut Bank, Glacier Electric Co-Op	8 *R2 – Superior, Superior HS, 6:30 start R3 – Whitehall, Whitehall HS R4 – White Sulphur Springs, WSS City Hall	9 *R2 – Drummond, Community Ctr, 6:30 start R3 – Dillon, Search & Rescue Bldg R6 – Plentywood, Public Library	10	11
12	13 *R2 – Philipsburg, Granite Co Museum, 6:30 start R3 – Livingston, Elks Lodge R4 – Ft. Benton, City Commission Room R5 – Roundup, Ambulance Barn	14 *R2 – Seeley Lake, Community Hall, 6:30 start R3 – Ennis, Public Library R4 – Conrad, Community Ctr R5 – Harlowton, Kiwanis Youth Ctr R6 – Malta, Malta HS Cafeteria R7 – Miles City, Miles Community College	15 *R2 – Anaconda, Lee Metcalf Senior Ctr, 6:30 start R3 – Helena, MT Wild Ctr R4 – Stanford, City Hall R5 – Columbus, Columbus HS Cafeteria R7 – Glendive, Dawson Community College	16 *R2 – Lincoln, Lambkins Restaurant, 6:30 start R3 – Butte, Copper King Inn R4 – Fairfield, Community Hall R4 – Lewistown, FWP Area Resource Office R5 – Big Timber, Big Timber HS Cafeteria	17	18
19	20 *R2 – Darby, Elementary School, 6:30 start R5 – Red Lodge, Red Lodge MS Cafeteria	21 *R2 – Missoula, Double Tree Hotel, 6:30 start R3 – Lima, Lima School R4 – Great Falls, Paris Gibson Alternative HS R5 – Billings, Holiday Inn Grand R6 – Glasgow – Cottonwood Inn	22 *R2 – Deer Lodge Community Ctr, 6:30 start	23 *R2 – Potomac, Community Ctr, 6:30 start R6 – Havre, Best Western-Great Northern Inn	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Notes: