MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

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

Action Needed: Proposed **Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 10 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.

Among other proposed changes, there are several boundary changes combining hunting districts or portions of districts to simplify regulations, match deer/elk HDs and enhance management. Some of the more substantial changes are:

Statewide - Establish quota ranges for second-opportunity B Licenses in eight HDs.

Region 3 - Re-establish HD 329 in the south part of HD 318 and re-define HD 318.

Region 4 - Combine HDs 470 & 471 into new larger HD 471.

Regions 4 & 5 - Adjust the HDs 491 & 590 boundaries so that HDs fall within respective regions.

Region 6 - Change HDs 600/670 boundary to match deer/elk HDs.
Create new HD 640 out of portions of HDs 670 & 651 to match proposed deer/elk HD 640.

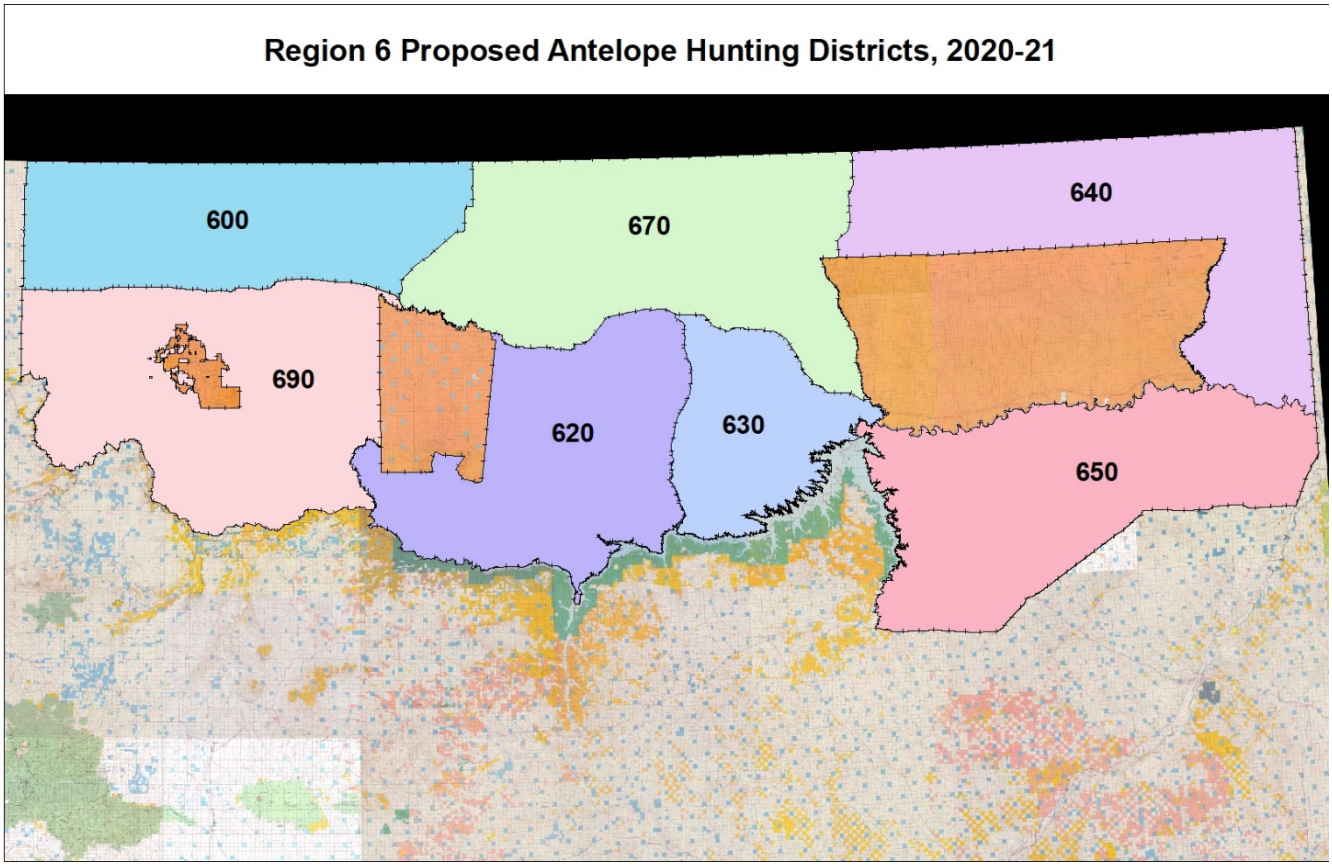
Region 7 - Rename the 700-20 and 700-30 licenses to 007-20 and 007-30 respectively to reduce hunter confusion on where licenses can be used.

HDs 704 & 705: Create a new 799-30 doe/fawn second-opportunity license for HDs 704 & 705 available OTC to hunters that draw a 007-20 and/or 007-30 pronghorn license.

These and all proposed changes are on the commission master list, and justifications are in the commission packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Seventeen antelope season comments were received during the Aug. 15 – Sep. 16 scoping and most were satisfied with the season. Two mentioned wanting the 900-20 archery-only license available as a second choice. In addition to public comment on proposed changes taken during the Dec. 5 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2020 commission 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 the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 antelope hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the antelope season remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.

R6 proposed antelope HDs