FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Agenda Item: Close HD 283 to the Regional 002-00 Elk B License

Division: Wildlife   **Action Needed:** Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:
Season structure for elk is normally adopted biennially between proposals in December of odd-numbered years and final adoptions the following February. Occasionally, situations arise prompting season structure changes outside of this cycle, and sometimes, as in this case, even after the regulations have been printed.

FWP proposes to close HD 283 to use of the regional antlerless elk over-the-counter 002-00 B license. This is to address a large decrease in the number of observed elk in the North Hills/Evaro herd unit. The population objective is 300 with a range of 240 - 360 and the latest flights found 146.

The objective is to reduce harvest of antlerless elk and bring the population back within objective. We are concerned that harvest with the current B license structure would drive this small population sharply downward and diminish its value to Missoula residents.

FWP would conduct a large public awareness outreach to let hunters know of the change.

Public Involvement Process & Results
This proposal was vetted with Hellgate Hunters & Anglers and individually with several sportsmen who were supportive. It was presented to the North Hills Elk Working Group on May 29, 2019. Spring survey and proposal information has been shared with all North Hills landowners.

Alternatives and Analysis
No alternatives were considered.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale
FWP recommends that the commission close HD 283 to use of the regional antlerless elk over-the-counter 002-00 B license.

Proposed Motion
I move that the commission close HD 283 to use of the regional antlerless elk over-the-counter 002-00 B license as proposed by FWP, and that all other aspects of the 2019 deer, elk and antelope regulations remain unchanged except if dealt with in another proposal.