



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: October 17, 2019

Agenda Item: Update on 2019 Season Setting Public Scoping

Action Needed: Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:

In odd-numbered years, FWP can make major changes to hunting seasons in a process called “biennial season setting” wherein hunting season structures, season dates, hunting district boundaries, and all other aspects of Montana’s hunting seasons can be revisited and changed. As part of the process, FWP conducts public scoping to gain insight into issues and concerns the public might have about any of our hunting and trapping seasons.

FWP wildlife staff uses these scoping comments and other communications with the public through the course of their normal work along with survey and harvest data to craft proposals for season changes. These proposals are presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at their December meeting. The commission may reject, modify, or approve the proposals to go out for public comment. Public comment on specific proposals is evaluated by staff who may then modify a proposal into a final form. The final FWP proposals are then presented to the commission during their February meeting, and again the commission may reject, modify for adoption, or adopt a final proposal, which then becomes a regulation.

Public scoping for 2019 season setting took place between August 15 and September 16, 2019. We received 42 comments online via SurveyMonkey and two emailed comments. All comments are in the commission packet.