



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 13, 2020

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Bighorn Sheep Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game and other managed 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.

Some of the more substantial changes are:

- Region 3 - Close HD 301 adult ewe harvest.

 - Close HD 302 adult ewe harvest.

 - Re-open HD 380 and add a 380-10 ram license, quota 1.

- Region 6 - Extend east boundary of HD 622 to match deer/elk HD 631. This will simplify regulations and account for some recent expansion of sheep.

 - Make 622-30 ewe license valid in entire HD instead of a portion.

These and all proposed changes are on the commission master list. There are no proposed changes to the bighorn sheep season proposals adopted by the commission in December.

Public Involvement Process & Results: Public comment was taken from Dec. 5 to Jan. 27 and forwarded to commissioners and FWP staff for their consideration.

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 that the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt as final the 2020-2021 bighorn sheep hunting seasons and hunting districts as presented by FWP. Except for calendar rotation and those season elements specifically identified for change, all other aspects of these seasons are to remain unchanged.