



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: August 20, 2021

Agenda Item: 2022 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background:

In January 2013, the commission endorsed elk management recommendations from a citizens working group for use in areas with brucellosis (the Designated Surveillance Area as described by the Montana Department of Livestock). Annual work plans describe specific management actions based upon these recommendations. The proposed 2022 annual work plan includes the same approaches used in the 2021 plan to include hazing, limited fencing, limited lethal removal of elk, habitat modifications, and other efforts to move elk away from cattle at small scales to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle. The proposed 2022 plan maintains previous landownership and date descriptions clarifying where and when elk may be lethally removed to move elk away from cattle. The proposed number of elk that may be taken is unchanged from 2021.

Public Involvement Process:

The public comment opportunity for the proposed annual work plan will remain open through Sept. 20, 2021, at 5 p.m.

Alternatives and Analysis:

The proposal may be adopted as presented or with adjustment per department justifications, public comment, and commission discussion. Public comment will be reviewed and final plan amended as appropriate.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale:

The department recommends approval of the proposed 2022 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis for public comment to obtain review of authorized management options to reduce or mitigate the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle.

Proposed Motion:

I move the commission vote to approve for public comment the proposed 2022 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis as proposed by the department.